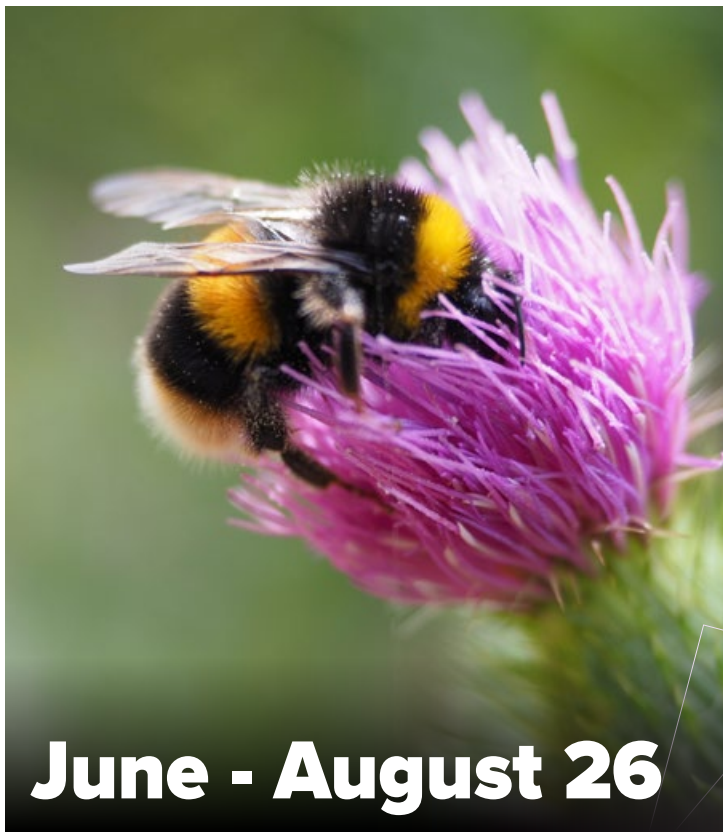


WEPRAY



June - August 26

Praying for each other in Essex & East London

Chelmsford Diocese Prayer Diary



Fruit of the Spirit

A reflection from The Very Revd Dr Jessica Martin, The Dean of Chelmsford:

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control'. So writes Paul to the church in Galatia (Gal.5.22-3).

I've found myself really thinking about that word 'fruit'. That cluster of wonders in Paul's sentence – well, it looks like a collection of virtues: habits of mind and heart. In some ways, it can look like.... a programme.

These are ways to learn to be: to be patient, to be loving, to be self-controlled, to be a giving person. And that sounds like effort - more like planting than fruiting.

But that's not how Paul sees it. This isn't about a mighty effort to be a good person and do the right thing. These are the outworkings of an amazing divine gift. That gift is freedom.

Paul is describing what the Spirit brings about in a spirit-filled person, and he makes that description in contrast to the enslaved behaviours of someone possessed by the passions that limit or stifle love – jealousy

and anger, disagreements and factionalism, envy and addictions, idolatry, out-of-control behaviours of every kind. All those passions make us smaller, sadder people, narrowing our focus and our choices, dimming our inner vision so that we cannot see the range of creative possibility God sets before us.

There is an untrammelled nature to us that only the Spirit can set free, liberating us into love rather than suspicion; making us joyful rather than ill-at-ease or anxious; helping us to be at peace rather than in dissension, to give rather than to withhold.

We can't create the fruits of the Spirit. Love can be cultivated, but it can't be willed into being.

Joy is a spontaneous gift, not a practice.

What is asked of us is only this: to open ourselves to God's endlessly creative will.



June

Mon 1 **Calendar of Saints: Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165**

Pray for: The Deanery of Maldon & Dengie

Area Dean: Peter Begley. Lay Chair: Adrian Smith.

All the chaplains who work in the Deanery of Maldon & Dengie.

Pray for: The Diocesan Environment Team and Deanery Environmental Advocates.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Aba – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Tue 2 **Pray for:** Bradwell on Sea (St Thomas, St Peter on the Wall), and Newland (St Lawrence) Clergy: Steven Poss (PIC).

St Cedd's Church of England Primary School, Bradwell: Ruth Wright (HoS), Tara Clarke (Exec HT).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Aba Ngwa North – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Wed 3 **Calendar of Saints: The Martyrs of Uganda, 1885-7 and 1977**

Pray for: Burnham-on-Crouch (St Mary Vn)

Clergy: Suzanne Fryer (PIC), Karen Eyles (A).

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Burnham-on-Crouch: Anna Macartney (HT).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Abakaliki – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Thu 4 **Calendar of Saints: Petroc Abbot of Padstow, 6th century**

Pray for: Purleigh (All Saints) Clergy: Julie Willmot (PIC).

Creeksea (All Saints) Clergy: Suzanne Fryer (PIC).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney – The Scottish Episcopal Church*

Please refer to the Notes and Abbreviations on the back cover.

Annual Safeguarding Service of Thanksgiving and Recommitment

The Chelmsford Diocese annual service of thanksgiving, prayer and recommitment for all who are involved in safeguarding will take place on Monday 8 June at 7pm at Chelmsford Cathedral.

The service is an opportunity to thank those who help keep people safe in our church communities, including Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs), who support a positive church culture and help implement safeguarding policies for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Ann Pinnock, from St John the Evangelist in the Parish of Grays North and Stifford, has been involved in children's ministry for over 40 years. In 2003, she became the parish's nominated person for CRB disclosures and has since taken on the roles of lead recruiter and PSO.

Reflecting on changes over the years, Ann highlights how developments in technology and improved processes have strengthened safeguarding practice: "Today, most people have access to the internet, DBS applications are completed online, training takes place on Zoom, and national safeguarding policies are easily accessible. It's much easier to circulate information. There is also greater involvement from the PCC and church leadership, especially since the introduction of the Safeguarding Dashboard, leading to increased awareness, understanding, and a whole-church commitment to providing a safe environment."

Ann also shares what motivates her to continue in her role as PSO: "Firstly, I've been able to share the workload with my incumbent and trained members of the PCC, who support me with safe recruitment and risk assessments.

"Secondly, I've made good use of the support offered by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. I'm grateful for their readiness to help, and I find the drop-in Zoom sessions particularly valuable.

"Thirdly, I feel called by God to this work as part of the Body of Christ. Our God is compassionate and loving, caring deeply for the vulnerable and marginalised, as shown in the ministry of Jesus. In 1 Corinthians 12:28, Paul includes administration among the gifts given by God. This inspires me to ensure that our church is always a welcoming and safe place for worship and fellowship."

From 1 June - 14 June 2026 the Church of England is running a campaign - 'It's Not Just Policy, It's Personal' - to raise awareness of how to recognise and report safeguarding concerns.

A suite of resources – both print and digital - have been produced for churches. Find out more and access the resources at: shorturl.at/yWXUm

Pray for all those involved in safeguarding across our diocese, that they may be supported and strengthened in their work and for our churches to be safe, welcoming places for all.

Fri 5 **Calendar of Saints: Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754**

Pray for: Cold Norton (St Stephen) w Stow Maries (St Mary & St Margaret)
Clergy: Vacancy (R).

Tillingham (St Nicholas) w Dengie (St James) & Asheldham
Clergy: Steven Poss (PIC).

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Tillingham: Tara Clarke (HoS)
Becky Fairhead (Exec. HT).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Abuja – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Sat 6 **Calendar of Saints: Ini Kapuria, founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 1945**

Pray for: *The Diocese of Abyei – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

Sun 7 **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY / ENVIRONMENT SUNDAY**

Pray for the Environment: God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet. Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name. Amen.

Pray for: *The Scottish Episcopal Church*

Mon 8 **Calendar of Saints: Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Nonjuror, Hymn Writer, 1711**

Pray for: Heybridge (St Andrew, St George Heybridge Basin) w Langford (St Giles) Clergy: Heather Atkinson (PIC), Julia McGregor (A).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Accra – The Church of the Province of West Africa*

Tue 9 **Calendar of Saints: Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597 Ephrem of Syria, Deacon, Hymn Writer, Teacher of the Faith, 373**

Pray for: Maldon (All Saints w St Peter)
Clergy: Heather Atkinson (PIC), Julia McGregor (A).

All Saints Maldon Church of England Primary School: Phillip Brown (HT).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Adelaide – The Anglican Church of Australia*



Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union President's Midday Prayer Challenge

Caption: Chelmsford Mothers' Union President Maxine Paul at the Chelmsford Cathedral Knightbridge Library for her Midday Prayer Challenge.

On Ascension Day Chelmsford Diocesan Mothers' Union President Maxine Paul, joined members of the Chelmsford Cathedral Mothers' Union at the Cathedral to say midday prayers as part of her President's 150th anniversary challenge.

Maxine is saying midday prayers at a different historic site around the Chelmsford diocese every month this year to celebrate 150 years since the founding of the Mothers' Union. Through her challenge she is also raising money for the 150th anniversary fund, supporting Mothers' Union projects in the UK and around the world.

To learn more about Maxine's challenge and to sponsor her, visit her Just Giving page by scanning the QR code.

On 12 June, Maxine will be at Harwich Lighthouse. All are welcome to join her and join In!

Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union will mark its 150th anniversary with events across the diocese, including a fundraising afternoon tea in the Chapter House in Chelmsford on Saturday 22 August and the Chelmsford Diocesan Mothers' Union Anniversary Service in the Cathedral on Saturday 17 November – email secretary@muchelmsford.org.uk for more details.

The Mothers' Union has around 4 million members across 84 countries, working to strengthen families and communities through faith, compassion, and practical support. Every day, members carry out quiet acts of service that bring hope and healing worldwide.

In our diocese, their impact is clear through projects such as English for Women in Chelmsford and the Trinity Child Contact Centre in Ilford. Local branches also lead a wide range of initiatives: knitting items for those in need, supporting schoolchildren through "Open the Book," collecting essentials for refugees and foodbanks, and offering families much-needed breaks through the Away From It All scheme.

Find out more about the Chelmsford Diocesan Mothers' Union at www.muchelmsford.org.uk

Pray for the Mothers' Union across the diocese and worldwide, for Maxine in her prayer challenge, and for all those supported through their work, that they may know hope, strength, and God's transforming love.



Wed 10 **Pray for:** Maldon (St Mary) w Mundon (St Mary) Clergy: Andrew Appiah (PIC).
Pray for: The Diocese of Afikpo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Thu 11 **Calendar of Saints: BARNABAS, THE APOSTLE**

Pray for: Southminster (St Leonard) and Steeple (St Lawrence and All Saints) Clergy: Peter Begley (PIC, AD).

St Leonard's Church of England Primary School: Wendy Woods (HT).

Pray for: The Diocese of North Africa – The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

Fri 12 **Pray for:** Woodham Mortimer (St Margaret) w Hazeleigh and Woodham Walter (St Michael) Clergy: Julie Willmot (PIC).

Woodham Walter Church of England Primary Academy: Amy Dennis (HT), Lesley Roche (Exec. HT).

Pray for: The Diocese of Agra – The Church of North India (United)

Sat 13 **Pray for: The Diocese of Aguata – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)**

Sun 14 **Calendar of Saints: Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691**
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

As churches and communities prepare to mark Refugee Week (16-22 June) we remember those driven from their homes, separated from their families and forced to live in another country.

We pray that we may be among those who can lighten the burden of the dispossessed and provide new beginnings for the vulnerable refugees in our midst.

Pray for: Church of the Province of South East Asia

Mon 15 **Calendar of Saints: Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual Writer, 1941**

Pray for: Augustland (St Barnabas) and Latchingdon (Christ Church) Clergy: Andrew Appiah (PIC).

Pray for: The Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Pray for: The Diocese of Ahoada – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

PILGRIM PLACES, HOLY LIVES

A Gospel Journey with the English Saints

This summer, the Church of England offers a new campaign centred around pilgrimage. Christian pilgrimage has roots in the earliest centuries of the church, when believers travelled to places linked with Jesus and the apostles and, later, saints. At the heart of being a pilgrim is our journey through life, on which we are strengthened by visiting special sites where others have prayed and worshipped before us.

Running from the day after Pentecost (25 May) to 21 June, the campaign is supported by a wide range of resources. Daily reflections focus on eight places significant to the spread of Christianity in England, alongside the stories of the saints who lived there. Contributions written by the Archbishops and others, are available both in print and through digital platforms such as the Everyday Faith app. Each day will include a Bible reading, a prayer, a short reflection and a suggested action or reflective question.

A key part of the campaign is inviting churches to become recognised Pilgrim Places: welcoming spaces where anyone can pause, reflect, and pray. Participating churches will display clear signage and offer prayer cards, self-guided trails, and reflective questions, creating an open invitation for visitors of all backgrounds to

explore. These churches are featured on online maps and can be tagged on A Church Near You, helping people find their nearest Pilgrim Place.

Resources are available for all churches - downloadable materials, social media ideas, and storytelling content - so the pilgrimage theme can be shared with their church communities.

Individuals and families are warmly invited to take part. This might involve visiting a nearby church, following a reflection trail, or taking time to pause and pray in a quiet space. Whether walking part of a local route or simply stepping into a church for a few moments of stillness, everyone can take part in this journey.

Find out more at:
www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/pilgrim-places-holy-lives
 or scan the QR code.



In 653, Cedd sailed south from Lindisfarne along the east coast of England and landed at Bradwell. The Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall in Bradwell-on-Sea has since become a significant pilgrimage destination. Marking the conclusion of the Pilgrim Places campaign, the Church of England's weekly online service on Sunday 21 June will be broadcast from St Peter's Chapel, led by the Rt Revd Adam Atkinson, Bishop of Bradwell.

Tue 16 **Calendar of Saints: Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253**
Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, Philosopher, 1752

Pray for: Althorne (St Andrew) and North Fambridge (Holy Trinity)
 Clergy: Suzanne Fryer (PIC), Karen Eyles (A).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Aipo Rongo – The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea*

Wed 17 **Calendar of Saints: Samuel and Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers, 1913 and 1936**

Pray for: Dengie with Ashledam (St James) Clergy: Steven Poss (PIC).

The retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Maldon and Dengie.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Ajayi Crowther – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Thu 18 **Calendar of Saints: Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the Ma Shona, Martyr, 1896**

Pray for: The Deanery of Thurrock

Area Dean: David Rollins. Lay Chair: Frank Woollard.

All the chaplains who work in the Deanery of Thurrock.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Akobo – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

Fri 19 **DAY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE INSTITUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION (CORPUS CHRISTI)**

Calendar of Saints: Sundar Singh of India, Sadhu (holy man), Evangelist, Teacher of the Faith, 1929

Pray for: Mardyke Team Ministry: Aveley (St Michael) and Purfleet (St Stephen), South Ockendon (St Nicholas) and Belhus Park (All Saints)
 Clergy: Tara Frankland (TR), Vacancy (TV).
 Licensed Lay Ministers: Henry Webster.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Akoko – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Sat 20 **Pray for:** *The Diocese of Akoko Edo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*



Empowering the Windrush Generation: local Mother's Union leader makes a difference

Monday 22 June is National Windrush Day, marking the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury in our diocese in 1948. The ship carried Caribbean passengers invited to help rebuild the UK after the Second World War.

Despite their vital contributions, many faced discrimination, and some were wrongly deported or denied rights due to missing documentation - a failure later known as the Windrush Scandal.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme (WCS) was established to address these harms, but challenges remain, including low awareness, limited trust, delays, and a complex process.

Kemi Ademola, Branch Leader of Leyton Emmanuel Mothers' Union, has spent the past two years working with the WCS to raise awareness across East London and support eligible individuals. Her work focuses on outreach, training, and helping people navigate both status and compensation processes.

Kemi first heard about the scheme through her work at the Department for Work and Pensions as it was known Kemi was actively involved in her local church and other community initiatives across Waltham Forest, including being leader of the Emmanuel Parish Mothers' Union. "Since launching a Black History Month programme

in 2017, I have used this platform to promote dialogue and highlight issues affecting our community," explained Kemi.

Working with the Windrush Stakeholder Engagement Team, Kemi has delivered presentations at Black History Month events, creating safe, welcoming spaces for people to share experiences, ask questions, and receive guidance.

The impact has been significant, with individuals and families receiving compensation, and many encountering positive, firsthand accounts of successful claims for the first time.

Further partnership has trained ten volunteer facilitators from Emmanuel Parish and neighbouring East London parishes, supporting applications and building trust through lived experience.

Kemi's dedication has been recognised with an OBE in the King's New Year Honours List, presented at Windsor Castle in April by HRH The Princess Royal.

As we mark Windrush Day, we pray and give thanks for the contributions of the Windrush generation and renew our commitment to ensuring their legacy is honoured not only in words, but in action.

Sun 21 **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

A prayer for Windrush Day – which will be marked on 22 June 2026
Loving Father in heaven, we thank you for the amazing contribution of the Windrush generation to our communities and workplaces, and to your Church in our land.

Lamenting our past failings in welcoming them, we ask that you would help us to recognise your Son in every face we see, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (The Church of England)

Pray for: The Church of South India (United)

Mon 22 **Calendar of Saints: Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c.250**

Pray for: Chadwell (St Mary the Virgin) (Emmanuel)
Clergy: Vacancy (PIC), Kate Carter (AC), David Peterson (AC).

Pray for: The Diocese of Akot – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Tue 23 **Calendar of Saints: Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678**

Pray for: Corringham (St Mary the Virgin) and Fobbing (St Michael)
Clergy: David Rollins (AD, R), Wendy Mott (AC), Lauren Hart (A).

Pray for: The Diocese of Akure – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Wed 24 **Calendar of Saints: THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Pray for: East and West Tilbury (St Catherine) and Linford (St Francis)
Clergy: Michèle Marshall (PIC)

Pray for: The Diocese of Alabama – The Episcopal Church

Thu 25 **Pray for:** Grays Thurrock Team Ministry: Grays (St Peter & St Paul), Little Thurrock (St Mary the Virgin), West Thurrock (St Clement), Chafford Hundred (All Saints) Clergy: Kate Carter (TR), David Peterson (TV).
Licensed Lay Ministers: Alyson Davies, Tina Bailes.

Pray for: The Diocese of Alaska – The Episcopal Church



Celebrate Lay Ministry in our Diocese this July

The Diocesan Lay Ministry Celebration Service is taking place on Sunday 5 July at 3.30pm in Chelmsford Cathedral.

The service is an opportunity for us to gather as a Diocese and celebrate the variety of Lay Ministries in our places of worship, communities and schools across Essex and East London.

The service will see the licensing a new Licensed Lay Minister and the authorising Pastoral Assistants and Spiritual Companions. We would like everyone who leads services as a lay minister to come and join the celebration.

Canon Caroline Harding, Warden of Readers and Diocesan Lay Ministry Adviser says: "The ministry of lay ministers is part of the lifeblood of our Church, and without the vital part they play, the Church could not carry out God's Mission: to make the Gospel known through our words and

actions, and to help realise the Kingdom of God here on earth.

"Our Diocesan Lay Ministry Celebration Service will be a wonderful opportunity to come together and pray for all lay ministries, giving thanks for the dedicated service of so many volunteers."

If you feel God is calling you to lay ministry within the Church of England, find out more at: www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lay-ministry or scan the QR code.

For more on vocations in our diocese follow @ChelmsDioVocations on Instagram.

Please pray for all those who are involved in lay ministry development and training in our diocese and for those preparing to begin a new ministry in our parishes and worshipping communities across Essex and East London.

Fri 26 **Pray for:** Grays North (St John the Evangelist) and Stifford (St Mary and St Cedd) Clergy: Clive Russell (V), Matt Ralph (A).

Pray for: The Diocese of Saint Albans – The Church of England

Sat 27 **Calendar of Saints: Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 444**

Pray for: The Diocese of Albany – The Episcopal Church

Sun 28 **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Pray for the work of all Authorised Lay Preachers in our Diocese.

Calendar of Saints: Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Teacher of the Faith, c.200

Pray for: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Mon 29 **Calendar of Saints: PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES**

Pray for: Orsett (St Giles and All Saints) with Bulphan (St Mary the Virgin) and Horndon-on-the-Hill (St Peter & St Paul) Clergy: Vacancy (R).

Orsett Church of England Primary School: James Dickson (HoS), Gina Bailey (Exec. HT).

Bulphan Church of England Primary School: James Dickson (HoS), Gina Bailey (Exec. HT).

Horndon-on-the-Hill CofE Primary School: Victoria Smith (HT).

Pray for: Diocesan CMD advisers and all those involved in Clergy training in Chelmsford Diocese.

Pray for: The Diocese of Algoma – The Anglican Church of Canada

Tue 30 **Pray for:** Stanford-le-Hope (St Margaret) w Mucking (St John the Baptist) Clergy: Tom Rout (R).

Pray for: The Diocese of All Saints – The Anglican Church of Kenya



The Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal: Donations open until 1 July

Thank you to everyone who has donated to The Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal this year. So far, we have raised over £10,000 for Anglican Development Services of Mt Kenya East (ADSMKE) to support their work in response to climate change and in environmental conservation across our five linked partner dioceses - Embu, Kirinyaga, Meru, Mbeere and Marsabit - in Kenya.

Communities across Mt Kenya East are facing the harsh realities of the climate crisis. Years of recurring drought have devastated harvests, depleted natural resources and pushed families into increased hardship.

In response to these challenges, ADSMKE is leading inspiring, community-driven work to restore the environment and strengthen livelihoods. The Revd Sandra Eldridge, former Diocesan Environment Officer, visited the Mt Kenya East region in Kenya earlier this year and

saw firsthand the impact of the climate crisis. Sandra has written the report below following her trip: "I've recently spent a month in the Mt Kenya East region with my husband, Dave.

Although climate change has been affecting communities in Kenya for two decades, the effects are clearly getting worse. We visited many homesteads and communities. In one homestead, where they welcomed us generously with Kenyan tea and sweet potato, we were told "We have been experiencing climate change for 20 years, but we've never seen anything like this."

The person who said this to us was referring to the failure of the autumn rains in 2025 and the resulting drought. Kenya has two rainy seasons per year, the short rains between October and December and the long rains between March and May. Farmers rely on these rains for crop growth and to provide water for household consumption.

We saw how important community work is in these circumstances. We visited several women's groups where the women are supporting each other, often through collective loan schemes, to improve their circumstances. We also saw how communities are themselves digging trenches for water pipes so that they can have water piped to their homesteads for the first time ever. When rivers and reservoirs are running dry more often, piped water becomes even more important. The alternative is fetching water using 20 litre water carriers, sometimes carried by donkeys.

We also saw the effort being put into planting trees, trees that will improve eco systems, prevent soil erosion and provide shade. In such dry conditions it's important to plant a variety of native trees and to take care of them to ensure the best chance of survival.

We also saw the difference water provision, harvesting and storage can make to building resilience of families and communities. This saves time in fetching water and saves money by reducing the need to buy water from communal water points

Finally, we saw what happens when the situation becomes extreme. In northern arid areas, in Marsabit Diocese, environmental damage is being exacerbated because some people have no other way of making a living except by cutting down trees to make charcoal that they can sell.

However, the Kenyan church is planting trees wherever it can."

Pray for all those who feel the harsh effects of the climate crisis - those facing loss, uncertainty, and hardship as a result of climate change. Pray also for the work of ADSMKE, as they walk alongside communities across our link partner dioceses in Kenya, bringing hope, resilience, and practical support.



The Anglican Church in Kenya is part of the Green Anglican Movement started in South Africa. This year its theme is "Wholesome Ecology." While planting trees is important, funds raised through the Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal will enable Anglican Development Services of Mount Kenya East to expand vital climate and conservation projects that:

- Builds community resilience to climate change
- Improves biodiversity and restore damaged ecosystems
- Enhances food security through sustainable agriculture
- Creates economic opportunities rooted in environmental stewardship
- Equips future generations to care for God's creation

Donations are welcome to this year's Lent Appeal until 1 July 2026.

If you would like to make a donation or find out more about the appeal, visit: www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lent-appeal or scan the QR code.





Hundreds of children to take part in the Bradwell Schools' Pilgrimage

Tucked away on the Essex coastline, St Peter-on-the-Wall Chapel at Bradwell-on-Sea is usually a place of quiet reflection. Yet in June and July each year, it comes alive as hundreds of children gather for the annual Bradwell Schools' Pilgrimage, held in the weeks leading up to the Diocesan Pilgrimage and Gathering.

This year, around 500 children are expected to visit the chapel across five days. Each school group will take part in a full programme of activities, beginning and ending with worship. Pupils will explore the pilgrimage theme through a series of interactive workshops and enjoy a specially commissioned performance by the Artless Theatre Company, bringing to life the story of St Cedd, the founder of the chapel. The experience concludes with a final act of worship before the children return along the coastal path to their waiting coaches.

The pilgrimage is run by the Chelmsford Diocese Children's, families and youth team - the Mustard Seed Team - the Chelmsford Diocese Education Team and members of the local church community. This year's theme for both the Schools' Pilgrimage and the wider diocesan gathering is Living Stones.

The 2026 Bradwell Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 4 July - a cherished tradition that brings together people from all walks of life to celebrate our shared spiritual journey.

Starting at St Thomas' Church, Bradwell-on-Sea, the pilgrimage follows a scenic route to the ancient Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall, one of the oldest churches in England, founded in AD 654.

Pilgrims can look forward to:

- Live music and worship
- Opportunities for prayer and quiet contemplation
- Christian stalls in the marquee
- Children's activities.

For more information, visit bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk or scan the QR code.



Pray for all those involved in organising both the Schools' Pilgrimage and the Diocesan Bradwell Pilgrimage and Gathering, and for all who will take part - that this special time may deepen faith and build community.

July

Wed 1 Calendar of Saints: Henry, John, and Henry Venn the Younger, Priests, Evangelical Divines, 1797, 1813 and 1873

Pray for: Tilbury Docks (St John the Baptist) Clergy: Tim Codling (V).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Aluakluak – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

Thu 2 Pray for: The retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Thurrock.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Amazônia – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil*

Fri 3 Calendar of Saints: THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Pray for: The Deanery of Basildon

Area Dean: Jonathan Evens. Lay Chair: Christine Coe.

All the chaplains who work in the Deanery of Basildon.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Amichi – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Sat 4 Pray for: *The Diocese of Amritsar – The Church of North India (United)*

Sun 5 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY


Pray for the work of the Hockerill Foundation, which provides grants to this diocese and St Albans' diocese to develop the church's educational work, as well as grants to teachers in training, especially those studying Religious Education.

Pray for: *The Anglican Church of South America*

Mon 6 Calendar of Saints: Thomas More, Scholar, and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535

Pray for: Basildon (St Martin of Tours) Clergy: Timothy Brampton (V).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Andaman and Car Nicobar Islands – The Church of North India (United)*



The reopening of St Mary's Church, Stebbing marked with a special service on Palm Sunday

St Mary's Church in Stebbing reopened on Palm Sunday with a special service celebrating the completion of a major restoration project.

Around 300 guests gathered to mark the reopening of the Grade I listed building, which had been closed since October 2024. The service marked a major milestone in The Way Forward project, made possible through funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, as well as support from charitable trusts and the local community.

The service was led by the Vicar of St Mary's, the Revd Sue Hurley and attended by representatives from across the community and the Diocese of Chelmsford, including project partners, contractors, volunteers, local residents and the Archdeacon of Stanstead, the Venerable Kate Peacock.

Guests saw the transformed interior of St Mary's for the first time, including new underfloor heating, improved lighting, flexible seating and enhanced facilities to support both worship and wider community use. The restoration carefully balances modern improvements with the preservation of the church's historic character, helping to secure its future for generations to come.

After the service, guests gathered for a hog roast

and refreshments to celebrate the completion of the works and reflect on the journey that made the project possible.

The Revd Sue Hurley said: "This has been an extraordinary journey for our church and community. After years of planning, fundraising and hard work, it was wonderful to welcome people back into St Mary's and celebrate together. This building has always been at the heart of the village, and now it is ready to serve the community in new and exciting ways."

The reopening of St Mary's marks not an end, but a new beginning. A programme of events and activities will continue throughout the year, inviting people of all ages to experience the building as a place of heritage, community and creativity.

St Mary's also hosted an open day in April, giving the wider public a chance to explore the church, learn more about its history and enjoy family-friendly activities.

Find out more about The Way Forward Project. www.wayforwardstebbing.org

Pray for the ministry team and congregation of St Mary's, Stebbing. We ask for God's blessing on the building, its ministry, and all who will worship and visit there in the years ahead.

Tue 7 **Pray for:** Basildon (St Andrew w Holy Cross)
Clergy: Timothy Brampton (V), Trudy Arnold (AC).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Saint Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane – The Scottish Episcopal Church*

Wed 8 **Pray for:** Billericay & Little Burstead TM: Billericay (Christ Church), Billericay (Emmanuel), Billericay (St John the Divine), Little Burstead (St Mary Vn)
Clergy: Vacancy (TR), Vacancy (TV). Licensed Lay Ministers: Catherine Benbough, Peter Fisher, Susan Oakley.

Pray for: *The Missionary Diocese of Central and South Angola – Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola*

Thu 9 **Pray for:** Bowers Gifford w North Benfleet (St Margaret, St John)
Clergy: David Ibiayo (PIC).

St Margaret's C of E Academy: Clare Marshall (HT).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Ankole – The Church of the Province of Uganda*

Fri 10 **Pray for:** Laindon (St Nicholas) w Dunton
Clergy: Michael Hall (R), Karen White (AC).

Pray for: *The Diocese of North Ankole – The Church of the Province of Uganda*

Sat 11 **Calendar of Saints: Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550**

Pray for: *The Diocese of Northwest Ankole – The Church of the Province of Uganda*

Sun 12 **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Sea Sunday

On this Sea Sunday we give thanks for the world-wide network of Maritime Mission Societies. We pray for the merchant seafarers of the world in the risks they take and the dangers they face for others. We ask for God's blessing on the ministry offered to seafarers and their families by Port Chaplains.

Pray for: *Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*



Choirs from across Essex and East London gathered for Diocesan Choral Festival

On Saturday 16 May around 100 singers representing 15 different churches from across the Diocese gathered in the Cathedral for the annual Diocesan Choral Festival.

The combined choirs rehearsed during the afternoon, preparing to sing music by Ayleward, Stanford and Vaughan Williams at Choral Evensong.

The service was led by the Revd Canon Sebastian Harries, Cathedral Precentor. During the service Royal School of Church Music Silver and Gold award winners were presented with their medals by the Venerable Chris Burke, the Archdeacon of Barking.

Emma Gibbins, Chelmsford Cathedral's Director of Music, said: "The Diocesan Choral Festival was a joyful and uplifting occasion, celebrating choral singing in our Diocese.

"It was wonderful to bring together singers from across our churches to share in such a rich tradition of music and worship. We look forward to welcoming choirs again next year — save the date for the Diocesan Choral Festival 2027, which will take place on Saturday 15 May."

Please pray for all those who took part in this year's Diocesan Choral Festival, giving thanks for the gift of music and the dedication of choir members across our Diocese. Pray also for the continued flourishing of church music in our churches and worshipping communities across Essex and East London.

Mon 13 **Pray for:** Great Burstead (St Mary Magdalene) w Ramsden Crays
Clergy: Michael Hall (V), Karen White (AC).

Pray for: Our Racial Justice Team and Racial Justice Advocates.

Pray for: *The Diocese of South Ankole – The Church of the Province of Uganda*

Tue 14 **Calendar of Saints:** John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866

Pray for: Langdon Hills (St Mary & All Saints) Clergy: Vacancy (R).

Pitsea (St Gabriel) w Nevendon (St Peter) Clergy: Vacancy (R). Licensed Lay Minister: Jacqui Moss.

Pray for: *The Diocese of West Ankole – The Church of the Province of Uganda*

Wed 15 **Calendar of Saints:** Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862

Bonaventure, Friar, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

Pray for: Vange (St Chad) Clergy: David Ibiayo (R).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Antananarivo – The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean*

Thu 16 **Calendar of Saints:** Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099

Pray for: Wickford & Runwell TM: Wickford (St Catherine, Wickford (St Andrew), Runwell (St Mary) Clergy: Jonathan Evens (TR, AD), Sue Wise (TV), Nik Wright (A). Licensed Lay Ministers: Emma Doe, Mike Tricker.

Wickford CofE School: Lucy Springall (HoS), Danny Wagstaff (Exec. HT).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Antsiranana – The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean*

Fri 17 **Pray for:** The retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Basildon.

Pray for: *Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia*



The Blessing of Kennedy Footbridge

Kennedy Footbridge has provided a crossing over the railway between Barking and Dagenham Dock since the 1950s, linking the Eastbury and Gascoigne Wards. For decades it enabled safe passage between Kennedy Road and Blake Avenue/Harrow Road and was an essential community route within the Parish of St Patrick, Barking.

Over time, despite monitoring by residents and Network Rail, the bridge's ageing structure deteriorated. In August 2022 the bridge collapsed, and it was immediately closed and demolished, leaving the community without a direct crossing.

The loss was felt by the parish, which spans both sides of the line. The Rev'd Chris Bolster, then Vicar of St Patrick's, Barking, played a key role in campaigning for a replacement, supported by Cllr Alison Cormack and churchwarden, Marion Hull. Although Chris moved from the parish in 2024, the campaign continued.

Network Rail announced that construction of a new footbridge would begin in July 2025. The steel replacement, designed to reflect the original structure, was completed in December 2025.

As the bridge reopened, St Patrick's, Barking welcomed a new chapter with the arrival of the Revd Sade Barnes as Vicar. On 8 April 2026, the community gathered for a celebration and blessing of the new Kennedy Footbridge, led by the Rt Revd Lynne Cullens, the Bishop of Barking, with local councillors, the MP for Barking, and Network Rail representatives in attendance.

The Revd Sade Barnes, said: "We were delighted to invite Bishop Lynne to bless The Kennedy Footbridge. A bridge connects communities, and I hope our community will remain united, continuing to support each other and look out for one another."

Bishop Lynne added: "In my years of ministry, this was the first time I have ever been invited to bless a footbridge, and it was a real joy. The Kennedy Footbridge represents connection and community spirit. It's a vital link for the parish of St Patrick's Barking and it will serve the local community safely for generations to come."

The service not only marked the reopening of the bridge but also celebrated the dedication and determination of the local community who worked together to make it happen.

Sat 18 **Calendar of Saints: Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England, Founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883**

Pray for: The Diocese of Araucanía – Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Sun 19 **SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Give thanks for the men and women of the RNLI and HM Coastguard, who risk their lives to protect those who travel the seas around our coast.

Calendar of Saints: Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, and his sister Macrina, Deaconess, Teachers of the Faith, c. 394 and c. 379

Pray for: Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Mon 20 **Calendar of Saints: Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century**
Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566

Pray for: The Deanery of Hadleigh

Area Dean: Peter Hillman. Lay Chair: Martin Newman.

All the chaplains who work in the Deanery of Hadleigh.

Pray for: The Diocese of the Arctic – The Anglican Church of Canada

Tue 21 **Pray for: Canvey Island TM: (St Nicholas, St Anne, St Katherine) Clergy: Vacancy (TR), Lesley McGlynn (AC). Licensed Lay Minister: Jacqui Light.**

St Katherine's School: Anne-Marie Taylor (HT).

Pray for: The Diocese of Argentina – The Anglican Church of South America

Wed 22 **Calendar of Saints: MARY MAGDALENE**

Pray for: Eastwood (St Lawrence and All Saints) Clergy: Carolyn Madanat (V), Sarah Rachell (A).

Eastwood (St David) Clergy: Vacancy (V).

Pray for: The Diocese of Northern Argentina – The Anglican Church of South America



Course in Christian Studies and Pastoral Care Course Celebration

On Saturday 28 February, hundreds of people from churches across Chelmsford Diocese gathered at Chelmsford Cathedral to celebrate those completing the Chelmsford Diocese Course in Christian Studies (CCS) and Pastoral Care Part One Course.

The Rt Revd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester, led the service and presented certificates to more than 120 people who had completed diocesan training courses.

Fifteen CCS groups were represented, showing the breadth and diversity of the diocese, with learners taking part in person and on Zoom. CCS is a two-year foundation course in the Christian faith, with a first year in theology and a second in ministry, helping students explore different vocations and ministries in the Church. Learners receive a certificate each year, with full completion leading to the Bishop's Certificate.

The Pastoral Care Part 1 Course is for lay people and introduces pastoral care skills in a Christian context. It is designed for those already caring for others and wanting to grow in confidence and develop their role within their church. It is the first of two courses leading to Authorised Pastoral Assistant ministry in Chelmsford Diocese.

Canon Caroline Harding, Warden of Readers and Lay Ministry Adviser, said: "It is always a

joy to celebrate the commitment and growth of those who complete these courses. They reflect the richness and diversity of our diocese, and their willingness to learn and serve is deeply encouraging. We pray that what they have discovered will continue to shape their faith and ministry in the years ahead."

The Brentwood CCS graduates are pictured here with Bishop Roger, Canon Caroline Harding and their course tutor. More photos of those receiving certificates are available on the Chelmsford Diocese website.

Are you thinking about undertaking CCS or our Pastoral Care Course? You can find out more at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/vocations

Caption: Year 2 CCS recipients (Brentwood Group)

In April, the diocese said goodbye to Di Hardy, who left her role as a valued member of the Mission and Ministry Team and CCS administrator. She has supported tutors, staff and learners for many years, and we give thanks for her contribution to the life of the diocese.

Pray for all those involved in lay development and training across the Diocese – diocesan teams, tutors and learners – that their work may bear fruit, nurturing deeper faith and equipping people for ministry.

Thu 23 Calendar of Saints: Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373

Pray for: Hadleigh (St James the Less); also Hadleigh (St Barnabas)
Clergy: Mark Smeed (Lead Minister).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Argyll and The Isles – The Scottish Episcopal Church*

Fri 24 Pray for: Leigh-on-Sea (St Aidan) Clergy: Carolyn Madanat (V), Sarah Rachell (A).

Leigh (St Clement) Clergy: Myles Owen (R); Cherry Sandover (AC).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Arizona – The Episcopal Church*

Sat 25 Calendar of Saints: JAMES THE APOSTLE

Pray for: *The Diocese of Arkansas – The Episcopal Church*

Sun 26 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Please pray for all who work in our local hospitals, both medical and ancillary, that they August feel valued and appreciated. Pray also for all who work in the Ambulance and Air Ambulance Services.

Calendar of Saints: Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pray for: *The Anglican Church of Tanzania*

Mon 27 Calendar of Saints: Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher of the Faith, 1901

Pray for: Leigh-on-Sea (St James the Great) Clergy: William Bullock (V).

Leigh-on-Sea (St Margaret) Clergy: David Wylie (PIC).

St Michael's Church of England Preparatory School: James Mobbs (HT).

Pray for: The Diocesan Missional Programme Management Team.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Armagh – The Church of Ireland*

Tue 28 Pray for: New Thundersley (St George) Clergy: Peter Hillman (PIC, AD), Marcus Giddy (AC), Jan Kersey (A).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Armidale – The Anglican Church of Australia*



Dedham School Choir sings for the King and Queen

On 5 February King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited the village of Dedham in Essex, to celebrate local community heroes, charities, and businesses. Despite the rainy weather, the royal couple went on a High Street walkabout to meet residents, including pupils from Dedham Church of England Primary School.

The school choir also treated the King and Queen and the surrounding crowds to a performance of a special song, which received huge applause.

In the school newsletter following the royal visit, Headteacher, Gemma Chester, wrote: "What a memorable and special experience we all had on Thursday! We are all so incredibly proud of the children and how they performed for their

Majesties. They really did provide the sunshine and represented the school beautifully."

The school also received a letter from Jennifer Tolhurst, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Essex.

Jennifer wrote: "The children's contribution was outstanding; many people have commented on it, and their Majesties were obviously very impressed and moved.

"The children sang so beautifully which was inspiring in itself, but to be out in those conditions and perform cheerfully was a great credit to them, their teachers and the school; they were a ray of sunlight on a rather wet day."

Wed 29 **Calendar of Saints: Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of Our Lord**

Pray for: South Benfleet (St Mary)

Clergy: Vacancy (V). Licensed Lay Minister: Cathy Ranson

Pray for: *The Diocese of Arochuku / Ohafia – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Thur 30 **Calendar of Saints: William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, Anti-slavery campaigners 1833, 1797 and 1846**

Pray for: Thundersley (St Peter, St Michael & All Angels)

Clergy: Marcus Giddy (AC).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Aru – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo*

Fri 31 **Calendar of Saints: Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556**

The retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Hadleigh.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Asaba – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*



Bishop Adam's Prayer Walk across the Bradwell Area

Supporting the diocesan 100 Days of Prayer

In May, as part of the Diocese of Chelmsford's 100 Days of Prayer, the Rt Revd Adam Atkinson, the Bishop of Bradwell, undertook a series of prayer walks across the Bradwell Episcopal Area.

During this time, he visited every church in each deanery, meeting local communities, clergy, and congregations along the way.

Here we share a collection of photos from Bishop Adam's prayer walks:

The first stop on Bishop Adam's prayer walk was St. Francis Church, West Horndon. Bishop Adam was warmly welcomed by Gemma and John (Churchwardens) and Tricia (Sidesperson).



Bishop Adam visited St Michael's Fobbing as part of his prayer walk across the Thurrock deanery.

The Rt Revd Guli Francis -Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford, invited people from across the Diocese to join 100 days of prayer from Ash Wednesday, 18 February to 29 May.

This dedicated period of prayer is preparing the way for an important diocesan-wide conversation beginning this autumn about how we can be an enduring missional presence in Essex and East London in the times and context in which God has placed us.

This will be a wide-ranging conversation, addressing some of the challenges we face and the significant missional opportunities that are present in Essex and East London.

To find out more and to access a wide range of resources for individuals and groups, visit the Chelmsford Diocese website chelmsford.anglican.org/sustaining-ministry or scan the QR code.



On Ascension Day, Bishop Adam walked and prayed with those from across the Maldon and Dengie Deanery



Cathedral Day Chaplains: a caring pastoral presence for visitors and the wider community

The Chelmsford Cathedral Day Chaplains are a valued and growing volunteer ministry, currently made up of clergy and lay members. Their presence is a gift to the Cathedral - offering welcome, a listening ear, pastoral care, and prayerful support to all who come through its doors.

The Revd Mark Pape, Curate at St Andrew's Chelmsford and The Ascension with All Saints, Chelmsford and the Revd Eileen Rose, Priest-in-Charge in the Benefice of Little Ilford St Barnabas, are part of the Cathedral Day Chaplaincy Team and explain more about this important ministry.

Eileen says: "Having had a positive experience at Chelmsford Cathedral during my training as an ordinand I was keen to volunteer as a Cathedral Day Chaplain. the opportunity to take on a role where I could pray and support those who ask for it, was a privilege and also a personal interest as I could give back to the Cathedral."

"No day is the same, and we rarely see the same people, but it's great to be part of a wider team supporting the work of the Cathedral alongside serving in the parishes", explains Mark.

Eileen adds: "On rare occasions, I've had the pleasure of seeing some of those I have prayed

for, return and request prayer again. These moments feel particularly special, as I only volunteer a few hours each month and typically encounter different people each time. These encounters make me feel connected to the Cathedral and the local community, that I'm building a relationship from the inside and is reaching outside into the world."

Mark continues: "Many visitors to the Cathedral are tourists, or they're popping in on their lunch break, or they want to light a candle to remember a relative. But many more come with burdens, things going on at home, or something weighing heavy on them from work, or to do with their health. It's a privilege to be a non-anxious presence in the Cathedral, to help them and for that short little time to help carry the load of whatever it is that has brought them through the doors of the Cathedral and to send them on their way, listened to and prayed for."

If you'd like to find out more or are interested in becoming a Cathedral Day Chaplain, email: heidi.alderdice@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Pray for the Chelmsford Cathedral Day Chaplaincy Team, that this ministry continues to flourish, offering a consistent and caring pastoral presence for visitors and the wider community.

August

Sat 1 **Pray for: The Deanery of Southend**

Area Dean: Louise Williams. Lay Chair: Sandra Baines.

All the chaplains who work in the Deanery of Southend.

Pray for: The Diocese of Asante-Mampong – The Church of the Province of West Africa

Sun 2 **NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Please pray for the work of the Leprosy Mission. Remember, too, the people of those countries where leprosy is still a major problem today.'

Pray for: The Church of the Province of Uganda

Mon 3 **Pray for: North Shoebury (St Mary the Virgin) Clergy: Claire Abraham (V).**

Pray for: The Diocese of Saint Asaph – The Church in Wales

Tue 4 **Calendar of Saints: Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859**

Pray for: Prittlewell (St Mary the Virgin) Clergy: Paul Mackay (V), Jacky Lindoe (AC).

St Mary's CofE Primary School, Prittlewell: Aleisha Lewis (HT).

Prittlewell (St Luke) Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).

Licensed Lay Minister: Liz Robinson.

Pray for: The Diocese of Athabasca – The Anglican Church of Canada

Wed 5 **Calendar of Saints: Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642**

Pray for: Westcliff (St Peter) w St Cedd and the Saints of Essex (The Bridgewater Drive Church); ALSO Prittlewell (St Stephen) Clergy: Colin Baldwin (PIC), Mary Namubiru (A), Chukwudum Aguocha (A).

Southchurch (Holy Trinity) Clergy: Claire Abraham (R).

Pray for: The Diocese of Atlanta – The Episcopal Church



Launchpad training boosts youth work across our diocese

In 2025, incumbents across our diocese were invited to join Launchpad, a Youthscape coaching programme supporting parishes to begin youth work and help more children and young people encounter God's love.

The Bradwell Episcopal Area Launchpad Celebration in May marked the end of the course. It was a joyful and encouraging evening with clergy sharing what they had discovered through Launchpad and the practical steps they had begun to take within their parish communities.

The participants (pictured above) gathered at St Peter and St Paul's, Grays, alongside The Rt Revd Adam Atkinson, the Bishop of Bradwell, The Ven. Sue Lucas, the Archdeacon of Southend and members of the diocesan Children, Young People and Families team – the Mustard Seed Team – who led the course and supported the cohort throughout the programme.

The Revd James Webster, Rector of the Icknield Way Parish, also took part in Launchpad training in our Colchester Episcopal Area. Reflecting on his experience, James explains how Launchpad helped him begin youth work in his parish:

"When I arrived as Rector 18 months ago, there was one teenager who regularly attended church, but people were aware of many other teens who might be interested in a Youth

Group. So I gratefully accepted the invitation to undertake Launchpad training – it was excellent!

"On top of some very helpful and insightful training, being part of a group of clergy who were at different stages with their groups helped instil confidence that establishing a Youth Group could be done.

"At an initial 'open evening' last June the course material went down well, and since the autumn, we've had a steady group of half a dozen teens that meet monthly during term-time on a Saturday evening. Small beginnings but a big impact!

"The group chose to use the 'Unfold' material – a Bible study that starts light at an A4 size but unfolds larger as you go deeper into the study. It took us four sessions to finish the first study; such was the level of engagement following on from the youth group essential of pizzas!

"We're just about to start Alpha Youth – I know it'll throw up all sorts of things, but as the group has gelled over the last six months, I also know it'll be very good!"

To find out more about Launchpad in our diocese email: mwilliamson@chelmsford.anglican.org

Pray for all who have taken part in Launchpad, that God would grow their confidence and deepen relationships with young people to enable them to encounter Christ's transforming love.

Thu 6 Calendar of Saints: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Pray for: Southchurch (Christ Church) Clergy: Steven Collier (PIC).
Licensed Lay Minister: Elizabeth Butterworth.

Southend (All Saints) Clergy: Vacancy (V).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Attooch – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

Fri 7 Calendar of Saints: John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866

Pray for: Westcliff (St Alban) and Southend (St Mark) Clergy: Neil Dalley (V),
Cherry Sandover (AC), Sam Mackie (AC), Lizzy Youngs (A).

South Shoebury (St Andrew w St Peter) Clergy: Louise Williams (AD, R).
Licensed Lay Minister: Sandra Baines.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Auckland – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia*

Sat 8 Calendar of Saints: Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221

Pray for: *The Diocese of North West Australia – The Anglican Church of Australia*

Sun 9 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Please pray for the Diocesan Chancellor, Philippa Hopkins, and those who work in our Diocesan Registry - Registrar: Aiden Hargreaves-Smith.

Calendar of Saints: Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921

Pray for: *The Episcopal Church*

Mon 10 Calendar of Saints: Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258

Pray for: Thorpe Bay (St Augustine) Clergy: Dave Willis (V).

Pray for: The Diocesan Warden of Readers and Lay Ministry Adviser and all those involved in lay ministry development and training in Chelmsford Diocese.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Aweil – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*



Debden Bee Corridor launched

Church, Council and Community work together to boost biodiversity

In May, the community of Debden gathered in the village hall to celebrate the launch of the Debden Bee Corridor Project. This joint project - led by the Eco Church Team at St Mary the Virgin Church and the Debden Parish Council, with funding from the Essex Local Nature Partnership - aims to boost local biodiversity by creating a continuous ribbon of nectar-rich habitats for bees and other pollinators throughout the village.

The project will transform key green spaces and inspire residents to create bee-friendly gardens of their own.

As part of the programme, the Debden Green telephone box will be converted into a miniature nature hub. Bee hotels will also be installed across the village, including a striking butterfly-shaped bee hotel now standing in St Mary's churchyard, installed with help from pupils at Debden Church of England Primary School.

At the launch event, the Revd Lynda Sebbage, Team Vicar of St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Church, welcomed Master Beekeepers Richard and Jane Ridler, who delivered an inspiring talk on the importance of bees and how the community can support them in the months ahead.

Attendees received bee-friendly window stickers to display in support of the project, and the Debden Gardening Club offered pollinator-friendly plants for a small donation for residents to take home and plant.

Reflecting on the event, Revd Lynda said: "We were absolutely delighted with the turnout for the launch of our bee and pollinator programme. The village hall was full of people eager to learn more about the vital role bees and all pollinating insects play in our world."

As part of the wider project, the church also organised a community planting day, bringing the local community together to add pollinator-friendly plants to key spots around the village.

Revd Lynda added, "What this project continues to show is that partnership is the key to success. Church, parish council, school, pub, and the wider community have all come together with a shared purpose. As the church leads this forward, it is yet another expression of outreach - a reminder that being church extends far beyond the walls of the building."

Pray for the flourishing of the Bee Corridor, for all in Debden caring for God's creation, and that this work may inspire others.

Tue 11 Calendar of Saints: Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Minoresses (Poor Clares), 1253

John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890

Pray for: Westcliff-on-Sea (St Andrew) Clergy: Paul Gambling (PIC).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Awerial – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

Wed 12 Pray for: Westcliff-on-Sea (St Saviour) Clergy: Vacancy (V), Mike Simmonds (A).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Awgu / Aninri – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Thu 13 Calendar of Saints: Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Teacher of the Faith, 1153

Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910

Octavia Hill, Social Reformer, 1912

Pray for: Westcliff (St Michael & All Angels) Clergy: Tom Loh (V).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Awka – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Fri 14 Calendar of Saints: Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941

Pray for: Southend (St John the Baptist) Clergy: Michael Walker (V), June Oldacre (A), Linda Saville (A).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Awori – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Sat 15 Calendar of Saints: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Pray for: *The Diocese of Ayod – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

Sun 16 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Pray for all those involved in Lay Development and Training in the Diocese.

Pray for: *The Church in Wales*



Celebrating the Catalyst 2025 Cohort

At the end of January, 17 children's and youth ministry workers and volunteers gathered at the Catalyst Course residential in Swanwick, Derbyshire.

The weekend offered a valuable chance to learn from respected voices in children and youth ministry, meet peers from across the country, and enjoy inspiring teaching, worship, and time for rest.

Participant Alison described it as "a weekend full of prayer and worship... a unique time to be with like-minded people, all on a similar journey."

The residential also gave space for people to share their stories and faith journeys. Cisse said: "The meaningful connections and deep conversations really stayed with me... I've already started putting the practical tools into action."

As part of the course, students complete a presentation on youth and families ministry in their own context. This cohort gave their presentations in April and celebrated graduation at Ridley Hall on 16 May.

Catalyst, run through Ridley Hall in Cambridge, is a six-month training course for anyone involved in children's or youth ministry, whether paid or voluntary. It offers space to grow, reflect, share ideas and gain practical skills with support from an experienced team. The course is fully funded by the Church of England as part of the 30K project to raise up 30,000 new children and youth leaders by 2030.

Emma Anderton, diocesan facilitator for the Catalyst course, said: "It's an absolute joy to work with the Catalyst students and facilitate shared learning. The final presentations show some of the incredible ministry with children and young people happening across our diocese."

If you, or someone you know, would like to join the next Catalyst cohort beginning in September 2026, we'd love to hear from you. Email Emma: eanderton@chelmsford.anglican.org for details.

To find out more about Catalyst, visit chelmsford.anglican.org/catalyst or scan the QR code.



Pray for all those called to serve children and young people across Essex and East London. Bless the 2025 Catalyst cohort from Chelmsford Diocese as they continue their ministry and inspire many more to step forward in faith.

Mon 17 **Pray for:** The retired Clergy, Readers, and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Southend.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Badagry – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Tue 18 **Pray for: The Deanery of Rochford**
Area Dean: Nick Rowan. Lay Chair: Lynda Edmunds.

All the chaplains who work in the Deanery of Rochford.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands – The Church in the Province of the West Indies*

Wed 19 **Pray for:** Ashingdon (St Andrew) w South Fambridge (All Saints), Canewdon (St Nicholas) and Paglesham (St Peter) Clergy: Ernie Guest (PIC).

Canewdon Church of England Primary School: Sam Willis (Exec. HT).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Ballarat – The Anglican Church of Australia*

Thu 20 **Calendar of Saints: Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1667 William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army, 1912 and 1890**

Pray for: Hawkwell (St Mary and Emmanuel) Clergy: Nick Rowan (AD, R).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Bangor – The Church in Wales*

Fri 21 **Pray for:** Hockley (St Peter & St Paul) Clergy: Steve Lissenden (PIC), Stephanie Stroebel (AC).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Banks and Torres – The Anglican Church of Melanesia*

Sat 22 **Pray for:** *The Diocese of Barbados – The Church in the Province of the West Indies*



Supporting Those Who Serve: Resources for Churchwardens

The Revd Andy Griffiths, Lead Adviser for Wellbeing and Formation in Chelmsford Diocese says: "When I was considering whether to apply for my present role, which has to do with ministerial formation and wellbeing, I asked an Archdeacon, 'who is responsible for the wellbeing of incumbents?' 'Oh, we have someone in every community whose role is to take care of the incumbent and their household,' the Archdeacon said. 'They're called Churchwardens.'"

That observation captures something essential about the vocation of a Churchwarden. They play a vital and wide-ranging role, having six core responsibilities: they are officers of the Bishop, trustees of a charity, leaders in mission and ministry, representatives of the laity, key figures during vacancies, and, not least, a source of care and support for their clergy.

For many Churchwardens, the reality of the role is both rewarding and demanding - especially for those who have been newly elected following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and who may still be finding their feet.

This naturally raises an important question: who supports the Churchwardens?

In many ways, the answer lies in the shared life of the Church. As a diocese, we are all encouraged to uphold Churchwardens in prayer, to offer encouragement, and to be mindful of the pressures they may carry. Small gestures - adjusting expectations, offering practical help, or simply saying thank you - can make a significant difference.

Alongside this, local networks are an increasingly valuable source of support, connection, and learning. One such example is the Witham Deanery Churchwardens' Network, which provides a space for Churchwardens to share experiences, ask questions, and build relationships across parishes. Their next networking event will take place at 10am on 24 October at St Luke's Church Hall, Tiptree.

Speakers will include diocesan staff, offering Churchwardens the opportunity to explore a range of practical topics and to ask questions in an open and supportive setting. Events like these are a vital reminder that no Churchwarden serves alone. Further support and resources for Churchwardens can be found at: www.chelmsford.anglican.org/churchwardens

Pray for all Churchwardens across East London and Essex - especially those new to the role - and for the networks that support them.

Sun 23 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

As churches and countries mark International Slavery Remembrance Day today, we remember the world-wide call to repentance and reparation laid upon many consciences and cultures. We pray for the day when those of all races, and those of all faiths and of none, will be treated fairly and equally by everyone.

Pray for: The Church of the Province of West Africa

Mon 24 Calendar of Saints: BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE

Pray for: Rawreth (St Nicholas) Clergy: Steve Lissenden (R), Brenda Wallace (AC).

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Rawreth: Sam Willis (Exec. HT).

Pray for: All those involved in supporting Ministerial Wellbeing across Chelmsford Diocese, our Deanery Wellbeing Champions and Wellbeing Steering Group.

Pray for: The Diocese of Bari – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Tue 25 Pray for: Raleigh Team Ministry (Holy Trinity, St Michael, Grovewood Church) Clergy: Glen Mansfield (TR), Tracy Nutter (AC), Jackie Turner (AC). Licensed Lay Ministers: Anton Machacek, Jackie Wragg.

Pray for: The Diocese of Baringo – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Wed 26 Pray for: The Roach Parishes TM: Rochford (St Andrew) and Sutton (All Saints) w Shopland (St Andrew); Barling Magna (All Saints) w Little Wakering (St Mary the Virgin); Great Wakering (St Nicholas); and Foulness Clergy: Kim Lepley (TR), Vacancy (TV).

Pray for: The Diocese of Barisal – The Church of Bangladesh

Thu 27 Calendar of Saints: Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

Pray for: Stambridge (St Mary and All Saints) Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).

Pray for: The Diocese of Barrackpore – The Church of North India (United)



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Fri 28 Calendar of Saints: Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430

Pray for: Rettendon (All Saints) and Hullbridge (St Thomas of Canterbury)
Clergy: Steve Lissenden (R), Brenda Wallace (AC).

Pray for: *The Diocese of Bath and Wells – The Church of England*

Sat 29 Calendar of Saints: The Beheading of St John the Baptist

Pray for: *The Diocese of Bathurst – The Anglican Church of Australia*

Sun 30 Calendar of Saints: John Bunyan, Spiritual writer, 1688

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Please pray for the work of the Friends of Essex Churches Trust, and give thanks for those who work so hard to preserve our ancient buildings.

Pray for: *The Church in the Province of the West Indies*

Mon 31 Calendar of Saints: Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651

Pray for: All retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Rochford.

Pray for: *The Diocese of Bauchi – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

Looking back at Holy Week and Easter 2026 ...

Worshipping communities across our diocese marked Holy Week with a variety of events, then celebrated Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.



The schools' team at St Mary, Becontree welcomed over 700 local school children to their Easter Experience both at St Mary's and St Elisabeth's Becontree. The children came from eight local primary schools and they engaged with crafts and games.

Each child drew a self-portrait, wrote a prayer or noted something down for which they were thankful. These were then compiled to become an altar frontal for Holy Week at St Mary's.

It was an early start on Easter Day for people from across the Waterside Parishes and beyond who gathered at St. Nicholas Church, Tolleshunt Major for a special Easter Sunrise Service.



To view more photos of life across our diocese over Holy Week and Easter visit www.chelmsford.anglican.org/life-across-diocese or scan the QR code. On this page you can also upload and share your own photos from church events and celebrations.



Christchurch Three Mills celebrated Easter with Easter activities including an Easter Egg hunt for the local community.



The Easter Dawn Service at The Chapel of St Peter on the Wall, Bradwell-on-Sea with the Rt Revd Adam Akinson, the Bishop of Bradwell.



Messy Church session at St Leonard's Lexden explored the Easter story with the planting of an Easter garden.

NOTES:

Where parochial links are known to exist the names of overseas workers are placed immediately after the appropriate parish. Further information concerning overseas dioceses, including the names of bishops, is contained in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, available on their website www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer.aspx

ABBREVIATIONS:

A Assistant Clergy; AAD Assistant Area Dean; AC Associate Priest/Minister; AD Area Dean; BMO Bishop's Mission Order; BP Bishop; CHP Chaplain; Exec. HT Executive Head Teacher; HT Head Teacher; HoS Head of School; LLM Licensed Lay Minister; PEV Provincial Episcopal Visitor; PIC Priest in Charge; PP Public Preacher; R Rector; Rdes Rector designate; TM Team Ministry; TR Team Rector; TV Team Vicar; TV des Team Vicar designate; V Vicar; Vdes Vicar designate.

Follow our daily prayers on across our social media channels @chelmsdio #ChelmsDioPrayers and on our website www.chelmsford.anglican.org/publications/wepray.

CONTACT:

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The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



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