

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 141

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 1st January: *(The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus)*

Pray for all clergy across the diocese, many of whom will be taking a time of rest from parish responsibilities following the busyness of the Christmas season. May they be refreshed and revitalised to guide their parishes in seeking to share the Gospel message with those in their local communities. Pray also for the Pastoral Supervision Scheme which will support clergy in reflecting on their roles; that God will guide suitable candidates, both lay and ordained, to undertake this important role.

(Further information about the scheme can be obtained from Rachel: Rachel.moore@lichfield.anglican.org).

Monday 2nd: *(Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945)*

Pray for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team as they begin a new year, with all the training and DBS requirements proving a big challenge. We remember with thanksgiving the life and work of Linda Clifford Hayes and pray for her daughter Jaegar as she mourns her sad passing.

We give thanks for Pete joining the team and pray for him to settle well into his new role.

Tuesday 3rd:

Pray for the schools, colleges and universities across the diocese; giving thanks for the opportunities for ministry through chaplaincies and our church schools. Pray for the team at Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education as they offer support, encouragement and training to school staff and governors; praying especially for Charmian Gamble and Louisa Harrop as they take up new roles today as Christian Distinctiveness Advisors. Pray for families struggling to make ends meet in the current financial situation, for wisdom for school staff to signpost them to those who can help & for the charities seeking to support them

Wednesday 4th:

Pray for Walsall Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Mark McIntyre, Assistant, Revd Emily Reynolds and Lay Chair, Nigel Beck; and for the Shaping for Mission focus for 2023 on the equipping of all the Baptised, and on missional outreach across the deanery. Pray for all in sector ministries and chaplaincy in the area, serving the universities, town centre and hospitals. Pray also for parishes in vacancy at this time, that priests may be found to serve in them.

Thursday 5th:

Give thanks for all who work in the diocesan Secretariat & Finance departments, praying for good governance that enables us to be agents of mission and change; and for a new urgency in reaching all in our diocese with the good news of Jesus. Especially pray for an overwhelming spirit of generosity as we seek to bridge the budget deficit in 2023; giving thanks and praying for our Finance Team and Parish Assessors who work with incumbents and treasurers; and for all on the DAC as they seek to respond to the building challenges around the diocese. Pray also for good clear communications, mutual understanding and IT systems that will help, not hinder, those seeking to make changes.

Friday 6th: *(The Epiphany)*

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Saturday 7th:

Pray for our companion diocese of Qu'Appelle, giving thanks for the leadership, within the Spirit of Christ, of Bishop Helen. Give thanks for all involved in the leadership of Advent meditations asking 'What are we waiting for?' and their 'longest night' Blue Christmas Service; and pray for all who attended, that God might continue to touch them through the ideas explored and conversations held.

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