



## Redditch Mission Area

Facilitating | Enabling | Sharing

in God's Mission Across Greater Redditch

## ADVENT NEWS

### It's ADVENT!

We start the new church year in the light of a challenging few weeks. With the resignation of Archbishop Justin Welby and just this week the Assisted Dying bill being voted on to the next stage many of us will be feeling a mixture of emotions.

On top of this we have the busyness of the Advent season. Those involved with schools or retail will be, along with the church, very focussed on Christmas already.

But let's remember that Advent calls us to look beyond the events of Christmas to what **will be** when Jesus returns in glory.

Let us focus on the people God is calling us to reach out to with His Love. We do this as a fallible church, we do this as fallible people. What comes to mind for me is that we are: broken people seeking to serve broken people. But, we do this not in our own strength but in power and love of God.

In the coming weeks as we engage with people in our churches, our schools, our wider community, let us reach out with God's Love and encourage those we encounter into relationship with the faithful and steadfast God we know.

May Advent be a blessed time for you all.

Paul



## Make Christmas Special Toy Appeal

We appreciate our local churches will have their own projects and partnerships to support those in need this Christmas.

However, there is something special in the wider Church working together too.

If you can please do support this Cross-Redditch campaign.

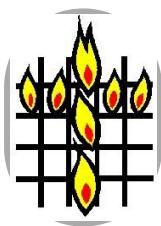
Individuals might like to help in the shop in the Kingfisher between 7th to 14th December.

Churches could collect together or individuals can make a donation.

The drop off points are:

- St Stephen's Church (Town Centre) - 10am - 2pm Monday to Friday
- Kingfisher Guest Services
- Redditch Standard Offices - Church Green East
- Kate Bosworth Hair - Headless Cross
- Feckenham Church
- Plus buy a toy in Poundstretcher and drop it into the designated trolley.

For more information see <https://www.cofe-redditch.org.uk/toy-appeal-2024/> or contact Elaine via [Elaine@cofe-redditch.org.uk](mailto:Elaine@cofe-redditch.org.uk).



## Alvechurch Community Lunch 1pm Christmas Day

Do you fancy some company of Christmas Day?

Whether you live alone, are a couple or a larger family unit you are invited to join folk from St Laurence Alvechurch and the wider community at the Ark for a traditional Christmas lunch.

Do please let them know you are coming by contacting The Ark on 0121 447 7955 or [admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk)

A poster can be downloaded from  
<https://www.coferedditch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Christmas-Day-Community-Lunch-1.pdf>



## **Radiate Redditch**

### **Creating the Warmth of Community**

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Radiate Redditch and Churches Together in Redditch provide for those in need over the Christmas period.

They are looking for volunteers to help over Christmas at the Christmas Hub based in The **Ecumenical Centre**. The Hub, now in it's 12th year, provides freshly cooked meals to guests coming in for a warm and friendly place over Christmas.

We are open 11-3pm 24th December - 30th December inclusive. Volunteers will be involved in preparing vegetables, serving food to guests at tables, clearing away and washing up. If you would like to find out more, email [radiateredditch@gmail.com](mailto:radiateredditch@gmail.com)

**#volunteersneeded**

**#redditch**

**#churchestogetherinredditch**

## **Progress on the RMA project**

The consultation period for the Bishop's Mission Order is over and we hope that the order will be enacted shortly. We are also in the midst of setting up the Charitable Organisation needed so that we can move on with employing the people that the Heathier Churches Funding we are receiving will fund.

Do keep an eye on our website for more information [cofe-redditch.org.uk](https://cofe-redditch.org.uk).

## Dates for the Diary

1. 4th December - Schools Carol Concert - St Stephen's - Pray!
2. 8th December - Redditch BID Christmas Event - Town Centre - Steward?
3. 8th December - Churches Together Advent Service - 6pm at Oasis
4. Carols in the Kingfisher - 11am, 14th and 21st December - come and sing
5. Carol singing in the Alex - 22nd December - come and sing.
6. Toy Appeal - Kingfisher Centre 7th - 14th December - Donate or Volunteer.
7. Faith At Work Christmas Hospitality 17th - 19th December - come and help
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### Redditch Mission Area

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