

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 22

discipleship
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evangelism

During these weeks the prayer diary reflects the challenges of facing Coronavirus with our sisters and brothers across the world; the call to be a people of hope.

Sunday 30th August: (*John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688*) **CHURCHES:** Grant to all your people the gift of hope as we progress as pilgrims of Christ. As many Diocesan staff members regroup after being furloughed and others return after holidays we pray for the Holy Spirit to renew and refresh our Diocesan structures, our Deaneries and Parishes, and that the two million people in our Diocese may 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.



Mon 31st: (*Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651*) **COMMUNITIES:** Eight in ten low-income families report being in a worse financial position than before the pandemic, and half were much worse off because their income had fallen while costs have risen – according to a new report published last week by the Church of England and the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG). Pray for our Transforming Communities Together team as they facilitate strategic responses to this challenge. As we reflect today on the example of St Aidan, we give thanks for his formational role in the life of St Chad in the context of a learning community on Lindisfarne and pray that we may be inspired by his example.

Tues 1st: (*Giles of Provence, Hermit, c.710*) **SCHOOLS:** Heavenly Father your word tells us to pray for those in authority and so as we come to the beginning of a new term we pray for our leaders. We pray for those in power – for Boris Johnson and for the current Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson. We pray once again that they will make wise decisions over the return to school so that our staff and pupils will be protected and supported. We pray also for Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer for the National Society who leads the work of the Church of England Education Office as he makes decisions on how the SIAMS inspections will be moving forward. In this Diocese we pray for Sue Wedgwood, CEO of St Chad's Multi Academy Trust, and for Claire Shaw, Diocese Director for Education, as they lead their teams and support our schools during this coming term. Amen.

Wed 2nd: (*The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942*) **AROUND THE WORLD:** For the Brothers and Sisters of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, for the Diocese of Vanuatu & New Caledonia and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Luganville on the island of Santo as they recover and rebuild after Cyclone Harold. We pray for Bishop James Tama and his family who lost so much in the Cyclone. For the Society of St Francis throughout the world, including Melanesia and for their new Minister Provincial Br Worrick Marako, elected in March. We pray for the greater care of creation and give thanks for the life and inspiration of St Francis. For communities affected by climate change and pray for protection from unscrupulous mining and logging.

Thur 3rd: (*Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604*) **PRISONS:** Loving Lord, in these particularly difficult times we pray for all prisoners, those who work in prisons and for all who volunteer as visitors; for all involved in the learning of new skills and in educational initiatives; we pray for "Outfits", a new organization, whose aim is to provide suitable clothing and sturdy bags for prisoners on their release, enabling them to restart their lives with dignity; for Julia Collinson as she explores whether this initiative can be developed in our Diocese and as she seeks to find further ways of taking forwards the work of the MU in prison ministry.

Fri 4th: (*Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester (Oxon), Apostle of Wessex, 650*) **HEALTHCARE:**

For the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, praying particularly for the Spiritual Care Team and for Revd Emma Louis in her role as Spiritual Care Lead, that the Team will hold in balance the challenges and sadnesses whilst staying positive and nourishing hope. Give thanks for the beautiful acts of kindness which have flowed out of current adversity and stress, and pray for the mental health of the staff and for good use of the resources which they have created for both staff and patients and for Emma's teaching of mindfulness on-line.

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Sat 5th: **AROUND THE WORLD:** for our sisters and brothers in the Nordkirche – the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Northern Germany. We pray for the ministry of Margit Gutowski in her service as a voluntary preacher /predicant on the island of Rügen, following her commissioning last week by Bishop Tilman Jeremias. Pray for those who are undertaking the training, lasting three and a half years, for this ministry and for the sixty or so preachers who are currently involved on a voluntary basis in the Mecklenburg and Pomerania district of the north church.