

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week commencing 22nd November 2020, 'Feast of Christ the King'

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100 v 4-5

Fr Glenn Reading – Team Vicar
Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278
Curate: Mthr. Victoria Barlow email
victoriabarlow@hotmail.com
Mel Beynon, Lay Reader, on placement as a student from Queen's College, Birmingham until Christmas.

Important, please read!

Owing to the new lockdown restrictions introduced by the Government, there will be no services held in church until the measures are relaxed post 2nd December. More information will be forthcoming nearer that date.

Nb The church will not be open for private prayer this Tuesday morning. Due to the high infection rate in Astwood Bank and surrounding area it has been decided not to open up and put people at a heightened risk of being infected.

Online streamed services for this Sunday 22nd November, 'Feast of Christ the King'

- This **Sunday at 10.30 am, Father Glenn** will be streaming Morning Worship on the Astwood Bank Facebook page from his study.
- Whilst on Sunday afternoon **at 4 pm, Mel Beynon**, who is on placement here from Queen's College, Birmingham will be streaming Evening Prayer also on the Astwood Bank Facebook page.

Mthr Victoria continues to hold #PrayTogether **compline** on her FB / twitter pages every day at 9pm, until the churches are allowed to hold gathered worship once more, and anyone is welcome to join together. The Order of Service is almost always uploaded onto the Ss. M&G website, but also available by email on request to her.

*On Friday morning 20th November, Victoria will also be holding a very simple Zoom **lectio divina** based bible share/explore discussion on the lectionary reading for the day for about 40 minutes. The Zoom link is [:https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89702093691](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89702093691) whilst the Meeting ID: 897 0209 3691*

Please give notices for inclusion in next week's Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk
Log onto our website for more information
www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

We pray for those who are sick: Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret Emms, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret Savage, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi, Pastor Robin Baker, Colin, Steven, and Margaret Andrew.

Call to Prayer: The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London have written to all C of E clergy calling "all Christian people to pray and to do so continually over this next month" and to "make this month of lockdown a month of prayer". They also ask their clergy to fast and pray on Thursdays where possible.

They call for prayer every day at 6pm
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>.

Let us: pray for the most vulnerable and isolated in our neighbourhoods; *pray for older people, and those who are shielding, who may be concerned about shopping, regular hospital appointments and a general lack of day to day contact with people;* **pray** for a sense of calm and clarity as well as strength to face what is ahead. That Christians will be "beacons of hope" and "carriers of the message of peace" at this time; *pray for the scientists from across the globe as they look for ways to alleviate symptoms and their research for a vaccine for the future, and for the health of the volunteers in the clinical trials.*

What a busy Sunday this is in the Church's calendar. First it's the **Patronal Festival of our Benefice 'Christ the King'**. Then it is the **last Sunday in the Church's calendar before the advent of Advent!**

And to all those traditional cooks out there it is also known as **Stir-up Sunday**. Stir-up Sunday is an informal term in **Anglican** churches for the last Sunday before the season of Advent and gets its name from the beginning of the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer, which begins with the words, "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people". But it has become associated with the custom of making the Christmas puddings on that day. Most recipes for Christmas pudding require it to be cooked well in advance of Christmas and then reheated on Christmas Day, so the collect of the day served as a useful reminder! You could not make it up!

Sunday Stars: There is a letter on the website from Irene, plus activities to do during November. Go onto the website and click on Sunday Stars. Please pass this information onto any young people with whom you're in contact.

