

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 63

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers take forwards the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

Sun 13th June: As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the **Stone Deanery**; for Area Dean: Ian Cardinal; Lay Chair: Paul Graetz; that the 28,000 people in the Stone Deanery encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities; for a church that partners with others seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope.

Mon 14th: (*Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691*) We pray for the **Shaping for Mission** team in the Stone Deanery and for their facilitator Laura Edwards; giving thanks for God's faithfulness over the recent difficult times; praying for God's guidance as Shaping for Mission is shared with Eccleshall Deanery; for grace to deal with similarities and differences, strengths and weaknesses; for the establishment of a Deanery Mission action plan; for responding with faith and generosity to the financial pressures many parishes are facing following the Pandemic; for the meeting of the Deanery Synod at the end of June for the first time for well over a year.

Tues 15th: (*Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual Writer, 1941*) For the pupils and staff at the 7 Church schools, plus good connections with the Local Authority funded schools and non-Church sponsored Academies. Give thanks for the school link between Barlaston C.E. First School and The Soweto Academy, Kibera, Nairobi; for the feeding programme operating through Feed the Hungry UK and for pupils to learn about mission in the world beyond the local area.

Wed 16th: (*Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253; Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, Philosopher, 1752*) For the congregations of Fulford and Hilderstone who have recently gone into Vacancy; for God's guidance in writing a new parish profile; for Hilderstone to find a way of installing toilet facilities following the completion of disabled access alterations to the building. For the meeting of the Diocesan Advisory Committee today and for Revd Preb Pat Hawkins as she takes on the role of DAC Chair.

Thur 17th: (*Samuel and Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers, 1913 and 1936*) Give thanks for the supportive Team Ministries at Christ Church, Oulton and Moddershall and St Michael & St Wulfad Stone, with Aston; pray for resourcing and encouragement of the members of the Teams; for the congregations of Cotes Heath, Standon, Swynnerton and Tittensor following their long vacancy as they prepare for interviews for a new Incumbent; for the Holy Spirit to guide the selection process.

Friday 18th: (*Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the MaShona, Martyr, 1896*). For Bishop Steve Diseko and all clergy and congregation of the Diocese as they experience the third wave of Covid-19; for the financial strains being faced by the Diocese and for the clergy who have had their stipends reduced to 70%; for the Cathedral of Ikakeng and Dean Christopher Seupe; for all taking funerals throughout the Diocese.

Saturday 19th: (*Sundar Singh of India, Sadhu (holy man), Evangelist, Teacher of the Faith, 1929*) 'Creator of mine: You have created my heart for Yourself and not for another, therefore this my heart can find no rest or ease save in You, in You who has both created it and set in it this very longing for rest. Take away then from my heart all that is opposed to You and enter and abide and rule forever'. (*Sundar Singh*)