

Christmas 2024 Services at St Cross

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 22nd @ 4pm

A service of Christmas Lessons and Carols,
featuring singers from Manor Park School

CHRISTMAS EVE @ 4pm

The Christingle: a service for all ages to celebrate
Jesus' birth.
There will be a collection for The Children's Society.

CHRISTMAS EVE @ 11.15pm

We celebrate the beginning of the Festival with
the first Eucharist of Christmas. (Midnight Mass)
O come let us adore him.

CHRISTMAS DAY @ 10am Family Eucharist

www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk
Email: stcross.knutsford@gmail.com or
revdpauldeakin@gmail.com



St Cross Newsletter

December 2024—January 2025

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The Vicar writes.....

Dear Friends

As I write this letter the rain is pouring down and a forecast of high winds for Saturday means the Town Crib Service will be held indoors at the Methodist Church. I noticed on my recent visit to the Mirfield Community of the Resurrection that the local churches are organising a outdoor 'carol singing around the tree' for the Sunday before Christmas. As I walked in the Yorkshire sunshine I thought 'what a marvellous idea' and then I recalled our Christingle for 2020 which was an enforced outdoor service and in appalling weather attracted 23 of us and meant the service was shortened from the original plan.

I am hopeful of much larger attendances for our forthcoming Christmas Services. Our Carol Service on the 22nd at 4pm will be augmented by children from Manor Park School to whom Steven Benson has been teaching choral singing as an extra-curricular activity. It is an opportunity for giving children an experience of 'church music' and a chance for us to share a little more of the wondrous story that we celebrate at this time of year. For whilst schools and nurseries across the country act out their nativity plays, which are naturally joyous occasions for participants, parents and other relatives, the nativity for many remains just a story. It is far more than that.

The miraculous birth of Christ is an affirmation that God made 'God-self' small for us in the form of a baby: a baby who is defenceless and in need of our help. God does not want to overwhelm us with God's inherent power or greatness but simply asks for our love, and in doing so we learn to live with Jesus in our lives, minds and hearts. God made himself small in the Baby Jesus, and humble in the man Jesus, so that we could better understand the love of God. Jesus only ever used his God-given power to help others and to glorify God. Can we this Christmas and Epiphany deepen our devotional life with Christ in order that we too can help others and glorify God in our own lives?

Pictured below are two daffodils made using Origami by one of the brothers at Mirfield. They caught my eye on my Advent retreat, for the sheer beauty of them, the patience taken to make them, and the sign of the Spring that will come once again.

Yours, in Christ

Paul



Occasional Offices in November

Wedding

28th November David Arnold Smith and Tracey Lee Fisher

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

Events and Special Services in December & January

Sunday 1st December

4.30pm Celtic Eucharist for Advent Sunday

Mondays 2nd, 9th December

2-4pm Monday Together

Tuesday 3rd December

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Monday 16th December

2pm Christmas Concert by Vino in the Parish Room

Thursday 19th December

7pm Ladies' Night at the Vicarage

Please see over for Christmas services

Mondays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th January

2-4pm Monday Together in the Parish Room. Fellowship, refreshments and activities supporting the work of the church.

Tuesday 13th January

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Thursday 16th January

2pm Mothers' Union (Epiphany Celebration)

Wednesday 22nd January

7pm PCC meeting (on Teams)

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