

Dear Christian Friends, **John 15 v 12**

I am writing this letter on "Super-Thursday" when millions of people will have the opportunity of voting in both local and national elections. I always look forward to the established routine of being handed a voting slip, going into the booth and putting a large cross alongside my favoured candidate, because casting our vote is the essence of a free society and democratic society.

As I write there is no guessing what the result might be. But whatever the *outcome* and whatever our *reaction*, the Bible reminds us that as followers of Christ we must continue to seek social justice and to serve our community in whichever ways may seem practical.

At the heart of our social and political life should be our commitment to build communities, for as human beings we share a common humanity. As the Catholic Bishops wrote to their congregations some years ago, "our *relationship with God leads to a natural desire to build a world in which respect, dignity justice and peace are our primary concerns.*"

Neither should we ignore the plight of the poorer members of our society. For the call of the Old Testament prophets for a just and equal society has lost none of its urgency. There are many in our community who are financially vulnerable and rather than ignore them, we must follow Jesus' example of compassion and explore ways in which we can support them.

Finally in the light of the recent Church of England's Report "*From Lament to Action*", which highlights the Churches attitude to slavery and its long and sad legacy, we must not only be conscious of the nation's historic failings but our own present prejudices, and, as Christians, renew our determination to support a just society based on mutual respect and equal opportunity.

Next week, as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and rejoice that he is Lord of all, as responsible citizens let us re-commit ourselves to follow the teaching of Jesus in our Gospel this morning that we should "*love each other as he has loved us.*"

*With Christian Greetings, Julian*



# **Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 09 May 2021**

**Easter 6**     *White*

*"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love."*

John 15 v 9

### **Collect**

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the  
power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of  
your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has  
recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he  
may raise us to eternal joy;  
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**

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you  
renewed your call to  
your disciples:  
help your Church to obey  
your command  
and draw the nations to  
the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the  
Father.

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### **Ministry Team:**

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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](http://www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster)

## Next week's services and events

| Sunday 09 May |          | Easter 6       | Sunday 09 May |
|---------------|----------|----------------|---------------|
| Alcester      | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |               |
| Arrow         | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |               |
| Kinwarton     | 4.00 pm  | Evening Prayer |               |

### Tuesday 11 May

Via Zoom 12.00 noon Minster Prayer Gathering

### Wednesday 12 May

Via Zoom 7.30 pm Alcester Minster Churches Council

### Thursday 13 May

|          |          | Ascension      |
|----------|----------|----------------|
| Alcester | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |

### Sunday 16 May

|          |          | Easter 7       | White |
|----------|----------|----------------|-------|
| Alcester | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |       |
| Coughton | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |       |
| Weethley | 3.00 pm  | Evening Prayer |       |

**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.**

*Reminder that from Ascension to Pentecost  
13 – 23 May.  
It is the season of 'Thy Kingdom Come' call to prayer.*

### Haselor Plant Sale May Bank Holiday weekend

The annual Haselor Plant Sale to raise funds for Haselor Church.  
*Please come prepared to make payment in cash. A BACs payment straight into the church account is an option. Please remember to bring bags or boxes to take your produce away.*

*For more information please email [plantsale@gmx.co.uk](mailto:plantsale@gmx.co.uk)*

**Sale at various locations in Haselor and Walcote  
12 noon – 5 pm.  
Friday 28 – Monday 31 May**

## Readings for the week

| Today     | Acts 10 v 44 - 48<br>John 15 v 9 - 17 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 1 Peter 4 v 1 - 11                    |
| Tuesday   | 1 Peter 4 v 12 - 19                   |
| Wednesday | 1 Peter 5                             |
| Thursday  | Hebrews 7 v [11 - 25] v 26 - 28       |
| Friday    | 1 John 1 v 1 - 2 v 6                  |
| Saturday  | 1 John 2 v 7 - 17                     |



### Prayer

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

1. *At this Rogation-tide, pray for farmers and gardeners here and particularly for those in the parts of the world which suffer severe drought and flood, that their crops might not fail but bear fruit abundantly.*
2. *Pray for India and those countries still ravished by Covid 19. Pray that other countries may be generous in their help for them.*

Contact Tricia Berry (01789 509 278 or 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.

*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)