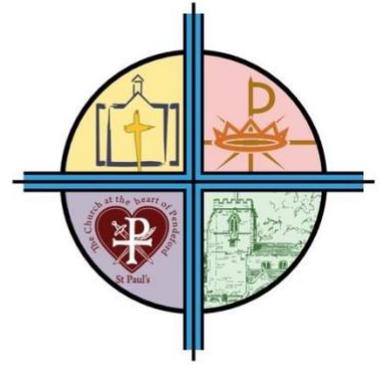


The Parish of

TETTENHALL REGIS



Serving the communities of Tettenhall, Aldersley, Bilbrook & Pendeford

Notices for the Parish for the weeks beginning 6th December & 13th December

Important Notice: Churches are able to open for worship again. The booking system has resumed for all churches services via the link:- bit.ly/churchbooking Alternatively please phone Keith in the Parish Office on 01902 751622. Please do contact a member of the clergy or the Parish Office if you need support in any way.

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER, 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings

- Isaiah 40:1-11** **The people of God are comforted; there is hope for them following exile.**
- Psalms 85:1-2,8-13** **A prayer for the restoration of God's favour on his people.**
- 2 Peter 3:8-15** **Be ready, prepare yourselves as you wait for the day of the Lord.**
- Mark 1:1-8** **The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

Hymns

Hills of the north, rejoice

Long ago, prophets knew

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Great is the darkness

Daily Eucharist Readings *(for your own reading and reflection through the week)*

- Monday** **Isaiah 35, Psalm 85:7-end, Luke 5:17-26**
- Tuesday** **Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 96:1,10-end, Matthew 18:12-14**
- Wednesday** **Isaiah 40:25-end, Psalm 103:8-13, Matthew 11:28-end**
- Thursday** **Isaiah 41:13-20, Psalm 145:1,8-13, Matthew 11:11-15**
- Friday** **Isaiah 48:17-19, Psalm 1, Matthew 11:16-19**
- Saturday** **Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4,9-11, Psalm 80:1-4,18-19, Matthew 17:10-13**

SUNDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end	Isaiah proclaims the Good News of Deliverance for Israel.
Psalms 126	Rejoicing when Israel returned to Zion and praying for the future.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Rejoice and give thanks, pray without ceasing as you wait for the Lord
John 1:6-8, 19-28	John was sent from God to be a witness to the light, to Jesus.

Hymns

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Rejoice in the Lord always

Restore, O Lord

Wait for the Lord

Daily Eucharist Readings

Monday	Numbers 24:2-7,15-17, Psalm 25:3-8, Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday	Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13, Psalm 34:1-6,21-22, Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday	Isaiah 45:6-8,18,21-end, Psalm 85:7-end, Luke 7:18-23
Thursday	Genesis 49:2,8-10, Psalm 72:1-5,18-19, Matthew 1:1-17
Friday	Jeremiah 23:5-8, Psalm 72:1-2,12-13,18-end, Matthew 1:18-24
Saturday	Judges 13:2-7,24-end, Psalm 71:3-8, Luke 1:5-25

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

St Michael's, Holy Cross, Christ the King, St Paul's – Our church buildings are now all open for worship but with government restrictions still in place – please book in advance.

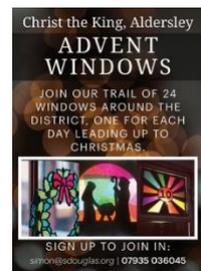
Advent & Christmas

Although still under restrictions, with our church buildings now able to reopen, we are offering a combination of recorded and streamed services. If you are interested in supporting both in-church and online services, with readings, hymns & songs, prayers, etc., please speak to one of the clergy. A schedule of Christmas services can be found below.

Advent Windows - Aldersley, Claregate and Bilbrook – all welcome to join in!



Since this Christmas will be very different from usual we would like to have a bit of Christmas cheer around our villages. We are encouraging people to decorate a window of their house for Advent.



Each day a new window will be revealed. The window will be posted on the Holy Cross and Christ the King Facebook pages and and on the Bilbrook, Codsall and surrounding areas Facebook group.

We suggest that windows are lit from 4 to 9 pm each evening, and that each window be visible from its first designated date until the calendar finishes on Twelfth Night (5th January). Please be aware though that we can't guarantee this if someone's circumstances change. A Google map of all the windows included will be available so come and find them all!

To apply to join in please send an email to Rev'd Simon Douglas (simon@sdouglas.org or 07935 036045) and you will be allocated an advent number. We need at least 24 windows for each area. Once you've got your number, it's up to you to decorate your window, visible from the street, depicting a Christmas scene including your advent number. On your designated date in December please turn the light on in that room so

your creation can be seen. On Christmas Eve we will have a walkable advent route with all windows visible.

Alternatively, if you are not able to take part in the advent windows, why not put a picture of an angel in your window during advent to bring comfort and joy at this time of year.

Every blessing. Rev'd Simon

Christmas Schedule 2020 (booking needed for services in church)

6th December 3pm Christingle - Sunday School (online fb.me/tettenhallregis/)

13th December 10.30am Lay-led Christingle Service, St Paul's Church

20th December – Carol Services

4.00pm - Carols around the tree (weather permitting), Holy Cross

6.15pm for 6.30pm – via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440358814?pwd=Q1k3L05peFdEQzdodE5xemlkZjFDUT09>

Meeting ID: 884 4035 8814 Passcode: 452260

6.30pm - Evening of carols and readings, Christ the King – in church

6.30pm Service of Christmas Readings and Music at St Michael's Church – booking required.

24th December Christmas Eve:-

Crib service 4pm online – Parish Facebook Page and YouTube Channel

Midnight Services 11.00pm At Holy Cross

11.30pm Online

25th December Christmas Day – in-church services (booking required)

10.00am Christ the King; 10.30am St Michaels; 10.30am St Paul's

Christingle at Home

Celebrate Christingle at home with your family you'll still be part of a community of people sharing the light of Christ and thinking about how to share the light with others?

Christingle celebrations raise over 1.2 million pounds each year to support the work of The Children's Society, a charity helping vulnerable children and young people.

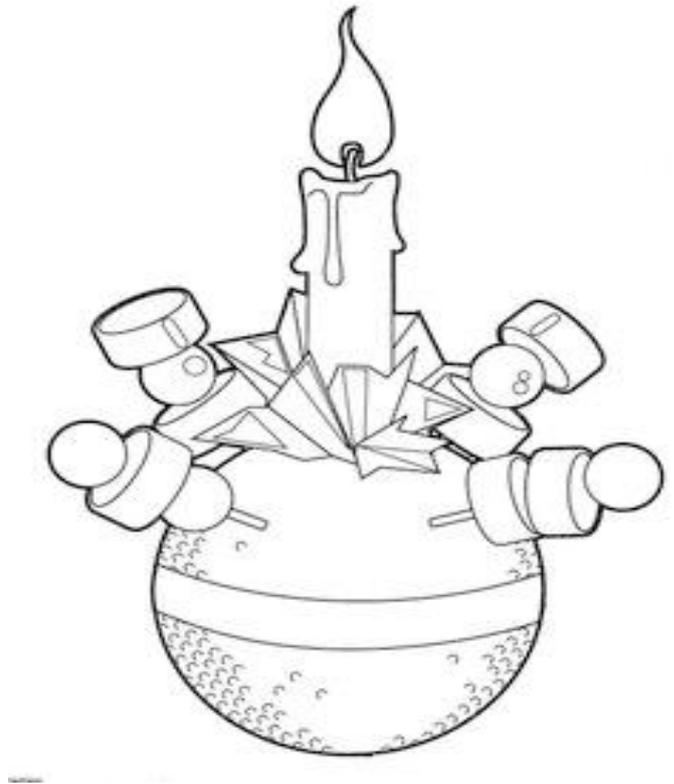
Please donate at <https://thyg.uk/CUS048780>

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and tells the Christian story don't worry if you haven't some items try having a 'scavenger hunt' or do a drawing to make one.

1. The orange represents the world: find something round or draw a circle, or something that represents God's creation to you, e.g. a picture of a beautiful landscape, a collection of stones or shells.
2. The red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ: red string, wool or something that symbolises love, e.g. a heart shape, a ring, a special present.
3. The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations: use other foodstuffs or something else entirely, e.g. your favourite soft toy animal, or a cutting from your favourite plant.
4. The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness: use any decorative or birthday cake candles or a torch or a lamp.

Once you've made your Christingle put it in a safe position where you can see it or hold it carefully in your hand.

Light the candle with an adult or switch on your light.



Use the following reflection and prayer:

When the Wise Men visited Jesus after this birth in Bethlehem, they brought gifts (Matthew 2.11). At Christmas many of us give and receive gifts – a symbol of the love we have for family and friends. The Christingle reminds us of the many good things God gives, and of the need to share them, not only with our family and friends, but with the whole world. Pray for all that you are grateful for: thanking Jesus for our world, our families, our food and the joy in our lives. Amen.

New - Parish YouTube Page

Please click on the link below to access our new YouTube page. If we get at least 100 subscribers, we will have access to more features. We currently have 16 subscribers so we need a few more!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8KxwuprQ0Ia_k_b2JEddhA

St Paul's Update

Due to recent government advice, our buildings will now be opening on Sunday 6th December at 10.30am., But not for private prayer on Saturday mornings until further notice. Also on pause are:

Thursday Sitting Down Club

Friday Walking Group

Oasis cafe - Due to recent government guidance, will be closed. Updates will be published on the facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/TheOasisCafePendeford/>

Maybe you would like to consider joining in with our online offerings:

Tuesday 11.00 to 11.40 Everyday Scripture on Zoom

11.00am Tuesdays 40mins on Zoom: readings, singalong, reflect. Bring Bible, cross or prayer symbol. Use the link: [Bit.ly/StPaulCoffee](https://bit.ly/StPaulCoffee) or Zoom meeting ID 317 307 4133 Password 754517

Thursday 7.30 to 8.10pm Book Club on Zoom – Do you enjoy reading? If so join us on Zoom on Thursdays 7.30-8.10 using ID 349 452 1095 check pass-code with Dot. We are reading short stories.

Quiz Group - runs on Facebook with 5 multiple choice questions and a leader board.

Saturday 11.00 to 11.40 Morning Zoom Coffee - gather to share news via Zoom Cloud Meeting. Use the link: [Bit.ly/StPaulCoffee](https://bit.ly/StPaulCoffee) or Zoom meeting ID 317 307 4133 Password 754517

Discipleship & Nurture

Bible Study - 'A Study of Acts'

Stella Salt, Allen Roberts and Jane Seabourne continue to lead *A Study of Acts*, based on the book by Tom Wright, on Zoom. Contact one of the leaders, or the parish office for more information.

“Peace be with you – and also with you!”

If you would like to be part of one of our online services sharing the ‘peace’ to our online congregation, please record a video of you saying “Peace be with you” looking straight at the camera. There are no age limits and this can be done by an individual or social bubble! Once you’ve got a video, please email to Simon Douglas. simon@sdouglas.org

Encounter

The programme for the next couple few weeks:-

9th December God and those in need – what can we do?

16th December Christmas Party

2021

6th January Leaders and young leaders meeting

13th January Encounter restarts for all

Encounter members thoughts for the future of the church

This follows discussions on the Church being The body of Christ during last weeks session.

- All to have an active part as a part of the body of Christ. If one part is removed it ‘upsets the apple cart!’
- With the increase in mental health illness in our communities, have a counsellor available or specific people to talk to at the end of the services for support in a designated area.
- Get to know members of the congregation who you don’t really know. Perhaps have a time to do this.
- With all the technology requirements for providing online services have a technology team available.

Sunday School

Join us on The Parish of Tettenhall Regis Facebook Page at 3pm Sunday afternoons to have fun together - reflecting on the Bible reading of the day through listening, creating, praying, searching and singing.

Young Voices still needed for our Parish Online All Age Choir

Holly Whitmill a member of St Michael's Church and one of our Family Choir leaders has begun gathering singer's voices – children, parents to sing the tune and those who can sing harmony parts too, to record their voices to a backing track. All recordings will be put together using Garageband software. The finished songs will be used as part of our Parish online Sunday School sessions as well as our All Age services. The Christmas Eve service will also soon be upon us and we need volunteers to help by creating simple piano/keyboard backing tracks, recording their voices to the backing tracks and if anyone is a dab hand at Garageband, please let us know as it will be all hands on deck in December! If you fancy a musical challenge please email Cath (cmaleighton@icloud.com) who will put you in touch with Holly.

Can't go shopping for Christmas presents?

Need a gift idea?

Need a stocking filler ?



Please consider a donation to Blakeley Green House Trust

The Trust provides pastoral and caring support to clients living with enduring mental illness at the house within the parish. The Trust is funded by donations and fundraising.

If you donate you will receive a printed note to personalise for you to give as your gift. The gift will be delivered to you.

If you would like to make a donation in lieu of purchasing a gift for someone please contact Susan Hughes (email - H4sfisher@aol.com or mobile - 07742950520).

" For it is in giving that we receive" St Francis of Assisi

A-Classic-a-Day!

Hello - here is another selection of music to help brighten up your day! Be happy! Marcia 

- 1)Cello Concerto Mvt 1 -Haydn
- 2)Angus Dei from Fauré's requiem
- 3)Prelude a l'apres midi d'un fauna - Debussy
- 4)I know that my redeemer liveth from the Messiah - Handel
- 5)The Harmonious Blacksmith- Handel
- 6)Mvt 3 Symphony No1 - Elgar
- 7)Baliero from Songs of the Auvergne – Cantaloube

- 8)Concerto for harp in C Major- Francois Adrien Boldieu
- 9)Mvt 1 Cocerto in D minor -Albinoni
- 10) Deux Arabesques No 1 in E major-Debussy
- 11)Mvt 3 Symphony No2 in E minor - Rachmaninov
- 12)pains Angelico's - Cesar Frank
- 13)Venus - the bringer of peace from the Planets Suite - Holst
- 14)Clair de lune - Debussy

AROUND THE PARISH

Used Stamps – have you got any?

Andrew Millington, St Michael's, is collecting used stamps in aid of 'Help for Heroes'. If you have any at home or could begin collecting them, please take any collected to Church Cottage or place in the container at the back of St Michael's Church when we open again.

Wrap up warm!

The advice on ventilation of churches is that some larger buildings may offer sufficient natural ventilation to remove the requirement to have doors and windows open. Those who attend church services should be aware that this may not be the case, and wrap up warm in anticipation.

Midweek church opening

Holy Cross and Christ the King have expressed a desire to open during the week for private prayer, which we will trial in the week beginning 2nd November, with Holy Cross opening on Thursday morning, and Christ the King on Wednesday morning, both from 9.30am-11.00am.

Online Worship – IT opportunity

As the churches begin to open, we seek to continue online worship for our Parish and beyond! We are now livestreaming services directly from our churches. Could you provide IT support to facilitate the live-streaming of one service a week? This would be across the parish, a different church every week! If you are technically minded and can see yourself as an IT technician and broadcaster for the Parish (or within your own church), please contact either Richard Reeve or Simon Douglas.

Online Giving

Although our churches are still at reduced capacity on a Sunday morning, we are still the church; gathering again, or meeting virtually for prayer, services and fellowship, loving our neighbours by offering practical support and caring for our communities.

The work of our church relies on people's generosity, which is a hallmark of a lived-out faith and we are very grateful for the regular giving that continues. With the closure or reduction of public worship we cannot receive all the gifts that we usually would, so we really need your help now.

The Diocese has now made available a facility to make an online donation entering your payment details and selecting your church from a drop-down list using the [Donate Now page](#) Or please contact Keith at the Parish Office –01902 751622, tettenhallregis@gmail.com.

Daily Hope

Daily Hope is a free national phone line, set up by the Church of England, in order to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Available 24 hours a day, on **0800 804 8044**, the line has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.



Sermon Slot

Matthew 25:14-30 Sunday 15 November 2020. Online Service, Richard Reeve

Jesus told a parable about servants taking an opportunity as entrepreneurs.

The parable of the Talents made me think of the TV programme *The Apprentice* – its not my favourite programme but I have seen it a few times.

The apprentices have to invest the resource given to them in a task set by Alan Sugar. At the end of it they appear before him for the judgment of how they have done. Like the servant who buried the talent in the ground, they dread to hear the words, “Your fired.”

The apprentice who uses their resources most effectively comes back successful and is given greater investment into their business enterprise. In 2019, Carina Lepore was successful in the tasks she carried out and instead of hearing, “you’re fired” she heard the words “you’re hired” and Lord Sugar invested £ quarter of a million in her artisan bakery business to help her expand.

I had a friend who wasn’t on the *Apprentice* but on *Dragon’s Den*. In the end she was unsuccessful in convincing the dragons to invest, but nevertheless she used her artistic and design talents – spotting a gap in the market for ethnic greetings cards, drawing on the resources of her own Punjabi culture and branching out to develop a successful business.

In the parable, the slaves have freedom to use the master’s resources as they please, but they are nevertheless accountable. If they use their freedom fruitfully, they will share the joy of their master and in turn enjoy greater freedom, greater responsibility and a greater share of their master’s joy.

Taken simply like this we may think of the resources that we have been given – it may be resources of wealth, respect, relationships and connections, it may be resources of abilities and talents, capacity for love and care, insights, or challenges, or time for others, or passionate concerns. All that we have and all that we are belong to God – we have been given these resources to use freely – but in the end we are accountable for how we use them

– have they been used to grow goodness, compassion, justice and joy – to enhance the lives of others. Or have we kept them for ourselves, buried as it were, safe from the world outside, hidden and allowed to wither? What are your talents, your resources, your passions or skills – how are you using them, what are you using them for?

Although a parable like this is often read in terms of Jesus having left us on his heavenly journey, to use our resources in this world, until we give an account when he comes again. I believe that most of Jesus parables speak in some way of his own ministry and the response he receives.

A talent was an amount of money – quite a large amount – several thousand pounds in today's terms. It spoke of the riches given by God which were to be used and shared to spread and grow all that Jesus had set out to do. This parable comes at the climax of Jesus ministry, as he was about to present himself in Jerusalem. Some of those who heard his message, especially those on the edge or the outside – tax collectors, sinners, those who were unclean, those excluded by disability – many of them heard his message with joy and followed – they found their place with Jesus among God's people. Were they the ones who were perhaps given the most – the five talents? Others also received talents – with less to gain – already enjoying the blessings of God's people – but welcoming Jesus, ready to receive him and put his message into practice – to share his love and grace. Others had been given riches too – those who taught the law and controlled the temple, religious leaders. They'd been give treasure – but they wanted to keep what they had, they didn't want it to change, or be shared with others so they buried it – to use a different image of Jesus, they had light for the world but they wanted to hide it under a bushel.

When Jesus appeared they weren't willing to expand their vision, to receive him and all that he was trying to do, to bring light to the world, to welcome others into God's love. For them Jesus was trying to reap where he hadn't sown and sending out his own labourers into the harvest. He was encroaching on their territory. In the end the temple they cherished would be destroyed and they would be cast out in darkness, wailing and gnashing their teeth. their treasure given to those who would use it for the glory of their master and the wellbeing of others.

We have been given the treasure of faith in Jesus Christ, of the way of love and grace. We have the treasures of faith passed on in the life and worship of the church, in the words of the

scriptures, in the lives of those who have lived in the service of Christ. One response is to try and keep those treasures unchanged, unadulterated by the world we live in, to keep them for ourselves. That is to bury the treasure – not even to put it in the hands of the bankers, those who will invest it and make it grow – even if we feel we can't. If we truly receive the message of Jesus, we believe that it is for everyone – it is constantly growing and producing fruit. It can't do that if we don't invest in others if we don't share the treasure we have been given. We are given great freedom and responsibility – how have we used it?

The parable ends with the moment when we are called to account. Have the riches of God's love to us borne fruit in the world? If so the master rejoices and we share his joy.

Have we buried what has been given to us? Have we been unbending, unwilling to change, unwilling to step out – unwilling to grow treasure given to us. Have we seen the master as harsh and ourselves been harsh to others? That view of God has no place in his purpose.

Are we entrepreneurs in generosity and joy, or fearful, sorrowful and selfish servants? What will our lives reveal when we give an account?

DAILY PRAYER ONLINE

Sunday worship and Daily Prayer is being livestreamed to the Parish Facebook page, fb.me/tettenhallregis/ Sunday worship is now streamed from one of the Churches each week and the time will vary accordingly.

The services being streamed each day are as follows

8.30am Morning Prayer

4.30pm Evening Prayer (*6.30pm Sunday - Traditional Evening Prayer*)

9.30pm Night Prayer (*Compline*)

There is a link to Daily Prayer (for readings, Psalms and order of service) in the ribbon at the top of St Michael's Website Page. Links are also available from the Facebook page. An excellent "Daily Prayer" App is available freely to download.

Parish Facebook page

fb.me/tettenhallregis

St. Michael's website

stmichaels-church.org.uk/

Holy Cross website

<https://holycross.bilbrook.info/coronavirus/>

Christ the King

fb.me/christthekingaldersley/

St. Paul's

fb.me/stpaulscofependeford/

CONTACTS

Clergy

Rev'd Richard Reeve	01902 742801	richardmreeve@aol.com
Rev'd Simon Douglas	01902 212405	simon@sdouglas.org
Rev'd Cath Leighton	07903 164242	cmaleighton@icloud.com
Rev'd Allen Roberts	01902 765741	allenroberts127@gmail.com

Parish Office

Mr Keith McQuillen 01902 751622 tettenhallregis@gmail.com

The Parish Office is currently open on weekday mornings, on a non-contact basis.

Church Wardens

St. Michael's

Mr Andrew Graham	01902 762021	andgra@blueyonder.co.uk
Mr Jon Preece	01902 754939	jon.preece@talk21.com

Holy Cross

Mrs Janet Pugh	01902 844981	janetepugh@hotmail.co.uk
Mr Mike Spragg	01902 845222	mike@spragg.co.uk

Christ the King

Mrs Iggy Peters 01902 756793 iggyp@gmx.co.uk

St. Paul's

Mr Eddie Baker	01902 829040	baker8thepies1@gmail.com
Mrs Joan Phillips	01902 785844	joan_phillips13@msn.com

