



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Prayer Diary

February 2020

Sunday 31 JANUARY

The Presentation

As we head towards Lent, pray that it will provide an opportunity to pause and reflect as we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

Lenten Patterns for Kingdom Living

What will you be doing this Lent? This year, Lent begins in February and offers an opportunity for renewal, not simply an excuse to lose a few pounds by giving up chocolate.

That's not to say giving things up is a bad idea, just that it's not the only way to look at it. And even giving things up can be put positively: not "giving up meat" but "adopting a vegetarian diet".

What about some kind of spiritual stock-take of where you are? Our diocesan *Patterns for Kingdom Living* resource is linked to the Kingdom People vision and enables individuals to explore how they live out their faith from day to day.

This simple resource begins with a questionnaire inviting you to explore what you're good at. It then encourages you to reflect on how you might use those skills, identifying a couple of things you might do differently in the future.

Remember, small changes are easier to achieve and you can't do everything at once. Picking just one thing to help you share in the love of God will help you to develop as a disciple of Jesus and explore new ways of living with God's grace.

View the *Patterns for Kingdom Living* resources on our website:

www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/kingdom-patterns. This Lent, seize the season.



Patterns for Kingdom Living
Gifts for Everyday Faith



Mon 1 FEBRUARY Pershore & Evesham Deanery

Pray for the relationships in new groupings, the appointment of a second priest to Bredon Hill Group, and our work to bear fruits from the diocesan restructuring conversations.

Tue 2 Norton Juxta Kempsey

We give thanks for our partnership with All Saints Worcester as we seek to develop new patterns of worship and Mission initiatives. Ministry Team: Mark Badger, David Hassell, Owain Bell, Libby James, Ron Rust, Josh & Rachel Kennedy, Giles Joiner

Wed 3 Diocese of Peru

Last month, four new deacons were ordained in Lima: Charles McCoy, Daniel Centeno, Raúl Taipe and Teófila Salazar. These were the first ordinations under Bishop Jorge and come as a sign of hope after a bleak year in Peru. Please pray for the new deacons and their communities, especially as Peru continues to struggle with the challenges of the pandemic and political uncertainty.

Thur 4 Bredon Hill Group

We pray for all the churches in the Bredon Hill Group: Eckington and Defford-cum-Besford, Elmley Castle w Bricklehampton & the Combertons, Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne w Beckford & Ashton under Hill and Bredon w Bredon's Norton. Clergy: Allison Davies

Fri 5 Bredon Hill Group

We pray for our schools and Open the Book teams, our retired clergy, ALMs and those in training. Clergy: Allison Davies

Sat 6 Growing as Kingdom People

Give thanks for all those who have been working to organise online worship or who have been responsible for ensuring worship in our churches is as safe as possible. Pray that even when we're not able to worship as we normally would, that God's presence will still be felt.

Bangor (Wales):

Bishop Andrew John

Dublin & Glendalough (Ireland):

Archbishop Michael Jackson

Anglican Church of Brazil:

Bishop Naudal Alves Gomes

All Saints Cathedral (Kenya):

Bishop Jackson Ole Sapit

Aluakluak (South Sudan):

Bishop Isaac Nyaryiel Aleth

Amazon (Brazil):

Bishop Martinez Rosa Dos Santos

Bassotto

Amichi (Nigeria):

Bishop Henry C. Ndukuba

Amritsar (India):

Bishop Pradeep Kumar Samantaroy

Andaman & Car Nicobar

Islands (India):

Bishop Christopher Paul

Living God, you call us to be good stewards of our earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when we abuse its beauty and damage its potential, and empower us, through your Spirit to nurture and love the world. Amen

Praying for our Baptism families - Father, thank you for being close to our Baptism families, sitting with them in their hardest times. We pray that you'll bless them with the ability to come to you with their thoughts and feelings whether good or bad. Reassure them that they will not be conquered or overwhelmed. Amen.

*Worcester: Bishop John Inge, w Bishop Martin Gorick (Dudley)
The Anglican Church of Burundi:
Archbishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho
Hamar (Norway):
Bishop Solveig Fiske*

Creation Care

Creation Care is a new scheme to help households improve their care of God's Creation. It has a similar structure to Eco Church, with bronze, silver and gold awards. It covers seven areas relevant to household life: worship and prayer, home, garden (if you have one), travel, food, possessions, and finally, community and global engagement.

Households can register and work through an online questionnaire covering each of the seven areas. Visit <https://creationcare.org.uk/> and click on the 'Household' tab to register - the questions can then be seen by clicking on 'Update Answers'. Working through the questions is a great way to show up areas for a household to discuss and act on.

When you have achieved at least a bronze level in each area, then a certificate can be printed off. The same is true for silver and gold levels.

It is possible for churches to sign up to the scheme. This could make it easier to encourage members to take part, share tips and resources, and celebrate success through giving out awards in services. Creation Care is separate to Eco Church, but covers some of the same ground as the Lifestyle section of Eco Church.



Mon 8 Bredon Hill Group

We pray for the PCC, office holders and all who are supporting our churches as we seek the appointment of a second priest to the Bredon Hill Group ministry. Clergy: Allison Davies

Tue 9 Key workers

Pray for all those who have been key workers throughout the pandemic, putting themselves at risk as they attend to the needs of other people. We thank them for their courage and compassion and pray that your Holy Spirit will support and encourage them, especially at times of physical or emotional exhaustion.

Wed 10 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for all those in Morogoro who have struggled financially as a result of the pandemic. In particular, the clergy who have struggled to pay for their children's education and those who have gone short of food. We also give thanks for the many acts of kindness that have blessed this challenging time.

Thur 11 The Flyfords Family

In Grafton Flyford, Abberton, Flyford Flavell, North Piddle and Nauton Beauchamp, pray for all those seeking fresh opportunities for ministry. For those caring and supporting our communities; for schools, business and community groups. Clergy: Emma Goldby

Fri 12 The Flyfords Family

In Bishampton & Throckmorton Chapelry, pray for all whose service cares for and supports others locally and abroad; for the care home, businesses and community groups, and a closer ministry with The Five Alive Parish. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield; Reader: Delia Harding

Sat 13 Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle, Crophorne & Charlton

Pray for all whose service cares for and supports others locally and abroad; for schools, businesses and community groups, and a closer ministry with Bishampton & Throckmorton. Clergy: Sarah Dangerfield; Reader: Sue Hiscocks

New Dean of Smaller Churches

The Revd Alison Maddocks has been appointed as our new Dean of Smaller Churches. This post has been funded by the national Church and from March Alison will work specifically with those churches which have fewer members, helping them to grow in confidence and in numbers as they discern how best they can serve their communities over the coming years.

Since 2017, Alison has worked in the diocesan office as the Diocesan Stewardship Officer. She said: "I'm really excited about the challenge of this new role. I'll be working with people who are passionate about their local church to help them find new and different ways of ensuring it has a viable and sustainable future. I will listen to those in our smaller churches, gaining a deeper understanding of their joys and burdens so I can help connect them with each other and also with the support available."



Mon 15 Bowland Benefice

Please pray for a good transition for our ministry here in these parishes, as Gary Noyes begins a new role and Claire continues as Curate. May the Light of Christ continue to shine! Clergy: Gary Noyes, Claire Billington

Tue 16 Bowland Benefice

Please pray for the church communities of Peopleton, White Ladies Aston w Churchill and Spetchley, Upton Snodsbury & Broughton Hackett. Clergy: Gary Noyes, Claire Billington

Wed 17 Ash Wednesday

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

Thur 18 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

Let us pray for the "Zeit-Paten e.V.", an ecumenical Initiative in the city of Halle (Saale): Since 2015, the registered association connects volunteers and migrants to help the local society become more integrated.

Fri 19 Pershore Benefice

Pray for our schools, college and workplace chaplains. Pray for all who share in mission and ministry, especially our ALMs. Clergy: Claire Lording, Steve Dunton, Alma Organ; Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams

Sat 20 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all those parishes who have been running nurture courses online throughout the pandemic. Pray that all those involved will have their faith deepened as they grow in discipleship.

Pray for Alison as she transitions between the two roles.

*Limerick and Killaloe (Ireland):
Bishop Kenneth Kearon
The Anglican Church of Canada:
Bishop Linda Nicholls
Roskilde (Denmark):
Bishop Peter Fischer-Moeller*

*South Ankole (Uganda): M
Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe*

*West Ankole (Uganda): T
Bishop Johnson Twinomujuni*

*Antananarivo (Madagascar): W
Bishop Samoela Jaona Ranarivelo*

*Antsiranana (Madagascar): Th
Bishop Theophile Botomazava*

*Anglican Church in Chile: F
Archbishop Hector Zavala*

*Arctic (Canada): S
Bishop David Parsons*

M *Saint Andrews Dunkeld & Dunblane (Scotland):
Bishop Ian Paton*

T *Missionary District of Oeste-Brasil (Brazil):
Bishop Francisco de Assis (Bishop-in-Charge)*

W *Angola (Southern Africa):
Bishop Andre Soares*

Th *Ankole (Uganda):
Bishop Sheldon Frederick Mwesigwa*

F *North Ankole (Uganda):
Bishop Stephen Namanya*

S *Northwest Ankole (Uganda):
Bishop Amos Magezi*

Pray for those who have been appointed Area Deans as well as everyone who will form part of the leadership team in the new deaneries.

Simplification of deaneries

Following the consultation into proposed changes to our deanery structure, a Bishop's Pastoral Order came into effect in February, reducing our deaneries from 13 to 6.

Bishop John said, "I am delighted that so many people contributed to the consultation on the changes to our deaneries, resulting in a number of amendments to the Pastoral Order. This new structure is an important step in ensuring our diocese is fit for purpose going forward, allowing us more flexibility in deploying ministry and organising mission. I pray that this will result in new partnerships and ideas for taking the love of Jesus out into our communities."



The new deaneries are:

- Greater Dudley
- Redditch and Bromsgrove
- Kidderminster and Stourport
- Worcester
- Malvern and Upton
- Pershore and Evesham

Further details are available on our website:
www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/simplification-of-deaneries.php

Mon 22 Pershore Benefice

Give thanks and pray for all who have been reached through our online and social media presence. Pray for our couples and families whose life events have been disrupted. Clergy: Claire Lording, Steve Dunton, Alma Organ; Readers: David Bray, Angela Gerrard, Peter Stansbie, Joanna Williams

Tue 23 Stoulton w Drakes Broughton & Pirton

Pray for all community supporters, school, businesses and groups. Give thanks for our growing live streamed worship. Churchwardens: Tim Daniels, Brian Wardle, Teresa Gardener and Tina Homer. Clergy: Emma Goldby; Reader: Mary Kenchington

Wed 24 Economy and Daily Life

As the new reality of not being part of the EU takes hold, pray for businesses and workers impacted by the changes; and for wisdom to build a new economy post-Covid. During Fairtrade Fortnight (22 Feb – 7 March), pray for fairness and justice in all economic dealings.

Thur 25 Mucknell Abbey

Please pray for the Anglican Benedictine Community at Mucknell Abbey and especially for Abbot Thomas.

Fri 26 Retired clergy

On this Ember Day, the eve of the commemoration of George Herbert, we give thanks for the faithful work and witness of parish priests throughout the years. Amongst these we remember with thanksgiving those in the Pershore area, now retired, who continue to serve in various ways to tend the flock of Christ's people today.

Sat 27 Diocesan Finance Team

Pray for the Finance Team in the diocesan office and give thanks for all they do to support parishes. Director, Helen Archer-Smith; Management Accountant: Ryan Bates; Accounts Clerks: Jo Burr and Jessica Lambert; Administrator: Garry Kidd

M **Argentina** (South America):
Bishop Gregory James Venables

T **Northern Argentina**
(South America):
Bishop Nicholas James Quested
Drayson

W **Argyll & The Isles** (Scotland):
Bishop Kevin Pearson

Th **Arizona** (USA):
Bishop Jennifer Reddall

F **Arkansas** (USA):
Bishop Larry Benfield

S **Armagh** (Ireland):
Bishop John McDowell



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

