

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 98

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 20th February: *(A prayer from Lynne Morris, Chaplain to the Fleet Air Arm Association)*

Lord, we give you thanks for the call of our veterans and the present members of our Armed Forces who willingly serve our nation. Stretch forth your arm to strengthen and protect all who commit their lives to the dangers of land, sea and air. Help them to serve you in a Godly and faithful way through all their journeys. Watch over them and their families. Give them courage, help them to find safety and peace so that, through all the chances and changes of this life, you will bring them all to the sure promise of your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Monday 21st:

We remember all places of learning across our Diocese, for both students and teachers. As some enjoy a half term holiday this week, pray for those parents who will feel under pressure to provide for their children's wants and needs, and for safety for all families; pray for rest and refreshment for teachers that they will return with renewed energy and enthusiasm to nurture their pupils' development and learning. Pray also for those currently visiting universities and colleges and exploring where the future may take them; pray for guidance to make good choices.

Tuesday 22nd:

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 people are working together and looking forward to the future; and for those visiting churches for weddings and baptisms - pray for the ability to reconnect with families and develop outreach to young people. Pray for the AMICA Benefice as Interim Minister, Revd Gary Windon's time with them draws to a close, and as they seek to discern the way forward; and for the Deanery as it begins work on its Mission Action Plan as Synod meets today in its first face-to-face meeting since Lockdown.

Wednesday 23rd: *(Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155)*

We pray for Eccleshall Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Doug Heming and Lay Chair, Jonathan Jones; giving thanks for the recent appointment of Revd Alison Hudson to the Staffordshire Borders Group of Churches. We pray for Holy Trinity, Eccleshall and St Chad's, Slindon currently in vacancy; and for continued wisdom and good relations in consideration of further appointments, and the restructuring of the Deanery going forward. Pray for the Deanery Synod as it meets this evening with Archdeacon Megan.

Thursday 24th: *(Matthias the Apostle)*

We pray for our chaplains across the Diocese, and in particular for those impacted by the Covid restrictions, meaning they have been unable to visit their 'communities'; and for those people who have missed the face-to-face comfort and encouragement previously provided by them. We pray for patience, inspiration and opportunity for them to reconnect in new ways with those who need their support and for wisdom to recognise God's leading for the future.

Friday 25th:

We pray for Walsall Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Mark McIntyre, Assistant, Revd Emily Reynolds and Lay Chair, Nigel Beck; giving thanks for those who are licensed ministers or in positions of leadership. Pray for the 'Shaping for Mission' programme, seeking to enable and equip the people of God in the Deanery. Pray for parishes and clergy where new ministries are beginning: Bloxwich, St Paul's at the Crossing & St Luke's and St Thomas' Aldridge; and for parishes in vacancy or facing vacancy in the near future, that the common life of the Deanery will be a place of mutual support and encouragement.

Saturday 26th:

Loving God,

We thank you once again for the fledgling link between the Diocese of Lichfield and Cork, Cloyne and Ross; asking that, by your Holy Spirit, you would inspire and strengthen this relationship as the year unfolds. This week, we pray particularly for the visit of Bishop Paul and members of the choir at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, joining us at Lichfield Cathedral to celebrate St Chad's Day tomorrow. We ask for safe travels and that you would bless these days – may they be fun, fruitful and faith-inspiring for all, deepening and creating friendships, as we enjoy being brothers and sisters in your Church. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

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