

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 13th February:

Loving Father, we give thanks for our Diocesan Ministry Experience Scheme. May young women and men be inspired and nurtured in their vocation to serve God and his Church through the opportunities offered through this scheme. Immersed in community living, may the scheme create a space where vocations are fostered whilst making a real contribution to the life and work of the communities of West Bromwich and beyond through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday 14th: *(Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c.269)*

We pray for Wem & Whitchurch Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Adam Clayton, Assistant, Revd Rich Cresswell and Lay Chair, Roger Ashton; that Church Congregations across the Deanery may apply their minds to each find and encourage a person who is searching for fulfilment in their life to come along to a Church Service where a new dimension for living is presented to them. Pray that they will find the power and love that only God can provide through the Holy Spirit to bring them to that complete fulfilment.

Tuesday 15th: *(Thomas Bray, Priest, Founder of the SPCK and the SPG, 1730)*

We remember those today who will be exploring what it means to be a dementia-friendly church: When memory slips and fades; when faces, events and the rush of life threaten to overwhelm us; be our still centre.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

In caring, when we are unsure what to do, when we are at full stretch and beyond, Help us to cross the bridge from facts to feelings, from head to heart, to meet one another with love.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. *(A prayer by Chris Thorpe)*

Wednesday 16th:

We pray for Leek Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Nigel Irons and Lay Chair, David Wright; giving thanks for the new Deanery Plan which has been agreed with the Shaping for Mission Team and presented to our Deanery Synod by Archdeacon Megan. Pray for PCCs as they now consider the plan which proposes deployment changes to fifteen of the seventeen parishes in the Deanery together with significant changes to benefice boundaries. Continue also to pray for those parishes which have been without the ministry of a stipendiary priest for long periods of time.

Thursday 17th: *(Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977)*

We remember our friends in the Nordkirche, praying especially for Bishop Tilman Jeremias and Anne Lange who are just returning from Africa, having spent time with their partners in South Africa and Tanzania. Whilst there, Bishop Tilman visited the tomb of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and reflected on the impact of the archbishop's ministry. Central to the visit have been discussions around the distressing situation as a result of COVID, the impact of the virus on church services and church work. Pray that the Nordkirche's African partnerships, and our own, grow in depth of their mutual commitment.

Friday 18th:

We pray for Wednesbury Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Martin Ennis, Assistant, Revd Jeremy Sylvester and Lay Chair, Chris Sprules; giving thanks for the leadership of Revd Jeremy Sylvester in guiding the deanery through the implementation phase of Shaping for Mission. Pray for Revd Larry Bain who has recently begun a ministry at St Matthew with St Martin and St Paul, Tipton and for Rev Daniel Njuguna who is leaving St Paul's, Wood Green to serve as an Army Chaplain. Pray also for St Paul's about to enter vacancy, also Churchwardens Glenis Darby and Ann-Marie Hinde who continue to run St John's, Tipton during their vacancy.

Saturday 19th:

We give thanks for the Chaplaincy team at RAF Cosford, as they speak into their place of community, and bring value, hope, spiritual reason and Good News to all those they serve. Pray for the choices that the young people make each day as they begin their adult journey and as they adapt to a military lifestyle; and for the permanent staff at RAF Cosford as they shape these choices and encourage a moral component to behaviour, thoughtful awareness of the needs of others, and attention to their own wellbeing. Pray also for those struggling with the pace of change within the institution and within society at large.

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