

## LOOKING FORWARD into 2021

As we look forward to all that 2021 might hold for us – vaccinations, an end to Covid 19 restrictions, maybe the beginnings of something like normality by the end of the year – there are other events coming up that as the church family of the Alcester Minster we will want to celebrate. We have just entered a new national lockdown and in view of the very serious situation, our churches, along with most others locally, have decided to suspend worship for the rest of January and then review the decision. But we can still participate in worship online and celebrate our faith.

**31<sup>st</sup>. January** is a 5<sup>th</sup>. Sunday and the Minster Service will feature Archdeacon Barry who will be 'starring' in our online service that day.

**17<sup>th</sup>. February** is **Ash Wednesday**. Although we will be unable to administer ashes, and we do not know yet if we will be in church, we can still use the occasion to remember our deep need of God's forgiveness and grace. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of **Lent** – an opportunity to spend more time in prayer and reflection.

A Service of Institution and Induction on the **3<sup>rd</sup>. March**, hopefully led by Bishop Christopher and Archdeacon Sue Field, marks the beginning of our new Rector's ministry among us. We look forward to welcoming the **Revd. Katie Cross** and her family to our church family and communities. She brings with her a broad experience of rural ministry and in coming to the Alcester Minster she will be downsizing from 10 churches to only 8!

The **14<sup>th</sup>. March** is when we celebrate **Mothering Sunday**.

**4<sup>th</sup>. April** is **Easter Sunday** and we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the new life he brings.

In the **summer** I will be retiring (having become by then an OAP!) – something Martin and I are looking forward to.

Remember that God's love and grace are not restricted by the pandemic. Please do phone anyone you know who might be feeling isolated, especially those who are not on the internet. And **STAY HOME** and **STAY SAFE**.

May God bless you and encourage you at this difficult time.

*Sue Henwood.*

Well we are now into a new year with every blessing we can turn a corner. At least the shops brightened the town up and the Male Voice Choir gave a splendid effort of carols on the church green. So lovely to see people going into church after the singing.

Alcester Lights and Bunting yet again have given us a marvellous display for the community. Thankfully those who cannot get to a church service are able to have a quiet time on Saturday mornings to reflect on so many things.

We very much look forward to our new Rector. Our church and the community are ready for her.

Now may I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and look forward to spring.

*Maggie Payne, Alcester resident*



# Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches

## Sunday 10 January 2021

### Baptism of Jesus *White*

*“Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.’*

Acts 19 v 4

#### Collect

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by  
water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling  
as your adopted children;  
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

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed  
Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as  
our Lord  
and know ourselves to be  
your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our  
Saviour.

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#### Ministry Team:

Rector: Vacancy  
Alcester, B49 5DB Tel: 01789 764 261 email: [rector@alcesterminster.org](mailto:rector@alcesterminster.org)  
Revd Sue Henwood: Kinwarton Rectory, Spermal Lane, Great Alne  
Alcester B49 6HY Tel: 01789 488 344 email: [sue.henwood@live.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jw.davey@yahoo.com)

#### Children & Family Worker:

Beth Clarke email: [Beth.Clarke@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Beth.Clarke@Coventry.Anglican.org) Tel: 0749 432 9638

#### Administrator:

Tricia Berry (Monday – Friday 10.00am – 1.30 pm) Tel: 01789 509 278  
email: [administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org) Alcester Minster Office, Church House,  
17 Butter Street, Alcester, B49 5AL (Office Opening Hours 10.30 – 12.30pm)

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

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

## Next week's services and events

**Sunday 10 January**      **Baptism of Christ**      *White*  
**All church services within the Alcester Minster  
are suspended throughout January.**  
*This will be reviewed at the end of January.*

**Tuesday 12 January**  
Via Zoom Platform    12 noon    Minster Prayer Gathering

**Sunday 17 January**      **Epiphany 2**      *White*  
**All church services within the Alcester Minster  
are suspended throughout January.**

For further information please remember to contact the Administrator  
Tel: 0784 028 4294 or  
email: [administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org)

Please remember that on-line worship continues to be available every  
Sunday on the Welcome page of the Alcester Minster website  
[www.alcesterminster.org](http://www.alcesterminster.org)

### Private Prayer

Due to the current lockdown restrictions some of the Alcester Minster  
Churches may not be open as usual for private prayer.

*We are sorry to disappoint anyone  
but our desire is to keep everyone safe.*

Arrow, Coughton, Great Alne and Haselor **will not** be opening for  
private prayer.

Kinwarton, Sambourne and Weethley **will be open** as usual.  
St Nicholas, Alcester **will not** open on Wednesday and Saturday but  
**will be open** between 10.00 am – 12 noon each Sunday in January.

*We are encouraged not to travel to churches outside our own parish.*

A Community notice:

Windowwanderland 16 – 23 January

This is an event around Alcester where windows are decorated and  
people are invited to wander around to view the windows.

If anyone is willing to organize a similar event within the villages, or  
just to take part, please contact [alison.j.cresswell@gmail.com](mailto:alison.j.cresswell@gmail.com). People  
can be involved with the actual window decoration, donations either of  
tissue paper, window or money towards the project and just  
enthusiasm. *There is a website called [windowwanderland.com](http://windowwanderland.com) who give  
guidance and practical advice on how to run such a show.*

## Readings for the week

Today	Acts 19 v 1 – 7 Mark 1 v 4 – 11
Monday	1 Corinthians 1 v 1 – 17
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1 v 18 – 31
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 2 v 1 – 16
Thursday	1 Corinthians 3 v 1 – 23
Friday	1 Corinthians 4 v 1 – 21
Saturday	1 Corinthians 5 v 1 – 13



### Prayer

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

1. *Pray for all those whose plans for this year have been cancelled or disrupted, remembering especially those who were planning to begin training or new jobs. Pray that they may find fulfilling alternatives at this difficult time.*
2. *Give thanks to God for the skill and compassion of all those who care for the sick, and pray that he may give them the encouragement and strength to keep going.*

*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](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org)) by 6 pm  
on Tuesday to add notices of church activities to next week's notice sheet.

### Last week's Minster funerals.

No Minster funerals took place during last week.

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



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook?  
Find details and pictures of events at [www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster](https://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](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org)