

St Cross Lent Appeal - supporting My Cheshire Without Abuse providing new socks, towels, pyjamas and underwear for all ages, male and female. Cash donations welcome, to Revd Paul or Mary. See the video at www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/video/

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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 don't often post messages on Social Media, but I decided to share a picture on Facebook via Knutsford Life, and also through the St Cross Facebook Page too. I was astounded to receive a total of 136 'likes'. It is a modest picture of some snowdrops from near Mobberley Road by the beech tree at St Cross with the simple words,

'Snowdrops. A visible sign of hope and brighter days to come on a biting cold winter day. Taken outside St Cross.' Perhaps you saw the picture too and gave it 'a like'. Thank you if you did.

When we see Snowdrops, it seems a welcome assurance to us that the brighter days of Spring are on their way, but I felt when taking the picture and sharing it, a greater hope than that which we normally feel at this time of year, given what our worldwide society is going through at the present time. The humble snowdrop has inspired poets, contemporary and the classics alike. The Victorian poet Lord Tennyson wrote 'Many, many welcomes, February fair maid' that is a 'prophet of the gay time, prophet of the May time and prophet of the roses.'

As you read this, February will be no more for this year and the snowdrops may have already played their part to bring us that annual reminder of warmer, brighter days to come after the hard winter. But when the first snowdrops appear, and our gardens are still looking devoid of brilliance, it is hard to imagine the riot of colour that will emerge when the summer comes.

I see in the snowdrops an alternative message that was hidden in that post on Facebook. The Church building behind, in the background and soft-focus, diverts the attention to the snowdrops. But the Church, where Christians meet, is also a symbolic, visual reminder of the future hope and glory that is promised. The Resurrection of Jesus is the first fruit of a great glorious harvest to come. St Paul wrote in this tone to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15) that the resurrection of Christ was a 'first-fruit' revealing a promise for the future resurrection of all being made alive in Christ.

We are now in the season of Lent, the Gloria has gone from our services, alleluias will not be sung until Easter Day, the banners are down in the church and the flowers are gone. It may seem rather dull and dreary but Easter will come once again. There can be no Easter without Lent, as there can be no summer without winter and spring. May we use this season of Lent to grow in faith and look to the future with hope of better times ahead.

Yours, in Christ Paul

Funerals



Occasional Offices

4th February: David Jenyons 9th February: Jessie Hammond 24th February: Venetia Questel



Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
MP = Morning Prayer SE = Said Eucharist (in church 10am) CE = Celtic Evening Prayer (on Zoom)	Morning	Evening
Wednesday 3 March	MP Jeremiah 18.18-20 <i>or</i> Psalm 31.4-5, 14-18 <i>or</i> Matthew 20.17-28	
Sunday 7 March Lent 3	MP Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22	CE Psalm 12 Philippians 3.4t -12
Wednesday 10 March	MP Deuteronomy 4.1, 5-9 or Psalm 147.13-end or Matthew 5.17-19	
Sunday 14 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	MP Exodus 2.1-10 Colossians 3.12-17 John 19.25b-27	
Wednesday 17 March	 MP Deuteronomy 32.1-9 or 2 Corinthians 4.1-12 or Matthew 10.16-23 or John 4.31-38 	
Sunday 21 March Lent 5 (Passiontide begins)	MP/SE Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33	
Wednesday 24 March	MP Daniel 3.14-20, 24-25, 28 <i>or</i> John 8.31-42	The last Wednesday Audio Service
Sunday 28 March Palm Sunday	MP/SE Isaiah 50.4-9a Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 11.1-11	
Wednesday 31 March	SE Isaiah 50.4-9a or Hebrews 12.1-3 Mark 11.1-11	

The Eucharist services indicated above are provisional. To access the Audio Online Services from St Cross http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/