

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 135

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. 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 suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people and leaders of Russia.

Sunday 6th November: *Prayers for COP27 international climate change talks: <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/community-global>*

Gracious God, Grant us the expectant hope that this damaged earth will be healed of its pain and restored to wholeness. Come among us to judge the world with righteousness and to change both hearts and minds.

Turn us away from exploitation to avert, minimise and address loss and damage to your world,

As we work towards the nurture of creation. Amen

Monday 7th: *Day 9 of the Novena - Looking forward to St Chad's Shrine as a place for the renewal of the Church's mission*

This evening the new Shrine and its Altar, the Corona, the icons of Christ's ministry, the Sacrament House and the Repository for the Gospel Book will be consecrated by our Bishops. Pray that the Shrine of St Chad will be a reminder of the power of God to raise up Saints and an inspiration for us to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.

We proclaim not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

For the God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has caused the light to shine within us:

to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen

Tuesday 8th: *(The Saints and Martyrs of England)*

Pray for Hodnet Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Catherine McBride, Assistant, Revd Jane Morris and Lay Chair, Richard Ancliffe; giving thanks for the ministry of all clergy and lay ministers, particularly for Revd Jane Morris' role as Interim Minister in the Woore and Norton-in-Hales Benefice. Pray for them and for the AMICA Benefice, both in vacancy and hoping to interview early next year; and also, for the Hodnet Benefice, newly in vacancy. Pray for the Shaping for Mission team facing the challenges of creating and implementing a Mission Action Plan for the deanery.

Wednesday 9th: *(Margery Kempe, Mystic, c.1440)*

Pray for Rugeley Deanery: Rural Dean, Revd Simon Davis and Assistant, Revd Paul Kelly; giving thanks for new ministries, especially Revd Ann Kelly and her new parish of St John's Heath Hayes; for the ministries of retiring colleagues: Revd David Evans, Rector of Breerton & Rugeley with Armitage & Revd Anne Noble, House for Duty priest in Colton, and for the recent Confirmation at Cannock. Pray for ongoing growth in discipleship for the candidates; for new ventures under the Shaping for Mission programme, including "Cupcake church" - short worship & cake for young people and their families at Abbots Bromley. Pray for parish churches struggling to pay bills; for the Holy Spirit's discernment for the process to find new ministers for recent vacancies. Pray for the challenge of reaching out to new housing areas, for developing relationships with ecumenical colleagues, and the growth of vocations to ministry, that churches may reveal the presence of Christ in our diverse communities.

Thursday 10th: *(Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 461)*

Pray for Telford Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Debbie Loughran, Assistant, Revd Tim Carter and Lay Chair, Richard Page; giving thanks for Shaping for Mission initiatives enabling good working together in Mission Areas; for good conversations at well attended All Souls Services across the deanery, and a successful new start for St Peter's Church community meeting at Holy Trinity Academy and the Scout Hut in Priorslee. Pray for wisdom in shortlisting for Team Vicar at Central Telford, and for those in hospital or poorly at home, both Clergy and laity.

Friday 11th: *(Martin, Bishop of Tours, c.397)*

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service.

As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future;

for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice.

Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday 12th:

We pray for the members of Diocesan Synod, meeting today, that God will guide them and grant them wisdom in decision making as they consider the hardship facing many across our diocese and the possible use of church buildings as warm spaces; and the best way to manage the deficit for the Diocesan budget for 2023.