

FWW Prayer Guide: August 2026 – Changes in National and Local Government

We have a (relatively) new Prime Minister, together with changes to the cabinet and other ministers as the PM renews his team to suit his priorities. One of those priorities is to devolve power and spending to the regions of the country, with less centred on Whitehall.

The government had already decided some time ago that there will also be changes coming soon to our local councils. We have known for some time that district (borough, city) councils and county councils will be disappearing and are being replaced with 'single tier' councils (as is already the case in Dudley, Wolverhampton, etc.). There has been debate about what form this should take. Should there be one council for the whole of Worcestershire or two, and how should they be split? (Similar debates have been going on in other counties too).

We now know there will be a 'north' and a 'south' council, made up of the district areas of Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch and of Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wychavon respectively. This is due to come into effect in 2028. There will be fewer councillors (or some only sitting on one council) and changes for staff. For some it may just be a change of employer, but for others there will be job changes and maybe redundancy. It remains to be seen how the changes will affect those of us who are residents or users of council services. No doubt it is intended that services will be more efficient and that it will save money or enable more to be done.

This should encourage us to think and pray about those who deliver services at national and local level, and in between, as well as the many other organisations, statutory and voluntary, that provide services and keep the fabric of our society together as well as caring for individuals within it. Much has been made of Andy Burnham's Roman Catholic faith growing up in Liverpool and the effect this has had on his outlook and priorities. Many in public service draw on a present or past Christian faith, and much of our legal and constitutional system has its foundations in the Christianity that was once integral to our governance, even if it is less explicitly so now. We pray for God's continuing inspiration and blessing for our leaders and our land.

**Almighty God, who is the eternal only power,
and other [men's] power but borrowed of thee:
we beseech thee for all those who hold office that,
holding it first from thee, they may use it for
the general good and to thine honour: through
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

William Tyndale, c.1494-1536 (adapted)

- We pray for the new prime minister, Andy Burnham, and his ministers that they may be guided by God's Spirit as they seek to implement a new direction in government policy, that all they do may be for the common good.
- For members of parliament, especially for our Worcestershire MPs, that they may represent all their constituents both in policy and casework.
- For the many civil servants, special advisors and others that advise and work on the development and implementation of policy.
- For those who work in government departments and many other organisations and roles across the country to serve national, local and individual needs.
- For local councillors and local government staff at a time of change and uncertainty.
- For any who use local council services who might be concerned about how or who might provide them in the future.
- For the many statutory and voluntary services that serve our local communities and individuals, especially those most in need.
- For the NHS and all other services that support our health and well-being.
- For the emergency services – police, fire and rescue and others who keep us safe and secure, as well as those who work in the criminal justice system.