

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 67

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 11th July: (*Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550*) As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the **Wulfrun Deanery**; for Revd Sue Boyce in her role of Acting Rural Dean; Lay Chair: Mike Hotchkiss; secretary: Tina Titley; that the 122,500 people in the Wulfrun 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.

Monday 12th: Give thanks for the **Shaping for Mission** Team in the Wulfrun Deanery and it's facilitator Jonathan Hill; for each of the churches in the Deanery responding to significant questions regarding their vision for the future; give thanks for the rich diversity of the congregations whilst acknowledging the needs and hopes of their communities; may people encounter the living Lord Jesus as the church reaches out to meet practical needs and responds to poverty of spirit and socioeconomic deprivation.

Tuesday 13th For all the local schools in the Wulfrun Deanery, especially the 4 Church of England schools; that there may be good relationships between churches and all the schools; with all staff and pupils enabled to know about the Christian faith.

Wednesday 14th: (*John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866*) For the churches in Willenhall: St Anne's, St Giles' and St Stephen's - for Revd Sue Boyce and Revd Ros Wilshire, for the work they do together as 3 churches in trying to ensure a Christian presence in the community; for Revd Mike Batchelor and his work in 'Bridging the Gap' to support people in the local community; for neighbours Holy Trinity Shorth Heath, Furzebank and Emmanuel, Bentley - for Revd Helen Duckett and Revd Andrew Lythall in their leadership of these churches and plans for the future.

Thursday 15th: (*Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862; Bonaventure, Friar, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1274*) For Revd Ann Martin as she takes on responsibility as half time minister at Epiphany Oxley; for the people in that church, and also for members of St Gregory's Wednesfield who are currently going through the process of closure of their church; for the parish of St Thomas, Wednesfield, the Wardens Clive Postle and Derek Bennett, also for Revd Tom Fish, team vicar at St Alban, Ashmore Park.

Friday 16th: (*Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099*) Give thanks for **Bishop Rob Hardwick** as he prepares to retire after 9 years as Bishop of Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan; for all involved in choosing and electing his successor; for all seeking to respond to the latest tragic revelations about the abuse and death of Indigenous children in Church Residential schools; for healing, reconciliation and restitution.

Saturday 17th: For Rev Nick Watson, former Rural Dean, as he starts his new role as Area Dean of Manchester South and Stretford, giving thanks for all he has contributed to the life of the Deanery, the gifting he will bring to his new role and pray he will find fulfilment. We pray for Assistant Rural Dean, Ian Poole as he continues on sabbatical, that he will find refreshment and a time for study and the opportunity to draw close to God; for Revd Ruth Clay and Revd Graham Smith in the team, and all the work of the Bushbury Parish; for Graham as he prepares to retire in September.