



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



Prayer Diary

April 2021

Bishop John – The Hope of Easter

It's no accident that Easter, which speaks to us of new life, occurs in the Spring when everything is bursting into leaf and bloom.

The word Lent is a shortened version of the Old English lencten, which means spring season and at this time of year, the world around us speaks of the triumph of life over death, of love over fear, of light over darkness.

The resurrection of Jesus – new life emerging from pain and death - is at the heart of our Christian faith. It is a reminder that our lives have an eternal significance. Death does not have the last word for those who have died and neither must it for those of us who survive.

Although each of the many thousands of pandemic deaths is a dreadful tragedy, we need to commend them into God's hands and look to the future – for their sake as well as our own.

There is now real hope on the horizon, with many people receiving the vaccination and the gradual easing of restrictions.

This Easter day, let us remember that God can bring good out of bad and pray that we will all play our part in ensuring happens by working for a better society as a fitting memorial to the thousands who have died.

Mon 5 Ordinands in training

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

Tue 6 Archdeacons and office

Pray for the Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert Jones, and the Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke, along with their secretary Kathy Jones. Give thanks for all that they do and give in the life of our diocese.

Wed 7 Diocese of Peru

Peruvian elections are held on 11 April. It has been a turbulent time since the last general election in 2016, with four presidents, multiple resignations, corruption allegations and widespread voter dissatisfaction. Pray for fair, peaceful elections and for a government which will be best for the Peruvian people in the midst of so many challenges.

Thur 8 Greater Dudley Deanery

Pray that as we learn to work together with imagination, creativity and courage, the mission of the Church will develop in new ways across the Greater Dudley Deanery. Area Dean: David Hoskin; Sub-Deans: Rachel Newell, Andrew Sillis; Lay Chair: John Nicholson; Treasurer: Michael Bishop

Fri 9 Amblecote

Pray that our rebuilding of fellowship in our church is effective, and that our reaching out in the rebuilding of community in our parish bears fruit. Pray for our ALMs. Clergy: Alan Williams; Readers: Eirlyn Jenkins, Mary Phillips

Sat 10 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.



Greater Dudley
Area Dean: David Hoskin

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

Prayer for our Baptism Families:
Loving Father, bless all families with the ability to love unconditionally and in the hardest moments. Help them to realise what Jesus gave up so that they could know love and life. Amen.

Uppsala (Sweden):
Archbishop Antje Jackelén
Llandaff (Wales):
Bishop June Osborne

Belize (West Indies): M
Bishop Philip Wright

Bendigo (Australia): T
Bishop Matt Brain

Benin (Nigeria): W
Bishop Peter O. J. Imasuen

Bentiu (South Sudan): Th
Bishop John Gattek

Bermuda: F
Bishop Nicholas Dill

Bethlehem (USA): S
Bishop Kevin Nichols

Please pray for Chris Boden as he navigates his new post of Stewardship & Resources Officer in these challenging times. Pray for wisdom as he works with parishes to support their financial stewardship.

New Stewardship & Resources Officer

Last month, Chris Boden started in his new role of Stewardship and Resources Officer, taking over from Alison Maddocks. Chris will work with parishes across the Diocese to support them in their financial stewardship and help them to offer a clear and compelling vision for generous Christian giving.

For the past 10 years, Chris has been a brother in the Society of St Francis, an Anglican Order based at houses around the country, including at Glasshampton in our diocese. Most recently he worked as Provincial Bursar for the Society and was responsible for all financial, legal and building maintenance aspects of the charity, including how to best use their finances for mission and ministry.

Chris said: "This is an exciting role to be taking on at this time. The Diocese is going through a time of change and finances need to be a part of that; but it's important that issues around money are seen in the context of our mission and ministry. My role will be very people-focussed, talking with parishes to understand the challenges they're facing, which have been made more acute due to the pandemic, and helping to find new and creative ways of dealing with these."



Mon 12 Clent

Pray for the parishes of Clent and Hagley as they move towards becoming a new benefice, for our ALM; for a vision for how to develop a pattern of church services following worship on Zoom, and for outreach into the local community. Clergy: Richard Newton, Kim Topham; Reader: Alison Lewis

Tue 13 Brierley Hill Team

Pray for wisdom, energy and courage for all the churches of the team as we discern how to build anew in the coming months. Clergy: David Hoskin, Carol Weston; Readers: Keith Colley, Val Houghton; Reader-in-training: Tracey Skidmore.

Wed 14 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for the people of Morogoro and Tanzania as they struggle with illness and death caused by Covid-19. Bless the doctors and nurses working in Morogoro's government hospital, Berega's diocesan hospital and its link health clinic in Tunguli. We especially remember Dr. Annes as she begins her work of caring for those who live in this beautiful area.

Thur 15 Brierley Hill Team

Pray for Mission Enabler, Amy Stokes, who will be working with St John's, Brockmoor & St Mark's, Pensnett developing work with young people. Clergy: David Hoskin, Carol Weston; Readers: Keith Colley, Val Houghton; Reader-in-training: Tracey Skidmore.

Fri 16 Christ Church, Coseley

Praying for continued strength in serving our community, both online and in person. That we may faithfully respond to God guiding us towards new and different ways of being Church. For our ALM. Clergy: Emma Stanford, Tim Westwood

Sat 17 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all our churches as more in-person services are able to resume. Give parishes the confidence to look at how worship might have changed during the pandemic and decide on the best approach for a post-Covid world.

A renewal project at Bengeworth Church, Evesham

The Revd Andy Smith has been appointed to lead a new project at St Peter's Church in Bengeworth. Andy has served his curacy at All Saints, Worcester, one of two Resourcing Churches in the Diocese which have received funding from the national church. One of the key roles of a resourcing church is to plant new churches and revitalise others to help reach the 93% of our communities who are not currently part of any Christian community.

Andy will be officially licensed to the church in September after which he will work with the church to develop a new vision and establish a number of services which will appeal to different people, including more informal worship.



Andy said: "St Peter's has a wonderful tradition of worship and I want to honour that while also starting a service which is aimed specifically at young people and families. My aim is to help a wide range of people catch Jesus' vision for their lives and help them grow in the love of God. I'm really looking forward to moving to Evesham to start this new project!"

Andy and his family will be moving to Evesham over the summer. He is also putting together a team of people from All Saints' Church in Worcester to move with him to worship alongside the existing congregation.

Mon 19 St Mark, Pensnett

Dearest Father, please help us to work together with a humble heart, to help each other, to encourage each other and to remember that the community is the church we serve. Clergy: Vanessa Tobin

Tue 20 St Chad, Coseley

As we continue to walk with Christ, we pray that the Easter light shines forth from our hearts, enabling us to become beacons of hope and love in the community of Coseley. Clergy: Gary Harthill.

Wed 21 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We give thanks for continued partnership between our churches in Germany and England, praying especially for the Three Confessions Conference by video-link next week, and for the involvement of the Roman Catholic Church in our link.

Thur 22 Forge Group Ministry

Please pray for God's vision for Darby End and Netherton, and for our work in the local schools. Clergy: Rich Hackett; Readers: Norman Jevons, Brian Roberts.

Fri 23 Forge Group Ministry

Please pray as we approach a vacancy as Alicia Baker moves on. Pray for the PCC and ministers, for the future of Community Link and give thanks for those who are helping. Clergy: Alicia Baker; Reader: Val Cope.

Sat 24 Dudley Top Church (St Thomas & St Luke)

Pray that we would fulfil our vision as a church to become a thriving Anglican Church which is a blessing to our community and resource to other churches. Clergy: James Treasure, Rachel Newell, Sarah Bardell, Foluso Enwerem; Reader: Maggie Clift

Pray for Andy and his family as well as the existing congregation at St Peter's Church in Bengeworth as they look forward to this new chapter in the life of the church.

*Greater Dudley Sub-Deans:
Rachel Newell, Andrew Sillis*

The Church of Ireland:

Archbishop John McDowell

Blackburn:

Bishop Julian Henderson with

Bishops Jill Duff and Philip North

Brechin (Scotland):

Bishop Andrew Swift

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain:

Bishop Tor Berger Jørgensen

Boga (Democratic Republic of Congo):

Bishop Mugenyi William Bahemuka

Bolivia (South America):

Bishop Raphael Samuel

Bondo (Kenya):

Bishop David Kodja

Bor (South Sudan):

Archbishop Ruben Akuridid Ngong

Botswana (Central Africa):

Bishop Methayothle Rawlings Beleme

Brandon (Canada):

Bishop William Clift

M *Bhopal (India):
Bishop Manoj Charan*

T *Bida (Nigeria):
Jonah G. Kolo*

W *Biharamulo (Tanzania):
Bishop Yusuph Vithalis*

Th *Birmingham:
Bishop David Urquhart
with Bishop Anne Hollinghurst*

F *Blackburn:
Bishop Julian Henderson
with Bishops Jill Duff and Philip North*

S *Bo (Sierra Leone, West Africa):
Bishop Solomon Scott-Manga*

M

T

W

Th

F

S

Pray that groups such as the Spirituality Network inspire people to reflect on how they and those near to them might grow their spirits and souls in Christ.

Greater Dudley Lay Chair:
John Nicholson

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan):
Archbishop Luke Kenichi Muto
Gothenburg (Sweden):
Bishop Susanne Rappmann
Glasgow and Galloway (Scotland):
Bishop Kevin Pearson

The Diocesan Spirituality Network

Spirituality is all we Christians really have to offer the world, because the Gospel is nothing other than growing in union with Christ. We are learning how to grow our spirits, grow our souls, in Christ – and helping others to discover with us that this is the fullness of life we seek.

The Diocesan Spirituality Network is a collection of all sorts of folk from across Worcestershire and Dudley who want to grow their souls and the network encourage everyone to join in. The group meet virtually or face to face two or three times a year, spending a morning together.

Join them for a morning on Zoom on Thursday 6 May, from 10am. Canon Peter Kerr, well known to many in the diocese, will lead the session, reflecting on how our spirits, our souls, have fared over the past year - Signposts & Sanctuaries: Our Pilgrimage through the Pandemic. To book your place, contact Nick Wright: revnmwright@btinternet.com



Mon 26 St Edmund, Dudley

We pray for our church as we look for new ways to evangelise to the people of Dudley in 2021. We pray for our local community, that they may be receptive to the message and love of Christ. We also pray for all clergy, retired and in post, who support us in our ministry. For our churchwardens. Clergy: Vacant

Tue 27 Dudley Team Ministry

Pray for us as we have conversations about what the future holds for our churches. Also pray for the community foodbank on the Woodside Estate, that the team would work well together and we would make good connections in the community. Clergy: Hugh Burton, Rachel Newell, Sue Hale

Wed 28 Economy & Daily Life

On this Workers' Memorial Day, pray for safety and wellbeing for those working in your community, for all under stress at work and vulnerable to mental illness, and for health and safety and environmental health officers.

Thur 29 Dudley Team Ministry

St Francis' Parish Centre is now a Vaccination Centre for Covid-19. Pray that this will run smoothly, volunteers will work well together, and that it will help make good connections with the local community. Clergy: Hugh Burton, Rachel Newell, Sue Hale

Fri 30 Dudley Team Ministry

Pray for courage to face the future and to find new ways to engage with local communities as we return to physical worship. Clergy: Hugh Burton, Rachel Newell, Sue Hale

Sat 1 MAY Growing as Kingdom People

As lockdown measures hopefully continue to ease, help us to share hope throughout our communities; showing the love of Jesus in all that we do.

M *Brasília (Brazil):*
Bishop Maurício Jose Araujo
De Andrade

T *Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo):*
Bishop Molanga Jean Botola

W *Brechin (Scotland):*
Bishop Andrew Swift

Th *Brisbane (Australia):*
Bishop Phillip John Aspinall

F *Bristol:*
Bishop Vivienne Faull
with Bishop Lee Rayfield

S *British Columbia (Canada):*
Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee



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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.

