



**St. Alphege Church
This Week's News
22nd November 2020
Christ The King**



**President & Preacher
Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson**

COLLECT

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK PRAY FOR

Monday	Our Archdeacon, Simon
Tuesday	Those working in retail
Wednesday	The Choirs and Musicians of the Parish
Thursday	University students
Friday	All who work in schools in the Parish
Saturday	Those who are looking for work

NEXT SUNDAY

Readings: Isaiah 64. 1-9, 1 Corinthians 3-9, Mark 13. 24-end
President Revd Sue Chandler, Preacher Stephen Linstead

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY IN NEED (St Alphege)

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, Anne Kemp.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

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

Revd Bryan Lamb, Gloria Florance

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of the Revd Bryan Lamb this week. He was a curate at St Alphege from 1962-1965, when the Rector was Canon Harry Hartley. When he returned to Solihull he taught at Malvern Hall and assisted on occasion at St Alphege. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

BIBLE READINGS Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them

from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

NEW TESTAMENT Ephesians 1. 15-end

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL Matthew 25. 31-end

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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

We continue to keep Jane and all those recovering from illness, both in the UK and around the world, in our prayers. If you would like to send Jane a message, please direct these to her PA Ann Colloby at: -office1@solihullparish.org.uk

Online Services on Sundays - From this week, we will send an email on Sunday mornings with direct links for the Prayer Service and the Eucharist which we hope will help people to be able to join with us in worship together. Do look out for this email – we look forward to worshipping together even though we can't meet in our churches.

Services during lockdown As we move through the second period of lockdown there will be three services for you to connect with online each Sunday, a Prayer Service at 10am, a Eucharistic Service at 11.15am and Choral Evensong at 6.30pm. Midday Prayer will continue from Monday to Saturday and the reflective Dwell Service will be streamed live from St Michael's Chapel every Wednesday at 10am.

On Sunday 29 November, an additional Advent Service of readings and poems is planned for St Helens/St Michaels and a pre-recorded Advent Carol Service for Choral Evensong from St Alphege - more information to follow shortly.

The Junction meets every Sunday morning over Zoom at 9.15am with the usual mix of songs, bible stories, prayers and activities. **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.**

A call to prayer for the nation We have been asked to treat this month of lockdown as an occasion when we commit ourselves to pray for our nation. The suggestion is that we aim to commit to pray at 6pm each day. Archbishop Welby recently said: "Prayer is my first response when I feel out of my depth, when I need help, when I am worried, when I am concerned for those I love. It is a gift that God gives to all, whether you are a regular pray-er or not; bring your cares and the cares of the nation to God. For God loves and hears and holds."

For more information and resources go to: - <https://www.churchofengland.org>

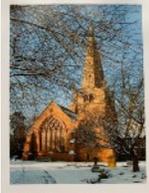
Weekly Dwell Service - Fr Simon is offering a new online reflective service which will be live streamed on our Facebook page at 10am every Wednesday from St Michael's Chapel. The link will be made available later on our homepage. Please be aware that St Michael's Chapel will not be open on a Wednesday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

Solihull Parish will be producing their own Advent Calendar this year. Every morning in December virtual doors will open online revealing acts of worship from across the Parish reflecting the anticipation and hope for the future we feel in this season, a sense of hope which is needed even more than usual after the events of 2020. 60 second clips of music, readings, poems etc... are required and if anyone would like to be involved then please contact joecoooper1@hotmail.co.uk

Just Explore - a course on Thursday Evenings to **explore the key aspects of the Christian Faith**. Many have benefitted from this course which is good for those who are exploring Christianity, for those who would like to refresh their faith, and for those who are considering Confirmation. Lots of opportunity to discuss and raise questions. This year the course will be on zoom and starts on Thursday 14th January. More details on www.solihullparish.org.uk choose the 'Connect' option on the right side of the home page and then 'Just Explore' or contact Chris Carrington chrisandjennycarrington@googlemail.com

Food Bank - The food bank is based at the Christian Renewal Centre on Lode Lane. Outside the centre there are orange wheelie bins in which you can leave donations. We are short of Microwave Rice, Tinned potatoes, Tinned Meat, Sugar, Jam or Marmalade. Cans with ring pulls are especially welcome as some recipients don't have can openers.

Bookstall - Parish Christmas Cards. In view of the current situation and COVID restrictions, we have not commissioned a new Parish Christmas card this year. However, we do have a limited stock of cards from earlier years available in two different designs - packs of 10 for £3 per pack. Please contact Fran Halstead (fran.halstead@gmail.com or 0121-705-0175) for further details.



800 Year Cookbook - The Cookbook will not be published this year due to marketing problems during the Coronavirus pandemic. We'll keep you informed of any future developments. Philip & Sue Leach.

Christmas Gifts for the children of serving prisoners at HMP Winson Green - We are collecting new or nearly new presents for the children's parties run by the Visitor Centre at Winson Green Prison. If you would like to make a donation you can bring toys to St Helen's on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning between 10am and 12 noon. Please place donations in the cream bins inside the main entrance. We are planning to take them to the Prison on the 27th Nov so the final day for donations will be Wed 25th Nov. These gifts should be of an appropriate nature and be unwrapped. The Centre are always so grateful for the gifts you provide, as these presents are often the only Christmas gift a child might receive. If you also have any unwanted children's coats then these would also be welcome. Thank you, Graham and Kimberly Wiggins (St Michael's Church)

Malawi - An update on the dire situation facing the people in Malawi (our link diocese) will be in the December magazine. As a result, they are appealing for support in particular to help schools in Malawi have buckets, soap and sanitiser and to help the pastoral and priestly ministry of the church to continue. If you can help, here's how: - Donations via St Helens can be by cheque payable to St Helens Church, addressed to Geoff Wyatt and left in the 'W' pigeon hole at St Helens. Alternatively, by bank transfer to St Helens District Church Council, Sort Code 309778, Account Number 00361515. Please mark cheques or transfers as 'Malawi' and make donations before Monday 14 December.

If you want to read the article for yourself the link is <https://cofebirmingham.com/news-stories/news-from-malawi-and-a-request.php>

Solihull Council have been in touch again, they are still urgently looking for more foster carers to provide a caring and supportive home to children in the borough. Almost anyone can become a foster carer, whether you are single, married, young or retired, a home owner or in rented accommodation. All you need is a spare bedroom and a willingness to give a child a stable and loving home. Foster carers of all ages, cultures and backgrounds are needed in Solihull to look after children for short and longer periods of time. In return, foster carers receive an extensive support package including training and professional development as well as a generous fostering allowance. For more information, please call 0121 788 4253 or visit www.solihull.gov.uk/fostering. Sign up to our Stay Connected emails to keep up to date with fostering news and events www.solihull.gov.uk/stayconnected.

Bleed Control Kits - Over 30 Bleed kits have been distributed across Solihull borough, they have been placed at key locations, mapped by West Midlands Ambulance Service - if they are required, the call handler can direct the caller to the nearest one. They have been provided by The Daniel Baird Foundation Charity, to find out more or support this fantastic charity go to: <https://controlthebleed.org.uk>

Community Champions News

In the week (4 – 10 November) Solihull's COVID case numbers have increased by 21%, with 697 new cases in Solihull. Our local rate is now 322.1 cases per 100,000 people while the average area in England is 196. Sadly, another 9 Solihull residents died from COVID last week. The rate in the over 65 age group spiked last weekend. The Council think this is related to activities just before the latest lockdown. The next week will tell if this lockdown has been effective in reducing numbers. We need a really big push to get numbers down if lockdown is going to end on 2nd December. There are ideas on keeping yourself safe, especially if you have students returning home, on: <https://www.germdefence.org/intro1.html>

From Inspector Vicki Stott, West Midlands Police:- This week, Solihull police have been doing more enforcement, and encouraging people to comply with the regulations. The biggest issues have been gatherings and not wearing face masks; this has been particularly prevalent amongst 16 – 19 year olds going from colleges to public transport. Supermarkets will feed intelligence to the police if they see groups not wearing masks. Any people who have an exemption from wearing a mask should wear a sunflower lanyard to subtly indicate that, and to avoid abuse from members of the public. When children are not in school, they should not be congregating or visiting friends, and should comply with lockdown regulations. The bubbles they are in in an educational setting do not apply outside that setting.

Police are seeing an increase in domestic violence and abuse and in hate crime.

Vaccinations - There has been encouraging news this week about the first vaccines against Covid-19. The Community Champions session on 2nd December will focus on vaccines. If you have any questions you would like me to ask, please get in touch on 0121 704 3104 or colandpam@ic24.net .