

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally and globally. Let us also continue to pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people and leaders of Russia.

Sunday 1st May: *(Philip and James, Apostles)*

Almighty Father, whom truly to know is eternal life: teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life; that we may follow the steps of your holy apostles Philip and James, and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Monday 2nd: *(Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373)*

We pray for Wrockwardine Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Andy Ackroyd, Assistant, Revd Chris Tough and Lay Chair, John Wardle; giving thanks for good attendance at two new initiatives: Forest Church and Filling Station (a national initiative to bring renewal, refreshment and encouragement to the rural church), and for the re-opening, post-Covid, of fourteen different Fresh Expressions. Pray for all involved in these ventures and for God's help in growing them wisely.

Pray also for resilience as the deanery faces the challenges and decisions required by the Shaping for Mission process.

Tuesday 3rd:

We remember Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton and our friends in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross in the Republic of Ireland; giving thanks for this fledgling link with our own diocese, which currently centres around the Church at Perton. Pray for their Vicar, Revd Julia Cody as she spends two weeks of her sabbatical in Ireland in July; that as she gets to know people better, this will be an opportunity to deepen and embed the links already forged. Pray also that other parishes in Lichfield Diocese will feel led to participate in this link. *(for more details about this link please contact: revjulia.perton@gmail.com)*

Wednesday 4th: *(English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era)*

Pray for all the chaplains of our Diocese in their many varied contexts, and, in particular this week, for the Waterways Chaplaincy team; for Stephanie and Malcolm Grey-Smart as they take a well-earned break and for a number of the team who are currently suffering from ill health.

Pray for physical protection for all the chaplains as they minister, often at the cutting edge of society on the canals across our diocese.

Thursday 5th:

We pray for Alstonfield Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd John Baines and Lay Chair, Janet Sadler; giving thanks for the ministry of all their clergy: Revd Alan Beahan, Revd John Austerberry and Revd Jane Held. Pray for a sustained sense of growing together amongst all the parishes of this deeply rural deanery spread over a wide geographical area, as they continue to move forward with the Shaping for Mission process.

Friday 6th: *(<https://churcharmy.org/>)*

We pray for the team of Church Army, both staff and volunteers, as they seek to fulfil their vision *'for everyone everywhere to encounter God's love, and be empowered to transform their communities through faith shared in words and action, tackling social deprivation through partnership and collaboration.'*

Pray especially for an open day being held today at Lambeth Palace Gardens, a fundraising event in aid of the work of Church Army, that this will raise much needed funds for projects bringing hope to those in most need.

Saturday 7th:

Pray for *Discipleship Today - Being and Doing*, organised by *Food for the Journey*, the lay conference working party which is a joint venture of Lichfield Diocese and the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District - a conference for those interested in exploring the notion of discipleship. Pray for all who will attend, that God would reveal His plan for their lives; and for the speakers including Rachel Parkinson, Roger Walton, Andrew Roberts, Helen Morby, Lindsey Hall and Bishop Michael.