

## What's on

### Coming Up

**Men's Brekkie** Saturday 14th February, The Queen's, Elmley Castle, 9.30 am

**Crafts and Activities** - Saturday 14th February, Eckington Church between 3.00 pm and 4.00 pm. Free-all ages welcome, donations welcome. Refreshments available.

**An Evening of Live Music** - Friday 20th February, St Mary's Church, Elmley Castle. 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm Tickets £10 (on door)

### Lent Course 2026

Experiencing the prayer of the church together

Quiet Day: The Psalms as Prayer

Week One: Experiencing the Lord's Prayer

Week Two: Praying with St Paul 1

Week Three: Praying with St Paul 2

Week Four: Cherished Prayers of former saints

Week Five: Cherished Collects

### When + Where

**Quiet Day:** 21 February, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, at St Peter's Inkberrow, £10.

Led by Rev'd Katryn

### Lent Groups starting week of 23 February

Monday 2.30 pm - Elmley Castle

Tuesday 2.00 pm - Overbury Village Hall

Wednesday 2.00 pm - Holy Trinity Eckington

Thursday 7.30 pm - Great Comberton

Let Alison Khan know if you wish to attend a group:

acbhteam@gmail.com or call 07984748059

**Please email content for the next Link News to**

**rectoryoffice@btinternet.com by Wednesday 18th February 2025.**

**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 8th February, 2nd Sunday before Lent, and Sunday 15th February, Sunday next before Lent



'The New (Testament) is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed'. You, like me, might have been brought up with that adage. But it's misleading. There's every bit as much mystery in the NT as there is in the OT. There is a danger in thinking that the OT is old and inferior to the NT.

It's true that Christians know more about God than anyone in the OT could have claimed to know. The supreme idea of God's incarnation exceeds anything to be found in the OT.

But the OT reveals the 'God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ'. Without the OT we would not be able to recognise the revelation of God rendered in Jesus Christ. Moreover, without the OT, the witness of the NT would make little sense.

It's from the OT that we come to know God as Creator of all that is, as the Lord of history, as the Judge who upholds the rights of the poor and downtrodden, of his concern with world politics, his exclusive claim upon his creatures and his relationship to creation.

In an age when culture prefers to speak of a depersonalised, fanciful, immaterial spirituality, as evidenced in Jilly Cooper's recent memorial service, the voice of the concrete, personal, conversational character of the God of the OT is sorely needed.

The Gospels regard major figures of the OT as 'types' for interpreting figures in the NT, so Hannah for Mary; the saga of Joseph, for the father of Jesus, Elijah as John the Baptist. And notice when we come to the first four Sundays in Lent how in St Paul's letter to the Romans he uses the OT figures Adam, Abraham and Moses as 'types' to fill out the life and teaching of Jesus.

If the two newly restored rose windows of Notre-Dame de Paris are representative of the darker hues of the OT, on the one side, and the brighter lights of the NT, on the opposite side, they should teach us that, for the Christian, both OT and NT are required reading.

Roger Spiller

## Readings and Collects

### Sunday 8th February

#### Readings

Genesis 1: 1-2.3

Psalm 136

Romans 8: 18-25

Matthew 6: 25-34

#### Collect:

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness. In Jesus Christ our Lord

### Sunday 15th February

#### Readings

Exodus 34: 29-end

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1: 16-end

Matthew 17: 1-9

#### Collect:

Holy God, You know the disorder of our sinful lives, set straight our crooked hearts and bend our wills to love your goodness and your Glory. In Jesus Christ our Lord

### We pray . . .

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

- Yvonne Seward
- All in residential and care homes
- All who live with chronic conditions

#### 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.*

### ATC Sunday 8th February

The Air Training Corps celebrate their formation in 1941 with a Service and parade. Please pray for those who volunteer with the ATC and for the cadets themselves.

#### Our neighbours in Pershore Road Little Comberton & Eckington Road, Great Comberton.

*Loving God,*

*We lift up our neighbours to You today.  
May their homes be filled with peace, their hearts with kindness, and their days with joy. Help us to live side by side in harmony, supporting one another in times of need and celebrating together in times of gladness. Amen.*

#### Prayer for the Journey into Lent

*Lord, as we draw near to this sacred season, quiet my heart from the noise of the world.*

*Help me to see the places in my life that need Your healing touch.*

*Give me the courage to let go of what holds me back,  
and the grace to walk closer with You each day.*

*May my fasting be more than abstaining from food —  
let it be a turning away from selfishness,  
and a turning toward love.  
Amen.*



## February Services

### Sunday 8th February

9.00 am Bredon's Norton - Holy Communion

9.00 am Overbury - Holy Communion

**10.45 am Great Comberton - Elmley Benefice Morning Worship**

10.45 am Bredon - Morning Praise

10.45 am Eckington - Holy Communion

### Wednesday 11th February

**10.00 am Little Comberton - Thought for the Day**

### Sunday 15th February

9.00 am Eckington - Holy Communion

**9.00 am Elmley Castle - Holy Communion**

10.45 am Bredon - Holy Communion

10.45 am Beckford - Holy Communion

3.00 pm Overbury - Messy Church

### Wednesday 18th February

**10.00 am Little Comberton - Holy Communion with Ashing**

7.00 pm Bredon - Holy Communion with Ashing

### 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.

### World Day Of Prayer - A Service for Everyone

Friday 6th March, St Giles Church, Bredon at 2.00 pm. Prepared by Christian women of Nigeria. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.