



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Prayer Diary

July to November 2025

In this prayer diary, we're praying for the deaneries of Redditch and Bromsgrove and Greater Dudley

The parishes of **Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery** are working and learning collaboratively in mission and ministry to grow as the family of God. Redditch and Bromsgrove are significant urban centres with the deanery as a whole serving over 140,000 people with 23 parish churches in areas of varying affluence and social dynamic in urban, suburban and rural contexts. There are also 12 church schools.



Greater Dudley Deanery consists of the Black Country parishes contained within the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, with a handful of parishes from neighbouring Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire. The deanery is almost entirely urban and home to around 40% of the population of the Diocese. However, there are many differing centres of population, with a diversity of cultures and ethnicities, each of which has a strong local identity. The Deanery includes 41 churches and 14 church schools.



Foreword from Bishop Martin



In my study at home I have many icons and pictures. It's the place where I answer emails, write sermons, and meet people. It's also my chapel in a way, and the place where I like to come to pray each day.

It has some pictures of my family, my three children and their wives and husbands, my own wife Katharine, and our granddaughter too. There are pictures of my parents, who have both died now, of my ordination as a Bishop,

and of the various churches where I have served as a Vicar. There is even a signed photo of Jurgen Klopp, after Liverpool won the title in 2021! I was born in Liverpool after all! Klopp is also a Christian - we have different lives, but the same faith in Jesus Christ.

I have some religious icons too, including one of a bishop holding a shepherd's crook, as I do. Behind the bishop is a larger figure, Jesus Christ. The hand of Jesus is over the hand of the bishop, and they hold the shepherd's crook together. Together is always better.

So thank you for using this prayer diary, and for joining together in prayer for the churches and people of this Diocese of Worcester, the Church of England, and the worldwide Anglican Communion. We have been praying for the appointment of the new Bishop of Worcester for many months now, and we can soon begin praying for the actual person who has been appointed. We pray that they will be a good and true shepherd and leader in this diocese, and will know themselves to be held in the love of God, and to be walking in the company of the Good and Beautiful Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. It will be a joy to welcome them here very soon!

+ Martin

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.

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.



Different Ways of Praying



Throughout this prayer diary, the diocesan Spirituality group will help us to explore a particular way of praying. In this edition they will be encouraging us to rethink silence.

Member of the group, Wyn Beynon writes:

“Testator silens. Costestes e spiritu. Silencium.”

Like many clergy I love a good police drama, and Silent Witness, with its wonderful haunting theme written by John Harle, is a favourite with its stories of the silent victims. Their silence is a barrier to communication, yet over successive series pathologists have taught us that silence is not, necessarily, the collapse of understanding.

Throughout this prayer diary, I want to tease you into rethinking silence. But I need to start

with a serious health warning. For many, silence is a terrible experience. For example, when people are silent in the face of evil - “they came for the Jews, but I said nothing because I wasn’t a Jew”; when loneliness is accompanied by emptiness, and the lack of human companionship; when silence allows thoughts we’ve buried deep down to rise and haunt us or when God seems silent. Then silence is a terrible thing.

But, if you can, I’d encourage you to explore a bit more with me.

Word Made Flesh you lived among us.

Teach us not to fear silence

but teach us a new way of holy listening. Amen.

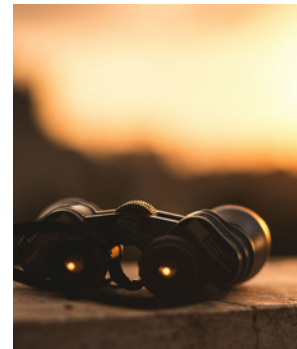


To find out more contact
wynbeynon@gmail.com
or visit **www.oneing.info**

You can also ask about participating in regular times of silent prayer in Contemplative Worship every Wednesday 7.30pm-8.30pm on Zoom.

Using silence in prayer

My grandchildren love getting hold of my binoculars and looking the wrong way down them. It’s funny to see everything very far away. But it is also the only way they can see anything because their young eyes can’t make sense of what they see when looking the right way round. They can’t resolve the images for their brains to understand.



For some people, prayer is a bit like that, keeping God at a distance where we can have a clear, if small, view. We imagine we can talk to this God, telling him how we feel, what we want, giving praise and thanks, because we think we have an idea what he looks like. Turning the binoculars round is a very disorientating thing to do. We will see a lot more of a lot less, if you see what I mean!

Praying through silence is learning to look the right way down the binoculars. We won’t have a clear picture of what God looks like though, because that’s impossible!

Mon 28 Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery

May God strengthen our diverse churches, guide our leaders, and empower us to share the light of Christ. May we serve our communities faithfully, sharing hope and peace and seeking to work together to God’s glory. We pray too for the development of the Redditch Mission Area and Mission Initiatives in Bromsgrove. Area Dean: Paul Lawlor, Lay Chair: Kashmir and the wider leadership team.

Tue 29 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

Give thanks to God for the many people whose gifts have sustained the vacancy in the parish. Especially for all wardens who have joyfully shouldered the responsibility of the parish and all members of the PCC and DCCs.

Wed 30 Diocese of Peru

Pray for the outreach projects in the Diocese of Peru, which seek to provide support to disadvantaged areas of Lima and Arequipa. Pray especially for the soup kitchens and feeding projects which give nourishment to those who do not get enough to eat.

Thur 31 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

For the clergy and ministry team in Bromsgrove, including the many ALMs and retired clergy who bring energy and life into our worshipping life. Clergy: Amanda Arthur, Ann Cogle, Janet Hatton, Ray Khan; Readers: Janet Hewer, Hilda Roxborough, Rosemary Sumner, Philip Bowen, Sally Gale, Geoffrey Westwood

Fri 1 AUGUST Bromsgrove Team Ministry

Pray for the New Worshipping Communities and outreach that happen with young people and families. For Pizza Church at Finstall; for Sound and Senses at All Saints, Bromsgrove; Stay and Play and Rise and Shine in Charford; Worship for all in St John’s and 20 is Plenty at Stoke Prior Church. Please remember all those who volunteer and support young people in schools as part of our Listening Service.

Sat 2 Growing as Kingdom People

Gracious God, form us into faithful Kingdom People. Grow in us love, humility, and boldness to serve You. May our lives reflect Christ, drawing others into Your transforming grace. Amen.

Word Made Flesh, we see your divinity in our humanity. Help us to let go of our small pictures of God. Amen.

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

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea:
Acting Archbishop Nathan Ingen
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania:
Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis
Diocese of Derry & Raphoe (Ireland):
Bishop Andrew Foster

Niassa (Mozambique): **M**
Bishop Lucas Mchema

Nicaragua (Central America): **T**
Bishop Harold Dixon

On the Niger (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Owen Chiedozie Nwokolo

Niger Delta (Nigeria): **Th**
Bishop Ralph C. Ebirien

Niger Delta North (Nigeria): **F**
Bishop Wisdom Budu Ihunwo

Niger Delta West (Nigeria): **S**
Bishop Emmanuel O. Oko-Jaja

God of justice, awaken our hearts. Help us protect the vulnerable and end the chains of trafficking. Make us instruments of Your freedom and hope. Amen.

Redditch & Bromsgrove
Deanery Leadership Team:
Rosie Humphrey, Martin Allen,
Elaine Whitfield

Prayer for our Baptism families:
Gracious God, thank you for those parents who bring their children for baptism. We ask that they are never afraid to ask and seek help and support when they need it. Amen.

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines:
Bishop Brent Alawas
Diocese of Bristol:
Bishop Vivienne Faull,
Bishop Neil Warwick
Helsinki (Finland):
Bishop Teemu Laajasalo

M Niger West (Nigeria):
Bishop Johnson N. Ekwe

T Nike (Nigeria):
Bishop Christian Onyia

W Nimule (South Sudan):
Bishop Martin Abuni

Th Nnewi (Nigeria):
Bishop Godwin Izundu
Nmezina Okpala

F Izon (Nigeria):
Bishop Funkuro Godrules
Victor Amgbare

S The Northern Territory (Australia):
Bishop Greg Anderson

World Day against Trafficking

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. In December 2013 the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was formed to raise awareness and take action against this abhorrent crime.

Every year, millions of people are affected by human trafficking - lured by false promises, stripped of freedom, and silenced by fear. One third of trafficking victims are children. Today we remember the victims and renew our commitment to ending this evil. May we not look away, but step forward with courage and compassion.

We must strengthen protection responses – including child-sensitive justice mechanisms, raise awareness, support unaccompanied children on the move, provide care for survivors, and tackle the root causes of exploitation by helping vulnerable families. As the Body of Christ, we are called to be a voice for the voiceless and light in the darkest places.



Mon 4 Areas of the world facing conflict

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our hurting world. We pray for all in those nations torn apart by war and violence – especially children facing unspeakable loss and profound emotional and physical challenges. Unite us in pursuing a world where all can thrive in your peace, mercy, and abundance.

Tue 5 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.

Wed 6 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for all the parish clergy within the Diocese of Morogoro; for their remarkable resilience in bringing the love of Christ to those living in poverty or with severe health issues. In particular we give thanks for their capacity to fill their churches with worship which is filled with the joy of Christ's Kingdom.

Thur 7 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Pray for the benefice of Christ the King and the parishes of Feckenham, Astwood Bank, Crabbs Cross and The Bridge as we continue to revise our Mission Action Plans, discerning the leading of the Holy Spirit in the next chapter of our ministry and mission. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Fiona Carter; Reader: Roger Ling

Fri 8 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Pray for all those engaged in ministry in our benefice, our Clergy, Lay Readers, ALM, Wardens, Treasurers, Secretaries, Safeguarding Officers, PCC Officers and members of the congregations as they live out their faith in service and action.

Sat 9 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord Jesus, shape our hearts to seek Your kingdom first. Grow in us compassion, courage, and faithfulness. May we live as Your hands and feet in a broken world. Amen.

Mothers' UNION

Mothers' Union Celebrates!

This weekend the Mothers' Union celebrates their founder, Mary Sumner; in January they celebrated the arrival of their new Worldwide President Kathleen Snow, from Canada; in April six members from the Diocese of Worcester met Kathleen in Coventry; and across the world plans are afoot to celebrate the organisation's 150th anniversary next year with prayer, praise, fundraising and publicity.

Mothers' Union President, Jill Crofton said:

"We are encouraging others to JOIN US, JOIN IN! Our practical projects reach prisons, refuges, hospitals, and families needing short breaks or days out together. Here, our latest, newly started, pilot literacy project in Long Lartin Prison aims to increase confidence among prisoners in keeping in touch with their families during a long jail term. Please pray for Nicki Harris, our MU worker there."

Jesus, we praise you for your faithfulness to the Mothers' Union movement over nearly 150 years of loyal prayer, service and campaigning on behalf of families and those in need. Please guide and enable leaders and members here and worldwide as they steadily impact their communities. May God's love and generosity flow through all the crafting, visiting, fundraising, caring and praying, drawing folk into faith, and easing the hardships so many experience. Amen.

Mon 11 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

Please pray for the communities that we serve in the south-west of Redditch, that God will be at work preparing the harvest. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Fiona Carter; Reader: Roger Ling

Tue 12 Princess of Wales 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.

Wed 13 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Please pray for the parish of St. Nicolas in Osterburg, especially for the young people travelling to Scotland in order to explore celtish spirituality.

Thur 14 Tardebigge and Webheath

Pray for our churches to be pastorally missional and creatively faithful, noticing God at work in every life, and offering welcome, hope, and belonging in our worship and witness. Clergy: Sarah Jayne Hewitt, Dean Hall

Fri 15 St Stephen, Redditch

Praise the Lord for our enlarging life and witness, that we remain attuned to the Holy Spirit's leadership, that we might continue to foster a renewal of the church and experience a revival of faith. Clergy: Fraser Oates

Sat 16 Growing as Kingdom People

Heavenly Father, deepen our roots in Your Word and stretch our lives toward Your mission. Mould us into Kingdom People who love boldly, serve humbly, and reflect Christ daily. Amen.

Mothers' Union
Diocesan President: Jill Crofton

Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda:
Archbishop Laurent Mbanda
Church of England:
Diocese of Portsmouth,
Bishop Jonathan Frost
Church of Sweden:
Diocese of Stockholm,
Bishop Andreas Holmberg

Norwich: **M**
Bishop Graham Usher,
Bishop Lynn Steen,
Bishop Ian Bishop

Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island (Canada): **T**
Bishop Sandra Fyfe

Nsukka (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Aloysius E. Agbo

Nyahururu (Kenya): **Th**
Bishop Samson Mburu Gachathi

Nyamlel (South Sudan): **F**
Bishop Peter Garang Akuei

Nyang (South Sudan): **S**
Bishop Paul Tokmach Lual

Please pray for all those churches who are running holiday clubs during July and August and that these will enable the first step in a lifelong journey of faith for the children who attend and their wider families.

Diocesan iSingPop Co-ordinator:
Kirsty Pierson
Kingswinford Children & Youth Minister:
Sian Morgan

The Scottish Episcopal Church:
Archbishop Mark Strange
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh (Ireland):
Bishop Ferran Glenfield
Aarhus (Denmark):
Bishop Henrik Wigh-Poulsen

iSingPop holiday club

Earlier in August, St Mary's Church in Kingswinford held an iSingPop holiday club for the children in their parish. iSingPop is more usually used in schools, but the church wanted to host something during the holidays.

Sessions were run at St Mary's from 10am – midday and 1 – 3pm from Monday to Wednesday. During these, the children listened to bible stories, played games, did craft and learnt the iSingPop songs. There was then a celebration event at 11am on Thursday which the whole family was invited to. The holiday club is part of a pilot project which has seen the Diocese of Worcester establish a partnership with iSingPop to support seven churches across the Diocese in their work with children and young people. The hope is that working with iSingPop will be a springboard, enabling the churches to establish ongoing opportunities to support children and their families on their discipleship journey.



Mon 18 Alvechurch & Beoley

We give thanks for the relationship we have built over the last years and pray that as we enter discussions around the future of our governance that we can continue to grow together in hope and trust. Clergy: Gail Rogers, Martin Allen; Readers: Norma Walters, Margaret Lloyd, Sue Phillips-Wardle, Rose Akroyd, Enid Mullis, Helen Ayling

Tue 19 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.

Wed 20 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for all receiving who received A-Level results last Thursday or are awaiting GCSE results tomorrow, and for all young people taking next steps in their education or into employment this summer. Pray for those who have to make adjustments to their plans after results, and for those who support them.

Thur 21 Ipsley Team Ministry

We ask for prayer for our mission and outreach work as we build up relationships in our community, for our connections with families through Families@4, coffee mornings, St Peter's Pantry, Craft group and the table tennis group. We pray for our ALMs, and all involved in the mission and ministry of the church. Clergy: Garth Nathaniel, Linda Nicholas; Readers: Peter McLaren, Chris McLaren.

Fri 22 All those affected by modern slavery

Tomorrow is the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its abolition. We pray for justice and freedom for all still caught up in the modern slave trade through trafficking and bonded labour, in this country and around the world. Pray for the Church of England's Clewer Initiative to support victims of modern slavery.

Sat 23 Growing as Kingdom People

Dear Lord, help us to discern the calling you place on our heart and give us the courage to follow you and help grow your kingdom here on earth.

Partnership working in the Muddy Boots Mission Area

The Muddy Boots Rural Mission area covers 26 churches and 156 square miles in the West of our Diocese. The area has a number of ministers and three stipendiary incumbents – Sallie Butcher, Julia Curtis and David Morris, who work closely together to support each other.

The three stipendiary clergy make it a priority to meet together in person once a month. This means each knows what is happening across the whole area and provides a safe space where they can discuss anything which might be troubling them.

The monthly meetings are very intentionally arranged and are a valued date in the diary with all three making sure they make time for them. They have also started working together on other things – wedding preparation now takes places jointly with all those who have booked to get married in any of the churches and a Lent course was run across the whole mission area with five different sessions available on different days and times, including some online sessions.

“By understanding what's happening in both our work and wider lives, we know when we need to step in and support each other,” David said.

Please pray for the Muddy Boots Rural Mission Area, for Sallie, Julia and David and for the wider teams who support them.

Mon 25 Ipsley Team Ministry

At Christchurch, Matchborough, we give thanks for our children and young people. We pray that God opens doors in our workplaces, schools and streets so that we can share the wonderful news of Jesus. Clergy: Ian Evans; Readers: Marilyn Bishop, Phil Williams

Tue 26 Ipsley Team Ministry

At St John's Church in Greenlands, we pray for the families who attend Activity Church and the communities which surround the church; that the peace of God will speak into the challenges people are facing. May the Spirit lead us as we seek to be a family of faith centred on Jesus. Clergy: Paul Lawlor; Readers: Vicki Quarton, Rose Humphrey, Amanda Worley, Barry Humphrey

Wed 27 Diocese of Peru

Pray for all those responsible for education in the Diocese of Peru, especially teachers, staff, pupils and families of the diocesan schools. Pray too for those providing theological education, and all working to provide that for clergy and lay ministers.

Thur 28 Retired clergy in Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery

We thank God for the faithful service and support offered by our retired clergy. With many services supported by the ongoing work of our retired colleagues. May God bless them in what they do and in who they are and give them times of blessing.

Fri 29 Bromsgrove School

Please pray for Bromsgrove School, for all its staff and students; for the chaplain: Paul Hedworth and assistant chaplain: Sean Loone (a Roman Catholic Deacon); for all parts of our school: Seniors, Prep School and Pre-Prep, as well as Winterfold RC Prep School.

Sat 30 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.



Stipendiary clergy in the Muddy Boots Mission Area: Sallie Butcher, Julia Curtis, David Morris

Church of the Province of South East Asia:

Archbishop Titus Chung Khiam Boon
Espoo (Finland):
Bishop Kaisamari Hintikka
Edinburgh (Scotland):
Bishop John Armes

Ogbomoso (Nigeria): **M**
Bishop Matthew Osunade

Ogoni (Nigeria): **T**
Bishop Solomon S. Gberegbara

Ogori-Magongo (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Festus O. O. Davies

Ohaji / Egbema (Nigeria): **Th**
Bishop Chidi Collins Oparaojiaku

Ohio (USA): **F**
Bishop Anne Jolly

Southern Ohio (USA): **S**
Bishop Kristin Uffelman White

M *Southern Nyanza (Kenya):*
Bishop Simon Onyango

T *Nzara (South Sudan):*
Bishop Richard Bbikoyesu Aquilla

W *Del Occidental (Mexico):*
Bishop Ricardo Joel Gómez Osnaya

Th *Offa (Nigeria):*
Bishop Solomon Olusola Akanbi

F *Ogbaru (Nigeria):*
Prosper Amah

S *The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ogbia):*
Bishop Matthew Oğaze

Ride & Stride 2025

Please pray for those participating in this year's Ride & Stride, which will take place on Saturday 13 September.

We are asking cyclists, walkers, horse-riders and even drivers to take part in sponsored visits to as many churches as they can on the day, to raise money for historic churches across the Diocese. If this could be you, please sign up! Anyone can take part, and it's a great way of getting to know better our beautiful diocese and its many picturesque churches. We are also grateful for any churches who would be willing to open and welcome sponsored visitors.

Ride & Stride is organised by the Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust, which provides support to churches of all denominations and architectural styles in need of repair in this diocese. More information about the event and how to take part can be found at www.ridestriderworcs.org



Mon 1 SEPTEMBER Alexandra Hospital

Please pray for Alexandra Hospital in Redditch. For the whole hospital community, including patients and their families. Thanking 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.

Tue 2 Diocesan senior staff

Pray for those who lead our diocese – Bishop Martin, the Archdeacons, the Dean, Andy Todd our Diocesan Secretary and the other members of the Bishop's staff team. We also pray for the person who will become our next Bishop of Worcester.

Wed 3 Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks for the work of the Morogoro Bible College and pray for all who serve on the staff, giving thanks for their dedication in preparing those in training for ministry. We remember all who are presently in training for ministry, whether ordained or lay; that they will grow in their confidence to proclaim the love of Christ to others.

Thur 4 Greater Dudley Deanery

We are grateful for the national investment being made in our deanery. We give thanks for the 'Quiet Revival' which is bringing young people, especially young men, to our churches. Pray that we continue to see Kingdom fruit in return for our investment in prayer, mission activity and resources. Area Dean: Andrew Sillis, Sub Deans: Lyn Rowson, Kim Topham, Lay Chair: John Nicholson

Fri 5 Amblecote

For all at Holy Trinity as we look towards a missional future, giving thanks for the faithfulness of the congregation and those who minister to the wider parish. Pray for the PCC and our Churchwardens. Clergy: Alan Williams; Reader: Eirlyn Jenkins

Sat 6 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.

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

The Church of South India

(United):

Vacant

Turku (Finland):

Archbishop Tapio Luoma, Bishop
Mari Leppänen

York:

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell,
Bishop Barry Hill, Bishop
Flora Winfield, Bishop Eleanor
Sanderson, Bishop Stephen Race

M Oji River (Nigeria):
Bishop Ikechukwu Egbuonu

T Okene (Nigeria):
Bishop Emmanuel I. Onsachi

W Oke-Ogun (Nigeria):
Bishop Cornelius O. Adagbada

Th Oke-Osun (Nigeria):
Bishop Abraham O. Akinlalu

F Okigwe (Nigeria):
Bishop Edward C. D. Osuegbu

S Okigwe South (Nigeria):
Bishop David O.C. Onuoha

Harvest

As we approach this Harvest time, we reflect of the significance of harvest in our lives and faith. Harvest time is a season of gratitude and abundance, reminding us of the gifts that God gives us.

Harvest also reminds us of the importance of seasons, both for the weather and in our own lives. There is a season for everything, as we are reminded in Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens"

Harvest allows us time to reflect on the virtues of patience and hard work. We are reminded of the farmers and farms we rely on for our food and nourishment. Farmers plant seeds with hope and trust, and we are called to plant seeds of faith, hope and love in our communities, trusting that God will bring forth fruit.

As we celebrate the harvest, let us also remember those in need. Sharing our abundance is a way to honour God's generosity.

Today, let us lift our hearts in gratitude, embracing the harvest as a time to deepen our faith, serve others, and recognise the endless blessings God pours into our lives.



Mon 8 Brierley Hill Team

Pray for all who support the clergy as they lead worship at the churches of Christ Church, St John and St Michael and in the community. Pray that recent growth in numbers will continue. Ordinand: Tracy Skidmore; Clergy: David Hoskin, Val Houghton; Reader: Keith Colley

Tue 9 Brierley Hill Team

We give thanks for growth in weekday groups Toddlers and Vintage Lunch at Christ Church; Messy Church, Little Badgers, C's at St John; and Coffee Club at St Michael. Ordinand: Tracy Skidmore; Clergy: David Hoskin, Val Houghton; Reader: Keith Colley

Wed 10 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Please pray for the curates of the EKM who are preparing for their final oral exams.

Thur 11 Christ Church, Coseley & St Mary, Sedgley

Please pray for Christ Church as we launch our monthly all age café church, and for St Mary as it seeks to establish links with its surrounding community. For our ALMs, Bob and Amanda. Clergy: Emma Stanford, Tim Westwood, Steve Axtell

Fri 12 Cradley Heath Community Link

Pray for the trustees and volunteers at the Cradley Heath Community Link. Pray also for all who visit the space and for all the events that happen there.

Sat 13 Growing as Kingdom People

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

This harvest time, please pray for the farmers across our diocese who work so hard to ensure we have food on our tables.

Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery
Leadership Team:
Rosie Humphrey, Martin Allen,
Elaine Whitfield

Prayer for our Baptism families:
Jesus, we thank you for the example set for us in the story of the Good Samaritan. We pray protection for all parents as they show their children how to love others. Amen.

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa:

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

Salisbury:

Bishop Stephen Lake, Bishop Andrew Rumsey, Bishop Karen Gorham
St Asaph (Wales):
Bishop Gregory Cameron

Okinawa (Japan): **M**
Bishop David Eisho Uehara

Oklahoma (USA): **T**
Bishop Edward Konieczny

Okrika (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Tubokosemie Abere

Oleh (Nigeria): **Th**
Bishop John Usiwoma Aruakpor

Olo (South Sudan): **F**
Bishop Tandema Obede

The Episcopal Church (Olympia): **S**
Bishop Philip LaBelle

Blessed and Holy Trinity, give us the love to press hard on your mystery and to know, without thoughts and words, the passion of your embrace. Amen.

Greater Dudley Deanery -
Area Dean: Andrew Sillis
Lay Chair: John Nicholson

The Anglican Church of South America:
Archbishop Brian Williams

Ribe (Denmark):
Bishop Elof Westergaard

Bath and Wells:
Bishop Michael Beasley

- M

Omu-Aran (Nigeria):
Bishop Philip Adeyemo
- T

Ondo (Nigeria):
Bishop Stephen A. Oni
- W

Ontario (Canada):
Bishop William Cliff
- Th

Oregon (USA):
Bishop Diana Akiyama
- F

Eastern Oregon (USA):
Bishop Patrick Bell
- S


Orlu (Nigeria):
Bishop Bennett C. I. Okoro

Using silence in prayer

Sometime in the 14th Century an anonymous monk wrote a book about prayer which he called “The Cloud of Unknowing”. In a modern translation (easily obtained) it’s an easy read. But it’s also a revolution in praying. Out of his life shaped by the many words of the seven daily prayer services (“offices”) and Holy Communion, he was able to see that silence was the only way to be closer to God. Language was laid aside as it is quite inadequate to describe God or to express the relationship between us and God. He said: “By love may he be gotten and holden; but by thought, never.”

The silence I want to encourage you into practicing is an act of love towards God. It’s called a practice for a good reason - you have to practise it! The monk said. “Smite upon the thick cloud of unknowing with the sharp dart of longing love.”

Look at the sky the wrong way down binoculars and you’ll see lots of blue and lots of clouds. Look the right way down and you’ll see the cloud close up - shapeless, formless, indefinable.



- Mon 15

Hagley and Clent
- Please pray for the mission and ministry of our churches; for our worship, outreach to the local community, and pastoral care. For our links with our local schools, with the local community through Clent Connect and Hagley Hub, and our work with families. For our ALMs and churchwardens. Clergy: Tom Owen, Kim Topham; Reader: Alison Lewis
- Tue 16

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
- Pray for staff, patients, and volunteers at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and for the chaplaincy team who support them.
- Wed 17

Economy and Daily Life
- For the ministry of workplace chaplains, praying for the work of the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM) and Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW). For trustees, chaplains and staff, and for new volunteer chaplains to be found to reach more workplaces across our region.
- Thur 18

Dudley Team Ministry
- We give thanks for our growing ministry to our local communities as a team ministry. For Messy Church, Places of Welcome, Coffee Club and our links with local charities like FoodCycle. Clergy: James Treasure, Dan Thomas, Esther Treasure; Readers: Melissa Rose, Maggie Clift, Sue Sharp
- Fri 19

Dudley Team Ministry
- To make our ministry possible, please pray for wisdom and creativity in the management of our fabric as we tackle both routine maintenance and daunting projects to safeguard our future. Clergy: James Treasure, Dan Thomas, Esther Treasure; Readers: Melissa Rose, Maggie Clift, Sue Sharp
- Sat 20

Growing as Kingdom People
- Dear Lord, help us to steward well the gifts you give us. Help us to take care of the creation around us. We are incredibly blessed, thank you Lord for the goodness you provide.
- New Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)**

Next Saturday, Bishop Martin will admit and licence six people to the office of Reader or Licensed Lay Minister, following the completion of two years of training through the Queen’s Foundation. Readers offer a theologically-trained ministry in parishes that remains firmly rooted in being lay and working out of everyday life and work, and complementary to ordained ministry.

This year, those being licensed come from parishes in Evesham and the villages surrounding that town, and from Kidderminster, Malvern, and Worcester. The cathedral service is also a celebration of all Reader Ministry that anyone is welcome to attend, as we give thanks for what so many of our parishes have received from these dedicated lay ministers.

Those being licensed:

Claire Darnborough (Malvern Priory)
Helen Black (Hampton w Sedgebarrow & Hinton on the Green)
Kathryn Trinder (East Vale & Avon Villages)
Robbie Porter (St Martin in the Commarket, Worcester)
Sue Cousins (Kidderminster West)
Tony Bill (Kidderminster East)
-
- Mon 22

Dudley Team Ministry

The building used for worship and as a community hub by St John’s Church, suffered an arson attack. Please pray for the congregation as we worship elsewhere, for the restoration of the building, and for the reopening of the Foodbank. Clergy: James Treasure, Dan Thomas, Esther Treasure; Readers: Melissa Rose, Maggie Clift, Sue Sharp

Tue 23

Top Church, Dudley

Give thanks for the ministry of this church. Please pray for its ongoing outreach to the local community—that we might continue to be a blessing to Dudley Town and beyond. Clergy: James Treasure, Dan Thomas, Esther Treasure; Readers: Melissa Rose, Maggie Clift, Sue Sharp

Wed 24

Diocese of Peru

Peru has experienced serious problems with corruption and injustice over recent years. In a troubled political climate, pray for the people of Peru as they experience unrest and uncertainty. Pray too for politicians of integrity and wisdom, that they may seek to serve the people of the country, and for all those struggling to bring justice and honesty to public life.

Thur 25

Resourcing Churches: Top Church

Pray that God would continue to guide us and give us wisdom as we seek to resource and bless Dudley.

Fri 26

Forge Group Ministry

Please pray for our renewal project, for our pioneer priest Peter who joins us as a Community Missioner in July and for the right applicant for our Children and Family worker vacancy. Clergy: Rich Hackett, Norman Jevons

Sat 27

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.

Please pray for Claire, Helen, Kathryn, Robbie, Sue and Tony as they prepare for their ministries, and for the many existing Licensed Lay Ministers who serve across the parishes of the Diocese.

Readers being licensed:
Claire, Helen, Kathryn, Robbie, Sue & Tony

Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan:
Archbishop Justin Badi Arama

Sheffield:
Bishop Pete Wilcox, Bishop Sophie Jelley

Church of Greenland:
Bishop Paneeraq Siegstad Munk

Oru (Nigeria):

M

Bishop Geoffrey N. Chukwunenye

Osaka (Japan):

T

Bishop Andrew Haruhisa Iso

Osun (Nigeria):

W

Bishop James Afolabi Popoola

Osun North (Nigeria):

Th

Bishop Samuel Olaitan Ifeyemi

Osun North East (Nigeria):

F

Bishop Abiodun T Olaoye

Ottawa (Canada):

S

Bishop Shane Parker



Candidates for Ordination

Auxiliary Pathway Ordinations

Today will see the ordination of candidates who have been training for ordination through our Auxiliary Pathway as Deacons. This training pathway is aimed at those who see their vocation as being non-stipendiary (voluntary) ministers to churches in their local area and this will be the second cohort of people to have been part of this training programme.

All those being ordained have already been involved in some kind of lay ministry within their parish. They were nominated by their incumbents to be part of the two-year training scheme and are currently at the start of their second year of this. They will continue training while also working in their parishes as a curate.

The pathway is led by Director of Ordinands and Vocation, John Fitzmaurice, with support from Doug Chaplin, our Lay Training and Discipleship Officer, the wider diocesan Mission and Ministry Team and Bishop Martin. Those being ordained have gone through the full national discernment process to test their vocation.

Please see the diocesan website for the names of those being ordained today and please pray for them as they begin a new role in their parishes and continue their training.

Mon 29 Forge Group Ministry

Please pray for us as a group of churches as we seek closer working agreements, sharing skills and expertise on a Joint Council replacing the PCCs in the participating churches. Clergy: Rich Hackett, Norman Jevons

Tue 30 Gornal & Sedgley Team Ministry

At All Saints, Sedgley, we give thanks for all those who support work with children and families through Noah's Ark and for our growing family worship. We pray for the Renewal and for continued opportunities to engage with and serve our community. Clergy: Diane Cooksey; Reader: Jan Humphries

Wed 1 OCTOBER Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Godfrey and for his strategic planning as he prepares the Diocese for the future. In particular, we give thanks for all those who are working on the project to develop a conference, teaching and residential centre close to Morogoro Cathedral where accommodation can be offered to those visiting the Diocese.

Thur 2 St Peter, Upper Gornal

We give thanks to the life and ministry of St Peter's Church and all who serve so diligently. Please pray as we continue to seek to live out our vision of 'worshipping God, welcoming all and serving our community'. For our ALM. Clergy: Diane Cooksey

Fri 3 St Andrew, The Straits

We give thanks to the life and ministry of St Andrew's Church and all who serve so diligently, especially as we connect to children and families through our toddler group Little Angels. Please pray as we continue to seek to live out our vision of 'worshipping God, welcoming all and serving our community'. Clergy: Diane Cooksey; Reader: Jan Humphries

Sat 4 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray that our worship will always be the best that it can be, reaching out to those of different generations. Give thanks for those parishes who are working together to resource each other; growing and developing their worship as a result.



Greater Dudley Deanery

Sub Deans:

Lyn Rowson, Kim Topham

Prayer for our baptism families:

Lord God, thank you that you created us all with an amazing capacity for love and compassion. We pray that when faced with injustice You will equip our baptism families with the gifts of boldness, courage and discernment, to bring about your will. Amen.

The Anglican Church of Tanzania:

Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa

Liverpool:

Interim Bishop Ruth Worsley

Monmouth (Wales):

Bishop Cherry Vann

Haderslev (Denmark):

Bishop Marianne Christiansen

Panama (Central America):

Bishop Julio Murray Thompson

Pankshin (Nigeria):

Bishop Olumuyiwa O. Ajayi

Panrieng (South Sudan):

Bishop David Kiir Mayath

Panyana (South Sudan):

Bishop Seme Nigo Abinda

Paraguay (South America):

Bishop Ronald John Irene

Paraná (Brazil):

Bishop Magda Cristina Guedes Pereira



World Homeless Day

On 10 October, people around the world will observe World Homeless Day, while working to prevent and end homelessness and alleviate the suffering of those experiencing it.

This international day serves as a platform to advocate for improved policies and funding. It also aims to raise awareness about the needs of people who currently experience homelessness and promote work in local communities to alleviate suffering and prevent death.

The concept of 'World Homeless Day' emerged from online discussions between people working to respond to homelessness from various parts of the world. The Inaugural World Homeless Day was marked in 2010 and since its founding, World Homeless Day has been observed in over 100 countries.

Dear Lord, on this World Homeless Day, we lift up those without shelter. Grant them comfort, hope, and the resources they need. Inspire us to act with compassion and work towards a world where everyone has a safe home.

Mon 6 Fairtrade Fortnight

At the start of Fairtrade Fortnight, let us pray for farmers and producers, give thanks for the dignity Fairtrade offers, and commit to ethical choices that honour the image of God in every person. May we help fairness spread throughout the world.

Tue 7 Eco Church

Pray for all churches who are engaging with the Eco Church programme, which is equipping churches to care for God's creation through their worship, buildings, land, community engagement, and individual lifestyles.

Wed 8 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Let us pray for the men's ministry in the EKM, which is on special emphasis in the church's monthly donations. We pray for encouraging men in church and society to emphasise their special gifts.

Thur 9 Halas Team

At St John the Baptist, Halesowen, pray for the opening up of space and improved facilities for all who use our building. As our new Children and Families' Worker plans to start soon, may God bless all those children and families we're yet to meet and travel on their journey with Christ. For Messy Church, a SEND family worship service, growing our congregations and discipleship of all. For Revd Sue Hale in her retirement. Clergy: Hazel Charlton, Sarah Tranter; Reader Sally Spencer

Fri 10 Halas Team

At St Margaret's Church in Hasbury, pray for our new StoryTime Worshipping Community for preschoolers and for growth in work with families and school. After recent break-ins that we may continue to take risks for the gospel, welcoming all with open doors. Clergy: Victoria Barlow, Reader: Susan Cresswell

Sat 11 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.

Please pray for all those in and affected by the CJS, and for the work of CJAG and all those working for a more compassionate and humane approach to crime.

Chair of the Diocesan Criminal Justice Affairs Group:
Stuart Currie

The Church of the Province of Uganda:
Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba
Truro:
Bishop David Williams, Bishop Hugh Nelson
Tönsberg (Norway):
Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth
Strängnäs (Sweden):
Bishop Johan Dalman

M Pathein (Myanmar):
Bishop Andrew Aung Lin Htin

T Patna (India):
Bishop Francis Hansda

W Pelotas (Brazil):
Bishop Meriglei Borges Silva Simim

Th Pennsylvania (USA):
Bishop Daniel Gutierrez

F Central Pennsylvania (USA):
Bishop Audrey Scanlan

S Northwestern Pennsylvania (USA):
Vacant

Prisons' Week

“You learn about society by seeing how people are treated in its prisons, and it’s an absolute mess in ours. The prison system is insanely broken – people here are not treated like human beings. The maximum emphasis is on punishment with only superficial mention of rehabilitation. Many resort to smashing the contents of their cells or self-harming as a way to access help. It is absolutely no wonder that re-offending rates are so high when those leaving prison are in a worse way than when they came in. Whatever stability people had in their lives before prison, whether it’s housing or employment, is ripped away when you step inside and there is minimal help to put things back together”.

Views of a 24-year-old man in prison for the first time serving two years for political activism.

Prisons' Sunday on 12 October marks the start of the annual week of prayer to raise awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system. It will be marked, as usual, in the Cathedral with the diocesan Criminal Justice Affairs Group (CJAG) having an input in this morning’s service.



Mon 13 Halas Team

At St Peter’s Church in Cradley, give thanks with us for recent baptisms and new community connections. Pray for continued joy in sharing the gospel and bringing new people to faith, and for new Babyloss Coffee Mornings. Clergy: Victoria Barlow; Readers: Charles Morgan, Karen Chaplin

Tue 14 Halas Team

At St Kenelm, we give thanks for the Well development and tidy up by Hasbury Scouts and support from Romsley and Hunnington Gardening Group. For continued work with St Kenelm’s CE Primary School, our Cafe and Coffee and Cake events in the Hall. Clergy: Chris Henson, Rachel Homer; Reader: Paul Hall

Wed 15 Economy and Daily Life

As we approach St Luke’s day on 18 October, pray for all who work in the health sector in your community, remembering the many support staff such as technicians, pharmacy and laboratory staff, administrators, receptionists and cleaners. Pray for GP surgeries in your parish.

Thur 16 Halas Team

At St Peter, Lapal, we are grateful for legacies that will improve the building. For an increased interest in bible study and for our wardens. Give thanks for the continuing and growth of Faith and Fun for families. For Lapal Community Choir and Liz Littler their leader. Clergy: Chris Henson, Rachel Homer

Fri 17 Kingswinford and Wall Heath

Pray for the renewal project; that Mainly Music and Soul Food will continue to bring people into a closer relationship with God. Give thanks for those joining our traditional services and for the opportunities to meet with people in a variety of expressions of worship. For the ministry team. Clergy: Adam Hadley, Sarah Roberts-Malpass, Chris Smith; Readers: Debbie Filgate, Christine Knight, Jill Nicholls

Sat 18 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, we pray that all our worship is welcoming and accessible to a wide variety of people and helps to develop a deeper discipleship.



Church Action on Poverty Sunday – Dreams and Realities

Each year, Church Action on Poverty invites us to stand in solidarity with those struggling against poverty in the UK. This year, under the theme “Dreams and Realities”, we reflect on the hopes people hold for a better life—and the harsh realities that too often hold them back.

This is a call to dream boldly: of communities where everyone has dignity, inclusion, and enough to thrive. But it’s also a call to act—making those dreams real through justice, compassion, and shared commitment. Remembering what we are called to do as disciples of God – Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. Churches can take part by holding a special service, using free worship resources from Church Action on Poverty, fundraising for local poverty initiatives, or joining campaigns that tackle the root causes of injustice. Churches should also look at what they are already doing and celebrate this. Every prayer, every voice, every act matters.

Let’s be a Church that listens deeply, speaks truth, and walks alongside those who dream of something better.

Mon 20 Kingswinford and Wall Heath

Pray for our two church schools, giving thanks for the opportunities to support children on their own journey of faith. For Mainly Music, Church Club and those children undertaking their Archbishop’s leadership award. Pray that our summer plans with iSingPop were a time of transformation and encounter for those who attended. For the whole ministry team including our Children, Young People and Families’ Minister: Sian Morgan

Tue 21 Wollaston

Pray for a strengthening of our vision and our welcome. For new ventures including Messy Vintage, Family services with breakfast, outreach to younger adults and the partnership with our school. Clergy: Diana Farmer, Carol Weston

Wed 22 Diocese of Peru

Pray for Bishop Jorge, Bishop Coadjutor, Victor Condori, the clergy and lay ministers in Peru as they seek to discern God’s will for mission and ministry in the Diocese. Pray too for all those discerning a call to ministry in a challenging context, and for those who walk with them on that journey.

Thur 23 Norton

We thank God for new members and families, asking his continued blessing, provision, and guidance as we seek him and learn to enjoy and glorify him daily. Clergy: Jon Evans; Readers: Dan Muthuveloe, Geoff Tee

Fri 24 Old Hill

Please pray for joy and dependence in the Lord Jesus, for people to come to faith, to be whole-hearted disciples, and for the Lord to make a way on various fronts. Clergy: Nick Gowers, Ben Somervell; Reader: Yvonne Binder

Sat 25 Growing as Kingdom People

Loving God, bless and grow families in our churches. Strengthen their faith, deepen their love, and help us create welcoming spaces where all generations flourish together in Christ. Amen.

God of justice and hope, Open our eyes to the realities of poverty, And awaken our hearts to dream with you. Strengthen us to act with love and courage, Until all may share in fullness of life. Amen.

Greater Dudley Deanery -
Area Dean: Andrew Sillis
Lay Chair: John Nicholson

The Episcopal Church:
Bishop Sean Rowe
Växjö (Sweden):
Bishop Fredrik Modéus
Oxford:
Bishop Steven Croft, Bishop Dave Bull, Bishop Gavin Collins, Bishop Mary Gregory

Perth (Australia):
Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

Peru (South America):
Bishop Jorge Luis Aguilar

Peshawar (Pakistan):
Bishop Humphrey Peters

Peterborough:
Bishop Debbie Sellin, Bishop John Holbrook

Central Philippines:
Bishop James Boliget

North Central Philippines:
Bishop Nestor D Poltic

*Word Made Flesh,
in our noisy church,
in our noisy world,
teach your love in
silence of heart.*

Greater Dudley Deanery
Sub Deans:
Lyn Rowson, Kim Topham

The Church in Wales:
Archbishop Andrew John

Carlisle:
Bishop Designate
Rob Saner-Haigh

Stavanger (Norway):
Bishop Anne Lise Ådnøy

M **Northern Philippines:**
Bishop Brent Alawas

T **Southern Philippines:**
Bishop Ernie Moral

W **Phulbani (India):**
Bishop Bijay Nayak

Th **Pittsburgh (USA):**
Bishop Ketlin Solak

F **Polynesia:**
Archbishop Sione Uluilakepa


S **Popondota (Papua New Guinea):**
Bishop Lindsley Ihove

Using silence in prayer

Jesus said: “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” (Mark 6.31) The only prayer he taught them was the “Our Father”.

St John Cassian, writing in the 5th century, said the “Our Father raises those who make themselves familiar with it to an ineffable state that is far above all human feeling, without the sound of any voice, with any movement of the tongue, without any articulate word.”

The early church learned slowly that silence was where all prayer must be heading. Learning the prayer of silence is perhaps the most important way in which we Christians can grow in our faith. Without it our mission is doomed to fail, as we shall have nothing to offer the world but words and more words. The prayer of silence allows God to be God, which is all the Church’s mission ever was.



Mon 27 **Black Country Partnership NHS Trust**

Pray for staff, patients, and volunteers at the Black Country Partnership NHS Trust and for the chaplaincy team who support them.

Tue 28 **St Chad, Coseley & St James Lower Gornal**

Pray for our faithful congregation worshipping in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England. The Eucharist is at the centre of our worshipping life and it is celebrated with the richness and solemnity which appeals to all the senses. Clergy: Gary Hartill, John Oakes

Wed 29 **Diocese of Morogoro**

We pray for the work of the Mission Morogoro Charity and for all the Trustees as they launch a new project to enable those living in the Morogoro area to handle money more safely and more effectively. We pray that all those who are taking part will grow in their confidence to handle their very scarce resources and that many will be lifted out of poverty.

Thur 30 **Schools across our diocese**

Gracious God, bless every school in our diocese. Inspire staff, encourage students, and guide leaders, that each community may grow in wisdom, kindness, and the light of Christ. Amen.

Fri 31 **St Edmund, Dudley**

We give thanks for the increase in attendance and the spiritual strengthening of the congregation, and for the retired clergy who support us. For our charity outreach, religious and secular; and we think about the traders and shopkeepers in Dudley Town centre. We pray for those in need, especially the homeless; the lost and the lonely. Clergy: vacant

Sat 1 NOVEMBER **Growing as Kingdom People**

As the weather starts to turn colder, help our churches be a place of warmth and welcome. Offering hope and a place of belonging to others.

All Saints’ and All Souls’ Days

No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death. All Saints’ Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls’ Day both celebrate this mutual belonging.



All Saints’ Day celebrates those in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace, to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that holiness may grow in ordinary circumstances, as well as the extraordinary crises, of human living.

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed celebrates the saints in a more local and personal way. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those we knew but see no more.

Mon 3 **Bishop's Office**

We pray for the Bishop’s Office team: Stuart Currie, Catrine Ball, Helen Shakespeare and Fleur Fisher. We give thanks for their work.

Tue 4 **Diocesan HR Team**

Pray for the diocesan HR team and the work they do to help parishes with recruitment as well as support diocesan staff. Jo Hyrons, Becky Lowe, Fiona Edlington, Liz Toone

Wed 5 **The Protestant Church of Central Germany**

The church year is coming to an end. We give thanks for the harvest and what the year has given to us. We remember the dead and the living. Let us be thankful.

Thur 6 **St Mark, Pensnett**

Please pray for our parish during this time of change. We give thanks for all who are supporting us during this time and for our ongoing contact with children at local schools. Clergy: Nigel Traynor

Fri 7 **St Andrew, Wollescote**

Please give thanks for those who support and minister with us during our time of vacancy. Pray for God’s wisdom and guidance for those responsible for discerning God’s appointment of our next Incumbent, for unity between St Andrew and St Peter, Pedmore and also between the people of both church families. Pray that we would love one another as Christ has loved us. Clergy: vacant; Reader: Kath Davis

Sat 8 **Growing as Kingdom People**

Pray for all our churches as they work to appropriately sustain their life and ministry, with enough volunteers to take on different roles, funds to cover costs and a building which supports mission and ministry.

May Christ who makes saints of sinners, who has transformed those we remember, raise and strengthen us that we may transform the world; and may God give to us and to all those we love, his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next. Amen.

Greater Dudley Deanery -
Area Dean: Andrew Sillis
Lay Chair: John Nicholson

Prayer for our baptism families:
Dear Lord God help our baptism families to appreciate everything that you have shared with them and show them ways in which they can model sharing to their children. Amen.

The Church of the Province of West Africa:
Archbishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith
Winchester:
Bishop Philip Mounstephen,
Bishop Rhiannon King
Agder & Telemark (Norway):
Bishop Stein Reinertsen

Portsmouth: **M**
Bishop Jonathan Frost

Pretoria (South Africa): **T**
Bishop Allan John Kannemeyer

Puerto Rico: **W**
Bishop Rafael Morales Maldonado

Pune (India): **Th**
Bishop Paul Dupare

Pungue River (Mozambique): **F**
Bishop Paulo Hansine

Pyay (Myanmar): **S**
Bishop Clement Sun Oo



Greater Dudley Deanery
Sub Deans:
Lyn Rowson, Kim Topham

**The Church in the Province
of the West Indies:**
Acting Archbishop Philip Wright
Norwich:
Bishop Graham Usher, Bishop Ian
Bishop, Bishop Jane Steen
Luleå (Sweden):
Bishop Åsa Nyström

M **Qu'Appelle (Canada):**
Bishop Helen Kennedy

T **Quebec (Canada):**
Bishop Bruce Myers

W **North Queensland (Australia):**
Bishop Keith Joseph

Th **Raiwind (Pakistan):**
Bishop Azad Marshall

F **Rajasthan (India):**
Bishop Raimson Victor

S **Royalaseema (India):**
Bishop B D Prasada Rao

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day stand as solemn reminders of the end of World War I and honour the sacrifices of those who served and continue to serve in armed conflicts worldwide.

It is a time of reflection, gratitude, and remembrance, acknowledging the profound impact of war on individuals, families, and nations.

We pause to honour the courage and selflessness of the men and women who have bravely served their countries in times of war and conflict. We remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives for the cause of peace and freedom. Their valour and dedication serve as a timeless testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring quest for peace.

As we reflect, let us also pray for peace in our troubled world. May the memory of past sacrifices inspire us to work tirelessly for reconciliation, justice, and healing. May we strive to build bridges of understanding and empathy, reaching across divides to create a more harmonious and compassionate society.

Heavenly Father, we lift up to you all those who have served and sacrificed for the cause of peace. Grant them your comfort, strength, and healing. Inspire us to be instruments of your peace in the world.

Mon 10 Economy and daily life

Pray for those attending the COP30 Climate Change conference being hosted in Belem, Brazil, which starts today until 21 November. Pray for clarity of vision and determination in making changes that will make a real difference in how humanity impacts the climate and planet

Tue 11 Armistice Day

God of peace, we remember with gratitude those who gave their lives in war. Grant us courage to pursue justice, and hearts committed to building a world of lasting peace. Amen.

Wed 12 St Peter, Pedmore

Pray as we continue to explore different ways of worship that might attract new people, including a Songs of Praise service, Café Church and family-focussed services. For our congregation as we compile our parish profile and seek a new minister who will move the church forward, giving thanks for those supporting us during our vacancy. Clergy: vacant, Paul Hedworth; Readers: Linda Kitto, Corrinne Sarjeant, Richard Sarjeant

Thur 13 Diocesan finance team

Pray for the diocesan finance team as they support parishes with their finances and stewardship as well as manage the finances of the DBF. Sarah Powell, Ryan Bates, Jo Burr, Sucki Dhaliwal, Jessica Lambert, Chris Boden, Robyn Rooney

Fri 14 St Mary, Old Swinford

May we continue to draw near to those in need; seeing more as God sees, listening as God listens and loving as God loves, through Jesus Christ. Clergy: Anthony Perry, Claire Cox, John Flitcroft; Readers: Roger King, Theresa Pery

Sat 15 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord give us the strength and guidance to grow your kingdom here on earth. Help us to discern your vision and let us join in your plan.



Diocesan Safeguarding Team:
Hilary Higton, Delia Stokes,
Claire Arden, Casey Gallagher,
Simon Hill, Liz Toone

**The Episcopal / Anglican
Province of Alexandria:**
Archbishop Samy Fawzy
**Estonian Evangelical
Lutheran Church:**
Archbishop Urmas Viilma
Rochester:
Bishop Jonathan Gibbs,
Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

Recife (Brazil): **M**
Bishop João Cancio Peixoto

Rejaf (South Sudan): **T**
Bishop Edward Tombe

Remo (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Michael O. Fape

Renk (South Sudan): **Th**
Vacant

Rhode Island (USA): **F**
Bishop Nicholas Knisely

Rift Valley (Tanzania): **S**
Bishop John Daudi Lupaa

Safeguarding Sunday

Today and over the following weeks, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions will join together to shout about safeguarding and help protect vulnerable people.

Safeguarding Sunday is a moment in the Church's calendar to reflect, give thanks, and recommit ourselves to making our churches safe places for all; to reflect on our safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places.

It's also a time to honour the dedication of parish safeguarding officers and volunteers, to pray for those affected by abuse or harm, and to reaffirm our shared responsibility to protect the vulnerable in our communities.

This Sunday offers space for honest conversation and learning, helping us to grow into communities of care, transparency, and trust.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Together, we can create environments where all feel valued, respected, and safe.

Loving God, You call us to protect the vulnerable and speak out for justice. Strengthen us in our safeguarding work, That we may reflect Your love in action and build churches of safety and grace. Amen.

Mon 17 Emergency services

Merciful God, bless all who serve in our emergency services. Grant them strength, protection, and peace as they respond with courage and compassion to those in greatest need. Amen.

Tue 18 St Thomas, Stourbridge

Please pray for the development of our building and ministry team as we enact our renewal church mission plan. Plans were delayed, so please ask God to hasten our teams, growing our congregations and reaching all the people of Stourbridge. Clergy: Andrew Sillis, Paul Latham

Wed 19 World Toilet Day

Today is World Toilet Day, a UN Day of Observance. More people in the world have a mobile phone (5.8 billion) than have access to a toilet (3.5 billion). Pray for those at risk from poor sanitation, and for Tearfund's Toilet Twinning initiative, considering how your church might get involved.

Thur 20 Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team

Pray for the diocesan Mission and Ministry Team as they support and develop vocations into both lay and ordained ministry and provide training opportunities for all in parishes, which offer practical support and deepen Christian discipleship. Joseph Diwakar, John Fitzmaurice, Doug Chaplin, Janet Fox, Robert Barlow, Ruth Donaldson, Ian Thompson

Fri 21 Wordsley

Prayers are asked for those in the church family undertaking new ministries, for our community outreach across Care Homes and schools and for the formation of a new Pastoral Care Team, and for our ALM's. Clergy: Lyn Rowson; Readers: Chris Greary, Mike Timmins, Terry Blewitt

Sat 22 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord we thank you for all the skills you have given us, and for all those who use those skills to grow your kingdom. Help us to work together for your glory



Interfaith Week

Today we reflect on this year's Interfaith Week which took place from 9 to 16 November. The week aims to strengthen good interfaith relations, increase awareness of the different faith communities in the UK, and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Each year, thousands take part directly and millions encounter its positive messages through social media. A wide mix of different bodies take part: faith and belief bodies; local interfaith organisations; community and voluntary organisations; workplaces and staff networks; local authorities; emergency services; schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations; chaplaincies; sports organisations; libraries, museums and art galleries; hospitals and hospices; and many others.

Pray for all interfaith networks, especially the Worcestershire Interfaith Forum and interfaith work in Dudley. Pray for events which have happened during Interfaith Week and those which take place throughout the year. Please pray also for the national Interfaith network.

Inter Faith Week

12-19 November
www.interfaithweek.org



Those leading on Interfaith Work in the Diocese:
Catherine Lack, Claire Cox

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia:
Archbishop Sione Uluilakepa,
Archbishop Don Tamihere,
Archbishop Justin Duckworth
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich:
Bishop Martin Seeley
Aberdeen and Orkney (Scotland):
Bishop Anne Dyer

M *Riverina (Australia):*
Bishop Donald Kirk

T *Rochester (England):*
Bishop Jonathan Gibbs,
Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

W *Rochester (USA):*
Bishop Kara Wagner Sherer

Th *Rockhampton (Australia):*
Bishop Peter Grice

F *Rokon (South Sudan):*
Bishop Emmanuel Lomoro Eluzai

S *Rorya (Tanzania):*
Bishop John Adiema

Mon 24 Retired clergy in Greater Dudley Deanery

Retired clergy provide great wisdom and experience as well as enabling worship during clergy absence. Give thanks for their ministry, pray for their wellbeing, and pray for more people to feel called to ordained ministry.

Tue 25 Administrators across the Diocese

Please pray for all those who provide administrative support across the Diocese; often the first point of contact for enquiries from the wider community and huge support to the ministry leadership team.

Wed 26 Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks for the staff of the Tunguli Health Centre, for all doctors and nurses, and especially we remember Yona, the midwife, who plays such a strategic role in advising on maternal and child health and for his willingness to travel to remote locations and hold clinics where those who are expecting babies can be advised and helped.

Thur 27 Bishop's Council

Pray for all those who give their time to be part of the Bishop's Council of Trustees. Grant them wisdom and discernment as they listen to the views of all members and make considered decisions on the future direction for our diocese.

Fri 28 ALMs across the Diocese

We thank you for the wonderful team of ALMs across the Diocese, for their gifts, time and knowledge. Bless them and all those they serve in the parishes.

Sat 29 Growing as Kingdom People

Heavenly Father, empower us to advance your kingdom. Fill us with your Spirit, that our words and deeds may reflect your love and draw others to you.



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.

