

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 92

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers last week & this focus on the work of the diocesan departments and teams. However, as 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

Sunday 9th January:

We give thanks for the life and work of Desmond Tutu the Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, who died on 26th December. The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby described Archbishop Tutu as "a great warrior for justice who never stopped fighting – whether it was for those in his own country, for inclusivity in the South African Constitution, or for those suffering injustice around the world. The world is different because of this man." Our prayers and condolences are with his family and all who loved him, with the Anglican Church of the Province of Southern Africa, and all of the people of South Africa.

Monday 10th: *(William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645)*

Heavenly Father, we pray for each of the school communities in our Diocese; as they face all the challenges this new term is likely to bring, we ask you to inspire shared moments of joy, awe and wonder. We pray for the leaders and teachers as they balance heavy workloads with the desire to meet the needs of the children in their care; and for pupils that you would help them to deal with the anxieties they are likely to feel. We lift the most vulnerable families before you and pray that you would surround them with your love. Amen

Tuesday 11th: *(Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915)*

We remember the work of the Church Mission Society (CMS) <https://churchmissionsociety.org/> in the outworking of its values:

Pioneering - we try new things, ask questions, cross boundaries; *Evangelistic* - we share Jesus in word and action; *Relational* - we get alongside people, becoming a genuine part of the communities where we find ourselves; *Faithful* - where others have left or given up, we remain committed for the long-haul. We pray for all Pioneer Ministers in Lichfield diocese, and especially for Matt Richards in his third year of training with CMS for this ministry.

Wednesday 12th: *(Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689)*

We pray for Tamworth Deanery, for Area Dean Revd Gary Simmons, Assistant, Revd John Grice, Lay Chair, David Litchfield and Asst Lay Chair, Pat West; giving thanks for all the opportunities that Christmas still brought, despite the restrictions of Covid, and the impact into people's lives in Tamworth Deanery. Pray God's blessing on all the ways the deanery will work together in 2022 and for the right appointment into the vacancy in Tamworth Parish.

Thursday 13th: *(Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603)*

We pray for Shrewsbury Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Phil Cansdale, Assistant, Revd Andrew Knight and Lay Chair, Gill Carding; giving thanks for a greater sense of partnership across the deanery during COVID, and for some of the shared activities coming up including a CPAS Venture for church schools and shared "Living in Love and Faith" course. Pray for church life and witness in the town centre as we continue to imagine ministry and mission into the future there. For St Chads, St Alkmunds, Shrewsbury Abbey, St Georges and other churches bordering the town centre, as well as the University Chaplaincy, Youth for Christ and Street Pastors.

Friday 14th: *(From Freda Carey, CMS Mission Partner in Lahore, Pakistan)*

Praise God for the recent publication of two new courses in Urdu, The Christian Response to Suffering and Christian Theology Part 1, by the Open Theological Seminary (OTS), Lahore, Pakistan. The OTS has about 7000 students studying Theological Education by Extension around the country, from basic discipleship courses to Bachelor of Theology degree and an M.A. in Christian Studies. CMS mission partner Freda Carey is part of the editorial team that worked on these courses. Pray that they may be effective in helping Pakistani Christians live out their faith with confidence.

Saturday 15th:

We pray for Rugeley Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Simon Davis; giving thanks for the discerning of a deanery vision of "Growing a younger church", praying that God will help the deanery to become a hub of training and encouragement for the parishes. Pray for the establishing of a new deanery synod, focussing on the SfM vision, and the forming of a new deanery committee and officers who can help our good intentions come to fruition, including the filling of the vacant positions of Assistant Rural Dean and Lay Chair. Pray for parishes going through difficult times and for the diocesan staff teams who support in so many ways.

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