

Martin Gorick – Bishop of Dudley

It's a joy today to be at All Saints' Sedgley at the beginning of my pilgrimage, Day 11. This time around the churches of Greater Dudley Deanery. *(The Greater Dudley Deanery largely matches the area of Dudley Borough Council and incorporates the three former deaneries of Dudley, Kingswinford and Stourbridge.)*

My immediate predecessors were Bishop David Walker, now Bishop of Manchester; and Bishop Graham Usher, who is now Bishop of Norwich.

I was appointed in October 2019 and consecrated in January 2020. The consecration was in Southwark Cathedral with Archbishop Justin and all the bishops; and there were welcome services at Worcester Cathedral and Top Church Dudley.

It's wonderful to be here on my pilgrimage – we're over a hundred churches in - and we have ten churches to visit today around Greater Dudley. I'm trying to get to every single benefice; there are about 250 churches across the Diocese.

I'm Bishop of Dudley, but also Suffragan (assistant) bishop for the whole diocese, so my duties cover the whole diocese; but I have a particular heart for Dudley and its people.

The Bishop's house in Cradley Heath has been sold off. It needed a lot doing to it and it wasn't economical to keep it in. It's taken quite a long time to find another one, but they have bought a house in Stourbridge so I can access Dudley from there. I don't live there yet. I'm currently living in Bredon, right in the south, which is about an hour's drive, so Stourbridge will be much more convenient for my duties in the north of the Diocese.