

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 18th December:

Pray for Newcastle Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Andrew Dawswell, Assistant, Revd Simon Maddison, and Lay Chair, Chris Gill; giving thanks for new incumbents: Revd James Rosie who has been at Chesterton since November; and Revd John Alessi, who will be welcomed to Knutton at a service on 6th February. Pray for churches in the deanery planning or considering offering warm spaces; and for those parishes which are struggling with their own finances.

Monday 19th:

Pray for all who make up the team at Lichfield Cathedral and for all who have, or will be, visiting the Cathedral for the 'Sing Choirs of Angels' light spectacular and other special events during the Advent and Christmas season; that all will be blessed as they take in the joyful story of Christmas and explore the Nativity in new ways.

Tuesday 20th: *(Prayer from Revd Wendy Heath, chaplain to the control room at Stafford Police HQ and to Penkridge and Rugeley Fire Stations)*

Lord, we thank you for all our services who put the public before themselves so very often; for their unstinting work, to keep us safe. Lord, pour down your blessings on them, when they struggle will you show them that they can turn to you for help and guidance. As the Christmas season is upon us and stress increases for many, especially for those who are struggling financially, will you show them where they can find help; and may we all be prompted to continue to pray for them. Amen

Wednesday 21st

Pray for Trysull Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Julia Cody, Assistant, Revd Richard Reeve, Lay Chair Richard Pithers and the Trysull Mission Enabling Team. Remember, particularly, those parishes which are in vacancy: St Chad's Pattingham, Benedict Biscop Wombourne and St Joseph's Merry Hill; giving thanks for the clergy and retired clergy who have, and are continuing to, assist in those parishes. Pray also for the new Deanery Lay Chapter of Readers, Lay Ministers and Lay Funeral Ministers who will hold their inaugural meeting in the new year. Pray especially, at this time, for those in residential and nursing homes and for all who are lonely.

Thursday 22nd: *(based on a pastoral letter from Bishop Michael to Persian Christians, which can be found [here](#))*

We remember the small Anglican church in Iran and all those who face harassment, intimidation and persecution for their faith. Pray for all showing solidarity with the family of Mahsa Amini, who died tragically in police custody in September, as they protest peacefully, despite being met with excessive force resulting in so many deaths. Pray also for Iranians living outside their country, including those who have found a home in British churches, but are fearful for family and friends back in Iran.

Friday 23rd:

Pray for Wednesbury Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Martin Ennis, Assistant, Revd Jeremy Sylvester and Lay Chair, Chris Sprules; giving thanks for the work of its Shaping for Mission team and for the support shown to the deanery by the wider diocese. Pray for the parishes in vacancy, those with issues concerning finance and/or governance & for parishes looking to work more closely together. Pray for encouragement for all in the deanery to persevere & to be faithful to God, and for guidance for the deanery to find its way forward.

Saturday 24th: *(Christmas Eve)*

Pray for members of the multi-faith Chaplaincy team supporting Walsall Healthcare Trust: for Revd Anthony Swaby who supports the Palliative care team at Goscote, for Revd Edd Stock who has recently been appointed Team Leader, for Tim and Denise who work in bereavement and for Cath, the Chaplaincy administrator. Pray also for all the amazing Chaplaincy volunteers as they care for and support patients and staff.

Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels. Be with all who are lonely, and those who feel distant from celebrations. Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts. Amen.

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