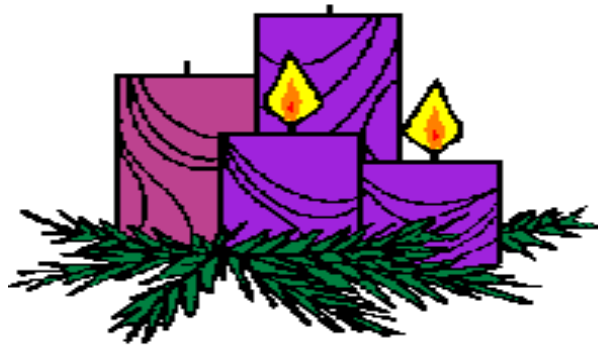




Connection

Sunday 6th December 2020
Second Sunday of Advent



Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11

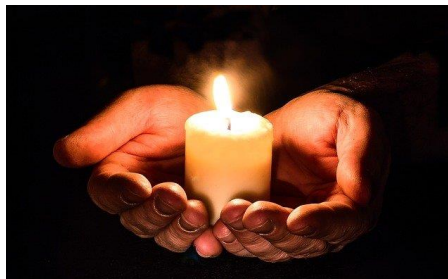
Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Requests for Prayers

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com



Please continue to pray for the ill and isolated, frontline, hospital and medical staff and for all those who are in any kind of need. Please pray that we can all find much-needed Comfort and Joy this Advent season, especially those of us who have been bereaved or who will be apart from loved ones over Christmas.

Those who are sick: Roy and Margaret Putnam, Richard Clements, Christopher Frith, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam

We continue to pray for: Don Dufty, Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt, Mary Doney

Those in residential care: Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy

Those who have died and their families: Brian Druce, Charles Brazier, Nils Wilkes, Simon Flynn, Doreen Byrd, Geoff Relph

Anniversary of a death: Please pray for those who have lost loved ones



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ECKINGTON

With many of the usual Christmas celebrations having to be cancelled due to Covid this year, we would like to invite you to take part in a few alternative activities to celebrate the Christmas season.



BAUBLES: From **December 1st** onwards, we would love you to hang a bauble from a tree in the churchyard. Your bauble could be handmade or bought. You could decorate it or add the name of a loved one.

COVID SNAKE: Ecki is still growing and is becoming quite a timeline, marking various events in the year. Why not paint a Christmas stone and see if we can make Ecki even longer!



NATIVITY TRAIL: On **Wednesday 23rd December between 2.30 and 4.30pm** there will be a Nativity Trail and live Christmas music in the churchyard. Trail sheets and prizes will be available at the front of the church. In order to maintain social distancing please message Karen on 07593260432 for a 20-minute time slot.

These are just some of the ideas that we have had in Eckington – if you would like to share these ideas or any that you have in your villages, please do contact us at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com



Christmas 2020 – we are collecting this weekend! Please donate outside the church in Eckington:

- Christmas biscuits
- Christmas cakes
- Tinned Cold Meats e.g. ham and chicken
- Tinned salmon
- Christmas chocolate
- Festive sweets
- Custard
- Any other festive goodies

Donations of Christmas Fayre can be placed in the boxes outside Holy Trinity church on **Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December**. Thank you!



Church Services this Sunday 6th December

9.00am Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton

9.00am Holy Trinity, Eckington

10.30am St Peter's, Little Comberton

10.30am St John the Baptist, Beckford

The Rota for December 2020

Date	Church	Time	Minister
13 th December	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St James', Defford	10.30am	Bishop Michael Hooper
	St Giles', Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
20 th December	St Peter's Chapel, Besford	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	9.00am	Canon Roger Spiller
	St Margaret's, Alstone	10.30am	Archdeacon Robert Jones
24 th December	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	10.00pm	Reverend Doug Chaplin
	St James', Defford	10.00pm	Reverend Allison Davies
25 th December	St Giles' Bredon	10.00am	Bishop Martin Gorick
	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	10.00am	Canon Roger Spiller
	St Faith's, Overbury	10.30am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.45am	Reverend Allison Davies
27 th December	St Michael's, Great Comberton (Morning Prayer)	9.00am	Reverend Nancy Murray Peters
	John the Baptist, Beckford	10.30am	Archdeacon Robert Jones

Given the reduced capacity of churches resulting from social distancing rules being in place; if anyone would like to attend a service on either the 20th, 24th, 25th or 27th December can they please let Alison Khan know at acbhteam@gmail.com or by telephone on 07984 748059 so that a place can be reserved for you.

Chatty Advent Calendar

2020 has been a strange year, hasn't it? Maybe it's time for a bit of reflection as we look back at the year and look forward to Christmas and a new year. Here are some questions for each day in December to help you do that

1) Can you believe it's December? Has this year felt long or passed quickly?	2) How is your life different to this time last year?	3) What have you learnt to do differently?	4) Have you played a new game this year? (or remembered a game you enjoy?)
5) Have you taken up any new hobbies?	6) Who have you enjoyed keeping in touch with?	7) Think of a memorable day you enjoyed this year.	8) What's the longest you've gone without leaving the house?
9) Who have you seen most, face to face?	10) Who have you seen most, on a screen?	11) Who are you going to speak to today?	12) What encouragement have you been given this year? Did someone say something nice about you?
13) What has surprised you this year?	14) Have you done any dancing this year?	15) Have you done anything challenging this year?	16) Who is your hero of 2020?
17) What's your favourite way to spend a day?	18) What have you learnt about yourself this year?	19) Have you been shown an act of kindness this year?	20) Who are you hoping to see at Christmas? (online or in person)
21) What has made you smile this past week / month?	22) Say 3 positive things about yourself. "I am...."	23) Are you going to take anything you've learnt this year into next year?	24) A Christmas blessing: May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Mary and Joseph and the peace of the Christ child, be yours this Christmas.

Kindly shared by Helen Scott



Join us on Sunday 6th December at 8pm for a night full of Christmas cheer, including a blend of contemporary Christian music and traditional carols from Compassion ambassadors and close friends;

Philippa Hanna
Noel Robinson
Graham Kendrick
The London Community Gospel Choir
Hillsong London
Lurine Cato MBE
Martin Smith and
Elle Limebear.

Don't forget to join the Facebook event for more updates, behind the scenes exclusives and reminders of the broadcast nearer the time.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1792507960901066>



Carols on the Doorstep

WHEN? Wednesday, December 16th, 6pm

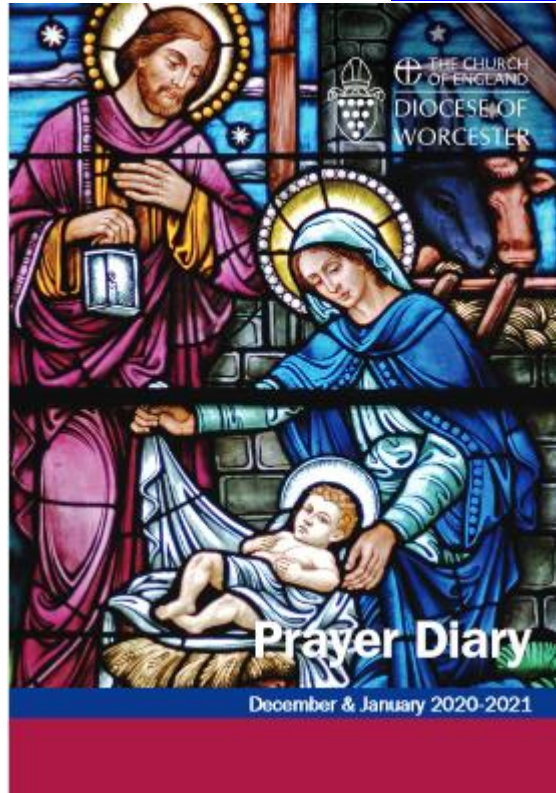
WHERE? Your Doorsteps!

HOW? Sing along with the radio!

Join us on your doorsteps across the nation this Christmas to sing carols together and spread some much-needed cheer! [Find out more](#)

News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group

