

TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY

This Christmas is going to be very different for all of us. A struggle for those who have lost jobs or businesses, sad and lonely for those on their own who will not have visitors, disappointing for those who want to party. But in the midst of difficulty and restrictions, the message of Christmas remains the same – one of comfort and joy. For God has chosen to reach out to people with love, sending his Son, Jesus, to be Emmanuel – God with us. Jesus is alongside us through all the frustrations, the disappointments, and the anxieties of these times. He is with us to give us his peace, to surround us with his love and fill us with hope – that we might reflect his light in the darkness.

"...Let nothing you dismay, for Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day, .."

A Christmas message from Rev Sue Henwood

There will be a special Christmas on-line service from Alcester Minster available on the Minster website Welcome page **from Christmas Eve** www.alcesterminster.org.

Also a reminder that Julie and Beth are arranging a 'Drive-in' Crib service for **Christmas Eve at the Greig Hall Car Park at 4.30 pm. Booking is essential** – to reserve your place e-mail alcestercribservice@gmail.com.

Daily prayers are available on-line from the Church of England website. <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>



Please don't forget The Daily Hope telephone line. A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers. Especially helpful for those who are unable to access on-line worship.

Use the link below to access daily reflections from the Church of England.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advert-and-christmas/comfort-and-joy-our-advert-and-christmas-reflections>



Sue and Martin, and Julian and Lizzy wish you all a very happy Christmas and God's blessing in 2021, and thank you for all the cards and greetings received.



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 20 December 2020

Advent 4 Purple

Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word..'

Luke 1 v 38a

Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin
Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his
coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the
birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming
in glory;
bring us through the birth
pangs of this present
age
to see, with her, our great
salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Ministry Team:

Rector: Vacancy
Revd Sue Henwood: Kinwarton Rectory, Sernal Lane, Great Alne
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Revd Julian Davey: The Field House, Allimore Lane
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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 20 December Advent 4 *Purple*

Alcester	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Great Alne	10.00 am	Morning Worship
Weethley	3.00 pm	Holy Communion

Tuesday 22 December

Via Zoom	12.00 noon	Prayer Gathering
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Thursday 24 December

Greig Hall	4.30 pm	'Drive-in' Crib Service
Coughton	3.00 pm	Holy Communion
Weethley	3.00 pm	Holy Communion

Alcester	11.00 pm	Holy Communion
Great Alne	11.15 pm	Midnight Holy Communion

Friday 25 December Christmas Day *White/Gold*

Arrow	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Haselor	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Kinwarton	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sambourne	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Alcester	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Sunday 27 December Christmas 1 *White*

Alcester	10.00 am	Minster Holy Communion
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Please remember to reserve a place at ALL Minster services in advance through the Administrator Tel: 0784 028 4294 or email: administrator@alcesterminster.org

It would be helpful if you would reserve places for ALL Christmas services, the Minster service on 27 December and the following services for 03 January *BEFORE 23 DECEMBER*. Many thanks from the Administrator

Sunday 03 January Christmas 2 *White*

Alcester	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Haselor	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sambourne	4:00 pm	Holy Communion

The Christingle service at Arrow held on 13 December was a great success enjoyed by all able to attend and it raised £155.00 for the Children's Society. Thank you to everyone concerned.

Beware! Please be aware of this scam. The scammer sends an email which purports to come from a church leader, and asks the recipient to send a gift or vouchers to a third party. Please ignore it. Have a safe Christmas.

Readings for the week

Today	Romans 16 v 25 - 27 Luke 1 v 26 - 38
Monday	2 Peter 1 v 1 - 15
Tuesday	2 Peter 1 v 16 - 2 v 3
Wednesday	2 Peter 2 v 4 - 22
Thursday	2 Peter 1 v 1 - 18
Friday	Matthew 1 v 18 - 25
Saturday	Acts 6 v 1 - 15



Prayer

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

1. *Pray for all our Christmas Services – on-line, drive-in, in church – that the love of God in Jesus Christ may shine into the darkness of people's lives.*
2. *Pray for all those who are expecting to find Christmas difficult this year, the bereaved, the lonely, the sick, the poor and the anxious. Pray that they may find unexpected hope, help and comfort.*

Please ensure all mobile phones are switched OFF during church services. Visitors are invited to Gift Aid their offerings in the envelopes provided.

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

Check out the website calendar for further details on events/services coming up

Please note: The Administrator will be on annual leave from 23 December to 05 January. Thank you to everyone for their support this year.



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