

The Link



Additional Notices



Alcester Minster Churches at Alcester,
Arrow, Coughton, Great Alne, Haselor,
Kinwarton, Sambourne and Weethley

SEPTEMBER 2020

A Letter from Rev. Adrian Guthrie

Dear Friends,

I'm going to be efficient in my last few days in Alcester Minster! I'm writing just one farewell message to be printed in this notice sheet and also in our parish magazines.

When I was inducted as Rector of the five parishes of the Alcester Minster on 3 December 2013, Bishop John preached on the account of Jesus sending out seventy-two of his followers in mission to the surrounding villages and towns. Juliette and I have aimed to model that approach, along with others, and have been blessed by regularly visiting all the churches and communities of the Minster – thank you for your friendship and fellowship. Interestingly in both that story and the Gospel reading (see below) set for our last Sunday, we read of Jesus sending his disciples 'ahead of him'.

Matthew 14:22-27

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

New International Version (NIV)

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As Christians our aim is to keep in step with Jesus' plans and purposes for our lives, and not go off ahead of him!

But sometimes, when walking with Jesus, he sends us on 'ahead of him'. Jesus made the disciples get in the boat without him, which perhaps made them feel vulnerable, and that was before the wind blew up!

I think a vacancy between rectors can seem a bit like being in that kind of boat, knowing that a new phase in the life of the Minster is on the horizon, but finding yourselves being instructed to go into the unknown ahead of knowing what the future holds.

Take heart though, because whilst the disciples were being rocked by the waves, Jesus was on a mountainside praying to God *and* no doubt watching them on the lake. Jesus was in effect, still with them, even though he sent them ahead of him. When Jesus feels a bit distant, he isn't really, and it's good to picture him praying for us – he is not only watching over us, but interceding for us.

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And then there will be a moment, as there was for the twelve, when Jesus 'appears' and reveals his authority, and the next stage of the journey. He climbed into the boat and stilled the storm to continue their ministry together on the other side of the lake.

During a vacancy the way ahead might be initially unclear, and feel at times as if Jesus is sending you on a journey ahead of him, but trust that he is still with you, in control, and will reveal his plan, so that your journey with him and a new rector can continue the other side of the vacancy.

Juliette and I thank God for our time in Alcester Minster and we pray that you will know his leading, peace, joy and blessing in the future.

Every blessing,

Adrian



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team
would like you to pray for
the following topics:

1. Remember all those still catching and suffering from Covid 19, even if they are no longer in the headlines, pray that through the care and compassion of doctors and nurses they may know the healing touch of God.

2. Pray for the mission of the Church in these difficult times, that God's love may be seen in the lives of his people.

Our churches are re-opening for prayer and worship post COVID-19.

A temporary plan for services to return to a new 'normal' has been produced by Revd Adrian Guthrie and Minster Council.

Sambourne church will open from 10-12 noon on Wednesdays do drop in for private prayer and experience God's peace.

From 6th September there will be a weekly online service of Morning Prayer, weekly church based worship at 10.0am and three 4pm services a month across all Minster churches .

Alcester Minster Church Services – September 2020

6th Sept	10.00 am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas Alcester
	10.00 am	Morning Prayer	Haselor
	4.00 pm	Holy Communion	Kinwarton
13th Sept	10.00 am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas Alcester
	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Arrow
	4.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Sambourne
20th Sept	10.00 am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas Alcester
	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Alne
	4.00 pm	Holy Communion	Weethley
27th Sept	10.00 am	Morning Prayer	St Nicholas Alcester
	10.00 am	Holy Communion Harvest	St Peter's Coughton

Due to restrictions on numbers—Coughton 28 and Sambourne 12, if you wish to attend any of the services please telephone Alcester Minister Administrator—Tricia Berry: 07840284294 or Gail Laband: 07989983099

Social distancing will need to be observed so please wear a face covering, and hand sanitiser will be provided.

This is a new pattern of services and times, which is not what anyone has been used to but we hope you will find a service to suit you.

Nature jottings from Perrymill Lane

The spells of hot sunny weather have continued to keep butterflies active, but the birds have gone quiet as most breeding has come to an end.

16th July. A bramble patch in a sunny spot was attracting good numbers of butterflies including many Peacocks, Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns, with a couple of Silver-washed Fritillaries. We stopped to exchange a few words with volunteers from the Heart of England Forest. They were clearing birch scrub to make way for more brambles which should increase butterfly numbers in future. It is good to see this woodland being managed for the benefit of the flora and fauna.

My brother brought to my attention a phone "app" for identifying items in the natural world. It is called Seek by iNaturalist. Basically you point the phone's camera at the item and it tells you what the species is. I've tried it on a few wild flowers and a beetle and it seemed to work well.

17th July. I did the "Big Butterfly Count" in our garden and found Peacocks, Tortoiseshells, Small White, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns and a Comma.

21st July. Another Red Kite spotted flying over Middletown Lane – this time reported by Chris.

29th July. After dark I tried to spot Comet Neowise, supposedly visible near the Great Bear constellation, but was unsuccessful. However, using my birdwatching telescope, I did have an excellent view of Saturn and Jupiter close together with Jupiter's four moons clearly visible in a line.

31st July. An unexpected gift was delivered by Richard the postman. Friends of ours, knowing our interest in nature, had decided that we should have a kit for raising five Painted Lady butterflies. It consisted of a tub containing five tiny caterpillars with a complete food source and a mesh cylinder for the butterflies to emerge into, We now have four chrysalides (one of the caterpillars was DOA) and await the emergence of the butterflies in a couple of weeks. Very educational for children (young and old!)

7th Aug. A Red Kite was circling above our house.

9th Aug. A Common Blue butterfly was visiting flowers in our garden.

11th Aug. We were very pleased to spot a Marsh Tit in the hedgerow at the edge of the woodland in Wike Lane. This is a rare sighting for us.

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