




**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 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Warm Welcome to All our Services*

COLLECT		SUNDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> DECEMBER	
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.		ST CHAD'S	
		9:30am	Nativity
<b>READINGS</b>  Isaiah 7:10 - 16 Romans 1:1 - 7 Matthew 1:18 - end		ST CECILIA'S	
		9:45am	Nativity
		ST GEORGE'S	
		6:30pm	Carol Service
		ST MARY'S, STONE	
		11:00am	Holy Communion



## Longest Night Service

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 7:00 pm

St Cecilia's Church, 164 Hoo Road, DY10 1LP



For many, Christmas can be a season of joy and light. But for some, it is also a time when grief, loss, or struggle feel especially challenging. On the longest night of the year, we gather in quiet reflection, prayer, and gentle music - to hold space for sorrow, to remember those we love, and to find hope in the promise that light shines in the darkness. Come as you are - bring your memories, your burdens, and your hopes.

## Changes to Midweek Services over Christmas/New Year period

at St George's Church, Radford Avenue, DY10 2ES

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December:** No 10:00am service on Christmas Eve

The regular, weekly, 10:00am service will restart on **Wednesday 31<sup>th</sup> December.**



## *A Christmas Message from your Clergy*

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas, centred on Jesus,  
and Blessings for the New Year, as we walk into the future with him.



## Bereavement Café - *Life after Loss*



If you are grieving the loss of a loved one you are warmly invited to join us at the bereavement café '*Life after Loss*'. There will be refreshments and a warm welcome provided by volunteers with a listening ear.

**Next meeting: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 2:00pm - 4:00pm** at St Cecilia's, Hoo Road. For more info email Carol or Alison on [lifeafterlosskep@gmail.com](mailto:lifeafterlosskep@gmail.com) or call the parish office on 01562 822131

### Donations at Jennie's funeral

Jennie Stanton's family would like to thank all those who contributed towards the total of £225.40 which has been sent to Alzheimer's Research UK in her memory.



## Parish Prayers Online via Zoom

**Morning Prayer with Daily readings at 8:00am:** David will lead Morning Prayer via Zoom through the week. Please check the tables below. When you see David's initials in the Zoom column there will be **Morning Prayer** that day. The tables also give one of the daily readings. 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. Please join David and others for a great way to start the day.

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Matthew 19:1 – 12	DH
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Matthew 19:13 – 15	DH
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 19:16 – end	DH
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 1:18 – end	--
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 7:51 – end <i>Stephen, deacon, first martyr</i>	--
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	1 John 1:1 – end <i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	--

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> December		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 2:13 – 18 <i>Holy Innocents</i>	--
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	Colossians 1:15 – 23	DH
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	Colossians 1:24 – 2:7	DH
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Luke 2:15 – 21 <i>Naming &amp; Circumcision of Jesus</i>	--
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Colossians 2:8 – end	--
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Colossians 3:1 - 11	DH

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	Colossians 3:12 – 4:1	DH
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup>	Colossians 4:2 – end	DH
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 20:1 – 16	DH
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 20:17 – 28	DH
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 20:29 – end	--
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 23:1 – 12	DH

### Monthly Parish Prayer Meeting:

Please join us on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**January** for 45 mins of prayer, worship and praise for the parish and the wider world **online via Zoom**.



Login from 7:20pm for a **7:30pm** start. It's easy! Just request a link from the address below. All welcome.

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



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# Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

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

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> / Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Christingle</b>		<b>St Cecilia</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>11:30pm</b>	<b>Late-night Holy Communion</b>	in both	
		<b>St Mary &amp; St George</b>	(the choir sings from 11:00pm)	
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Christmas Day Holy Communion – take your pick:</b>		
<b>December</b>	<b>9:30am</b>			<b>St Chad</b>
	<b>9:45am</b>			<b>St Cecilia</b>
	<b>11:00am</b>			<b>St George</b>

## COLLECT for Christmas Eve

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.

## COLLECT for Christmas Day

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 for Christmas Eve


Isaiah 9.2 - 7  
Titus 2.11 - 14  
Luke 2.1 - 14



## READINGS for Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7 - 10  
Hebrews 1.1 - 4  
John 1.1 - 14








### Café Chad - Christmas and New Year Opening

at St Chad's Church, Burcher Green

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**      **9:30am - 11:30am**
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**      **9:30am - 11:30am**
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December**      **9:30am - 11:30am**
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**      **9:30am - 11:30am**

There will be no Art Group over this period. Normal opening times (9:15am - 12:15pm) resume on **5<sup>th</sup> January**, as does the Art Group.



## Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd Jacqueline Shalloe for 19<sup>th</sup> December

*Matthew 18:1-20.* Reflecting on the children in these passages, one is struck by the powerful emphasis Jesus places on humility and innocence. Children, in their openness and lack of pretence, embody qualities that are valued in the kingdom of heaven. Their trust, vulnerability and readiness to forgive offer a lesson for all who seek true greatness; it is not found in status or power, but in a humble spirit and genuine acceptance of others. Welcoming and caring for children is shown to be not only a mark of kindness, but also a way of welcoming Christ himself. Furthermore, the warnings against causing little ones to stumble highlight the responsibility entrusted to every believer. Children are seen as precious and protected, their angels ever-present before God. Through the story of the lost sheep, we are reminded of the importance of each individual, especially the vulnerable, and the joy that comes from their restoration and inclusion. In caring for children and learning from their example, we are invited into a deeper understanding of faith, compassion, and the heart of God.

### St George's Pop up Café

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
and first Wed of each month  
12:00noon - 2:00pm  
at St George's Church



**Lunch menu:** Jacket potato with choice of filling followed by cake, fresh fruit, tea/ coffee. Come along for a **warm lunch** and a **warm welcome**.

*No charge. Donations welcome.*

### St George's Coffee Shop

Will be **CLOSED** on  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December.**  
It will open again on  
**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**  
and most Fridays throughout the year  
**10:00am - 12:00noon**  
*Includes Craft Group \*\* All welcome*



### Grumpy Old Owl and the Joy of Christmas



Grumpy old owl doesn't like it when Mary, Joseph and a donkey disturb him in his barn. You can watch this animation from the Church of England at <https://youtu.be/8HgNSB6XafM>

**Knit & Natter**  
at St George's Church.  
**Every Wednesday**  
2 - 4pm.



Come for a knit or come for a natter, either or both are fine! **Please check opening times over Christmas.**



### Christmas Day Lunch

Churches Together in Kidderminster are hosting a **FREE** Christmas Day Lunch, 1pm - 3pm at Kidderminster Baptist Church, Franche Road, for those who would otherwise be alone this Christmas. Do you know anyone who you would like to invite? To book a place please call 01562 824657, use the QR code or visit [www.ctik.info](http://www.ctik.info).

### Christmas videos for Children



**Thy Kingdom Come** have produced a new cartoon series of **Cheeky Pandas** to help children learn the true meaning of Christ this Christmas.

If you have young children you can find these festive specials at <https://cheekypandas.com/cheeky-pandas-series/#specials>.



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# First Sunday of Christmas

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

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

## SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

**ST CHAD'S CHURCH, Burcher Green, Kidderminster, DY10 3AY**

10:30am

**UNITED PARISH SERVICE**

**"Pick a Carol"**



*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 63:7 - 9  
Hebrews 2:10 - end  
Matthew 2:13 - end

### Exploring faith

The New Year might be exactly the right moment for you to explore more of the Christian faith. If you would like to work towards Baptism or Confirmation, or simply want somewhere to ask questions about believing, then please contact David or Jacqueline.



### Family Activity Afternoons



@StCecilia's

There will be

**NO MEETING in January.**

First meeting of 2026 is on **1<sup>st</sup> February.**



The **parish year plan** is available online giving times and dates of all parish events and services. You can access the year plan using the link: [Year Plan 2026](#). If you have any events that you would like adding, please contact the parish office.

### Parish Prayerlink

Our praying friends across the whole parish are happy to pray for you. Requests for prayer for specific people/situations can be emailed to

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



### Climate Action

**Care for God's creation:** have you considered asking your energy supplier if any of your power comes from green sources? Think about possible ways of reducing your personal energy consumption. [Learn more](#) about the Diocese's commitment to Climate Action.



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# Epiphany

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

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

## COLLECT

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.

## READINGS

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



## SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

### ST CHAD'S

**9:30am** | Worship for All

### ST CECILIA'S

**9:45am** | Holy Communion

### ST GEORGE'S

**11:00am** | Morning Worship

**6:30pm** | Evening Worship

### ST MARY'S, STONE

**11:00am** | Holy Communion

## Bible Reading Group



Our next meeting is on  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January,**  
11:00am at the Rectory.  
This month we will be  
reading *Ruth chapter 1*

Refreshments served from 10:45am.  
This meeting is open to all but please let  
me know you are coming, either directly  
or via the parish office, so we have some  
idea of numbers, thank you. *Hilary Hildred.*



## Young at Heart

Every **Wednesday** at  
St Cecilia's Church

Starting with tea/coffee from **1:00pm.**

Meeting time **2:00pm - 4:00pm.**

**No meetings on 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**7<sup>th</sup> Jan**                      *Zumba*                      Bev Slater

**14<sup>th</sup> Jan**                     *Rhythmicity*                     Drumming

For more information please contact the  
organiser, Jean Bailey, via the parish office.

## Men's Parish Breakfast

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January** at 9:30am  
at **St Cecilia's Church.**



Full English breakfast for which there is no  
charge. Come along for fellowship, fun  
and good food. *Roger & Ron*



## Ladies Coffee Morning

**Ladies!** Our next **get-together**  
will be on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January** at **The**  
**Eazy Lounge Café,** Vicar Street at 10am.  
No booking required. Look forward to  
seeing you there. *Lyn and Cynthia*

The next **parish newsletter** will be published on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026,** and will  
cover **Sundays 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January.** Please send items for inclusion to  
[news@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:news@kidderminstereast.org.uk) by **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** at the latest. Thank you.

## Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd Jacqueline Shalloe for 26<sup>th</sup> December

*Acts 7:51–end*. Reflecting on the account of Stephen in *Acts 7:51–8:1*, we are confronted by the remarkable courage and steadfast faith he displayed in the face of overwhelming opposition. Stephen's words, though challenging and direct, were spoken with a deep conviction and a desire for his hearers to recognise the truth. Even as he was surrounded by hostility, his focus remained fixed on God, and his vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God offered him strength and comfort in his final moments. What stands out most is Stephen's extraordinary ability to forgive. As he was being stoned, he echoed the words of Jesus, praying for his persecutors rather than cursing them. This selfless act of forgiveness challenges us to examine our reactions to adversity.

### Diocesan News

**Bishop Hugh Nelson** was [officially confirmed as the 114th Bishop of Worcester](#) by the Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally at a special service at St Mary-le-Bow Church in London. All are invited to Bishop Hugh's [service of welcome](#) to the Diocese which will take place in Worcester Cathedral at 2pm on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. Follow the above link to find a prayer for the Bishop.

A summary of the latest meeting of the **Diocesan Synod** is available on the [diocesan website](#). Opening prayers were led by our own Rev Jacqueline Shalloe, Team Vicar in Kidderminster East.

**Prayer Diaries** for Dec - March and now available in church. Please take one.

The full **Spring Training and Events programme** is now available at <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/events-training/>

## Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd Jacqueline Shalloe for 2<sup>nd</sup> January

*Colossians 2:8–end*. As we reflect on this passage from Colossians, it is striking to consider how the birth of Jesus marks the beginning of the fulfilment described here. In his humble arrival in Bethlehem, God chose to enter the world not with grandeur but in vulnerability, setting the stage for all the fullness of the Deity to dwell in human form. The nativity, then, is not only a moment of joy and wonder but also the foundation upon which our freedom from hollow traditions and human rules rests. Christ's birth is the gateway to the new life and forgiveness celebrated in these verses, reminding us that the hope and transformation offered to us began in a manger.

### Please Pray for:

- Bishop Hugh Nelson, who will be welcomed at the Cathedral on 17<sup>th</sup> January.
- Those who will find Christmas difficult this year because they have lost loved ones.
- Those less fortunate than ourselves, who may be homeless, hungry and lonely this Christmas. May the Lord give them the help and comfort that they need.

*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> weeks of the month, usually on a Tuesday.

### Regular Weekly Events (Please check for Christmas closures)

Café Chad	Mondays & Weds	9:15am - 12:15pm	St Chad's
BYO Craft/Knitting	Mondays	10:00am - 12:00noon	St Chad's
Art Group	Mondays & Weds	10:00am - 12:00noon	St Chad's
Young at Heart	Wednesdays	1:00pm - 4:00pm	St Cecilia's
Knit & Natter	Wednesdays	2:00pm - 4:00pm	St George'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 (Not including Christmas Services: see listings elsewhere)

Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	2:00pm	Bereavement Café	St Cecilia's
	7:00pm	Longest Night Service	St Cecilia's
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00am	NO MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION	St George's
Christmas Day	<i>Services are listed elsewhere in this publication</i>		
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:30am	United Parish Service	St Chad's
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10:00am	Holy Communion	St George's
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Regular Sunday services are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter</i>		
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00am	Holy Communion	St George's
	12:00pm	Pop-up Café	St George's
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11:00am	Bible Reading group	The Rectory
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Chad's
	9:45am	Café Church	St Cecilia's
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St George's
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Stone

The full parish diary is available online [Year Plan 2025](#) and [Year Plan 2026](#).

Online resources: See our [YouTube channel](#), [Facebook page](#) and [parish website](#).

Please note that the **Parish Office** only has limited opening over **Christmas and New Year**. We will be back to normal as of **5<sup>th</sup> January**. Thank you for your patience.

### SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY - Baptism of Christ

**Readings:** Isaiah 42:1 - 9      Acts 10:34 - 43      Matthew 3:13 - end

### SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

**Readings:** Isaiah 49:1 - 7      1 Corinthians 1:1 - 9      John 1:29 - 42

### CONTACT US:

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