

Diary for November

Mondays

2-4pm Monday Together in the Parish Room

Fellowship, refreshments and activities supporting the work of the church.

Sunday 2 November

4.30pm Evensong for All Souls

a service of light and remembering

Tuesday 18 November *NB change of date*

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Thursday 20 November

2pm Mothers' Union

Saturday 29 November

Knutsford Christmas Market including a stall hosted by St Cross

And further ahead, special events in December

Sunday 7 December

10am—Family Communion Toy Service

4.30pm—Taizé Service for Advent

Sunday 14 December

4.30pm—Christmas Carol Service

Monday 15 December

2pm - Christmas Cheer! An afternoon of Christmas Music with Hilary Skinner and friends (VINO). Festive fun, fellowship and refreshments! **Tickets priced £10** available soon.

Occasional Offices in October

Baptism

October 19

Martha Collins Howle



St Cross Newsletter

November 2025



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Our Vicar writes.....

Dear Friends

At the last PCC meeting to which all were invited, we were visited by Revd. Jill Elston who, on a part time basis, is the Diocesan Environmental Advisor. Jill also serves as a Self-Supporting Minister in Runcorn. We had a very interesting and engaging presentation about being an 'Eco Church' and all agreed that this was a worthwhile project to participate in as we seek to grow the Church, and in this activity we would be contributing to the Church of England's fifth mark of mission: to safeguard the integrity of creation.

So we have signed up to be an 'Eco Church.' Eco Church is an award scheme through the charity A Rocha. The scheme is designed to equip any church to express its care for God's world in their worship and teaching; in how we look after our buildings and land; in how we engage with our local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of the congregation. Their vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

The PCC (or some representatives from it) will be looking at the Eco Church survey to determine how well we are doing at St Cross in acting as stewards of creation. The Eco Church award scheme provides a

framework to enable churches to measure themselves, and this measurement is in the form of being a Gold, Silver or Bronze Eco Church. As of the end of 2024, in the whole of the Church of England there were 1870 Bronze, 899 Silver, and 40 Gold Church of England Eco Churches, and we also have 12 Bronze, 23 Silver, and 4 Gold Eco Cathedrals. You might be interested to know that our mother Church, Chester Cathedral, has a Silver award.

Our first step is to look at where we are now and determine what we need to do in order to attain the level of Bronze status.

I wonder how you feel about the undeniable climate changes that we are experiencing? Do you feel any sense of 'eco-anxiety', if not for yourself, but for your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, or any younger relative? To clarify, eco-anxiety is the distress caused by climate change where people are becoming anxious about their future. While eco-anxiety affects people of all ages, children and young people are particularly vulnerable because they have their entire future ahead of them. Given this statistic it does seem that as a Church we have a moral duty to show all people that we are taking our responsibilities seriously.

I sincerely hope and pray that in the course of time our whole Church will become more involved with what it means to be an Eco Church, and that through this we can form more connections with our local community, and especially the younger generation.

Looking at the more immediate future, the season of Christmas looms in the distance (though I realise for many their version of Christmas is much nearer). Steven and Karen Benson have already begun practising music and carols in Manor Park School with a good number of schoolchildren in preparation for our Christmas Carol Service which will take place a week sooner than normal on Sunday December 14th at 4.30pm. I really am hoping and praying that our heating system will be fixed by then. The week before - December 7th - our morning service will give an opportunity to hand over some gifts to the Salvation Army from Winsford. I would like this to be a 'family Communion service' and our Reader Hil will be preparing a simple display as a focal point for this and

to explain what is needed. This is a departure from the Children's Adventure Farm Trust which we have supported in recent times: a marvellous charity which does great things for disadvantaged children. But the need is so great wherever you look, and I felt I wanted to align our efforts with an organisation that promotes the Christmas message and the reason for the season. I think the Salvation Army does that.

Before this, November will also have so much going on, All Souls, Remembrance, and for Revd Mike and myself a four-day clergy conference, and then on Saturday 29th we will have a market stall in Knutsford Christmas Market. This project is being led by Reader Allison, and the primary aim is to raise the profile of St Cross Church and to promote what we are about as a Christian community. We will need the support of everyone, even if that support simply means pointing people our way.

Finally, we received a generous donation recently to purchase a purpose-made Communion Table for our lovely Parish Hall. I would like to thank the donor and I am sure all would agree that this really is an enhancement to the furniture in the Parish Room. Following on from this I have also received another kind donation for the Church to purchase a bespoke Royal Blue protective cover for this new table. Thank you so much.

God loves a cheerful giver! (2 Corinthians 9.7)

Yours, in Christ

Paul

