

The Parish Church of St. Wilfrid, Mobberley



February 2022

50 pence

Church Diary for February 2022

Tue. 1 st	School Governors	5.00 p.m.
Wed. 2 nd	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 3 rd	Doorway	7.45 p.m.
Fri. 4 th	Choir Practice	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 5 th	Church Open	12.00 noon
Sun. 6th	The 4th Sunday before Lent	
	Said Holy Communion (BCP)	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion (CW)	10.00 a.m.
	Choral Evensong (BCP)	6.30 p.m.
Wed. 9 th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 10 th	Doorway	7.45 p.m.
Fri. 11 th	Choir Practice	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 12 th	Church Open	12.00 noon
Sun. 13th	The 3rd Sunday before Lent	
	Said Holy Communion (BCP)	8.30 a.m.
	All-Age Service	10.00 a.m.
	Messy Church Preparation Meeting	11.15 a.m.
	Choral Evensong (BCP)	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 14 th	PCC Standing Committee	7.45 p.m.
Wed. 16 th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 17 th	Wedding Rehearsal Doorway	7.30 p.m. 7.45 p.m.
Fri. 18 th	Choir Practice	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 19 th	Church Open	12.00 noon
Sun. 20th	The 2nd Sunday before Lent	
	Said Holy Communion (BCP)	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion (CW)	10.00 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 21 st	Events Group	7.00 p.m.
Tue. 22 nd	Wedding of Jonathan Platt & Katie Lewis	3.00 p.m.
Wed. 23 rd	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 24 th	Doorway	7.45 p.m.

Fri. 25 th	Choir Practice	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 26 th	Messy Church Church Open	10.00 a.m. 12.00 noon
Sun. 27rd	The Sunday next before Lent	
	Said Holy Communion (BCP)	8.30 a.m.
	Choral Matins (BCP)	10.00 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion (BCP)	6.30 p.m.



Living in Love & Faith

Last year, you may remember, the Church of England nationally asked its members, both individually but also corporately within parishes, Deaneries and Dioceses, to engage in the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process. It also set a deadline of it being completed before Christmas which many people believed to be completely unrealistic. That deadline was eventually pushed back and so we will now be engaging in LLF at St. Wilfrid's beginning in March this year.

LLF asks how do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

The Church of England is keenly aware that issues of gender and sexuality are intrinsic to people's experience; their sense of identity; their lives and the loving relationships that shape and sustain them. We also know that the life and mission of our Church – and of the worldwide Anglican Communion – are affected by the deep, and sometimes painful, disagreements among us which have been debated and discussed on many occasions over the years.

There will be two LLF courses available to you. There will be a daytime course which will be conducted entirely on Zoom. This group invites people from across the whole Deanery to participate and will be each afternoon from 2.00 p.m. The second group is for local church members and will be in person. This group will meet each Thursday evening at 7.45 p.m. at The Beacon. These are not the kinds of group you can dip in and out of and we ask those participating to please make a commitment to one group and stick with it.

We believe that the Holy Spirit will be active among us as we pray, study and deliberate together to discover Christ's call to the Church today. We do this with a deep sense of hopefulness for a future in which Christians can follow Christ together joyfully, fruitfully and with integrity.

Living in Love & Faith

Thursdays at 2.00 p.m. (Zoom) & 7.45 p.m. (in person)
Both start Thursday 3rd March for 5 weeks

The Rector Writes

Dear Friends,

One of the most critical, but often overlooked, events in the Old Testament is the 50 year period, from around 586-539 BC, during which the people of Israel (by which we really mean the political and religious leaders) were taken into exile in Babylon. You may remember those poignant words from Psalm 137 (which we can barely read without hearing Boney M), "By the rivers of Babylon - there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion".

At the end of that period, when Babylon itself was overthrown by the Persian King Cyrus, the Israelites were permitted to return to the land of Israel, to re-establish Jerusalem as a city and to rebuild the Temple. The story of how this happened can be found in the biblical books of 2 Kings, Nehemiah and Ezra. Following the restoration there was a great deal of soul searching as the people of Israel came to terms with what had happened to them but also, of course, a great deal of looking forward.

I feel that we have gone through a period of exile over the last two years. We can only reflect on the opportunities that we have missed to join in worship, to meet socially, to pay our respects to those who have died, to comfort family and friends in their grief and sorrow or share in their joys and celebrations. There is much in these things that need working through as we come, hopefully, towards the end of this pandemic. The noises coming from the Government suggest that by the end of March the requirement to isolate if you have Covid will come to an end which suggests also that most, if not all, other restrictions will also be done away with.

This now means, however, that we need to look forward and think about opportunities as well as problems. One of the dangers is that we simply slip back into doing the same old same old whereas perhaps Covid has pressed a reset button, where we have the opportunity to look at things anew, and ask ourselves some difficult questions in the process.

As you will know, due to Omicron we had to postpone the new projects we were hoping to start down at The Beacon and we are now looking to start these in May. There will be more about this in the next magazine, but please consider helping out, giving an hour or two once a week or once a month to serve our community and to build up the fellowship of the Church.

Yours in Christ,
Ian.

Covid Update

There was a very clear sense of optimism as we edged through autumn that we might have put the worst of this pandemic behind us and could look forward to a more 'normal' Christmas. Unfortunately, the Omicron variant of the Covid virus put paid to that. Masks were reintroduced and there was a palpable tension surrounding this more easily transmissible version, especially earlier on in the winter when it wasn't known how serious the effects of it were going to be.



That anxiety was clearly revealed in our church numbers over Christmas which were considerably down on 2019, and by considerably down I mean congregation numbers at the main Christmas services were at best half what they were, at worst as little as a third of what they had been.

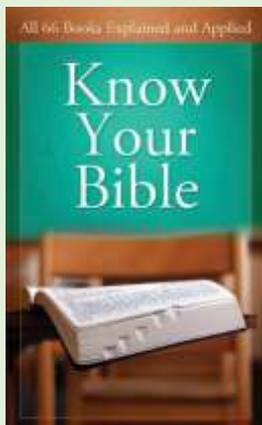
This new wave of infection has led us to moving most of our church meetings back onto Zoom and, as you know, has led us to postpone the new projects we were looking forward to starting at The Beacon this year.

Currently I think we are in something of a hiatus. The early signs in January seem to indicate that we are past the crest of this latest wave of infections with both infection rates (locally down 48%) and hospitalisations (down 8.3%) on the decline and the Government doesn't seem anxious to tighten the current restrictions. The downside however is that there has been no indication that they are looking to reduce them either so, as I say, a state of limbo.

One critical aspect of this pandemic is the impact it is having on church finances. As you might imagine, Christmas normally provides an important boost to our income, but with numbers so greatly reduced this has had a big impact. As you will know the PCC has a cash reserve from the sale of Mode Cottage 7 years ago. The income from the sale was judiciously invested until we reached the point that we were able to purchase The Beacon effectively from the interest income we had received over those years. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we have had to convert more of our investments into yield bearing to provide cash to get us through this crisis. So far we have not had to touch any of the capital, and we don't expect to have to, but it will mean that we will not get anywhere near the same capital growth going forward.



The upshot is that we really need our regular members to consider their giving to the church. We encourage you to increase the amount you give if you can, to give regularly by setting up a Standing Order, and to give Tax efficiently by Gift Aiding your donation where appropriate.



Doorway

Throughout February we are continuing with 'Know Your Bible', exploring the 66 books that make up the document that is at the centre of our faith. You don't have to sign up for all six sessions, just come along to those you can, on Thursdays at THE BEACON 7.45p.m. You'll enjoy it.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

- Want a quick head-start in Bible reading?
- This guide gives you short introductions to each Bible book
- You'll be equipped to hit the ground running in Bible study

Know Your Bible is a compact, concise, and easy-to-understand introduction to all 66 books of the Bible.

Reading the Bible can be a daunting task, especially if you've never done it before. All those different books, names and places. It can be hard to know where to begin. Know Your Bible is ideal for new and established Christians who want to gain a better understanding of God's word, and how to read it. With a section for each of the 66 books of the Bible, George Knight and Paul Kent give readers key information like where and when it was written, and any unique or unusual features or ideas.

Key quotes and a ten-word synopsis outline the main themes of each book, followed by a more in-depth summary, all of which are under 100 words. For each book there's also a 'So What?' section, offering practical ways that you can apply the Biblical lessons to your own life.



Know Your Bible would be a fantastic resource for both adult and youth ministry, especially among new Christians or first-time Bible readers. The uncomplicated writing style and short chapters help to get to the heart of the story of scripture, drawing out eternal wisdom and practical guidance.

With insight, explanation and application from Genesis to Revelation, Know Your Bible uses the New International Version, American Standard Version and King James Version of the Bible.

Lent at St. Wilfrid's

The slight vagaries of the calendar mean that Epiphany concluded before the start of February and Lent begins after its end. However, Lent is a sombre time of preparation for which we need to make ready so below is the pattern of services, prayer and study for Lent this year.



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 2nd March
7.30 p.m. in church

Sung Service of Holy Communion
incorporating the rite of Ashing.

Morning Prayer

Each weekday in Lent
9.00 a.m. at The Beacon

A said service of Morning Prayer
in church each weekday.



Lenten Compline

Each Wednesday in Lent (from 9th March)
7.00 p.m. in church

An unaccompanied sung service to
reflect on the week past and week ahead.



Living in Love & Faith

Thursday 3rd March - Thursday 31st March
2.00 p.m. via Zoom
7.45 p.m. in person (at the Beacon)

Please confirm your attendance on the LLF Courses so we can provide you
with the Course booklet.

For centuries Christians have found Lent to be a valuable time to declutter their lives and reattune their attention to focus on God. This is normally done through a commitment to prayer, to Bible study, to demonstrating self-control and to give alms. In some ways it doesn't matter what you do so long as you do something. Please take the opportunities presented above to make this a Holy Lent.

Parish Lunch



It has been a long time since we last got together but our Parish Lunches are finally restarting and the first one of 2022 will take place on **Tuesday 29th March** at 12.30 p.m. at The Beacon. This is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, have a chat over a lovely meal, and possibly walk away with a potted plant... I know... we spoil you!

As this is our first one at The Beacon we will be limiting numbers just in case there are any unforeseen problems so please get in quick and speak to Jean to book early.

The Children's Society

Thanks to all those who have supported The Children's Society over this past difficult year with raising an amazing amount either by having a house box or by giving a donation. The boxes brought in £667.25 and other donations of £250 made the total £917.25 for 2021.

If you would like a house box please contact the Rector who will pass your details on to our Children's Society rep, Mary Harwood.



Magazine Delivery

With the February magazine, it is time for collecting the subscription for those which are delivered in the village. We are keeping the cost at £6 and would be grateful if this could be given to your magazine deliverer over the next few weeks.

As always, we thank those willing souls who distribute the magazine throughout the year. It is a really useful and supportive exercise. Please contact either Bridget Knight or Philippa Mort should you live in the village and want to receive a copy.

PCC Report

At the January meeting the PCC –

- ◆ Received a letter from Chester Cathedral regarding the Cathedrals new doors for which it requires an image representing each church in the Diocese.
- ◆ Formally approved the change in Covid guidance that, in line with Government guidance, from the 27th January it would no longer be mandatory to wear a face covering in church.
- ◆ Received the report from the Faith & Worship subgroup. It was noted that congregation numbers over Christmas were well down on where they were in 2019. It was also reported that plans were being developed to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the start of June.
- ◆ Received a report from the Events subgroup. There are a number of events planned this year including three concerts, three Parish Lunches, an Easter Egg hunt and a Strawberry Tea, alongside the usual Harvest Supper and Church Fair.
- ◆ Received the Finance Report. The effects of church closure and restrictions due to Covid were clear to see in the accounts with our annual income down to £85000 (against a Parish Share alone of £81000). It was agreed that we continue to pay half our Parish Share monthly, with the expectation of paying the remainder at the end of the year.
- ◆ Our Parish Safeguarding Officer spoke of the need for our Messy Church helpers to undergo basic online Safeguarding Training and that steps had been taken to ensure all our helpers were DBS checked. An updated set of Safeguarding guidelines have been produced and were distributed to Messy Church leaders.
- ◆ Received a report regarding The Beacon which has now been furnished with attractive storage units which also have the affect of cutting down noise.



Midweek Communion

Don't forget there is a midweek service of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 10.00 a.m. at The Beacon. This is followed by a coffee morning and you are most welcome to join us for one or both.

From St. Wilfrid's Registers –



Baptisms in November/December 2021

28th Lily Esme Hill

Knowles Green, Mobberley

5th Lyla Robin Rea

Harris Road, Lostock Gralam

Baptisms in January 2022

23rd Arthur Oliver David Simcock

Moor Lane, Wilmslow



Funerals in December

2nd William Taylor

Parkgate, Knutsford

Church

2nd Elsie Joyce Mason

Woodland Nursing Home, Macc.

Church

Funerals in January

4th Marjorie Barber

Belvedere Nursing Home, AE

Macclesfield Crem.

Year's Mind in February

Albert Bennett	Daisy Taylor	Arthur Dutton
Joseph Brocklehurst	Scott Blake	William Blockley
Alistair Birch	Arnold Groves	Ethel Brereton
Doreen Martin	Rose Taylor	Bernard Parker
Phillip Wilding	Raymond Worsley	Peter Davies
Howard Randle	Stanley Adair	Daisy Williamson
Ivy Southworth	Hugh Mais	Peter Long
Susan Nancarrow	Elsie Gathercole	Joyce Renshaw
Thomas Wright	Jennie Tuck	George Coleman
Ethel Hough	Arthur Biddle	Nellie Dean
Joyce Sproson	George Aitken	Mary Armiger
Robert Taylor	John Knox	Donald Blake
Dorothy Kennerley	Hilda Kennerley	Rene Jenkins
Baby Jane Williamson	Frederick Wilkinson	Harry Rose
Frank Williamson	Bernard Williams	Clifford Holt
Edie Reid	Carrie Denerley	
Harold Lane	David Hughes	

Please pray for the above, that God might shelter them in their joy and comfort them in their sorrow.

Rota for February 2022

Date	8.30 a.m.		10.00 / Main Service		6.30 p.m.		FLOWERS/ COFFEE
	READER	SIDESMEN	READERS	SIDESMEN	READERS	SIDESMEN	
February							
Sunday 6th 4th Sunday before Lent	A Grainger	J Underhill	L Rushton P Smith	J Hennerley D Neville	D Williams A Grainger	C Critchley	S Baron/ L Rhodes C Critchley
Sunday 13th 3rd Sunday before Lent	J Underhill	L Bridgford	E Rhodes J Grainger	C&M Boalch	J Taylor C Critchley	C Critchley	P Braham / S Blay C Boalch
Sunday 20th 2nd Sunday before Lent	B Knight	S Barker	B Montrose C Critchley	J Hennerley	L Rushton J Grainger	T Mort	P Record / L Rushton P Smith
Sunday 27th The Sunday before Lent	J Grainger	B Knight	D Williams J Underhill	C Whiteley J Hennerley	E Rhodes	C Critchley	M Whild / Y Runciman L Rhodes

Brass Cleaning: