

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 the people of Northwest Syria and Central Turkey, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake.

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:

Pray for a smooth transition and fruitful ministry in pastures new for Bishop Clive, retiring after 16 years of overseeing the Episcopal Area of Wolverhampton. Give thanks for his ministry and his commitment to social justice, climate concern and the welfare of clergy and lay ministers and the City of Wolverhampton.

## Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>:

As the impact of the pandemic still looms large in education, let us pray for students and staff, as well as chaplains who endeavour to support both. Pray especially today for the University Centre Shrewsbury, part of the University of Chester, where Chaplain, Fi Iddon, reports that 'it feels as if the 'buzz' is only just returning to the building.' Give thanks for some much better engagement with the SU. Our weekly 'Soul Space' stopped in the pandemic; please do pray for the momentum to re-start it...as well as for continued opportunities for Fi to come alongside students who need a listening ear.

## Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>:

We pray for Cheadle Deanery; for Rural Dean, Revd Michael Follin and Lay Chair, Sylvia Bainbridge: *We give thanks for everyone who's been involved with the Living Faith course over the last two terms. This has been an interesting time of discussion on Tuesday nights, over 20 sessions. We thank you, O Father, for those who are relatively new to our churches – for their enthusiasm, and that they have had this opportunity to ask questions of more experienced Christians. We pray that they will be empowered and enabled to continue learning as they seek to serve your church in the future as Your disciples. Amen*

## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>: *Prayer from John Welsby, a workplace chaplain of the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission.*

Father, we pray for the workplace chaplains of the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission. Thank you for the willingness of companies, managers and shop owners to invite chaplains in to engage with their staff and for the many conversations with employees, so many of whom appreciate the interest of somebody else in the challenges they face at work and in their lives in general. Give wisdom to chaplains, to know how best to shine for you especially when working with the challenges faced by employers and employees in a difficult economic environment, when there are tensions around wage rises, or when jobs are at risk. Amen

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>: *Maundy Thursday*

We continue to pray for Cheadle Deanery:

*We pray for wisdom and vocation as we look for people to take on the three main Deanery roles, going forward. Thank you, Father, for the work and encouragement of Kate as secretary, and the ideas and enthusiasm of Sylvia as Lay Chair. As we seek to find someone to replace Kate and Sylvia, we pray that people would come forward seeking to serve in a way that affects those beyond their own churches. As Michael's term as Rural Dean also comes to an end in July, we pray for all the clergy of our Deanery. Amen.*

## Friday 7<sup>th</sup>: *Good Friday*

Pray for those involved in presenting the Easter Story through Passion Plays, a unique way to retell the last days, death and resurrection of Jesus; especially the Manna Theatre Company working with Churches Together in Leek today, and Saltmine Theatre Company working with Love Stafford today and tomorrow.

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>: *We continue to pray for Cheadle Deanery:*

*St Giles the Abbot, Cheadle, with St Chad, Freehay, is in a vacancy at the moment, and so we pray for the congregation there. We pray that there will be volunteers to help Margaret as churchwarden. Heavenly Father, bring your peace to the people of the benefice and take away worries about the future. Give them patience for the present and enthusiasm for the future as they seek to fulfil Your mission. We ask that the diocese will have wisdom in managing the current situation and future appointments. Amen*

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