



Prayer Diary

May 2021

Vocations Sunday

Last Sunday was Vocations Sunday and it took place this year in a very different context to even 12 months ago. As the Church and nation slowly begin to emerge from lockdown, we turn our attention to what the post-Covid Church might look like and indeed what the new social contract that needs to emerge in our nation might involve.



More than ever, the Church and the world need people who are holy, wise, and competent to work with each other in helping to shape that future under God. We need people, called by God, to live generously and sacrificially, living out the implications of their faith and offering all that they are in the service of God's purposes in society and in creation.

These people will be lay and ordained, paid and unpaid, sharing the common commitment to allowing themselves to be transformed by God, so that God can use them in God's transformation of the world.

Mon 3 Gornal & Sedgley Team Ministry

Pray for the four church councils as we seek to lead the people of God and serve him in mission as Kingdom People. Give thanks for our strong and growing ecumenical relationships. Clergy: Guy Hewlett, Catherine Mitchell; Reader: Jan Humphries

Tue 4 St James the Great, Lower Gornal

Please pray for the faithful congregation at St James the Great, Lower Gornal, during a time of change.

Wed 5 Diocese of Peru

The pandemic continues to affect Peru badly, with a high death and infection rate. Living in a poor country, Peruvians have had very little access to the vaccine, with only a tiny percentage of the population inoculated. Pray for Bishop Jorge and his clergy as they minister in this situation of fear and injustice.

Thur 6 Hagley

Pray for the parishes of Hagley and Clent as they move towards becoming a new benefice, for a vision for how to develop a pattern of church services following worship on Zoom, and for responding to a backlog of weddings and baptisms. Clergy: Richard Newton, Kim Topham

Fri 7 Those in poverty

Pray for all those who live in the most basic conditions and who are hungry in our world of abundance. Pray particularly for those who have lost income and are now living in poverty due to the pandemic.

Sat 8 Halas Team

Pray for St Kenelm, Romsley, as we build on enthusiasm for our community service and prayerful welcome with fewer volunteers in uncertain times; and for St John the Baptist, Halesowen's continuing community engagement as the town feels its way after a difficult year, as well as the chance to restart building work. For our ALMs, schools with Heads Suzanne Shackleton and Lorna Knowles. Clergy: Rob Hall, Dominic Melville; Readers: Pat Hall, Sally Spencer, Charles Morgan

Please pray for an increase in vocations to diverse kinds of ministry, that we may truly live the gift of being Kingdom People.

Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO):
John Fitzmaurice

Prayer for our Baptism Families:
Lord, we thank you for those parents who have brought their children to be baptised into Your body. Help them to demonstrate to their children what it means to help and serve one another, as a part of the body of Christ. Amen.

Southwark:
Bishop Christopher Chessun with Bishops Richard Cheetham (Kingston), Jonathan Clark (Croydon), Karowei Dorju (Woolwich)
Björgvin (Norway):
Bishop Halvor Nordhaug
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East:
Bishop Michael Augustine Owen Lewis

Central Buganda (Uganda): M
Bishop Michael Lubowa

West Buganda (Uganda): T
Bishop Henry Katumba-Tamale

Buhiga (Burundi): W
Bishop Evariste Nijimbere

Bujumbura (Burundi): Th
Bishop Eraste Bigirimana

Bukavu (Congo): F
Bishop Sylvestre Bahati

Bukedi (Uganda): S
Bishop Samuel Egesa

Please pray for all families living in poverty, that through generous donations they might put the foundations in place to access the water they so urgently need.

Area Dean of Greater Dudley:
David Hoskin with sub-deans:
Rachel Newell and Andrew Sillis

Gloucester:

Bishop Rachel Treweek with
Bishop Robert Springett (Tewkesbury)

Västerås (Sweden):

Mikael Mogren

The Anglican Church of Kenya:

Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week starts tomorrow and this year's focus is on the climate emergency our world is currently facing. People living in poverty experience the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water. Church volunteers have collected donations during Christian Aid Week since it began more than 60 years ago to help people living in extreme poverty to protect themselves when disaster strikes.

This Christian Aid Week, funds will be raised to help communities put the foundations in place for reliable water sources, like taps and earth-dams. Donations could also support training for farmers about drought-tolerant crops, which in turn could help families withstand a long drought, or relentless rainstorms in the year ahead.

To find out more about this year's appeal, please visit Christian Aid's website:
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

**Mon 10 Halas Team**

Pray for all who receive home mailing or worship online, that they may be assured of God's grace and our shared care and prayer. At St Margaret's, Hasbury, pray for our openness to God's grace and for mutual loving care and welcome; for our ALMs, churchwardens and all who carry responsibility. For St Margaret's School, Head: Sara Shepherd. Clergy: Rob Hall; Reader: Susan Cresswell

Tue 11 Halas Team

At St Peter, Lapal, give thanks for the community support during the last year, with church projects, attending online events such as Brick Church and Community Choir and practically with litter picking, photography, promoting St Peter's and caring for each other. For our churchwardens and all volunteers. For Mel Beynon starting her curacy in July. Clergy: Hazel Charlton

Wed 12 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for the new President of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan, following the sudden death of the former President. Pray as she seeks to unite a country, struggling to cope with the pandemic. Remember all leaders in Tanzania, blessing their service to the people of this vast and beautiful country.

Thur 13 Halas Team

At St Peter, Cradley, pray that we may find ways to stay connected with the many who joined our outside services, shared in online worship and who are supporting the clock project. For our ALMs and school Head: Marcia Harris. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio; Reader: Karen Chaplin

Fri 14 Kingswinford & Wall Heath

Please pray for the parish whilst in vacancy and give thanks for the appointment of Adam Hadley as our new priest. Give thanks for those enabling our churches to be open for worship, for keeping our parishioners connected during Covid restrictions and for the many people who have led worship during the vacancy. For our ALMs. Clergy: Jane Freeman, Mel Smith; Readers: Debbie Filgate, Jill Nicholls, David Cousins

Sat 15 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray that as discussions take place locally to discern God's mission, we will ensure that we are seeking to be Christ-centred and Jesus-shaped, being led by the Spirit.

Love our Schools prayer event

Every term, representatives from the Diocesan Education Team, the Diocesan Mission Enablers and the regional teams of Open the Book and Pray for Schools come together with people from across the Midlands to pray for schools. The next *Love our Schools* prayer event takes place online on the afternoon of Wednesday 26 May.

During the event, prayers will be shared for our church school families and the numerous other community school families across Dudley and Worcestershire. The Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick, will join the session to lead a short reflection, after which attendees will have the opportunity to pause, think and pray. Other reflections will pray especially for leaders, teachers and support staff; children, those who are vulnerable and who have additional needs; and educational governance, plans and policy.

If you would like to join this event, please book your place on Eventbrite.



Pray that national and local educationalists feel God's peaceful presence alongside them as they work to sustain safe, secure and stimulating learning environments in which adults and children alike can flourish on their scholastic journeys.

Mon 17 Norton & Wollaston

Pray for the people of Norton and Wollaston, Stourbridge; our mission work and ministry to all our local schools, homes and businesses, including St James's CE Primary and St Michael & All Angels Christian Preschool. Clergy: vacant, Diana Farmer; Reader: Dan Muthuveloe

Tue 18 Old Hill

Please pray for a deep work of the Spirit to grow our love for the Lord, for his people and for the lost. Pray for growing new disciples, the foodbank and debt advisor, and for growing leaders. Clergy: Nick Gowers; Readers: Yvonne Binder, Phil Hall, Robert Higham

Wed 19 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Give thanks for the many church building societies in our area that support parishes in repairing and maintaining our 4000 churches. Through your Son, the keystone of our work has already been laid. Let that be the foundation of our trust.

Thur 20 St Mary, Oldswinford

Pray for St Mary's APCM and our renewed PCC, embodying God's glory in the life of our church. May our prayer groups continue sharing their experience of God. Clergy: John Flitcroft; Reader: Roger King

Fri 21 St Peter, Pedmore

We give thanks for 150 years of ministry in Pedmore and pray for the church working with Adam Legge on calling young disciples. Clergy: David Nichol; Readers: Mary German, Linda Kitto, Corrinne Sarjeant, Richard Sarjeant

Sat 22 St Andrew, Wollescote

We give thanks for the faithful church community and pray for a way to be found to fund the demolition of the church hall. Clergy: David Nichol; Reader: Kath Davis



Midlands Training & Development
Officer, Open the Book: Lynn Satchell

England Volunteer Co-ordinator,
Pray for Schools: Jane Newey

Guildford:

Bishop Andrew Watson
with Bishop Jo Wells (Dorking)
Viborg (Denmark):
Bishop Henrik Stubjær
The Anglican Church of Korea:
Bishop Peter Kyongho Lee

Butare (Rwanda): M
Bishop Nathan Gasatura

Butere (Kenya): T
Bishop Timothy Wambunya

Buye (Burundi): W
Bishop Sixbert Macumi

Byumba (Rwanda): Th
Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo

Calabar (Nigeria): F
Bishop Tunde Adeleye

Calcutta (North India): S
Bishop Probal Kanto Dutta

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your Kingdom. Inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all those who hear your word may be drawn to you.

Praying Thy Kingdom Come

Since its start in May 2016, Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying ‘Come Holy Spirit’ from Ascension Day to Pentecost, so that friends, family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith.



After the very first Ascension Day, the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Jesus had promised his followers that, although they would not see him after his Ascension, the Holy Spirit would guide and inspire them. Pentecost celebrates the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples, with crowds gathered in Jerusalem – representing many nationalities and speaking many languages – able to hear the disciples preaching in their own language.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. *“In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”* Archbishop Justin Welby.

*Greater Dudley -
Lay Chair: John Nicholson
Secretary: Melissa Rose
Treasurer: Michael Bishop
Administrator: Emma Leek*

Exeter:
*Bishop Robert Atwell
with Bishops Nicholas McKinnel
(Plymouth) and Jackie Searle (Crediton)
Nord-Hålogaland (Norway):
Bishop Olav Øygard
The Anglican Church of Melanesia:
Archbishop Leonard Dawea*

Mon 24 St Thomas, Stourbridge

Please pray for the ministry team, PCC and people of St Thomas' as we help our community recover from the pandemic lockdowns whilst revisiting our planning for mission and development. Clergy: Andrew Sillis, Adam Hadley

Tue 25 The Lye & Stambermill

Pray for renewal in our worship, wise outreach in this diverse community and the continued maturing of the Brickworks church plant. For our Evangelist Fred Swartz. Clergy: Simon Falshaw, Jon Evans, Chris Kent

Wed 26 Economy & Daily Life

For those returning to work as lockdown eases. Pray for those uncertain about their jobs and businesses in your local community, for those who are facing unemployment, and for local projects aiming at offering support and encouragement.

Thur 27 Wordsley Team

Pray for those recovering from the affects of the pandemic, for businesses that are struggling to open up, for the safety of pupils and staff in our schools, those grieving, and members of our ministry team. Clergy: Colin Jones, Lyn Rowson; Readers: Terry Blewitt, Chris Geary

Fri 28 Retired clergy in the Greater Dudley Deanery

We pray for God’s blessing on those retired clergy who have been shielding over the last year, and especially on those who live alone, as they venture out of their homes to enjoy fellowship once more. We give thanks for their faithful ministry of prayer in these difficult times.

Sat 29 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all those who lead and support ministry and mission in our parishes, that they will feel encouraged and supported to work creatively to enable missionary discipleship within the parish and beyond.

M **Caledonia (Canada):**
Bishop David Lehmann

T **Calgary (Canada):**
Bishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson

W **California (USA):**
Bishop Marc Andrus

Th **Northern California (USA):**
Bishop Megan Traquair

F **Cameroon (West Africa):**
*Bishop Dibo Thomas-Babyngton
Elango*

S **El Camino Real (USA):**
Bishop Lucinda Ashby



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.

