



St Alphege Church
Sunday 14th December
The Third Sunday of Advent

A WARM WELCOME to St. Alphege. It's good to have you with us.

Morning Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

8.00am

Said Eucharist

President: Revd Simon Marshall & Preacher: Suzette Maguire

9.15am

All Age Holy Communion - Christingle Service with The Parish Puppets



President: Revd Nick Parker & Preacher: Revd Simon Marshall

Hymns:

436 (screens)

SoF 2848

HON 393

668 (screens)

Music led by Junior Choristers, Minims and Worship Band

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord - Paul Inwood

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God by Bobby Fisher

Motet: Like a candle flame – Graham Kendrick

11.00am

Choral Eucharist

President & Preacher: Revd Nick Parker

Reader(s): (OT) Sally Herd (NT) Sheena Linstead

Psalm

146:4-10

Music led by Senior Choristers and Back Row

Setting: Mass for Four Voices - Byrd

Anthem: This is the Record of John - Gibbons

Voluntary: Toccata on Veni Emmanuel - Carter

Hymns:

55

8 (t128ii)

57

186

5.00pm

Evensong

Officiant: Michael Smith and Preacher: Revd Anne

Haselhurst

Readings: Isaiah 5:8-end, John 5:31-40

Reader: Pam Price

Music led by Back Row

Condon Responses

Canticles: Evening Service in D - Howells

Anthems: Zion hears the Watchmen's Voices – J S Bach

Voluntary Praeludium in E Minor (the Great) - Bruhns

Psalm

12

Hymns:

7

443

250 (t1)

THIS WEEK

Mon 15	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Tues 16	10.45am	Prayer Group - Room 5 (OBH)
	6.00pm	Rising Stars Carol Festival
	7.30pm	Bellringers Practice
Weds 17	9.15am	Infant Nativity Service - St Alphege School
	1.10pm	Lunchtime Recital - George Finney, organ
Thurs 18	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	Said Eucharist
Fri 19	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	1.30pm	St Alphege School Federation Carol Service

BIBLE READING: Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

BIBLE READING: James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

THIS WEEK PRAY FOR

Monday	The staff of the shops, cafes, bars and restaurants in our town
Tuesday	The community and congregation of St. Helen's
Wednesday	Those who care for children in need
Thursday	Our newly appointed Director of Children, Families & Youth Ministry, Ben Yates
Friday	Diocesan staff & members of Bishops' Council

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY IN NEED

David Patterson, Gill Taylor, Gerald Blackburn, Pearl Hampson, Deborah Walker, Andy Hodkinson,
David Porter, Cynthia Dodson, John Smith, Janet Layton, and Lola Hammond.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Philip Tew, Ella, Daisy, Mary, Andrew, Jonathan, Kerrie, Nigel Vian, Dorothy Newbery, Emma, Amy,
Dean, Gary Sheppard, Wendy Meikle, Henry Balthazor, Stephen Foster, Jenny Williams, Evelyn Berry,
Ron Herd, Dan and Ruth, Margaret Evans, Nicola Beale, Peter, John Russell, Malcolm Owens, Aaliyah
Adeyemo, Ruth & Rae, Hazel Hewlet, Hilary Thurlow, and Suzette Maguire.

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Clive Wilson

NEXT WEEK: Sunday 21st December –The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Morning readings: Isaiah 7.10-16, Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.18-end

Services: 8.00am Said Eucharist - President and Preacher: Revd Simon Marshall

9.15am Junction Nativity - OBH

10.30am Sung Eucharist - President and Preacher: Revd Nick Parker

5.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - Officiant: Revd Nick Parker

Evening Readings: as per order of service

NOTICES (send any notices to pewslip@solihullparish.org.uk by 10am on Wednesdays)

New Services for the New Year - PCC have unanimously agreed a new pattern of services from January with weekly Sunday services at 8am, 9.30am and 11am, and 5.00pm. Full details are now on our website and will be published in January Parish News.

Rising Stars Carol Festival this coming Tuesday 16th December at 6pm. You are all invited to this event in St.Alphege Church with singers from Sharmans Cross School, SongSquad and our own St.Alphege Choristers. Admission free, retiring collection.

Alone at Christmas – Do you know of anyone (including yourself) who is likely to be alone at Christmas and who would welcome some hospitality? Would you be able to offer such hospitality? If so, please contact Stephen Linstead: sglrml@btinternet.com or 0121 705 1376.

Church Christmas Flowers - offers of help and donations of greenery would be much appreciated. We will be decorating the church on Friday 19th December 2025 from 10.00am all welcome. Any queries please contact Nichol Hodgkinson 07890701101.

Wednesday lunchtime recital – 17th December George Finney, organ. Refreshments are available from 12.30pm with the performance at 1.10pm. All are welcome – admission free, retiring collection. This will be the last recital before the Christmas break. We will resume recitals on Wednesday 7 January. Thank you for supporting the recitals throughout 2025.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services

- Crib services – 3.00pm and 4.15pm
- Midnight Mass – 11.30pm
- Christmas Day – 8.00am and 10.30am

Wives Fellowship Lunch - Friday 2nd January 2026 at 12noon. Please contact Carol Caldicott on 0121 705 3168.

Advent appeals: This week's retiring collection is on behalf of the Children's Society. Supporting and advocating for tens of thousands of children and young people who are at risk, struggling with mental health, or in the care system. Transforming lives and helping to build a society that is healthy for all children. Please give generously.

You can donate by using the contactless Giving Station by the North Door, in cash as you leave church, or by online banking, or via the QR code below.

Online Banking

Bank: Lloyds

Sort code: 30-97-78

Account: 00206323

A/c name: PCC Solihull

Reference: St Alphege



Regular Giving



Children's Society