

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF  
WORCESTER



# Prayer Diary

March to July 2026



## Foreword from Bishop Hugh



Rowan Williams once memorably compared prayer to sunbathing.

Sunbathing, he pointed out, simply involves letting the sun get at you. You can't get a better tan by trying really hard, nor are there special techniques or top tricks that will speed things up; you just need to make the time and find the space to let the sun get at you.

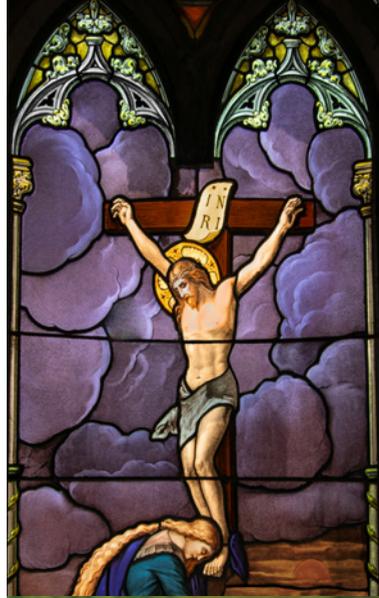
And prayer is just the same; when we pray we are simply letting God get at us. Whether it's by sitting in silence, joining others to sing and praise or using the words of a liturgy, prayer begins when we let God get at us. And, like sunbathing, we can't screw up our eyes and 'pray harder', nor can we get God to do what we want; all we can do is to make the time and find the space to be in God's presence and to let God be God.

In our full lives, with all the responsibilities we carry and things we have to do, it can be easy to rush through our days without that happening. So, as the sun starts to shine a bit (we hope), why not look again at how you're letting God get at you. And if you need a bit more time 'sunbathing with God', make that a priority and see what happens.

God bless

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh".

Bishop Hugh, 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.

**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.

## In this prayer diary, we're praying for the deaneries of Worcester and Kidderminster & Stourport

**Worcester Deanery** encompasses a large area spanning both the eastern and western sides of the River Sever. Serving a population of 149,405, it includes the city of Worcester and the historic Spa town of Droitwich. The deanery consists of 28 parishes with 37 churches located in areas of varying affluence across urban, suburban and rural contexts.



### Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery

The deanery of Kidderminster and Stourport includes 61 churches and encompasses both rural and urban areas of Worcestershire stretching from the borders of Herefordshire in the West to Droitwich in the South-East. In the West of the deanery is the 'Muddy Boots Mission Area', a collegiate group working across a large rural area covering 26 churches who seek to share the joys and challenges that life in the countryside brings.

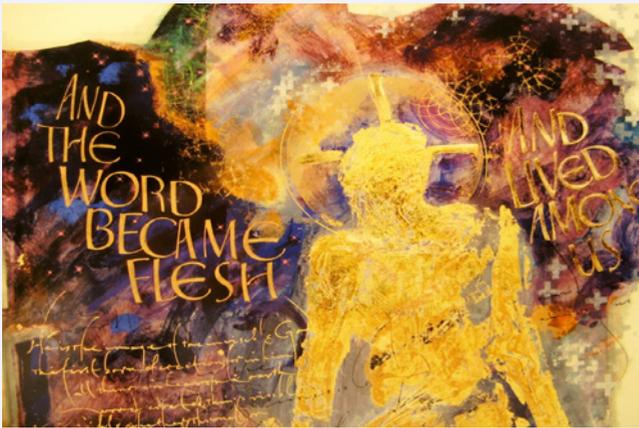
## Different Ways of Praying

Throughout this prayer diary, the diocesan Spirituality group will help us to explore a particular way of praying.

**Visio Divina** (Divine or holy looking) works on the principle that the word of God is written, at least somewhat, in creation and visual creativity, as well as in Scripture, and supremely in the Word made flesh.

It is important to remember here, though, that not all people are able to see. For those who are blind perhaps music might play a similar function and increasingly it is possible to touch sculpture, also.

Remember too that the visual does not appeal to everyone, and it is no disgrace if you are one of those people. This is only one way in which the Spirit enables us to encounter and be encountered by God. Thomas Aquinas asserted in the 13th century that grace completes nature. If we are open to the Spirit, we may be gifted with glimpses of God in all that is. But we can also learn to see as God sees, as we share in God's life.



We will be suggesting taking a Visio Divina approach to praying on 12 April, 10 May and 5 July. These prayers have been compiled by Helen Stanton, Warden of diocesan retreat house, Holland House and member of the diocesan Spirituality group.



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

*Armagh (Ireland):  
Archbishop John McDowell  
Funen (Denmark):  
Bishop Mads Davidsen  
Sodor and Man:  
Bishop Tricia Hillas  
The Anglican Church of  
Melanesia:  
Archbishop Leonard Dawea*

**Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most solemn and sacred time in the Christian calendar. On this day, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where crowds welcomed Him with palm branches, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9).

This moment of celebration, however, is bittersweet. The same voices that praised Jesus would soon call for his crucifixion. Palm Sunday invites us to reflect on the nature of our own discipleship. Do we follow Jesus only in times of joy, or do we remain faithful even in trials?

As we hold palm crosses in our hands, we are reminded that Christ's path of kingship led to the cross. His victory was not one of earthly power, but of sacrificial love. Through His suffering, death, and resurrection, He opened the way for our salvation.

As Holy Week begins, let us walk with Jesus in prayer and reflection, preparing our hearts to receive the fullness of His love and grace at Easter.

***True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.***

**Mon 30 Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery**

We give thanks for the work of Mark Hall as Deanery Secretary and we ask God's blessing on Gill Warnett as she takes over the role. We pray that the Spirit to show us how we may best work more effectively together, encouraging one another. Deanery Leadership Team: Tim Williams, Clare Stockford, Paul Blackham, Gill Warnett, Julia Curtis

**Tue 31 Areley Kings & Astley**

Please pray for us as we ask God's blessings on our outreach in the schools and Café Church initiative. Clergy: Andrew Hutchinson; Reader: Sue Matthews

**Wed 1 APRIL Diocese of Peru**

Peru has continued to experience serious political instability. Ahead of presidential elections on 12 April, pray for all candidates and the electorate, and for whoever may be elected, that they may have the wisdom and integrity to guide the country on a new course. Pray too for those who minister in the Diocese of Peru as they seek to provide support to the disadvantaged and victimised.

**Thur 2 St Michael, Stourport & All Saints Wilden**

Pray as we work together as a new Joint Council; for our community as we extend hospitality in Warm Space, Happy Memories Cafe, Lunch Club, Charity craft group and Open Mornings; for our growing relationship with schools, particularly our Church school. Clergy: Carey Saleh; Reader: Sandra Baty, Richard Standing, Phil Saleh

**Fri 3 Good Friday**

Merciful Lord, on this Good Friday, we remember your suffering and sacrifice on the cross. Fill our hearts with gratitude, repentance, and love as we embrace your redeeming grace. Amen.

**Sat 4 Chaplaincy for Agriculture and Rural Life**

Pray for the Chaplaincy for Agriculture and Rural Life (CARL) and the work they do in supporting rural communities and farmers. We pray for the charities they work with, such as such as the Farming Community Network, RABI and the Addington Fund and for the chaplaincy they provide at the Livestock Market. Chair: David Morris

**M** *Venezuela (South America):  
Vacant*

**T** *Vermont (USA):  
Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown*

**W** *Victoria Nyanza (Tanzania):  
Vacant*

**Th** *Virgin Islands (Caribbean):  
Bishop Ambrose Gumbs*

**F** *Virginia (USA):  
Bishop E. Mark Stevenson*

**S** *Southern Virginia (USA):  
Bishop Susan Haynes*

## Easter Sunday

On the third day after being crucified, Jesus' tomb was found to be empty by the disciples. Jesus had risen from the dead and so life has triumphed over death. The joy of the resurrection is possible because Jesus endured and conquered death.

Today marks the start of fifty days celebrating Jesus' resurrection before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

As we celebrate the triumph of life over death, we remember all those who mourn the loss of a loved one. As we celebrate the joy of new life and the hope revealed in it, we pray for those who find hope hard to hold on to. We pray too for our own journeys of discipleship, remembering that to follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life in him.

*Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Mon 6 Ribbesford with Bewdley and Dowles

Please pray for Sarah, our Mission Support Officer, as she settles into her new role; for our growing relationship with local schools; and our efforts in the areas of eco and racial justice. For our retired clergy: Simon Thorburn, Wyn Beynon. Clergy: Mel Beynon; Readers: Robert Barbour, Barbara Fauset

### Tue 7 All Saints Wribbenhall

Please pray for our community work, combatting loneliness and isolation; our relationship with local schools & families; our outreach through music & activities for children/young people, and our progress toward beginning a NWC. For our retired clergy: Heather Flack. Clergy: Mel Beynon; Readers: Robert Barbour, Barbara Fauset

### Wed 8 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for the continuing ministry of the Cathedral in Morogoro town and the clergy who serve there. We pray especially for Canon Peter Mkenji, Priest in Charge, as he faces living with a long-term medical condition. We give thanks for his ministry and pray for his wife and children.

### Thur 9 Kidderminster East

Pray for our churches of St George and St Cecilia. For the new housing development now being built, as we discern how we can build community there and reach out in mission, along with other churches together in Kidderminster. Clergy: David Hildred; Readers: Lisa Manser, Carol Morris, David Grist

### Fri 10 Kidderminster East

Pray that St Chad's Platinum Jubilee inspires community growth and love, and that St Mary's Church in Stone remains a testament to God's faithfulness, guided by fresh vision for the future. Clergy: Jacqueline Shalloe; Readers: Tony Bill, John Chesworth, Elaine Voice

### Sat 11 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, we pray for all those across the Diocese and for your continued love, mercy and grace for us all. Help us to use our church buildings to offer a welcoming space for others.



*Kidderminster and Stourport  
Deanery Leadership Team:  
Paul Blackham, Gill Warnett  
and Julia Curtis*

*Praying for our baptism families:  
Lord, bless all parents as they  
nurture the children in their  
care. Help them to encourage  
generosity and help them  
show their children how to  
be a good friend. Amen.*

*Uppsala (Sweden):  
Archbishop Martin Modéus,  
Bishop Karin Johansson  
Llandaff (Wales):  
Bishop Mary Stallard  
La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico:  
Bishop Enrique Treviño Cruz*

*Southwestern Virginia (USA): M  
Vacant*

*West Virginia (USA): T  
Bishop Matthew Cowden*

*Wad Medani (Sudan): W  
Bishop Saman Farajalla Mahdi*

*Waiapu (New Zealand): Th  
Bishop Andrew Hedge*

*Waikato and Taranaki F  
(New Zealand):  
Bishop Philip Richardson*

*Waipounamu (New Zealand): S  
Vacant*



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

**Derby:**

*Bishop Libby Lane, Bishop  
Malcolm Macnaughton*

**Clogher (Ireland):**

*Bishop Ian Ellis*

**Aalborg (Denmark):**

*Bishop Thomas Reinholdt  
Rasmussen*

**Anglican Church of Mozambique  
and Angola:**

*Bishop Vicente Msosa*

## A different way of praying

Visio Divina is a way of paying close attention, of intentionally being present to God and creation. It is more of a gaze than a glance. I am told that in art galleries people spend no more than 30 seconds looking at even the most celebrated of artwork. But this practice of prayerfully attending to how the visual addresses us, isn't just about artwork. 'The earth, the sea and the immensity of the broad sky', as R.S. Thomas wrote, is part of the enrichment we can experience as we look carefully.

As St Francis of Assisi asserted, all creation is in a sibling relationship with human beings, and by inference, therefore, perhaps made in the image and likeness of God. Try looking, for ten minutes, at what is around you: the ordinary streetscape, a beautiful landscape, a face, a companion animal, even the photograph taken near Monmouth which accompanies this reflection.

Be open to encounter with God. What does the image tell us about God? How is God's love to be found in it? Allow yourself to be led into awestruck silence or into prayer for the creation, into action to help preserve the planet and its creatures.

### Mon 13 Kidderminster Hospital & Tenbury Wells Community Hospital

Pray for Kidderminster Hospital and the Tenbury Wells Community Hospital. For all the medical teams that support them. For those who work in the background: medical secretaries, admin support and the facilities teams. Give thanks for all volunteers and the chaplaincy and pastoral support teams.

### Tue 14 Kidderminster Urban

At St John, Kidderminster and St Barnabas Franche, give thanks for new members of our worshipping communities and for new patterns of worship. Pray for our work with St John's school, the Warm Space coffee mornings at Franche and for progress in forming our new Team. Clergy: Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Chris Betson

### Wed 15 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Each Spring, a Protestant musical project is held in the Altmark region. 80 children, teenagers, and even parents and grandparents from many villages, both from church and non-church groups, rehearse a musical during the Easter holidays. This year we are performing "The Prodigal Son" in three different locations. We pray that God will open the hearts of the participants and the audience to the message of the loving Father to whom everyone can return.

### Thur 16 Kidderminster Urban

At St Mary, Kidderminster and St Peter, Birchen Coppice, give thanks for outreach to new housing and to areas of deprivation; for dedicated volunteers, growing congregations and faithful worshippers. Pray for formation of our new team and the process to find our new Rector. Clergy: Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Christ Betson

### Fri 17 Kidderminster Urban

At Holy Innocents at Foley Park and Holy Trinity in Trimpley, give thanks for our communities and the support given and received, for Rake and Cake at Trimpley and the coffee mornings at Holy Innocents. Pray for our ALMs. Clergy: Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Chris Betson; Readers: Sue MacAskill, Neville Bishop, Ian Strongman

### Sat 18 Children, young people and families

Loving God, we bring to you the children, young people and families of our diocese. We pray for those who already know they are your children. Please protect them, bless them and keep them firm in their faith.

**M** **Wandi (South Sudan):**  
*Bishop Yohanas Benjamin Dirar*

**T** **Wangaratta (Australia):**  
*Bishop Clarence Bester*

**W** **Wanglei (South Sudan):**  
*Bishop Zechariah Mayok Biar*

**Th** **Wanyok (South Sudan):**  
*Bishop Mamer Manot*

**F** **Warri (Nigeria):**  
*Bishop Christian Ezezi Ide*

**S** **Washington (USA):**  
*Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde*

## Earth Day

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the eco-systems which make our world habitable. Unless every country in the world steps up with urgency and ambition, the future of our descendants will be dangerous.

**Earth Day on Wednesday 22 April** is an important opportunity for people from around the world to unite in creativity, innovation, ambition, and bravery to meet our climate crisis and seize the opportunities of working towards a zero-carbon future.

The challenges we face today can feel overwhelming, but we know that standing together can change everything. This Earth Day, everyone is encouraged to take a stand for clean air, clean water, renewable energy, and the protection of our health and the countless species that share this planet with us.

*Lord, help us to steward your creation better. Help us to work together for a brighter future. We thank you for the gift of creation and we pray we can work together so that future generations can enjoy your glorious work. Amen.*

### Mon 20 North Kidderminster Rural

Pray for our churches of Upper Arley, Wolverley, Cookley, Blakedown, Churchill in Halfshire & Broome. Pray for iSing Blakedown and bless leaders, children, and families as we aim to grow faith across generations. Draw new families, deepen joy in worship, and let your Spirit bear lasting fruit. Clergy: Shaun Armstrong, Peter Greaves; Reader: Andy Hewines

### Tue 21 North Kidderminster Rural

Please pray for the start and growth of iSing Wolverley. Bring growth in numbers and faith. Encourage leaders, inspire invitation, and help families encounter you through joyful, welcoming worship together. Clergy: Shaun Armstrong, Peter Greaves; Reader: Andy Hewines

### Wed 22 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for all who are victims of labour exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking within our economy, whether in the UK or working in supply chains in other parts of the world. Pray for the work of organisations helping to rescue and support victims, such as 'Hope for Justice'.

### Thur 23 St George's Day

Almighty God, on St George's Day we thank you for courage and faith. Strengthen us to stand firm in Christ, serve others humbly, and proclaim your peace. Amen.

### Fri 24 North Kidderminster Rural

Please pray for the blessing of our village schools. Strengthen partnerships, open hearts, and create opportunities to share your love. May children, staff, and families experience support, hope, and faith growing. Clergy: Shaun Armstrong, Peter Greaves; Reader: Andy Hewines

### Sat 25 Growing as Kingdom People

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



Chair of the diocesan  
Climate Crisis Group:  
David Hewlett

**Blackburn:**  
Bishop Philip North, Bishop  
Jill Duff, Bishop Joseph Kennedy

**Brechin (Scotland):**  
Bishop Andrew Swift

**The Lutheran Church in Great  
Britain:**  
Bishop Paulina Hlawiczka-Trotman  
**The Church of the Province of  
Myanmar (Burma):**  
Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo

**Wau (South Sudan):** **M**  
Bishop Moses Deng Bol

**Wellington (New Zealand):** **T**  
Bishop Justin Duckworth

**Wernyol (South Sudan):** **W**  
Bishop Gabriel Kuol Garang

**Wiawso (Ghana):** **Th**  
Bishop Kwame Kyem-Ampomah

**Willochra (Australia):** **F**  
Bishop Jeremy James

**Winchester:** **S**  
Bishop Philip Mounstephen,  
Bishop Kelly Betteridge,  
Bishop Rhiannon King

*Lord of all, you have called each of us to serve you in your world and in your Church; strengthen and equip us by your Spirit to recognise your call to us and give us grace and courage to fulfil that calling. Amen*

Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocation: John Fitzmaurice

**Gothenburg (Sweden):**  
Bishop Susanne Rappmann  
**Glasgow and Galloway (Scotland):**  
Bishop Nicholas Bundock  
**The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion):**  
Bishop Henry C. Ndukuba

## Vocations Sunday

The second cohort of people who are training through our Auxiliary Pathway scheme has included those training to become ordained clergy in their local context alongside those training to become Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers). The pathway is a two-year course enabling those recommended from their parishes to explore ordained and licensed lay ministry and to deepen ministry and community engagement through flexible, practical and supportive training. Director of Ordinands and Vocation, John Fitzmaurice, said: "The Auxiliary Pathway has proven effective for local ministry, and some find it better suited to their circumstances. We hope by opening up training to those interested in exploring either ordained or licensed lay ministry, more people will feel able to take on these roles in their communities."

Today is Vocations Sunday. Could you be experiencing a call to a more formal ministry? Would you like to explore being an Authorised Lay Minister, Reader or even becoming ordained.

Find out more about the different options available on the diocesan website: [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-christian-calling](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-christian-calling)



### Mon 27 Muddy Boots Misison Area

Please pray for us as we continue to share our diverse ministry together. Pray for Eco Church across our churches, for the Relishing Rural Choir and our lay ministers. As we pray, we seek God's guidance for our plans to strengthen links across our benefices.

### Tue 28 Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day commemorates all who die at work or travelling to work. Pray for safety and wellbeing for those at work; for all under stress at work and vulnerable to mental illness, and for health & safety and environmental health officers.

### Wed 29 Diocese of Peru

The Diocese of Peru has been working hard to implement its safeguarding programme, 'Iglesia Segura', in a culture where safeguarding is still not fully understood. Pray for all those seeking to protect children, young people and the vulnerable, and for those in the Diocese seeking to create a safeguarding culture.

### Thur 30 The Four Rivers Group

Give thanks for the farming community in Shrawley, Great Witley, Little Witley, and Abberley. For the Young Farmers, Abberley Care Farm and those working to preserve the beauty of our area. Pray for our schools in Abberley and Great Witley. Give thanks for all who volunteer as stewards and churchwardens and pray for our wedding couples. Clergy: David Morris, Tobias Thornes; Readers: Christine Clarke, Mark Wild

### Fri 1 MAY Teme Valley North

In Pensax, Stockton-on-Teme, Lindridge, and Knighton-on-Teme, we pray for our new worshipping community at Eardiston Village Hall. For Lindridge School and its Silver Church & School Partnership Award, interim head: Helen Hadley. For our churchwardens, PCC members and all who offer support and friendship. Clergy: David Morris, Tobias Thornes; Readers: Christine Clarke, Mark Wild

### Sat 2 Children, Youth and Family Ministry

We pray for both our paid and volunteer children, young people and family ministers working in churches across our diocese. We thank them for their creativity and hard work in finding ways of reaching out to those who may not consider coming into church.

**M** **Windward Islands (West Indies):**  
Bishop Leopold Friday

**T** **Wondurba (South Sudan):**  
Vacant

**W** **Worcester:**  
Bishop Hugh Nelson,  
Bishop Martin Gorick

**Th** **Wulu (South Sudan):**  
Bishop Zacharia Mangar Apeti

**F** **Wusasa (Nigeria):**  
Bishop Ali Buba Lamido

**S** **Wyoming (USA):**  
Bishop John Smylie

## A Cross of Community and Hope

At St Thomas' Church in Stourbridge, members of 'Chewsdays Church' unveiled a large cross, intentionally crafted with a rough and imperfect surface to reflect the brokenness of our world.

Its raw texture serves as a poignant reminder that, even in our flaws and struggles, there is meaning and grace to be found.

Adorning this central cross are many smaller crosses, created and beautifully decorated by individuals and community groups from across the local area. Each small cross is unique, representing the beauty that emerges through prayer, creativity, and togetherness.

Val Charles, Chewsdays Church Worship leader, said: "Collectively, these crosses symbolise how faith and community can bring colour, hope, and renewal to the imperfections of life. This collaborative project stands as a powerful testament to both the reality of human brokenness and the healing strength found in unity, love, and faith.

St Thomas' Chewsdays Church meets monthly in church to do craft together alongside prayer and discussion about a bible reading. The group also enjoy a bring and share lunch.



### Mon 4 Teme Valley South, Clifton Upon Teme, Lower Sapey & The Shelsleys

Pray for our communities of Eastham, Rochford, Stanford, the Hanleys, Stoke Bliss and Kyre, Clifton, Harpley, Shelsley Walsh and Shelsley Beauchamp as we form a united benefice in this deeply rural area. For our Pastoral team and Safeguarding Officers, our ALM, and our retired clergy Robert Barlow and Sally Jones. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Denniston, Jen Jones; Readers: Jill Smith, Pete Thorp, Pat Snelling

### Tue 5 Teme Valley South, Clifton Upon Teme, Lower Sapey & The Shelsleys

Please pray for rural businesses, farms and farmers; for our PCCs and churchwardens. For our ongoing building repairs and improvements including the installation of a toilet at Eastham. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Denniston, Jen Jones; Readers: Peter Thorp, Jill Smith, Pat Snelling

### Wed 6 Diocese of Morogoro

Give thanks for the new link between St Mark's Church in Morogoro and St Stephen's Church in Worcester and their respective clergy: Pendo Mauta and Lindsey Coultard. Pendo is the first full-time female parish priest within the Diocese of Morogoro and we ask for God's blessing on her.

### Thur 7 Teme Valley South, Clifton Upon Teme, Lower Sapey & The Shelsleys

Pray for our New Worshipping Communities and outreach. For Welly Church, Soul Space, Warm Space, Praise 4 All at St Kenelm, Our Open the Book team at Clifton Primary School. Give thanks for our baptism families and the new generation engaging with us. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Denniston; Readers: Jill Smith, Pete Thorp, Pat Snelling

### Fri 8 Wyre Forest West Churches

Pray for us in Mamble, Bayton, Clows Top, Rock, Heightington and Far Forest as we strengthen links with our community. Pray for our new "Warm Space" Café, a joint initiative with Rock Village Hall, and for our ongoing children's ministries - schools, Little Fishes, and activity days. Clergy: Sallie Butcher, Julia Quinn

### Sat 9 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, we thank you for all the many gifts you have given us. Help us to use them to their fullest to grow your kingdom here on earth.

*Lord help us to remember that even in our flaws and struggles there is meaning and grace to be found.*

*You love us in all our darkest times, help us to learn to do the same.*

Vicar of St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge: Andrew Sillis  
Chewsdays Church Worship leader: Val Charles

**Praying for our baptism families:**  
Lord God, thank you that you send your Holy Spirit to help us. We ask that you will help parents bringing their children for baptism to know when to ask for help and that your Holy Spirit will fill them with courage and strength to be great parents. Amen.

#### Southwark:

Bishop Christopher Chessun,  
Bishop Martin Gainsborough,  
Bishop Rosemarie Mallet,  
Bishop Alastair Cutting

#### Björgvin (Norway):

Bishop Ragnhild Jepsen

#### The Church of North India (United):

Paritosh Canning

#### Yambio (South Sudan):

Samuel Peni

#### Yangon (Myanmar):

Bishop Stephen Than Myint Oo

#### Yei (South Sudan):

Bishop Levi Marandulu Yepete

#### Yeri (South Sudan):

Bishop John Abraham Nyari

#### Yewa (Nigeria):

Bishop Michael Adebayo  
Oluwarhunbi

#### Yirol (South Sudan):

Bishop David Roch Angong



*Kidderminster and Stourport  
Deanery Leadership Team:  
Paul Blackham, Gill Warnett  
and Julia Curtis*

**Gloucester:**

*Bishop Rachel Treweek,  
Bishop Robert Springett*

**Västerås (Sweden):**

*Bishop Mikael Mogren*

**The Church of Pakistan (United):**

*Bishop Azad Marshall*

## A different way of praying

Earlier in the Church's history, the idea of God being ultimate beauty was common, and there was a sense that beauty would draw people towards God. There is a saying that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and that beauty is a matter of taste. To some extent this is true, but in practising *Visio Divina*, we are seeking to recognise God in all things and see all things through God's eyes.

Take some time to look at this photograph of a bowl by the ceramicist and Diocesan Adviser in Spirituality, Mary Flitcroft. What do you see here, in the shape, in the decoration, in the miracle of clay fired in a kiln, something mysterious and beyond final human control?

I see in it extraordinary beauty, and meaning – a non-Western culture, is it African? which reminds me that God's presence is unbounded and may manifest itself in every space and time. I see a shape which speaks of openness, a vessel for holding what is precious, perhaps resonant of the way some of us pray with hands open, waiting to receive.

***Does the piece speak to you?***

***In what way might God be speaking to you through the piece?***

### Mon 11 Christian Aid Week

In Christian Aid Week, we give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid and for all who support this work. May your compassion flow through our actions and offerings.

### Tue 12 Worcestershire 7 Benefice

In Elmley Lovett w Hampton Lovett & Elmbridge w Rushock and Hartlebury and Ombersley w Doverdale we give thanks to God for all that he is doing in our benefice and pray that we may discern what God is doing and join in. Clergy: Tim Williams, James Homer; Readers: Richard Berry, Marjorie Workman

### Wed 13 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for our newly ordained as they were introduced into their ministry at the beginning of May. Bless these 13 women and 6 men, who want to follow you, God, and let them be a blessing for all who they promised to serve.

### Thur 14 Worcestershire 7 Benefice

We ask prayers for God's blessing on our new Tin Bank initiative in Hartlebury. We also pray for our work with all the schools in the Parish and our outreach work in the communities. As we approachable the APCMs we ask that the Spirit may raise up new people to become Church officers. Clergy: Tim Williams, James Homer; Readers: Richard Berry, Marjorie Workman

### Fri 15 Bishop of Worcester

Loving God we give thanks for Bishop Hugh. Sustain him by your love, strengthen him in faith, encourage him in hope and grant him the needful gifts of grace in his ministry.

### Sat 16 Bishop of Dudley

Gracious God, we thank you for Bishop Martin, for all that he gives in his ministry in our diocese. Hold him in your love as a Child of God and give him wisdom and grace as he continues to serve here.

**M** **Yokohama (Japan):**  
*Bishop Ignatius Osamu Irie*

**T** **Yola (Nigeria):**  
*Bishop Marcus A. Ibrahim*

**W** **York:**  
*Archbishop Stephen Cottrell,  
Bishop Stephen Race, Bishop  
Eleanor Sanderson, Bishop Fiona  
Winfield, Bishop Barry Hill*

**Th** **New York (USA):**  
*Bishop Matthew Heyd*

**F** **Western New York (USA):**  
*Vacant*

**S** **Ysabel (Melanesia):**  
*Bishop Chris Hope*

## Children's art competition

Young people from our schools and parishes have been expressing their creativity in a special diocesan art competition. Bishop Hugh has asked for artwork which celebrates our diocesan values of love, compassion, justice and freedom with the winning designs to be displayed in his office in Worcester.



Each school was encouraged to get involved in the competition and choose one piece of artwork from a student from Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 or 4. Parishes could also submit artwork in our churches category. The chosen piece of art needed to be painted onto an A1 canvas and submitting for judging by Bishop Hugh. One overall piece will be chosen for each age group with the winners being unveiled at our diocesan headteachers' conference next month. The winners will also have the chance to have afternoon tea with Bishop Hugh to see their winning picture on the wall of his office!

*Please pray for all those who have been involved in our art competition, particularly for the young people who have embraced our diocesan values and have worked hard creating their artwork.*

*Diocesan Director of Education:  
Tim Reid*

**Guildford:**  
*Bishop Andrew Watson,  
Bishop Paul Davies  
Viborg (Denmark):  
Bishop Henrik Stubkjær  
The Anglican Church of  
Papua New Guinea:  
Bishop Nathan Ingen*

### Mon 18 Black Country Urban Industrial Mission

Pray for the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM), an ecumenical project that encourages and enables workplace chaplaincy in the north of our diocese. Give thanks for all the volunteer chaplains who provide a Christian presence of care and compassion to all who they encounter.

### Tue 19 Belbroughton w Fairfield and Chaddesley Corbett

We pray for our children and young people, in our churches and schools, that they continue to grow in their faith with love and support, and we pray for those exploring with us the next steps in their journey of faith. For our ALMs Carol Brogan and Beth Richards. Clergy: Chloë Hewett; Reader: Christine Hickman-Smith

### Wed 20 Economy and Daily Life

A big driver of the modern economy are start-up businesses. Research and pray for those starting businesses in your parish – web-designers, hairdressers, e-traders – wherever people are looking to earn their living, and support their families, not as employees, but as entrepreneurs.

### Thur 21 Belbroughton w Fairfield and Chaddesley Corbett

We pray for our fabric projects across all three churches; for hearts full of promise as we seek to continue to provide warm, welcoming spaces for our communities to seek God, and to know God's presence in their lives. For our ALMs Carol Brogan & Beth Richards. Clergy: Chloë Hewett; Reader: Christine Hickman-Smith

### Fri 22 Retired Clergy in Kidderminster Deanery

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in Kidderminster and Stourport 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.

### Sat 23 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, help us to listen for your voice. Help us to discern the calling you place on each of our hearts and follow your guidance to where your ministry is needed.

**Yukon (Canada):** **M**  
Vacant

**Zaki-Biam (Nigeria):** **T**  
Bishop Jezreel Vandeh

**Zambezia (Mozambique):** **W**  
Bishop Vicente Msosa

**Central Zambia** **Th**  
**(Central Africa):**  
Bishop Emmanuel Yona Chikoya

**Eastern Zambia** **F**  
**(Central Africa):**  
Bishop Dennis Milanzi

**Northern Zambia** **S**  
**(Central Africa):**  
Bishop John Kafwanka



Worcester Deanery -  
Area Dean: Vacant  
Lay Chair: Sue Rowlands

**Exeter:**

Bishop Mike Harrison, Bishop  
James Grier, Bishop Moira Astin  
Nord-Hålogaland (Norway):  
Bishop Stig Laegdene  
The Episcopal Church in  
the Philippines:  
Bishop Nestor Dagas Poltic

## Pentecost

The disciples were gathered in Jerusalem, still unsure what came next. Jesus had risen and ascended, but the world outside felt loud, dangerous, and divided. They waited together, praying, remembering his promises, holding on to hope like a small flame in the dark.

Then, suddenly, everything changed.

A sound like a rushing wind filled the house, strong enough to shake their fear loose. Flames, like tongues of fire, rested on each of them. It was not a fire that burned, but a fire that awakened. Their hearts raced, their spirits lifted, and their mouths began to speak in languages they had never learned.

Outside, the city was crowded with people from every nation. They stopped, amazed, because they could hear the wonders of God spoken in their own words. The message of Jesus was no longer trapped behind closed doors. The Holy Spirit had come, and the Church was born in courage, unity, and joy.

That same Spirit still moves today - whispering peace, stirring faith, and giving us boldness to love.

**Holy Spirit, come to us afresh.**

**Fill our hearts with your fire and make us brave to share Christ's love. Amen.**

### Mon 25 Bishops' Offices

Lord, we thank you for all the staff in the Bishops' offices. For Stuart Currie, Catrine Ball, Fleur Fisher and Helen Shakespeare. We thank you for all they do to support the clergy and parishes across our diocese.

### Tue 26 Archdeacons' Office

Lord, we thank you for our archdeacons - Mark Badger and Nikki Groarke and for their Secretary Liz McKinnon. Thank you for the pastoral and practical care they show to all in our parishes.

### Wed 27 Diocese of Peru

Bishops Jorge and Victor have been working, in collaboration with the Peruvian equivalent of Bishop's Council and the Diocesan Synod, to determine a new vision and direction for the Diocese of Peru. Pray for them in this ongoing work, and for all who minister in the Diocese as it seeks to respond to the needs of a changing society.

### Thur 28 Worcester Deanery

Pray for the appointment of a new Area Dean, and the shared life of the Deanery as reps for the new Synod are to be elected at Annual Parish Meetings. Deanery Leadership Team: Sue Rowlands, James Ellin, Paul Fulbrook, Robert Pearce, Paul Wilcox, Elizabeth Fleming

### Fri 29 All Saints, Worcester

Please pray for our children and young people, for those exploring faith and coming to know Jesus, and for our church weekend away in June - that many would be reconnected, refreshed and rekindled in their walk with Jesus. Clergy: Rich Johnson, James Ellin, Jess Fellows, Tim O'Leary

### Sat 30 Children, young people and families

We pray for those children, young people and families who would like to find out more about you. We give thanks for those churches who are providing ways for them to do that and ask that you will help us all to play our part. Please stir up curiosity in them to find out more and offer encounters with you that transform their lives.

**M** Zanzibar (Tanzania):  
Bishop Michael Hafidh

**T** Zaria (Nigeria):  
Bishop Ishaya Baba

**W** Central Zimbabwe:  
Bishop Ignatius Makumbe

**Th** Ziwa Rukwa (Tanzania):  
Bishop Ephraim Ntikabuze

**F** Zonkwa (Nigeria):  
Bishop Jacob Wutokwe Kwashi

**S** Zululand (South Africa):  
Bishop Vikiinduku Mnculwane

**Volunteers' Week**

All around us, often unnoticed, volunteers are quietly holding the world together. They open doors, make tea, stack chairs, run clubs, lead prayers, coach teams, visit the lonely, organise events, raise funds, tidy spaces, and offer a thousand small acts of kindness that keep communities alive.

They don't always wear uniforms or receive applause, but they are the backbone of so much that happens in churches and our wider communities. When others arrive and feel welcomed, when a service runs smoothly, when help reaches those in need - it is often because someone gave their time freely.

Volunteering is more than helping out. It is offering the gifts God has placed in each of us: patience, practical skills, compassion, creativity, leadership, listening, encouragement, and faith. Every act of service, whether seen or unseen, becomes a ministry when it is offered in love.



*Lord God, we thank you for all volunteers, and for every gift shared in service. Bless their ministries with strength and joy and call more people to join in your work of love. Amen.*

**Mon 1 JUNE Worcestershire West Rural Team**

Pray for the seven parishes of Alfrick-w-Lulsley, Crown East (with Rushwick), Leigh & Bransford, Lower Teme Valley (Broadwas, Cotheridge and Knightwick), Martley, Suckley and Wichensford as they discern their mission and ministry in their local communities. Clergy: Anne Potter, Sally Knowles

**Tue 2 Worcestershire West Rural Team**

Pray for the outreach to children and their families so that they may become faithful disciples of Christ. We give thanks for the Open the Book Teams who regularly go into local schools and the Godly play sessions through which God's story is shared. For our Children and Family Worker: Claire Daffern

**Wed 3 Diocese of Morogoro**

We pray for God's blessing on the future of our link with the Diocese of Morogoro, that we may continue to learn from one another and share the blessings of our common faith in Jesus Christ, whose deep and abiding love for each one of us spans our cultural differences and unites us in both ministry and service.

**Thur 4 Worcestershire West Rural Team**

We pray for the farming community with the challenges of unpredictable weather patterns. We also pray for the many volunteers, many of whom are members of our local churches including the Team Rector (Post Office) and Team Curate (shop), who work in Alfrick Community Shop and Post Office. Clergy: Anne Potter, Sally Knowles

**Fri 5 Worcestershire West Rural Team**

Give thanks for the retired clergy, the churchwardens, PCC members and all our dedicated and faithful volunteers who give so much of themselves in serving God to help sustain the ministry across our rural parishes. Retired Clergy: Jennifer Whittaker, Mike Gardner, Ruth Wintle and John Morris

**Sat 6 Growing as Kingdom People**

Lord Jesus, grow your kingdom in us. Shape our hearts to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Make us faithful witnesses, generous servants, and joyful people of hope. Amen.

Worcester Deanery  
Leadership Team: James Ellin,  
Paul Fulbrook, Robert Pearce,  
Paul Wilcox, Elizabeth Fleming

**Hereford:**  
Bishop Richard Jackson  
**Portugal:**  
Bishop José Jorge Pina Cabral  
**The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Worldwide:**  
Archbishop Karlis Zols  
**Anglican Church in Rwanda:**  
Archbishop Laurent Mbanda

**Aba (Nigeria):** M  
Bishop Christian C. Ugwuzor

**Aba Ngwa North (Nigeria):** T  
Bishop Nathan C O Kanu

**Abakaliki (Nigeria):** W  
Bishop Monday Chukwuma  
Nkwoagu

**Aberdeen and Orkney (Scotland):** Th  
Bishop Anne Dyer

**Abuja (Nigeria):** F  
Bishop Henry C. Ndukuba

**Abyei (South Sudan):** S  
Bishop Michael Deng K Bol



Worcester Deanery -  
Area Dean: Vacant  
Lay Chair: Sue Rowlands

**Praying for our baptism families:**

Father God, you are the best parent. Help those who bring their children to baptism to be the very best parents that they can be, showing love and care for their children, as you show love and care for us. Amen

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland:**

Bishop Guðrun Karls-Helgudottir,  
Bishop Kristjan Björnsson,  
Bishop Gisli Gunnarsson

**The Spanish Reformed**

**Episcopal Church:**

Bishop Carlos Lopez Lozano

**The Scottish Episcopal Church:**

Bishop Mark Strange

## Love your Burial Ground Week & Churches Count on Nature

Love your Burial Ground Week and Churches Count on Nature began yesterday and runs until next Sunday. It is a week dedicated to celebrating our churchyards and the biodiversity which can found there.

For over 16 years Caring for God's Acre have been encouraging all who help to look after churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries to celebrate these fantastic places in the lovely month of June.

Churches Count on Nature is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week, focusing on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. National Cemeteries Week is hosted by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends.

Last year across the Diocese, churches held churchyard trails, quizzes, plant counts and talks during this week.

**Lord, we thank you for the quiet, holy spaces of churchyards where nature and history mingle. Bless all who tend, maintain, and cherish these places, that they may remain havens of peace, biodiversity, and memory for generations to come.**

### Mon 8 World Oceans Day

On World Oceans Day we pray for the more than three billion people whose livelihood depends on the health of our oceans, those who fish the waters for food and nutrients, and those whose culture and spirituality are entwined with the ocean and its mysteries. Pray that we will all feel called to protect our oceans and all the creatures that live there.

### Tue 9 Hallow & Grimley w Holt and Lower Broadheath

Pray for the churches as we travel through vacancy, for hope and joy, that this would be a time to hear and respond to God's imaginings for our next steps. Clergy: Paul Wilcox, David Morphy, Sheila Nall; Reader: Barbara Beard

### Wed 10 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Today is Children's Safety Day in Germany. We pray for all children in both our churches and everywhere, that they can live a carefree life, where they are valued, loved and well taken care of. May the children and young people be at the heart of our church life.

### Thur 11 St Wulstan, Warndon, Worcester

Give thanks for strong community relationships and new opportunities to get involved with local social prescribing and the Pride in Place government strategy for substantial investment in the Warndon estate. Clergy: Sarah Northall, Rosie Moss, Andy Gandon, Nick Kaleniuk; Reader: Cary Taylor-Stokes

### Fri 12 St Barnabas with Christ Church, Worcester

Give thanks for new families in the congregation and for ever deepening relationships with our local schools. Pray for new opportunities to revitalise worship at Christ Church as we complete our refurbishment of the chapel and vestry. Clergy: Sarah Northall, Rosie Moss, Andy Gandon, Nick Kaleniuk; Reader: Julie Berrow

### Sat 13 Children, young people and families

Pray for all those young people who are searching for truth and hope. We pray that they will find this in God's deep love for each of them.

**M** **Accra (West Africa):**  
Bishop Daniel Sylvanus  
Mensah Torto

**T** **Adelaide (Australia):**  
Bishop Geoffrey Smith

**W** **Afikpo (Nigeria):**  
Bishop Paul A. Udogu

**Th** **North Africa:**  
Bishop Ashley Null

**F** **Agra (India):**  
Bishop Bijay Nayak

**S** **Aguata (Nigeria):**  
Bishop Samuel C. Ezeofor

### Three Counties Show

Among the show rings and stalls, there will also be something quieter, but just as important: the Church tent. A place of welcome in the middle of the busyness. A space to pause, to reflect, to talk, and to be reminded that God is present not only in church buildings, but in everyday life—in the soil, in the animals, in the work of hands, and in the joy of community.

This year, church schools will also be part of the story, bringing children’s creativity, curiosity, and faith into the heart of the show. Their involvement is a reminder that the Church is not just about preserving the past, but nurturing the future - encouraging young people to discover their gifts and their place in God’s world.

And perhaps, as visitors step into the tent, they will find more than information. They may find kindness, prayer, friendship, and hope.



#### Mon 15 St Nicholas, Warndon

We pray for the newly partnered parishes of St Nicholas Warndon, and Holy Trinity and St Matthew, Ronkswood on the eastern edge of Worcester as they develop in new missional ways through a “church in the heart” project. Clergy: Richard Wood, Rosie Moss; Readers: Marion May, Nick Stephens

#### Tue 16 Worcester Southeast Team

At St Phillip and St James, Whittington, please pray that we strengthen our links in the community, particularly with the Whittington Community Hall. Pray for our links to Whittington CE School and our worshipping community at Crookbarrow View retirement community. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Peter Hart, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood

#### Wed 17 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for Workplace Chaplaincy Local Ecumenical Partnerships, Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) and the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM), and all volunteer workplace Chaplains in their ministry to those at work in a variety of contexts.

#### Thur 18 Worcester Southeast Team

At St Mark in the Cherry Orchard, please pray that we may build up our links in the community especially with the groups who use our church hall, with Cherry Orchard School and our links to Acorns Children’s Hospice. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Peter Hart, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood

#### Fri 19 Worcester Southeast Team

At St Martin’s Church, London Road, pray for the development of iSingPop both at Red Hill CE Primary School and at St Martin’s as we seek to grow a new worshipping community out of the events. Also, pray for the parish prayer walk every Tuesday afternoon. For our Children and Families Minister: Debra Hill. Clergy Peter Hart, Andrew Stand, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood

#### Sat 20 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.

*Lord God, bless the Royal Three Counties Show. Bless our Church tent, all the volunteers who will serve within it and our schools who will perform there. Let all who enter feel welcomed, valued, and loved.*

*Chair of the Chaplaincy for Agriculture & Rural Life and Church Tent Committee member: David Morris*

**Argyll and the Isles (Scotland):**  
Bishop David Railton  
**Connor (Ireland):**  
Bishop George Davison  
**Lolland-Falster (Denmark):**  
Bishop Marianne Gaarden  
**Church of the Province of South East Asia:**  
Bishop Titus Chung Khiam Boon

**Ahoada (Nigeria):** M  
Bishop Clement N. Ekpeye

**Aipo Rongo (Papua New Guinea):** T  
Bishop Nathan Ingen

**Ajayi Crowther (Nigeria):** W  
Bishop Olugbenga O. Oduntan

**Akobo (South Sudan):** Th  
Bishop Joseph Yual Yol

**Akoko (Nigeria):** F  
Bishop Jacob O.B Bada

**Akoko Edo (Nigeria):** S  
Bishop Jolly E. Oyekpen



Worcester Deanery  
Leadership Team:

James Ellin, Paul Fulbrook,  
Robert Pearce, Paul Wilcox,  
Elizabeth Fleming

**Diocese in Europe:**

Bishop Robert Innes,  
Bishop Andrew Norman

**Visby (Sweden):**

Bishop Erik Eckerdal

**Copenhagen (Denmark):**

Bishop Peter Skov-Jakobsen

**The Church of South India  
(United):**

Bishop Reuben Mark

## Fathers' Day

On Fathers' Day, we pause to think about the men who have helped shape our lives. For some, it is a day of joy - cards, laughter, shared meals, and memories of love freely given. For others, it may feel more complicated: marked by absence, loss, distance, or relationships that were never easy. Yet whatever this day brings, it invites us to reflect on the gift of fatherhood in all its forms.

We give thanks for fathers who have protected and provided, who have encouraged us when we doubted ourselves, and who have shown strength not only through hard work, but through gentleness and patience. We also remember stepfathers, grandfathers, foster fathers, godfathers, uncles, mentors, teachers, and all those who have offered steady guidance and care when it was needed most.

In the Bible, God is often described as a loving Father - one who knows us completely, welcomes us, and never turns away from us. His love is faithful, even when human love falls short. Fathers' Day can remind us that the best fathers reflect something of God's heart: compassion, forgiveness, wisdom, and steadfast care.

**Loving Father, we thank you for all who have cared for us.**

**Bless fathers and father-figures with strength and peace and heal any wounds carried in our hearts. Amen.**

### Mon 22 Worcester Southeast Team

Pray for the growth and training of our team-wide respite team. We aim to provide support and encouragement to members of our congregations who are caring for a partner, parent or child. Clergy: Peter Hart, Andrew Stand, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood; Reader: Marion May, Children and Families' Minister: Debra Hill

### Tue 23 St Martin in the Cornmarket

Please pray for us as we develop our plans for Anglo-Catholic mission. Associate priest: Tim Clarke; Reader: Robbie Porter

### Wed 24 Diocese of Peru

Our diocesan Lent appeal in 2026 was for the newest church in the Diocese of Peru, the Francis of Assisi Mission in Puerto Maldonado. Pray for this jungle community as it grows and seeks to make the love of God known in a challenging and often forgotten corner of the country.

### Thur 25 St Clement & St David, Worcester

As we continue to reach out to our community, we give thanks for the success of Men's Shed, Cafe Church, Coffee Mornings and Pastoral Teas which all help to combat loneliness. Please pray for all who help at, or make use of, these initiatives. Clergy: Sarah Cottrill, Phil Bradford Gilly Maxim

### Fri 26 St John in Bedwardine and St Michael, Dines Green

We pray for our all age communion services where all generations worship, receive the sacrament and grow in faith, Also that our churches will be seen as places in the community where all are welcomed and valued, needs are met, and lives are transformed by faith and fellowship. Clergy: Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Gilly Maxim; Reader: Rob Little

### Sat 27 Children, young people and families

As we enter the final few weeks of this academic year, we pray for all families who have children at school or college, particularly those who will find the long summer holidays difficult. We give thanks for all those churches running holiday clubs and providing food and activities for the families in their community.

**M Akot (South Sudan):**  
Bishop Matthew Mading  
Malok Madul

**T Akure (Nigeria):**  
Bishop Simeon O. Borokini

**W Alabama (USA):**  
Bishop Glenda Curry

**Th Alaska (USA):**  
Bishop Mark Lattime

**F St Albans:**  
Vacant, Bishop Richard Atkinson,  
Bishop Jane Mainwaring

**S Albany (USA):**  
Bishop Jeremiah Williamson

## Ordinations

We pray today for all those being ordained at this time and for those preparing for ordination. We pray especially for those who were ordained Priest in our diocese yesterday or who will be ordained Deacon this morning.

### Ordained Deacon:

- Julie Berrow (Worcester City West)
- Tristan Mitchell (The Chase Team in Malvern)
- Terry Palmer (Beoley & Alvechurch, Redditch)
- Jonathan Pincher (St Mary, Kingswinford)
- Tracey Skidmore (Gornal & Sedgely)

### Ordained Priest:

- Brother Michael Brossard (Mucknell Abbey)
- Sue Haywood (Wordsley)
- Rob Holdsworth (St Stephen's Church, Barbourne, Worcester)
- Tobias Thornes (Muddy Boots Rural Mission Area)
- Jon Turner (Saltway Team, Droitwich)
- Philippa Lowe (Great Malvern Priory)

### Mon 29 Diocesan Secretary's Team

Lord God, we thank you for the Diocesan Secretary's Team. For Andy Todd, Emma Woollaston and Judith Nex. Thank you for all the work they do to support parishes throughout our diocese.

### Tue 30 Transformation Support Hub

Pray for the Transformation Support Hub in the diocesan office. For Damian Herbert, Nikki Groarke, Sharon Boardman, Steve Hollinghurst, Andrew Blount, Ellie Jones, Fiona Edlington, Ian Thompson, Jo Burr. Thank you for all the work they do to support parishes as they grow in health and sustainability and focus on our diocesan priorities.

### Wed 1 JULY Morogoro

We continue to pray for the Health Centre in Tunguli area as it struggles to find and fund sufficient staff to care for the needs of those living in this very isolated area. We give thanks especially for the ceaseless work of its medical director, Canon Isaac Mgego, as he seeks to maintain the work of this vital Church clinic, that it may continue to reach out to those in need.

### Thur 2 St George w Mary Magdelene, Worcester

Pray for our children, youth, and families' work across St George, St Stephen and Claines, especially praying for Refresh Stay and Play on a Wednesday morning. Also pray for new opportunities to build relationships with students and the university. For our ALMs: Alison Clarke, Lyn Crowther. Clergy: Sarah Carwardine, Peter Davies, Jennie Hayward; Readers: Rachel Cramp, Jan Kear

### Fri 3 St John the Baptist, Claines

Pray for our children, youth, and families' work together with St George and St Stephen, especially praying for Bubble Church which meets monthly on the 4th Sunday. Also pray for our governance structures in a time of some transition. For our ALMs; Ian Cramp and Phil Kear. Clergy: Sarah Carwardine, Peter Davies, Jennie Hayward; Readers: Rachel Cramp, Jan Kear

### Sat 4 Growing as Kingdom People

Give thanks for all parishes continue to do to support mission and ministry across the Diocese through contributing to ministry share. Help us to have generous mindsets and pray that all parishes will be able to 'do what they can'.



All those being ordained this weekend

#### Lincoln:

Bishop Stephen Conway,

Bishop Nicholas Chamberlain

**Härnösand (Sweden):**

Bishop Teresia Boström

**Lapua (Finland):**

Bishop Matti Salomäki

**The Anglican Church of**

**Southern Africa:**

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

**Algoma (Canada):**

Anne Germond

M

**All Saints (Kenya):**

Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit

T

**Aluakluak (South Sudan):**

Bishop Isaac Nyaryiel Aleth

W

**Amazonia (Brazil):**

Archbishop Rosa Dos Santos

Bassotto

Th

**Amichi (Nigeria):**

Bishop Ephraim O. Ikeakor

F

**Arristar (India):**

Bishop Manoj Charan

S



Warden of Diocesan retreat  
House, Holland House:  
Helen Stanton

**Praying for our baptism families:**  
We thank you for your gift of  
knowledge and for our brains  
that think and question what  
goes on in the world around us.  
Help all children to learn and to  
flourish. Amen.

**St Albans:**  
Vacant, Bishop Richard Atkinson,  
Bishop Jane Mainwaring  
**Linköping (Sweden):**  
Bishop Marika Markovits  
**The Anglican Church of  
South America:**  
Bishop Brian Williams

**M** **Nebraska (USA):**  
Bishop Scott Barker

**T** **Nelson (New Zealand):**  
Bishop Steve Maina

**W** **Nevada (USA):**  
Bishop Dan Edwards

**Th** **New Bussa (Nigeria):**  
Bishop Israel A. Amao

**F** **New Guinea Islands  
(Papua New Guinea):**  
Bishop Reginald Makeke

**S** **New Hampshire (USA):**  
Bishop Robert Hirschfeld

## A different way of praying

The third piece to gaze and reflect upon in this series is a newly written icon of the Visitation (Luke 1:39-56), by Yvonne Bell which is based on an ancient Coptic work and written for Holland House.

The icons of the Orthodox churches are understood as images which open a window into the presence of God. Icon means image - see Colossians 1:15 for how the Son is the image of the unseen God. Drawing upon an ancient tradition and written with much explicit prayer and the silent prayer of creativity and presence, these icons are found covering orthodox churches, as well as painted on board as individual pieces.

Icons are expected to bring the viewer into God's presence, and also, like the great artworks which interpret Scripture or doctrine, they may give fresh insight into the gospel message.

For me, there seems in this icon an invitation to join in the embrace of the pregnant women, and are we reminded that we are all, in some sense, called to be Bearers of the Word? What does this Icon say to you? What does it tell you about the Visitation? How does it speak of God's love? How does it challenge you to respond?

### Mon 6 St Stephen, Worcester

We pray for our continued links with St Mark's Church in Mafisa, Morogoro, that we will continue to learn and grow alongside each other. For our shared Children, Young People and Families' work with St George and Claines. Clergy: Lindsey Coulthard, Rob Holdsworth; Reader Margaret Mandrell

### Tue 7 Worcester Cathedral

We give thanks for all who support the ministry and work of the Cathedral; for staff and volunteers, for benefactors and donors, for visitors and all who look to the Cathedral as a place of worship, welcome and peace. Pray that all that they give and do will continue to strengthen our witness to the Gospel in the city and diocese. Clergy: Stephen Edwards, Dean, Kimberly Bohan, Residentiary Canon, Mark Dorsett, Robin Parry

### Wed 8 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

At the beginning of the summer holidays, we pray for the children and young people from Halle (Saale), region West, who are seeking fellowship and connection on camping trips and canoeing excursions. Bless their time together and strengthen their faith in you, merciful God.

### Thur 9 Worcester Cathedral

Pray for the Dean and Chapter, for newly appointed members of Chapter, that they be strengthened in their work to govern and promote the work of the Cathedral. Pray for all who minister there that through worship and music, heritage and community, visitors may be drawn into the presence of Christ. Clergy: Stephen Edwards, Dean, Kimberly Bohan, Residentiary Canon, Mark Dorsett, Robin Parry

### Fri 10 St Richard's Hospice

Pray for staff, patients and their families at St Richard's Hospice and for the chaplaincy team who support them.

### Sat 11 Churches Together

Give thanks for all our churches working ecumenically. Help us to celebrate all that we have in common and disagree well. We know that we can achieve much more by working in partnership than we can ever do on our own.

## Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities.



Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?

The plastic free July movement has inspired 100+ million participants in 190 countries. Individuals making a small change will collectively make a massive difference to our communities. You can choose to refuse single-use plastics in July (and beyond!). Best of all, being part of Plastic Free July will help you to find great alternatives that can become new habits forever.



*Lord, help us to be conscious of the choices we make and the impact they have on the world around us. Help us to steward well your great creation.*

Director of Church Buildings and Net Zero:  
Mark Carter  
Net Zero Project Manager:  
Lee Westcott

Newcastle:  
Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley,  
Bishop Mark Wroe  
More (Norway):  
Bishop Ingeborg Midttømme  
Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan:  
Archbishop Justin Badi Arama

### Mon 13 Saltway Team

Please pray for the new and existing spaces where people young and old are taking their next steps on the journey of faith and for those who journey with them. Clergy: Laura Handy, Jon Turner, Christine Holzapfel; Readers: Philip Bowen, Andrew Hill, Bill Sumner

### Tue 14 Saltway Team

Please pray for our communities, particularly those who feel they have no hope. Pray for wisdom and compassion as we seek to extend love and welcome and create safe spaces to belong. Clergy: Laura Handy, Jon Turner, Christine Holzapfel; Readers: Philip Bowen, Andrew Hill, Bill Sumner

### Wed 15 Economy and Daily Life

Last Sunday was Sea Sunday, when we pray for all who work at sea, a vital part of our global economy. 90% of all cargo is transported by sea. An estimated 1.5m work in shipping. Pray for seafarers, their families, from whom they are separated for many months, and the Mission to Seafarers, with chaplains and ship visitors in more than 200 ports around the world.

### Thur 16 Timberdine Community Unit, Worcester

We pray for all the work the team at Timberdine Community Unit do to be a blessing on all the patients and their families and friends.

### Fri 17 Worcester Royal Hospital

Pray for staff, patients, and volunteers at the Worcester Royal Hospital and for the chaplaincy team who support them.

### Sat 18 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.

South Ankole (Uganda): **M**  
Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe

West Ankole (Uganda): **T**  
Bishop Johnson Twinomujuni

Antananarivo (Madagascar): **W**  
Bishop Samoela Jaona Ranarivelo

Bitsiranana (Madagascar): **Th**  
Bishop Joamandiny Jean Baptiste

Aotearoa (New Zealand): **F**  
Archbishop Don Tamihere

Araucanía (Chile): **S**  
Bishop Joel Millanguir

*Heavenly Father, who sees the unseen and notices the unnoticed, help each of us to hear the hidden voices of those who pray for release from slavery and exploitation, so that we may give ourselves more fully to the service of your saving love, and be strengthened together as agents of your healing and hope.*

Director of The Clewer Initiative:  
Lois Bosatta

**Skara (Sweden):**

Bishop Ulrica Fritzon

**Leeds:**

Vacant with Bishop Malcolm Chamberlain, Bishop Anna

Eltringham, Bishop Toby Howarth,

Bishop Smitha Prasadam,

Bishop Arun Arora

**Province of the Episcopal**

**Church of Sudan:**

Archbishop Ezekiel Kumir Kondo

## Modern Slavery and the Clewer Initiative

There are an estimated 122,000 men, women & children trapped in modern slavery in the UK. And those we know about are just the tip of the iceberg - many modern slavery victims never come forward to the authorities and live for many years with no freedom or dignity.

Exploitation can take many forms, including forced sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, county lines drug smuggling or forced labour on farms, in food processing, on construction sites, in shops, nail bars, car washes, hospitality or manufacturing. Research shows there is no typical victim - men, women and children of all ages, ethnicities, nationalities and socio-economic backgrounds are 'groomed', forced, coerced or deceived into exploitation, becoming trapped in a situation they cannot escape.

Modern slavery is often hidden in plain sight. That's why Christian charity, The Clewer Initiative, was formed. There is an urgent need to raise awareness of modern slavery and equip individuals and communities to know how to spot the signs of slavery and report suspicions.

Find out more about how you can help at [clewer.org.uk](http://clewer.org.uk).



### Mon 20 Retired clergy in Worcester Deanery

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in Worcester Deanery, giving thanks for their ongoing ministry and the support they give our parishes in whatever way they are able.

### Tue 21 Church Buildings Team

We give thanks for the Church Buildings Team. We pray for Mark Carter, Hannah Taylor, Kay Shuard, Olivia Sparks, Lee Westcott, Erica Siddall, Ian Hill. Thank you for all they do to balance protecting our churches with ensuring they remain places of worship and mission. Thanks also for their work helping us to move towards being net zero Carbon.

### Wed 22 Those who are unwell

We pray for all of those who are currently unwell, whether in body, mind and spirit, that they will feel your healing touch and be surrounded in your love. We give thanks for those who care for them.

### Thur 23 Communications Team

Lord we thank you for the Communications team. For Sam Setchell, Ellie Jones, Rebecca Glover and Robyn Rooney. Thank you for all they do in supporting parishes to tell the Good News and reach out into their communities in different ways.

### Fri 24 YMCA Worcestershire

We pray for all who work and support the YMCA, and for all who access their services.

### Sat 25 Children, Young People and Families

We pray for all the children who are part of our 99 Church of England Schools across the Diocese. We give thanks for all of those churches working in partnership with their local school to ensure that they hear the message of God's love for them.

**M** **The Arctic:**  
Bishop Alexander Pryor

**T** **Argentina (South America):**  
Bishop Brian Williams

**W** **Northern Argentina (South America):**  
Vacant

**Th** **Argyll and The Isles (Scotland):**  
Bishop David Raitton

**F** **Arizona (USA):**  
Bishop Jennifer Reddall

**S** **Arkansas (USA):**  
Bishop John Harmon





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](mailto:ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk), or contact the Diocesan Office reception on **01905 20537** if you or someone you know would like one.

