

SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS



No. 507

DECEMBER 2019

PRICE 50p

SERVICE TIMES IN ALL THE TEAM CHURCHES

St ALPHEGE - The Square, Solihull B91 3RQ



| | | |
|----------------|---------|---|
| <i>SUNDAYS</i> | 8.00am | Holy Eucharist (said) |
| | 9.15am | Parish Eucharist in church |
| | 9.15am | 'The Junction' in the Oliver Bird Hall (groups for children and adults) joining in Holy Communion in church |
| | 9.15am | 2nd Sunday : All-age Eucharist in church |
| | 11.00am | Sung Eucharist (traditional language) |
| | 6.30pm | Choral Evensong |

Morning Prayer each day at 9.00am (Wed. 8.30am during term time)

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| <i>WEEKDAYS</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>9.30am</i> | <i>Eucharist</i> |
| | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>6.30pm</i> | <i>Choral Evensong (term time only)</i> |
| | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>10.30am</i> | <i>Eucharist (1st in month is Healing)</i> |
| | <i>Saturday</i> | <i>9.30am</i> | <i>Eucharist (1st in month)</i> |

*Festivals, as announced. Confessions by arrangement.
The Church is open daily for visitors and private prayer.*

St HELEN - St Helen's Road, Solihull B91 2DA

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|---------|--|
| <i>SUNDAYS</i> | 1st,2nd,4th,5th Sunday | 8.00am | Eucharist (Order Two) |
| | 3rd Sunday | 9.00am | Eucharist (Order Two) |
| | 1st,2nd,4th,5th Sunday | 10.00am | Eucharist and Sunday Club |
| | 3rd Sunday | 4.00pm | 'Jigsaw' All-age worship (no Eucharist) |
| | 1st,2nd,4th,5th Sunday | 6.30pm | Evening Worship in the Chapel <i>(Healing services on the 2nd Sunday of each month)</i> |



St MICHAEL - Bryanston Road, Solihull B91 1BS and Sharmans Cross School, Solihull B91 1PH

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|---|
| <i>SUNDAYS</i> | 1st,3rd,4th,5th Sunday | 10.30am | Holy Eucharist and Sunday Club (Sharmans Cross School) |
| | 2nd Sunday | 10.30am | All-age worship (Sharmans Cross School) |
| | 2nd Sunday | 4.30pm | Holy Communion (St Michael's Chapel) |
| <i>WEEKDAYS</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>10.00am</i> | <i>Eucharist at St Michael's Chapel</i> |



WEDDING AND BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

Please contact the Parish Office:

office@solihullparish.org.uk

0121 705 5350 / 0121 270 9740

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Cover picture

**'O come,
let us adore him'**

Visit our Website

www.solihullparish.org.uk

Want to email the Editor?

parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk

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Editorial

As our children get older, Charlotte and I have started the strange process of clearing out baby/toddler clothes and passing them on to unwitting friends and relatives. As we make our way through clothes, cots, toys and assorted baby-related objects, we are reminded of events associated with each one, some happy and some quite stressful! Each object evokes a range of feelings, from gratitude (remember when he would finally sleep if he had that blanket) to love (that item was given by a relative). Perhaps you've had this experience with a child growing up, or even a loved one who has died.

As finite, flesh and blood, time-bound creatures, we human beings make connections with a range of material objects, and they become vessels or bearers of our thoughts, loves and relationships. No-one else will live the particular life, inhabit the particular body, or accumulate the particular items that you do. You and I are unique, and we are located in a particular time and space. Objects, times and places are made special to us by the links we make with them. How we choose to do this is up to us. We can make things into idols by accumulating them thoughtlessly, or we can treasure the particular things that are needful for our lives to have significance.

Christianity is a faith about particular objects and relationships too. Jesus was a real person, who lived a real lifespan of around thirty years in ancient Palestine. His mother was Mary, and Joseph was his adopted father, and he lived, prayed, worked and studied with them in an actual house in Nazareth, though exactly where it is we aren't sure. When he was born, Jesus was laid in a particular crib, on a certain blanket; a fire burned that would never do so in quite the same way again, never again would those shepherds or travellers make quite that journey.

The objects we hold sacred can evoke this mystery, which we ponder during Advent and Christmastide – the mystery of the incarnation or “en-flesh-ment” of God. In Jesus, God chose to be with us in a particular way, at a particular time, in a human person, and to form relationships with humanity through his cry, voice, touch, play, healing, prayer and teaching. This is part of what we mean when we speak of the “Word made flesh” (John 1:14). And the objects we treasure at this time – our crib scenes, our favourite decorations, presents – evoke the uniqueness of God's life in Jesus. It was at this time, in this place, in this person, that God became human for us, from this point that Jesus has brought truth and life to countless people across the centuries. For this reason, some people venerate particular objects associated with the life of Christ, such as the Turin Shroud or the vault of the Holy Sepulchre (the spot of Jesus' tomb), so that they can feel a connection to these unique occurrences.

Christians revere ordinary objects as holy. We value particular items, days, times, and places because there is no other way for God to get through to us than through these ordinary things. Understood rightly, the ordinary stuff of human life is capable of bearing God's life, as well as resonating with the memory of all that makes our lives bear meaning; the everyday loves which lead us to God. Through the incarnation of Jesus, the material world is capable of participating in the divine, shining with the light of God's glory.

St John of Damascus, whose feast falls on 4th December, writes:

I do not worship matter, I worship the God of matter, who became matter for my sake, and deigned to inhabit matter, who worked out my salvation through matter.

Was the three-times happy and blessed wood of the Cross not matter? Was the sacred and holy mountain of Calvary not matter? What of the life-giving rock, the Holy Tomb, the source of our resurrection — was it not matter? Is the holy book of the Gospels not matter? Is the blessed table which gives us the Bread of Life not matter?

I honour all matter, and venerate it. Through it, filled, as it were, with a divine power and grace, my salvation has come to me.

I hope that through your preparations and celebrations you come to experience this power and grace, so that the ordinary things of life may raise you up into the life of God.

Every blessing,

Sam

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Telephone No: 0121 705 3356**

800th Celebrations

2020 is almost upon us and the year of celebrating 800 years of Christianity in Solihull is about to begin. We have various exciting events lined up and a leaflet outlining these events will be produced very soon.

Events

Linda Hicks is heading up an "800 Acts of Kindness" initiative; there will be a keynote preacher at the Unity Service in January; we'll have a Pentecost Picnic in the Park; various musical events; Heritage event; an event with speakers and plenary sessions about looking at the future of the Church. That list is the bare minimum. Please keep your eyes open for what is happening as we go through 2020.

Visiting Preachers

At St Alphege, I am planning to have at least one Bishop and two Archdeacons preaching during the year and we'll have visiting preachers for Sunday mornings in Lent.

Cookery Book with new recipes (if you send them in!)

As mentioned last month, we are hoping to produce a recipe book as part of the 800th Anniversary Celebrations. We are looking for new (additional) recipes (not the same ones as we had in the 2012 recipe book!) – so please do send in your favourite, reliable recipes to the Parish Office by the end of December 2019.

Jane



800 Year Celebration Cookbook

We need your favourite recipes for this special anniversary book.

Your recipes should include ingredients, the preparation and cooking method, and the number of servings.

Please send your contribution (preferably by email) to the Parish Office (office@solihullparish.org.uk) or to Susan Leach esleach@blueyonder.co.uk

Roundabout Advent Challenge

In the November edition of the Parish News, Suzette mentioned the idea of an "Advent Challenge". So let's do it this year!

Since Advent begins on 1st December this year, this particular challenge fits perfectly.

We'd like to encourage you to read one chapter of Luke's Gospel every day. There are 24 chapters in Luke's Gospel, so by the time you have read the last chapter on Christmas Eve, hopefully, you will have an even better and deeper idea of who Jesus is and who we are celebrating on 25th December.

50p copies of Luke's Gospel will be available at all three churches – please do buy one (if you can't locate a Bible easily) and be challenged!

Jane

Churchyard Tidy up Day Saturday 2nd November 2019

Don't believe the weather forecasts!

The advance weather forecast did not bode well, neither did the change of time required to accommodate the All Souls' morning service, but in the end the mixed abilities of sixteen adults, seven parish youth and four children with an age range of 5 months up to 84 years enjoyed a good afternoon with no rain



All working together, we managed to rake up **one hundred and forty-three** black bags of "holy" leaves (all of which will be recycled by local allotment holders) as well as tidying up the churchyard to prepare for the Remembrance Day services on 10th November. Not quite a record number of bags, but enough to be going on with.

Thanks very much to Ashleigh, Richard, David, Jeroen, Cheung, Nigel, Sarah, Stephen, Carl, David, Pat + Eloise, Richard and Marsha + James and Ethan, Paul + William, Youth leaders Joe and Lynn + George, Lilly, Annie, Hannah, Mary, Paige and Kyra for joining in to help.

And at least this time I got to eat a doughnut at refreshment time... but who ate all the Battenberg cake?

Sessions for 2020 are planned for: 21st March, 6th June, 5th September and 31st October, starting in March with a general tidy up for Easter. Can you help next year joining in the fun and fellowship? Age and ability are not a barrier. Please see all the photographs in the OBH and St Alphege church.

Michael Rumball

20s & 30s Round-up

In October, a selection of us went on a "mini-pilgrimage" to Worcester Cathedral, just for a Saturday. We were fortunate enough to be given a tour of the ancient treasures of the Cathedral library, including some medieval Bibles and musical books, which we felt really connected us to the Christian heritage of the Midlands. We had a good pub lunch, and much laughter was shared during the day as the (much) younger of our number commented at length on various aspects of what they were seeing!

We shared a time of Midday prayer together in the Crypt chapel, remembering all the members of the 20s & 30s network in Solihull, each of our churches, and our families and friends. Our hope is that by drawing closer to God we can inspire others and invite them to be part of our growing fellowship. Many people are longing for friendship, or wondering if there is a space in the church for people of our generation. If you or someone you know would like to be part of a group like this, please get in touch with us.



Our next event is the annual Christmas Party, on Friday 20th December 2019, 7pm onwards at 17 Church Hill Close. We provide drinks (mulled wine and non-alcoholic options) and Christmas food. All are welcome, including friends and partners. If you are interested, please let me know at solihullcurate@gmail.com.

Sam

A Brace of Canons

A new Honorary Canon and a new Lay Canon of Birmingham Cathedral

Jane Kenchington and **Andy Halstead** received a very pleasant surprise recently when they each received a letter from Bishop David inviting them to be an Honorary Canon (Jane) and a Lay Canon (Andy) of Birmingham Cathedral. Lay Canons and Honorary Canons are "Non Residentiary" – they remain in the posts they already hold and are seen as a bridge between the Cathedral and the Diocese.

They were installed at a service of Evensong in the Cathedral on Sunday 24th November. We hope to have a report of the event in the January Parish News.

Roundabout

Thank You from Helping Hands

As many of you will know, we regularly take food etc. – which is collected in the green container at the back of St Alphege church – to the 'Helping Hands' group at the Renewal Christian Centre in Lode Lane. They recently contacted us to say "thank you"...

Dear All at St Alphege Church, Solihull,

Helping Hands, Renewal would like to express our gratitude to you for your generous contributions to our food bank. Your support is invaluable to us, even more so to numerous people in need who are the recipients of your generosity. Thank you for providing donations of food and toiletries.

We continue to serve the community by receiving donations from a variety of people and organisations, and can truly say that we could not provide this service of delivering food parcels to so many families and individuals if it were not for donations such as yours.

Therefore, never underestimate just how much your support is appreciated by Helping Hands. Your contributions help to make a difference to many lives, and clearly demonstrates your care, compassion and kindness towards those in need throughout the borough of Solihull.

May you be truly blessed

Best Wishes

Helping Hands Team, Renewal

So thank you to all who contribute, and please keep up the good work!

Frances Rumball

Music Recitals : St Alphege Church at 1:10pm

Wed 4 Dec - Michael Lam (baritone) and Anna Ho

A recital of opera arias and Chinese art songs by Hong Kong baritone Michael CT Lam, and pianist Anna Vienna Ho.

Wed 11 Dec - Edward Leung, piano

An all-Chopin recital performed by the talented Edward Leung, who has visited St Alphege on a few previous occasions.

Wed 18 Dec - Christmas Handbell Recital

A programme of seasonal favourites performed by the Knowle Handbell group.

Light refreshments from 12.30pm Recital ends 2.00pm

Any voluntary donations to Friends of St Alphege Music

Staff Changes

By the time you read this, we will have gained three new members of staff in new roles.

Nic Duncan – Director of Operations

Nic started with us on 11th November and her office, (for the moment), is room 5. Why do we have a Director of Operations? When Jules Morgan spent time in the parish assessing its positives and shortcomings, she made a large number of recommendations. One of these recommendations was for us to appoint a Director of Operations. This person would oversee all the operational side of the church – in order to (in her own words), “free up the ministers to minister.” What sort of operations are we talking about? The list is extensive – employment and HR, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Finance, Staffing structures, IT, Communications, Facilities (i.e. buildings), line managing some staff, moving forward strategy...

The important word here is “**Oversee**”. Nic won’t be “hands-on” with all these areas: she will be working collaboratively with the many volunteers we have.

This is a senior position and Nic will be line managed by the Rector.

Vernon Adams has been doing parts of the Director of Operations job for some time and will be relinquishing that role in December. I’d like to thank Vernon for all the work he has done and the ground he has prepared for Nic’s arrival.

Suzette Maguire – Pioneer Minister

Suzette will have been licensed by Bishop Anne on 26th November by the time you read this article. Suzette comes with a lot of experience in Pioneer Ministry – where she will be building relationship and working with many adults who have little or no contact with the Church or Christianity. This is very challenging work and we won’t see quick results. It’s much more about the long haul. It is important to emphasise that Suzette’s ministry will be directed to adults and the eventual discipling of adults. Rachael Russell, the Head Teacher of Yew tree School has kindly offered her premises and is right behind Suzette in terms of offering an introduction to this area of the Parish.

Fourteen years after St Francis Church was closed, we now have someone living and working in that area of the parish again. That is something for which to thank and praise God.

Paula McClenaghan – Parish Nurse

Paula McClenaghan is to take up the new role of Parish Nurse. This role is about helping people and communities towards whole-person healthcare. Parish nurses work with people of all ages and backgrounds, of all faiths and none. They may give moral support during a medical crisis, give general health advice or point people towards further medical help. Parish Nurses may also clarify medical procedures or issues, or simply listen to and pray with people in need.

Paula is an experienced Nurse and a long-standing member of St Helen’s Church so this is a natural step for her, and a great benefit to the work and outreach of our parish. Please pray for Paula as she begins her work and look out for her visiting our churches in the near future to talk about her work.

Please pray for all these people in their new undertakings – they cannot do God’s work in the way God intends without our prayerful support.

From the St Alphege Register

Baptisms

3rd November Lillian Ansell-Williams
Lucy Shakles
Oscar Darnley
Owen Gissey-Walsh

Weddings

16th November Leon Goodman & Vicky Jarvis

Funerals

29th October Sylvia Frances Leedham
5th November Cowley Bowman
7th November Barbara Chambers

Memorials

28th October Neil John Breton

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in December

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Stan Hurley | Dr S Oswald | Peter Rodway |
| Colin Humphrey | Richard Feasey | Alan Bryan |
| Robert Lambie | Richard Swann | Gwendoline Mullis |
| Eric Smith | William Lane | Ronald Soden |
| Philip Newman | Les Alcock | Ann Simcock |
| Joyce Rumball | Moira Arnison | George Linstead |

OLIVER BIRD HALL BOOKINGS

**Enquiries are welcome for the use of the Hall for
social gatherings, christenings, anniversaries, meetings, etc.**

Visit the website on:

www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire

or contact the Parish Office:

Tel: 0121 705 5350 / 0121 270 9740 Email: office@solihullparish.org.uk

St Alphege**Worship Notes December 2019**

December is busy but also a time of prayer and reflection as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. There are many special services for all ages over Christmas and New Year, which can be found on separate flyers, and in this magazine. Meanwhile, some highlights:

Advent Sunday, 1st December:

3pm, Ecumenical Crib Blessing Service, Mell Square. Open to all, please bring family and friends as we bear public witness to Jesus in the town centre.

6.30pm Advent Carol Service at St Alphege. A beautiful service to begin our journey towards Christmas.

Saturday 7th December

9.30am, St Alphege (St Antony's chapel). Our monthly Requiem Eucharist, to remember the departed and commend them to God's care.

Thursday 19th December

This is the regular Mothers' Union corporate Eucharist at St Alphege. All are welcome, you do not have to be an MU member to attend.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December

At St Alphege we have our Crib services at 3pm and 4.15pm. Midnight Mass begins at 11.30pm, with carol singing from 11pm.

For your diary in January

New Year's Day, 1st January: a celebration of the Eucharist for the whole parish at 11am.

Sunday 5th January. As the Christmas season continues, we remember the gifts of the Magi and the many signs by which Jesus was revealed as Lord. As well as our regular pattern of morning worship, there will be an Epiphany Carol Service at 6.30pm. Please do come and share in this special occasion.

St. Alphege C.of E. Nursery School Entry September 2020

Applications for places in our Nursery School for September 2020 should be made **directly** to the **Infant School Office**, in person or by telephoning 0121 705 0443. Application forms should be returned to the School Office **by 1st December** or as soon as possible thereafter. Please contact the School in case of any problems.

This year for the first time all Solihull schools are handling their own Nursery admissions, unlike in the past when this was done by the Local Authority.

Children applying should be 3 years old (but not 4) by, or on, 31st August 2020.

There are 30 places in each of the morning and afternoon Nursery sessions.

Carol Southworth, Acting Chair of Governors

Advent & Christmas Services at St Alphege

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Sunday 1 st Dec | 3.00pm 6.30pm | Ecumenical Crib Blessing Service at Mell Square Advent Carol Service |
| Sunday 8 th Dec | 9.15am | Christingle All Age Eucharist |
| Wednesday 11 th Dec | 9.00am | St Alphege Federation Service of Light and Thanksgiving |
| Sunday 15 th Dec | 6.30pm | Service of Nine Lessons and Carols |
| Tuesday 24 th Dec | 3.00pm 4.15pm 11.30pm | Crib Service Crib Service Midnight Mass |
| Christmas Day | 8.00am 9.15am 11.00am | Christmas Said Eucharist Christmas Day All Age Worship Christmas Day Choral Eucharist |
| Sunday 29 th Dec | 10.30am | Sung Eucharist |
| Wednesday 1 st Jan | 11.00am | New Year's Day Parish Service |
| Sunday 5 th Jan | 6.30pm | Epiphany Carol Service |

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A Day Out in Brum

On 19th October, the Birmingham Diocese held its annual RSCM Festival Service. During this service RSCM awards achieved during the past year are presented by a Bishop, this year a visiting Bishop. It is a nice day out in Birmingham, and an opportunity to celebrate the successes of our choristers.

As in all recent years, St Alphege had the largest number of choristers receiving awards, and we had a fantastic number of five people receiving the RSCM Gold Award. This exam is extremely difficult, taking nearly an hour, and examining a huge breadth of musical and liturgical understanding.



Two Days Out in the OBH



The weekend of 1st and 2nd November saw the fifth St Alphege Beer Festival and we were very lucky to have great support from the church and local community. The event was well attended and we had great beers and great music. For the first time, we had two barrels of vegan and gluten free beer, which were popular, as well

as old favourites from Church End Brewery and some new popular choices from the Black Country. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the event – by sponsoring a barrel of beer or cider, by helping before or during the event, by performing to give such excellent live entertainment and by coming along to enjoy the beer!



Staffing Update



Alex Woodrow has been appointed Director of Music at Leeds Minster, a post which he will take up in February 2020. Alex has played organ for us at St Alphege since February 2017, initially in a deputising role, and has been an amazing part of the music department. He is a highly-skilled organist and a fantastic choir trainer, and we have benefited from his accompanying skills and the wealth of knowledge he shares with the boys and girls when taking rehearsals. We will miss him greatly and we wish him well in his new role. His last Sunday at St Alphege will be Sunday 9th February.

Isabel Baumber

Handel's MESSIAH

Saturday 21st December, 7pm
St Alphege Church

St Alphege Church Choirs
Conductor: Joe Cooper

Tickets £12 adults, children free

Box Office: 0121 704 6962 www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

www.stalphegemusic.org.uk



The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church

EVENTS & NEWS

Dear Guardians,

It was lovely to see so many of our supporters at the Annual General Meeting recently. We said a fond farewell and thank you to Michael Palmer at the meeting. Michael had completed 3 years as a Trustee and Chairman and we are truly grateful for all of the work which he has carried out during this time. Michael has been involved with many fundraising events stretching back over 30 years and Judith Hetherington's Financial Report commented upon the healthy financial position we are currently in; a large part of the contributions coming from the fundraising events and prudent investments made during Michael's involvement with The Guardians.

This year we have been/are involved in a few projects as listed below and I am sure you are all appreciative of the heating restoration work which has at last been completed, and that a very warm welcome now awaits you on stepping inside the church!

- Construction of the sound shutters for the belfry (£7,675)
- Heating restoration work (£8,760)
- Lighting conductor updating (£1,245)
- Asbestos work to the vestry (£872)
- Guttering restoration work (£2,673).

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Ruth Morton

FLOODLIGHTING

The Guardian's Floodlighting Scheme is available for anyone who would wish to celebrate or mark an occasion, or to commemorate a date. The cost is £8.00 for 2 hours; £14.00 for 4 hours. Please give 14 days' notice. Forms are available from the Guardians notice boards in St Alphege Church or in the Oliver Bird Hall.

Names are displayed on monthly lists on these notice boards and also in the Parish magazine and acknowledged with a card sent to the donor. For further information please contact the Scheme organiser: Sheila Payne, 0121 706 0520; or email sheilaepayne@aol.com

The Church was floodlit to remember the following:

- 4th November In loving memory of Joan Watts.
6th November Don Mason. Affectionately remembered on his birthday.
7th November To commemorate the wedding anniversary of Dr and Mrs Oswald.
10th November May Cawser on her birthday. November 10th 1931.
10th November Sue Hallisey, in memory on your birthday for everything you have given to make us who we are today. Love always Gaynor, Rob, Tobi and Libby
12th November The birthday of my late mother, Peggy Oswald.
14th November In loving memory of Mabel Campkin.
19th November In loving memory of Norman Weatherhead.
21st November Owen Cawser; lovingly remembered on this his birthday by May and the family.
23rd November In loving memory of Rebecca Davies on her birthday.



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Low Needle Drop
Nordman Fir
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and over

Norway Spruce also
available over 10ft

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Opening Hours

Monday - Wednesday 12 - 5 pm
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Saturday & Sunday 9 am - 5 pm

Large selection of water
holding stands, tree
lights and trimmings



Delivery and Collection Service

Steve's Christmas Trees, 30 Blue Lake Road, Dorridge, Solihull, B93 8BJ
All enquiries please call: 01564 770560
www.stevesindustries.co.uk

'The Magic of Christmas Starts Here!'

Thank you everyone who has supported us through the difficult time of Helen's absence. We continue to hold her in our prayers and very much look forward to her return.

At the start of November, we said goodbye to Jane Picket, who has been office administrator for eight years. We wish her well in her new job. All contributions to the weekly St Helen's bulletin now need to go to the Parish Office, not the St Helen's Office.

We are very grateful to Les Prescott who has agreed to take on the role of Clerk of Works.

Recycling of crisp packets and pet food pouches has proved so popular that we have now provided much larger bins, which are situated outside at the front of the church, to accommodate the increased volume we are collecting. Our collections will be converted into cash which can be donated to charities of our choice.

Jean & Phil

Advent & Christmas Services at St Helen

- Sunday 15th Dec: 4.00pm Jigsaw, the Nativity and puppets
- Sunday 22nd Dec: **No** 8am Communion
10.00am Eucharist
6.30pm Candlelit Service of Carols and Lessons
- Tuesday 24th Dec: 4.00pm Crib Service
No Midnight Eucharist
- Christmas Day: 8.00am Christmas Eucharist
10.00am Christmas Family Service.
- Sunday 29th Dec: **No** 8am Communion
10.00am Eucharist

Advertising in the Solihull Parish News

If you advertise here you will reach over a thousand households in Solihull each month, as well as supporting your church.

Contact our Advertising Manager, Tim Drakeford

TELEPHONE: 0121 705 4494

SOLIHULL HOSPITAL CHARITY PRESENTS

Solihull Christmas Carol Concert

Live music | Festive food and drink
Adult ticket £10 | NHS staff ticket £7

6 December 2019
Doors open at 6:30pm
Solihull United Reformed Church,
741 Warwick Road, Solihull, B91 3DG

Buy tickets today at:
hospitalcharity.org/events



Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity, Heartlands Hospital Charity, Good Hope Hospital Charity and Solihull Hospital Charity are trading names of University Hospitals Birmingham Charity, a company limited by guarantee in England (No. 1009409) and a charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1165798). Registered Office: Fifth Floor Nutfield House, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham B15 2TH.



St Michael

For one night morning only...

One of the highlights of the Advent season at St Michael's is our annual Nativity service. This takes place each year on the second Sunday of December. The story of the coming of Christ is told within and around the other elements of the liturgy - the prayers, hymns and readings.

For many years, this wonderful event was written, directed and produced by Pat Abrams, a long-standing and much-loved member of St Michael's who sadly died in 2018. This year, however, the tradition is being carried on by another St Michael's member – Wendy Westley - who has written a beautiful, original script to tell once more the story of the birth of Jesus. The play is titled 'Strangers' and it focuses not only on Mary and Joseph but also on the other individuals who were caught up in their story.

The cast of the play will be made up of members of St Michael's of all ages, some of whom will be making their first appearance in a St Michael's Nativity service, as well as a few who are veterans of this annual occasion! Everyone is welcome to come along to St Michael's at Sharman's Cross Junior School on Sunday 8th December at 10.30am to share in this unique and wonderful event.

A Feast of Word and Song

We continue to celebrate the Christmas story at our Carol Service. This will take place at Sharman's Cross Junior School at 4.30pm on Sunday 15th December. A band of St Michael's musicians and singers will lead our singing of carols and we will also hear traditional readings and a variety of poems. The service will be followed by warming drinks and plenty of mince pies! Everyone is welcome to this lovely service.

The Longest Night

The Christmas season is often full of expressions of joy, excitement, and happiness. It's a time for friends and families to gather together and for our churches to celebrate the hope that is found in the coming of the Christ-child. However, many people find Christmas to be a difficult time of year, in which the activities and expectations of the season magnify feelings of hurt and pain.

This year, we are offering an event for anyone who finds Christmas a difficult time, for any reason. This will be a quiet, prayerful and reflective service which will enable us to acknowledge and hold before God the sorrowful or painful feelings which may come at this time of year.

The service is called 'The Longest Night', and will be held at St Michael's Chapel at 4.30pm on Sunday 22nd December. (This is the weekend of the Winter Solstice, the darkest time of the year, so it is a very appropriate date for such a service.) It is open to everyone, including friends, neighbours or family members who may find it helpful.

I wish you a good and holy Advent season.

Simon

Advent & Christmas Services at St Michael

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---|
| Sunday 8 th Dec | 10.30am | All-Age Nativity Service at Sharman's Cross Junior School |
| Sunday 15 th Dec: | 4.30pm | Carol Service at Sharman's Cross Junior School |
| Sunday 22 nd Dec: | 4.30pm | 'The Longest Night' service at St Michael's Chapel |
| Tuesday 24 th Dec | 3.00pm | Crib Service at St Michael's Chapel |
| | 11.30pm | Christmas Eve Eucharist at St Michael's Chapel |
| Christmas Day | 10.30am | All-Age Christmas Eucharist at Sharman's Cross Jnr School |

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Pioneer Diary

December 25th – You are enough

I wonder what you would name as your favourite Christmas Carol.

I've just listened to mine – in preparation for this article of course! I don't generally listen to Christmas Carols in November (although they will undoubtedly in the shops soon).

You may already know this, but it appears that Classic FM held a nationwide poll last year to determine the nation's favourite (<https://win.classicfm.com/nations-favourite-carol/#25>). The top five came in as follows:

- 5th – O Come All Ye Faithful
- 4th – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- 3rd – In the Bleak Mid-winter (Gustav Holst version)
- 2nd – Silent Night
- And – in first place - drum roll please! –
- 1st – O Holy Night

My favourite is there in third place: mind you, it is my favourite carol, but it also causes me some consternation every year, because many people – Bethlehem Carol Sheets included – have started getting the words wrong.

The carol 'In the Bleak Midwinter' is based on a poem by Victorian poet Christina Rossetti: the stanzas of the poem take us from a frozen place to the stable and Christ's birth; to Mary, his mother, and her love and worship; and finally to out to us. I remember reading at one time (although I confess that I have been unable to find it today) that the whole frozen idea of the poem reflects humanity's frozen heart necessitating Christ's arrival. This is then born out in the final verse:

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

Recently there was a lovely cartoon on Facebook. It showed a child reaching up to Jesus, offering a heart, saying "It's all I have to give". Jesus in response is saying "It's all I ever wanted."

How confident are we of that?

How confident are we that our Saviour, born in stable, the word made flesh, God's son, how confident are we that all he wants from us is our heart? Not our productivity, our success, or some sort of man-made picture of perfection. Our heart.

I suspect that, certainly in modern times, we are not very confident, and this is where a corruption of the original last verse has been allowed to creep in.

The poem/hymn ends with a statement: 'Yet *what I can* I give him: give my heart.' It's a positive and forthright statement of intent, saying 'I will give to Christ what I can, and that's my heart'. This is much more palatable to me than the alternative corruption that instead poses a question, 'Yet what can I give him? Give my heart.'

It may not sound very different on the face of it as the resulting action is still the same, but I believe that, by posing it as a question, it shows a lack of confidence in knowing that we are enough: that all Christ wants from us is our heart. ***Indeed, there is nothing that we can do or say that will be better than that.***

Let me repeat that so that it has time to sink in. All Christ wants from us is our heart. ***There is nothing that we can do or say that will be better than that.*** (Gulp!)

Christ wasn't born so that you can be perfect in all you do. He wasn't born in a stable so that you can succeed in everything you touch. He wasn't visited by the Magi and the shepherds so that you can manufacture a 'better' gift than theirs. And he didn't die on the cross so that you can save yourself by your good works. Instead, all of this was out of love for you and to thaw your frozen heart, so that you will respond and love him in return. He wants your heart.

So, check the words when we sing this carol this coming Christmas, and dare to be confident in our Lord and sing 'Yet ***what I can I give Him: give my heart.***'

And know that **you** are enough.

Have a very happy Christmas! Thanks for listening!

Suzette. ☺

2019 Parish Christmas Card



The Solihull Parish Christmas Card is now available from St Alphege Bookstall in church and from the Parish Office in the Oliver Bird Hall. Please buy while stocks last and support the Bookstall which distributes its profits to selected charities.

The picture is a representation of a Georgian Christmastide from an original watercolour by Roger Heath.

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CHURCH 4 CHILDREN

December

(plus more dates on the next page!)

Sunday Worship

St Alphege

At 9.15am there's a choice of:

The Junction which meets in the Oliver Bird Hall - An informal service for young families offering tailored activities for children of all ages.

It's lively and laid back! Or

St Alphege Kids - You are welcome at the 9:15am service for worship in our beautiful church building.

Space for all ages with dedicated activities for children.

On 8th December everyone will meet in the church building for

Christingle All age worship

St Helen

Every Sunday in term time at 10.00 am (apart from 15th December when it's **Jigsaw with the puppets** at 4pm) there is worship in a modern space with a community feel with tailored activities for children

St Michael

Every Sunday in term time at 10.30am there is worship in the school hall where a warm and welcoming space is created for all ages to worship. There is a crèche for little ones and activities for children of all ages. On 8th December everyone will meet together for an **all age Nativity service**.

Other Activities

Praise and Play Every Friday from 9.30am onwards Oliver Bird Hall

(Term time only)

Oasis Tuesdays 9.15- 10.15am Oliver Bird Hall

Little Treasures Wednesdays at 1.15pm Oliver Bird Hall

Lots of dates for the diary:

Why don't you and your family join us for some of the Christmas services and events across the Parish. Here are the details of some of them:

Nativity Services



Sunday 8th December St Michael's Church 10.30am

Sunday 15th December Jigsaw with the puppets
at St Helen's Church 4pm

Sunday 22nd December The Junction 9.15am

(Come along dressed as your favourite Nativity character!)

Christingle Service

Sunday 8th December 9.15am St Alphege Church



Come along to this special celebration
and make your own Christingle to take
home.

Collection in aid of the Children's
Society

Crib Services

Tuesday 24th December



St Alphege Church 3pm and 4.15pm
St Michael's - Oak Cottage Chapel 3pm
St Helen's Church 4pm

Christmas Day All Age Eucharist

Wednesday 25th December



St Alphege Church 9.15am
St Helen's Church 10.00am
St Michael's Church 10.30am



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Praise and Play

Every Friday morning in the main Hall of the
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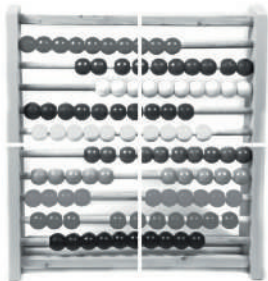
Come along and chat, play, eat biscuits,
sing action songs, explore a bible story.



No need to book but if you want to know
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Youth Stuff

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 1 st Dec | Revive-St Michael's | 10.30am St Michael's |
| Monday 2 nd Dec | Relax -Our fellowship group for all year 9+ | 7-9pm Youth room |
| Wednesday 4 th Dec | Junior Refresh -Bible based activity group for years 6, 7 & 8 | Group 1: 6.30-7.30pm Group 2: 7.30-8.30pm; in the Youth Room |
| Friday 6 th Dec | Reflect Youth Session | 6pm-7.30pm Fun, Games, Pizza and Reflection. In the Youth Room |
| Saturday 7 th Dec | Film Club | 6.30-9.15pm in the Youth Room, OBH. Bring your own snacks. |
| Sunday 8 th Dec | Revive-Youth at St Alphege , all age worship, with youth helping out during the service. | 9:15am service, arrive by 9am to help with church duties |
| Monday 9 th Dec | Relax -Our fellowship group for all year 9+ | 7-9pm Youth Room |
| Wednesday 11 th Dec | Refresh -Bible based activity group for years 9+ | 7.30-8:45pm Youth Room |
| Friday 13 th Dec | Reflect Youth Session | 6pm-7.30pm Fun, Games, Pizza and Reflection. In the Youth Room |
| Saturday 14th Dec | Annual Parish Youth CHRISTMAS PARTY | 7.30 - 10.30 at St Helen's. |
| Sunday 15 th Dec | Revive-Youth at Junction | 9.15 St Alphege, OBH Youth Room |
| Monday 16 th Dec | Relax -Our fellowship group for all year 9+ | 7-9pm Youth room |
| Wednesday 18 th Dec | Junior Refresh -Bible based activity group for years 6, 7 & 8 | Group 1: 6.30-7.30pm Group 2: 7.30-8.30pm; In the Youth Room |
| End of term | No planned sessions until January 2020 | |



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The Solihull WW1 War Shrine

The May 2017 edition of the Solihull Parish News contained a brief article by Jill Chape in which she identified the Crucifix ('Calvary') located on the St Alphege churchyard perimeter wall (adjacent to the War Memorial) as a War Shrine. The Shrine was originally dedicated to forty men who had died, and had been unveiled by Colonel Ludlow at Easter 1917.

Jill's source described the Shrine as: *Standing 9ft in height with Jesus on the Cross, below the Cross are two boxes in which flowers can be put ... There are two panels, one on each side of the Calvary with names on each to the Fallen.* The Shrine was designed by Elphege Pippet, a Solihull man and was built by Thompsons Builders of Knowle. The Shrine was later superseded (in 1921) by the present War Memorial, at which time the original Shrine would have had its side panels removed, and the names on the panels (by that time substantially more than forty) transferred to the bronze panels on the War Memorial.



At the time when she wrote the May 2017 article, Jill was seeking more information on the Shrine, and in particular a picture of how it looked. After more appeals, Jill received a copy of a photograph from Gordon Bragg (retired Undertaker), which shows the occasion of the dedication and unveiling of the Shrine. We thought that readers of the Parish News may be interested to see the picture. The more modern picture shows the Crucifix on Remembrance Sunday 2019, decorated with poppies.

David Patterson

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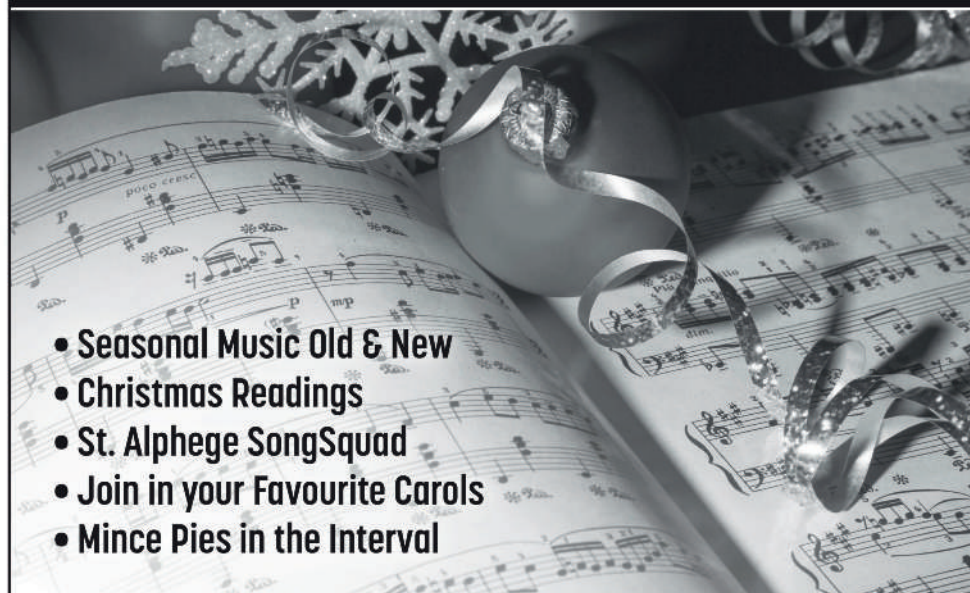
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www.stalphege.solihull.sch.uk

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Calendar and Prayer Intentions for December

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1 | Advent Sunday | Congregations and community at St Alphege | White House Green |
| 2 | Feria | Our fellow Christians of other traditions | White House Way |
| 3 | Francis Xavier, Missionary | Travellers and journalists | Whitefields Crescent |
| 4 | John of Damascus | Christian artists, painters and poets | Whitefields Gate |
| 5 | Feria | Linda, Director of Children & Families Ministry | Whitefields Road |
| 6 | Nicholas, Bishop of Myra | Those who use and serve in foodbanks | Widney Manor Road |
| 7 | Ambrose, Bishop of Milan | The choirs and musicians of Solihull Parish | Willoughby Drive |
| 8 | Advent II | Jane, Rector of Solihull | Winterbourne Road |
| 9 | Feria | The St Alphege Luncheon club | Winthorpe Drive |
| 10 | Feria | Congregations and community at St Helen | Witham Croft |
| 11 | Ember Day | Charlotte, our parish ordinand | Witley Avenue |
| 12 | Feria | General Election and all holding political office | Witley Farm Close |
| 13 | Lucy, Martyr | Parish youth and youth leaders | Wollescote Drive |
| 14 | John of the Cross | Prayer/home groups across the parish | Woodbury Grove |
| 15 | Advent III | Suzette our Pioneer Minister, and her ministry | Woodfield Road |
| 16 | Feria | Local government and councillors | Woodlea Drive |
| 17 | O Wisdom | Wisdom for all church councils and committees | Woodperry Avenue |
| 18 | O Adonai | Congregations and community at St Michael | Woodside Way |
| 19 | O Root of Jesse | Local action on the climate crisis | Woodston Grove |
| 20 | O Key of David | Prisoners and prison chaplains | Wroxall Road |
| 21 | O Dayspring | The Just Explore course and its leaders | Yew Tree Lane |
| 22 | Advent IV / O King of the Nations | Those serving in the armed forces and their families | Yewhurst Road |
| 23 | O Emmanuel | The work of the United Nations | Albany Gardens |
| 24 | Christmas Eve | For new disciples of Jesus Christ | Alderbrook Road |
| 25 | Christmas Day | Those who find Christmas difficult | Alderham Close |
| 26 | Stephen, First Martyr | Theological colleges and training courses | Alderminster Road |
| 27 | John the Evangelist | Religious orders and retreat houses | Alderpark Road |
| 28 | The Holy Innocents | The unjustly imprisoned, victims of violence | Alderton Close |
| 29 | Christmas I | Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury | Alderwood Place |
| 30 | Feria | Our local hospitals and medical staff | Alston Close |
| 30 | John Wyclif | The United Bible Societies | Alston Road |

The Church prays for the community daily: please include these topics in your personal daily prayers.

Let us Pray

Dec 7th - The Choirs and Musicians of Solihull Parish

December 7th is the feast day of St Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan who became one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4th century. He was the Roman governor of Liguria and Emilia, headquartered in Milan, before being made bishop of Milan by popular acclamation in 374. He was one of the four original Doctors of the Church, and is the patron saint of Milan.

One of the things that Ambrose is known for is the promotion of 'antiphonal chant' (choral chanting in which one side of the choir responds alternately to the other). He is also credited with composing 'Veni redemptor gentium', an Advent hymn. So it's appropriate that we should pray for our church choirs and musicians on this day.

December is of course a very busy time of year for all church musicians – in Solihull Parish, we are no exception to this. The choirs will be preparing Christmas and Advent services and concerts, carol singing in the local community, raising money for charity, as well as trying to create their own festive spirit.

Please hold the choirs in your prayers at this busy time of year, to support them with their work in St Alphege and also with taking the Christmas message out to the local community, including to people who are experiencing very difficult times, such as the families we meet at the Marie Curie Hospice.

Please also pray for the Music Department as they seek a new Organist, as well as remembering Alex in your prayers as he prepares for his new role at Leeds Minster.

And please also pray for our other church musicians, who regularly lead musical worship at the Junction, St Helen and St Michael and in the St Alphege all-age services. They will also be busy through Advent and Christmas – at Carol services, Crib services, Nativity services and of course at Christmas Day services.

St Alphege Pre-School

We welcome you to apply for a Pre-School place for children who will turn 3 in the academic year beginning September 2020. The closing date for applications is 31st January 2020. Application Form and Admissions Policy are available online (paper copies can be requested). St. Alphege Pre-School offers highly experienced and qualified staff. The last Ofsted Inspection result rated us 'Outstanding'.

Little Treasures (baby, toddler and pre-school age)

Wednesday afternoons in the OBH : 1.15pm until 2.30pm. Children accompanied by parent/carer. Drop-in session, no need to book, just turn up!

2's Group (in the term a child reaches age two)

Monday mornings (3 in 4 per month) in the OBH : 10.00am until 11.30am. Children accompanied by parent/carer. Drop-in session, no need to book, just turn up! Activities aimed at children who are 2 years old or who will be approaching 2 years old.

Further information available : www.stalphege-preschool.org.uk or email Pre-School Manager, Meryl Homer : manager@stalphege-preschool.org.uk

Coming Home

Bp Andrew Watson's Christmas Sermon 2018

'So what did it feel like when you walked into church for the very first time?' I asked Paula an hour before she was due to be baptised and confirmed. She paused for a moment, and then, with tears welling up in her eyes, said: 'It felt like I was coming home'.

Coming home. It's a big theme at this time of year, as many seek to be home for Christmas, crossing nations and even continents to see that ambition fulfilled. Home is about place: the house where we were brought up, perhaps, or the village in which we've settled. But home is also about people. When my parents moved to Hong Kong in the early eighties, and invited us to join them at Christmastime, people would ask, 'So where are you going for Christmas?' to which I would instinctively respond, 'Oh, I'm going home'. I'd never lived in Hong Kong or anywhere near it, but even then – as a young adult – home was where my parents were.

There's another, darker, side to this cosy domestic picture, of course, which becomes all the more heart-breaking at Christmastime. There's the crisis of refugees and rough sleepers, who have no place to call home. There's the crisis of those who are isolated and lonely, who have no people to call home. And even where there's a place and there are people, there's the crisis of those caught up in the cycle of family tensions, relationship meltdowns, even domestic abuse – you may be amongst them – where the idea of home as a place of sanctuary has been horribly violated.

And yet, whatever the realities, 'coming home' remains an aspiration for almost every man, woman, young person and child on the planet – the vision of a place and a people where we can be truly loved, truly accepted, truly ourselves. We may not have the pinpoint accuracy of the swallow or shearwater to navigate the thousands of miles back to our nesting grounds. But the human homing instinct is every bit as strong as that of our avian cousins.

This is a theme picked up in *Isaiah 52:7-10*, as the prophet Isaiah speaks of the 'beautiful feet' of the messenger announcing Good News. For seventy long years, the Israelites had been living far from home, exiles in the land of Babylon, leaving a Jerusalem in ruins behind them, with a burnt-out Temple at its heart. Some had settled down, making a life for themselves in Babylon as best they could; others had sat by the rivers and Babylon and dreamt dark dreams of revenge, even of taking Babylonian babies and bashing their heads in. And meanwhile they were regularly taunted by their Babylonian captors along the lines of 'Our god is bigger than your god'; and at times it was hard to disagree.

But now a miracle had happened. The Babylonians had themselves been defeated by the Persians, and Cyrus, the Persian King, was allowing the Israelites to return to Jerusalem once more. 'Your God reigns' – that was the beginning of the Good News that Isaiah's messenger was to proclaim - not the gods of the Babylonians, but 'Your God', the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and then: 'we're all going home': home to a Place, yes, back to Jerusalem and the land of Judah. But also home to a Person – to the living God, who had seemed so absent during all those years of exile. It's no wonder that Isaiah thought that everything about this

messenger – from the top of his head to the bottom of his dirty, calloused feet – was quite simply beautiful.

Moving forward 600 hundred years to St John's Gospel (*John 1:1-14*), here again is Good News aplenty as we read of the mysterious Word of God who was there from the beginning; of the life that is the light of all people; of the power to become children of God, born 'not of blood, or of the will of the flesh, or of man, but born of God'.

The background to this proclamation is another kind of exile: not the physical exile of the Israelites as they sat by the rivers of Babylon and wept, but the spiritual exile of all those – then and now - who somehow feel lost, dislocated, unsure of their own identity, distant from God, a long way from home. And yes, there was a new messenger here, whose name was John – and everything about him – from the top of his head to the bottom of his dirty, calloused feet, was beautiful. And yet this John was not the light itself, we're told, but just a witness to it: for God was preparing a more radical, costly way to gain our attention.

'Long ago', as our St Paul puts it (*Hebrews 1:1-4*), 'God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son'. The Word became flesh', as we read in St John's Gospel, 'and lived among us... full of grace and truth'.

So how does Jesus, God's Son, the Word-made-flesh, speak to our sense of exile, of dislocation, of being somehow far from home? Ironically when he arrives on the scene he doesn't seem at home himself. St. John tells us that he came to his own but his own people didn't accept him. St Luke tells the story of Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem only to find that there's 'no room at the inn'. St Matthew records how the holy family are then forced to seek asylum in Egypt so as to escape from Herod's paranoia; and even once these childhood perils are past, it doesn't get a whole lot better: 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests', as the now adult Jesus puts it, 'but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head'.

It's a reminder to us, of course, that God is with us even if we find ourselves among the refugees or rough sleepers – that the One who started his life in an old rugged manger and ended his life on an old rugged cross understands the bleakest aspects of our human experience. But there's something deeper going on here too. It's pictured in some of Jesus' most memorable parables - the lost sheep, the lost coin, the prodigal son – and here it is: that in Jesus, God has sent out a search party to call us home.

This home is a place where we are truly loved, truly accepted; where we can be truly ourselves. This home is a place where we find our true identity as children of God, with unique gifts and a unique destiny. This home is a place where Almighty God becomes accessible to us in Jesus – God in a shape and a size that we can all understand - drawing us around Himself; and not just us, but a wonderful array of others from 'every tribe and language and people and nation' who are now our brothers and sisters. And the Church is very far from perfect, of course, and even the best of it is only the palest reflection of all that awaits us; but what a joy to experience this homecoming for ourselves. 'Lord, you have made us for yourself', as St Augustine famously put it, 'and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you'.

Continued on next page

Matters of Faith

'So what did it feel like when you walked into church for the very first time?' I asked Paula. She paused for a moment, and then, with tears welling up in her eyes, said: 'It felt like I was coming home': not a nostalgic return to some cherished childhood memory, because Paula had never been to church as a child, but rather a joyous realisation that through Jesus her heart had truly found its rest.

Let's pray...

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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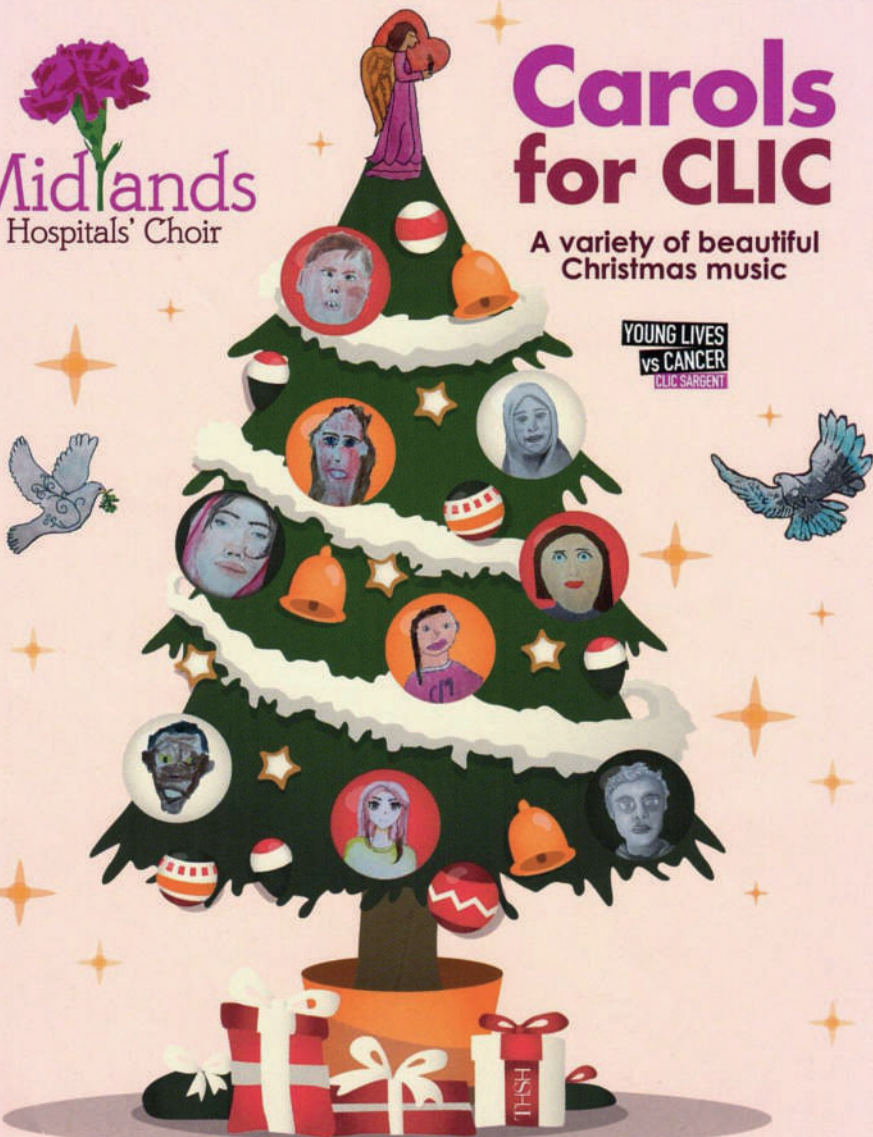
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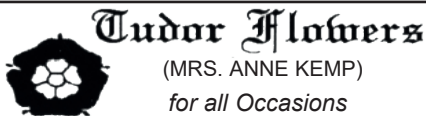
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For Your Diary

- Thur 5th Dec 1.00pm in the O.B.H.
Lunch followed at 2pm by Advent Meditation with Fr Simon.
To book your place for lunch, cost £10, contact Elaine 705 3265 or
elainediskin@hotmail.co.uk
- Thur 19th Dec 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist* followed by coffee in the vestry.
- Thur 9th Jan 1.30pm in the O.B.H. *The Best Job I Ever Had* - John Kay.
Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings - you don't have to be a member.
Lifts are available to most events - phone 705 8761 or 270 6132

WIVES' FELLOWSHIP

We are a women's group who meet monthly at different venues.
We warmly welcome visitors at our various activities.

- Tues 10th Dec Fellowship Walk in Hillfield Park
10.30am Meet at Brick Kiln Lane Car Park
12.30pm Lunch at Drum & Monkey Pub
- Fri 13th Dec 12.30pm Christmas Lunch at West Midlands Bridge Club
- Tues 14th Jan 10.30am Meet at Barston Golf Club for Coffee,
followed by walk round the lake
12.30pm Lunch at Barston Golf Club

For further details contact Carol Caldicott - 0121 705 3168.

Second Saturday @ St Alphege

Breakfast & Bible Study

The Second Saturday group meets on the second Saturday of every month between 10am and 11am in St Alphege church building. We share a simple breakfast before opening up Scripture together. All ages and generations are welcome. Children are catered for with food, drink and a simple activity.

The final Second Saturday Bible study date for 2019 is 14th December. Why not join us? You don't need to know anything beforehand or prepare anything. For more info contact me at solihullcurate@gmail.com

Sam

Women's Theology Groups *Meeting • Discussing • Praying • Supporting*

The Women's Theology Groups are safe spaces for exploration, discussion and even disagreement! We have studied a range of passages relating to women in the Bible, and have been exploring what it means to be a woman and a disciple in our own lives.

Our final meetings for 2019 are on:

- Thursday 5th Dec, 1pm, 'The Core café (at Solihull Library)
- Thursday 5th Dec, 7.30pm, Room 5, OBH
- Friday 6th Dec, 10am, 'The Core café (at Solihull Library)

For more information do contact me (chachagibson@gmail.com or 0121 709 0668), I would be delighted for more people to join us!

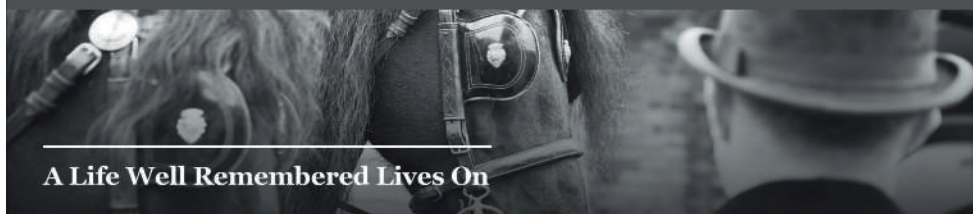
Charlotte Gibson

Christian Men Together

Our next Saturday breakfast meeting will be on Saturday January 11th with Bob Telford as our guest speaker. We look forward to seeing as many men as possible at this event. For more details and to book in please contact me (arwilliams399@gmail.com). Do come and join us, and bring friends.

Andrew Williams

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| <i>PCC Treasurer</i> | Ron Crowdy , 18 Wellington Grove | 0121 705 3253 |
| <i>Parish Electoral Roll Officer</i> | Stephen Linstead , 20 Silhill Hall Road | 0121 705 1376 |
| <i>St Alphege Deputy Wardens</i> | Chris Thorp , 29 Dovedale Avenue Susan Gomm , 10 Silverbirch Road | 0121 243 4340 0121 705 0015 |
| <i>St Alphege Pro Warden</i> | Linda La Roche , 66 Church Hill Road | 0121 704 2282 |
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| <i>St Helen Deputy Wardens</i> | Phil Godfrey Jean Fewins | 0121 705 3923 07925 688897 |
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Email to parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk or leave in the Parish Office

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