

## What's on

### Coming Up

**New Year Coffee Morning, Saturday 3rd January 10.00 am—12 noon**, St Mary's Church, Elmley Castle - Everyone welcome for coffee, cake and a chat.

**Singers needed** A smaller churches choir is going to be formed in the new year to sing at the Cathedral one weekend in April (Friday to Sunday). If you're interested, follow the link: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/diocesan-small-churches-choir.php>

**Confirmation Preparation 2026** Confirmation preparation for 2026 will be done in the Deanery (Rev'd Katryn will be involved). Confirmation courses are a wonderful opportunity to explore Christian faith over ten weekly sessions, together with others. The course may be in preparation for your Confirmation, or, the course may be a refresher about the Christian Faith for you or. A Confirmation Service is a service where the promises made at your baptism are now affirmed by you as an adult and you receive the laying on of hands and anointing with oil by a bishop confirming you in the Christian faith. (If you have not been baptised, this may happen during the confirmation service at in your parish before the Confirmation Service.) The course will ten one hour sessions from 7-8pm. The venue will be at Church House next to All Saints Church in Evesham. Dates: 20, 27 April, 11, 18 May (missing bank holidays), 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 June, 6 July If you are thinking of being Confirmed or you wish to do the course as a refresher, do speak to Rev'd Katryn.

**Please email content for the next Link News to [rectoryoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:rectoryoffice@btinternet.com) by Wednesday 7th January 2026. Contributions from all villages welcomed. Thank you.**

**Please note that the rectory office is manned on Wednesday mornings 9.00 am - 1.00 pm**

### 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

## Sunday 28th December, 1st Sunday of Christmas and Sunday 4th January, 2nd Sunday of Christmas



A sentence in a book I'm reading arrested me:  
"Economics is the way we organise ourselves and our resources in response to God's creative love." Archbishop Thabo Magkoba



The Bible is that unfolding story of God's creative love, a seam of gold running through the often mired clay of human endeavour. This story of God's creative love begins to climax in the mysterious account that we remember during Christmas-tide: A young woman shall give birth to a son by God the Holy Spirit, he is to be named Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. In more contemporary language we may say that he will save his people from selfishness which is the root of all that hurts and breaks and oppresses and kills. Nations can be as selfish as individuals!

This advent of God into our world in utter vulnerability is an extraordinary thing to do. An explosively unselfish thing to do. God enters human economics dependent on people. The tender hands of a mother, the grace of a stepfather. Yet the times were arduous for his family and for many in his land. This child is the quiet coming of God's creative love which will show us in the words of Desmond Tutu's prayer that:

"Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death..."  
A blessed and peaceful Christmastide to you!

Rev'd Katryn

## Readings and Collects

### Sunday 28th December

#### Readings

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews: 10-end

Matthew: 13-end

#### Collect:

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

### Sunday 4th January

#### Readings

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Psalm 147: 13-end

Ephesians 1: 3-14

John 1: (1-9) 10-18

#### Collect:

God our Father,  
in love you sent your Son  
that the world may have life:  
lead us to seek him among the  
outcast  
and to find him in those in need,  
for Jesus Christ's sake.

### We pray . . .

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

- Bob Davies
- Yvonne Seward
- 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.

George Mackison

John Sharp

### For our neighbours in our Benefice at Christmas

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the people who live beside me. May we grow in understanding, patience, and friendship. Bless our street with safety, harmony, and generosity, so that together we reflect the true spirit of Christmas — love without condition*

### Please pray for Bishop Hugh as he starts his ministry.

*Gracious and Loving God,  
Through your Son, Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, you have called us into the fellowship of your Universal Church.  
We thank you for calling your servant, Hugh, to be Bishop of Worcester; sustain him by your love, strengthen him in faith, encourage him in hope and grant him the needful gifts of Grace, that through his ministry among us, we may live and grow as Kingdom People sharing faith, hope and love in Jesus' name  
Amen*



## December/January Services

### Sunday 28th December

10.45 am Ashton-under-Hill - Group Service

### Wednesday 31st December

10.00 am No Service

### Sunday 4th January

9.00 am Bredon's Norton

9.00 am Alstone - Holy Communion

10.45 am Bredon - Holy Communion

10.45 am Little Comberton - Holy Communion

### Wednesday 7th January

10.00 am 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.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!