



**Encountering God  
following Jesus  
Spirit-transforming lives**

# THE KIDDERMINSTER EAST PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Epiphany**

*A Warm Welcome to All our Services*

COLLECT	SUNDAY 7 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	
Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.	<b>ST CECILIA'S</b>	
	<b>11:00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>ST CHAD'S</b>	
	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship for All
<b>READINGS</b>  Isaiah 60:1 - 6 Ephesians 3:1 - 12 Matthew 2:1 - 12	<b>ST GEORGE'S</b>	
	<b>11:00am</b>	Morning Worship
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Evening Worship
	<b>ST MARY'S, STONE</b>	
	<b>11:00am</b>	Holy Communion



## **Family Activity Afternoons @StCecilia's**

On the first Sunday of every month

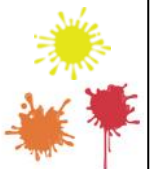
**Next Meeting: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 3:30pm - 5:30pm.**

Crafts, games, refreshments & more, for all the family

@StCecilia's Church, 164 Hoo Road. Kidderminster, DY10 1LP

For more information contact the parish office on 01562 822131

or email [office@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:office@kidderminstereast.org.uk).



## **Kidderminster East Youth (KEY)**

For children and young adults in school years 4 - 13 (ages 9 - 18 yrs)

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

Our **next meeting** is on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 5:30 - 6:30pm**,  
immediately after the Family Activity afternoon.

We meet fortnightly on Sunday evenings. Please check our [webpage](#) for dates & times.

For further information or if you would like to join KEY please contact :

Grace Kerrigan (07807 647279) or Richard Baker (07843 136785)



## Lent 2024

Lent begins in the middle of February and this year for our **Lent Course** we have decided to tackle a study of the **letter to the Romans**. The material for this is being provided by **The Bible Society**, and is based around a video which is then discussed in groups. We will be meeting in St Cecilia's Church on a Tuesday evening (7:30pm, with refreshments beforehand, expecting to be finished by 9:00pm each evening), starting on **20<sup>th</sup> February**. There is a **Participants' Booklet** for the course, and so we would encourage people to sign up to take part, so that we know how many booklets to print. Each booklet will cost **£2.50**: please pay when you sign up. The sign-up lists will be in each church. If you wish to have a look at the material in advance the first session is available on the [Bible Society's website](#); search for "*Romans Course*". David

### Parish Breakfast

The next **Men's Breakfast** will be on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February** at St Cecilia's Church, 9.30am. Please note the change of date. We hope to see as many as possible of you there. Ron & Roger



**Ladies**, we shall meet at **The Eazy Lounge Cafe** from 10.00am on the **same day**. Look forward to seeing you. Lyn & Cynthia

### 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 join us for a great way to start the day. All welcome.

Daily Readings for week beginning <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mark 1:4 - 11 <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	DH
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 21:18 - 32	DH
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 21:33 – end	DH
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 22:1 – 14	DH
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 22:15 – 33	--
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 22:34 - end	DH

Daily Readings for week beginning <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 24:1 – 14	--
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 24:15 – 28	DH
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 24:29 – end	DH
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 25:1 – 13	DH
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 25:14 – 30	--
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 25:31 - end	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 10<sup>th</sup> January**, at **7:30pm** (login from 7:20pm) for 45 mins of prayer, worship and praise. Come and pray for the Team Vicar situation, the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine and other matters. Everyone welcome.



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

## Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd David Hildred for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January

*Ruth*. This week we have a lovely reminder of another indication of how God's intention of sending the Messiah was planned long, long ago. We are used to hearing the prophecies of a virgin with child and the insignificant town of Bethlehem, and here we have a person, Ruth, also essential to the plan. In the opening chapter of Matthew's gospel she is named within the family tree of Jesus (one of the five women in that tree); an honoured place for someone who chooses (as we read this week) to become a worshipper of the Lord. Praise God that His plans are fruitful.

### Diocesan News

**Lunchtime learning** is an opportunity to gather over Zoom from 12.30 - 1.30pm to explore various aspects of your faith. One such item, on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**, is a presentation from Bishop Martin on *Lectio Divina*, or reflective reading of the Bible. You can sign up for this or any of the other lunchtime learning courses by following the link for the full Spring training and events programme (see below).

**Everything you always wanted to know about the Church of England (but were afraid to ask)**. Have you ever been confused by church structures or jargon? If so, this event is for you! Demystifying Benefices and Synods, oversight ministry, pioneers, new worshipping communities, incomprehensible acronyms like PCC, DCC, BMO, DBF etc. You can attend **online** on **5<sup>th</sup> February**, 19:00 – 20:30hrs or **in person** on **7<sup>th</sup> February** 14:00 – 15:30hrs at the Lowestoft Wharf office in Worcester.

Follow this link to book: <https://forms.office.com/e/CajakRPFww>

**Parish Treasurers** might like to attend a free 3 part course from ACAT, suitable for new treasurers or as a refresher, covering all aspects including Bookkeeping, Ministry Share and filing Annual Returns, etc. Dates are Thursdays **25<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb & 8<sup>th</sup> Feb**, 2:00pm - 4:00pm online. To book follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/40JEf1NHcD>

Please click on this link for the full Spring [Training and Events programme](#).

### Friends of the Holy Land

Horror news comes from the Middle East via our TVs, radios and mobiles on a daily basis. Shortly before Christmas news filtered through of an attack on the Holy Family parish in Gaza where many were sheltering. Two women were reportedly killed, believed to be a mother and daughter, the latter murdered while attempting to rescue her elderly mother who had been shot by snipers. Others were seriously injured. We can become desensitised by these daily reports. Please continue to pray for the situation. You can find news from a Christian perspective, prayer resources and ways to help or donate on the [FHL website](#).



#### Friday morning coffee shop

at St George's, 10:00 -12:00noon including **Art Table**. All ages and abilities welcome, materials provided, minimum charge. No need to book, just turn up!

#### Parish Prayerlink

Our praying friends across the whole parish are happy to pray for you. email prayer requests to [prayerlink@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:prayerlink@kidderminstereast.org.uk)



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# Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## COLLECT

Eternal Lord,  
our beginning and our end:  
bring us with the whole creation  
to your glory, hidden through past  
ages and made known  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## READINGS

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

## SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

### ST CECILIA'S

**11:00am** Morning Worship

### ST CHAD'S

**9:30am** Holy Communion

### ST GEORGE'S

**11:00am** Baptism Service

### ST MARY'S, STONE

**11:00am** Morning Worship

### Stone Corner Café

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January  
at St Mary's Stone



Call in any time between  
2:00pm - 4:00pm



for a chat, a drink and a slice of cake.

**Everyone welcome.**

### Young at Heart

Wednesdays 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
at St Cecilia's Church



10<sup>th</sup> Jan *Zumba with Bev*

17<sup>th</sup> Jan *Gt Witley Church* Howard Robinson

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

## Children receiving Communion



It is possible in the Church of England for children to receive Communion before being confirmed some years later. In order for this to happen there needs to be agreement from the parents, and a short preparation course. I will be running such a course in the near future for two children I'm aware of. If there are others who would like to be considered for this course please get in touch with me.

*David, Team Rector.*

## 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.

## Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd David Hildred for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January

*Matthew 22.* Have you noticed how the parables that Jesus tells in these chapters are not 'lovely fables with a moral message' where everyone lives happily every after? Instead he uses language and imagery that strike through to the heart and challenge long-held and settled religious opinions. The Pharisees and Sadducees strike back with their tricky questions, but Jesus uses each opportunity to lead them, and us, into a deeper understanding of living in God's long-term, eternal kingdom. What are we learning today?

### Archbishop to visit Diocese

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will visit the Diocese on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

His schedule for the day is now available on the [Diocesan website](#) where you can also read more about the visit and his aims for the event.

### Farewell to Rev Mann-Ray

Rev Andrew Mann-Ray, whom many of you may know through his ministry at Trinity Methodist Church and Baxter United Reform Church, is leaving Kidderminster after many years. His leaving service is 3 pm on the **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at Trinity Methodist Church. The preacher will be Rev Nick Collison.

Tea & cake available afterwards.  
All are welcome

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place each year from the **18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January**. It provides an opportunity to focus our prayers on Christian unity, as well as speak about and experience Christian unity personally, in our own locality, as well as engage with what happens at a national level. The theme for 2024 is: *'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself'* (Lk 10:27). It has come from an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso, facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community (CCN). They have reflected on the familiar story of the Good Samaritan, and all are encouraged to *Go and do likewise*. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family. Brothers and sisters from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies and the CCN in Burkina Faso collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections. [See more online....](#)



### Requests for Prayer

- Please pray about the ongoing Team Vicar vacancy as recruiting efforts progress, 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.
- For our friends in St Cassian's church as they leave Kidderminster East to join a new parish; may the Lord watch over and guide them in their journey.

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

*Please contact the Parish Office for more details.*

## DIARY

Homegroups meet on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month.

### Weekly Events

Café Chad	Mondays & Weds	9:15am - 12:15pm	St Chad's
Knit & Natter/Craft	Mondays	10:00am - 12:00noon	St Chad's
Art Group	Wednesdays	10:00am - 12:00noon	St Chad's
Knit & Natter	Wednesdays	2:00pm - 4:00pm	St George's
Young at Heart	Weds in term time	2:00pm - 4:00pm	St Cecilia's
Coffee Shop/Art table	Fridays	10:00am - 12:00noon	St George's
Meet and Eat	Fridays	from 12:00noon	Morrison's Café

### Other events during the next fortnight are listed below

Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00am	Holy Communion	St George's
	2:00pm	Stone Corner Café	St Mary's Stone
	7:30pm	Parish Prayer	Online via Zoom
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Church services are listed elsewhere in this publication</i>		
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7:00pm	Standing Committee	Online via Zoom
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00am	Holy Communion	St George's
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	9:30am	Morning Worship	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
	6:00pm	KE Youth Group	St Cecilia's
	6:30pm	Evening Worship	St George's
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	7:30pm	St Chad's DCC	St Chad'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](#).

The next parish newsletter will be published on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January**, covering **Sundays 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January**. Items for publication should be sent to [news@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:news@kidderminstereast.org.uk) to reach the office by **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**.

### SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY

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

### SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY (Candlemas)

**READINGS:** Malachi 3:1 - 5      Hebrews 2:14 - end      Luke 2:22 - 40

### CONTACT US

PARISH OFFICE [office@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:office@kidderminstereast.org.uk) 01562 822131

NEWSLETTER [news@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:news@kidderminstereast.org.uk)

TEAM RECTOR – David Hildred 01562 743895 / 07906 156239

TEAM VICAR – VACANCY

WEBSITE Errors, omissions and updates should be reported to

WEBSITE: [www.kidderminstereast.org.uk](http://www.kidderminstereast.org.uk)

FACEBOOK: Parish of Kidderminster East  
[d.hildred@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:d.hildred@kidderminstereast.org.uk)

[website@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:website@kidderminstereast.org.uk)