

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Prayer Diary

December 2024 to March 2025

Foreword from Bishop Martin

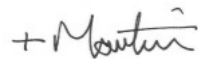


I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that burn all the year long.

This prayer diary begins in December, as our days get shorter, and the weather colder. It will be a challenging time for many people and Howard Thurman's poem speaks into that. He lived from 1899-1981 and was an author, theologian and civil rights leader. He helped found the first major racially integrated churches in the USA in 1944. As an advocate of radical nonviolence, he was a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr and others in the Civil Rights Movement. He knew so much about pain and injustice, about poverty and prejudice. He longed for peace in a world of strife and spoke words of love in a world of hate.

Please pray for peace in our troubled world this Christmas, and then pray and work for peace and justice in 2025. That we might be people of joy, hope, courage and grace; Kingdom People living lives of love, compassion, justice and freedom. That the world might believe and give God the glory.

May God bless you as we join in prayer together.



Bishop of Dudley and Acting Bishop of Worcester

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.



Follow the star

December can feel like chaos – lots of social events, services, Christmas presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, our churches can offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time.

The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas this year is **Follow the Star: Calm and Bright**, drawing on the carol Silent Night: "Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright..."

This carol invites us into the still centre of the Christmas story, to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World.

Throughout Advent, there will primarily be a focus on how to find calm during this busy period, with reflections offering people a chance to pause during the busy season and tips on how to prepare for a calm Christmas.

Then through Christmas, there will be a focus on 'bright', with a series of daily reflections from Christmas Day to the Eve of Epiphany from Sammi Tooze, Discipleship Adviser for the Diocese of York.

There will also be reflective content throughout Advent and Christmas for those who find this time of year difficult, with some 'Blue Christmas' resources.

Mon 2 Malvern & Upton Deanery

Please pray for our deanery conversations process as we journey together, seeking God's guidance for a future in which every church community is given the opportunity to flourish. Deanery Leadership Team: Gary Crellin, Maria Toman, Trish Mullins, Derek Valentine, Becky Elliott

Tue 3 Berrow with Pendock

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

Wed 4 Diocese of Peru

Pray for the diocesan synod, as they seek to manage the process of electing a new suffragan bishop and bishop coadjutor, and for all those who will be considered for those roles.

Thur 5 Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush.

Pray for the PCC, Eldersfield Corse Lawn Primary School, Open the Book Team, bellringers, Prayer Group, Standing Committee members and for all community involvement and outreach.

Fri 6 Great Malvern Priory

Please pray for the Priory as we embark on our £14 million bid for funding to preserve the mediaeval glass and improve our out-dated facilities. For our new incumbent, Roger Latham, who will join us in the New Year. Clergy: Adam Wharton; Readers: Richard Weatherill, David Webster, Sue Williams, Chris Boulton

Sat 7 Vacancy in See

Pray for Bishop Martin as Acting Bishop of Worcester during our vacancy and for all those who will take on additional responsibilities during this time. Pray for those who may be beginning to explore whether God might be calling them to be our next diocesan bishop.

Dear Lord, help us to find the calmness and peace of the season. Remind us of the amazing gift you gave us in your son. For all those who find this time of year difficult, help them to know your comfort and allow them to cast their burden to you and know you will sustain them.

Malvern and Upton Deanery –
Area Dean: Gary Crellin,
Lay Chair: Maria Toman

Praying for our baptism families: Lord may this Christmas time be a special time of love for these parents with their families. Help them to feel united in Your love. Amen

St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane (Scotland):
Bishop Ian Paton
Porvoo (Finland):
Bishop Bo-Göran Åstrand
South Sudan: Bishop Justin Badi Arama

Kitale (Kenya): M
Bishop Stephen Kewasis

Kiteto (Tanzania): T
Bishop Isaiah Chambala

Kitgum (Uganda): W
Bishop Wilson Kitara

Kitui (Kenya): Th
Bishop Josephat Mule

Kivu (Rwanda): F
Bishop Augustin Ahimana

North Kivu (Congo): S
Bishop Adolphe Muhindo Isesomo

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.

Generous God, you give us life in abundance and all that we have comes from you. Help us to be generous this Advent and let us celebrate all the amazing gifts you bless us with now and throughout the year. Amen

Malvern and Upton Deanery Leadership Team: Trish Mullins, Derek Valentine, Becky Elliott

Chester:

Bishop Mark Tanner, Bishop Julie Conalty (Birkenhead), Bishop Sam Corley (Stockport)

Kuopio (Finland):

Bishop Jari Jolkkonen

Sudan:

Ezekiel Kumir Kondo

M Kobe (Japan):
Bishop David Eisho Uehara

T Koforidua (West Africa):
Bishop Felix Odei Annancy

W Kolhapur (North India):
Bishop Sandeep Suresh Vibhute

Th Kollam – Kottarakkara (South India):
Bishop Oommen George

F Kondoa (Tanzania):
Bishop Given Gaula

S Kongor (South Sudan):
Bishop Gabriel Thuch Agot

Generous Advent

As we head into Advent and the Christmas season, there will be a host of services and fundraising events taking place in our churches. These opportunities, from carol services to Christmas fairs, and everything in between, are a great way to reach out to the community, as well as helping to raise vital funds.

One of the main reasons people don't give to churches is simply that they are not asked. At the different events and services, think about how you are asking people and how they can give to you, what options are you offering for those who wish to give? Make sure you are making it clear and easy for your visitors to donate to your church, and are helping them to understand what the gifts will be used for and how important they are to the life and mission of the church.

The biggest tips for a generous Advent are to make a plan, have fun and say thank you, It's so important that people know how grateful we are for their generosity, a simple thank you can go a long way.



Mon 9 Christ Church, Malvern

Please pray for us. We are a small bible-based and Eucharistic centred congregation with a great welcome for all. Pray for the work in our schools, and as part of our outreach to the community we have fantastic concerts, weekly book fairs with refreshments together with live music. We are also a rehearsal venue for musicians.

Tues 10 Hanley Castle & Hanley Swan

Pray for our outreach through monthly reflection at St Gabriel, Lego Club, Adult Craft and Stir-Up church at St Mary. For Open The Book and 'Gather' at our primary school, Café Tuesday, as well as care home worship for village and residents. For our ALMs and retired clergy Linda Bedford and Bill Rumball. Clergy: Sue Adeney, Barry Unwin

Wed 11 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for the Diocese of Morogoro as it develops a strategy for creating income generating projects. We ask for God's blessing on those who are constructing a new diocesan hospitality and training centre close to Morogoro Cathedral, that it becomes a rich resource for those living in and visiting the Diocese.

Thur 12 Holy Trinity, Malvern

Pray for our ministry with children and families, including our Babies and Toddler Group, Creative Church and Young Chorale Children's Choir. Give thanks for our Messy Vintage Service, care home ministry, Monthly Lunches and 'Places of Welcome' Coffee Mornings. Clergy: Becky Elliott, Syliva Coke-Wood, Clare Griffiths, Eric Knowles

Fri 13 Severnside Parishes

At Kempsey & Severn Stoke w Croome d'Abitot & Norton, give thanks for the arrival of our new incumbent Kat. Pray for her as she settles here, that she would be a blessing to us and flourishes in her ministry. Ministry team: Kat Mephram; Rachel Colthurst; Owain Bell; Don Sloggett; Julieann Watson; Kay Mason; Libberty Webber.

Sat 14 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.

Diocesan Posada

This year there has been a diocesan 'posada' during Advent, with Mary and Joseph travelling around to a different church in the diocese each day from 1 December.

Posada is the Spanish word for lodging or accommodation, so each stop on this journey is their lodging for the night, representing the lodging places Mary and Joseph stayed at on their way to Bethlehem.

Our diocesan posada is visiting each deanery for four days with churches getting involved by using a simple liturgy and reflection as they receive the holy family and share it with their communities.

Follow the journey of Mary and Joseph throughout the Diocese on our social media pages where we are sharing photos and short films.

Heavenly Father, bless all those who have been a safe lodging for Mary and Joseph as they journey through our diocese. May we take this time to remember the journeys we all go on through our lives, both the physical and metaphorical. As many people begin to travel for Christmas keep them safe on their way and let them know you are with them as they go.

Mon 16 Severnside Parishes

Pray for us as we seek to reach our communities through our thriving weekly toddler groups, Stepping Stones, and Create, our new worshipping community, which encourages worship through art. Ministry team: Kat Mephram; Rachel Colthurst; Owain Bell; Don Sloggett; Julieann Watson; Kay Mason; Libberty Webber.

Tue 17 Little Malvern Priory

Pray for our worshipping community; for Little Malvern Court at a time of change, and for those who work in the local countryside. Please pray for those who visit our ancient church as walkers, cyclists or pilgrims, that they may find God's presence and peace. Clergy: Stephen Sealy

Wed 18 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Please pray for all those who are now preparing nativity plays with children and young people with much love and creativity. May the joy of Christmas be felt in all services on Christmas Eve!

Thur 19 Malvern Chase team

At St Andrew's Church, pray for our Youth and Children's ministry, particularly for new Youth Ministry Leader, Nathan Shipton as we work alongside other churches supporting outreach and discipleship to youth in our town. For retired clergy: Helen Wilkinson, Mark Slater, David Ritchie, Nick Clarke. Clergy: Dave Bruce, Emily Spencer; Readers: Heather Williamson, Derham Cooke, Judith Keene

Fri 20 Malvern Chase team

At All Saints' Church, pray for our outreach to the community as we explore how we can use our new kitchen to reach new people in our community, alongside our current toddlers and Messy Church. For retired clergy: Geoff Vevers, Paul Hunt. Clergy: Dave Bruce, Emily Spencer; Reader: Peter Buchanan

Sat 21 Vacancy in See

Heavenly Father, we thank you for those you call to faithfully lead and shepherd your church. As we seek a new Bishop of Worcester, help us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance, give us heavenly wisdom, and bless our diocese that we might enter a new season of growth and fruitfulness as Kingdom People.



*Malvern and Upton Deanery - Area Dean: Gary Crellin
Lay Chair: Maria Toman*

Southwell and Nottingham:
Bishop Paul Williams, Bishop Andy Emerton (Sherwood)

Borg (Norway):
*Bishop Kari Mangrud Alfsvåg
Tanzania:
Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa*

Kongor (South Sudan): M
Bishop Gabriel Thuch Agot

Kontagora (Nigeria): T
Bishop Jonah N. Ibrahim

Kootenay (Canada): W
Bishop Lynne McNaughton

Eastern Kowloon (Hong Kong): Th
Bishop Timothy Kwok

Western Kowloon (Hong Kong): F
Bishop Andrew Chan

Krishna-Godavari (South India): S
*Bishop George Cornelious
Tantepudi*

Pray for all who were involved in the community nativity at St Mary's Church in Kingswinford and for all who have been finding ways of involving young people in the Christmas story.

*St Mary, Kingswinford –
Director of Music: Emily Vivash,
Children, Youth and Family
Minister: Sian Morgan*

*Oslo (Norway):
Bishop Kari Veiteberg*

*Durham:
Vacant with Bishop Sarah Clark
(Jarrow)*

*Moray, Ross and Caithness
(Scotland):*

Bishop Mark Strange (Primus)

*The Church of the Province of
Uganda:*

Archbishop Stephen Kazimba

Community Nativity in Kingswinford

Last Thursday, St Mary's Church in Kingswinford held their community nativity, giving children across their community an opportunity to come together and retell the nativity story, as well as sing with others, make friends, and perform. Their nativity 'Shine Star Shine' contained seven catchy songs retelling the nativity story. It told the story of the big star who needed to show the way to the stable where a special baby had been born but had one problem – he couldn't shine!

Invites were sent to their baptism families, local schools and participants in their Mainly Music groups as well as shared on social media. Rehearsals were held each Thursday for an hour before family and friends were invited to the performance.

Emily Vivash, Director of Music, and Sian Morgan, Children, Youth, and Family Minister, led on the idea. They said: "We hope this nativity will be an outreach event that increases the visibility of our church and gives us more opportunities to get to know the children and families in our community. If it is successful this year, we are hoping it will become an annual event."



Mon 23 Malvern Chase team

At St Mary's Church in Pickersleigh, pray for our new Team Vicar, Emily Spencer and for our continued outreach to our community as we continue to explore how we can reach out particularly to children and families. For our ALMS. Clergy: Emily Spencer, Dave Bruce

Tue 24 Christmas Eve

Heavenly Father, on this Christmas Eve, we rejoice in the coming of your Son. Fill our hearts with peace, joy, and love as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Amen.

Wed 25 Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Thur 26 St Stephen's Day

Lord, on St. Stephen's Day, we remember his courage and faith. Strengthen us to serve others with love and grace, even in trials, and to follow his example of steadfast devotion. Amen.

Fri 27 Education Team

We pray for the Education Team in the diocesan office: Tim Reid, Spencer Morris, Nadia Underwood, Duncan Hutchison, Gemma Martin, Janine Jenkins and all members of the Diocesan Board of Education, giving thanks for their work supporting schools across the Diocese.

Sat 28 Growing as Kingdom People

Heavenly Father, guide us to grow as your Kingdom People. Strengthen our faith, fill us with love, and empower us to serve others, reflecting your grace and expanding your kingdom. Amen.

The diocesan Transformation Support Hub

Thanks to funding from the national church, our Transformation Support Hub team are available to support parishes as we work together to create flourishing communities and bring more people to know the glory of God and the love of Christ; helping to achieve the outcomes of our diocesan vision and transformation programme.

Members of the team will come alongside church leaders and work with them to explore what health and sustainability might look like in each individual context. This will help inform what might be the best focus for their mission plans. This could be a focus on growing congregations, nurturing disciples, connecting with local communities, increasing engagement of children and young people or strengthening leadership teams and pathways, for example.

The team also works closely with the Mission and Ministry team which provides training and development opportunities, so clergy and lay leaders feel supported and equipped for mission.



Mon 30 Malvern Community Hospital

Pray for Malvern Community Hospital. For all in-patients and the medical teams that support them. For out-patient services always on-hand to serve the community. For medical secretaries, admin support and the facilities team. Give thanks for all volunteers and the chaplaincy and pastoral support team.

Tue 31 Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley & Queenhill with Holdfast

Pray for our PCCs, Standing Committee and Parish Profile group members. For the combined benefices of Berrow and Longdon; our future vision and mission. Clergy: Julie James; Reader: Michael Harper

Wed 1 JANUARY New Year's Day

Eternal God, we give you thanks for bringing us to the beginning of another year. Forgive us the wrong we have done in the year that is past; help us to pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith, to your honour and glory. Amen.

Thur 2 Malvern Link with Cowleigh

At this time of year, we're conscious that along with all the festivities we also encounter more need within our parish, particularly those experiencing loneliness. Please pray for our Next Gen Ministry as we continue to build strong connections with Children, Young People and Families, our Community Fridge and Warm Space.

Fri 3 Malvern Link with Cowleigh

Please pray for our ministry team: James Williams, Alastair McKay, Sue Beverly, Ted Stokes, Mary Nobles, Allen Hudson, Jacquie Green, Eileen Tomlin and Mike Hancox

Sat 4 Vacancy in See

As we begin this new year, pray for our diocese, for those in our churches and for those who support them. We give thanks for the ministry of our leaders and look ahead to later this year when we hope to announce our new chief shepherd.

Pray for the work of the transformation support hub and for all the churches they work with. Help us to grow your kingdom and spread your message.

*Diocesan Transformation
Support Hub:*

*Damian Herbert, Simon Hill,
Kim Brown, Clare Ashworth,
Andrew Blount, Ellie Jones,
Jo Burr, Ian Thompson*

Chichester:

*Bishop Martin Warner, Bishop
Ruth Bushyager (Horsham),
Bishop Will Hazlewood (Lewes)*

Mikkeli (Finland):

Bishop Mari Parkkinen

*Kutgi (Nigeria): M
Bishop Jeremiah Ndana Kolo*

*Kwara (Nigeria): T
Bishop Olusegun A Adeyemi*

*Kwoi (Nigeria): W
Bishop Paul Samuel Zamani*

*Kyoto (Japan): Th
Bishop Stephen Takashi Kochi*

*Kyushu (Japan): F
Bishop Luke Kenichi Muto*

*Lafia (Nigeria): S
Bishop Godwin Adeyi Robinson*

*M Kubwa (Nigeria):
Bishop Duke Akamisoko*

*T Kuching (South East Asia):
Bishop Danald Jute*

*W Kumasi (West Africa):
Bishop Oscar Christian Amoah*

*Th Kumi (Uganda):
Bishop Edison Irigei.*

*F Kurunegala (Ceylon):
Bishop Nishantha Fernando*

*S Kushtia (Bangladesh):
Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin*

*Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi
by a star to worship
the Christ-child: guide
and sustain us, that we may
find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Malvern and Upton Deanery
Leadership Team:
Trish Mullins, Derek Valentine,
Becky Elliott*

*Praying for our baptism families:
Father God, bless these parents
and give them wisdom and
opportunities to nurture their
own faith in You.
Amen.*

*The Church in Wales:
Archbishop Andy John*

Mysterious Magi

Epiphany means a "sudden manifestation or perception of something." The season of Epiphany is about the perceiving and revealing of Jesus Christ.

Matthew's gospel tells the story of the mysterious Magi. Who were they? Where did they come from? And why? In the culture of Jesus' day, Magi were trusted advisors to kings. They were often proficient in mathematics, medicine, astrology, and dream interpretation. They weren't Jewish, or Christian, and yet they were among the first to recognise and realise that Jesus was King.

They came "from the East" from ancient countries now encompassed by Iran and Iraq. There were not three, and they were not kings. All we know from Matthew is that some Magi made the long journey to adore "the one who (had) been born king of the Jews."

Jesus was born among the Jewish people, in their Roman occupied lands, with angel visions, and shepherds sent to adore him. But apparently, after that, nothing much happened. There were no delegations of priests or officials coming to worship him.

The Magi, by contrast, had no scripture or prophecy to guide them. Yet by diligently following a star, they arrived in an unfamiliar place and culture, to pay homage to an ordinary-seeming child. Such simple faith, such willingness to follow where God leads.



Mon 6 Old Hills parishes

Pray for our involvement with CE primary schools in Powick, Callow End and Madresfield; for our work with the Royal British Legion branch, Scouts and Guides in Powick and Callow End. For our ALMs. Clergy: Gary Crellin, Reader: Julia Davis

Tue 7 Old Hills parishes

For our churches across Powick, Callow End, Guarford and Madresfield with Newland, we pray that our community focused events will inspire living in these villages and they will get involved with their faith and their church. Pray also for our ALMs. Clergy: Gary Crellin, Reader: Julia Davis

Wed 8 Diocese of Peru

Pray for AMA (the Association of Anglican Women), as they gather on retreat to discern the role God is calling them to undertake at this time.

Thur 9 St James, West Malvern

Please pray for our churchyard and orchard project to create a Community Eco Space. Give thanks for our links to the West Malvern groups including St James Primary School, the WI and the and Brewers Arms community-owned Pub. Clergy: Becky Elliott, Nicholas Menon, Rosemary Herbert

Fri 10 Ripple

Pray for our application to the National Lottery for the funding of major external repairs, improvements to heating & lighting, catering facilities and removal of six pews to create additional space for social/cultural activities. Clergy: Barry Unwin; Reader: Roger Gillard

Sat 11 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.

Plough Sunday

Plough Sunday, traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday after Epiphany, marks the beginning of the agricultural year. It is a time when farmers and rural communities gather to seek God's blessing on the land and the tools of their trade, offering prayers for a fruitful season ahead. Historically, ploughs were brought into the church to be blessed, a symbol of dependence on God for the success of the harvest.

In today's context, Plough Sunday reminds us of the importance of creation and our responsibility to steward the earth wisely. As we give thanks for the land, we also remember the delicate balance of nature and the need for sustainable practices. Our prayers extend beyond the fields, asking for God's guidance in tackling environmental challenges, promoting food justice, and ensuring that all have access to the fruits of the earth.

On Plough Sunday, we pray for all who work on the land, for farmers facing the uncertainties of weather and market forces, and for those striving to preserve God's creation. May their labour be blessed and may we all recognise our role in caring for this beautiful world God has entrusted to us.

Mon 13 Upton upon Severn

Pray for Upton upon Severn, its businesses and community life. For our church: our prayer and bible study groups, future plans for the building, pastoral care and outreach into the community, the work of the choir and upcoming musical events, Open the Book in Upton Primary School and for us as we discern a future pattern of services. For our Music Director and ALM. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Greville Cross, Julieann Watson

Tue 14 Earls Croome with Hill Croome and Strensham

Please pray for the congregations at Earls Croome, Hill Croome and Strensham and those who support them, particularly our churchwardens. Clergy, Barry Unwin, Jane Fraser; Reader: Mary Weatherill

Wed 15 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for Morogoro Bible College in its vital task of preparing people for ministry and for the Principal and his staff team. We ask for God's blessing on all those presently in training and give thanks for their willingness to make a financial contribution to the cost of their training despite the harsh environment from which they come.

Thur 16 Welland

Pray for continued growth of links with the community and opportunities to share the good news of Jesus. Clergy: Virginia Clements, Linda Bedford; Reader: Alison Martin

Fri 17 Mission and Ministry Team

Pray for the Mission and Ministry team giving thanks for their work equipping both lay and ordained ministers for mission and supporting parishes across the Diocese. For Roger Latham, John Fitzmaurice, Doug Chaplin, Robert Barlow, Janet Fox, Ruth Donaldson, Ian Thompson

Sat 18 St Wulfstan's Day

As we mark St Wulfstan's day tomorrow, we pray: Lord God, who raised up Wulfstan to be a bishop among your people and a leader of your Church: help us, after his example, to live simply, to work diligently and to make your kingdom known.



*Chaplaincy for Agriculture
and Rural Life –
Chair: David Morris*

*The Church of the Province of
West Africa:
Bishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith*

*Lango (Uganda): M
Bishop Alfred Olwa*

*West Lango (Uganda): T
Bishop Alfred Acur Okodi*

*Langtang (Nigeria): W
Bishop Stanley D. Fube*

*Lebombo (Mozambique): Th
Bishop Dean Augusto*

*Leeds: F
Bishop Nicholas Baines, Bishop
Toby Howarth (Bradford),
Bishop Smitha Prasadam
(Huddersfield), Bishop Arun Arora
(Kirkstall), Bishop Tony Robinson
(Wakefield), Bishop Anna
Eltringham (Ripon)*

*Leicester: S
Bishop Martyn James Snow,
Bishop Saju Muthalaly
(Loughborough)*

Please pray for all those who are part of the Crown Nominations Commission and for those people who might be considering if God is calling them to be the next Bishop of Worcester.

Vacancy in See

The process to find the next Bishop of Worcester started when Bishop John announced his retirement. Throughout last summer, people across the Diocese joined the conversation to explore what gifts, qualities and experience our new bishop might need.



This consultation was conducted by the Vacancy in See Committee, which is made up of 24 people, both lay and ordained from across the Diocese. Together they produced our Statement of Needs which sets out who we are as a diocese as well as the kind of bishop we'd like. This can be read on our website.

January will see the first meeting of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), which is the national Church of England body responsible for shortlisting and interviewing potential candidates. There were six people from the Vacancy in See Committee voted onto this group: Kashmir Garton, Nikki Groarke, Rich Johnson, Claire Lording, Hugh Richards and Iren Treasure. They sit alongside six people from the national church and the two Archbishops.

Together the CNC will pull together the role description and identify possible candidates from the names of all those suggested during the consultation. These people will be asked if they wish to enter a discernment process to see if God is calling them to be Bishop of Worcester. Shortlisting then takes place in May with interviews held on 12 and 13 June. It is hoped that an announcement will be able to be made in the Summer.

Mon 20 Beauchamp Community

Pray for all who live in the Beauchamp Community in Malvern and for their new chaplain, the Revd Angie Watts.

Tue 21 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

As we are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" We pray for unity with all Christian Disciples. Let us come together to share in the glory of your name.

Wed 22 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We are grateful for the many people who fill our churches with music throughout the year: for the brass choirs, the singers, the organ players and church musicians. Please pray for them, that their ministry will bring them joy and that God's praise will be heard.

Thur 23 Dean of Smaller Churches: Alison Maddocks

Pray for Alison Maddocks, Dean of Smaller Churches, that she will be blessed in all the work she does to support the smaller churches of the diocese.

Fri 24 Retired clergy in Malvern & Upton Deanery

Give thanks for the ministry of our retired clergy, for all that they are, and for all that they have given and continue to give. Please pray that they and their families will know God's blessing and peace.

Sat 25 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.

Diocesan members of the Crown Nominations Commission:
Kashmir Garton, Nikki Groarke, Rich Johnson, Claire Lording, Hugh Richards, Iren Treasure

The Church in the Province of the West Indies:
Bishop Howard Gregory

M Lesotho (Southern Africa):
Bishop Vicentia Kgabe

T Lexington (USA):
Bishop Michael Curry

W Liberia (West Africa):
Bishop James Bombo

Th Lichfield:
Bishop Michael Ipgrave, Bishop Paul Thomas (Oswestry), Bishop Sarah Bullock (Shrewsbury), Bishop Matthew Parker (Stafford)

F Lincoln:
Bishop Stephen Conway, Bishop Nicholas Alan Chamberlain (Grantham), Bishop David Eric Court (Grimsby)

S Litoral Ecuador (USA):
Bishop Cristobal Leon Lozano

Holocaust Memorial Day

Monday 27 January marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex. From the beginning of this century, this day has been marked as Holocaust Memorial Day, commemorating all those who have died through genocide, and providing an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all.

It is not just those who died across Europe up to 1945 we commemorate, but subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur, and against the Yazidi people in Iraq and Syria. Genocide happens when discrimination, racism and hatred go unchallenged and unchecked. With antisemitism and anti-Muslim rhetoric and action growing, following hostilities in Israel, Gaza and the Lebanon, there is an ever greater need to learn from the past.

In this, Christians have a part to play, with others, to commemorate and educate as we aspire to grow as Kingdom People, following our Kingdom values of love, compassion, justice and freedom.



Mon 27 Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery

Pray for unity and spiritual growth among the parishes of the Deanery. May the Holy Spirit guide their collaborative efforts in spreading God's love throughout the community. May we find strength in fellowship and serve as beacons of God's love. Area Dean: Paul Lawlor, Lay Chair: Kashmir Garton; Deanery Leadership Team: Glenn Reading, Elaine Whitfield, Martin Allen and Rose Humphrey

Tue 28 Feast day of Thomas Aquinas

Lord, you enriched your Church with the learning and holiness of Thomas Aquinas. Give to all who seek you a humble mind and a pure heart that they may know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life.

Wed 29 Economy and Daily Life

At this time of the year, when it is cold or wet, pray for those who work outside and for those who keep our vital services going through the winter. Offer 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.

Thur 30 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

Please pray for all those who are supporting the worshiping life of Bromsgrove Team especially for retired and associate priests, LLMs and ALMs. Clergy: Ray Khan, Janet Hatton, David Lingwood, Debra Buckley, Pat Barford, Sue Humphries; Readers: Jan Hewer, Hilda Roxborough

Fri 31 Candlemass

As we prepare for Candlemass on 2 February help us to remember that Jesus is the light of the world, help us to become more Christlike and bring light into places in the world where there is darkness.

Sat 1 FEBRUARY Vacancy in See

Loving God, thank you for the many gifts that you give to us as we seek to be your Kingdom People in this diocese. Help us to share them generously and to give thanks for all that is offered by others during this time of vacancy.

Pray for all victims of genocide, prejudice and discrimination. We remember the lives lost and the suffering endured. May we honour their memory by promoting peace, tolerance, and understanding in our hearts and communities.

Those leading on work with other faiths in the Diocese including: John Chesworth, Catherine Lack, Claire Cox

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria:
Archbishop Samy Fawzy

Liverpool:
Bishop John Perumbalath, Bishop Beverley Mason (Warrington)

Liwolo (South Sudan):
Bishop Joseph Aba Nicanor

Llandaff (The Church in Wales):
Bishop Mary Stallard

Lodwar (Kenya):
Bishop Cleti Ogeto

Lokoja (Nigeria):
Bishop Emmanuel A. Sokowamju Egbunu

Lomega (South Sudan):
Bishop Onesimo Yugusuk

Please pray for Lee and Erica and for all across the three dioceses who are working hard to tackle the climate crisis and help us to work towards being net zero carbon.

Net Zero Carbon Project Managers – Lee Westcott, Erica Siddall

Praying for our baptism families:

Father, thank you for those families who bring their children to baptism. Help them to know that you are their Heavenly Father, and that you love them with an everlasting love. Amen

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia:
Bishop Sione Uluilakepa

M London:
Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop Anderson Jeremiah (Edmonton), Bishop Jonathan Mark Richard Baker (Fulham), Bishop Ric Thorpe (Islington), Joanne Grenfell (Stepney), Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy (Willesden)

T Long Island (USA):
Bishop Lawrence Provenzano

W Los Angeles (USA):
Bishop John Harvey Taylor

Th Louisiana (USA):
Bishop Shannon Duckworth

F Western Louisiana (USA):
Bishop Jacob W Owensby

S Luapula (Central Africa):
Bishop Robert Mumbi

Net Zero Partnership

An exciting new partnership between the dioceses of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester is set to give a boost to the region's push for Net Zero Carbon by 2030. A team of three Net Zero Carbon Project Managers are being appointed to support the three dioceses on the journey to reduce carbon emissions from clergy homes, church buildings and schools.



The roles are funded by the national Church as part of its efforts to decarbonise. The Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission calls us to 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth' and this team will support that calling.

Lee Westcott is based in Worcester and will leading on the church buildings arm of the project. Erica Siddall, based in the Diocese of Gloucester, is leading on the clergy housing arm of the partnership. The final role is the schools' role, which will be based in the Diocese of Hereford. It is hoped that this role will be filled early this year.

Mon 3 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

Please pray for those who support the Team ministry in Bromsgrove: David Coulson (PCC Secretary), Sarah Marshall (PCC Treasurer) and our part time administrators Lauren and Irene. Please pray that God will call and release the right people to fill the vacancies that we have in the parish

Tue 4 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

Pray for the churchwardens and officers who are looking after those churches currently in vacancy - Dodford Church, Catshill Church, All Saints' Church in Bromsgrove, St Godwald's Church in Finstall and the Wychebrook Group of three churches.

Wed 5 Diocese of Peru

Pray for the congregations of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in Lima, and for those ministering there, amidst the continuing challenges they face.

Thur 6 HMP Hewell

Pray for HMP Hewell. 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. For the Chaplaincy team.

Fri 7 Safeguarding Team

Lord we pray for the Diocese Safeguarding team: Hilary Higton, Delia Stokes, Claire Arden, Liz Toone, Simon Hill. Bless them in all the work they do to support people across the Diocese.

Sat 8 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.

Racial Justice Sunday

Racial Justice Sunday is an ecumenical observance which began in 1995 in Britain and Ireland following the murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence in South London, on 22 April 1993. It provides an opportunity for all churches to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for the gifts and beauty of human diversity, and to commit to end racism and acts of discrimination.

It is, however, more than an annual reminder of the Church's commitment to the task of anti-racism. In the words of Richard Reddie from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, this Sunday represents "a call for Christians to engage in the righteous struggle for racial justice, because racial justice is everyone's business".

Racism and racial discrimination are issues of justice because they deny basic human dignity to men and women made in God's image. In Christ, our differences are not simply erased but rather embraced, valuing the unique ways we each reflect the image of God.

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Mon 10 The Bridge, Headless Cross

Pray for the church family as we continue to minister and faithfully serve our community. We give thanks for the Church Council and Ministry Team in their dedication and service to life and work of the church. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Fiona Carter

Tue 11 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Pray for the parish of St John the Baptist, Feckenham as we seek to be a village church that serves our community. Give thanks for all whose time and dedication makes this a living, vibrant church. Pray for the Church as we seek to be a part of the wider benefice and family of God. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Fiona Carter; Reader: Roger Ling

Wed 12 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for all priests, deacons and catechists who are working within new mission areas where there is little support and where they frequently experience opposition and rejection for seeking to minister in the name of Christ. We pray for God's mercy and encouragement to support both their calling and their ministries.

Thur 13 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Pray for the small, faithful family of God at St Matthias and St George, Astwood Bank as we strive to nurture the new shoots of growth in the family service and our developing schools' work. We give thanks the faithful service of the dedicated congregation. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Fiona Carter; Reader: Roger Ling

Fri 14 Valentine's Day

We pray today for all those who we love and for those who love us. We especially remember those who will find today difficult for whatever reason – help them to know that they are loved by you.

Sat 15 Vacancy in See

Heavenly Father, in the busyness of following you and being focused on who our next bishop might be, help us to find time to stop and be in your presence. We pray that we will know that you are guiding us in all things as we seek to do your will for the people and communities of our diocese.



Chair of the diocesan Racial Justice Forum – Kashmir Garton

Regional Racial Justice Director – Evie Vernon O'Brien

The Anglican Church of Australia: Bishop Geoffrey Smith

Lucknow (India): Bishop Peter Baldev. M

Lui (South Sudan): Bishop Stephen Dokolo Ismail Mbalah. T

Lusaka (Central Africa): Bishop Albert Chama. W

Lusitanian Church: Bishop Jorge Pina Cabral. Th

Luwero (Uganda): Bishop Eridard Kironde Nsubuga. F

Northern Luzon (Philippines): Bishop Hilary Ayban Pasikan, Jr. S

Pray for the parish of Holy Trinity and St Matthew in Ronkswood, Worcester, for Perry Wood School and for all our churches who are finding innovative ways to bring new people to faith.



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

The Church of Bangladesh:
Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin

M Lweru (Tanzania):
Bishop Godfrey Mbelwa

T Macau (Hong Kong):
Bishop Andrew Chan

W Machakos (Kenya):
Bishop Joseph Mutungi.

Th Maciene (Mozambique):
Bishop Agostinho Roberto Buque

F Madhya Kerala (South India):
Bishop Thomas Kanjirappally
Oommen

S Madi and West Nile (Uganda):
Bishop Charles Collins Andaku

iSingPop at Perry Wood Primary School

Holy Trinity and St Matthew Church in Ronkswood, Worcester has a great relationship with their local community Primary School, Perry Wood. The Revd Rob Farmer regularly goes into school to lead assemblies and teach religious studies, and the church also provides Easter eggs and leavers' gifts for the different year groups.

Last year, they arranged for iSingPop to come into the school to work with the children, teaching them a range of songs, interspersed with bible teaching. The class teachers then practised the songs with the children before there were two concerts to which the families were invited.

Rob said: "I wanted to find a way to build on our relationship with the school and look to develop a new worshipping community with them. I suggested iSingPop to the school as it's a really accessible way for the children to learn more about Christianity and enjoy themselves as well!"

iSingPop works mainly with church schools but are always very happy to come into community schools. The set of songs are the same, but they tailor the bible teaching differently depending on the context.

The parish are now using the iSingPop materials as part of a New Worshipping Community in the school.

Mon 17 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Pray for the faithful congregation at St Peter, Crabbs Cross as we seek to minister to our community and develop our ministry to those in our parish. Giving thanks for those who tirelessly give of their time for the church's ministry. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Fiona Carter; Reader: Roger Ling

Tue 18 Church musicians

Pray for all those who offer their skills as musicians in our churches, whether as organists, pianists, choir members or as part of a worship band. Give thanks for all they do to enhance our worship and help us offer praise to God.

Wed 19 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Many parishes are now preparing for the Women's World Day of Prayer on 7 March. It is a blessing when Christians are united in prayer. Please pray that we can continue to learn from each other and really see ourselves as sisters and brothers in the Lord.

Thur 20 World Day of Social Justice

Loving God, guide us in promoting justice, dignity, and equality for all. Strengthen our commitment to challenge oppression, uplift the marginalised, and work together for a world of fairness and peace. Amen.

Fri 21 St Stephen Redditch

As St Stephen's Church in Redditch embarks on their renewal project, we pray for wisdom & God's guidance for Renewal Leader Fraser and Churchwardens Elaine and Rhiannon as they guide this important work. May they discern God's vision, guiding the church to flourish in ministry and mission, becoming a blessing to others. Clergy: Fraser Oates

Sat 22 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.

Fraser Oates licensed as Renewal Church Leader

Fraser Oates has been licensed as Renewal Leader at St Stephen's Church in Redditch as the church moves forward with its vision to grow into a thriving church at the heart of the town centre.

St Stephen's is one of our renewal churches which has received funding from the national church. It is part of our priority to ensure there is at least one church of over 150 members in each major area of population. Fraser comes to lead the church from serving his curacy in All Saints in Worcester and before his licensing he was already been working with church members to pray together and explore how to turn the church's vision into reality.

Fraser was licensed by Bishop Martin at a special service at the church which was attended by people from churches across Redditch, members of All Saints Worcester and key community leaders.

As the renewal project moves forward, St Stephen's will be undergoing a significant building reordering project. This will start in the new year with the congregation moving out of the building for at least nine months, worshipping in an empty shop in the Kingfisher shopping centre. The funding from the national church will also enable the church to appoint some other ministry roles, providing the capacity to allow new things to happen.

Mon 24 Princess of Wales Community Hospital, Bromsgrove

Pray for all patients, and those who rely on our services. For the nursing teams, medical teams and support staff. Remember especially the 'Primrose at the Princess' Palliative Care Unit and our Chaplaincy Team.

Tue 25 Communications Team

Please pray for the work of the diocesan Communications Team. For Sam Setchell, James Atkinson, Ellie Jones and Robyn Rooney.

Wed 26 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for those who live alone, especially the elderly. Pray for those who work as home carers, visiting people in their homes, giving thanks for the human contact this brings. Pray for all Anna Chaplains based in churches near you. www.annachaplaincy.org.uk

Thur 27 Webheath, Tardebigge & Lower Bentley

Give thanks for the work of the faithful bringing us together as one worshipping community. Please pray for our New Worshipping Communities: Chippy Church, Forest Café Church, Come and Sing Evensong and Sunday @9.30. For our ALMs Clergy: Sarah Jayne Hewitt, Dean Hall

Fri 28 Churches in Vacancy

Lord, we pray for all churches currently in vacancy. We give thanks for all who fill roles during this sometimes-challenging time. Bless all those who are involved in filling the vacancy and for the person who they will appoint.

Sat 1 MARCH Vacancy in See

We give thanks for the great legacy of those who have walked in faith before us. In awe and wonder we thank you for saints, known and unknown, who have encouraged the people of Worcestershire and Dudley to turn to you in humility, faith and love.

Pray for Fraser and all at St Stephen's Church in Redditch as their renewal project develops.



Renewal Leader at St Stephen's Church, Redditch –
Fraser Oates

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil:
Bishop Francisco Cezar
Fernandes Alves

Madras (South India): M
Bishop George Stephen Jeyaraj

Madurai-Ramnad (South India): T
Bishop Jeyasingh Deva Sahayam
Prabhakaran

Magwi (South Sudan): W
Bishop James Primo

Mahajanga (Indian Ocean): Th
Bishop Samuel Hall Speers

Maduguri (Nigeria): F
Bishop Emmanuel Morris

Maine (USA): S
Bishop Thomas J. Brown

Pray for all those living in poverty and for Church Action on Poverty, the Trussell Trust, Christians Against Poverty and all those who work tirelessly to ensure those in poverty are supported.

Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery Leadership Team: Glenn Reading, Elaine Whitfield, Martin Allen, Rose Humphrey

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

The Anglican Church of Burundi: Archbishop Sixbert Macumbi

M *Maiwut (South Sudan): Bishop Peter Gatbel Kunen Lual*

T *Makamba (Burundi): Bishop Martin Nyaboho*

W *Makueni (Kenya): Bishop Francis Mboya Matui*

Th *Makurdi (Nigeria): Bishop Nathan Nyitar Inyom*

F *Malabar (South India): Bishop Royce Manoj Victor*

S *Malaita (Melanesia): Bishop Rickson Maomaoru*

Church Action on Poverty Sunday

Today is Church Action on Poverty Sunday, focusing on themes of social justice and the Church's role in addressing the root causes of poverty in the UK.

The campaigning charity Church Action on Poverty was founded in 1982 to raise awareness of issues around poverty and enable the voice of those experiencing poverty to be heard. This remains a central principle of their work.

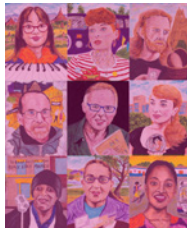
They are not a lone voice in the Church standing up to tackle the impact of poverty, and its causes – with 1400 foodbanks part of the Trussell Trust network (founded 1997), and Christians Against Poverty, founded in 1996 providing much needed debt advice and hope. Not to mention the local responses of many churches.

This year Church Action on Poverty has produced an exhibition of portraits of real people experiencing poverty under the title, 'Dreams and Realities'. Each portrays a person – along with symbols representing their experience of poverty, and the dreams they would pursue if they were not being held back by their circumstances. This Sunday is a chance to reflect on their stories, take action, both to help those who daily live with poverty and address its causes, and also pray for change, justice and hope, reflecting our own Kingdom values of Love, Compassion, Justice and Freedom.

To see the Dreams and Realities portraits visit www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday. And also see www.trussell.org.uk and www.capuk.org



Church Action on Poverty



Mon 3 Holy Trinity Redditch Team

In a time of change we pray that the team as a whole can work on releasing St Stephen's into its new phase as a renewal church and support and bless the amazing work being done by Gail Roger and Sarah Jayne Hewitt in Beoley with Alvechurch and Webheath with Tardebigge. May God bless us as discern his path. Clergy: Paul Lawlor; PCC Lay Chair: Phil Mitchell

Tues 4 Shrove Tuesday

Lord, on Shrove Tuesday, we prepare our hearts for Lent. Help us embrace repentance and renewal, guiding us to reflect, seek forgiveness, and grow closer to You in faith and love. Amen.

Wed 5 Ash Wednesday

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin, give us grace to grow in holiness, to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ. And through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole.

Thur 6 Word Book Day

We give thanks for the enjoyment books can bring. For the knowledge and entertainment they offer. Bless all those who write and share their stories with others.

Fri 7 Springtime

As we move into Spring, we give thanks for longer days, for this time of rebirth and renewal and for all of God's creation as it gradually bursts into life.

Sat 8 Growing as Kingdom People

Dear Lord, be with us during Lent, help us to engage with others who may not know you yet. Help us to find ways to meet others where they are right now and help them to find Your love in their own ways.

Thinking about church finances during Lent

In his 2017 Lent book, Dethroning Mammon, Justin Welby encourages the reader to explore their relationship with money during Lent. His premise is that money often takes the place of God in our lives, so rather than being something which is used as a tool for God's Kingdom, it becomes something that takes priority over God. Re-focusing our financial behaviour to focus on God is a great Lenten discipline for us as individuals, but we must also model it as churches.

Think about what we are storing up. Lent is a great time to reflect on your reserves policy and consider what is currently being stored and challenge that upper limit, with any additional money being used in your mission and ministry. Remember to let people know how they can give. In our Diocese, twice as many people sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme during March and April compared to any other month. It may be that people are re-evaluating their giving during Lent, so make you set out how they can give simply and clearly. During Lent, many individuals give something up and may put aside the money to give to a charity at Easter. Similarly, the church can do likewise and save up some money in Lent to give away, possibly to this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal or to local charities nominated by the congregation.

Mon 10 Primrose Hospice, Bromsgrove

We give thanks for the ministry of care offered at the local hospice in Bromsgrove and pray for its continued development despite the challenging financial environment.

Tues 11 Those who are ill

Bring your healing touch to all who are unwell, whether in body, mind and spirit. Give thanks for all who look after the sick and the dying, bringing comfort to their friends and families.

Wed 12 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for the work of the Health Centre in Tunguli, linked to the hospital in Berega. We ask for God's blessing on the work of midwife Yona and for his outreach to the women living in this remote and rural area using his motorbike to provide education and support in numerous outdoor clinics.

Thur 13 Ipsley Team Ministry

At St John's Church, Greenlands, pray for our activity service with children and adults, the afternoon tea service especially for the local residents. During this period of change pray for the Revd Paul Lawlor, Readers Vicki Quarton, Rosemary Humphrey and Maureen Hughes and for our churchwardens

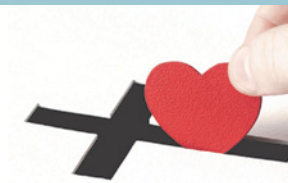
Fri 14 Ipsley Team Ministry

At St Peter's Church, give thanks for growth of our Families at 4 service. Pray for Andrea starting Reader training. For wisdom that our leaders will know the way forward within the Redditch area. For ministry to the community through Coffee Morning, St Peter's Pantry and Brew and Butty monthly outreach on Saturday. Clergy: Garth Nathaniel, Linda Nicholas; Readers: Christine McLaren, Peter McLaren

Sat 15 Vacancy in See

Loving God, help us to put our trust in you as we continue our journey of discerning who might be our next bishop. We pray especially for Archbishop Justin, Archbishop Stephen and the central Church team who journey alongside us, offering their wisdom and insight.

We give thanks for God's generosity. Help us use this Lent to think about the abundance we have and ensure we steward it well.



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

The Anglican Church of Canada: Bishop Anne Germond

Malakal (South Sudan): **M**
Bishop Joseph Atem

Lake Malawi (Central Africa): **T**
Bishop Francis Kaulanda

Northern Malawi (Central Africa): **J**
Bishop Fanuel Emmanuel Magangani

Southern Malawi (Central Africa): **J**
Bishop Alinafe Kalemba

West Malaysia (South East Asia): **F**
Bishop D. Steven Abbarow

Malek (South Sudan): **S**
Bishop Peter Joh Abraham Mayom

Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of your creation. Guide us to be wise stewards of the Earth. Inspire us to act with care and compassion, protecting all you've made.

Earth Hour

Since starting in 2007, Earth Hour, which takes place on 22 March has been known for the “lights off” moment, with individuals around the world switching off their lights to show support for the planet and raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.



The organisers have said that the next five years are crucial to all our futures and to avoid irreversible damage to our planet and so this year are planning the “Biggest Hour for Earth” yet. How? By calling on supporters across the globe to switch off their lights and give an hour for Earth, spending 60 minutes doing something - anything - positive for our planet. Amidst our increasingly divided and polarised societies, the Biggest Hour for Earth becomes a precious moment of unity, reminding the world that our one shared home needs our help and that we all can - and must - play a part in protecting it.

The theme for Earth Day 2025 is “Our Power, Our Planet”. This powerful campaign emphasises the collective responsibility we all share in transitioning to renewable energy sources and creating a sustainable future.

Mon 17 Ipsley Team Ministry

At Christ Church Matchborough, pray for ministries that touch the community, especially for work with young people and children. Pray for the evangelism initiative. Pray for our estates to be transformed by the good news of Jesus. Pray for youth, children’s and community leaders and helpers, Clergy: Ian Evans; Readers: Phil Williams, Marilyn Bishop.

Tue 18 Alexandra Hospital

Please pray for Alexandra Hospital in Redditch. For the whole hospital community, including patients and their families. Thank God for the 1000+ people who work at the Alex and their dedication through this challenging time. For the Chaplain and the hospital’s volunteer teams.

Wed 19 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

In a few days, the training of our new pastors will come to an end. Those soon to be ordained will start their ministry in a pastorate at the beginning of April. Please pray for them, for their families and for the parishes in which they will serve.

Thur 20 Emergency Services

Pray for all those who work in the emergency services. Give them strength and pray that they will feel God’s love as they carry out their vital work.

Fri 21 St Laurence, Alvechurch

Pray for our Growing Mission and Ministry group and Mission Accompanier. We pray that our focus on families and youth will see growth in numbers and leaders. Pray especially for our NWC’s, our monthly Cafe Breakfast Church and our Tots and Toddler Worship. For our ALMs. Clergy: Gail Rogers, Martin Allen, Readers: Sue Phillips-Wardle and Helen Ayling

Sat 22 Growing as Kingdom People

Amazing and loving Lord, help us to discern where the needs are in our communities. Help us to remove ourselves from our plans, making them more about You and the needs of our communities.

Deanery Leadership Team: Glenn Reading, Elaine Whitfield, Martin Allen and Rose Humphrey

The Church of the Province of Central Africa: Archbishop Albert Chama

M Malek Rup (South Sudan):
Bishop Peter Marial Agok

T Malindi (Kenya):
Bishop Lawrence Dena

W Manawa o Te Wheke (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia):
Bishop Ngarahu Katene

Th Manchester:
Bishop David Walker, Bishop Matthew Porter (Bolton), Mark Davies (Middleton)

F Mandalay (Burma):
Bishop David Nyi Nyi Naing

S Manicaland (Central Africa):
Bishop Erick Ruwona

Improving Wolverley Church Hall

Two members of the congregation at Wolverley Church have redecorated the outside of the Church Hall as a service to the local community. Sam Neale and his friend Maff spent around three months improving the building which had fallen into considerable disrepair.

Sam has been a member of Wolverley Church for around three years. He said: “I really felt that God had put into my heart that I needed to improve the hall.”

The men received some donations of paint, including from the local B&Q and the Seabright Foundation donated £500 towards the project. A local sign company also made a new sign for a donation and Sam created a cross to go onto the outside.

“It was a real community effort,” said Sam. “We were very grateful to people who brought up cups of tea and coffee while we were working and my son, Archie even got involved with some of the painting!”

Vicar Shaun Armstrong said: “We are hugely grateful for Sam and Maff’s work – it is a huge improvement, and the hall looks cared for again. The hall has much history attached to it and remains a central hub for our church community events. Bookings have gone up significantly since the work was completed, and we’ve had lots more enquiries.”

Pray for the community of Wolverley Church and for all who use their church hall.



Wolverley Church - Shaun Armstrong, Sam Neale

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America: Bishop Juan David Alvarado Melgar

Mon 24 St Leonard, Beoley

We give thanks for Church@4, our NWC, and pray that though this more people will come to know the love of God for themselves. We pray for wisdom as we nurture people of all generations on their faith journey, offering support and encouragement as they grow in confidence loving, God, neighbour and themselves. Clergy: Gail Rogers, Martin Allen; Readers: Norma Walters, Margaret Lloyd and Enid Mullis

Tues 25 Feast of the Annunciation

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.

Wed 26 Diocese of Peru

Pray for all those in the Diocese of Peru discerning a call to ministry, and for those currently training at seminaries in Chile.

Thur 27 Retired clergy in Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in the Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery, thankful for all that they have given and continue to give. We pray for their continued journey of faith, mindful of new challenges they may be facing in retirement. May God’s blessing and peace be upon them.

Fri 28 YMCA Worcestershire

Please pray for all those who work or volunteer for the YMCA in Worcestershire and for the people they support.

Sat 29 Vacancy in See

Heavenly Father, we thank you for those you call to faithfully lead and shepherd your church. As we seek a new Bishop of Worcester, help us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit’s guidance, give us heavenly wisdom, and bless our diocese that we might enter a new season of growth and fruitfulness as Kingdom People.

Maper (South Sudan):
Bishop Alfred Cooper

Mara (Tanzania):
Bishop George Okoth

Maralal (Kenya):
Bishop Jacob Lesuada

Marathwada (North India):
Bishop Madhukar Kasab

Maridi (South Sudan):
Bishop Moses Zungu

Marsabit (Kenya):
Bishop Daniel Qampicha



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.

