



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



Prayer Diary

March to July 2024

Foreword from Bishop John



This prayer diary begins on Easter Day. We are the Easter people whose song is alleluia, and who are to be filled with the new life which Jesus comes to bring.

Crucial to that new life is joy. Joy is the hallmark of the resurrection and the life of the early Christians. After Jesus' resurrection Luke tells us that 'they returned to Jerusalem with great joy.' In Acts 15.22 we read that the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. Paul

tells the Romans that the Kingdom of heaven is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit and prays that they may be filled with all joy and hope in believing.

As Dostoevsky writes in the Brothers Karamazov: 'Ah yes. I was missing that, and I don't want to miss it. I love that passage: it's Cana of Galilee, the first miracle. Ah that miracle! It was not men's grief but their joy Christ visited. He worked His first miracle to help men's gladness.'

Jesus comes to bring us life in all its fulness, a life of joy. Our prayer might be not only that we should experience that more fully for ourselves but all might do so. So, we pray for the Church in its mission to spread Kingdom joy and for all those in need, those whose lives are still racked with the marks of Christ's passion to find abundance of life and joy. Then will the kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.



We try to pray for those with a licence from the Bishop by name, but please do remember all who minister and witness with them in each parish.

On Sundays we are offering a monthly prayer for you to pray for your baptism families and we also continue to pray for dioceses around the world through the Poorvoo prayer calendar (Sundays) and the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. These are all placed in a column, on the side edge of each page.



Easter Sunday

On the third day after being crucified, Jesus' tomb was found to be empty by the disciples. Jesus had risen from the dead and so life has triumphed over death. The joy of the resurrection is possible because Jesus endured and conquered death. Today marks the start of fifty days celebrating Jesus' resurrection before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

As we celebrate the triumph of life over death, we remember all those who mourn the loss of a loved one. As we celebrate the joy of new life and the hope revealed in it, we pray for those who find hope hard to hold on to. We pray too for our own journeys of discipleship, remembering that to follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life in him.

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mon 1 APRIL Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery

Pray for those parishes in vacancy, giving thanks for all those working hard to keep things going. Also pray for God's guidance as we seek to move forward in reshaping the Deanery and give thanks for the Rural Mission Area and Julia Curtis, David Morris and Sallie Butcher as they move this exciting project forward. Deanery Leadership Team: Tim Williams, Clare Stockford, Mark Hall, Julia Curtis and Paul Blackham

Tue 2 Kidderminster East

The four churches are now working with more of an urban focus to our mission, after the change in groupings of churches in the Deanery, reaching out to new housing developments. Clergy: David Hildred; Readers: David Grist, Joe Hodgson, Geoff Surridge, John Chesworth, Elaine Voice, Lisa Manser, Carol Morris

Wed 3 Diocese of Peru

Pray for Bishop Jorge and the diocesan leadership, especially for those charged with discerning and nourishing vocations, and developing discipleship. Pray too for all those clergy approaching retirement age who are concerned about their future finances.

Thu 4 Kidderminster East

We give thanks for the retired clergy connected with our parish, our ALMs, our wardens, PCC & DCC members at this time when nominations for positions are sought and ministry is contributed.

Fri 5 Kidderminster East

We praise God for all the volunteers who minister in their churches or across the parish, along with the employed staff of the parish, praying that our focus be to lift up Jesus.

Sat 6 Growing as Kingdom People

Give thanks for all parishes continue to do to support mission and ministry across the Diocese through contributing to ministry share. Help us to have generous mindsets and pray that all parishes will be able to 'do what they can'.

Bishop John and Bishop Martin

Praying for our baptism families: Lord, You have given these parents a new creation through their child, help them share the love and hope of the Easter story with their children. Amen.

Diocese of Armagh (Ireland):
Archbishop John McDowell

Diocese of Funen (Denmark):
Bishop Mads Davidsen

The Church in the Province of the West Indies:
Archbishop Howard Gregory

Damaturu (Nigeria):
Bishop Yohannah Audu

Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania):
Bishop Jackson Sosthenes

Davao (Philippines):
Bishop Ernie Moral

Saint Davids (Wales):
Bishop Dorrien Davies

Delaware (USA):
Bishop Kevin Brown

Delhi (North India):
Bishop Paul Swarup

Pray for Wadham in his role as volunteer Chair of the Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance. Pray also for all members of the DBF.

Volunteer Chair of the DBF:
Wadham Downing

Uppsala (Sweden):
Archbishop Martin Modéus,
Bishop Karin Johannesson
Llandaff (Wales):
Bishop Mary Stallard
The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria:
Archbishop Samy Fawzy

New Chair of the DBF

Last November Wadham Downing, a member of the Cathedral congregation, was appointed as the volunteer Chair of the Board of Finance for the Diocese of Worcester. In this role, he will help ensure the financial stewardship of the Diocese supports both our growth and transformation plans. Wadham will help to shape the ongoing vision, values, policies and strategies of the Diocese and has a key role in developing and presenting the annual budget.



When nominating Wadham at Diocesan Synod, Bishop John said: "I am delighted that Wadham has put himself forward to be the next Chair of our DBF. We are fortunate and blessed that someone of his experience and expertise is willing to take on this role."

Wadham said: "When I retired from executive life, I always thought I would like to get involved in a charity that I felt some empathy for. Although my career has been in a completely different sector, I get a great deal of satisfaction from thinking how to apply knowledge I have learnt in my professional life to help the Diocese to deliver its strategy. As a committed Christian I also feel I have been given certain gifts and if I can use them for the benefit of the Church, then that is wonderful."

Mon 8 Diocesan Secretary's Team

Pray for our Diocesan Secretary Andy Todd and his team. For Emma Woollaston and Judith Nex and for all they do to support parishes and ensure effective governance.

Tue 9 Kidderminster Ismere Urban

Pray for us as we begin to work in new and exciting ways in new groups. For retired and self-supporting clergy who continue to support us. For St Mary's Church as we build our priorities including developing worship provision for children and families and developing our digital presence. Clergy: Hayward Osborne; Reader: Ian Strongman

Wed 10 Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks for the work of Yona, the midwife at the Tunguli Health Centre, and pray for this valuable work in supporting the many women's groups within the Tunguli community, especially in the vital area of providing education and support with maternal and child health issues.

Thu 11 Kidderminster Ismere Urban

Pray for Holy Trinity, Trimpey, developing ways to mark the agricultural year and grow community including 'Rake and Cake' and All Age Worship, and for St Barnabas, Franche, as we grow links with our community, especially for the Wednesday Coffee and Chat initiative. For our dedicated ALMs. Reader: Sue MacAskill

Fri 12 Kidderminster Ismere Rural

Please pray for our parish during this exciting time of challenge and change. Pray for God's abundant love to surround us and all who we serve in the community at a time of reorganisation and especially for the continued growth of our schools' ministry. Clergy: Shaun Armstrong; Readers: Louvain Beer, Ian Strongman

Sat 13 Churchill w Blakedown & Broome

We will shortly transition to a new working relationship with Wolverley, Cookley and Upper Arley and hope to have our new Priest in post by the late Spring. It is exciting but offers challenges - not least how to best arrange for administrative help for the new incumbent. Clergy: Wyn Beynon (Interim Priest in Charge); Reader: Andy Hewines

New co-Deans of Self-Supporting Ordained Ministers

In December Rosie Moss and Kim Topham were appointed as co-Deans of Self-Supporting Ordained Ministers (SSMs) for the Diocese. They took over from the previous Dean of SSMs, Alex Vaccaro.

Both Rosie and Kim are SSMs, Rosie serving as Associate Priest in Worcester and Kim serving as Associate Priest of Hagley and Clent. As co-Deans they will support all those clergy in the Diocese who don't receive a stipend for the work they do, helping them to network together and providing pastoral care as required.

"There are guidelines set out for incumbents, but very little guidance for SSMs, who generally work part-time in parishes," said Kim. "Many of our SSMs feel quite isolated, they aren't aware who else is a self-supporting minister and don't know who they can go to, to ask questions. Hopefully we can be the people that other SSMs feel able to talk to and we can find out the answers if we don't know them ourselves."

Rosie said: "Both Kim and I have had a really great experience as SSMs and feel very supported in our roles, but we know that's not the same for everyone. It's difficult to be a part-time Priest and we want to help people understand what it can look like compared to a full-time incumbent. Our plan is to meet together and work out how best to approach the role, but whatever we decide to do, it will definitely be with a lot of laughter and a lot of love!"



Mon 15 Transformation Support Hub

Pray for the work of the diocesan Transformation Support Hub, which is funded by the national church to help our churches to grow in health and sustainability. For Damian Herbert, Nikki Groarke, Claire Ashworth, Simon Hills, Ellie Jones, and Jim Grevatte.

Tue 16 Kidderminster West

Give thanks for St John's, Holy Innocents and St Peter's churches and for all that we are able to achieve together, both inside and outside of our buildings; for our work with children and young people, care homes, congregations and visitors. Clergy: Tim Williams, Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Chris Betson

Wed 17 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

We pray for the upcoming ordination in Magdeburg, where new pastors receive a blessing for their ministry. We will also welcome guests from Worcester and Lapua and rejoice in the bond between our churches.

Thu 18 Kidderminster West

Pray for our churches as we work as a new team with St Mary, Holy Trinity and St Barnabas; for those things that will be difficult and for new beginnings and opportunities. Clergy: Tim Williams, Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Chris Betson

Fri 19 Diocesan Director of Ordinands

Pray for John Fitzmaurice in his role as DDO, as he supports those exploring and training for ordained ministry. Also pray for the Assistant DDOs who help him in this work: Adam Hadley, Diane Cooksey, Doug Chaplin, Kalantha Brewis, Katryn Leclezio, Sarah Carwardine.

Sat 20 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all those who lead worship in our churches, that they will feel inspired and inspire others through their preaching and teaching. That all will grow in their discipleship.

Pray for Rosie and Kim in their roles as co-Deans. Pray also for all SSMs across the diocese and for Alex Vaccaro the previous Dean.

Co-Deans of Self-Supporting Ordained Ministers:
Rosie Moss and Kim Topham

Derby:
Bishop Libby Lane w Bishop Malcolm Macnaughton (Repton)
Clogher (Ireland):
Bishop Ian Ellis
Aalborg (Denmark):
Bishop Thomas Reinholdt Rasmussen
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia:
Archbishop Don Tamihere, Archbishop Sione Uluilakepa (Polynesia),
Vacant (New Zealand)

Doko (Nigeria): M
Bishop Uriah Kolo

Dominican Republic (USA): T
Bishop Moisés Quezada Mota

Dornakal (South India): W
Bishop Vadapalli Prasada Rao

Down and Dromore (Ireland): Th
Bishop David McClay

Dublin & Glendalough (Ireland): F
Archbishop Michael Geoffrey St Aubyn Jackson

Duk (South Sudan): S
Bishop Daniel Deng Abot

M **Derby:**
Bishop Libby Lane with Bishop Malcolm Macnaughton (Repton)

T **Derry and Raphoe (Ireland):**
Bishop Andrew Forster

W **Dhaka (Bangladesh):**
Archbishop Paul Shishir Sarker

Th **San Diego (USA):**
Bishop Susan Brown Snook

F **Divine Hope (Mozambique):**
Vacant

S **Dogura (Papua New Guinea):**
Bishop Tennyson Bogar



Vocations Sunday

We often think of vocations in terms of ministry within the church: to be ordained or a lay minister. However, vocation, simply means what you are called by God to be and do. For some, this will be in formal ministry whether lay or ordained. But for all of us it will mean serving God through faithful discipleship in everyday life.

As Christians, we are called to spread the Good News to everyone, to be a Christian presence in every community. Vocations Sunday offers us an opportunity to stop and reflect on our vocations both individually and corporately. Are we living our faith as we would like to? What changes might we make?

There are a number of people within the Diocese who can help you work out what God might be calling you to be and do. This could be your vicar or another member of your church leadership team or community. It could be friends, family, or co-workers. It might be a member of the Mission and Ministry team, especially if you feel called towards formal ministry. Or you might find a spiritual director helpful, and the Spirituality Connexions group can help you to find one.

Almighty and everlasting God, hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Mon 22 Severn Parishes Benefice

At St James, Hartlebury, pray for new opportunities in the village and with the school and the future of the mission church at Crossway Green. Clergy: Stephen Winter, James Homer; Readers: Richard Jaynes, Marjorie Workman, Richard Berry

Tue 23 Severn Parishes Benefice

At St Andrew, Ombersley, pray for the ongoing programme looking forward to the 200th anniversary of the current church in 2028. At St Mary, Doverdale, pray for links with Sytchampton school and the securing of the church fabric. Clergy: Stephen Winter, James Homer; Readers: Richard Jaynes, Richard Berry, Marjorie Workman

Wed 24 Severn Parishes Benefice

At St Michael, Elmley Lovett, pray for plans for the church building and links with Cutnall Green school. At St Mary & All Saints, Hampton Lovett, pray for the vision for the future of the church building. At St Mary, Elmbridge, for our All Age Worship and at St Michael, Rushock, for the opportunities with young families. Clergy: Stephen Winter, James Homer; Readers: Richard Jaynes, Marjorie Workman, Richard Berry

Thu 25 Economy & Daily Life

On St Mark's Day pray for all whose work involves writing and communication of ideas. Pray for authors, journalists, bloggers, communications officers and publishers, giving thanks for the freedom we enjoy here and praying for all places in the world where there is no freedom of expression or of the press.

Fri 26 Stourport & Wilden

Pray for the shared work of both our congregations in our Warm Space and our Happy Memories cafe. For our midweek worship and Lunch Club and our Gather service for our church school. Clergy: Carey Saleh; Readers: Sandra Baty, Richard Standing, Phil Saleh

Sat 27 Areley Kings & Astley

Please pray for the staff and pupils of our schools and also for all who are struggling to support their families. We give thanks for those helping us in our vacancy. For our ALMs and churchwardens. Clergy: vacant, Reader: Sue Matthews

Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery Leadership Team:
Area Dean – **Tim Williams**
Lay Chair – **Clare Stockford**

Blackburn:

Bishop Philip North, Bishop Jill Duff
(Lancaster), Vacant (Burnley)

Brechin (Scotland):

Bishop Andrew Swift

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain:

Bishop Paulina Hlawiczka-Trotman

The Anglican Church of Australia:

Archbishop Geoffrey Smith

M **Dunedin (New Zealand):**
Bishop Steven Benford

T **Dunkwa-on-Offin (West Africa):**
Bishop Paul Appiah Sekyere

W **Durgapur (North India):**
Bishop Sameer Isaac Khimla

Th **Durham:**
Bishop Paul Butler w
Bishop Sarah Clark (Jarrow)

F **Dutse (Nigeria):**
Bishop Markus Yohana Danbinta

S **East Kerala (South India):**
Bishop V.S. Francis

Cake, chat and church in Worcester

After working with a Mission Accompanier for nearly a year, the team at Holy Trinity & St Matthew's Church in Ronkswood, Worcester identified several new projects which have contributed to their Health and Sustainability Plan.

One of these projects includes a new worshipping community in a local care home that started last October. C3 (Cake, Chat & Church) involves church members joining with residents for some cake and a good chat before they join in with a craft activity with a Christian theme. The session ends with a Bible reading, prayer, and a hymn.

The first session was at Perry Manor Care Home who provided the cake and coffee. St Matthew's provided the craft materials and the company. The Revd Rob Farmer said, "It was great to see the residents having such a good time and we learnt so much about their lives, interests, families, and hobbies."



Pray for the leaders and volunteers of C3 and for all the residents they are meeting and worshipping with through the project.

Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery Leadership Team:
Mark Hall, Julia Curtis,
Paul Blackham

Gothenburg (Sweden):

Bishop Susanne Rappmann

Glasgow and Galloway (Scotland):

Bishop Kevin Pearson

The Church of Bangladesh:

Archbishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin

Mon 29 Ribbesford w Bewdley & Dowles & Wribbenhall

Please pray for the churches and communities of Bewdley, Wribbenhall, Button Oak and Ribbesford. For God's blessing on our retired clergy: Heather Flack, Mark Moreton and Simon Thorburn, also on our lay ministers and all who work to further our faith and mission. Pray for St Anne's CE Primary School and for deepening links between school and church. Clergy: Mel Beynon; Readers: Barbara Fauset, Robert Barbour

Tue 30 Wyre Forest West

We give thanks for all the work that was done during 2023 looking at ways to help our village churches 'Thrive'. Clergy: Sallie Butcher, Julia Quinn

Wed 1 MAY Diocese of Peru

Pray for all clergy and lay ministers in the Diocese of Peru and for all the work that they do, remembering especially how many struggle financially and have to work more than one job to support their families.

Thu 2 Wyre Forest West

We look forward to continuing our 'Thrive' work, to discover what is unique about each of our churches, and how each can contribute to the growing of God's Kingdom. Clergy: Sallie Butcher, Julia Quinn

Fri 3 Wyre Forest West

We celebrate our growing work with Bayton and Far Forest primary schools and how introducing them to Godly Play and Out of the Box has helped so many children learn more about God and their faith. Clergy: Sallie Butcher, Julia Quinn

Sat 4 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all those who feel excluded from our churches and help us to find new ways to ensure they are welcomed.

Easton (USA): **M**
Bishop Santosh Marray

Eau Claire (USA): **T**
Bishop William Jay Lambert

Central Ecuador (USA): **W**
Bishop Juan Carlos Quiñonez

Edinburgh (Scotland): **Th**
Bishop John Armes

Edmonton (Canada): **F**
Bishop Stephen London

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich: **S**
Bishop Martin Seeley w
Bishop Mike Harrison (Dunwich)

Almighty God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you. Amen.

Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery Leadership Team:
Area Dean – **Tim Williams**,
Lay Chair – **Claire Stockford**

Praying for our baptism families:
Creator God bless these parents and give them the strength and patience to nurture their family, so that they can become a kind and caring family. Amen.

Southwark:

Bishop Christopher Chessun w
Bishop Martin Gainsborough
(Kingston), Bishop Rosemarie Mallet
(Croydon), Vacant (Woolwich)

Björgvin (Norway):

Bishop Ragnhild Jepsen

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil:
Archbishop Marinez Rosa Dos
Santos Bassotto

M **Egba (Nigeria):**
Bishop Emmanuel Adekunle

T **Egba-West (Nigeria):**
Bishop Samuel Oludele Ogundeji

W **Egbu (Nigeria):**
Bishop Geoffrey Enyinnaya Okorafor

Th **Egypt (Alexandria):**
Archbishop Samy Fawzy

F **Eha-Amufu (Nigeria):**
Bishop Daniel Nkemjika Olinya

S **Ekiti (Nigeria):**
Bishop Christopher Tayo Omatunde

Thy Kingdom Come

Starting on Ascension Day (9 May) and running until Pentecost is Thy Kingdom Come. Established in 2016, Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

From small beginnings, the movement has grown to unite more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions. During the 11-day period everyone is encouraged to pray in their own way, as individuals, households, and churches.

One of the key invitations during this time is to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of five people who have not yet responded with their 'Yes' to God's call. Thy Kingdom Come also offers the opportunity to deepen our own prayer life and to ask for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Alongside personal prayer, many churches and groups will run services and events both in-person and online where we can join with others to pray for God's Kingdom.

For more information and to access free prayer resources visit:
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>



Mon 6 Anniversary of the King's Coronation

Almighty God, bless King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people.

Tue 7 Teme Valley South

We pray our communities of Eastham, Rochford, Stanford, the Hanleys, Stoke Bliss and Kyre as we continue to work together with our Mission Enabler, Susan Blagden in finding new ways to share our skills and talents as we go forward together with God. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Jones, Robert Barlow, Sally Jones; Reader: Peter Thorp

Wed 8 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for all those who are students at the Morogoro Bible College and who are preparing for the ordained ministry and for the many other supporting ministries in the Diocese of Morogoro. We remember the staff of the College who face many problems, including insufficient space for teaching and a lack of finance.

Thu 9 Ascension Day

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.

Fri 10 Teme Valley South

We pray for all businesses, farms and farmers across the Teme Valley and for a renewed spiritual awakening. Please pray for our PCC and churchwardens and for a new generation to come forward helping to give us fresh insights. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Jones, Robert Barlow, Sally Jones; Reader: Peter Thorp

Sat 11 Clifton on Teme, Lower Sapey and the Shelsleys

Please pray for our churchwardens and local committees as they grow in faith and fellowship together. We ask for prayers for our outreach activities especially with families and schools. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Denniston; Readers: Jill Smith, Pat Snelling

Overbury CofE School Silver Global Neighbours Award

Overbury CE First School near Bredon Hill has been awarded a Silver Global Neighbours award for the second time.

Run by Christian Aid in partnership with the Church of England, the award celebrates global citizenship in schools and empowers children to be fantastic global neighbours and 'courageous advocates for justice'.

Assistant Head Charlotte Davies said: "The Global Neighbours scheme helps us talk about important global issues with our children. It encourages the children to think not just about themselves but about all our neighbours, both here and abroad, and makes us feel like we can take action."

The schools' activities for the Global Neighbours Award have supported local, national and international causes, supporting disadvantaged communities as well as endangered animals and the environment.

Shelby, year 5 said: "The global neighbours award helps us learn more about the world and to inspire others to help the world too... Next time we're going for gold! When we were celebrating this Silver Award with the rest of the school and because we want to go for Gold next time, we handed out slips of paper to everyone which said: 'Do what is just, show constant love' Micah 6:8."

Mon 13 Rural Mission Area in Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery

Pray for us as we seek to discern God's leading for the future of this new chapter of rural mission and ministry. Pray for our plans for mission and strengthen our links across the benefices in the area. For all who minister across our rural mission area.

Tue 14 Four Rivers Group - Teme Valley North

In Knighton on Teme, Lindridge, Stockton on Teme & Pensax, we ask for the Lord's blessing on REVS, the Men's Group, our choir and the Rural Mission Area. We give thanks for the friends of St. Andrew's, the new worshipping community and our links with Lindridge School with Head Amanda Greenow-Langford. Clergy: David Morris; Readers: Christine Clarke, Mark Wild

Wed 15 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

The EKM is part of the Christliche Begegnungstage / Christian Encounter Days at the German-Polish border during June 7-9. Churches from the Central-Eastern European region will come together for fellowship and conversation. We pray for a blessed time together and for open hearts and minds.

Thu 16 Four Rivers Group

In our wonderful countryside around St Michael & St Mary, Abberley, we give thanks for links with the farming community and the YFC. We ask for the Lord's blessing on Abberley Care Farm and Abberley school with head Claire Shelley. We give thanks for our choral tradition and for our reflective Celtic services. For our Ministry Team. Clergy: David Morris; Readers: Christine Clarke, Mark Wild

Fri 17 Four Rivers Group

In Shrawley, Little Witley and Great Witley, we give thanks for our weddings ministry and our community outreach. For Great Witley school, head Kate Ramsey and the Open the Book team. We pray for our vision for Great Witley Church as a national major church and we say thank you for all in the Ministry Team. Readers: Christine Clarke, Mark Wild

Sat 18 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, help us to see the opportunities for coming alongside others and sharing the good news of Jesus. We pray for those just starting on their journey of faith, that they will continue to grow and develop as your disciples.



Pray for Overbury CE School, for the work of Christian Aid and for church schools across the Diocese.

Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery Leadership Team:
Mark Hall, Julia Curtis,
Paul Blackham

Gloucester:

Bishop Rachel Treweek w Bishop
Robert Springett (Tewkesbury)

Västerås (Sweden):

Bishop Mikael Mogren

The Anglican Church of Burundi:

Archbishop Sixbert Macumi

Ekiti Kwara (Nigeria): **M**
Bishop Andrew Ajayi

Ekiti Oke (Nigeria): **T**
Bishop Isaac Olatunde Olubowale

Ekiti West (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Rufus Victor Ajileye Adepoju

Eldoret (Kenya): **Th**
Bishop Christopher Ruto

Port Elizabeth (Southern Africa): **F**
Bishop Edward Ronald Daniels

El-Obeid (Sudan): **S**
Bishop Ismail Gabriel Abudigin

Pray for the prayer ministry team in Kidderminster East, and for other teams across the diocese. Pray also for Christine Holzapfel in her role as Bishop's Adviser for Healing Ministry.

Bishop's Adviser for Healing Ministry:
Christine Holzapfel

Guildford:

Bishop Andrew Watson w
Bishop Paul Davies (Dorking)

Viborg (Denmark):

Bishop Henrik Stubkjær

The Anglican Church of Canada:

Archbishop Linda Nicholls

Healing Ministry Training in Kidderminster East

Last Autumn, members of Kidderminster East took part in an 'Exploring Christian Healing' course. Led by the Revd Guy Hewlett and Glenn Scott, the aim was to revitalise Healing Prayer ministry across the team, encouraging and inspiring existing prayer ministers and equipping new ones.

Participants on the course commented that it helped them to grow in understanding and confidence in prayer ministry.

The weekend of training culminated in a service for wholeness and healing, where the congregation were invited to receive anointing with oil and prayer for healing. Guy commented: "This time was greatly blessed. Out of a congregation of about 120 a large percentage were anointed. For me it felt very special. I was reminded of a wedding service filled with love and hope!"

If you would like to explore training in prayer ministry, guidance about holding a healing service or incorporating prayer ministry into regular services, contact Christine Holzapfel, Bishop's Adviser for Healing Ministry.



30th Anniversary of the ordination of women priests



2024 is the 30th anniversary of the first women to be ordained as Priests in the Church of England, following heated and complex debates over many years. Bristol was the first diocese to ordain women as priests in March 1994 with ordinations in Worcester happening in May.

Becky Elliot, Dean of Women's Ministry writes:

"Canon Ruth Wintle was ordained in Worcester in 1994

having previously been a deacon for 22 years. When I spoke to her about the anniversary, her face lit up as she said: 'Rejoice, be grateful to God. Give thanks. Be happy about all he has done and given us.'

"And we do rejoice and give thanks for all those women and men who worked tirelessly with many setbacks for the legislation to pass. We rejoice over the ordination and ministry of those first female priests as they paved the way with their vision and their bravery. We rejoice over the ministry of all women priests. The way they lead and inspire people in their faith and bring vision and wisdom to the church in a wide range of different roles. And we rejoice over all those who will follow in our footsteps and all those who work towards the equality of women in the church today."

Pray for all the female clergy serving in our diocese and for all those who paved the way for women to be ordained priest.

Dean of Women's Ministry:
Becky Elliot

Exeter:

Vacant with Bishop James Grier (Plymouth), Bishop Jackie Searle (Crediton)

Nord-Hålogaland (Norway):

Bishop Olav Øygard

The Church of the Province of

Central Africa:

Archbishop Albert Chama

M **Ely:**
Vacant w Bishop Dagmar Winter (Huntingdon)

T **Embu (Kenya):**
Bishop David Muriithi Ileri

W **Enugu (Nigeria):**
Archbishop Emmanuel Chukwuma

Th **Enugu North (Nigeria):**
Bishop Sosthenes Eze

F **Esan (Nigeria):**
Archbishop Friday John Imaekhai

S **Eswatini (Southern Africa):**
Bishop Darcy Dlamini

Mon 20 Kidderminster Hospital & Tenbury Wells Community Hospital

Pray for Kidderminster Hospital and the Tenbury Wells Community Hospital. For all the medical teams that support them. For those who work in the background: medical secretaries, admin support and the facilities teams. Give thanks for all volunteers and the chaplaincy and pastoral support teams.

Tue 21 Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge

Pray for all those working at and through Mary Stevens Hospice. For nurses working in the community and providing care in people's homes, who are experiencing a big increase in demand for their services. For the chaplaincy team.

Wed 22 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for all in this season of GCSE's, A levels and college exams, and for decisions to be taken about next steps by all young people, especially those anticipating entering the job market.

Thu 23 Belbroughton w Fairfield & Chaddesley Corbett

It's an exciting time for all as we explore new working relationships and there's a real willingness for the three congregations to work together. There's a lot to do! Clergy: Wyn Beynon (Interim Priest in Charge); Reader: Christine Hickman Smith

Fri 24 Church Buildings Team

Please pray for the diocesan Church Buildings Team as they support parishes in caring for their buildings, ensuring they are fit for purpose for today's congregations and communities. For Mark Carter, Hannah Taylor, Jim Grevatte, and Kay Shuard.

Sat 25 Retired Clergy of Kidderminster & Stourport

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in the Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery, thankful for all that they have given and continue to give. We pray for their continued journey of faith, mindful of new challenges they may be facing in retirement. May God's blessing and peace be upon them.

Mon 27 Greater Dudley Deanery

Our churches all desire to grow in strength and faith, to reach all the people of our deanery with the Good News of Jesus, to raise up new disciples and new congregations and to bless our communities. Pray that God will bless our individual mission and outreach projects, the development of our six renewal church projects, and that God will guide the Deanery Leadership Team: Andrew Sillis, Lyn Rowson, Kim Topham, John Nicholson, Melissa Rose, Michael Bishop

Tue 28 Holy Trinity, Amblecote

Join us in praying that God will bless our ministry to our parishioners, accepting them as they are, as God accepts us. Clergy: Alan Williams; Reader: Eirlyn Jenkins

Wed 29 St John's, Brockmoor

A recent adventure at Brockmoor sees 3Ts on the First Sunday of each month: Breakfast, Worship & Chat around the table. Pray that hearts will be opened to faith. For our Ordinand, Paul Latham. Clergy: Val Houghton, David Hoskin; Readers: Keith Colley, Tracey Skidmore

Thu 30 Christ Church, Quarry Bank

Pray for Toddler Time: play, song and story which began in January. A weekly event filling a gap for pre-schoolers. May this time together be a blessing to community and to church. For our Ordinand: Paul Latham. Clergy: Val Houghton, David Hoskin

Fri 31 Coseley & Sedgley

Please pray for our church family and the people of Coseley and Sedgley. That we may continue working alongside local community groups to improve lives and allow God's transformative presence to be felt afresh. Pray for our clergy and ALMs as they lead our parish. Clergy: Emma Stanford, Tim Westwood

Sat 1 JUNE Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all the leaders in our churches, both lay and ordained. Pray that they will feel supported in their role as they work to develop the discipleship of their congregations and welcome new Christians.

Etche (Nigeria): **M**
Bishop Precious Okechukwu Nwala

Etsako (Nigeria): **T**
Bishop Jacob Bada

Europe (England): **W**
Bishop Robert Innes w
Bishop David Hamid

Europe (USA): **Th**
Bishop Mark Edington

Evo (Nigeria): **F**
Bishop Innocent Ordu

Exeter: **S**
Vacant w Bishop James Grier (Plymouth), Bishop Jackie Searle (Crediton)

Pray for all the schools who will be attending Lifepath at Malvern and for all the volunteers who will be involved in setting up and running the event.

Greater Dudley Deanery Leadership Team:
Area Dean – Andrew Sillis
Subdeans – Lyn Rowson
Kim Topham

Praying for our baptism families:
 Loving Father be with these parents as they encourage their children to love themselves for who they are. Amen

Hereford:

Bishop Richard Jackson

The Lusitanian Church (Portugal):

Bishop José Jorge Pina Cabral

The Latvian Evangelical

Lutheran Church Abroad:

Archbishop Lauma Zušēvica

Iglesia Anglicana de la Región

Central de America: Archbishop

Juan David Alvarado Melgar

M Ezo (South Sudan):
 Bishop Isaac Ephraim

T Faisalabad (Pakistan):
 Bishop John Samuel

W False Bay (Southern Africa):
 Bishop Stafford Moses

Th Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean):
 Bishop Gilbert Ratelison
 Rakotondravelo

F Florida (USA):
 Bishop John Howard

S Central Florida (USA):
 Bishop Gregory Brewer

Lifepath at Malvern Priory

At Great Malvern Priory in June over 600 primary school children experience ‘Lifepath’. Through songs, stories and activities, children and their teachers spend a day learning about the building’s history while also having a chance to consider their own ‘lifepaths’. As one teacher commented: ‘it’s a chance to stop and reflect’.



During the five days, 100 volunteers from 20 churches in Malvern and beyond (dressed as Benedictine Monks!) lead the children in activities from Mediaeval Medicine (complete with leeches), to Bellingring, Prayer Journey to Spinning. At the end of the day, they process out of the Priory through clouds of bubbles and waving flags, taking home their creations: brass rubbings, bookmarks, stained glass windows, bracelets, sheep with hand spun tails and much more.

Philippa Lowe from Malvern Priory said: “It is always an incredible week and no words can properly express the looks of awe on children’s faces on entering the Priory; the arms waving in the air to the songs and the complete immersion of the audience in the play.”

Lifepath is an annual event at the Priory and will run from 24 – 28 June. Visit the Priory website greatmalvern priory.org.uk/lifepath to learn more.

Mon 3 Coseley, St Chad, & Lower Gornal

Pray for our faithful congregation worshipping in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England. The Eucharist is at the centre of our worshipping life and it is celebrated with the richness and solemnity which appeals to all the senses. Clergy: Gary Hartill, John Oakes

Tue 4 Black Country Partnership NHS Trust

Pray for staff, patients, and volunteers at the Black Country Partnership NHS Trust and for the chaplaincy team who support them.

Wed 5 Diocese of Peru

Pray for the clergy, ministers and congregations of the three pastoral areas in the Diocese of Peru: Lima Centre and North; Lima South; and Arequipa

Thu 6 All Saints, Sedgley

Pray for our renewal project and for the opportunities it will bring. For the work of our Mission Accompanier hub group and MA Chris Sheehan, as we develop a Mission and Vision statement and for our shared life together along with St Peter, Upper Gornal and St Andrew, The Straits. Clergy: Catherine Mitchell; Reader: Jan Humphries

Fri 7 St Peter, Upper Gornal

Pray as we continue to discern what God is calling us to as a church, as we seek to serve our community and develop a Mission and Vision statement. Pray for our shared life together along with All Saints, Sedgley and St Andrew, The Straits. For our ALM. Clergy: Catherine Mitchell; Reader: Jan Humphries

Sat 8 St Andrew, The Straits

Pray for our joint project with Bridge Church Gornal to bless our community with a defibrillator. Give thanks our community’s support as we seek to serve them in prayer and action and develop a Mission and Vision statement. Pray for our shared life together along with All Saints, Sedgley and St Peter, The Straits. Clergy: Catherine Mitchell; Reader: Jan Humphries

Clent Connect

Clent Connect is a community hub, shop and café, owned and run by the local community with non-stipendiary minister, Kim Topham as its Operations Director. It adjoins the Parish Hall, at the heart of Clent village and originated as a positive ‘side effect’ of the pandemic.



When the first lockdown was looming, a band of volunteers was formed to visit people at their gates, pick up prescriptions, walk dogs, and do food shopping. As their numbers grew, they developed a ‘phone buddy’ system and a regular newsletter to help people feel connected.

Kim said: “When the lockdowns ceased, we thought that we shouldn’t lose what we had started. We wanted a legacy, a central hub in the village to prevent isolation and loneliness and offer signposting to practical help.”

The hub is popular with villagers, walkers, cyclists, and those from neighbouring areas. The newsletter begun during Covid is still delivered to every home in the village, aiding that sense of community.

Kim sees Clent Connect as a huge part of her ministry. It’s where she meets people, and where people can find her if they need to talk: “Even though I do a lot of church work, I feel my mission is more in the community. My church is out here! I don’t have to go to people, they come to me. Clent Connect is the face of the church in the community.”

Mon 10 Darby End, Netherton, Dudley Wood & Cradley Heath

Pray that we will be reminded of God’s blessing us in the small things, and that we will have the people to resource the larger. Clergy: Rich Hackett, Norman Jevons; Reader: Vall Cope

Tue 11 Darby End, Netherton, Dudley Wood & Cradley Heath

We pray for our work with our Mission Accompanier Trevor, that we may discern God’s purpose for the Forge Group, and that we can courageously seek it. Clergy: Rich Hackett, Norman Jevons; Reader: Val Cope.

Wed 12 Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Godfrey and for all the diocesan staff who provide such a pivotal role in upholding and nurturing all those in ministry of every kind. May their tireless work in proclaiming the message of Jesus fill all those in ministry with both joy and hope in bringing the love of the risen Christ to others.

Thu 13 Cradley Heath Community Link

Pray for the trustees and volunteers at the Cradley Heath Community Link. Pray also for all who visit the space and for all the events that happen there.

Fri 14 St Edmund, Dudley

Following the churchwardens’ meeting with the new Bishop of Oswestry, Paul Thomas, please pray for our congregation as we face changes and new challenges for the future. Please also pray for Bishop Paul as he discerns where the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Clergy: Vacant

Sat 15 Growing as Kingdom People

As we seek to transform our communities, pray that our eyes might be opened to issues that are particularly affecting our locality such as poverty, dementia or a lack of facilities for young people.

Pray for Clent Connect, for Kim and the volunteers, and for all the people they serve.

Greater Dudley Deanery Leadership Team:
Lay Chair - John Nicholson
Secretary - Melissa Rose
Treasurer - Michael Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland:
 Bishop Agnes Sigurdardottir,
 Bishop Kristjan Björnsson,
 Bishop Gisli Gunnarsson
The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church:
 Bishop Carlos Lopez Lozano
Province de L’Eglise Anglicane Du Congo:
 Archbishop Georges Titre Ande

Southeast Florida (USA): **M**
 Bishop Peter Eaton

Southwest Florida (USA): **T**
 Bishop Dabney Smith

Fond du Lac (USA): **W**
 Bishop Matthew Alan Gunter

Fredericton (Canada): **Th**
 Archbishop David Edwards

Free State (Southern Africa): **F**
 Bishop Dintoe Letfoenyane

Freetown (West Africa): **S**
 Bishop Thomas Arnold Ikunika
 Wilson

Eternal God, guide and inspire the work of those who seek your kingdom that all your people may find their security in that love which casts out fear revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Saviour

Greater Dudley Deanery Leadership Team:
Area Dean – Andrew Sillis
Subdeans – Lyn Rowson
Kim Topham

Argyll and the Isles (Scotland):
 Bishop Keith Riglin
Connor (Ireland):
 Bishop George Davison
Lolland-Falster (Denmark):
 Bishop Marianne Gaarden
Iglesia Anglicana de Chile:
 Archbishop Hector Zavala

Refugee Week

Refugee Week runs from the 17-23 June. The theme this year is "Our Home". From our own homes to our collective home, planet earth: everyone is invited to celebrate what Our Home means to them. Home can be a place of refuge, or a feeling. It can be found in smell, tastes, and sound. It includes the clothes we wear, the language we grew up with. It is found in food, music, and art.

For some home can be more than one place and finding it can be a journey. Especially for those who must leave their countries and rebuild their lives. Sometimes home is found in a single person. Other times in a whole community. And often all it takes is a single gesture of care and welcome.

What would happen if this Refugee Week we extended our warmth and hospitality beyond our own homes? Simple acts like having a chat, walking together, or sending a message of welcome can help everyone feel like they belong. Together, we can work in solidarity to ensure all our neighbours have safe and welcoming homes.

And Our Home is also global. We are interconnected; we share the earth's resources, climate, and its challenges. Millions of people are being displaced from their homes because of the climate crisis. But exchanging knowledge can help us in practical ways to build hope for the future.

Together, this Refugee Week let's practice our solidarity and make Our Home a more welcoming, safe, and sustainable place for all.



Mon 17 Dudley Team Ministry

Please pray that St Francis' and St John's churches will grow as local congregations alongside becoming Community Hubs for their estates, Kate's Hill, Priory and Wrens Nest. Pray for Camilla Clarke as she leads this aspect of the work. Clergy: James Treasure, Rachel Newell; Readers: Maggie Clift, Melissa Rose

Tue 18 Dudley Team Ministry

Pray for God's love to surround all who worship at St James as they contemplate closure due to the deterioration of their building. Do also remember St Augustine, based in the Holly Hall estate, as they seek to grow as a congregation and be a blessing to their local community. For our ALM, Sue. Clergy: Rachel Newell, James Treasure

Wed 19 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

Summer holidays are approaching, with time for a break. May all students enjoy this time off and may both parents and students be creative in how to enrich this time.

Thu 20 Dudley Top Church

Pray that our community will reflect God's love and life in Dudley, and particularly pray for those who attend Tiny Town and Places of Welcome. Clergy: James Treasure, Rachel Newell & Esther Treasure

Fri 21 Dudley Top Church Resourcing Projects

Pray that God would continue to guide us and give us wisdom as we seek to resource and bless Dudley.

Sat 22 Halas Team

At St John the Baptist, Halesowen, pray for our children and family work and our new worshipping communities to serve the people in and around Halesowen Town Centre in the love of Christ and with changes needed in this ancient building. Clergy: Hazel Charlton, Chris Henson, Victoria Barlow, Sue Hale

Ordination of Priests

Next Saturday, 16 people will be ordained Priest at the Cathedral. The candidates have all completed the first year of their curacy in their parishes and after their ordination will be able to preside at Holy Communion. Those being ordained are:

Martin Allen - serving at St Laurence's Church, Alvechurch and Holy Trinity, Redditch
 Mike Bunclark - serving in the Worcester Southeast Team
 Fiona Carter - serving in the benefice of Christ the King, Redditch
 Claire Cox - serving at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, Stourbridge
 James Homer - serving in the benefice of Elmley Lovett with Hampton Lovett and Elmbridge with Rushock and Hartlebury and Ombersley with Doverdale
 Rachel Homer - serving in the Halas Team, Halesowen
 Val Houghton - serving in the benefice of Brierley Hill
 Norman Jevons - serving in the benefice of Darby End and Netherton and the benefice of Dudley Wood and Cradley Heath
 Jen Jones - serving in the benefice of Teme Valley South
 Jamie Klair - serving at All Saints with St Helens in Worcester
 Sally Knowles - serving in the Worcestershire West Rural Team Ministry
 Linda Nicholas - serving at St Peter's Church, Ipsley
 Jayne Parker - serving in the benefice of Pershore w Pinvin, Wick & Birmingham
 Ben Somervell - serving at Holy Trinity Church in Old Hill, Dudley
 Esther Treasure - serving in the Dudley Team
 Richard Wood - serving in the Worcester Southeast Team

Mon 24 Halas Team

At St Margaret, Hasbury, give thanks for our growth in life and discipleship, and that, by God's grace and through prayer, worship and discussion together we may continue to be guided in discerning God's vision for our missional growth. For Headteacher Sarah Shepherd. Clergy: Victoria Barlow, Rachel Homer; Reader: Susan Cresswell

Tue 25 Halas Team

At St Peter, Cradley, pray for our growth in life, prayer and service, and that by God's grace we may continue to be guided in discerning God's vision for our missional growth. For Head Marcia Harris as she approaches retirement and for her successor. For our lay leaders in all the work they do. Clergy: Victoria Barlow, Rachel Homer

Wed 26 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for workplace chaplaincy Local Ecumenical Partnerships, Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) and the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM), and all volunteer workplace chaplains in their ministry to those at work in a variety of contexts.

Thu 27 Halas Team

Pray for St Peter Lopal, give thanks for teamwork and initiatives centred on the building up of God's Kingdom; for our ministry to the community, especially for Lopal Community Choir. Clergy: Chris Henson, Hazel Charlton, Victoria Barlow, Sue Hale; Readers: Susan Cresswell, Pat Hall, Karen Chaplin, Sally Spencer, Charles Morgan

Fri 28 Halas Team

Pray for St Kenelm's Romsley, for a renewed vision and purpose in worship, mission, and fellowship. For St Kenelm's Primary School; Head Suzanne Shackleton, staff and volunteers. Clergy: Hazel Charlton, Chris Henson, Victoria Barlow, Sue Hale; Readers: Susan Cresswell, Pat Hall, Karen Chaplin, Sally Spencer, Charles Morgan

Sat 29 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all the nurture courses which are taking place or being planned across the Diocese. Pray that people will grow and deepen in faith as they explore what it means to be a Christian.



Please pray for all those being ordained Priest next Saturday and for the parishes where they are serving.

Greater Dudley Deanery Leadership Team:
Lay Chair - John Nicholson,
Secretary - Melissa Rose,
Treasurer - Michael Bishop

Church of England Diocese in Europe:
 Bishop Robert Innes w Bishop David Hamid

Visby (Sweden):
 Bishop Erik Eckerdal

Copenhagen (Denmark):
 Bishop Peter Skov-Jakobsen

The Church of England:
 Archbishop Justin Welby (Canterbury) w Archbishop Stephen Cottrell (York)

George (Southern Africa): M
 Vacant

Georgia (USA): T
 Bishop Frank Logue

Gippsland (Australia): W
 Bishop Richard Treloar

Gitega (Burundi): Th
 Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu

Glasgow & Galloway (Scotland): F
 Bishop Kevin Pearson

Gloucester: S
 Bishop Rachel Treweek with Bishop Robert Springett (Tewkesbury)

M **Gahini (Rwanda):**
 Bishop Alexis Bilindabagabo

T **Gambella (Alexandria):**
 Vacant

W **Gambia (West Africa):**
 Vacant

Th **Garissa (Kenya):**
 Bishop David Mutisya

F **Gasabo (Rwanda):**
 Bishop Onesphore Rwaje

S **Gboko (Nigeria):**
 Bishop Emmanuel Nyitsse

Please pray for all those candidates being ordained today and the parishes in which they will be serving.

Diocesan Director of Ordinands:
John Fitzmaurice

Lincoln:

Bishop Stephen Conway w Bishop David Court (Grimsby), Bishop Nicholas Chamberlain (Grantham)

Härnösand (Sweden):

Bishop Eva Nordung Byström

Lapua (Finland):

Bishop Matti Salomäki

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui:

Archbishop Andrew Chan

Ordination of Deacons

This morning will see the ordination of Deacons in Worcester Cathedral. Those being ordained have all completed a period of theological training and are now entering the first year of curacy in a parish in the Diocese.



Ahead of their ordination, all candidates will have been on a silent retreat at Holland House, led by Warden Helen Stanton who will also preach at today's service.

Those being ordained are:

- Michael Edwards, who will serve at St Peter's Church in Bengeworth, Evesham
- Peter Greaves, who will serve in the Kidderminster Ismere Team
- Dean Hall, who will serve in the benefice of Tardebigge, Redditch
- Sooz Magee, who will serve at the churches of St Wulstan, St Barnabas and St Nicholas in Worcester
- Gilly Maxim, who will serve in the Worcester City West Team
- Prajna Pal-Lad, who will serve at All Saints in Evesham
- Chris Smith, who will serve in Kingswinford and Wall Heath

Plus members of the Auxiliary Pathway whose roles had not been confirmed at the time of going to print (please check the diocesan website for the full list).

Mon 1 JULY Hagley & Clent

Please pray for the mission and ministry of the church in our benefice; for our worship, outreach to the local community, and pastoral care: also our links with our local schools, with the local community through Clent Connect and Hagley Hub, and our work with young families. For our ALMs and churchwardens. Clergy: Richard Newton, Kim Topham; Reader: Alison Lewis

Tue 2 Bishop of Dudley & Archdeacon of Dudley

Pray for Bishop Martin and his PA Helen Shakespeare. Pray for Archdeacon Nikki Groarke and the Archdeacons' PA Liz McKinnon.

Wed 3 Diocese of Peru

Pray for all areas of formation and training across the Diocese: for ongoing formation of clergy; for pastoral support of those exploring a vocation to ministry; for the development and training of lay ministers, and the spiritual development of children, young people and adults in the churches.

Thu 4 St Mary, Kingswinford

As we start this new phase as a renewal church, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Particularly for the new worshipping communities emerging out of our work with children at Mainly Music and Singing Angels, that they will grow and flourish. Clergy: Adam Hadley, Chris Smith, Jane Freeman, Mel Smith; Readers: David Cousins, Debbie Filgate, Chris Knight, Jill Nicholls

Fri 5 Church of the Ascension, Wall Heath

As we start this new phase as a renewal church, we pray for the new worshipping communities emerging out of our work with our church school including Church Club, our informal worship community, Jigsaw, and the full range of 'Experiences' such as Experience Easter. Clergy: Adam Hadley, Chris Smith, Jane Freeman, Mel Smith; Readers: David Cousins, Debbie Filgate, Chris Knight, Jill Nicholls

Sat 6 Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

Pray for staff, patients, and volunteers at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and for the chaplaincy team who support them.

Solar Panels at Rous Lench Church

St Peter's Church in Rous Lench, just outside Evesham, has been given permission to install solar panels on the roof of their Grade 1 listed church. The panels will be part of a major project to reimagine the church as a multi-purpose community space, with the parish ensuring the project is as environmentally friendly as possible. The parish have worked in conjunction with the diocesan Church Buildings team and architect Victoria Poole from Poole Phillips Associates, who provided advice on how to make the changes and work towards net zero Carbon. Alongside the solar panels, which will be mostly invisible from ground level, the church is hoping to install underfloor heating powered by air-source heat pumps, a café area, toilets and even a shower!

Rector Richard Thorniley said: "There will continue to be a worship space around the chancel along with a much more flexible space behind this. As well as a café, our plan is to have an artisan centre and be able to offer the ability for visitors to stay or 'camp' in the church ...hence the shower! It's a significant investment, but we've got the support of the wider community, and it was very important to us that we were as green as possible when deciding what to do." The parish are now embarking on a considerable fundraising campaign to enable all the changes to happen.



Mon 8 St Michael & All Angels', Norton

Please pray for us that we may hear God clearly as we seek God's calling upon us as we shape our new vision and strive to proclaim the gospel. Clergy: Jon Evans, Reader: Dan Muthuveloe

Tue 9 St James', Wollaston

Pray for a clear vision of God's plans for us now, the building up of the church and outreach in our community. For our ALMs and churchwarden. Clergy: Diana Farmer, Carol Weston

Wed 10 Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks for all of our parishes who have school or parish links within the Diocese of Morogoro or who are involved with particular projects. We pray that these relationships between different Christian communities, set within different cultures and thousands of miles apart, will bring us all together in the service of the One God who holds us together as one family within the worldwide Church.

Thu 11 Mucknell Abbey

On the feast of St Benedict, we pray for the community at Mucknell Abbey. For their discernment in responding to the local land development proposals. We join with their prayers for vocations to Religious Life, and for a greater commitment to climate change mitigations across the Anglican Communion.

Fri 12 Black Country Urban Industrial Mission

Pray for the work of the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission and for the people and workplaces they support. For Team Leader, Steve Bentham

Sat 13 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray that our worship will always be the best that it can be, reaching out to those of different generations. Give thanks for those parishes who are working together to resource each other; growing and developing their worship as a result.

Pray for the plans at St Peter's, Rous Lench, for their fundraising campaign and for the future works.

Rector of Rous Lench Church:
Richard Thorniley

Praying for our baptism families:
Loving God, help these parents to know that you are there for them, no matter how lost, worried or alone they may feel. Amen.

St Albans:

Bishop Alan Smith with Bishop Richard Atkinson (Bedford), Bishop Jane Mainwaring (Hertford)

Linköping (Sweden):

Bishop Marika Markovits

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean: Archbishop James Richard Wong Yin Song

Rio Grande (USA):

Bishop Michael Hunn

Guadalcanal (Melanesia):

Bishop Nathan Tome

Guatemala (Central America):

Bishop Armando Guerra Soria

Guildford:

Bishop Andrew Watson w Bishop Paul Davies (Dorking)

Guinea (West Africa):

Archbishop Jacques Boston

Gujarat (North India):

Bishop Silvans Christian

M Gogrial (South Sudan):
Bishop Abraham Ngor Mangong

T Goma (Democratic Republic of Congo):
Bishop Martin Gordon

W Gombe (Nigeria):
Bishop Cletus Ajigben Tambari

Th Good Shepherd (Angola):
Bishop Andre Soares

F Grafton (Australia):
Bishop Murray Harvey

S Grahamstown (Southern Africa):
Bishop Ebenezer Ntlali

M Rio Grande (USA):

T Guadalcanal (Melanesia):

W Guatemala (Central America):

Th Guildford:

F Guinea (West Africa):

S Gujarat (North India):

Please pray for Gail and the Church @ 4 community. Pray also for the work of the YMCA Willow Trees Community Centre.

Church @4 Leader & Vicar of St Leonard's, Beoley: Gail Rogers

Newcastle: Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley w Bishop Mark Wroe (Berwick) Møre (Norway): Bishop Ingeborg Middtømme The Church of Ireland: Archbishop John McDowell

New Worshipping Community: Beoley Church @ 4

Church @ 4 is a New Worshipping Community run by St Leonard, Beoley which has been meeting monthly at the YMCA Willow Trees Community Centre. Around 20-30 people attend each service; a mixture of members of St Leonard's existing congregation as well as new people and families from Church Hill, who don't go to church anywhere else.

Vicar of Beoley, Gail Rogers, said she felt a calling to do a church plant on her very first tour of St Leonards and the parish. She said: "The actual church, St Leonard, is a beautiful church building but it is a way out from the local population. I just knew that God was calling us to do something on a regular basis in the community." Church @ 4 follows starts with a free meal just before 4pm, and then each week a key message is shared and there are several worship songs. Instead of a sermon, there are different ways for people to respond to the bible story and there are craft and other activities to take part in.

Gail adds: "Church @ 4 is very different to our services in St. Leonard's church. St. Leonard will always give everyone a warm welcome, but at Church @ 4, the message is not just 'come into our space', it's 'this is your space, come and be all that God has created you to be'."



M Central Gulf Coast (USA): Bishop Russell Kendrick

T Gusau (Nigeria): Bishop John Garba Danbinta

W Guyana (West Indies): Bishop Alfred David

Th Gwagwalada (Nigeria): Bishop Moses Bukpe Tabwaye

F Haiti (USA): Bishop Jean Zache Duracin

S Hanuato'o (Melanesia): Bishop Alfred Karibongi

Mon 15 Holy Trinity, Old Hill

Pray for a powerful work of the Spirit: deep fruitful united discipleship, courage in living and speaking, growth in community connections and for people to be drawn to Christ. Clergy: Nick Gowers, Ben Somervell; Readers: Yvonne Binder, Robert Higham

Tue 16 St Mary, Oldswinford

For our Vision Team and PCC as we discern St Mary's part in God's mission in Old Swinford and for our Curate, Claire, as she begins her work as priest. Clergy: John Flitcroft, Claire Cox, Anthony Pery; Readers: Roger King and Theresa Pery

Wed 17 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

The Ecumenical Singing week takes place in Poland. May all singers feel joy in discovering different hymn traditions.

Thu 18 St Peter, Pedmore

Pray for a wider engagement in mission through the work being done with a Mission Accompanier and for the continued work with children and young families through the toddler group and regular family focused worship. Clergy: David Nichol, Paul Hedworth; Readers: Linda Kitto, Corrinne Sarjeant, Richard Sarjeant

Fri 19 St Andrew, Wollescote

Pray for the continued maintenance and development of the building to make it fit for mission. For opportunities to engage with the community, through the Saplings toddler group and ongoing work with a Mission Accompanier. Clergy: David Nichol, Paul Hedworth; Reader Kath Davis

Sat 20 St Mark, Pensnett

Please pray for our parish during this time of change. We give thanks for all who are supporting us during this time and for our ongoing contact with children at local schools. Clergy: Nigel Traynor

New Rural Mission Area in Teme Valley

Sallie Butcher, David Morris, and Julia Curtis are three Priests in the Teme Valley working across a new wider mission area. Each will have responsibility for their own areas, but will work together more closely, supporting each other and sharing resources.



Julia said: "Our vision is that this will allow us to tackle as a team the challenges that are now facing all rural ministry. However, we will continue to ensure there is a local presence in each area so that people know who their local ministers are and who to go to."

David said: "Individual churches are incredibly dear to people in rural areas who regard the church as theirs and an integral part of the local community - there's often a large overlap between things in church and things in the community."

While there are also challenges, David, Sallie and Julia can see many advantages to grouping together in this new way. Rather than each of them 'reinventing the wheel', they can offer a wider range of activities across the larger area.

Sallie said: "This is about making borders more porous rather than worrying about encroaching on someone else's patch, because of course God is less concerned about such things. The Spirit doesn't move like that!"

Mon 22 St Thomas, Stourbridge

We expect to be leaving our church for reordering and recruiting new team members to work with young adults and families. Pray all goes to plan, that new members of staff and disciples are quickly incorporated into the church family and for St Thomas to be established as the spiritual centre of the town. Clergy: Andrew Sillis, Sarah Roberts-Malpass

Tue 23 Lye & The Stambermill

Please pray for Stefan, our churchwarden, the PCC and church as we seek to serve God faithfully in our vacancy and look for a new incumbent. Associate Priest: Chris Kent; Reader: Graham Dyer

Wed 24 Economy & Daily Life

Of all economic sectors, agriculture has proportionally higher rates of injury and death at work than any other. Pray for all working in agriculture this summer, especially those working with machinery and livestock.

Thu 25 Wordsley

We continue to work and pray for increased community engagement across all ages and growing a deeper relationship with one another and God within our church family and community. For our ALM Sue. Clergy: Lyn Rowson; Readers: Chris Geary, Mike Timmins, Terry Blewitt

Fri 26 Retired Clergy of Greater Dudley Deanery

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in the Greater Dudley Deanery, thankful for all that they have given and continue to give. We pray for their continued journey of faith, mindful of new challenges they may be facing in retirement.

Sat 27 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for our churches as they continue to offer worship online as well as in church. Pray that all our worship is welcoming and accessible to a wide variety of people and helps to develop a deeper discipleship.

Pray for Sallie, David, and Julia in their work across the Teme Valley. Pray also for all involved in the life and ministry of the churches and the communities they are in.

Priests in the Rural Mission Area: Sallie Butcher, David Morris, and Julia Curtis

Skara (Sweden): Bishop Åke Bonnier

Leeds: Bishop Nick Baines with Bishop Tony Robinson (Wakefield), Bishop Anna Eltringham (Ripon), Bishop Toby Howarth (Bradford), Bishop Smitha Prasadam (Huddersfield), Bishop Arun Arora (Kirkstall)

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai: Archbishop Luke Kenichi Muto

Harare (Central Africa): Bishop Farai Mutamiri

Hawaii (USA): Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick

Hereford: Bishop Richard Jackson

Southern Highlands (Tanzania): Bishop Julius Lugendo

Highveld (Southern Africa): Bishop Charles Mthethleli May

Eastern Himalayas (North India): Vacant



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
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If you have a story to feature on a Sunday in a future diary, please do get in touch! Large print copies of the diary are always available – email Sam Setchell, Communications Officer on ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk, or contact the Diocesan Office reception on **01905 20537** if you or someone you know would like one.

