

Amazing Grace

Last year, Coventry Diocese asked licensed and ordained ministers to volunteer for a new learning community entitled "Amazing Grace", for members to be racial awareness champions and be committed to understanding:

- The problem of racism
- The experiences of those who experience racism
- The privilege of those who do not

The ways racism undermines the mission and ministry of the church

Members were to be committed to taking intentional action to promote race equality in their personal and ministerial contexts. This is something I have a real passion and commitment for. As a senior leader in my workplace who sponsors the Ministry of Justice Racial Equality network, I believed I had both more to learn and something to offer and so I duly volunteered. Sponsored by Bishop John, we have been meeting over the last 6 months and it has been a joy, a privilege and also very distressing. In Revelation 7:9 we are given a vision of people of every nation, tribe, people and language worshipping God together and yet this is far from what is happening across our church today.

Hearing the harsh truth and reality from people of colour on their raw pain from the impact of racism on them and their lives is far from easy, but when it relates to our church it is even more distressing considering we are supposed to model our lives on Jesus. I had not realised the extent of the ongoing legacy of pain that exists from Britain's and our churches involvement in the Slave trade and this is something as white Christians we have to face up to. I have long since stopped apologising and feeling guilty for the privileges I have received from being born white – I know from speaking to many black and minority ethnic colleagues this is not wanted. What is wanted and needed is to listen and understand and most importantly to take action to address inequality.

The first phase of Amazing Grace is now complete, but the work continues and I am proud to minister and worship in a diocese that is taking this so seriously. For my part I will continue to be a member of this learning community, fully supported by our Rector Katie and my fellow team colleagues as I am sure also by all of our minster church members. If you would like to discuss this further, I would be more than happy to do so but in mean time I can recommend a couple of brilliant books – prepare to be shaken and distressed as I was though when you read them- "We need to talk about race" by Ben Lindsay and "Ghostship" by A.D France-Williams.

Bishop John recently said "The Holy spirit is the spirit of truth and the truth is uncomfortable but it is ultimately our friend. Those of us who are white need to see what many of us have – unwittingly perhaps resisted seeing. We need to see both the reality and extent of racism. More uncomfortably than this, we need to see that it is not simply the problem of other people but that we too are part of the problem"

Julie Lindsay



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 11 April 2021

Easter 2 *White*

"With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."

Acts 4 v 33

Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die
for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of
malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus
Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is
locked, no entrance
barred:
open the doors of our
hearts,
that we may seek the good
of others
and walk the joyful road of
sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the
Father.

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Ministry Team:

Rector: Revd Katie Cross: unavailable until 18 April.

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Revd Sue Henwood: Kinwarton Rectory, Spermal Lane, Great Alne

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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 11 April

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

Easter 2

White

Monday 12 April

Coughton	11.00 am	Funeral
Via Zoom	7.00 pm	Coughton with Sambourne APCM

Tuesday 13 April

Via Zoom	12.00 noon	Minster Prayer Gathering
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Sunday 18 April

Alcester	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Coughton	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Weethley	3.00 pm	Holy Communion

Easter 3

White

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

Please remember to check with the PCC Secretary if you wish to attend an APCM meeting to discover if it is via Zoom or at a venue.

Following the announcement from Buckingham Palace of the death of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh on Friday 09 April, Coventry Cathedral will be holding a special service to commemorate the death of the Duke of Edinburgh which will be livestreamed on their [Facebook page](#) at 6pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/coventrycathedral>

There is also a virtual book of condolence on the [Church of England website](#). <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

'Pam, Nigel, Dean and family, wish to thank everyone for their kind and thoughtful cards, condolences and prayers, following the passing of our beloved Emma, which have given us great strength during these difficult days'

Readings for the week

Today

Acts 4 v 32 – 35

John 20 v 19 – 31

Monday

John 20 v 1- 10

Tuesday

John 20 v 111 - 18

Wednesday

John 20 v 19 – 31

Thursday

John 21 v 1 – 14

Friday

John 21 v 15 – 19

Saturday

John 21 v 20 – 25



Prayer

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

1. *Please pray for Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal family following the death of Prince Phillip. May they know the comfort and peace of God, their loving heavenly Father at this sad time.*
2. *Continue to pray for Katie Cross and her family as they unpack and begin to settle into life in Alcester, that they may feel welcome and quickly settle.*

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.

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