

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 82

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

Our prayers take forwards the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October:

We give thanks for the Diocesan Day of Prayer and for all who participated in prayer. We remember the recently elected General Synod and, in particular, the 13 representatives of Lichfield Diocese, as they begin a new five-year term; giving thanks for their commitment to serve in this way.

We pray also for the Ven Dr Megan Smith, collated earlier this month as the Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent, as she settles into her new role; in particular working alongside Bishop Matthew and Associate Archdeacon Terry Bloor with Shaping for Mission Teams.

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup>: (Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.287)

We pray for Wolverhampton Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd David Wright, Assistant Revd Philip Robertson, and Lay Chair, Robin Whitehouse; giving thanks for the excellent and positive engagement from the Deanery in the Shaping for Mission process. Please pray for those churches still struggling with the effects of the pandemic, especially where attendances have yet to recover.

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>: (Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 664)

We remember the schools and colleges across our Diocese, coping with the added pressures that Covid 19 has brought. Pray for the staff and pupils during this half term week, that they may return to school rested and refreshed; and for Headteachers, governors and all those in positions of responsibility, that they will make wise decisions in order to ensure our school communities are safe, secure and happy places of learning.

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>:

We pray for the Benefice of Wrockwardine Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Andy Ackroyd, Assistant, Revd Chris Tough and Lay Chair, John Wardle; giving thanks for the resilience of church communities coming out of Lockdown, as most of the congregations have returned to church buildings. Pray for the twelve parishes, for a flourishing of a mixed ecology, as they seek to blend the inherited with various fresh expressions: Youth Café, Praise and Play, Messy Church, Forest Church and Vintage Messy Church.

We remember John Beswick-Pallister as he is installed today, by Bishop Matthew, as Rector of Cotes Heath and Standon and Swynnerton and Tittensor.

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>: (Simon and Jude, Apostles)

We pray for the University Hospitals of North Midlands, for all staff and patients as the Covid 19 infection rates rise and patient numbers increase, and especially for members of the chaplaincy team as they provide pastoral care for patients, relatives and friends as well as members of staff.

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup>: (James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr in Uganda, 1885)

We pray for Alstonfield Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd John Baines, and Lay Chair, Janet Sadler; as they seek to engage with the Shaping for Mission process; and we remember its 4 benefices, 15 parishes with 19 churches and their clergy, lay leaders and congregations.

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>:

We pray for Archdeacon Helen Kennedy Bishop-elect and soon to be the 13th Bishop in our Companion Diocese of Qu'Appelle, Canada.

We pray for those suffering because of flash floods in India's northern state of Uttarakhand and parts of Nepal; and landslides in India's southern state of Kerala; caused by heavy rainfall; and for those impacted by the ongoing volcanic eruption on La Palma in the Canary Islands.

*God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet. (Rt Revd Nicholas Baines, Bishop of Leeds)*