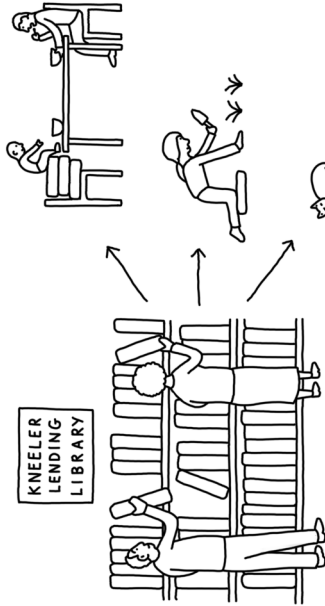


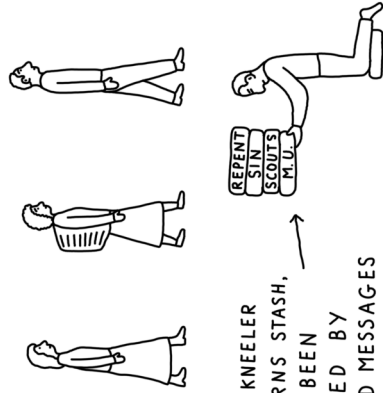
THE KNEELERS

HOW THEY ARE BEING USED DURING THE PANDEMIC

SOME WERE LENT OUT BEFORE THE START OF LOCKDOWN

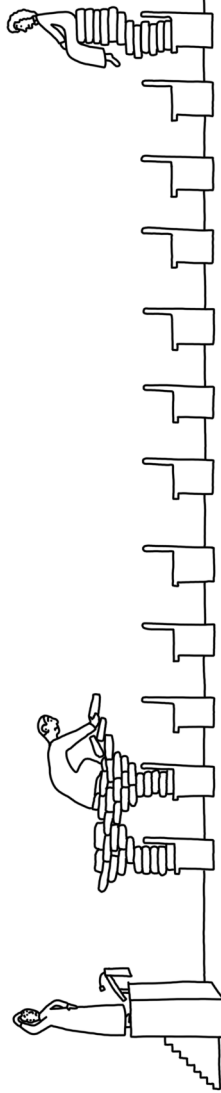


A FEW WERE PILFERED
(VERY TRICKY TO DETECT)



PENITENT KNEELER
THIEF RETURNS STASH,
HAVING BEEN
CONVERTED BY
EMBROIDERED MESSAGES

THE CLERGY USE THE REMAINDER FOR (SOCIALLY-DISTANCED) TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES



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St Cross Newsletter April 2021

**Vicar: Revd Paul Deakin,
St Cross Vicarage, Mobberley Road, Knutsford
WA16 8EL**

Tel. No. 01565 640702

email: revdpauldeakin@gmail.com

Web address: www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk

Email address: stcross.knutsford@gmail.com



The Curate writes.....

As I write this note I am saddened by the thought it will soon be time for me to hand back my church keys, the hymn book I have got at home, and collect my robes!

I am of course excited about our forthcoming move to Rainow and taking up the challenge of a new ministry, for which I feel I have been extremely well prepared for by my wonderful curacy here at St Cross. But mixed feelings are not unusual, and especially so at Easter, where we of course undergo the sadness of Good Friday before the joy of Easter Day.

One of the gospel readings for Easter Sunday is Mark 16:1-8 and you will recall that on that first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Salome, brought spices with them to Jesus' tomb, where they found the stone had already been rolled away from the entrance, and upon entering the cave saw a figure in white; unsurprisingly they were alarmed. The young man in white then speaks to them: "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." We are then told that the women fled "for terror and amazement had seized them..." It seems to me that following Jesus can be both terrifying and amazing at

the same time! Apart from my mixed feelings about leaving St Cross (and although I feel prepared for the ministry which I believe God is calling me to), I have to admit that, along with the excitement I feel, there is at least a small degree of apprehension!

Easter is a time of new beginnings and a time to renew our faith. As we can see the prospect of society starting to open up again, I anticipate that many of us will be excited about our freedoms returning and, particularly, being able to see friends and family once again, but also, perhaps, feel a sense of unease or apprehension about going about our daily lives in a more normal way when the pandemic is still with us. So, to renew our faith and put our trust in God at this time will help us overcome our terror and look with amazement at our God, whom we can know through his only Son whose risen life we can not only celebrate this Easter but also share.

My last service at St Cross (at least as a Curate here) is on Easter Day. Liz, Grace and I do not intend to disappear into the sunset; rather we intend to keep in touch with the wonderful church family which is St Cross, so rather than say goodbye I will simply wish you all every blessing this Easter.

Yours in Christ,

Simon



<p>Occasional Offices There were no occasional offices in March</p>	
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Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
	<p>MP = Morning Prayer SE = Said Eucharist <i>(in church 10am)</i></p>	
1 April Maundy Thursday	<p>7.30pm Exodus 12.1-4 [5-10] 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 John 13.1-17, 31b-35</p>	
2 April Good Friday	<p>12-3pm Readings taken for meditations and Stations of the Cross</p>	
3 April Easter Eve	<p>7.30pm Service of Light—begins outside</p>	
4 April Easter Day	<p>MP/SE Isaiah 25.6-9 Acts 10.34-43 Mark 16.1-8</p>	6.30pm Evening Prayer Luke 24.13-35
7 April Wednesday	<p>SE Acts 3.1-10 Luke 24.13-35</p>	
11 April Easter 2	<p>MP/SE Acts 4.32-35 2 John 20.19-end</p>	
14 April Wednesday	<p>SE Psalm 34.1-8 Acts 5.17-26 John 3.16-21</p>	
18 April Easter 3	<p>MP/SE Acts 3.12-19 Luke 24.36b-48</p>	
21 April Wednesday	<p>SE Wisdom 9.13-end Romans 5.8-11 Luke 21.9-15</p>	
25 April Easter 4	<p>MP/SE Acts 4.5-12 John 10.11-18</p>	
28 April Wednesday	<p>SE Psalm 67 Acts 12.24 – 13.5 John 12.44-end</p>	

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<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/>