

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Prayer Diary

December 2021 to March 2022

Foreword from Bishop Martin



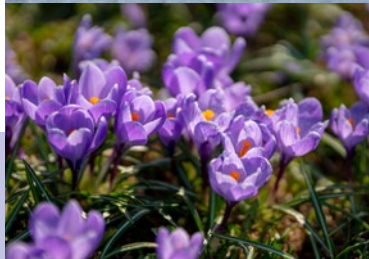
Advent marks the beginning of the new church calendar, a liturgical new year for the church. This year, the Sunday gospel readings will come largely from Luke's Gospel, often bringing out the special place of women, the poor and the marginalised in the teaching and travelling ministry of Jesus.

I've been on the road too, with my Pilgrimage of Prayer and Hope. I've been privileged to spend twelve days visiting churches large and small, urban and rural, with a couple of days in each deanery.

18 months of lockdown and restrictions have been followed by a long and gradual period of recovery, with Covid still around along with many economic and social challenges. As we pray for good government and wise leadership in every place, as Christians we should never lose hope. God is real and God loves us. The Spirit of God refreshes the earth and is the bubbling source of our life and hope too. Wherever I went on my pilgrimage we prayed this prayer. I hope you might use it too.

God of our pilgrimage,
we are a thirsty people in a dry and weary land.
Strike our stony hearts afresh,
Restore fresh springs of life within us.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit.
Let streams of living water
Flow through your Church
For the healing of the nations,
For the blessing of the earth,
And to the glory of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.



At the heart of Christmas



At the Heart of Christmas is the Church of England's Advent and Christmas campaign for 2021. It is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the joyful mystery of Christmas where God became human in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.

In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us. This year, we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, churches and communities.

Daily Advent reflections are available, as well as a printed booklet which contains 12 personal stories, Bible readings and reflective questions exploring themes close to the heart of Christmas.

Access the resources on the Church of England's website.

Mon 29 Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery

Do pray for our Leadership Team as we seek to discern together God's will for the new deanery. We give thanks for Chris, our new treasurer at this important time. Area Dean: Paul Lawlor; Lay Chair: Kashmir Garton; Secretary: Mark Wheatley; Treasurer: Chris Barlow; Admin Support: Rose Humphrey

Tue 30 St Laurence, Alvechurch

Give thanks for the appointment of our new Priest in Charge and pray especially for our wardens Graham & Mick and all those who have been involved in mission and ministry during our vacancy. For our ALMs – Martin and Philippa. Clergy: Gail Rogers; Readers: Sue Phillips Wardle, Helen Ayling

Wed 1 DECEMBER Diocese of Peru

2021 has been a difficult year for Peru with the pandemic and enormous political division, but it has also seen the celebration of 200 years of independence. Pray for reconciliation and hope for Peruvians as they prepare to enter a new year.

Thur 2 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

We pray for our curate Richard Sandland and his wife Kath, as they settle into life in the Bromsgrove parish, that they will have a rewarding time with us. Clergy: David Ford, Ray Khan, Bev Robertson, Richard Sandland; Readers: Hilda Roxborough, Janet Hewer, Geoff Westwood, Rosemary Sumner

Fri 3 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

St John, Bromsgrove is in need of urgent restoration. We pray that resources and finance will be found to undertake the necessary repairs. Clergy: David Ford, Ray Khan, Bev Robertson, Richard Sandland; Readers: Hilda Roxborough, Janet Hewer, Geoff Westwood, Rosemary Sumner

Sat 4 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

We pray for the work of our new pastoral care group at St. Godwald, and the work of the parish detached youth workers as they engage with disengaged young people over the summer. Clergy: David Ford, Ray Khan, Bev Robertson, Richard Sandland; Readers: Hilda Roxborough, Janet Hewer, Geoff Westwood, Rosemary Sumner

*Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.*
Intercessions, Church of England
Seasonal Material

*Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery
Area Dean: Paul Lawlor
Lay Chair: Kashmir Garton*

*Anglican Church in Brazil:
Bishop Naudal Alves Gomes
St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane
(Scotland): Bishop Ian Paton
Porvoo (Finland):
Bishop Bo-Göran Åstrand*

*Idoani (Nigeria): M
Bishop Ezekiel B. Dahuni*

*Ife (Nigeria): T
Bishop Olunmi A. Akinlade*

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

*Ifo (Nigeria): Th
Nathaniel Oladejo Ogundipe*

*Igbomina (Nigeria): F
Emmanuel Adeoye Adekola*

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

Please pray for Mary and for Spiritual Directors across the Diocese who support others in deepening their relationship with God.

Bishop's Adviser for Spirituality:
Mary Flitcroft

Praying for your Baptism families:
Lord, may this Christmas be a special time of love for families who have had a baptism this year. Help them to feel united in your love. Amen.

The Anglican Church of Burundi:
Archbishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho
Chester:
Bishop Mark Tanner, w Bishops Julie Conalty (Birkenhead), Sam Corley (Stockport)
Kuopio (Finland):
Bishop Jari Jolkkonen

M Ihiala (Nigeria):
Bishop Israel 'Kelue Okoye

T Jjebu (Nigeria):
Bishop Ezekiel Ayo Awosoga

W Jjebu North (Nigeria):
Bishop Solomon G. Kuponu

Th Jjebu South West (Nigeria):
Bishop Michael Adebayo Oluwarohunbi

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

S Ijesh North (Nigeria):
Bishop Isaac I. Oluyamo

New Bishop's Adviser for Spirituality

In the Summer, Bishop John appointed Mary Flitcroft as his new Adviser for Spirituality, a role previously filled by Sue Pery.

Mary said, "I feel honoured and excited to have been asked to take on a role that is deeply rooted in prayer and aims to encourage others to develop their relationship with God."

Mary will be responsible for maintaining and developing the Diocesan Spiritual Director's Register, and, through the Spirituality Network, hopes to connect all those with an interest in spirituality. She will continue to develop links with those who organise pilgrimages, retreats, quiet days and reflective prayer gatherings and with the religious houses and communities within the Diocese.

"Our Spiritual Directors are such an amazing resource and they are there for everyone and anyone; they can help people reflect as they are trained and skilled in compassionate listening" Mary continued. "It is through prayer and contemplation that we allow the love of God to really grow and that's when everything changes."



Mon 6 Churchill-in-Halfshire w Blakedown and Broome

Pray for our churchwardens, worship leaders and Interim Priest in Charge, Wyn as we explore arrangements for the parishes over the next few years. Each of our churches have different ministries to offer the communities in which they are set. Clergy: Wyn Beynon; Readers: Gerald Dyer, Andy Hewines, Alison Lewis

Tue 7 Holy Trinity Dodford & St Mary

Please pray for unity for all at Dodford Church as we consider the planned changes which will be made to our worship and services. Clergy: Bev Robertson; Reader: Sally Burdett

Wed 8 Diocese of Morogoro

Please remember clergy and others who will be visiting homes as part of a Diocesan Mission Strategy to encourage those who rarely attend church, especially men, to become regular worshippers. May they be blessed in their efforts to bring many more to the love of Christ. We give thanks for the women recently ordained who are already playing a significant part in strengthening the whole ministry of the Diocese.

Thur 9 Ipsley Team Ministry

At St Peter's Church, we thank God for the regular online services and pray for safety as there are more opportunities for private prayer, services and occasional offices. Clergy: Garth Nathaniel; Readers: Peter McLaren, Christine McLaren, Catherine McLaren, Linda Nicholas, Chris Tilley

Fri 10 Ipsley Team Ministry

We pray for guidance in how to support the church family at St John the Evangelist, Greenlands and our local community and vision as we seek to discern what God has for us and this community. Clergy: Paul Lawlor; Readers: Rosemary Humphrey, Maureen Hughes, Vicki Quarton

Sat 11 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.

The Children's Society

Diocesan Ambassador for
The Children's Society:
Shari Lewison-Frisch

The Anglican Church of Canada:
Bishop Linda Nicholls
Southwell and Nottingham:
Bishop Paul Williams, w Bishop Andrew Emerton (Sherwood)
Borg (Norway):
Bishop Ate Sommerfeldt

Ijumu (Nigeria): **M**
Bishop Paul Olarewaju Ojo

Ikara (Nigeria): **T**
Bishop Yusuf Ishaya Janfalan

Ikeduru (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Emmanuel C. Maduwike

Ikka (Nigeria): **Th**
Bishop Godfrey Ekpenisi

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

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

Children's Society: Good Childhood Report 2021

The Children's Society Good Childhood report for 2021 shows that modern life continues to erode the happiness of young people, with increased numbers dissatisfied with school, their friendships and their appearance.

Although children and young people have been incredibly resilient during the pandemic, approximately a quarter of a million did not cope well with the disruption. It has been reported that many are now plagued by new worries about their future, especially in terms of having enough money, finding a job and getting good grades, as well as the climate emergency. Despite this, seven in ten 10-17 year olds are optimistic about the future regardless of the uncertainties reinforced by the pandemic. The Children's Society runs services and campaigns to improve children's lives, reignite their hope and change the systems that are placing them in danger.

Please pray for all children and young people who are unhappy or struggling with their mental health, as a result of the pandemic or otherwise. Give thanks for all those who raise money for the Children's Society over the Christmas period through Christingles and other services.

Mon 13 Ipsley Team Ministry

Pray, offering thanks for our place amongst the people of Matchborough. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help us discern fresh ways for ministry and mission in the community. We especially pray for the rebuilding of youth and children's ministry. For Sarah Hewitt, our Community Missioner. Clergy: Ian Evans; Readers: Phil Williams, Marilyn Bishop.

Tue 14 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Please pray for The Bridge, Headless Cross. For our plans for a new expression of worship and the work being done with our Mission Enabler Anne as we think about our work with Children and Families. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Victoria Barlow, Barbara Wheatley; Readers: Roger Ling, Fiona Carter

Wed 15 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the upcoming Christmas services in our partner congregations. May pastors and volunteers be able to prepare everything properly and that they can gather without Covid-19 restrictions.

Thur 16 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Please pray for St. Peter, Crabbs Cross as it looks to a new chapter in its life and ministry. Pray in particular for our work with the local school and the development of new relationships there. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Victoria Barlow, Barbara Wheatley; Readers: Roger Ling, Fiona Carter

Fri 17 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Please pray for St Matthias & St George, Astwood Bank. For our new informal, monthly, all-age Eucharist which started in September and for the plans we have to engage with our young families in the local pre-school and primary schools. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Victoria Barlow, Barbara Wheatley; Readers: Roger Ling, Fiona Carter

Sat 18 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Please pray for St John the Baptist Feckenham as we continue to discern God's leading for us, especially around the new ways of building relationships with our local community. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Victoria Barlow, Barbara Wheatley; Readers: Roger Ling, Fiona Carter

Pray for all of the Christmas events and services happening throughout December and for those who plan and organise them. Pray that it will enable more people to hear the story of Jesus' birth in new and accessible ways.

Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery
Secretary: Mark Wheatley
Treasurer: Chris Barlow
Admin Support: Rose Humphrey

The Church of the Province of Central Africa:
Archbishop Albert Chama
Oslo (Norway):
Bishop Kari Veiteberg
Durham: Bishop Paul Butler,
w Bishop Sarah Clark (Jarrow)
Moray, Ross, Caithness (Scotland):
Bishop Mark Strange

M **Ikwuano (Nigeria):**
Bishop Chigozirim U. Onyegbule

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

W **Ile Oluji (Nigeria):**
Bishop Abel Oluyemi Ajubodu

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

F **Ilesa South West (Nigeria):**
Bishop Samuel O. Egbibunmi

S **North East India:**
Bishop Michael Herenz

Christmas services

Throughout the Christmas period, Churches will be planning a whole range of different services to reach out to their local communities and invite them to hear the real meaning of Christmas.

St Mark's Church in Pensnett are planning a return for their panto-style service on Christmas Eve, which is put together by their Vicar, Ness Tobin. She said:

"Our plan is for a performance of 'Return of Babby in the Barn,' (following last years 'Babby in the barn'), which will be the story of the Nativity with a Black Country twist done in pantomime style! People who don't go to church, will come to see a free panto on Christmas Eve, so this ensures we get the story of Christmas out there, but also have a fun and accessible church event. It involves lots of silly one-liners, a baddie (Herod), some rogues (shepherds) an angel who is dame like, and of course, audience participation. This year it might also involve my dog as the donkey!"



Mon 20 Holy Trinity, Redditch Team Ministry

Please pray for St Leonard's Beoley; for our outreach to Church Hill and Abbey Park; for the growth of our work with children and young people; and for the ministry of our pastoral care team. Clergy: Gail Rogers, Paul Lawlor, Francis Moloney, Richard Clark; Readers: Norma Walters, Margaret Lloyd, Enid Mullis

Tue 21 Holy Trinity, Redditch Team Ministry

Please pray for St Philip's Webheath. For the growth of our mission to our community, our outreach to retired people, our Bumps, Babes and Toddlers group and all our ministry to children. Clergy: Paul Lawlor, Francis Moloney, Richard Clark

Wed 22 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for those working in retail in these last days before Christmas, after having to weather the storms of the past two years due to Covid-19, and especially for all working over the holiday period; that all may find the rest they need and know the peace of the Christ-child.

Thur 23 Holy Trinity, Redditch Team Ministry

Please pray for St Bartholomew's Tardebigge & St Mary's Lower Bentley. For our ministry to young families, especially through Café Church, our relationship with Tardebigge CE First School, and our outreach to the Brockhill area. For our ALMs Jane and Roger. Clergy: Paul Lawlor, Francis Moloney, Richard Clark; Readers: Dean Hall

Fri 24 Key workers

Pray for all those who have been key workers throughout the pandemic, putting themselves at risk as they attend to the needs of other people. We thank them for their courage and compassion and pray that your Holy Spirit will support and encourage them, especially at times of physical or emotional exhaustion.

Sat 25 Christmas Day

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: Give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen (Common Worship, Church of England).

Supporting our smaller churches

Churches with 20 or fewer active members make up 45% of the churches in our diocese. Smaller churches are often at the heart of their communities and have the story of that community literally written in their stones. However, they face very specific challenges to remain or become healthy and sustainable.



The Revd Alison Maddocks was appointed to the new role of Dean of Smaller Churches to work with these churches, providing practical support and helping them to connect with each other to share wisdom. She said:

"Our 120 smaller churches are 95% rural and the majority are listed buildings, with two-thirds being grade 1 or 2* listed. Many are struggling with both financial and people resources. One response could just be to close

many of these churches, but that is definitely not the strategy. All our churches are important to many who visit to find solace or discover their history."

Alison's post is funded by the Church Commissioners. She can help churches to work together effectively and find ways to creatively be church in their communities. Visit the diocesan website to find out how she can help your church.

Mon 27 Discipleship & Lay Training Officer

Please pray for Discipleship & Lay Training Officer, Doug Chaplin, that through his work people are encouraged, inspired and supported with their discipleship and everyday faith.

Tue 28 Holy Trinity, Redditch Team Ministry

Please pray for St Stephen's Redditch. We give thanks for significant maintenance work on the building being completed. We look forward to what God has in store for us as things open up and the new opportunities for mission in the town centre of Redditch. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Richard Clark, Francis Moloney, Paul Lawlor

Wed 29 Belbroughton w Fairfield

Pray for our churchwardens, the ALMs, Worship Leaders and clergy, as we begin to work out with the Bromsgrove Team how the new arrangements will work and how each church can both contribute to and benefit from being part of a new team. Clergy: Wyn Beynon, David Ford; Readers: Gerald Dyer, Andy Hewines, Alison Lewis

Thur 30 Those who struggle over Christmas

Pray for all those for whom the Christmas season will be a painful time. For parents who have lost sons or daughters, couples who are no longer together, children who are unhappy, confused or in trouble, and those who will be alone.

Fri 31 New Year's Eve

Lord, as we enter the new year, we each have our hopes and expectations for all that is ahead of us - but you alone know what it holds. Help us meet its challenges and assure us of the certainty of your unchanging love.

Sat 1 JANUARY The Emergency Services and their Chaplains

Pray for all who work in the Fire & Rescue Services, the Ambulance Service and the Police, for safety and resilience. Pray also for their chaplains as they reflect God's love and care for all officers and staff. Joint Lead Chaplain: Dick Johnson. Chaplains: Stuart Sandys, Tony Whalley, Paul Lawlor, Tim Williams, Mike Wilkinson, Keith Locke, Keith Osmund-Smith, Tony Whalley, Ahmed Hans, Vanetta Griffiths

Pray for all those who worship in smaller churches across our diocese and for Alison as she supports these congregations.

Dean of Smaller Churches:
Alison Maddocks

Anglican Church in Central America:
Bishop Julio Murray Thompson
Chichester:
Bishop Martin Warner, w Bishops
Ruth Bushyager (Horsham), Will
Hazlewood (Lewes)
Mikkeli (Finland):
Bishop Seppo Häkkinen

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

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

Iowa (USA): **W**
Bishop Alan Scarfe

Iran: **Th**
Vacant

Irele Eseodo (Nigeria): **F**
Vacant

Isi mbano (Nigeria): **S**
Bishop Godson Udochukwu
Ukanwa

Lord, you answer our prayers in many ways, but sometimes not in the way we expect. Thank you for listening, for supporting and for encouraging us to think deeper, in both good times and bad.

Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery
Area Dean: Paul Lawlor
Lay Chair: Kashmir Garton

Praying for your Baptism families:
Father God, bless all families bringing their child for baptism; that no matter how small their faith, they are granted wisdom and opportunities to nurture their own faith in you. Amen.

Province de L'Eglise Anglicane
Du Congo: Archbishop
Zacharie Masimango Katanda

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer

By the end of 2023, it is hoped that the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer will be unveiled in Coleshill, Birmingham.

Each of the million bricks in this gigantic Christian landmark will display an individual's story, remembering how God has answered a specific prayer amid times of challenge in their lives. Stories will be shared by Christians from all around the world, from both the past and the present and they will be made available to the public on the largest online database of hope stories in the world.

The structure will be over twice the size of the Angel of the North and will be surrounded by 10 acres of landscaped ground for visitors to sit and reflect in.

Reflection on answered prayer gives us a deeper understanding of who God is and helps us mature in our Christian life. Not only that, it will also encourage a national conversation about prayer and hope with people of all faiths and none.



Mon 3 PCC and Deanery Synod members

Pray for all those who serve their church as members of the Parochial Church Council and give thanks for their important role in the mission of the Church. Also pray for Deanery Synod members who play a vital role in the governance of the Church.

Tue 4 Redditch Alexandra Hospital

Pray for the whole hospital community, including patients and their families, especially while visiting is still restricted. Thanking God for the 1000+ people who work at the Alex and their dedication through this challenging time. For the Chaplain, David Ryan and the Hospitals' Chaplaincy team.

Wed 5 Diocese of Peru

The Diocese of Peru has been focusing on the training and education of lay people, to help prepare lay leaders and work with congregations on discipleship. Pray for this programme and for all who are responsible for delivering it.

Thur 6 United Parish of Stoke Prior, Wychbold & Upton Warren

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we work together with our local communities; that as we serve, we may grow as Kingdom People. Pray for our ALMs Kate and Karen, our Churchwarden June and members of the PCC. Clergy: Paula Honniball

Fri 7 United Parish of Stoke Prior, Wychbold & Upton Warren

Give thanks for our church buildings. Pray that they will be used well, providing a welcoming and inclusive space for worship and friendship. Pray for the work of the Heritage Friends Group. Clergy: Paula Honniball

Sat 8 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, help us to see the opportunities for coming alongside others and sharing the good news of Jesus. We pray for those just starting on their journey of faith, that they will continue to grow and develop as your disciples.

Plough Sunday

Traditionally, Plough Sunday has been observed on the First Sunday of Epiphany since the Victorian age, however, it has a much older association with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas, hence the phrase Plough Monday used in some places.



In the past, ploughs were often kept in the parish church and were blessed at this service. After long winters, during which farm work was scarce, the observance of this agricultural festival looked ahead to the time of sowing and the promise of harvest to come.

Although the nature of farming has changed over the centuries, today Plough Sunday is still seen as a way of celebrating farming and human labour more generally near the start of the calendar year. It is an opportunity to cherish the land and to remind us all of our dependence upon it and upon God.

Mon 10 Retired clergy in Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery

In this season of Epiphany, we pray that, with the pressures of parish ministry now behind them, retired clergy associated with Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery might more and more discover the glory of God in the ordinary stuff of their everyday lives.

Tue 11 Redditch Ecumenical Covenant

We give thanks for the widening involvement churches across Redditch and for James Hamilton (Emmanuel URC/Methodist LEP) and Dawn Evans (Salvation Army).

Wed 12 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for all those who are involved in trying to rebuild the income of the Diocese of Morogoro following a poor harvest and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Please pray that many more will feel moved to give so that greater resources can be accessed to help those in desperate need.

Thur 13 HMP Hewell Grange

Pray for the Governor, Deputy Governor, Senior Management Team and all staff, for their safety and well-being. Pray for the men who live and work here, for their anxiety, depression and fear and that through the compassion and care of those around them, that they may feel valued and cared for.

Fri 14 Princess of Wales Community Hospital, Bromsgrove

Please pray for our in-patients, outpatients and all who rely on our services. For all nursing teams led by Matron Phil Shakeshaft, doctors, consultants, support staff, volunteers and fundraisers. Praying also for the Healthcare chaplaincy team led by Andy Green.

Sat 15 Education in the Diocese

Pray for all those who work in the Diocesan Education Team. For Director of Education, Tim Reid; Executive Officer, Gilly Maxim; Administrator, Janine Jenkins; Education Advisers, Gemma Martin and Duncan Hutchison; and the consultants who support their work.

We give thanks for all those who work the land - sowing seeds, tending to and harvesting crops throughout the year.

Chaplaincy for Agriculture & Rural Life –
Chair: David Morris
Secretary: Liz Edwards

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile:
Bishop Hector Zavala

M Isiala-Ngwa (Nigeria):
Bishop Temple O Nwaogu

T Isial-Ngwa South (Nigeria):
Bishop Isaac Chijoke Nwaobia

W Isikwuato (Nigeria):
Bishop Manasses Chijokem I. Okere

Th Northern Izon (Nigeria):
Bishop Funkuro Godrules
Victor Amgbare

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

S Jabalpur (North India):
Bishop Prem Chand Singh

M Jaffna (India):
Bishop Daniel Selvaratnam
Thiagarajah

T Jalingo (Nigeria):
Bishop Foreman Nedison

W Jamaica & The Cayman Islands
(West Indies):
Bishop Howard Gregory

Th Jebba (Nigeria):
Bishop S. Timothy G. Adewole

F Jerusalem:
Archbishop Suheil Dawani

S San Joaquin (USA):
Bishop David Rice



Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery
Secretary: Mark Wheatley
Treasurer: Chris Barlow
Admin Support: Rose Humphrey

The Church of England:
Archbishop Justin Welby

Lay Ministry

This Sunday's reading addresses a problem in first-century Corinth, which has continued to be a problem down the centuries: some people think their ministry is more important than other people's ministry. St Paul's answer stays the same down the ages too: everybody's ministry is as much a valuable part of the church, as each limb or organ is part of the same body.

We have a wide variety of ministries in the church. Some we give official titles to like Authorised Lay Minister (ALM), or Licensed Lay Minister (LLM or Reader). Some we ordain as bishops, priests, and deacons. Many have no obvious title. All are valued, all are God's gifts to his church, and all need the presence and power of the same Holy Spirit, who Paul reminds us, both allots and activates these gifts.

Pray for those who are considering whether they are being called to lay ministries in the church, and especially those seeking to discern whether they should offer to help their parishes as ALMs or serve in their parishes and more widely as LLMs (Readers). And take a moment to consider the gifts God has given you, and how you might use them.

Mon 17 Multi-Academy Trusts

Pray for all the Multi-Academy Trusts currently supporting schools, in particular the two diocesan trusts - the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT), CEO: Claire Davies (with 15 schools) and the newly formed Elements Diocesan Learning Trust, interim CEO: Viv Cranton (4 schools).

Tue 18 Pershore & Evesham Deanery

Give thanks for all who live as faithful disciples of Christ. Pray we may discern how best to live, worship and share faith with our communities spread over a wide geographical area, and with care for each other's wellbeing. Area Dean: Sarah Dangerfield, Lay Chair: Robin Lunn, Deanery Secretary: Alison Sandham, and all synod members.

Wed 19 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

As a new year starts we pray for our EKM-Worcester partnerships. May we be able to inspire the younger generations of congregation members and pastors, especially those who were already involved in the newly ordained exchange.

Thur 20 Bowbrook Group

Give thanks for Hibleton & Huddington villagers and those who maintain an active, visible and caring ministry here. Pray that the new combined parish will bring new ways of being Kingdom People in this area. Pray for all at Hibleton CE First School, Head: Gemma Martin. Clergy: David Morris, Barbara Wheatley; Reader: Margaret Farquhar

Fri 21 Bowbrook Group

Pray that our building work will allow wider community activities at Hanbury and Stock & Bradley. Give thanks for the retired clergy and our worship leaders. For all the staff at Hanbury CE First School and the Open the Book team. Clergy: David Morris, Rita Holden, Keith Withington; Reader: John Spencer

Sat 22 Growing as Kingdom People

Give thanks for all parishes continue to do to support mission and ministry across the Diocese through contributing to its cost. As our new Ministry Share system comes into effect, we pray that parishes will do what they can to work towards full payment and ask for support when they need it.



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

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui:
Archbishop Andrew Chan

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally held between 18-25 January. The theme for this year was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches: "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" (Matthew 2:2). More than ever, in the difficult times we've witnessed, we need a light that shines in the darkness and that light is a gift, an indication of God's loving presence for all humanity.

The Magi reveal to us the unity of all nations desired by God. They travel from far-off countries, and represent diverse cultures, yet they are driven by the same hunger to see and know the new-born king. Christians are called to be a sign to the world of God bringing about this unity that he desires. Drawn from different cultures, races and languages, Christians share in a common search for Christ and a common desire to worship him. The mission of the Christian people, therefore, is to be a sign like the star, to lead all to Christ, and to be the means by which God is bringing about the unity of all peoples.

Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one, we pray to you for the unity of Christians. May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.

Mon 24 Bowbrook Group

At Crowle & Bredicot, give thanks for the links with Crowle CE First School and Head: Martina Abbot. For the Open the Book team and for our building work, to facilitate a new community space. For Crowle Pre-School, our village shop, volunteers and all those who work to upkeep our churches. Clergy: David Morris, Rita Holden; Reader: Margaret Farquhar

Tue 25 Bowbrook Group

Pray that planned extra facilities for Hadzor w Oddingley and Tibberton, will bless the community & enhance our mission. Pray for our "Open Sunday" service and links with Tibberton CE First School (Head: Alex Gromski), together with the Open the Book team. For all exploring vocations. Clergy: David Morris, Rita Holden; Reader: Yuki Johnson.

Wed 26 Economy & Daily Life

A year after leaving the EU, pray for businesses who are still adjusting, especially those who have relied in the past on workers from other countries, and for those workers, from Britain and the EU whose lives have had to change. Pray for a spirit of cooperation and respect in all economic dealings, immigration and foreign policy.

Thur 27 The Flyfords Family

Pray for the congregations of St.Eadburga, Abberton and St Bartholomew, Naunton Beauchamp that we may discover how best to show God's love in communities which we serve to show God's love. Clergy: Emma Goldby, Sarah Dangerfield, Gary Noyes

Fri 28 The Flyfords Family

Give thanks for all who support St John the Baptist, Grafton Flyford, St. Peter, Flyford Flavell and St Michael and All Angels, North Piddle. Please pray that we might be built up in faith and service as we consider how we can best serve our rural villages. Clergy: Emma Goldby, Sarah Dangerfield, Gary Noyes

Sat 29 Bishampton and Throckmorton

Give thanks for all who live out their faith and share their faith with others. Help them to feel guided and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Give thanks for all who care for our churches. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby, Gary Noyes; Reader: Delia Harding

Kafanchan (Nigeria): **M**
Bishop Markus Madugu Dogo

Kagera (Tanzania): **T**
Bishop Darlington Bendankeha

Kajiado (Kenya): **W**
Bishop Gadiel Katanga Lenini

Kajo-Keji (South Sudan): **Th**
Bishop Emmanuel Murye Modi

Kamango (Congo): **F**
Bishop Sabiti Tibafa Daniel

Kampala (Uganda): **S**
Bishop Stanley Ntagali

Pray for the new youth fellowship in Stourbridge, for those who will lead it and for the young people who will attend.

*Pershore and Evesham Deanery:
Secretary: Alison Sandham*

*The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean: Archbishop James
Richard Wong Yin Song*

Youth fellowship in Stourbridge

Churches in the Stourbridge area have come together to launch a new youth fellowship based in Oldswinford. The idea started at St Michael and All Angels in Norton, where members of the Calling Young Disciples learning hub felt that they wanted to provide something for secondary school age children but didn't have the volunteers to take the idea forward.

Mission Enabler, Anne Batchelor, said: "The church started to broker a conversation with St James, Wollaston and St Mary, Oldswinford about whether they could work together and in January are hoping to launch a monthly youth group for young people aged 12 and over."

The group have carried out consultation with the young people themselves, who asked for somewhere they could meet where there would be food and fellowship and an opportunity to begin to talk through faith as well as issues being faced at school and in wider society.



"It is great that new volunteers have come forward to this project – we now need lots of prayer that it will launch successfully, then grow and develop," said Anne.

Mon 31 Stoulton w Drakes Broughton & Pirton

Give thanks for all who support St Edmunds Stoulton, St Barnabas Drakes Broughton and St Peter Pirton. Pray that we will find new and creative ways both to reach out to our communities and also to help our existing members grow and develop in their faith. Clergy: Emma Goldby, Sarah Dangerfield, Gary Noyes; Reader: Mary Kenchington

Tue 1 FEBRUARY Bowland Benefice

Please pray for the ministry of our churches within the benefice as we begin to build a new vision after the various lockdowns. Pray for wisdom for our Benefice Council and individual PCCs and churchwardens. Clergy: Gary Noyes, Claire Billington, Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby

Wed 2 Diocese of Peru

The Diocese of Peru works with some of the poorest communities in the shanty towns of Lima. Pray for the spiritual and physical support they provide, including church services, pastoral visits and feeding projects.

Thur 3 Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle, Crophorne & Charlton

Give thanks for all who live out their faith and share their faith with others. Help them to feel guided and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Give thanks for all who care for our churches. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby, Gary Noyes; Reader: Sue Hiscocks

Fri 4 Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle, Crophorne & Charlton

Give thanks for our church schools of Fladbury and Crophorne with Charlton, and pre-schools. Pray for the whole school community, children, families, staff, governors and volunteers. Give thanks for the worship we enjoy together and pray we may all grow in faith learning from one another. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby, Gary Noyes; Reader: Sue Hiscocks

Sat 5 Growing as Kingdom People

As we seek to share hope and make new disciples, help us to look for ways in which we can demonstrate the difference that God's call has made on our own lives.

The Queen's Green Canopy

Today marks 70 years since HM The Queen acceded to the throne and becomes the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.

Many plans are in place to mark her years of service to the nation, including the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC), which is a UK-wide tree planting initiative, inviting people to sustainably 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' for future generations to enjoy. Churches have been invited to take part and last Autumn, the Princess Royal visited St Barnabas CE Primary in Worcester to plant a tree there as part of the project.



Lt Col Patrick Holcroft, Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire writes: "The QGC is aimed at everyone so please do get involved, either by planting a commemorative tree in your garden, some fruit trees, or a larger woodland area. This is a meaningful and lasting way of showing our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for the 70 years of Her Majesty's dedicated service to our Community."

Mon 7 Inkberrow, Cookhill, Kington w Dormston

Pray as we adapt to change and look forward. For those new to the benefice and those who have left for pastures new and that people may see us as lights which reflect Christ every day. We pray for our leaders; clergy, Readers and those in training, churchwardens and the PCCs. We thank God for the service of those who have stepped down and for those who lead and serve in other ways.

Tue 8 ARCH Benefice

Give thanks for the church roof repair work at St Peter's Rous Lench and pray for the next steps in the renovation programme. Pray for St Peter's Abbots Morton as it cautiously moves towards the next normal. Clergy: Richard Thorniley; Pioneer Deacon: Chris Sheehan

Wed 9 Diocese of Morogoro

Please pray for all those clergy who struggle to promote the love of God in remote and inaccessible areas of Morogoro where there is strong antipathy towards the Christian Church. May they be strengthened by the knowledge of our prayers for them as they try to make Christ's message known in very difficult circumstances.

Thur 10 ARCH Benefice

Give thanks for the imaginative use of churchyards as community art galleries at both All Saints, Church Lench and St James, Harvington. Pray for the Church of England First Schools as they prepare for Lent and Easter and welcome Open the Book assemblies. Clergy: Richard Thorniley; Pioneer Deacon: Chris Sheehan

Fri 11 East Vale & Avon Villages

Pray for Cleeve Prior & the Littletons and for our Open the Book teams in our village schools. Pray also for our building projects and churchwardens. Clergy: Philip Morton; Readers: Alan Bache, Joyce Bache, Sue Cole, Margaret Pye

Sat 12 East Vale & Avon Villages

Pray for Badsey, Offenham & Bretforton giving thanks for new ministries to toddlers and parents. For a fruitful benefice year of discipleship - 'Living our Faith' & our new Christian Mindfulness course 'Midweek Serenity' as we engage with of the wider community. Clergy: Philip Morton; Readers: Alan Bache, Joyce Bache, Sue Cole, Margaret Pye

Please pray for HM The Queen as she reaches her Platinum Jubilee. We give thanks for her dedicated service to the nation and the church over the last seventy years.

Her Majesty the Queen

Praying for our Baptism families: Father, thank you for all the families who visit our church. Help them to know that you are their Heavenly Father and that you love them with an everlasting love. Amen.

*The Church of Ireland:
Archbishop John McDowell*

*Karachi (Pakistan): M
Bishop Sadiq Daniel*

*Karamoja (Uganda): T
Bishop Joseph Abura*

*North Karamoja (Uganda): W
Bishop James Nasak*

*Karimnagar (India): Th
Bishop Reuben Mark*

Karnataka Central (South India): F

*Karnataka North (South India): S
Bishop Prasana Kumar Samuel*

M *Kano (Nigeria):
Bishop Zakka L. Nyam*

T *Kansas (USA):
Bishop Cathleen Bascom*

W *Western Kansas (USA):
Bishop Mark Cowell*

Th *Kanyakumari (South India):
Bishop A. R. Chelliah*

F *Kapoeta (South Sudan):
Bishop Isaac Deu Chol*

S *Kapsabet (Kenya):
Bishop Paul Korir*

As we anticipate St Valentine's Day, pray particularly for all those who are lonely and unable to be near the ones they love.

Pershore and Evesham Deanery - Area Dean: Sarah Dangerfield

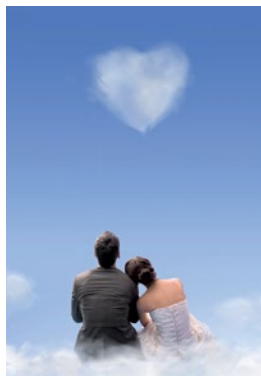
The Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan): Bishop Luke Kenichi Muto

St Valentine

St Valentine's Day embraces a time of year historically associated with love and fertility. On this day, we remember the martyrdom of St Valentine, who was executed in Rome around 269 AD, under orders from the Emperor Claudius. Emperor Claudius claimed that married men made poor soldiers and decreed that marriage between younger citizens be outlawed.

Despite this, it is believed that Valentine continued to conduct illegitimate wedding ceremonies, maintaining that marriage was part of God's plan for the world. The popularity of his actions ultimately led to his arrest and execution, but not before he fell in love with his jailer's daughter. Legend suggests that on the evening of his execution the priest passed her a note which read 'from your Valentine'.

St Valentine's Day invites us to mark and acknowledge the all-loving God who blesses those who love one another. The sacrificial love of God in Christ is an example of the love we share with those near to us.



Mon 14 St Peter, Bengeworth

Pray for the new renewal project at St Peter's Church, Bengeworth, led by a group from resourcing church All Saints, Worcester. Pray that the new congregation will continue to grow and develop as a more informal, evangelical expression of church is offered alongside St Peter's more liturgical tradition. Clergy: Andy Smith.

Tue 15 ASUM Group

At Hampton, with Sedgeberrow and Hinton, please pray for our ongoing work with our schools, children's and community groups: those undertaking further training: for work to repair and upgrade our church buildings. Clergy: Mark Binney, Patrick Wooster, Nick Wright; LLMs: John Lynch, Elaine Major.

Wed 16 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the newly founded Cathedral Chapter in St. Nicolaus, Stendal. May it be salt and light especially for the region and may the regularly held Evensong be a source of strength for all who search.

Thur 17 ASUM Group

In Evesham w Norton & Lenchwick, pray for our foodbank and Street Pastors. For Andy and Caroline Green, training for ordination. For our new ALMs and our pastoral and leadership teams as we emerge from Covid-19. Clergy: Andrew Spurr

Fri 18 Pershore w Pinvin, Wick and Birlingham

Pray for Mission Enabler, Sian Morgan, the Calling Young Disciples team and our Café Church project. For our Babies and Toddlers group, Open the Book team and our ALMs. Clergy: Claire Lording, Steve Dunton, Alma Organ; Ordinand: Jayne Parker; Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams

Sat 19 Growing as Kingdom People

As we seek to transform our communities, pray that our eyes might be opened to issues that are particularly affecting our locality such as poverty, dementia or a lack of facilities for young people.

M *Karnataka South (India): Bishop Mohan Manoraj*

T *Kasai (Congo): Vacant*

W *Katakwa (Kenya): Bishop John Okude Omuse*

Th *Katanga (Congo): Bishop Bertin Subi*

F *Katsina (Nigeria): Bishop Jonathan S. Bamaiyi*

S *Kebbi (Nigeria): Archbishop Edmund E. Akanya*



FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade Fortnight

For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes; people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from tomorrow until 6 March and is even more crucial this year as the global economy recovers from Covid-19. Pray for fairness and justice in all economic dealings and especially for small producers in developing economies, that they may receive a fair price for what they produce. Pray that consumers make informed choices.

We are all part of the Fairtrade movement and have the power to drive long-term change, not only with our shopping choices but in spreading the message.

What difference will you make during Fairtrade Fortnight this year?

Mon 21 Economy & Daily Life

When it is still cold or wet, pray for those who work outside and for those who keep our vital services going. Give thanks for those who put comfort or health at risk to provide us with the things we need or want, and in the service of others, and pray for safety for all.

Tue 22 Pershore w Pinvin, Wick and Birlingham

Pray for our schools and college and our outreach to them: Abbey Park Federation, Orchard Primary, Pinvin CE Federation, Pershore High and Pershore College. For our ALMs and Ordinand: Jayne Parker. Clergy: Claire Lording, Steve Dunton, Alma Organ; Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams

Wed 23 St James, Norton

Give thanks for our partnership with All Saints, Worcester as we work together on new services at St James. Pray for our mission to areas of new housing. For our ALMs, our Ordinand: Giles Joiner and Children & Families workers Josh & Rachael Kennedy. Clergy: Mark Badger, Owain Bell, Don Sloggett, Readers: Ron Rust, Libby James

Thur 24 Vocations team

Pray for all those across the Diocese who support others in finding their vocation. In particular, Director of Ordinands & Vocation: John Fitzmaurice; Associate DDOs: Diane Cooksey, Katryn Leclézio, Philip Morton, Andy Todd; Associate Diocesan Director of Vocations: Barbara Wheatley.

Fri 25 Broadway w Wickhamford

Pray for those returning to church and give thanks for all who continue to support those shielding. For the ongoing conversations regarding our benefice & Childswickham; for Churches Together in Broadway; for our worship team. Clergy: Michelle Ward, Jo Williamson

Sat 26 Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne w Beckford & Ashton-under-Hill

Pray for those working hard to maintain worship and a witness around the benefice. For our work with families and for Overbury CE First School, Ashton under Hill First School and Bredon Hill Academy. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies

*Lord God,
In the fields of the poor
Even when abundant
fruits ripen,
Injustice sweeps them away,
And families hunger.
Help us to share
The fruits of your bounty
So that all your family
may benefit
From your gracious gifts.
Amen.*

Pershore and Evesham Deanery - Lay Chair: Robin Lunn

*The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East:
Bishop Michael Augustine
Owen Lewis*

Kentucky (USA): M
Bishop Terry White

Mount Kenya Central (Kenya): T
Bishop Timothy Gichere

Mount Kenya South (Kenya): W
Bishop Timothy Ranji

Mount Kenya West (Kenya): Th
Bishop Joseph Kagunda

East Kerala (South India): F
Bishop V. S. Francis

South Kerala (South India): S
Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam

Pray for all those who are struggling below the poverty line and for the work of CAP across our diocese.

Pershore and Evesham Deanery:
Secretary: Alison Sandham

The Anglican Church of Kenya:
Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit

Church Action on Poverty Sunday

Church Action on Poverty (CAP) Sunday takes place on the last Sunday before Lent each year.

This year, CAP is asking churches to focus on supporting those in poverty to reclaim their dignity, agency and power of their own lives. The pandemic has highlighted pre-existing inequalities in society, in addition to being the trigger for a dramatic increase in widespread poverty, food insecurity and debt.

CAP has a vision of a fairer world with a smaller gap between rich and poor and works to make that vision a reality, by empowering people in poverty to overcome the injustices they face, and equipping churches to work alongside them.

Today is a day to give, act and pray to make a difference to those in poverty.

Find out more at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday.



M **Kericho (Kenya):**
Bishop Ernest Kiprotich Ng'eno

T **Ukhahlamba (South Africa):**
Bishop Moses Madywabe

W **Khartoum (Sudan):**
Bishop Ezekiel Kumir Kondo

Th **Kibondo (Tanzania):**
Bishop Sospeter Ndenza

F **Kibungo (Rwanda):**
Bishop Emmanuel Ntazinda

S **Kigali (Rwanda):**
Bishop Nathan Amooti Rusengo

Mon 28 St Oswald of Worcester

Today is St Oswald's Day. We pray: O God, you show your wonder in the lives of your saints, including St Oswald, your confessor and bishop. Grant that his example of holiness may lead us to follow in his footsteps.

Tue 1 MARCH Bredon Hill w Bredon's Norton

We give thanks for the hard work and efforts of lay people, especially churchwardens, during a long period of vacancy and now pray for God's wisdom and discernment as we seek to build on the developing vision of shared ministry and mission across the Bredon Hill Group. We pray for those assisting with pastoral support in our communities and for a deepening relationship and engagement with Bredon Hancock's Endowed First School. For our ALM. Clergy: Allison Davies, Katryn Leclézio, Catherine Lack

Wed 2 Ash Wednesday

Almighty God, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness.

Thur 3 Diocese of Peru

The pandemic has severely disrupted the work of the Diocese of Peru. Pray for Bishop Jorge and his leadership team as they seek to discern the future direction and priorities of the Peruvian church.

Fri 4 Elmley Castle and Bricklehampton w Combertons

Pray for discernment and wisdom as we seek to work together around the benediction to be God's hands and feet and voice in our communities and to grow our work with families. Pray for Elmley Castle CE First School as pupils and staff continue to navigate exhausting times. For our ALMs. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies, Roger Spiller

Sat 5 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray that we may each find ways to play our part in the journey towards healthier and more sustainable churches and that the values of love, compassion, justice and freedom will continue to underpin our lives together.

Sharing Hope: Bishop John's Lent Appeal



Bishop John's Lent Appeal this year will raise money for our partner Diocese of Morogoro in Tanzania.

The pandemic has meant a particularly difficult time for the Diocese of Morogoro, but in recent months, Bishop Godfrey has created a number of new parishes.

The Diocese is looking to become self-supporting and is hoping to open an education and conference centre which can be hired by others – Baraka House (Blessing House).

Bishop Godfrey said: "The diocese has a remarkable location for business site in Morogoro. All funding to build Baraka

House is coming from parishioners with each parish assigned a specific target for an annual contribution. Covid-19, drought and flood have all affected harvests and therefore reduced incomes, but we are not discouraged - God is strengthening our parishioners and clergy to meet this goal. It is with great gratitude that we receive news of this heart-touching appeal for Lent. The parishes of Morogoro and parishes of Worcester are now holding hands together for the Baraka House project."

You can donate to Bishop John's Lent Appeal on the diocesan website.

Mon 7 Eckington

Give thanks for hardworking churchwardens and laity who reach out to the community, both through the weekly coffee mornings and acts of pastoral support. We pray a recently appointed Youth Worker will help us reach out to young children and families, and for our Open the Book Team at Eckington CE First School. Clergy: Allison Davies, Katryn Leclézio, Michael Hooper

Tue 8 Defford w Besford

Give thanks for all those who pray and work for renewed growth in our churches as they seek to build fruitful relationships and grow faith across the community. Pray for Defford CE First School, its staff, pupils and governors. Clergy: Allison Davies, Katryn Leclézio, Michael Hooper

Wed 9 Diocese of Morogoro

Give thanks for the Tunguli Tractor Committee, overseeing the use of the tractor purchased by the Diocese of Worcester, which plays an important part in providing food for those living in the area. Pray for Mission Morogoro that is helping to ensure a sustainable future for the tractor.

Thur 10 Retired clergy in Pershore & Evesham Deanery

As the River Avon binds this deanery with a shared identity, so in the family of the church we remember the ministry of the ordained now retired, upholding them in prayer of thanksgiving for the work God has done through them.

Fri 11 Those who are ill

Bring your healing touch to all who are unwell, whether in body, mind and spirit, particularly remembering those who continue to suffer from Covid-19. Give thanks for all who look after the sick and the dying, bringing comfort to their friends and families.

Sat 12 Growing as Kingdom People

In today's difficult world, we give thanks that You are there to bring light and hope. Help us to share the hope of our hearts with one another and enable us to give hope to others through Your work among us.

Pray for our partner Diocese of Morogoro, for Bishop Godfrey Sehaba, the clergy and parishioners. Give thanks that we can work together to help bring hope and the good news of God's love to more people.

Diocese of Morogoro –
Bishop Godfrey Sehaba

Praying for our Baptism families:
Father God, Thank you that you are always there for us. Help all parents listen to their children and know that sometimes the best thing they can do for them is just be there, listening. Amen.

The Anglican Church of Korea:
Bishop Peter Kyongho Lee

Kigeme (Rwanda): **M**
Bishop Assiel Musabyimana

Kigezi (Uganda): **T**
Bishop George Bagamuhunda

North Kigezi (Uganda): **W**
Vacant

Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania): **Th**
Bishop Stanley Elliekia Hotay

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

Kimberley & Kuruman (Southern Africa): **S**
Bishop Oswald Swartz

Pray for the Dementia Centre in Malvern Link and also for all the many projects around our diocese where local churches are working to transform their communities.

Malvern Link Dementia Centre –
The Revd Phillip Johnson
Manager: Kirsty Hughes

The Anglican Church of Melanesia:
Archbishop Leonard Dawea

Transforming Communities: Dementia Centre in Malvern Link

The parish of Malvern Link with Cowleigh has opened a Dementia Meeting Centre in St Matthias Church as part of their ministry to the local community. The centre runs from 10am – 3pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and the parish funds an Age UK dementia nurse to manage the centre and work with those who attend.

Vicar Phillip Johnson said: “We’ve been spending time thinking about the ways in which we can have the most impact on our community and providing space and running a dementia centre was very high on the list. We have made substantial changes to the space in order to make it as dementia friendly as possible.”

Kirsty Hughes, manages the centre and works with local people who attend, who all have mild-moderate dementia. She said: “We plan a whole range of different activities including seated dance, quizzes, baking, crafts and board games. Carers can stay if they’d like or go and have a few hours of respite.”

Alan is a local man who attends most Wednesdays. He said: “It is really great to have a centre like this close to home. I really enjoy sitting around and chatting to the other people who are here.”



Mon 14 Churches Together in Evesham

Pray for all the different denominations working together in Evesham to best serve their community.

Tue 15 Evesham Community Hospital

For patients and staff at Evesham Community Hospital, The Stroke Support Team, MIU, Clinical Investigations and all support services, especially as they face the challenges presented by the Coronavirus. For Matron, Dan Marshall; The Chaplaincy and Pastoral Support Team; Lead Chaplain, Andy Green; Diane Hayward- Wright; and Tracey Vickerey.

Wed 16 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the preparation of the exchange visit of the newly-ordained clergy. Young pastors from the EKM are visiting the Diocese of Worcester in June.

Thur 17 Mucknell Abbey

Please pray for the Anglican Benedictine Community at Mucknell Abbey and especially for Abbot Thomas.

Fri 18 Parish and Deanery Treasurers

Please pray for all those who look after the finances of their parish or deanery. We give thanks for their knowledge and skills and that they feel called to share the love of Jesus in this way.

Sat 19 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord God, we thank you for all the places we can find you in our communities. Help us to remember that Jesus came to transform the world and we all have a role to play in that.

Worshipping God creatively: A new service in Norton



A new service has launched at St James' Church in Norton juxta Kempsey with support from our Resourcing Church in Worcester. Rector of Kempsey, Mark Badger, has been working with All Saints, making use of their expertise to reinvigorate worship in his churches.

Mark said: “Around 3,500 new homes are being planned in our area and we realised

we needed to do something to prepare for the influx of new younger people and families. Evidence suggests that people don't necessarily attend their local parish church when they move into a new area but use Google to find a service that appeals to them. We wanted to start doing something different which would hopefully attract this group.”

They started with a prayer group and have launched new toddler groups in both Norton and Kempsey. A new monthly contemporary worship service then started at St James' in October, attracting young families who weren't previously known to the church.

“It has been fantastic to work in partnership with a group of young people from All Saints. We wanted to create a place near the new housing where people could find their home church and I hope we've been able to do that,” said Mark.

Mon 21 Parsonages team

Pray for the Parsonages Team in the diocesan office and give thanks for all they do to support clergy and their families. For Ruth Beard and Jaime Simm.

Tue 22 Archdeacons and office

Pray for the Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert Jones, and the Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke, along with their secretary Kathy Jones. Give thanks for all that they do and give in the life of our diocese.

Wed 23 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for local schools and colleges in these final weeks of the term. Give thanks for the friendships and community formed. Pray for those who struggle or who are bullied, that all may learn in safety and come to fulfil their God given potential and contribute to the common good.

Thur 24 Black Country Urban Industrial Mission

Pray for Chaplains and Trustees of the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM), as they support workers across the Black Country, including the retail sector, Jaguar Land Rover, West Midlands Ambulance Service and National Express Bus drivers and staff.

Fri 25 Lady Day

The Feast of the Annunciation, or Lady Day, is the traditional day for agreeing agricultural contracts. Pray for all tenants, especially those associated with the land, for landlords and fairness in all dealings between the two. Pray for all who face rural poverty.

Sat 26 Growing as Kingdom People

God of all the world, as we worship you, may we feel today the good news of your love, and know its truth within us. May we rejoice in that love day by day through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pray for the partnership between All Saints and Kempsey and Norton, that the new service will attract young people and families moving into the new housing.

St James, Norton juxta Kempsey –
Mark Badger, Giles Joiner, Fraser Oates, Josh & Rachel Kennedy,
James and Emily Rowe

La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico:
Vacant

M Kindu (Congo):
Bishop Zacharie Masimango
Katanda

T Kinkiizi (Uganda):
Bishop Dan Zoreka

W Kinshasa (Congo):
Bishop Achille Mutshinda

Th Kirinyaga (Kenya):
Bishop Joseph Kibichwa

F Kisangani (Congo):
Bishop Lambert Funga Botolome

S Kita-Kanto (The Nippon Sei Ko Kai)

M Kitale (Kenya):
Bishop Stephen Kewasis

T Kiteto (Tanzania):
Bishop Isaiah Chambala

W Kitgum (Uganda):
Bishop Wilson Kitara

Th Kitui (Kenya):
Bishop Josephat Mule

F Kivu (Rwanda):
Bishop Augustin Ahimana

S Nord Kivu (Congo):
Bishop Muhindo Isesomo



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.

