

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people & leaders of Russia.

Sunday 14th May: *(Matthias the Apostle)*

Pray for Tutbury Deanery, for recently retired rural Dean, Revd Michael Freeman and for Revd Dr Robin Trotter, who will be licensed by the Bishop of Stafford, as Rural Dean on 13th June, and all other deanery officers; giving thanks for their willingness to serve in this way, and asking God to inspire them with energy and enthusiasm for their roles.

Monday 15th:

Give thanks that, after a rigorous recruitment process, Mark Davis has been appointed as Diocesan Director of Education. Having been Head Teacher at St Peter's, Bratton, Mark brings to the role, a wealth of leadership, teaching, training and advocacy experience and is passionate about protecting the Christian distinctiveness of our schools in an ever-changing education landscape.

Give thanks also for Matthew Welton who continues in an acting role. and pray for both Mark and Matthew as they work together from the beginning of September.

Tuesday 16th: *(Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877)*

We pray again for Tutbury Deanery, giving thanks for the faithful service of retired clergy and Readers, who ensure that worship continues, especially in those parishes in vacancy, or when incumbents take leave for much-needed rest and renewal. Give thanks also for the flexibility of congregations where service patterns need to be adapted according to those available to lead them.

Wednesday 17th:

We pray again for Tutbury Deanery, thinking especially of all those parishes currently in vacancy: for St Modwen, Hanbury with Draycott, Newborough and Rangemore; for Hoar Cross with Newchurch; both seeking to appoint 'House for Duty' priests.

Pray also for St Aidan's with St Paul's and St John's as they seek to appoint a full-time incumbent.

Thursday 18th: *(Ascension Day)*

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the Bishop's Staff team as they meet today, asking that God will bless their conversations and give them both vision and wisdom in their decision-making.

Friday 19th: *(Very Revd Bob Key, who leads in Thy Kingdom Come across the Anglican Communion, has written this year's Novena, running from Ascension Day to Pentecost)*

God is the one who made us, loves us, welcomes us home in Jesus and is there whether we like it or not, believe it or not, want Him or not. He is the God who IS.

Take time today to pray for five people you know and would love to know God's love for them. As you pray for them remember we are the pictures of Christ in the world; icons of His love in the way we care for creation and minister to the needs of those around us.

Saturday 20th: *(The Novena for 'Thy Kingdom Come' continues between Ascension Day and Pentecost)*

Let's take a look in the spiritual mirror of God's word and ask Him to make our love complete.

As we pray for our five folk today, let us remember their need of love. Let's bring their emotional and physical needs to God and pray that they may open up to His eternal love, His healing, life and light. Living the Kingdom today is obedience to a straightforward command from the Apostle: 'Friends, let us love one another.' It was the mark of the life of the early church that convinced others of the truth of the good news.

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