

Readings for the week

Today	Romans 8 v 26 - 39 Matthew 13 v 31 - 33 & 44 - 52
Monday	Luke 22 v 24 - 30
Tuesday	Luke 22 v 31 - 38
Wednesday	Luke 22 v 39 - 46
Thursday	Luke 22 v 47 - 62
Friday	Luke 22 v 63 - 71
Saturday	Luke 23 v 1 - 12



Prayer

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

1. Give thanks to God that Adrian has been able to stay on and lead us through these difficult months. Pray for him and Juliette as they prepare to move.
2. Pray for all those around the world who face oppression or discrimination because of their colour, ethnicity or religion. May everyone seek to treat all people equally and follow the values of God's kingdom.

We are delighted to welcome people back to services in church. Priority will be given to those who are unable to access the on-line service which will continue. *Due to social distance restrictions our numbers are limited so **please remember to contact the Administrator by email or on 01789 763 246 to reserve a place at a service, even if you have been before.***

The services will all be held at **10.00 am each Sunday.**

One will be held in St Nicholas, Alcester

The other will be held at a different Minster Church:

02 August will be at St Peter, Coughton

Please share this with people who are not on email.



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Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches

Sunday 26 July 2020

Trinity 7 Green

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8 v 28

Collect

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Trinity 7 Thought for the Day' presented by Pat Newbold

Matthew 13 v 31 – 32 and 44

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and planted in his field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, it eventually grows into the largest of all garden plants, becoming a tree for birds to come and build their nests in.....

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and in great joy went and sold all he had and bought that field..... Matthew 13:31-32 and 44.

These are just 2 of the parables of Jesus that appear in Matthew's Chapter 13 telling us about the Kingdom of Heaven. The first of these two tells us of the amazing potential of the Kingdom and the second, the wonderful joys of all that it holds.

John the Baptist proclaimed that the Kingdom of God was near, and called people to repent, to be ready for the coming of the long awaited Messiah.

When Jesus came, so the Kingdom of God began, a kingdom with no geographical or national boundaries, but a kingdom in the hearts of people who follow Jesus, who call him Lord, make Him their Lord, and live the way he showed us to live. A people indwelt by His Holy Spirit, wherever in the world they are to be found. God's Kingdom is everlasting, in this world and the next.

What an amazing plant was that mustard seed! Not like the mustard seed we plant to get a saucer of cress, but a plant that spreads and grows enormously; that shelters the birds and creatures that live in its branches and shade – just as we, when we live as Kingdom people, following Jesus Christ, also grow in our love for Him and in His love and care for others. But as a huge and unstoppable plant might be a threat to other plants in the garden, a thriving Church can sadly sometimes be seen as a threat to those around us.....

What a lovely chap the man was who was so excited at finding the treasures of the Kingdom that he gave everything he had to make sure he didn't miss out! I imagine him twirling and dancing for joy and singing 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords,' getting faster and faster!!

I wonder if we feel that excitement and joy in the Fatherhood of God? I guess there are always things and people that we love so

very much, it would seem impossible to give them up. God knows us and loves us so well, but often has to remind us that He loves them and cares for them even more than we do. He knows what is best and we can hand them over to his safe pair of hands!

We pray frequently, 'Thy Kingdom come' – let us pray that it may come in our hearts and in our lives and in the hearts of those around us who need to know how precious they are to God, and how much He loves them.

Yesterday, I was walking around Coughton with a friend, and we stopped and sat on one of the logs by the ford.

There was a small boy – perhaps a bit more than 2 years old, I would say - paddling with his Dad. They made a very happy scene! The lad was holding Dad's hand, very lightly, as a flotilla of young ducks came swimming by, came up to the boy and he giggled and bent down, letting go of the hand, and quacked back at them, without any fear.

A few cars came fairly sedately by, that didn't faze him at all, he waved at the drivers. A horse and cart came by – that was exciting (for us as well as him!) he waved furiously and excitedly.

He wanted to go off the track a bit, but Dad said, "It's a bit deep there, you might not like it". He gave it a go, hanging on to Dad, and decided Dad was right; he didn't want to go that deep.

Finally 2 cars came from different directions, both much too fast; They passed on the river, making a huge tidal wave and lots of splashing. When they had gone past, there was the boy and his Dad on the other side, quite calm, a bit damp, but safe and sound and still smiling. Still not afraid.

My friend and I looked at each other and said almost together, "Because he's holding his Dad's hand."

Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, help me to know in the depth of my being, that whatever happens, when I am moved by the beauty of your creation, or when unexpected things happen, or difficult times come, your hand is always there to guide me, to strengthen me, to bring me safely home.

In You I trust.

Amen.