

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 52

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

Our prayers take forwards the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus. Please refer too to the Lent prayers for SfM available <https://bit.ly/3bh3kBA>. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful too of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup>:** We pray for the **Uttoxeter Deanery**, for Rural Dean-Rev'd Preb Brian Leathers and Lay Chair - Mr Stephen Dunn; for Churches as they engage with digital worship as well as returning to face to face Church; giving thanks for the 20 Churches spread over 16 Parishes and 3 Benefices; for unity across the Deanery and a willingness to work together to ensure God's kingdom is preached across the rural and urban areas of the Deanery.

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup>: Shaping for Mission:** for the SfM Team and their Facilitator Lindsey Hall; that God will inspire the Uttoxeter Deanery in finding the right future shape for the Deanery as they analyse their survey data and develop new ideas; for strengthening of the existing strong sense of collaboration and desire to work together in the Deanery; to support vocation and discernment and to encourage the gifts of the laity.

**Tues 30<sup>th</sup>: JCB Academy:** for the Principal Jenny McGuirk; for all young people whose mental health has been severely harmed by the experience this year; thank God for the staff who have all gone the extra mile to support the young people and pray for them during the next few challenging weeks; finally, 'pray for the spiritual journey of the academy, for God's guidance in navigating secular expectations and experiences, and for the chaplain, Rev'd Liz Jones'.

**Wed 31<sup>st</sup>:** (*John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631*) **Prison Chaplain:** Rev'd Drew Walker: for all at HMP Dovegate who are struggling with the loss of parents, grandparents, wives and girlfriends; for those who are struggling with mental and physical health problems; for the senior leadership team as they meet to plan a road map to recovery; for the chaplaincy team as they grow and work together facing the many challenges and delights of their calling.

**Thur 1<sup>st</sup> April:** (*Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1872*) Faithful God, through your Son you lead us on pilgrimage throughout this life. Awe-struck, we would love to stop, build huts, and dwell just with you, but you call us onwards. We tire, and we would love to sleep in the garden, but you rouse us. In the dark moments we tremble, and would love to betray you, but you will not let us go. For you do not stop calling us to dwell in your kingdom, and so we dare to follow you. Amen

**Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>: From the National Day of Reflection:** *'a time to reflect on our collective loss, to seek ways to support those who have been bereaved and to offer hope for a brighter future.'*  
God of Love, be with us as we think about all that has changed this year. Help us to trust that you are always with us. Be close to us as we remember those who have died and help us to trust that they are at peace with you. Show us how to reach out to others with kindness and care, so that hope shines out in every heart and home.

**Holy Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Christ whom death could not contain, / roll away the heavy stone of our grief and sadness. / Harrow all that has become hardened in us and / open our hearts to the possibilities of new life. / Father, Son, Spirit, / Bless us in unexpected ways, / with your gift of resurrection life. / Amen.

(*Apprentices and Eyewitnesses 2019: Rev'd Preb Chris Thorpe*)

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