

## Readings for the week

<b>Today</b>	Romans 12 v 1 - 8 Matthew 16 v 13 - 20
Monday	John 1 v 43 - 51
Tuesday	Acts 7 v 1 - 16
Wednesday	Acts 7 v 17 - 43
Thursday	Acts 7 v 44 - 53
Friday	Acts 7 v 54 - 8 v 3
Saturday	Acts 8 v 4 - 25



### Prayer

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

1. Pray for all who have been bereaved during the pandemic and been unable to have a normal funeral for their loved one, that they may be able to grieve well and know God's comforting presence with them.
2. Give thanks to God for the progress already made in the search for a Covid 19 vaccine. Pray for all the scientists and volunteers involved, that they may inspired and encouraged in their work.

Reminder to please contact the Administrator to reserve a seat at any of the Minster Sunday services.

### This Sunday'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

### Next Week's services

<b>30 August</b>	<b>Trinity 12</b>	<i>Green</i>
Alcester	10.00 am	Minster Holy Communion
Arrow	10.00 am	Minster Holy Communion



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# Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 23 August 2020

**Trinity 11** *Green*

*"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'"*

Matthew 16 v 16

### Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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### Ministry Team:

Rector: Vacancy

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### Children & Family Worker:

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### Administrator:

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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)

## Trinity 11 Thought for the Day' presented by Nick Payne

### **Reading: Matthew 16:13-20**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

*New International Version - UK (NIVUK)*

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### **Thought for the Day**

This week, I – like many of you I'm sure, have been giving some thought about what the Lord expects of us in the wake of Adrian and Juliette's moving on to pastures new.

I think this week's passage is actually quite helpful, as it is all about affirming who Jesus is and how that takes us forward.

Jesus begins by asking the disciples what other people have been saying about him and who those people think he is. The disciples run off an impressive resume of characters from Israel's history – both old and recent. Jesus isn't content to let it stand there though, and then challenges his disciples to give their own opinion. I sometimes wonder if there was an awkward silence at that point, with a few of the disciples navel gazing or staring at their feet until the point where Peter breaks the silence and makes the bold claim that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God.

I think like the disciples we have been given an opportunity to look at Jesus in the minster and in our own lives and ask ourselves of him "Who do you, say I am?".

You may be still asking yourself if Jesus is the Son of God.

Or you may be taking tentative steps of a Christian life, having just accepted Jesus as Lord of your life.

Or you may have been a Christian for many years.

I don't think it matters where we are on our personal journey of faith, I think the question is always important in order to help us grow as Christians. You see at special times in Israel's relationship with God, He revealed new aspects of his character by identifying himself with a new name to signify what he was doing in relationship to them. I believe he still does this for his people today.

You may find yourself in a place of need and God maybe wanting to tell you that he is your provider. Or maybe you feel lost and He may be wanting to remind you that He is your Shepherd.

Peter, in sharing with Jesus who \*he\* believed He was (and is), learned something crucially important about God... but he also learned more about himself. So, while the Minster finds itself in a time of waiting for the appointment of a new leader, we can still receive leadership and direction from God by investing more time in Him directly

So, I would encourage all of us to take some form of quiet time, if and when we can... and meditate on the question of who God is to us in the moment.

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, we thank you for all Adrian and Juliette have done for you in their time here, and we thank you for all the things you have already revealed to us by the Holy Spirit about who You are, what You have done and what you are willing to do in our lives. Gives us courage and patience to recognise those things in your presence through our prayers, and in so doing to learn even more about your nature and your calling for each of us.*

*We ask this in Jesus' name.*

*Amen.*