



**St. Alphege Church
This Week's News
25th October 2020
Bible Sunday**



**President & Preacher
The Revd Sue Chandler**

COLLECT

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that through patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

THIS WEEK PRAY FOR

Monday	The people of St Michael's Church
Tuesday	The Staff and children of St Alphege Pre-School
Wednesday	Clergy, staff and congregations of the Cathedral
Thursday	Our part in God's mission to Solihull
Friday	Staff and residents of local care homes
Saturday	The mission and worship of our parish

NEXT SUNDAY - All Saint's Day

Readings: Revelation 7. 9-end, 1 John 3. 1-3, Matthew 5. 1-12
President & Preacher: Revd Sue Chandler

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY IN NEED (St Alphege)

Gloria Florance, Rashi Somal, Margaret Evans, Jean Williams, Joy, Ruth, Margaret & Colin James, Valerie Powell, Irene Williams, Ann Roberts, Derek Owen, Priscilla White, Lucy, Michele, Alan, Megha, David Boyes, Evelyn Berry, Lee-Anne Wilson, Shirley Vincent, Anna Mary Thomas, Helen L.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Anne Lawrence, Henry Balthazor, Stephen Foster, Jenny Williams, Jonathan Mark, Stephen John,, Debbie White, George Hutchinson, Barbara Abbott, Sheila Pittaway, Helen Greenham, Jane Kenchington.

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY IN NEED (St Michael)

Carol & Stuart; Paul Binfield; Eileen Dowe; Irene Tunnicliffe; Julie; Donna; Geoffrey Pearson; Pat Bass; Anthony Vanes; Jane; Helen; Carolyn;Nigel; Angeline; Maria.

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY DEPARTED (3 Churches together)

Sylvia Hancock

THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE - 3rd Reading of Banns

Gavin Lee Thomas Hunt & Lydia Gale Lorna Kathleen Ellis,
Paul Christopher George & Soraya Katie Birch

BIBLE READINGS Nehemiah 8. 1-4a, 5-6,8-12

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uria, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

NEW TESTAMENT Colossians 3. 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL Matthew 24. 30-35

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

All churches - Latest information available at: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>

This Sunday's online service will be live from St Alphege Church at 10.30am

For people who are participating from home it will be available on Facebook and YouTube. There will be links on the home page of the parish website for you to watch later if you wish.

The times of the services at St Helen's are changing from Sunday 1st November onwards.

There will still be two services of the Holy Eucharist each Sunday but these will take place at 9.30am and 11am. This will still allow the necessary time for cleaning of the hall in between the two services. You will still be able to book in exactly the same ways as before, either by calling Beryl Moppett on 705 0377, or online at: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/sthelseucharist>

For any further information, please contact the St Helen's or St Michael's Churchwardens.

Thank you to everyone for all you're doing to keep the churches functioning, all your prayer and witnessing to Christ, especially in these Covid-19 times. I am very sad still not to be able to be back with you. My GP continues to say that I am not well enough to return to work yet. I appreciate those of you who drop me the occasional email/text and I am very grateful for your prayers. One thing that I can do at home is pray - which I am doing a lot of and always remember you all to God on a daily basis. Jane Kenchington.

Our Rector - Like to send a personal message to Jane? Please direct these to her PA, Ann Colloby at: -office1@solihullparish.org.uk.

Due to personal circumstances Helen Greenham has agreed with the Bishop to withdraw from ministry temporarily. Helen appreciates people's support, but asks please refrain from making contact until further notice, to respect the family's privacy. Please contact the churchwardens for any enquiries about Support and Helen's work or ministry. Please join the Bishop in prayer for all concerned.

All Souls Day - Due to the pandemic, there will be no All Souls Eucharist at St. Alphege Church this year. However, a pre-recorded service will be streamed via the website on 2nd November. If you would like the name of a loved one to be read out at this service, please provide details no later than noon on 30th October. Names may be entered on the list in church or notified to the Parish Office.

The Junction Is Back!! - The Junction returned on 11th October and is meeting weekly. Unfortunately it's not possible to meet in person at present but instead the Junction meets over Zoom at 9.15am every Sunday morning and worship together as a community with the usual mix of songs, bible stories, prayers and activities. So far we've celebrated Harvest and Real Life Super heroes and this week for Bible Sunday everyone is encouraged to make a model or draw a picture or bring something else along to represent their favourite Bible story. **Families who would like to attend need to register with Linda in advance via e mail l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk to receive the Zoom link.**

Weekly Dwell Service - Fr Simon is offering a new online reflective service which will be live streamed on our Facebook page at 10am every Wednesday from St Michael's Chapel. The link will be made available later on our homepage. Please be aware that St Michael's Chapel will not be open on a Wednesday for Private Individual Prayer.

NHS QR code posters Track and Trace Now clearly displayed in the Oliver Bird Hall.

From mid-October onwards, boys and girls from St Alphege Choirs will be working on Christmas carols to create a recording to share with local hospices and care homes in the hope that we can bring some comfort and joy through music to the most vulnerable in our community this Christmas. Children aged 7 to 11 are warmly invited to join the choirs to work on this project. There will be an informal Zoom meeting this Saturday (10th) at 3pm to find out more. Please email isabel@solihullparish.org.uk to register your interest.

Saturday 31st October - Churchyard tidy up morning 1000 - 1300hrs - the famous annual "great leaf gathering". Great fun for all ages especially families, with social distancing and lots of fresh air. Can you spare an hour to help? Suitable refreshments available. Details Michael Rumball 711 1726

Saturday, 31st October, Churches Together in Central Solihull. Halloween Prayer Walk! Come and join us as we walk round parts of Solihull in groups of 6 - praying for different parts of the community. Please note this is not an anti Halloween walk but an opportunity to pray for our town. We meet outside the Methodist Church, B91 1LG (by Solihull Station you can park there) at 6.00pm. We will walk in groups of 6 socially distanced up through the town stopping at various points to pray, and finish about 7pm. Please bring a torch or other light to light our way, and a face mask. You may like to bring a prayer or short reading for our times of prayer. We also hope to provide an opportunity for a Virtual Prayer Walk and will send a link nearer the time. Please come and bring friends.

Please also note the following: The Crib will be placed in Mell Square in December but there will be no Service of Blessing this year. Unity Service - We are planning to hold this on Sunday 24th January in one of the churches.

Elaine Diskin would like to thank everyone for their generous and kind donations for her half marathon. She has been overwhelmed by the support to help raise funds for Mothers' Union. Donations are still coming in too!

Vacancy - Knowle Parish Church is looking to recruit an Administrator & Communications Facilitator to join the team working in the Parish Office. This is a part time post (20 hours per week): more details can be found on the KPC website at <http://www.kpc.org.uk/about-kpc/job-opportunity-at-kpc-office>. Please contact the Parish Office (01564 779123) if you would like further information or, if you know someone who may be suitable, please tell them about the opportunity.

'Stopgap' Job Change Service KPC will be offering a service to the whole community providing confidential, one to one advice and support to anyone who has lost their job, may be needing to change careers, or is contemplating starting their own business. To find out more contact James Thorne on cjameslthorne@hotmail.com or via the Parish Office office@kpc.org.uk/01564 779123

Community Champions News

Figures: There are 1061 cases of Covid-19 in Solihull, spread across all age groups. There have been 15 cases of 1-year-olds. The biggest spike has been in the late teens/early 20s age group with another spike this month in the 50s age group. Over half the cases are in the 16-60 age bracket.

Numbers are high across the whole of Solihull with the highest number of cases in Chelmsley Wood (58 new cases), Bickenhill (54) and Shirley South (52) wards. St. Alphege ward (45) is the sixth highest in the Borough; Knowle is the lowest (20).

There are no Covid patients in Solihull Hospital; this is being kept as a Covid-free site.

This is a critical period for Solihull if we want to remain in Tier 2 and not go into Tier 3. The advice is: stick to your single household bubbles, hand sanitise regularly, keep your 2m distance. In addition, as we are staying indoors far more now, remember to ventilate your homes. Get your flu vaccinations.

You can only mix outside, and in groups of up to 6 people. This includes groups such as rambling groups. You cannot mix as two families each of four people.

The Council wants to emphasise that its support mechanisms are still in place. You can find them at:

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/socialservicesandhealth/Coronavirus/Here2Help>

If you cannot get the support you need, please let me or Ann Colloby know.

If you cannot leave home but can pay for food, the Council has a list of places from where you can obtain food, with delivery options for the elderly or vulnerable. You can find it here:

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Coronavirus/Potential-routes-to-food.pdf>

This week's news is mostly about **food banks**. Before lockdown began, 200 food parcels were being sent out per month in the Borough; that figure is now at 2000. There are far more food banks in operation now in Solihull, including a large one at the Renewal Centre on Lode Lane. You can donate to this food bank in 3 ways:

1. Drop off food at the Renewal Centre – you can download a list of items they need from the website below.
2. Make a financial donation online – see below.
3. Make an order from the Renewal website in the Amazon wishlist area. It's just like ordering from Amazon. You can choose the items from the list provided and select for them to be delivered by Amazon to the Renewal Centre.

The website is <https://renewalcc.com/helpinghands/>

Do get in touch with Pam Price or Ann Colloby if you have any queries or problems; we have the details of people we can ask directly.

Breaking News

From next week, Solihull is to become an Area of National Intervention. This will mean there is to be no mixing between households either indoors or outdoors.

Sunday Services - 10.30am Eucharist at St Alphege. St Helen's 9.30am & 11am.

You are most welcome to attend either Church, feedback from all services has been incredibly positive.

Booking a place at St Alphege for Sunday Eucharist: -

Contact the Parish Office on 0121 705 5350 or email office@solihullparish.org.uk.

Booking opens at 9 am every Monday morning for the subsequent Sunday. We need to know the names of the people you are booking for, whether you are part of the same household/support bubble (so you can sit together in church), a contact telephone number and email address.

Space will be limited, for more information please read the official letter regarding re-opening from the Revd Simon Marshall, now available on the parish website at: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>

- Note 1** No one will be admitted by the Wardens if considered to be at risk.
- Note 2** Anyone attending a Service will be expected to comply with the safety procedures and practices that are in operation
- Note 3** Please arrive early to ensure ample time for all safety procedures to be carried out.
- Note 4** Everyone will be expected to bring a face covering and use the hand sanitiser that is provided.
- Note 5** Ensure Social distancing at all times
- Note 6** You will be guided to your seat
- Note 7** Households will be grouped together and 2m from any other household group
- Note 8** You will be dismissed in an orderly fashion at the conclusion of the Service
- Note 9** Please do not linger or congregate in the car park after the Service

Any attendees who subsequently show symptoms or test positive for Covid-19, must immediately contact the Parish Office.

Booking a place at St Helen's Church: -

There will be 2 services at St Helen's on Sundays at 9.30am and at 11.00am. To book for either of these services please go to: -

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/sthelenseucharist> or alternately phone Beryl Moppett on 0121 705 0337 and leave a message.

Any attendees who subsequently show symptoms or test positive for Covid-19, must immediately contact Beryl Moppett.