

Lichfield Diocese Day of Prayer April 8/9

These resources for prayer have been compiled for use during the 24hr [Day of Prayer](#) though they can still be used on a daily basis. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally. We continue to pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world & for the people & leaders of Russia.

Sun 3rd April (Passion Sunday):

SHAPING FOR MISSION

May we be **People of Hope:**

pray for all Deaneries as they put their vision for mission into practice. We name to you all 28 Deaneries:

From the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area: Ellesmere, Hodnet, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Wem & Whitchurch, Wrockwardine, Edgmond & Shifnal and Telford. *From the Wolverhampton EA:* Lichfield,

Penkridge, Rugeley, Trysull, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Wulfrun, Tamworth and Walsall. *From the Stafford EA:* Cheadle, Stafford, Stone, Uttoxeter, Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle, Tutbury, Alstonfield, Eccleshall and Leek. Pray too for all existing mission projects, pioneer ministers and fresh expressions.

Generous God, You have provided for your people in every generation.

In our faithlessness you remained steadfast.

In our obsession with scarcity you provided abundance.

In our anxiety you offered us freedom from fear.

In our despair you gave us hope.

We receive your gifts, believe your promises and trust you for the future.

May we cease trying to fix the church and join with you in loving your world.

May we hear your call to fullness of life and share it with others.

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.

Shaping for Mission Prayer

Mon 4th: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we be **Attentive to God:**

LORD through the prophet Jeremiah you said, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.' We believe that it is your desire LORD to draw us close to you and in doing so enabling us to hear your voice. May we respond to this calling with open hearts and a hunger to know you in a deeper and more intimate way. As we seek your will for our own lives and the mission of our deanery help us to be of one heart that we may hear your calling and serve you as the united body of Christ. **Amen**

SCHOOLS: We pray for the staff, pupils and families of our 206 schools; for the 49,000 pupils in our church schools, for Claire Shaw the Director of Education, for the Diocesan Board of Education and the St Chads Academies Trust, Three Spires Trust and for all Christian Distinctiveness Advisers. We pray too for all the community schools in our Diocese, for bridges of trust, co-operation and shared concern with churches.

Tues 5th: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we show **Courage for change:**

Heavenly Father, we take comfort that you never change and are constant in our changing world. We pray for courage for change. We know that we get stuck or comfortable sometimes, doing things our own way or getting anxious about change. We ask you Lord for courage, to open our eyes to the way things really are, to have difficult conversations and to be open to trying new things. Please show us your will. Show us where you are at work in the world and give us courage join in. Keep us focussed on your kingdom and prepare us to be bold and brave as we continue to share your Good News and love. **Amen**

COMMUNITIES: for the Transforming Communities Together Team in their work of 'Supporting people and communities to thrive and flourish'. We pray for the team members: Jon Miles, Emma Smith, Shaz Akhtar, Rachel Moore, Lesley Bovington, Carrie Blount, Rue Green, Sarah Thorpe, Zoe Corney, Zoe Heming and TCT Trustees; for the many ways they are impacting the people, communities and churches in this Diocese particularly in responding to the cost of living crisis and the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic: for Black Country Near Neighbours, Places of Welcome, Enabling All, Dementia Friendly Churches, financial inclusion networks, mental health and wellbeing work; and for the recruitment of a new Chief Officer.

Wed 6th: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we show **Willingness for pruning and sacrifice.**

John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."

Loving God, help us to be brave enough to ask you to prune the branches that no longer bear fruit. Remind us that we cannot do everything, but that we can do whatever you call us to and bless. Help us to look at where we put our energy and our resources and to see where no fruit grows. Give us the courage to notice it, to name it and to allow you to prune those branches so that the healthy ones will bear more fruit. Help us to accept that pruning even when they are our branches. We ask this for the sake of your kingdom and for the sake of your church in this place. Amen.

DIOCESE: We pray for our Diocesan Bishop The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, for our Area Bishops - Clive Gregory (Wolverhampton), Sarah Bullock (Shrewsbury) and Matthew Parker (Stafford), for our Assistant Bishops Jan McFarlane, Jonathan Clark and Alistair Magowan and for Bishop Rod Thomas and Bishop Tony Robinson; for our Archdeacons - Sue Weller (Lichfield), Julian Francis (Walsall), Megan Smith (Stoke-upon-Trent) and Paul Thomas (Salop) and for our Associate Archdeacons Terry Bloor (Stoke-upon-Trent) and Jo Farnworth (Salop); for our Cathedral – Dean Adrian Dorber and Canons Andrew Stead, Gregory Platten, David Primrose and Jan McFarlane and all involved in the mission and ministry of the Cathedral; for Robert Mountford, Regional Ecumenical Officer and for developing ecumenical relations; for Neil Spiring, our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and his team; for the Task Group taking forwards our commitment to justice and inclusion for people of every ethnicity and culture.

Thur 7th: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we show **Renewed confidence in the Gospel:**

Living God,
Who in Jesus Christ
has shown us the Way, the Truth and the Life;
renew our faith,
deepen our love
and open our hearts afresh
to the Good News you have entrusted to us.
As we pray that the two million people in our diocese
encounter a church that is confident in the gospel,
may we in our local contexts rediscover your message of love,
that through word and action
as we share this with others
we may be shaped for your mission
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPLAINCY: God of all creation, the many chaplaincies in our diocese speak your story into the world through their ministries of encounter, attention, love, care and witness. Chaplains serve in tough places and tough times. We pray for those based in schools, colleges and universities; in town centres, business and workplace environments, waterways; in hospitals and hospices; in prisons and young offenders institutions; in the armed forces and emergency services, and in every place where chaplains are found. We pray for ordained and lay chaplains, those paid and those who volunteer; and for any facing uncertainty or developing their sense of vocation and service. Amen.

Fri 8th: (Day of Prayer) SHAPING FOR MISSION May we be **Faithful to our calling:**

Faithful God, through your Son you lead us on pilgrimage throughout this life. Awe-struck, we would love to stop, build huts, and dwell just with you, but you call us onwards. We tire, and we would love to sleep in the garden, but you rouse us. In the dark moments we tremble, and would like to betray you, but you will not let us go. For you do not stop calling us to dwell in your kingdom, and so we dare to follow you. **Amen**

AROUND THE WORLD: We give thanks for our part in the worldwide church. We pray for the Anglican Communion seeking to respond to the challenges and suffering caused by Covid-19; for all our global partnerships remembering Bishop Steve Diseko and all in the Diocese of Matlosane, South Africa; for Bishop Helen Kennedy (Qu'Appelle, Canada) and Bishop Chris Harper (Saskatoon, Canada); for Bishop Kristina Kühnbaum-Schmidt and our brothers and sisters of the Nordkirche in Northern Germany; for Archbishop Melter Tais (Province of South East Asia); for Bishop Steven Abbarow (West Malaysia) and Assistant Bishops Jason Selvaraj and Steven Soe with their clergy and lay members and for Bishop Danald Jute (Kuching) and Assistant Bishop Nelson Ugas Bulang and all the clergy and lay members remembering too those ministering in Brunei; for Bishop Paul Colton and all in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross; for our links with Anglican Mission Agencies remembering particularly USPG and CMS; for all overseas links and charities with which our parishes are connected. We recognise the disproportionate impact of Climate Change on poorer countries, and we pray for renewed commitment to climate justice and to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Sat 9th: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we be **Visionary:**

Lord you are the Alpha and Omega, in you all things have their source and their destiny. Reveal to us your vision for the outworking of your Kingdom in our churches, deaneries, and diocese. Show us the parts we are called to play in that vision. Walk with us on the journey towards that destination. Fill us afresh with your Spirit that we may travel together in faith and love, be inspired by your wisdom, and supported by your strength. **Amen.**

"As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find you, O God, already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope."

Diocese of Lichfield Vision Prayer