

## Readings for the week

<b>Today</b>	Romans 11 v 1 – 2a & 29 - 32 Matthew 15 [v10 -20] v 21 – 28
Monday	Acts 3 v 11 – 26
Tuesday	Acts 4 v 1 – 12
Wednesday	Acts 4 v 13 – 31
Thursday	Acts 4 v 32 – 5 v 11
Friday	Acts 5 v 12 – 26
Saturday	Acts 5 v 27 - 42



# Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 16 August 2020

Trinity 10 Green

*“Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly .”*

Matthew 15 v 28



### Prayer

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

1. As our interregnum is beginning, pray that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit - especially in the appointment of a new Rector, and that meanwhile we will be patient with one another.
2. Give thanks to God for the support given by our Rural Dean, Revd. Kate Meir, and pray for her that God may strengthen and encourage her – especially since ours is not the only vacancy in the deanery.

*A big 'thank you' from Adrian and Juliette - Farewells during a Pandemic are challenging like everything else, and we are sorry that we haven't been able to say goodbye and thank you to everyone properly. However, we have been touched and delighted by your written and spoken comments and for the very generous cheque and beautiful flowers presented to us last Sunday. May God bless you all in the next phase of your journey together with Him.*

**Reminder to please contact the Administrator to reserve a seat at all Minster Sunday services.**

### This Sunday's services

<b>16 August</b>	<b>Trinity 10</b>	<i>Green</i>
Alcester	10.00 am	Minster Holy Communion
Great Alne	10.00 am	Minster Holy Communion

### Next Week's services

<b>23 August</b>	<b>Trinity 11</b>	<i>Green</i>
Alcester	10.00 am	Minster Holy Communion
Haselor	10.00 am	Minster Holy Communion

### Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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### Ministry Team:

Rector: Vacancy

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Revd Julian Davey: The Field House, Allimore Lane  
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### Children & Family Worker:

Beth Clarke email: [beth.clarke@covLEC.org](mailto: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](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org) Alcester Minster Office, Church House, is currently closed. (Administrator Hours 10.30 – 13.30pm)

**Alcester Minster website:** [www.alcesterminster.org](http://www.alcesterminster.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster](https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster)



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**Psalm 133**

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

As a choirboy years ago, this was one of my favourite psalms because I could picture oil being poured on old Aaron's head dribbling down his long white beard and onto the collar of his intricately embroidered priestly robes!

What perhaps I didn't realise was the meaning hidden behind the picture.

For here King David is comparing the unity of God's people to the sacred oil used for the consecration of Moses brother, Aaron, poured so generously on his head that it trickled down his face, his beard and onto his clothing. It is a picture of the harmony that God so longs for his consecrated people, poured without restraint upon them so that it saturates the whole of their being.

Someone has written that it pictures not so much an anointing as a deluge!

Would that picture have been a reality! For even a fleeting look at the history of the Church would show that God's work has often been hindered by disharmony, disagreement and *disunity*.

But God's longing for a common mind and common purpose among His beloved has not changed. For it finds its fulfilment in his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, through whose death all human beings have been reconciled to God and to each other. And when such harmony is discernible among a congregation or a group of churches it brings joy both to our Lord and to ourselves.

A modern version of the psalm helps us understand this aspiration in even simpler words: "*How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along!*"

Last week we said good bye to Adrian, our Rector and we thanked him for his commitment, dedication and extreme hard work in creating a successful and vibrant Minster out of a group of separate congregations. It has been achieved through his excellent leadership and the willingness of all the individual members of our eight churches to share and listen and plan the future together. Not that we have always agreed with one another! But there has been real evidence of an overall willingness to discern God's will and work together to discover His purpose for us. And long may that continue!

On the night before he died, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment. They were to love one another as he had loved them, and through this new relationship, commissioned and sanctified by God, others would know that they were truly his followers.

May we both listen and act upon the teaching of our Lord in the months that lie ahead.

**A Prayer:**

"Heavenly father make us more humble and deepen our love one for another; and show us how we can more closely worship and work together as members of the one Body of Christ our Lord. Amen