

No Occasional Offices in March

**Sunday 19 April
c.11.45am
in the Parish Room**

Annual Parish Church Meeting

Please come and support your church!

**Nominations for Wardens, PCC and Deanery Synod
representatives now being taken. Forms and
information in the South Aisle.**



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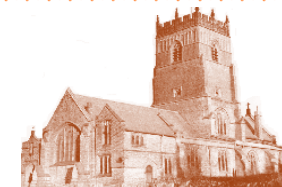
To access the Audio Online Services from St Cross
<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/>

St Cross Newsletter

April 2026



**Vicar: Revd Paul Deakin,
St Cross Vicarage, Mobberley Road,
Knutsford
WA16 8EL
Tel. No. 01565 640702
email: revdpauldeakin@gmail.com**



The Vicar writes.....

What a joy it was to welcome Bishop William from the Diocese of Boga in the DR Congo, to our Palm Sunday Sung Eucharist. The bishop presided and I acted as the deacon (no pun intended) at this service. He is a very 'Holy-Spirit filled person' and it was a sheer joy for me simply to stand with him to lead that service of worship.

At the end of the service I asked the bishop what he would like us to pray for. Peace was his answer, but alongside that, a gratefulness to God that prayers were answered insofar as things have calmed down somewhat since he and I last met in Chester in November 2023. It was a privilege to pray for him and his people on behalf of everyone gathered. My prayer is also that this forthcoming 'Holy Week' and season of Eastertide may be a time of joy and spiritual growth for all of us: the same spirit-filled joy that many Africans seem to have despite their lives being comparatively simple and less well off than ours.

*Rejoice in the Lord always:
and again I say rejoice. Philippians 4.4*

Yours, in Christ *Paul*





One of our Readers writes:

There can be no doubt once April arrives that Spring has begun. As the weather turns warmer and spring flowers appear nature awakens. As Christians’ we are called to be thankful for God’s wonderful creation. The hymn “All things bright and beautiful” might have been a school favourite of yours. Certainly, the words of that hymn conjure up images of nature at its best.

Each little flower that opens,
 Each little bird that sings,
 He made their glowing colours,
 He made their tiny wings.

And.....

The cold wind in the winter,
 The pleasant summer sun,
 The ripe fruits in the garden –
 He made them every one:

*All things bright and beautiful,
 All creatures great and small,
 All things wise and wonderful,
 The Lord God made them all.*

However, nature is under threat. Whether you believe in climate change or not you only have to look around our streets to see the amount of plastic litter we discard. Fly tipping is a serious problem in several neighbourhoods. This last winter has seen record rainfalls, and fields

have large amounts of standing water in them. Energy security has become a topic of conversation due to threats to the supply of oil and natural gas. Society’s reliance on fossil fuel is still evident. Even renewable energy takes its toll on the environment e.g. noise from wind farms, environmental damage from lithium extraction for electric car batteries. What can be done?

Vincent Van Gogh said:

“ Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together”

The St Cross family has taken a set of small steps under the banner of Eco Church. Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes open to all denominations. It provides a framework to support church communities to take practical action on caring for God’s earth. There are 5 key focus areas, and the St Cross Family has acted in all five.

- Worship and teaching - Sermons and articles like this one to draw attention to small steps that can be taken.
- Buildings and energy – Buildings review and smart meters to look to reduce energy consumption.
- Land and nature – Created a cutting flower bed, stopped using green oasis for flower arranging, established a church compost bin.
- Community and global engagement – Fairtrade first for our catering and events.
- Lifestyle – recycling and reusing wherever possible.

The actions that we have taken can be recorded in an Eco Church survey to measure progress. St Cross has recently been awarded a Bronze Award in recognition of the small steps that we have taken. The award comes with a plan for further actions to progress the awareness of what can be done to improve our local environment by taking small steps. If you would like to know more about what we are doing at St Cross, come along to our Open Gardens event on Saturday July 4th (2-5pm) to hear more. Furthermore, look out for our wildflower bed appearing in our churchyard shortly.

Allison Whiteley—Reader