



Parishes of

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

Pew Sheet for 11th January 2026

Sunday 11th January Epiphany 1

9.00 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said) Bransford
10.30 am Common Worship Holy Communion Wichenford
10.30 am Morning Worship Crown East
12.00pm Blessing of the Plough—The Talbot, Knightwick
3.00 pm Evening Worship Knightwick

Sunday 18th January Epiphany 2

9.00 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion Alfrick
10.30 am Common Worship Holy Communion Suckley
10.30 am Common Worship Holy Communion Broadwas
10.00 am Café Church Martley
6.00 pm Evensong Leigh

Sunday 25th January Epiphany 3

9.00am Common Worship Holy Communion Alfrick
10.30 am Common Worship Holy Communion Martley
10.30 am Morning Worship Broadwas
10.30 am Common Worship Holy Communion Crown East

Sunday 1st February Epiphany 4/Candlemas

9.00 am Book of Common Prayer said Holy Communion Cotheridge
10.30 am Common Worship Holy Communion Leigh
10.30am Common Worship Holy Communion Martley
10.30 am Worship for all Broadwas
4.00 pm Informal Worship Suckley
6.00pm Evensong Alfrick

Please note that there will be a Blessing of the Plough service at the Farmers' Market at The Talbot at Knightwick this Sunday at 12 noon

Collect for Epiphany 1

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Readings for Epiphany 1

Isaiah 42.1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3.13-17

Midweek Communion for Week Commencing 12th January 2025

Wednesday 14th January at Heaton House, Martley at 10.15am

Coffee and Chat

This month's Coffee and Chat will be taking place at Rushwick Village Hall on the 12th January at 10.30am. Come along for coffee and a chat! All welcome to attend.

Epiphany Blessing 2026

There is a tradition of blessing chalk at Epiphany to mark the threshold of our homes with a new year blessing.

It picks up Old Testament traditions of marking the doorposts of the house with biblical texts (Deuteronomy 6:9), the theme of the Holy Family welcoming visitors to their home to visit the Christ-child, and a reminder of the importance of hospitality throughout the Scriptures.

Because of the timing of Epiphany at the start of the year, it also offers a chance to pray for God's blessing at the start of the new year.

The letters and numbers that people chalk on their doors pick up the new year, the Epiphany story, and the prayer for blessing in a simple formula, written like this 20 + C + M + B + 26. The 20 and 26 are of course the beginning and end of the year's date. The middle three letters stand for the traditional names of the wise men (magi): Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also represent the initials of the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "Christ bless the house." Together they represent our prayer at the start of the year that our homes, too, may be places blessed by the love and light of Christ.

See the link below for simple Epiphany prayers to use at home and in church.

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/epiphany-blessing-for-2026.php>

Hope and Blessing in the Year Ahead - a New Year message from Bishop Martin

Happy New Year! We say it with sincerity, yet we know 2026 will not be easy for many. Some will face unemployment and the crushing sense of being left behind. Others will battle addiction or endure the pain of a violent home. Families will struggle under the weight of debt, and countless people will suffer prejudice simply because of the colour of their skin. Many will live with illness—mental or physical—or walk the difficult road toward life's end. Against such realities, "Happy New Year" can sound like a fragile hope.

But in the Bible, "happy" and "blessed" share the same meaning. In Luke 6:20, Jesus declares: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and exclude you, for surely your reward will be great in heaven." These words remind us that those who suffer are not forgotten—they are seen by God with love, and counted as blessed.

I see this lived out every day as Bishop of Dudley. I chair a charity called CHADD which offers safety and dignity to victims of domestic abuse. The Goodsoil Project in Worcester helps people overcoming addiction by growing crops and rebuilding lives. The Black Country Foodbank served half a million meals last year—with grace and kindness. These organisations, born from faith and compassion, bring light into the darkest places. Volunteers often tell me that in serving others, they themselves feel blessed.

So as we step into 2026, let's turn hope into action. How can you make a difference in your community? How can you help build a kinder, stronger world? When you do, you'll discover something profound: blessing flows both ways. And then, perhaps, "Happy New Year" will be more than a wish—it will be a reality.

Happy New Year!

Bishop Martin

A Christmas message from the Bishop of Dudley and Acting Bishop of Worcester – what brings you joy?

What brings you joy at Christmas? I know it's been a hard year for many and a hard year for our world. Not much peace, not much joy, it seems.

But at this time of year in churches, it is a privilege to see the joy on people's faces, particularly children, as they visit for Christingle and crib services. We see their excitement and expectation as we remember the tiny baby born in a stable.

As a vicar, I've always found Midnight Mass services particularly special, singing carols together and feeling the peace of Christ, as well as the joy of his birth.

And then after the service, I'll walk home on my own in the peace and quiet of the early morning. Knowing the joy and the peace of Christmas in my heart.

I hope that the joy and peace of the Christ Child will be God's gifts to you as well as to me this Christmas time.

Bishop Martin

To watch the video version of Bishop Martin's message see:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/a-christmas-message-from-bishop-martin.php>

Opening times of church buildings for private prayer

Crown East - Everyday 9am – 5pm

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

Alfrick - Everyday

Leigh - Everyday 10am - 6pm (from 30th March—4pm till then)

Broadwas - Everyday 11am—5pm

Cotheridge - Everyday 9am - 5pm

Wichenford Everyday 10am—4pm

Martley - Everyday

Contact details for the Clergy:-

Team Rector:

Rev Anne Potter 01886 832355 revannepotter@gmail.com.

Team Curate:

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Assistant Priests

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Rev Mike Gardner 01905 957266 or 07546112841

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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](https://www.youtube.com/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