

## What's On

**Elmley Village Market: Thursday 21st December 9.30 - 11.30**

**Mum's Aloud Christmas Concert in aid of Lymphoma Research:**  
Friday 22nd December 6.30 pm. St Mary's, Elmley Castle. Tickets  
£10 under 16's free.

**Festive Coffee Morning, 6th January 2024, 10.00—12 noon all welcome.**

**Soup & Sweet: Wednesday 10th January, 12.15 for 12.30, Elmley Castle Village Hall. All Welcome.**

**Saturday 24th February Parish Retreat Day, 'Listening to God' led by Rev Steve Clark at House of the Open Door, Childswickham**

**Caring Hands** needs the following items: Long life milk, pasta, rice, tea and tinned: vegetables, meat, tuna, tomatoes etc. Boxes are available in our churches for donations of food.

### **Pershore Community Cupboard Christmas Parcels Appeal**

**Currently collecting: Selection Boxes, Yule Logs, Sponge Puddings, Mince Pies, Tinned Fruit, Custard, Biscuits, Chocolates, Savoury Snacks.**

**Please send items for the next Link News to  
rectoryoffice@btinternet.com by Monday 1st January 2024.  
Contributions from all villages welcomed. Thank you.**

### **Weddings, funerals and baptisms**

Enquiries should be made to Alison Khan, Administrative Co-ordinator,  
Bredon Hill Group (tel. 07984 748 059)

Link News is sent to all Church members whose email addresses we have. If you would like to forward it to a friend, please feel free to do so. If you know of someone who would like to be included in the mailing list, please ask them to contact the Parish Office.

## **December Link News Sunday 17th and Sunday 24th and Sunday 31st 3rd and 4th of Advent and 1st Sunday of Christmas**



A poem by Elizabeth Drescher in a Daily Prayer book I use seems apt this Christmas with all the difficulty around us as people struggle to make sense of sudden poverty; of the horrors unfolding with unbridled brutality in Jesus' birthplace and elsewhere.

The line which always arrests me as I pray this liturgy is: "A fragment of dream that plays on in my head..."

I wonder what is the fragment of dream plays on in your head? What is it that motivates you to keep faith?

For me, the God who made everything from nothing coming into the world so powerlessly, so humbly plays on in my head. Every year at this season, I still feel as though I see through a glass dimly. A fragment of dream, in a waking world that belies the dream.

Despite the relentless abrasion of doubt wearing down a handful of old prayers inherited from many who have gone before me, the dream is alive in moments of deep conviction that this helpless babe does make a difference. Has made a life-changing difference to me.

In contemplating the Christ-child once again I find solace. I trust that it is worth loving, trusting, praying, working, seeking to bear witness to the 'love which came down at Christmas.'

Wishing you a blessed Christ Mass,

Rev'd Katryn

in the new light  
of each day's questions,  
I am never prepared.  
Today, again, I have nothing  
to offer but a handful  
of old prayers, worn down  
by the relentless abrasion  
of doubt, and a fragment  
of dream that plays on in my head  
only half remembered. Still,  
the doves coo and circle  
through the pines  
as they do when I pass  
each morning. Their sorrow  
is so nearly human, it rights  
sweet with regret. By dusk,  
the trees will bow down, and I, too,  
will  
make my appeal, will find  
again your mercy,  
your solace.

## December Services

### Readings and Collects

#### 17th December

##### Readings:

Isaiah 61 vv 1-4; 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5 vv 16-24

John 1 vv 6-8; 19-28

##### Collect:

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to pre-  
pare 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.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> December

##### Readings

2 Samuel 7 vv 1-11; 16

Psalms 89 vv 1-4; 19-26

Romans 16 vv 25-27

Luke 1 vv 26-38

##### Collect:

Eternal God, as Mary waited for  
the birth of your Son, so we wait  
for his coming in glory; bring us  
through the birth pangs of this pre-  
sent age to see, with her, our great  
salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord

#### 31st December

##### Readings:

Isaiah 61 v 10 - 62 v 3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4 vv 4-7

Luke 2 vv 15-21

##### Collect:

God in Trinity, eternal unity of per-  
fect love: gather the nations to be  
one family, and draw us into your  
holy life through the birth of  
Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ

##### Diocese of Worcester:

We pray for churches as they seek  
ways to share the Christmas story  
with children and young people.

### We pray . . .

#### For all in our community who are sick or in long term care:

- Adrian Nichols
- Yvonne Seward
- Peter Locksley Smith
- Jackie O'Shaughnessy
- Lynette Crabtree
- All in residential and care homes

#### We remember the loss of loved ones

- ♦ Laurie Croft
- ♦ Gordon Gregory
- ♦ Pat Ninkovic
- ♦ Chick (Victor) Hopkins

Those who have died recently and  
those whose anniversary of death falls at  
this time.

*May the souls of the faithful departed,  
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

#### USPG

Let us remember the plight of migrants  
around the world. May we offer them  
hospitality, hope and joy.

#### Church Missionary Society:

Come, Lord, and cover us with the night.  
Spread your grace over us as you assured  
us you would do.  
Yours promises are more than all the stars  
in the sky;  
The night comes with its breath of death.  
Night comes; the end comes; but you  
come also.  
Lord, we wait for you day and night.

### Sunday 17th

9.00 am Eckington, Holy Communion

**9.00 am Elmley Castle, Holy Communion**

10.45 am Bredon, Holy Communion

4.00 pm Alstone, Carol Service

**4.00 pm Elmley Castle, Choral Carol Service**

**4.00 pm Little Comberton, Carol Service**

**6.00 pm Great Comberton, Carol Service**

6.00 pm Beckford, Carol Service

6.00 pm Bredon, Carol Service

### Tuesday 19th

**6.00 pm Bricklehampton Carol Service**

### Wednesday 20th

**10.00 am Morning Eucharist, Little Comberton**

### Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

**10.45 am Great Comberton, Holy Communion**

3.00 pm Eckington Crib Service

3.30 pm Ashton Crib Service

**4.00 pm Elmley Castle, Crib Service**

5.00 pm Bredon, Crib Service

10.00 pm Defford, Midnight Communion

11.00 pm Beckford, Midnight Mass

### Monday 25th Christmas Day

9.00 am Bredon's Norton

9.30 am Besford, Holy Communion

10.00 am Bredon

10.00 am Eckington, Family Eucharist

**10.00 am Little Comberton**

10.00 am Ashton under Hill

### Wednesday 27th

**10.00 am St Cuthbert Morning Prayer, Littler Comberton**

### Sunday 31st

10.00 am Bredon, Group Service

### Our churches are open

St Peter's, Little Comberton: daily 9 a.m. to dusk.  
St Mary the Virgin, Elmley Castle: daily 9 a.m. to dusk.  
St Michael & All Angels, Bricklehampton: daily 10 a.m. to dusk.  
St Michael & All Angels, Great Comberton: daily 9 a.m. to dusk.