

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 71

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 8th August: (*Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221*) As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the Eccleshall Deanery; for Rural Dean: Revd Doug Hemming; Lay Chair: Jonathan Jones; that the 21,245 people in the 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 9th: (*Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921*) Give thanks for the ongoing Shaping for Mission process in the Eccleshall Deanery, for Laura Edwards as SfM Enabler; for the willingness and openness to build a Deanery Vision which responds to past events and sees possibilities for the future; for wisdom and grace to use this opportunity to make a difference and make the Deanery more sustainable and stronger; pray too for all branches of the Mothers' Union throughout the Diocese.

Tuesday 10th: (*Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258*) Pray for Sarah Morris at Drake Hall, as Diocesan Lead on prisons; for prison staff as they respond to the third wave of COVID infections which is now affecting prisons: for stamina, energy and wisdom as they care for prisoners; for prisoners and prison staff who are unwell themselves; and for prisoners who are often frightened at whether they may pick up the infection, and who might be struggling with their mental health as a result of the pandemic; for prison chaplains as they seek to pastorally support prisoners and colleagues, and as they seek to recommence services and to creatively minister spiritually to those in their care.

Wednesday 11th: (*Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Minoreesses -Poor Clares, 1253; John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890*) For the Diocese of Kuching within the Province of S E Asia, for Diocesan Bishop Danald Jute and for his responsibilities within the wider Anglican Communion; for Assistant Bishop Nelson Ugas; for the Zoom Global Conversation taking place today with Lichfield Diocese; we join in the month of Prayer for Malaysia leading up to Malaysia Day on 16th September.

Thursday 12th: Give thanks that so many people within the Eccleshall Deanery have come back to church after the long Pandemic, and for genuine enthusiasm and a willingness to co-operate among the congregations as we consider new ideas, as well as reviving old activities. We pray at this time of change in the Eccleshall Deanery for those in interregnum, for the challenges of extra work for Churchwardens, parish profiles, selection process, for guidance, patience, the ability to seek the views of others, listening to and understanding each other.

Friday 13th: (*Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor 1667; Florence Nightingale, Social Reformer, 1910; Octavia Hill, Social Reformer, 1912*) We give thanks that we are now able to celebrate weddings and baptisms - joyful occasions bringing our churches alive again with hope for the future. We ask for guidance in choosing the right ministers who can lead us through change and help us tackle the challenges of meeting the needs of existing parishioners and encouraging and welcoming new individuals and families - with a real desire to tell our communities about God's love for them.

Saturday 14th: (*Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941*) 'Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to bless our advocacy at the EU. We pray that the EU Member States, which have demonstrated their commitment to protecting human rights through this new sanctions programme, would speak out against injustice and stand united on behalf of all facing discrimination on account of their religious beliefs'. (*taken from the Christian Solidarity Worldwide Prayer Diary, used by several parishes throughout the Diocese*).

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