

What's On

Elmley Village Café, The Queens: Friday 5th January 10.30 - 12 noon All welcome

Festive Coffee Morning, St Mary's, Elmley Castle: 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.

Mens Breakfast at The Queens, Saturday 13th January 9.30. Speaker will be Paul Cornish who will speak about his time in Madagascar

Elmley Village Market: Thursday 18th January 9.30 - 11.30

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.

Please email content for the next Link News to rectoryoffice@btinternet.com by Monday 15th 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 7th and Sunday 14th 1st and 2nd Sundays of Epiphany



This plaque in a medieval church close to the Barbican signals an all too rare time when a whole day passed uneventfully! We can wish for a Happy New Year but we know that this is likely to be another turbulent year. A change of year may have put a painful distance between us and those we've loved and lost during the year. And it's no guarantee that life will be any easier.

A New Year can, nevertheless, give us the impetus to make a new start. Even a few recent purchases from IKEA helping to reorder my study have given me a welcome sense of control. Other goals, to declutter and complete long-postponed targets, can result in giving more shape and direction to our lives.

What matters most in these perilous times is to know God's resolution for our lives. In the words of the psalmist: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea'.

To make this real it can be helpful to draw up a rule of life setting out our own goals in respect of our time and pattern of prayer, bible study, charitable giving, church attendance and wider service. Even though we will fail from time to time, we will have taken responsibility for and become intentional about our lives. And we will have laid the foundation for a happier New Year.

Roger Spiller

December Services

Readings and Collects

7th January Readings:

Genesis 1, 1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19, 1-7
Mark 1, 4-11

Collect:

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord

14th January Readings

1 Samuel 3, 1-10
Psalm 139, 1-5, 12-18
Revelation 5, 1-10
John 1, 43 to end

Collect:

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past
ages and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

CMS

Pray with us this week for CMS's
staff team, who are committed to
serving God's mission in their
various roles.

USPG

As we step into the new year, we
know that our world is a deeply
uncertain place. Few of us predict-
ed the events of the last few years -
the Covid 19 pandemic, a major
land war in Europe, the cost of
living crisis or conflict in the Holy
Land. We do not know what lies
ahead in 2024. We can only step
forward, as Paul noted, 'by faith
and not by sight'.

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

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.*

Diocese of Worcester

*The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby,
will visit the Diocese on Saturday 3 February
to bring us together in prayer.*

Prayer is the first of Archbishop

Justin's stated priorities and as we
continue to 'pray for growth' in our
diocese, his visit provides and an
opportunity for us to come together
for a day of focussed prayer that more
people will come to know the love of
Jesus and join us in our life and
worship; praying for our parishes,
schools and communities.

All are welcome to join us as we pray in
different locations throughout the
Diocese. Booking will only be required
for lunch at Holland House and more
details on that will be available in the
new year.

Sunday 7th

9.00 am Besford, Holy Communion
9.00 am Alstone, Holy Communion
10.45 am Bredon, Holy Communion
10.45 am Little Comberton, Holy Communion

Wednesday 10th

10.00 am Iona Morning Prayer, Little Comberton

Sunday 14th

9.00 am Bredon's Norton, Holy Communion
9.00 am Bricklehampton, Holy Communion
10.45 am Eckington, Christingle Family Eucharist
10.45 am Overbury, Holy Communion
4.00 pm Bredon, Christingle

Wednesday 17th

10.00 am Morning Eucharist, Little Comberton

Holland House

Morning Prayer (Celtic and other) at Holland House on: Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.15 am. There will be a Eucharist at 12
noon on Wednesdays.

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.