

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 190

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

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; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those currently suffering because of wars and unrest and for all who take decisions around the world.

Sunday 10th December:

Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem has offered the following prayer which is commended for use throughout the diocese:

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children - for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Monday 11th:

We pray for Wulfrun Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Ian Poole, Assistant, Revd Ros Wilshire and Lay Chair, Mike Hotchkiss. We give thanks for the sense of fellowship and unity in adversity amongst the Clergy and Lay across the Deanery; and for significant effort and plans to fill up to three more clergy posts. Please pray that this would continue and deepen so that we would pray fervently for each other's situations.

Tuesday 12th:

We continue to pray for Wulfrun Deanery:

Pray for the vacancy of the town civic church of St Thomas' in Wednesfield which is approaching three years despite it being advertised five times to date. Please pray for strength and hope for the lay leadership and congregation of St Thomas'.

Wednesday 13th: *(Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784)*

We continue to pray for Wulfrun Deanery:

We give thanks for the appointment of Rev Taiwo Olumuyiwa as Team Vicar in the Parish of Bushbury, for the churches of St James' and The Good Shepherd. Please pray that Taiwo would continue to settle in well to his new ministry and that the Parish might invest well with regard to all that Taiwo brings.

Thursday 14th: *(John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591)*

Pray for initiatives across the Diocese, where Christians will be sharing the Christmas message with their local communities, especially for *Churches Together in Lichfield*, who will be singing Christmas Carols today in the Market Square, with music led by *Andrew Rushton* and the *Ladies who Lark* choir; and for Christians Unite Christmas Special at the Methodist Church in Packmoor, Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, with an evening celebration of the birth of Jesus through carols, life stories, lively music and refreshments!

Friday 15th:

Give thanks for the opportunity Lichfield Cathedral's 'Christmas Light Show' will present, to welcome the community into the cathedral. Pray for visitors, that they will be inspired by the spectacle and moved by the entries in the Christmas Tree Festival, that, as they hear the traditional Christmas Carols, the lyrics might have special meaning and that people will encounter the Christ child in a new and significant way. Pray for the ministry of the Cathedral team throughout the Advent and Christmas Season.

Saturday 16th:

Pray for the ecumenical initiative, *Shine Your Light*, calling on all Christians across the UK to unite in towns, villages and cities in order to take the Gospel message outdoors this weekend. It has the backing of many Churches and Christian organisations, with a vision that the whole church across the family of nations will stand united to share the Gospel to the whole of society this Christmas.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven:

Matthew 5:16. Full details [here](#).