

**Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people & leaders of Russia.**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April:** *(George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304)*

Pray for Revd Michael Freeman and Revd Susan Boyce, both retiring this week; asking God's blessing on the next chapter of their lives, and giving thanks for their ministry and, in particular, their service to deanery life in Tutbury and Wulfrun Deaneries, respectively.

Give thanks also for the service given to Stafford Deanery by Revd Preb Richard Grigson, as he relinquishes the role of Rural Dean this week.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>:** *(The Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, Solomon Islands, 2003)*

We pray for Ellesmere Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Linda Cox, Assistant, Revd Pat Hawkins and Lay Chair, Sandra Birchall; giving thanks for all clergy and for all who minister in the Deanery, for their numerous roles in the parishes and also in the wider communities where they are a visible presence, thinking especially about our seven church primary schools and other educational establishments in our area. We pray for Revd Steve Alston, coming to the end of his curacy and ask for God's guidance for his future ministry.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>:** *(Mark the Evangelist)*

We continue to pray for Ellesmere Deanery and particularly for the two benefices in vacancy. We pray for the whole process of appointment and for God's guidance in this process. We give thanks for all who are working to maintain services in these churches especially retired clergy and Revd Linda Cox, our Rural Dean and the extra work for her that this entails. We pray for our APCM's that people will come forward for PCC's and for Deanery Synod so that Synod will have a true representation from all our churches that will enable us to support each other and work more closely together.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>:** *(Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894)*

We continue to pray for Ellesmere Deanery: As working together was one of the key elements to come out of our Shaping for Mission process, we continue to try to achieve this in practice. Give thanks, and pray for, Safeguarding training being given for the whole Deanery. We also give thanks that again this year we will have a joint Ascension Day service, and pray this meeting together for worship will enhance the togetherness of our Deanery, and that plans for another 'Deanery Day' later in the year will come to fruition.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>:** *(Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894)*

O God the Holy Ghost, who art light unto thine elect, evermore enlighten us. Thou who art fire of love evermore enkindle us. Thou who art Lord and Giver of Life, evermore live in us. Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace, evermore replenish us. As the wind is thy symbol, so forward our goings. As the dove, so launch us heavenwards. As water, so purify our spirits. As a cloud, so abate our temptations. As dew, so revive our languor. As fire, so purge our dross. *Christina Rossetti*

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>:** *(Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841)*

Pray for the work of the Saltmine Theatre Company, presenting today, in collaboration with churches in the 'Love Dudley' network, the play 'The Liberator' – a passionate retelling of the life and ministry of Jesus.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>:** *(Prayer request from Revd Preb Sarah Schofield, lead chaplain for the University of Wolverhampton)*

Pray for the University of Wolverhampton, which has campuses in Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton. At a time of significant transition, pray for the University's Governors, the Interim Vice Chancellor Professor John Raftery and those involved in the recruitment of a new Vice Chancellor. Pray for students and staff facing challenging times in their personal or work lives, the staff of the Chaplaincy and Dr Ada Adeghe who is responsible for managing the work of Lead Chaplain Revd Preb Sarah Schofield.

**To get these prayer points delivered to your mobile automatically via the free PrayerMate app on iOS & Android [click here](#)  
For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: [anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx](http://anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx)  
Diocesan Day of Prayer 19/20 April 2023 12 noon-12 noon in our virtual prayer room via Zoom For further details [click here](#)**