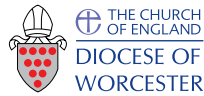




THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Prayer Diary

September to November 2021



Foreword from Bishop John



This edition of the prayer diary begins with a focus upon our diocesan vision to grow as Kingdom People, with prayers throughout September around the themes of making disciples, transforming communities, worshipping God creatively and sharing hope.

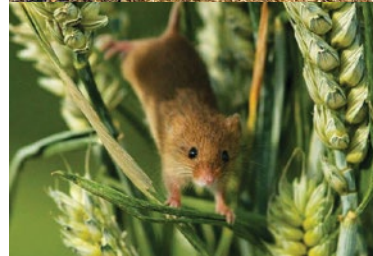
The Book of Proverbs warns us that *'where there is no vision the people perish.'* (Proverbs 29.18)

The role of our faith is to give us – and all humanity – a glorious a vision to live for. Through prayer we invite God to root that vision deep within our hearts so that we shall be given grace through the Holy Spirit to live it out.

When the reign of God comes, that vision will become a reality: *'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more.'* (Revelation 21.4)

It's worth holding on tight to that vision as we continue to face the ravages of Covid. As we do, through prayer and the action of the Holy Spirit, we can give encouragement to others who feel weighed down.

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.



Growing as Kingdom People

Our diocesan vision is to grow as Kingdom People, sharing the good news of Jesus' love across Worcestershire and Dudley as we live out our values of love, compassion, justice and freedom.

This vision was formed through two rounds of 'Open Conversations' and as a diocese we are committed to worshipping God creatively, making disciples, sharing hope and transforming our communities.

Our vision is all about hope and growth – ensuring as many of our churches as possible are healthy, sustainable and fit for the future. We pray clergy and laity will feel inspired and equipped as they have local discussions about mission and ministry in their areas, working collaboratively to enable our churches to flourish and grow.

Over the next few Sundays, we will be praying for the different elements of our vision as we trust in God to show us the way forward for our diocese.

Gracious God, who pours out the life-giving Holy Spirit on your kingdom people, Fill our hearts with love to worship you creatively, Equip us to make disciples, inspire us to share hope And anoint us to transform our communities, Through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen

Mon 30 St Michael, Stourport & All Saints Wilden

For our congregations as we grow stronger bonds as a benefice in worship and council; becoming an eco-Benefice and closer followers of Christ. For our priest Carey while her family is away. Clergy: Carey Saleh; Readers: Sandra Baty, Richard Standing, Phil Saleh

Tue 31 Shrawley & the Witleys

Give thanks for technology that has enabled greater participation and welcomed new people. Pray for those seeking baptism, wedding couples and for those God is calling to join our confirmation course. For growth in discipleship, new ways of worship and daily Zoom prayers. For the dedication of staff in our local church schools. Clergy: Ted Whittaker, Robin Walter; Readers: Marjorie Workman, Christine Clarke

Wed 1 SEPTEMBER Diocese of Peru

The Diocesan Synod of the Anglican Church of Peru took place during August. Pray for those charged with helping to deliver its outcomes, and for all those newly elected to leadership positions.

Thur 2 Abberley

We give thanks for the ministry of Vikki Day and ask for blessings upon her in her curacy in Lichfield. Also thanking God for the strengthening of the PCC and new church officers. For discernment in the management and future of our church buildings. Clergy: Ted Whittaker, Robin Walter; Readers: Marjorie Workman, Christine Clarke

Fri 3 New school term

Pray for all those children returning to school shortly and for those starting in nursery and reception. Pray also for their parents and guardians as they ensure everything is ready for the new school year.

Sat 4 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all the leaders in our churches, both lay and ordained. Pray that they will feel supported in their role as they work to develop the discipleship of their congregations and welcome new Christians.



Diocesan Leader for Transformation and Change:
Archdeacon Nikki Groarke

York: Archbishop Stephen Cottrell
w Bishops Paul Ferguson (Whitby), John Thomson (Selby), Alison White (Hull), Glyn Webster (Beverly)
The Episcopal Church of South Sudan:
Archbishop Justin Badi Arama
Turku (Finland):
Archbishop Mari Leppänen,
w Bishop Kaarlo Kalliala

Ekiti Kwara (Nigeria): M
Bishop Andrew O A Ajayi

Ekiti Oke (Nigeria): T
Bishop Isaac Olatunde Olubowale

Ekiti West (Nigeria): W
Bishop Rufus Victor Ajileye Adepoju

Eldoret (Kenya): Th
Bishop Jackson Ole Sapit

Port Elizabeth (South Africa): F
Bishop Edward Ronald Daniels

Ely: S
Bishop Stephen Conway
w Bishop Dagmar Winter (Huntington)

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.

Give thanks for everything parishes do to reach out to their local schools and bless all the schools across our diocese, so that both staff and pupils might grow in the knowledge of your truth, love, wisdom and peace.

Making disciples: Education Sunday

There are 100 Church of England schools in the Diocese of Worcester, educating approximately 22,000 children and young people.

Over the last two decades, Church schools have been reaffirmed as being at the heart of the Church's service to the nation. They provide a unique opportunity for clergy and educationalists to work together with a shared focus on the flourishing of individual children and their families. Inspired by the words of John in his Gospel, Church schools are places in which every child is helped to 'live life in all its fullness.'

There are lots of ways in which parishes can support their schools. If restrictions allow, parishes could take part in the pray, bake, read initiative (praying intentionally for your local school, baking a cake for staff each half term and offering to read with a student). Or help with worship through Open the Book, assemblies, or confirmation preparation. Perhaps even support the staff and pupils pastorally, or the school strategically, by encouraging congregation members to take up Foundation Governor positions in school. For help and advice on working more closely with your local school, contact the Diocesan Education team:

education@cofe-worcester.org.uk
01905 732 825 | @CofEWorcEduTeam



Mon 6 Teme Valley North

Give thanks for the beautiful environment that has eased our pain through the Covid crisis. Pray for those less fortunate, whose personal crises have not been adequately recognised. Help us to be better listeners and pray for greater generosity and kindness in all aspects of public life; local, national and international. For our ALMs in training. Clergy: Ted Whittaker, Robin Walter; Readers: Marjorie Workman, Christine Clarke

Tue 7 All those in schools

Pray for all teachers, teaching assistants and all the support staff in schools as they navigate the first few days of the new school year. Pray that they have been refreshed by the school holiday.

Wed 8 Diocese of Morogoro

Give thanks for the Scientific Task Force set up by the Tanzanian Government to monitor and advise on the Covid-19 pandemic in Tanzania. We pray for all its members and for the part that they are playing in helping to raise awareness of ways of combatting the virus and preventing new infections and deaths.

Thur 9 All in further and higher education

Pray for all those who are studying or working in our further education colleges and universities, particularly those starting this Autumn. Pray for all those who act as chaplains to colleges and universities.

Fri 10 Teme Valley South

As we come out of lockdown, we pray for the shaping of what is to come by the *Our Future, God's Church* initiative. Let us be inspired to celebrate the uniqueness of each community and work effectively together as we serve them. Clergy: Julia Curtis; Retired clergy: Robert Barlow, Sally Jones; LLM: Pete Thorp

Sat 11 Teme Valley South

We ask God's blessing on all our expressions of church whether they are in buildings, online, walking the footpaths or in a café setting. Help us to be bold and rejoice in all. Clergy: Julia Curtis; Retired clergy: Robert Barlow, Sally Jones; Reader: Pete Thorp

Transforming communities: Climate Sunday



Archbishop Justin has written:

"It becomes ever clearer that climate change is the greatest challenge that we and future generations face. It's our sacred duty to protect the natural world we've so generously been given."

It is all of our responsibilities to make changes to our lives to help save the planet for future generations. At the March 2021 meeting of Diocesan Synod, it was agreed that our diocese should aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 at the latest, committing to develop an action plan and resources for sustainable living.

The diocesan Climate Crisis Group is taking the lead on this work and is encouraging all parishes to get involved by signing up to become an Eco Church. You might find you have already achieved much of the criteria for the bronze award and could make some simple changes to work towards silver.

In Kidderminster, St Cassian, Chaddesley Corbett have installed LED lighting, which will significantly reduce their electricity bills and thereby, their carbon footprint. This and other changes have helped them achieve a silver Eco Church Award.

What changes could your church make to become more environmentally-friendly?

Mon 13 Bewdley, Ribbesford, Wribbenhall & Button Oak

Give thanks for opportunities to share the Gospel and be a beacon of light & hope in and around Bewdley. Pray for our toddler group and Messy Church. Praise God for the beauty of our churchyard at St Leonard's and ask that God will bless those who care for it. Clergy: Megan Gibbins, Mark Moreton, Heather Flack; Reader: Barbara Fausets

Tue 14 Wyre Forest West

Please pray for the building projects at both Mamble and Bayton Churches, that they can go ahead quickly and help us to develop church buildings that serve their communities well. Pray also for our ALMs, volunteers and PCCs. Clergy: Sallie Butcher

Wed 15 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

A garden reminds us that God saw all that he had made, and it was good. We pray for those clergy and congregations involved in the National Garden Festival in Erfurt. Bless the work of their hands, so all that we do proclaims your praise.

Thur 16 Wyre Forest West

We pray for all those couples who were due to get married in our churches last year. We pray for those who have rearranged their weddings for this year, that their plans are able to go as smoothly as possible. Our hearts particularly go out to those who have now had to move their weddings into 2022. Pray also for our ALMs, volunteers and PCCs. Clergy: Sallie Butcher

Fri 17 Wyre Forest West

We pray for all those within our communities who are still finding it very difficult to get out and about after so many months isolated in their own home. May we continue to support them as much as possible so that they still feel part of our church family. Pray also for our ALMs, volunteers and PCCs. Clergy: Sallie Butcher

Sat 18 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all those who feel excluded from our churches and help us to find new ways to ensure they are welcomed.

Pray that we may all be inspired as individuals and churches to work to transform our communities by combatting climate change together. Give thanks for all that is already being done in our parishes.

Chair of the Diocesan Climate Crisis Group: Hugh Burton
Eco Church lead: Sue Adeney

Bath & Wells:

Bishop Peter Hancock
w Bishop Ruth Worsley (Taunton)
Tuam, Killala & Achonry (Ireland):
Bishop Patrick Rooke
The Anglican Church of Tanzania:
Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa

The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe:

Bishop Mark D. W. Edington

The Diocese in Europe:

Bishop Robert Innes,
w Bishop David Hamid

Evo (Nigeria):

Bishop Innocent U. Ordu

Exeter:

Bishop Robert Atwell
w Bishops Jackie Searle (Crediton),
Nick McKinnel (Plymouth)

Ezo (South Sudan):

Bishop John Kereboro Zawo

Faisalabad (Pakistan):

Bishop John Samuel

M **Embu (Kenya):**
Bishop David Muriithi Ileri

T **Enugu (Nigeria):**
Archbishop Emmanuel O. Chukwuma

W **Enugu North (Nigeria):**
Bishop Sosthenes I. Eze

Th **Esan (Nigeria):**
Archbishop Friday John Imaekhai

F **Etche (Nigeria):**
Bishop Precious Okechukwu Nwala

S **Etsako (Nigeria):**
Bishop Jacob O. B. Bada

Pray for all those who offer ministry in our diocese, particularly those who help us to worship God creatively in our parishes.

Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery - Area Dean: Tim Williams Lay Chair: Clare Stockford

Sheffield: Bishop Pete Wilcox w Bishop Sophie Jelley (Doncaster) The Province of Uganda: Archbishop Stephen Kazimba Church of Greenland: Bishop Paneeraq Siegstad Munk

Worshipping God creatively

God calls of us to use our gifts in different ways and we pray for those who feel their calling is to help others deepen their faith through preaching and leading worship. Many of our churches are led by members of the clergy, whether in a stipendiary or non-stipendiary (voluntary) role. Clergy are able to preside at Holy Communion, take baptisms, weddings, and funerals and walk alongside people in their joy and in their grief.



We also have around 160 Licensed Lay Ministers (also known as Readers) in our churches. Readers are lay leaders and offer a model of Christian discipleship to the people they meet in their daily lives as well as in their congregations. This is a voluntary, unpaid ministry and Readers are trained in theology, pastoral work and a variety of ministerial skills. Alongside their ministry of teaching, preaching and leading worship, Readers are also engaged in other ministries, such as pastoral work, evangelism, chaplaincy or community involvement.

Our Authorised Lay Ministers have completed a short diocesan training course, to equip them for specific roles in their parishes. There are over 100 ALMs across the Diocese, all of whom wanted to offer their time and talents in particular ways such as worship leader, children's and youth worker, pastoral worker or evangelist.

Have you thought about how God is calling you? Find out more about these roles on the diocesan website.

Mon 20 Retired clergy in Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery

Pray for God's blessing as retired clergy begin to enjoy fellowship and in-church worship once more, with the easing of Covid restrictions. Give thanks for the faithful ministry of prayer offered by all, and for the invaluable support given to the Deanery.

Tue 21 Economy & Daily Life

On St. Matthew's Day, pray for all who work in the tax system and for fairer tax nationally and globally; ending tax avoidance by multi-nationals and taxes that mean the poorest and most vulnerable bear more than their fair share of tax. Pray for the campaigning charity Church Action on Tax Justice.

Wed 22 Churches Together in Kidderminster

Give thanks for the good relationships between the Christian denominations across the town and for the projects overseen by Churches Together.

Thur 23 Kidderminster Hospital

Pray for the staff, patients and relatives at Kidderminster Hospital. Staff have really stepped up during the pandemic – supporting colleagues and adapting to new places of work. Now there is the challenge of dealing with a huge number of out-patients appointments for routine treatment, but there remains a real sense of community and mutual support.

Fri 24 Emergency services

Pray for all those who work in the emergency services, particularly for the increased challenges they have faced throughout the pandemic. Give them strength and pray that they will feel God's love as they carry out their vital work.

Sat 25 Glasshampton Monastery

For Brother Nicholas, the Guardian, and all the brothers of the Society of Saint Francis at Glasshampton Monastery, in their ministry of prayer and hospitality.

M *Falkland Islands: Bishop Timothy Thornton*

T *False Bay (Southern Africa): Bishop Margaret Brenda Vertue*

W *Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean): Bishop Gilbert Ratelosoa Rakotondravelo*

Th *Florida (USA): Bishop John Howard*

F *Central Florida (USA): Bishop Gregory Brewer*

S *Southeast Florida (USA): Bishop Peter Eaton*

Sharing hope: The Worcester Cares Alliance

The Worcester Cares Alliance is a network of various statutory and charitable organisations (including the Cathedral) working across the city of Worcester to support those who are vulnerable and homeless. The unifying purpose of Worcester Cares is to make Worcester a safe and prosperous city for everyone, where communities are resilient and people matter; homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring; and the vulnerable are protected.

This past year has brought particular difficulties for homeless people and for those working to support them, though the government's 'Everybody In' initiative enabled the vast majority of those homeless in Worcester to be rehoused and significantly increased the capacity to provide safe overnight accommodation. However, the year ahead brings many challenges to ensure this excellent work is taken forward.

The Worcester Cares Alliance continues to bring together organisations in partnership with a people-centred approach providing the best outcome for individuals. Through this excellent partnership many organisations are able to bring dignity, hope, valuable connection and support to those who are vulnerable on the streets of our city.



Mon 27 DAC and Church Buildings team

Pray for the diocesan Church Buildings Team – Mark Carter, Kate Andrew and Pat Every and for the work they are doing to support the reopening and reimagining of our church buildings as we emerge from the pandemic. Pray also for the volunteers on the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of church buildings.

Tue 28 Ministry & Discipleship team

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

Wed 29 All who work in the Diocesan Office

Please pray for all those who work in the Diocesan Office as they strive to effectively support our parishes and live out our Kingdom People mission.

Thur 30 Those in fuel poverty

Pray for all those who are struggling to make ends meet and, as we go through winter, have to choose whether to turn on the heating or buy food. Give thanks for all the charitable organisations who help through offering a warm place to stay during the day and providing food.

Fri 1 OCTOBER Those who mourn

Gracious God, surround all who mourn this day with your continuing compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm your children or turn them against you. When grief seems never-ending, take them one step at a time along your road of death and resurrection.

Sat 2 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.

Please pray for those who are vulnerable and homeless across the Diocese. Give thanks for those who work to protect and support them.

Malvern & Upton Deanery – Area Dean: Mark Badger Lay Chair: Maria Toman

Leicester: Bishop Martyn Snow w Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani (Loughborough) Swansea and Brecon (Wales): Archbishop John Davies The Episcopal Church: Bishop Michael Curry

M *Southwest Florida (USA): Bishop Dabney Smith*

T *Fond du Lac (USA): Bishop Matthew Alan Gunter*

W *Fredericton (USA): Bishop David Edwards*

Th *Free State (Southern Africa): Bishop Dintoe Letloenyane*

F *Freetown (West Africa): Bishop Thomas Arnold Ikunika Wilson*

S *Gahini (Rwanda): Bishop Alexis Bilindabagabo*



Chair of CARL: David Morris;
Secretary: Liz Edwards

Praying for our baptism families

Lord God, thank you that you created us all with an amazing capacity for love & compassion.

We pray that when faced with injustice, you will equip our baptism families with the gifts of boldness, courage and discernment, to bring about your will. Amen

Liverpool: Bishop Paul Bayes w Bishop Beverley Mason (Warrington)

The Church in Wales:

Archbishop John Davies

Monmouth (Wales):

Bishop Cherry Vann

Haderslev (Denmark):

Bishop Marianne Christiansen

Harvest

Whatever the weather, we are fortunate to have farmers and growers. Many will say that they work with three things: a tractor, the weather and God.

Harvest is a time to celebrate the produce we all enjoy, the skills of all those that work on the land and the world that God has given us. We may do this in several ways: take a silent moment and rest in the beauty of our countryside; or join with others in thanksgiving through worship.

In the Cathedral this evening is the annual county Farmers' Harvest Service, organised by the Chaplaincy to Agricultural & Rural Life (CARL). If restrictions allow, members of the Young Farmers' Club (YFC) will help lead the service with a procession of produce culminating with a traditional harvest loaf. This is an opportunity to offer to God the contribution we make in bringing food to the table; to give thanks and pray for others in the chain upon whom we are dependent; and above all to praise God for creating the sun's radiance and giving life to all living things.

Harvest prayer from the Arthur Rank Centre

*God of the heavens and the earth,
You call us to share in the care of your creation
and to bring food and fruitfulness from field and farm.
Hear our prayer for all who make their living on the land
and make us grateful for the work of their hands
and for the generosity of your provision.
We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.*

Mon 4 The Bishop's Chaplain

Pray for Stuart Currie, Chaplain to the Bishop of Worcester and for his work supporting Bishop John both spiritually and practically.

Tue 5 Malvern & Upton Deanery

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we embark on the journey of transformation and change in our Deanery. We give thanks for the faithfulness, creativity and energy in our parishes and that we will grow ever closer as Kingdom people, serving our communities and sharing the good news of Jesus. Area Dean: Mark Badger

Wed 6 Diocese of Peru

The Anglican Church of Peru is working with ten feeding projects which are helping to provide meals for 400 people each day. Pray for all those who do this work, and that they may continue to receive the financial support necessary for the projects.

Thur 7 Berrow w Pendock

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

Fri 8 Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton

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

Sat 9 Safeguarding team

Ahead of Safeguarding Sunday tomorrow, please pray for all involved in safeguarding matters: for Parish Safeguarding Officers and members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Panels. For the Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Hilary Higton, Delia Stokes, Sarah Booth; Chair of the Safeguarding Training Team: Simon Hill; Administrator: Liz Toone.

Prisons' Sunday



Today is Prisons' Sunday. Each year, the Diocesan Criminal Justice Affairs Group (CJAG) works with the Cathedral on a specific theme – this year, the focus will be on the Church Welcome Pilot which commenced in Autumn. This scheme is being delivered by CJAG, in partnership with the Safeguarding team and the probation service. It aims to support those who have committed low risk offences to be introduced to and join a local church if they wish to do so.

Charmian Manship, from the CJAG, said: "This is a potentially exciting opportunity to widen doors and welcome people safely into the church family."

CJAG aims to offer a Christian perspective and advise the diocese on criminal justice matters. Members have experience of working within the criminal justice system, through the courts (crown and magistrates), crown prosecution service, police, prisons, probation, youth justice, the parole board and defence lawyers, as well as the Church.

The pandemic has had a heavy toll on those in the criminal justice system - on staff, prisoners, those under supervision in the community and their families, alike. The impact on an already stretched and under-resourced system continues to be largely hidden and there are very real concerns about the breaching of human rights.

Mon 11 Great Malvern Priory

Please pray for us as we progress an £8 million restoration and renewal project at the Priory. Pray also for our hard-working ministry team and a number of active and much valued retired clergy. Clergy: Rod Corke, Jonny Gordon; Reader: Chris Boulton, David Webster, Sue Williams; Reader in training: Richard Weatherall

Tue 12 Christ Church, Malvern

We are a small bible-based and Eucharistic-centred congregation with a great welcome and outreach in Malvern. Pray for our work in our schools, our fantastic concerts, our weekly book fairs and coffee mornings and our charity work. Clergy: Vacant

Wed 13 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for clergy in Morogoro as they seek to share God's love in their parishes. We especially remember those clergy who have been assigned to parishes where the Christian faith has a very marginal presence, praying that, through their teaching and care, Christ's love might grow and blossom within their communities.

Thur 14 Hanley Castle & Hanley Swan, Welland

Pray for unity within our benefice, and across our wider patch, as well as a willingness to be flexible as we seek a new service pattern for the future that creates room for outreach and innovation. Pray also for a breakthrough in our work with local schools. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Linda Bedford, Sue Adeney, Jane Fraser; Readers: Alison Martin, Roger Gillard, Mary Weatherill, Carol Unwin, Tim Toman

Fri 15 Upton-on-Severn & the Hook

Pray for new leaders to emerge, and for the growth of our Breakfast Church congregation, and for God's prospering of our work in the local schools. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Linda Bedford, Sue Adeney, Jane Fraser; Readers: Alison Martin, Roger Gillard, Mary Weatherill, Carol Unwin, Tim Toman

Sat 16 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.

Please pray for all those in the criminal justice system and for the work of CJAG.

Chair of CJAG: Chairman Manship
Secretary: Diana Fulbrook
Bishop's Adviser on Criminal Justice Affairs: Paul West

Truro: Bishop Philip Mounstephen w Bishop Hugh Nelson (St Germans)

The Province of West Africa:

Bishop Jonathan Bau-Bau

Bonaparte Hart

Tönsberg (Norway):

Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth

Strängnäs (Sweden):

Bishop Johan Dalman

Georgia (USA): M
Bishop Frank Logue

Gippsland (Australia): T
Bishop Richard Treloar

Gitega (Burundi): W
Bishop John Nduwayo

Glasgow & Galloway (Scotland): Th
Bishop Kevin Pearson

Gloucester: F
Bishop Rachel Treweek
w Bishop Robert Springett
(Tewkesbury)

Gogrial (South Sudan): S
Bishop Abraham Ngor Mangong

M **Gambella (Alexandria):**
Vacant

T **Gambia (West Africa):**
Bishop James Allen Yaw Odico

W **Garissa (Kenya):**
Bishop David Mutisya

Th **Gasabo (Rwanda):**
Bishop Onesphore Rwaje

F **Gboko (Nigeria):**
Bishop Emmanuel F. G. Nyitsse

S **George (Southern Africa):**
Bishop Brian Marajh

Please pray for Bishop Martin as he travels across the Diocese as well as for all the churches that he will visit during his pilgrimage.

Malvern & Upton Deanery –
Secretary: Sarah Kelsey
Treasurer: Derek Valentine

The Province of the West Indies:
Bishop Howard Gregory
Växjö (Sweden):
Bishop Fredrik Modéus
Oxford:
Bishop Steven Croft, w Bishops
Olivia Graham (Reading),
Colin Fletcher (Dorchester),
Alan Wilson (Buckingham)



A pilgrimage of prayer and hope

Throughout Autumn, Bishop Martin is journeying around the Diocese in pilgrimage, spending two days in each deanery and visiting as many churches as possible.

Bishop Martin said: “I was very struck when, at the height of the pandemic, a member of the clergy said how sad he was that his font had been dry over the last year. I have really missed the sacraments, and this pilgrimage is an opportunity for me to bless our churches – both the buildings and the people - as the living waters of grace flow again.”

On each of the two days spent in a deanery, Bishop Martin will visit around six churches to say a simple prayer of blessing over their fonts. He will walk between some churches and visit others by car. Each day he will say morning, midday and evening prayer in three of the churches and people are welcome to join him there.

“On one of the days, if restrictions allow, we'll be having a slightly bigger prayer service for the deanery. I know one deanery is planning a confirmation service while another will host a deanery praise celebration. It will hopefully be a chance for us to come together and pray for all that we've been through during the pandemic and for the future as things begin to ease.”

Mon 18 Ripple, Earl's Croome w Hill Croome & Strensham

Pray for unity and mission among our churches, joy in fellowship and clarity about God's way forward, especially with the building in Ripple. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Linda Bedford, Sue Adeney, Jane Fraser; Readers: Alison Martin, Roger Gillard, Mary Weatherill, Carol Unwin, Tim Toman

Tue 19 Kempsey & Severn Stoke w Croome d'Abitot

Give thanks for our partnership with All Saints Worcester and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we work together to refresh and reinvigorate our worship and establish a mission project in Norton. For our ALMs and Children and Families workers: Josh and Rachel Kennedy. Clergy: Mark Badger, Owain Bell, Don Sloggett; Ordinand: Giles Joiner; Readers: Ron Rust, Libby James

Wed 20 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

At the weekend, Catholic and Protestant young people will together be paying a visit to Pope Francis. We pray for all those who, despite any resistance, work for the unity of your Church. Encourage those who confess your name above all.

Thur 21 Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley

Pray for our worship, giving and outreach in Longdon; the future use of the completed church development project in Castlemorton, and for ministry to the CE Primary School; in Bushley, for the wisdom and funds to deal with a raft of building repairs. For our Administrator: Wendy Thompson; Clergy: Chris Moss; Reader: Michael Harper

Fri 22 Queenhill w Holdfast

Pray for our worship, giving and outreach. For our Administrator: Wendy Thompson; Clergy: Chris Moss; Reader: Michael Harper

Sat 23 Little Malvern

Give thanks and pray for our outreach to walkers, cyclists and pilgrims who visit our ancient church for peace and reflection; for couples planning marriages with us, and for our faithful congregation. Pray too for our links with the Farming Community Network. Clergy: Stephen Sealy

M **Goma (Congo):**
Bishop Kadhoro Desire Makaniwa

T **Gombe (Nigeria):**
Bishop Cletus Ajigben Tambari

W **Grafton (Australia):**
Bishop Murray Harvey

Th **Grahamstown (Southern Africa):**
Bishop Ebenezer Ntlali

F **Guadalcanal (Melanesia):**
Bishop Nathan Tome

S **Guatemala (Central de America):**
Bishop Armando Guerra Soria

Bishop's Adviser for Pastoral Care & Counselling

Dr David Mair has taken on the role of Bishop's Adviser in Pastoral Care & Counselling.

David will become the main point of contact for clergy and their families who are concerned about their mental health, helping to assess their needs and put them in touch with a member of the diocesan counselling team as appropriate. He is also planning to offer support to clergy with handling difficult people and dealing with stress.

David said: “This role is a good way of using my professional skills and knowledge with the understanding of the Church of England's ethos that I've acquired over the years. I encourage any member of the clergy or their family who might be worried about their mental health to approach the counselling team for help sooner rather than later. This includes anything that might be worrying them, causing stress and anxiety or that they feel is interfering with their relationships. It is hugely important that clergy take good care of themselves and are able to recognise when help might be needed. If something feels wrong – come and talk about it.”



Please pray for David in this role as well as clergy and their families across the diocese who are finding life a struggle at the moment.

Bishop's Adviser for Pastoral Care & Counselling: David Mair

Carlisle:
Bishop James Newcome
w Bishop Emma Ineson (Penrith)
The Extra-Provincial Churches
Stavanger (Norway):
Bishop Anne Lise Ádnøy

Mon 25 Malvern Chase Team

Pray for God's leading as we discern new patterns of ministry, mission and outreach at St Andrew's Church post-Covid. Pray for our children and youth that they would grow in their faith and discipleship. Also, for our many volunteers. Clergy: Dave Bruce, Peter Myres, Helen Wilkinson, David Ritchie; Readers: Heather Williamson, Derham Cook, Judith Keene

Tue 26 Malvern Chase Team

Pray for Messy Church and toddlers as they restart; for the Foodbank; for Malvern's Christians Against Poverty (CAP) branch; and for wisdom as we discern new service patterns and ministry in the community at All Saints. Clergy: Dave Bruce, Peter Myres, Paul Hunt, Helen Wilkinson; Readers: Peter Buchanan, Jacqui Green

Wed 27 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for those attending the COP26 Climate Change conference being hosted in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November and the Global Conference of Youth meeting from 28 to 31 October. Pray for clarity of vision and determination in making changes that will make a real difference in how humanity impacts the climate.

Thur 28 Malvern Chase Team

At St Mary, Pickersleigh, please pray for all the people we come in contact with through Pickersleigh Bears, St Mary's Community Fridge and Refresh Community Cafe. For our building project, giving thanks to all those who have donated to it. Clergy Lynne Sparkes; Reader Andy Noble

Fri 29 Holy Trinity, Malvern

Give thanks for the ministry that has been sustained during the vacancy and lockdown. Pray for God's Spirit to guide us as we seek to live out his calling to love him and love our neighbour. Clergy: Becky Elliott, Sylvia Cokes-Wood, Eric Knowles, Clare Griffiths

Sat 30 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.

Guildford: **M**
Bishop Andrew John Watson w
Bishop Jo Bailey Wells (Dorking)

Guinea (West Africa): **T**
Bishop Jacques Boston

Gujarat (North India): **W**
Bishop Silvans Christian

Central Gulf Coast (USA): **Th**
Bishop Russell Kendrick

Gusau (Nigeria): **F**
Bishop John Garba Danbinta

Guyana (West Indies): **S**
Bishop Charles Davidson

Pray for those planning the Severnside Light Party as they reach out to their local community, as well as for all our churches who are finding ways to share the Christian message of light and love this Halloween.

Severnside Parishes –
Families Worker: Rachel Kennedy
Community Outreach Worker:
Josh Kennedy

Winchester:
Bishop Timothy Dakin w Bishops
David Williams (Basingstoke),
Debbie Sellin (Southampton)
The Episcopal / Anglican Province
of Alexandria:
Archbishop Mouneer Hanna Anis
Agder & Telemark (Norway):
Bishop Stein Reinertsen

Light Parties in the Severnside Parishes

As a team, the Severnside Parishes find creative ways to celebrate normal holidays and festivals throughout the year. They have found that a light party can be a fun celebration in October around the time of Halloween.

Whilst Halloween is often a difficult subject in the church, around this time families are looking for safe and fun alternatives to the traditional activities of walking around and knocking on doors. Instead of ignoring this time of year, Severnside Parishes have filled it with glow sticks, fun, crafts and sparklers as a reminder of the Christian message that Jesus is the light of the world.

Rachel Kennedy, family worker at Severnside Parishes, said: "The party is a great way to celebrate all things light around Halloween with the local community and schools. Last year, our light party was digital, but we are so looking forward to celebrating in person again."



Mon 1 NOVEMBER All Saints' Day

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age. As we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy.

Tue 2 St James, West Malvern

We give thanks for our 150th Anniversary this year. Please pray for joy and vision as we move out of lockdown and for our connection with the wider community. Clergy: Becky Elliott, Rosemary Herbert, Nicholas Menon

Wed 3 Diocese of Peru

Pray for Bishop Jorge and for the clergy, ministers and congregations of the three pastoral areas in the Diocese of Peru: Lima Centre and North; Lima South; and Arequipa

Thur 4 Malvern Link w Cowleigh

Pray for our staff team – Philippa Lowe, Sarah Maxfield-Phillips, Tim Cook and Sue Maxfield-Phillips. Clergy: Phillip Johnson; Readers: Allen Hudson, Mike Hancox, Eileen Tomlin

Fri 5 Malvern Link w Cowleigh

Pray for our arts space (Sparc), for our Contemplation & Reconciliation space (Ascension) and our Dementia Meeting Centre. For our schools – St Matthias CE Academy, Northleigh CE Primary, Dyson Perrins CE Academy and Somers Park / Vale. Clergy: Phillip Johnson; Readers: Allen Hudson, Mike Hancox, Eileen Tomlin

Sat 6 Old Hills Malvern Parishes

As our churches grapple with their future role in the communities, we pray for our transformation agenda for our ministry and buildings under the auspices of the Caterpillar Project led by Vicky Whitehouse (ALM) with a range of church/non church participants: working together to discern the future direction for our benefice. For our ALMs. Clergy: Gary Crellin; Reader: Julia Davis

The Third Order of the Society of St Francis (TSSF)

The TSSF is a worldwide Anglican Franciscan Religious Order of men and women, lay or ordained, married or single, young and old, and of various ethnic and educational backgrounds.

The TSSF commit themselves to leading their lives according to a personal Rule of Life, while living in their homes, worshipping in their local churches, working in the community and caring for their families.

Known as 'Tertiaries', they serve our Lord through worship, prayer, study and work, after the example of St Francis (who founded the Third Order) and St Clare. They believe they are called to this service, and are enriched and strengthened by meeting together, and by times of contemplation and retreat. Tertiaries aim to make Jesus known and loved everywhere, to spread the spirit of love and harmony, and to live simply.

Locally, the TSSF has 45 professed members and 4 novices (Wyvern – Herefordshire & Worcestershire). To find out more about the Order, please visit their website: <https://tssf.org.uk>.



Please pray for all those involved in TSSF as they seek to make Jesus known, spread love and harmony, and to live simply.

TSSF Wyvern Area Novice Guardian:
David Lingwood

Praying for our Baptism families
Dear Lord God help the parents of our Baptism families to appreciate everything that you have shared with them and show them ways where they can model sharing to their children. Amen.

Norwich:

Bishop Graham Usher w Bishops
Alan Winton (Thetford), Jonathan
Meyrick (Lynn)

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
New Zealand & Polynesia:

Archbishops Philip Richardson
& Don Tamihere
Luleå (Sweden):
Bishop Åsa Nyström

Hereford:

Bishop Richard Jackson

Southern Highlands (Tanzania):

Bishop Julius Lugendo

Highveld (Southern Africa):

Bishop Charles Mthethleli May

Eastern Himalayas (North India):

Vacant

Ho (West Africa):

Bishop Matthias Mededues-Badoho

Hokkaido (Nippon Sei Ko Kai):

Bishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu

Mon 8 Old Hills Malvern Parishes

Pray for our outreach - with our three CE primary schools in Powick, Callow End and Madresfield including our Open the Book Teams and those appointed as Foundation Governors. Our pop-up collections across the villages for the foodbank. We also pray for our outreach to the Severn Heights Care Homes with the Westside Fellowship and Barbara Hill (ALM). For our ALMs. Clergy: Gary Crellin; Reader: Julia Davis

Tue 9 Retired clergy in Malvern & Upton Deanery

The legacy of Margery Kempe (whom the church commemorates today) is one of a very personal, mystical awareness of a closeness to the Risen Christ. In remembering the retired Clergy, we are thankful for each with their own personal and individual expression of faith and the particular ways this found form in their own ministries.

Wed 10 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for Dr Annes, the Doctor in charge of the Tunguli Health Centre, as she seeks to bring health and healing to this very remote medical facility linked with Berega Hospital. We pray for the work of the pharmacy and for Tito who drives the emergency motorcycle ambulance to Berega when medical emergencies arise.

Thur 11 Diocesan Synod

This evening is the first session of a new diocesan synod (members stand for a three-year term). Pray for all those who are representing their parishes and deaneries at diocesan synod – particularly those who are standing for the first time.

Fri 12 Malvern Community Hospital

Pray for all patients and the medical teams that support them. For out-patient services always on-hand to serve the community. Also remembering those who work in the background: medical secretaries, admin support and the facilities team. Prayerful thanks to all volunteers and the chaplaincy / pastoral support team: Andy Green, Jeff Saunders and Tim Naylor.

Sat 13 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 **Gwagwalada (Nigeria):**
Bishop Moses Bukpe Tabwaye

T **Haiti (USA):**
Bishop Jean Zache Duracin

W **Hanuato'o (Melanesia):**
Bishop Alfred Karibongi

Th **Harare (Central Africa):**
Bishop Farai Mutamiri

F **Hawaii (USA):**
Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick

S **Saint Helena (Southern Africa):**
Bishop Dale Bowers

Pray for those still affected by war and conflict, the Royal British Legion in its continuing work, and for peace in the world.

Royal British Legion
County President:
Brig(Retd) Roger Blunt CBE DL

Rochester:
Bishop James Langstaff w Bishop
Simon Burton-Jones (Tonbridge)
The Anglican Church of Australia:
Archbishop Geoffrey Martyn Smith
**Estonian Evangelical
Lutheran Church:**
Archbishop Urmas Vilma w Bishops
Tiit Salumäe, Joel Luhamets

100 years of the Poppy Appeal

This year marks the centenary of the first Poppy Appeal in 1921, following the founding of the British Legion on 15 May that year (it became the Royal British Legion in 1925). 1921 saw a contraction of the British economy following the Great War. More than two million people were unemployed, many of them disabled veterans, and there was great need to care for those who had suffered, both those who had served and their families. This was compounded by the influenza pandemic which lasted for two years and claimed, it is estimated, up to 50 million lives worldwide; double the number of deaths in the war itself.

In that first year the appeal raised £106,000, which was spent to help veterans needing housing and jobs, and this has now risen to more than £50m annually.

The red poppy is a symbol of both remembrance and hope for a peaceful future, and a reminder of life flourishing even in the darkest and most inhospitable places. The flowering of poppies on the battlefields of 1915, defying the death and destruction all around, inspired the poet John McCrae to write the now famous poem, 'In Flanders Field', which itself inspired others to adopt the poppy in memory of the fallen.



Mon 15 Upton-upon-Severn Ecumenical Partnership

Pray for good ecumenical relationships across Upton and for ongoing witness in the town and schools.

Tue 16 Churches Together in Malvern

Pray for all the Christian churches in the Malvern area as we work together with the local community - in schools' projects, with Malvern Hills Foodbank, in addressing issues of personal debt and access to financial services, and in extending a welcome to refugees.

Wed 17 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Today, our Synod is meeting. We pray for our Synod members. Fill them with your Holy Spirit, that they entrust to you their task of discerning your way ahead for our church.

Thur 18 Ordinands in training

Pray for all those who are currently in training for ordination from our diocese.

Fri 19 Calling Young Disciples team

Pray for our Calling Young Disciples team; for Director, Ruth Walker and Deputy, Simon Hill. For our Mission Enablers: Anne Batchelor, Helen Laird, Amy Stokes and Sian Morgan. Give thanks for all they do to encourage and support parishes in sharing Jesus' love with children, young people and families.

Sat 20 Diocesan Facilities Team

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

Ministry Share

At its meeting in June, diocesan synod approved the details for a new system for sharing the costs of ministry in the diocese – along with a new name: Ministry Share. This new system was proposed by the parish share review group, which was established in July 2019 to find a more sustainable way to share the costs of ministry. In 2019 only 76% of parishes paid their share in full, leading to the £1m deficit in our finances.

From January, our Ministry Share system will be based on the cost of ministry received in a benefice adjusted by the benefice's average income, so that our wealthiest parishes help in supporting others most in need. Under this new system, a benefice with one stipendiary minister and average income levels would have paid £64,466 in share in 2021 – the cost of a stipend, National Insurance, pension and housing as well as a proportion of the cost of our ordinands and curates.

Evidence from other dioceses has shown that this new system is stable, durable and transparent and will support local discussions around deployment of ministry and what is affordable across a local area. During November, the Ministry Share for each benefice for 2022 will be confirmed. For those with significant increases, there will be grants available through a Ministry Support Fund. Support is also available from Diocesan Stewardship Officer, Chris Boden.



Please pray for parish treasurers who seek to balance the parish accounts as well as for the diocesan finance team.

Diocesan Stewardship & Resources
Officer: Chris Boden

St Edmundsbury & Ipswich:
Bishop Martin Seeley
w Bishop Mike Harrison (Dunwich)
Aberdeen and Orkney (Scotland):
Bishop Anne Dyer
The Church of Bangladesh:
Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin

M **Honduras (USA):**
Bishop Lloyd Allen

T **Hong Kong Island**
(Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui):
Bishop Mathias Clement Tze-Wo Der

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

Th **Huron (Canada):**
Bishop Todd Townshend

F **Hyderabad (Pakistan):**
Bishop Kaleem John

S **Ibadan (Nigeria):**
Bishop Joseph O. Akinfenwa

Mon 22 ALMs

Pray for those who serve as Authorised Lay Ministers in the Diocese. Give thanks for all they do in their roles as pastoral worker, evangelist, worship leader or children's and youth worker in their parishes.

Tue 23 Readers

Pray for all those who serve the church as Licensed Lay Ministers and give thanks for their ministry.

Wed 24 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for the ministry of workplace chaplaincy through the Ecumenical Partnerships, the Black County Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM) and Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW). Pray for staff, volunteers, trustees and those they minister to at a time of great need in the economic life of our communities.

Thur 25 Church Administrators

Pray for all those who provide administrative support to their parish church; often the first point of contact for enquiries from the wider community and a huge support to the ministry leadership team.

Fri 26 Those who care for our churchyards

For gravediggers and all who care for our churchyards, helping to make them as beautiful and peaceful as possible for those who are bereaved.

Sat 27 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for our churches as they continue to offer worship online as well as in church. Pray that all our worship is welcoming and accessible to a wide variety of people and helps to develop a deeper discipleship.

Ibadan North (Nigeria): **M**
Bishop Segun Okubadejo

Ibadan South (Nigeria): **T**
Bishop Akintunde Popoola

Ibba (South Sudan): **W**
Bishop Wilson Kamani

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

Idaho (USA): **F**
Bishop Brian Thorn

Ideato (Nigeria): **S**
Bishop Caleb Anny Maduoma



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
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.

