

# Lichfield Diocese Day of Prayer October 22/23

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

(The following resources for prayer have been compiled for use during the 24hr [Day of Prayer](#) though they can still be used on a daily basis.)

## Sunday:

### **SHAPING FOR MISSION**

May we be **Confident Disciples:**

pray for all Deaneries as they share their visions for sustainable mission moving forward, and we name before you all 28 Deaneries: *From the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area:* Ellesmere, Hodnet, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Wem & Whitchurch, Wrockwardine, Edgmond & Shifnal and Telford.

*From the Wolverhampton EA:*

Lichfield, Penkridge, Rugeley, Trysull, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Wulfrun, Tamworth and Walsall.

*From the Stafford EA:* Cheadle, Stafford, Stone, Uttoxeter, Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle, Alstonfield, Tutbury, Eccleshall and Leek. Pray too for all existing mission projects, pioneer ministers and fresh expressions.

*Generous God, You have provided for your people in every generation.*

*In our faithlessness you remained steadfast.*

*In our obsession with scarcity you provided abundance.*

*In our anxiety you offered us freedom from fear.*

*In our despair you gave us hope.*

*We receive your gifts, believe your promises and trust you for the future.*

*May we cease trying to fix the church and join with you in loving your world.*

*May we hear your call to fullness of life and share it with others.*

*May we be shaped by the Good News of Jesus, the light of the world*

*And may we seek your kingdom as People of Hope. Amen.*

*Shaping for Mission Prayer*

## **Monday: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we **follow where you lead us:**

You lead your people in every generation. Guide as we seek to be your people across this diocese, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus, sharing your love and growing your kingdom. We pray for all who are anxious about today and tomorrow, and who are carrying burdens bigger than they can bear. We pray for all clergy and ministers, that they will receive your guidance, strength and find renewed purpose in following you. May you lead us and all people into abundant life **Amen**

**SCHOOLS:** We pray for the staff, pupils and families of our 206 schools; for the 45,000 pupils in our church schools, for Claire Shaw the Director of Education, for the Diocesan Board of Education and the St Chads Academies Trust and for all Christian Distinctiveness Advisers. We pray too for all the community schools in our Diocese, for bridges of trust, cooperation and shared concern with churches.

## **Tuesday: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we **be made new:**

'Behold! I make all things new'. Eternal God free us from unhelpful concern with the past. Heal our histories and help us to see you at work in the new pages and chapters of our stories. We pray for forgiveness for all the ways in which we have failed as churches and as your people. We receive your forgiveness and ask for a renewed joy in discerning what you call us to be and do as churches today. May your eternal presence be made known in every place and every age, and may we speak your Good News afresh. **Amen**

**COMMUNITIES:** for the Transforming Communities Together Team in their work of 'Supporting people and communities to thrive and flourish'. We pray for the team members: CO: Rev Adam Edwards, Emma Smith, Shaz Akhtar, , Debbie Huxton, Rachel Moore, James Henderson, Lesley Bovington, Carrie Blount, Rue Green, Sarah Thorpe, and TCT Trustees; for the many ways they are impacting the people and communities in this Diocese particularly in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic: for Just Finance Black Country, Black Lives Matter Initiatives, Modern Slavery, Mothers' Union Modern Slavery Campaigner, Faith and Finance, Hate Crime, Black Country Near Neighbours, #peopleofhope, Places of Welcome and Food Poverty.

## **Wednesday: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we show **Your heart for your people.**

God of grace, we live in a divided world and our own communities are shaped by injustice. We pray for all who are oppressed, disadvantaged and those who feel unloved. We pray that you would change the hearts of all who foster hatred towards their brothers and sisters, and all who struggle to see people of different races as part of your glorious creation. We pray for the Living in Love and Faith conversations and as we look to the shape of our churches in the future, we pray for your kingdom to come, for all your children to know they are loved, and for your will to be done. Amen.

**DIOCESE:** We pray for our Diocesan Bishop The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, for our Area Bishops - Clive Gregory (Wolverhampton), Sarah Bullock (Shrewsbury) and Matthew Parker (Stafford), for our Assistant Bishops Jan McFarlane and Alistair Magowan and for Bishop Rod Thomas (Maidstone); for our Archdeacons - Sue Weller (Lichfield), Julian Francis (Walsall) and Paul Thomas (Salop) and for our Associate Archdeacons; for our Cathedral – Dean Adrian Dorber and Canons Andrew Stead, Gregory Platten and Jan McFarlane and all involved in the mission and ministry of the Cathedral; for Robert Mountford, Regional Ecumenical Officer and for developing ecumenical relations; for Neil Spiring, our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and his team; for the Task Group taking forwards our commitment to justice and inclusion for people of every ethnicity and culture.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we show **See you at work in the world:**

You are the makers of the heavens and the earth, of all that is on the earth and all that is. May we remember that this is your world, and it is your church. Help us to hear your voice as you speak to your church. Help us to see you at work as your Spirit blows through the lives of those you have called. Help us, the body of Christ to be led by you, not creating the church in our own image and likeness, but so that we may conform to the example of Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**CHAPLAINCY:** There are over 70 chaplains in our Diocese. We pray for all in the particular challenges they face at this stage of the Pandemic; in chaplaincy teams; for those based in schools, colleges and universities as they adjust to the changes being enforced upon them; in business and workplace environments; in hospitals and hospices (name those near to you); in prisons and young offenders institutions (remembering HMP Drake Hall, HMP Stafford, HMP Stoke Heath, HMP Swinfen Hall, HMYOI Werrington and HMP Dovegate) and all in the armed forces and emergency services; pray too for all who are part of chaplaincy teams in a voluntary capacity and for those with a developing sense of vocation and service. Amen.

**Friday: (Day of Prayer) SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we be **Prayerful People:**

Faithful God, you know us and love us and hear our prayer. You have told us: 'ask, and it shall be given to you, seek and you will find'. May we be faithful in prayer; may we come to you knowing that you have welcomed us to prayer to you as Abba, Father. May we pray expectant of all that you will do in us and through us. Challenge us to be bold in prayer, and help us to be humble in prayer. As we seek your will, help us to notice your answers to prayer, especially when they come through the still small voice. **Amen**

**AROUND THE WORLD:** We give thanks for our part in the worldwide church. We pray for the wider Anglican Communion seeking to respond to the challenges and suffering caused by Covid-19; for all our global partnerships remembering Bishop Steve Diseko and all in the Diocese of Matlosane, South Africa; for Bishop Rob Hardwick (Qu'Appelle, Canada) and Bishop Chris Harper (Saskatoon, Canada); for our brothers and sisters in the Nordkirche, in Northern Germany; for Archbishop Melter Tais and the province of South East Asia as we pray for Christians in Malaysia; for our links with Anglican Mission Agencies remembering particularly USPG and CMS; for all overseas links and charities with which our parishes are connected. We pray also for our fledgling link with the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. We recognise the disproportionate impact of Climate Change on poorer countries, and we pray for a renewed commitment to **climate justice** and to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

**Saturday: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we be **Faithful:**

All that we have comes from you, and only of your own can we give you. You have called us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in your name. Help us to be faithful to the task to which you have called us. Free us from that which does not build up your kingdom, and give us the desire and courage at all times, and in all places, to make your love known. To make disciples, and to be faithful disciples, following in the footsteps of St Chad. **Amen.**

*"As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two 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. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope."*

*Diocese of Lichfield Vision Prayer*