

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 96

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

**Our prayers continue to take forward the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus, whilst remembering the many varied roles and ministries across our Diocese. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February:** *(The Martyrs of Japan, 1597)*

We give thanks for Lichfield Diocese Community of Evangelists who will gather tomorrow at St Andrew's Shifnal; around the theme "Come to the Feast – reconnecting with our communities", that the community will grow in its diversity as a result of this meeting. Pray for Chris Thorpe as he prepares to speak about growing disciples in a rural context in order to develop evangelism, that he will connect with the range of members and guests present on the day. Pray that God will place it on the hearts of people in a rural context, to attend and be nourished and revitalised by the subject matter; and for all team members as they prepare beforehand and serve on the day.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>:**

We pray for Ellesmere Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Linda Cox, Assistant, Revd Preb Pat Hawkins and Lay Chair, Sandra Birchall; giving thanks for the Dementia toolkit roll out being offered across the Deanery, co-ordinated and run by Jeremy Stretton, that it will continue to be a welcoming space where those 'Living with Dementia' on a daily basis feel comfortable to share their thoughts and experiences to help others understand and to find support themselves. Pray for enthusiasm and engagement with the Living in Love and Faith course being offered to the whole Deanery; and for the struggles of rural churches - financially and the availability of able-bodied people to assist with all the jobs, especially when many in the communities are elderly, frail and still concerned about the impact of the pandemic on their health.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>:**

We pray for the diocesan Mission Team: Simon Foster, Alex Wolvers, Catherine Matlock, Laura Edwards, Richard Barrett, Steve Hollinghurst, and Ven Sue Weller; as they gather at St Michaels, Rocester today for a 'Mission Forum'; along with guests: Revd Tim Watson, Ven Megan Smith, Revd Garry Higgs; The Forum will explore what mission might be in the smaller, humbler, bolder Church of England 5-10 years from now, and how to begin to prepare for that.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule.

Deliver us from a world without justice and a future without mercy; in your mercy, establish justice, and in your justice, remember the mercy revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>:** *(Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543)*

We pray for West Bromwich Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Ron Farrell, Assistant, Revd Jane Dicker and Lay Chair, Hazel Bloxham; giving thanks for those whose vocations are proving a great blessing to the deanery and who will be ordained as deacons this summer: Sarah Malpass-Roberts, Rose Wilson, Sue Phillips, Peter Carmody Heaton Philip Garrett; also for James Walton who will be ordained priest. Pray for two imminent appointments: Interim Minister at St Andrew's and a lay administrator, that the right people will be appointed; and for recently appointed Fr David Jarratt and parish workers: Julie Powell and Emily Taylor, for strength and support as they work to restore their parishes and congregations.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>:**

We remember our friends in Matlosane; giving thanks for the generous gift that Lichfield Diocese has been able to provide for them as a result of the Advent Generous giving last year. We continue to uphold Bishop Steve Diseko, his family, and all the people and clergy, as many clergy and their families struggle with greatly reduced income; the great distances that need to be travelled to reach and minister to congregations also remain a challenge. Urgent prayer is requested for the charity Hands at Work in an adjacent diocese to Matlosane as the areas are experiencing unseasonal weather.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>:**

We pray for Edgmond and Shifnal Deanery, for Rural Dean Matthew Lefroy Assistant, Revd Mary Thomas and Lay Chair, Malcolm Maclean; giving thanks that, through the Shaping for Mission process, positive progress has been made in identifying areas for cooperation and collaboration within the deanery. Pray for continued inspiration and guidance as they draw up specific plans to support the deanery vision.

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