

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 139

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 11th December:

Pray for Wem and Whitchurch Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Adam Clayton and Lay Chair, Roger Ashton; praying especially for Adam as he recovers from surgery, that he will make a quick return to robust health. Pray especially, at this turbulent time, for all parishes in the deanery who are in vacancy and for the rural parishes that they will find a way forward with the Shaping for Mission plan.

Monday 12th:

Remember Revd Treena Larkin as she takes up her new role this month as Bishop's Chaplain; pray that God's Spirit will guide and enable her as she plays a key pastoral and administrative role for Bishop Michael, which will include prayer, offering advice on policy and process, organising events and providing hospitality to guests.

Tuesday 13th: *(Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784)*

Pray for Ellesmere Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Linda Cox, Assistant, Revd Preb Pat Hawkins and Lay Chair, Sandra Birchall; in particular for Linda who was licensed last Thursday for a further 5-year term as rural dean. We also ask that God will give her strength and wisdom as she supports two benefices within the deanery who currently have no clergy; particularly remembering the congregations in those places during this season of Advent. Give thanks also for retired clergy and for all those coming together and working hard to maintain services.

Wednesday 14th: *(John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591)*

Pray for today's FaithAction Coffee House; an opportunity for faith-based organisations to share their innovative ideas, as well as the challenges they face, in supporting vulnerable people in the community throughout the festive period. Pray for all who will rely on items from food banks for Christmas dinner, those who will be unable to buy gifts for their children and those who will rely on public buildings as places of warmth over Christmas. Pray also for all who are lonely.

Thursday 15th: *(A prayer from Revd Steve Parker, one of the chaplains to Staffordshire Police)*

As we approach the winter of discontent, we pray for our Police Force as they may face additional workloads and the frustration of many. We pray for wisdom & discernment engaging with the public, commerce & industry. Keep them safe, Father God, from physical harm and mental anguish. We pray for those behind the scenes: Control room staff, support staff, specialist departments. May they know your peace and strength at demanding times, comfort them along with their operational colleagues. Finally, we pray for wisdom and humility for the Principal Officers making difficult decisions to take the Police Force forward. We ask in Jesus' name, Amen

Friday 16th:

Give thanks for the work and ministry of the Church Mission Society (CMS), remembering especially Freda Carey, Lichfield Diocese's CMS Mission Partner in Lahore, Pakistan; giving thanks that the temperature has cooled and that the heavy rains which caused flooding a few months ago have ceased; continue to pray for the still ongoing relief work for the many victims of the floods. Pray also for Freda and her colleagues in their busy schedule of teaching, training and producing resources for Bible Colleges and Theological Seminaries.

Saturday 17th: *(Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928)*

Remember the work of the Late Night Listeners team who will be out on the streets of Lichfield again this evening, and again on New Year's Eve; aiming to bring some light and hope into lives as they engage with people across the spectrum of society. Pray especially for a lady who encountered the team in November, feeling unworthy of living but, after a conversation with one of the team, her hopes were raised and she was given the details of an Alpha course ... please pray that she will attend one.