

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 80

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 10th October: (*World Mental Health Day / Homeless Sunday*)

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10b) Christians have a big part to play in supporting people to have good mental health and a safe place to call home, with a community that can build up those around them. Please join with Transforming Communities Together (<https://tctogether.org.uk/>), the social action and social justice arm of the Diocese of Lichfield, in being people of hope. Pray that this hope will be shared across all our parishes, and that individuals and churches will be equipped to extend God's kingdom across the Black Country, Staffordshire and northern Shropshire.

Monday 11th: (*Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675*)

We pray for Wulfrun Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Sue Boyce, Assistant, Revd Ian Poole, Lay Chair, Mike Hotchkiss; giving thanks for the sense of unity and fellowship felt amongst the Clergy of the Deanery. Pray for the high number of Clergy vacancies across the Deanery, for those congregations without incumbents.

Tuesday 12th: (*Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915*)

Gracious God, we thank you for the National Health Service; for the imagination and purpose of those who, in the 1940s, saw the need for health provision free at the point of need, and paid for by all. With the roots of such a vision deep in Christian compassion, and a belief in the dignity of all, it means that today those who seek healing and help from the health service do so without anxiety about paying medical bills; and at a time when so many are anxious, it becomes a means of your gracious provision. Protect all who work in the NHS, we pray, and grant them the stamina to endure these days of unprecedented challenge. Amen (*Paul Goodliffe, General Secretary of Churches Together in England*)

Wednesday 13th:

We remember the Bishop's Council which meets today.

We pray for Cheadle Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Michael Follin and Lay Chair, Sylvia Bainbridge; giving thanks for a willingness to move forward together in mission and discipleship. Pray that a God inspired vision will create a sustainable and spirit-led future for the Deanery. May God's wisdom guide clergy, readers and laity in future decisions and may congregations be blessed to serve the lonely and those who are living in fear so that they can experience the hope we have in the Lord.

Thursday 14th:

As we pray for children and young people across the Diocese, we remember, especially, Fi Iddon, chaplain at the University Centre Shrewsbury; giving thanks for past opportunities for conversations about faith, and praying that these opportunities will continue. Give thanks, too, that students are able to return to campus; bringing the building alive again! Pray that both returning and new students will quickly feel at home, and for staff who may feel nervous about this return to some face-to-face teaching.

Friday 15th: (*Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582*)

We pray for Stoke-on-Trent Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Shaun Morris, Assistants, Revd Dave Street & Tommy Merry and Lay Chair, Mike Whittaker; giving thanks for the good relationships and support that clergy are enjoying with, and from, each other within the Deanery. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity as we encourage people back to church.

Saturday 16th: (*Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, and Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, Reformation Martyrs, 1555*)

Give thanks for the World Health Organisation's plans to roll out a malaria vaccination programme which could save tens of thousands of young lives every year, the majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Pray that political leaders will make responsible decisions and investments to ensure there is sufficient vaccine, as well as enough health care workers to deliver it; to make the programme a success.