



Parishes of

Alfrick-w-Lulsley; Crown East, Rushwick; Suckley;
Leigh & Bransford; Lower Teme Valley; Martley and
Wichenford

Pew Sheet for 17th December 2023

17th December 2023—Advent 3

9.00 am Alfrick Common Worship Holy Communion
10.30 am Suckley Common Worship Holy Communion
5.00 pm Martley Carol Service with Christingles
5.00 pm Broadwas Carol/Crib Service

24th December 2023—Advent 4

4.00pm Alfrick Barnyard Nativity
9.00 pm Bransford Carols by Candle
10.00 pm Wichenford Holy Communion
11.00 pm Leigh Holy Communion
10.00 pm Crown East Holy Communion
10.00 pm Broadwas Holy Communion
11.30 pm Martley Holy Communion

31st December 2023—Christmas 1

10.30am Crown East WWRT Holy Communion

7th January 2024—Epiphany 1

10.30 am Leigh Common Worship Holy Communion
10.30am Martley Common Worship Holy Communion
10.30 am Broadwas Worship for all
4.00 pm Suckley Informal Worship
6.00pm Alfrick Words and Music

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent:

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11, Psalm 126 or Canticle: Magnificat, 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28

Christmas Day services in the WWRT

Dates for your diary for Christmas service across the WWRT:

Christmas Day

9.00 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at Alfrick
9.00 am Holy Communion at Cotheridge
10.30 am Family Worship at Suckley
11.00 am Family Worship at Martley

Archbishop Justin to visit the Diocese in February

Archbishop Justin will be visiting the Diocese on the 3rd February to bring people together in prayer. More details here:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/archbishop-justin-to-visit-the-diocese.php>

Finding Hope this Christmas—By Bishop Martin

I don't know about you, but I rather dread turning on the news these days. It seems to have been particularly awful recently. The horrendous attack by Hamas and the taking of hundreds of hostages. The consequent attacks on Hamas in Gaza with such devastating consequences for innocent civilians living in that crowded land and unable to escape.

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has not gone away of course, and there have been tragic attacks on Christians in Armenia, Pakistan and India that have gone largely unreported. If we add to these the cost-of-living crisis in this country, and the accelerating climate crisis affecting every country, it is easy to feel deep despair and a sense of hopelessness in the face of it all. As the psalmist said, 'I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where is my help to come?'

Christmas gives a message of hope, but not false hope. It speaks of the Logos or Word, the divine energy at the heart of all things, the dynamic force behind all creation, all that is. The source of inspiration for all human beings.

This Logos is forever sustaining the universe and breaking into our consciousness, but in the birth of Jesus that Word was made flesh, once and for all. Jesus was born in Israel/Palestine in another dark time in that region's history. But God is as he is in Jesus, therefore we have hope. As St John says in the first few verses of his amazing gospel: 'In him was life and that life was the light of all people.'

Terrible things do happen in our world. Innocent men, women and children were killed in Jesus' lifetime too and yet he still preached and lived a gospel of peace and hope – right to the end and his death on the cross. But evil and hatred will never have the last word: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'

At Christmas we rejoice in God with us, Emmanuel. We rejoice in a hope for justice in this world, and for hope of a justice beyond this life too, when every wrong is put right and God is all in all.

May God be a blessing to you this Christmas time, and may you be filled with hope and love for God's world.

Loving God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world. We pray for peace in our world, peace in our streets, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts, as we celebrate the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Amarylli Christmas - December 2023

Worcester - Monday 18th December at 1pm - St Helen's Church, Fish Street/ High Street, Worcester, WR1 2HN

Come along and chase away the winter chill with some Amarylli-style festivities as we revel in the spirit of Christmas past!

Full of seasonal cheer, An Amarylli Christmas is a musical celebration of the sacred and secular ancient traditions of Christmas, with spoken extracts from John Clare's poem December adding vivid depictions of the homely scenes and customs that have become so important over the centuries. Our programme blends hidden gems from the famous 15th century Selden Carol Book with arrangements of traditional well-known festive tunes from the 12th to 18th century, together with songs and solos by Hildegard von Bingen, Campion, Playford and Dowland, all set in Amarylli's own unique style. With Hannah Grove (soprano, recorder and harp) and Elizabeth Pallett (lute, gittern and cittern). Admission to each concert is free with a retiring collection - tickets may be reserved in advance to guarantee a seat, and will also be available on the door on the day.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Opening times of church buildings for private prayer

Crown East - Closed

Suckley— Open 10am to 5pm Weds, Sat and Sun in term time, and daily in the holidays

Alfrick - Everyday

Leigh - Everyday 10am - 4pm

Broadwas - Everyday 11am—5pm

Cotheridge - Everyday 9am - 5pm

Wichenford Everyday 10am—4pm

Martley - Everyday

Contact details for the Clergy:-

Team Vicar :

Rev Anne Potter 01886 832355 revannepotter@gmail.com.

Team Curate:

Rev Sally Knowles, 07702 727449 sallyp88@btinternet.com

Assistant Priests

Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897 jenmwhittaker@icloud.com

Rev Mike Gardner 01905 957266 or 07546112841

revd.mike@yahoo.co.uk

If you have an administration query or would like something added to A Church Near You please contact

Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or leighrectory@outlook.com

For those of you with computers, iPads or other such 'modern technology' you will continue to find worship through our youtube [wwrtlive1](#)

Other information can be found on individual church pages on A Church Near You and our Facebook pages www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam www.facebook.com/suckleychurch