

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 65

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

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 27th June: (*Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 444*) As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the **Stoke on Trent Deanery**; for Area Dean: Shaun Morris; Lay Chair: Mike Whittaker; Deputy Area Deans: Tommy Merry and Dave Street; Deanery Secretary: Mary Snape; that the 222,550 people in the Stoke Deanery encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities; for a church that partners with others seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope; especially for those who minister in Bentilee, Abbey Hulton, Meir and Blurton.

Mon 28th: (*Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons, Teacher of the Faith, c.200*) For the Stoke on Trent City Commercial Centre, Hanley, and Civic Centre, Stoke-upon-Trent Teams - their respective Rectors, Rev'd Phillip Jones & Rev'd Andrew Wickens and their Team Vicars - their congregations and the wider communities they serve. The people of the City and their many skills, art & design - 2D & 3D especially ceramics, music & drama, sport and dance, catering & hospitality, manufacturing - especially of pottery but many others as the pottery industry declined but is now thankfully "fighting back" - for those who have been unable use these skills during the pandemic, who have found it difficult to earn a living, those whose businesses have had to close temporarily and, in some cases, permanently.

Tues 29th: (*Peter and Paul, Apostles*) For the young people and their educators and support staff in Stoke who have been in and out, finding new ways of teaching and learning - for all our schools whether Church designated or not - the Governors, Teaching Staff, Support Staff, Parents and above all the Children and Young Adults, especially those who have been unable to demonstrate their abilities and knowledge in the usual way, all those who have suffered mental illness through these difficulties, those who have had to defer going to University or college or starting work.

Wed 30th: Give thanks for the **Shaping for Mission** Team in the Stoke on Trent Deanery and it's facilitator Lindsey Hall, as they seek a Spirit led openness to reimagining the Church in Stoke-on-Trent; for those with a faith and those with none, those who are searching for something, for a purpose in life, those disenchanted with the church, those with the skills and abilities to proclaim and live a life in the love of Jesus; for a new connection between the churches and their local communities, a renewing of faith and a dynamism in action, a breathing of the Holy Spirit over all who live in the city - touching, affecting and bringing them closer to God.

Thur 1st July: (*Henry, John, and Henry Venn the younger, Priests, Evangelical Divines, 1797, 1813 and 1873*) Give thanks for the Hospitals and Health Centres in the Stoke on Trent region with amazing staffs both medical and support, including the Chaplains - for their devotion to duty and to their patients - the incredible care and high skills in treating those who have contracted COVID-19, the teams of personnel who have worked tirelessly to ensure so many have received the vaccination.

Friday 2nd: Give thanks for the successful Stoke on Trent City Food Bank, the wonderful volunteers, those individuals and churches who contribute on a regular basis, those who depend on the Food Bank to either supplement or form the main basis of their daily food. Give thanks for the provisions made for the homeless through the Macari Centre, the Salvation Army Hostel and the YMCA Centre - those who utilise the facilities and those who sit/sleep on the streets and outside our shopping centres and supermarkets. Pray for Economic Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers who reside in the city - those who work with them and for them especially Sanctus St Mark's, Rev'd Sally Smith, the volunteers and those supporting financially - also for the Beheshtion Church Community which emerged from Sanctus and for the ministry of Iliya Shadravani to the wider Iranian population.

Saturday 3rd: (*Thomas the Apostle*) The Bishop of Saskatoon, the Rt Revd Chris Harper describes how the 'fall out of the finding (of 215 Indigenous bodies) in Kamloops B.C. has set ministry back a decade, but it has also opened up the reality of faith and racism that is rampant in society. We as children of God have not learned our lesson that nothing good comes from standing over or diminishing our brothers and sisters in God's creation. It seems here that there is a new challenge to the day, everyday... so we invite all to stay in prayer with us'. **Lord have mercy.**