

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent



"We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate."



**Services Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

**Holy Trinity Oakengates**

9.30am Holy Communion

**St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy**

4.00pm Holy Communion & Baptism

**St Georges Telford**

9.30am Morning Worship

**Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood**

8.00am Holy Communion BCP

11.00am Morning Worship

**St Matthew's Donnington Wood**

11.00am Holy Communion

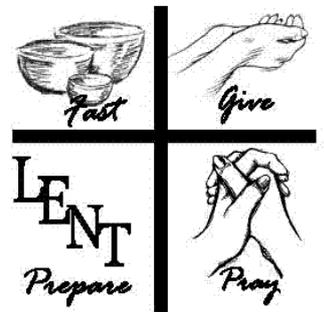
**St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge**

11.00am Morning Worship

*Please note: Dates and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.*

**Collect - The Third Sunday of Lent**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



	<b>Readings</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
	Psalm	95
	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Exodus 17.1-7
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Romans
	Gospel	John 4.5-42

**Services Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday**

**Holy Trinity Oakengates**

9.30am Morning Worship

**St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy**

11.00am Morning Worship

**St Georges Telford**

9.30am Holy Communion

**Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood**

11.00am Holy Communion

**St Matthew's Donnington Wood**

11.00am Morning Worship

**St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge**

11.00am Holy Communion

*Please note: Dates and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.*

## Services Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

### Holy Trinity Oakengates

9.30am Holy Communion

11.30am Baptism

### St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

4.00pm Holy Communion

### St Georges Telford

9.30am Morning Worship

### Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

11.00am Morning Worship

### St Matthew's Donnington Wood

11.00am Holy Communion

### St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

11.00am Morning Worship

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## Services Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Palm Sunday

### Holy Trinity Oakengates

No Service

### St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

10.30am Benefice Service - *Liturgy of the Palms*

- *Liturgy of the Passion*

### St Georges Telford

No Service

### Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

No Service

### St Matthew's Donnington Wood

No Service

### St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

No Service

We are gathering at **Holy Trinity Academy Secondary School** in Teece Drive, Priorslee, TF2 9SQ for all the Churches to join together at 10.30am Palm Sunday Benefice Worship. The building is fully accessible for those who require the use of a lift to gain access to the chapel and it is nice & warm!!!

*The clocks also change on 29<sup>th</sup> March to mark the beginning of British Summer Time (BST). The clocks moving forward 1 hour means that we lose time in bed – so don't be late for church!!*

**IT'S RUN-TO-CHURCH-  
SLIGHTLY-LATE SUNDAY:  
THE DAY THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD**

*Please note: Dates and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.*

### EMAIL NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email regularly please contact [newsletter@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk) requesting you would like to receive it weekly, or can be found on our Website at [WWW.Easttelfordbenefice.co.uk](http://WWW.Easttelfordbenefice.co.uk)



Palm Sunday	10.30am	Holy Trinity Academy – Priorslee	Benefice Service - Liturgy of Palms - Liturgy of the Passion
Mon 30/03	7.00pm	Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood	Ecumenical Service
Tues 31/03	7.00pm	St Georges Church	Choral Evensong
Wed 01/04	TBC	TBC	Compline
Maundy Thursday	11.00am	Lichfield Cathedral	Chrim Eucharist
	1.00pm – 3.00pm	Priorslee Place of Welcome	Seder Meal
	7.00pm	Holy Trinity Oakengates	Foot & Hand Washing followed by Stripping of the Altar
	7.00pm – 9.00pm	St Matthews Donnington Wood	Stripping of the Altar & The Watch
Good Friday	11am	Wombridge Church	An hour before the Cross

## Those in need of our prayers

Please pray for the families of Terence Stevens, James Baxendale and all who are grieving the loss of loved ones at this time.

Merciful God, be close to all who mourn.  
 May they know the hope of your promises  
 and the comfort of your love,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



In our prayers we remember the Church, its members and our community. We pray for those who are unwell, either at home or in hospital and those who are adjusting to changes in their lives. We also remember those who can no longer join us physically in our church buildings for worship or fellowship.

### At this time please pray for:

- The unrest across the world and that peace will prevail over all
- Lent to be a time where we can 'get real with God'
- Our Church PCC's as they plan for the future
- We pray for all walking faithfully through Holy Week preparing for Easter Sunday.



You have committed to our care those who live in this Benefice, Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to hear your voice and to follow you that we, and all your disciples, may grow in faith and love. Inspire, equip and enable us to play our part in your mission that your kingdom may come here in this Diocese. We cannot know all the different people around us, but we ask that your Holy Spirit will guide us to those situations where we can minister something of your love and compassion. Help us to rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and bring practical solutions to problems we encounter, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

Sunday Readings	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel
<b>08 Mar</b> <i>Lent 3</i>	Exodus 17.1-7	Romans 5.1-11	John 4.5-42
<b>15 Mar</b> <i>Lent 4</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Exodus 2.1-10	2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17	Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25-27
<b>22 Mar</b> <i>Lent 5</i>	Ezekiel 37.1-14	Romans 8.6-11	John 11.1-45
<b>29 Mar</b> <i>Holy Week</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>Liturgy of the Palms</i> Matthew 21.1-11 <i>Liturgy of the Passion</i> Isaiah 50.4-9a	Philippians 2.5-11	Matthew 26.14-end of 27

### Daily Readings

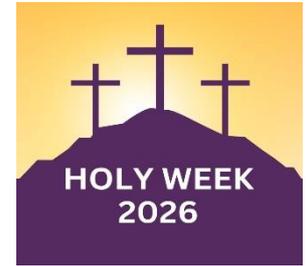
Morning

Evening

Monday	09/03	Hebrews 4.14-5.10	John 7.37-52
Tuesday	10/03	Hebrews 5.11-6.12	John 7.53-8.11
Wednesday	11/03	Hebrews 6.13-end	John 8.12-30
Thursday	12/03	Hebrews 7.1-10	John 8.31-47
Friday	13/03	Hebrews 7.11-end	John 8.48-end
Saturday	14/03	Hebrews 8	John 9.1-17
Monday	16/03	Hebrews 9.1-14	John 9.18-end
Tuesday	17/03	Hebrews 9.15-end	John 10.1-10
Wednesday	18/03	Hebrews 10.1-18	John 10.11-21
Thursday	19/03	Matthew 13.54-end	Matthew 2.13-end
Friday	20/03	Hebrews 10.26-end	John 11.1-16
Saturday	21/03	Hebrews 11.1-16	John 11.17-27



Monday	23/03	Hebrews 11.17-31	John 11.28-44
Tuesday	24/03	Hebrews 11.32—12.2	Galatians 4.1-5
Wednesday	25/03	Romans 5.12-end	Hebrews 2.5-end
Thursday	26/03	Hebrews 12.14-end	John 12.12-19
Friday	27/03	Hebrews 13.1-16	John 12.20-36a
Saturday	28/03	Hebrews 13.17-end	John 12.36b-end
Monday	30/03	Luke 22.1-23	Colossians 1.18-23
Tuesday	31/03	Luke 22.[24-38] 39-53	Galatians 6.11-end
Wednesday	01/04	Luke 22.54-end	Revelation 14.8-15.4
Thursday	02/04	Luke 23.1-25	Ephesians 2.11-18
Friday	03/04	John 18.1—end of 19	Colossians 1.18-23
Saturday	04/04	John 2.18-22	1 John 5.5-12



## Those whose years mind we keep

### Priorslee

- 08 Mar** Doris Harper, Sidney Plant, Peter Evans, Thomas Hassall  
**15 Mar** Barbara Corbett, Mary Stanworth, Maureen Stokes, Mary Peake, Sidney Pearce, Joyce Le Neveu, Keith Corbett, Jane Tyler  
**22 Mar** Doris Plant, Edith Canning, John Lane, Thomas Taylor, James Plant, Brian Clayton  
**29 Mar** Roland Martin, Stephen Adams, Barry Smith, Charles Glazzard, Elsie Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Eric Perrins

### Oakengates

- 08 Mar** Gloria Fletcher, Annie Briggs, Flossie Briggs, Frederick Pheby, Percy Spreckley, Frank Sylvester, Edwin Rigby, Jack Duggan, Francis Jefferies, Ann Beamson, Margaret Roche, Lilian Shepherd, Harold Watkins, Jack France, Kyle Alvis  
**15 Mar** Ada Kendall, Elizabeth Latham, Charles Palfrey, Harold Walker, Charles Mansell, Jessie Taylor, Nelson Woodward, Louisa Gwilliam, Robert MCourt, Kathleen Beamson, Clifford Barrow  
**22 Mar** Reginald Day, Robert Davies, Herbert Marston, Ronald Lucas, Mary Heath, Frederick Weaver, Florence Oldaker, Brenda Bailey  
**29 Mar** Gertrude Ainslow, George Pugh, Beatrice Cartwright, Evelyn Groom, Kenneth Few, Josephine Coles

### Wrockwardine Wood

- 08 Mar** Martha Hoggins, Gerald Cartwright, Nick Jackson, Norman D. Lee MM, Percy Nicholls, Eileen Howells, Cecil Price, Nita Gallier, Rosemary Duffy, Ernest Howells, Allen Dunn, Joyce Brown, George Williams, Derek Cooper, Percy Briggs, Nicky Jefferis, Elsie Fellows, Lillian Roberts  
**15 Mar** William Cotterill, Irene Ball, Leslie Binsley, Kenneth Biddulph, Sidney Pearce, Baby Solana Lucia Morris, Emily Jones, John J. Bothwell, Evelyn Bradley, Walter Ruscoe  
**22 Mar** Lillian Gregory, Elsie Davies, Robert Joseph Turner, Elizabeth (Betty) Hoare, Arthur Hubert Upton, Edith Iris Brittain, Jane Maloney, Horace Taylor, Edward Reynolds  
**29 Mar** James Beard, Rosina (Rose) Kirkwood, Maurice Jones, John Scott, Ivy Taylor, Harriet Molineaux, Margaret (Ann) Jones, Hilary Teale, Susan Kinsey, Joan Johnson, Margaret Stones, Percy (Harry) Dibsall, William Wallace, Michael Lee

### Donnington Wood

- 08 Mar** Charles Conde, Audrey Lewis, Jean Turner, Winifred Jones, Florence Stillwell, Horace Jervis Preb (Priest), Alfred Owen, Violet Mainwaring, Christopher Jones

- 15 Mar Freda Guest, Clarice Thompson, Sam Martin, John Laver, Iris Price, Lillian Ford, Robert Stewart, Bernard Guest
- 22 Mar Albert Biddulph, Jean Athersmith, Ilene Kitching, Gwyneth Mapp, Elizabeth Steward, John Pitts, Bernard Davies
- 29 Mar Jabez Stevens, Patricia Inglis, Hilda Edmunds, Anthony Locke, Arthur Lake



**Please Note:** – the Lent course 'Faith Working Through Love' based on N T Wright resources due to run from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Wrockwardine Wood Church has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

**CANCELLED**

### **BAPTISMS WEDDINGS & FUNERALS IN CHURCH**

We are always excited to be able to celebrate Baptisms, welcome you for your Wedding or help you through a difficult time arranging a Funeral within our Churches. Funerals are welcomed in Church or at the Graveside and Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood are able to livestream funerals. Please telephone Kerry, Benefice Administrator to discuss arrangements.

Our Ministers are also available for Services at the Crematorium, please speak with your Funeral Directors to make arrangements.

### **Regular Dates for Diaries (For participation or prayer)**

- Mon 8.00pm Compline via Zoom
- Tue 9.00-10.00am Prayer Group at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood  
7.00pm Whist in aid of Holy Trinity Oakengates (1<sup>st</sup> Tue of month) at Maddocks Club
- Wed 8.45-10.30am Tea & Toast (Place of Welcome) at HT W/Wood (Term time only)  
9.00-11.00am Food Bank & Clothes Bank at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood  
9.15am Morning Prayer at Wombridge Church  
10.30am Midweek Service at St Matthew's Donnington Wood  
11.30am Bible Chat session at St Matthew's Donnington Wood  
11.00am Midweek Service at  
12.00-2.00pm Place of Welcome at Holy Trinity Oakengates  
7.00-8.00pm Prayer Group meeting at St Georges (4<sup>th</sup> Wed each month)
- Thu 1.00-3.00pm Pray Bake Read at Lantern Academy Ketley Bank (Only during School Term)  
1.00-3.00pm Place of Welcome at Priorslee Scout HQ
- Fri 10-11.00am St Georges Church open for chat & refreshments  
12.30-2.00pm First Friday Free Lunch at Wombridge Parish Centre (1<sup>st</sup> Friday)  
8.00pm Compline via Zoom
- Sat 4.00-5.30pm Messy Church at HT Wrockwardine Wood (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month)  
11.00-1.00pm Welcome Saturday at St Matthews Donnington Wood (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month)

### **Additional Dates for Diaries**

- Wed 11/03 11.00am Funeral of Elena Jean Hughes at Aston House St Georges
- Wed 11/03 7.30pm St Georges Church Quiz Night at St Georges Social Club
- Sat 14/03 4.00pm Messy Church at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
- Sat 21/03 11.00am Welcome Saturday at St Matthew's Church Donnington Wood
- Sun 22/03 3.00pm Telfordaires Barbershop in concert at Holy Trinity Oakengates
- Mon 30/03 7.00pm Ecumenical Service at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
- Sat 04/04 Easter Breakfast at Wombridge Church Parish Centre
- Tue 28/04 7.00pm Deanery Synod Meeting at St Michael & All Angel's Church Lilleshall

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## **SAFEGUARDING**

For all the churches in our benefice, the safeguarding, safety and security of each person is of the utmost importance. We have across all our churches committed to safeguarding and have adopted the national and diocesan safeguarding policies.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of the Coordinators, Churchwardens or the Benefice Admin office if you have any questions and concerns and understand that everyone has a role to play to ensure we achieve our aim of being a benefice who cares and protects all who visit.

For more information: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding.php>  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/national-safeguarding-standards>

To report a Benefice concern please contact [admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk) and Kerry will direct you to the relevant safeguarding officer.

## **IMPORTANT.....BE AWARE!!!** Please be careful!

We have received reports that there have been scam phone calls and emails being sent to people seeking to extract money with a highly plausible and well-informed story from clergy and others with positions of responsibility in parishes.

At this time of year, such scams are rife. It is likely that churches and their congregations will be targeted again. It bears repeating that the stories are highly plausible: please beware and make others aware.

(Seasonal) phone scam warning



## **PRAYING AT HOME**

As we get older our involvement in local church life changes, and we find we have less time for physical activity but more time for prayer! We are a community of prayer – at home and in church. As a Benefice we are grateful to Nigel who hosts Compline (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (extremely easy to join on a mobile phone with internet access) at 8pm on Monday and Friday evenings. For more information please contact Nigel at [Nigelcollins8561@gmail.com](mailto:Nigelcollins8561@gmail.com) Come, pray with us!

## **BIBLE CHAT GROUP**

The Bible Chat Group meet weekly at St Matthew's Church Donnington Wood on Wednesdays at 11.30am. The group uses the themes from the Everyday Faith App as a basis of their weekly discussion. If you would like to join these discussions please do attend as new friends are always welcome.

## **EVERYDAY FAITH APP**

Everyday Faith is a Church of England app offering daily readings, reflections, responses and prayers under various themes; recent themes have included: Journeying with others, Days of small things, Glimpses of Glory, and Generous Words, with each theme looking at where and how we meet God as we go about our lives. Faith is found in our joys and cares, in our challenges and conflicts as we lean into God's presence and guidance. Faith informs our thinking and our actions as we discern how God might be using us in his work. Faith is an ongoing encounter with God - an **Everyday Faith**, an everyday existence with the God who holds all things together. You can download Everyday Faith from your app store.

### **Contact Details**

Interim Minister: Revd Dr Tom Atfield  
07449 770111  
[revdtom@yahoo.com](mailto:revdtom@yahoo.com)

Licensed Reader: Christopher Harris  
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[cjharrissinging@btinternet.com](mailto:cjharrissinging@btinternet.com)

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[admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk)

Administrator: Kerry Debenham  
01952 615367 (9.30am-12.00pm)  
[admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk)

Ecumenical Coordinator & Lay Funeral Minister:  
Sue Rawlings  
07715173634 [Suerawlings12@gmail.com](mailto:Suerawlings12@gmail.com)

## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter Sunday is always a magnificent expression of wonderful beauty and new life with the creative and colourful floral displays. The cost of these especially the Easter Lillies continues to increase year on year. If you are able to help with this cost please pass donations in an envelope marked Easter Flowers to your Church Warden, or if you would like to produce a flower arrangement please speak also to your Church Warden.

## EASY FUNDRAISING

For those who shop online it is possible to help fundraise for your Benefice Church, by using the easy fundraising website to make your purchases from many of the well-known retailers. Why not use this website at no cost to yourself but a money earner for the church!

For more info:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterspriorslee>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holytrinitywrockwardinewood>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holytrinityoakengates>



What? Crafts Games Stories  
Fun and Food

Where ? Holy Trinity Church  
Wrockwardine Wood TF27AH

When ? Saturdays 4.00-5.30pm

Come and join our Messy  
Church Team as we craft  
and learn about God  
finishing up with some  
singing and food

Dates for your Diary  
13th of December  
10th of January  
14th of February  
14th of March  
11th of April  
9th of May  
13th of June  
11th of July



### Messy Church needs your help!

Our Messy Church takes place for the benefice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month at Holy Trinity Church Wrockwardine Wood. Fiona and Kerry are looking to draw up a rota of helpers who would be able to help and oversee a craft table and talk about God/Jesus to those who attend.

### **Next Messy is 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Our aim is to build a team so we can continue to run this as a monthly service, rather than taking it to a quarterly event.

### Compline via Zoom

As a Benefice we are grateful to Nigel who hosts Compline via Zoom at 8pm on Monday and Friday evenings.

For more information  
please contact Nigel at  
[Nigelcollins8561@gmail.com](mailto:Nigelcollins8561@gmail.com)

### TOMBOLA STALLS

Each of the churches in the Benefice are always in need of small quality items suitable for use on Tombola Stalls.

If you can offer items for these stalls then please pass them to churchwardens who will forward them to the events coordinators for each of the churches. *Thank You.*



Ecumenical  
Service

The next Service will be on  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm  
at Holy Trinity Church  
Wrockwardine Wood

All are welcome to come along.

For more information about Ecumenical  
events please contact Sue Rawlings.

### ST GEORGE'S PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets  
on the fourth Wednesday  
of each month between  
7pm & 8pm  
at St George's Church.



The next meeting is on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March and is open for all to attend. During the time together there may be a brief discussion about issues of the day and/or individual concerns and then there is a time of prayer. Sometimes a bible passage is read and following a brief discussion may be used as a focus for additional prayers.

**Free Community Lunch**  
On the first Friday of each  
month  
**12.30pm to 2.00pm**  
Wombridge Parish Centre

Thanks to sponsorship by  
**the co-op**

All welcome to join us for a light lunch, dessert  
and hot drink – followed by a short game – pop  
in or stay for as long as you wish - everyone  
welcome 😊

**ST. GEORGE'S  
PARISH CHURCH**  
PRESENTS  
**'QUIZ NIGHT'**  
TO BE HELD AT  
ST GEORGES SOCIAL CLUB  
WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026  
AT 7.30pm

ADMISSION: £2.50 PER PERSON  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED  
TEAMS UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 5 PERSONS  
ALL PROCEEDS FOR CHURCH FUNDS

**All Welcome**

**Please note:** this will not be taking place at Wombridge Parish Centre on the first Friday as it will be Good Friday, instead it will be held on Fri 10<sup>th</sup> April.

You are invited to our monthly

**WELCOME  
SATURDAY**

**Where:** St MATTHEW'S CHURCH  
DONNINGTON WOOD TF2 7HP

**When:** 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2026  
11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

**Activities** this month will include:  
planting seeds for summer  
raffle for Church funds  
Memory Menders sharing their  
upcycled items

Drop in for a cup of tea,  
our welcome is warm  
and refreshments are  
**free!**

Holy Trinity Church  
Oakengates  
Presents

**The Teifordaires**

An afternoon of  
Popular and traditional singing  
By this local Barbershop group  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
at 3-00oclock  
Tickets £10-00 to include Tea and cake

Telephone Gill on 07964954912

### PRAY BAKE READ

**PRAY**....INTENTIONALLY FOR YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL  
**BAKE**....A CAKE FOR STAFF EVERY HALF TERM  
**READ**....1:1 WITH A STUDENT ONCE A WEEK

Would you like to support children at The Lantern Academy, Ketley Bank by spending 1-2 hours a week with pupils listening to them read on a 1:1 (Thursday afternoons 1-3pm, Years 1 & 2 infants).  
*Why do we want to do this?*

As Christians, the Bible teaches us to love our neighbour. Our church and the many schools in our Benefice are close neighbours in our community and we want to show God's love to them by serving them in a practical way. It really is that simple.

If you are interested please speak to Julia Ayers, or contact [newsletter@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk) and your details will be passed to the organiser.



## PLACES of WELCOME at HTO, HTWW & St PETERS



This outreach is something which has helped bring our community together and we are always pleased when new people attend. The format is simple – a short service, a shared breakfast/lunch (toast, soup and roll or sandwiches), chat/board games/puzzles/craft etc.

Please do let your friends and neighbours know about these Places of Welcome especially those who live alone or those who are looking for a place to meet new people. You will find a warm welcome at each of these Places of Welcome. We look forward to meeting you!

Please note St Peters meets at: Priorslee Scout HQ, Snedshill Way, TF2 9QQ



**Wednesday  
12 - 2 pm**



## From the Deanery & Lichfield Diocese

### **DEANERY SYNOD**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April (change of date) 7pm for a 7.30pm Start at St Michael & All Angels Church, Lilleshall TF10 9HE

### **BISHOP MICHAEL TO RETIRE IN SEPTEMBER 2026**

After ten years as Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Igrave has chosen St Chad's Day, 2 March, to announce his intention to retire. HM the King has graciously given his permission for him to resign the See of Lichfield at the end of September 2026 when he will have been ordained for 44 years. Bishop Michael shared the news with clergy and lay ministers gathered to celebrate St Chad's Day in Lichfield Cathedral late on Monday afternoon, 2 March. It was ten years exactly since his nomination as 99th Bishop of Lichfield.

Announcing his retirement plans, Bishop Michael referred to the constant inspiration of St Chad over his ten years, describing himself as "humbled to be amongst one of the successors of St Chad, our first and greatest bishop."

(Article taken from: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/bishop-michael-announces-his-retirement.php>)

## From the Church of England

Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent

This year's resources for Lent have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter. For more information:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>



Week Beginning 8th March 2026

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 307

We pray for the implementation of our diocesan strategy 'Seeking the Kingdom', within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously and we pray for the people & leaders of Russia; and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March:

*(Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910. Felix, Bishop, Apostle to the East Angles, 647. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929)*

A prayer remembering 'Woodbine Willie', or Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, that we may always manage to balance the mundane and the magnificent;

Glorious God, we give thanks for high and holy things as well as the common things of earth: Awaken us to recognize thy presence in each other and in all creation, so that we, like Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, may love and magnify thee as the holy, undivided Trinity; who liveth and reigneth one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup>:

Lord, we start a series of prayers for Penkrige Deanery by lifting before you each of its church schools. We pray for Brewood's two church schools, the Middle School, and St Mary and St Chad's First School. We pray for the First Schools of St Nicholas' in Codsall, St Paul's in Coven, St Leonard's in Dunston, St Michael's in Penkrige, and St Mary's in Wheaton Aston. We pray for the First Academy of St John's Bishopswood, and the Primary School of All Saints in Bednall. We pray for the Primary Academies of St John's Essington and Havergal in Shareshill. Please may your hand rest upon the staff and volunteers who work in any of these schools in whatever role; and for all the children and their families who are part of them.

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>:

We pray for this afternoon's session at Shallowford House on [Working with Difficult People](#). Lord, we lift before you all those relationships in our lives that are not what either of us would want them to be. Lord, please grant us more patience and understanding, especially when we might find it most difficult. Lord, so too please grant us a measure of self-awareness as to when we ourselves are the difficult people, and a heart to make ourselves less difficult for those around us.

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>:

Lord, we pray for the Education Team's first session today on '[Understanding Christianity](#)'. We thank you for this resource from the National Church, and pray it may help more young people to know more about you. Lord, please help us to never think we 'Understand Christianity' ourselves, but always know how much more of you there is to discover, and be excited about just where that journey may take us.

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>:

Lord, please be with the Bishop's Staff Meeting as they gather today. Please guide and inspire the discussions they have and decisions they make to serve your will and purposes here.

Lord, we lift before you tonight's Bible Study from Dr Dave Allen on [Discipleship in the Old Testament](#), especially focussing on Esther and Daniel. Lord, please help and guide us when we may find or feel ourselves in the courts of unfamiliar places or customs, and please guide us as to how we may lovingly make a positive difference through our presence there.

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup>:

*Continuing our prayers for Penkrige Deanery, a prayer for the Watershed Benefice;*

We pray for the four churches of The Watershed Benefice: All Saints Lapley, St Mary's Wheaton Aston, St Mary's Blymhill, and St Andrew's Weston-under-Lizard. We pray for wisdom, guidance and unity from the Holy Spirit as the Revd Alex Keen leads the PCCs in a review of their service pattern, to establish a fresh vision and direction for mission and worship in the Benefice.

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>:

Lord, we lift before you Diocesan Synod as it meets this morning in Aldridge. We pray for wisdom and guidance, for courage and discernment, so that in all the areas the diocese may face they may become opportunities rather than challenges. Lord, please help us to seek, serve, and build your Kingdom in this place.

So too we lift before you today's online session on Pioneering Parishes, as they explore '[Values Setting and Embedding](#)'. Lord, please guide each one of us to the values we should set for ourselves and help us to embed them in our lives.

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**For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican cycle of prayer: [anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx](http://anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx)**