

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 76

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 12th September: (*Education Sunday*) We pray for Revd David Sims who is being instituted as Resident Minister at St Thomas' Church, Aldridge today.

As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we give thanks for the fellowship enjoyed by members of the Community of St Chad through Morning and Evening Prayer via Zoom, for more than a year. We pray for Revd Chris Precious and Revd Rosanne Wilshire who now have the oversight of the Community.

Be with us Lord as we seek to follow in the footsteps of your servant Chad, whose humility and prayerfulness attracted so many to your kingdom. Let our lives, like his, reflect the light of Christ and the hope of faith. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Monday 13th: (*John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher of the Faith, 407*) We pray for Newcastle Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Andrew Dawswell and Lay Chair, Chris Gill; giving thanks that the four curates working with the Deanery earlier in the year have all found appropriate settings for their next stage in ministry, and pray for them; and for the parishes in the Deanery missing the contribution that they made. We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Simon Boxall and ask God's blessing on him for the future; praying also for Holy Trinity Church & St. Chads Church, Chesterton as they enter a time of vacancy, following Simon's retirement. Please pray for parishes in Newcastle Deanery needing to find new people to fill key roles and a number of parishes at different stages of thinking through what to do with ageing church halls.

Tuesday 14th: We remember in prayer the children and young people, staff and governors in schools and colleges across the Diocese and, in particular the JCB Academy; giving thanks for the new staff and learners and praying that God will continue to bless the Academy. Pray also for the chaplain, Revd Liz Jones, that God will guide the development of her role to find the best ways to use her time at the Academy.

Wednesday 15th: (*Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258*) We pray for Uttoxeter Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Brian Leathers and Lay Chair, Stephen Dunn; giving thanks for the creative workings of the Shaping for Mission Team, and praying for a work of the Spirit to develop a new shape of ministry in the Deanery. Pray for opportunities for Mission Partnerships, and for existing Ministers to reach out within their giftings but wider across the Deanery, as they look to a future where there is a Christian presence in every community with churches and parishes working together for the glory of God.

Thursday 16th: (*Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880*)

We pray for those students preparing to join or return to our universities; in particular for The University of Keele; giving thanks that most students will be on campus again this year. We pray for their chaplaincy team: the Co-ordinating chaplain James Pritchard, Anglican Chaplain Revd Stephanie Couvela, Lay Catholic Chaplain Niall Hammond, and the Muslim Chaplain Rukia Bi - and especially for the Chaplaincy Assistant, Grace Stewart who will work with the team for the next year.

Friday 17th: (*Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179*)

We pray for Tutbury Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Michael Freeman and Lay Chair Doug Brown; praying especially for the Benefices without incumbents: St Aidan, St Modwen and St Paul & Hanbury with Draycott, Newborough and Rangemore; giving thanks for the commitment of retired clergy, non-stipendiary ministers and readers in serving the congregations of these parishes.

Saturday 18th: We pray for the Bishops' Conversations taking place as part of the journey towards the Lambeth Conference 2022; giving thanks that *"there has been a renewal of lay leadership. Many have used digital and online platforms, while also trying to ensure that no-one is forgotten during this time of pandemic, allowing new people to connect with the church. Clergy have had to remain strong and faithful even during difficult times of personal loss including the loss of income and security."*

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