

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 88

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 December:

'In this Advent time of heartfelt expectation, may we be reminded that the Incarnate God comes to us in our lostness, bringing joy and hope in the midst of darkness...' Read more from Bishop Michael on the theme of Generous Hope [here](#).

Pray for Revd Jane Held as she is licenced today, by Bishop Michael, as Interim Minister of Butterton, Ipstones with Berkhamsytc and Onecote with Bradnop.

Monday 6th: (Nicholas, Bishop of Myra c.326)

We pray for Hodnet Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Christine Simpson, Assistant, Revd Catherine McBride and Lay Chair, Richard Ancliffe; giving thanks for the way the Deanery Synod reps are engaging with the Shaping for Mission process and for opportunities to share together in events during the Advent and Christmas season. Pray for wisdom & discernment as they put together the Mission Action Plan, that there might be a focus on clear and achievable goals. Pray especially for guidance concerning the future of youth and children's work in the deanery.

Tuesday 7th: (Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith 397)

We pray for the Chaplaincy Team at Walsall Palliative Care Centre, in particular, for Revd Anthony Swaby who coordinates the chaplaincy provision. We pray for Revd Anthony as he is currently off work and recovering from an operation, and for Revd Edd Stock who is covering whilst Rev Anthony is away. We pray for all the staff who provide care and support for those approaching their end of life and for the all the families who journey with their loved ones through terminal illness.

Pray for Revd Canon Robert Hall, being instituted today by Bishop Michael as Vicar of Walsall St Paul and St Luke

Wednesday 8th: (The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Pray for the members of Bishop's Council as they meet today.

We pray for Revd Darren Edge as he is licensed today, by Bishop Matthew, as Chaplain of Denstone College. We give thanks for the staff and governors of all our schools and pray that they will remain vigilant in their quest to keep their school communities safe, whilst endeavouring to facilitate positive learning experiences. We give thanks for the Open the Book teams operating in schools across the Diocese as they faithfully tell Bible stories, week after week, and we pray that God will nurture faith in the young people who hear them.

Thursday 9th:

Pray for Revd David Candlin as he is installed today, by Bishop Michael, as Team Rector of Bloxwich Team Parish. We pray for Uttoxeter Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Brian Leathers, and Lay Chair, Chris Gill; giving thanks for the effectiveness of the Shaping for Mission team and the huge sense of cooperation experienced through the process. Pray for an ongoing sense of mission and for all the schools' work, that it will continue to flourish. We remember with gratitude the wonderful and varied contributions made by Peter Dixon across the Deanery, especially in encouraging and inspiring other Readers; we pray for his family & friends as they mourn his passing.

Friday 10th:

We pray for Newcastle Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Andrew Dawswell, and Lay Chair, Stephen Dunn; giving thanks for signs of hope in difficult times; and for the ministry of 4 curates in the deanery who over the last year have completed their training and moved on. Please pray for 2 memorial services for those especially affected by the pandemic, being held at St Giles' Newcastle **tomorrow** (details & booking via their website). Pray also for the wardens and other lay leaders at Chesterton, who are in vacancy following Simon Boxall's retirement; and for Wolstanton & Basford who have been in vacancy for most of the last 2 years.

Saturday 11th:

As the season of Advent is celebrated much more comprehensively in Germany than within the UK, many churches of our Nordkirche partners will be engaging with activities in towns, cities and villages to make the most of missional opportunities. We pray for all those initiatives through which our brothers and sisters are offering the Advent hope against a backdrop of difficulties, tiredness and anxiety as COVID infection rates increase across mainland Europe, and more onerous preventative measures are contemplated. Pray that God might strengthen those working to encourage and support all whom they are called to serve, having confidence in the gospel they proclaim.

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