

Diary for April

Mondays

2-4pm Monday Together in the Parish Room
Fellowship, refreshments and activities supporting the work of the church.

Tuesday 9 April

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Thursday 10 April

2pm Mothers' Union

Saturday 12 April

9.30am onwards Work Party in and around the church

Monday 14 April

7pm Taizé Service in the Parish Room with Bishop Mark

Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16

7pm Compline for Holy Week

Thursday 18 April Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Sung Eucharist with Footwashing

Friday 19 April Good Friday

10am Children's Event in the Parish Room
1.45-3pm Meditations and Music for Good Friday

Sunday 20 April EASTER DAY

7.30am Dawn Service followed by breakfast
10am Family Sung Eucharist with Bishop Mark

Sunday 27 April

c. 11.45am APCM (Annual Meeting)



St Cross Newsletter

April 2025

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The Vicar writes.....

Dear Friends

The clocks changed this weekend, the lighter nights are here, and spring has definitely arrived. We are deep into Lent now, Holy Week and the Easter celebration draws ever nearer.

I would like to look back to March and reflect on a fantastic result for our Lent Appeal Coffee Morning which resulted in a final total of £1665 being raised for 'Wilmslow Wells in Africa'. When you add on Gift Aid this comes to £1926 which is way in excess of the challenging increased target of £907 set for us when David Cash came to visit. That said, I had a feeling that we would meet the target because of the nature of the project, and that I had confidence in the generosity of the people of this church. It was encouraging, though, to see a good number of people beyond the church family supporting the event. What I did not expect was for us to smash the target by 100%!

We had originally hoped to fund the borehole repair for the Lunawi School in Malawi but we will now be able fund another borehole repair in Bongwe and partially fund another project called Lolo 3. In total, 5405 people will benefit from this donation including 1862 schoolchildren in Luwani. So a huge thank you is due to everyone concerned.

As we look to Holy Week, the 'Biking' Bishop Mark (Chester) is visiting our Deanery for the week. He will be at St Cross for the Taizé Service on

the Monday at 7pm and then return to us for the Easter Day celebration at 10am. I am aware that so many of our congregation will be away visiting family at Easter but likewise Knutsford will have visitors from other parts of the country. If you are away, and if you have not already done so, may I encourage you to think about attending your local Church on Easter Day, wherever you are. If you are not sure about how to find your local Church, go to www.achurchnearyou.com and put the postcode in for wherever you are staying and you will be given your local Church and surrounding parishes.



I pray too that St Cross will see a good number of visitors, that our services will run smoothly and safely, and that the joy of 'Jesus Risen' will be felt in good measure by all who come.

Yours, in Christ

Paul

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION 2025

The March newsletter and the Church's website refer to this being the year in which the Church's Electoral Roll is completely revised.

It is now too late before the APCM (27 April) for additional names to be added in the full revision of the Roll. But for anyone who is eligible for inclusion on the Roll and still wishes to add their name to it, the same Electoral Roll form should be completed and left in the Electoral Roll box at the back of Church. The number of names on the Roll is then updated for members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), at its regular meetings.

Paul Webster, Electoral Roll Officer

Occasional Offices in March

Baptism: 2 March Archie Sidebotham

Funeral: 3 March Alan Frederick Falkner

Mike Duncombe – a brief introduction

Hello!

Revd Paul has asked me to briefly introduce myself. I'm Mike; if all goes to plan, I will be ordained deacon this June. After that, I will join St Cross as Assistant Curate. I can't wait to get to know everyone!

I live in Hale with my wife, Sally, and we have three grown up sons. I retired about three years ago from a career in IT, having spent the last 20 years working on smart card ticketing systems with local authorities. Now, I'm blessed to no longer need to work for a living.

I didn't always follow God's call—far from it! I was one of God's more wilful children and spent decades trying to ignore him. In 2003, as a repentant sinner, I turned to him; God transformed my life. He started nudging me towards the priesthood in 2017 (I remember the occasion very clearly) but I only entered training in 2023. God is patient and persistent!

Training has two parts: theological training (knowledge) and formation (being and doing). My *theological* training at Emmanuel Theological College has been going well – it's a long time since I studied seriously; new techniques, expectations, and technology have changed it in every respect! A two-year part-time course has introduced me to a life-time of further study and reflection. Mother Clair, the Vicar at All Saints in Hale Barns has helped me to learn how to be and what to do, which has exposed me to the day-to-day business of ministry, serving at the Eucharist, leading services, preaching, visiting members of the congregation, preparing and leading funerals, helping at baptisms, fixing the Wi-Fi, moving chairs...

A curacy usually lasts 3 years, and during that time I hope I will serve the community well. I am pleased to have Paul to guide me and supervise my work while I'm with you. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all, and excited about this next phase of my journey!

In love and fellowship, *Mike*

