

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 45

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

Our prayers take forwards the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus. As People of Hope we remain mindful too of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally. We take note too of the Archbishops' Call to Pray for the Nation this month particularly at 6.00pm.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February:** We pray for the **Ellesmere Deanery**; for their engagement with Shaping for Mission; for their Rural Dean: Revd Linda Cox; Assistant Rural Dean: Revd Pat Hawkins and Lay Chair of Deanery Synod: Sandra Birchall; for the clergy of the Deanery and their ministries within the 14 churches, for the communities they serve and for all Chaplains and Fresh Expressions.

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup>: Shaping for Mission:** for the Ellesmere Deanery to engage and work together as they discern the way forward with Shaping For Mission; that this process of discernment is looked upon as a creative opportunity to enable all the churches to look to the future, to see where God is already at work and where God might be calling His people to be; for SfM Deanery facilitator Steve Hollinghurst and the next team meeting; giving thanks for all who have already engaged with the review process as individual churches; and to identify ways of supporting each other.

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup>: Schools** – for all the Church and non-church schools, Primary and Secondary, State and Independent within the Deanery, amongst them Baschurch Primary School and Lakelands Academy; for Ellesmere College and the Chaplain the Revd Philip Gratton; for Adcote School for Girls and Packwood Haugh School; for the teachers, staff and the students all trying to learn and study in this difficult time; for families struggling to support their children at home as they try to learn without teachers physically with them and with sometimes limited technology.

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup>:** (*Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543*) For the Care homes across the Deanery; that the staff and residents may have the support and provisions they require to keep everyone safe and allow daily life to continue with some sort of normality. We give thanks for the GP surgeries and all they are doing at present; for all in the deanery who are grieving and who have been unable to say their goodbyes; for all struggling with mental health issues. As a Dementia friendly Deanery, we pray for Dementia friendly champions and churches.

**Thur 11<sup>th</sup>:** For community action groups which are seeking to ensure people are not forgotten, particularly those who are elderly, vulnerable or live alone. We give thanks for people's generosity which has enabled care packages of food and activities for children to reach those in need; for the telephone calls and windows visits to cheer people up and the donations to the local foodbanks. Pray for the Revd Andrew Cranston, newly licensed as Interim Minister to the Benefice of Criftins with Dudleston and Welsh Frankton.

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup>:** For the Clergy of Ellesmere Deanery: the Revds Lucinda Burns, Maureen Read, Diana Barnett, Deborah Coatsworth, Steve Alston, Pat Hawkins and Linda Cox. We give thanks too for all retired clergy who not only cover services but also uphold the Deanery in prayer.

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup>:** we give thanks for all our churches throughout Ellesmere Deanery are doing to engage with and reach people whilst church doors are closed; for the distribution of paper resources and online presence to enable people to worship together even when apart. We pray that the online engagement may help those new to faith to develop a real, living and sustainable faith.