



Prayer Diary

June 2021

New Diocesan Office in Lowesmoor

For many years, the Diocesan Office has been located in the Old Palace and it has been a real privilege to work in such a beautiful place. However, it is an expensive building to run, and it is important that we support mission and ministry around the diocese as cost-effectively as we can.



In 2019, Diocesan Synod agreed that we should look to move if it would generate very substantial savings. Sadly, we came to the conclusion that moving was the right thing to do. It will save around £200,000 a year – enough to cover the costs of three full-time clergy posts around the diocese.

Although we have not found the right long-term home, for the next three to five years, we are staying in central Worcester, having taken out a lease on a building in Lowesmoor Wharf.

Wherever we are located, as a diocesan support hub, our core purpose remains – to serve all in our parishes as best we can, to enable your mission and ministry to be as fruitful as possible.

Mon 31 Russell's Hall Hospital

Pray for the staff, patients and volunteers at Russell's Hall Hospital in Dudley, particularly for the chaplaincy team.

Tue 1 JUNE Ecumenical and interfaith relations in Dudley

Please pray for Churches Together groups across the area, for the work of the Black Country Food Bank, the promotion of Fairtrade through the churches, and the continuing commitment to respectful and well-informed relations between different faith groups in the area.

Wed 2 Diocese of Peru

Give thanks for the generous response to Bishop John's Lent Appeal, which will provide crucial support to our friends in Peru at this very difficult time. The death toll remains high, vaccination rates low, and political division great, so please pray for a country and people in great need.

Thur 3 Facilities team

We give thanks for our facilities team, Paul Coombes and Carl Woollaston, and pray for their work supporting the ministry and mission of the diocesan office.

Fri 4 Dean of Smaller Churches

Please pray for our new Dean of Smaller Churches, Alison Maddocks, as she helps churches with fewer members grow in confidence and in numbers as they discern how best they can serve their communities.

Sat 5 Diocesan Secretary and team

Please pray for John Preston, Rob Quarton, Emma Woollaston and Judith Nex, for wisdom and effectiveness as they manage our administration and governance.

Please pray for all DBF staff during this unsettling time, in particular for those whose role has been made redundant by the move and those who find change difficult.

Area Dean of Worcester Deanery:
Diane Cooksey
Lay Chair:
Rob Pearce

Hereford:
Bishop Richard Jackson
La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico:
Vacant
The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad:
Archbishop Lauma Zušēvica
The Lusitanian Church (Portugal):
Bishop José Jorge Pina Cabral

Canberra & Goulburn (Australia): M
Bishop Mark Short

Canterbury: T
Archbishop Justin Welby with
Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Dover)

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

Cape Town (South Africa): Th
Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba (West Indies): F
Bishop L. Errol Brooks

Carlisle: S
Bishop James Scobie Newcome

We give thanks for all those who care for our churchyards, keeping them peaceful and beautiful havens for visitors and local wildlife.

Diocesan Climate Crisis Group –
Chair: Hugh Burton

Praying for our Baptism families
Jesus, we ask that your presence be with our Baptism families. Help them to know that in the face of everything, your power, love and authority goes with them. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland:
Bishop Agnes Sigurdardottir with Bishops Kristjan Björnsson & Solveig Lara Gudmundsdottir
The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma):
Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo
The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church:
Bishop Carlos Lopez Lozano

M East Carolina (USA):
Bishop Robert Skirving

T North Carolina (USA):
Bishop Samuel Rodman

W South Carolina (USA):
Bishop Gladstone Adams

Th Upper South Carolina (USA):
Bishop Andrew Waldo

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

S Cashel Ferns & Ossory (Ireland):
Bishop Michael Andrew James Burrows

Love your Burial Ground Week

Communities are being encouraged to come together to discover and protect the wildlife in their local churchyards as part of the **Churches Count on Nature** initiative which will run together with **Love Your Burial Ground Week from Saturday 5 – Sunday 13 June**. Churches are being asked to use the week as a springboard to start recording the wildlife within their churchyards. Communities and visitors should make a note of the animals, birds, insects, or fungi in their local churchyard. This data will then be collated on the National Biodiversity Network. It is being jointly run by the conservation charities Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England, and the Church in Wales.

Church land, often uniquely unploughed and undeveloped, could be a habitat for precious and endangered plants and other wildlife. The week is open to anyone with a love of nature and churches are encouraged to link with local schools, wildlife groups, and those who may not have visited before to discover churchyards.

Caring for God's Acre have offered ideas and resources for churches who would like to get involved, visit: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk>



Mon 7 Worcester Deanery

Pray for our Synod meeting this Wednesday as members from across the deanery come together to build relationships and discern ways to approach mission more collaboratively. Pray for the Deanery Leadership Team: Anne Potter, Mike Bunclark, Stephanie Watson, Paul Fulbrook; Area Dean: Diane Cooksey; Lay Chair: Robert Pearce

Tue 8 St John the Baptist, Claines

Pray for the parish of Claines as they discern a new vision for their ministry 'Back to the Future' in and around the community. For new churchwardens and the post-Covid pattern of worship in church and online. For the Joint Ministry Team / LLM in training: Cary Taylor, Rachel Cramp. Clergy: Jo Musson

Wed 9 Diocese of Morogoro

Loving Creator God we ask for your blessings on all those who have been recently ordained both in Morogoro town and in Gairo. We especially ask for your blessing on the first women who were ordained priests this year, that their ministries will be richly fulfilling and that, as the Bishop of Morogoro has prayed, their priestly care will flourish to the extent that both men and women will be received with joy within the Diocese.

Thur 10 St George w Mary Magdalene

Pray for Saint George's as they discern a new vision for their ministry 'Back to the Future'. For the joint Living in Love and Faith course, the building project and the post-Covid pattern of worship in church and online. For our Joint Ministry Team / LLM in training: Cary Taylor, Rachel Cramp. Clergy: Jo Musson

Fri 11 The Saltway Team, Droitwich

Please pray for those across our communities who have been hardest hit by the pandemic and for the ongoing work of all those who seek to provide support and encouragement. Clergy: Nigel Byard, Laura Handy; Reader: Philip Bowen

Sat 12 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray that we will have the confidence to have honest and open discussions in our local community, so that together we can find the way forward that we believe God is calling us to.

Dudley's 'As-One' initiative

The pandemic has fostered an increased sense of community across the country. In Dudley, a new 'As-One' campaign will build on that spirit of neighbourliness, encouraging us all to 'fill our streets with friendliness' in the months and years ahead.

The Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick, said: "The people of Dudley have come together in a remarkable way throughout the pandemic, as people helped out neighbours, supported foodbanks, and followed guidelines to save lives and support the NHS." Dudley Council, churches across the Borough and local schools will work together displaying banners to spread the positive message throughout the Borough. It is hoped that Churches will organise memorial services to help their local communities come to terms with the loss, anxiety and trauma which has affected us all.

When possible, many churches might also plan to invite their local communities to a 'back together celebration' tea party, to develop relationships further, building a good community support network for the future.

"Emerging from the pandemic will not be easy," Bishop Martin continued. "There will be ongoing challenges and struggles and we need to keep looking out for each other as we seek to build a better future."



Please pray for Dudley's As-One initiative as it seeks to fill our streets with friendliness and build a community support network for the future.

Worcester Deanery Leadership Team -
Paul Fulbrook (Secretary),
Anne Potter, Mike Bunclark,
Stephanie Watson

Connor (Ireland):
Bishop George Davison
Argyll and the Isles (Scotland): Vacant
Lolland-Falster (Denmark):
Bishop Marianne Gaarden
The Church of Nigeria:
Bishop Henry C. Ndukuba

Mon 14 The Saltway Team, Droitwich

Please pray for our existing congregations as we move forwards together, facing the challenges before us to build patterns of life and worship that are both healthy and sustainable. Clergy: Nigel Byard, Laura Handy; Reader: Philip Bowen

Tue 15 The Saltway Team, Droitwich

Please pray for those involved in our emerging contemporary congregation and for wisdom as we focus on the renewed priority to engage with those currently beyond the life of the church. Clergy: Nigel Byard, Laura Handy; Reader: Philip Bowen

Wed 16 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the pastors and pastoral workers in the telephone counselling service. Bless their ears, which are entrusted with so many burdens. Bless their tongues, which spread so much love in this time of crisis.

Thur 17 Hallow, Lower Broadheath & Grimley w Holt

Pray for courage, joy and vision as we leave lockdown, seeking to go further in following Christ and in reaching out to our communities. For our Ordinands: Rachel Colthurst, Paul Wilcox. Clergy: Kalantha Brewis, David Morphy; Readers: Barbara Beard, Denise Pollock

Fri 18 St John in Bedwardine

As we possibly emerge from lockdown, pray for our engagement with our local community, that we can once again connect with the lonely, the isolated and those in need, and be a church in the heart of a thriving community. Clergy: Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill

Sat 19 Bishops and office

Pray for the Bishop of Worcester, John Inge, and the Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick, along with their office team: Catrine Ball, Leonie Andrews and Helen Shakespeare.

Chandigarh (India): M
Bishop Younas Massey

Chelmsford: T
Bishop Guil Francis-Dehqani with
Bishops Peter Hill (Barking),
John Perumbalath (Bradwell),
Roger Morris (Colchester)

Chester: W
Bishop Mark Tanner

Chhattisgarh (India): Th
Bishop Robert Ali

Chicago (USA): F
Bishop Jeffrey Lee

Chichester: S
Bishop Martin Warner with
Bishops Ruth Bushyager (Horsham),
Will Hazlewood (Lewes)

We give thanks for all those who feel called to foster or adopt our county's most vulnerable children and young people. Pray for safety and happiness in foster and adoptive families everywhere.

*Home for Good -
Worcestershire Lead: Joy Pollock*

*Copenhagen (Denmark):
Bishop Peter Skov-Jakobsen*

*Diocese in Europe:
Bishop Robert Innes,
Bishop David Hamid*

*The Church of North India (United):
Bishop Prem Chand Singh
Visby (Sweden):
Bishop Thomas Petersson*

Home for Good: Fathers' Day

Over time, Home for Good: Worcestershire has been highly effective at forging strong links between churches and the fostering and adoption services across Worcestershire.



Worcestershire Children First's fostering service has experienced a rise in need for foster families during the pandemic, and has also seen greater numbers of carers retire. They are aware that Christian carers are more likely to commit to fostering over a long period and more willing to take in the children and young people who are in the most need.

This Fathers' Day, churches across the county have been invited to share a short video, produced by Home for Good, featuring male Christian foster-carers sharing their positive experiences. The video will celebrate and encourage men, as well as women and couples, either to step into the breach as carers or adopters, or simply to support others.

Visit Home for Good's website to find out more:

<https://homeforgood.org.uk/connect-locally/worcestershire>.

Mon 21 Mothers' Union

Heavenly Father, we pray for your blessing on the Mothers' Union here in Worcester as they serve their communities. We thank you that each member is beloved of you and precious in your sight.

Tue 22 St Clement & St David, Worcester

Please pray for our new initiatives, Men's Shed and Walking Church and for the work of the new Outreach and Mission Group. Give thanks for the work of our ALMs. Clergy: Sarah Cottrill, Phil Bradford

Wed 23 Economy & Daily Life

As lockdown continues to ease, pray for those still furloughed, including in the entertainment industry, theatres, music venues and conference centres. Pray for those whose future employment remains uncertain – for patience, perseverance and peace.

Thur 24 St Michael, Dines Green

With such a burden being placed on hard-working volunteers, pray that we may find a way to continue to serve the local community and engage in mission in spite of the pressures of church structures. Clergy: Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill

Fri 25 Crown East & Rushwick

We pray for the PCC as they look at new ways of reaching out to families in Rushwick village through new initiatives over the coming months. Clergy: Anne Potter, Ruth Wintle

Sat 26 Growing as Kingdom People

As the body of Christ throughout Worcestershire and Dudley, help us to work together effectively so we can worship God creatively, make disciples, share hope and transform our communities.

May God give our friends in Morogoro strength and comfort as they face the challenges presented by the pandemic.

*Director of Berega Hospital in Morogoro:
Revd Canon Isaac Y Mgego*

*Lincoln:
Bishop Christopher Lowson, with
Bishops Nicholas Chamberlain
(Grantham), David Court (Grimsby)
The Church of Pakistan (United):
Bishop Humphrey Peters
Lappo (Finland):
Bishop Simo Peura
Härnösand (Sweden):
Bishop Eva Nordung Byström*

*Cochin (India): M
Bishop Baker Ninan Fenn*

*Coimbatore (India): T
Bishop Timothy Ravinder*

*Colombia (USA): W
Bishop Francisco Duque*

*Colombo (Ceylon): Th
Bishop Dushantha Rodrigo*

*Colorado (USA): F
Bishop Kimberly Lucas*

*Connecticut (USA): S
Bishop Ian Douglas*



The pandemic in Morogoro

In the Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania, the first Covid-19 case was reported in March 2020 and numbers have steadily climbed. Many people's livelihoods have been badly affected by the pandemic in Tanzania. Farmers have struggled to trade across borders; many school staff have not been

paid; and the growth of the large tourism and hospitality industry has been derailed. Hospital doctors have been forbidden from referring to the disease in public, though there has been a marked increase in admissions of patients exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is deeply concerned about the situation. However, the new President, Mama Samia Suluhu Hasan, has recently formed a committee of experts to evaluate the nation's Covid-19 response. It is hoped that the new regime will uphold the WHO standards in combatting the pandemic. Furthermore, that it will increase funding to church health facilities, which are currently struggling to implement mass testing, as well as the tracking and tracing of cases.

Mon 28 Worcestershire West Rural Team

Let us pray for all the parishes across the WWRT as they discern their ongoing ministry and mission within their own communities whilst remaining linked to the team. Clergy: David Sherwin, Anne Potter, Jennifer Whittaker, Ruth Wintle, Jen Denniston; Readers: Pat Snelling, Jill Smith

Tue 29 Worcestershire West Rural Team

We give thanks for the ministry of all ALMs who serve in the various churches and those who have faithfully given a 'Thought for the week' over the past year. Clergy: David Sherwin, Anne Potter, Jennifer Whittaker, Ruth Wintle, Jen Denniston; Readers: Pat Snelling, Jill Smith

Wed 30 Worcestershire West Rural Team

We ask God's blessing on our Open the Book Teams and the Primary schools into which they tell God's story: Broadwas CE Primary, Clifton-upon-Teme Primary, Martley CE Primary, Leigh & Bransford Primary and Suckley Primary.

Thur 1 JULY Worcestershire West Rural Team

We pray that all the churches across the WWRT may offer healing and sustaining worship to all who enter their buildings. Clergy: David Sherwin, Anne Potter, Jennifer Whittaker, Ruth Wintle, Jen Denniston; Readers: Pat Snelling, Jill Smith

Fri 2 St Nicholas, Warndon

Pray for our Church Council members as they seek to discern a way forward for the church and its community engagement as lockdown restrictions ease. We give thanks for the ministry offered by our curate, Rosie Moss and Methodist Minister: Helen Caine. Clergy: Diane Cooksey, Rosie Moss; Reader: Nick Stephens;

Sat 3 Children & Youth

Pray for all the children and young people in our churches throughout the Diocese. Pray for those who are part of the Children's and Youth Councils and for Children's Officer, Emma Pettifer and Youth Officer, Simon Hill.