

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 70

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.

Sunday 1st August: As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the Alstonfield Deanery; for Rural Dean: Revd John Baines; Lay Chair: Janet Sadler; that the 6,169 people in the 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 2nd: Give thanks for the ongoing Shaping for Mission process in the Deanery, for the recent presentation of the Vision and its future implementation; pray for the worship, people, schools, visitors and buildings of the Deanery as it seeks to develop Pilgrim Churches and to help visitors and tourists to become pilgrims, inspired by the example of St Bertram. *Pray for Hodnet SfM Deanery presenting the vision tonight.*

Tuesday 3rd: 'Dear Father, We thank you that you love us and care about every part of our lives. We thank you that you have been with our school during this time of uncertainty, we thank you that you bring peace and calm to each person in the school community over the summer holidays. We ask for you to be with the teachers, as they prepare their lessons for children returning in September. We ask that children will have fun and joy as they enjoy being with families. We pray that all will return to school safely. We ask that you will give wisdom to our Headteacher and Governors as they make decisions for the new school year. We ask that you guide us to do your work within your community and pray that we will show your love to everyone who enters our school. We thank you we can ask all these things of you. In Jesus' Name, Amen' (*Anne Collins, Headteacher, St Bartholomew's CofE (C) School Longnor*)

Wednesday 4th: (*Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859*) Give thanks for all offering the ministry of spiritual accompaniment and direction; for Charles Rushton as he oversees this within the Diocese and for the Area advisors; for St Chad's House, Leek and Shallowford House offering places for retreat and prayer.

Thursday 5th: (*Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642*) Give thanks for Dovedale House and for those responsible for overseeing the building and for the groups which use the House; for Ilam Church nearby as a place of prayer and pilgrimage inspired by St Bertram whose tomb is in the church. *Pray for Revd Jules Walker being licensed today as Interim Minister in the Uttoxeter Team.*

Friday 6th: (*The Transfiguration of Our Lord*) Give thanks for those who have sustained the ministry at the Ipstones/Butterton/Onecote Benefice during their Vacancy; pray that the advertised post may be filled soon and that mission and ministry within the benefice may be resourced and developed.

Saturday 7th: (*John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866*) "The summer on the Rügen high bank is an invitation to start a pilgrimage, to be amazed at God's creation, take a deep breath and set off. God's angels lead us," said the Greifswald Bishop Tilman Jeremias, part of the Nordkirche, in his sermon at the fishing village of Vitt on the island of Rügen. Pray for this ecumenical series, that those for whom religion is important will get together and work together to take forwards God's Mission.

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