

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

St Cross Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union (MU) at St Cross has been an integral part of church life for many years. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic it is wonderful to be able to share fellowship again. We have also welcomed members from Toft Church MU who have joined us. I have agreed to be Branch Leader with the support of the committee. To date we have had a tour through the Scottish Highlands and heard the history of the kilt. We have learnt from Laura about our ears and how to preserve/enhance our hearing. Most recently, Malyn shared her life story with all the wonderful things God has done for her. It was a very inspirational and inspiring talk which gave many present the hope that in all circumstances God is at work in our lives.

The MU was founded by Mary Sumner, a clergyman's wife, in 1876. She set up a group to support mothers from all backgrounds bringing up children. She brought the women together

to strengthen, safeguard and promote Christian family life. At the Portsmouth Church Congress in 1885 she encouraged many present to set up similar groups in their own parishes. The MU was formed and became embedded into communities, forging links with local people and the Anglican Church. Today it is a worldwide movement, working to restore and strengthen relationships in families and communities. It is open to all, regardless of age or gender, and the charities support many vital projects.

We meet monthly on a Thursday afternoon and if anyone is interested in joining, please speak to either Pam Jones or myself.

Angela Deakin



St Cross Newsletter December 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



The Vicar writes...

As we enter December, I can't help but think what a contrast it is to last year when the restrictions placed upon us were very significant. We are, of course, still operating within constraints, and whilst we may be more relaxed with our families and friends, in the context of public worship we need to remain extra vigilant and consider others, especially those who may still feel a sense of vulnerability. That said, there may be one or two services in December where everyone spreading out in the church may not be so easily achievable.

December usually brings the opportunity to share the story of Jesus with a wider audience. There seems to be a deeper interest in the story of the birth of this special baby called Immanuel, 'God with us'. In a similar way, a baby may bring fascination, meaning, fun and joy into our own lives. I'm delighted to welcome 2nd Knutsford Beaver Colony into our church for a second visit (they came at Pentecost earlier this year) and I'm looking forward to sharing the meaning of Advent with them and hearing their searching questions.

We also have our Toy Service on the first Sunday of the month when we can help to put a smile on children's and babies' faces (and those of their parents) by the gifts that we have brought. That same Sunday, late in the afternoon, I will be leading the Town Centre Crib Service with other clergy and the Knutsford Town Mayor.

We have a lovely relationship with Sharston House, and in addition to

our normal monthly Communion visit I will be leading a Carol Service for them nearer to Christmas. Before then, Angela and I will have been to Cottons to have dinner with the Knutsford Rotary Club. I've been given the honour to give them a Christmas message and I'm looking forward to sharing with them my own experiences of volunteering in life in the context of my faith.

And therein lies the mystery of Christmas with the whole incarnation of God in Christ. The birth of Jesus was an act of grace for humanity. His ultimate purpose and destiny was his journey to the cross. Notwithstanding that, his self-giving act of sacrificial love was a voluntary act on his part in order to reveal the new life that he offers us.

That mystery of our salvation through his sacrifice on the cross given for the world is the key message of the Christingle, which will be slightly earlier this year on the Wednesday preceding Christmas—the Christingle Orange being the world, and the red ribbon representing his blood shed for us.

Whilst I'm sure I will see many of you in church at some point over the Christmas, may I take this opportunity now, to wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Yours, in Christ

Paul



The Advent Wreath from last year

Occasional Offices

None during November

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

Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays

	MP = Morning Prayer (Audio) E = Eucharist	Evening Service
Sunday 5 December Advent 2	MP/E Malachi 3.1-4 Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6	2 Kings 22.8-10, 23.1-3 or Romans 15.4-13 Luke 21.25-33
8 December Wednesday	E Isaiah 40.25-end or Psalm 103.8-13 Matthew 11.28- end	
Sunday 12 December Advent 3	MP/E Zephaniah 3.14-end Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18	
15 December Wednesday	E Isaiah 45.6b-8, 18, 21b - end or Psalm 85.7-end Luke 7.18b-23	
Sunday 19 December Advent 4	MP/E Micah 5.2-5a Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-45	Christmas Lessons and Carols
22 December Wednesday	E 1 Samuel 1.24-end or Ps.113 Luke 1.46-56	
24 December Christmas Eve	E Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12] John 1.1-14	
25 December Christmas Day	E Isaiah 62.6-end Titus 3.4-7 Luke 2.8-20	
Sunday 26 December St Stephen	MP/E Acts 7.51-end Matthew 10.17-22	
29 December Wednesday Thomas Becket	E Ecclesiasticus 51.1-8 Hebrews 13.10-16 Matthew 10.28-33	