

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 211

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers continue for the implementation of Deanery visions, developed during the Shaping for Mission process, within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese; and also includes the 2024 Thy Kingdom Come Novena, with reflections written by Bishop Anthony Poggio, the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion.

Sunday 5th May:

Pray for Lichfield Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Lynn McKeon, Assistant, Revd Dr Abbie Walsh, and for all in positions of leadership; giving thanks for all the parishes, for the commitment of clergy, lay leaders and people of commitment and deep faith, who continue to strive in often difficult circumstances. Give thanks for the continuing Shaping for Mission work as we implement ideas for mission and evangelism, pray that the churches engage in the church's mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus and that those we encounter may come to know God's love for them.

Monday 6th:

We continue to pray for Lichfield Deanery, for parishes in interregna: St Chad's Lichfield, St John the Baptist Shenstone with St Peter's Stonnall, and for those taking additional responsibility; for Christ Church Lichfield & St James' Longdon, who will be in vacancy from July when Revd Jan Waterfield retires; for All Saints Alrewas, St Stephen's Fradley & St Leonard's Wychnor, who will be in vacancy when Revd John Allan retires in September. Give thanks for the appointment of Revd Ashley Hines to St Giles Whittington, St Marys Weeford, St Bartholomew Hints, pray for Ashley, her family & church members beginning a new chapter in their ministerial lives together.

Tuesday 7th:

Pray for Revd Stuart Howes, commissioned last week as Assistant Rural Dean of Telford Deanery; also for Revd Marg Mattocks, also commissioned last week as Acting Rural Dean of Penkrudge. We continue to pray for the recruitment process for three key diocesan roles – Director of Communications, Strategy Programme Director and Project Manager – Net Carbon Zero, as preparations are made for interviews; pray also for the election process for Diocesan Synod; that in all these areas God will place His right people in His right places.

Wednesday 8th: *(Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417)*

Pray for the Ven Julian Francis retiring as Archdeacon of Walsall, giving thanks for his ministry and praying God's blessing on him in the next chapter of his life. Pray for Revd Julia Cody & Revd Jim Trood as Acting Archdeacons, working closely with Archdeacon Sue Weller, until a new Archdeacon of Walsall is appointed, probably early 2025. Pray for Revd Sue Symons who retired last week as Rector of Kingsley & Foxt with Whiston & Oakamoor with Cotton.

Thursday 9th: *(Ascension Day)*

JESUS IS LORD – Revelation 1:4-5

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Over the course of these next days, think of five people who are on your heart and who you can be praying for as we journey together. As we pray for our five people today, we bring them to this amazing God who know and loves them. In His love and His will there is eternal peace.

Friday 10th:

THE GOD WHO LOVES – Revelation 1:5-6

To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins by His blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

As you pray for your five people today, hold them in God's presence, and ask that despite whatever challenges they may be facing, that they might allow the Lord close enough to do what He alone can do.

Saturday 11th:

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – Revelation 1:10-11

I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, 'Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches...'

As we pray for our five friends today pray that, for them and us, we would hear God's word to us distinctly and definitively. As Archbishop Cranmer put it 'Wherein whatsoever is found, must be taken for a most sure ground and an infallible truth.'