

## Easter in Bollobhpur

Over these last few months of lockdown for the first time I have been reading the letters that I sent home from Bangladesh when I worked there as a missionary doctor in the 1970's. The letters are very detailed and I am quite amazed at what we managed to achieve in that very remote hospital without electricity or even running water! I was fascinated with my description of Easter there in that tiny Christian village, miles from the nearest town.

Good Friday began by driving a little nine year old boy with an intestinal obstruction a hundred and twenty miles north to a better equipped hospital, *along* mud roads and across wide rivers. Despite the five and a half hour journey the little chap's condition improved and I was able to leave him in more experienced hands, returning to our thirty six- bedded hospital the following day.

*"Easter morning started early in Bollobhpur. At 4:30 am. groups of singers with drums and cymbals began their processions around the villages. Three times they passed by the mission house before dawn. Then at dawn everyone was up and Easter hymns were sung at the village cemetery, where all the family graves had been tidied and scrubbed and the families stood around the graves with candles and flowers. The church was full of happy and excited villagers for the communion service at 7:00 AM. Then we had a boiled egg for breakfast, a great treat! ) followed by a quiet ward round, made even more memorable because there were no chickens to chase out ...."*

As I look back on those years as a young doctor in that very remote hospital, where every day was full of new experiences and new challenges, I'm inspired all over again by the sheer vitality of the villagers who had so little in the way of security and material possessions and yet celebrated Easter with such excitement and happiness.

Throughout the world this week tens of millions of Christian people will again be celebrating Easter, thanking God for the Resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, and we too will be celebrating with them. "Jesus is risen from the grave"! This has been the message of the church for 2000 years.

To all of us the Resurrection of Jesus means new life and a new beginning, a reassurance that he is alive and his presence can be experienced by those who put their trust in him. **"Alleluia – Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"**

May each one of us, together with Christians across the world, share the joy of meeting the risen Lord Jesus this Easter.

*Yours in His name, Julian*



# Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 04 April 2021

## Easter Sunday *White/Gold*

*"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb."*

John 20 v 1

### Collect for Easter Sunday

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection  
of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and  
death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and  
might,  
now and in all eternity.

### Alternative Collect for Easter

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the  
chains of death and  
hell:  
fill your Church with faith  
and hope;  
for a new day has  
dawned  
and the way to life stands  
open  
in our Saviour Jesus  
Christ.

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### Ministry Team:

Rector: Revd Katie Cross: unavailable until 18 April.

email: [rector@alcesterminster.org](mailto:rector@alcesterminster.org)

Revd Sue Henwood: Kinwarton Rectory, Sprenal Lane, Great Alne  
Alcester B49 6HY Tel: 01789 488 344 email: [sue.henwood@live.co.uk](mailto:sue.henwood@live.co.uk)  
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### 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 04 April

Haselor	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Kinwarton	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Alcester	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Arrow	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Great Alne	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Weethley	3.00 pm	Holy Communion
Coughton	4.00 pm	Holy Communion

### Tuesday 06 April

Via Zoom 12.00 noon Minster Prayer Gathering

### Sunday 11 April

Alcester	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Arrow	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Kinwarton	4.00 pm	Holy Communion

**Please remember to reserve a place at any of the church services, wear a face covering, unless exempt, and keep 2 metres distance. Thank you**

*We wish you all a very happy and Christ-filled Eastertide.*

### From next Sunday 11 April

Minster churches will resume the service pattern introduced in 2020.

Alcester will continue to have a weekly 10 am service.

All other churches will have monthly services:

Arrow	10 am services on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday
Coughton	10 am services on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
Great Alne	10 am services on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Haselor	10 am services on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday
Kinwarton	4 pm services on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday
Sambourne	4 pm services on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday
Weethley	3 pm services on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday

**Please remember to reserve your place at all services.**

## Readings for the week

### Today

John 20 v 1 - 18  
Acts 10 v 34 - 43

### Monday

Mark 16 v 1 - 8

### Tuesday

Luke 24 v 1 - 12

### Wednesday

Matthew 28 v 16 - 20

### Thursday

Luke 7 v 11 - 17

### Friday

Luke 8 v 41 - 56

### Saturday

John 11 v 17 - 44



### Prayer

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

1. *Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia! Give thanks to God for all that Jesus has done for us in dying on the cross and rising again that first Easter.*
2. *Pray for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith, that they may be able to celebrate Easter in safety and with joy.*

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

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

### Private Prayer news

Easter Saturday, 03 April.

St Nicholas, Alcester will NOT be open for Private Prayer.

From Wednesday 11 April

Haselor will open for private prayer each Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm

*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