Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 31

**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 1st November:** *(****All Saints’ Day) CHURCHES***. We continue to pray for the recently launched ***‘Shaping for Mission’*** process and for the engagement of Deaneries as they take on new roles in working out our call to mission; for the identification of team members and the formation of Shaping for Mission teams; for our 28 Deaneries and for all Rural Deans, Lay Chairs and members of Deanery Synods and Chapters, that Deaneries may be increasingly effective in mission and supportive in ministry.

**Mon 2nd:** *(Commemoration of the Faithful Departed -All Souls’ Day)* ***COMMUNITIES:***  for all memorial services and Covid secure ways of remembering the departed; for the Transforming Communities Together Team; for all children reliant on free school meals and for the estimated three million children at risk of hunger during the school holidays; for initiatives such as ‘Make Lunch’ which help to meet this need.

**Tues 3rd:** *(Richard Hooker, Priest, Anglican Apologist, Teacher of the Faith, 1600; Martin of Porres, Friar, 1639)* ***SCHOOLS:*** for the 206 Church Schools in our Diocese, for staff and pupils as they face more demanding and unsettling weeks ahead; for all Governing Bodies and for those being called to serve God in schools and those who are offering chaplaincy to schools.

**Wed 4th: *AROUND THE WORLD:*** We give thanks for the appointment of Canon Steven Abbarow to be the next Bishop of West Malaysia – we pray for God to give him wisdom and strength as he prepares for this; for Bishop Moon Hing anticipating retirement in mid-November as he moves back to Ipoh; for the theological College at Seremban where Canon Steven was Vice Principal, for all on-line courses and for effective contact with those in training during the time of this pandemic.

**Thur 5th:*****SELF SUPPORTING MINISTERS:*** We give thanks for all who are ordained and who support their own ministry financially; we pray for Revd Bill Durose, as a self-supporting minister in Stoke-on-Trent, who works in a supermarket, and for other “forgotten” heroes of Covid-19 - farmers, pickers, lorry drivers and supermarket workers who have helped to keep food on our plates during the pandemic.

**Fri 6th:** *(Leonard, Hermit, 6th century;  William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1944)* ***HEALTHCARE:*** We thank God for all the nursing staff and doctors, medical students, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, for teams in operating theatres, surgeons and anaesthetists, chaplaincy teams; for all facing added pressures in our hospitals, health centres and in the community as a result of the increased levels of Covid infection.

**Sat 7th:** *(Willibrord of York, Bishop, Apostle of Frisia, 739)* ***ENVIRONMENT****:* We pray for a Diocesan wide response to the urgent task of safeguarding creation; for Steve Hollinghurst as he enables communities of Christians to link how they are church with the environment and in particular to develop expressions of Forest Church.

*For further resources for praying for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer:* [*https://bit.ly/3anQUWG*](https://bit.ly/3anQUWG)