

Looking forward ...

It is strange to think back to the beginning of March 2020, life seemed so uncomplicated and 'normal'. Yet by the end of that month, we were going into the first national 'lockdown'. Everything seemed to change overnight. Our much beloved churches were closing, and that Easter, we had no formal spiritual worship to celebrate Jesus great unselfish act and his victory over death. The pinnacle of our Christian year. Life had changed for all of us. Many suffered loss and despair.

There were some blessings to enjoy. With the help of technology, we adapted. By 19 April, the on-line services had started in the Minster. By July we were able to return to worshipping in some of our larger churches. Eventually all the churches were again open for worship, if in a slightly different pattern of worship and different format of services. Face covering and social distancing became the in topics.

Recently, I have been able to view a series focusing on the disciples and the changes they each went through when they met with Jesus. Due to the personality of each disciple each changed in a different way when they started to follow Jesus. Being a follower of Jesus is different for each of us. We have had to lose the control we previously may have had and 'let go'. To give Jesus control over our lives. It's scary, as it must have been for the disciples. We can't just do everything we may have previously chosen to do. *It's not all about 'me'*. In children's work we talked to the children about the joy of knowing and following Jesus. Joy had two meanings. In the second, J-O-Y meant **J**esus first, **O**thers second, **Y**ou last. It was a good lesson for me to learn too.

Nationally, we can now look forward to a relaxation of the restrictions. As yet, we don't know what that will involve. What will we still need to do? What will we miss? What can we start to enjoy doing we haven't been able to do since last March? But I doubt we will go back to that 'normal' we enjoyed pre-COVID. Like many not being able to sing in our services is a big disappointment to me, but I don't expect to be able to enjoy singing in worship for a while longer. At some point in the future our current pattern of services will change. But like the restrictions being eased, I doubt we will go back to what we had before. It is probably a good time to think about the joy of worshipping the Lord, but also remembering "to put Jesus first, others second and 'you' [i.e. 'me'] last".

It's an exciting time but also a little scary. Just like the disciples we just have to put our trust in him, hand over control to him and step out in faith. It's not easy but then Jesus never said following him was going to be easy.

Prayer: Father God, help me to be a willing follower. Willing be obedient to you. Willing to accept what you bring into my life. Willing to support the needs of others above my own desires.

Amen.



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 04 July 2021

Trinity 5 Green

"He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits"

Mark 6 v 7

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of
the Church is governed and
sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all
your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and
truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Almighty God,
send down upon your
Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who
minister the gospel
your countless gifts of
grace;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

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Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Next week's services and events

Sunday 04 July

Alcester	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Haselor	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Arrow	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sambourne	4.00 pm	Holy Communion

Trinity 5 *Green*

Tuesday 06 July

Via Zoom 12 noon Prayer Gathering

Sunday 11 July

Alcester	10.00 am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Kinwarton	4.00 pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i>

Trinity 6 *Green*

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.

Sue Henwood's final Sunday service within the Minster will be at

St Nicholas, Alcester at 10 am on Sunday 11 July

Unfortunately, due to the continuation of restrictions, numbers in church will be restricted to 30 but the plans are that the service will be available on-line.

Sue's final service in the Minster will be the mid-week Communion service at

St Nicholas, Alcester at 10 am on Wednesday 14 July.

Back copies of 'Christianity' magazine 2014 – 2016

If anyone would be interested in receiving back copies of Christianity magazine, please contact Sue Henwood.

Dear all recipients of the Notice Sheet, it is hoped that normal service is finally resumed. Thank you all for your patience.

Readings for the week

Today

2 Corinthians 12 v 2 - 10
Mark 6 v 1 - 13

Monday

2 Corinthians 1 v 1 - 14

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 1 v 15 - 2 v 4

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 2 v 5 - 17

Thursday

2 Corinthians 3

Friday

2 Corinthians 4

Saturday

2 Corinthians 5

Prayer



Please pray for the following topics:

1. Give us courage to face the changes and chances of this fleeting world.
2. Pray for the ill, the frightened, the injured and the bereaved, those you know and those worldwide, suffering war and disaster.

The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in from this time for evermore. Ps 121. V 8

Please ensure all mobile phones are switched OFF during services. 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