

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 8th January:

Pray for the United City Celebration, taking place this evening at Swan Bank Church, Burslem – a city-wide celebration to welcome in the New Year. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to inspire and enable Host, Revd Kathryn Stephens, Worship leaders, Adrian and Esther Stone and Guest Preacher, Archdeacon Megan Smith and that all who take part will be encouraged and blessed. (*Further details: email@saltbox.org.uk*)

Monday 9th:

Pray for Oswestry Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Paul Darlington, Assistant, Revd Harvey Gibbons and Lay Chair, Jacqui Clarke.

Pray for Lichfield Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Lynn McKeon, Assistant, Revd Abi Walsh, Lay Chair, Lilas Rawling and Assistant, Jill Hope.

Pray also for Penkridge Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Greg Yerbury, Assistant, Revd Rachel Dale, Lay Chair, John Peterken and Assistant, Jonathan Burd.

Tuesday 10th: (*William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645*)

Merciful God, may this new year bring peace to those parts of the world where it has been absent for far too long, bring freedom to those who are oppressed and bring relief to those suffering through natural disasters and adverse weather conditions. Give wisdom, we pray, to those in authority in the governments of the world and turn their hearts towards righteousness and justice, that we might see a sense of fairness and compassion spread throughout the globe. In Jesus' name, Amen

Wednesday 11th: (*Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915*)

Pray for our companion dioceses and global partnerships, giving thanks for the mutual support and encouragement we share; remembering especially our brothers and sisters in West Malaysia and Kuching. Pray for Rt Revd Dr Steven Abbarow of West Malaysia, currently on medical leave for 2 months, to undergo stem cell transplant treatment to prolong his total remission from cancer; pray for the Bishop's Commissary appointed in his place, for the next few months.

Remember also the family of the late Bishop Emeritus Yong Ping Chung of Sabah, and one time Archbishop of Southeast Asia, who passed away last month following a short illness; pray especially for his widow, Julia.

Thursday 12th: (*Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689*)

Pray for Wolverhampton Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Preb David Wright, Assistant, Revd Philip Robertson, Lay Chair, Robin Whitehouse and Assistant, Stephen Robinson.

Pray also for Stafford Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Richard Grigson, Assistant, Revd Martin Strang, Lay Chair, John Clark and Assistant, Stuart Hodson.

Friday 13th: (*Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603*)

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Kentigern, whom you called to preach the Gospel to the people of north-western Britain.

Raise up in this, and every land, evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Saviour Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Saturday 14th:

Pray for the Shropshire Pioneer Community meeting this morning at Christ Church Bayston Hill, that this gathering will be a time of inspiration and encouragement for all who attend.

Pray for all across the Episcopal Area involved in pioneering ministry, Fresh Expressions and for those currently exploring new ways of doing church.

Pray also for church planters and those with a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO).

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