

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID, MOBBERLEY

Making Christ Known



December 2023
January 2024

Church Diary for December 2023

Fri. 1st	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 2nd	Men's Breakfast The Beacon Drop-In	9.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.
Sun. 3rd	<u>The 1st Sunday of Advent</u>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 4th	Parents & Tots at The Beacon	10.00 a.m.
Tue. 5th	The Beacon Drop-In School Governors' Meeting	10.00 a.m. 5.00 p.m.
Wed. 6th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon Alternative Service (Compline)	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 7.00 p.m.
Thu. 7th	The Beacon Drop-In Doorway	10.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.
Fri. 8th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 9th	Open-Air Carol Service	10.00 a.m.
Sun. 10th	<u>The 2nd Sunday of Advent</u>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	All-Age Christingle Service	10.00 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 11th	Parents & Tots at The Beacon School Infant Nativity Service PCC Standing Committee (Zoom)	10.00 a.m. 2.15 p.m. 7.30 p.m.
Tue. 12th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Wed. 13th	School Infant Nativity Service Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon School Upper Junior Nativity School Upper Junior Nativity	9.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 2.00 p.m. 6.00 p.m.
Thu. 14th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Fri. 15th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.

Sat. 16th	Church Decorating The Beacon Drop-In Nativity Rehearsal Kids' Christmas Party	9.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 12.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m.
-----------	--	--

Sun. 17th The 3rd Sunday of Advent

	Said Holy Communion Nativity Service Nine Lessons & Carols	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 6.30 p.m.
Mon. 18th	Parents & Tots	10.00 a.m.
Tue. 19th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Wed. 20th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu 21st	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sat. 23th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.

Sun. 24th The 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

	Said Holy Communion Sung Holy Communion Family Crib Service Family Crib Service Midnight Mass	8.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 2.00 p.m. 4.00 p.m. 11.30 p.m.
Mon. 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY Said Holy Communion Sung Holy Communion	8.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m.

Sun. 31st The 1st Sunday of Christmas

	Said Holy Communion Choral Matins	8.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m.
--	--------------------------------------	-------------------------



*Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down His sweet head;*

*The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.*

Church Diary for January 2024

Tue. 2nd	Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Wed. 3rd	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.
	Alternative Service (Healing & Wholeness)	7.00 p.m.
Thu. 4th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Fri. 5th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 6th	Men's Breakfast	9.00 a.m.
	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sun. 7th	<u>The Feast of the Epiphany</u>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion	10 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 8th	Faith & Worship Group	7.30 p.m.
Tue. 9th	School Epiphany Service	9.15 a.m.
	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Wed. 10 th	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.
	Wednesday Matinee (Zulu Dawn)	1.30 p.m.
Thu. 11th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
	Doorway	7.45 p.m.
Fri. 12th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 13th	Messy Church	10.00 a.m.
Sun. 14th	<u>The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany/Plough Sunday</u>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	All-Age Family Service	10 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	3.30 p.m.
Mon. 15th	PCC	7.45 p.m.
Tue. 16th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
	Victory Hall TDC	7.00 p.m.
Wed. 17th	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.
Thu. 18th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
	Doorway	7.45 p.m.
Fri. 19th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.

Sat. 20th The Beacon Drop-In 10.00 a.m.

Sun. 21st The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Said Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.

Sung Holy Communion 10.00 a.m.

Choral Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Mon. 22nd Greater Chapter Meeting 7.45 p.m.

Tue. 23rd The Beacon Drop-In 10.00 a.m.

Church Events Group 7.45 p.m.

Wed. 24th Communion at the Beacon 10.00 a.m.

Coffee Morning at the Beacon 10.30 a.m.

Thu. 25th The Beacon Drop-In 10.00 a.m.

Doorway 7.45 p.m.

Fri. 26th Youth Club at the Beacon 7.00 p.m.

Sat. 27th The Beacon Drop-In 10.00 a.m.

Sun. 28th The Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas

Said Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.

Family Service 10 a.m.

Sung Holy Communion 6.30 p.m.



Tue. 30th The Beacon Drop-In 10.00 a.m.

School Governors 5.00 p.m.

Wed. 31st Communion at the Beacon 10.00 a.m.

Coffee Morning at the Beacon 10.30 a.m.

The Rector Writes

Dear Friends,

I have never felt any desire to visit Israel. In part this is based on a certain piety in that I genuinely believe that we can know and walk with Jesus in our daily lives here and now, against that great privilege what is so exciting about travelling over 3000 miles to where he walked 2000 years ago? Secondly, I have always felt slightly ashamed that somewhere we call the Holy Land is, on occasion, one of the unholy places on the planet. That certainly seems to be the situation at the present.

Bethlehem, a place we will be focussing on over the next few weeks, is a powerful symbol of this fractured land. Situated in the State of Palestine in the occupied West Bank it lies on the border between Israel and Palestine within the Israeli West Bank barrier, a huge 25ft high wall that surrounds the city and cuts it off. The truth of Bethlehem today is a million miles away from the image that is in our minds as we sing 'O little town of Bethlehem' and 'Once in royal David's city' each Christmas.

It might make us think, why couldn't Jesus have been born in a nice, quiet, peaceful country like Switzerland or Sweden? But Jesus wasn't, the land of Canaan as was, the land of Israel as is, has always been a place of conflict, largely due to its geography as the easiest route between Asia, Africa and Arabia. The history of the Bible is the history of different great kingdoms, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans competing to possess this strategically vital route. It was here that God's people settled and it was here, in the midst of this conflict that the light of God shone out.

It might have been nice for the gospel story, indeed the Bible story, to have taken place in somewhere quiet and peaceful but, in the words of Jesus in Luke 5, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance." When Jesus came into the world he came to those who were poor and outcast, sick and dying, hopeless and despairing. He didn't shy away from the violence and cruelty, he was himself taken hostage, tortured, falsely tried and murdered. He brought, and he continues to bring, light into the darkest places of the world, the light of hope and the promise of peace. This is why we can still celebrate even amidst the death and destruction, because love came down at Christmas, a love that desperate and violent men tried to smother and failed, as all men of violence ultimately will.

Yours in Christ,
Ian.

Christmas at St. Wilfrid's

Open-Air Carol Service

Saturday 9th at 10 a.m.
outside the Village Bakery

Christingle Service

Sunday 10th December at 10 a.m.

Childrens' Nativity Service

Sunday 17th December at 10 a.m.

Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 17th December at 6.30 p.m.

Family Crib Service

Christmas Eve at 2 p.m. & 4.00 p.m.

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m.

Christmas Day Communion

(Said) 8.30 a.m. & (Sung) 10 a.m.



Christmas Service Details



Open-Air Carol Service - Saturday 9th at 10 a.m.

Come and join us outside the Village Bakery as we witness to the true meaning of Christmas at the heart of our community. Amidst the wrapping paper and the tinsel, the credit and the consumerism we present a glimpse of the free grace of God revealed in a humble manger.



Christingle Service - Sunday 10th at 10 a.m.

The Christingle (meaning Christ-light) service originated in the Moravian Church founded in Czechoslovakia and first celebrated in Germany in 1749. Our Christingle service comes midway through Advent and marks the transition between looking forward to Christ's second coming to looking back to his first.



Childrens' Nativity Service - Sun. 17th at 10.00 a.m.

Each year the children from our Messy Church and Youth Club present the Christmas story in their own unique way. This All-Age service is a celebration of the Nativity, and of the contribution the children make to St. Wilfrid's church.



Nine Lessons & Carols - Sun. 17th at 6.30 p.m.

The now traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols was largely the result of two men. The first was EW Benson who was Bishop of Truro and devised the service to be used in the Cathedral at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880. It came to the attention of Eric Milner-White an ex-army chaplain who was made Dean of King's College Cambridge in 1918 and who introduced it there. The service at St. Wilfrid's will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.



Family Crib Service - Christmas Eve at 2 & 4 p.m.

At our family Crib Service we hear the Christmas story told in an informal and at times amusing way. As we sing our favourite Christmas songs and carols the children make up our Christmas crib whilst clouds of frankincense and myrrh fill the air. A joyful Christmas service for the young and young at heart.



Christmas Communion - Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m. Christmas Day 8.30 & 10 a.m.

Our evening service is far more traditional. Although beginning on Christmas Eve this is the first of our Christmas Communion services and has a unique atmosphere. This service is conducted according to the Book of Common Prayer with readings from the King James Bible. We shall be holding two further Communion Services for Christmas. The first of these is a said service of Holy Communion (according to the Book of Common Prayer) at 8.30 a.m. and a sung service of Holy Communion (according to Common Worship) at 10 a.m. to which we encourage families and children to come.

Leaving the Garden



What does matter is that you understand this one great truth I have learned in my life: having knowledge, even at the expense of leaving the Garden, has been worth it. For it is through this great gift of knowledge that I have understood something of the Creator's power - yes, even the Creator's love. Out of what seemed punishment, came a great good; out of physical pain, all of you have emerged.

The pain has been forgotten while the pleasure of your presence endures. Adam and I have known joy - how would we have tasted it had we not known its opposite, sorrow? And we have seen how darkness is dispelled when light arrives, night and day, after night and day. We never tire of it.

Katerina Whitley



PRESENT...



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Dickens' haunting tale of humanity and redemption.

*Told in words & Music by
Actor, Edward Little; Soprano, Helena Leonard
And Accompanist, Carl Penlington-Williams.*

A detailed black and white illustration of Ebenezer Scrooge sitting in a chair, holding a bowl of food, and talking to Tiny Tim who is leaning on a crutch. The scene is set in a room with a fireplace and a window. There are several yellow starburst graphics around the text.

**TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 7.30PM
(DOORS OPEN AT 7PM)**

**The Parish Church of St. Wilfrid,
Church Lane, Mobberley Cheshire, WA16 7RA.**

Tickets £10 Adults, £8 Children

**Available from: L J Little Dancewear,
99 Chester Rd, Northwich CW8 1HH.**

Call 07702 307 546

Email helena-rpo@littlepixieproductions.co.uk

Tickets also available at the door.

WWW.LITTLEPIXIEPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK

The Feast of the Epiphany



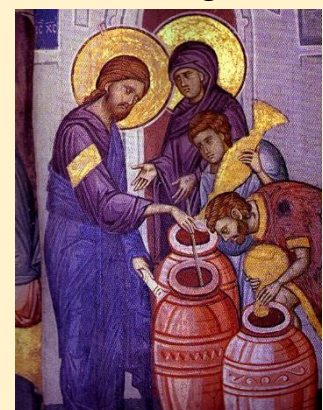
There is a famous story about the Greek mathematician Archimedes who was trying to work out how to accurately weigh large and awkward shapes. Whilst thinking about this he got into his bath and saw that the water level rose, he realised that the volume of water his body displaced must be equal to the volume of his body. He was so excited by this that he ran naked through the streets of Syracuse shouting 'Eureka', 'I have found it'.

This is as good an example of Epiphany as I can think of, that sudden revelation, what we might call a lightbulb moment, when we suddenly see and understand clearly. The foundation story of Epiphany is the arrival of the Magi when Jesus, and through him God's plan for the world, was revealed to the gentiles. However, our understanding of Epiphany is left somewhat bare if that is where we leave it. Epiphany celebrates a number of



different revelations, Jesus baptism for example, when those stood nearby heard God's recognition of Jesus as his own son. Sadly this is not something we normally celebrate here at St. Wilfrid's as it is, somewhat ironically, usually replaced by the celebration of Epiphany itself (which we transfer from the 6th January to the nearest Sunday).

Another Epiphany event is the wedding at Cana of Galilee when Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine. Wine which is so often used in the Old Testament as a symbol of God's blessing and the coming in of his kingdom. We are told that after this event, for the first time, his new disciples believed in him.



And this is in truth the point of Epiphany, not that we should simply recognise Jesus nor even simply come to him but that we should really and truly see him and, in seeing him, believe in him.

Believe that in this child we see God made visible; believe that in him we see the salvation of our souls, the salvation of the world; believe that in him we see God's plan for his creation, his plan to draw all things created into a new and living relationship with him.

Seeing these things is our 'Eureka' moment, when we look into the manger and see not a baby but rather the infinite grace of God.

Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday 7th January

Plough Sunday

At the end of the mid-winter Christmas festivities and the twelve days of partying and celebrations Plough Monday was back to work, but before work started the plough, often a communal one for the whole village, was brought to church to pray for a blessing on it and the work it would do. It was also common to bring in sacks of grain to ask God's blessing on it also, that it might produce a rich and plentiful harvest. After the service it was taken (often with dancing) around the village and villagers were invited to make contributions to the cost of its upkeep and the upkeep of the Church that had blessed it.



We seek to retain at least a little of this tradition with a Plough Sunday service at which we bless a fabulous 19th century plough and also ask God to bless all the work of our hands in the coming year regardless of what we do, that his name will be praised in all that we do.

Plough Sunday
January 14th
All-Age Service 10.00 a.m.

DECEMBER & JANUARY @ "THE BEACON"

CHRISTMAS CLOSING - "THE BEACON" will be closed from Friday 22nd December until Tuesday 2nd January inclusive.

You'll find details of all our December and January activities listed below.

"PARENTS AND TOTS" 10.00-12.00

Mondays of December 4, 11, 18, & January 8, 15, 22, 29.

Toddlers bring along their parents to play, chat and have a brew in a safe and warm environment. Mums with bumps also welcome.



"DROP-IN CAFE" Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10.00am 'til 2.00pm - Christmas closing excepted.

You'll be warmly welcomed at our Drop in for a hot drink, with a biscuit or toast, and have a chat.

"COMMUNION SERVICE" Wednesdays at 10.00am - Christmas closing excepted.

Jesus welcomes you to join us in a simple followed by **Tea or Coffee at 10.30am.**

"ALTERNATIVE EVENING SERVICE" Wednesday December 6 & January 3 at 7.00pm.

A short and reflective evening service providing space to think and to pray.

"KNIT & NATTER" meets Wednesdays at 2.00pm on December 6 & January 17.

Those of a Knitting and Nattering disposition, you'll be made most welcome to join in.

"MOVIE MATINÉE" meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1.30pm for 2.00 pm.

On December 13 the film is that Christmas masterpiece **"It's a Wonderful Life"** re-mastered in glorious colour & on December 20 the animation **"The Star"**, the story of the first Christmas.



On January 10 come to see the true story **“Zulu Dawn”** relating the events of the day before the battle at Rorkes Drift depicted in the classic film **“Zulu”** which we are showing on January 24th.

“DOORWAY”, our study group.

We meet on Thursday December 7 at 7.45pm to conclude our Advent Course. We'll start our new term on Thursday January 11, subject to be decided.

“YOUTH CLUB” meets 6.00pm-8.00pm on Friday December 1, 8, 15, & January 5, 12, 19, 26.

Lots of activities, board games, TV, Video games, Xbox etc. and don't forget the Tuck shop. Great fun for all youngsters.



“MEN'S BREAKFAST” the first Saturday of the Month at 9.00am.

There's a misconception that men are reluctant to speak about themselves and/or “sensitive” issues. That doesn't happen here, try shutting them up!

Perhaps it's the brew and the sausage/bacon baps! We meet the 2nd December and the 6th January.

If you need more information on any of the above activities speak to either John Grainger or John and Jo-Ann Hennerley.

A Continual Passion

The whole life of Christ was a continual Passion; others die martyrs but Christ was born a martyr. He found a Golgotha even in Bethlehem, where he was born; for to his tenderness then the straws were almost as sharp as the thorns after, and the manger as uneasy at first as his cross at last. His birth and his death were but one continual act, and his Christmas day and his Good Friday are but the evening and morning of one and the same day. And as even his birth is his death, so every action and passage that manifests Christ to us is his birth, for Epiphany is manifestation.



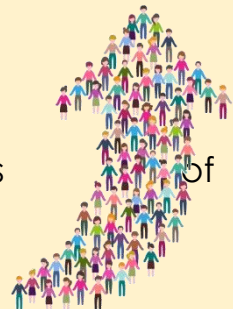
John Donne



Our Messy Church has taken a break in the autumn as we plan a relaunch in January. Part of this relaunch will be a return to our old home at The Rajar. We have struggled on for some time trying to make Messy Church work at The Beacon but it is, unfortunately, just too small which, apart from making it cramped, make it very noisy.

The move to The Rajar has also necessitated meeting on a different Saturday and from January we shall be meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month and not the last as has been our custom.

Our next Messy Church therefore is on Saturday 13th January when we will be looking at Jesus' Great Commission to his disciples to 'go out and make disciples of all nations'.



From St. Wilfrid's Registers –

Year's Mind in December

Dorothy Pope Harold Gardiner Jill Higginson Betty Williams Dora Goulden John Whitelegge William Eadie Ada Swarbrick Alan Godber Florence Ess Frances Street William Alexander Thomas Barber Sydney Southern Betty Greaves Frank Ware Elsie Neville Eric Neville Harry Windle	Annie Cooper George Hastie Jean Riley Jamie Atherton Sybil Simcock Samuel Ross John Grassby Mary Boyling Brenda Knott Ernest Brown Edward Murray Nancy Capey Sheila Scott Janet Taylor Frank Bleakley Dorothy Groves Margaret Wattam Mary Chinn James Barber	Bernard Whittenberg Mavis Walker Margaret Gee Peggy Storey John McKeand Millicent Proudlove Annie Houlden Frederick Dale Robert Dawson Ann Cooper Muriel Bradley Alan Parker Wilfred Warburton William Long Alan Eyres Jessie Hulme Ada Yearsley Joseph Simcock Dolly Boocock
--	--	---

Years Mind in January

Mary Southam Charles Southern Susan Halliwell Winifred Cooke Dorothy Ward Stephen Thorpe Geoff Moores Beryl Lomas Robert Shaw John Denton Vera Pritchard James Windle Brian Greenwood Mary 'Tim' Barker Kenneth Dobell Thomas Ikin Pat Broad Roy Link Mary Chester Francis McGuire Ken Gee	Malcolm Norbury Mabel Daniel Norman Ashton Mabel Warburton Marie Parkinson Keith Lawrence Stephen Porter Patrick Smith John Mills Margot Nichols Doreen Lowe Margaret Davies Beatrice Aldcroft Douglas James Sarah Bright Lily Hughes Emily Pennington Martha Norbury Marjorie Brown Anne Leay John Lomas	Ernest Finch Sidney Brown Hope Turner Jennie Davies Alice Wardle Edith Bowler Barbara Southern Joan Adair Brian Kennerley Barbara Martin Marion Barratt Ellen Emery Ralph Hatton Audrey Greenwood Ray Edwards Winifred Chadwick Caleb Simcock Arthur Davies Mary Stephens Thomas Hudson
--	---	--