

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 64

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.

Sun 20th June: As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the **Stafford Deanery**; for Area Dean: Richard Grigson; Assistant Area Dean: Martin Strang and Lay Chair: John Clark; that the 82,000 people in the Stafford Deanery encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities; for a church that partners with others seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope.

Mon 21st: We pray for the **Shaping for Mission** team in the Stafford Deanery and for their facilitator Lindsey Hall; for a new spirit of mission across the Deanery and the courage to let go; and for an openness to the opportunities afforded to us at this time.

Tues 22nd: (*Alban the first Martyr of Britain, c 250*) For Ian Perry being priested today to St Thomas' & St Andrew's Doxey and St Paul's Stafford; for Danny Payne who will be deaconed on Sunday to the three parishes of Stafford town centre.

Wed 23rd: (*Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c 678*) **Chaplaincy** We remember the work of the chaplaincies in the area, including Leo Varquez & Vivienne Flanagan serving as chaplains to the UHNM Trust including the County Hospital; and Steve Parker, chaplain to Staffordshire Police: Father God, we pray for your protection from harm; in times of anxiety your peace, in times of upset your love, and with working relationships your joy. Amen

Thur 24th: (*The birth of John the Baptist*) Pray for the meeting of the Stafford Area Mission and Pastoral Committee today. We remember the work of our emergency services, giving thanks for their dedication, impartiality and humility, for their willingness to engage with community to make a difference for the good of others, sometimes putting their lives and wellbeing at risk. We give thanks for the loyal service given by Chief Constable Gareth Morgan - may he know your love and peace as he settles into retirement. We pray for discernment in the process to appoint his successor.

Fri 25th: Schools We pray for the pupils and staff at the 6 Church schools in Stafford Deanery and for the work with young people; for the more rural communities as they emerge from lockdown, and the Christian presence in the town and wider area.

Sat 26th: Eternal God, it is your joy to call men and women to serve you across the barriers of race, language and culture: Give us strength and courage, and satisfy our longing to make known the good news of Christ. Bless us who are called along the humble road, to serve and support but not to lead. When we face danger, save us from fear; When we are disheartened, be our friend; When we think we have failed, show us the cross. Give us peace in our hearts, and peace in our hospitals & homes, And the joy of acceptance by those whom we serve. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.