Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 58

**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.**

**Sun 9thMay:** We pray for the **Penkridge Deanery** located between Stafford and Wolverhampton, for Penkridge itself near the centre, and the surrounding villages and suburbs; for Rural Dean: Greg Yerbury; Assistant Rural Dean: Rachel Dale; Lay Chair: John Peterken; for the 12 Parishes and 7 Benefices serving a population of 42,500 people; for congregations coming to terms with the loss of cherished parishioners during lockdown; and for parishes in financial difficulty or struggling to find volunteers as a result of the pandemic.

**Mon 10th: Shaping for Mission:** for the Penkridge SfM team and for SfM facilitator Laura Edwards; for confidence in the gospel and making it known; for the strength, courage and vision needed to reach people across Penkridge Deanery. Give thanks for the success of online services - for their variety, for new gifts discovered and used, and for new people joining in; for the generous givers who have supported and sustained their churches during lockdown.

**Tues 11th**: **HMP Oakwood;** the Chaplain Revd Taiwo Olumuyiwa asks prayer for: peace of mind, well-being and a new direction for those in prisons so that they can have a better future; guidance for the chaplaincy team as they continue to provide pastoral support to prisoners; for the prisoners who have lost their family to Covid and other illnesses that the good Lord would console and strengthen them; for the prisoners who are getting ready for baptism, that they may stay strong in their walking with God; for the prisoners in our care to be protected from danger; for those who have been and are due to be released, that they would maintain their faith.

**Wed 12th:** *(Gregory Dix, Priest, Monk, Scholar, 1952)* Give thanks for the work of the food banks supported by the Penkridge Deanery, and for debt counselling and other support services; for Amanda Arthur, Curate at St Michael’s as she approaches her ordination as priest; for Coven, Shareshill and Essington as they continue in vacancy; and for all discovering and developing new ministries.

**Thur 13th: (Ascension Day and Eid ul Fitr):** For the range of Chaplaincies within the Deanery including those working alongside the South Staffs FE College, the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Staffordshire Police; that they may partner with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope.

**Friday 14th:** *(Matthias the Apostle)* **Schools:** for the teachers, pupils and governors at the 11 Church Schools; that good links may be made with the local churches and that children be made welcome.

**Saturday 15th May:**Following the recent release of *‘From Lament to Action’,* pray that our Diocese and the entire Church of England may implement the 47 actions of this report to root out racism within the church; pray for the many people of UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) or Global Majority Heritage (GMH) backgrounds to be properly integrated and affirmed within our church structures.

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