

**Team:** The believers of Elmdon

**Rector:** Revd Bekah Clark

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*News for the 24<sup>th</sup> December edition of the news & prayer sheet should be sent to [news@elmdonchurch.org](mailto:news@elmdonchurch.org) by 7pm on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December.*

**We preach Christ crucified**

**Nobody and nothing but Him**

If you have enjoyed the **friendship sermon series** or want to think further about friendship, you may like to take a look at Phil Knox's video series and/or the small group questions, either on your own or with your Connect Group. The videos and questions can be found here: <https://www.eauk.org/what-we-do/initiatives/friendship/the-best-of-friends-video-series>.



*"The Church in the Park"*

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him 'Immanuel', which means, God with us."*

*(Matthew 1, verse 23)*

*The Elmdon Church 'verse of the week'.*

**Welcome to Elmdon Church!**

**10.30am Holy Communion with Kids in Christ**

**Revd Bekah Clark will preach on**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**2.00pm-3.30pm: Open Church**

**Midweek service:**

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm**

We continue to provide material on our website, Facebook and YouTube channel, accessible at [www.elmdonchurch.org](http://www.elmdonchurch.org)

## Readings:

Mon	18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>2 Chronicles 33:1-34:13</b>
Tue	19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>2 Chronicles 34:14-35:19</b>
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>2 Chronicles 35:20-36:23</b>
Thu	21 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>Ezra 1:1-2:70</b>
Fri	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>Ezra 3:1-4:24</b>
Sat	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>Ezra 5:1-6:12</b>
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Luke 1:57-66</b>

## Please pray:

- For residents of Stockwell Rise and Stoney Close.
- That despite all the problems in the world, we as Christians may be bearers of the good news of Jesus to those around us.
- For the families of Allison Carter and John Horton whose funerals will be held next week.
- For Rob Dean preaching on Sunday and Bekah Clark preaching on Christmas Day.

## News

**Cold weather alerts:** When necessary, UKHSA and the Met Office will issue cold weather alerts. Such weather could increase the health risks to vulnerable people and disrupt the delivery of services. There is useful information in the Council's 'Here2Help this Winter' booklet which can be accessed on <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/here2help>. Please contact Bekah if you are struggling to heat your home or access warm food and drinks or medical care.

**A big thank you** to the team who've decorated the church for Advent and Christmas so that Elmdon Church shines out with the joy, light, love and hope that Jesus came to bring. This year, there are a number of stations engaging with the events leading up to Christmas through interaction and reflection. Please do spend some time enjoying these and please do be praying that our decorations and the 'Experience Christmas' journey would help all who enter our building this Advent and Christmas to experience the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Donations of mince pies needed for the Christmas services.** Please ensure that the 'best before date' covers the whole of the Christmas period.

## Next Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December

### 10.30am All Age Carol Service

Rob Dean will preach on Luke 1:57-66

### Open Church: 2.00pm-3.30pm

### 6.00pm Traditional Carol Service

### 11.00pm Midnight Communion

*at St Mary's, Hobs Moat*

### Christmas Day at Elmdon Church

#### 10.30 am All Age Celebration with Holy Communion

Revd Bekah Clark will preach on Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:1-7

**Please note, there will be no midweek (Tuesday) service on 26<sup>th</sup> December or 2<sup>nd</sup> January.**

**Funeral of Allison Carter:** Allison's funeral is on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am at Elmdon Church, followed by a private committal at Robin Hood. The family have requested that you wear colourful clothing. Due to limited space, please can we request you show your love and support for the family by only attending the service if you knew Allison personally, to ensure close friends and family are able to pay their respects.

Wonderfully, almost £2000 has been raised for Marie Curie in memory of Allison, including over £100 from Christmas Jumper Day at church. Allison's Cherished Memory Fund page, if anyone would like to make a donation there, is: <https://memoryfund.mariecurie.org.uk/In-Memory/Allison-Carter>

**Funeral of John Horton:** John's funeral is on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 12 noon at Elmdon Church. The committal is at Robin Hood at 1.30pm. The family has requested that black be worn.