

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 194

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those currently suffering because of wars and unrest and for all who take decisions around the world.

Sunday 7th January:

Pray for the United City Celebration, taking place this evening at Swan Bank Church, Burslem – a city-wide celebration to welcome in the New Year.

Pray for God's Holy Spirit to inspire and enable host, Revd Kathryn Stephens, worship leader, Paul Critchley and guest speaker, Robert Mountford, that all who take part will be encouraged and blessed.

(Further details: email@saltbox.org.uk)

Monday 8th:

We pray for all those around the world impacted by natural disasters, and we think especially of all who have experienced earthquakes – the people of Libya, Afghanistan and, most recently, Japan. Pray for those who have lost homes and loved ones; those who lost their lives as they set out to provide rescue support; and for those involved in the struggle to rebuild and restore homes and infrastructure to restore their communities. Pray also for those who continue to suffer because of war and unrest; and for all who strive for peace and justice throughout the world.

Tuesday 9th:

Prayer provided by Revd David Rajiah, Prayer Coordinator for the Diocese of West Malaysia, let us use it to pray for our own situation as well as for our friends in West Malaysia, Kuching and Sabah.

As we welcome 2024, let us embrace the New Things the LORD has in store for us, our families, our churches, our diocese and our nation, trusting in His guidance and provision even in unexpected places.

Lord, in this new year help us to remember your promises and who you are. It is because of you that we can have hope because you are faithful. Let your faithfulness be the thing we remember and rely on. Let that be the source of our hope and joy. Amen.

Wednesday 10th: (William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645):

Keep us, O Lord, constant in faith and zealous in witness, that, like your servant William Laud, we may live in your fear, die in your favour, and rest in your peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Thursday 11th: (Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915):

We pray for Hodnet Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Catherine, McBride and Assistant Revd Jane Morris and give thanks for the service given by Richard Ancliffe, until recently, Lay Chair.

Pray for renewed energy, commitment and vision for the Synod and ask God to raise up a new candidate for Lay Chair.

Pray also for God's guidance as the deanery considers possible opportunities for involvement in local housing developments.

Friday 12th: (Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689)

We continue to pray for Hodnet Deanery; giving thanks for the ministry of Hannah Garside as, until recently, Deanery Youth Work Enabler.

Pray for God's wisdom as the deanery reviews this role, and discerns the best way to configure it to meet the needs of the deanery for the future. Pray also that the required finances for the role will be forthcoming.

Saturday 13th: (George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691)

Pray for the work of the diocesan Racial Justice and Inclusion Task Group. Give thanks for the successful West Midlands bid, allowing significant new provision of dedicated personnel to address issues of racial justice in our churches and dioceses; pray for wisdom and creativity in establishing and embedding the work across the next six months.

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For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx