

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 94

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers continue to take forward the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus, whilst remembering the many varied roles and ministries across our Diocese. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

Sunday 23rd January:

Almighty God, we pray for the people of Tonga, feeling over-awed by what we have seen of the devastating tsunami following the eruption of the nearby underwater volcano Hunga-Tonga Hunga-Ha'apai. We ask you to comfort them as they deal with the aftermath, and we give thanks for the moves within the Pacific and the wider international community to provide support for the inhabitants of Tonga; we ask that appropriate relief may be channelled quickly and safely, including the desperate need for unpolluted water, whilst at the same time mitigating further suffering from the risk of Covid 19. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Monday 24th: *(Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622)*

We pray for Wulfrun Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Ian Poole, Assistant Revd Sue Boyce, and Lay Chair, Mike Hotchkiss; giving thanks for the unity of heart and mind being experienced both in Chapter and Deanery Synod. Pray that all may continue to grow in their vision together as they anticipate new clergy being appointed in due course.

Tuesday 25th: *(The Conversion of Paul)*

Pray for CONNECT 2022 ... as Christian leaders gather together today at the Beacon House of Prayer. Pray that they will enjoy fellowship, praying and worshipping together as they focus on something of God's bigger picture for North Staffs. Pray that the Glory of God would be revealed in this area and for the transformation of North Staffordshire.

Wednesday 26th: *(Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul)*

We pray for Wrockwardine Deanery, 'Following, Loving, Serving Jesus, as one church in 21 places'; for Rural Dean Revd Andy Ackroyd, Assistant, Revd Chris Tough and Lay Chair, John Wardle; giving thanks for its growing number of Fresh Expressions including Praise and Play, Messy Church and Messy Vintage. Pray for the Team Ministry and those who support: retired clergy, lay ministers, readers, and other lay worship leaders. Pray for its involvement in schools and its work amongst new communities being created by extensive housing developments in the deanery; and for church members who are cautious about mixing with others and have yet to return to regular worship.

Thursday 27th:

We pray for schools across our Diocese, their staff, governors, pupils and families represented and for those who work as chaplains; in particular today for Revd Liz Jones, at JCB Academy; giving thanks for opportunities opening up for her to be able to be an effective presence in the school among staff and pupils. Pray for discernment as she offers pastoral support for Years 12 and 13, and seeks ways of engaging with pupils of Years 9-13, in after school activities.

Friday 28th: *(Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274)*

We pray for Cheadle Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Michael Follin and Lay Chair, Sylvia Bainbridge; giving thanks for the many ideas which have arisen from the Shaping for Mission process and praying for wisdom in discerning what is of God and how to put them in to practice.

Pray for Revd. Nicky Grey, as she leaves Cheadle to continue her work as a prison chaplain, giving thanks for all that she's done and for her warmth and enthusiasm.

Pray for Revd. Mike Newbon, arriving next week to be vicar at Caverswall, Dilhorne and Weston Coyney, that he will be warmly welcomed into the benefice and bring new momentum to lead the church and reach the people of the area.

Saturday 29th:

We give thanks for our Police Force, for the dedication, professionalism and care they have shown during 2021, particularly over the Christmas period. We pray for the year ahead as they journey under the command of a new Chief Constable, Mr Chris Noble. We pray for discernment and unity in the finalising and implementation of a new Project Operating Model which should go live on 27th June 2022. We continue to pray for their safety and wellbeing as they engage with the public in many aspects. We pray for the health and strength of those who work behind the scenes to support the operational staff, particularly during this uncertain time of Covid. Finally, we pray for good wholesome and trustworthy relationships between the Police and local communities. Amen.

For further resources for praying for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG>