



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



Prayer Diary

November 2023 to March 2024

Foreword from Bishop Martin



Welcome to the Prayer Diary and thank you for committing yourself to pray for the coming of God's kingdom in this diocese. Your prayers mean everything to me! It is God working in us that will make a true difference in the world. To be Growing as Kingdom People means growing into God and into his love and goodness, while being more and more subject to his just and gentle rule. This prayer diary begins with the Feast of Christ

the King and ends on Holy Saturday. What a journey of faith it will take us on!

Thank you for praying for our clergy and all who minister in Christ's name, that we may be equipped with the needful gifts of grace in these challenging times. We pray especially for Andy Todd our new Diocesan Secretary and Mark Badger our new Archdeacon of Worcester. We pray for unity in the Church of England as we navigate differences of opinion in faith and in love and we will join in praying for wider unity too in the special week of prayer for Christian Unity in January.

Finally, I look forward to focussed 'Praying for Growth' over the Sundays in February and March, joining together in praying for our priorities, as I did in person with many of you in my Prayer Pilgrimage around the diocese last summer. May our churches grow ever more healthy and sustainable, that they may be centres of healing and sustaining mission and ministry for generations to come.

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.



New Diocesan Secretary - Andy Todd

In September, Andy Todd (former vicar of St Stephen's, Worcester) began as our new Diocesan Secretary. Andy acts as the CEO of the Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd (WDBF), leading the diocesan staff team and working closely with the Bishop of Worcester and the Chair of the WDBF to lead the mission and ministry of the Diocese in Worcestershire and Dudley as well as ensure its financial stability.



Andy said: "Right at the heart of my vocation as a priest has been to walk alongside individuals, families and communities through the 'liminal' times of great change – the good and the bad, the challenging and the uplifting – and to seek God's grace in those times. There is a clear parallel with the role of Diocesan Secretary, supporting our churches through times which are extremely challenging, but also full of new possibility. That's what the four Diocesan Priorities are all about, and it's a huge privilege to lead a WDBF team committed to supporting our churches throughout this wonderful diocese."

Mon 27 Pershore & Evesham Deanery

We pray for continued guidance as we explore new ways of working collaboratively across the deanery to grow disciples of Christ, share hope and see communities transformed by the work of the Spirit. Deanery Leadership Team: Sarah Dangerfield, Robin Lunn, Jackie Knight, Jack Hegarty, Alison Sandham.

Tue 28 The Flyfords

Please pray for our church families and the people of St Bartholomew in Naunton Beauchamp, and St Eadburga in Abberton. Clergy: Emma Goldby; Reader: Delia Harding

Wed 29 Diocese of Peru

Pray for Bishop Jorge and the Diocese of Peru as they seek to discern the future path of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in Lima, and for both the English and Spanish congregations at this time of change and uncertainty.

Thur 30 The Flyfords

Please pray for our church families and the people of St Peter, St John the Baptist, St Michael and All Angels in North Piddle. Clergy: Emma Goldby; Reader: Delia Harding

Fri 1 DECEMBER Stoulton with Drakes Broughton and Pirton

Please pray for St Edmund, St Barnabas, and St Peter in our servant-led ministry to our local communities. For St Barnabas CE school and for our churchwardens. Clergy: Emma Goldby; Reader: Mary Kenchington

Sat 2 Bishop of Worcester's office

Pray for Bishop John and for those who work in his office; Catrine Ball, Fleur Fisher and Bishop's Chaplain Stuart Currie. For Lucy Grant who helps with cleaning and gardening.

Please pray for Andy in this new role and for the whole diocesan office team as they work to support the mission and ministry in the Diocese

Diocesan Secretary:
Andy Todd

St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane (Scotland):

Bishop Ian Paton

Porvoo (Finland):

Bishop Bo-Göran Åstrand

The Church of Nigeria:

Archbishop Henry Ndukuba

Atyod (South Sudan):

Bishop Thomas Tut Gany

Badagry (Nigeria):

Bishop Joseph Adeyemi

Bahamas & The Turks & Caicos Islands (West Indies):

Bishop Laish Boyd

Ballarat (Australia):

Bishop Gary Weatherill

Bangor (Wales):

Archbishop Andy John

Banks & Torres (Melanesia):

Bishop Alfred Patterson Worek

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.

Give thanks for artistic gifts, and that through the creativity of others we may grow closer to you. Pray also for all staff and residents of care homes over the festive season, especially those who find this time of year difficult.

*Pershore and Evesham Deanery
Area Dean: Sarah Dangerfield
Lay Chair: Robin Lunn*

Baptism Families:
Creator God, bless all parents and show them opportunities where they can share their time, talents, food or resources with those around them. Amen.

Chester:
Bishop Mark Tanner,
with Bishops Julie Conalty
(Birkenhead), Sam Corley
(Stockport)

Kuopio (Finland):
Bishop Jari Jolkkonen
The Church of North India (United):
Archbishop Bijay Nayak

M Barbados (West Indies):
Bishop Michael Maxwell

T Bari (Nigeria):
Bishop Ramdi Wonole

W Baringo (Kenya):
Bishop Musa Kamuren

Th Barisal (Bangladesh):
Bishop Shourabh Pholia

F Barrackpore (North India):
Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty

S Bath & Wells:
Bishop Michael Beasley with
Bishop Ruth Worsley (Taunton)

Knitted Nativities for Care Homes

Groups of people in Malvern have knitted three Nativity sets to give to Care Homes. They are about five or six inches high and were packed into shoe boxes for storage so they can be used from year to year.

Eileen Tomlin, Reader in the parish of Malvern Link with Cowleigh said: "It's been a real community effort, involving people from different areas of Malvern. One set was knitted by a church-based Knitting and Sewing group, one knitted by a lady in Worcester, and sewn up by a friend and her 95-year-old mother, and one by several people who are neighbours or friends. We are immensely grateful to all those who helped in any way with this project. Each set was given to a local care home where they could be displayed for the residents."



Mon 4 Elmley Castle w Bricklehampton & the Combertons

Give thanks for the energy and commitment of those who are the face of Christ in their villages. Please pray that we develop an invitational culture and nurturing worship. For our ALMs. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies, Roger Spiller

Tues 5 Elmley Castle w Bricklehampton & the Combertons

Pray for the school community and give thanks for the excellent nurture it provides. For headteacher Nadia Underwood and the Open the Book Team. Pray for creative ways to fulfil governance requirements around the Bredon Hill Group. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies, Roger Spiller

Wed 6 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for all at Bishop Chitemo School in Berega and give thanks for its amazing success in developing the skills and talents of its children as well as its excellent pastoral care. Bless those children who have recently become pupils and those who have recently left and are facing new beginnings in different areas of their lives. Administrator: Ruth Mgego.

Thur 7 Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne w Beckford & Ashton under Hill

There is hunger and thirst in these communities. Pray for us to be alert to where it is, and to be able to point the way to Jesus, the bread of life, the living water. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies

Fri 8 Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne w Beckford & Ashton under Hill

Grave Talk, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas are opportunities to be a joyful presence in our communities. Pray that Christ's light will shine through God's people. Pray for our school, headteacher: Emma Ross. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies

Sat 9 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, particularly in the run up to Christmas when more people come into our churches.

Kidderminster West Nativity Celebrations

This year marks 800 years since St. Francis of Assisi created the first-ever nativity scene in Greccio, Italy. It is believed Francis' inspiration to do a live representation of the birth of Jesus came from his time in the Holy Land. Seeing the holy sites of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection made them feel more real to Francis and he wanted to recreate that experience for those who were not able to travel there.

On his way back from Rome in December 1223, Francis and Giovanni Velita, the lord of Greccio, set up a cave with live animals and a hay-filled manger. People flocked to see the candle-lit scene during the Christmas Mass.

Since then, nativity scenes have become commonplace in churches, buildings, and homes throughout the Advent and Christmas season. To mark the 800th anniversary, the team in Kidderminster West have planned a series of events. This includes a nativity trail, alongside encouraging schools and craft groups to create their own nativity scenes that can be shared with others.



*Christ born for us,
Son of God, given for us,
help us to know you, to
worship and to serve you.
Amen.*

*Pershore and Evesham Deanery
Leadership Team:
Jackie Knight, Jack Hegarty,
Alison Sandham*

Southwell and Nottingham:
Bishop Paul Williams with
Bishop Andy Emerton (Sherwood)
Borg (Norway):
Bishop Kari Mangrud Alfsvåg
The Church of Pakistan (United):
Archbishop Azad Marshall

Bathurst (Australia): M
Bishop Mark Calder

Bauchi (Nigeria): T
Bishop Musa Mwin Tula

Belize (West Indies): W
Bishop Philip Wright

Bendigo (Australia): Th
Bishop Matt Brain

Beni (Democratic Republic of Congo): F

Benin (Nigeria): S
Bishop Peter Imasuen

Mon 11 Eckington, Defford cum Besford, Bredon w Bredon's Norton

Pray for guidance as we continue our efforts in engaging with the community of Eckington and especially Eckington First School, headteacher: Sarah Roberts. Give thanks for the Open the Book Team, our bellringers and all supporting Thursday Morning Coffee. May we continue to look for creative ways of sharing the gospel and growing God's Kingdom. For our churchwarden. Clergy: Allison Davies, Katryn Leclézio, Bishop Michael Hooper

Tue 12 Eckington, Defford cum Besford, Bredon w Bredon's Norton

Pray for a spiritual awakening in our village communities of Defford and Besford. For renewed vision and commitment, as well as strengthened links with Defford First School, headteacher: Tom Holdstock. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Allison Davies, Katryn Leclézio

Wed 13 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

Advent season has arrived, we pray for the different celebrations and preparations in the congregations and institutions of our church during this festive season.

Thur 14 Eckington, Defford cum Besford, Bredon w Bredon's Norton

Pray for wisdom for the PCC, strengthened links with Bredon Hancock's school, headteacher: Zoe Newton-Smith, and the local community, and for the Pastoral Team and our churchwardens. Give thanks for the Open the Book Team and pray that seeds of faith will be sown and bear fruit. Clergy: Allison Davies, Katryn Leclézio, Catherine Lack (retired)

Fri 15 Eckington, Defford cum Besford, Bredon w Bredon's Norton

Please pray for the church & people of Bredon's Norton, and that our Church remains a haven of peace, music & prayer as we move toward our Carol Service and the joy of Christmas. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Allison Davies, Katryn Leclézio, Catherine Lack (retired)

Sat 16 Emergency Services

Pray for all those in the emergency services who are working throughout Christmas. Give them strength and pray that they will feel God's love as they carry out their vital work.

Pray for churches as they seek ways to share the Christmas story with children and young people.

Messy Church Gingerbread at Malvern Priory

The 'Gingerbread Nativity' brings the Christmas story to life in a different and very engaging way at Great Malvern Priory. Messy Church could be mistaken for the Great British Bake Off as excited children and their parents and carers decorate and create their very own edible nativity scene.

Starting with a chocolate stick stable, shredded wheat makes the floor and, as the Christmas story is told, all the characters' gingerbread biscuits are decorated with icing and sprinkles. A jelly baby Jesus is laid in the manger, and everything is carefully glued with icing into a cardboard sandwich platter. Songs and worship are followed by tea.

'It's a really fantastic way of bringing the Christmas story to life' says Priory vicar, Rod Corke. 'And the excitement as they take their Gingerbread Nativities home to show and tell others is wonderful.'



Mon 18 Bowbrook Group

Pray with thanksgiving for the villagers of Hibleton and Huddington and the congregations and volunteers who maintain an active, visible and caring ministry in these places. Pray for our Messy Church team and for all the worship leaders. For Hibleton First School, Head: Gemma Martin and all staff. Clergy: Vacant, Sue Pollard

Tue 19 Bowbrook Group

Pray for ongoing reordering plans at Hanbury Church that it will provide the church with the environment for wider community activities. Thanksgiving for the retired clergy and for all worship leaders. For all staff at Hanbury First School, Head: Aaron McDonagh and the Open the Book team. Clergy: Vacant, Sue Pollard, Rita Holden; Reader: John Spencer

Wed 20 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for those working in retail in these last days before Christmas, for those working hard to make home deliveries; and for all working over the holiday period. That all may find the rest they need and know the peace and presence of the Christ child.

Thur 21 Bowbrook Group

Give thanks for links with Crowle First School, Head Martina Abbot. For the Open the Book team. Pray for Crowle Pre-School, our village shop and all the volunteers, and all those who work towards the upkeep of our church. Thanksgivings for our new ALMs. Clergy: Vacant, Sue Pollard

Fri 22 Bowbrook Group

Pray for the growth of the "Open Sunday" service and the ongoing worship sharing between Oddingley and Tibberton. Thanksgiving for all our retired clergy and Lay ministers and worship leaders. For continuing links with Tibberton First School via the Open the Book team and Head Alex Gromski. Clergy: Vacant, Sue Pollard

Sat 23 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord God, we thank you for all the places we can find you in our communities. Help us to remember that Jesus came to transform the world and we all have a role to play in that.

*Pershore and Evesham Deanery
Area Dean: Sarah Dangerfield
Lay Chair: Robin Lunn*

*Oslo (Norway):
Bishop Kari Veiteberg*

*Durham:
Bishop Paul Butler with
Bishop Sarah Clark (Jarrow)*

*Moray, Ross & Caithness
(Scotland):
Archbishop Mark Strange*

*The Anglican Church of
Papua New Guinea:
Archbishop Nathan Ingen*

M *Bentiu (South Sudan):
Bishop John Deng*

T *Bermuda:
Bishop Nicholas Dill*

W *Bethlehem (USA):
Bishop Kevin Nichols*

Th *Bhopal (North India):
Bishop Manoj Charan*

F *Bida (Nigeria):
Bishop Jonah Kolo*

S *Biharamulo (Tanzania):
Bishop Yusuph Vitalis*

Follow the Star

Join the Song

Throughout Advent and through the Christmas season the Church of England has been highlighting how singing can draw us closer to God and each other.

Through the centuries singing and hearing carols have been a central way of how millions of people celebrate and share the good news of Christmas. Hymns and carols enable people of all ages to get in touch with the wonder and truth of the Christmas story.

As we meet for worship today and tomorrow, we celebrate the mystery of God coming to live among humanity as one of us. And like the shepherds in the story of the first Christmas, who after visiting Bethlehem left singing, praising God, and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth, we join with the unending song.



Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory. Amen.

Bishop John and Bishop Martin

*Chichester:
Bishop Martin Warner w Bishops
Ruth Bushyager (Horsham),
Will Hazlewood (Lewes)*

*Mikkeli (Finland):
Bishop Seppo Häkkinen
The Episcopal Church
in the Philippines:
Bishop Brent Alawas*

Mon 25 Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Tue 26 YMCA Worcestershire

Pray for the work of YMCA Worcestershire, for the people they support, and for their staff and trustees.

Wed 27 Diocese of Peru

Pray for the Diocese of Peru as it looks to establish a new missionary area with a suffragan bishop in Arequipa, for the bishops of the Province of South America as they help with this process, and for all those who will manage that process of creation and the election of the first new suffragan, which will take many months.

Thur 28 St Peter, Bengeworth

Please pray for a season of rest for all those who've contributed to making church gatherings and events happen over the Christmas period. People are so generous with their time, please pray for the refreshment of all God's people. Clergy: Andy Smith

Fri 29 Hampton, Hinton and Sedgeberrow

We pray for completion of the building project at Hampton. For the development of our lay leadership and ministry. Clergy: Mark Binney, Patrick Wooster; Readers: Elaine Major, Robin & Laura Hillman, Helen Black (in training)

Sat 30 Broadway w/ Wickhamford & Childswickham

Pray for the elderly in our parishes, frustrated by increasing frailty and feeling left behind. Remember those with worries about their families, finances and health, and thank God for their resilience and good humour. Give thanks also for our clergy with PTO. Clergy: Shellie Ward

Birmingham: **M**
*Bishop Micheal Volland with
Bishop Anne Hollinghurst (Aston)*

Blackburn (England): **T**
*Bishop Philip North with
Bishop Jill Duff (Lancaster)*

Bo (West Africa): **W**
Bishop Solomon Scott-Manga

Boga (Democratic Republic of Congo): **Th**
*Bishop William Bahemuka
Mugenyi*

Bolivia (South America): **F**
Bishop Raphael Samuel

Bondo (Kenya): **S**
Bishop David Kodia

Please pray for Mark and his family as they settle into his new role as Archdeacon.

New Archdeacon of Worcester - Mark Badger

Mark Badger is our new Archdeacon of Worcester following the retirement of Archdeacon Robert in November. As Archdeacon, Mark will have oversight of parishes and clergy in the four deaneries of Worcester, Malvern and Upton, Kidderminster and Stourport, and Pershore and Evesham. He will also have responsibility for our diocesan priority to double the number of children and young people in our churches by 2030 and support parishes in their ministry to new housing developments.



Mark said: "I was humbled and honoured to be asked to become the next Archdeacon of Worcester. I hope that I can continue Archdeacon Robert's work in being a pastor to the people in the Archdeaconry, helping them to feel loved and listened to and enabling them to continue to grow in their relationship with God and each other. I am looking forward to taking on a range of different responsibilities as Archdeacon."

Archdeacon of Worcester:
Mark Badger

London:
Bishop Sarah Mullally with
Bishops Joanne Grenfell
(Stepney), Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy
(Willesden), Ric Thorpe (Islington),
Emma Ineson (Kensington) and
Jonathan Baker (Fulham)
Nidaros & Trondheim (Norway)
Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda:
Archbishop Laurent Mbanda

M Bor (South Sudan):
Archbishop Moses Anur Ayom

T Botswana (Central Africa):
Bishop Methayothle Rawlings
Beleme

W Brandon (Canada):
Bishop William Cliff

Th Brechin (Scotland):
Bishop Andrew Swift

F Brisbane (Australia):
Archbishop Phillip John Aspinall

S Bristol:
Bishop Vivienne Faull with
Bishop Neil Warwick (Swindon)

Mon 1 JANUARY New Year's Day

Eternal God, we give you thanks for bringing us to the beginning of another year. Forgive us the wrong we have done in the year that is past; help us to pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith, to your honour and glory. Amen.

Tue 2 Bishop of Dudley's Office

Pray for Bishop Martin and his PA, Helen Shakespeare.

Wed 3 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for God's blessing on all those who are working in the eco-project at Mamboya. For the excellent and sensitive ways that they are working with the gifts of creation, especially in irrigation, planting more trees and providing hives to increase the supply of honey, which is then sold to help meet the health and educational needs of the children.

Thur 4 ARCH Benefice

At St Peter, Abbots Morton, pray for the engagement of the church with the community as it encourages spiritual resilience. At St Peter, Rous Lench pray for the next steps for the exciting church refurbishment project, that it receives support from grant making bodies and the community. For our churchwardens and refurbishment lead. Clergy: Richard Thorniley, Chris Sheehan, Reader: Pippa Heenan

Fri 5 ARCH Benefice

At All Saints, Church Lench pray for plans for community Lent Lunches and Flower Festivals. For St James Harvington as it offers Community Support, through Messy Church and holiday clubs. Give thanks for our growing home groups and our churchwardens. Clergy: Richard Thorniley, Chris Sheehan, Reader: Pippa Heenan.

Sat 6 Growing as Kingdom People

As we seek to share hope and make new disciples, help us to look for ways in which we can demonstrate the difference that God's call has made on our own lives.

Epiphany

The season of joyful celebration that began at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany. The Feast of the Epiphany, which always falls on 6 January, marks the beginning of a season which celebrates certain key events in which Jesus' identity is revealed.'

Beginning with the visit of the magi, the Church goes on to remember the baptism of Christ, when a voice from heaven declares Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The season ends on 2 February with the Feast of the Presentation. Here Jesus is brought to the Temple in accordance with the law of Israel. There he is recognised and is declared to be 'a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel.' The traditional service for this feast includes a procession of candles, and so it is often known as Candlemas.

The word 'epiphany' means 'manifestation' or 'appearance', and the Feast of the Epiphany marks the recognition of the newborn Jesus by the world. This makes the season of Epiphanytide an apt time to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church.



Mon 8 Education Chaplaincy

Pray for the work of education chaplaincy across our schools and university. For the chaplains and the students and staff they support.

Tue 9 East Vale & Avon Villages

We pray for guidance as we seek to offer more accessible styles of worship to people less familiar with church, alongside a realistic offering of more traditional services. Clergy: Jo Fielding, Readers: Margaret Pye, Alan Bache, Joyce Bache.

Wed 10 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

Traditionally EKM representatives and the provincial government meet at the beginning of the new year. These encounters are highly respected. May they enable both institutions to continue to work for the best of their members.

Thur 11 East Vale & Avon Villages Benefice

We pray we shall continue to grow in unity and grow a loving, welcoming family to which strangers are drawn, inspired and come to feel God's love. Clergy: Jo Fielding, Readers: Margaret Pye, Alan Bache, Joyce Bache.

Fri 12 Chaplaincy for Agriculture and Rural Life (CARL)

At this time around Plough Sunday, pray for all whose livelihood is in the rural environment, for farmers and horticulturists, for right conditions for land workers, for good stewardship of the soil and all creatures, and for the blessing of seasonal weather. Pray for the members of CARL, the developing rural mission area, the rural ministry enablers, livestock market chaplains, volunteers for the Farming Community Network, and the Worcestershire Federation of Young Farmers clubs. Chair: David Morris; Vice-Chair: Jim Hilderley

Sat 13 Bishampton & Throckmorton

We give thanks for every occasion when church with community show the Kingdom. We pray that through our various fundraising for repairs to the church roof, more people will grow in faith. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield. Reader: Delia Harding.

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face. Amen.

*Pershore and Evesham Deanery Leadership Team:
Jackie Knight, Jack Hegarty,
Alison Sandham*

Baptism Families:
Gracious God, enable parents to see themselves as the wonderful creations they are, to love themselves as much as they love the children in their care. Amen.

Oulu (Finland):
Bishop Jukka Kesitalo
Sør-Hålogaland (Bodø) (Norway):
Bishop Ann-Helen Fjeldstad Jusnes
Coventry:
Vacant w Warwick: Vacant
The Scottish Episcopal Church:
Archbishop Mark Strange

British Columbia (Canada): M
Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee

Central Buganda (Uganda): T
Bishop Michael Lubowa

West Buganda (Uganda): W
Bishop Henry Katumba-Tamale

Buhiga (Burundi): Th
Bishop Evariste Nijimbere

Bujumbura (Burundi): F
Bishop Eraste Bigirimana

Bukavu (Democratic Republic of Congo): S
Bishop Sylvestre Bahati Balisusane

Please pray for
St Peter's Tots and
church-run toddler groups
throughout the Diocese.

Leaders of St Peter's Tots:
Cynthia Moore and
Christine Cooley

Tampere (Finland):
Bishop Matti Repo

Manchester:
Bishop David Walker w Bishops
Mark Davies (Middleton),
Matthew Porter (Bolton)

Church of the Province
of South East Asia:
Archbishop Melter Jiki Tais

St Peter's Tots in Cradley

St Peter's Tots began in September 2012, starting small but growing to 20 children last year. It is attended by a mixture of parents, grandparents, aunts and child minders, who over the years have been supported through various family crises - births, deaths, cancer and in some cases, domestic abuse. Those who attend know there is always someone to listen to their problems.

One of those attending said: "St Peter's toddler group has been a joy to attend each week. I've attended most weeks with my niece, greeted each time with a warm welcome from Cynthia, who has put on a lovely group. Each week varies from activities and crafts which is really nice. My niece has grown in confidence because of being here, as have I."



Mon 15 Fladbury, Moor, Wyre Piddle, Crophorne and Charlton

We give thanks for every occasion when church with community show the Kingdom. We pray for new initiatives with music to grow and deepen faith in all ages. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield, clergy with PTO. LLM: Sue Hiscocks.

Tue 16 Inkberrow

Please pray for our four churches as we seek the will of the Holy Spirit to discover how to grow as Kingdom People. We give thanks for those who minister to us, Clergy: Ian Pery, Diane Hayward Wright, Vivienne Heenan, Reader: Janice Swan.

Wed 17 Economy & Daily Life

At this time of the year, when it is cold or wet, pray for those who work outside and for those who keep our vital services going. Offer gratitude for those who put comfort or health at risk to provide us with the things we need or want, and in the service of others.

Thur 18 Bowland Group

Please pray for all who care for our churches buildings in any way as we acknowledge their energy and enthusiasm. We give thanks for their generosity of time and spirit. Clergy: Claire Billington, Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby

Fri 19 St Wulfstan

Lord God, who raised up Wulfstan to be a bishop among your people and a leader of your Church: help us, after his example, to live simply, to work diligently and to make your kingdom known.

Sat 20 Growing as Kingdom People

In today's difficult world, we give thanks that You are there to bring light and hope. Help us to share the hope of our hearts with one another and enable us to give hope to others through Your work among us.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance. With roots going back over 100 years, the dedicated time of prayers has been jointly commissioned and prepared since 1966, by the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches.

Each year ecumenical partners in a different region are asked to prepare the materials. This year the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan the reflections explore how we find our common identity in the experience of God's love. As well as the need to place love at the centre of the quest for peace and reconciliation.

Resources for the week can be found on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's website:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>

Mon 22 Bowland Group

Please pray for mission and ministry across our villages, for growth inside and outside church. Pray for lay-leaders, unsung heroes, and churchwardens. Clergy: Claire Billington, Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby

Tue 23 Pershore & Evesham Community Hospital

Pray for all patients, and those who rely on our services. For the nursing teams, medical teams and support staff. Remember especially Stroke Support Services and our Chaplaincy Team of Revd Andy Green and Tracey Vickery (Soul Midwife).

Wed 24 Diocese of Peru

Pray for all those tasked with the discernment of vocations, the selection of clergy and lay ministers, and their formation and training. Remember all those called to serve in lay and ordained ministry in Peru and the challenges they face in responding to that call.

Thur 25 Evesham with Norton and Lenchwick

Give thanks for the teams of friends who organise social events in Norton and for the team who organise Stay and Play and the Tea Service. For our administrators Katy and Sara, ordinand Prajna Pal and for Fr Juan Carballosa-Cordovi. Clergy: Andy Green, Caroline Green, Peter Knight, John Green, Andrew Spurr. Reader: Julie Westlake

Fri 26 HMP Long Lartin

Your prayers are asked for all who live and work at HMP Long Lartin. For Nick Scott, Anglican chaplain and all members of the chaplaincy team. For the Prison Fellowship Group and all volunteers and supporters of our ministry here.

Sat 27 Bishop's Council

Pray for all members of the Bishop's Council, particularly as they meet for their residential meeting next month. Pray that God will guide them in their discussions about the mission and ministry of our Church in Worcestershire and Dudley.

Pray for all services and
events happening across
the Diocese during this
year's Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity.



Churches Together Groups
across the Diocese

Birmingham:

Bishop Micheal Volland w
Bishop Anne Hollinghurst (Aston)

Diocese of Cork, Cloyne &
Ross (Ireland):

Bishop William Paul Colton

Elsinore (Denmark):

Peter Birch

The Church of South India
(United):

Archbishop Dharmaraj Rasalam

Busoga (Uganda):

Bishop Paul Moses Samson
Naimanhye

Central Busoga (Uganda):

Bishop Patrick Wakula

Butare (Rwanda):

Bishop Nathan Gasatura

Butere (Kenya):

Bishop Rose Okeno

Buye (Burundi):

Bishop Sixbert Macumi

Byumba (Rwanda):

Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo

M Bukedi (Uganda):

Bishop Samuel Egesa

T Bukuru (Nigeria):

Bishop Jwan Zhumbes

W Bunbury (Australia):

Bishop Ian Coultts

Th Bungoma (Kenya):

Bishop George Mechumo

F Bunyoro-Kitara (Uganda):

Bishop Samuel Kahuma

S Busan (Korea):

Bishop Onesimus Dongsin Park



Climate Crisis Task Group Chair:
Bishop Martin
Chair of the Eco Church Group:
Sue Adeney

Bangor (Wales):
Archbishop Andy John
Dublin & Glendalough (Ireland):
Archbishop Michael Geoffrey
St Aubyn Jackson
**The Anglican Church
of Southern Africa:**
Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

M Calabar (Nigeria):
Bishop Nneoyi Egbe

T Calcutta (North India):
Bishop Probal Kanto Dutta

W Caledonia (Canada):
Bishop David Lehmann

Th Calgary (Canada):
Archbishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson

F California (USA):
Bishop Marc Andrus

S Northern California (USA):
Bishop Megan Traquair

Bronze Eco Diocese

We are now a bronze Eco Diocese, which is a key part of our journey towards net-zero carbon by 2030.

To achieve the diocesan Bronze Award, 5% of our churches needed to have achieved at least Bronze, along with the diocesan office itself. At the time of the award 22 churches had achieved a Bronze award with a further 17 achieving a Silver award. In total this was almost 15% of our churches.

Bishop Martin said: "I'm delighted that we are now a Bronze Eco Diocese and am grateful to all those who have worked hard to help us achieve it. However, we are not stopping here. The diocesan synod has committed to a pathway towards being net-zero Carbon by 2030 and we will be continuing to work on how we can achieve this, encouraging everyone in the Diocese to play their part. As more churches get involved in the Eco Church award scheme, hopefully it won't be too long before we can achieve a Silver Award!"

To begin your own Eco church journey, visit: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory.

May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling.

May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.

Mon 29 Education Team & Diocesan Board of Education

Pray for the Diocesan Board of Education and the Education Team: Tim Reid, Spencer Morris, Duncan Hutchison, Gemma Martin, Gilly Maxim & Janine Jenkins. Pray also for all our church schools across the Diocese.

Tue 30 Pershore w Pinvin, Birlingham & Wick

Pray for all struggling with the cost of living and winter days. For Pershore Foodbank, Pershore Community Cupboard, Pershore Wellbeing Hub, Pershore United Charities, Pershore Relief in Sickness. For our ALMs, Children & Families' Worker and Ordinand Terry Palmer. Clergy: Claire Lording, Jayne Parker, Alma Organ. Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams.

Wed 31 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for the Anglican University Chaplaincy in Morogoro, for Godson, the Chaplain, and for all the undergraduates who are studying within the University. Pray particularly for those students struggling with stress and anxiety, and we ask for your blessing on the Chaplain as he offers support and care to those with mental health issues.

Thur 1 FEBRUARY Pershore w Pinvin, Birlingham & Wick

Give thanks for the faithfulness of our parishes as they reach out to the wider community. Pray for the connections we have with our schools, children and families and community groups. For our ALMs, Children & Families' Worker and Ordinand Terry Palmer. Clergy: Claire Lording, Jayne Parker, Alma Organ. Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams.

Fri 2 Retired Clergy in Pershore & Evesham

Pray for the retired clergy and their families in the deanery of Pershore & Evesham, giving thanks for their vocation, all they have given and all they continue to give.

Sat 3 Growing as Kingdom People

Help us all to look for ways in which we can demonstrate the difference that God's call has made on our own lives. Pray that we will offer a model of Christian discipleship to all those we meet each day.



Retreats

As we head towards Lent many will be thinking about what they will do to mark the season. For some Lent is a time to deepen their prayer life and this may include going on a retreat.

A retreat is a chance to step aside from life for a while, to rest and just 'be' in a welcoming, peaceful place. Retreats are for anyone at any time in their life. They offer space to relax in a period of quiet and calm, engage in reflective activity, step back from a busy life, grow in prayer, and deepen your spiritual life. Some retreats will be based around a theme or include specific activities as part of it, whilst others leave you free to do your own thing.

Retreats can range from quiet days to longer stays. They can be held at home, in gardens, as well as at dedicated retreat centres. In the Diocese we are lucky to have a number of centres including Holland House in the village of Crothorne outside of Pershore. As well as Glasshampton Monastery near Stourport, and Mucknell Abbey between Worcester and Pershore.

For more information: www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/planning-a-retreat

Mon 5 Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery

With much change to consider in Bromsgrove and Redditch, we pray that we can encourage wider involvement in the Deanery Leadership Team as we seek to follow the Spirit's leading; do pray for Kashmir Garton, the Lay Chair and Rose Humphrey providing Admin Support. Area Dean: Paul Lawlor

Tue 6 Alexandra Hospital

Please pray for Alexandra Hospital in Redditch. For the whole hospital community, including patients and their families. Thanking God for the 1000+ people who work at the Alex and their dedication through this challenging time. For the Chaplain and the hospital's volunteer teams.

Wed 7 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

Bishop Bettina is traveling to our Lutheran partner church in Tanzania and will be accompanied by a group who has been highly involved in this church partnership link. Please pray for the visits of our congregations and those who want to explore our ecumenical church relations.

Thur 8 The Diocesan Secretary's Team

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

Fri 9 Bishop's Adviser on Healthcare

Pray for Clare Griffiths the Bishop's Adviser on Healthcare. Pray also for all involved in healthcare chaplaincy across the Diocese.

Sat 10 Safeguarding Team

Pray for Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Hilary Highton, Delia Stokes, Claire Arden, Liz Toone, and Simon Hill. Pray too for all parish safeguarding officers.

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer. Amen.

*Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery
Area Dean: Paul Lawlor
Lay Chair: Kashmir Garton*

Baptism Families:

Loving God, parents are creating a home; help them to make a place of warmth, love, welcome and belonging. Amen.

Worcester:

*Bishop John Inge with
Bishop Martin Gorick (Dudley)*

*Hamar (Norway):
Bishop Solveig Fiske*

*The Anglican Church of
South America:*

Bishop Brian Williams

*Cameroon (West Africa): M
Bishop Dibo Thomas-Babyngton
Elango*

*El Camino Real (USA): T
Bishop Lucinda Ashby*

*Canberra & Goulburn W
(Australia): Bishop Mark Short*

*Canterbury: Th
Archbishop Justin Welby
w Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin
(Dover)*

*Cape Coast (West Africa): F
Bishop Victor Atta-Baffoe*

*Cape Town (South Africa): S
Archbishop Thabo Makgoba*

Pray for CAP and its work to challenge and change the roots of poverty in this country, with the power of the Gospel, and provide opportunities for those who experience poverty to find their voice. Pray for those who live below the poverty line, who worry about making ends meet.

Church Action on Poverty Sunday

This annual event provides a focus on the work of the Christian ecumenical charity, Church Action on Poverty (CAP), encouraging prayer and learning about the roots of poverty in our country. This year the theme is, 'Dreamers that Do', with resources for worship, prayer and action available from www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday. This includes the stories of people like Ashleigh who experienced poverty growing up in London but has found her voice through CAP: "I did not realise I had power within me to make a difference in society. But that has changed."



'Dignity, Agency, Power' is the core of CAPs strategy – campaigning that all may be afforded human dignity, given the agency to control their own lives, and the power to bring about social, political, and economic change. Its work involves listening to, and enabling, the voices of those who know about poverty because they experience it.

Your Local Pantry is one CAP programme which seeks to achieve this. Pantries are food clubs, not food banks, run by the people who use them and hosted by churches. They aim to improve food access and create new friendships and stronger communities.

To find out more see www.church-poverty.org.uk and www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk



Mon 12 St John the Baptist, Feckenham

Pray for our new family service and our recent baptism families. For our wedding ministry and all those planning to be married at Feckenham. Pray as we strengthen the links with our church first school. For our PCC and worshipping community at a time of change for the benefice. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Fiona Carter

Tue 13 St Matthias & St George, Astwood Bank

Pray for our new family service and our recent baptism families, for the new Open the Book team. Pray for the work we are doing with other village organisation to serve our community, including our monthly coffee-stop drop-in session. For our churchwarden. Clergy: Glenn Reading

Wed 14 Ash Wednesday

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin, give us grace to grow in holiness, to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ. And through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole.

Thur 15 St Peter, Crabbs Cross

Pray for us as we seek to discern God's leading for the future as we look to a new chapter in the church's ministry. Pray as we develop our children and young families work, and for our worship in the Catholic tradition. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Paul Taylor, David Lingwood

Fri 16 The Bridge, Headless Cross

Please pray for us as we develop our ministry with our local church schools and strengthen our work with children and young families. Pray for our plan for mission and our links with the wider community. For our churchwardens and Methodist Stewards. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Ruth Wilson (Methodist); Reader: Roger Ling

Sat 17 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray that we may each find ways to play our part in the journey towards healthy and sustainable churches and that the values of love, compassion, justice and freedom will continue to underpin our lives together.



Praying for Growth

We have launched a dedicated period of prayer that our diocese will grow both spiritually and numerically over the coming years.

As a diocese we pray together that more people will come to know the love of Jesus and join us in our life and worship; as well as continuing to pray for our parishes, schools and all those who are already part of the Diocese.

Bishop John writes:

"By 2030 we pray that we shall have healthy and sustainable churches which are resourced and encouraged to worship God, make disciples, share hope, and transform their communities. We hope to have double the number of children and young people in our churches, at least 100 new worshipping communities and congregations of 150 people in each major area of population. None of this will happen without prayer – please join us in this!"

Please join in our prayers for this important area of work in our diocese through Lent.

M North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba (West Indies):
Vacant

T Carlisle:
Vacant with Bishop Rob Saner-Haigh (Penrith)

W East Carolina (USA):
Bishop Robert Skirving

Th North Carolina (USA):
Bishop Samuel Rodman

F South Carolina (USA):
Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley

S Upper South Carolina (USA):
Bishop Daniel Richards

Praying for our Vision

God of all grace and goodness,
 you lead us into the way of love and life:
 hear our prayer for your church in this place,
 may we offer you our hearts and minds in worship,
 bring others to walk with us as disciples of Christ,
 and share the hope to which you have called us,
 that by the work of your Spirit
 we may see lives and communities transformed,
 and be drawn ever more deeply into your life of love,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

Praying for our Priorities

Generous God,
 by your Spirit lead your church into growth,
 and into the mature humanity
 that reflects the image of Christ our Saviour.
 So equip our ministers with the gifts of your Spirit
 that we may kindle anew the flame of faith
 among children and young people,
 renew our churches with your life and love,
 and help new communities come to birth
 and lift their hearts in worship,
 that, joined as one body together,
 we may find a voice to sing your praise,
 now and in all eternity.
 Amen.



Praying for Growth

Over the coming weeks we will be using our priorities to pray for both spiritual and numerical growth within our diocese. Between 2023 and 2030 we aim to:

- Double the number of children and young people worshipping in our churches.
- Create 100 new worshipping communities offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God.
- Invest in the renewal of around a dozen churches to ensure that each major area of population has at least one church with 150 people attending weekly, enabling them to support other local churches.
- Underpin these by investing in our clergy and lay leaders, providing training and development opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.

The aim of these priorities is to strengthen local churches and encourage and resource them to explore what it might mean to grow in health and sustainability in their context as they worship God, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities.

Mon 19 Redditch, Holy Trinity & Tardebigge

As we continue to explore renewal at St Stephen's and seek to develop a Redditch Mission Area, we pray that the Holy Trinity Team can help in discerning the correct structures and developing the relationships between churches to further the mission of God across Redditch.

Tue 20 Redditch, Holy Trinity & Tardebigge

At St Philip, Webheath and St Batholomew, Tardebigge, pray that we remain open to the Holy Spirit and for our churchwarden and all those who are involved in our mission to our community, our outreach to retired people, our Bumps, Baby and Toddler group and all our ministry to children. Clergy: Paul Lawlor, Sarah Jayne Hewitt, Reader: Dean Hall

Wed 21 Mission & Ministry Team

Pray for the Diocesan Mission & Ministry Team. For Roger Latham, John Fitzmaurice, Doug Chaplin, Ruth Shearn. Give thanks for their work in equipping both lay and ordained ministers to serve the Church and share God's love.

Thur 22 Those who are ill

Bring your healing touch to all who are unwell, whether in body, mind and spirit, particularly remembering those who are continuing to suffer from Covid/Long Covid. Give thanks for all who look after the sick and the dying, bringing comfort to their friends and families.

Fri 23 Children and Youth Adviser

Pray for Simon Hill in his role as Children and Youth Adviser for the Diocese and for the growing network of children and youth workers in our parishes.

Sat 24 Mission Accompaniers

Pray for all Mission Accompaniers across the Diocese and for the churches they support.

Please pray for the life and work of our diocese using the payers on the opposite page.

Transformation Programme
 Director: Damian Herbert
 Diocesan Lead: Nikki Groarke

Peterborough:
 Bishop Debbie Sellin, with
 Bishop John Holbrook (Brixworth)

Meath & Kildare (Ireland):
 Bishop Patricia Louise Storey
Province of the Episcopal
Church of Sudan:
 Archbishop Ezekiel Kumir Kondo

Western North Carolina (USA): M
 Bishop José Antonio McLoughlin

Cashel, Ferns & Ossory T
(Ireland):
 Bishop Adrian Wilkinson

Chandigarh (North India): W
 Bishop Denzal Peoples

Chelmsford (England): Th
 Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani

Chester (England): F
 Bishop Mark Tanner

Chhattisgarh (North India): S
 Bishop Ajay James



Pray for all those who are involved with Kingdom Arts and for all those parishes currently running or planning to start a New Worshipping Community.

Redditch and Bromsgrove
Deanery
Area Dean: Paul Lawlor
Lay Chair: Kashmir Garton

Canterbury:

Archbishop Justin Welby w Bishop
Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Dover)

Down & Dromore (Ireland):
Bishop David McClay

The Anglican Church of Tanzania:
Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa

Praying for Growth - New Worshipping Communities

Between 2023 and 2030 we aim to create 100 new worshipping communities offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God.

Kingdom Arts is a new worshipping community meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at St Georges', Worcester. Described by some as "Like Messy Church but for adults", the group has 40 regular attendees, with some travelling as far from Redditch and Birmingham to attend.

Each month the doors open for coffee, followed by a time of worship which includes a mix of traditional hymns and modern worship songs. The theme is introduced, as well as the available activities. The group then have time to create while they sit together and chat. Everyone then re-gathers, sharing what they have made if they wish and are invited to feedback on what they made and what God might be saying to them. The session ends with a prayer and sung blessing, before a shared lunch of homemade soup, bread, cheese, and cakes.

Find out more at: <https://kingdom-arts.co.uk>



Mon 26 Alvechurch

As our monthly café church reaches its first birthday, we give thanks for how our faith as grown as we have stepped out in ministry, trusting God's leading. For the new things we have learnt about God, ourselves, and our community. We give thanks for the new relationships being formed, praying for its continued growth. Clergy: Gail Rogers, Martin Allan, Readers: Sue Phillips Wardle, Helen Ayling

Tues 27 Beoley

We pray for our new worshipping community, Church@4, giving thanks for the wisdom of our Mission Accompanier and the Learning Community. We pray for ourselves as we continue to grow as a church in numbers and in Spirit, as we reach out in mission. Clergy: Gail Rogers, Martin Allan, Readers: Norma Walters, Margaret Lloyd, Enid Mullis

Wed 28 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for those who live alone, especially the elderly. For those who work as home carers, visiting people in their homes, giving thanks for the human contact this brings. Pray for all Anna Chaplains based in churches near you. www.annachaplaincy.org.uk

Thur 29 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

Fri 1 MARCH Transformation Support Hub

Pray for 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, Nathan Conway, Nikki Groarke, Simon Hill, Ellie Jones, and Jim Grevatte.

Sat 2 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for churches across our diocese as they help more people to meet with the living God; responding to the call to serve and grow and exploring new possibilities for engaging with their communities.

M **Chicago (USA):**
Bishop Jeffrey Lee

T **Chichester:**
Bishop Martin Warner w Bishops
Ruth Bushyager (Horsham),
Will Hazlewood (Lewes)

W **Chotanagpur (North India):**
Bishop B. B. Baskey

Th **Christ the King**
(Mozambique & Angola):
Vacant

F **Christ the King**
(Southern Africa):
Bishop William Mostert

S **Christchurch (New Zealand):**
Bishop Peter Carrel

Praying for Growth – Equipping Ministers for Mission

We are underpinning our three key priorities by investing in our clergy and lay leaders, providing training and development opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.

One of the way the team offer a range of courses for parishes is through the Foundation Courses in Local Leadership (FCiLL). This is a way of both organising the training material already offered by the diocesan teams and others, and also identifying new material we need to support local leadership in our parishes.

The FCiLL range of courses aim to support and equip people to lead in parish life and mission where they are. There are 4 strands:



- Ministry and Leadership
- Buildings and Churchyards
- Governance and Compliance
- Finance and Administration

All of the training sessions feature practical support, creative ideas, and stimulating discussion on many aspects of church life and the Christian faith. You can sign up to as many any you'd like, and the majority are open to anyone in the Diocese.



Mon 4 The Archdeacons Office

Pray for Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke, Archdeacon of Worcester, Mark Badger and for Liz McKinnon their PA. Give thanks for all they do to support parishes across the Diocese.

Tues 5 Those in care homes

Pray for all those who live in care homes across the Diocese and for their friends and family who visit. Pray also for those who work in care homes, that they may find God's love and support in what is often a very challenging occupation.

Wed 6 Diocese of Peru

Pray for all those who work in the diocesan office in Lima and more widely in the diocesan administration, particularly those with responsibility for finances at a time of economic challenge.

Thur 7 Benefice of Ipsley

Pray for St Peter's Church Ipsley as they explore opportunities to move forward with their Mission Accompanier along an exciting mission journey. For Families@4 which is a monthly service for young families and for our ALMs. Clergy: Garth Nathaniel, Linda Nicholas. Readers: Peter McLaren, Chris McLaren; Wardens: Chris McLaren, Charles Melley.

Fri 8 Benefice of Ipsley

At St John's Church, Greenlands, we are thankful for prayerful encouragement being offered as we work with Alice our Mission Accompanier, and we seek to discern and develop our distinctive missional identity. Clergy: Paul Lawlor; Readers: Rosemary Humphrey, Maureen Hughes, Vicki Querton

Sat 9 Benefice of Ipsley

Christ Church Matchborough: Pray for ministries that touch the community, especially for work with young people and children. Pray for the evangelism initiative. Pray for our estates to be transformed by the good news of Jesus. Pray for youth, children's and community leaders and helpers, Clergy: Ian Evans; Readers: Phil Williams, Marilyn Bishop.

Pray for all our ordained and lay leaders and for all who offer training to help them continue to grow and develop in their different roles. For the diocesan Mission and Ministry team who lead on this work.

Director of Mission & Ministry:
Roger Latham

Baptism Families:

Loving Father God, bless our baptism parents as they care for their precious children, give them the awe and wonder of a child, to appreciate your creation. Amen

Chelmsford:

Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani with
Bishops Lynne Cullens (Barking),
Roger Morris (Colchester)

Karlstad (Sweden):
Sören Dalevi

The Church of the Province of Uganda:
Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba

Chubu (Japan): **M**
Bishop Francis of Assisi
Renta Nishihara

Clogher (Ireland): **T**
Bishop Ian Ellis

Coast (Nigeria): **W**
Joshua Ebonoluwa Ogunele

Cochin (South India): **Th**
Bishop Baker Ninan Fenn

Coimbatore (South India): **F**
Bishop Timothy Ravinder

Colombia (USA): **S**
Bishop Elias Garcia Cardenas

Please pray for our priority to double the number of children and young people in our churches; for these three churches in Worcester as they continue on this journey and for Helen and all the children and youth workers sharing God's love with young people and their families across the Diocese.

Children and Youth Adviser:
Simon Hill

Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Latvia
Lichfield:

Bishop Michael Ipgrave w Bishops
Sarah Bullock (Shrewsbury),
Matthew Parker (Stafford),
Paul Thomas (Oswestry)

St David's (Wales):
Vacant

The Episcopal Church:
Archbishop Michael Curry

M Colombo (Ceylon):
Bishop Dushantha Rodrigo

T Colorado (USA):
Kimberly Lucas

W Congo Brazzaville
(Democratic Republic of Congo):
Vacant

Th Connecticut (USA):
Ian Douglas

F Connor (Ireland):
Bishop George Davison

S Cork, Cloyne & Ross (Ireland):
Bishop William Paul Colton

Praying for Growth - Children & Young People

We are aiming to double the number of children and young people in our churches by 2030.

Three churches in Worcester have worked together to apply to the Healthier Churches Fund and appoint a full-time Children and Youth Worker who will be shared between them. The Worcester parishes of St John the Baptist, St Stephen and St George jointly applied for Healthier Churches funding, which, alongside a small amount of top up funding from each of the churches, has been enough to create this full-time post for at least five years. Former CYD Mission Enabler, Helen Laird successfully applied for the post and started in Autumn.

Diocesan Children & Youth Adviser, Simon Hill said: "It's wonderful that these three churches in Worcester realised working together to gain funding was their best option and have been able to do this effectively to create this important role. Helen joins a growing network of employed youth and children's workers around the Diocese who prayerfully support each other to grow God's kingdom."



Mon 11 Primrose Hospice, Bromsgrove

We give thanks for the ministry of care offered at the local hospice in Bromsgrove and pray for its continued development despite the challenging financial environment.

Tue 12 Princess of Wales Community Hospital, Bromsgrove

Pray for all patients, and those who rely on our services. For the nursing teams, medical teams and support staff. Remember especially the 'Primrose at the Princess' Palliative Care Unit and our Chaplaincy Team: Andy Green and Annie Cottrell.

Wed 13 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for those at the Health Centre in Tunguli who are struggling to bring medical care and support to many living in remote and isolated hamlets. In particular those staff who are caring for women who are waiting for the delivery of their babies and who are caring for the newly born. We pray for Centre Manager, Isaac Mgego.

Thur 14 All Saints, Bromsgrove

Pray for 'Soul and Senses', our monthly New Worshipping Community; for our Outreach work amongst nearby new housing developments; for our commitment to Lickey End and Meadows First Schools; for our lay and ordained ministry team.

Fri 15 St John, Bromsgrove & St Andrew, Charford

Pray for St John's, Bromsgrove and St Andrew's, Charford as each church community seeks to develop its unique mission and ministry amongst the civic and residential communities they seek to serve. Clergy: Ray Khan, Readers: Hilda Roxborough, Philip Bowen, Sally Gale

Sat 16 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all our churches as they work to appropriately sustain their life and ministry, with enough volunteers to take on different roles, funds to cover costs and a building which supports mission and ministry.

Praying for Growth - Investing in renewal

We are investing in the renewal of around a dozen churches to ensure that each major area of population in the Diocese has at least one church with 150 people attending weekly, enabling them to support other local churches.

One of those churches is St John's Church in Halesowen, which will be receiving funding from the national church to enable it to become a hub at the centre of Halesowen, loving and serving its community and reaching out to many more people.

There are plans to open the building more frequently so that it can be used by the community as well as employ a Children's and Young People's worker. The Revd Hazel Charlton moved to St John's Church to head up this project. She said: "It's really exciting that the national church has recognised St John's as somewhere with the potential to grow. It's a brilliant opportunity to improve the space and offer more of God's love to the local community. We also hope to start a number of new worshipping communities so that everyone, if they wish to, will be able to worship God here, in their own way."



Mon 18 St Godwald, Bromsgrove

Pray for our young and growing community at Pizza Church, and for our toddlers and their families who come to Totwalds. And give thanks for the love and support given to these churches by our traditional congregations. For our ALMs. Clergy: David Ford, Richard Sandland, Reader: Janet Hewer

Tues 19 Holy Trinity and St Mary' Dodford

Pray for our churchwarden and church council as we prepare very substantial improvements to our Arts and Crafts church including complete re-wiring and new heating; please also pray for the continuing search for a new Team Vicar to oversee our mission and ministry.

Wed 20 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

The EKM's Synod will meet from 11 to 13 April in the convent in Drübeck. We pray for the implementation of all decisions and that our church will grow.

Thur 21 Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren

Pray for our work with communities, families and schools, our 20 is Plenty service, and for our Heritage Friends Group. Pray for more volunteers to further God's work here and for our ALMs. Clergy: Paula Honniball

Fri 22 Christ Church, Catshill

Please pray for us as we outreach to our local community to grow our small but loving and welcoming church family. Clergy: Janet Hatton, Reader: Geoff Westwood

Sat 23 Readers

Pray for all Licenced Lay Ministers (Readers) across the diocese, for the work they do supporting their churches in mission and ministry.



Please pray for St John's Church in Halesowen as they continue to develop, reaching more people in their community and also supporting other local churches. Pray also for all of our renewal churches.

Programme Renewals Manager:
Nathan Conway
Church Renewals Project Officer:
Jim Grevatte

Lund (Sweden):
Bishop Johan Tyrberg
Cashel, Ossory & Ferns (Ireland):
Bishop Adrian Wilkinson
Ely (England):
Vacant, Bishop Dagmar Winter
(Huntingdon)

The Church in Wales:
Archbishop Andy John

Costa Rica (Central America): **M**
Bishop Orlando Gomez

Coventry: **T**
Bishop Christopher Cocksworth

Cuba (USA): **W**
Bishop Griselda Delgado
Del Carpio

Cueibet (South Sudan): **Th**
Bishop Elijah Maltueny Awet

Cuernavaca (Mexico): **F**
Archbishop Enrique Treviño Cruz

Cuttack (North India): **S**
Bishop Surendra Kumar Nanda

*True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as
Messiah: grant us the
faith to know you and love
you, that we may be found
beside you on the way of
the cross, which is the
path of glory.*



*Interim Dean of Worcester:
Stephen Edwards*

*Armagh (Ireland):
Archbishop John McDowell*
*Funen (Denmark):
Bishop Mads Davidsen*
*The Church of the Province
of West Africa:
Archbishop Cyril Kobina
Ben-Smith*

M *Cyangugu (Rwanda):
Bishop Francis Karemera*

T *Cyprus & the Gulf (Jerusalem):
Vacant*

W *Daejeon (Korea):
Bishop Titus Ho-Wook Kim*

Th *North Dakota (USA):
Bishop Michael Smith*

F *South Dakota (USA):
Bishop Jonathan Folts*

S *Dallas (USA):
Bishop George Sumner, Jr.*

Holy Week

Holy Week begins with the re-enactment of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated.

Maundy Thursday includes the themes of humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, as well as the institution of the Eucharist. In preparation for the vigil the church is stripped of decoration.

After keeping vigil, Thursday passes into Good Friday. The sequence of meditations and music known as the Three Hours' Devotion was introduced into the Church of England in the nineteenth century. The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, with silence as the best way to recall the death of Jesus. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

This season preserves some of the oldest texts still in use and recalls the deepest and most fundamental Christian memories. Through participation in the whole sequence of services during Holy Week, we share in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Mon 25 Criminal Justice Affairs Group

Pray for the diocesan Criminal Justice Affairs Group. For their Chair: Charmian Manship. Pray also for the Bishop's Adviser on Criminal Justice Affairs: Paul West.

Tue 26 HMP Hewell

Pray for HMP Hewell; for the Governor, Deputy Governor, Senior Management Team and all staff, for their safety and well-being. Pray for the men who live and work here, for their anxiety, depression, and fear and that through the compassion and care of those around them, that they may feel valued and cared for. For the Chaplaincy team.

Wed 27 Economy & Daily Life

In Holy Week, think of the everyday things in your community, neighbourhood and church which need to be redeemed, renewed and transformed through Christ. These might be organisations, places, circumstances which exclude, isolate, or marginalise people, or broken relationships. Pray that Christ's passion, and Easter hope, might lead to change in ourselves and our communities.

Thur 28 Maundy Thursday

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Fri 29 Good Friday

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sat 30 Retired clergy in Redditch & Bromsgrove

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in the Redditch and Bromsgrove 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.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



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.

