

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 239

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 17th November: *(Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200)*

A Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday

Dear God, help us to be a church that:

Loves, welcomes, protects; listens, learns, serves.

Repents, restores, transforms; values, cares, believes.

God of Justice and compassion, hear our prayer; help us, heal us, guide us, we pray. In Jesus name. Amen.

Monday 18th: *(Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess of Thuringia, Philanthropist, 1231)*

We pray for Rugeley Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Preb Simon Davis and Assistant Revd Paul Kelly, giving thanks for new appointments: Revd Lynne Dean, Associate Priest living in Colton and Revd Marie Meredeth as Vicar at Great Wyrley. Across the deanery we are blessed with a scattering of people "walking in off the street" and joining our church communities as enquirers or returning to a connection with a church community. We pray for our congregations as they welcome new members, balancing warmth of welcome against the need for new helpers. We give thanks for the point of contact and support provided by "warm spaces" initiatives in our deanery. Amen.

Tuesday 19th: *(Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680)*

Pray for all who will take part today, at St Chad's House, Leek in a guided Quiet Day inspired by the Celtic St Hild of Whitby; that they will all find it a time of blessing.

Wednesday 20th: *(Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr, 870)*

We continue to pray for Rugeley Deanery:

Local schools are increasingly seeking or are open to contact with our churches as a spiritual and cultural resource; we thank God for the opportunity to witness to Christian distinctiveness and to sow seeds of faith and hope through contact with young people and their families. In accordance with our deanery plan to grow a younger church, we give thanks for the support and encouragement of our diocesan children, family and school officers and ask God's continued inspiration and an entrepreneurial spirit to try "new things" to help fulfil this aim. After a recent deanery synod evening on the theme of "Pioneer Parishes" we seek discernment in how to take such a change in church culture forward in the parishes of our deanery. We seek to grow a new generation of leaders, both lay and ordained and pray to the Holy Spirit for a spirit of calling and of nurture in our churches.

Thursday 21st:

Pray for those who have recently taken up new posts:

For Revd Yin-An Chen licensed this month as Curate of St John at Hampstead, Diocese of London; giving thanks for his ministry as Assistant Curate of Oswestry and of Rhydycroesau.

For Revd Matt Beer, being licensed today as Vicar of St Marys Cogges and St James the Great, South Leigh, Witney in the Diocese of Oxford; giving thanks for his ministry and leadership of the Telford New Church.

Friday 22nd: *(Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c.230)*

We continue to pray for Rugeley Deanery, holding before God the parishes and clusters of churches going through times of transition. For parishes and benefices in vacancy, especially Cannock and Hatherton as they seek to continue to minister to the local communities and discern their needs in a new incumbent.

A number of our deanery parishes are rich in love and service, but financially vulnerable; may God, who provides for our needs, provide for the church that is needed in our times and resources to meet the need. Amen.

Saturday 23rd: *(Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Philanthropist, Reformer of the Church, 1093)*

We continue to pray for Rugeley Deanery; with so much new building in our deanery, we seek to minister and meet the needs of these new developments, providing community anchor and places of belonging. We pray for the successful recruiting of a pioneer minister in the Armitage, Breerton and Rugeley benefice.

St Andrew's, Landywood is recovering from a fire that was started deliberately and has made their lounge/kitchen area unusable due to smoke damage. All is in hand but we pray for a speedy return to normal and God's protection and blessings on their continued community outreach. Amen.