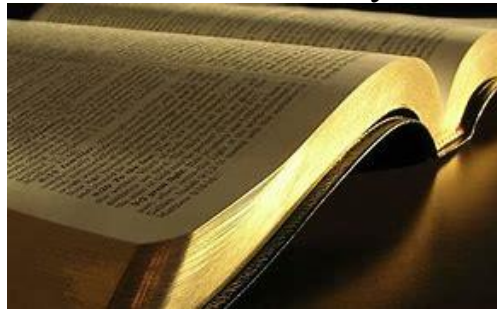




# Connection

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021**  
**Bible Sunday**



## **Collect**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 5**

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

## **John 5: 36b-end**

The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

“You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of all grace,  
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry  
with the bread of his life  
and the word of his kingdom:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your true and living bread;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### **Reflection**

The sermon this week is from Jonathan Evans, Curate at The Lye and Stambermill in Stourbridge.



Hello, I am Jon Evans and I am a curate in the parish of Lye and Stambermill.

Our readings speak about the purpose and importance of the scriptures. Now the Bible is something different to your favourite work of fiction, your go to reference book when you study or the inspiring biography that encourages you. The Bible is something foundational to faith and holds a greater significance than maybe you realise.

In our readings, Jesus speaks about how the scriptures testify about him. When you study the scriptures, what should be found is the testimony of Jesus Christ. From the very beginning until the end, Jesus and his works of redemption can be found. Yet, as Jesus says, people can miss this very truth about scripture. If you are reading the bible and not finding Jesus in the passage that you are reading, then you are missing the vital message that the scripture is trying to bring. Even those hard passages which you may struggle with, are passages that point to Jesus. The Bible, every time you read it, should bring you closer to Jesus and into praise of him as it testifies to him and his saving grace that is for you and me.

The things of this world may fail us but the word of God never will. The world may continuously turn to evil, but the scriptures direct us to the One who is good and faithful and who will bring an end to all suffering and evil.

Then in the letter Paul wrote to Timothy, you can see that the scripture not only testifies about Jesus and makes you wise for salvation but that it is God-breathed and equips the servants of God. The scriptures are God-breathed. It is God’s breath that gives you life, he breathed his Spirit into humanity.

God's breath is involved in creation. It is also the breath of God that brings judgement. This breath is powerful and awe-inspiring. This statement that scripture is god-breathed is not a soft, gentle statement. If God breathed it, then it is according to God's will and it is his almighty word. It's not just some collective human wisdom found in a reference book but it is something God-breathed and testifies to Jesus and his saving grace through all time.

Timothy, in response to knowing the scriptures is charged to preach the word, be prepared, to correct, rebuke, encourage. And this is because there will be a time where people will not put up with sound doctrine but instead listen to teachers who suit their own desires. They will turn from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Whilst this charge to Timothy is for him going into ministry it is a charge also for you. All Christians are ministers of reconciliation, all Christians are part of the royal priesthood. So, you are also called to take this charge. You are to learn and know the scripture so that you can be ready to fulfil this. Knowledge of scripture, allows you to hold to sound doctrine, to know when teachers are leading you astray.

It allows you to preach his word, which ultimately is preaching the good news of Jesus as it all testifies to him. It allows you to correct, rebuke and encourage. Ultimately, being people of God's word, enables and equips you for every good work.

Finally, the Bible should equip you to be faithful servants of God and it should also bring you into a greater worship of God, the one who breathed all scripture for it testifies to his saving grace which is for you by faith. No matter what the world may throw at you, stay true to the faith found in scripture and know that by Jesus you have been forgiven and that evil and death have been defeated.



### **Requests for Prayers**

**We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers:** Roy and Margaret Putnam, Brian Bolam, Yvonne Seward, Laurence Alexander, Ros and Rob, Jo Gunner, David Fenton, Michael Leven and his wife Allison and daughter Sophie, Andrea Randles and her husband and daughter, Frances Fairclough and her husband Robin and their children and grandchildren and also for Sky Redfern and her family.

**We continue to pray for:** Percy Blizard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt.

**We pray for those who are in residential care:** Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy and David Wilkinson.

**We pray for those who have died everywhere:** Deryck Hallwood and his family; Ric White and his family. And also for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

**If there is someone or something that you would like us to pray for, please email [eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto:eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com) and we will include them on the prayer list**



## Church Services this Sunday

9.00am Elmley Castle– Reverend Katryn  
 10.30am Bredon – Reverend Alison Maddocks  
 10.30am Defford – Reverend Allison  
 10.30am Teddington – Reverend Katryn

### Rota for October 2021

| Date  | Time    | Place                | Presiding  |
|---|---------|----------------------|--|
| 31 <sup>st</sup> October<br>United<br>Service | 10.30am | Eckington            | Led by Rev Allison<br>Canon Roger Spiller to<br>preach |
|   | 6.00pm  | Eckington All Souls' | Lay lead   |

### Rota for November 2021

| Date                                | Time    | Place                               | Presiding                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 07/11/2021                          | 09.00am | Defford                             | Reverend Allison          |
|                                     | 09.00am | Alstone                             | Reverend Katryn           |
|                                     | 10.30am | Bredon                              | Reverend Allison          |
|                                     | 10.30am | Little Comberton                    | Reverend Katryn           |
| 14/11/2021<br>Remembrance<br>Sunday | 09.00am | Besford                             | Reverend Allison          |
|                                     | 09.00am | Bredon's Norton                     | Reverend Catherine Lack   |
|                                     | 10.45am | Bredon                              | Lay-Led (Peter Whitehead) |
|                                     | 10.45am | Eckington                           | Reverend Allison          |
|                                     | 10.45am | Elmley Castle                       | tbc                       |
|                                     | 10.45am | Ashton Under Hill                   | Reverend Katryn           |
| 21/11/2021                          | 09.00am | Eckington                           | Reverend Allison          |
|                                     | 09.00am | Bricklehampton                      | Reverend Katryn           |
|                                     | 10.30am | Bredon                              | Reverend Allison          |
|                                     | 10.30am | Beckford                            | Reverend Katryn           |
| 28/11/2021                          | 09.00am | Great Comberton                     | Reverend Katryn           |
|                                     | 10.30am | Overbury                            | Reverend Allison          |
|                                     | 10.30am | Elmley Castle                       | Reverend Katryn           |
|                                     | 18.00pm | United Advent Service,<br>Eckington | Reverend Allison          |



### All Souls' 2021

There will be All Souls' Services at the following villages:  
 31<sup>st</sup> October – Eckington at 6pm (lay lead)  
 7<sup>th</sup> November – Bredon at 6pm (lay lead)  
 7<sup>th</sup> November – Elmley Castle at (time TBC) (KL)  
 7<sup>th</sup> November - Beckford (including Overbury) at 4pm (KL)

### Midweek Communion at 10am



27<sup>th</sup> October – Defford – Reverend Catherine Lack  
 10<sup>th</sup> November - Overbury - Reverend Allison Davies  
 17<sup>th</sup> November - Little Comberton – Reverend Katryn Leclezio  
 24<sup>th</sup> November - Defford – Reverend Allison Davies





## Bredon Hill Group Choir Advent Carols

### FIRST REHEARSAL THIS AFTERNOON!

We are holding a United Advent Carols and Readings service in Eckington church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 6 pm, and are looking for enthusiastic warblers!

Rehearsals will be at Holy Trinity, Eckington on Sunday afternoon from 2.30 for about two hours on the following dates:

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November (time TBC)

Please could you contact Viv Ebbage on 01684 773549 if you would like to attend.



## Bishop Martin's Pilgrimage of Prayer & Hope to Pershore & Evesham Deanery

We are delighted to welcome Bishop Martin to our Deanery on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November, and also on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> December. The Bishop has chosen to spend 2 days in each of the deaneries of our Diocese visiting as many benefices as possible. With the size of our own deanery of Pershore & Evesham, he has given us a little more of his time!

The aim of the Pilgrimage is to keep it simple and low key, with him saying a few prayers at each of the churches he visits, joined by just 2 or 3 others, before he moves on to the next place of worship. The distances between our places of worship, necessitate travel by car rather than on foot, as a more traditional pilgrimage. We have decided to have a Bishop Relay, where we "pass the Bishop" rather like a relay baton! A representative from the church next on the list to be visited, will collect Bishop Martin and drive him to their church.

In total, Bishop Martin will be visiting 21 places of worship during his Pilgrimage to our deanery. This includes Mucknell Abbey, Holland House, as well as 19 of our churches and joining Crothorne School for their Act of Remembrance.

Many of our smaller churches have been particularly chosen to welcome Bishop Martin for the simple prayers. A few churches have been chosen to hold a short service of Morning Prayer, Mid-Day Prayer or Afternoon Prayer led by the Bishop and where the local worshipping community are invited to join in. I am sure that these will be advertised in your Parish if these short services are occurring on your patch.

On **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**, everybody is welcome to join Bishop Martin for the **Eucharist** to be held at **All Saints, Evesham at 7:00pm**.

I would like to thank all those who are helping with lifts, opening churches and assisting in welcoming Bishop Martin to our Deanery.

Alison Sandham

Secretary

Pershore & Evesham Deanery

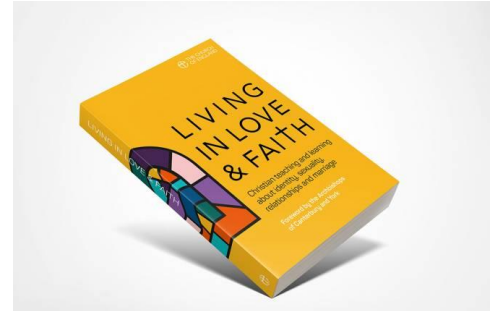


Further to the above, Bishop Martin will be visiting our 'patch' on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November:

9.00am Overbury  
10.20am Bricklehampton  
3.35pm Defford

## Living in Love and Faith

The Church of England General Synod will be debating the issues of gender, sexuality and equality in the coming months. Dioceses have been encouraged to engage with some top quality materials presented on the Living in Love and Faith website in groups. The exhortation is to listen to as many different experiences and view points as possible. To hear people's (including our) stories, perspectives and struggles.



We need to discern how we engage with this process and the materials as the Bredon Hill Group. To start us off there is an event offered by the Diocese which we can sign up to attend. Rev Katryn will be going and she'd love not to go alone! Let her know (at [klbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:klbhteam@gmail.com)) if:

1. You want to come to this session, and
2. What your thoughts may be about engaging as a Group of churches?

## Tuesday 23rd November 2021 LLF Digging Deeper: 7:15pm – 9pm The Bible, Interpretation and Sexuality

Booking: <https://bit.ly/3tMCqKG>

Venue: St Martin with St Peter C Of E Church, London Rd, Worcester WR5 2ED

### What's it about?

This event is to help participants explore different ways in which Christians understand how the Bible speaks about sexuality. The event will be primarily a conversation between three contributors (listed below). There will also be some opportunity for questions.

- **Sean Doherty**, principal of Trinity College Bristol
- **Sarah Northall**, vicar of St Wulstan's, Worcester
- **David Runcorn**, writer, speaker and 'free-range priest'

The event will be chaired by **Claire Lording**, Vicar of Pershore and Chair of the House of Clergy, and introduced by **Jonathan Kimber**, diocesan LLF Advocate (and Director of Ministry and Discipleship).

### Small Discussion/Interest/Bible Study Groups in the Bredon Hill Group



Rev Allison Davies



Rev Katryn Leclizio

