

Readings for the week

Today	Romans 6 v 1b - 11 Matthew 10 v 24 - 39
Monday	Luke 13 v 1 - 9
Tuesday	Luke 13 v 10 - 21
Wednesday	Luke 3 v 1 - 17
Thursday	Luke 14 v 1 - 11
Friday	Luke 14 v 12 - 24
Saturday	Luke 14 v 25 - 35



Prayer

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

1. Give thanks to God for the continuing acts of kindness we see/hear about in our communities. Pray that we too may find ways to help and encourage others.
2. We are all equally made in the image of God. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us to do what we can to encourage equality of opportunity and outcome in our communities.

"The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class. Father, forgive." From the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation.

Bishop John's has written an article called '**Profoundly uncomfortable times**'

which can be found on the Diocesan website.

To read please use the link below

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/news/profoundly-uncomfortable-times.php>

To access the weekly Minster on-line service: Go to the Welcome page of the Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

You will need to scroll down the page to locate the video. Click on the arrow at the bottom of the picture and you will be able to participate in the whole service. Just above the Sunday Worship there is an order of service you can download and print. Just click on the word 'here'.

If you have been unable to access previous services the Administrator can provide a link, please email.

Help needed - we are really pleased to be gradually opening our churches for private prayer. In some churches, we plan to have a supervisor on duty to welcome and guide individuals to their places and oversee sanitiser and pew cleaning. If you are under 70 and not shielding, could you spare an hour or two to be on a rota at one of the churches? Please speak to the relevant Churchwarden or Tricia Berry.



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 21 June 2020

Trinity 2 Green

"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master."

Matthew 10 v 24 - 25a

Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are
nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most
excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all
virtues,
without which whoever lives is
counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus
Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to
you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

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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, Spernal 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 from Matthew 10 v 28 – 31:

Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soulAre not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. (New Revised Standard Bible)

We continue to live in such very difficult times! Although we, in the U.K., along with other parts of Europe, appear to be slowly emerging from the worst of the corona virus pandemic there are other parts of the world where the infection is still raging, and now there is distress and unrest around the world caused by the horrific murder of a black man in America by police, of all people

As I was thinking about these problems, I picked up a letter from the Bible Society, that quoted some words from 2 Chronicles Ch.20 v 12:

'O our God.....We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.'

These words seemed so apt, especially as the topic chosen for the Minster in the month of June, is 'Holy Spirit, giver of healing and miracles.' The world certainly needs some healing and miracles at this moment in time and I think one of the miracles in our own country, has been the spirit of love and goodwill that has been rediscovered in places where many people had lost touch with neighbours. In this new spirit, people have begun to look out for one another and help each other in so many ways.

We think we are suffering badly, and indeed many people have lost loved ones to whom they were unable to say 'Goodbye', some have lost their jobs and some are feeling terribly lonely as they are forced to isolate themselves from family and friends, and I know some of those feelings, as I

have recently lost a much loved aunt – albeit to old age, not corona virus – and I live alone in a fairly isolated place, though I am fortunate to live surrounded by the most beautiful countryside, but think how much more difficult it is in places like sub-Saharan Africa and Syria, where there is severe poverty, limited healthcare and a constant threat of war, or in places like India where the poorer people often live in overcrowded conditions or China, where Christians are thought to be a threat to the state. How will people in those places cope with the added difficulties of these very troubled times?

The Bible Society tells us that many of these people are turning to God and asking for Bibles, so that they can read more about God's love and care for his people, and I do hope they can all count on our constant prayers for God to be with them and with us, assuring us all of his love and presence among us.

So, in the days ahead let us 'keep our eyes on God' in the certain knowledge that He knows us better than we know ourselves and loves all his people in spite of our faults and may we trust in His gifts of healing and miracles to bring us through these troubled times.

Prayer:

***Lord Jesus Christ,
We pray for all the peoples of the world, the victims of disease, war, discrimination or disaster, and all who are hurt, or hungry, afraid or anxious. Lord in your compassion come near to heal and bless. Amen***