

# Christmas 2021 Services at St Cross

Sunday December 19th @ 4.30pm

A traditional candlelit service of lessons and carols.

Wednesday December 22nd @ 4pm

The Christingle: a service for all ages to celebrate Jesus' birth.

*There will be a collection for The Children's Society.*

Christmas Eve @ 11.30pm

We celebrate the beginning of the Festival with the first Eucharist of Christmas. (Midnight Mass)

*O come let us adore him.*

Christmas Day @ 10am Family Eucharist

St. Stephen (Boxing Day- Sunday 26th) @ 10am

Said Eucharist with carols

[www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk](http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk)

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## ST CROSS CHURCH, KNUTSFORD



Faithful  
to God  
Friendly  
to all  
Flourishing  
for all

SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
8.45 and 10am Eucharist

*Welcome to St Cross for our morning eucharist.*

*As per the pink safety leaflet please remember  
'Hands - Face - Space' at ALL times.*

### *The Collect for the day*

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of  
the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### ***A reading from the Prophecy of Zephaniah :***

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.  
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says  
the Lord.

*Zephaniah 3.14-end*

*This is the word of the Lord*  
***Thanks be to God***

### **Christmas Trees**

A big 'thank you' to Tuppy Arthur for organising the Christmas Trees inside and outside the church and for her willing volunteers who transported and erected the trees. No mean feat when the weather was so poor last Tuesday.

*Revd Paul*

### **Donations for flowers**

In a couple of weeks time the plan is for the church to be beautifully decorated for Christmas. If you would like to make a contribution please pop it in an envelope and hand to Judith Broughton.

*Revd Paul*

### **Christingle Service - Assistance needed**

At the Christingle Service on Wednesday 22nd at 4pm (note different date than in recent years) we will need some assistance to staff this service. Please speak to Mary, or be prepared for her to approach you! Can I also add that due to Covid the ministry team is not asking for any assistance with the preparation of oranges this year.

*Revd Paul*



## **Share the good news!**

Please use the flyer on the back page to either remind yourself of the special service times in December. Better still, detach and give the flyer to a friend. Who can you think of who may appreciate an invitation?  
*Revd Paul*

## **Toy Collection for Ruby's Fund**

Very many thanks for your generous response. Kathryn Dewick from Ruby's Fund was absolutely delighted. She will send me photos of the distribution to the children which will be put on the church website.  
*Mary Daw*

## **Christmas Cards**

If you would like to send a Christmas card to the St Cross Family this year rather than to individuals, please send them for my attention (or give them to me) and they will be displayed in the South Aisle.  
*Judith Broughton*

## **Postage Stamps**

As the Christmas post comes in, please save your stamps and give them to me; I am still collecting them for the Leprosy Mission.  
Thank you. *Pam Jones*

## **Food Bank**

Following on from the generous support for the Toy Appeal, please can we have a concerted effort to place items in the food bin for the Welcome. If everyone can contribute a handful of items, the bin will be full to overflowing.  
*Revd Paul*

## ***A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians:***

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4.4-7*

*This is the word of the Lord*

***Thanks be to God***

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:*

***Glory to you, O Lord***

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by

threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Luke 3.7-18*

*This is the Gospel of the Lord:*

***Praise to you, O Christ.***

### **Intercessions**

*(These responses are for 8.45am only)*

Lord, you are our deliverer.

**You are our refuge and our strength**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

## **SERVICES IN THE NEXT WEEK**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December @ 10am - SAID EUCHARIST**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8.45am SAID EUCHARIST**

**10am SUNG EUCHARIST and YOUNG CHURCH**

(and Audio Service)

**4.30pm CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS**

### **Dates for your Diary**

***Tomorrow 13<sup>th</sup>***

**7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Zoom)**

***Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December***

**7pm LOVE & FAITHFULNESS Advent Course (on Zoom)**

***Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December @ 10.30am Sunflowers***

***Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December @ 4pm THE CHRISTINGLE***

***Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December***

**11.30pm - The First Eucharist of Christmas (Midnight Mass)**

***CHRISTMAS DAY @ 10am - Family Eucharist***

***BOXING DAY (St Stephen) @ 10am Said Eucharist with Carols***

***Please leave the hymnbook and pink safety leaflet in church on your seat. Take this leaflet home with you and return the service booklet to the Attendants.***