

Dear Christian Friends,

I don't think I'm alone in saying that I'm finding the present lockdown more difficult to cope with than the first! For with the sun shining and the birds singing it seemed so much easier to enjoy the hours, rather than now with its endless run of grey skies and cold days!

We have so much time on our hands, and when the essential jobs around the house have been done, we fill the rest of the day with hobbies, reading, listening to the radio or watching TV. "What am I going to do next?" we may find ourselves saying. The days may indeed feel long and, if we live alone, the problem may seem even more acute.

All the more reason for us to spend a little more time with God! For if as Christians, we believe that we have a special relationship with Him then it should follow that we should want to spend time in His company, so that each day is blessed with a real sense of His presence filling our lives.

So in these difficult and long days, let's spend more time with our heavenly Father and with Jesus our Saviour. May I make some suggestions for those who would like to try:

- Find a time and a place where you can be alone and try to make it a special part of the day.
- Begin with a short time, say only ten minutes, and gradually extend it.
- Try to learn more about Jesus by reading a Gospel (perhaps St. Luke) or one of St. Paul's shorter letters like Colossians or Ephesians, resolving to read a few paragraphs every day.
- Then just enjoy being in God's company for a while: repeating phrases that you know and love, perhaps from a favourite hymn - "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation"; or "Come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee"; or "Breathe on me breathe of God, fill me with life anew".
- Commit the church, the world, the sick and those whom you love into God's care, finally asking God for his blessing and guidance throughout the day.

These long days, with all their restrictions, offer opportunities too. For they give us time to be with God and to discover the riches of the closer presence of Jesus, who longs for our unspoken thoughts and our simple words of devotion.

In His love, Julian



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 17 January 2021

Epiphany 2 White

"⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

John 1 v 45

Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our
end:
bring us with the whole
creation
to your glory, hidden
through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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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: 01789 509 278
email: 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Next week's services and events

Sunday 17 January Epiphany 2 *White*
**All church services within the Alcester Minster
are suspended throughout January**
This will be reviewed at the end of January

Tuesday 19 January
Via Zoom Platform 12 noon Minster Prayer Gathering

Sunday 24 January Epiphany 3 *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

Please remember that on-line worship continues to be available every
Sunday on the Welcome page of the Alcester Minster website
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.*
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.

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

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

Your financial contributions are very much appreciated at this time
especially when we are not able to take part in church services.

When we return to church services and you are filling out a gift aid
envelope please consider this quote from Revd Richard Coles
"God loves the use of a biro, especially when filling in a Gift Aid form."

Readings for the week

Today	1 Samuel 3 v 1 – 10 [v 11 – 20] John 1 v 43 – 51
Monday	1 Corinthians 6 v 1 – 11
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6 v 12 – 20
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 7 v 1 – 24
Thursday	1 Corinthians 7 v 25 – 40
Friday	1 Corinthians 8 v 1 – 13
Saturday	1 Corinthians 9 v 1 – 14



Prayer

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

1. Give thanks to God for all the dedication, skill and hard work of those developing and testing vaccines
2. Pray for all those who are organising and delivering vaccination programmes, that they might find the most effective ways of getting the vaccine to people as soon as possible.

*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*



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