12th July 2020 5th after Trinity

Welcome

To the Heart of England Group of Parishes

in the villages of Bidford, Binton, Exhall, Salford Priors, Temple Grafton & Wixford

On line Church Sunday services are available via our church websites and Facebook pages.

Our rector, Revd Peter Walker is producing an audio recording of a lectionary based service of hymns, prayers, readings and a short sermon

St Matthew’s Messy Church service is back this week and is available via the websites or Facebook pages.

St Matthew’s also hosts a Zoom Coffee & Chat session each Sunday at 11.15am after the main morning services!

Do come and join in!

Worshipping God
Making new Disciples
Transforming Communities
For your prayers this week:

- all who are unwell, especially Joanna Cotterell, John England, Reg Francis, Anne Gibbs, Gwen Hill, Cheryl Jefferson, Dorothy Johnson, Chloe Lambert, John Lawrence, Rose Turner, Alex Waring, Laurence, Roger Webb, Alan (Margaret’s son), Joan (Peter Walker’s mother-in-law), Ruth Walker, Erica Wilson, Charlotte (Penny Prewer’s niece), Steve (a fireman), Phil Dalby, Alan & Sarah Edwards and all their families, carers and the medical staff who treat them
- all who mourn the loss of loved ones,
- All who live alone and are feeling lonely
- Anyone facing uncertainty about their future work prospects
- safety for everyone as further easing of the lockdown occurs this week
- All NHS and front line staff in hospitals and care homes
- All residents of Care Homes feeling at risk and isolated
- All scientists working to find a vaccine for the coronavirus
- For families able to spend more time together

“For you, O Lord are my hope, my trust” Psalm 71.5 (ESV)

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

What’s happening this week:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Thursday Prayers—please join in at home</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Friday Prayers—please join in at home</td>
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**Readings:**

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<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>12th July</th>
<th>19th July</th>
<th>26th July</th>
<th>2nd August</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Reading</td>
<td>Genesis 25.19-34</td>
<td>Genesis 28.10-19a</td>
<td>Genesis 29.15-28</td>
<td>Genesis 32.22-31</td>
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**Plans for Outdoor services:**

St Matthew’s Ministry Team have been given the go-ahead by the PCC to plan for an Open Air service on 2nd August.

Because of continuing social distancing rules, attendance at the service in the churchyard will be limited to 30 people. An online ticketing system will be in place for those who wish to attend and more details will be published next week.

**Alpha!**

The Churches of Arden Group are running an online Alpha course starting on Tuesday 14th July.

See flyer on page 7 for more information

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Day off: Monday</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Email enquiries to: admin@heartparishes.org.uk

Group website: www.heartparishes.org.uk
St Laurence’s website: www.stlaurencebidford.org.uk
St Matthew’s website: www.stmatthewssalfordpriors.org.uk
Parish Office: Birch House, Grange Lane, HARVINGTON, WR11 8NL
**Readings & Prayers for 12th July — 5th after Trinity**

**The Collect:**
Almighty and everlasting God, 
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church 
is governed and sanctified: 
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, 
that in their vocation and ministry 
they may serve you in holiness and truth 
to the glory of your name; 
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 
who is alive and reigns with you, 
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

**1st Reading: Genesis 25.19-34**
This is the account of Abraham’s son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to enquire of the LORD.

The LORD said to her,
“Two nations are in your womb, 
and two peoples from within you will be separated; 
one people will be stronger than the other, 
and the older will serve the younger.”

When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skilful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who
had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)

Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

“Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

2nd Reading: Romans 8.1-11

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Gospel: Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to
sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.”

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”
TUESDAYS
8PM- 915PM

Get in Touch
To join Alpha
Contact Barbara in the
Churches of Arden
Parish Office at
churchesofardenoffice @gmail.com

Questions
about the series
please contact
Family pastor Chelsi at
familypastor.claverdon @gmail.com

What is Alpha?
Alpha is an opportunity to explore the big questions
of life and Christian faith.
It is intentionally created to be an open, friendly, low-pressure environment to explore and ask questions.
No question is 'off the table' and everyone is welcome.
Alpha's have taken place in churches, pubs, prisons
and in homes now even online via Zoom.

What to expect at Alpha?
Alpha runs eleven weeks.
Each week you'll be sent a zoom link to join with the
Alpha series participants.
Each week we will watch an engaging 25 minute film
on various topics.
After you've watched, you join others back in the
online 'Zoom' group to chat and engage in open,
honest discussions.

Churches of Arden
invites you to
Alpha online.

Honest questions
for uncertain times

When and where?
Alpha runs eleven weeks on zoom.
Tuesday evenings 8pm - 915pm
Our first zoom Alpha will be on the
14th of July, 21st, 28th
4th of August, 11th, 18th, 25th,
Saturday 29th (10am -1230pm)
1st of September, 8th, 15th
Finishing the 22nd.