

These resources have been compiled for use during the 24hr Day of Prayer though can still be used on a daily basis. We remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people & leaders of Russia.

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023:**

**SHAPING FOR MISSION**

May we be **People of Hope:**

We pray for all Children and Youth workers across the Diocese as they seek to reach the younger generations with the love of Jesus. We give thanks for their ministry, and we pray for more people to step into these roles to support this important ministry. We pray that children and Youth will be enabled in their faith to continue in their learning as they seek to grow and serve as your disciples. Amen

*Generous God,  
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 17<sup>th</sup>: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we be **Attentive to God:**

Pray for the deaneries of the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area: Ellesmere, Hodnet, Oswestry, Wem & Whitchurch, Shrewsbury and Wrekin, Edgmond & Shifnal and Telford.

Please pray:

For Bishop Sarah, Archdeacon Paul and Associate Archdeacon Jo, Rural Deans, Assistant Rural Deans and Lay Chairs to provide wise and creative leadership in challenging times;

For parishes in vacancy, give thanks for the faithfulness of congregations and lay leaders in sustaining worship, ministry and mission;

For parishes looking to appoint clergy, pray for God to provide the right person; for the development of lay leaders to work alongside clergy in benefices with multiple places of worship.

**Tues 18<sup>th</sup>: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we show **Courage for change:**

We give thanks for the diversity and richness of different theological traditions across the diocese. Where there is difference, may there also be understanding, where there is conviction may there also be grace and humility and may we all have the courage to enable one another to truly flourish as we witness to God's saving love. Amen

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> (Day of Prayer): 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.

Pray for the deaneries of the Stafford Episcopal Area: Cheadle, Stafford, Stone, Uttoxeter, Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle, Tutbury, Alstonfield, Eccleshall and Leek.

As we continue to celebrate the glory of our Lord's mighty resurrection, we pray for the Stafford Episcopal Area, its parishes, schools and chaplaincies. Risen Lord, we pray that as the disciples on the Emmaus road discerned your presence, and were so captivated by your words, you will be the unseen companion along the daily journey of our lives and abide with us. Lead us into a deeper communion with you and those of our Area whom you call us to serve. Amen.

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup>: (Day of Prayer) 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.

**Please pray for Lichfield Cathedral:**

For Bishop Jan McFarlane as she takes up her role as Interim Dean of Lichfield, and for Canons Andrew, Gregory and David and the members of Chapter.

For Simon Warburton (Chief Operating Officer) and the Cathedral staff team.

For inspiration and guidance in the appointment of the next Dean in due course, and that the Cathedral will continue to be a place of witness to the Christian faith and that visitors will become pilgrims.

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup>: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we be **Faithful to our calling:**

Pray for the deaneries of the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area: Lichfield, Penkridge, Rugeley, Trysull, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Wulfrun, Tamworth and Walsall.

Please pray for the mission, witness and service of the churches, chaplaincies, Fresh Expressions and schools of the WEA as we move into a new phase of missional life after the retirement of Bishop Clive. In this Eastertide, we pray that the risen Christ, meeting us as disciples in the 'Galilee' of our lives, may reinvigorate us in our calling, embolden us in discipleship and inspire our evangelism for the sake of the gospel and in the purposes of the Kingdom. Amen

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>: SHAPING FOR MISSION** May we be **Visionary:**

We continue to pray for the staff of the Diocese working at St Mary's House and especially those departments in transition.

We pray, in particular, for the recruitment of a new Director of Education and for the team under the interim leadership of Matthew Welton.

As Transforming Communities Together merges back under the Diocesan umbrella, we pray that we may recruit a new Strengthening Communities Enabler to work with parishes in their efforts to reach their wider communities, and we ask your blessing on the wider team.

*"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*

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