



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 22nd December 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Warm Welcome to All our Services

COLLECT	SUNDAY 22 nd 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 (with Scratch Nativity)
	ST CECILIA'S	
	6:30pm	Carol Service (no 9:45am service)
	ST GEORGE'S	
	11:00am	Nativity (with Scratch Nativity)
	6:30pm	Carol Service
	ST MARY'S, STONE	
	11:00am	Carol Service
READINGS		
Micah 5:2 - 5a		
Hebrews 10.5 - 10		
Luke 1.39 - 45		

Amazing Days - Scratch Nativity

You are invited to **St George's Church** at **11:00am** on **Sunday 22nd December** for a **Scratch Nativity** entitled *Amazing Days*. There will be refreshments provided after the service. All welcome.



There is also a **Family Friendly Scratch Nativity** at **St Chad's church** at **9:30am**.



Those **Cheeky Pandas** have been busy recording **Christmas Specials** including four videos, each looking at [Christmas from a different perspective](#). Fun for the younger generation over Christmas.

Bereavement Café - *Life after Loss*

We will have our last '**Life after Loss**' café of the year on **Monday 23rd December, 2:00pm - 4:00pm** at **St Cecilia's, Hoo Road**. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one this Christmas, the bereavement café is here for you to meet informally with others in a similar situation. Come and enjoy a cup of tea/ coffee & cake in a warm & friendly atmosphere. For more info email Carol, Freda or Alison on lifafterlosskep@gmail.com or the parish office on 01562 822131.



Christingle at St Cecilia's

Join us at St Cecilia's, 164 Hoo Road for our **Christmas Eve Christingle service** at 4:00pm. A family friendly time together with familiar Carols and your own Christingle orange. Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together. We will be accepting donations for the **Children's Society**. You can also donate online via the [Children's Society website](#).



Café Chad: Recycling of Christmas Cards



Mattie would be glad to receive USED Christmas and other cards for upcycling at Café Chad. We prefer the whole card or the back to be partly removed leaving quite a margin so the front is undamaged. We also collect used cellophane card wrappers. Just put them in the box at the back of the church. Thanks to your kind donations we were able to give £200 to charities during the Autumn alone.

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

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 23 rd December		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 23 rd	Isaiah 52:13 – end of 53	DH
Tue 24 th	Isaiah 53:1 – end	DH
Wed 25 th	Isaiah 9:2 – 7	--
Thu 26 th	Acts 7:51 – end <i>Stephen, deacon, martyr</i>	--
Fri 27 th	John 21:19b – end <i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	--
Sat 28 th	Matthew 2:13-18 <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	--

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 30 th December		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 30 th Dec	John 1:19 – 28	DH
Tue 31 st	John 1:29 – 34	DH
Wed 1 st Jan	Luke 2:15 – 21 <i>Naming & Circumcision of Jesus</i>	--
Thu 2 nd	John 1:35 – 42	DH
Fri 3 rd	John 1:43 – end	--
Sat 4 th	John 2:1 - 12	DH

Daily Readings for week beginning Monday 6 th January 2025		
Date	Bible passage	Zoom
Mon 6 th	John 2:13 – end	DH
Tue 7 th	1 John 3:1 – end	DH
Wed 8 th	1 John 4:7 – end	DH
Thu 9 th	1 John 5:1 – 12	DH
Fri 10 th	1 John 5:13 – end	--
Sat 11 th	2 John 1 - 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: Please join us on **Wednesday 8th January** for the usual monthly 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. Just request a link from the address below. All 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**.

Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd Guy Hewlett for Friday 20th December

In *Isaiah 51* the remnant of Israel are comforted because of their Glorious Prospect! We are a few days away from the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day – his first coming. In *chapter 52* we read “See my servant will act wisely; he will be raised up and highly exalted”. The people of Israel did not yet understand all that Jesus would do – what he has now done! This Christmas time rejoice! You are so loved that Christ came, he died, he rose from the dead and he will come again!



Young at Heart

is closed over Christmas and New Year.

First session of 2025 is:

8th Jan A Quiz set by Terry Hadleigh
Open on **Wednesdays** at St Cecilia's Church, Hoo Road

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

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

For more information or if you wish to join this group please contact the parish office.

St George's Pop up Café

We are NOT open on 1st January 2025

Instead we will be open on:

Wednesday 8th January

12:00noon - 2:00pm

at St George's Church



Lunch time Special: 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.

Knit & Natter

at **St George's Church**

We are **CLOSED** on Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Open again on **8th January, 2 - 4pm**



Café Chad - Christmas and New Year Opening

at St Chad's Church, Burcher Green

- **Monday 23rd December** **9:30am - 11:30am**
- **Wednesday 25th December** **CLOSED**
- **Monday 30th December** **9:30am - 11:30am**
- **Wednesday 1st January 2025** **CLOSED**



St George's Coffee Shop



Please note that St George's coffee shop will be **CLOSED** on **Friday 27th December**. It will restart on **Friday 3rd January 2025** and open as normal **every Friday** at 10:00am - 12:00noon thereafter.

Stone Corner Café

Wednesday 8th 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.



'Meet and Eat'

Come and join us every

Friday at 12.00 noon

at **Morrison Café**

Green St, Kidderminster

DY10 1AZ. We will continue meeting each

Friday over the Christmas period. New-



It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Megan

Jones who has had a

baby boy called Wyn,

8lb 4oz, born on his due

date 10th December. Both recovering well

and settled at home.



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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

Tuesday 24th/Wednesday 25th December 2024

<i>St Chad's Church, Burcher Green, Kidderminster</i>			
Christmas Day	Holy Communion		9:30am
<i>St Cecilia's Church, Hoo Road, Kidderminster</i>			
Christmas Eve	Christingle		4:00pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion		9:45am
<i>St George's Church, Radford Avenue, Kidderminster</i>			
Christmas Eve	'Midnight' Holy Communion <i>Carols from 11pm</i>		11:30pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion		10:30am
<i>St Mary's Church, Stone</i>			
Christmas Eve	'Midnight' Holy Communion		11:30pm

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



Changes to Midweek Services over Christmas/New Year period

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

Wednesday 25th December: 10:30am Holy Communion for Christmas morning

Wednesday 1st January 2025: No service on New Year's day

The regular, weekly 10:00am service will restart on Wednesday 8th January.



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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 29th December 2024

SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER

ST MARY'S, STONE HILL, STONE, DY10 4BE

10:30am

UNITED PARISH SERVICE

Carols and Communion

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

1 Samuel 2.18 - 20, 26

Colossians 3.12 - 17

Luke 2.41 - end

Parking for United Service at St Mary's on 29th December

There is **plenty of space** to park near St Mary's, however, please be aware that Stone House Cottage field is currently **unavailable** due to muddy conditions. Please park on the **grass verges** on either side of the main road (A448) and be sure to take care if you are crossing the road on foot. There is also space to park along Butts Lane which is opposite the church.



Bible Reading group

Our next meeting will be on

**Thursday 9th January,
11:00am at the Rectory.**

We will be reading *Mark Chapter 10*
Refreshments served from 10:45am.

Open to all but please let me know you are coming, either directly or via the parish office, thank you. Hilary Hildred.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Cathedral [Christmas Tree festival](#) is back again this year and is open to visit between **now** and **Monday 6th January 2025** (excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), during normal visiting hours 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 12.30-3pm on Sundays.



No pre-booking required.

Please note that the **Parish Office** will be closed between **Tuesday 24th December** and **Thursday 2nd January**. Wishing everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd Guy Hewlett for Friday 27th December

John 21 We have travelled through Advent and Christmas Day has come and gone!! Perhaps you are wondering what it was all about? Today we celebrate St John, Apostle and Evangelist. In the Gospel of St John chapter 21 we find that the disciples were wondering too. Jesus had been crucified and the disciples were so lost as to what to do they returned to what they had known so well – fishing. Having fished all night they had caught nothing. It must have been salt in their wounds of grief. Then Jesus appears on the shore. Following his guidance they catch a huge number of fish. And then Jesus barbeques the fish for them and they see who he really is – Jesus risen from the dead. And he said to Peter “Follow me!” As the New Year approaches may 2025 be a year of glorious catches for you and may you follow Jesus more closely than ever before!

Diocesan News

Kate Hurst from Sustainable Church Flowers has [recorded a video](#) demonstrating how to make a beautiful, eco-friendly Advent wreath, made without floral foam and using locally sourced greenery and moss on a reusable metal frame.

Fed up of all the waste at Christmas? **Called to Action** offers suggestions on how churches can have a more environmentally friendly Christmas. [Read it here.](#)

Licensing of Jacqueline Shalloe

Jacqueline will be licensed by Bishop Martin at a service at St Chad's on **Sunday 23rd February 2025, 4:00pm**. This will be the official start of her role as Team Vicar.

Please be praying for Jacqueline and John as they prepare to move.

David

Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd David Hildred for Friday 3rd January

John 1. Here we are in the last few days of the Christmas season before we slip into Epiphany and we read in this chapter (and tomorrow the next chapter) some revealing reactions to the arrival of Jesus. These reactions, of course, are no longer to the arrival of a baby, but to the start of the public ministry of the one who was given. There is John's deference to the Greater One, his repeated revelation of the Lamb of God, Andrew's response to the call, and his zeal in sharing that Jesus is the Messiah, Nathanael's surprise, and his declaration of worship. May this end of the Christmas season be full of our similar reactions.

Requests for Prayer

- At this time of Peace and Joy, we think of those in conflict zones around the world; may the peace of Christ may be present over the Christmas period and beyond.
- For those nearer to home for whom Christmas may not be such a joyful time, either through sickness, bereavement, homelessness or lack of means.
- As we enter a New Year, may we all draw closer to Jesus during 2025.

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

Please contact the Parish Office for more details.



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Epiphany Sunday

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

Sunday 5th January 2025

COLLECT	SUNDAY 5 th 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.	ST CHAD'S	
	9:30am	Worship for All
	ST CECILIA'S	
	9:45am	Holy Communion
	ST GEORGE'S	
	11:00am	Morning Worship
READINGS	6:30pm	Evening Worship
	ST MARY'S, STONE	
	11:00am	Holy Communion
Isaiah 60:1 - 8 Ephesians 3.1 - 12 Matthew 2.1 - 12		



Family Activity Afternoons @StCecilia's

On the first Sunday of every month

Next Meeting: Sunday 5th 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.






Kidderminster East Youth (KEY)

KEYouth is a parish wide young people's discipleship group. We meet fortnightly in St Cecilia's Church. We play games, eat food, go climbing or bowling, read the bible and pray together. We regularly meet with other church youth groups through our links with Wyre Forest Youth For Christ.

Ages range from 9-18 (School years 5-13). If you, or a young person you know, would like to know more please contact the Youth Team via email at Keyouth@kidderminstereast.org.uk or through the parish office on 01562 822131.



The next **parish newsletter** will be published on **Friday 10th January**, covering **Sundays 12th and 19th January 2025** Items for inclusion should be sent to news@kidderminstereast.org.uk by **Wednesday 8th January** at the latest. Thank you.

DIARY

Homegroups meet on 1st and 3rd 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
Knit & Natter/Craft	Mondays	10:00am - 12:00noon	St Chad's
Art Group	Wednesdays	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 during the next three weeks are listed below

Mon 23 rd Dec	9:30am	Café Chad limited opening	St Chad's
	2:00pm	Bereavement Café	St Cecilia's
Tues 24 th Dec	4:00pm	Christingle	St Cecilia's
		<i>Other church services today are listed elsewhere in this publication</i>	
Wed 25 th Dec		<i>Today's church services are listed elsewhere in this publication</i>	
Sun 29 th Dec	10:30am	United Parish Service	St Mary's Stone
Mon 30 th Dec	9:30am	Café Chad limited opening	St Chad's
Sun 5 th Jan		<i>Today's church services are listed elsewhere in this publication</i>	
	3:30pm	Family Activities Afternoon	St Cecilia's
Wed 8 th Jan	10:00am	Holy Communion	St George's
	12:00pm	Pop-up Café	St George's
	2:00pm	Stone Corner Café	St Mary's Stone
	7:30pm	Parish Prayer Meeting	Online via Zoom
Thurs 9 th Jan	11:00am	Bible Reading Group	The Rectory
Sun 12 th 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 can be accessed through the online [Year Plan for 2024](#).

You can also now access the [Year Plan for 2025](#). Please send updates to the office.

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

SUNDAY 12th JANUARY - Baptism of Christ

READINGS: Isaiah 43:1 - 7 Acts 8.14 - 17 Luke 3.15 - 17, 21 - 22

SUNDAY 19th JANUARY

READINGS: Isaiah 62.1 - 5 1 Corinthians 12.1 - 11 John 2.1 - 11

CONTACT US

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TEAM VICAR – VACANCY

WEBSITE Errors, omissions and updates should be reported to

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