



**St. Alphege Church
This Week's News
21 February 2021
1st Sunday in Lent**

**President & Preacher
Revd Simon Marshall**

BIBLE READINGS Genesis 9. 8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

NEW TESTAMENT 1 Peter 3. 18-end

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL Mark 1. 9-15

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.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK PRAY FOR

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| Monday | Those caring for a family member who is ill |
| Tuesday | Those persecuted for their faith |
| Wednesday | Those who are looking for work |
| Thursday | Paul Evans, St Alphege Verger |
| Friday | Our district and Parish treasurers |
| Saturday | Poets and spiritual writers |

NEXT SUNDAY

Readings: Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16, Romans 4. 13-end, Mark 8. 31-end

President: Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson & Preacher: Ven. Paul Taylor

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, Lucy Adeyemo, Dan Doyle, Tony Yearsley, Dorothy Barnsley, Liz Gregory

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Henry Balthazor, Stephen Foster, Jenny Williams, Jonathan Mark, Stephen John, Debbie White, George Hutchinson, Sheila Pittaway, Helen Greenham, Jane Kenchington, Ann Roberts, Katie, 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: Stan Webber, Pam Cross, Barbara Abbott, David Haigh, Jan Taylor, Kay Roberts.

All churches - Latest information available at: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk> Our churches are currently closed. Sunday Services are now being livestreamed on the parish Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Accessing Sunday services via the parish website

Go to www.solihullparish.org.uk and scroll down the home page to the section 'Sunday Services'.

St Helen's and St Michael's

Click on the play button in the middle of the picture at 9.15am or any time later on.

St Alphege

A clickable link will be placed on the website just before 10.30am – click on it at 10.30am to join the service live. The service will be running in real time, so if you miss the beginning, you can catch up later once the service has finished, or you can just join the service at its current point. If you prefer to watch later, there will be a picture with a play button in the middle placed on the site at around 11.30am.

9.15am The Junction on Zoom - contact Linda at 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

St Alphege Choirs - There has been a really good response to the lockdown music school for children. Remember 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 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.

St. Alphege District Church Council has at least five vacancies for new members. Are you interested in the mission and organisation of St. Alphege Church within the Parish of Solihull? Nominations from members of all ages and all congregations and groups are invited prior to the AGM in April 2021. For further details and information please contact either Susan Gomm (0121 705 0015) or Sheila Sayers (0121 705 5331).

Jane and Richard Kenchington

The latter half of the 2010's have not been easy for the country nor the Parish, and has culminated in the most traumatic year in most of our lives. During this time Jane, our Rector, much supported by Richard, has brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our Parish with enthusiasm and led us into new ways of mediating the Gospel to people in our community.

Jane has greatly helped the Parish address important issues enabling us to be very well prepared for the next stage of its life of witness in Solihull.

So it is with sadness that we recently learned that Jane has decided that for the good of her health she needs to take early retirement and this will formally take place from 1st February. As she and Richard will continue to live in the Rectory for another few months until they can move into their house in Gloucestershire, we will have time to recognise her contribution to the Parish a bit later, and hopefully by then we will be able to meet in person to some degree when we can have a gathering to do this.

I would like to invite you to make a financial contribution towards a good farewell gift for Jane and Richard. You can send your contributions via BACS (please see below) or by cheque, made payable to 'PCC Solihull' and post to the Parish Office, Oliver Bird Hall, B91 3RQ, clearly marking 'Jane collection' on the back.

Bank: Lloyds
Account branch: 30-97-78
Account number: 00206323
Account name: PCC Solihull
Reference: Jane

It would be good to have memories, tributes and pictures that we could make into a book to give to Jane and Richard when they move and so please do let Ann Colloby at the Parish Office have these as soon as you can either by email – office1@solihullparish.org.uk or by post to the Parish Office, Oliver Bird Hall, B91 3RQ.

Andrew Williams
Parish Warden
January 28th 2021

March 5th World Day of Prayer - As Central Solihull Churches are not open for worship the World Day of Prayer committee haven't got a service planned. Dorridge Church are planning to provide an online service. When details are finalised and a link available we will let you know.

This year the service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu on the theme 'Build on a Strong Foundation'.

World Day of Prayer rely on the collections from the day of prayer service to fund their work, giving grants to a number of Christian charities for projects both at home and abroad. If you would like to send a donation you can

- send a cheque to the World Day of Prayer office at Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2RR
- make a donation via the website www.wwdp.org.uk
- text message to 70085 using the phrase 2021WDP the amount you wish to donate, eg 2012WDP 5

FOSTERING INFORMATION EVENING - Solihull Council is looking for people who are interested in becoming foster parents to provide a safe and loving home for looked after children across the Borough. The fostering team is holding a virtual information evening on Wednesday 3rd March, 6.30 - 8pm which will give people the opportunity to learn about the fostering process, ask questions and speak informally to some current foster carers. 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. If you would like to join the virtual information evening, please email fosterevent@solihull.gov.uk for more details. For more information, please sign up to our Stay Connected fostering bulletins by following this link www.solihull.gov.uk/stayconnected. If you are unable to attend the event, please call 0121 788 4253 for more information or visit www.solihull.gov.uk/fostering

4- drawer filing cabinet FREE to anyone who wants/needs one. Please contact Jane Kenchington if you are interested. It will need to be collected from 45 Park Avenue, Solihull.

Mobile: 07779 991 760. Email: janekenchington@gmail.com

Matters of Faith Files - It seems quite possible that fewer people have had access to the Parish News during the past twelve months. Although it is available on the Parish Website some may not like to read it from a screen, and of course there are those who do not have access to a computer.

Martin Tunnicliffe writes regularly for the Matters of Faith section. He would like to make an offer to send by post a paper copy of any one or more of the eight articles that he has written so far since Lockdown began to anyone who wanted them. The problem, of course, is how to identify those people, especially those who don't use computers.

So, the question is this: do you happen to know someone who may like to take advantage of Martin's offer, especially if that person cannot, or does not, use a computer? If you do, please contact Martin on 0121 745 6522. There are brief details of the articles in the March 'Parish News'.

Community Champions News 18.02.21

Figures

Cases in Solihull are down 15% to 205.7 per 100,000, and down 32% to 135 per 100,000 for the 60+ age group. The equivalent figures for the West Midlands were both down by 30%. This is a steady and slow reduction, but rates are still high. 8.8% of tests are positive. ITU cases are still very high and we do not want to put any more pressure on hospitals. Transmission is still thought to be from workplaces back to households.

Vaccinations

Invitations are now going out to the 60+ age group and the clinically vulnerable. 2127 extra people in Solihull have been identified as clinically vulnerable; they are likely to be contacted in the next week.

If you are not in either of these groups, be wary of invitations to be vaccinated that are not from your GP. Some people have arrived at mass vaccination centres and have been turned away.

There have been excellent reports from Monkspath this week; the queues have been sorted. The key message is: do not let down your guard. Remember Hands – Face – Space and comply with the regulations.

Employment

If you receive a letter telling you to shield, you are protected from an employment point of view under equality legislation.; changes to contracts are classed as discrimination against a disability.

Domestic abuse

We heard from Caroline Murray. The restrictions of Covid have provided prime conditions in which domestic abuse has increased.

Domestic abuse is defined as: controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse. It is the worldwide leading cause of morbidity in 19-44 year old women. It constitutes 32% of all violent crime reported to West Midlands Police, yet only 35% of abuse is reported. In Solihull, 4846 women per year report being abused.

From April 2021, children who witness or experience abuse will be treated as victims.

#noexcuseforabuse is the regional campaign to raise awareness.

Local Help:

Dial 999 if you are at immediate risk, or 101 to advise police of your situation.

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/Help-and-advice-about-domestic-abuse> has advice for the abused and abusers.

Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid: <https://bswaid.org/>

Confidential Helpline: 0808 800 0028 (7 days 9.15am – 5.15pm).

I am aware that the advice we received was rather biased towards women. To balance things up:

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/help-for-men-who-are-being-abused.htm?pdf=12328>

Mankind: <https://www.mankind.org.uk/>

Helpline: 01823 334244