

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 252

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 and we pray for the people & leaders of Russia; and that the ceasefire holds in full and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February:

*A prayer from the new Leader of 'Encounter', Alex Wolvers;*

Loving Father, we pray for the people of Stoke-on-Trent, for the schools and the churches. We thank you for all those who have, and continue to, serve you faithfully throughout the city. We pray for the new opportunities that Encounter will bring, and we pray for the lives that will be touched through it. May your will be done and your kingdom come through all that we do. Amen

Monday 17<sup>th</sup>: (Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977)

*A prayer created with the Rector of the Hanley Team, Phillip Jones;*

Lord, today we thank you for all the hard work done at St Mark's Shelton as the journey to the completion of its restoration works appears to be nearing its end. We thank you for the skill and dedication of the contractors, architects, and everyone else involved, and for a positive conclusion to the work as the final things are put in place both financially and physically. We thank you for the community heritage events that have drawn people into the church, and pray it will prove an invaluable resource for the community in both worship and a performance space. Finally Lord, we pray for the appointment of a half-time Associate Minister for 3 years, that the right person will be appointed to work in growing a new worshipping community at St Mark's, and in working alongside the Hanley Team Ministry.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>:

*The first of three prayers from Stoke's Lay Chair Mike Whittaker;*

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the initiatives in the Benefice of Hartshill, Penkhull and Trent Vale under the guidance of the Priest In Charge, Prebendary Adrian Stone: Please support the members of Holy Trinity Church, Hartshill, and their designated Associate Vicar, Rev'd Mike Bridgewater, as they work to greater involve the local community and grow their congregation by enabling them to be led to faith.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>:

Please support the members of St Thomas the Apostle Church, Penkhull and their designated associate Vicar, Rev'd Fran Bridgewater, as they take on re-ordering the building and fresh initiatives to continue to engage more with the local community enabling spiritual growth, and fostering greater numbers committing themselves to faith.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>:

Please support the congregation of St John's Trent Vale and their designated Associate Vicar, Rev'd Liz Hollis, as they move nearer and nearer to moving back into their church, after the devastating fire. Thank you for sustaining them throughout this period and let the re-opening of the Church become an opportunity for even more of the local community, who have been supportive throughout, to seek and be led to faith.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>:

*The first of two prayers created with Stoke's Ecumenical Officer Robert Mountford;*

We pray for the preparations for the centenary celebrations of Stoke becoming a city with the visit of King George V and Queen Mary on Friday 5th June 1925. We pray for all those with a hand in putting the Centenary Day together, and the events that will take place there, especially the annual Civic Prayer Breakfast, in which 400 of the city's leaders and Christians will participate.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Lord, we pray for all the issues of poverty in Stoke, with it being named the second poorest area of the Midlands, and fifth in England. We pray for its city council and its own financial pressures around children's care and more. Lord, we pray for all those people working to support those most vulnerable in society.

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