

Over the years

Since 1994 £1.65 million funded over 360 projects providing clean water for over half a million people. 99% of funds goes to water projects

This is a Direct Action, volunteer charity through trusted contacts in Britain and Africa.

There is ecumenical support in Wilmslow for the Charity, as it goes from strength to strength, from St John's, the Methodists, St Bartholomew's and the United Reformed Church.

David Cass, the Chairman, is delighted we have chosen WWfA as our Lent appeal and has sent me, following a meeting with the Trustees, some ideas for manageable targets for us to promote eg £650 to repair a borehole damaged by natural disaster.

A booklet is on the display in the church giving more information. It is very readable and encouraging

Visit the website: [https:// wilmslowwells.org](https://wilmslowwells.org) for more information and please support this wonderful appeal by coming to a

Coffee Morning
Saturday 22nd March
10-12noon in the Parish Room
Refreshments, Cakes and Raffle
All welcome!

Occasional Offices in February

Funerals

February 11	Christine Womersley
February 18	Lucy Paulette Foster
February 21	Christopher Roberts

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



The Vicar writes...

As I write, there is a flurry of activity around the Parish Hall. Scaffolding is up and the roofing contractors are busy at work replacing the covering on the roof of our hall. It is a significant investment in our future, particularly as the hall is used as a pleasant space to meet by community groups beyond the Church family, and which provides a valuable income stream for us. This refurbishment has been made possible through the generous giving of parishioners over the years and several legacies.



Talking about money can be a difficult subject but reviewing what we give is something that we should do from time to time, as incomes vary, some up, some down, and costs rise, but never come down. The Church is not exempt. The cost of 'parish share' rises each year, as do utility bills, costs for projects, fees for organists and the church cleaner, to name but a few. Ultimately, our giving is not just about balancing the books, (and managing a large, listed building), important as financial prudence is; it is also about continuing God's work and resourcing that through the ministry of the Church.

Giving a share of what we have, both in monetary terms (and in time) is an expression of the grace of God in our lives. God has given to us of 'God-self' in the person of Jesus Christ and so a Christian is called to respond with love toward God, who has given, and gives to us. I should add, a significant percentage of the parish share provides for a full time

Vicar. That is of course, me! With the shortage of lay volunteers, we will also need to start thinking seriously about paying for administration support, in order that less of my time is spent on day-to-day tasks that can be done by someone else. I would add that we are getting a Curate this summer (Self-Supporting Minister) which will be a welcome boost to the ministry and outreach we can offer. There will be an article about this next month.

I find this topic challenging to write about as I don't know specifically what is given to the Church funds week on week and I appreciate that everyone's circumstances are different, so what is given is down to everyone's personal conscience and affordability. I just raise this topic in order to try and make sure everyone understands the need to contribute in whatever way possible to the ongoing life of the Church and the mission of God in the world. If you are not on the regular giving scheme via Standing Order, please prayerfully consider this. If you have any questions or comments please ask me.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to take Lent seriously too and ask yourself how you may grow closer to Christ in this traditionally penitential season.

Yours, in Christ

Paul

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION 2025

The St Cross Church Electoral Roll lists the names of lay people who are associated with the Church.

In 2025 - and every six years - the Roll is completely revised, when no names are carried over from the old Roll. If people wish to be included on the new Roll, an application form has to be completed.

Throughout March, the form is distributed after Church Services. It should be completed and returned no later than 30th March 2025 to Church Attendants or Paul Webster (as Electoral Roll Officer).

People whose names are on the St Cross Church Electoral Roll can vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to elect lay representatives of the Parochial Church Council, which helps the running of the Church.

At the APCM, people whose names are on the Roll can also elect laity representatives of the Knutsford Deanery Synod, which promotes the vision of the Church of England and discusses matters of wider concern to the Church and to the community. The Knutsford Deanery Synod is chaired currently by Revd Paul Deakin, as Rural Dean of Knutsford.

Lent Appeal 2025 **Wilmslow Wells for Africa**



1980. Brenda Mottershead left her teaching post in Macclesfield High School and took an unpaid job in an all-black secondary school in Johannesburg.

Motivated by her humanitarian principles and her Christian faith, she quickly became involved in Soweto and was keen to address the self-evident injustice and social needs. She had a daily maid called Emily. Brenda needed further evidence of glaring inequalities between black and white and drove Emily to her very simple home.

The greatest need was fresh water. Wilmslow Wells was about to begin.

In 1981, Brenda received the highest possible honour when her school made her *an Honorary African* and gave her the name *Masechaba* .. a Sotho word meaning *Mother of the Nation*.

She would later receive the MBE for her services to charity.

While in Soweto Brenda met 74 year old Len Apfel through her church. Len was travelling miles into the drought-stricken bush developing feeding schemes in schools and clinics.

He became the Man in Africa. **Water was the key to it all**

A few facts about the Charity launch.

- November 1984 WWfA was born with a simple appeal to raise £2000!
- Led by Brenda's enthusiasm £2,250 was soon raised and work began on the first borehole in Emily's village of Jericho led by WWfA representatives but utilising the villagers' united manpower.
- No overheads or expenses, the entire amount used for the purpose.
- April 1986 water from the borehole accessed at 60 different points in the village
- Sunday May 1986 The dedication of the Well amidst much rejoicing led by the local church.