

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 31

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

During these weeks the prayer diary reflects the challenges of facing Coronavirus with our sisters and brothers across the world; the call to be a people of hope.

Sunday 1st November: (All Saints' Day) CHURCHES. We continue to pray for the recently launched 'Shaping for Mission' process and for the engagement of Deaneries as they take on new roles in working out our call to mission; for the identification of team members and the formation of Shaping for Mission teams; for our 28 Deaneries and for all Rural Deans, Lay Chairs and members of Deanery Synods and Chapters, that Deaneries may be increasingly effective in mission and supportive in ministry.



Mon 2nd: (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed -All Souls' Day) COMMUNITIES: for all memorial services and Covid secure ways of remembering the departed; for the Transforming Communities Together Team; for all children reliant on free school meals and for the estimated three million children at risk of hunger during the school holidays; for initiatives such as 'Make Lunch' which help to meet this need.

Tues 3rd: (Richard Hooker, Priest, Anglican Apologist, Teacher of the Faith, 1600; Martin of Porres, Friar, 1639) SCHOOLS: for the 206 Church Schools in our Diocese, for staff and pupils as they face more demanding and unsettling weeks ahead; for all Governing Bodies and for those being called to serve God in schools and those who are offering chaplaincy to schools.

Wed 4th: AROUND THE WORLD: We give thanks for the appointment of Canon Steven Abbarow to be the next Bishop of West Malaysia – we pray for God to give him wisdom and strength as he prepares for this; for Bishop Moon Hing anticipating retirement in mid-November as he moves back to Ipoh; for the theological College at Seremban where Canon Steven was Vice Principal, for all on-line courses and for effective contact with those in training during the time of this pandemic.



Thur 5th: SELF SUPPORTING MINISTERS: We give thanks for all who are ordained and who support their own ministry financially; we pray for Revd Bill Durose, as a self-supporting minister in Stoke-on-Trent, who works in a supermarket, and for other "forgotten" heroes of Covid-19 - farmers, pickers, lorry drivers and supermarket workers who have helped to keep food on our plates during the pandemic.



Fri 6th: (Leonard, Hermit, 6th century; William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1944) HEALTHCARE: We thank God for all the nursing staff and doctors, medical students, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, for teams in operating theatres, surgeons and anaesthetists, chaplaincy teams; for all facing added pressures in our hospitals, health centres and in the community as a result of the increased levels of Covid infection.

Sat 7th: (Willibrord of York, Bishop, Apostle of Frisia, 739) ENVIRONMENT: We pray for a Diocesan wide response to the urgent task of safeguarding creation; for Steve Hollinghurst as he enables communities of Christians to link how they are church with the environment and in particular to develop expressions of Forest Church.

For further resources for praying for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG>