



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



Prayer Diary

July to November 2026

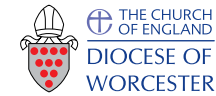
In this prayer diary, we're praying for the deaneries of Redditch and Bromsgrove and Greater Dudley

Redditch and Bromsgrove are significant urban centres in the Diocese of Worcester. The deanery as a whole serves over 140,000 people with 23 parish churches in areas of varying affluence and social dynamic in urban, suburban and rural contexts. Our key priority is 'collaboration' as we seek to discern how we can work better together to fulfil our mission, and we are working for all centres of worship across our area to be healthy and sustainable fellowships living out their unique call to be Kingdom People.



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

Our 'prayers from our young people' in this edition have been written by the children at Oldswinford CE Primary School in Greater Dudley Deanery



Foreword from Bishop Hugh



If Christians had a job description – or at least one that had more detail than 'Love God, love your neighbour and do it all by following Jesus' – prayer would be near the top of the list of role responsibilities.

Prayer isn't something we get to once we've done everything else, nor is it for Christians with a particular gift; prayer is who we are and what we do.

Sometimes we pray for particular people or places. Sometimes we pray with deep emotion, sometimes all we can do is turn up. We pray with words, with scripture, with song – and often in silence.

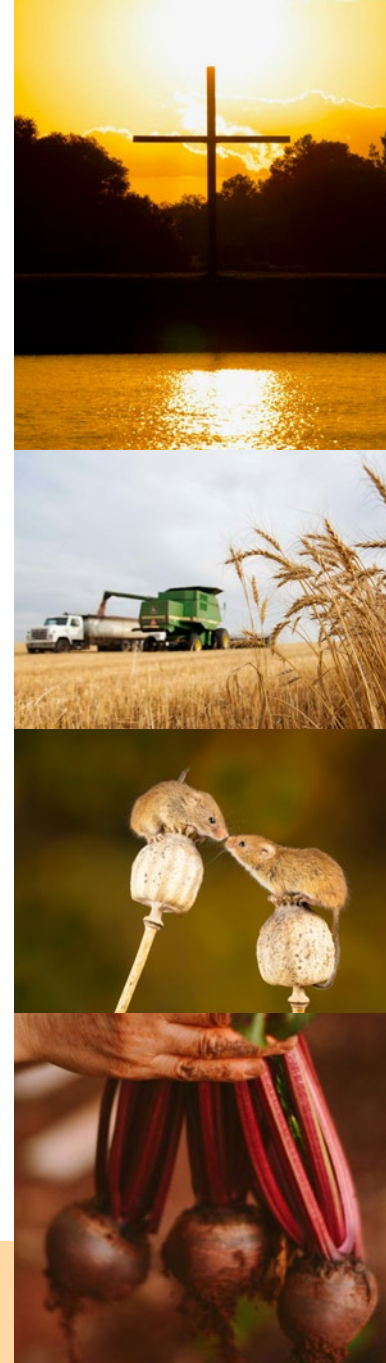
This prayer diary is an encouragement to pray. I hope the people and places that it names help you focus your prayer as you do what Christians are called to do. More than that, I hope that it calls us all more deeply into the life-giving relationship with God who is the source, purpose and end of all our prayer.

+ Hugh

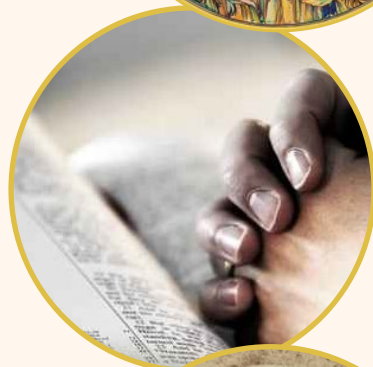
Bishop Hugh, Bishop of Worcester

We try to pray for those with a licence from the Bishop by name, but please do remember all who minister and witness with them in each parish.

On Sundays we are offering a monthly prayer for you to pray for your baptism families and we also continue to pray for dioceses around the world through the Poorvoo prayer calendar (Sundays) and the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. These are all placed in a column, on the side edge of each page.



Different Ways of Praying



2026 is the 800th anniversary of St Francis's death. Anglican Franciscans are celebrating the anniversary by organising a Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage.

St Francis started life as a son of a rich merchant, a playboy, a soldier and then as a prisoner of war. Then his life changed forever - Francis had a call from God to 'rebuild his church'. Francis forsook his previous life and lived instead a life dedicated to God. St Francis is best known for his love of animals but, in fact, he was so much more than this! He dedicated his life to 'Lady Poverty' – eschewing the trappings of wealth and social status to live a simple life dedicated to living with and serving the poor, the needy and those cast aside by society and celebrating God's love found in all of creation.

Franciscan prayer is infused with the 'notes' of St Francis's life and work: **Humility, love and joy**. Periods of silence and stillness offer a sacred space for acknowledging the fact that we don't know the mind of God and so we can often get it wrong; that love is what holds the universe together and we are held by that love in spite of our failings; that creation shouts with joy by its very presence and it is always there, drawing us into joy if only we will notice.



Summer Holidays

As the school summer holidays begin, many are looking forward to a change of pace. After months of lessons, exams, assemblies, playground conversations and busy routines, summer can offer a welcome opportunity to rest, reflect and be refreshed.

We give thanks for teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, lunchtime supervisors, governors and all who help schools to flourish.

For some, this summer marks the end of primary school, secondary school, college or university. There may be excitement about new opportunities, but also uncertainty about what lies ahead.

We also remember those for whom the holidays can be difficult. The loss of routine, increased pressures at home, loneliness, financial worries or concerns about safety can make the summer months particularly challenging.

We give thanks too for all our churches that offer holiday clubs, activities, meals and safe spaces during the summer, sharing God's love in practical ways.



Mon 27 Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery

We pray that our two distinct areas grow together as we seek to work to be the body of Christ across the variety of settings and churches we enjoy. Deanery Leadership Team: Paul Lawlor, Kashmir Garton, Alan Conant, Martin Allen, Elaine Whitfield and Rose Humphrey

Tue 28 World Conservation Day

Creator God, on World Conservation Day, help us cherish and protect your creation. Give us wisdom to live sustainably, courage to act responsibly, and hope as we care for our shared home. Amen.

Wed 29 Diocese of Peru

In recent years, Lima has become a more dangerous city for many inhabitants, with extortion and organised crime a growing problem. Pray for the Anglican clergy, lay ministers and congregations of the Lima area, as they seek to worship and provide hope in a climate of fear and political uncertainty. Pray too for all those who seek to oppose the violence and corruption which is a reality of life for so many.

Thur 30 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

Pray for God's help to grow as a team. For our ALMs and retired clergy as they work alongside our clergy and LLMs to build a shared ministry. Clergy: Alan Conant, Amanda Arthur, Ray Khan, Janet Hatton, Ann Cogle. Readers: Janet Hewer, Hilda Roxborough, Rosemary Sumner, Sally Gale, Geoffrey Westwood

Fri 31 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

Give thanks for our wardens who carry the burden of looking after the mission and maintenance of our 10 buildings, particularly for Catshill and Wychbold whose buildings face significant current challenges, pray to find a way forward.

Sat 1 AUGUST Kingdom People

Dear Lord, help us to know you better. Deepen our understanding and help us become your light here on earth each and every day.

Sunday 26 JULY

Trinity 8

Loving God, bless all who learn, teach and care for others. Bring rest to the weary, guidance to those facing change, and comfort to those who struggle. Strengthen churches and communities serving children and families this summer. Amen.

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

The Anglican Church of Tanzania:
Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania:
Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis
Derry & Raphoe (Ireland):
Bishop Andrew Foster

Armagh (Ireland): M
Archbishop John McDowell

Armidale (Australia): T
Archbishop Brad Billings

Arochukwu / Ohafia (Nigeria): W
Bishop Johnson C. Onuoha

Aru (Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo): Th
Archbishop Georges Titre Ande

Asaba (Nigeria): F
Bishop Kingsley Obuh

Asante-Mampong (West Africa): S
Bishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith



A Prayer for Pilgrimage

We are all, in our own way, on a pilgrimage called life. Noticing the presence of God on that journey can change everything – for our good and the good of those around us.



*Lord God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
We are pilgrims on the way.
Every day we walk with Francis.
We share his wonder, his pain, his joy.
As we travel may we hear, with open hearts, the
cry of the earth and the cries of those who suffer.
May we bring healing along the paths we tread,
praying with Francis;
“May the Lord give you peace.”
Amen.*

Mon 3 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

Pray for our New Worshipping Communities and outreach to families, for Totwalds, Pizza Church, Rise & Shine, Soul & Senses, 20 is Plenty and All Age Worship. Pray for lay leadership and increasing links with schools across the team.

Tue 4 Bromsgrove Team Ministry

For the PCC/DCCs as they prayerfully face the financial challenges across the team and as we explore our welcome to new housing. Also for a wise use of our resources and for a good response to a stewardship focus later this year. Clergy: Alan Conant, Amanda Arthur, Ray Khan, Janet Hatton, Ann Cogle. Readers: Janet Hewer, Hilda Roxborough, Rosemary Sumner, Sally Gale, Geoffrey Westwood

Wed 5 Diocese of Morogoro

We give thanks and pray for all those who serve in whatever way at the Tunguli Clinic, the small community hospital which is linked with Berega Hospital. In particular, we pray for the new midwife, Salmin, who is just beginning his duties, as he seeks to promote women's health throughout this remote area and for his special care in promoting maternal health education in women's support groups within the area.

Thur 6 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

As a team we pray that God's hand is leading someone to join us as Team Rector as we seek to worship and serve our Benefice. At Feckenham, we pray for our community as we seek to be a welcome spiritual space in the village. For our ALM: Phil Tricklebank. Clergy: Fiona Carter

Fri 7 Christ the King Team Ministry Redditch

In St Matthias and St George, we pray that Messy Church here, and with our neighbours in Feckenham, will draw families into relationship with God. Also for the energy and resources needed to deal with our buildings. Clergy: Fiona Carter

Sat 8 Prayers from our young people

Dear God, thank you for my caring family and the life lessons I learn. Thank you for making us different. Sorry for the times I have been unfair. Forgive me for my wrong choices. Please guide me through everything hard and challenging. Amen

Mother's Union



Today is Mary Sumner Day when across the world, members of the Mothers' Union celebrate their founder, Mary Sumner.

This year the MU is marking our 150th anniversary with local, national and global events, giving thanks for the vision that started in Mary's living room and has grown into a world-wide organisation with over four million members.

Join us as we give thanks for the work of the organisation as we reach out to families in need through our work in prisons and hospitals, with the disadvantaged and the abused. Our social justice campaigns raise awareness of important issues such as domestic abuse and modern slavery. We are proud of our past achievements and confident that, by God's grace, we will continue to carry out essential work in the years to come. **Join us, join in!**

*All this day, O Lord,
Let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou, by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the words I speak,
the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.*

Mon 10 Christ the King Team Ministry, Redditch

In a season of many changes we pray for the Bridge, Headless Cross. With Alpha starting in the autumn and a new Methodist Minister starting soon, we hope for God to be doing exciting things in our community. Clergy: Kay Dyer (PTO), David Butterworth (Interim Methodist Minister). Reader: Roger Ling

Tue 11 Crabbs Cross

As we welcome Fr Richard Grigson as our new House for Duty Priest, we pray that this will be a time of spiritual growth in our congregation and in our connections with our schools and beyond. We also give thanks for the support we have from other retired clergy. Clergy: Richard Grigson

Wed 12 Evangelische Kirche in Mitteldeutschland

Summer holidays are over and many children and teenagers will return to school in a few days. We hope and pray that everyone was able to enjoy a great summer break! God, bless the children, teenagers, parents and teachers as the new school year starts.

Thur 13 HMP Hewell

Pray for HMP Hewell. Pray for the Governor, Deputy Governor, Senior Management Team and all staff, for their safety and well-being. Pray for the men who live and work here, for their anxiety, depression, and fear and that through the compassion and care of those around them, that they may feel valued and cared for. For the Chaplaincy team.

Fri 14 Webheath, Tardebigge and Lower Bentley (Holy Oaks)

Pray for people to recognise the Kingdom within and around them; that we become a genuine space of belonging where all are known, and for wisdom to accompany people faithfully. Clergy: Sarah Jayne Hewitt

Sat 15 Kingdom People

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the good work happening around us in your name. We pray that you continue to inspire and grow our faith and help us to share that with others.



Diocesan Mothers' Union
President: Jill Crofton

The Episcopal Church (USA):
Bishop Sean Rowe
Portsmouth:
Bishop Jonathan Frost
Stockholm (Sweden):
Bishop Andreas Holmberg

Aweil (South Sudan): **M**
Bishop Abraham Yel Nhial

Awerial (South Sudan): **T**
Bishop David Akau

Awgu / Aninri (Nigeria): **W**
Bishop Benson Chukwunweike

Awka (Nigeria): **Th**
Archbishop Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim

Awori (Nigeria): **F**
Bishop Akin Atere

Ayod (South Sudan): **S**
Bishop Thomas Tut Gany

M *Saint Asaph (Wales):*
Bishop Gregory Cameron

T *Athabasca (Canada):*
Bishop David Greenwood

W *Atlanta (USA):*
Bishop Robert Wright

Th *Attooch (South Sudan):*
Bishop Daniel Awan Manyok

F *Auckland (New Zealand):*
Bishop Ross Bay

S *North West Australia:*
Bishop Darrell Parker

Faithful God, we thank you for 150 years of ministry at Holy Trinity Old Hill. Bless all who celebrate this anniversary, deepen their fellowship, and guide them into the future. May your love continue to shine through this church and community for many years to come. Amen.

Vicar of Holy Trinity, Old Hill:
Nick Gowers

The Church in Wales:
Archbishop Cherry Vann
Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh (Ireland):
Bishop Ferran Glenfield
Aarhus (Denmark):
Bishop Henrik Wigh-Poulsen

150 years of Holy Trinity Church in Old Hill, Dudley

This year, Holy Trinity Old Hill celebrates a remarkable milestone: 150 years of faithful worship, witness and service in its community. For a century and a half, the church family has stood as a beacon of hope, a place where prayers have been lifted, lives have been transformed, and God's faithfulness has been celebrated across generations.

The celebrations reflect the vibrant life of the church today, including a special celebration service with a bring-and-share lunch, live music, poetry and art, Praise in the Park, a family quiz night, and a special concert which will journey through the church's history. These events are occasions to celebrate God's faithfulness, strengthen community bonds, and welcome others into the story that Holy Trinity continues to write.

This anniversary is an opportunity to look forward with joy and expectation. The God who has guided Holy Trinity through the past 150 years continues to lead his people today, calling them to share his love and hope with future generations.



Mon 17 St Stephen, Redditch

Pray for boldness as we draw near to the two-year mark of our renewal project, for our developing partnerships, ministry to all ages, growing community, and our longing to see revival in Redditch. Clergy: Fraser Oates

Tue 18 Alvechurch and Beoley

Pray for our Summer Fun programme in Alvechurch and Beoley, that children and families may experience welcome, friendship, joy, and God's love through shared meals, activities, and community. Clergy: Gail Rogers, Martin Allen, Terry Palmer. Readers: Helen Ayling, Rose Akeroyd, Norma Walters, Margaret Lloyd, Enid Mullis

Wed 19 Economy and Daily Life

We pray for those in the holiday accommodation and entertainment industries. May they bring enjoyment and refreshment to their clients. Help them cope with fluctuations in income and rest periods.

Thur 20 Ipsley Team Ministry

At Christ Church, Matchborough, we thank God for all who give so generously, enabling our worship, welcome and mission. Pray for our children and youth, our Community Missioner in local engagement and for those bravely sharing their faith. Clergy: Ian Evans. Readers: Marilyn Bishop, Phil Williams

Fri 21 Ipsley Team Ministry

As the Pride in Place project develops in Woodrow and Greenlands, we pray that we can be people of peace and a place growing as a family of faith centred on Jesus. Clergy: Paul Lawlor. Readers: Rose Humphrey, Vicky Quarton, Maureen Hughes

Sat 22 Prayers from our young people

Dear God, thank you for my family and friends, for the world we live on and love to share with everyone. Sorry for anything unkind or disrespectful I have done or if I have done wrong actions. Please help me to show everyone how to be patient, kind, forgiving and helpful. Show me how to become a better person and help anybody else who needs to as well. Amen.



Brothers at Glasshampton
Franciscan Monastery

The Church of the Province of West Africa:
Bishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith
Espoo (Finland):
Bishop Kaisamari Hintikka
Edinburgh:
Bishop Dagmar Winter

Bari (Nigeria): M
Bishop Ramdi Wonole

Baringo (Kenya): T
Bishop Musa Kamuren

Barisal (Bangladesh): W
Bishop Shourabh Pholia

Barrackpore (North India): Th
Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty

Bath and Wells (England): F
Bishop Michael Beasley,
Bishop Fiona Gibson

Bathurst (Australia): S
Bishop Mark Calder

Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage

2026 is 800 years since the death of St Francis and Franciscans are embarking on a shared journey of mission, reflection and renewal, including a pilgrimage beginning in Almouth and finishing in London, visiting all the Franciscan houses. In our diocese, the Third Order Franciscans are supporting the section of the route between Clent and Tewkesbury from 23 to 28 August. This will primarily follow the Severn Way, with prayers and worship along the route. There will be an overnight stop at Glasshampton Monastery on 24 August and a stop at the cathedral on 27 August, where there will be an exhibition about the life of St Francis and about the three Franciscan Orders.

The Third Order Franciscans are a dispersed community who have committed to leading their lives according to a Rule of Life, while living in their own homes, working in the community and caring for their families. The Order is open to everyone over 18 whether lay or ordained. Each member prays the same prayers each day and they come together regularly for meetings centred on the Eucharist.

God of pilgrimage and purpose, inspire us through the example of St Francis. As pilgrims journey in faith, deepen our commitment to prayer, service and care for others, that we may faithfully follow Christ in our daily lives. Amen.

Mon 24 Ipsley Team Ministry

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

Tue 25 Primrose Hospice, Bromsgrove

Pray for the staff and volunteers at Primrose Hospice as they support patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

Wed 26 Diocese of Peru

The Arequipa area in the Anglican Diocese of Peru covers not just the second city, but a large area of the Andean altiplano. Journeys are long and often dangerous, with altitude sickness a major risk and cheaper public buses often unsafe. Pray for the clergy, lay ministers and congregations of this region, as they worship and minister in challenging circumstances and often impoverished communities.

Thur 27 Princess of Wales Hospital, Bromsgrove

Pray for patients and staff at the Princess of Wales Community Hospital and Minor Injury Unit, remembering the patients, nurses and the one consultant on the Primrose Unit: an NHS Palliative Care Ward.

Fri 28 Alexandria Hospital Redditch

Please pray for Alexandra Hospital in Redditch. For the whole hospital community, including patients and their families. Thanking God for the 1000+ people who work at the Alex and their dedication through this challenging time. For the chaplain and the hospital's volunteer teams.

Sat 29 Kingdom People

Loving Lord, we ask you to bless all our churches and all the ministry that goes on behind the scenes. We thank you for the opportunities that arise to share your good news with others.

Lord Jesus, thank you for the joy, curiosity and faith of young people like Jackson. Bless his journeys, inspire others through his enthusiasm, and draw many closer to you. Amen.

Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery Leadership Team:
Alan Conant, Martin Allen, Elaine Whitfield, Rose Humphrey

The Church in the Province of the West Indies:
Bishop Philip Wright
Turku (Finland):
Archbishop Tapio Luoma, Bishop Mari Leppänen
York:
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, Bishop Barry Hill, Bishop Flora Winfield, Bishop Eleanor Sandersen, Bishop Stephen Race

M **Bauchi (Nigeria):**
Bishop Musa Mwin Tula

T **Belize (West Indies):**
Bishop Philip Wright

W **Bendigo (Australia):**
Bishop Matt Brain

Th **Beni (Democratic Republic of Congo):**
Bishop Cyrille Kambale Tavuirima

F **Benin (Nigeria):**
Bishop Peter O. J. Imasuen

S **Beniu (South Sudan):**
Assistant Bishop John Deng

Jumping for joy at Cathedrals!

Jackson Brown, age 12, is visiting all the Anglican Cathedrals in England and is jumping for joy outside each one! He is sharing photos of his jumps on his 'Cathedral Jumping' Instagram account.

Jackson's first Cathedral visit was to Lichfield on a family day out in 2024. While there he picked up a 'Cathedral passport' which lists all the cathedrals in the Church of England and decided he'd like to see more.

Jackson said: "I love music and find discovering the history of each cathedral really interesting. Being in cathedrals really makes me happy, so I decided to share that joy with others by jumping outside of them and posting on Instagram."

After discovering a love of Cathedrals through his visit, Jackson decided to become a chorister at Worcester Cathedral, changing schools so he could sing regularly with the choir. He was confirmed by Bishop Hugh on Easter Eve and then sang at the Easter morning service after which Jackson and Bishop Hugh jumped together outside the Cathedral's main entrance.



Mon 31 Redditch Mission Area

As Jana Harvey starts as a Community Missioner for Matchborough and for the Mission Area more widely, we pray that we can be doing more and more to equip, enable and share in God's mission across Greater Redditch. We also give thanks for our board of Trustees. Core Team: Jana Harvey, Elaine Whitfield, Paul Lawlor

Tue 1 SEPTEMBER Retired clergy in Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery

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

Wed 2 Diocese of Morogoro

Pray for safe travel for Bishop Godfrey and Revd Julius, joining our clergy conference later this month. We give special thanks for our partnership with Morogoro and for their encouragement to us to reach out in love and service to others within our fragile and struggling world.

Thur 3 Education Team

There are 99 church schools in the Diocese, covering Dudley and Worcestershire local authorities. The Education Team offers programmes and resources to all schools in the area. We say thank you for all their work and pray for the team; Tim Reid, Spencer Morris, Nadia Underwood, Janine Jenkins, Duncan Hutchison, Gemma Martin

Fri 4 Finance Team

We pray for the finance team at the diocesan office: Sarah Powell, Ryan Bates, Sucki Dhaliwal, Jessica Lambert, Chris Ottershaw, Robyn Rooney and Bernadette Hirst. We are grateful for all the work they do supporting the churches across the Diocese with their finances and stewardship.

Sat 5 Prayers from our young people

Dear God, thanks for making this world a very special place for us, like giving us family and friends and food on our plate. Thanks for helping all of our world through the hard times. Please be by my side every day. I will learn from all my mistakes. Sorry for being such a nuisance to my siblings. Amen

A different way of praying

Walking as Prayer

Have you tried walking as prayer?

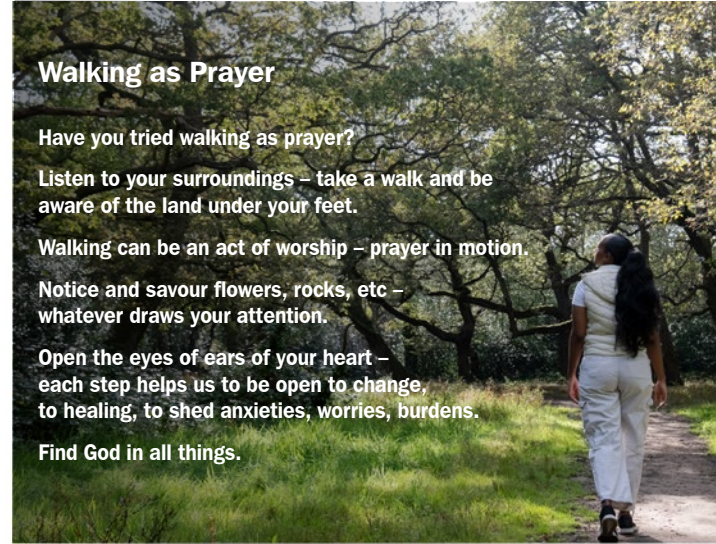
Listen to your surroundings – take a walk and be aware of the land under your feet.

Walking can be an act of worship – prayer in motion.

Notice and savour flowers, rocks, etc – whatever draws your attention.

Open the eyes of ears of your heart – each step helps us to be open to change, to healing, to shed anxieties, worries, burdens.

Find God in all things.



Mon 7 HR Team

We pray for the diocesan HR Team, for all the work they do in the diocesan office and to support churches across the Diocese. We are extremely grateful. Jo Hyrons, Becky Lowe, Fiona Edlington, and Liz Toone.

Tue 8 Mission and Ministry Team

We give thanks for the diocesan Mission and Ministry team and pray for them and all the work they do supporting ordained and lay ministers across the Diocese, accompanying, equipping and developing our ministers for mission. Joseph Diwakar, John Fitzmaurice, Doug Chaplin, Janet Fox, Ruth Donaldson, and Lorna Boniface.

Wed 9 Evangelische Kirche in Mitteldeutschland

We pray for the state election in the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt, which took place on 6 September. God, please guide the politicians and the formation of government. Help us and them to retain justice and peace.

Thur 10 World Suicide Prevention Day

Compassionate God, we pray for all those who are struggling right now, help us to follow Jesus' example by sitting alongside them. Give us listening ears, patient hearts and loving presence, bringing hope, comfort and connection. Amen.

Fri 11 Heritage Open Days

Gracious God, bless all churches opening their doors for this year's Heritage Open Days. Welcome every visitor, inspire curiosity and conversation, and help many discover your presence, peace and love. Amen.

Sat 12 Kingdom People

Dear Lord, we pray for all the jobs that go unnoticed. All the times your mission is being done, silently and without fuss. Thank you for all the jobs that get done in your name.

Lord, help us to see your beauty when we are out walking. Thank you for all your creation.

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

Prayer for our Baptism families:
Dear God, we thank you for all parents who bring their children for baptism. Help them to encourage their children to listen to you and know that you have a plan for their lives. Amen.

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria:
Archbishop Samy Shehata
Salisbury:
Bishop Stephen Lake, Bishop Andrew Rumsey, Bishop Karen Gorham
St Asaph (Wales):
Bishop Gregory Cameron

Bermuda (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury): **M**
Bishop Nicholas Dill

Bethlehem (USA): **T**
Bishop Kevin Nichols

Bhopal (North India): **W**
Bishop Neena Charan

Bida (Nigeria): **Th**
Bishop Jonah G. Kolo

Biharamulo (Tanzania): **F**
Bishop Vitalis Yusuph Sunzu

Birmingham: **S**
Bishop Michael Volland, Bishop Esther Prior



Readers being licensed:
Barbara Adams, Kath Apperley,
Matt Guy, James Hawthorn,
Andrea Stevens

**The Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
New Zealand & Polynesia:**
Archbishop Sione Uluilakepa
Ribe (Denmark):
Bishop Eloff Westergaard
Bath and Wells:
Bishop Michael Beasley,
Bishop Fiona Gibson

M Blackburn:
Bishop Philip North, Bishop Jill
Duff, Bishop Joe Kennedy

T Bo (West Africa):
Bishop Solomon Scott-Manga

**W Boga (Democratic Republic
of Congo):**
Bishop William Bahemuka
Mugenyi

Th Bolivia (South America):
Vacant

F Bondo (Kenya):
Bishop David Kodja

S Bor (South Sudan):
Bishop Moses Anur Ayom

New Readers to be licensed

Five new Readers (also known as LLMs – Licensed Lay Ministers) will be admitted and licensed by Bishop Hugh this coming Saturday in the Cathedral. This year's Readers have trained alongside ordinands on our own Auxiliary Pathway course and have reflected on their particular calling. As LLMs they are called to work with their clergy as preachers and teachers of the faith, and leaders in mission. At the heart of their calling is helping churches and Christians interpret Scripture and Christian tradition faithfully and appropriately for today's contexts from lay perspectives of work, leisure and social engagement. As part of that they may also lead worship and share pastoral ministry.

Pray for those being admitted to this ministry: Barbara Adams (Netherton & Derby End), Kath Apperley, Matt Guy (both Gornal and Sedgley), James Hawthorn (Bromsgrove) and Andrea Stevens (Ipsley). Pray also for their clergy and parishes as they welcome them, support them, and receive their ministry.

Mon 14 Greater Dudley Deanery

There is optimism and excitement across Greater Dudley Deanery as we see the growth for which we've been praying. The concern is that all our ministers, lay and ordained, are at long stretch. Please thank God for all the new believers; that new believers find their vocations; that mission endeavours transform our communities; and that the church is equipped and energised for growth. Area Dean: Andrew Sillis, Sub-Deans: Kim Topham, Lyn Rowson, Lay Chair: John Nicholson, Treasurer: Michael Bishop, Secretary and supporting Lay Ministers: Melissa Rose, Youth Leader: Sian Morgan Deanery Administrator: Emma Leek

Tue 15 Amblecote

Join us giving thanks for all who come for worship or for quiet, and for all those involved in The Ark - a time for young children and their family. Pray for God's blessing on our ministry to those we serve. Clergy: Alan Williams, Lyn Rowson. Readers: Eirlyn Jenkins

Wed 16 Economy and daily life

The retail sector faces challenges from rising rent and energy costs. Post summer, lower shop footfall poses challenges before winter starts. Pray especially for those serving as retail chaplains in Redditch. Pershore and Kidderminster.

Thur 17 Black Country Partnership NHS Trust

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

Fri 18 Brierley Hill Team

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd David and wish him well as he approaches retirement. We pray for and celebrate the weekday activities across the Team and for the continuing growth in numbers at services. Clergy: David Hoskin, Val Houghton. Reader Keith Colley

Sat 19 Prayers from our young people

Dear God, thank you for the life we have, and for the lovely things that make us who we are. Sorry for the times that I have struck out in anger and been unkind to the people who love us the most. Please guide me through my life and give me empathy for the kind people on earth. Amen.

Clergy Conference

Every three years, the clergy of the Diocese meet for a clergy conference to pray, worship and learn together, as well as having some fun!

The next conference begins tomorrow and runs until Thursday with the theme of 'curious hope'. This year, our clergy are also joined by our diocesan network of paid children, young people and family ministers reflecting our key priority to grow the number of children and young people in our churches.

There will be three main strands of the conference focussing on church and change, new generations, and world and witness. Speakers includes Rowan Williams, Graham Tomlin and Lamora Ash with a daily bible study led by Isabelle Hamley. There will also be a series of seminars and workshops, worship led by our curates along with Joshua Williams from St Stephen's Church in Redditch and opportunities to socialise together in the evening. We will also hear from Bishop Hugh as he reflects on his first few months in our diocese.



Mon 21 St Matthew's Day

On St. Matthew's Day pray for all who work in the tax system, and for fairer tax nationally and globally, ending tax avoidance by multi-nationals and taxes that mean the poorest and most vulnerable bear more than their fair share of tax. Pray for JustMoney Movement and their campaign; Church Action on Tax Justice.

Tue 22 Christ Church, Coseley & St Mary, Sedgley

Please pray for our new family worship services at Christ Church & St Marys, that it may be a source of spiritual growth for our communities and our churches. For our ALMs, Bob and Amanda. Clergy: Emma Stanford, Tim Westwood, Steve Axtell

Wed 23 Diocese of Peru

The new churches in and around Puerto Maldonado, in the Peruvian Amazon, were the focus of the bishop's 2026 Lent appeal. Pray for those who minister to and who are part of these new communities of faith in the jungle, as they seek to grow and discern God's will for them in that context.

Thur 24 Cradley Heath Community Link

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

Fri 25 Clent

Please pray for our developing modernisation projects, which will aim to develop new and diverse worship for our village community. Clergy: Tom Owens, Kim Topham. Reader: Alison Lewis

Sat 26 Kingdom People

Loving God, help us grow as your Kingdom People, rooted in faith, shaped by your love, and empowered by your Spirit to serve, witness and share your hope each day. Amen.

Please do pray for all our clergy and children, young people and family ministers as they come together over the next few days; that they will feel refreshed and inspired by this time away.

Bishop of Worcester:
Hugh Nelson
Bishop of Dudley:
Martin Gorick

The Anglican Church of Australia:
Bishop Mark Short
Sheffield:
Bishop Pete Wilcox,
Bishop Leah Vasey-Saunders
**Diocese of Greenland within
the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Denmark:**
Bishop Paneeraq Siegstad Munk

Botswana (Central Africa):
Bishop Metlhayotlwe Rawlings
Beleme

Brandon (Canada):
Bishop Rachael Parker

Brechin (Scotland):
Bishop Andrew Swift

Brisbane (Australia):
Archbishop Jeremy Greaves

Bristol (England):
Vacant, Bishop Neil Warwick

British Columbia (Canada):
Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee

God of justice, bless farmers, workers and producers around the world. Help us to make choices that reflect your love, seek fairness for all people, and care for your creation. Amen.

Greater Dudley Deanery
Area Dean: Andrew Sillis
Sub-Deans: Lyn Rowson,
Kim Topham
Lay Chair: John Nicholson

The Church of Bangladesh:
Moderator Samuel Sunil Mankhin
Swansea and Brecon (Wales):
Bishop John Lomas
Leicester:
Bishop Martyn Snow, Bishop Saju
Mathalaly

M Central Buganda (Uganda):
Bishop Michael Lubowa

T West Buganda (Uganda):
Bishop Henry Katumba-Tamale

W Buhiga (Burundi):
Bishop Evariste Nijimbere

Th Bujumbura (Burundi):
Bishop Eraste Bigirimana

F Bukavu (Democratic Republic of Congo):
Bishop Sylvestre Bahati
Balisusane

S Buki (Uganda):
Bishop Samuel Egesa

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight is an opportunity to reflect on the connections between our daily choices and the lives of people around the world. Whether it is the tea or coffee we drink, the chocolate we enjoy, or the bananas we buy, many of the products we use every day are grown and produced by people we will never meet.

For many farmers and workers, particularly in lower-income countries, earning a fair and reliable income can be a significant challenge. Unpredictable weather, rising costs and fluctuating market prices can make it difficult to provide for families and invest in the future. Fairtrade seeks to address this by ensuring producers receive a fair price for their goods, while also supporting community projects, environmental sustainability and safer working conditions.

Choosing Fairtrade products may seem like a small act, but it is one way of expressing our commitment to justice and our concern for our global neighbours. As Christians, we are called to love not only those nearby but also those whose lives are connected to ours through the goods we buy and consume. Fairtrade reminds us that behind every product is a person created and loved by God.



Mon 28 St John the Baptist, Hagley; St Saviours, West Hagley

Please pray for our Year of Pilgrimage, that we may faithfully put into practice all that we discerned God is calling us to in our recent Vision and Mission Away Day, and that the Benefice may continue to grow in faith, unity, and service. Clergy: Tom Owens, Kim Topham. Reader: Alison Lewis

Tue 29 Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

Pray for staff, patients, and volunteers at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which includes Russells Hall Hospital, the Guest Outpatient Centre in Dudley and the Corbett Outpatient Centre in Stourbridge. Pray for the chaplaincy team across the Trust.

Wed 30 Diocese of Morogoro

We continue to pray for the staff and students of the Morogoro Bible College and remember the immense sacrifices made by many who are training for ministry in this diocese. We give God thanks for the dedicated staff who, notwithstanding the acute financial pressures, inspire others with vision and joy, to fill the lives of others with the love and peace of the risen Christ.

Thur 1 OCTOBER Dudley Team Ministry

Please pray for the churches of St Francis, St John, Kates Hill and St Augustine. For our Team Vicar, Lay Ministers, office holders and volunteers during the appointment process for our new Team Rector, that they would be strengthened and inspired by the Holy Spirit at a busy time. Clergy: Dan Thomas. Readers: Maggie Clift, Melissa Rose

Fri 2 Top Church, Dudley

We pray for guidance as we transition to a new Resourcing Church Leader, for deepening relationships with Jesson's and Beechwood schools. For community outreach through Tiny Town stay and play, Places of Welcome and Choir. For our ALM's: Dave Shaw and Clare Soar. Clergy vacant. Reader: Melissa Rose

Sat 3 Prayers from our young people

Dear God, thank you for all of my family and friends and for all of the lessons I learn each day. Sorry for all the times when I have been mean and unkind. Please forgive me for all of the mistakes I have made. Please always direct me in the right direction and never lead me into darkness. Amen.

Harvest

Harvest is a season of thanksgiving when we are reminded of God's abundant provision. For generations, Harvest has been a time to pause and give thanks for the food we eat, the work of farmers and growers, and the many people whose labour helps bring food to our tables.

Yet Harvest also invites us to look beyond ourselves. The gifts we receive are not simply for our own benefit; they are part of God's generosity towards the whole world. The Bible often links thanksgiving with sharing, reminding God's people to care for those in need and to ensure that everyone has enough.

In many churches, Harvest celebrations are accompanied by collections for foodbanks, community pantries and local charities. When we recognise all that we have received, we become more aware of opportunities to support others.

Harvest is also a reminder that we are stewards of God's creation. The land, the seas, the creatures around us and the resources we enjoy are gifts entrusted to our care. As we give thanks for this year's harvest, we are encouraged to consider how we use those gifts wisely and responsibly.

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts of creation and for all that sustains our lives. Teach us to be faithful stewards, grateful receivers and joyful sharers of your blessings. Amen.

Mon 5 St Edmund, Dudley

We give thanks for the increase in attendance and the spiritual strengthening of the congregation, and for the retired clergy who support us. Please pray for our request for financial support from the Places of Worship Renewal Fund to help save our 300-year-old town centre church. For our charity outreach, religious and secular. Clergy: vacant

Tue 6 Forge Group Ministry

Please pray for the Forge Group of Churches (Netherton, Dudley Wood and Darby End) as we journey together with a Joint Council, that we may work for the greater good of the churches in our area. For our LLM in training: Barbara Adams. Clergy: Rich Hackett, Normal Jevons. Reader: Val Cope

Wed 7 Evangelische Kirche in Mitteldeutschland

7 October was the day the German Democratic Republic was founded. Thank God this is history! Still the reunification process is continuing. We pray that the Eastern and the Western parts of Germany will grow closer together. May injustices diminish and mutual prejudices become a thing of the past.

Thur 8 Forge Group Ministry

For those who give their time ministering, our service and Junior Church leaders, care home visitors, and those who will support our new Mainly Music and Renew Wellbeing projects. For our LLM in training: Barbara Adams. Clergy: Rich Hackett, Normal Jevons. Reader: Val Cope

Fri 9 Gornal & Sedgley Team Ministry

At our renewal project, All Saints, we give thanks for links with local schools and all those who support our mission with children, young people and families, asking that harvest will provide additional opportunities for engagement. Clergy: Diane Cooksey, Tracey Skidmore. Readers: Kath Apperley, Matt Guy

Sat 10 Kingdom People

Loving Lord, teach us to be kind and respectful of each other. Guide us in ways to live out the Gospel in our daily lives, in what we do and how we behave. Be with us each and every day as we navigate through our daily lives. Amen



Greater Dudley Deanery
Leadership Team
Treasurer: Michael Bishop
Secretary & supporting Lay
Ministers: Melissa Rose
Youth Leader: Sian Morgan
Deanery Administrator: Emma Leek

Prayer for our baptism families:
Loving Father, this is a constantly changing world in which parents bring up children. Help them to embrace change and to make the right decisions for the lives of their children. Amen

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil:
Bishop Rosa Dos Santos Bassotto
Liverpool: Vacancy,
Interim Bishop Ruth Worsley,
Bishop Simon Robinson
Monmouth (Wales):
Bishop Cherry Vann
Haderslev (Denmark):
Bishop Marianne Christiansen

Bukuru (Nigeria): M
Bishop Jwan B. N. Zhumbes

Bunbury (Australia): T
Bishop Ian Coutts

Bungoma (Kenya): W
Bishop George Mechumo

Bunyoro-Kitara (Uganda): Th
Bishop Samuel Kahuma

Busan (Korea): F
Bishop Onesimus Dongsin Park

Busoga (Uganda): S
Bishop Grace Lubaale



Greater Dudley Deanery
Area Dean: Andrew Sillis
Sub-Deans: Lyn Rowson,
Kim Topham
Lay Chair: John Nicholson

The Anglican Church of Burundi:
Archbishop Sixbert Macumi
Truro:
Bishop David Williams, Bishop
James Treasure
Tönsberg (Norway):
Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth
Diocese of Strängnäs (Sweden):
Bishop Johan Dalman

M Central Busoga (Uganda):
Bishop Patrick Wakula

T Butare (Rwanda):
Bishop Christophe Nshimiyimana

W Butere (Kenya):
Bishop Rose Okeno

Th Buye (Burundi):
Bishop Sixbert Macumi

F Byumba (Rwanda):
Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo

S Calabar (Nigeria):
Bishop Nneoyi Ege

World Homeless Day

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

This international day serves as a platform to advocate for improved policies and funding that can help prevent and end homelessness. World Homeless Day also aims to raise awareness about the needs of people who currently experience homelessness and promotes work in local communities to alleviate suffering and prevent death.

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

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



Mon 12 Gornal & Sedgley Team Ministry

We give thanks for all who serve across both St Peter's and St Andrew's churches as we continue to serve our wonderful communities of Upper Gornal and The Straits. We pray that we will see more people coming to encounter the love of God. For our ALM: Suzanne Bradley. Clergy: Giles Joiner. Reader: Jan Humphries

Tue 13 Halas Team

At St Peter, Cradley, pray for continuing growth as a culturally diverse family; for our work with children and families; and our links to the British Legion, Air Cadets and Mothers' Union. That all may be to the glory of God and in his grace and love. Clergy: Victoria Barlow. Readers: Charles Morgan, Karen Chaplin

Wed 14 Economy and daily life

As we celebrate Harvest, pray for chaplains supporting workers in the supply chain industries transporting our food by road and rail. Pray for meaningful contacts in a mobile environment.

Thur 15 Halas Team

At St Margaret's Church in Hasbury, pray for our exciting growth as an eco church; for our work with children and families, especially our Story Time and Messy Church, and for our school. That all may be to the glory of God and in his grace and love. Clergy: Victoria Barlow. Reader: Susan Cresswell

Fri 16 Halas Team

Bless St Kenelm's Church in Romsley as a place of pilgrimage and community renewal. Guide all who gather there. Pour your grace upon St Kenelm's School, its staff, and every student in their care. Clergy: Chris Henson, Rachel Homer. Reader: Pat Hall

Sat 17 Prayers from our young people

Dear God, thank you for everything that you do to make the world a place that we can enjoy. Sorry for the effects of climate change which is ruining your masterpiece. We will try to make better choices and to fix and replenish your brilliant creation. Please understand that it is not all your children tearing apart earth and that we can fix the planet together. Amen.

Prisons' Week

Prisons' Week invites us to remember people who are often out of sight and easily forgotten. For more than forty years, churches across the country have used this week to pray for all those affected by the criminal justice system: prisoners, their families, victims of crime, prison staff, chaplains, volunteers and all who work to bring hope and restoration.

When we hear the word "prison", it can be easy to think only of those serving sentences. Yet the impact of imprisonment reaches much further. Families can be separated, relationships strained and futures left uncertain. Victims continue to live with the consequences of crime, while prison officers, chaplains and support workers carry significant responsibilities each day. Prisons' Week encourages us to hold all these people in our prayers.

Prisons' Week also reminds us that prayer should move us towards action. Whether through volunteering, supporting families, writing letters, offering practical help or simply challenging stigma, we can all play a part in building communities of hope and restoration.



Mon 19 Halas Team

Bless St Peter's Church in Lapal as it nurtures deep community bonds. Inspire its work and commitment with local schools, families, and young people. May your Spirit guide every act of welcome, learning, and hope. Clergy: Chris Henson, Rachel Homer

Tue 20 Halas Team

Bless St John's as a renewal church for Halesowen and the wider Halas Team. Inspire all new worshipping communities and uphold every volunteer who serves with faith, joy, and hope. Children, Young People and Families Minister: Louise Hicklin, New Worshipping Communities Co-ordinator: Claire Biggs. Clergy: Hazel Charlton, Sarah Tranter. Reader: Sally Spencer

Wed 21 Diocese of Peru

Pray for Bishops Jorge and Victor in their leadership of the Diocese of Peru, as they continue to work towards a sustainable diocese. Pray too for the bishop's council, diocesan synod, and all those holding positions of responsibility and leadership.

Thur 22 Kingswinford & Wall Heath

We pray for our Mainly Music families, giving thanks for the friendships being formed and praying that this will set the foundations for lifelong discipleship. Clergy: Adam Hadley, Sarah Roberts-Malpess, Jonathan Pincher, Mel Smith, Jane Freeman, Readers: Debbie Filgate, Christine Knight, David Cousins

Fri 23 Kingswinford & Wall Heath

We pray for all those who have been confirmed over the last couple of years as well as those currently preparing for confirmation. May each one of them continue to know your transforming power in their lives and want to bring others into relationship with you. For our churchwardens: Helen Moren, Neil Oliver, Jean Blakemore, Jenny Stewart

Sat 24 Kingdom People

Lord Jesus, grow us as Kingdom People who reflect your love, seek your justice, share your hope, and serve our communities with compassion, courage and faithfulness each day. Amen.

God of mercy and hope, be with all those affected by crime and imprisonment. Comfort the hurting, strengthen those who care, and bring healing, restoration and new life through your love. Amen.

Bishop's Adviser on
Criminal Justice Affairs:
Paul West

The Anglican Church of Canada:
Archbishop Shane Parker
Växjö (Sweden):
Bishop Fredrik Modéus
Oxford:
Bishop Steven Croft, Bishop
Dave Bull, Bishop Gavin Collins,
Bishop Mary Gregory

Calcutta (North India): **M**
Bishop Paritosh Canning

Caledonia (Canada): **T**
Bishop David Lehmann

Calgary (Canada): **W**
Bishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson

California (USA): **Th**
Bishop Austin Rios

Northern California (USA): **F**
Bishop Megan Traquair

Cameroon (West Africa): **S**
Bishop Dibo Thomas-Babyngton
Elango

Bible Sunday		Sunday 25 OCTOBER		Sunday 1 NOVEMBER		All Saints' Day	
		A different way of praying		All Saints' Day		Faithful God, we thank you for the saints who have gone before us and for the legacy of faith they have left behind. Help us to follow Christ faithfully and leave a legacy of hope, love and service for those who come after us. Amen.	
Greater Dudley Deanery Leadership Team: Treasurer: Michael Bishop Secretary & supporting Lay Ministers: Melissa Rose Youth Leader: Sian Morgan Deanery Administrator: Emma Leek The Church of the Province of Central Africa: Archbishop Albert Chama Carlisle: Bishop Robert Saner-Haigh Stavanger (Norway): Bishop Anne Lise Ådnøy		Second, think of the risen Christ and the way he longs to enfold the whole of creation, the little ones and marginalised ones of the earth. Third, offer this prayer as an act of intercession. It is a prayer that hurts—in the sense that your arms will grow weary and ache. Moses prayed like this and had to have others hold his arms up (Exod 17:11,12). As you feel the ache, let it connect you to those who are in pain, those who are hurting: the sick, the dispossessed, those whose human rights are trampled on. Finally, use this prayer-action as an act of self-offering. Look at your hands that have been uplifted in prayer: who will they touch, and bless today? Offer yourself afresh to God for the part he has in store for you in his mission of reconciliation in the world.				Greater Dudley Deanery Area Dean: Andrew Sillis Sub-Deans: Lyn Rowson, Kim Topham Lay Chair: John Nicholson Prayer for our baptism families: Dear God, we thank you for parents and for the juggling act they are often performing with the busyness of life. Help them to find some space each day, to spend time talking to you. Amen Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America: Bishop Juan David Alvarado Melgar Winchester: Bishop Philip Mounstephen, Bishop Rhannon King, Bishop Kelly Betteridge Agder & Telemark (Norway): Bishop Stein Reinertsen	
M	El Camino Real (USA): Bishop Lucinda Ashby	Mon 26	St Michael and All Angels, Norton, Stourbridge	Mon 2	St Chad, Coseley, St James, Lower Gornal		
T	Canberra & Goulburn (Australia): Bishop Mark Short	Tue 27	St James, Wollaston	Tue 3	St Mark, Pensnett		
W	Canterbury: Archbishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin	Wed 28	Diocese of Morogoro	Wed 4		Evangelische Kirche in Mitteldeutschland	
Th	Cape Coast (West Africa): Bishop Victor Atta-Baffoe	Thur 29	Holy Trinity, Old Hill	Thur 5		St Mary, Oldswinford	
F	Cape Town (Southern Africa): Bishop Thabo Makgoba	Fri 30	Wollescote and Pedmore	Fri 6		St Thomas, Stourbridge	
S	North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba (West Indies): Vacant	Sat 31	Prayers from our young people	Sat 7		Kingdom People	
		Dear God, thank you for all of the days you have blessed us with to spend precious time with our special loved ones. I'm still grateful to this day for all of the friendship and support you have lent to us. Sorry for the times when I'm unforgiving, anger breaks out and I don't think before I act. Please guide me to the right path in life and help me show honesty and joy. Amen		When we think of saints, it can be tempting to focus on extraordinary individuals whose lives seem far removed from our own. Yet many of the legacies that shape our faith have been left by ordinary people who faithfully followed Christ in everyday life. Their legacy is not found only in buildings, traditions or memorials, but in the faith they passed on to others. Because they responded to God's call in their generation, we have received the gift of faith in ours. Their example reminds us that every act of kindness, every prayer offered, and every step of faithful discipleship can have an impact far beyond what we may ever see. As we remember the saints, may we be encouraged to live faithfully in our own time, trusting God with the story that we are helping to write for future generations.		Carlisle (England): Bishop Rob Saner-Haigh East Carolina (USA): Bishop Sarah Fisher North Carolina (USA): Bishop Samuel Rodman South Carolina (USA): Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley Upper South Carolina (USA): Bishop Daniel Richards Western North Carolina (USA): Bishop José Antonio McLoughlin	
				Pray for our faithful congregation worshipping in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England. The Eucharist is at the centre of our worshipping life and it is celebrated with the richness and solemnity which appeals to all the senses. Clergy: Gary Hartill, John Oakes We're giving thanks as we welcome Chris Smith as Curate-in-charge, licensed in July. Pray for the formation of a new team, and for wisdom as we begin the new Renewal programme together. Pray for St Mark's Primary school as we develop our connections. Clergy: Chris Smith		11 November is the day of St Martin. We are grateful for his witness and also for the continuing tradition of St Martin's parades in many congregations. God, bless all who prepare and carry out this tradition and show your love to children and their families. Please pray for our new worship time in Oldswinford CE Primary School and for the volunteers making it happen. May we continue to draw near to those in need; seeing more as God sees, listening as God listens and loving as God loves, through Jesus Christ. Clergy: Anthony Perry, John Flitcroft. Readers: Roger King, Theresa Perry Thank you for praying as our renewal church plans are realised with new team members and building work. Pray for us as we aim to Renew Church, Renew Lives, and Renew Community. Clergy: Andrew Sillis, Paul Latham Heavenly Father, you show us your love each and every day, help us to be guided by that love and bring life and light to others in this world. Amen.	

*God of peace, we remember
with gratitude all who have
served and sacrificed in times
of conflict. Comfort those who
mourn, strengthen those who
serve today, and guide us in
the ways of peace. Amen.*

Rector of St Mary, Kidderminster:
Adam Hadley

Province de L'Eglise Anglicane
Du Congo:
Archbishop Georges Titre Andre
Norwich:
Bishop Graham Usher, Bishop Ian
Bishop, Bishop Jane Steen
Luleå (Sweden):
Bishop Åsa Nyström

M Cashel, Ferns & Ossory (Ireland):
Bishop Adrian Wilkinson

T Chandigarh (North India):
Bishop Denzal Peoples

W Chelmsford (England):
Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani,
Bishop Lynne Cullens,
Bishop Adam Atkinson,
Bishop Roger Morris

Th Chester (England):
Bishop Mark Tanner

F Chhattisgarh (North India):
Bishop Sushma Kumar

S Chicago (USA):
Bishop Paula Eldreda Clark

Remembrance Sunday

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

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

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

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



Mon 9 The Lye & Stambermill

Pray for the church’s Open Door on Fridays and Lion Club on Wednesdays, that we might share the good news and love of Jesus. Clergy: Glen Ruffle, Chris Kent. Reader: Graham Dyer

Tue 10 Mary Stevens Hospice

Loving God, bless Mary Stevens Hospice, its staff, volunteers, patients and families. Grant comfort, compassion and strength, and may all who enter find peace, dignity and hope. Amen.

Wed 11 Economy and daily life

On Armistice Day, we pray for peace in our communities. Grant wisdom to our leaders, balancing national security with the desire for peace and prosperity. Help chaplains bring your love into leaders’ decision-making.

Thur 12 Wordsley Team

Prayers are asked for our church families, their community outreach, the continuing work with schools and young families through Open the Book and Messy Church. For our Pastoral Care Team and our ALMs: Mark Allen, Martin Berrington, Helen Perry, Sue Smith. Clergy: Lyn Rowson, Sue Haywood, Alan Williams. Readers: Chris Geary, Mike Timmins

Fri 13 Retired clergy in Greater Dudley Deanery

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

Sat 14 Prayers from our young people

Dear God, thank you for all the blessings you’ve given me, especially the blessing of peace. I have love, friendship and support daily which I’m forever grateful for. Sorry for the times I’ve been unforgiving and thoughtless. Please give me your guidance through times of need, find harmony and strength. Please bless me with your support when I need it. please help me show compassion, generosity, joy, self-control and peace. Amen.

Safeguarding Sunday

Safeguarding Sunday is an opportunity for churches to reflect on how we create communities where everyone is welcomed, valued and kept safe. It is a time to give thanks for those who work diligently behind the scenes to ensure that our churches are places of care, accountability and trust, and to renew our commitment to the wellbeing of all.

At its heart, safeguarding is about people. It is about recognising the inherent dignity of every person, created in the image of God, and ensuring that children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable are protected from harm. It is also about listening carefully, responding appropriately to concerns, and creating environments where people feel able to speak and know they will be heard.

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus paying particular attention to those who were vulnerable, overlooked or in need of protection. He welcomed children, showed compassion to those on the margins, and challenged attitudes and behaviours that diminished others. His example reminds us that safeguarding is not simply a matter of policies and procedures; it is an expression of Christian love and discipleship.

God of love and protection, help us to create churches where all people are safe, valued and respected. Give wisdom to those who safeguard others, and help us reflect your care in all we do. Amen.

Mon 16 Clergy Housing Team

We give thanks for the Clergy Housing team, for Ruth Beard, Mark Rosten, Jaine Simm, Anna Phillips, Bernadette Hirst, Paul Coombes and Carl Woollaston. We thank you for each of them and the skills they bring to their roles.

Tue 17 Church volunteers

Loving God we thank you for all those who volunteer and give their time and talents to the church. For all those who work silently in the background, for the jobs that we take for granted, and those who make the mission and ministry possible. Amen

Wed 18 Children, family and youth ministry

Please pray for Sian our new Children, Families and Youth Programme Lead as she starts to build new relationships as she settles into her new role. We thank you for all those in the Children and Young People Ministry network, and for everyone who supports the work they do.

Thur 19 World Toilet Day

Loving God, bless all who lack safe sanitation. Inspire justice, dignity, clean water, and practical care, so every person may live in health, privacy, and hope. Amen.

Fri 20 Vocations and Discernment

Lord we pray for all currently in discernment, for all following their vocation and for those who help and guide them. We give thanks for Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocation, John Fitzmaurice and all the assistant DDOs, give them your love and support as they help others in their search for vocation.

Sat 21 Kingdom People

Lord help us to grow your kingdom here on earth. Show us how to be true disciples, how to live out the gospel each day and give us the courage to share your love and compassion with the world. Amen



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

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile:
Bishop Enrique Lago
ZugadiEstonian Evangelical
Lutheran Church:
Archbishop Urmas Viilma, Bishop
Ove Sander (Northern Estonia),
Bishop Marko Tiitus (Southern
Estonia), Bishop Anti Toplaan
(Western Estonia & the Islands)
Rochester:
Bishop Jonathan Gibbs,
Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

Chichester: M
Bishop Martin Warner,
Bishop Ruth Bushyager,
Bishop Will Hazlewood

Chotanagpur (North India): T
Bishop B. B. Baskey

Christ the King (Angola): W
Bishop Augusto Domingos

Christ the King (Southern Africa): Th
Bishop Mkhuseli Sobantwana

Christchurch (New Zealand): F
Bishop Peter Carrell

Chubu (Japan): S
Bishop Renta Nishihara

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

*Bishop's Adviser for Interfaith Matters:
John Chesworth*

*The Church of England:
Archbishop Sarah Mullally
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich:
Bishop Joanne Grenfell
Aberdeen and Orkney (Scotland):
Bishop Anne Dyer*

M *Clogher (Ireland):
Bishop Ian Ellis*

T *Coast (Nigeria):
Bishop Joshua Egunoluwa
Ogunlele*

W *Cochin (South India):
Bishop Kurian Peter*

Th *Coimbatore (South India):
Bishop S. Prince Calvin*

F *Colombia (USA):
Bishop Elías García Cárdenas*

S *Colombo (Ceylon):
Bishop Dushantha Rodrigo*



Interfaith Week

Today we reflect on this year's Interfaith Week which took place from 8 to 15 November. The week aims to strengthen good interfaith relations, increase awareness of the different faith communities in the UK, and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

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

The 2026 theme "Lighting the Way for a Shared Future" is a celebration of hope. Inspired by the symbolism of light across faiths and traditions, including the spirit of Diwali, the theme reflects a shared belief that even in challenging times, communities can come together to build understanding, trust and friendships.

Mon 23 Safeguarding Team

We give thanks for the diocesan Safeguarding team. Give them your strength and compassion in their work. We thank you for all the team and we pray for Hilary Highton, Delia Stokes, Claire Arden, Casey Gallagher and Liz Toone.

Tue 24 Worcester Cathedral

Lord we thank you for Worcester Cathedral, and we pray for all who work, volunteer, visit and worship there. Let it be a space of welcome and we pray that everyone who enters can know your love and grace. For the Dean: Stephen Edwards and Residentiary Canon: Kimberly Bohan.

Wed 25 Diocesan transformation

As we continue to develop funding bids to support more renewal churches in our major population areas, please pray for guidance that we are following God's plan and not our own and putting resources in the right places to grow God's Kingdom in the Diocese.

Thur 26 Beginning of Advent

As we approach the start of Advent this weekend, be with us in the excitement and the uncertainty. Advent is a time of waiting, help us to be more patient, to have faith in you and in your divine timings. Let us be able to share the joy and excitement of Advent with all we meet. Amen

Fri 27 Black Friday

On this Black Friday, help us to remember you in our spending. We think about all those facing financial hardship and those who support them. Give us the wisdom to manage our finances well, the grace to be content with what we have, and the generosity to use our resources to love and serve those in need. Amen

Sat 28 Prayers from our young people

Pray for all those young people from Oldswinford Primary School who have offered prayers throughout this prayer diary. Give thanks for their faith and for the teachers and staff who help to nourish it.

Write your Will for free with the Church of England

In partnership with
Farewill



Did you know that you can write your will for free with the Church of England and Farewill?

Thinking about what will happen after you die and what your legacy will be is hugely important. Each of us is shaped by the legacies of those who have gone before us and as Christians, we are invited to consider the legacy we will leave behind.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

There is no requirement to leave a gift for your local church when you use the Church of England's free will-making service, but legacies have a lasting impact on churches. They help maintain buildings, support community outreach, nurture faith, and enable new opportunities for ministry. They are gifts that continue giving long after we are gone.

Two legacies in the Lower Teme Valley together with a grant meant that the tower wall could be repaired and new guttering added to reduce future problems and protect the church for future generations. The person leaving one legacy was a pianist so the church was also able to buy a new piano to honour him.

As you reflect on the blessings you have received from others, take a moment to consider the legacy you would like to leave.

To learn more about the Church of England's free Will-writing service or find out about the impact legacies have made across our diocese, scan the QR code



or visit



www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/lasting-gift-your-church/writing-your-will/free-wills

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for those whose faith, generosity, and example have shaped our lives. Help us to be faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us, and guide us as we consider the legacy we will leave for those who come after us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



If you have a story to feature on a Sunday in a future diary, please do get in touch! Large print copies of the diary are always available – email Sam Setchell, Communications Officer on **ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk**, or contact the Diocesan Office reception on **01905 20537** if you or someone you know would like one.

