

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 79

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 3rd October: (*George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, Ecumenist, Peacemaker, 1958*) We pray for Living in Love and Faith (LLF) – the national Church teaching and learning initiative about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage – which is being rolled out across our diocese. We pray for the LLF leaders' course currently running in the diocese and for all those deaneries, parishes and churches who will host LLF courses in the coming months. May they lead to life-giving discussions which bring people from different backgrounds together.

We pray also for Megan Smith as she is licenced today as Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent.

Monday 4th: (*Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226*) We pray for Shrewsbury Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Phil Cansdale, Assistant, Revd Andy Knight Lay Chair, Gill Carding; giving thanks that there is a good spirit among congregations. We pray for the work of clergy and lay leaders and give thanks for a sense of looking to the future and wanting to move forward despite the limitations of Covid. We pray for those schools in the Deanery particularly impacted by Covid and, as numbers of those suffering from Covid in Shropshire rise to the highest levels to date, for a sense of peace and calm as we face the winter months.

Tuesday 5th: The Youth4Climate event in Milan last week reminded us that many of our young people are passionate about finding meaningful ways to counter climate change.

God of love, we pray for the health and wellbeing of all children within our schools and colleges, that they may develop and grow to lead us all on a path of friendship, harmony, and collaboration; encouraging us in 'safeguarding the integrity of creation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth.' Amen.

Wednesday 6th: (*William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, Reformation Martyr, 1536*) We pray for Stone Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Ian Cardinal, Lay Chair, Paul Graetz and Secretary, Dennis Abbott; giving thanks for the Team that has been working at a renewed vision for the Deanery: for key themes of Co-operating, Resourcing and Praying for the various benefices; and for the potential of Synod to work more closely together in sharing information and being the resource point for Prayer and Mission. We pray for those Benefices in vacancy: for Fulford and Hilderstone as they prepare for the Section 11 meeting, and for John Beswick-Palliser as he and his family move to Cotes Heath, Standon, Swynnerton and Tittensor.

Thursday 7th: (*Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420*) We pray for Stafford Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Richard Grigson, Assistant, Revd Martin Strang and Lay Chair, John Clark; giving thanks for the faithfulness and perseverance of those who have stayed with the churches during the last 18 months. Pray for a willingness to adapt and change to new circumstances and to let go of long-established patterns and places of worship; asking God for a spirit of hope, and for trust in those who lead.

We pray also for Revd Darren Edge as he is licensed today as chaplain at Denstone College.

Friday 8th: (*Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885*)

*Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Saturday 9th: We remember Lichfield's Community of Chaplains gathering for the first time in person for 2 years: *Loving God, we have learnt to see chaplaincy as part of the mission of your church and this diocese. At this time, bless all our chaplains with rest, connection and renewal, that they may continue to serve you in the many hidden places of this diocese. As we pray for them, we pray too for all those they serve, in schools, universities, prisons, young offenders institutes, hospitals, hospices, barracks and airfields, emergency services and in sports venues, waterways, and every corner of your world. Amen*

We pray also for Revd David Candlin who will be instituted as Team Rector of Bloxwich at 5pm today.

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