

Reflecting back on 2020 and looking forward.

This time last year we all had hopes and plans for 2020. They say 'if you want to make God laugh tell him *your* plans'. It has been a strange year. It has brought much sadness, problems, anxiety and reflection. We have lost many good and faithful people from our church family. The Food Bank has kept many from hunger. Many have financial concerns about the both the present and the future. The government restrictions have confused and frustrated many. Most of us cannot wait for this year to be finish. Yet we can look to 2021 with encouragement as vaccines become rolled-out. We look forward to welcoming Revd Katie Cross as our new Rector. What anticipation we have for the new year.

Yet throughout 2020 God has been with us, by our side as always. He was with us when we were unable to meet together in our church buildings and how he rejoiced with us when we were able to return to worship together. We have certainly realised the importance of worshipping together.

This is a year when the 'Footsteps' poem really became real to us. Reflecting back we acknowledge that God was carrying us on his shoulders in the darkest days of 2020. We could rely on his strength and faithfulness to us.

Now is the time to consider our faithfulness to him. Whatever the world throws at us, God will be with us, 'Emmanuel'. We know we are redeemed by Jesus because of the first Easter. We can be full of hope for the future.

'God is good all the time. All the time God is good.'

Prayer:

*In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches

Sunday 27 December 2020

Christmas 1 White

*"After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child;
and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was
conceived in the womb.*

Luke 2 v 21

Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your
own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in
our humanity,
so we may share the life of his
divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect
love:
gather the nations to be
one family,
and draw us into your holy
life
through the birth of
Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Ministry Team:

Rector: Vacancy
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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 27 December **Christmas 1** *White*
Alcester 10.00 am Minster Holy Communion

Sunday 03 January **Christmas 2** *White*
Alcester 10.00 am Holy Communion
Haselor 10.00 am Morning Prayer
Sambourne 4:00 pm Holy Communion

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*

Please note: The Administrator will be on annual leave from 23 December to 05 January.

Thank you to everyone for their support this year.

Changes to schedule of services for 2021

Please note that monthly services at both Kinwarton and Great Alne will be on a different Sunday of the month from January.

Kinwarton's service will be on the second Sunday each month
Great Alne's service will be on the fourth Sunday each month.

There is no change to services at other Minster churches.

Recent Minster funerals.

The following Minster funerals took place during recently

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 10 December | Nathan Houlden |
| 15 December | Sylvia Palmer |
| 22 December | Michael Joyce |

Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to worship in the Minster during the COVID-19 restrictions. A special thank you to everyone who has contributed to the on-line services. Especially to Sue., Julian and Julie for their spiritual input and to Malcolm and Andrew for their continuous contributions and diligence.

Readings for the week

Today

Galatians 4 v 4 - 7

Luke 2 v 15 - 21

Monday

Matthew 18 v 1 - 10

Tuesday

John 1 v 1 - 18

Wednesday

John 1 v 19 - 28

Thursday

John 1 v 29 - 34

Friday

Romans 2 v 17 - 29

Saturday

John 1 v 35 - 42



Prayer

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

1. Give thanks to God for all those who have helped others during 2020, the doctors, nurses, careworkers, volunteers, food-bank helpers, good neighbours and many more.
2. Pray that God may enable us to look forward to 2021 with hope, and pray especially that an effective vaccine programme for everyone will become a

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 (07840 284 294 or administrator@alcesterminster.org) to add notices of church activities to future notice sheet

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

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.



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