

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally and globally. Let us also continue to pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people and leaders of Russia.

Sunday 15th May:

We remember our diocesan CEO Julie Jones who, following a recent cancer diagnosis, will take a prolonged period of absence to undergo treatment and recuperation between 23 May and 31 July. Pray also for Revd Preb Terry Bloor who, during that time, will take on, part time, the role of Acting CEO; and for a time of handover during the next two weeks.

Pray also for Revd Dr Abbie Walsh who will be licensed by the Bishop of Lichfield to Lichfield St Michael with St Mary and Wall St John at St Michael's Church, Lichfield at 4:00pm today.

Monday 16th: *Prayer for Dementia Action Week 16th-22nd May:*

In moments of confusion, God keep us safe. In moments of clarity, God grant us joy.
In moments of frustration, God give us peace. In moments of sorrow, God bring us comfort.
May God who sees into the secret places of our mind, beyond anything which limits us,
to the person that is us, has always been and will always be us,
encircle us in his arms, until that day when all is made new in his eternal home. Amen

Tuesday 17th:

We pray for Wem and Whitchurch Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Adam Clayton, Assistant, Revd Rich Cresswell and Lay Chair, Roger Ashton; giving thanks that they have been able to discern some ideas about how to translate their vision into action and discussions about a range of chaplaincy possibilities are ongoing. Pray for retired clergy William Price Rob Haarhoff and Michael Cotterell as they support the Wem, Weston under Redcastle and Lee Brockhurst; and that the right individual will be appointed to fill this clergy vacancy, as this post will likely have a significant impact on the deanery's plans for Shaping for Mission.

Wednesday 18th:

We pray for Leek Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Nigel Irons and Lay Chair, David Wright; giving thanks that Deanery Synod has formally approved its Final Plan as a result of the Shaping for Mission process which involves a significant restructuring of benefice boundaries in the deanery and a new shape of ministry in some parishes. Pray for Bishop Matthew, Archdeacon Megan and the Shaping for Mission Team as they engage with progressing this plan and for the 15 congregations which it affects, especially those who have been in interregnum for a long time.

Thursday 19th: *(Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988)*

We remember all students throughout the diocese, in schools, colleges and universities; especially those who are facing exams and assessments at this time of year. Pray that God would help them to prioritise tasks and assignments and to focus wholeheartedly on what they need to accomplish; and strengthen them when they begin to feel weary and anxious. Pray also for all who work with children and young people, that they would have patience and discernment to know how best to support their needs.

Friday 20th: *(Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804)*

We pray for Ellesmere Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Linda Cox, Assistant, Revd Preb Pat Hawkins and Lay Chair, Sandra Birchall; giving thanks for an opportunity for the deanery to come together to share in the forthcoming united Ascension Day service. Pray that all in the deanery may grow in confidence in their faith in Jesus Christ, and that they may love God and serve their communities.

Saturday 21st: *(Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330)*

Pray for Bishop Donald Hume and Assistant Bishop Nelson Ugas of Kuching Diocese as they continue their annual visitation to all parishes to confirm candidates who have fulfilled their obligations and preparations. Pray for these hundreds of candidates to live a life of active worship, witness and service to Jesus Christ. We remember also Bishop Steven Abbarow and suffragan bishops Jayson Selvaraj and Stephen Soe Chee Cheng, and our friends in West Malaysia; giving thanks that all churches are, once again, holding in-person services. Pray that parishioners will continue to return to regular worship.