



**St. Alphege Church  
This Week's News  
24th January 2021  
Epiphany 3**

**President and Preacher:  
Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson**

**BIBLE READINGS 1 Genesis 14.17-20**

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

**NEW TESTAMENT Revelation 19. 6-10**

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony

## **GOSPEL John 2.1-11**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him; 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### **COLLECT**

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### **THIS WEEK PRAY FOR**

Monday	Our Pioneer Minister, Suzette Maguire
Tuesday	Our Rector, Jane
Wednesday	The work of Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness
Thursday	The staff and students of the schools of our town.
Friday	Joe Cooper, St Alphege Director of Music and St Alphege Choirs
Saturday	Elizabeth, our Queen

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Readings: Malachi 3.1-5, Hebrews 2. 14-end, Luke 2.22-40

President: Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson Preacher: Suzette Maguire

### **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.

**PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY DEPARTED:** Jean Williams, Beryl Holbourne; Stuart Crawford; Tim Durston; Muriel Welsby; Mary Bowles, Barbara Gibbons.

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

Our churches are currently closed. This will effect the following Sundays: 24th & 31st January and the situation will be reviewed in the week beginning Sunday 24th January to discern whether we need to remain closed beyond the 31st January. 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

**Prayer and Fellowship** - To join in with the new Zoom event on a Saturday morning at 11.30am contact Stephen Linstead at: [sglrml@btinternet.com](mailto:sglrml@btinternet.com)

**United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** - An online service has been recorded using the Theme 'Abide in My Love and you shall bear much fruit' with contributions from many in the Churches in Central Solihull, with examples of work being done in our area together, prayers and songs. We are grateful to Beryl Moppett for organising the service and to all who have contributed. Andrew Williams, Chair - Solihull Churches Together in Central Solihull.

The Service will be available from 3pm on Sunday 24th January and any time from then on. The link is as follows but if people go to it before that time it will not be available: <https://youtu.be/DRDwxmzESYU>

The details will also be available on our website at: [www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk](http://www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk)

**St Alphege Choirs** 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).

**Sad news received** - We learnt on Friday 8 January (unfortunately too late to include it in last weeks pewslip) that Jane would be taking early retirement. The statement below was read out at the start of both our online services on Sunday 10 January by the Revd Simon Marshall. Jane has asked us to pass on her email address and mobile number:

Janekenchington@gmail.com/ 07779 991760

This is a joint announcement from The Revd Canon Jane Kenchington and the Bishop of Birmingham:

Following appropriate consultation, Canon Jane Kenchington will take early retirement on grounds of ill health. These things are mostly confidential, but Canon Jane assures everyone that this difficult decision has been taken to ensure she can flourish now and in the future. This has been approved by the CofE Pensions Board's expert advisers.

Canon Jane says, 'it has been a great privilege to serve in both Gloucester and Birmingham dioceses and most recently here in the Solihull Team. It has been good to see how the church and people have developed here in these last 5 years, and I am confident of Christ's continued presence with us all in these uncertain times. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers and staff, lay and ordained who have shared in ministry.'

Bishop David comments, 'Canon Jane has been a great colleague in the service of God's people and the community in Solihull. I am sure we will consider her time here as being of great importance in the task of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Knowing that we never retire from Christ's call and love, I wish Jane and her family every blessing for the years ahead.'

Canon Jane's retirement will take effect from 1st February 2021, although she and Richard will remain in the rectory for a few months as their new house is prepared. The parish will be planning appropriate farewells, within the COVID-19 guidance and current Lockdown regulations. The vacancy from 1/2/21 will proceed as normal under the oversight of Parish wardens and Area Dean, supporting the volunteers, staff and clergy of Solihull Parish.

## Community Champions 20th January 2021

**Figures** - The rate in Solihull has declined by 3% and has levelled off at 517.2 per 100,000, but this is a very high level. Lockdown is working, but the new variant is responsible for 80% of cases so it is hard to get the rate down. 16% of people tested are positive. Spread is mainly through shops and workplaces; be very wary of deliveries of food, post and parcels. There has been an increase in numbers in the North of the Borough, particularly amongst key workers.

**Testing and Self-isolation** - If you have any symptoms, do get tested and follow the rules of self-isolation. The 10-day self-isolation period is critical for anyone testing positive or who is in contact with someone positive. Even if the person in contact receives a negative test result they should still self-isolate. There should be no 'just popping out'. This is very important if we are to stop the spread.

It is difficult for people to self-isolate so many have been avoiding getting tested. Solihull has a discretionary payment scheme to help people who have to stay off work. There is also a helpline for people who need help with shopping or dog-walking.

From today, Tudor Grange Sports Centre is open for the testing of key workers without symptoms. It is recommended that they get tested twice a week. There is an online booking system on the SMBC website for appointments. North Solihull Sports Centre will be open for the same thing from next week.

Receiving a negative test result is not a golden ticket to go out and do as you like. All the precautions of Hands – Face – Space should be adhered to.

Advice on how you can protect you and your household, especially if someone has Covid, can be found at: <https://www.germdefence.org/illnessChoice.html>

**Vaccinations In Solihull** - Over 10,000 people aged 80+ have been vaccinated. Things are moving quickly and they are doing the 70+ age group now, together with wider social care staff and the clinically vulnerable. There are currently no concerns about the supply of vaccine. Vaccinated people can still transmit the virus. The vaccine gives them more confidence to go out but they should not be breaking the guidelines any more than previously. A word of advice: please turn up for your vaccination in suitable clothing with sleeves easy to roll up. The process is being slowed up by people having to undress and dress again!

**Feedback** - Public Health England would like to know: a) if you are not going for a test when you should, why not? b) Any feedback on vaccinations. I can forward this information to them, so please feel free to contact me. Pam Price