

Christmas is coming!

It has been another wonderfully busy month as we inch closer to celebrating the birth of Christ.

Thanks to some wonderful volunteers, 90 **Christmas Messy Church** bags have been prepared and are soon to be delivered to families within Alcester and its surrounding villages. In such uncertain times, with so much pressure on schools for children to 'catch up' we are delighted that the real meaning of Christmas will still reach families this year.

This year I am raising money for families within our area who will struggle financially to get through the festive period. Head teachers from Haselor, Coughton, Great Alne and St Nicholas schools will identify those most in need and I will provide **supermarket vouchers** so that the families can buy food, clothing, toiletries or a gift this year. If you are able to donate to this cause please contact me – the more we can raise the more we can support those who most need it. If you know of someone in need who this scheme may benefit – please let me know. Donations must be received by 4th December. Donations can be made to St Nicholas Church PCC, Account number: 01143884, Sort code: 30-98-26. To make things as safe as possible this year we will only be accepting bank payments.

We are busy planning our '**Drive in Crib Service**' which will be on **Christmas Eve at 4.30pm**. Watch this special service on a big screen from inside your cars held at The Greig Centre carpark. With local children having come together to create our own nativity for the night it looks set to be great fun. Booking is essential – e-mail alcestercribservice@gmail.com to reserve your place. Also, keep an eye on our website for Christingle service information!

Look out in Alcester for our **wooden Angel decorations** hidden around our town and surrounding villages. They are in clear bags with a prayer inside ready for you to take home and put on your tree. If you find one – why not share a photo of the angel on your tree on our Facebook page.

Finally, if you would be able to volunteer for future events please let me know. With lots of exciting things to come it would be wonderful to have you 'on board!'

All Beth's plans will be advertised through Alcester Minster Churches' social media outlets on Facebook and Twitter.

Please pray for the work that Beth is doing across the Minster as you continue to pray for the work of Sue and Julian and our churchwardens.



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches

Sunday 29 November 2020

Advent Sunday Purple

*“Beware, keep alert; for you do not know
when the time will come.”*

Mark 13 v 33

Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works
of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came
to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge the
living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness
of sin to the light of
holiness,
that we may be ready to
meet you
in our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

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Ministry Team:

Rector: Vacancy
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@Coventry.Anglican.org Tel: 0749 432 9638

Administrator:

Tricia Berry (Monday – Friday 10.00am – 1.30 pm) Tel: 0784 028 4294
email: administrator@alcesterminster.org Alcester Minster Office is currently
closed, (Working Hours 10.30 – 12.30pm)

Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Next week's services and events

Sunday 29 November **Advent Sunday** *Purple*
Alcester 10.00 am Family Service

Tuesday 01 December
Via Zoom Platform 12 noon Minster Prayer Gathering

Sunday 06 December **Advent 2** *Purple*
Alcester 10.00 am Holy Communion
Haselor 10.00 am Morning Prayer
Kinwarton 4.00 pm Holy Communion

The on-line service is continuing and can be accessed on the Welcome page of the Alcester Minster website. www.alcesterminster.org

Contact Administrator if you have any difficulties accessing the service.

Alcester Minster churches will be open as usual for private prayer during the week

Please remember to contact Gail Laband if you wish to pray in Sambourne church.

We can confirm that the Institution, Induction and Installation Service for the Reverend Katie Cross will take place on Wednesday 3rd March at 7.30 pm and will be led by Bishop Christopher and Archdeacon Sue.

We won't know availability of places until next year

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

If you have not previously taken part and wish to in the future, please email the Administrator to receive your invitation to join these Prayer Gatherings. *The Administrator can also send you instructions on how to access Zoom if this is new to you.*

Last week's Minster funerals.

The following Minster funerals took place during last week.

Date: 26 November Frederick George Rose

More about Christmas services in the future Notice Sheets but
On 13 December at 10 am there will be a Christingle service at Holy Trinity, Arrow.

Please remember to reserve a place through the Administrator.

Readings for the week

Today

Isaiah 64 v 1 – 9

Mark 13 v 24 - 37

Monday

Revelation 19

Tuesday

Revelation 20

Wednesday

Revelation 21 v 1 – 8

Thursday

Revelation 2 v 9 – 21

Friday

Revelation 21 v 22 – 22 v 5

Saturday

Revelation 22 v 6 - 21



Prayer

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

1. *On Advent Sunday, pray for the mission of the Church, local, national and world-wide. That there may be a sense of urgency in bringing the message of Jesus to a needy world.*
2. *Pray that Advent may be a time of spiritual reflection and growth for all Christians.*

Contact Tricia Berry (01789 509 278 or 07840 284 294 or administrator@alcesterminster.org) by 6 pm on Tuesday to add notices of church activities to next week's notice sheet

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written a letter for everyone in their churches: "*Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to pray and to serve* **we call upon the Church of England to make the month of lockdown a month of prayer....we know we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures for ever.**" In addition, in the Diocese of Coventry, Bishop Christopher is calling us to fast on Thursdays in lockdown, in order to pray more earnestly.



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