

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 122

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

We return to our prayers 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 suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people and leaders of Russia.

Sunday 7th August: (John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866)

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel

Monday 8th: (Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221)

We give thanks for all who have contributed in any way to the Lambeth Conference and for the 1000+ bishops and their spouses who have attended. We pray for safe journeys for them all as they return to their home dioceses across the world; and we remember that this is not an ending, but the start of the third phase: 'Witnessing Together' which will involve working together on conference outcomes and initiatives.

Tuesday 9th: (Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921) For further details: <https://www.mothersunion.org/diocese/lichfield>
Extract from the MU prayer diary for today:

On this special day, we ask you, Lord, to help us to remember the past life and vision of the founder of the Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner. We praise you, Lord, for this strong and meaningful foundation upon which we can build her vision and move forward. Amen

Mary Sumner's prayer: All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.

Wednesday 10th: (Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258)

We pray for Edgmond & Shifnal deanery, rural dean, Revd Matthew Lefroy, assistant, Revd Mary Thomas and lay chair Malcolm Maclean: 'Loving God, thank you for the many blessings you give us. May we be eager to share your blessings with all we meet and especially the people of Edgmond and Shifnal. Increase our trust in you and give us generosity of spirit as we partner with you and one other in bringing your kingdom to our deanery. We give thanks for the recent constructive meeting with representatives of parishes in the south of the deanery & pray that you would guide our plans to implement the vision we believe you have given us. We ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen

Thursday 11th: (John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890)

Prayer from the diocesan Enabling All advisor Revd Zoe Heming (enabling.church@lichfield.anglican.org / 07926 805668)

Generous and compassionate God, we give thanks for the gifts you have given to all people. We pray for fresh eyes to see the barriers to belonging for disabled people and the resources we need to remove them. Help us all to journey with you without fear of the changing bodies and lives you have given us. May the story we share of the breaking of your body lead us all to a deeper healing and wholeness for your Church. Amen

Friday 12th:

We pray for Ellesmere deanery, for rural dean, Revd Linda Cox, assistant, Revd Preb Pat Hawkins, and lay chair Sandra Birchall; giving thanks for the last Deanery Synod when Rebecca Coatsworth from Open Doors was the speaker. Prior to the week of prayer for the persecuted church Rebecca began with a short film and spoke about 360 million people worldwide who experience persecution, however there was also a message of hope and how we can be stronger standing together. Give thanks also that several M.U. members have come together after their own branches have closed. Pray for the Deanery Day when Bishop Sarah will be the speaker; and for clergy retiring or moving to new ministries.

Saturday 13th: (Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910)

We remember all clergy and lay ministers serving across the diocese, asking that those taking opportunities for rest and refreshment this month will return to their roles with renewed energy and vision; praying also for those preparing for new challenges.

Pray for Revd Paul Cody who was licensed on Tuesday by the Bishop of Wolverhampton as assistant minister in the Benefice of Codsall; and for Revd Ian Macfarlane who was licensed on Thursday by the Bishop of Shrewsbury, as assistant minister of Market Drayton Benefice.

For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx
Diocesan 24-hour Day of Prayer Wednesday 19th – Thursday 20th October 2022, 12 noon to 12 noon.