We then come to Christmas, and on the 22nd we have our Lessons and Carols Service at 4pm (slightly earlier than previous years). The order of service is yet to be finalised but is likely to be a little different to the normal format. Steven Benson and I have been in contact with Manor Park School and we have received an encouraging response to that approach. Steven will be going into school during November and December to lead and teach singing to children of all primary school ages as an after-school activity. We are hoping that a significant number of these children will also participate in our carol service which will give them an experience within the context of Christian worship in a Church. Given that any children participating in our service will bring parents and possibly other relatives it is a marvellous chance to spread the good news of Jesus and form relationships between the Church and the local community.

In conclusion, we have lots of things happening and whilst recognising the limitations of what we as a congregation can do, I would ask that those who are able and have a little more time to offer, give consideration as to how you can support me in our mission and ministry this December and beyond, to grow this Church.

Yours, in Christ **Paul** 

**Occasional Offices in October** 

**Baptisms** 

12th October Michaela Jane Ward



## St Cross Newsletter November 2024

Vicar: Revd Paul Deakin, St Cross Vicarage, Mobberley Road, Knutsford WA16 8EL Tel. No. 01565 640702

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The Vicar writes.....

Dear Friends, so many people often say to me that December is 'your busy time' which it is, but December is a busy time for many people, not just me. Personally, November is for me equally challenging as there are different services such as All Souls, Remembrance Sunday and getting things organised for December. We also have this month our special visitor, Bishop William from the Diocese of Boga in the Democratic Republic of Congo coming to visit us on Sunday November 24th – the Festival of 'Christ the King.' We will be having a special lunch afterwards and I would encourage you to sign up as quickly as possible, and certainly by Thursday November

14th please as I will be away the following week. The cost is

£10 per person.



During November we will be having our usual toy collection and for the second year running we are supporting the Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) in Lymm. All the details you need to know are on the enclosed leaflet with this newsletter and I am also planning to release a video on YouTube by the middle of the month to try and 'cast the net wider' and generate a broader support for this appeal. We will be giving the gifts to CAFT on Sunday December 1st at 10am which will be an All-Age Service.



Another project that has been under consideration for some time now is the renewal of the Parish Hall Roof. The roof is coming to the end of its life and whilst it is not leaking at the moment the PCC felt we had to act before the crisis comes. We should also note that the hall is used by Community Groups and generates a valuable income for the Church which I expect will exceed £4000 for this calendar year. I am still awaiting confirmation from the Diocese that we can proceed so predicting timescales is difficult but clearly there will be some disruption when this takes place. We have budgeted £30000 to cover this, which we have in our allocated

funds for building projects. This is clearly a major investment for us to make, but a necessary one. I should add, we were very fortunate to receive three donations for this purpose a couple of years ago amounting to approximately £12000 which is helping enormously.

And so to December.

On Sunday 15th the Mother's Union are holding a 'Blue Christmas' service at 3pm for people who would like to experience a quiet reflective service in this seasonal time. In contrast, the following day, Monday the 16th, we are having a musical afternoon and Seasonal Nibbles at the interval. The Christmas music will be provided by Hilary Skinner and her friends, and it promises to be a real treat. The Monday Together group are organising this and tickets will be on sale soon – priced at £10. As the event is in our hall tickets will be limited to around 42 (but please invite your friends). All funds raised will be to support the 'Church Building Fund' or 'Centenary Fund' as some of you may know it as. I should add, the musicians are providing their time at no expense, so we are very fortunate.

