

Rural Dean's diary

Thy Kingdom Come

The now annual *Thy Kingdom Come* ecumenical 'wave' of prayer takes place again between **Ascension Day, Thursday 10th May, and Pentecost, Sunday 20th May**. It encourages people to pray for family, friends, neighbours and communities as a particular way of sharing the love of God with those around us. There will be major diocesan events in Dudley on the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday and in Worcester Cathedral in the evening – look for details on the diocesan website. Parishes will also be marking *Thy Kingdom Come* in lots of different ways locally. Why not join in by, for example, praying the Lord's Prayer every day over that period?

Reaching the 95%

Wednesday 16th May, 7pm, St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge DY8 1AQ 95% of children don't go to church on Sundays and many churches would like to connect with them in fresh ways, but where to start? Here's an opportunity to find some encouragement and inspiration: based on Scripture Union's experience and resources this evening will include a choice of workshops, plus Bite Size quick fire ideas to get people thinking about what they can do to reach out locally. This event is for church leaders, children's and youth leaders, and anyone passionate about taking the story of Jesus to children and young people who have no regular contact with church. To book your place visit <http://95stourbridge.eventbrite.co.uk>

Dementia Awareness Week, 21st - 27th May

Many churches are working hard at becoming more dementia-friendly and a number of people in this deanery have undertaken Dementia Friends training. This Awareness Week offers an opportunity to think about how churches might become more dementia-friendly, as well as being a helpful reminder to pray for those who are living with dementia, for their families, carers and all who are affected in any way. If you are looking for ideas about how your church could explore some possibilities visit www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/social-responsibility/dementia-friendly-churches

Deanery day at Holland House – book now!

The next deanery 'quiet' day at Holland House is on Monday 16th July, 10am – 4pm, led by the Revd Nigel Taylor, Team Vicar in Kidderminster Ismere Team and part time chaplain for Faith at Work. The cost is £15, to include coffee, lunch and tea. Drop me a line if you'd like to put your name down (no money is required at this stage). These days are a wonderful opportunity to step aside for some peace and quiet in the beautiful surroundings of Holland House, with good food, input on a theme to help people with their Christian lives, plus space for thought, all in supportive company with others. Don't be put off by the idea the day might be too 'quiet' or that it is only for the super-holy! There is time for conversation, reading or strolling, and you can take part in as much or as little of what's on offer as you wish.

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