



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Prayer Diary

July to November 2024

Join the Conversation



We want to hear your views about what we might need in our new Bishop!

We would like to hear from lots of different people across all areas of the Diocese.

Join the conversation and make sure your voice is heard!

Don't forget you will be able to say goodbye to Bishop John in the Cathedral at 4pm on Sunday 29 September.

Please fill out our short survey online before 1 August:
www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/join-the-conversation



Do you have people in your congregation without internet access?
Could you organise a discussion after church and let us know what people think?
Help individuals to complete the survey on your phone or laptop or collect their ideas and then email bishop.consultation@cofe-worcester.org.uk

Here are the questions we're asking:

- Using three words, what qualities do you think make a good bishop?
- What, in your opinion, should be the bishop's three key priorities for the first five years?
- What are the biggest three challenges faced by the church in your setting or context?
- What are your top three hopes for the church over the next few years?
- What are the three biggest opportunities for the church?



Please fill out our short survey online before 1 August:
www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/join-the-conversation



Foreword from Bishop Martin



'Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Holy Spirit will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.'

Words of Jesus from John 16.7

During September, Bishop John too will be 'going away', in his case to a well-deserved and we hope a long and happy retirement. We trust this will be 'to his advantage' after so many years of dedicated Christian service. He goes with our thanks and love, and we will have a chance to join him for his last service as our Bishop, in Worcester Cathedral at 4pm on 29 September. I hope to see you there!

Without his lead as diocesan bishop, we will need to rely on God afresh, and on his grace alone. We will learn that when we feel weak, then we are strong, for as Christians it is only in our weakness that we discover God's power to save. We will need to work together for good and for God. I pray that we will support and encourage one another and know the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our churches and in our diocese.

'The church grows only as it gives Jesus room to grow' wrote the Swiss theologian Karl Barth. May that be true for us this Autumn and always.

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.



Pray that more people will take up the challenge to be as plastic free as possible and give thanks for all those who are working to find alternatives to using plastic.

Diocesan Climate Crisis Task Group – Chair: David Hewlett

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania:
Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis
Dery & Raphoe (Ireland):
Bishop Andrew Foster
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East:
Archbishop Hosam Naoum

M Ho (West Africa):
Bishop Matthias Mededues-Badohu

T Hokkaido (Japan):
Bishop Maria Grace Tazu Sasamori

W Honduras (USA):
Bishop Lloyd Allen

Th Hong Kong Island:
Bishop Matthias Clement Tze-Wo Der

F The Horn of Africa (East Africa):
Vacant

S Hpa-an (Myanmar):
Bishop Saw Mark Maung Doe

Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution.



This year's Plastic Free July campaign focuses on small changes each of us can make to reduce plastic waste under the slogan "Small steps, big difference". Each year Plastic Free July participants from over 190 countries worldwide are together making a big difference by choosing to refuse single-use plastic.

An astonishing 10 billion kgs of household waste has been avoided by participants over the last five years because people choose to make a change for cleaner streets, healthy oceans, and beautiful communities or just to do the right thing. Choose one single-use plastic to avoid or take the pledge to avoid single-use cups, plastic drink bottles, or plastic food wrap.

The Plastic Free July website includes a range of ideas and resources to help you to take up the challenge of reducing single-use plastic items. You can also read inspirational stories from participants reducing single-use plastic waste at home, work, or in their community. Learn about the steps they took, the challenges they overcome and lessons learnt. Find out more at www.plasticfreejuly.org

Mon 29 St James, Dudley

Pray for the congregation of St James the Great Church in Dudley as they go through the difficult process of closing the church with final services likely to have been held yesterday. Give thanks for all those who have been part of the church's story over the years. The community will continue to be served by other churches in Dudley.

Tue 30 Worcester Deanery

Pray for our Deanery Leadership Team and the prayer event on the 11 September, that the creative prayer stations will help people engage with God. Area Dean: Diane Cooksey, Lay Chair: Sue Rowlands, Leadership Team: Robert Pearce, Paul Fulbrook, Paul Wilcox, Anne Potter

Wed 31 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for Morogoro Cathedral, for all who worship there and for its outreach to the whole diocese. Especially for Bishop Godfrey Sehaba and the Revd Peter Mkenji, who has day to day responsibility. We pray for God's blessing as both Worcester and Morogoro Cathedrals seek to find ways of drawing closer to one another.

Thur 1 AUGUST All Saints, Worcester

Pray that we might continue to see God's blessing upon our ministry with children, young people and students, more baptisms, deepening discipleship, more encounters with the Holy Spirit, and continued partnership with other churches in the city centre. Clergy: Rich Johnson, James Ellin, Jess Fellows, Jamie Klair, Tim O'Leary

Fri 2 Hallow, Grimley with Holt & Lower Broadheath

Please pray for our Breakfast Church, Wild Church, Community Conversations and Sunday Worship as we seek to understand and serve the needs of our neighbours, sharing the love of God. Clergy: Kalantha Brewis, Paul Wilcox, David Morphy, Sheila Nall. Reader: Barbara Beard

Sat 3 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord God, help us to think of the ways in which we engage with the world around us. In the products we use, the places we shop and the choices we make.

Mothers' Union



For nearly 150 years, the Mothers' Union nationally has been engaged in raising awareness of social injustices – and in offering practical, prayerful and loving help to those in need. In the Diocese of Worcester, the MU was affiliated in 1913.

There is still a need to highlight social injustice and to provide loving Christian care to those families facing adversity. The MU has over 460 members across the Diocese who show their faith in action. These are men and women who are fathers or mothers, men and women who have no children, who are married, divorced, single.

Our actions are very much led and driven by prayer. It might be knitting the hundreds of little teddies produced annually, or dementia knee rugs or prayer squares or baby clothes. It might be supporting our overseas work, which makes such a fundamental social difference in poorer nations. It might be highlighting the social outrages of domestic abuse or modern slavery in this country. Many non-members support our work, our aims, our church services. Membership is open to all baptised into a trinitarian Christian faith – but you can also be a Friend of the Mothers Union!

Mary Sumner's life is remembered on 9 August. Please read her personal prayer on the right hand side.

Mon 5 Worcestershire West Rural Team

Pray for all our faithful congregations in the seven parishes of Alfrick-w-Lulsley, Crown East with Rushwick, Leigh & Bransford, Lower Temme Valley (Broadwas, Cotheridge and Knightwick), Martley, Suckley and Wichenford. Clergy: Anne Potter

Tue 6 Worcestershire West Rural Team

We pray for all the clergy who support the ministry across the Benefice. Our retired priests, Jennifer Whittaker, Ruth Wintle, Mike Gardner and John Morris and our curate Sally Knowles.

Wed 7 Diocese of Peru

As Peru continues to experience continued political instability and sporadic violence, pray for all who govern, those responsible for upholding the law and those responsible for maintaining standards in public life, that they may act justly with integrity and in the interests of the Peruvian people. Pray too for all those who suffer as a result of that instability and violence, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

Thur 8 Worcestershire West Rural Team

We give thanks for the pastoral work and the teams whose outreach, particularly with the bereaved, sick, elderly and lonely, reflects God's love in action.

Fri 9 Worcestershire West Rural Team

Pray for our church schools in the Benefice - Ruswick, Broadwas and Martley as we find ways of ensuring the children hear God's story through Open the Book, Godly Play and regular assemblies. Clergy: Anne Potter

Sat 10 Growing as Kingdom People

Help guide us forward in our future plans to grow your kingdom. Let us be open to new ideas and welcoming to new people.

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee: and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

Worcestershire Mothers' Union:
President – Judith Grubb

Praying for our baptism families:
Lord, we thank You that in all circumstances You are with all parents and we pray that in joyous moments they will feel Your love and in difficult times know Your strength, peace and hope. Amen.

Bristol:
Bishop Vivienne Faull
with Bishop Neil Warwick

Diocese of Helsinki (Finland):
Bishop Teemu Laajasalo
The Anglican Church of Kenya:
Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit

Huron (Canada): M
Bishop Todd Townshend

Hyderabad (Pakistan): T
Bishop Kaleem John

Ibadan (Nigeria): W
Bishop Joseph O. Akinfenwa

Ibadan North (Nigeria): Th
Bishop Segun Okubadejo

Ibadan South (Nigeria): F
Akintunde Popoola

Ibba (South Sudan): S
Bishop Wilson Kamani

Please pray for the beach fun day organised by the churches in Worcester and for all events being organised by churches over the summer holidays.

Worcester Deanery:
Area Dean: Diane Cooksey
Lay Chair: Sue Rowlands

Portsmouth:
Bishop Jonathan Frost
Stockholm (Sweden):
Bishop Andreas Holmberg
The Anglican Church of Korea:
Archbishop Peter Kyongho Lee

Beach Day at St Stephen’s Church in Worcester

Claines, St George’s and St Stephen’s Churches in Worcester are working in partnership and have appointed a children’s, youth and families’ worker who works across all three churches. As part of this work, we would like to strengthen our contacts with the local community. Inspired by Laura Betson, Vicar in the Kidderminster West Team, we are inviting the local community to join us at our beach fun day.



The event is happening at St Stephen’s Church during the afternoon of Thursday 15 August. We are bringing sand into the church with beach toys and some water play activities. Crafts will include origami boats, make your own mocktails and beach-themed games for different ages. We will design our own postcards, make paper windmills and refreshments will include ice-creams and fish finger sandwiches. We will also share a beach-themed Bible story. We are grateful to Laura in aiding our planning and we are excited to be hosting this event. We are really looking forward to our beach fun day and pray that we can create a wonderful event that the community enjoys being a part of, with so much fun being had that it becomes an annual summer event!

Mon 12 Worcestershire West Rural Team

Please pray for wisdom as we seek to discern how we can effectively serve children and families in our various villages so that they come to know the love of God and through the Spirit become committed disciples of the risen Christ. Clergy: Anne Potter

Tue 13 St Barnabas with Christ Church

We give thanks for Sooz our new curate, and we continue to pray for our schools’ and families’ ministries especially as we prepare for a new school year. Clergy: Sarah Northall, Sooz Magee, Rosie Moss, Andy Gandon. Reader: Julie Berrow

Wed 14 The Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

We are grateful for over 30 years of partnership between the parishes of Kidderminster and Gommern and the encounters and visits that took place recently. We pray for God’s blessing on our partnership, that we may continue to learn from each other and that our connection as brothers and sisters in faith remains alive and bears good fruit.

Thur 15 St Clement & St David, Worcester

Give thanks for improvements made to St David’s Church, allowing us to build on our outreach to the community and pray for St Clement’s Church, seeking to create more family friendly services. Clergy: Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Gilly Maxim

Fri 16 St John-in-Bedwardine

Please pray for our growing outreach to children and families, through Messy Church, Children’s Church and Little Lambs, and for our efforts to provide a space and resource for the local community. For our Reader in training: Rob Little. Clergy: Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Gilly Maxim

Sat 17 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.

M **Idah (Nigeria):**
Bishop Joseph N. Musa

T **Idaho (USA):**
Bishop Brian Thom

W **Ideato (Nigeria):**
Bishop Henry Okeke

Th **Idoani (Nigeria):**
Bishop Ezekiel B. Dahunsi

F **Ife (Nigeria):**
Bishop Olunmi A Akinlade

S **Ife East (Nigeria):**
Bishop Oluseyi Oyelade

New Racial Justice director

The Revd Dr Evie Vernon O’Brien has been appointed as the Racial Justice Director for the Church of England in the West Midlands.



Evie will work with six dioceses - Birmingham, Coventry, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield, and Worcester, in the first collaborative project of its kind in the Church of England. She will lead a team of people who will support each diocese to promote racial justice more effectively and examine our culture, practices and policies to ensure fundamental principles of equality, diversity and inclusion run through everything we do, both in our worshipping communities and in our workplaces.

Evie said: “Jesus calls his followers to join him in preaching the good news to the poor, and in bringing liberation to the oppressed. I believe that the coming together of these six dioceses to set up a unit to concentrate on racial justice is a powerful manifestation of our commitment to our mission as Jesus’ disciples.” The six dioceses put together a joint bid to the national Church to fund this project, recognising that by collaborating across the region, we could develop a team able to effect change in a way that none of us could create alone.

Mon 19 St Michael, Dines Green

Please pray for our discernment of the way ahead, as we consider how best to reach out to the Dines Green estate and be a church in the heart of that community. Clergy: Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Gilly Maxim

Tue 20 St George w Mary Magdelene

Pray for St George’s community and parishioners; working together with neighbouring churches; for Helen Laird’s work with children, youth & families and for our ALMs. Clergy: Sarah Carwardine, Peter Davies, Jennie Hayward. Readers: Rachel Cramp, Jan Kear

Wed 21 St Martin in the Cornmarket

Pray for St. Martin in the Cornmarket, Worcester’s city centre parish; also, for the wider community which we serve, including all who use the St. Swithun’s Institute. For our Reader in training: Robbie Porter. Clergy: Tim Clarke, Graham Lyall

Thur 22 St John the Baptist, Claines

Pray for Claines community and parishioners as they work together with neighbouring churches; for Helen Laird’s work with children, youth & families and for our ALMs. Clergy: Sarah Carwardine, Peter Davies, Jennie Hayward. Readers: Rachel Cramp, Jan Kear

Fri 23 Economy and Daily Life

On the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its abolition, pray for justice and freedom for all still caught up in the modern slave trade through trafficking and bonded labour, in this country and around the world. Pray for the continued development and impact of the Church of England’s Clewer Initiative to support victims of modern slavery.

Sat 24 Growing as Kingdom People

Dear Lord, be with the churches in our diocese who are embarking on New Worshipping Communities. Help guide them in the callings you have placed on them to engage with new people and communities.

Pray for Evie in her role as Racial Justice Director. Be with her and the teams she will lead as she works across the dioceses.

Racial Justice Director for the West Midlands:
The Revd Dr Evie Vernon O’Brien

Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh (Ireland):
Bishop Ferran Glenfield

Aarhus (Denmark):
Bishop Henrik Wigh-Poulsen

The Anglican Church of Melanesia:
Archbishop Leonard Dawea

Ifo (Nigeria): **M**
Bishop Nathaniel Oladejo
Ogundipe

Igbomina (Nigeria): **T**
Bishop Emmanuel Adeoye
Adekola

Igbomina West (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Olajide Adebayo

Ihiala (Nigeria): **Th**
Bishop Israel ‘Kelue Okoye

Ijebu (Nigeria): **F**
Bishop Ezekiel Ayo Awosoga

Ijebu South West (Nigeria): **S**
Bishop Babatunde Ogunbanwo

Please pray for the events happening at the churches in the Halas Team in Halesowen and for the renewal plans around St John's Church in the town centre.



Rector of Halas Team:
Hazel Charlton

Espoo (Finland):
Bishop Kaisamari Hintikka

Edinburgh (Scotland):
Bishop John Armes

La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico:
Archbishop Enrique Treviño Cruz

M Ijebu-North (Nigeria):
Bishop Solomon G. Kuponu

T Ijesa North East (Nigeria):
Bishop Joseph A. F. Olusola

W Ijesha North (Nigeria):
Bishop Isaac I. Oluyamo

Th Ijumu (Nigeria):
Bishop Paul Oluwaju Ojo

F Ikka (Nigeria):
Bishop Godfrey Ekpenisi

S Ikara (Nigeria):
Bishop Yusuf Ishaya Janfalan

Summer events in Halas

The churches in the Halas Team (in and around Halesowen) have run a number of events across the summer to try to bring the congregations of the churches together. St John's Church in the centre of Halesowen is one of our renewal churches in Greater Dudley Deanery and has received national funding to grow and develop. As it grows, St John's will be able to support the other churches in the team and Rector Hazel Charlton is keen for people to understand that all the churches form part of one parish.

"We have held a summer study church led by a member of St Peter's Church in Lapal, Roman Bloodworth, along with the vicar there Chris Henson. They held six sessions looking at the Old Testament and helping people to grow their understanding of this part of the bible. We have also had various people across our churches opening their gardens for others to come and look around. These are more social occasions, enabling people to get to know each other better."

The summer series of events will culminate with a parish festival in September, when there will be different things happening in each of the churches.

"This will be a celebration of the whole parish and the journey we're on," said Hazel. "I really hope it will bring people together and generate enthusiasm for our plans for the next few years."

Mon 26 St Nicholas, Warndon

For those involved in our new worshipping community, Wander and Wonder and that new people will come to experience something of the love of God through walking in creation. Clergy: Diane Cooksey, Rosie Moss. Reader: Nick Stephens. Methodist Deacon: Corinne Brown

Tue 27 St Stephen, Worcester

Pray for our engagement with local people, charities and businesses as we consider how the church might become a centre of service at the heart of our community. Clergy: Lindsey Coulthard, Stephen Malkinson, Ann Waizeneker; Reader Margaret Mandrell.

Wed 28 Eco Church

Pray for all churches who are engaging with the Eco Church programme, which is equipping churches to care for God's creation through their worship, buildings, land, community engagement, and individual lifestyles.

Thur 29 St Wulstan, Worcester

We give thanks for Sooz our new curate and we continue to pray that our community projects enable local families to feel that St Wulstan's is a place of hospitality and wholeness for them. Clergy: Sarah Northall, Sooz Magee, Rosie Moss. Readers: Phil Howell, Cary Taylor

Fri 30 The Saltway Team

Please pray for those who live the communities that we serve, especially for those who feel isolated or vulnerable, giving thanks for all who reach out with care and compassion to others. Pray for guidance as we play our part. Clergy, Laura Handy, Giles Joiner, Bill Sumner

Sat 31 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all those who are finding Christ for the first time. Allow them the courage and grace to explore their new faith, and guide all those who journey alongside them.

Licensing of Rob Little as Reader

On 15 September, Bishop John will license Rob Little as a Reader and admit him to the company of Licensed Lay Ministers in the Church of England.

Rob had been an ALM Worship Leader for some time in the Worcester West Team before he started training for Reader ministry. He said: "It's been an evolution rather than revolution for me as I grew in confidence and knowledge. Training hasn't been a breeze, and I will be glad of a rest, but I will miss my fellow trainees who have been so encouraging. I'm amazed how much I've engaged with texts and concepts that just a short time ago seemed like an impossibility".

Rob will be well looked after as he begins ministry: his Rector is also one of the two Co-Wardens of Readers, Phil Bradford, and the other Co-Warden, Kath Davis, will preach at the licensing. Rob feels very privileged to be licensed in his own parish church at what will be the last Eucharist of Admission and Licensing Bishop John presides at as Bishop of Worcester.

Rob's ministry has grown and developed over these last few years, and he is now looking forward to a new stage. "When I had the opportunity to assist with communion on Easter Day I felt just overwhelmed and I'm really looking forward to doing more."



Please pray for Rob as he begins this new Ministry and for all those who are training or thinking about training to become a Reader in our diocese.

Rob Little being soon licensed as Reader

Praying for our baptism families: Loving Father. Thank You for those parents who have chosen to bring their children to baptism. Help them to know Your presence in their lives and to share that love and care with their families and those they meet. Amen

Turku (Finland):
Archbishop Tapio Luoma,
Bishop Mari Leppänen

York:
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell
w Bishops Paul Ferguson,
John Thomson, Eleanor
Sanderson, Stephen Race

Anglican Church in Mozambique & Angola:
Acting Presiding Bishop Carlos
Simao Matsinhe

Ikeduru (Nigeria): **M**
Bishop Emmanuel C. Maduwiki

Ikwerre (Nigeria): **T**
Bishop Blessing C. Enyindah

Ikwo (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Kenneth C. Ifemene

Ikwoano (Nigeria): **Th**
Bishop Chigozirim U. Onyegbule

Ilaje (Nigeria): **F**
Bishop Fredrick Idowu Olugbemi

Ile-Oluji (Nigeria): **S**
Bishop Abel Oluymeni Ajibodu

Mon 2 The Saltway Team

Please pray for our existing congregations as we will continue to grow as disciples and live out our faith in our daily lives. Clergy, Laura Handy, Giles Joiner, Bill Sumner

Tue 3 The Saltway Team

Please pray for all involved in developing new worshipping communities. We pray that they will be spaces where more people will encounter God in a new way or for the first time. Clergy, Laura Handy, Giles Joiner, Bill Sumner

Wed 4 Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks for the strong and vibrant ministry of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Morogoro; for its outreach and care for those in need and for its strong support for family life. In particular, we give thanks to God for its strong pastoral care and for the vibrancy of its proclamation of Christ's love for all the people of this Diocese.

Thur 5 St Richard's Hospice

Pray for staff, patients and their families at St Richard's Hospice and for the chaplaincy team who support them. Chaplaincy Lead: Clare Griffiths

Fri 6 Royal Worcester Hospital

Pray for staff, patients, and volunteers at the Worcester Royal Hospital and for the chaplaincy team who support them. Chaplains: David Southall, David Ryan, Helen Gilthero, Mark Herauville

Sat 7 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.



Harvest

As we approach this Harvest time, we reflect of the significance of harvest in our lives and faith. Harvest time is a season of gratitude and abundance, reminding us of the gifts that God gives us.

Harvest also reminds us of the importance of seasons, both for the weather and in our own lives. There is a season for everything, as we are reminded in Ecclesiastes 3:1 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”

Harvest allows us time to reflect on the virtues of patience and hard work. We are reminded of the farmers and farms we rely on for our food and nourishment. Farmers plant seeds with hope and trust, and we are called to plant seeds of faith, hope and love in our communities, trusting that God with bring forth fruit. As we celebrate the harvest, let us also remember those in need. Sharing our abundance is a way to honour God’s generosity.

Today, let us lift our hearts in gratitude, embracing the harvest as a time to deepen our faith, serve others, and recognise the endless blessings God pours into our lives.

This harvest time, please pray for the farmers across our diocese who work so hard to ensure we have food on our tables.

Mon 9 Worcester South-East Team

Pray that at St Phillip and St James, Whittington we strengthen our community links, particularly with the Community Hall. For Whittington CE School, Head: Kelly Leeming. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Peter Hart, Rob Farmer, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood

Tue 10 Worcester South-East Team

Please pray that at St Mark in the Cherry Orchard we may build up our links in the community especially with the groups who use our church hall, with Cherry Orchard School and our links to Acorns Children’s Hospice. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Peter Hart, Rob Farmer, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood

Wed 11 Diocese of Peru

As the Diocese explores setting up a missionary diocese in Arequipa and the South, pray for all planning and preparing for that change, and all called to positions of leadership. Pray especially for those charged with the discernment of a new suffragan bishop.

Thur 12 Worcester South-East Team

Pray with us at St Martin with St Peter, that our outreach to children and families will be Spirit lead and practically enabled by our Children and Families Worker. Pray for work in our local schools, particularly Red Hill CE Primary School. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Peter Hart, Rob Farmer, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood

Fri 13 Worcester South-East Team

Please pray for us at Holy Trinity & St Matthew, Ronkswood. For iSingPop at Perry Wood School and a New Worshipping Community from it. Also, for the creation of Ronkswood Community Partnership headed up by the church. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Peter Hart, Rob Farmer, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood. Reader: Marion May

Sat 14 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, we pray for all the children and staff in our church schools. Help them to know you and enjoy their time in school and pray that as churches we will find ways to connect with these communities.

M **Ilesa (Nigeria):**
Bishop Samuel Olubayo Sowale

T **Ilesa South West (Nigeria):**
Bishop Samuel O. Egbebumi

W **North East India (India):**
Bishop Michael Herenz

Th **Northern Indiana (USA):**
Bishop Douglas Sparks

F **Indianapolis (USA):**
Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows

S **Inhambane (Mozambique):**
Vacant

Stephen Edwards’ installation as Cathedral Dean

In June, the King approved the nomination of the Revd Canon Dr Stephen Edwards, Interim Dean of Worcester, to be appointed as the new Dean of Worcester. Stephen has been Interim Dean since the retirement of the Very Revd Peter Atkinson last September. He will be installed as Dean this afternoon at 3pm.



Stephen joined Worcester Cathedral as a Residentiary Canon in September 2019 and has had particular responsibility for promoting the Cathedral’s mission in the Diocese and local community, as well as the pastoral care and spiritual nurture of the Cathedral community. As Interim Dean, he has led the Cathedral through the vacancy and as Dean he will continue to play a key role in both the Cathedral and the Diocese.

Stephen said: “Ever since arriving in Worcester five years ago I have loved this amazing Cathedral and have grown in deep affection for the people and city as well as the wider diocese. It is now a privilege and joy to be appointed as Dean of Worcester and I look forward to continuing to develop the Cathedral’s ministry and position as a place of prayer, learning and welcome.”

Mon 16 Resourcing Churches: All Saints Worcester

Pray for our resourcing partnerships and renewal projects across the Diocese. That they may flourish in ministry and mission and be a blessing to others too. Please pray for future partnership opportunities, churches working toward renewal and increased collaboration across all our churches.

Tue 17 Timberdine Community Unit, Worcester

We pray for all the work the team at Timberdine Community Unit do to be a blessing on all the patients and their families and friends.

Wed 18 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the children and young people in the different groups of the Youth Church Salzwedel that they may be open to faith and courageous to live it, even if there are often few other Christians around them. We pray for the volunteers who work with our young people, that their work will bring them joy and personal empowerment.

Thur 19 Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from the 9 – 24 September this year. We pray for the Fairtrade movement – for all who campaign and spread the message. It’s 30 years since Fairtrade products first hit the shelves, may we make good choices and help fairness spread throughout the world.

Fri 20 Diocesan HR Team

We pray for the HR team in the diocesan office: Jo Hyrons, Becky Lowe and Liz Toone, giving thanks for their work supporting parishes across the Diocese.

Sat 21 Growing as Kingdom People

Heavenly Father, guide us to grow in faith, love, and service, becoming your kingdom people. Empower us with wisdom and courage to spread your light and truth.

Please pray for Stephen ahead of his installation as Dean and for the whole Cathedral community at this time.

Dean of Worcester:
Stephen Edwards

Ribe (Denmark):
Bishop Elov Westergaard

Bath & Wells:
Bishop Michael Beasley with
Bishop Ruth Worsley

The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion):
Archbishop Henry C. Ndukuba

Iowa (USA): **M**
Bishop Betsey Monnot

Iran: **T**
Vacant

Irele Ese-Odo (Nigeria): **W**
Vacant

Isi Mbanjo (Nigeria): **Th**
Bishop Godson Udochukwu
Ukanwa

Isiala Ngwa (Nigeria): **F**
Bishop Temple O Nwaogu

Isiala-Ngwa South (Nigeria): **S**
Bishop Chijoke Nwaobia

As you remember Matthew, pray for those who shape our tax culture, those who work to collect taxes, and for a shift in the way we think about tax.

Worcester Deanery - Area Dean: Diane Cooksey
Lay Chair: Sue Rowlands

Sheffield:
Bishop Pete Wilcox with Bishop Sophie Jelley
Church of Greenland:
Bishop Paneeraq Siegstad Munk
The Church of North India (United):
Moderator Bijay Nayak

St Matthew's Day

St Matthew the Apostle, whose feast day was yesterday, was a tax collector, called by Jesus as one of the twelve (Matthew 9v9; 10v3). Amongst other things he is considered the patron saint of tax collectors and civil servants generally. Tax is a very contemporary topic for political and economic debate, and one the Church has engaged with extensively, through such programmes as the Church Action for Tax Justice, a campaign of the JustMoney Movement.

Matthew lived at a time when tax was seen as something imposed by an occupying power, and something inherently oppressive. Unfortunately, in political discourse today, tax is still perceived as something largely negative and to be avoided, instead of being, as it should be seen, as a mechanism for building a fairer, more equal and caring society, which reflects kingdom values of love, compassion, justice, and freedom. We are all part of the tax system, as users of public services, and contributors of tax – for the Common Good. The Christian voice needs to be part of this debate about the tax system, and how this helps shape a fairer, greener society for all – not only in this country, but globally.



Mon 23 Glasshampton Monastery

We pray for the Anglican Franciscan Brothers at Glasshampton Monastery.

Tue 24 Retired clergy in Worcester Deanery

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in Worcester Deanery, giving thanks for their ongoing ministry and the support they give our parishes in whatever way they are able.

Wed 25 Economy and Daily Life

As the academic year starts, pray for those entering vocational training, including college courses, and apprenticeships with businesses in your community. Pray for those who teach and those supervising apprentices, and for young people exploring the job market as they decide what work they want to do.

Thur 26 Administrators across the Diocese

Please pray for all those who provide administrative support across the Diocese; often the first point of contact for enquiries from the wider community and huge support to the ministry leadership team

Fri 27 Pershore & Evesham Deanery

Pray for churches to work and worship together where the gifts of people and buildings are celebrated. For spiritual and numerical growth, especially among children and young people. For benefices in vacancy and for guidance as we seek to re-shape ministry in the deanery and plan for major new housing developments. Deanery Leadership Team: Sarah Dangerfield, Robin Lunn, Alison Sandham, Jack Hegarty, Jackie Knight, Mike Gordon, Ian Perry.

Sat 28 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, help us grow as your kingdom people, united in love and purpose. Fill us with your spirit, to serve and share your gospel, expanding your kingdom on earth.



Sunday 29 SEPTEMBER

Farewell Service for Bishop John

4pm Worcester Cathedral

Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
We thank you for Bishop John
And for his many years of faithful service.
Through your Holy Spirit,
Grant us grace and joy in our life together
And your wisdom and guidance
as we lead and serve this diocese.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



M Isikwuato / Umunneochi (Nigeria):
Bishop Manasses Chijioke I. Okere

T Western Izon (Nigeria):
Bishop Edafe B. Emamezi

W Jabalpur (North India):
Vacant

Th Jaffna (South India):
Moderator Dharmaraj Rasalam

F Jalingo (Nigeria):
Bishop Foreman Nedison

S Jamaica & The Cayman Islands (West Indies):
Archbishop Howard Gregory

Bishop John farewell service

Today we say farewell to Bishop John at his final service in the Cathedral ahead of his retirement at the beginning of October.

Bishop John was enthroned as the 113th Bishop of Worcester on 1 March 2008, coming here from the Diocese of Ely where he was Bishop of Huntingdon. As Bishop of Worcester, he has been the Chief Pastor for parishes across Worcestershire and Dudley as well as serving in the House of Lords since 2012 and from 2013 as Lord High Almoner to HM the Queen and then HM the King.

He said: "Being Bishop of Worcester has been an enormous privilege. By the time I leave I shall have been here nearly 17 years, the longest I have lived anywhere in my life. I have lived through the best of times and the worst of times in my personal life during those years and am more grateful than I can say for all the love and support I have received. I am not anxious to retire – I am deeply attached to Worcestershire and Dudley and love being Bishop here! However, I shall be 70 in February and feel, under God, that now is the right time to leave."

Pray for Bishop John as he retires as Bishop of Worcester, for his wife H-J and their family at this time of change. Pray also for the Vacancy in See Committee who are overseeing the process of appointing our new bishop.

Mon 30 Bowbrook Group

Pray for the eight churches of the Bowbrook Group - Hanbury, Stock and Bradley Green, Hibleton, Huddington, Crowle, Bredicot, Tibberton and Oddingley - renewing their vision as they emerge from a vacancy. Give thanks for the ministries of Toby Thornes and Ted Jackson. Clergy: Richard Sandland, Sue Pollard. Readers: John Spencer, Sue Bussey, Richard Barrett, Yuki Johnson, Bill Sumner

Tue 1 OCTOBER Bowbrook Group

As the eight churches of the Bowbrook Benefice emerge from a vacancy, pray for a renewing of their vision. Give thanks for the ministry of Toby Thornes. Clergy: Richard Sandland, Sue Pollard. Readers: John Spencer, Sue Bussey, Richard Barrett, Yuki Johnson, Bill Sumner

Wed 2 Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks and pray for the staff in the orphanage in Morogoro and for their ministry of caring for children who have lost the love of their parents and the security of a normal home life. We ask for God's blessing on the imaginative way it seeks to prepare other members of the family to help those orphaned to find security and normality in their lives.

Thur 3 Bowbrook Group

Pray for our treasurers, churchwardens, vergers, safeguarding officers, secretaries, and all Parish, Local and Group Council members as they support their Minsters in God's mission across the eight churches of the Bowbrook Benefice.

Fri 4 TSSF Wyvern Area

Please pray for the Wyvern Area (Hereford & Worcester) Third Order of the Society of St Francis.

Sat 5 Kingdom People

Gracious God, inspire us to be true kingdom people. Strengthen our faith, deepen our love, and guide our actions, so we may reflect Your glory and advance Your kingdom.

World Homeless Day

On 10 October, people around the world will observe World Homeless Day, while working to prevent and end homelessness and alleviate the suffering of those experiencing it.

This international day serves as a platform to advocate for improved policies and funding that can help prevent and end homelessness. World Homeless Day also aims to raise awareness about the needs of people who currently experience homelessness and promote work in local communities to alleviate suffering and prevent death.

The concept of 'World Homeless Day' emerged from online discussions between people working to respond to homelessness from various parts of the world. The Inaugural World Homeless Day was marked in 2010 and since its founding, World Homeless Day has been observed in over 100 countries.



Dear Lord, on this World Homeless Day, we lift up those without shelter. Grant them comfort, hope, and the resources they need. Inspire us to act with compassion and work towards a world where everyone has a safe home.

Mon 7 Bowbrook Group

Pray for an exciting future in the Bowbrook Benefice as we seek ways to work together, and as we discern God's guidance in establishing New Worshiping Communities. Pray for our parish office and the work of Helen Vollam.

Tue 8 Bowbrook Group

Pray for the Schools of the Bowbrook Benefice at Hanbury, Tibberton, Hibleton and Crowle, and for all teaching and support staff who bring God's love to our children. Pray for our Open The Book teams across the five parishes.

Wed 9 Diocese of Peru

In 2024, the Anglican Cathedral in Lima celebrates 75 years since the church was built on its present site. Give thanks for all those who have been part of its story, and as they celebrate, pray for its current congregation and those entrusted with discerning the direction for its next stage of ministry.

Thur 10 Arch Benefice

Pray for the churches of St Peter, Abbots Morton and St Peter, Rous Lench as we improve our buildings to enable them to be rich resources for community. Pray also for our congregations to grow and for our refurbishment lead at Rous Lench: Lloyd Wing. Clergy: Richard Thorniley, Chris Sheehan, Reader: Pippa Heenan

Fri 11 Arch Benefice

Pray for the churches of All Saints in Lench & St James, Harvington and give thanks for the ways our churches support and develop community life through Lent Lunches, Flower Festivals, Fêtes, Pilgrimage, Messy Church, Open the Book, Holiday clubs, Youth Groups, Community Support Group and fund and the volunteers who enable it. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Richard Thorniley, Chris Sheehan, Reader: Pippa Heenan

Sat 12 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, grant us your grace and blessing in the work we do. Guide us to be more like Christ in our daily life, to bring the joy of your kingdom to others.



Worcester Deanery -

Deanery Leadership Team:
Robert Pearce, Paul Fulbrook, Paul Wilcox, Anne Potter

Praying for our baptism families:

Loving God, we ask that You bless all parents with love and patience so that they will always be able to reflect Your love and care even when the days and nights feel long. Amen.

Liverpool:

Bishop John Perumbalath with Bishop Beverley Mason

Monmouth (Wales):

Bishop Cherry Vann

Haderslev (Denmark):

Bishop Marianne Christiansen

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea:

Acting Archbishop Nathan Ingen

Juba (South Sudan):

Bishop Justin Badi Arama

Kabba (Nigeria):

Bishop Steven K. Akobe

Kadugli & Nuba Mountains (Sudan):

Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail

Kaduna (Nigeria):

Bishop Timothy Yahaya

Kafanchan (Nigeria):

Bishop Markus Madugu Dogo

Kagera (Tanzania):

Bishop Darlington Bendankeha

M Rio de Janeiro (Brazil):
Bishop Eduardo Coelho Grillo

T Jebba (Nigeria):
Bishop S Timothy G Adewole

W Jerusalem:
Archbishop Hosam Naoum

Th San Joaquin (USA):
Bishop David Rice

F Johannesburg (South Africa):
Bishop Stephen Mosimanegape Moreo

S Jos (Nigeria):
Bishop Benjamin A. Kwashi

Please pray for all those in and affected by the criminal justice system, and for the work of CJAG and all those working for a more compassionate and humane approach to crime.

Diocesan Criminal Justice Affairs Group - Interim Chair: Stuart Currie

Truro:

Vacant w Bishop Hugh Nelson

Tönsberg (Norway):

Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth

Strängnäs (Sweden):

Bishop Johan Dalman

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines:

Archbishop Brent Alawas

Prisons' Week



Prisons' Sunday on 13 October marks the start of the annual week of prayer to raise awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system. It is a day of prayer and action for prisoners and their dependents across Christian denominations, working together to make a difference for people out of sight and often out of mind. It will be marked in the Cathedral with the Criminal Justice Affairs Group (CJAG) having an input to the morning service.

For the past nine years CJAG has attempted to shine a light on criminal justice issues which affect the whole of our society. The situation is grim with an increasingly punitive approach resulting in prison numbers growing, inhumane living conditions and a lack of resources to address offending-related problems such as poor mental health and drugs. There is little available support in the community and so the cycle of offending continues.

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Mon 14 Bowland Benefice

Please pray for energy in our small rural churches as we seek to promote God's mission across our parishes. For all lay leaders, existing congregations and seekers. Clergy: Claire Billington

Tue 15 Eckington

Please pray as the church continues to seek ways to interact, build relationships and share Christian love with the village community, especially through Thursday Coffee Mornings, the Open the Book Team and Eckington First School. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Allison Davies, Bishop Michael Hooper.

Wed 16 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Give thanks for all involved in emergency pastoral care. Pray for the emergency counselling team in the Haldensleben-Wolmirstedt district, for the helpers and for all those who make use of this help. May God place his blessing on this service.

Thur 17 Bredon with Bredon's Norton

Pray as we work with Mission Accompanier Sharon Bell, that we may know God's wisdom as we plan future outreach and strengthen links with Bredon Hancock's First School. Pray for all involved in ministry, especially ALMs, the pastoral group and the many who volunteer. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Allison Davies, Catherine Lack

Fri 18 Defford cum Besford

Please pray for a stirring of the Holy Spirit in our villages, inspiring enthusiasm and commitment among those taking Office this year; For unity among the various community groups, and for Defford First School; For our churchwardens. Clergy: Allison Davies, Bishop Michael Hooper.

Sat 19 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.

The 3Ts New Worshipping Community

The 3Ts is a New Worshipping Community that meets on the first Sunday of the month at St John's Church in Brockmoor near Brierley Hill in the Greater Dudley deanery.

The 3Ts (Tea, Toast and Talk), offers attendees light breakfast options including toast, jam, butter, croissants and hot drinks, and has a soft starting time of 10.30, though breakfast is available from 10.15. There is a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

St John's Church looks like a traditional church from the outside, but inside it has a large open plan space, set up with tables and chairs for the 3Ts. LLM Tracey explains the pews had to be removed in the 90s as the entire floor had gone rotten. This makes the space flexible and able to accommodate the various different groups and services that run there including Messy Church and Baby and Toddler groups. 3Ts is led by Keith and Tracey with input from other helpers.



Lord we thank you for the work of all involved in 3Ts and we ask you to send Your blessings on all those who attend.

Pershore & Evesham Deanery - Area Dean: Sarah Dangerfield Lay Chair: Robin Lunn

Växjö (Sweden):

Bishop Fredrik Modéus

Oxford:

Bishop Steven Croft with

Bishop Gavin Collins

Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda:

Archbishop Laurent Mbanda

Mon 21 Elmley Castle w Bricklehampton & the Combertons

Pray for the Café Church initiative, that those who attend would have the boldness to invite friends and neighbours. For our ALM and Headteacher Rachel Penny. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies, Roger Spiller

Tue 22 Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne w Beckford & Ashton under Hill

Pray for the ecumenical Open the Book team serving Ashton-under-Hill Primary School that the Bible stories may enthuse children about Christ's way of love. For Headteacher Emma Ross Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies

Wed 23 Economy and Daily Life

For the ministry of workplace chaplains, praying for the work of the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM) and Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW). For trustees, chaplains and staff, and for new volunteer chaplains to be found to reach more workplaces across our region.

Thur 24 Broadway with Wickhamford

Please pray for the mission and ministry in Broadway and Wickhamford. For all those who volunteer and give of their time and talents to support the churches. For all the new ideas, social activities and village services on the green. Clergy: Shellie Ward

Fri 25 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

Sat 26 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.

M Kajjado (Kenya): Bishop Gadiel Katanga Lenini

T Kajo Keji (South Sudan): Vacant

W Kalima (The Congo): Bishop Christophe Kangamina Sadiki

Th Kamango (The Congo): Bishop Sabiti Tibafa Daniel

F Kampala (Uganda): Bishop Stanley Ntagali

S Kano (Nigeria): Bishop Zakka L. Nyam

Kansas (USA): Bishop Cathleen Bascom

Western Kansas (USA): Bishop Mark Cowell

Kanyakumari (India): Bishop A. R. Chelliah

Kapsabet (Kenya): Bishop Paul Korir

Karachi (Pakistan): Bishop Frederick John

Karamoja (Uganda): Bishop Joseph Abura

Please pray for YouNite in Evesham, for the leaders and the young people who attend.



Church leaders in Evesham including Vicar of St Peter's, Bengeworth, Andy Smith

Carlisle:

Vacant with Bishop Rob Saner-Haigh

Stavanger (Norway):

Bishop Anne Lise Ådnøy

The Scottish Episcopal Church:

Primus Mark Strange

M North Karamoja (Uganda):
Bishop James Nasak

T Karimnagar (India):
Bishop Reuben Mark

W Karnataka Central (India):
Bishop Prasana Kumar Samuel

Th Karnataka North (India):
Bishop Ravikumar J. Niranjan

F Karnataka South (India):
Bishop Mohan Manoraj

S Karongi (Rwanda):
Bishop Jean Pierre Methode Rukundo

Collaboration enables new youth group in Evesham

'YouNite' is a new youth group in Evesham which has been set up as an ecumenical collaboration between different churches in the town, meeting at the Vale of Evesham Community Church.

Andy Smith, vicar of St Peter's Church in Bengeworth, initially brought together local church leaders to explore the idea. He said: "It soon became clear that everyone had something to give, but it wasn't something that any individual church could do on their own. Each of us had a few young people and a handful of volunteers, but we could see that we would need to work together."

The group is overtly Christian. At the start the young people chill out and play table tennis, pool or use the computer consoles. There are then a few organised games before 20 minutes of faith input. This could be engagement with the bible, sharing of testimony or answering some of the young people's questions around faith.

Andy continued: "We try to offer a safe space where young people can ask questions, talk, and have an adult listen who is not a parent or teacher. We want to help navigate the complexities of being a teenager and show that Jesus is there for them and can help them to live life well. We want this to be church for the young people who come along."

Mon 28 East Vale & Avon Villages

Pray for our faithful team of worship leaders, giving thanks for our shared life together. For our five congregations, & church schools in Cleeve Prior, Offenham & the Littletons, and for our Open the Book teams. Clergy: Jo Fielding. Readers: Margaret Pye, Alan Bache

Tue 29 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.

Wed 30 Parsonages & Facilities Team

We pray for the Parsonages & Facilities team in the diocesan office: Ruth Beard, Jaïne Simm, Anna Phillips, Paul Coombes, Carl Woollaston, giving thanks for their work supporting parishes across the Diocese.

Thur 31 Inkberrow, Cookhill, Kington with Dormston

Pray that we will be open to the guiding of the Holy Spirit in all that we do and that we will be visible witnesses in our communities; a light that shines out of all of us that shows the love of Christ available to all. We pray for the boldness to make decisions that work for the glory of the gospel. Clergy: Ian Perry, Diane Hayward Wright, Vivienne Heenan. Reader: Janice Swan

Fri 1 NOVEMBER 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.

Sat 2 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, guide us to sow seeds of faith, love, and justice. May Your kingdom flourish in our hearts and actions, spreading Your light to all. Amen.



Legacies

Legacies are vital for our parishes. Church of England parishes receive over 4,000 legacies each year coming to around £60 million - gifts to finance mission projects, maintain beautiful church buildings and grow faithful communities. These gifts make a real difference to the future work of the Church. God gave us everything we have. Our stewardship beliefs and practices teach us that when we have no further use for our earthly possessions we give back to God.

Leaving a gift in our will is a way to leave a lasting legacy of faith to continue to support the work of God's kingdom long after we have departed this earth. Whether it's funding mission initiatives, preserving historic buildings, or supporting clergy and community outreach, legacy gifts can make a tangible difference in advancing the Church's mission and ministry.

The Stewardship team can support PCCs in running legacy campaigns. People can write their wills for free through The Church of England.

Lord, help us steward your gifts well. You give us life in abundance and as we entrust our financial resources to your care, let us pray for wisdom and discernment in stewarding them faithfully. May our lives and legacies reflect the love and generosity of our Heavenly Father, inspiring others to join in the joyful work of building God's kingdom on earth. Amen.

Mon 4 Pershore Benefice

We pray for our dedicated churchwardens and our PCCs. For their enthusiasm in encouraging others in faith and dreaming dreams for the Kingdom. For our ALMs, Children & Families' Worker: Sam Andrews. Ordinand: Terry Palmer. Clergy: Claire Lording, Jayne Parker. Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams

Tue 5 Pershore Benefice

In this season, we pray for our communities as they remember the fallen. We pray for the Pershore Branch of the Royal British Legion, Pershore Sea Cadets, Pershore Air Cadets, Pershore Army Cadets. Clergy: Claire Lording, Jayne Parker. Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams

Wed 6 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for all the staff of Berega Hospital and Director, Canon Isaac Mgego. We ask for God's blessings as they seek to bring health and healing, as well as reaching out pastorally to the families of those who are ill. We give thanks for the way they care for mothers during labour, leading to the safe delivery of their babies.

Thur 7 St James, Norton

Pray for us as we continue to develop our ministry with our local church school and our work with children and young families through our weekly toddler group. Pray for a strengthening of our links with the wider community. Ministry team: Ron Rust; Owain Bell; Don Sloggett; Julieann Watson; Kay Mason; Libbiry Webber; Rachel Colthurst

Fri 8 Stoulton with Drakes Broughton & Pirton

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

Sat 9 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'.

Diocesan Stewardship Team:
Chris Boden, Robyn Rooney

Praying for our baptism families:
Loving God, bless all parents 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 in the world around them. Amen

Winchester:
Bishop Philip Mountstephen with Bishop David Williams

Agder and Telemark (Norway),
Bishop Stein Reinertsen

Church of the Province of South East Asia:
Archbishop Titus Chung Khiam Boon

Kasai - Mbujimayi (The Congo): M
Bishop Marcel Kapinga Wa Ilunga

Katakwa (Kenya): T
Bishop John Okude Omuse

Katanga (The Congo): W
Bishop Bertin Mwale Subi

Katsina (Nigeria): Th
Bishop Nuhu Yohanna

Kebbi (Nigeria): F
Archbishop Edmund E. Akanya

Kentucky (USA): S
Bishop Terry White



Armistice Day

Armistice Day, commemorated on 11 November, stands as a solemn reminder of the end of World War I and honours the sacrifices of those who served and continue to serve in armed conflicts worldwide.

It is a day of reflection, gratitude, and remembrance, acknowledging the profound impact of war on individuals, families, and nations.

On this day, we pause to honour the courage and selflessness of the men and women who have bravely served their countries in times of war and conflict. We remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives for the cause of peace and freedom. Their valour and dedication serve as a timeless testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring quest for peace.

As we reflect on the significance of Armistice Day, let us also pray for peace in our troubled world. May the memory of past sacrifices inspire us to work tirelessly for reconciliation, justice, and healing. May we strive to build bridges of understanding and empathy, reaching across divides to create a more harmonious and compassionate society.

Heavenly Father, on this Armistice Day, we lift up to you all those who have served and sacrificed for the cause of peace. Grant them your comfort, strength, and healing. Inspire us to be instruments of Your peace in the world.

Mon 11 The Flyfords Benefice

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

Tue 12 The Flyfords Benefice

Please pray for our church families of St Peter in Flyford Flavell, St John the Baptist in Grafton Flyford, and St Michael in North Piddle. Clergy: Emma Goldby. Reader: Delia Harding

Wed 13 Diocese of Peru

Pray for Bishop Jorge in his leadership of the Diocese of Peru, and for all clergy and lay ministers who serve faithfully in spite of the challenges they face. Pray too for the other churches with which Peru works in the Province of South America: Argentina, Argentina North, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Thur 14 Five Alive Parish w Bishampton & Throckmorton

Give thanks for all involved in mission and ministry and pray for a new generation to come forward to help with new insights, worship, and outreach. Please pray for Café Church and all worship which engages directly with our communities. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield. Readers: Delia Harding, Sue Hiscocks.

Fri 15 Five Alive Parish w Bishampton & Throckmorton

Give thanks for our schools and children as worship leaders. Give thanks for Open the Book and pray for new volunteers. Give thanks for the musical talent in our parishes and pray these gifts will help our outreach especially through the schools. Pray we may continue to develop and broaden music in liturgy.

Sat 16 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.

Pershore & Evesham Deanery - Leadership Team:
Alison Sandham, Jack Hegarty,
Jackie Knight, Mike Gordon,
Ian Perry

Norwich:
Bishop Graham Usher with
Bishops Ian Bishop, Jane Steen
Luleå (Sweden):
Bishop Åsa Nyström
The Church of South India (United):
Moderator Dharmaraj Rasalam

M South Kerala (South India):
Dharmaraj Rasalam

T Kericho (Kenya):
Bishop Ernest Kiprotich Ng'eno

W Khahlamba (South Africa):
Vacant

Th Khartoum (Sudan):
Archbishop Ezekiel Kumir Kondo

F Kibondo (Tanzania):
Bishop Sospeter Ndenza

S Kibungo (Rwanda):
Bishop Emmanuel Ntazinda

Children and families' work at St Andrew, Malvern

Children and young people are at the very heart of the vision for St Andrew's Church and the wider Chase Team. There are over 100 children and young people on their books and over 50 attending most Sundays.

The team ensure there is an intentionality to all their activities so that, for example, there are stepping stones to take 'new to faith' families from the baptism preparation course to Early Birds, their New Worshipping Community, and onto their main Sunday service.

The Children and Families' Ministry Team at St Andrew's is led by Helen Attree and Ruth Wharton (paid part-time), Youth Ministry Leader, Nathan Shipton and a large group of volunteers. Their work is expanding with St Mary's officially rejoining the 'Chase Team' alongside St Andrew's and All Saints.

Chase Team Rector, Dave Bruce, said: "I was fortunate to inherit a church which was already really passionate about young people's ministry and so when I shared a vision of the extra impact we could have by employing a children's minister and a youth minister, church members were very keen to give generously to this vision. As this ministry has grown, we make it a priority to share the 'good news stories' and where we can, invite the children and young people to share testimonies and take part in our services, which embeds the culture further and encourages us all to see the fruit that has come from that generosity."

Mon 18 St Peter, Bengeworth

Please pray for the successful appointment of a Youth and Children's worker and that we would hear God's voice as we seek his vision for St Peter's Church in Bengeworth. Clergy: Andy Smith

Tue 19 Hampton w Sedgeberrow & Hinton

We pray for the continuing fellowship between the three Churches. completion of the building project at Hampton and for the development of our lay leadership and ministry. Clergy: Patrick Wooster & Nick Wright, Readers: Elaine Major, Laura Hillman & Helen Black (in training)

Wed 20 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Please pray for the upcoming Synod meeting (20-23 November). May God bless the community of synod members and grant them wise decisions leading our church.

Thur 21 Evesham w Norton & Lenchwick

Please pray for our churchwardens during our vacancy. For Katy Tarplee, Administrator, the ministry team and the PCCs, for clarity, vision and discernment. For Evesham Vale Welcomes Refugees, for the Yellow Scarf addiction recovery programme and for Stay and Play parent and toddler group. For our ALMs. Clergy: Caroline Green, Andy Green, Peter Knight, John Green, Prajna Lad. Reader: Julie Westlake

Fri 22 Retired Clergy in Pershore and Evesham Deanery

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in Pershore and Evesham Deanery. We give thanks for their ministry and support and pray for those among them in particular need at this time.

Sat 23 Growing as Kingdom People

Heavenly Father, empower us to advance Your kingdom. Fill us with Your Spirit, that our words and deeds may reflect Your love and draw others to You.

Lord we thank you for the team at St Andrew's and all the families that attend. We ask for your blessing on them and look forward to seeing the impact you have in their lives.



Pershore & Evesham Deanery - Area Dean: Sarah Dangerfield,
Lay Chair: Robin Lunn

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church:
Archbishop Urmas Viilma with
Bishops Tiit Salumäe,
Joel Luhamets

Rochester:
Bishop Jonathan Gibbs with
Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa:
Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

Kigali (Rwanda): M
Bishop Nathan Amooti Rusengo

Kigeme (Rwanda): T
Bishop Assiel Musabyimana

Kigezi (Uganda): W
Bishop George Bagamuhunda

North Kigezi (Uganda): Th
Vacant

Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh (Ireland): F
Bishop Ferran Glenfield

Kimberley & Kuruman (South Africa): S
Bishop Brian Marajh

Lord, we pray for new groups and new ways of walking alongside You. We thank you for all who help to set up and run Walking Churches in the Diocese and ask for your blessing on all who attend.

Pershore & Evesham Deanery - Leadership Team:

Alison Sandham, Jack Hegarty, Jackie Knight, Mike Gordon, Ian Perry

St Edmundsbury & Ipswich:

Bishop Martin Seeley with Bishop Mike Harrison

Aberdeen & Orkney (Scotland):

Bishop Anne Dyer

The Anglican Church of South America:

Acting Primate Brian Williams

Flyfords Walking Church

A small group from the Flyfords group of Churches, just outside Pershore have been meeting together for Walking Church.

Their first walk was around Grafton Flyford to explore God's message for us in creation. They stopped for prayers and a bible reading and talked about the reading as they walked.



ALM Gill Jubb said: "We considered how Jesus had walked and talked with others throughout his ministry and decided that this was a reflective and spiritual way of "doing" church. Others joined us after the walk for tea and cake which we felt we had deserved!"

Mon 25 ALMs across the Diocese

We thank you for the wonderful team of ALMs across the Diocese, for their gifts, time and knowledge. Bless them and all those they serve in the parishes.

Tue 26 Agricultural and rural life

Lord, bless agricultural and rural communities. Provide abundant harvests, sustainable resources, and unity. Grant wisdom to steward the land with care and foster thriving livelihoods.

Wed 27 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for the work of foodbanks across the diocese, especially those where donations struggle to meet demand, and giving thanks for the many volunteers who give their time. Pray for all who have to resort to using foodbanks to make ends meet, and for a restructuring of our economy so that foodbanks are longer be necessary.

Thur 28 Bishop's Office

We pray for the Bishop's Office team: Stuart Currie, Catrine Ball, Helen Shakespeare and Fleur Fisher. We give thanks for their work.

Fri 29 Churches Together

Lord we pray for Worcestershire Churches Together who are Christian denominations working together for God, in local and wider communities. May they work together to bring Your good news to the people of Worcestershire.

Sat 30 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.

M *Kindu (The Congo):*
Vacant

T *Kinkiizi (Uganda):*
Bishop Dan Zoreka

W *Kinshasa (The Congo):*
Bishop Achille Mutshindu Mayamba

Th *Kirinyaga (Kenya):*
Bishop Joseph Kibichwa

F *Kisangani (The Congo):*
Bishop Lambert Funga Botolome

S *Kita-Kanto (Japan):*
Bishop Francis Xavier Hiroyuki Takahashi



THE CHURCH
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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.

