

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 77

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 19th September: (*Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690*) On International Chorister Day, we give thanks that we are able to introduce singing once again into our services. And for all those who inspire and enhance worship in our churches and cathedral through their musical gifts and abilities. We pray for Revd James Moring who will be instituted as Team Vicar of Glascote and Stonydelph at 4pm today.

Monday 20th: (*John Coleridge Patteson, First Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871*) We pray for Oswestry Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Paul Darlington, Assistant, Revd Harvey Gibbons and Lay Chair, Jacqui Clarke; giving thanks that there are no vacancies in the Deanery and that full leadership enables ministry in all parishes; and for the Shaping for Mission process which has brought the Deanery together. Pray for wisdom as the synod meets at the end of this month and for momentum to implement decisions taken; and for those smaller rural churches facing financial constraints and issues of sustainability.

Tuesday 21st: (*Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*) We remember pupils, staff and governors in schools across the Diocese and, in particular Kinver High School; giving thanks that the chaplaincy team can be present in the school again for 2 days each week at lunchtimes. Pray for new chaplains settling into the role and for the rebuilding of relationships with staff and students. Pray also for the King's School, Kidsgrove; giving thanks for a happy transition programme completed by the new year 7 students despite the upheavals and changes due to Covid restrictions. Pray for resilience and energy for both staff and students to weather the changes; for a reduction in the disruption to both the worship programme and lessons due to Covid cases and restrictions; and that many would seek refuge in the Lord.

Wednesday 22nd We pray for Trysull Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Julia Cody, Assistant, Revd Richard Reeve and Lay Chair, Richard Pithers; giving thanks for the Shaping for Mission Team who have worked well together, growing in confidence to be really honest and candid with each other, creating a safe place for discussion. Praise God that team members have been a real encouragement and blessing to each other as they have worked together. Pray for the Team as they seek to discern the vision for the deanery going forward, for a breakthrough to clearly grasp God's leading and that all the important threads and ideas can come together into a clear vision that can be communicated.

Thursday 23rd: We remember those who have been involved in the Oswestry Rural Youth Church, praying for wisdom to know how best to provide ministry to the young people of the area in the future. We pray for those young adults now moving on to university and training, that they will continue to be supported and will find ways to serve in new Christian fellowships; giving thanks for the way their faith has been nurtured by the local church community so far.

Friday 24th: We pray for Penkrige Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Greg Yerbury, Assistant, Revd Rachel Dale and Lay Chair John Peterken; giving thanks for the recent appointment to Essington Featherstone and Shareshill following a long vacancy. We pray for the local community, concerned about the possible impact of the soon to commence building of a large rail hub. We remember the prison chaplains at HMP Featherstone and HMP & YOI Brinsford, and the vacancies in their teams.

Saturday 25th: (*Sergei of Radonezh, Russian Monastic Reformer, Teacher of the Faith, 1392*) Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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