Foreword from Bishop Martin

What a strange year this has been! As 2020 began no one could have predicted that the Covid-19 Coronavirus would sweep across our world with such devastating effect. At a local, national and international level all our lives have been affected. We may have been very ill ourselves, or lost loved ones or neighbours. As a diocese we are facing unprecedented financial challenges, as are so many businesses large and small. Everyone, in different ways is facing new levels of uncertainty and insecurity with people in our poorer areas and amongst our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities often the worst hit of all.

At times like this we need to pray. Jesus said, ‘How blessed are those who know their need of God, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.’ In praying for others and for ourselves we bring our emptiness to God for him to fill with his love and promise. We bring our despair to God for him to fill with his boundless stores of hope. We bring our grief to God that all may know the peace that comes from God alone. In lockdown I needed a routine of daily prayer at home to bring me through, and millions of people in England began to connect with God through private or family prayer and through worship online or by phone in their homes. How can that connection continue? As one small part of the answer this prayer diary gives some structure to our prayers at home, and joins us together as one family in this Diocese of Worcester. I commend it to your use.

At the moment we will continue to produce the prayer diary monthly in electronic format. In this diary we’re praying for the deaneries of Upton, Martley and Worcester and Worcestershire. 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.

---

Lay Minister to a Japanese congregation

Over the last couple of years, Yuki Johnson has been training to be a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) at the Queen’s Foundation in Birmingham with a group from our diocese. Having recently been licensed, she will serve in the Diocese of Worcester, where she helps to lead a small Japanese congregation.

Yuki said, “The training has been really brilliant and will definitely help me in my ministry. It has given me more confidence in my preaching and lots of creative ideas for bible study – I’m looking forward to putting them into practice!”

After moving from Japan to the UK to marry the Revd Dick Johnson (Police and Fire Service Chaplain and Leader of Faith in Work in Worcester), Yuki and Dick lived in Greater London. It was there that she helped start a monthly service in Japanese at St Martin’s Church in West Acton, where there was an established Japanese community.

“I have been helping to lead services since 2011 and we have also hosted fundraising services for disasters in Japan as well as memorial services for the community” Yuki continued. “Alongside our formal worship, we’ve started a community café once a month in the church. This gives local people who might be more isolated a chance to speak the language and we have had up to 60 people attending.”

---

**Sunday 25 October**

**Bible Sunday**

Please pray for Yuki as she begins a new chapter in her ministry. Please also pray for the Japanese Anglican Church in the UK and its work in bringing the community together.

**Upton Deanery**

Rural Dean: Christopher Moss
Lay Chair: Maria Toman

**Carlisle**

Bishop James Newcome, with Bishop Emma Ineson (Penrith)
Swansea and Brecon (Wales):
Archbishop John Davies
Stavanger (Norway):
Bishop Anne Lise Aanay

**Remo (Nigeria):**
Bishop Michael Fape

**Kumasi (Ghana):**
Bishop Daniel Sarfo

**Renk (South Sudan):**
Bishop Joseph Garang Atem

**Daejeon (Korea):**
Bishop Moses Nagún Yoo

**Kumi (Uganda):**
Bishop Edison Kigiel

**Rhode Island (USA):**
Bishop Nicholas Knisely

**Dallas (USA):**
Bishop George R Sumner Jr

**Rift Valley (Tanzania):**
Bishop John David Lupaa

**Damaturu (Nigeria):**
Bishop Yohannah A Audu

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

**Rio de Janeiro (Brazil):**
Bishop Eduardo Cheffo Grillo

**Davao (Philippines):**
Bishop Jonathan Labasan Casimina

**Río Grande (USA):**
Bishop Michael Vono

**Delaware (USA):**
Bishop Kevin S Brown

**Kurunegala (Ceylon):**
Bishop Michael Fape

**Bishops and Diocesan Leaders of the Episcopal Church in England:**

**Bishop Martin**

**Diocese of Worcester**

---

**Mon 26**

**Upton Deanery**

Pray for the Synod in encouraging support for overseas mission links, and for outreach to children and young people. For our clergy including Rural Dean Chris Moss; Lay Chair: Maria Toman; Deanery Secretary: Eileen Moss; Deanery Treasurer: John Boardman

**Tue 27**

**Berrow w Pendock**

Pray for the PCC, Pendock CE Primary School, Open the Book Team, Bible Study, our mission, ministry and community during these difficult times. Clergy: Julie James, Anthea Elston.

**Wed 28**

**The Protestant Church of Central Germany**

Please pray for this year’s ordinands. We are grateful for God having called them into his service. Please pray for those who celebrate their 40th anniversary of ordination this year; pray that their decades of faithful work and sowing the Gospel may bear fruit in God’s vineyard.

**Thur 29**

**Eldersfield, Hollybush & Birtsmorton**

Pray for the PCC and all office holders, Eldersfield Lawn CE Primary School, Open the Book Team, bell ringers, Prayer Group, and for all community involvement and outreach. For our ALM, David Allen. Clergy: Julie James, Anthea Elston

**Fri 30**

**Hanley Castle & Hanley Swan, Welland**

Pray for a swift recovery for our curate, Sue, after a hip operation, and for opportunities to serve our schools well. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Sue Adeney

**Sat 31**

**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.

---

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4.6-7
Never the Same
2020 has been a difficult year for many people and groups, not least for our school communities who have continuously adapted to unimaginable demands and challenges.

In May, the Church of England released a new resource, Never the Same, for schools which focuses on grief, bereavement and loss, issues which have sadly become increasingly relevant this year. Rooted in the Church of England’s vision for education, the resource offers a combination of theological reflections, practical ideas for engaging with children and young people, and signposts to the vast range of resources that are already available. It has been a helpful aid to many in recent months, especially when supporting our young people through times of transition and the loss of their rites of passage.

Despite acknowledging such difficult topics, the resource does seek to provide hope in our school communities, as they are encouraged to remember that even though the world changes “Jesus Christ is the same – yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13.8).

Recently, school leaders from around the Diocese took part in the Education team’s online conference to explore the resource further and to consider how their communities can support each person to ‘live life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10).

Poppies for Remembrance
For many, the Royal British Legion’s red poppy is a symbol of peace and remembrance for those who gave their lives in times of war. Over the years the annual Poppy Appeal, first held in 1921, has raised vital money to support Britain’s Armed Forces, veterans and their families in their times of need. However, this is not the only poppy appeal which exists to promote peace and to remember wartime sacrifice.

The white poppy was first designed and distributed in 1933 by the Peace Pledge Union, the UK’s oldest pacifist group. Many veterans of the First World War, and indeed, of wars since, opted to wear the white poppy to stress the ‘never again’ message and to visually represent their commitment to peace.

Black poppies are also available each year from Black Poppy Rose, to especially remember those in the African, Black, Caribbean and Pacific Islands communities who contributed to or who died during various conflicts since the 16th century.

Animal victims of wartime, like horses and dogs, are also remembered through the wearing of purple poppies. Organised by the War Horse Memorial, donations for purple poppies are given to animal charities including World Horse Welfare and Blue Cross.

Whatever colour you choose to wear, poppies remain an important symbol to remember all those affected by war.

All Saints’ Day
Pray for our school communities who have experienced the pain of grief, bereavement and loss this year. We pray that they will be encouraged through a hope for a brighter future.

Upton Deaneary
Rural Dean: Christopher Moss
Lay Chair: Maria Toman
Praying for our Baptism families - Loving God, bless all of our Baptism families as they care for their precious children. Give them endless patience and the space and time to appreciate your wonderful creation both in their children and the world around them. Amen.

Winchester: Bishop Timothy Dakin, w Bishops David Williams (Basingstoke) & Debbie Sallin (Southampton)
Agder and Telemark (Norway): Bishop Stein Reinhertsen
Caicos Islands: Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin

Rural Dean: Christopher Moss
Lay Chair: Maria Toman
Pray for the PCC as it undertakes a development and re-ordering project. For

Mon 2 Upton on Severn & the Hook
Pray for wisdom around conducting Remembrance Sunday events during a pandemic, and more lay leaders. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Sue adeney

Tue 3 Ripple, Earls Croome with Hill Croome & Strensham
Pray for more lay leaders to emerge in our parishes as we seek churchwardens and a treasurer to help move us forward. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Sue Adeney

Wed 4 Diocese of Peru
Amidst political turmoil and the devastating impact of the pandemic, pray for President Vizcarra as he seeks to find a way forward, and for the Anglican Church as they try to bring hope and comfort to the suffering in their areas of work.

Thur 5 Kempsey & Severn Stoke wCroome d’Abbot
Give thanks for two grants from the National Lottery Community Fund to support our Community Pantry and Family Support work. For ALMs Catherine Worton & Clare Morgan and Ordinand: Giles Joiner. Clergy: Mark Badger, David Hassell, Owain Bell, Don Sloggett, Ann Hadley; Readers: Ron Rust, Libby James.

Fri 6 Queenhill wHoldfast
Pray for the PCC as it undertakes a development and re-ordering project. For Administrator: Wendy Thompson. Clergy: Chris Moss; Reader: Michael Harper

Sat 7 Longdon, Castle Morton, Bushley
Pray for our worship, giving and outreach in Longdon; the church development project in Castle Morton, and for ministry to the CE Primary School; in Bushley, for our informal worship service and a project to increase financial support. For Administrator: Wendy Thompson. Clergy: Chris Moss; Reader: Michael Harper

Mon 9 Upton on Severn Ecumenical Partnership
Pray for good ecumenical relationships across Upton and for ongoing witness in the town and schools.

Tue 10 Retired clergy in Upton Deaneary
Our prayer for the retired clergy in Upton Deaneary, focuses on the service and sacrifice made by them in years of ministry; we pray for them now as they endeavour to find a focus for their vocation in these later years.

Wed 11 Diocese of Morogoro
We pray for farmers and those working in agriculture as they seek to make the land fertile and fruitful after the poor harvest earlier this year due to an excessively long rainy season which caused much flooding and damage. In particular, we remember those who are suffering now as a result of a lack of food and poor nutrition.

Thur 12 Ministry & Discipleship team
Pray for the Ministry and Discipleship Team at the Diocesan Office, led by Director Jonathan Kimber. Give thanks for all they do to support and encourage ministry and discipleship across all our parishes across all our parishes, and pray for continued wisdom, discernment and creativity. For team members John Fitzmaurice, Alison Maddocks, Doug Chaplin, Simon Hill, Emma Pettifer, Judith Kent, Kate Hewitt-Brake.

Fri 13 Martley & Worcester West Deaneary
Pray for all parishes across the deanery; the members of chapter; and for the members of synod representing the PCCs. Lay Chair: John Chadlow; Rural Dean: Anne Potter

Sat 14 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.

Sunday 1 NOVEMBER

Sunday 8 NOVEMBER

Remembrance Sunday
Lord, shine your light on all those lost during wartime and help heal the pain of grief in those left behind. We give thanks for all who work to ensure we #NeverForget their sacrifice.

Upton Deaneary
Rural Dean: Christopher Moss
Lay Chair: Maria Toman
Norwich: Bishop Graham Usher, w Bishops Alan Winton (Thetford), Bishop Jonathan Meyrick (Lynn) Uluak (Sweden): Bishop Åsa Nyström
Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (West Indies): Bishop Howard Gregory
2 Before Advent

Lord, we give thanks for the fantastic gift of music our Cathedral choristers share with the community. We ask for your blessing on all those who choose to take this next step on their faith journey.

Mon 16 Worcestershire West Rural Team
In Martley, Wichenford & the Lower Teme Valley, please pray that each parish will continue to cope with the challenges ahead as we continue to deal with the consequences of the pandemic. For imaginative worship, outreach and buildings work. Clergy: David Sherwin, Anne Potter, Becky Elliot and Jen Denniston.

Tue 17 Worcestershire West Rural Team
In Clifton-on-Teme, Lower Sapey & the Shelsleys, please pray that each parish will continue to cope with the challenges ahead as we continue to deal with the consequences of the pandemic. For imaginative worship, outreach and buildings work. Clergy: David Sherwin, Anne Potter, Becky Elliot and Jen Denniston.

Wed 18 The Protestant Church of Central Germany
Please pray for our Synod members who meet tomorrow to lead our church. May God’s Holy Ghost be with them and guide their considering, arguing, and decision making.

Thu 19 Worcestershire West Rural Team
Pray for the parishes of Alfrick, Lulsoley, Suckley, Leigh & Bransford. For the congregations in these difficult times, those who have and are still isolating and the wider communities. Clergy: David Sherwin, Anne Potter, Becky Elliot and Jen Denniston.

Fri 20 Hallow, Grimley, Holt & Christ Church, Lower Broadheath
For growing joy, excitement and love in our service of God and our communities; for growing trust and love amongst ourselves. ALMS: Ian Craigian, Tim Richards and Francis Christie; Clergy: Kalaitha Brewis and David Murphy; Readers: Denise Pollock and Barbara Beard; Ordinands: Paul Wilcox and Rachel Colthurst.

Sat 21 Calling Young Disciples Team
Pray for our Calling Young Disciples Team, for Director Ruth Walker, currently recovering from an operation and interim Director, Simon Hill. For our Mission Enablers: Anne Batchelor, Helen Laird, Adam Legge, Amy Stokes and Sian Morgan. Give thanks for all they do to encourage and support parishes in sharing Jesus’ love with children, young people and families.

Worcester Cathedral
200 Cathedral Close
Worcester WR5 2LA
samuelhudson@worcestercathedral.org.uk
Booking is essential - for more information, please visit our website.

Christ the King

Sunday 15 NOVEMBER

Be a Chorister for an afternoon
The search for new recruits to sing in Worcester Cathedral Choir has begun!
Next Saturday, the Cathedral is inviting boys aged between 6 and 10 to come and ‘Be a chorister for an afternoon’, with an opportunity for girls aged between 10 and 15 to attend a similar event on Saturday 23 January 2021.
This is a perfect opportunity for budding young singers to find out more, have a go at singing in the choir, and join in with singing a service at the Cathedral. Plenty of information will be available for potential recruits and their families, with chances to meet key Cathedral staff, the current choristers, and their families. All activities will be run fully in line with the latest COVID-19 guidance for places of worship, and the performing arts.
Samuel Hudson, Director of Music at the Cathedral, said, “Being a chorister for an afternoon will be great fun, and we hope all who take part will enjoy finding out what being a chorister is really like.”
Booking is essential - for more information, or to reserve a place, please contact Samuel on samuelhudson@worcestercathedral.org.uk.

Sunday 22 NOVEMBER

Anna Chaplaincy in Malvern Link
Recently, Eileen Tomlin, Reader in the Parish of Malvern Link with Cowleigh, was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain, formalising her ministry to older people which she has carried out for some years.
The Anna Chaplaincy is an ecumenical project from the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), named after the widow, Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke’s gospel, both good role models of faithful older people.
As it has not been possible to visit people either at home or in care homes due to Coronavirus restrictions, Eileen has led a pastoral team who have retained contact with the elderly in their community in several ways including through prayer, phone calls and their creative ‘Bags of Love’ project.
Eileen said: “It was important for me to formalise the work I was already doing with the older members of our community. If I can build up a network of Anna Chaplains in the local area, it provides a solid foundation to ensure this work continues even if our vicar moves on.”
To read more about Eileen’s Anna Chaplaincy ministry in Malvern Link, please visit our website.

Mon 23 St Clement w St David, Worcester
Please pray that we will find the right people to take key roles within our church. Clergy: Sarah Cottrill, Phil Bradford

Tue 24 St Michael, Dines Green
Following the successful lunch project on Dines Green over the summer, pray for all those (especially children) who continue to struggle and be inadequately fed in these difficult times. Clergy: Phil Bradford.

Wed 25 Economy and Daily Life
Pray for the work of foodbanks across the dioecese, giving thanks for the many volunteers who give their time and providing for all those who have to resort to using foodbanks to make ends meet. Pray for a restructuring of our economy so that foodbanks may no longer be necessary.

Thu 26 St John in Bedwardine, Worcester
As recent months have left so many lonely and isolated, pray for our renewed engagement with the community and our efforts to reach out to the despairing. Clergy: Phil Bradford.

Fri 27 St Thomas, Crown East & Rushwick
Pray for the faithful members of the congregation, the growing village of Rushwick and the staff and children of Rushwick CE Primary school. Clergy: Anne Potter, Ruth Wintle, Jen Denniston

Sat 28 Retired Clergy in Martley & Worcester West
The eve of Advent and the dawn of a new liturgical year - as we pray for the retired clergy of Martley and Worcester West that, even in these difficult days when ministry may be constrained, they may still bear witness to the hope at the heart of this season.
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.