

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 69

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 25th July: (*James the Apostle*) As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the **Wolverhampton Deanery**; for Area Dean: Revd David Wright; Assistant Area Dean: Revd Philip Robertson; Lay Chair: Robin Whitehouse; that the 12,2035 people in the Wolverhampton 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 26th: Give thanks for the ongoing **Shaping for Mission** process in the Deanery, for those churches seeking new ways to engage with their communities and for those struggling with finances or the filling of key roles in the church communities; for SfM facilitator Jonathan Hill.

Tuesday 27th: Pray for those who find themselves living in new surroundings; perhaps through circumstances not always of their own choosing; in particular for those new to the Wolverhampton area, and especially for those seeking refuge and asylum, and for those working to welcome and support them.

Wednesday 28th: Give thanks for our most recent Diocesan link with the Dioceses of Cork Cloyne and Ross and for the very encouraging Zoom meeting which took place last week; and specifically for the parish twinning between Perton & Carrigaline; *Loving God, Thank you for our brothers and sisters in your Church around the world; Thank you for the developing friendship between: the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross and the Diocese of Lichfield. Lord Jesus, you are the vine; may we remain rooted in you, each congregation a branch, linked to each other in you. Holy Spirit, flow through us, enabling our friendship to flourish, as we learn about and from each other; and commit ourselves to pray for each other. May we enjoy fruit as you grow your Church and Kingdom in and through us all. We ask this for your glory, Amen*

Thursday 29th: (*Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of Our Lord*) Give thanks for our National Health Service; and in particular for Revd Emma Louis, Lead Chaplain at Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, and for her diverse Spiritual Care Team working at is Penn Hospital which cares for adults of all ages; also for Annie Heppenstall, spiritual care volunteer, working as a chaplain in the garden at St. Chad & St. Mark Church not far from Penn Hospital; a green space offering people struggling with their mental health somewhere to connect with nature and explore their spiritual journey in life. Please pray for them as they continue to support patients, carers and staff with their mental health and wellbeing; and for the community teams in various locations around the city who, throughout the pandemic, have been finding creative ways of offering spiritual care that is inclusive and responsive, whether that has been by phone, video call or face to face when necessary.

Friday 30th: (*William Wilberforce, Social Reformer and Anti-Slavery Campaigner 1833*) Pray for Debbie Huxton, a Modern Slavery Campaigner, employed by Transforming Communities Together and funded by Lichfield Diocese Mothers' Union; encouraging churches across the Diocese to create communities that are safe for all and where everyone can thrive and flourish.

Saturday 31st: (*Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556*) Pray for the work of school chaplains across the Diocese, and especially Revd Roberta Maxwell at Royal Wolverhampton School. Give thanks for the whole staff who work very hard to give all the students in their care the best possible chance in life; and pray for all in the school community to continue with a positive attitude, despite the disruption caused both by ongoing building work and the pandemic. Pray that they find a 0.5 chaplain to take over in the coming year.

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