

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 75

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 5th September: *(The Beheading of John the Baptist)* As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we give thanks for the ministry of Revd Philip Swan as he retires from the role of World Mission Enabler and ask God's blessing on him for the future. Pray for the recently formed working groups for Global Partnerships, that the relationships with our link Dioceses will continue and be strengthened as we learn from, and support, one another.

Monday 6th: *(Allen Gardiner, Missionary, Founder of the South American Mission Society, 1851)*

We pray for the Shaping for Mission process across the Diocese as Deaneries seek God's vision for their areas and churches; we give thanks for the completion of the Edgmond & Shifnal Deanery Vision which will be presented to Bishop Sarah and Archdeacon Paul today.

Tuesday 7th:

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the church and community schools across the Diocese. As pupils return to school for a new academic year, we pray that you would pour out your blessings upon each school community, so that all would experience a sense of peace and a knowledge of your love. We pray for the leaders and teachers in our schools as they balance heavy workloads with the desire to meet the needs of the children in their care. We give thanks for their tireless dedication and for their enthusiasm to continue to provide moments of joy, awe and wonder within each classroom. We lift the most vulnerable families before you and pray that you would surround them with your love. Inspire us to action that we may be compelled to meet the needs of those before us. Amen

Wednesday 8th: *World Alzheimer's Month*

When memory slips and fades;

when faces, events,

and the rush of life

threaten to overwhelm us;

be our still centre.

Jesus, remember me,

when you come into your kingdom.

In caring, when we are unsure what to do,

help us to cross the bridge

from facts to feelings,

from head to heart,

to meet one another with love.

Jesus, remember me,

when you come into your kingdom.

Thursday 9th: *(Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880)* We pray for Walsall Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Mark McIntyre; Assistant, Revd Emily Reynolds; Lay Chair, Nigel Beck; giving thanks for all involved in the Shaping for Mission Process and emerging ideas and vision; praying for wisdom and discernment concerning the next steps, and for good communication and collaboration going forward. We pray for newly appointed clergy, and all involved in sharing the Good News across the borough.

Friday 10th: We pray for churches and chaplaincies in vacancy across the Diocese; and especially in the Lichfield Deanery for St Mary the Virgin Weeford, St Giles Whittington & St Bartholomew Hints, St Michael on the Hill, Lichfield, Christ Church, Burntwood, & St John the Baptist, Hammerwich and Master of St John's Hospital; give thanks for those who are returning to worship in our churches and who are re-engaging with community life throughout the Deanery.

Saturday 11th: We hold before God the peoples of Afghanistan living within the shadow of conflict, that He will be their hope and will hold them in His unfailing love. We pray for wisdom for the authorities in the UK and empathy for its citizens that refugees and asylum seekers might experience compassionate support, that will enable them to rebuild their lives.