

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> May:

We remember all those who will be ordained as Deacons next month in Lichfield Cathedral, giving thanks for their calling to this ministry and for all those who have supported and encouraged them on this part of their journey. Pray for them as they finish their studies and prepare themselves for this momentous event in their lives and in the lives of their families.

## Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>:

We pray for Wednesbury Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Martin Ennis, Assistant, Revd Jeremy Sylvester and Lay Chair, Chris Sprules; and for the ongoing Shaping for Mission process. Pray especially for the churchwardens and the people of Tipton, St John and Wood Green, St Paul – both in vacancy; and for Holy Cross, Tividale which is about to open a foodbank in partnership with the Black Country Food Bank.

## Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>: *(John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788)*

Dear Lord of the Universe, we look forward to the gathering of Anglican Bishops at The Lambeth Conference and the gathering of Commonwealth Athletes in Birmingham, both at the end of July. We ask your blessing on all involved that these events may be steps towards greater understanding across the globe and greater love for our fellow beings. As the Commonwealth Games Baton reaches Canada on 26th May we pray for fellow Christians in our partner diocese Qu'Appelle and their new Bishop Helen. We pray too for Matthew Gobbett, a St Chad's Volunteer from Qu'Appelle, based at Holy Trinity Oswestry in 2017/18, and about to embark on a civilian career supporting the military. We ask your blessing on all the St Chad's volunteers, wherever they may be, and trust that they are walking in Your Light. Amen.

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>: *(The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735)*

We pray for members of the Bishop's Council as they meet today; may they be blessed with wisdom, discernment and a sense of unity, as they consider important matters in the life and flourishing of our diocese, including our finance and resources.

We remember also Revd Tommy Merry who will be licensed tomorrow by the Bishop of Stafford as Vicar of the Benefice of Basford and priest-in-charge of St Margaret's Wolstanton.

## Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>: *(Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605)*

'Thy Kingdome Come' - the global week of prayer which begins today, calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Christ. Pray for all churches and individuals who have committed to taking part; that the experience will deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ and for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness as they pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup>:

We pray for Eccleshall Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Doug Heming and Lay Chair, Jonathan Jones; giving thanks that we are able to meet face-to-face once again and even enjoy chatting over refreshments! Pray for an increased sense of belonging and shared vision in the Deanery as we focus on Area 1 of our Shaping for Mission Vision in the coming weeks and months. Pray in particular for our Ascension Day Service and for the successful introduction of Deanery Evensong over the summer months.

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>: *(Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089)*

We pray for the individual parishes of the Diocese, at this time of Annual Meetings, giving thanks for those who have served in positions of leadership and for those considering taking these roles perhaps for the first time. Pray especially for those smaller congregations where a few often shoulder greater responsibility. Pray also for our church schools, for those taking up the role of foundation governors for the first time or renewing terms of office. Pray that God will guide, strengthen and empower all involved in growing His Kingdom across the diocese.

**For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: [anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx](http://anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx)**