

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 42

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

As People of Hope we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally. Our prayers take forwards too the 'Shaping for Mission' Deanery focus.

Sunday 17th January: (*Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356; Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the*



Resurrection, 1932) We pray for the **Eccleshall Deanery**; for Revd Jules Walker, Rural Dean; the 17 Parishes and 5 Benefices; for all gathered and on line ministries, giving thanks for the daily Night Prayer at Gnosall and remembering too the many who cannot or do not wish to access online opportunities for fellowship and services. Pray for HMP Drake Hall, for the women and young offenders over 18 years, for Chaplain Revd Preb Sarah Morris and the staff.

Mon 18th: (*Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951*) Pray and work that God may reign. Throughout your day let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest. Maintain inner silence in all things so as to dwell in Christ. Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes: joy, simplicity, mercy. (*These words are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp Community: see resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021*)

Tues 19th: (*Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095*) **Schools:** Pray for the 7 schools in the Eccleshall deanery, for leaders having to make challenging decisions around the provision of remote learning; and supporting staff, pupils and families through very difficult times; for ways for churches to continue to make links with the schools and families, now that visits for Open the Book, whole school Collective Worship and RE are not currently possible.



Wed 20th: (*Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349*) We join in prayer with Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the American Episcopal Church, 'We pray that God's Way of Love, might prevail in all of our hearts; for the peaceful and orderly transition of power today, for God to heal us, to show us the way to healing, to show us the way to be one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all'. Let us pray for Donald Trump as outgoing President and for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as they take over the political leadership of the USA.

Thur 21st: (*Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304*) for the Revd Dr David Isiorho, recently installed as Rector of the Loggerheads Benefice, and for his wife Linda, as they begin their ministry there. David attaches this prayer to his emails: *Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Fri 22nd: (*Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304*) **Shaping for Mission:** for the combined Eccleshall Stone SfM team, for Laura Edwards as Facilitator, for envisioning and creativity for new opportunities; for the ability to celebrate uniqueness whilst recognising the need to work together and for a deepening sense of belonging and desire to find the means to offer mutual support. *'May we be shaped by the Good News of Jesus, the light of the world And may we seek your kingdom as People of Hope. Amen.'*

Sat 23rd: **The Wider Anglican Communion:** Pray with us, we are in very hard situation. We have lost an Archdeacon to Covid 19. As a Diocese, we are crippled financially, our revenue has dropped with over 40%. We are failing to raise stipends and salaries. God knows and we trust Him. Prayer is our hope. *The Rt Revd Alinafe Kalembé; Bishop of Southern Malawi.*