

Celebrating the Birth of Christ

Sunday 4 December

10am Toy Service with representatives from
Ruby's Fund

Sunday 18 December

4.30pm Christmas Lessons and Carols
followed by Christmas refreshments

Saturday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Christingle: a Christmas service to support
the Children's Society

11.30pm Christmas Night Sung Eucharist

Sunday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Parish Sung Eucharist



St Cross Newsletter December 2022

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 Vicar writes...

I recently received a gift of a Times newspaper dated November 23rd 1962 for my 60th birthday. It reminded me of how the world has changed and I would imagine many of you reading this will have seen even greater changes in your own lifetime. Many changes are for the good, but this cannot be a blanket statement. The car adverts in the paper are from an age when our roads were quieter, cars were slower, and my perception is that drivers were more patient. The sports section was on page 3 and 4 and football was given one column. I was born on a Friday so there were no match reports, unlike now where we see football, and many other sports, played around the clock to suit television audiences. I recall on Sundays in the 1960's, that those days were still quiet, and most shops were closed. A chance for shop workers to get a rest.

At the present time the controversial Men's World Cup is taking place. I am normally quite engaged with this tournament, but this time has been different, so far. It seems the change of timing, moving this from the summer break to the winter, is a change that has somehow left me feeling far less enthusiastic. If England progress, will that feeling change?

But this change and all the other changes in life have served to remind

me that the decline in church attendance is not a coincidence. It seems that, for many, God takes the silver or bronze medal positions or perhaps does not even make the podium. The Church of England sees this and attempts to make the Church more in tune with society, constantly striving to be innovative and seeking new ways to make it possible to hear the good news of Jesus. Recent advice was given that parishes should move their Christmas Carol Services from Sunday 18th because that is when the World Cup final will be played.

This was discussed at our Parochial Church Council (before the advice was issued) and we decided to keep our carol service on the 18th December, the last Sunday of Advent. Was this sheer and utter madness? Or a recognition that no matter when we hold our carol service, there will be a conflict with another event anyway?

What will I do? What if England were to achieve what they have not done since 1966 and get to a World Cup final? It's no problem. Christ will always come first, and besides this, we do have the technology. I will set the TV to 'record', turn off the phone, and no-one tell me the score, please. Let us pray, not for football to come home this Christmas, but for Christ to come home and be experienced in our church. Amen!

Yours, in Christ
Paul



Occasional Offices

Baptisms

6 November Theo Rennison

Funeral

24 November Gertie Chapman



Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
	Morning Services	Evening Service
Sunday 4 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11.1-10 Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12	Psalm 11 John 1.19-28
7 December Wednesday Ambrose	Isaiah 41.9b-13 2 Corinthians 5.16-21 Luke 22.24-30	
Sunday 11 December 3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35.1-10 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11	
14 December Wednesday John of the Cross	Song of Songs 2.8-end 1 Corinthians 2.1-10 John 14.18-23	
Sunday 18 December 4th Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7.10-16 Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-end	4.30pm Lessons & Carols
21 December Wednesday	Zephaniah 3.14-18 Psalm 33.1-4,11-12,20-end Luke 1.39-45	
24 December CHRISTMAS EVE	Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12] John 1.1-14	
25 December CHRISTMAS DAY	Isaiah 9.2-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]	
28 December Wednesday Holy Innocents	Jeremiah 31.15-17 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 Matthew 2.13-18	
Sunday 1 January 2nd Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 63.7-9 Hebrews 2.10-end Matthew 2.13-end	

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