



# Connection

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



## **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.

**Amen**

## **Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### **Reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

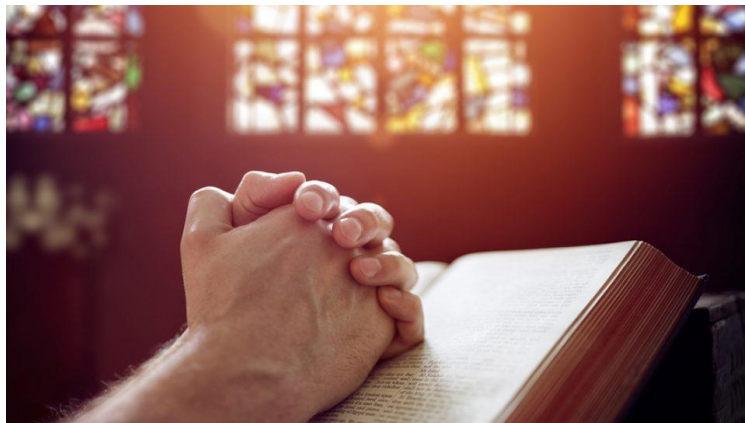
### **Post Communion Prayer**

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.

**Amen**

### **Requests for Prayers**

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at [eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto: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. We also pray to inspire us with many ways in which to creatively celebrate and learn about the Nativity with our children, young people and families this year.

**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 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 longer!



**NATIVITY TRAIL:** On **Wednesday 23rd December between 2.30 and 4.30pm** there will be a Nativity Trail and live Christmas music and carols sung by Tapestry Chamber Choir 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](mailto:eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com)

# Christmas 2020



Local residents donated an amazing amount of Christmas goodies to Persnore Foodbank last weekend. We were overwhelmed by the response so a great big massive THANK YOU!!! Due to the success of the collection this weekend we are going to do another collection around Easter – watch this space for details.....

Persnore Foodbank – helping families in crisis

## Church Services this Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

9.00am St Barbara’s, Ashton Under Hill

10.30am St James’, Defford

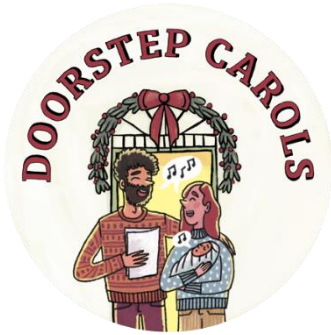
10.30am St Giles’, Bredon



## The Rota for December 2020

Date	Church	Time	Minister
20 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	St Barbara’s, Ashton Under Hill	10.00pm	Reverend Doug Chaplin
	St James’, Defford	10.00pm	Reverend Allison Davies
25 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> December can they please let Alison Khan know at [acbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:acbhteam@gmail.com) or by telephone on 07984 748059 so that a place can be reserved.



## Carols on the Doorstep

**WHEN?** Wednesday, December 16th, 6pm

**WHERE?** Your Doorsteps!

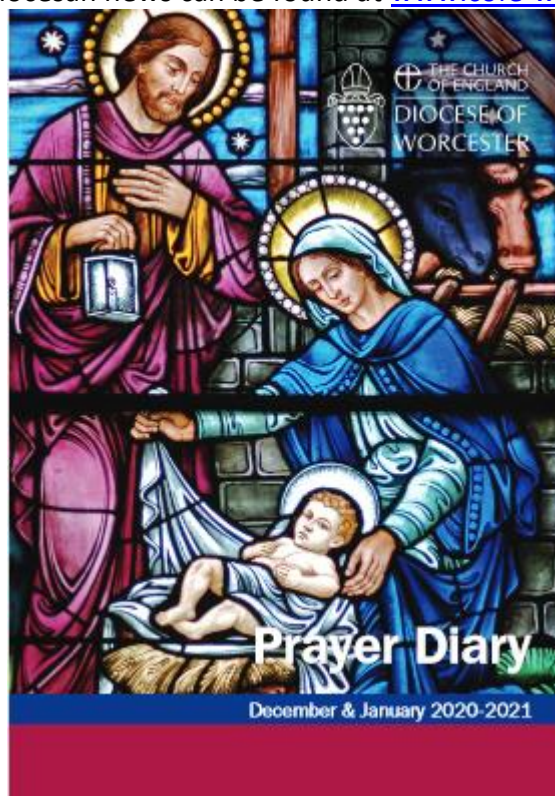
**HOW?** Sing along with the radio!

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](http://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

