

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally and globally. Let us also continue to pray for the people of Northwest Syria and Central Turkey, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake.

Sunday 19th March: *(Joseph of Nazareth)*

Pray for our brothers and sisters in our companion diocese – the Nordkirche, Germany, giving thanks for the ministry of Christa Hunzinger and praying that a good successor for her will be found. Pray that God will bless the initial planning for the next Anticipating Advent event to be held in the first week of Advent at Schwerin. Pray also for the time of vacancy in the Europe desk of ZMÖ and for Gothart Magaard as he prepares to retire in November and for the election of his successor in the synod of the Nordkirche.

Monday 20th: *(Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687)*

Pray for Bishop Kaleem John and the Diocese of Hyderabad, Pakistan, and for a team from Lichfield Diocese: Archdeacon Megan, Alex Wolvers and Fr Yakoob Khushi, who will visit to explore the development of a diocesan link. As their journey begins today, pray for safety in travelling and for good relationships to be formed, that the team will be able to offer encouragement to those they meet. Pray also for discernment to know how companionship with our sister diocese might further the work of the Gospel.

Tuesday 21st: *(Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556)*

We pray for Stoke-on-Trent Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Shaun Morris, Assistant, Revd Dave Street, Lay Chair, Mike Whittaker and Assistant, Des Cotton; giving thanks for the many styles of worship reflected across this large deanery and the diversity of skills and experience in its parishes. Pray God's blessing and enabling as it seeks to find new ways of viewing situations and opportunities, and work out ways in which to work together to support and encourage one another. Pray for the North Potteries Team, the Bucknall Team, the churches in the Tunstall and Longton areas as well as those in the outlying areas of the City.

Wednesday 22nd:

Pray for Revd Preb Mark McIntyre who will be licensed this evening as Priest in Charge of Christ Church, Blakenall Heath; also for Revd Helen Baby who will be licensed as Mission Priest.

Thursday 23rd:

We continue to pray for Stoke-on-Trent Deanery, remembering its historic Revivals of the past and praying that congregations would again be overwhelmed by an awareness of the presence of God. Pray for the Stoke and Hanley Teams, remembering their particular city centre challenges when so few people actually live within the parishes. Pray for parishes in vacancy, St Mary & St Chad, Longton and St Paul's, Longton Hall; for those who lead & minister in interregnum and for God's calling to new ministers of His choosing.

Friday 24th: *(Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980 – an extract from a prayer attributed to him)*

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own. We plant the seeds that one day will grow; We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. Amen.

Saturday 25th: *(The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary)*

We continue to pray for Stoke-on-Trent Deanery, for the association of mutual support between Trentham Parish and the Benefice of Hartshill, Penkull & Trent Vale, for Revd Adrian Stone, taking on new responsibilities, for newly appointed Associate Minister Revd Fran Bridgewater, and for the recruitment process for an Associate Vicar to join the team. Give thanks that technology enhances both worship and witness, for Zoom, social media and local radio station, Radio Stoke; pray that God will continue to guide and to bless efforts to find new ways to witness and to be relevant to the communities our churches serve.

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For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx
Diocesan Day of Prayer 19/20 April 2023 12 noon-12 noon in our virtual prayer room via Zoom For further details [click here](#)