



**St. Alphege Church
This Week's News
28 February 2021
2nd Sunday in Lent**

President: Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson

Preacher: Ven. Paul Taylor

BIBLE READINGS Genesis 17. 1-7 & 15 & 16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

NEW TESTAMENT Romans 4. 13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

GOSPEL Mark 8. 31-end

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

COLLECT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK PRAY FOR

Monday	The Church in Wales
Tuesday	The Diocese of Lichfield
Wednesday	Those who care for wildlife
Thursday	Writers and poets
Friday	Employers, employees and all who are looking for work
Saturday	David and Anne, our Bishops

NEXT SUNDAY

Readings: Exodus 20. 1-17, 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25, John 2. 13-22

President: Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson, Preacher : Revd Sue Chandler

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, 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: Barbara Abbott, David Haigh, Kay Roberts, Tony Yearsley, Monica Coggan, Eileen Dowe, Roy Eric Morris.

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

Solihull Age UK - The team are offering a 20 week home exercise programme designed to reduce the risk of fall by improving strength, balance and confidence. All participants are sent a book of exercises to do at home and there is a weekly progress call included. In addition, for those with a PC who are able to access websites and have their own email account, a weekly exercise video will be sent led by their PSI Instructor Sharon, demonstrating all the exercises in the booklet.

A referral can be done via GP Surgeries or it is possible to do a self referral. If you or someone you know is aged 65 years or over and may benefit from this please call 0121 704 7845.

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

Covid 19 testing kits now easier to order - People who do not have access to the internet can now order PCR home testing kits over the phone by calling 119, without needing an email address or any other digital requirement.

This means that people without access to the internet or digital services can order PCR tests to use in their homes, if they have symptoms. The home testing service is available to everyone in the United Kingdom with COVID-19 symptoms, and can still be accessed through the [home testing online portal](#).

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 Tunnickliffe 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'.

Barbara Abbott's funeral will be held in church on Thursday 25th March at 1200 noon followed by a short family committal at Robin Hood Crematorium. It is hoped that both services will be available to watch live on line. Places at the church service will be limited so please contact Michael Rumball in advance if you would like to book a place. [mrumball@btinternet.com or 0121 711 1726]

Community Champions News 25.02.21 Figures

There has been a continued sharp fall in cases in Solihull. The rate is now 134 per 100,000 and 98.7 per 100,000 in the 60+ age group. This is where we were at the beginning of last December and we still need these figures to go right down to further reduce the risk. The Kent variant, the main one in the UK, is keeping the others at bay but spreads very rapidly. 6.6% of people being tested are positive but fewer people are going for tests. Please do go for a test if you have any symptoms; if you go out to a workplace, you should be testing 2 to 3 times a week.

Vaccinations

There has been a high uptake by all groups so far. Everyone who has been vaccinated once still needs to stay on guard – they are not fully protected yet. There are side effects to all vaccines, not just Covid ones, and these are completely normal. There is a lot of confidence in the Covid vaccines so, just as with the flu vaccines, just accept whichever you are offered. We now need to build up confidence in vaccine refusers, to encourage them to get vaccinated. There is lots of research-based information at <https://covid.joinzoe.com/blog>. They have an app on which you can record having your first or second doses, and any after effects thereof. There is also lots of information and advice about Covid and other health issues at <https://www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/your-health/coronavirus>

Census 2021

We heard from Fiona, the Census Community Engagement Manager for Solihull.

The census is taken by the Office of National Statistics every 10 years (in years ending in a 1) to plan needs for the present and future. It helps Local Authorities to plan their services (e.g. how many school places will be needed) and it is also used by charities, businesses, university researchers and people doing family histories. It is independent of Government and political parties. All the information is kept confidential and secure. Any figures accessed or published do not identify individuals, so it cannot be used to check benefit claims, income tax or residency status. Individual household info is only released after 100 years.

This year, the census will be collected almost entirely online; they are hoping for a 70% return by this method. A postcard will arrive telling you that you can soon fill in your form; then, from 1st March onwards, a pack will arrive with your access code. You can fill in the form online straightaway after 1st March, although 21st March is the official census day. Online completion is easier as it automatically excludes irrelevant questions and jumps to the next relevant one. The census form is in English, or in Welsh if you live in Wales.

If you would prefer to complete a paper version, you can request a paper copy as soon as the pack arrives in the post – the details are in the pack.

Help is available whether you complete your form online or on a paper copy. Details will be in the pack. **This help is free.** Do not accept any offer of help which says there will be a charge. Help can be via:

Neighbours or family – but keep to the Covid restrictions and do this by phone.

There will be a telephone helpline available – the number will be in the pack.

Support and guidance leaflets are available in many languages.

Large print versions of the form are available, as is text relay help for the hearing impaired.

ONS Field Staff can visit, will be PPE equipped, and will only stay on your doorstep for a short time. They will not come inside.

To end on a lighter note, the ONS wish they had had up to date census information available before Covid. Apparently 102% of over 80s in Solihull have been vaccinated!