

Welcome to Hilary 'Hil'.



We welcome Hilary Savage and her husband John to our church family at St. Cross.

They moved up last year and Hil has been a regular participant on our online services, bible studies and coffee mornings. Hilary, or Hil as she is more usually known, has now been approved by our PCC to transfer her licence to our church.

Hil was licensed as a Reader/Licensed Lay Minister in Worcester Cathedral in 2009. She is a retired teacher who, up until the end of September last year, lived in the West Midlands. Hil loves reading, craft activities and music.

Their move to Cheshire enabled them to be nearer to two of their three children (though one is still in Birmingham) and four grandchildren, the latest of whom

was born safely on the day they moved to Knutsford, which proved to be a very emotional day!

After completing a Bishop's Certificate course, Hil was pointed in the direction of some form of ministry and with much support and encouragement from her priest and the congregation, felt called to train as a Reader. Fulfilling Licensed Lay Minister duties as well as teaching full time was not without its stresses and a particularly demanding time was helping the church through a three-year vacancy which certainly proved to be a period of spiritual growth, following the retirement of a very much loved priest. Hil also has permission to officiate in North Devon in Exeter diocese where she and John have a small cottage.

It has proved to be a somewhat difficult time, during the constraints of the pandemic, to become known amongst the congregation at St Cross, Knutsford, but with the help of technology, faces have been seen on screen, though not always recognised at a later date in the flesh behind a mask! She is keen to meet people properly and is greatly looking forward to being officially licensed to our parish later in the year at Chester Cathedral.

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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...

Towards the end of John's gospel there is a long section known as Jesus' 'final discourse'. It is a deep section of text with Jesus explaining what life is going to be like in the future without his actual bodily presence. There will be times of deep sadness which will be overtaken by feelings of deep joy. At the time though, it must have seemed almost impossible that the disciples could feel joyful in the difficult circumstances of the present, and in the future when they were warned of difficulties and persecution. This joy came from the transforming power of the gift of the Spirit that gave the disciples a joy that could not be suppressed. The present times we live in may not seem so joyful. Indeed, with the possible calamity of global warming confronting us, the ongoing difficulties of Covid and the uncertainty of peace in our world we may feel a sense of despondency if we are not careful and attentive to our own spiritual lives in Christ.

Jesus invites us to participate with him in doing his work until we are called into eternity with him. That participation is to be undertaken in good times or bad just like the first disciples and is intended to be an experience of joy no matter what the circumstances. This is of course a lot easier said than done, but joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit. That joy can grow and flourish when we attach ourselves to Jesus as part of the vine that he spoke of in John's gospel (John 15.5), and our joy, he promises, will ultimately be complete in him (John 15.11).

How can this be that Jesus gives us a joy that cannot be taken away? We often confuse happiness with joy. Our joy may come when we complete a seemingly endless task with which we have had to persevere and struggle, or when someone does something that makes us feel special. That joy is heightened when we know something good has been given to us by the God of the universe and the whole of creation. Somehow, we are known so personally.

And in our prayer life, too, we join in Christ's intercession for the world, praying for others that their joy may be complete whatever struggles they face now. We pray, too, for our troubled world. Jesus promised his disciples his joy would be in them and would be complete. So too, the Old Testament prophet Nehemiah said, 'it is the joy of the Lord who is our strength.' (Nehemiah 8.10)

Yours, in Christ

Paul



Jesus said, 'When a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.' John 16.21

Occasional Offices

Funerals

7 June Norman Edgar Royle
10 June Sylvia Muriel Gitsham



Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
	MP = Morning Prayer (<i>Audio</i>) SE = Said Eucharist <i>(in church 10am)</i>	6.30pm
Sunday 4 July Trinity 5	MP/SE Ezekiel 2.1-5 or 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13	Psalm 64 Luke 10.1-11,16-20
7 July Wednesday	SE Psalm 33.1-4,18-end Matthew 10.1-7	
Sunday 11 June Trinity 6	MP/SE Amos 7.7-15 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29	
14 June Wednesday (John Keble)	SE Lamentations 3.19-26 Romans 15.1-6 Matthew 5.1-8	
Sunday 18 July Trinity 7	MP/SE Jeremiah 23.1-6 Ephesians 2.11-end Mark 6.30-34, 53-end	
21 July Wednesday	SE Exodus 16.1-5, 9-15 or Psalm 78.17-31 Matthew 13.1-9	
Sunday 25 July James the Apostle Trinity 8	MP/SE Jeremiah 45.1-5 Acts 11.27 – 12.2 or 2 Corinthians 4.7-15 Matthew 20.20-28	
28 July Wednesday	SE Exodus 34.29-end or Psalm 99 Matthew 13.44-46	

To access the Audio Online Services from St Cross

<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/>