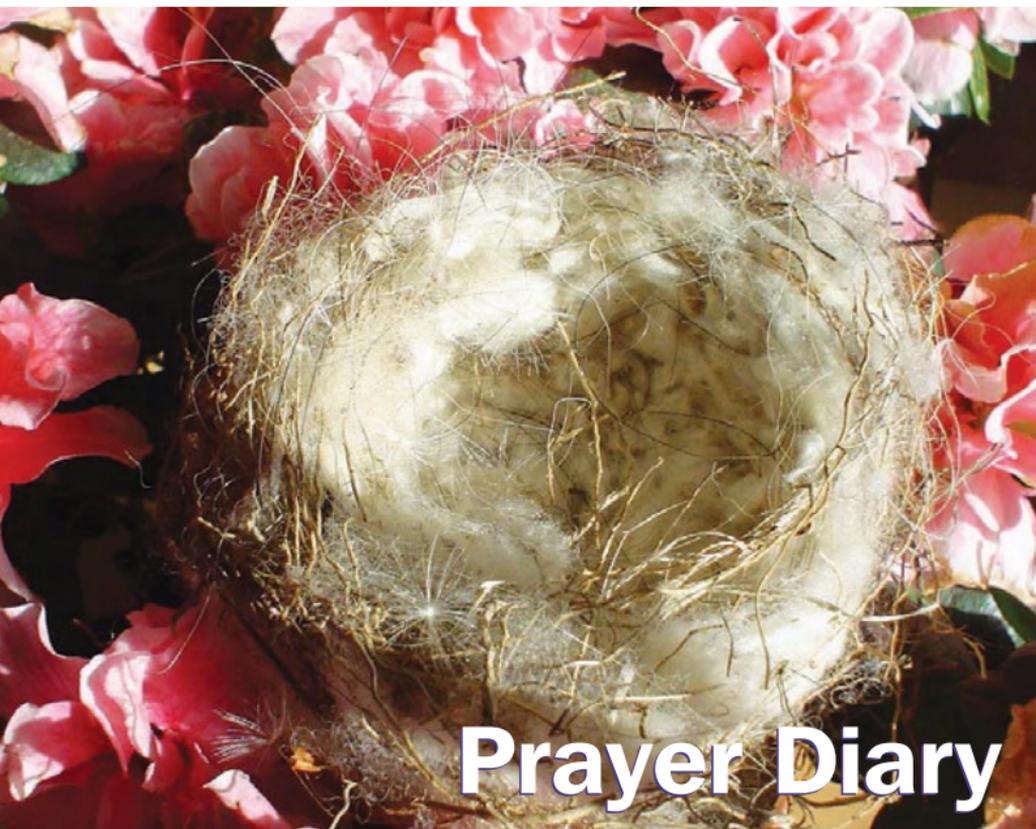


THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



Prayer Diary

March to May 2019

Foreword from Bishop Graham



Recently I came across a beautiful quote about friendship written by Aelred, the 12th century Abbot of Rievaulx in North Yorkshire. He said:

“No medicine is more valuable, none more efficacious, none better suited to the cure of our temporal ills than a friend to whom we may turn for consolation in time of trouble, and with whom we may share our happiness in time of joy.”

Our friends sustain, encourage and even challenge us. In such a way, they reflect something of the consolation and happiness that we find in our friendship with God in and through Jesus.

Perhaps now is the time to thank God for the friendships that are important in your life. What about finding a time to say that to your friends as well?

And, for those friends who don't go to a church, what about inviting them? It may be just what they have been waiting for. To enable others to encounter the Living God is the best gift we can give anyone.

+ Graham



Welcome to the Spring edition of our prayer diary. This quarter we're praying for Malvern, Worcester East and Dudley deaneries, as part of our yearly cycle covering all the parishes, as well as a variety of other stories from across the Diocese.

Please do let me know if you've got something that you'd like featured in a future edition of the prayer diary – just remember to tell me about it in enough time for me to schedule it in...I work at least a quarter in advance!

As usual, the Anglican Cycle of Prayer and Porvoo prayer calendar (www.porvoochurches.org) are incorporated into each day - these are the dioceses and bishops listed in italics under each entry.

Large print copies of the diary are always available – email me on ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk, or contact the Diocesan Office reception on **01905 20537** if you or someone you know would like one.

Best wishes,
Sam Setchell, Communications Officer

Easter at East Vale & Avon schools

Easter Roadshows for the children of local primary schools will take place in the benefice of East Vale & Avon during the days leading up to Holy Week. The roadshows will take place at different churches within the team, providing a great opportunity for members of the school communities to interactively engage with both their local churches and the Easter story.

Several schools will get involved with the project, including The Littletons CE First, Offenham CE First, Cleeve Prior CE First, Badsey First and Bretforton Village. As the children make their way around their church, they will hear the Easter story from the perspectives of supporting characters who were involved in Holy Week. Characters will include the woman who saw Peter in the courtyard after the Last Supper, a Roman soldier present at the Crucifixion, and a member of the crowd on the roadside to Golgotha, amongst others. Children will have the chance to ask questions, once they have heard the different viewpoints.

The Revd Philip Morton, Vicar of the Benefice of East Vale & Avon Villages, said, 'It's quite a big project with costumes and props to sort out, so prayers would be most appreciated!'



Please pray for all who are involved in organising this retelling of the Easter story and for all the children and school staff who will attend.

Malvern Deanery – Rural Dean: David Nichol; Lay Chair: David Sparkes

Peterborough: Bishop Donald Allister with Bp John Holbrook (Brixworth)

Meath and Kildare (Ireland): Bishop Pat Storey

The Church in Central America: Archbishop Julio Thompson

Mon 25 Refugees

Pray for all those who have had to leave their homes because of conflict or persecution, that they will be welcomed into a new community to begin to build a new life.

Malakal (South Sudan): Bishop Hilary Deng with Bps John Gattek (Bentui), Peter Gatbel Kunen (Nasir), David Kiir Mayath (Pariang) • Toamasina (Indian Ocean): Bishop Jean Paul Solo

Tue 26 Parsonages Team

Pray for the Parsonages Team in the diocesan office and give thanks for all they do to support priests and their families. For Mark Wild, Ruth Beard and Sharon Williams.

Malek (South Sudan): Bishop Peter Mayom • Tohoku (Japan): Bishop John Masato Yoshida

Wed 27 Diocese of Peru

A Compassion project at St Juan Evangelista in Lima, working with disadvantaged children, comes to an end next year. Pray for the ministry team, especially Luis and Teófila and the congregation as they plan for the future of the church and its role in the local community.

Malek Rup (South Sudan): Bishop Peter Agok • Tokyo (Japan): Vacant Toliara (Indian Ocean): Bishop Todd McGregor with Bishop Samitiana Razafindralambo

Thur 28 St Oswald's day

O God, you show your wonder in the lives of your saints and you have made this day holy by the death of Saint Oswald, your confessor and bishop. Grant that his example of holiness may lead us to follow in his footsteps.

Malindi (Kenya): Bishop Lawrence Dena • Tonj (South Sudan): Bishop Peter Yuol Gur

Fri 1 MARCH Malvern Deanery

Pray for a developing sense of co-operation in mission across the Deanery and for the appointment of a new secretary. Rural Dean: David Nichol; Lay Chair: David Sparkes; Treasurer: Martin Purser.

Manchester: Bishop David Walker with Bps Mark Ashcroft (Bolton), Mark Davies (Middleton)

Torit (South Sudan): Bishop Bernard Oringa Balmoi with Bps Martin Abuni, Isaac Chon

Sat 2 Great Malvern Priory

Pray for the congregation as it seeks to serve the local community and visitors. Give thanks for all who ministered during the vacancy, particularly the many active, supportive retired clergy and pray for Rod Corke as his new ministry begins as Vicar. Readers: David Webster, Chris Shepherd

Mandalay (Myanmar): Bishop David Nyi Nyi Naing • Toronto (Canada): Bishop Colin Robert Johnson with Bps Peter Fenty, Kevin Robertson, Riscylla Shaw, Jennifer Anderson, Andrew Asbil

Mbaise (Nigeria): Bishop Chamberlain Chinedu Ogunedo

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday will be celebrated this week, in advance of Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is a day of penitence, to clean the soul and a last chance to celebrate and feast before the start of Lent.

Historically, Christians would undergo the ritual of shricing, where they confessed their sins and would receive forgiveness for them. Through receiving forgiveness for sins, people are released from the guilt of having caused them.

It is believed that traditionally a 'shriving bell' was rung to call people to confession; today, in some places, it is still rung, but it is called the 'pancake bell'. This name arose from the story of a woman of Olney, Buckinghamshire, who in 1445 heard the shriving bell whilst making pancakes and ran to the church, still in her apron and clutching her frying pan.

Christians often celebrate and indulge in food on Shrove Tuesday, because Lent is a time of abstinence with many Christians choosing to give up certain foods. In the past, in order that foods were not wasted, on Shrove Tuesday families would use up all the foods that would expire during the forty days of Lent. Pancakes became widely associated with Shrove Tuesday because they were a dish that could use up perishable items like eggs, milk and fat.



Please pray that the Lord will grant strength to all those giving things up during the Lenten period.



Malvern Deanery - Rural Dean: David Nichol; Lay Chair: David Sparkes

Canterbury: Archbishop Justin Welby with Bishop of Dover (Vacant)
Down and Dromore (Ireland): Bishop Harold Miller
Tito (Chile): Bishop Héctor with Bp Zavala Muñoz (Santiago)

Mon 4 Holy Trinity, Malvern

Give thanks for the newly installed organ and pray for people to serve as churchwardens and effective stewardship. Clergy: David Nichol

Manicaland (Central Africa): Bishop Erick Ruwona • Toungoo (Myanmar): Bishop Saw John Wilme • Hawaii (The Episcopal Church): Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick

Tues 5 St James, West Malvern

Give thanks for recent upgrading of the organ and pray for further engagement with the village in mission. Clergy: David Nichol

Maper (South Sudan): Bishop William Machar • Trichy-Tanjore (India): Bishop D. Chandrasekaran

Wed 6 Ash Wednesday

Almighty God, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness.

Truro: Bishop Philip Mounstephen with Bishop Christopher Goldsmith (St Germans)
Mara (Tanzania): Bishop George Okoth • Trinidad & Tobago (W. Indies): Bishop Claude Berkley

Thur 7 Malvern Community Hospital

We remember and pray for all the patients and staff at Malvern Community Hospital. The nursing teams and support staff who serve the community with outstanding care. Lead Chaplain Andy Green, the chaplaincy team and volunteers who provide valued support for patients and staff.

Maralal (Kenya): Bishop Jacob Lesuuda
Tuam, Killala & Achonry (Ireland): Bishop Patrick William Rooke

Fri 8 Churches Together in Malvern

Pray for all the Christian churches in the Malvern area as we work together with the local community - in schools' projects (Lifepath, Open the Book, Seeds for Life, Spring into Life), with Malvern Hills Foodbank, in addressing issues of personal debt and access to financial services, and in extending a welcome to refugees.

Hereford: Bishop Richard Frith with Bishop Alistair Magowan (Ludlow) • Marathwada (N.India): Bishop Madhukar Kasab • Twik East (South Sudan): Bishop Ezekiel Diing Ajang Malangdi

Sat 9 St Andrew, Malvern

Please pray for all the new members of a growing staff team as they become a 'team', for Sarah Yeardon and Kirsty Oldfield, Eddie Edwards, Helen Attree, Judith Keane, Heather Williamson, Jo Hartwright. Clergy: Dave Bruce, Peter Myres

Maridi (South Sudan): Archbishop Justin Badi Arama
Udi (Nigeria): Bishop Chjioke Aneke • Highveld (Southern Africa): Bishop Charles May

Science and Religion Conference at St Bartholomew's CE Primary School, Areley Kings

Tomorrow, St Bartholomew's CE Primary School, Areley Kings, will host its first Science & Religion Conference for schools in the Severn Academies Educational Trust (SAET), in partnership with the Faraday Institute in Cambridge. A range of topics will be explored in exciting and interactive ways, with children in Years 6 and 7. GCSE and A-Level Philosophy students who attend secondary schools within the Multi Academy Trust will support the event.



Lizzie Henderson, Youth & Schools Programme Coordinator at the Faraday Institute, said: "This day offers an exciting opportunity for young people to explore and embrace positive science-faith interactions. Our aim is to support and celebrate informed, imaginative, integrated consideration of 'cross-curricular' topics, as this kind of thinking is vital for exploring the 'Big Questions'."

Workshop topics will explore how the 'Natural World, Conservation and Human Responsibility', and 'Fossils, Evolution and the History of Life on Earth' relate to questions of faith. Children will also have the chance to talk with scientists of faith. This will be a great experience for many young people across the Trust, who may not have previously had the chance to explore such topics.

Please pray for all the participants of this conference in Areley Kings, as they explore ideas of science and religion in a safe environment.

Malvern Deanery - Rural Dean: David Nichol; Lay Chair: David Sparkes

Chelmsford: Bishop Stephen Cottrell with Bishops Peter Hill (Barking), John Perumbalath (Bradwell), Roger Morris (Colchester)

Karlstad (Sweden): Bishop Sören Dalevi

Kindu (The Congo): Archbishop Zacharie Katanda

Mon 11 All Saints, Malvern Wells & Wyche

Pray for increasing partnership with local primary schools and the flourishing 'Messy Church' ministry. May a relationship of faith in Jesus develop. Staff: Dave Bruce, Peter Myres, Jacqui Green, Helen Attree, Eddie Edwards, Peter Buchanan, Paul Hunt

Maridi (Uganda): Bishop Moses Zungu

Ughelli (Nigeria): Bishop Cyril Odutemu • Ho (West Africa): Bishop Matthias Mededues-Badohu

Tues 12 Christ Church, Malvern

We are a small bible-based and Eucharistic-centred congregation with a great welcome and outreach in Malvern. Pray for our work in our schools, our fantastic concerts, our weekly book fairs and coffee mornings and our charity work. Clergy: Harold Goddard

Marsabit (Kenya): Bishop Daniel Qampicha • Ukhahlamba (Southern Africa): Bishop Moses Madywabe

Wed 13 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for Bishop Graham and all from our diocese about to visit Morogoro. Pray also for Bishop Godfrey, the Revd Peter Mkengi (Morogoro Diocesan Link Officer) and for all who prepare for the visit, that it may be a time of joy and an opportunity to grow in faith.

Maryland (USA): Bishop Eugene Sutton • Ukwu (Nigeria): Bishop Samuel Kelechi Eze Umuahia (Nigeria): Bishop Ikechi Nwachukwu Nwosu

Thur 14 St Mary's, Pickersleigh

Please pray for our newly appointed Family and Children's Worker, Sarah, and Mission Enabler, Clare, as we continue to serve our community in Pickersleigh. Clergy: Lynne Sparkes; Reader: Andy Noble; ALM: Chris Beale

Masasi (Tanzania): Bishop James Almasi • Upper Shire (Central Africa): Bishop Brighton Vitta Malasa

Fri 15 Malvern Link with Cowleigh

Pray for our new vision focusing on Children, Community, Contemplation and Creation; for the growth of our congregations and for our parish pilgrimages. ALMs: Sue, Peter, and Sue Meredith. Clergy: Phillip Johnson, Sue Beverly; Readers: Eileen Tomlin, Mike Hancox

Maseno East (Kenya): Bishop Joshua Owiti • Upper South Carolina (USA): Bishop Andrew Waldo Hokkaido (Japan): Bishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu

Sat 16 St Giles, Little Malvern Priory

Pray that the church may discern God's will for its future; for the RAF Air Cadet Chaplains in the Diocese, that their ministry may increase the spiritual awareness of members of the Corps and for those who visit our church. Clergy: Eric Knowles.

Maseno North (Kenya): Bishop Charles Kaskan Asilutwa

Utah (USA): Bishop Scott Hayashi • Honduras (Central America): Bishop Lloyd Allen

Becoming an Eco Diocese

Earlier this month, the Diocesan Eco Group presented to Diocesan Synod to start steps towards becoming an Eco Diocese. Many of us are very aware of the major threats to the environment and of climate change. As Christians, we see it as part of our stewardship of God's gifts to us, to protect the environment by becoming more eco-friendly.

The Eco Church and Eco Diocese schemes offer practical suggestions of how to support this vision. These include teaching about caring for God's earth in worship, conservation of churches and their land, using Fairtrade items, recycling, toilet twinning, and reducing pollution through car-share schemes or walking.

Churches can take the national Eco Church award survey, to assess how environmentally friendly their church is, and could achieve a bronze, silver or gold award. St Cassian's, Chaddesley Corbett, in the Diocese of Worcester, has already achieved a bronze level Eco Church award. Several other environmentally friendly churches in the diocese are also working towards this.

Find out more about
Eco Church and Eco Diocese:
[https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/
eco-diocese/](https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/eco-diocese/)



Pray that the proposal to Diocesan Synod will encourage more churches in our diocese to become more eco-friendly and better stewards of God's wonderful world.

Malvern Deanery - Rural Dean: David Nichol; Lay Chair: David Sparkes

The Church of England: Archbishop Justin Welby

Lichfield: Bishop Michael Igrave with Bps Geoff Annas (Stafford), Clive Gregory (Wolverhampton)

St David's (Wales): Bishop Joanna Penberthy

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia: Archbishop Jānis Vanags with Bps Einārs Alpe, Hanss Jenson

Mon 18 Those in poverty

Pray for all those who live in the most basic conditions and who are hungry in our world of abundance.

*Maseno South (Kenya): Bishop Francis Abiero
Uyo (Nigeria): Bishop Prince Asukwo Antai • Hong Kong Island (Hong Kong): Bishop Paul Kwong*

Tue 19 Those suffering due to natural disasters

Lord, have mercy on the lands where the earth has given way, or the weather has destroyed livelihoods. Prosper those who rebuild houses, and strengthen those who rebuild hope so that communities may face the future without fear.

Maseno West (Kenya): Bishop Joseph Wasonga • Valparaiso (Chile): Bishop Samuel Morrison

Wed 20 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

This weekend volunteers who work with families will share experiences and ideas on how to make our parishes more family friendly, and how children and adults can grow in faith alongside each other. Pray for all of those attending this training as we ask God's blessing on their commitment to work with children and families in our church.

*Masindi-Kitara (Uganda): Bishop George Kasangaki
Vanuatu (Melanesia): Bishop James Tama • Vermont (The Episcopal Church): Bishop Thomas Ely*

Thur 21 St Peter, Powick w. St James, Callow End

Pray for works proposed in both churches - new flooring and carpeting at St James and the Powick Heritage Centre Project at St Peter. Also for our Renew Project and ALMs in training: Vicky and Kay. For ALMs Meg, Barbara. Clergy: Gary Crellin; Readers: Rosemary Davis, Rosemary Wells, Julia Davies

Massachusetts (USA): Bishop Alan Gates with Bp Gayle Harris • Victoria Nyanza (Tanzania): Vacant

Fri 22 Guarford & Madresfield w Newland

Pray for our ministry to our schools, nurseries and the Severn Heights care home, the "15" mums and carers service and for positive and forward looking contributions to our Mission not Maintenance consultation process. ALMs: Meg, Barbara. Clergy: Gary Crellin; Readers: Rosemary Davis, Rosemary Wells, Julia Davies

*Masvingo (Central Africa): Bishop Godfrey Tawonezwi
The Virgin Islands (USA): Bishop Ambrose Gumbs • Hpa-an (Myanmar): Bishop Saw Mark Maung Doe*

Sat 23 Retired clergy in Malvern Deanery

Giving thanks for the retired clergy in the Malvern Deanery, we remember the many who actively serve these parishes at the present. In this reflective season we thank God for the gift of stillness and attentiveness that many bring to their service in this time.

*Matabeleland (Central Africa): Bishop Cleophas Lungam • Virginia (USA): Bishop Shannon Johnston
with Bishop Susan Elynn Goff • Huron (Canada): Bishop Linda Nicholls with Bishop Terrance Dance*

Being a Governor in a Church of England School



School governors form the largest voluntary body in the UK. It is very important to have effective governors in our church schools, who will, as part of their role, encourage the distinctive Christian values of the school. This role is particularly important for Foundation, or Church, governors, who make up part of a church school's governing body.

Church school staff and governors understand education as the way to enable children 'to live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) and to flourish as unique individuals made in the image of God. Our Diocese reaches out to over 21,000 children, teaching them that God's love is everywhere; at school, at play, in class and at home. In many parishes, schools greatly complement the work of the church in the community.

Next Saturday, the Diocesan Education Team will host their first Governor Conference, with the theme of 'Vision into Action'. Two governors have been invited from each of our 100 church schools, to hear presentations from Anthony Collins Solicitors, the Church of England and Ofsted.

For more information about becoming a Foundation governor, please contact: education@cofe-worcester.org.uk

Please pray for people to be called to serve as Foundation governors in our church schools. Please also pray for all governors across our diocese, who work hard to support the children and staff in their school communities.

Worcester East Deanery - Rural Dean: Diane Cooksey; Lay Chair: Mike Bunclark

Ely: Bishop Stephen Conway • **Cashel, Ossory & Ferns** (Ireland): Bishop Michael Burrows
Lund (Sweden): Bishop Johan Tyrberg
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (Hong Kong): Archbishop Paul Kwong

Mon 25 Economy and Daily Life

Today is the Feast of the Annunciation, or Lady Day, which is the traditional day for agreeing agricultural rents. Pray for all tenants, in town and country, for landlords and fairness in all dealings between the two.

Mauritius (Indian Ocean): Bishop Ian Gerald James Ernest • **Waikato & Taranaki** (New Zealand): Bishop Philip Richardson • **Wangaratta** (Australia): Bishop John Parkes

Tue 26 Members of the Armed Forces

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces. Give them courage as they face danger and help them to truly serve the cause of justice and peace.

Matiosane (Southern Africa): Bishop Stephen Diseko • **Waiapu** (New Zealand): Bishop Andrew Hedge

Wed 27 Emergency services

Pray for members of the Police, Ambulance, Fire & Rescue and RNLI as they serve and protect our communities. We give thanks for all that they do and ask for God's protection on them as they carry out their often very traumatic duties.

Matana (Burundi): Bishop Seth Ndayirukiye • **Wad Medani** (Sudan): Bishop Saman Farajalla Mahdi
Hyderabad (Pakistan): Bishop Kaleem John

Thur 28 Worcester East Deanery

Give thanks for the ministry of all within the deanery. Pray especially for new clergy, that they will settle easily into their parish and find good support amongst colleagues. Rural Dean: Diane Cooksey; Lay Chair: Mike Bunclark

Mbaise (Nigeria): Bishop Chamberlain Chinedu Ogunedo • **Warri** (Nigeria): Bishop Christian Ezeji Ideh

Fri 29 St John the Baptist, Claines

Please pray for a new monthly Cafe Church in the Parish Hall and '20/20 Vision', our Church Re-ordering Project. Clergy: Jo Musson, Paula Honniball, Jennie Hayward, Peter Davies, Sue Pollard, David New; Readers: Jean Smallwood, Judy Morris, John Butterworth, Jan Kear

Mbale (Uganda): Bishop Patrick Gidudu • **Washington** (USA): Bishop Mariann Budde
Ibadan (Nigeria): Bishop Joseph Akinfenwa with Bps Segun Okubadejo (Nrth), Akintunde Popoola (Sth)

Sat 30 St George w Mary Magdelene

Please pray for our Godly Play ministry at Riversides School and 'Guardians of Ancora' a new after-school club at St George's School. Clergy: Jo Musson, Paula Honniball, Jennie Hayward, Peter Davies, Sue Pollard, David New. Readers: Jean Smallwood, Judy Morris, John Butterworth, Jan Kear

Mbamili (Nigeria): Bishop Henry Okeke
Wau (S.Sudan): Bishop Moses Bol • **Ibba** (S.Sudan): Bishop Wilson Kamani

Mothering Sunday Sunday 31 March

Make a Mother's Day

Today is Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, a day on which we recognise the importance of those who have cared for and mothered us throughout our lives.

For many years, the Mothers' Union have supported Mothering Sunday's simple message of love and appreciation through their **Make a Mother's Day Appeal**. People can purchase ethical gifts, to make a difference to mothers and communities around the world. This could be through enabling a mother to learn to read, become an entrepreneur or through learning new skills that will help her to improve her home. Donations are distributed across all areas of Mothers' Union's work, wherever the need is greatest.

On this day in the past children would pick wild flowers, like violets, either to take to church, or to give to their mother as a gift. When people buy a Mothers' Union gift, they receive a card featuring native flowers from one of the 80 countries in which the organisation work, in order that mothers still receive flowers on this special day.



The Mothers' Union is a Christian Mission Charity that seeks to support families worldwide, through sharing God's love.

Further information about the Make a Mother's Day Appeal is available on the following link: <http://www.makeamothersday.org/>

Loving God, Thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life.
Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;
Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;
Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.
Let your love be present in every home,
And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Worcester East Deanery - Rural Dean: Diane Cooksey; Lay Chair: Mike Bunclark

Armagh (Ireland): Archbishop Richard Clarke

Funen (Denmark): Bishop Tine Lindhardt

Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean & Diocese of the Seychelles:

Archbishop James Richard Wong Yin Song

Mon 1 APRIL St Stephen, Worcester

Give thanks for the energy already generated by the Calling Young Disciples project. Pray for the engagement with the community as the church articulates a vision for the next stage of its journey. Clergy: Andy Todd, Stephen Malkinson, David Morphy, Sheila Nall; Reader: Margaret Mandrell.

Mbeere (Kenya): Bishop Moses Nthukah • **Wellington** (New Zealand): Bishop Justin Duckworth with Bishop Eleanor Sanderson • **Idah** (Nigeria): Bishop Joseph Musa

Tue 2 All Saints, Worcester

Pray for our Alpha Course running each term to provide space for those exploring questions of faith and meaning, and for our engagement with the university. Clergy: Rich Johnson, Owen Gallacher, Andy Smith, Paul Swann

Mbhashe (Southern Africa): Bishop Elliot Williams • **Wernyol** (South Sudan): Bishop Gabriel Garang

Wed 3 Diocese of Peru

Pray for the Synod happening later this month. The Diocese is moving to a fully elected Bishop's Council, with proper lay representation, which marks a new stage in the life of the diocese. Pray that it will help embed a new culture of transparency and collegiality.

Meath & Kildare (Ireland): Bishop Patricia Louise Storey • **West Ankole** (Uganda): Bishop Johnson Twinomujuni • **West Buganda** (Uganda): Bishop Henry Katumba-Tamale

Thur 4 Those who are lonely

Pray for all of those who are struggling with life because they feel they are on their own. Pray that they will be surrounded with God's love and give them courage to reach out to others in their community.

Medak (South India): Bishop A.C. Solomon Raj • **West Lango** (Uganda): Bishop Alfred Acur Okodi

Fri 5 St Martin in the Cornmarket

Please pray for the parish and our Development Project. Pray that our worship will lead us to God and for stability and peace. Clergy: Colin Butler, Tim Clarke

Melbourne (Australia): Bishop Philip Freier with Bps Paul Barker, Bradly Billings, Kate Prowd, Genieve Blackwell • **West Missouri** (USA): Bishop Martin Field

Sat 6 St Barnabas with Christ Church, Worcester

Give thanks for work being done towards becoming an eco-church and for our developing relationships with schools. Pray for continued growth and our patterns of worship. ALMs: Sue Martyr, Mark Watson, Julia Adams, Jackie Campbell. Clergy: Julieann Watson, Kalantha Brewis

Meru (Kenya): Bishop Charles Mwendwa • **W. Malaysia** (SE. Asia): The Most Revd Ng Moon Hing (Primate) **W. Malaysia** (SE. Asia): Archbishop Charles Samuel with Bp Jayson Selvaraj • **Idaho** (USA): Bishop Brian Thom

Experience Easter with the Halas Team



Experience Easter is an event that brings together local churches, schools and communities to share in the story of Holy Week and Easter. Many church communities engage in similar events during Lent to interactively explore the Easter story.

Last year, St Peter's Cradley invited local school children to take part in the indoor Experience Easter, whilst Experience Easter outdoors was used at St Kenelm's.

Helen Laird, Calling Young Disciples Mission Enabler, said "Both experiences looked at the events of the Easter story in different ways, but with plenty of space to stop and reflect on the tastes, smells and feelings which surround the Easter story, from different people's perspectives. The indoor experience started with the hopes and dreams of Palm Sunday, followed by the washing

of the feet and the Last Supper and ended with the events around the Garden of Gethsemane, the Cross and Easter Morning. Outside, children and adults thought about the arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and Peter's denial in the courtyard, before moving on to views of the Cross and the empty tomb."

After reading how alone Jesus felt whilst praying in the garden, a teacher at St Kenelm's said: "That has made me all goose-bumpy!" Churches in the Halas team hope to run similar events this year.

Please pray for all special events taking place during Lent and Easter, that they might help people to deeply engage with the events of Holy Week.

Worcester East Deanery - Rural Dean: Diane Cooksey; Lay Chair: Mike Bunclark

Uppsala (Sweden): Archbishop Antje Jackelén with Bishop Ragnar Persenius

Llandaff (Wales): Bishop June Osborne

The Church of Ireland: Archbishop Richard Clarke

Mon 8 Tolladine Mission

May we be a listening community, responding appropriately with love and care with God at our centre. Pray for Lay Pioneer Missioner; Sue Martyr, Robin Sykes, Chris Russell, Guy Martyr and for all that travel with us.

Mexico: Bishop Carlos Touche-Porter

West Tennessee (USA): Bishop Don Johnson • Ideato (Nigeria): Bishop Caleb Maduoma

Tue 9 St Wulstan, Worcester

Pray for our church and parish. For our prayer group PCT@5 and Friends' Café. As we embark on a new chapter in the life of St Wulstan, we pray for growth and stability as we continue to be a place that embraces everyone as all are welcome, none are excluded. Thank you to all who have helped during our recent vacancy. Clergy: Sarah Northall

Michigan (USA): Bishop Wendell Gibbs • West Texas (USA): Bishop David Reed with Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson

Wed 10 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for Bishop Godfrey and Diocesan Secretary, Charles Pangapanga, and for all those who are part of the Diocesan Strategic Plan as they seek to improve the quality of Christ centred outreach and the care of all God's people within the Diocese of Morogoro.

Millwaukee (USA): Bishop Steven Miller • West Virginia (USA): Bishop William Klusmeyer Western Izon (Nigeria): Bishop Edeafe Enamezi

Thur 11 St Nicholas, Worcester

We give thanks for our work with young people and families through Kingdom Kids and Lyppard Little Saints. Please pray for our Easter Egg Hunt and Craft Morning on Good Friday. Clergy: Diane Cooksey, Methodist Minister: Helen Caine; Reader: Nick Stephens

Minna (Nigeria): Bishop Daniel Abu Yisa • Western Kansas (USA): Bishop Michael Milliken

Fri 12 Diocesan Synod Members

Pray for all those who are members of diocesan synod. Pray that their discussions will further God's mission in the Church and that they are able to return to their parishes to inspire others.

Minnesota (USA): Bishop Brian Prior

Western Kowloon (Hong Kong): Bishop Andrew Chan • Idoani (Nigeria): Bishop Revd Ezekiel Dahunsi

Sat 13 Worcester South East Team

Pray for St Martin, London Rd, especially for our Mission Action Plan and the introduction of family worship into our service pattern. Pray for our links to Red Hill CE School, Head: Spencer Morris. Clergy: Rob Farmer, Stephen Buckley; Reader: Mike Bunclark.

Mishamikoweesh (Canada): Bishop Lydia Mamazwa with Bp Isaiah Beardy • Western Louisiana (USA): Bishop Jacob Owensby • Ife (Nigeria): Bishop O. A Akinlade • Ife East (Nigeria): Bishop Oluseyi Oyelade

Palm Sunday Sunday 14 April

Chrism Eucharist



The annual Chrism Eucharist traditionally takes place on Maundy Thursday in Holy Week. In our diocese, the service will take place tomorrow because Bishop John, as Lord High Almoner to HM the Queen, has duties at the Maundy Service, helping to distribute Maundy Money.

During the Chrism Eucharist, three specific oils will be prepared and blessed, ready for use in the year ahead. Using the oils of the sick, of baptism and the perfumed oil of chrism is an ancient practice in the life of the Church. The oils are used in many ways, often for the setting apart of people and things for a special place in church life. In addition to the preparation of the oils, during the service those involved in ministry will rededicate themselves, renewing their ministerial vows as deacons, priests and bishops.

The use of oils has biblical roots. When Peter acknowledged Jesus as 'the Christ', he recognised him as the 'Anointed One' of God. Jesus was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the river Jordan; through baptism, his true identity was revealed. Nowadays, on certain occasions, the sign of the cross is traced on people in oil, to signify union with Christ.

Please pray for all those who are taking part in tomorrow's Chrism Eucharist, witnessing the preparation of the oils and renewing their ministerial vows. Please also pray for Bishop John as he assists HM the Queen on Maundy Thursday.

Worcester East Deanery - Rural Dean: Diane Cooksey; Lay Chair: Mike Bunclark

*Derby: Bishop Libby Lane (Designate) with Bishop Jan McFarlane (Repton)
Clogher (Ireland): Bishop John McDowell • Aalborg (Denmark): Bishop Henning Bro
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East: Archbishop Suheil Dawani*

Mon 15 Worcester South East Team

Pray for St Philip & St James, Whittington, that we may develop our church building and links to the village hall to better serve our community. For Whittington CE School, Head: Gary Richards, and areas of new housing being built. ALM: David Chestney. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Bishop Christopher Mayfield, Stephen Buckley; Readers: Mike Bunclark, Tim Parker

Mississippi (USA): Bishop Brian Seage

Western Massachusetts (USA): Bishop Douglas Fisher • Ifo (Nigeria): Bishop Nathaniel Olajede Ogundipe

Tue 16 Worcester South East Team

Pray for St Mark in the Cherry Orchard, that we may strengthen community links, especially with those who use our church hall. Pray for Acorns Children's Hospice in our parish. ALM: Carol Oliver. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Richard Heading, Stephen Buckley; Readers: Mike Bunclark, Tim Parker

Missouri (USA): Bishop Wayne Smith • Western Mexico: Bishop Ricardo Osnaya

Wed 17 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Pray for clergy, musicians and volunteers preparing services and events to make the celebration of Easter a highlight in the life of our parishes. May God bless our Easter services and open the eyes, ears and hearts of all those who attend.

*Mityana (Uganda): Bishop Stephen Kaziimba • Western Michigan (USA): Bishop Wayne Hougland,
Western New York (USA): Bishop William Franklin*

Thur 18 Worcester South East Team

Pray for the people of Holy Trinity & St Matthew, and for the wider parish in Ronkswood, during our vacancy, that God call the right priest to minister in this place. Pray also for our Building Project and for all those who have worked tirelessly for the future of our church. Clergy: Vacant; Reader: Tim Parker

Mombasa (Kenya): Bishop Alphonse Mwaro Baya

Western Newfoundland (Canada): Bishop John Organ • Western N.Carolina (USA): Bishop José McLoughlin

Fri 19 Good Friday

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love; in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are.

*Monmouth (Wales): Bishop Richard Pain • Western Tanganyika (Tanzania): Bishop Sadock Makaya,
Igbomina (Nigeria): Bishop Emmanuel Adekola*

Sat 20 Worcester City In-Patient Unit

We remember and pray for all patients & staff at Worcester City In-Patient Unit. Matron Jo Roberts and her dedicated team who provide outstanding care. Lead Chaplain Andy Green, the chaplaincy team and all who provide valued support for patients and staff.

Montana (USA): Bishop Franklin Brookhart

Wiawso (West Africa): Bishop Abraham Ackah • Igbomina - West (Nigeria): Bishop Olajide Adebayo

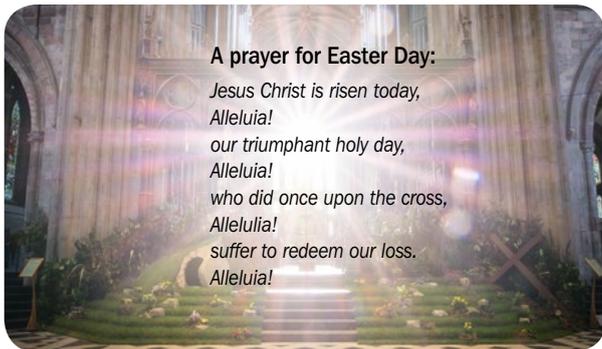
Easter Sunday Sunday 21 April

Easter Day Sunrise Services

At the breaking of dawn on Easter day, many Christians around the world join together to celebrate communion out of doors. In the Diocese of Worcester, several church communities follow this tradition.

In Tardebigge, people will meet in the darkness of the church just after 5am, before emerging outside into the dawn of Easter Sunday to share communion. After the service, congregation members make their way into the church hall to warm up with bacon sandwiches and hot drinks.

The congregation at Pershore Abbey celebrate a 6am Service of Light every Easter Day, which is followed by the seasonal treat of boiled eggs at the nearby St Andrew's Church. To begin, everyone meets outside the Abbey to light the Easter fire, before processing inside with the newly lit Easter candle. The darkness of Holy Week is gradually overwhelmed by the new light. During the service, the congregation renew their baptismal vows at the font, before celebrating communion together. Seasonal hymns are sung, accompanied by a small voluntary music group, often formed of flutes, a violin and a guitar.



A prayer for Easter Day:

Jesus Christ is risen today,
Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day,
Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross,
Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss.
Alleluia!

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of the Land of the Holy One.

Worcester East Deanery - Rural Dean: Diane Cooksey; Lay Chair: Mike Bunclark

Blackburn: Bishop Julian Henderson with Bps Jill Duff (Lancaster), Philip North (Burnley)
Brechin (Scotland): Bishop Andrew Swift • **The Lutheran Church in Great Britain:** Bishop Martin Lind

Mon 22 Worcester Almshouses

For the chaplaincies at Laslett's and St Oswald's (Chaplain: Sue Irwin). For loving communities where the elderly can be valued. For Nash's & Wyatt's Court, Berkeley's Court and Walsgrove Court, Queen Elizabeth's Almshouses and The Royal Albert and St Swithun's catering for the elderly and disadvantaged.

Montreal (Canada): Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson • **Willochra (Australia):** Bishop John Stead
Ijebu (Nigeria): Bishop Ezekiel Awosoga • **Ijebu - North (Nigeria):** Bishop Solomon Kuponu

Tue 23 Retired Clergy in Worcester East

We give thanks for the many retired clergy who have experienced a new sense of vocation in their later years. We pray that with them we may continue to be attentive to the new things God is doing around us.

Moosonee (Canada): Bishop Thomas Corston
Winchester: Bishop Tim Dakin with Bishop David Williams (Basingstoke)

Wed 24 Economy and Daily Life

In Easter week, pray for new hope and life in economic life, both at the scale of nations and international trade, and for those seeking work or starting a new business. Pray for those who see no hope, that the light and presence of the Risen Christ would touch their lives this Eastertide.

Moray, Ross & Caithness (Scotland): Archbishop Mark Strange • **Windward Islands (West Indies):** Bishop C. Leopold Friday • **Wondurba (South Sudan):** Bishop Matthew Peter

Thur 25 Worcester Royal Hospital

Pray for the new Chief Executive Matthew Hopkins and for the staff who work under huge pressure. Pray for the Chaplaincy in its role supporting patients and staff. Chaplains: David Southall, David Ryan, Helen Glithero, Claire Ord

Morobo (South Sudan): Bishop James Elia • **Worcester:** Bishop John Inge with Bishop Graham Usher (Dudley)

Fri 26 Ordinands in Training

Pray for all those who are currently in training for ordination from our diocese.

Morogoro (Tanzania): Bishop Godfrey Sehaba • **Wulu (South Sudan):** Bishop Zacharia Mangar Apeti
Ijesa North East (Nigeria): Bishop Joseph Olusola

Sat 27 Finance Team in the Diocesan Office

Pray for the Finance Team in the diocesan office and give thanks for all they do to support parishes. Assistant Diocesan Secretary, Stephen Lindner; Assistant Accountant, Debra Fox; Senior Accounts Clerk, Thelma Milliken; Accounts Clerk, Jo Burr.

Mount Kenya Central (Kenya): Bishop Timothy Gichere • **Mount Kenya South (Kenya):** Bishop Timothy Ranji with Bishop Charles Muturi • **Mount Kenya West (Kenya):** Bishop Joseph Kagunda

Launch of All Saints as a resourcing church



All Saints in Worcester is one of two churches in the Diocese who have received funding to become a resourcing church – enabling it to better support other churches as well as its local community.

The congregation gathered with Bishop John last November, to launch officially the church's new role. Bishop John said: "Jesus gives us the power to love, to be servants and to give ourselves. Like many churches, All Saints already has these hallmarks."

The funding will enable All Saints to develop their church building and employ additional team members to enable them to grow. "As a resourcing church, it will be helped and resourced, in order to have a vision for the whole city," Bishop John continued, "thereby becoming a resource and a blessing to others."

Rich Johnson, Vicar of All Saints said: "Being officially designated as a resourcing church will be an exciting opportunity to be innovative." Resourcing churches are part of a national Church of England strategy to bring more people to faith and to continue to serve local communities effectively. "Over the next few years," Rich continued, "we will be working with the Diocese to plant new churches, work in partnership to revitalise existing churches and share our resources so that the whole Church in Worcester might flourish."

Please pray for All Saints, that it will encourage more people to come to faith and that it will be a helpful resource for other churches in the Diocese.

Dudley Deanery – Rural Dean: Dominic Melville; Lay Chair: Anne Penn

*Gothenburg (Sweden): Bishop Susanne Rappmann • Glasgow & Galloway (Scotland): Vacant
The Anglican Communion in Japan: Archbishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu*

Mon 29 Dudley Deanery

Pray for our Deanery as we continue to develop a new shape to ministry in Dudley Town Centre. For Katryn Leclézio, Deanery Mission Enabler and Deanery Link Reader: Val Cope. Lay Chair: Anne Penn; Rural Dean: Dominic Melville

Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania): Bishop Stanley Elleleka Hotay • Wusasa (Nigeria): Bishop Ali Buba Lamido • Ijesha North (Nigeria): Bishop Isaac Oluyamo

Tue 30 Forge Group Ministry

Please pray for all who serve God at St Andrew, Netherton and for all on the PCC during their vacancy. Clergy: Vacant; Reader: Norman Jeavons

Mpumalanga (Southern Africa): Bishop Daniel Kgomoosotho • Wyoming (USA): Bishop John Smylie

Wed 1 MAY Diocese of Peru

The bishop and diocese continue to explore new possibilities for training and formation, for new and existing clerical and lay ministries. Pray they will find the right people and resources, and that it will lead to a better equipped and educated ministry and church.

Mpwapwa (Tanzania): Bishop Jacob Chimeledya • Yambio (South Sudan) Archbishop Peter Munde Yacoub • Yangon (Myanmar): Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo, with Bishop Samuel Htang Oak

Thur 2 Forge Group Ministry

Please pray for the parish of St Peter, Darby End as they continue to search for a new vicar. For the churchwardens and PCC. Clergy: Vacant; Ecumenical Partner: Brian Roberts

Mthatha (formerly St John's) (Southern Africa): Bishop Hummingfield Ndawndwe Yeji (South Sudan): Bishop Hilary Adeba Luete

Fri 3 Forge Group Ministry

Pray for all in Dudley Wood and Cradley Heath, particularly those to be confirmed this year; those struggling with their health; the PCC away day as we try to discern God's desires for us as a church; and for the development of Cradley Heath Community Link and those who benefit from its ministry. Clergy: Alicia Baker, Chris Enwerem

Muhabura (Uganda): Bishop Cranmer Mugisha • Yeri (South Sudan): Bishop John Nyari Ijumu (Nigeria): Bishop Paul Olarewaju Ojo

Sat 4 Dudley Town Churches

Top Church is one of the diocesan resourcing churches. Give thanks for the faithful service of the existing congregation and their willingness to accept change. Thanks also for the new congregation being formed and pray for James Treasure and the team.

*Mukono (Uganda): Bishop James Ssebaggala
Yewa (Nigeria): Bishop Michael Adebayo Oluwarhunbi • Ikara (Nigeria): Bishop Yusuf Janfalan*

Readers

Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM), also known as Readers, are part of the nationally recognised public ministry of the Church of England. Approximately 160 people provide this voluntary ministry in our diocese. They are trained in theology, pastoral work and a variety of other ministerial skills. At the heart of the role there is a ministry of the word, of teaching, preaching and leading worship. However, Readers also engage in other elements of church life, including chaplaincy and community involvement.

Peter Buchanan, LLM at All Saints' Church, Malvern, said: "I was licensed as a Reader over 27 years ago. All those years ago my then vicar recognised that I might be useful at the front of the church and almost instantly I found myself training. For me, the glory of the role is that each of us can use and develop the particular gifts we have been given. For me, that means a teaching and discipleship type of preaching. Several churches regularly invite me and seem to think I have useful things to say and say them in an interesting way. I thank God that I can use His gift."

Next weekend, Readers in the Diocese of Worcester have been invited to come together for the Readers' Weekend at Holland House, to explore the theme of 'Learning to become better teachers of faith'.



Please pray for all Readers who minister to us, support us and seek to encourage other people's gifts.

Dudley Deanery – Rural Dean: Dominic Melville; Lay Chair: Anne Penn

*Southwark: Bishop Christopher Chessun with Bps Richard Cheetham (Kingston), Jonathan Clark (Croydon), Karowei Dorgu (Woolwich) Björgvin (Norway): Bishop Halvor Nordhaug
The Anglican Church of Kenya: Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit*

Mon 6 Dudley Town Churches

Hugh Burton was licensed as Team Rector of Dudley in April. Pray for wisdom for him as he gets to know the people of the different congregations.

Multan (Pakistan): Bishop Leo Paul • Yirol (South Sudan): Bishop Paul Tokmach Lual with Bishop Isaac Nyariyel Aleth • Ikeduru (Nigeria): Bishop Emmanuel Maduwike

Tue 7 Dudley Town Churches

The church leadership is Hugh Burton (Team Rector), James Treasure (Vicar of Top Church), Tom Atfield (Team Vicar), Rachel Akers (Team Vicar), Maggie Clift (Reader) & Sue Sharp (ALM). Give thanks for good relationships. Pray for those in training or in the process of transferring to the team and for ongoing collegiality and friendship.

Mumbai (India): Bishop Prakash Patole • Yokohama (Japan): Bishop Ignatius Osamu Irie

Wed 8 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for medical staff and all others who work at the Tunguli Health Centre, a clinic linked to Berega Hospital. We remember those who have the responsibility of ensuring that the tractor provided by Worcester Diocese is used for the benefit of all who live in the Tunguli area.

Mumias (Kenya): Bishop Joseph Wandera • Yola (Nigeria): Bishop Markus Ibrahim York: Archbishop John Sentamu with Bps Paul Ferguson (Whitby), John Thomson (Selby), Glyn Webster (Beverley), Alison White (Hull)

Thur 9 Dudley Town Churches

Dudley Parish has three parish churches (Top Church, St Francis, St Augustine) and two chapels of ease (St Barnabas, St James). Additionally the benefice includes St John, Kates Hill. St Edmund comes under the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. Give thanks for the co-operation that exists and pray this may develop.

Mundri (South Sudan): Bishop Bismark Azumu • Ysabel (Melanesia): Bishop Ellison Quity

Fri 10 Dudley Town Churches

Dudley has areas of significant social need and also significant affluence. Pray for the churches that together we may engage with all of society. Give thanks for weddings, funerals and christenings and the opportunities for ministry they bring.

Mundu (South Sudan): Bishop Samuel Eluzai Yukon (Canada): Bishop Larry Robertson • Ikka (Nigeria): Bishop Peter Onekpe

Sat 11 Dudley Town Churches

Pray for the political, economic, educational and social life of Dudley and the churches' engagement with it. Give thanks for the churches' relationship with the Council, Dudley College and Dudley's schools.

Muranga South (Kenya): Bishop Julius Karanu Wa Gicheru Zaki-Biam (Nigeria): Bishop Benjamin Vanger • Ikwerre (Nigeria): Bishop Blessing Enyindah

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week starts tomorrow and this year's focus is on maternal health in Sierra Leone, sharing the key message of "All mums should live."

Church volunteers have collected donations during Christian Aid Week since it began more than 60 years ago to help people living in extreme poverty to protect themselves when disaster strikes.



Sierra Leone is the most dangerous place in the world to become a mum as they lack the funds to provide basic healthcare. Pregnancy and childbirth is a time of fear for women; there is only one midwife per ten thousand people. Many women cannot afford to travel the long distances to hospitals, and consequently give birth at home with aid from traditional birthing attendants. Complex births sometimes challenge the attendants' limited skill-set and many women lose their babies and sometimes their lives.

Women who fear giving birth at home often walk to hospital when labour pains begin. Jebbeh's sister was one of these women; sadly, she didn't make it to hospital and she died with her baby by the side of the road. Jebbeh is expecting her own baby, and she is scared.

This Christian Aid Week, funds will be raised to help women like Jebbeh give birth safely. Christian Aid want to fund health clinics, health worker training, sanitation training and equipment, to make giving birth a time of celebration, not fear.

Please pray for Jebbeh, her child and other women in Sierra Leone. Please also pray for all those raising money for Christian Aid this week.

Dudley Deanery – Rural Dean: Dominic Melville; Lay Chair: Anne Penn

Gloucester: Bishop Rachel Treweek with Bishop Robert Springett (Tewkesbury)

Västerås (Sweden): Bishop Mikael Møgren

The Anglican Church of Korea: Archbishop Moses Naŕun Yoo

Mon 13 Dudley Town Churches

Dudley is a place of different cultures. Give thanks for people's resilience, humour & welcome; and pray for continued good relations.

*Muyinga (Burundi): Bishop Paisible Ndacayisaba
Zanzibar (Tanzania): Bishop Michael Hafidh • Ikwo (Nigeria): Bishop Kenneth Ifemene*

Tue 14 Halas Team Ministry

Pray for St Kenelm, Romsley; for our work in the village hall, especially with children, lunch club and MU teas. For the right decisions about future ministry provision. For our school, Head: Suzanne Shackleton & ALMs: Selina & Iris. Clergy: Rob Hall, Dominic Melville; Reader: Pat Hall
Myanmar: Bishops Andrew Sa Aung Lin Htin & Clement San Oo • Zaria (Nigeria): Bishop Abiodun Ogunyemi

Wed 15 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Last week our synod elected a new bishop for the EKM. Pray they will receive God's loving guidance, and that that through their leadership our parishes, schools and institutions are welcoming for all who seek God.

*Mytikyina (Myanmar): Bishop John Zau Li
Zonkwa (Nigeria): Bishop Jacob Kwashi • Zululand (Southern Africa): Bishop Monument Makhanya*

Thur 16 Halas Team Ministry

Pray for St Peter's Cradley; for the restoration of St Luke's Reddal Hill's church clock and for the sense of community which has developed around this project. Pray as we focus on outreach and reorder our building as St Peter's Community Hub. ALMs Lynn & Christine, Head: Marcia Harris. Clergy: Katryn Leclézió; Reader: Karen Chaplin

Nagpur (India): Bishop Paul Dupare • Aba (Nigeria): Bishop Christian Ugwuzor

Fri 17 Halas Team Ministry

Pray for St John the Baptist in Halesowen, for our congregation and ministry of hospitality for visitors, plans for the building to serve its community better, growth in discipleship and new initiatives for children. For our school, Head: Lorna Knowles; Readers in training: Charles Morgan & Sally Spencer; ALM in training: Sue Harding. Clergy: Dominic Melville

*Nairobi (Kenya): Bishop Joel Mwangi • Aba Ngwa North (Nigeria): Bishop Nathan Kanu
Ikwuano (Nigeria): Bishop Chigozirim Onyegbule*

Sat 18 Halas Team Ministry

Pray for St Margaret of Antioch, Hasbury. That we may give a warm and inclusive welcome to all and grow together as disciples. For our nurture of our children, and for St Margaret's School; Head: Sara Shepherd. For our ALMs, Helen, Anne, Graham, Marilyn, and all in our ministries. Clergy: Rob Hall; Reader: Susan Cresswell

*Nakuru (Kenya): Bishop Joseph Muchai • Nakuru (Kenya): Bishop Musa Kamuren
Abakaliki (Nigeria): Bishop Monday Nkwoagu • Ilaje (Nigeria): Bishop Fredrick Olugbemi*

VÉLO 100

Last Sunday, the Revd David Morris and the Revd Nick Gowers joined thousands of others in the Vélo 100 Birmingham & Midlands Cycle event.

17,000 riders raced through the countryside as they completed the 100-mile cycle route around the West Midlands. Starting in the heart of Birmingham City Centre, riders travelled along the cobbled roads surrounding Coventry Cathedral, before passing through Solihull, Warwickshire, Dudley and Sandwell.

Nick Gowers said: "For me the Vélo was a personal challenge to do something I've never done before. It forced me to be disciplined with regular sustained exercise which I find so helps with ministry, life and well-being. In the build-up, I really enjoyed the head-space, prayer-space, and freedom of cycling on the roads."

David Morris said: "When you have cycled together with people for 6 or 7 hours, there is a lot of time to chat. People are often surprised that you are there and also that Christians can be quite normal! Just by simply being present allows people to talk about faith-based things that they would usually feel uncomfortable to express. For many, sports go deeper than what they do, they speak to who they are."



Pray for all those who use sport as a part of their ministry and a way to share the good news of Jesus. Pray also that David and Nick do not ache too much after their ride!

*Dudley Deanery – Rural Dean:
Dominic Melville;
Lay Chair: Anne Penn*

*Guildford: Bishop Andrew Watson
with Bishop Jo Wells (Dorking)
Viborg (Denmark):
Bishop Henrik Stubkjær*

*The Anglican Church of Melanesia:
Archbishop George Takeli*

Mon 20 Halas Team Ministry

Pray for the community that surrounds St Peter's, Lapal, including our ever growing Community Choir, Men's breakfast, Craft and Natter, Coffee Mornings & Pudding Club. For local schools especially Chaplaincy at Leasowes High School. For churchwardens Pam Jones & Roy Bicknell. Clergy: Hazel Charlton working with Sarah Bardell to be ordained at Petertide.

*Nambale (Kenya): Bishop Robert Barasa
Aberdeen & Orkney (Scotland): Bishop Anne Dyer • Ile - Oluji (Nigeria): Bishop Abel Ajibodu*

Tues 21 Holy Trinity Old Hill

Pray for the Spirit to work the gospel deeply into people's lives, to send us out and to see a greater harvest for the kingdom from within our communities. Clergy: Nick Gowers, Rich Hackett, Readers: Yvonne Binder, Phil Hall, Robert Higham

Namibia (Africa): Bishop Luke Pato • Abuja (Nigeria): Archbishop Nicholas Okoh

Wed 22 Economy and Daily Life

Pray for all in the season of GCSEs, A-levels and college exams, and for decisions to be taken about next steps by all young people, especially those anticipating entering the job market.

*Nandyal (India): Bishop Eggoni Pushpalalitha
Adelaide (Australia): Archbishop Geoffrey Smith with Bps Tim Harris, Christopher McLeod*

Thur 23 Ecumenical & interfaith relations in Dudley Deanery

Please pray for Churches Together groups across the area, for the work of the Black Country Food Bank, the promotion of Fair Trade through the churches, and the continuing commitment to respectful and well-informed relations between different faith groups in the area.

*Namirembe (Uganda): Bishop Wilberforce Luwalira
Abyei (South Sudan): Bishop Michael Deng K Bol • Accra (West Africa): Bishop Daniel Torto*

Fri 24 Retired Clergy in Dudley Deanery

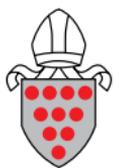
We pray for the retired clergy and their families living in Dudley Deanery, asking that they might find comfort and companionship in the congregations with whom they worship and come to know God in ever more new and wonderful ways.

*Nasik (India): Bishop Pradip Kamble • Afikpo (Nigeria): Bishop Paul Udogu
Ilesa (Nigeria): Bishop Samuel Sowale • Ilesa South West (Nigeria): Bishop Samuel Egbunmi*

Sat 25 Russells Hall Hospital

Pray for the staff, patients and volunteers at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley. For Chaplain, Mark Stobert and the chaplaincy team.

*Nasir (South Sudan): Bishop Simon Lual Bang Jal • Agra (North India): Prem Prakash Habil
Indianapolis (USA): Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows with Bp Catherine Waynick*



 THE CHURCH
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