

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 43

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers take forwards the 'Shaping for Mission' Deanery focus. As People of Hope we remain mindful too of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

Sunday 24th January: (*Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622*) We pray for the **Shifnal and Edgmond Deanery**; Rural Dean: Matthew Lefroy; Assistant Rural Dean: Mary Thomas; Lay Chair: Malcolm Maclean; for their 24 Churches and 9 Benefices spread across a largely rural area; for 6 Chaplaincies, and range of Fresh Expressions; for insight to discern ways in which the Deanery can work effectively together across different locations and contexts.

Mon 25th: (*The Conversion of Paul; End of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*) **Blessing** God, who is love, you see through our brokenness, through our divisions and separation, you long for us to be made whole. Jesus, who is the human face of love, you call us to gather the fragments, so that nothing be lost, you long for us to be healed. Holy Spirit, who is the bond of love, you build bridges of understanding and respect, you break down the barriers that divide. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us as we become your mosaic of love for the world. Amen. (*Rev Chris Thorpe, Vicar of St Andrew's, Shifnal, from the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Ploughshares and First Fruits 2020*)

Tues 26th: (*Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul*) **Shaping for Mission:** for the combined Shifnal and Edgmond SfM team, for Lindsey Hall as SfM Strategy Enabler; for the Deanery Chapter day meeting today over Zoom as they consider the "Shaping For Mission" initiative; for the SfM Deanery team meeting on Tuesday 2nd February; for a helpful response to the questionnaire sent to a representative sample of people across the deanery.
'May we be shaped by the Good News of Jesus, the light of the world
And may we seek your kingdom as People of Hope. Amen'.

Wed 27th: Schools: for the for 7 Church Schools, for leaders having to make challenging decisions around the provision of remote learning; and supporting staff, pupils and families through very difficult times; for ways for churches to continue to make links with the schools and families.

Thur 28th: (*Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274*) **Dementia – forget me not!**
The impact on people with dementia and those who care for them in this pandemic has been huge. We pray for our work as dementia friendly churches, in this Deanery and beyond:
When memory slips and fades;
when faces, events,
and the rush of life
threaten to overwhelm us;
be our still centre.
Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your kingdom.
In caring, when we are unsure what to do,
help us to cross the bridge
from facts to feelings,
from head to heart,
to meet one another with love.
Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your kingdom.

Fri 29th: for Rev Eddie Wynn, one of the Chaplains at RAF Cosford; for the ministry of the Chaplaincy offering pastoral care and a listening ear to all who live and work at RAF Cosford.

Sat 30th: Matlosane: (*Charles, King and Martyr, 1649*) for our brothers and sisters in Matlosane in the Province of Southern Africa; for Bishop Steve Diseko and his family; for the Dean Christopher Seupe and all the staff at Ikakeng Cathedral, Potchefstroom, for protection and safe-keeping during the time of this Pandemic; for a speedy rollout of the vaccine; for the close links with the neighbouring Diocese of Botswana under the leadership and oversight of Bishop Metlha Beleme.