

Christmas at St Cross

Sunday 17 December @ 4.30pm

Christmas Lessons and Carols
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Service for all the family

11.15pm Eucharist for Christmas Night

Christmas Day @ 10am

Family Sung Eucharist

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THE GREAT

INVITATION

All Welcome!



St Cross Newsletter

December 2023—January 2024

Vicar: Revd Paul Deakin,
St Cross Vicarage, Mobberley Road,
Knutsford
WA16 8EL

Tel. No. 01565 640702
email: revdpauldeakin@gmail.com



The Vicar writes.....

'A picture is worth a thousand words' is a saying used widely across the world meaning that complex and sometimes multiple ideas can be conveyed by a single still image more effectively than a lengthy document in the form of the written word. In my former career in engineering, I would produce technical drawings with succinct written explanation to communicate to a machine operator or a skilled fitter how something should be made or assembled. Perhaps it should be no surprise to you that in the proposal to make our Church more inclusive and accessible I deemed that a simple Lego model would give people a far better perception of what we are trying to achieve.

This time three years ago we were in the grip of Covid (it has not gone away) and late in December we were told family celebrations were limited to Christmas Day. Churches were closed and as we had already decided to withhold an in-person midnight service I set to work on producing, to the best of my amateur ability, a recording of a Christmas service with Eucharist to be broadcast via YouTube. It is still there available to view. What that experience gave to me, and perhaps to those who watched it, was a far deeper appreciation of the stained-glass windows in our Church and the stories they tell, centred around the life of Christ. Stained glass, as an art form, reached its height in the Middle Ages when it became a major pictorial form used to illustrate the narratives of the Bible to a largely illiterate populace.

Jesus was not an artist, but his audience would sometimes be simple folk who needed a simple story that could be remembered more easily when related to everyday life, stories that would stimulate images in his hearers' minds. When we meditate on the parables and, perhaps aided by artwork, we can visualise the Good Samaritan at work, or the Prodigal Son coming home to his loving, forgiving father.

We do not know how God revealed things to Jesus in his intimacy with the Father but maybe seeing pictures or visions was something he experienced. After all, that is a significant way in which God speaks throughout the Bible to bring change, and to bring about his will and purpose. And God still speaks in this way now because God does not change, and most certainly has not gone away and left us to our own devices since the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

In this extraordinary time of year for the Church, may I wish for all of you some time to enjoy Advent, a time of anticipation, a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year which takes us into the season of Epiphany, as we recall that moment when something was revealed to the world with the visit of the Wise Men to see Jesus. How will God speak or reveal something to you next year I wonder?

Yours, in Christ

Paul



There were no Occasional Offices in November

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

Events and Special Services in December and January

Sunday 3rd December

4.30pm Celtic Eucharist for Advent Sunday

Mondays 4th, 11th December

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

Tuesday 12th December

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Zoom)

Thursday 14th December

2pm Mothers' Union Christmas Meeting

Sunday 17th December

4.30pm Christmas Lessons and Carols

Mondays 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th January

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

Tuesday 9th January

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Zoom)

Thursday 18th January

2pm Mothers' Union John Lennon to Lech Walesa -

Linda Goodchild

Wednesday 24th January

7pm PCC meeting

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