

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 72

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 15th August: *(The Blessed Virgin Mary)* As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the Diocese of Lichfield and for Bishop Michael Ipgrave; that the 2 million people in our Diocese 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 16th: Give thanks for the ongoing Shaping for Mission process in the Edmond and Shifnal Deanery, for Rural Dean, Matthew Lefroy; Assistant Rural Dean, Mary Thomas and Lay Chair, Malcolm MacLean; giving thanks for the development of a collective sense of vision for the deanery, praying for all churches as they plan and run worship and activities leading up to the Christmas season and for the Deanery leaders as they begin implementing the vision; also for Oswestry Deanery's Vision Presentation meeting today.

Tuesday 17th: Pray for all connected with the CMS Pioneer Mission Leadership Training Centre in Oxford, for Dr Cathy Ross overseeing the Training Centre; for the impact of a new module on Justice, Environment and Mission; for Matt Richards entering his third year of distance learning as a Pioneer Minister; for Catherine Matlock as she moves to Stoke and for her work as Pioneer Minister in Hanley and in overseeing Pioneer Ministry throughout the Diocese.

Wednesday 18th: for the outworking of 'Shaping for Mission' in the West Bromwich Deanery, for Area Dean, Ron Farrell; Assistant Area Dean, Jane Dicker and Lay Chair, Hazel Bloxham; give thanks for the arrival of the Revd David Jarrett to work at St Philip's & St Mary Magdalene; pray for regrowth, particularly in young families and for the appointment process at St Andrews. Pray also for the Shaping for Mission teams of Telford and Wolverhampton Deaneries, as they meet today with Area Bishops and Archdeacons.

Thursday 19th: for Rev Eddie Wynn, one of the Chaplains at RAF Cosford; for the ministry of the Chaplaincy offering pastoral care and a listening ear to all who live and work at RAF Cosford; for Wulfrun Deanery's Shaping for Mission team holding its Vision Presentation meeting today.

Friday 20th: *(Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1153, William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army, 1912 and 1890)* Pray in the Ellesmere Deanery; for Rural Dean Linda Cox; Assistant Rural Dean, Pat Hawkins; Lay Chair, Sandra Birchall; give thanks for the lifting of Covid restrictions and the gradual returning of our congregations and particularly for new faces; and for the many new links and people our congregations have engaged with, for the hands of friendship and the love of God that has been shared in words and actions; pray an increased willingness for people to come together across the deanery especially as we look towards building capacity to ensure the sustainability of our churches and deanery.

Saturday 21st: God of the wide-open skies, the beauty of the landscape, the mystery of life, bless us with wonder at your generous provision. / Jesus who fed the multitude, feeding all in the feast of heaven on earth, bless us now as we welcome all in your name. / Spirit who draws us into new patterns of belonging and community, gathering the fragments of our lives, healing our brokenness, bless us now and gather us into the family of God's people. *(Preb Chris Thorpe; 2020).*

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