

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 74

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 29th August: (*The Beheading of John the Baptist*) As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for our **Cathedral**, for Dean Adrian Dorber, for the Residentiary Canons and Chapter of the Cathedral; for all members of the Cathedral Council; giving thanks for the impact on the wider community through the current Great Exhibition 2021:Science; that those who attend may encounter a church that is seeking the common good and working for justice as people of hope.

Monday 30th: (*John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688*) For Shaping for Mission in **Leek Deanery**, for Rural Dean Nigel Irons and Lay Chair David Wright; with praise for the completion of the Leek Deanery Vision which will be presented to our Bishop and Archdeacon on 12th October; for the appointment of Revd Karen Petherick to the parishes of St James' Milton, St Bartholomew's Norton and for her future role at St Anne's Brown Edge; for the many retired clergy who are helping to sustain ministry in the many vacant parishes in the Deanery. We would value prayer for the filling of the vacant post at St Lawrence's, Biddulph which is currently being advertised.

Tuesday 31st (*Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651*) Give thanks that **St Chad's House** has continued to be able to maintain its ministry of prayer and hospitality, albeit it in a different shape during Lockdown - via email, post and online, maintaining links with friends old and new. Pray for continued blessing on the Life of the House - For safety, comfort, inspiration and healing for all who come here, or engage with the House in any way. For Rachel Moore the Warden, for wisdom in leading the House forward. For protection of the building and ground and surrounds that it will be a blessing to the town, community and beyond, as we move forward during 2021.

Wednesday 1st September: (*Giles of Provence, Hermit, c.710*). As we approach a new academic year, we give thanks for the church and community **schools** within Leek Deanery, those in Leek, Biddulph, Brown Edge Knypersley, , Endon, Horton, Cheddleton, Blackshaw Moor, Milton and Rushton; praying for God's blessings and peace, for the leaders and teachers in our schools as they balance heavy workloads with the desire to meet the needs of the children in their care; for their tireless dedication and their enthusiasm to continue to provide moments of joy, awe and wonder within each classroom; we lift the most vulnerable families before you and pray that you would surround them with your love. *Pray for the Licensing this evening of Revd Catherine Matlock as Pioneer Minister in Hanley / Stoke-on-Trent, for both her local and Diocesan role.*

Thursday 2nd: (*The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942*) A Prayer for **Afghanistan**. For those who are fleeing: *sanctuary*; for those who are staying: *safety*; for those who are fighting: *peace*; for those whose hearts are breaking: *comfort*.
(*Transforming Communities Together Prayer*)

Friday 3rd: (*Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604*) We pray for the village of **Brown Edge** – for the school, the businesses, and the churches. We pray for those families who have really struggled through lockdown and we think of those who have lost loved ones but also those who have lost income too. We pray for Connect2 that as they seek to do your will in that village, they may be an instrument of your love, peace, and joy. Help them to be intentional in both living out and teaching your gospel message.

Saturday 4th: (*Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester (Oxon), Apostle of Wessex, 650*) Following this week's Global Swansong with the Nordkirche, we pray for Bishop Tilman Jeremias, for Revd Melanie Dango and Revd Christa Hunzinger and for Anne Lange; we give thanks for our shared learning together and pray for the nation of Germany approaching elections on September 26th.

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