



**St. Alphege Church
This Week's News
2nd May 2021
5th in Eastertide**

President & Preacher: Revd Sue Chandler

BIBLE READINGS Acts 8. 26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

NEW TESTAMENT 1 John 4. 7-end

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

GOSPEL John 15. 1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

COLLECT

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

THIS WEEK PRAY FOR

Monday	Staff, patients and volunteers of the Marie Curie hospice
Tuesday	Those who suffer for their faith in Christ
Wednesday	Those who lead our parish study and fellowship groups
Thursday	Those who are looking for work
Friday	Those who work in the Touchwood Centre
Saturday	Writers and poets

THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE - 2nd Reading of Banns

Neil Leonard Etheridge & Alexandra Bethan Solera, Milo Pajic & Elizabeth Anne Webster

NEXT SUNDAY

Readings: Acts 10. 44-end, 1 John 5. 1-6, John 15. 9-17

President & Preacher: Revd 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, Lucy, Michele, Alan, Megha, David Boyes, Lee-Anne Wilson, Anna Mary Thomas, Helen L, Anne Wheatley, Lucy Adeyemo, Dan Doyle, Anne Lawrence, Kerrie.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Henry Balthazor, Stephen Foster, Jenny Williams, Jonathan Mark, Stephen John, George Hutchinson, Sheila Pittaway, Helen Greenham, Anne Roberts, Katie, Evelyn Berry, Anne Kemp, Ethan Winwood, Peter Gregory, Liz Gregory, Mandy Watts.

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY IN NEED (St Michael's and St Helen's)

Carol & Stuart; Paul Binfield; Irene Tunnicliffe; Julie; Donna; Geoffrey Pearson; Pat Bass; Anthony Vanes; Jane; Helen; Carolyn; Nigel; Angeline; Mary, Eileen Gilbert and Keith Potter

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY DEPARTED: May Withey, Rachel Brady, William Garland

NOTICES

Our churches are now open for Sunday services. When you book it will be necessary to provide your name, number of people attending from your household, your email address (if you have one) and a contact telephone number. The wearing of a mask in places of worship is still mandatory and we ask all who attend a service to bring one with them. We will continue to share services online for those unable to attend in person. For all the latest information go to: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk/>

St Alphege Church

A eucharist service will take place at 10.30am. To book a place either email office@solihullparish.org.uk or call (0121) 705 5350.

St Helen's Church

There will be two eucharist services at 9.30am and 11am. To book a place either go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/sthelenseucharist> or call Beryl Moppett on (0121) 705 0337.

Prayer and Fellowship - To join in with the new Zoom event on a Saturday morning at 11.30am contact Stephen Linstead at: sqrlml@btinternet.com

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

Quick social media access - You will notice that on the homepage of the website, underneath the 'Welcome' heading, a new link: Linktr.ee/solihullparish. This will take you to a customised page where everything you need is in one place, links to the parish YouTube channel, Facebook, Instagram, The Junction and Friends of St Alphege Music.

Parish Giving - Would you like to make a financial donation to support the work of Solihull Parish? Giving couldn't be easier and every donation, no matter how small, helps to make a real difference. A huge thank-you to all who have donated so far and those who are members of our Parish Giving Scheme. To donate head to: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk/giving/>

Exciting news - Charlotte Gibson is to be ordained to the diaconate by David, Lord Bishop of Birmingham in St Philip's Cathedral at 9.30am on Saturday, 26 June 2021. She will take up her ministry at St Peter's Church Harborne with the Revd Kate Stowe. More details will follow nearer the time. We keep Charlotte, Sam, Rodaidh, Seona, Revd Kate Stowe and the people of St Peter's Church in our prayers.

Shoe Aid Donation - Shoe Aid has called today (27.4.21) and collected the last load of shoes, approx. 20 sacks. This has been a truly magnificent effort by the Rotary Club of Solihull and the Parish of Solihull, so a great big THANK YOU to all. We have donated in total, 90+ sacks of really needed shoes to very grateful people - young and old, across the British Isles. So the shoe shop is now closed temporarily, until later in the year. Phil Godfrey

Proposed Development of land at The Rectory for 54 residential apartments for older people. All members of the Congregational Roll should have received details of this, sent out from the Parish Warden, Andrew Williams by email or by post. A Planning Application has been submitted by Pegasus, part of Lifestory, to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. **The public has been given until 7th May to make comments.**

To submit comments online and to see further details, go to **solihull.gov.uk**, go on to **Search for Planning and Building Control Applications**, on to **publicaccess.solihull.gov.uk** reference **PL/2021/00905/PPFL**. To submit comments by post, please address to: Becky Matravers, Case Officer, Planning Development, Solihull M.B.C., Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, B91 3QB. Reference Planning Application **PL/2021/00905/PPFL. It is important that you make your comments.**
Further information: David Patterson 0121 705 5870

Update from Jane Kenchington From the end of April my "work" mobile phone number 07743 402229 - will be ceasing to exist. If people wish to contact me, my mobile phone number is 07779 991 760. My email address remains the same: janekenchington@gmail.com. And our address is *still* 45 Park Avenue, Solihull! Due to the pandemic. Building supplies are severely delayed, so the building work on our Gloucestershire house is far from finished. We still do not know when we will be able to move.

Oberammergau - The famous Passion Play was postponed in 2020 due to Covid. It is hoped to be performed through the summer of 2022. Anyone interested in joining an organised trip should contact Anne Rock, 705 0885, for more information.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Parish of SOLIHULL

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in ON ZOOM address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83449744219?pwd=aVVKMEVqZmw4TWVNBs9rMzJ2VTNkQT09>

on the 18TH day of MAY 2021.

For election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows –

1To the Deanery Synod _____ not an election year _____ representatives.

To the Parochial Church Council _____ 25 _____ representatives.

For the appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor.

For the consideration of:

- (a) a report on changes to the Roll since the last annual parochial church meeting OR 2 a report on the numbers entered on the new Roll;
- (b) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;
- (c) the financial statements of the council for the year ending on the 31st December preceding the meeting;
- (d) the annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches of the parish;
- (e) a report of the proceedings of the deanery synod; and
- (f) other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

In this Notice, 'parish' means an ecclesiastical parish.

Signed: The Revd Simon Marshall Team Vicar

Minister of the parish

Notes

- 1 Every lay person whose name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish (and no other person) is entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.
- 2 A person is qualified to be elected a parochial representative of the laity if –
 - (a) his or her name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish and, unless he or is under 18, has been entered there for at least the preceding six months;
 - (b) he or she is an actual communicant (which means that he has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England at least three times during the twelve months preceding the date of the election);

(c) he or she is at least 16; and

(d) he or she is not disqualified as referred to in paragraph 3 of these Notes.

3 (1) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or a joint council if the person is disqualified from being a trustee of a charity (and the disqualification is not subject to a waiver which permits membership of a parochial church council, district church council or joint council).

(2) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).

(3) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (with that expression being construed in accordance with Rule 71(2) of the Church Representation Rules).

(4) A person's disqualification under sub-paragraph (3) may be waived by the bishop of the diocese by giving the person notice in writing.

(5) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council if the person has been disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbent (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977.

43 A scheme is in operation in this parish which provides that any person entitled to vote in the elections of parochial representatives of the laity to the parochial church council or to the deanery synod or to both may apply on the appropriate form to the Minister of the parish (or other person signing below) for a postal vote. The completed form must be received before the commencement of the annual parochial church meeting.

Notes

1 To be included in a year in which parochial representatives of the laity are to be elected to the Deanery Synod.

2 To be included in a year when a new Church Electoral Roll is prepared. Delete as applicable.

3 This paragraph should be deleted if no scheme for postal voting is in operation in the parish.

4 Or vice-chair of the parochial church council as the case may be (see rule M19(2) of the Church Representation Rules).

Community Champions News 29.04.21

Figures

Cases in Solihull have continued to fall to 21.3 per 100,000. This is the result of the lockdown and the vaccination rollout. We are now reaching a plateau figure around which cases will rumble for a while. There will be odd, isolated outbreaks. The virus is less active in the Summer so, hopefully, that will have an impact as well.

Vaccinations

The rollout is still progressing well. We have to remember that the 18 to 40 age group has not been vaccinated and this is the group that is spreading the virus.

Vaccinations are making a huge difference; there have been no new cases in care homes.

If you are coming up to 12 weeks since your first vaccination and do not want to wait to be called for your second, you can book to go to a mass vaccination centre. There is no reduction in efficacy if you go over the 12 weeks.

There have been one or two reports of nose bleeds after a vaccination; these and other adverse reactions to the vaccine may be reported to the Yellow Card scheme; it can be found at:

<https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

Testing

Positive test results are now very rare but it is recommended that everyone over the age of 18 gets into the routine of doing a lateral flow test twice a week.

For the latest testing information signpost people to the Council testing webpage:

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/COVID-19/covid-testing>

If the LFT is positive, you need to get this confirmed by a PCR test because there has been a small number of false positives; these are available at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre. Details on the above link.

If you collect testing kits from a pharmacy, they may ask you for information; this is to avoid people stockpiling from several places.

New tests are coming through all the time e.g. nostril only tests, and other are being trialled.

Other News

GPs are trying to get back to 'business as usual'. Most surgeries now have facilities to send symptoms by text message, and there are telephone triage and appointment arrangements.

After 21st June, we will still need to wear masks and keep up with social distancing.

Stronger Communities Solihull

We heard from Austin Rodriguez, Head of Stronger Communities for SMBC. This department supports collective community action, especially by developing the voluntary sector. They are interested to hear how we can build on the partnerships and community groups built up during Covid, after lockdown restrictions are lifted and life returns to 'normality'. The areas they particularly want to focus on are:

Exploitation, abuse, modern slavery and trafficking.

Climate change and sustainability.

Commonwealth Games in Birmingham 2022.

Community Spaces (where people meet up).

Promoting good health and wellbeing.

Neighbourliness and Community Cohesion. How do we keep this up post-Covid and maintain the level of volunteering?

Any reflections or ideas may be shared by emailing Austin at austin.rodriguez@solihull.gov.uk