

ST CROSS NEWSLETTER

July 2026

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The Curate writes.....

Dear Friends

Let me see now, what news might I have for you?

Ah, yes, there was the small matter of being ordained priest. The ordination service at Altrincham St George was extraordinary. I am very grateful to all who came, all who gave me cards and good wishes, and all who worked so hard on the service itself - from St Mary's Bowdon as well as St George's and St Cross.

I have always felt that my call to service was a sacramental one: called to give the Lord's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, to feed Christ's flock with word and sacrament, and to be a prophetic voice in the world – a kind of mini-John the Baptist, without the locusts and honey, and (hopefully) without the beheading! So having my first go at celebrating the Eucharist on the feast of St John the Baptist was very special indeed, aided by the Deanery Choir, many clerical friends, and old friends from Hale Barns All Saints, Hale St Peter, and Bowdon St Mary in the congregation.

St John the Baptist was the last of the great prophets. We tend to think of prophecy as foretelling the future, but in the Old Testament, the prophets were mainly concerned with telling God's truth to the rulers of the day – "telling truth to power" as we say these days. For decades climatologists have been warning about the problems of climate change. Few have listened. The June heat wave (with more predicted) has brought home climate change as a present reality, not just a threat to be left to a wiser generation. Perhaps we at St Cross need to build on our eco-church bronze award to show how to cope and thrive in new circumstances?

We are always in the midst of change, and one of the sadder changes we experience is when we say a final goodbye to our loved ones. In June, the mortal lives of Margaret Andrew and Evadne Beardsmore came to an end. Margaret welcomed me generously when I arrived as Curate – she and David made me a gift of a cincture (that white rope belt that I wear) that David no longer needed. I treasure it and it reminds me of her great kindness every time I wear it. I visited Evadne in her care home and was able to get to know her a little; a truly remarkable woman.

After a really busy June, July looks a little quieter – but not much quieter! Feast days, prayer groups, pastoral visits, and helping out at Marthall All Saints, will keep me on my toes and keep me learning my new priestly trade!

In the joy of service to Christ,

Mike



Calendar for July

Mondays

2-4pm Monday Together in the Parish Room

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

Thursdays

2.30pm Prayer Group in the Parish Room

Saturday 4 July

2-5pm Crosstown Open Gardens *(see website for details)*

Tuesday 14 July

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Wednesday 15 July

7pm PCC meeting in Parish Room

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

Occasional Offices in June

Funerals

12 June Margaret Andrew

18 June Evadne Mary Beardsmore



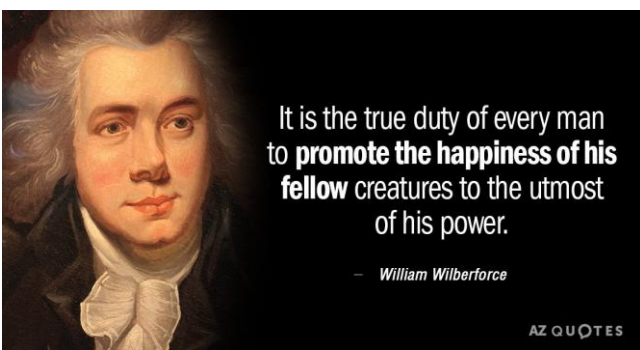
William Wilberforce died 30 July 1833

William Wilberforce (1759-1833) was a British politician, philanthropist and leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. A native of Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire, he began his political career in 1780, eventually becoming an independent Member of Parliament (MP) for Yorkshire (1784–1812). In 1785, he became an evangelical Christian, which resulted in major changes to his lifestyle and a lifelong concern for reform.

In 1787, he came into contact with Thomas Clarkson and a group of activists against the slave trade, including Granville Sharp, Hannah More and Charles Middleton. They persuaded Wilberforce to take on the cause of abolition, and he soon became the leading English abolitionist. He headed the parliamentary campaign against the British slave trade for 20 years until the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.

Wilberforce was convinced of the importance of religion, morality and education. He championed causes and campaigns such as the Society for the Suppression of Vice, British missionary work in India, the creation of a free colony in Sierra Leone, the foundation of the Church Mission Society and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. His underlying conservatism led him to support politically and socially controversial legislation, which resulted in criticism that he was ignoring injustices at home while campaigning for the enslaved abroad.

In later years, Wilberforce supported the campaign for the complete abolition of slavery and continued his involvement after 1826, when he resigned from



Parliament because of his failing health. That campaign led to the Slavery Abolition Act 1833, which abolished slavery in most of the British Empire. Wilberforce died just three days after hearing that the passage of the Act through Parliament was assured. He was buried in Westminster

Abbey, close to his friend William Pitt the Younger.