

Readings for the week

Today	Romans 5 v 1 - 8 Matthew 9 v 35 - 10 v 8
Monday	Luke 12 v 1 - 12
Tuesday	Luke 12 v 13 - 21
Wednesday	Luke 12 v 22 - 31
Thursday	Luke 12 v 32 - 40
Friday	Luke 12 v 41 - 48
Saturday	Luke 12 v 49 - 59



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to pray for the following topics:

1. *Pray for countries where the virus is still spreading, that their governments may make wise and swift decisions to keep their populations as safe as possible.*
2. *Give thanks that in some countries it is now safe for people to come out of lockdown, and for restrictions to be eased. Pray for God's guidance as the national church authorities plan for the reopening of churches.*

'Zoom Prayer Gatherings' each Tuesday at 12:00 noon.

If you have not previously taken part and wish to in the future, please email Adrian to receive your invitation to join the weekly Prayer Gatherings. If you are new to using Zoom, Adrian can also send you instructions on how to access Zoom.

You can still send the Administrator your photographs to be included at the end of next Sunday's service which appears on the Alcester Minster website each Sunday.



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook? Find details and pictures of events at www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster If you would like to submit event notices or photos to be published on the page then please email administrator@alcesterminster.org



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 14 June 2020

Trinity 1 Green

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Matthew 9 v 36

Collect

O God,
the strength of all those who put
their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness
of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your
commandments
we may please you both in will and
deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of
love
and to walk in ways of
wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.

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Ministry Team:

Revd Adrian Guthrie: St Nicholas Rectory, Old Rectory Garden,
Alcester, B49 5DB Tel: 01789 764 261 email: rector@alcesterminster.org
Revd Sue Henwood: Kinwarton Rectory, Spermal Lane, Great Alne
Alcester B49 6HY Tel: 01789 488 344 email: sue.henwood@live.co.uk
Revd Julian Davey: The Field House, Allimore Lane
Alcester, B49 5PR Tel: 01789 764 640 email: jw.davey@yahoo.com

Children & Family Worker:

Beth Clarke email: beth.clarke@covLEC.org Tel: 0749 432 9638

Administrator:

Tricia Berry (Monday - Friday 10.00am - 1.30 pm) Tel: 07840 284 294
email: administrator@alcesterminster.org Alcester Minster Office, Church House,
17 Butter Street, Alcester, B49 5AL (Office Opening Hours 10.30 - 12.30pm)

Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Reading: Matthew 9:35-37

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few".

Thought for the Day

On our daily exercise walk, I've noticed that quite a few others have also realised the value of exercising and the privilege of being in such a beautiful area of the world. It can open up your mind to the wonderful blessings that we can have in life and to the fact that they are God-given. In the time that we have while walking, we can also thank God for these benefits and for the Good News of the Kingdom, as Matthew reports. It has also set me thinking, during this time of disease and sickness, about Jesus' ministry during his life on Earth. If you walk through a field of sheep, they're often harassed and seem helpless unless the farmer is there safeguarding them. The disciples would have understood what Jesus meant by this and his next comments are equally appropriate.

The people were harassed and helpless, much as the world's population is at present.

They were going through troubled times, as we are today.

The disciples had received the Good News about the Kingdom, as we have.

They were in a minority as followers of Jesus, just like we are - turning around Jesus' comment, "the workers are few, but the harvest is plentiful".

From the number of visits to our Sunday online services and the wider circulation of other Christian services on the radio, television and online, we know that there is an increased hunger for what we have in our Christian faith. The harvest is potentially plentiful. It suggests that in the same way that society at large is having to change as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we few may have to change the way we exercise our discipleship. We might have to change what it is we have to offer to those who are looking for what we have in our Christian faith. This could be a challenge but we shouldn't be frightened. Later on, in Matthew 10:26-28, Jesus says:

"So, do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." *

When we are released from all this, go out in the name of Christ!

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Prayer

Lord, protect us and guide us.
Lord, help us and lead us
Lord, hear those who need you
Lord, be with us now and always. AMEN