



# Connection

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
**Third Sunday before Advent**



## **Collect**

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **Hebrews 9: 24-end**

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

## **Mark 1: 14-20**

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

## Post Communion Prayer

God of peace,  
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom  
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:  
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,  
and by your healing power  
make whole both people and nations;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

## Reflection

The sermon this week is from Nigel Taylor, Rector of the Kidderminster Ismere Team.



*(Based on Mark 1: 14-20 and Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 - The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it).*

In discussion with some friends about the state of the world, we began a discussion on what we see, hear and read in the news. It quickly became apparent that each of us had different ideas about what 'Good News' means; depending on our religious or political stance and what was important for us in life. This conversation came back to me as I read today's gospel or 'good news' reading. After hearing that John the Baptist has been arrested, Jesus doesn't hide away in fear, instead he journeys to Galilee to proclaim the good news of the gospel. But what is that good news?

The good news is this, that through the ministry of Jesus, it is evident that each one of us is loved by God and that if we turn and face God and ask for God's forgiveness then we are forgiven.

God provides us with all we need to live in terms of his creation and an abundance of food and water. He provides healing and wholeness and guides us to save those who are oppressed, hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, naked or sick. These are not material things but based on relationship and community and living out the commandment of loving your neighbour as yourself. Jesus doesn't just preach these ideas; he lives them out with compassion and understanding and he knows that for this to work it needs others to join him and share the responsibility of proclaiming the good news. That is why he calls his disciples; Simon, Andrew, James, and John to leave behind their trade of fishing and their families and to follow him to learn how to live and share the good news.

This was not a new concept peculiar to the New Testament. The good news of God is evident throughout the Hebrew scriptures of the Old Testament.

In our reading from Jonah, God is calling Jonah personally to do the work of proclaiming the good news. Now you might say that being called to Nineveh to tell the citizens that in 40 days they would be overthrown and the way of life they were enjoying would be gone, was not good news! But we need only look at the outcome to see that this truly is Good News as God forgives the people as they turn back to him and repent. Jonah, on the other hand does not see this outcome as good news. I wonder why that is? Jonah is angry that he has followed God and done what God asked of him but now he has not delivered on that proclamation. Instead, God has forgiven them and there do not seem to have been any consequences; no terrible conquest of the city, fighting or innumerable deaths. Jonah is disappointed and angry at God perhaps because he feels foolish at making a proclamation that has not come true. But the truth is there have been consequences. The King has realised they are heading in the wrong direction and has led the people of Nineveh to mass repentance which God, through his grace, accepts. What Jonah seems to forget is that he has been a reluctant messenger for God. Initially he ran in the other direction and ended in the belly of a fish. Despite his disobedience when he cried out in prayer to God, God forgave him, and he was saved from his plight in the fish's gut. God did not give up on Jonah and indeed Jonah was a recipient of the good news himself.

The bible is full of these stories of good news and on closer inspection, so is the world around us. Despite all the hunger and violence, the natural disasters and the suffering reported in the news, there are glimpses of God's good news. To name but a few: the aid agencies and charities who reach out to those in need. The work of churches to reach the lonely and isolated in the community and supporting people through life events of marriage, baptism and death. The work in families to support each other through good times and hard times. The presence of Christ is apparent if we take time to look.

### Requests for Prayers



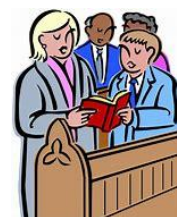
**We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers:** Roy and Margaret Putnam, Brian Bolam, Yvonne Seward, Laurence Alexander, Ros and Rob, Jo Gunner, David Fenton, Michael Leven and his wife Allison and daughter Sophie, Andrea Randles and 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:** 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

09.00am	Defford	Reverend Allison
09.00am	Alstone	Reverend Katryn
10.30am	Bredon	Reverend Allison
10.30am	Little Comberton	Reverend Katryn

## Rota for November 2021

Date	Time	Place	Presiding
14/11/2021 Remembrance 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	Reverend Alma Organ
	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, Eckington	Reverend Allison



### All Souls' 2021

There will be All Souls' Services at the following villages:

7<sup>th</sup> November – Bredon at 6pm (lay lead)

7<sup>th</sup> November – Beckford at 4pm (KL)

7<sup>th</sup> November – Elmley Castle at 6pm (KL)

### Midweek Communion at 10am

10<sup>th</sup> November - Beckford - Reverend Nancy Murray Peters

17<sup>th</sup> November - Little Comberton – Reverend Katryn Leclezio

24<sup>th</sup> November - Defford – Reverend Allison Davies



Please note the change of location from Overbury to Beckford on the 10<sup>th</sup> November



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

Bishop Martin will be visiting 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 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.

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**.

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

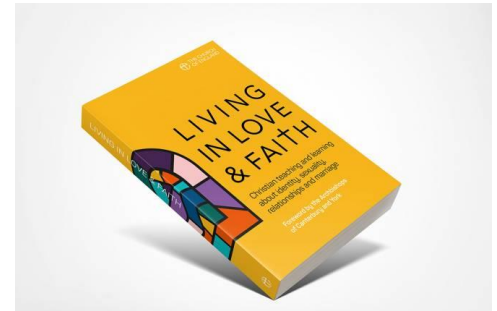
**9.00am Beckford**

**10.20am Bricklehampton**

**3.35pm Defford**

## **Living in Love and Faith**

Just a reminder that 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 - Sean Doherty, principal of Trinity College Bristol; Sarah Northall, vicar of St Wulstan's, Worcester and 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).



**Rev Allison Davies**



**Rev Katryn Leclizio**