



**St. Alphege Church
This Week's News
10th January 2021
The Baptism of Christ**

**President & Preacher
Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson**

BIBLE READINGS Genesis 1. 1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 19. 1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

GOSPEL Mark 1.4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK PRAY FOR

Monday	The work of the Town Centre Chaplaincy
Tuesday	Our Parish Warden, Andrew
Wednesday	The Quaker Meeting in Solihull
Thursday	The staff of funeral directors in our town
Friday	The staff of the shops, cafes, bars and restaurants in our town
Saturday	Our parish Children & Families team

NEXT SUNDAY

Readings: 1 Samuel 3. 1-10 (11-20), Revelation 5. 1-10, John 1. 43-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, Derek Owen, Priscilla White, Lucy, Michele, Alan, Megha, David Boyes, Lee-Anne Wilson, Shirley Vincent, Anna Mary Thomas, Helen L, Anne Kemp, Ethan Winwood, Peter Gregory, The Middleton family, Anne Wheatley, Richard Cann, Jan.

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, Ann Roberts, Evelyn Berry.

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY IN NEED (St Michael's and St Helen's) Carol & Stuart; Paul Binfield; Eileen Dowe; Irene Tunnicliffe; Julie; Donna; Geoffrey Pearson; Pat Bass; Anthony Vanes; Jane; Helen; Carolyn; Nigel; Angeline; Maria, David Foster Smith

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

Prayer and Fellowship - Starting from Monday 11.1.21 we have a wonderful new pattern of Midday Prayer to support us during this difficult period of a third lockdown:-

Monday - Midday Prayer livestreamed from the beautiful St Michael's Chapel.

Wednesday - The reflective 'Dwell' service at the new time of midday.

Friday - A specially recorded Midday Prayer from the Revd Sue Chandler and Beryl Moppett

Saturday - New online Zoom event 11.30am-12.15pm. This will start with a period for fellowship and end with prayer. To get the link contact Stephen Linstead at: sglrml@btinternet.com

St Helens and St Michael's Services at St Helen's Church. As a result of the country entering a third national lockdown there will continue to be just be one service on a Sunday at St Helen's Church Hall at 10.00am. Although this is predominately for the St Helen's and St Michael's communities, please do remember that everyone is welcome to book and join with them in worship.

Booking is essential as numbers are restricted, contact Beryl Moppett on 0121 705 0337 or book online at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/sthelenseucharist>

Sunday Service (normal time) at St Alphege Church - as numbers are restricted, please contact the Parish Office on 0121 705 5350, or office@solihullparish.org.uk to book your place. For people who are participating from home Services will shared on the parish Facebook page and YouTube channel. Links will also be made available on the homepage of the parish website for you to watch later if you wish.

The Junction will resume on zoom. Please contact Linda Hicks for more information.

Bible Group - Zoom meeting Saturday 16th January at 11am. Please contact Alistair at alistair.g.welch@gmail.com.

Women's theology - if any women are interested in joining our group then please contact Avril, Nicola or Lizzie at womenstheology@gmail.com.

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.

Community Champions News 06.01.21

We heard from Linda Lockwood, Director of Nursing for Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group and Ruth Tennant, Solihull's Director of Public Health.

Figures

There has been a rapid increase in rates right across the Borough. The latest figure is 415 cases per 100,000 which is the highest at any point of the pandemic to date. It is due to a combination of the virulence of the new strain and the mixing of Christmas bubbles. Over 1,100 Solihull residents had positive tests last week.

Of those tested, 16.5% now test positive compared with 7.5% in mid-December.

On 17th December there were 418 Covid positive inpatients in University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust hospitals, this rose to 555 by 29th December and is now at 690. There are 60-65 admissions daily, a mix of ages from 18 upwards, though predominantly elderly people. This means that non-Covid patients have had to be moved to hospitals as far afield as Nottingham and Manchester.

London is 2 weeks ahead of us so there is worse to come. People are not more unwell than before but the spread is rampant.

Lockdown

It was necessary to have a very rapid lockdown as the situation was changing daily. These measures are needed to gain control of the situation and are likely to be with us for some time.

Supermarkets have been asked to enforce the rules very strictly.

What can we do?

The message is very clear: staying at home is the one most important thing that everyone can do. Only leave home if absolutely necessary.

Lockdown is hard for everyone. Keep up the handwashing and wear masks outside consistently. Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household bubble.

The full list of restrictions can be found here:

[National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

If you have a Covid Risk Assessment in place, please re-visit it. Ask yourself what would happen if an asymptomatic person came. Can your assessment cope with that and does it protect people from that?

There are now two small sites in the locality for asymptomatic tests.

Vaccinations

They are working through the National Priority Groups. Mass vaccination sites will be opening soon, one at Millennium Point in Birmingham next week. Please do not telephone your GP to ask when you will receive your vaccine – this is just jamming up their switchboards.

There's lots of detail about how it all works on this website:

<https://www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/what-you-need-to-know/>

There was some consternation over the decision to delay the second vaccine dose in order to give more people their first one. This was taken by the Chief Medical Officers of all four countries of the UK to get as many people as possible partially protected and to save more lives. 21 days was the minimum time required for people to build up their immunity after the first dose. A longer time gap will just increase this build up.

Scams

Be very wary of scam messages: one asks you to pay for your vaccine in order to get it quicker; another asks for your bank details to confirm your identity for your vaccination. Vaccinations are free, and you should never give your bank details to anyone over the phone.