

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 21st November:

Today we give thanks for the work of the Diocesan Synod which met recently in Stafford; for the debates and prayerful consideration around next year's budget and the Common Fund formula which will be used in the New Year to underpin our mission. Christian generosity was at the heart of much that was said and we pray for the prompting of the Holy Spirit concerning the way in which mutual support is offered, that in all things Christ may be glorified and all that's needful for discipleship will be provided.

Monday 22nd: (Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c.230)

We pray for Wem and Whitchurch Deanery, for Rural Dean Adam Clayton, Assistant, Revd Rich Cresswell and Lay Chair, Roger Ashton; giving thanks for the deanery vision which has been developed by the Shaping for Mission team. Pray for the Schools Ministry and for the development of 'Open the Book' with the possibility of teams to travel to schools across the deanery; and for Rural Ministry projects and ongoing conversations about opportunities to offer pastoral support to rural communities and farming families. Pray for those planning Christmas events and services that welcome people into our churches.

Tuesday 23rd: (Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c.100)

We pray for the Chaplaincy team of Whitchurch Community Hospital, co-ordinated by Revd Canon Judy Hunt; giving thanks for their ongoing strong links despite the team not being allowed to make visits for regular pastoral ministry yet. Pray for the patients and families who request end-of-life ministry, giving thanks that team members are able to enter the hospital in those situations; pray for the staff who are missing the support normally given by the Chaplaincy team.

Wednesday 24th:

We pray for Wednesbury Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Martin Ennis, Assistant, Revd Jeremy Sylvester and Lay Chair, Chris Sprules; for wisdom and discernment as they lead the Deanery. Pray for the Shaping for Mission programme in the Deanery, and especially for the team's Mission/Action meeting with the Archdeacon and Bishop today, and for a clear Spirit-led way going forward. Pray for Revd Larry Bains and for his wife Elizabeth, as they settle into the parish of St. Matthews Tipton, where Larry will be instituted as Vicar on 4 December,

Thursday 25th: (Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer, 1748)

We pray for Sir John Talbot School, Whitchurch, headteacher Mr Tim Stonnall and Thomas Adams School, Wem, headteacher Mr Mark Cooper and both school communities; giving thanks that sports and other activities including some clubs, have been able to restart. Pray for the continuing challenges and disruption of the covid-19 pandemic, for students and staff who are sick, for those with underlying health conditions and all who are suffering anxiety and stress because of the pandemic. We remember schools' ministry and chaplain Revd Deborah Walton; giving thanks for those who have recently undertaken school chaplaincy training. Pray for wisdom and opportunities as they seek to extend the network of school chaplains in the Deanery, and for the introduction of a new lay chaplain at Thomas Adams School who will support bereaved students.

Friday 26th:

We pray for Leek Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Nigel Irons and Lay Chair, David Wright as the Shaping for Mission process moves on. In particular, pray for suitable applicants for the vacancy at St Lawrence's, Biddulph and for Bishop Matthew and Archdeacon Megan as they finalise proposals for the future configuration of the Deanery, to enable two further posts to be advertised. Pray also for the best way forward to be found for those parishes that are struggling and who have been without a full-time priest for lengthy periods of time.

Saturday 27th:

We remember our Companion Diocese of Matlosane, South Africa; for Bishop Steve Diseko and his wife Brenda, for the health and protection of them and their family, and for those experiencing desperate poverty in many parts of this rural diocese. Hold in prayer the clergy and their families as they struggle to minister to scattered congregations while they themselves suffer; giving thanks for their faithfulness in difficult conditions. Pray for Bishop Michael's, Advent Generous Hope initiative to support the clergy of Matlosane, who have accepted a 30% reduction in their stipend, and for his visit to Bishop Steve in January next year, that it will be a time of mutual support and a strengthening of our two Dioceses' friendship in Jesus.

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