



THE KIDDERMINSTER EAST PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

Sunday 24th December 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Warm Welcome to All our Services

COLLECT for 4th Sun of Advent

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your
Son, so we wait for his coming in
glory; bring us through the birth
pangs of this present age to see,
with her, our great salvation in
Jesus Christ our Lord.

COLLECT for Midnight

Eternal God,
In the stillness of this night you sent
your almighty Word to pierce the
world's darkness with the light of
salvation: give to the earth the
peace that we long for and fill our
hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

ST CASSIAN'S

3:00pm Crib on the Green

ST CECILIA'S

11:00am Morning Worship

4:00pm Christingle

ST CHAD'S

9:30am Worship for All Nativity

ST GEORGE'S

11:00am Holy Communion

11:30pm 1st Holy Communion of Christmas

ST MARY'S, STONE

11:00am Carol Service

11:30pm 1st Holy Communion of Christmas

READINGS for 4th Sunday of Advent



2 Samuel 7:1 - 11 & 16
Luke 1:26 - 38

READINGS for Midnight

Hebrews 1:1 - 4
John 1:1 - 14



Café Chad - Christmas and New Year Opening **UPDATE**

at St Chad's Church, Burcher Green



For people of all ages to come and feel welcome, make friends and feel valued.

- **Monday 25th December** **CLOSED**
- **Wednesday 27th December** **CLOSED** (Sorry, not enough volunteers)
- **Monday 1st January** **CLOSED**
- **Wednesday 3rd January** **OPEN AS NORMAL, 9:15am - 12:30pm**

Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd David Hildred for Friday 22nd December
Matthew 18. Our week's readings began with Peter getting it momentarily right about Jesus, but that doesn't stop him getting it momentarily wrong in the next breath. There is hope for us all! But the mood of Matthew's gospel changes at this point with Jesus beginning to teach about his death and resurrection. His transfiguration reveals more of his divine nature, but it won't really make sense until after the resurrection, so "*keep it to yourselves for the moment*". Jesus stretches, broadens and deepens their faith in him as he speaks about mountainous prayer, extravagant searching and infinite forgiveness (amongst other things!). Something momentous is on its way ...

Parish Prayers Online via Zoom

Morning Prayer with Daily readings at 8:00am: Join David, and others from the parish, online via Zoom for Morning Prayer. Please see the tables below for daily readings. Where you see David's initials in the Zoom column there will be an online prayer that day. **Please Note:** There is no Morning Prayer over Christmas week.

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 25th December		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 25 th	Matthew 1:18 – end	--
Tue 26 th	Acts 7:51-end <i>Stephen, deacon, first martyr</i>	--
Wed 27 th	John 21:19 – end <i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	--
Thu 28 th	Matthew 2:13 – 18 <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	--
Fri 29 th	Jonah 1:1 - end	--
Sat 30 th	Jonah 2:1 - end	--

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 1st January		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 1 st	Luke 2:15-21 <i>Naming & Circumcision of Jesus</i>	--
Tue 2 nd	Ruth 1:1 - end	DH
Wed 3 rd	Ruth 2:1 - end	DH
Thu 4 th	Ruth 3:1 - end	DH
Fri 5 th	Ruth 4:1 - 17	--
Sat 6 th	Matthew 2:1 - 12 <i>Epiphany</i>	DH

If you do not automatically receive a Zoom link for Morning Prayer you can ask for one to be sent to you by emailing the address below. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Parish Prayer Meeting: Our next meeting will be **online via Zoom** on **Wednesday 10th January**, at **7:30pm** (login from 7:20pm) for 45 mins of prayer, worship and praise. Come and pray for the Team Vicar situation and other matters. Please join us, you are all very welcome.



To join **any** of the online Prayers please email parishcomms@kidderminstereast.org.uk requesting a copy of the link & password **by 6:00pm on the day before the meeting**.

Friends of the Holy Land Christmas Appeal

Because of your generous support, we have provided (so far) £27,500 to the Diocese of Jerusalem's appeal to supply medicines and other basic needs to the devastated Al-Ahli Hospital. We have also sent £62,500 directly to Gaza's Christian Committee, so that those sheltering in their churches could survive. To read more and to donate please visit the [FHL website](#).





Encountering God
following Jesus
Spirit-transforming lives



Christmas Day

Times of Services at the Churches of
St Cassian's, St Cecilia's, St Chad's, St George's & St Mary's Stone

Monday 25th December 2023



COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at
heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

READINGS

Titus 2:11 - 14
Luke 2:1 - 14

MONDAY 25th DECEMBER

ST CASSIAN'S

9:30am Holy Communion

ST CECILIA'S

11:00am Holy Communion

ST CHAD'S

9:30am Holy Communion

ST GEORGE'S

10:30am Holy Communion

ST MARY'S, STONE

-- No service today

Happy Christmas to all our newsletter readers!

The angels were the bearers of the message of that first Christmas; our newsletter brings us messages in fortnightly bitesizes - so thank you to all those angels who work in the background to prepare and deliver our newsletter - physically or electronically. We trust that our newsletter will do a similar job in alerting us to all the opportunities for gathering together to worship the one who was born as "Christ the Lord", and for us to see all the ways in which we can serve him through the activities of the parish. It reminds us that there is much to pray for as we also seek to be those who pass on the message of the one who *"came down to earth from heaven"* in order to lift us up and *"fit us for heaven"*. We hope that every aspect of your Christmas will be Jesus-centred and Jesus-filled. Happy Christmas! *David*



Christmas Day Lunch

If you are on your own this Christmas, or know anyone who is, you are invited to a free Christmas lunch at **St Ambrose Catholic Church**, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, in the Borromeo Hall at the rear of the church from **12:00noon**. There are invitations available in all of our churches. Just fill in the simple contact form and return to the churchwarden. Transport can be provided.



It's a long time before the next Thy Kingdom Come but those **Cheeky Pandas** have been busy recording a **Christmas Special** with the help of CBeebies' own Gemma Hunt. You can view full episodes on [YouTube](#) and on the [Cheeky Pandas](#) website. Family fun for Christmas.

Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd David Hildred for Friday 29th December

Jonah 1. Do the recent weeks we have spent reading Matthew make our celebration of the birth of the Saviour all the more special? I hope so. Stephen shows us that he is willing to carry the cost of carrying Christ in his life, because the Saviour is so precious. John wants us to know the out-of-this-world benefits of putting our faith in Jesus. Herod shows the true intent of those who don't want their control challenged. So what's Jonah up to? We came across him in *Matthew 12:38-42* and *16:4* ... a Rescuer who lives and dies and lives. Let's keep celebrating!

Archbishop to visit Diocese

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will visit the Diocese on **Saturday 3rd February** to bring us together in prayer. Prayer is the first of Archbishop Justin's stated priorities and as we continue to 'pray for growth' in our diocese. We will give you more details nearer the time but you can read more about his visit and his aims for the event by visiting the [Diocesan website](#).



St George's Pop up Café

Open **Wednesday 3rd January** and the 1st Wednesday of every month **12:00noon - 2:00pm** at St George's Church, Radford Avenue.



Young at Heart

Wednesdays 2:00pm - 4:00pm

at St Cecilia's Church

10th January *Zumba with Bev*

If you wish to join this group please contact Jean Bailey via the parish office.



Bible Reading group

The group will meet on **Thursday 4th January** from 11:00am at the rectory. We will be reading from the first two chapters of Mark's Gospel. The group is open to all but please let me know you are coming either directly or via the Parish Office. Thank you. *Hilary Hildred.*

Kidderminster East Youth (KEY)

For children and young adults in school years **4 - 13** (ages **9 - 18 yrs**). The first Sunday of every month KEY will follow immediately after the Family Activity Afternoon. Please see below for times and dates next term:

Sunday 7th January,	5:30pm - 6:30pm
Sunday 21st January,	6:00pm - 7:30pm
Sunday 4th February,	5:30pm - 6:30pm
Sunday 18th February,	6:00pm - 7:30pm
Sunday 3rd March,	5:30pm - 6:30pm
Sunday 17th March,	6:00pm - 7:30pm
Sunday 7th April,	5:30pm - 6:30pm
Sunday 21st April,	6:00pm - 7:30pm



All meetings are at **St Cecilia's Church,**
Hoo Road,
Kidderminster, DY10 1LP

For further information or if you would like to join KEY please contact :
Grace Kerrigan (07807 647279) or Richard Baker (07843 136785)



Encountering God
following Jesus
Spirit-transforming lives

First Sunday of Christmas

Times of Services at the Churches of
St Cassian's, St Cecilia's, St Chad's, St George's & St Mary's Stone

Sunday 31st December 2023

SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

ST CASSIAN'S, CHADDESLEY CORBETT, DY10 4SD

10:30am

UNITED PARISH SERVICE of HOLY COMMUNION at
St Cassian's church, Chaddesley Corbett

There are no other services in the parish today



COLLECT

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life through the
birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

Luke 2:15 - 21

Changes in the Deanery

You will, no doubt, be aware from earlier announcements that there are to be new arrangements in the Deanery that affect us as a parish. Those arrangements are that there will be four churches in Kidderminster East, whilst St Cassian's will join Belbroughton and Fairfield to create a new rural benefice. We will begin to work in these new groupings from **1st January 2024**, though it may take some time before the new parishes are legally constituted. This means that our **United Parish Service on 31st December at 10:30am at St Cassian's** becomes an important final opportunity for us to worship the Lord together as five churches before the new arrangements begin. Amidst all the excitement of Christmas I hope that you will be able to make room for this significant moment.

Yours in Christ,

David

Midweek Services

From **January 2024** there will be a regular, **weekly**, Holy Communion service at **St George's Church**, Radford Avenue, Kidderminster at 10:00am **every Wednesday**. We are grateful to retired clergy who live in the parish for their help and co-operation in making this happen.

The next **parish newsletter** will be published on **Friday 5th January**, covering **Sundays 7th & 14th January**. Items for publication should be sent to news@kidderminstereast.org.uk to reach the office by **Wednesday 3rd January**. Please note that the parish office will be closed over the Christmas/New year period.

Requests for Prayer

- Please continue to pray about the ongoing Team Vicar vacancy, asking that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us in this process.
- For the conflicts in the Gaza Strip, Ukraine, and other parts of the world where families are displaced, frightened and bereaved. Lord, bring your healing peace.

Would you like to be included in the Parish Newsletter for prayer?

Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

DIARY



Homegroups meet on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

The following events are confirmed as being on over Christmas/New Year

Mon 25th Dec

Church services are listed elsewhere in this newsletter

Wed 27th Dec	2:00pm	Knit & Natter	St George's
Fri 29th Dec	10:00am	Coffee Shop with Art Table	St George's
Sun 31st Dec	10:30am	United Parish Holy Communion	St Cassian's
Wed 3rd Jan	9:15am	Café Chad	St Chad's
	10:00am	Art Group at Café Chad	St Chad's
	10:00am	Holy Communion	St George's
	12:00pm	Pop-up Café	St George's
	2:00pm	Knit & Natter	St George's
Thurs 4th Jan	11:00am	Bible Reading Group	The Rectory
Fri 5th Jan	10:00am	Coffee Shop with Art Table	St George's
Sunday 7th Jan	9:30am	Worship for All	St Chad's
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Cecilia's
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St George's
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Stone
	3:30pm	Family Fun	St Cecilia's
	5:30pm	KE Youth Group	St Cecilia's

The full parish diary can be accessed through the online [Year Plan for 2024](#).

Online resources: [Children's corner](#), Messy Church [Facebook group](#), plus many videos on our [YouTube channel](#), posts on our [Facebook page](#) and [parish website](#).

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2024 (Epiphany)

READINGS: Isaiah 60:1 - 6 Ephesians 3:1 - 12 Matthew 2:1 - 12

SUNDAY 14th JANUARY

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

CONTACT US

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TEAM VICAR – VACANCY

WEBSITE Errors, omissions and updates should be reported to

website@kidderminstereast.org.uk