

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 66

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 4th July: As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the **Cheadle Deanery**; for Area Dean: Michael Follin; Lay Chair: Sylvia Bainbridge; that the 42,000 people in the Cheadle 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.

Monday 5th: Give thanks for the **Shaping for Mission** Team in the Cheadle Deanery and it's facilitator Philip Swan, as they meet tonight and finalise their Vision presentation; may they share a God inspired vision that will create a sustainable and spirit-led future for the Deanery; that resources be deployed wisely following the SfM process and for a willingness to 'breakdown church walls' in order to minister to all those in their communities.

Tuesday 6th: *(Thomas More, Scholar, and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535)* Please pray for the Cheadle Deanery prayer diary, that the act of praying together may encourage a moving forward together in mission and discipleship and a working together to love one another as Jesus taught; for all clergy, readers and laity as churches begin to be reopened and they seek to balance the workload of online and in person services and groups.

Wednesday 7th: We give thanks for and pray for the **Waterways Chaplains** working within the Lichfield Diocese - in Cheddleton, Market Drayton, Lichfield, Stafford, Tamworth, Stoke on Trent, and Cheadle; for Barbara Davis, Kevin Grealley, Steve Straw, Malc and Stephanie Gray-Smart, Revd Mike Bridgewater as they walk the towpaths engaging with Boaters, walkers, the homeless, and the fishing community; that they may love mercy, seek justice, and walk humbly with our God.

Thursday 8th: We pray for the frontline workers in the wider Cheadle community who are still working tirelessly in the fight against Covid-19, especially the GPs, Vaccination Teams and Funeral Directors; for businesses as they start to reopen; for the Food Banks and Support Agencies.

Friday 9th: Nordkirche / Northern Germany: Give thanks for the recent inauguration of the Ecumenical Pilgrim's Chapel in Stralsund by Bishop Tilman Jeremias and his Roman Catholic colleague Bishop Matthias Heinrich; pray for good points of connection with the ever-increasing numbers of people who are making pilgrimages for many different reasons.

Saturday 10th: "Give thanks for the dedication of prison staff, governors and chaplains, particularly for Vanda Perrett and Jeff Cuttall, as they work tirelessly to support young people, caught up in a world of chaos which brought them to Werrington YO1; we give thanks for the transformative work with the Restart project; training assistant dogs for people with Autism; for those who have asked to be baptised and confirmed this year in Werrington; for those who are the victims of crime, and especially for those young people who have been used by others to commit offences, those who have been abused and made to feel worthless. May these children find the freedom of living in faith and knowing themselves as children of God".

For further resources for praying for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG>