

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF CRADLEY WITH MATHON AND STORRIDGE

Essential News from around the Benefice

THIS SUNDAY - 10 December 2023, Second Sunday of Advent - Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11, Mark 1: 1-8

9.30 a.m. Mattins Storridge
10.45 a.m. Family Communion, live streamed. Preacher, the Ven. George Howe Cradley
[Join on line](#) or dial in 03302 210097 code: 578270357#
6.00 p.m. Evensong Mathon

Monday 11 December

11.00 a.m. Interment of ashes (Paul Kings) Cradley

Tuesday 12 December

7.30 p.m. Planning meeting in Cradley Village Hall for all interested in the new-look Family Service, 'Church 4 All'

Wednesday 13 December

10.00 a.m. **Holy Communion (said)** in Cradley Church
2.45 p.m. Benefice Fellowship Group continues to look at Luke's Gospel, at Russett House, Cradley.
6.30 p.m. **Evening Prayer** - Live-streamed online or 'phone 03302 210097 (Access Code: 496060773#)

Monday 18 December

3.00 p.m. A service of thanksgiving for the life of Daphne Beard will be held at Storridge church. Reception afterwards at Storridge Village Hall.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE DETAILS are now available on Christmas leaflets available in the churches, in the December edition of the Three Villages Newsletter and on our parish websites.

CAROL SERVICES

Sunday 17 December	6.00 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight	Mathon
Monday 18 December	6.30 p.m.	Carol Service	Cradley
Tuesday 19 December	6.30 p.m.	Cradley School Carol Service	Cradley
Wednesday 20 December	6.00 p.m.	A Service of Carols and Readings	Storrige

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: O blessed Jesus, grant me stillness of soul in thee. Let thy mighty calmness reign in me. Rule me, O thou King of gentleness, King of peace. Give me control, control over my words, thoughts and actions. From all irritability, want of meekness, want of gentleness, O dear Lord, deliver me. By thine own deep patience give me patience, stillness of soul in thee. Make me in this, and in all, more and more like thee.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PRAYERS: Pray that this Advent season may be valued and used as a time of preparation and penitence. **Pray for the peace of the world and for all in authority:** for a lasting cessation of violence between Israel and Gaza; for all seeking to bring aid, and for the appeals launched by Embrace, Christian Aid, and others. Pray for the many displaced, bereaved, injured or traumatised; for all held hostage, for their speedy and safe release, and for all who are anxious about them. Continue to pray for an end to war in Ukraine and for those suffering there and in all places of conflict. Calling to mind that Sunday marks the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights, at a time when human rights are increasingly under threat in many parts of our world, pray we may stand firm against rising intolerance and build a future of dignity, security, justice and human rights for all. **In our diocese,** as the Diocesan Year of Prayer draws to its close with a celebration service in Hereford on Tuesday, give thanks for the many positives the year has produced, and for a deepening of our prayer life and trust in God's leading and providing. Give thanks for all who have led events and activities. **In the wider church,** pray for the The United Church of Pakistan, for the Most Revd Azad Marshall, Moderator, and all in that part of the world. **In our benefice** pray for our school, and for all preparing for Christmas. Pray for John Rowe, following the loss of Lynne, and adjusting to life in care, for his family and for those caring for him. **Among the sick,** pray for Rod Ellis; Pam Ellis, Richard Crouch; baby Abel Arnold; John Edgar; Jim Brewer; Ian Spence; Pam Noel and Peter, supporting her; Doreen McKerracher & David, supporting her; Tom & Margaret Ainscough, Barbara Baker, Anne Luxton, her daughter Melanie Luxton, and their families. Pray also for Maurice Taylor. **Remember all who have died,** among them Daphne Beard, a life-long Storridge resident and member of Storridge church, Paul Kings, whose ashes will be laid to rest at Cradley on Monday, and Norman Parsons, the father of John Parsons, whose funeral is elsewhere this week. Pray for their families and friends and all who mourn. Remember too all who have died in Israel, Gaza and in Ukraine.

NEXT SUNDAY – 17 December 2023, Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24, John 1: 6-8, 19-28 (separate readings at Mathon Carol Service)

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion Storridge
10.45 a.m. Lay-led Morning Prayer, with Jane MacFarlane, Local Worship Leader-in-training Cradley
10.45 a.m. Mattins (lay led), live streamed
[Join on line](#) or dial in 03302 210097 code: 578270357#
6.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight Mathon

Rector: Revd. Robert Ward, Tel: 01886 880438, E-mail: robert.ward776@gmail.com (Day off: Friday).
www.cradleychurch.org.uk; www.mathonchurch.org.uk; www.storrigechurch.org.uk