

St Brigid - 1 February

Saint Brigid's Day is celebrated on 1 February, and has been marked in Ireland for many years. Saint Brigid is the only female among Ireland's three patron saints. She is also a patron saint of healers, poets, beer, blacksmiths and dairy workers, as well as a figure associated with creativity and womanhood.

In general, it is agreed that she was born in the 5th century. She is said to be the daughter of a chieftain and an enslaved woman who had been baptised by Saint Patrick.

Some biographies say that she spent her youth as a farm worker. For the first eighteen years of her life, Brigid was an enslaved worker alongside her mother. Already in her youth, she is credited with having performed some miracles.

Around 480, Brigid founded a monastery at Kildare. This is a site that is now a town to the west of Dublin (though that city was not founded until a few centuries later).

The monastery was founded on the site of a shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid, under a large oak tree. In Irish, Kildare is *Cill Dhara*, which translates as 'the church of the oak'.

Along with a group of seven companions, Brigid developed the site at Kildare. She is often credited with founding a convent, which was the first communal consecrated religious site for women in Ireland.

Over the years, Brigid's site in Kildare became a centre of religion and learning, and Kildare developed into a cathedral city.

Many miracles are attributed to her, often around healing and charitable acts to deserving people. One miracle says that she transformed a lake into beer to serve a leper colony which had run out of beer.

Brigid is believed to have died on 1 February 525. This day is now celebrated as Saint Brigid's Day - the first mention of this was in the 7th century. It was also the date of Imbolc, a pre-Christian seasonal festival which marked the beginning of spring.



St Cross Newsletter

February 2025

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



The Vicar writes.....

Dear Friends

I often write a more spiritual piece for this column, but this is a 'news'letter so on this occasion I feel it is important to let you know what is happening, and what is planned this year.

There will be some disruption during February as we are replacing the aged roof covering and the glass lantern on the Parish Hall. The new roof covering will be thicker and the glass double-glazed, so we should see an improvement in the heating of the hall and it should also be a little bit quieter when the aircraft are landing on Runway 05R at Manchester Airport. We did apply for grants from the airport and also the local council, but were unsuccessful in both, mainly due to the grant funds being oversubscribed. Fortunately, in recent years we have received some very generous gifts to make this investment possible. Had we received any grant money this would have assisted us to maintain other areas of the Church.

You may recall last year that we had a consultation to remove pews to create three wheelchair/pram spaces. Two of these spaces have

been created and I hope the final one will be put in place by Easter. It is all about trying to make our Church as accessible as possible within the constraints of what we feel we should work with.

Looking ahead, we are starting to investigate a possible update to the lighting in the Church and the main driver behind this is to obviate the need for volunteers to climb high ladders to change lighting units. The lighting at Christmas which Steven Benson kindly put in place hopefully gave you an inkling of what is possible to make a place feel warmer and more welcoming, though we will need to incorporate a solution that offers a brighter lighting than what we have already in the body of the Church.

I do hope that this year will see God-given new opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus. This may come about through our increased connection to the local community through Hope Central. On that note, you may have noticed a new large screen TV in the Hall. This came through a kind donation of a neighbour to Hope Central and the TV has been given to our Church as a 'shared resource' with the Hope Centre. We have supplied and fitted the mobile stand, and this will allow us to use the TV both in the Hall for meetings and in the Church to assist in teaching and presentations.

Yours, in Christ

Paul

Occasional Offices in December & January

Funerals

17 December Beryl Denise MacNab

17 January Richard 'Dick' Warwick

Diary for February

Sunday 2 February

10am All-Age Worship for Candlemas

Mondays

2-4pm Monday Together in the Parish Room

Fellowship, refreshments and activities supporting the work of the church.

Tuesday 11 February

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Monday 17 February

Work begins on the replacement of the Parish Room roof.

Thursday 20 February

2-4pm Mothers' Union

Additional notices appear weekly on Sundays and on the Parish Room notice board.



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