

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Prayer Diary

November 2025 to March 2026

Foreword from Bishop Martin



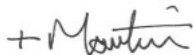
Do you get distracted when you pray?

I do! I often start well, happy to stop and be still, and come into God's presence. But then I get distracted by some work that needs doing, or by some annoying memory, and the moment of stillness is lost.

It's easy to get disheartened or even to give up praying altogether. But God is gentle and loving with us, his children. Instead of telling myself off for getting distracted, someone suggested I should be glad when that happens because it gives me another chance to come back to God in prayer, and to receive again the divine embrace.

'Underneath are the everlasting arms' we read in the bible, and God's hands are always there to catch us when we fall; to welcome us when we are lost and to bring us home.

May God bless us all as we share in prayer and use this prayer diary together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ 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 offer 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 Malvern & Upton and Pershore & Evesham

Malvern and Upton Deanery is contained by the rivers Severn and Teme, by the M5/ M50/A38 triangle and the majestic Malvern Hills. As well as two tourist towns, the deanery is an eclectic mix of expanding new housing and quaint rural villages, farms and agri-economy, places for concerts and places for festivals, walking trails, traveller sites and a few stately homes.



Pershore and Evesham is a deanery of 69 churches, with two towns, many villages and hamlets. In many places, people still identify with the local church building and their community even though most commute for work, school and recreation. We have two large towns with further housing planned, including three major strategic housing developments which will add an additional 16,000 homes.



CELEBRATION OF THE DIOCESE & SERVICE OF WELCOME

for
Bishop Hugh Nelson
114TH BISHOP OF WORCESTER

Saturday 17 January at 2pm
Worcester Cathedral

All are invited to come and welcome our new bishop

Please pray for Bishop Hugh as he starts his ministry:

Gracious and loving God,
through your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,
you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church;
we thank you for calling your servant Hugh to be Bishop of Worcester;
sustain him by your love, strengthen him in faith, encourage him in hope
and grant him the needful gifts of grace;
that through his ministry among us, we may live and grow as Kingdom People
sharing faith, hope and love in Jesus' name.

Amen

Different Ways of Praying

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



Using mantra for prayer

Following on from the introduction to using silence as prayer in the last edition, one very understandable question may be, how do I attain silence? Silence isn't being in a place where there's little or no sound – if that were the case most people would rarely be able to pray. Silence is not the absence of sound, but the space that holds all sound – it's the 'substratum' of life itself. That's why all spiritual traditions, Christianity included, know it's the space where the deepest intimacy of God can be experienced.

The noisiest place on the planet is... our mind! What a lot of 'traffic' is whirring, whispering, chuntering and generally churning around our minds. Even if we find an externally quiet place to pray, we bring the noise in with us.

Mantra offers us a toolset to help quieten the internal noise, and it can be very effective. Mantra literally means an instrument, tool or that which protects the mind. We'll be looking at just three types of mantra in the course of this edition of the prayer diary, but don't just read about these – try them out! You've only got a lot of noise to lose.



A quiet revival among students and young adults

At All Saints Worcester, the 6pm gathering is seeing a quiet revival among students and young adults. This Advent, the team are encouraging them to take simple, bold steps of invitation.

At the end of November, they'll be bringing friends along to a student pub quiz - a relaxed evening designed to break down barriers. Just a week later, the season begins with the church's much-loved Beer & Carols, where hundreds pack into St Helen's Church on Worcester High Street to sing familiar carols in a fresh, joyful setting.

For many young people, this is their first step through church doors. One student recently shared, "I never expected church to feel like family so quickly."



Mon 1 DECEMBER Start of Advent

Lord, as Advent begins, open our hearts to your coming. Kindle in us hope, peace, joy, and love. Prepare us to welcome Christ with faith, gratitude, and wonder. Amen.

Tue 2 Christ Church, Lye

Please pray for our ongoing mission and for our new vicar, Glen Ruffle; for his wife Angela and daughter Hazel, as they settle into life in Lye. Clergy: Glen Ruffle, Chris Kent. Reader: Graham Dyer

Wed 3 Diocese of Peru

Following his consecration as Bishop Coadjutor in August, pray for Bishop Victor as he undertakes his new role and assumes new responsibilities. Pray too for Bishop Jorge, as the two work together to discern the future shape of mission and ministry in the Diocese of Peru, and prepare for Victor replacing Jorge as diocesan bishop in a few years' time.

Thur 4 Malvern & Upton Deanery

We pray for growth in the links between our churches, so that together we may be an expression of the body of Christ across the whole area of the Deanery. We pray for wisdom and discernment for the Deanery Leadership Team, as they seek to further kingdom growth and strengthen the impact of mission and ministry through the Deanery. Deanery Leadership Team - Area Dean: Gary Crellin, Lay Chair: Maria Toman, Becky Elliott and Derek Valentine

Fri 5 Berrow with Pendock

Pray for everyone who is supporting the ministry in the Berrow and Longdon Benefices during their vacancy. As a new vicar is sought to take forward the wonderful ongoing ministry there, we pray that your will be done, Lord, and we lift before you whoever the new vicar will be. We pray that, through the Holy Spirit, they will hear your call to lead these parishes as we seek to follow your way. Clergy: vacant, Anthea Elston

Sat 6 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord Jesus, grow in us hearts that reflect your kingdom. May our words, actions, and love reveal your presence. Shape us into servants who bring light, hope, and grace.

This Advent, as friendships grow and faith is shared, pray that more students will discover the hope of Christ for themselves.

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

St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane (Scotland):
Bishop Ian Paton
Porvoo (Finland):
Bishop Bo-Göran Åstrand
The Anglican Church of Australia:
Archbishop Geoffrey Smith

Ruaha (Tanzania): M
Bishop Joseph Mgomi

Rumbek (South Sudan): T
Archbishop Alapayo Manyang Kuctiel

Rumonge (Burundi): W
Bishop Pedaculi Birakengana

Rupert's Land (Canada): Th
Bishop Naboth Manzongo

Rutana (Burundi): F
Archbishop Sixbert Macumi

Ruvuma (Tanzania): S
Bishop Raphael Haule

Pray for the new singing group at St John the Baptist in Halesowen and for all our churches who are finding new ways of reaching children and families during Advent and Christmas.

St John the Baptist, Halesowen –
Rector: Hazel Charlton
Children and Families' Worker:
Louise Hicklin

Prayers for our baptism families:
Lord may this Christmastime be
a special time of love for parents
and their families. Help them to
feel united in your love. Amen

Chester:

Bishop Mark Tanner,
Bishop Julie Conalty
Bishop Sam Corley
Kuopio (Finland):

Bishop Jari Jolkkonen

Bisho (Bangladesh):

Archbishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin

Christmas singing in Halesowen

An exciting new singing group is beginning today at St John the Baptist Church in Halesowen. Initially meeting once each month, Joyful Noise is aimed at children and young people who enjoy singing and want to flourish in faith through song.

The first session will focus on Christmas songs and Carols, including a song especially for the Christingle Messy Church on 21 December. Future sessions will explore new and previously learnt songs, and it is hoped that the singing group will ultimately share the 'Joyful Noise' at some Sunday Worship services, and special services such as Easter and Christmas.

Children and Families' Worker, Louise Hicklin, said: "Singing worship songs together fosters a sense of belonging, helping children to connect emotionally with their faith. Praising God through singing allows them to have active and meaningful participation in worship."

'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.' Psalm 98:4



Mon 8 Christ Church, Malvern

Please pray for our mission to the community, particularly those who are more elderly. We pray for the group of ministers and the local ministry team working together for Christ Church and its mission to be viable and relevant to the people of Malvern. Clergy: Gary Crellin, Sue Beverly, Kim Taplin. Reader: Eileen Tomlin

Tue 9 Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton

We pray for everyone supporting the ministry in the Berrow and Longdon Benefices during their vacancy. We pray that your will be done Lord, and, through the Holy Spirit, the right person will hear your call to lead these parishes as we seek to follow your way. Clergy: vacant, Anthea Elston

Wed 10 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for all those who minister within the Diocese of Morogoro and give special thanks for the partnership between our two Dioceses. In particular, we remember the many challenges facing the clergy and people in Morogoro, particularly in the light of recent unrest in Tanzania, and pray they will be filled with hope and joy as they prepare for 2026.

Thur 11 Great Malvern Priory

Pray for our Children, Youth and Families' Group, reaching children and families at the Priory, especially for leader Hilary Ruck, and for the 'Join the Christmas Story' initiative. Clergy: Roger Latham, Philippa Lowe. Readers: Chris Boulton, Sue Copsey, Claire Damborough, Richard Weatherill, David Webster

Fri 12 Holy Trinity, Malvern

Please pray for our Places of Welcome coffee morning, our Babies and Toddler group, our Anna Chaplains and our service for young families, Creative Church. Also, our reordering project to create a more flexible space in church. Clergy: Becky Elliott, Eric Knowles, Peter Nokes

Sat 13 Growing as Kingdom People

Heavenly Father, plant your truth deep within us. Let our faith mature through prayer, worship, and service. Make us bold witnesses, spreading your kingdom wherever you lead.

M Ruwenzori (Uganda):
Bishop Reuben Kisembo

T East Ruwenzori (Uganda):
Bishop George Turyasingura

W South Ruwenzori (Uganda):
Bishop Jackson Nzerebende

Th Sabah (South East Asia):
Bishop Melter Jiki Tais

F Sabongidda-Ora (Nigeria):
Bishop Augustine E Ohilebo

S Sacred Circle (Canada):
Bishop Chris Harper

Joy at Christmastime

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy!

Our churches will - as always - be seeking to make the most of the opportunity December brings to share The Joy of Christmas with their communities.

The great joy of Christmas, of course, is the good news the angel declared to the shepherds - the news of Jesus' birth as Emmanuel (God with us).

The national church has put together a wealth of resources for churches to use to help spread more joy this Advent and Christmas season. These include story books for children and families, picture books and daily reflections to help us enter into deeper prayer this Advent.

All the resources can be found on the Church of England's website:

www.churchofengland.org/christmas



The angel said to them, *'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people ...'* Luke 2.10-11

Mon 15 St James, West Malvern

Please pray for our Community Orchard Pilgrim Path Project, that we can develop use of the orchard as an ecologically diverse, accessible place for school activities, outdoor worship, community events and a space where people can reflect on nature and God. Clergy: Becky Elliott, Rosemary Herbert, Nicholas Menon

Tue 16 The Severnside Parishes

Please pray for our missional work with young people, seniors and community groups across Kempsey, Norton, Severn Stoke and Croome D'Abitot. In particular our ministry team: Kat Mephram, Libberty Webber, Owain Bell, Don Sloggett, Libby James, Kay Mason and Ron Rust

Wed 17 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the victims and all those affected by last year's terrorist attack in Magdeburg, and for the preparations for this year's commemorative ceremonies on 20 December. God, give us wisdom, comfort, healing and peace.

Thur 18 The Severnside Parishes

Please pray for our churches as we look at growing our discipleship and for St Mary, Kempsey as we contemplate a reorder of the church. Ministry Team: Kat Mephram, Libberty Webber, Owain Bell, Don Sloggett, Libby James, Kay Mason and Ron Rust

Fri 19 Little Malvern Priory

Pray that we may build on the success and energy of our 875 Celebration year, in drawing more people to worship with us regularly. Pray for all those who visit us as walkers, cyclists or visitors to Little Malvern Court. Pray for all affected by the eight-month closure of the A449, especially for local shops and businesses whose trade is threatened. Clergy: Stephen Sealy

Sat 20 Growing as Kingdom People

Gracious God, nurture our spirits with your word. Help us grow in compassion, humility, and courage. Through our lives, may others glimpse the beauty of your kingdom.

Lord, thank you for all that our churches will be doing to spread your joy this Advent season. May we all work together to bring light into the world and share the joy of your kingdom here on earth.

Malvern and Upton Deanery
Leadership Team -
Becky Elliott and Derek Valentine

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil:
Archbishop Marinez Rosa Dos Santos Bassotto
Southwell and Nottingham:
Bishop Paul Williams with Bishop Andy Emerton
Borg (Norway):
Bishop Kari Mangrud Alfsvåg

Saint Helena (Islands in the Atlantic Ocean): M
Bishop Dale Bowers

Saint Mark the Evangelist (South Africa): T
Bishop Luke Pretorius

Saldanha Bay (South Africa): W
Bishop Raphael Hess

Sailsbury: Th
Bishop Stephen Lake with Bishops Karen Gorham and Andrew Rumsey

El Salvador (Central America): F
Archbishop Juan David Alvarado Melgar

Sambalpur (North India): S
Bishop Immanuel Dani

Please pray for the continued work of Maggs, for all who are without a safe place to call home this winter, and for wisdom and compassion to shape the next 40 years of this vital mission.

Maggs Day Centre –
CEO: Andy Price

Oslo (Norway):
Bishop Kari Veiteberg

Durham:
Vacancy with Bishop Sarah Clark
(acting bishop)

**Moray, Ross and Caithness
(Scotland):**
Bishop Mark Strange (Primus)

The Anglican Church of Burundi:
Archbishop Sixbert Macumiri

40 years of Maggs, Worcester

On this day in 1985, Maggs was founded as a sub-committee of All Saints' Church in Worcester, responding to the growing need for practical and compassionate support for people experiencing homelessness. Forty years on, Maggs continues to provide vital services across Worcestershire — including day centres, outreach, clothing provision, and long-term support — helping individuals rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

We give thanks for everyone who has played a role in Maggs' journey: from the founders to the staff, volunteers, churches, supporters, and the resilient individuals we walk alongside every day.



Mon 22 Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley, Queenhill w Holdfast

We pray for everyone who is supporting the ministry in the Berrow and Longdon Benefices during their vacancy. As a new vicar is sought, we pray that your will be done, Lord, and we lift before you whoever the new vicar will be. We pray for all in these parishes as we seek to follow your way. Clergy: Vacant, Anthea Elston. Reader: Michael Harper

Tue 23 Malvern Chase team

Pray for our children and young people, that they would grow in their faith, for those new to church and exploring faith and our different mission areas including the bereavement cafe. Clergy: Dave Bruce, Emily Spencer, Nick Clarke, Helen Wilkinson, David Ritchie, Mark Slater. Readers: Heather Williamson, Derham Cooke, Judith Keene

Wed 24 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for those working in retail in the very busy days before Christmas, including those working hard to make home deliveries; and for all working over the holiday period. That all may find the rest they need and know the Peace and Presence of the Christ child.

Thur 25 Christmas Day

Lord Jesus, born in humility and love, dwell among us with peace and joy. May Your birth renew our hearts, growing us as people who share your kingdom light.

Fri 26 St Stephen's Day

Faithful God, as Stephen bore witness with courage, strengthen us to serve with grace and mercy. Grow in us forgiving hearts, that your kingdom may flourish through love and sacrifice.

Sat 27 Growing as Kingdom People

Incarnate Lord, you dwell among us in love. May your birth renew our faith and compassion. Grow in us the grace to share your kingdom's joy and peace.

M **Santiago (Chile):**
Bishop Juan Esteban
Saravia Cortes

T **Santiago (Philippines):**
Bishop Ray Piluden

W **São Paulo (Brazil):**
Bishop Francisco Cezar
Fernandes Alves

Th **Sapele (Nigeria):**
Bishop Blessing A. Erifeta

F **Saskatchewan (Canada):**
Bishop Richard Reed

S **Saskatoon (Canada):**
Bishop Chad McCharles

Using mantra for prayer - First practice

The first mantra is the well-known Orthodox prayer, **“The Jesus Prayer”**.

Often accompanied using a ‘prayer-rope’ (a small, knotted rope, with each knot held in turn as the prayer is repeated). However, you can use a rosary or even your fingers - just touch each one in turn. Or don’t use any physical support, saying the mantra until you naturally stop.

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner”.

Repeat the line holding the knot, bead, touching a finger, or just pause at the end. Then allow a gentle inhale and say it again, moving onto the next knot, bead, finger etc).

Focus intently on the words, each one as you say them (it’s best to whisper the words to begin with). Don’t rush this – you’ll not encounter intimacy if you do.

You may end up praying just one of the words, ‘Lord’ or ‘Jesus’ or even ‘of God’. That’s perfect, the word that sticks is a doorway for you. Another outcome might be you forget the words entirely, at least any meaning, and let the rhythm and sound move you.

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner”

Mon 29 Malvern Chase team

Pray for our new Community Lunches, Bereavement Cafe, Messy Church and toddlers group that these would provide stepping stones to faith and places to encounter God’s love for our community. Clergy: Dave Bruce, Emily Spencer, Geoff Vevers, Paul Hunt. Reader: Peter Buchanan

Tue 30 Malvern Community Hospital

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

Wed 31 Diocese of Peru

As Bishop Victor formally finishes as Rector of Cristo Redentor in Arequipa at the end of this year, and prepares to spend more time working in Lima, pray for him and his family during this time of transition, and for those ensuring they have suitable living arrangements away from home in Lima.

Thur 1 JANUARY New Year’s Day

God of new beginnings, renew our hearts and minds. May this year be rooted in your grace. Grow us as Kingdom People, bearing hope, peace, and purpose.

Fri 2 Malvern Link with Cowleigh

We give thanks to God for the many blessings we receive and for the mission and ministry we are privileged to carry out by his grace. As a parish, we have dedicated this year to discerning God’s call for the future - praying, listening, and seeking signs of his kingdom in our community. Pray for our ALM, School Chaplain Ness Everitt and all who are discerning a call to ministry. Clergy: James Williams, Alastair McKay, Sue Beverly, Ted Stokes. Readers: Jacqui Green, Eileen Tomlin, Allen Hudson, Mike Hancox

Sat 3 Growing as Kingdom People

Guiding Lord, reveal your truth to our hearts. As the Magi sought you, may we seek your kingdom. Grow us in wisdom, courage, and faithful discipleship.



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

The Anglican Church of Canada:
Archbishop Shane Parker

Chichester:
Bishop Martin Warner with
Bishops Ruth Bushyager
and Will Hazlewood

Mikkeli (Finland):
Bishop Mari Parkkinen

Sebei (Uganda): M
Bishop Paul Kiptoo Masaba

Sekondi (West Africa): T
Bishop Alexander Kobina Asmah

Seoul (Korea): W
Bishop Elijah Jang-Whan Kim

Seychelles: Th
Bishop James Wong Yin Song

Sheffield: F
Bishop Pete Wilcox with
Bishop Leah Vasey-Saunders

Shinyanga (Tanzania): S
Bishop Johnson Chinyong’ole



*Bishop of Worcester:
Hugh Nelson*

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

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

Bishop Hugh Nelson

This month we are preparing to welcome Hugh Nelson as our new Bishop of Worcester. Previously Bishop of St Germans in the Diocese of Truro, Bishop Hugh brings with him a deep commitment to community, discipleship, and faithful service.

Ordained in 2008 after many years living in the L'Arche community in London, Hugh's ministry has been rooted in inclusion and shared life. His experience spans rural parishes, diocesan leadership, and his ongoing role as Bishop to the Armed Forces, where he offers pastoral care to chaplains across the services.

*Lord, we thank you for calling your
servant Hugh to be Bishop of Worcester;
sustain him by your love, strengthen him
in faith, encourage him in hope, and
grant him the needful gifts of grace as
he begins his ministry among us.*



Mon 5 Malvern Link with Cowleigh

We give thanks for the work of our Next Gen mission, for all that is happening in schools, with families, children, and young people. We are especially grateful for the volunteers who serve so faithfully, offering their time and gifts to support this ministry.

Tue 6 Old Hills Parishes

We thank you for our five villages, our four churches, our three schools, and our two care homes in which we worship & serve. Bless all who live, work, and worship here, especially our wardens, lay ministers, and volunteers. Clergy: Gary Crellin. Reader: Julia Davis

Wed 7 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray especially for Bishop Godfrey as he prepares to travel to Worcester for the service of welcome for Bishop Hugh. We give thanks for the wonderful relationship that has been established between our two Dioceses and pray for God's blessing on all that is to come in the future.

Thur 8 Old Hills Parishes

We thank you for all in our villages of Powick, Guarford, Callow End, Madresfield and Newland, for the children and staff of the schools in our area and those who live in the two care homes. Give thanks for all who worship with us and for our churchwardens, lay ministers, and volunteers. Clergy: Gary Crellin. Reader: Julia Davis

Fri 9 Upton and the Hook

Pray that the Lord would provide us with churchwardens and a treasurer in Upton. Pray for Rachel, new headteacher at Upton Primary School, for the work of Open the Book and all our school involvement. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Sue Adeney, Juliann Watson. Reader: Alison Martin, Mary Weatherill

Sat 10 Growing as Kingdom People

God of revelation, shine through our words and deeds. May your kingdom grow as we serve in love. Make us bearers of your light to the nations.

M Upper Shire (Central Africa):
Bishop William Mchombo

T Shyira (Rwanda):
Archbishop Laurent Mbanda

W Shyogwe (Rwanda):
Bishop Jered Kalimba

Th Sialkot (Pakistan):
Provincial Secretary Khurram
Shahzad

F Singapore (South East Asia):
Bishop Titus Chung Khiam Boon

S Sittwe (Myanmar):
Bishop James Min Dein

Plough Sunday

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

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

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



Chaplaincy for Agriculture
and Rural Life –
Chair: David Morris
Vice Chair - Jim Hilderley

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

Mon 12 Ripple, Earls Croome with Hill Croome and Strensham.

Pray for the building renewal project in Ripple, that its launch will go well and that funds will be forthcoming. For the newly established Friends of Earls Croome Church; and that the Lord will send more workers to help us in mission. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Sue Adeney, Juliann Watson. Reader: Alison Martin, Mary Weatherill

Tue 13 Hanley Castle & Hanley Swan

Pray for the outreach work at St Mary’s Church through Gold Eco church award and exhibitions. For Stir Up Church all age service to continue to thrive, and for planned new schedule of services. For the links with the school through Open the Book, Gather and Collective Worship and the building development programme. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Barry Unwin, Sue Adeney, Juliann Watson

Wed 14 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Let us pray for the Annual Ecumenical Conference on Youth Work, which takes place throughout the EKM under the motto ‘Swords into Soap Bubbles... Peace. Youth. Responsibility’. What might peace, commitment and youth-oriented action really look like in church youth work today?“ May all involved be inspired and a blessing for each and everyone.

Thur 15 Welland

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

Fri 16 Retired clergy in Malvern & Upton Deanery

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

Sat 17 Welcome for the Bishop of Worcester

Today Bishop Hugh Nelson is welcomed as the 114th Bishop of Worcester. We thank you Lord for calling your servant Hugh to join us. We also give thanks for all who have been involved in organising today’s service of welcome and pray for those across the Diocese who will come to take part.

Sodor and Man: M
Bishop Patricia Hillas

Sokoto (Nigeria): T
Bishop Idris Ado Zubairu

Central Solomons (Melanesia): W
Bishop Stephen Koete

Soroti (Uganda): Th
Vacant

Southwark: F
Bishop Christopher Chessun
with Bishops Rosemarie Mallett,
Jonathan Gainsborough and
Alastair Cutting

Southwell and Nottingham: S
Bishop Paul Williams with
Bishop Andrew Emerton



Malvern and Upton Deanery
Leadership Team -
Becky Elliott and Derek Valentine

Province de L'Eglise Anglicane
Du Congo:
Archbishop Georges Titre Ande

Second Practice

Having discovered mantra and the Jesus Prayer, we'll move on to a prayer made popular by Fr John Main. This mantra is very short, just a single word. As before, it's simply repeated using a prayer rope etc, or just our breath.

The mantra is maranatha.

When praying it whisper the word like this; **ma-ra-na-tha**.

Say the prayer by emphasising each syllable, ma...ra...na...tha. Then take a gentle in-breath and say it again, ma...ra...na...tha. Focus on the sound, how it feels on the lips, tongue, mouth.

Give it all of your attention. The prayer corrals the mind, rounding it up and focussing it. If it escapes (it will, by remembering something, anything!) gently bring it back into line by pausing and starting afresh.

Maranatha can be found in the Bible at 1 Corinthians 16:22. It's one of the few Aramaic words untranslated into Greek and means, "Our Lord has come / is coming". Sadly, it seems to be used by St Paul as a curse, but don't let that put you off!

Own the word for yourself, don't dwell on particular meanings, but use the sound and texture of the word to focus your mind in the direction of silence.

Ma-ra-na-tha

Mon 19 St Wulfstan's Day

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

Tue 20 Pershore & Evesham Deanery

Give thanks for all who so generously serve churches and our communities. Please pray for our outreach to new residents especially in larger-scale developments. Deanery Leadership Team: Sarah Dangerfield, Jack Hegarty, Jackie Knight, Robin Lunn, Ian Perry, Alison Sandham

Wed 21 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for all facing debt following Christmas and the holiday period and now receiving demands for payment – be it through credit cards, or loan companies – that they may find ways of managing their debt. Pray for local projects, and their staff and volunteers, supporting those in debt, for wisdom and sensitivity in their work.

Thur 22 ARCH Benefice

Give thanks for collaboration during the vacancy, the arrival of Revd Glenn, and the appointment of Caroline and Andy as SSM Associate Priests. Please pray for this new and exciting time in the life of our enlarged benefice with Norton and Lenchwick and for all who serve our churches and villages in their varied ministries. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Caroline Green, Andy Green, Chris Sheehan. Reader: Pippa Heenan

Fri 23 ARCH Benefice

Give thanks for our ministry with young people and schools, and pastoral care across our communities. Please pray for us that we may be attuned to what God is calling us towards, and that we shall be equipped by the Holy Spirit. Clergy: Glenn Reading, Caroline Green, Andy Green, Chris Sheehan. Reader: Pippa Heenan

Sat 24 Growing as Kingdom People

Radiant Christ, reveal your glory within us. Transform our hearts by your presence. May we grow as Kingdom People, reflecting your light into a world longing for hope.

M **The Reformed Episcopal
Church of Spain (E-P to the
Archbishop of Canterbury):**
Provincial Treasurer -
Jose Antonio Rodriguez

T **Spokane (USA):**
Bishop Gretchen Rehberg

W **Springfield (USA):**
Vacant

Th **Port Sudan (Sudan):**
Bishop Abdu Elnur Kodi

F **Sul Occidental (Brazil):**
Bishop Francisco De Assis
Da Silva

S **Sunyani (West Africa):**
Bishop Festus Yeboah-Asuamah

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place each year on 27 January and encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide.

The Holocaust is central to the commemoration, and we remember the six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered. 27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we also commemorate the millions more people murdered through the Nazi persecution of other groups, as well as the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. A United Nations commission of inquiry has also highlighted genocide committed in Gaza.

Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable, and we cannot be complacent. Wherever it takes place, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 is 'Bridging Generations'. It is a reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through all of us. This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past - to listen and to learn. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future.



*Eternal God, we lament
the millions of victims
of Nazi persecution, and
victims of all genocides.
Help us to work for a
better future today. We
pray for a day when all
shall be free to live in
peace, unity and love.*

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

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile:
Archbishop Enrique Lago Zugadi

Mon 26 Bowbrook Group

Pray for our ministry and witness to God's work centred around our eight churches at Hanbury, Stock and Bradley Green, Himbleton, Huddington, Crowle, Bredicot, Tibberton and Oddingley. Give thanks for our scattered rural communities where God's grace is so abundantly at work. Clergy: Richard Sandland, Paula Honniball, Sue Pollard, Dick Johnson, Chris Liley, Alma Organ. Readers: John Spencer, Yuki Johnson

Tue 27 Bowbrook Group

Pray for our Schools at Himbleton, Crowle, Tibberton and Hanbury and for Crowle Preschool; for our wonderful staff as they open God's kindness to the children. Give thanks for the joy of young children in their exploration of Jesus's stories, and for how much they teach us. Clergy: Richard Sandland, Paula Honniball, Sue Pollard, Dick Johnson, Chris Liley, Alma Organ. Readers: John Spencer, Yuki Johnson

Wed 28 Diocese of Peru

The Diocese of Peru is engaged in a process of pastorally rotating ministers, to bring clergy back into churches which have been vacant and to bring new ideas and direction after long incumbencies. Pray for those called to new roles, for their families and for those who support them, and for the congregations at this time of change.

Thur 29 Bowbrook Group

Please pray for our shared Ministry throughout the Bowbrook Benefice. For our ALMs, the witness of our welcome helpers. Clergy: Richard Sandland, Paula Honniball, Sue Pollard, Dick Johnson, Chris Liley, Alma Organ. Readers: John Spencer, Yuki Johnson

Fri 30 Those who work outside

At this time of the year, when it is cold or wet, pray for those who work outside and for those who keep our vital services going through the winter. Offer thanks for those who put comfort or health at risk to provide us with the things we need or want, and in the service of others.

Sat 31 Growing as Kingdom People

Creator God, you plant seeds of faith in us. Water them with grace, and light them with love. Make us Kingdom People who nurture growth in others.

Sur (Chile): M
Archbishop Enrique Lago Zugadi

Del Sureste (Mexico): T
Bishop Alba Sally Sue
Hernández García

Swansea and Brecon (Wales): W
Bishop John Lomas

Sydney (Australia): Th
Archbishop Kanishka Raffel

Tabora (Tanzania): F
Bishop Elías Chakupewa

Tai Tokerau (New Zealand): S
Bishop Te Kiohi Wiremu Pikaahu



*Pershore and Evesham Deanery
Leadership Team:
Jack Hegarty, Jackie Knight,
Ian Perry, Alison Sandham*

Pray for our baptism families:
Father, thank you for the
families who bring their children
for baptism Help them to know
that you are their heavenly
father, and you love them with
an everlasting love. Amen

**Archbishop of Canterbury
designate:**
Bishop Sarah Mullally

M **Tairawhiti (New Zealand):**
Archbishop Don Tamihere

T **Taita-Taveta (Kenya):**
Bishop Liverson Mng'onda

W **Taiwan:**
Bishop Lennon Yuan-Rung Chang

Th **Tamale (West Africa):**
Bishop Dennis Debukari Tong

F **Tanga (Tanzania):**
Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa

S **Central Tanganyika (Tanzania):**
Bishop Dickson Chilongani

Candlemas

Candlemas, celebrated on 2 February, marks a beautiful turning point in the Church's year - the moment we look back to the light of Christmas and forward toward the shadows of Lent. It recalls the day when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple, where Simeon and Anna recognised him as the promised light to the nations.

As Simeon held the Christ Child, his eyes saw salvation - not power or grandeur, but divine love made visible in vulnerability. Candlemas invites us to that same vision: to recognise Christ's light shining in ordinary lives, homes, and communities.

Traditionally, this feast is when candles are blessed, symbols of Christ's light guiding us through the dark and uncertain places of life. It reminds us that we too are called to bear that light - not only within the safety of church walls, but in workplaces, families, and the wider world.

As we cross this threshold from Epiphany's brightness into Lent's reflection, may we carry the light of Christ with courage and hope, trusting that his presence will never fade.

Light of the World, shine in our hearts and homes.

***As Simeon rejoiced to see your glory, may we recognise your presence
and share your light. Guide us faithfully into the way of peace. Amen.***

Mon 2 Bowland Benefice

Please pray for energy in our small rural churches across Peopleton, White Ladies Aston, Upton Snodsbury and Broughton Hackett as we seek to promote God's mission. For all lay leaders, existing congregations and seekers. Clergy: Claire Billington, Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby

Tue 3 Bredon Hill Group

At Elmley Castle with Bricklehampton & the Combertons, pray for families coming to Messy Church, the children and staff of Elmley Castle First School and the Open the Book team. For the witness of Christians in our villages, that we may be gently bold in telling our own stories of faith. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies, Roger Spiller

Wed 4 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for Yona, midwife at Tunguli Health Centre, as he supports women's groups, providing vital education on maternal and child health. Give thanks for the gift of a motorbike to provide outdoor clinics in more remote areas.

Thur 5 Bredon Hill Group

In Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne with Beckford & Ashton under Hill, pray for our living witness to Jesus. For Overbury CE First School, Ashton First School and Bredon Hill Academy and our Open the Book teams. Clergy: Katryn Leclézio, Allison Davies, Gerard Moate, Alma Organ

Fri 6 Bredon Hill Group

Pray for our farming community who have had a challenging two years of much reduced harvest. That community support and our love and prayers would sustain farms and farmers who are struggling. Pray also for our generous giving to mission partners overseas in our cost-of-living challenges. For our ALMs and churchwardens.

Sat 7 Bredon Hill Group

At Bredon with Bredon's Norton, Eckington and Defford cum Besford please pray for our regular coffee mornings and new Board Games morning. For strengthened links with three Primary Schools and Open the Book teams. Pray for the Pastoral Team at Bredon, as they care for the elderly and those in need, our retired clergy and ALMs. Clergy: Allison Davies, Sooz Maggee

ATC Sunday

Today is ATC Sunday - a day when the Air Training Corps (ATC), now part of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC), celebrates its formation, which happened on 5 February, 1941.

Typically observed on the Sunday closest to this anniversary, it's a day for RAF Air Cadets across the UK to parade and attend services, often in local churches, to commemorate the founding of the corps and the beginning of their aviation-focused training and activities.

Fr Adam Hadley is padre to the Kingswinford Squadron, regularly leading padre's hour during the year and hosting a number of squadrons from across the Black Country for ATC Sunday at St Mary's Kingswinford.



This ATC Sunday please pray for all those who volunteer with the ATC and for the cadets themselves.

Padre to the ATC
Kingswinford Squadron:
Father Adam Hadley

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui:
Archbishop Andrew Chan

Mon 9 Broadway, Wickhamford and Childswickham

We pray for coming together as a benefice working across boundaries with Sedgeberrow and Hinton on the Green; working together to show God's presence in our villages. We give thanks for all who volunteer in our churches to help sustain ministry and for the work our PCCs and Friends' committees do for our church community and buildings. For our ALMs and retired clergy. Clergy: Shellie Ward. Readers: Elaine Major, Helen Black

Tue 10 East Vale & Avon Villages

We give thanks for our dedicated, faithful & multi-tasking people including ALMs and retired clergy in our team, conducting services, running Messy Church, Open the Book, coffee mornings and special events. Clergy: Jo Fielding. Reader: Margaret Pye

Wed 11 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the congregations of our church district (Kirchenkreis Salzwedel) and that all those working there will not feel hopeless or get frustrated by the many challenges we are facing due to the shrinking membership and financial resources.

Thur 12 East Vale & Avon Villages

Pray for our three church schools, children, staff & governors in challenging times, and for the growth of Gather & Story Explorers, as we seek to show God's love in our community. Clergy: Jo Fielding. Reader: Margaret Pye

Fri 13 HMP Long Lartin

Your prayers are asked for all who live and work at HMP Long Lartin. For all the members of the chaplaincy team. For the Prison Fellowship Group and all volunteers and supporters of our ministry here. Chaplain: Nick Scott

Sat 14 St Valentine's Day

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

South West Tanganyika (Tanzania): M
Bishop Matthew Mhagama

Western Tanganyika (Tanzania): T
Bishop Emmanuel Bwatta

Tarime (Tanzania): W
Bishop John Nyaitara

Tasmania (Australia): Th
Bishop Richard Condie

Taungoo (Myanmar): F
Bishop Saw John Wilme

Temotu (Melanesia): S
Bishop Patteson Nibeo

Please pray for all those parishes who are finding ways to share the story of Easter with their local school throughout Lent and that those children and their families will take new steps into developing their faith.

St Bartholomew CE Primary School:
Head – Sarah Hanson
Vicar – Sarah Northall

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean:
Archbishop Dr Gilbert Rateloso
Rakotondravelo

Ashing at St Bartholomew Primary School

Last year on Ash Wednesday, pupils in Key Stage 2 at St Barnabas CE Primary School in Worcester took part in a special assembly to learn about Lent.

The service was led by the Revd Sarah Northall with support from members of the churches of St Barnabas with Christ Church, St Wulstan and St Nicholas. Children aged 7-11 were involved, joining in with a question and answer liturgy, prayers and songs, and choosing for themselves if they wished to receive ashes on their forehead.

Sarah said: “I wanted to invite the children to step into something special. We make lots of space to do this in Advent and Christmas and I felt it was important to show the other side of the coin.”

Headteacher Sarah Hanson said: “I absolutely loved this afternoon – it was a really purposeful, meaningful service. We have children from all faiths and none in school and everyone was very respectful. It was particularly great that the children had the confidence to either come up to receive ashes or not – it was completely their own choice.”



Mon 16 Inkberrow, Cookhill, Kington with Dormston

We pray for the Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance as we begin the Bishop's Certificate Course. We pray the participants of the course may have their faith encouraged and strengthened. Clergy: Ian Perry, Diane Hayward-Wright. Reader: Janice Swan

Tue 17 Shrove Tuesday

Forgiving God, as we prepare for Lent, cleanse our hearts and renew our joy. May we grow as Kingdom People, ready to serve You in humility and love.

Wed 18 Ash Wednesday

Merciful Lord, mark us with your cross. Teach us repentance, restore our hope. May these forty days grow us in faith, turning our hearts toward your kingdom ways.

Thur 19 Church musicians

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

Fri 20 Pershore Benefice

Pray for our growing Café Church which meets in the St Andrew's Centre. For Abbey Walking Church and St James' Church, Birlingham's Sunday Walks. We pray that we may journey well with those exploring faith. For our ALMs, clergy with PTO, Children and Families' Worker: Sam Andrews, Ordinand: Terry Palmer and Penny Gordon on the Auxiliary Pathway. Clergy: Claire Lording, Jayne Parker. Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams

Sat 21 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.

M *Tennessee (USA):*
Bishop John Bauerschmidt

T *East Tennessee (USA):*
Bishop Brian Lee Cole

W *West Tennessee (USA):*
Bishop Phoebe Roaf

Th *Trekeka (South Sudan):*
Bishop Paul Modi Farjala

F *Territory of the People (Canada):*
Bishop Clara Plamondon

S *Tete (Mozambique-Angola):*
Bishop Sérgio Bambo

Legacies / funeral planning week

This week marks the start of Funeral Planning Week - a gentle invitation to reflect on the shape of our lives, our hopes, and the legacy we leave behind.

For churches, legacies are more than financial gifts; they are lasting acts of faith, gratitude, and love. Across our diocese, many parishes have been blessed by gifts left in wills - restoring buildings, funding mission and ministry, supporting young disciples, or caring for those in need.

Making a will and considering a legacy to the Church is a way of saying thank you to God for His faithfulness throughout our lives. It is a practical expression of stewardship - ensuring that the work of worship, witness, and service can continue for generations to come.

As we reflect on our own journey, we are reminded that every prayer, act of kindness, and gift given in faith becomes part of God's ongoing story in the world. Our legacy, however large or small, helps grow the Kingdom beyond our lifetime.



Faithful God, thank You for those whose generosity sustains your Church. Teach us wise stewardship and joyful giving, that our lives and legacies may continue to share your love and light.

Diocesan Stewardship Team:
Chris Ottershaw and
Robyn Rooney

The Church of Ireland:
Archbishop John McDowell

Mon 23 Pershore Benefice

Pray we may welcome all in Pershore, Birlingham, Pinvin and Wick; for our work to become dementia friendly churches; for our outreach to those who are new in our communities, especially children, young people and their families. For our ALMs, clergy with PTO, Children and Families' Worker: Sam Andrews, Ordinand: Terry Palmer and Penny Gordon on the Auxiliary Pathway. Clergy: Claire Lording, Jayne Parker. Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams

Tue 24 Emergency services

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

Wed 25 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for the new team of chaplains to the Severn Valley Railway, all of whom are also volunteers on the railway. Give thanks for the companionship and community many find in volunteering as the new season begins during the February half-term.

Thur 26 Stoulton with Drakes Broughton & Pirton

Please pray for the churches of St Edmund, St Barnabas, and St Peter in our servant-hearted ministry. For St Barnabas CE School, and our churchwardens Corinna Wilcox, Tina Homer, and Teresa Gardener. Clergy: Emma Goldby

Fri 27 Evesham w Norton & Lenchwick

Please pray for our churchwardens during our vacancy and at this time of change. For our Administrator, the ministry team and the PCCs. For Evesham Vale Welcomes Refugees, for the Yellow Scarf addiction recovery programme and for Stay and Play parent and toddler group. For our ALMs. Clergy: Prajna Pal-Lad, Andy Green, Caroline Green. Readers: Amanda Palmer, Julie Westlake

Sat 28 Growing as Kingdom People

Merciful God, water our spirits with grace. In fasting, prayer, and service, grow our hearts to bear fruit. Prepare us to share the life of your risen kingdom.

Texas (USA):
Bishop Andrew Doyle

Northwest Texas (USA):
Bishop Scott Mayer

West Texas (USA):
Bishop David Read

Thika (Kenya):
Bishop Julius Njuguna Wanyoike

Thoothukudi - Nazareth (South India):
Bishop Samuel Devasahayam
Ebenezer Clement

Tirunelveli (South India):
Bishop Jayaraj Christdoss

Third Practice

The final mantra in this short series is one you can create for yourself.

Perhaps there's a word in scripture that means a lot to you, or a line from a poem. Or there may be a word or phrase that you've encountered in your Bible reading today. Or you could be really adventurous and use a mantra with no words at all! In this case you use the gentle rhythm of your own breathing to quieten the mind. If you think about it, a spoken word is only breath provided with a vibration anyway, one which we attach meaning to.

Either way, create a mantra that helps you gather and quieten the meanderings (or storminess!) of your mind - those mostly useless and repetitive thoughts - laying them down before God.

Mantra is a wonderful tool to bring clarity and peace, realising the presence of God who has never left us but who we lose sight of in the fog and noise of everyday life.

Here is a mantra I created for my own prayer life - I share it with you today in the hope it might inspire you to create your own.

Love is, just this.

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

Prayer for our baptism families:

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

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai:
Archbishop David Eisho Uehara

M Toamasina (Madagascar):
Bishop Jean Paul Solo

T Tohoku (Japan):
*Bishop Francis Kiyosumi
Hasegawa*

W Tokyo (Japan):
*Bishop Francis Xavier Hiroyuki
Takahashi*

Th Toliara (Madagascar):
Bishop Todd McGregor

F Tonj (South Sudan):
Bishop Peter Yuol Gur

S Torit (South Sudan):
Archbishop Ogeno Opoka

Mon 2 Five Alive Parish w Bishampton & Throckmorton

Give thanks for our village's schools and uniformed organisations for young people. Please pray for them, and for new volunteers to continue Open the Book. Please pray as we discern how to be church in this day, use our resources wisely, and imaginatively seek new resources and for all who serve our churches and villages in their varied ministries. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby. Reader: Delia Harding

Tue 3 World Hearing Day

Thank you Lord, for the gift of hearing. Please help those who find it hard to hear and bless doctors, families, and others who help them. Teach us to listen with love and care. May everyone feel heard and included and help us make the world kinder and more understanding to those with hearing difficulties.

Wed 4 Diocese of Peru

With ongoing concerns about finances and most clergy working secular jobs in addition to their ministerial roles, pray for those charged with putting the Diocese on a sustainable financial footing. Pray too for those working with congregations on stewardship, and those ensuring transparent and wise spending.

Thur 5 Five Alive Parish w Bishampton & Throckmorton

Give thanks for all who care for our church buildings and churchyards; for regular giving and those who fundraise. Pray for mission through community engagement, for new opportunities for worship, prayer and deepening discipleship and for all who serve our churches and villages. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield, Emma Goldby. Reader: Delia Harding

Fri 6 Diocesan Safeguarding team

We give thanks for the Diocesan Safeguarding team and all they do to help ensure our churches are as safe as they can be, supporting clergy, Parish Safeguarding Officers and others across the Diocese. Hilary Highton, Delia Stokes, Claire Arden, Casey Gallagher, Simon Hill, Liz Toone

Sat 7 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, teach us to serve with humble hearts. May our actions proclaim your love and justice. Grow us into people who embody the values of your kingdom.

International Women's Day

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

International Women's Day has been celebrated for over a century, as many of the issues still affect the progress of women and girls worldwide. The theme for International Women's Day 2026 is 'Give To Gain', which promotes a mindset of generosity and collaboration. When individuals, organisations, and communities give generously, opportunities and support for women grow. Whether through donations, knowledge, resources, infrastructure, visibility, advocacy, education, training, mentoring, or time, contributing to women's progress helps build a more supportive and connected world.

God of justice and compassion, we give thanks for women and girls everywhere. Bless all who work for equality and inclusion. Inspire us to give to gain, to share our time, skills, and hearts, so that together we may build a world where every woman's gift is valued, and every girl's future is bright. Amen.

Mon 9 St Peter, Bengeworth

Pray for us in our effort to connect with our community through our cafe called 'The Point'. Pray that we'd see people come to faith and lives changed through Alpha. Clergy: Andy Smith, Mike Edwards. Reader: David Casey

Tue 10 Hampton w Sedgewick & Hinton

We pray for our benefice as we work across boundaries with Broadway, Wickhamford and Childswickham and Evesham. Working together to show God's presence in our villages and town. We thank you for all who volunteer in our churches to help sustain ministry and for the work our PCCs and Friends' committees do for our church community and buildings. For our ALMs and retired clergy. Clergy: Shellie Ward. Readers: Elaine Major, Helen Black, Laura Hillman, Guy Barnard

Wed 11 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for the staff of Morogoro Bible College and for those training for both ordained or lay ministry. We ask for God's blessing on all those who are experiencing a call to serve in whatever form of ministry and we pray that there will be sufficient financial support to sustain this vital work of enabling the 'voice' of God to be heard throughout the Diocese of Morogoro.

Thur 12 Children's Youth and Family Ministers

We give thanks for all the children's, young people and family workers and ministers across the Diocese. Be with them as they help to grow your kingdom through sharing God's love with families.

Fri 13 Parishes in vacancy

We pray for all our churches and parishes who are currently in or going into vacancy. We give thanks to all those who help continue the mission and work of the church in times of uncertainty and change.

Sat 14 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord Jesus, lead us through the wilderness with faith. Prune away our pride and fear. Grow in us humility, obedience, and love that mirrors your kingdom way.



Diocesan Dean of
Women's Ministry:
Becky Elliott

The Episcopal Church in
Jerusalem & The Middle East:
Archbishop Hosam Naoum

Toronto (Canada):
Bishop Andrew Asbil

Trichy-Tanjore (South India):
Bishop D. Chandrasekaran

Trinidad and Tobago (West
Indies):
Bishop Claude Berkley

Turro:
Bishop David Williams

Tiam, Limerick and Killaloe
(Ireland):
Bishop Michael Burrows

Twic East (South Sudan):
Bishop Jacob Deng Garang Akech

Loving God, we thank you for mothers and all who nurture us in faith and life. Gather us in your care, and teach us to love as you love.

Pershore and Evesham
Deanery Leadership Team:
Jack Hegarty, Jackie Knight,
Ian Perry, Alison Sandham

The Anglican Church of Kenya:
Archbishop - The Most Revd
Jackson Ole Sapit

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is a day rich with tenderness and gratitude. Traditionally, it was the day people returned to their mother church - the place of baptism and belonging - to give thanks for the nurturing care of both family and faith.

Today we celebrate and give thanks for all who mother in many ways: those who give life, those who offer care, those who nurture others in faith, hope, and love. We remember too those for whom this day brings pain - those who grieve, who long, or who have been hurt - trusting that God's love holds every story.

The Church, as a mothering community, is called to reflect God's compassion and care for all people. When we welcome the lost, encourage the weary, and stand alongside the broken-hearted, we share in the tender work of Christ himself.

On this Mothering Sunday, may we return to the heart of our faith - to the God who gathers us as his children and whose love never lets us go.



Mon 16 Disabled Access Day

Dear God, thank you for every person. Help us build a world where everyone can move freely, safely, and with dignity. Bless those who work to make places open to all. Teach us to be kind, fair, and thoughtful. May no one be left out or held back. Amen.

Tue 17 Global Recycling Day

We thank God for the creation that has been given to us and for all who care for it by reusing, recycling, and reducing waste. We pray that more churches will commit to becoming Eco Churches as we all work together to look after our planet and respond to the climate emergency.

Wed 18 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for new committed pastors and other church workers to come to our region. During the next few years many will retire, and young pastors prefer to work in urban areas. We pray for creative ideas, commitment, and faith to deal with the challenging situation.

Thur 19 The Flyfords Benefice

Please pray for St Bartholomew and St Eadburga, their witness in village life, and care for historic buildings. Clergy: Emma Goldby. Reader: Delia Harding

Fri 20 Clergy Housing and Facilities team

We give thanks for all the work the clergy housing and facilities team do to support people both across the Diocese and in the diocesan office. Ruth Beard, Jaine Simm, Anna Phillips, Bernadette Hirst, Paul Coombes, Carl Woollaston

Sat 21 Growing as Kingdom People

Dear Lord, we look to you to help us discern our way to grow your kingdom here on earth. Help us to place our egos aside and work for your glory.

M Udi (Nigeria):
Bishop Chjioko Augustine Aneke

T Northern Uganda:
Bishop Johnson Gakumb

W Ughelli (Nigeria):
Bishop Cyril O. Odutemu

Th Ukwa (Nigeria):
Bishop Samuel Kelechi Eze

F Umuahia (Nigeria):
Archbishop Ikechi Nwachukwu
Nwosu

**S The Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
New Zealand and Polynesia
(Uppolo o Te Ika):**
Archbishop Waitohiariaki Quayle

World Water Day

Each year, the World Day for Water falls on the 22 March. The day was formally proposed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro by the United Nations General Assembly, and it was adopted the year after as an annual observance day focusing on the importance of fresh water.

The day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

This year, the theme for World Water Day is water's role in gender equality.



Lord, we pray for all those around the world without access to clean water. Give thanks for those charities who work to change this inequality and help to ensure everyone can drink fresh water and remain healthy.

Diocesan Climate Crisis
Task Group:
Chair – David Hewlett

The Anglican Church of Korea:
Archbishop Onesimus Dongsin
Park

Mon 23 The Flyfords Benefice

Please pray for St Peter, St John the Baptist, and St Michael, which provide a faithful presence in rural communities, and encouragement of lay ministry. Clergy: Emma Goldby; Reader: Delia Harding

Tue 24 Diocesan Secretary's Team

We give thanks for the Diocesan Secretary's Team and all the work they do to support our churches in the Diocese. Andy Todd, Emma Woollaston, Judith Nex

Wed 25 Economy and Daily Life

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

Thur 26 Pershore & Evesham Community Hospital

Pray for all patients, and those who rely on our services. For the nursing teams, medical teams and support staff. Remember especially Stroke Support Services and our Chaplaincy Team.

Fri 27 Retired clergy in Pershore & Evesham Deanery

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in Pershore and Evesham Deanery. We give thanks for their ministry and support and pray for those among them in particular need at this time.

Sat 28 Growing as Kingdom People

Loving God, as we begin to look towards the warmer months, help us to remember that everything has a season. Guide us in our service to honour all that you have done for us and given to us. Help us to share your love with the world.

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

Utah (USA): **T**
Bishop Phyllis Spiegel

Uyo (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Owen Ukafia

Valparaiso (Chile): **Th**
Vacant

Vanatu (Melanesia): **F**
Bishop James Tama

Vellore (South India): **S**
Bishop H. Sharma
Nithiyandham



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.

