Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 150

**Our prayers continue for the ‘SHAPING FOR MISSION’ Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As ‘People of Hope’ we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally and globally. Let us also continue to pray for the people of Northwest Syria and Central Turkey, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake.**

#### Sunday 5th March:

Give thanks for the Community of St Chad, which draws inspiration from the life of St Chad and is an expression of modern-day monasticism. Pray for all its members especially those who meet this afternoon at the Cathedral, to take part in the annual Recommitment Service. Members of the Community meet together online to pray on Tuesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9am. Everyone is very welcome to join them, Go to the [website](https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-faith/community-st-chad/#:~:text=The%20Community%20of%20St%20Chad%20helps%20us%20to%20take%20forward,work%20within%20a%20parish%20context.) for further details.

Monday 6th:

Give thanks for the YMCA Black Country Group and its life changing work for the communities it serves, praying especially for Steve Bavington, taking up his new role as CEO today.

Pray for Revd Andrew Lythall who will be installed as Vicar of Tamworth on Thursday.

Pray also for young adults who will attend [*Step Forward*](https://www.stepforwardanglican.org.uk/) on Saturday in York; an opportunity through worship, prayer and Bible study, to find out what being ordained is really like; and to explore what God might be calling them to in the future.

Tuesday 7th: (*Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203)*

We pray for Hodnet Deanery: for Rural Dean, Revd Catherine McBride, Assistant, Revd Jane Morris and Lay Chair, Richard Ancliffe. Pray for all clergy, local ministers, church wardens and those in leadership roles, that God will provide strength and energy as they seek to continue the work of the Kingdom in areas currently without parish priests.

Wednesday 8th: (*Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910)*

O God, our heavenly Father, who raised up your faithful servant Edward to be a bishop and pastor in your Church and to feed your flock: Give abundantly to all pastors the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that they may minister in your household as true servants of Christ and stewards of your divine mysteries; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Thursday 9th:

Pray for Revd Debs Walton, Chaplain to Thomas Adams School, Wem & Sir John Talbot School, Whitchurch.

Give thanks for staff who run sports, homework, before & after school clubs and revision classes; for Christians who lead ‘thought for the week’ or School Worship, and opportunities, connections and blessings they bring; for the dedication, creativity & professionalism of staff, supportive learning environments they create, for the fun, enthusiasm & energy most pupils enjoy in the school community. Pray for staff & pupils struggling with the cost of living, especially those in single parent households; for pupils preparing for exams this summer and the stress & pressure they feel; for staff and pupils struggling with wellbeing & mental health issues; for staff supporting pupils with additional needs & for pupils caring for a parent.

#### Friday 10th:

We continue to pray for Hodnet Deanery: especially for those parishes in various stages of the vacancy process: for the AMICA Benefice, for Woore and Norton-in-Hales and for Hodnet. Give thanks that God has clearly been at work in these situations; and pray for wisdom for leaders and PCCs as they make plans for the future and for God’s guidance in the recruitment process.

#### Saturday 11th:

We continue to pray for Hodnet Deanery: give thanks for the work of Hannah Garside, Deanery Youth Work Enabler, as she supports and encourages parishes in making connections with children, young people and their families. Pray for conversations exploring the possibility of school chaplaincy.

Give thanks for outreach to communities through initiatives such as Messy Church and Welcome Spaces, that these are meeting the need for companionship and a sense of belonging.