

## FUTURES - NEW DEACONS & PRIESTS, OUR FRIDAY PRAYER THEME FOR AUGUST



### NEWLY ORDAINED DEACONS (front page) AND PRIESTS (back page)

On Sunday 2nd July new deacons were ordained at the Cathedral by The Bishop of Warwick, the Right Reverend John Stroyan. They will

serve as curates (assistant ministers) while their training continues.



Website : [Welcome to our new deacons - Diocese of Coventry \(anglican.org\)](http://Welcome to our new deacons - Diocese of Coventry (anglican.org))

**Matthew Arnold** will be a deacon in the Edgehill Benefice, comprising six parishes in the south east of the diocese including Kineton. He is now looking forward immensely joining in with the work and ministry of the gospel with the team and churches of Edgehill. Pray for Matthew, Lynn and Clement who will be 2 this month.

**Dee Badland** will be a deacon at All Saints church in Bedworth. Dee looks back on her life she realises that the Lord was with her even when she wasn't aware he was there and it is now in his strength and his guiding hand that she is answering his call to ordained ministry. Pray for Dee and Ken, and their wider family.

**April Gold** will be a deacon in Hillmorton Rugby whilst continuing her role as Diocesan Director of Education. April is married to Steve, with whom she will serve to minister to the growing community of Houlton through St Gabriel's Church which meets in St Gabriel's CofE Academy. Pray for their ministry to children and families.

**Robin Griffiths** will be a deacon at Bulkington. He also feels particularly called to people on the margins and genuinely believe God wants people like him, who have been in dark and dreary places, to show others in that same current space that there is light and love and a way to live that is different to what they know. Pray for fruit.

**Josh Greenwood** will be a deacon at St James Styvechale. he is sure that God will equip him for his new role as an ordained minister. Please pray for Josh as he moves, for his incumbent, also called Josh, and the people of St James as they prepare to welcome him.

**Emma Harrington** will be a deacon in the parish of Stratford-upon-Avon. Emma is excited make different spiritual traditions accessible and welcoming for everyone so that people can encounter God's love for themselves. Emma would welcome your prayers as she and her family relocate and get to know this new community.

**Becca Henney** will be a deacon at St Laurence, Foleshill. She is passionate about prayer and worship. She loves approaching both of these from a creative perspective, seeing people discover their own personal relationship with Jesus in a myriad ways. Pray for Becca, James and their three children.

**Julie Lindsay** will be a deacon at Alcester Minster Churches in the south of the diocese. The Minster is the Rural Hub in the diocese's growth strategy. Julie is passionate about being part of this work and very excited to see and be involved in what God is doing in building his kingdom. Pray for Julie, Andrew and their two cats.

**Helen Merrigan** will be a deacon at St John's, Hillmorton, Rugby. The Caleb Stream is for those who have had a long history of ministering within the church; Helen has worked as an advanced nurse practitioner in a local GP surgery. 'Calebs' usually work as an associate minister after curacy. Pray for Helen, John and their family.

**Cerys Smith** will be a deacon at St Mary Magdalene's, Lillington. Cerys is looking forward to becoming part of the community of the parish; she hopes to learn and grow but also to bring her skills and energies to serve God and them faithfully and well; she is trained as a mediator, delivering reconciliation training in the Diocese.

**Helen Smith** will be a deacon at St Peter's Wellesbourne and St James' Walton d'Eivile. Helen has a passion for eco-theology, and is excited at the challenge of drawing church and community together, helping the gospel light to shine brightly in the two villages. Pray for Helen, Jason and their son, Edward,

On Sunday 2nd July, thirteen new priests were ordained at the Cathedral by Bishop Christopher. They have already served as deacons for a year; they will remain in their present parishes while their training continues. See page 4.



I chose you and appointed you, says the Lord, that you should go and bear fruit that shall last.

John 15.16

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>FOCUS ON MISSION HUBS &amp; URBAN PLANTS, Inspiring <b>NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES</b> across the Diocese</b></p>		1 <b>Alcester Minster Rural Mission Hub &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	2 Clergy team Katie Cross, Daniel Corlett, Julie Lindsay, Steve Kelly based at Alcester.	3 Diocesan Growth Strategy	4 <b>For the new deacons (front page)</b>	5 For the Myriad initiatives across the UK
6 <b>Urban Plant – Risen Christ, Wyken &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	7 Clergy team Paul Pavlou, Sam Millard (see back page) based at Wyken/ Caludon.	8 <b>Barry Dugmore – Archdeacon Missioner</b>	9 Jenny Irvine - New Worshipping Communities & Healthy Churches	10 <b>St Laurence Day 10 St Laurence, Foleshill Mission Hub &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	11 <b>For those newly priested (page 5)</b>	12 Clergy team Gareth Irvine, Becca Henney, Sarah Ashelby based at St Laurence.
13 <b>Urban Plant – St Peter’s Hillfields (clergy Matt Spina – see page 4)</b>	14 <b>Greenhouse with Gareth Fitzpatrick</b>	15 <b>Rugby Mission Hub - St Andrew’s Rugby &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	16 Clergy team Edmund Newey, Alison Baxter, Sharon Crofts based out of St Andrew.	17 <b>Growing Faith – DBE, Sarah Ashelby, James Henney</b>	18 <b>For the new deacons (front page)</b>	19 Significant new Housing Developments across the Diocese
20 <b>The Bridge Mission Hub (St John’s, Westwood) &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	21 Clergy team David Hammond, Erin Gilmour, Caroline Hammond at St John’s, Westwood.	22 Planning for the NWCs Taster Day on 21 October	23 For Mission Apprentices linked to the four Urban Plants	24 <b>St Paul’s, Leamington Spa, Mission Hub &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	25 <b>For those newly priested (page 5)</b>	26 Clergy team Jonathan Jee, Eleanor Jeans, Andy Ruffhead, Graeme Pringle at St Paul’s, Leamington Spa.
27 <b>Urban Plant – St Oswald’s, Tile Hill (clergy Fr Ed Backhouse)</b>	<b>Bank Holiday 28</b>	29 <b>All Saints Bedworth Mission Hub &amp; Urban Plant &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	30 Clergy team Dave & Ann Poultney, Tris Peattie, Paul Foster, Matt Bull, Dee Badland: All Saints Bedworth.	31 <b>Diocesan Vision -150 New Worshipping Communities and Taster Day on 21 October</b>		

## PRAYER DIARY



**Prayer** from closing verses of *Veni Creator*  
Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
with the abundance of thy grace;  
keep far our foes, give peace at home;  
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and thee, of both, to me be one;  
that through the ages all along  
this may be our endless song:  
Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Coming up – the Themes**  
for the next 3 months are  
*Children, Young People and Families (September),  
Renewing Generosity (October) and Healthy Churches (November).*

### BEING HEALTHY CHURCH

‘It will be more important than ever that the ordained have a realistic understanding of their own gifts, their strengths and weaknesses, and how these enable them to find their place within emerging ministry teams’ John Witcombe (2005) **Empowering leadership remains a crucial feature of healthy churches; ‘releasing’ others.**

Mark Rothko – White Center (1950)

### MISSION HUBS & URBAN PLANTS (see Diary Dates shaded pink)

**1 & 2 – Alcester Minster Rural Mission Hub** - *We are thankful for people in rural parts of our Diocese who are committed to finding new ways of introducing people to Jesus. Please pray that rural clergy and lay leaders would be encouraged, equipped and released for the opportunities God is giving us.*

**6 & 7 – Urban Plant, Risen Christ, Wyken** - *One of the highs for us at Risen Christ has been our gradual work towards building connections up again with local families, children/youth. A key for this has been our Monday Hot chocolates/ Milkshakes on the lawn where we simply bless people passing by with a free drink. A prayer point on this would be for the Spirit's guiding as to building on these connections going forwards.*

**10 & 12 St Laurence, Foleshill Mission Hub** - *It's St Laurence's Day on 10th August. Family Holiday Club sessions which our Family Link Worker will be running during some of the summer weeks. Thanks - for the work of the spirit in the Prayer Room at Riley Square during Thy Kingdom Come in May, new conversations, new openings, new possibilities opening up. Pray for - Working with TFC and the Message Bus to pioneer youth work in Bell Green, with our new deacon Becca Henney involved in this. In the Autumn, we will be working with churches, schools, DBE and the Growing Faith Enabler James Henney to build on the success of ALIVE in our hub parishes and deaneries through local events, training and gatherings.*

**15 & 16 Rugby Mission Hub, St Andrew's Rugby** - *We give thanks that St. Andrews Benn school had a good SIAMs report - for staff being committed to working hard to make this happen. Please pray for new mission hub initiatives which will start at the school in September; these are a choir Church and a parenting course.*

### NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES (see Diary Dates shaded yellow)

[Myriad - CCX](#) our Diocese is connected with the Myriad movement, nationally, which seeks to inspire and serve 'everyday people' to form new worshipping communities.

Barry Dugmore, Jenny Irvine, and others from Mission Hubs and churches across the Diocese attended Multiply 2023 in Birmingham on 21 June. [The story of Multiply 2023 - CCX](#)

The Diocese helps clergy and laity explore new communities, facilitated by Gareth Fitzpatrick:- [What is Greenhouse? | The Church of England](#)

[New Worshipping Community Taster Day, 21 October 2023](#) [New Worshipping Community Taster Day - Equip Hub](#)

### VISION FOR THE DIOCESE

The purpose of the Diocese of Coventry hasn't changed. We're here to worship God, make new disciples and transform communities.

Bishop Christopher's vision is that, as we do this together, we will rejoice in being bearers of life, bringers of life, agents of life with:

- Restored health
- New growth
- Renewed relationships

that we would be a family of parishes and church communities, some ancient some more recent, schools, chaplaincies, charities and Cathedral that are life-bearing, life-bringing, agents of God's purposes of life in the world. Partners-together, reaching every part of society, with the good news of the God's energising, empowering, life-giving love.

**Website:** [Our vision - Diocese of Coventry \(anglican.org\)](#)

**From Archdeacon Barry** [Growth Strategy - FAQs - Diocese of Coventry \(anglican.org\)](#)

### NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

#### REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE MISSING

*Worshipping communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some large ...some small ...some in the city ...some in our towns ...some in the suburbs ...some in villages ...some are quite traditional ...some are more contemporary. But they all have one thing in common – they are committed to worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities.*

Some of these new communities might look completely different to anything that has gone before. Perhaps aimed specifically at people who have never been connected to a church. Some might be more familiar, like messy church or café church. During the pandemic we saw the amazing development of online worship gathering people together, reaching out to new people, drawing them into the life of the church. We value this diversity, **and our vision during the current decade is for new worshipping communities that are equally diverse.**

**Aims during 2023:**

- **Partner with Mission Hubs to celebrate and support the launch of new worshipping communities in a range of traditions and contexts. These include choir church, quiet gardens, new monastic communities, The Collective, Messy Church, Forest Church and Muddy Church.**
- **Identify, prioritise and develop plans for worshipping communities in new housing developments**

**Website:** [Our-shared-future-2023.pdf](#)

## PRAYING FOR THOSE NEWLY PRIESTED (JULY 2023)

**Alison Abbott** (Edgehill parishes) having been involved in baptisms and funerals, she now looks forward to the joy of weddings and working with the church primary school in Kineton. She is very aware of the beauty of creation and our responsibility to care for it and is looking to work with others to develop ways of meeting God in and worshipping God with creation.

**Jeremy Bevan** (St Barbara's Earlsdon) is a curate in self-supporting ministry, Coventry. Having lived in Earlsdon for over thirty-five years, though worshipping elsewhere until ordination last July, he's been impressed at how the 'familiar' place he now calls his parish has served up a stream of surprises and so many hugely rewarding experiences.

**James Bremner** (St Bartholomew's, Binley) has especially been blessed by helping serve the community in Binley through meeting with people around bereavements and in preparation for funerals, seeking to gently point them to the hope we have in Jesus. He has also been working with young children, especially through work the church school.

**Caroline Hammond** (The Bridge Benefice) is curate to the Bridge Benefice; based at St John's Church, Westwood. Although the parish isn't a new one to her and her family, she has found the transition to the role of curate interesting, and thoroughly enjoyable. Half of her time she serves St John's Church and the other half pioneering The Garden of Hope project.

**Rachel King** (St Mark's, Coventry) has a real heart for discipleship and has taken oversight of that for the church; running Connect Groups, introducing and encouraging prayer triplets and now developing a coaching programme. She is looking forward to what else God has in store for her and her family this year. She loves the church family and staff team at St Mark's.

**Rosemary Lowdon** (Revel Group) Rosemary is curate to six beautiful churches and also full-time Anglican Prison Chaplain to a prison near Rugby, where she works with staff and long-term prisoners. Pray God would enable the transitions between such different contexts, juggle a heavy workload, and see God continually working in both.

**Sam Millard** is curate at St Mary Magdalene with Church of the Risen Christ in Wyken. She is passionate about community; wanting people to experience the joy of relationship with Jesus. She loves the outreach activities that take place at Risen Christ while St Mary Magdalene is the oldest church building in Coventry; and as God is still at work there.

**Stacy Nelson** is a curate at Holy Trinity Church Hartshill and St Peter's Church Galley Common. This year has been full of new experiences and learning as she has worshipped alongside these two congregations. She looks forward to what God the Holy Spirit will bring to fruition, and how God will develop her ministry as she continues her curacy.

**Tris Peattie** is a curate at Camp Hill, Nuneaton and All Saints, Bedworth. Ministry has been a blessing and a challenge alongside his wife Hannah, and their four young children. He has enjoyed the breadth of work; this is one of the toughest and most exhilarating jobs. Tris looks forward to what God has in store in Camp Hill and Bedworth.

**Thomas Powell** is curate in the parish of Stratford-upon-Avon, serving in the three churches of the parish. He has especially enjoyed learning the liturgies and practices of a worship tradition different from that of his own upbringing in the church. In the coming year, he looks forward to continuing his learning and service, while taking up the new roles and relationships of his priestly vocation.

Website [Welcome to our new priests - Diocese of Coventry \(anglican.org\)](https://www.welcome-to-our-new-priests-diocese-of-coventry-anglican.org)

**Matt Spina** is a curate at St Peter's in Hillfields, where he leads the revitalisation project team. He has had the privilege of conducting many baptisms this year and involved in ministry to the sick, dying, and bereaved. Matt is grateful for the support of the congregation of St Peter's, who have welcomed and embraced him and Lorna, and for the amazing staff team that have joined them on this adventure.

**Ian Sweeney** is a curate across three churches: Christ Church, Brownsover, St Mary's, Clifton-upon-Dunsmore, and The Good Shepherd, Newton. It's been a hectic year for Ian and his family, but he is extremely grateful for the support he has received from his training incumbent and those within the benefice. As he approaches priesting, he is excited about what God will do over the years that follow.

**Daniel Bickerstaff** (of St John the Baptist, Leamington Spa) his wife Dawn, and their children have settled into parochial life, work, and school respectively; they are grateful for the welcome from the community. Fr Daniel is excited and humbled to be able to serve the parish as a priest; ministering in word, sacrament and service to the people of south Leamington, sharing good news of the gospel through practical ministries.

## PRAYER JOTTINGS – AUGUST 2023

- From Tyler Staton's *'Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools – an invitation to the Wonder and Mystery of Prayer'* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2022) Chapter 7 'The Middle Voice – Prayer as Participation' pp. 131ff.

'The assumption of spirituality is that always God is doing something before I know it. So the task is not to get God to do something I think needs to be done, but to become aware of what God is doing so that I can respond to it and participate and delight in it.' Eugene Peterson, *The Contemplative Pastor*

In the active voice, I initiate, I give advice. In the passive voice, I am given advice. **The middle voice means "I am an active participant, but the action did not begin with me. I am joining the action of another. Prayer takes place in the middle voice.**

**Practice** – Mary prays *"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."* This is the prayer of the middle voice. *Begin your prayer by reminding yourself of this humble but profoundly dignifying identity.* Let go of all self-inflation and flattery. Equally, let go of all dejection, self-doubt and insecurity. You are a servant, and you belong to the Lord himself. *Secondly, we 'say yes to God's formation within' us, making us a gift of love to the world, and answer to our own audacious prayers. Prayers of consent – thankful for God at work in our inner life, asking He complete the work he has begun.*

- In the Autumn we again pray for specific Deaneries - Coventry North Deanery (September), and the Warwick & Leamington Deanery (October). I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.*

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**New Deacons 2023**





**Alison**

**Caroline**

**Daniel**

**Ian**

**James**



**Jeremy**

**Matt**

**Rachel**

**Rosemary**



**Sam**

**Stacy**

**Thomas**

**Tris**

**New Priests 2023**



**DIOCESE OF  
COVENTRY**