

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 25th December: *(Christmas Day)*

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

Pray for Bishop Michael as he presides over Holy Communion this morning at HMP Swinfen Hall, that this time of worship will be a great blessing to those present; and pray for all who are separated from their families at this time of celebration.

Monday 26th: *(Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr)*

Pray for Leek Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Nigel Irons, Lay Chair David Wright together with Revd Matt Malins, Revd Darren Fraser, Revd Karen Petherick, recently arrived Revd Will Drain and members of the Shaping for Mission Team as we await completion of the current consultation process into the realignment of our parishes within new benefice boundaries as part of the SfM process. Pray that the consultation will run smoothly so that new appointments can be made at some point in 2023. Continue to pray for the nine parishes still in vacancy & the process of defining new structures of oversight in four of these.

Tuesday 27th: *(John, Apostle and Evangelist)*

Pray for Tutbury Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Michael Freeman and Lay Chair, Dr Doug Brown; giving thanks for those churches which are developing ministry and stewardship, as we also pray for those facing difficulties in these areas. Pray that the right appointments might soon be made to the vacancies in the Deanery: at Hanbury with Draycott in the Clay, Newborough and Rangemore (all one benefice); and St Modwen's, Burton. Pray for God's blessing on the work of the *Shaping for Mission* Phase 3 Group.

Wednesday 28th: *(The Holy Innocents)*

Pray for Hands at Work in Africa - a Christian charity whose vision is to see the local Church in Africa united with the Church outside Africa in caring for the most vulnerable in the poorest of the poor communities in Africa - visited in the summer by a team of volunteers from the West Midlands. Pray that God will enable the charity to continue to build relationships with churches and community leaders in impoverished areas, seeking to support local people to care for the orphans and vulnerable children in their midst.

Thursday 29th: *(Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170)*

Pray for Uttoxeter Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Brian Leathers and Lay Chair Stephen Dunn, giving thanks for the possibilities which are starting to arise for extra cooperation between Benefices and Teams as we look at restructuring and filling vacancies in 2023. Pray that these will come to fruition, particularly as we start sharing services developed in the Deanery but delivered in the local Churches, with Candlemas Forest Church being the first of these.

Friday 30th: *(A prayer from Vanda Perrett, chaplain at Werrington YO1, with Jeff Cuttell and David Howard)*

"Pray for the people who make up the family of staff and prisoners in Werrington, that they may each know the love of God and embrace the peace and joy of a growing maturing faith; for those exploring baptism in Werrington, those exploring the Islamic faith, for our friends of other world faiths ministering alongside us." *In times of conflict, we pray for calm decisions; during times of trials, for justice; in times of fear, for comfort; in times of joy, for space for celebration; and during times of farewell, give us hope, as we bless those who are leaving. We pray for transformation of systems that result in full prisons, and for those making decisions on behalf of the people of this nation, to be mindful of their impact on the vulnerable, the struggling or the unseen. May they be truly Christlike in all they do. And may all this change begin with me and with you. Amen*

Saturday 31st: *(John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384)*

Thank God for those across the diocese who spend time on the streets offering support to all who need it, including the volunteers of the Late-Night Listeners, who will be out tonight in Lichfield. Pray that they will be a blessing to the night time economy and will shine as a beacon of hope in the dark night.

**To get these prayer points delivered to your mobile automatically via the free PrayerMate app on iOS & Android [click here](#)
For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx**