



**St. Alphege Church  
This Week's News  
17th January 2021  
Epiphany 2**

**President: Revd Sue Chandler**

**Preacher: Stephen Linstead**

**BIBLE READINGS 1 Samuel 3.1-10**

The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

**NEW TESTAMENT Revelation 5. 1-10**

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.' Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

## **GOSPEL John 1.43-end**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

## **COLLECT**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **THIS WEEK PRAY FOR**

Monday	The Christian Churches in Solihull
Tuesday	Diocesan staff & members of Bishop's Council
Wednesday	Members of religious communities
Thursday	Those who care for children in need
Friday	Those persecuted for their faith
Saturday	Those who are seeking work

## **NEXT SUNDAY**

Readings: Genesis 14. 17-20, Revelation 19. 6-10, John 2. 1-11

President & Preacher: Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson

## **PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY IN NEED (St Alphege)**

Rashi Somal, Margaret Evans, 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, 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; Mary, David Foster Smith, Anthony Vanes, Eileen Gilbert and Keith Potter

**PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY DEPARTED:** Jean Williams, Beryl Holbourne; Stuart Crawford; Tim Durston; Muriel Welsby; Mary Bowles, Eric Douglas Knowles

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

**Prayer and Fellowship** - We have a wonderful new pattern of Midday Prayer to support us during this difficult period of a third lockdown. Full details can be found on our website.

**On Thursday 7th January Bishop David circulated the following across the Diocese:-** "Although access to church buildings is still permitted by government during this third National Lockdown, I expect that with current uncertainties, and rigorous assessment of risk and capacity, you may wish to further restrict activities in the church building or close completely for the time being. In all this, you have my full support... With the myriad of digital and contemporary options open to our creativity, I recommend parishes consider alternative options gathering in person".

The Revd Simon Marshall in consultation with the deputy wardens from all three churches and the Parish Warden (and support from the Ven Paul Taylor), proposed that church buildings be closed for public worship with immediate effect. This would cover the following Sundays: 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st January and the situation reviewed in the week beginning Sunday 24th January to discern whether we need to remain closed beyond the 31st January. This decision was fully supported by the PCC.

Sunday Services will be 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.

9.15am The Junction on Zoom - contact Linda at [l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)

9.15am Eucharist Service from St Helen's

10.30am Eucharist Service from St Alphege

6.30pm Choral Evensong from St Alphege

With the announcement of the third lockdown, St Alphege Choir are launching two new initiatives, which start next week.

For children, we're running another lockdown music school. It's completely free of charge and will be all online so will be safe for everyone. The children will learn about music theory and singing technique, and will work towards a virtual performance specially for Mothers Day. Further information including a video and the registration form can be found on the parish website at [www.solihullparish.org.uk/st-alphege-choirs/](http://www.solihullparish.org.uk/st-alphege-choirs/), or email [isabel@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:isabel@solihullparish.org.uk) to find out more.

For adults, we're offering a new activity, 'Singing for Wellbeing' which we hope will help adults who are lonely or furloughed, and will bring them some of the well-documented benefits of music for their mental health and overall wellbeing. Adults who are interested should email [joecooper1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joecooper1@hotmail.co.uk) to get the Zoom link.

**Women's theology** - If any women are interested in joining our group then please contact Avril, Nicola or Lizzie at [womenstheology@gmail.com](mailto:womenstheology@gmail.com).

**Just Explore Course 2021** - The start date has been pushed back slightly and this year's course will now begin on the Thursday 4th February at 8pm over Zoom. For more information contact Chris Carrington at: [chrisandjennycarrington@googlemail.com](mailto:chrisandjennycarrington@googlemail.com)

**Helping Hands Food Bank** - Due to an appeal via social media last week when vital supplies were running low, there has been a fantastic response and quantities have been replenished. Regular donation however remains vital. If the donation bins are full when you go the Renewal carpark, remember there is also a drop of point at the Waitrose Solihull store.

## Community Campions News 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

COVID infection figures in Solihull are the highest they have been, at 551 infections per 100,000, up 62% in the last week. The rate amongst the over 60s has also gone up by 68% and hospitals right across the country are under extreme pressure. The average age of patients on intensive care units is now mid to late-50s.

The new variant accounts for 70% of new cases and is much easier to catch. Transmission is via people in shops and at work. Everyone should behave as if they and everyone they meet has Covid.

if you or someone you live with does test positive, there are simple steps you can take to stop it spreading to other people in your house. They can be found here:

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/message-solihulls-director-public-health-ruth-tenant-0>

### **Pilot Testing**

JLR and some secondary Schools have started a pilot, testing all staff and the pupils who are in school. If there is a positive case, then staff and pupils in the same 'bubble' will do rapid tests for a week rather than go home and self-isolate for a week.

### **Vaccination Programme**

We heard from Dr Mike Baker (GPS Healthcare), the Primary Care Clinical Lead for Solihull and Birmingham CCG.

Solihull GP practices covering over 200,000 people are working together as SoliVac to provide vaccinations at four sites:

Chelmsley Wood Primary Care Centre for the North.

Balsall Common Primary Care Centre for the rural areas.

Richmond Medical Centre for the Hobbs Moat / Lyndon area.

Monkspath Surgery for South Solihull.

Two of these sites were the first GP practices in the country to offer vaccinations.

The priority groups for vaccinations can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination-30-december-2020#vaccine-priority-groups-advice-on-30-december-2020>

The SoliVac group has almost completed the first two priority groups – apart from two nursing homes which had Covid positive cases – and invitations have started going out to group three (75+ age group). They are very confident that they will have completed the first four groups by mid-February.

Answers to FAQs:

1. Protection from all three vaccines is very similar. You will receive whichever they have supplies of when you go.
2. You will receive the second dose after 12 weeks, probably the same make as the first but it will depend on supply.
3. The priority list is being adhered to. If you have heard of someone else receiving the vaccine it is probably because they live near to a centre and were telephoned at the end of a day to use up vaccine at risk of being wasted. Once taken out of the fridge, the vaccine cannot be put back and has to be used within 2 hours. There are 6 doses in each phial of the Oxford AstroZeneca vaccine.
4. Community Nursing has a list of 2000 or so housebound / bedbound people and will be contacting them soon. They had to wait for the second vaccine to come through for logistical / storage reasons.
5. Local pharmacies haven't been used yet, firstly because of the storage problems of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, and to avoid wastage of vaccine out of the fridge (see 3 above).

With the vaccination programme, we can see a time when we will return to normality, but we are not there yet.