

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 89

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 19th December:

Give thanks for the life and work of Revd Preb Keith Haywood, who died suddenly last Saturday. Pray especially for his family at this difficult time, and also for the many friends and colleagues, past and present, who mourn the loss of 'a larger-than-life character whose warmth, kindness, love, laughter, wisdom and faith shone through in all of his ways.'

Monday 20th:

We pray for Lichfield Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Janet Waterfield, Assistant, Revd Lynn McKeon, and for all those in positions of leadership within the deanery; giving thanks for the Shaping for Mission Team, for their time, vision, commitment and discernment; that the churches in the Deanery may engage in all aspects of the churches' mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus. We pray for those parishes in interregna: Christ Church Burntwood, St John the Baptist Hammerwich, St Giles Whittington, St Mary's Weeford, St Bartholomew Hints, and St Michael's Lichfield, praying especially for those who have taken on additional responsibility within their churches. We pray that our churches may be effective witnesses during this Christmastide, that people may encounter God in new ways, inviting Him into their hearts.

Tuesday 21st: (Thomas the Apostle)

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Qu'Appelle, Canada; pray for clergy and lay leaders, as many of the parishes resume in-person services; for health care workers and all who have provided essential services throughout the Covid-19 pandemic; and for support for members of our congregations who have been directly impacted by the pandemic. (taken from the Qu'Appelle prayer cycle)

Archdeacon Catherine Harper asks us also to pray for their bishop-elect Helen Kennedy, and for plans for her consecration which will take place on January 22nd 2022.

Wednesday 22nd:

We pray for Penkrige Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Greg Yerbury, Assistant, Revd Rachel Dale and Lay Chair, John Peterken; giving thanks for the recent appointment of Revd Helen Duckett, to the Benefice of Essington, Featherstone and Sharesill. Pray for all those in the deanery currently suffering from Covid 19, remembering in particular Curate, Amanda Arthur; pray also for God's blessing on Revd Sue Mayo as she retires next month. We pray for the deanery synod meeting in January which will be dedicated to discussion around taking the Shaping for Mission vision forward.

Thursday 23rd:

We pray for Telford Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Debbie Loughran, Assistant, Revd Tim Carter and Lay Chair, Richard Page; giving thanks for the ways that their 5 areas of mission are drawing them to work together: A fantastic *Christmas Experience* rolled out across the deanery with many schools participating in a number of venues - a *Deanery Youth event* - the first *Bereavement Cafe* which has run three times and reached many people in their grief - 'Messy' events in which families have come together to worship - *Social Action* as it continues to reach out and engage with all people. Pray for the continuing growth of strong links across the Deanery and a willingness to learn together how to better serve the people of Telford.

Friday 24th:

Generous God, give us the courage to be your people in this world. Give us strength where that means letting go of the old ways, give us compassion where that means loving the unloved and give us imagination where that means seeing where you are at work. Through the work of Shaping for Mission may we be reminded what it means to be faithful to your calling in this age and may we be renewed in our conviction that the coming of Jesus is joy to the whole world. Amen.

Saturday 25th:

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen. ([Church of England website](#))

For further resources for praying for the worldwide church see the [Anglican Cycle of Prayer](#).