

CRAFTMAS

Sunday 26 November
11.15am
Parish Room

Refreshments, Christmas crafts,
Raffle

Proceeds to church funds

ALL WELCOME!

St Cross Newsletter November 2023

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The Vicar writes.....

Early in October, after having spent four days in silence at St Bueno's in North Wales, I was soon reminded of the noisy, confused and sadly violent world that we live in. The eruption of hostilities in the Middle East may lead us to think about where all this is going as we pray fervently for peace, and for an end to the unimaginable human suffering and death. It is a human catastrophe unfolding which comes in this time of year when 'we will remember them'.

When I was on that retreat the spiritual advisor reminded me of the quote from St. Ignatius, 'that God deals directly with individuals', and based on his own experience of this, Ignatius developed a way of personal spiritual growth known as 'The Spiritual Exercises'. It is something I would like to do one day, though whether I would opt to do this in the 'thirty days' or break this down into smaller periods of time is something for me to consider. Keeping silence for a whole month, cut off from family and friends, would be definitely a challenge.

What Ignatius said was based on his own personal experience of the living God but also based on what is Biblical too. There are so many examples of people in the Bible being dealt with by God according to their own circumstances. One such example was King Solomon, who, on praying a prayer of dedication at the opening of the First Temple

acknowledged that only God truly knew and understood the individual human heart (2 Chronicles 6.30).

It is a truly astonishing thought that we are known and loved in this way. We are all different people with different needs and different problems. Jesus knew this and expanded on this in his teachings when he spoke of the value of the human being (Luke 12.6-7). Coincidentally, later in this chapter when Jesus urged us not to worry, he spoke of the lilies of the field being more glorious than King Solomon (Luke 12.27).

I sincerely hope and pray that in the midst of the current crisis God is using those people, who are able and willing, to work through them to be the salt of the earth for Christ, and we must continue to pray for peace and reconciliation.

One thing I am certain about, amongst others, is that God knows and understands each one of us. God invites each one of us to place our trust in him, and to cast all our anxieties on him because he cares for us (1 Peter 5.7). As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, 'Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known'.
1 Corinthians 13.12)

Yours, in Christ
Paul



Occasional Offices in October

Baptisms

29 October

Eric Harry Braddock
Hope Victoria Braddock
Harper Rose Braddock



Diary for November

Mondays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, November

2-4pm Monday Together *All welcome for activities, chat and refreshments*

Sunday 5th November

4.30pm Evensong for All Souls

Saturday 11th November

9.30am—12 noon Church work party #2: tidying grounds and in church. *Refreshments served after 2-minute silence at 11am.*

Tuesday 14th November

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Zoom)

Thursday 16th November

7pm Service for the Commissioning by Bishop Sam of Revd Paul as Rural Dean of the Knutsford Deanery
Followed by refreshments in the Parish Room.

Thursday 23rd November

2pm Mothers' Union

Sunday 26th November

11.15am Craftmas (organised by Monday Together).
Refreshments, Christmas Crafts and a Raffle.

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



An experience at CAFT can show the children who come that there is more to life than their day to day existence. Memories will be kept and cherished in the darkest times and that is what really matters. Changing a life may not be possible, but making a difference is.

This year our toy collection will begin on November 5th and last through the month till our Toy Service on Sunday 3rd December. Please buy for new born-17yrs. More details can be found in church. Each child will receive a present in Santa's Grotto in the Winter Wonderland.



Readings for Eucharistic Services

	Morning Services	Evening Service
1 November Wednesday All Saints' Day	Revelation 7.9-end 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	
Sunday 5 November Fourth Sunday before Advent	Micah 3.5-end 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13 Matthew 24.1-14	4.30 Evensong for All Souls 1 Peter 1.3-9 John 6.37-40
8 November Wednesday English Saints and Martyrs	Isaiah 61.4-9 Revelation 19.5-10 John 17.18-23	
Sunday 12 November Remembrance Sunday	Amos 5.18-24 1 Thessalonians 4.13-end Matthew 25.1-13	
15 November Wednesday	Psalms 82 Titus 3.1-7 Luke 17.11-19	
Sunday 19 November Second Sunday before Advent	Zephaniah 1.7,12-end 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30	
22 November Wednesday	Psalms 116.10-end Revelation 4 Luke 19.11-28	
Sunday 26 November Christ the King	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24 Ephesians 1.15-end Matthew 25.31-end	
29 November Wednesday	Daniel 5.1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28 Luke 21.12-19	

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



Mary Daw (Reader) writes

Supporting The Children's Adventure Farm Trust, (CAFT) at Christmas

Since 1992 CAFT has offered a wide range of opportunities for vulnerable and marginalised children impacted by illness, disability and social disadvantage. Each year a variety of programmes provides for groups of children and individual families, all of which take place at the 10-acre, fully-accessible site in the heart of the Cheshire countryside.



Children aged 0-17 years come from all over the North West of England and North Wales. Their medical, physical, learning and social issues



prevent them from enjoying everyday childhood experiences. They may be victims of, or witnesses to, abuse, violence or neglect. Many children are impacted by the needs of a sibling or parent who has a long-term medical condition or disability, or a family member living with mental health problems or addiction. Many

live in deprived communities, exposed to poverty, crime and violence on a daily basis.

Barriers to participation in leisure activities, and simple childhood pleasures, are hugely detrimental to their sense of wellbeing, and can lead to serious, long-term mental health difficulties.



Working in partnership with organisations such as schools, charities and community groups, as well as individual families, ensures that day breaks and holidays will go to those who will benefit the most.

The next two themed seasonal programmes will be Halloween (x3 weeks) and Christmas (x4 weeks). These programmes, along with Easter & Summer CAFTfest, allow visitors to come up to four times a year for a short visit.



CAFT is a registered charity. One million pounds is raised annually to deliver all provision, free of charge to all users.

It does not receive any government funding and relies on people, community groups, companies and more, to support this valuable work. Money is not spent on marketing or advertising, and

all money raised goes directly towards supporting the children, maintaining the site and funding play workers and the maintenance team.