



KIDDERMINSTER EAST PARISH
Five Churches One Parish One Lord

THE KIDDERMINSTER EAST PARISH NEWSLETTER

Churches of St Cassian's, St Cecilia's,
St Chad's, St George's & St Mary's Stone

10th January 2021

Baptism of Christ

Our buildings are closed but our Church is still open

SUNDAY 10th JANUARY

Following the new national lockdown, announced by the government last Monday, the clergy have taken the decision to close the churches in the parish for all services except funerals, at least for the month of January. Therefore all the planned services for this Sunday have been cancelled, except for our online service, which you are encouraged, and very welcome, to attend. In addition there will be a second online service in the evening. Details are below:

11:00am Holy Communion Online via Zoom

6:30pm Evening Prayer Online via Zoom

To "attend" the online service, and/or receive the order of service, please send an email to parishcomms@kidderminstereast.org.uk by **12:00noon on Saturday 9th January.**

If you have no internet, you can still join in on your phone (audio only), as follows:

11:00am Holy Communion

Tel: 0203 481 5240 (standard rate)

Meeting ID: 851 1108 3302

Password: 637983

6:30pm Evening Prayer

Tel: 0203 051 2874 (standard rate)

Meeting ID: 441 906 9894

Password: 150572

iPhone users one tap mobile number: **+442034815240,,85111083302#,,,,,0#,,637983#**

iPhone users one tap mobile number: **+442034815240,,85111083302#,,,,,0#,,637983#**

A children's resource pack is available on request from helengrist@gmx.co.uk

READINGS

Genesis 1:1 - 5

Acts 19:1 - 7

Mark 1:4 - 11

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord and
know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

A Message from your Clergy

Once again we face testing times, but we seek to face them together. In the light of recent announcements by the Prime Minister of a further national lockdown Robert and I have decided that we should close our churches for communal worship for the month of January (except for funerals) in order to keep safe and serve the community as best we can. We will review the decision later this month to decide what to do in February. In making this decision we have taken into account the Prime Minister's urgency in bringing in the national lockdown, the closure of schools, the tightening of Christmas restrictions, and the general call to reduce the number of contacts we have with each other. Covid-19 is a quickly spreading virus and we want to play our part in reducing the opportunities for it to spread, and to prevent further pressure being placed on the NHS. With vaccines now available let us hope this closure will end, sooner rather than later. However you feel about this decision let's make the most of the opportunities of staying connected together as churches. The online service continues to meet at 11:00am each Sunday, and we have re-introduced the contrasting quieter and more traditional online service at 6:30pm each Sunday during January. Other opportunities to meet online for prayer, as well as how to join these services, are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, plus all the other resources that are available ([YouTube channel](#), [Facebook page](#), etc) In addition, let's express our fellowship together as churches by each of us doing what we can to keep in touch especially with those who are on their own. Let's continue to pray for each other and offer support where it is safe to do so. We can still be confident that our God is with us, even in the midst of this messy pandemic. Let's keep safe and also seek to shine as lights for Christ, sharing his love and hope wherever we can.

Yours, *David & Robert*

Reverse Advent Calendar

Many thanks to all of you who took part in this parish appeal.

Hopefully all donations have now been brought in to church, however, as churches are now closed for the lockdown, if you still have any outstanding boxes, please contact the parish office by phone or email and I will arrange for a Covid-safe collection. *Shirley Surridge*



Bible Reading Group



A new group that meets every **1st and 3rd Tuesday** of the month, from 1:30pm for about an hour, **online via Zoom.**

In January we are reading *1 Thessalonians*. Please join us by contacting the parish office, office@kidderminstereast.org.uk or call 01562 822131. *Hilary Hildred*

Parish Prayers Online via Zoom

Morning Prayer services with your clergy at **8:00am** Monday to Thursday, and also Saturday, every week.

Parish Prayer Meeting: Next meeting will be on Wednesday **20th January**, login from 7:20pm onwards for **7:30pm** start, finishing by 8:00pm. Open to all in the parish.

Contemplative Prayer: a 20 - 25 minute prayer meeting using the liturgy of the Northumbria Community. Every Thursday evening at **7:00pm**; All welcome.

To join **any** of the above Prayers please email parishcomms@kidderminstereast.org.uk requesting a copy of the link & password, **by 6pm on the day before the meeting.**

Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd David Hildred for Friday 8th January

“What is this thing called Love?” is a song from the past, and our passages this week give us a precise answer for the question “What does God think Love is?” There is a clarity here that Love starts with God; he is the origin of it, and it does not come to us merely in words, but in action – the sacrificial action of Jesus. “Our love for God” is simply a reflection of and reaction to “his love for us”. And it doesn’t stop in that two-way street: we are urged to show our love for God is real by loving others in the same way. It’s a big challenge, but praise God he offers us his Spirit to make it possible!

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 11th January:

Mon 11th Jan 1 Corinthians 1:1 - 17 **Tues 12th Jan** 1 Corinthians 1:18 - end
Wed 13th Jan 1 Corinthians 2:1 - end **Thurs 14th Jan** 1 Corinthians 3:1 - end
Fri 15th Jan 1 Corinthians 4:1 - end **Sat 16th Jan** 1 Corinthians 5:1 - end

There will be videos from David and Robert on the parish [YouTube channel](#) each Monday and Thursday, based on the above readings. Please take a look.

[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) 18th - 25th January 2021: This year’s theme is “**Abiding in Christ**”. With Lockdown in place it is unlikely that we will be able to get together with friends from Churches Together in Kidderminster. We will still mark the **Week** in KEP with special emphasis on the theme of Christian Unity during our own services, including Morning Prayer and Contemplative Prayer. For those who wish to find out more please see the website of the [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#).

Kidderminster East Youth (KEY)

Next Meeting : 17th January, 6.00pm

We meet fortnightly on Sunday evenings. Currently all meetings are **online via Zoom**. New members always welcome (ages 11 to 18) so please get in touch. For **further info** please contact Grace (07807 647279) or Sam (07837 930578).

Kidderminster East Online Quiz Night:

We would love to **welcome you all** to this time of fellowship & fun **every Friday night**. We don't take ourselves too seriously and just enjoy some time together. Come and be part of this community. Doors open, **online via Zoom**, in time for a 7pm start. Interval at 8pm and finish around 9:15pm. Just email: parishcomms@kidderminstereast.org.uk to receive a link to join us.

A ‘Thank You’ from our Parish Treasurer

As we enter a new Calendar year we can all be proud that last year, despite all the difficulties, we managed to achieve our target of £158,337 to pay our **Parish Share** to the Diocese. Kidderminster East parish bears the heaviest load, by far, in the Deanery and not all parishes achieved their target last year. Thank you to each individual Church congregation for contributing so generously. *Lyn Aston*

Diocesan News

The Consultation on the **Simplification of Deaneries** is now complete and will take effect on **1st February**. You can [read the full report](#) and learn about the structure of the new Deaneries on the Worcester Diocesan website.

Job Vacancy: [Stewardship & Resources Officer](#), circa £35K, deadline 27th January.

You can read a [message from Bishop John](#) about the latest Lockdown on the Diocesan website. Other resources available there are [video reflections](#), [daily live-streamed service from Worcester Cathedral](#), weekly [sermon podcasts](#) and [daily prayers](#).

Requests for Prayer. Please pray for -

- Our clergy, LLMs and volunteers, as we face another national lockdown and the challenge of keeping the parish going through online services.
- NHS workers, carers, the emergency services and all key workers.
- Everyone in the parish who is unwell, especially those waiting for hospital treatment
- Those who are recently bereaved; may the Lord give them consolation.
- The situation in the USA; may the inauguration of President Biden be peaceful.

*Would you like to be included in the Parish Newsletter for prayer?
Please contact the Parish Office for more details.*

DIARY

Churches are now closed for all services except funerals to support the National Lockdown. Please attend the online services either by requesting a link or using the audio dial-in service. Parish **Home Groups** will restart this week (**11th January**) meeting online via Zoom. Other parish events are detailed below.

Thurs 14th Jan	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer	Online via Zoom
Friday 15th Jan	7:00pm	KEP Quiz Night	Online via Zoom
Sunday 17th Jan	11:00am	Service with Bread & Wine	Online via Zoom
	6:00pm	KE Youth	Online via Zoom
	6:30pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
Tues 19th Jan	1:30pm	Bible Study Group	Online via Zoom
Wed 20th Jan	7:30pm	Parish Prayer	Online via Zoom
Thurs 21st Jan	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer	Online via Zoom
Friday 22nd Jan	7:00pm	KEP Quiz Night	Online via Zoom
Sunday 24th Jan	11:00am	Morning Worship	Online via Zoom
	6:30pm	Service with Bread & Wine	Online via Zoom

Other online resources are available including the [Children's corner](#), Messy Church [Facebook group](#), Robert's Saturday morning [Children's talk video](#) plus many videos on our [YouTube channel](#), posts on our [Facebook page](#) and on the [parish website](#).

SUNDAY 17th JANUARY

READINGS: 1 Samuel 3:1 - 10 Revelation 5:1 - 10 John 1:43 - end

SUNDAY 24th JANUARY

READINGS: Genesis 14:17 - 20 Revelation 19:6 - 10 John 2:1 - 11

CONTACT US

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Find us also on **Facebook** – “Parish of Kidderminster East” and on **Twitter** - @parishofke