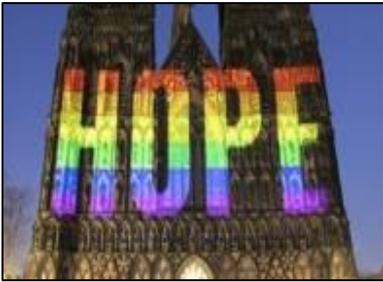


Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 41

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

As we enter into this New year as people of hope we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.



Sunday 10th January: (*William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645*) For our Diocesan Bishop, Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave; for members of the Bishop's Staff team including Rt Revd Clive Gregory, Area Bishop of Wolverhampton; the Ven Matthew Parker, Area Bishop of Stafford (elect); Rt Revd Sarah Bullock, Area Bishop of Shrewsbury and all Archdeacons; for Canon Julie Jones, Chief Executive Officer and Diocesan Secretary as she heads the administrative team and implementation of Diocesan strategy; for the Very Revd Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield and head of Lichfield Cathedral and Revd Dr Rebecca Lloyd, Bishop's Chaplain.

Mon 11th: (*Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915*) We join in prayer with Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the American Episcopal Church, who calls us to pray for the nation of America following the storming of the Capitol last Wednesday: 'We pray that God's Way of Love, might prevail in all of our hearts; for the peaceful and orderly transition of power, for God to heal us, to show us the way to healing, to show us the way to be one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'

Tues 12th: (*Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167; Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689*) **Schools:** We pray for all who are part of the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education and for all pupils, teachers and staff from our local schools (*mention the schools by name*) facing enormous uncertainties ahead. Be with all our head teachers and those entrusted with making difficult decisions, that they may be given wisdom and resilience. Bless, guide and protect all pupils this week, those at home and those in school and those anxious following decisions to cancel exams.



Wed 13th: (*Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367; Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603; George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691*) For our response to climate breakdown, both individually and together as churches and as a diocese; 'God, breathing your own life into being, you gave us the gift of life: you placed us on this earth with its minerals and waters, flowers and fruits, living creatures of grace and beauty. You gave us the care of the earth. Teach us, Creator God of Love, that the earth and all its fullness is yours, the world and all who dwell in it. Call us yet again to safeguard the gift of life'. *Christian Conference of Asia*

Thur 14th: Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing: In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country. We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work. We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

Fri 15th: Shaping for Mission: for the Deanery SFM Teams, for the roles played by Rural Deans, Lay Chairs of Deanery Synods, Team members and SFM Facilitators, as they carry out in-depth reviews of their deaneries with a view to taking forwards God's mission in their contexts.

*'May we be shaped by the Good News of Jesus, the light of the world
And may we seek your kingdom as People of Hope. Amen.'*

Sat 16th: We are not people of fear: we are people of courage. We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety. We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity. We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs For as long as it takes wherever you call us. *Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference*