

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 236

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

We pray for the implementation of Deanery visions, developed during the [Shaping for Mission](#) process, and the resulting Strategic Framework 2024-2030, within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously along with the people & leaders of Russia; and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

Sunday 27th October:

We pray for Alstonfield Deanery, for rural Dean Revd Preb John Baines and Lay Chair Mrs Janet Sadler:

Lord, we thank you for the wonderful grace and love you have given to the Alstonfield Deanery as it develops and implements its plans to become a mission area, working as one team of ministers, ordained and lay across our 19 churches and 4 benefices. The plans are created through your inspiration but crafted by the collaboration there is between parishes, and their willingness to change and embrace a new way of being missional whilst valuing and protecting our precious traditional parish life in our unique village communities. Amen.

Monday 28th: *(Simon and Jude, Apostles)*

Give thanks for the ministry of Revd Vicky Fleming as Vicar of Cannock and Huntington and of Hatherton and ask God's blessing on her as she begins her retirement.

Give thanks for the service given by Revd Catherine Matlock as Pioneer Missioner in this diocese, and pray for her as she takes up a new post working with the Archbishop's Reconciliation Team, based in Lambeth.

Tuesday 29th: *(James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr in Uganda, 1885)*

Give thanks for Jan Firth, the diocese's recently appointed Net Zero Carbon Officer and Emma Popo who works long side her. Pray for all who will meet today to explore '[Caring for God's Creation with Eco Church](#)', a lunch'n'learn hosted by Gold Eco Church, St Michael's Rushall.

Wednesday 30th: *We continue to pray for Alstonfield Deanery:*

Gracious God, we pray for the process that is underway in seeking 2 new house for duty priests to serve in the Benefices of Alstonfield and Waterfall at this exciting time in our life as a Deanery. The beautiful area's small but vibrant communities offer a marvellous opportunity to be church in community and community in church, where living in a local area, highly visible and providing vibrant local ministry is underpinned by the advantage of a supportive team of colleagues. Amen.

Thursday 31st: *(Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546) We continue to pray for Alstonfield Deanery:*

Compassionate God, we ask you to bring your blessing on the tired and small bands of PCC members, keeping the small rural churches alive in Alstonfield Deanery, often only two or three in number, facing increasing demands on their time, and energy, and new and alien expectations of them. We ask you to inspire new people to give of their gifts and skills, to engage and contribute to parish governance and to bring new life and energy into those churches that are entirely without officers. Amen.

Friday 1st November: *(All Saints' Day)*

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Saturday 2nd: *(Commemoration of the Faithful Departed - All Souls' Day)*

Give thanks for the developing friendship between the church families of the Dioceses of Lichfield and of Cork, Cloyne & Ross, established first with the twinning of The Church at Perton and St Mary's, Carrigaline.

Pray that God would strengthen that link along with the newer links which, within Lichfield Diocese include: Barton-under-Needwood, Tettenhall Regis, St Thomas', Aldridge and Brewood. Give thanks for and pray for the continued deepening of the link between the two cathedrals.

Pray also for a new links to be created between St Benedict Biscop, Wombourne and Kinsale, and for the development of links between Fauls, Tilstock and Whitchurch Benefice and St Peters, Little Aston with two parishes in Cork. Ask God to bless the development of friendship, prayer, support, and mutual learning between churches, schools, chaplaincies and fresh expressions.

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