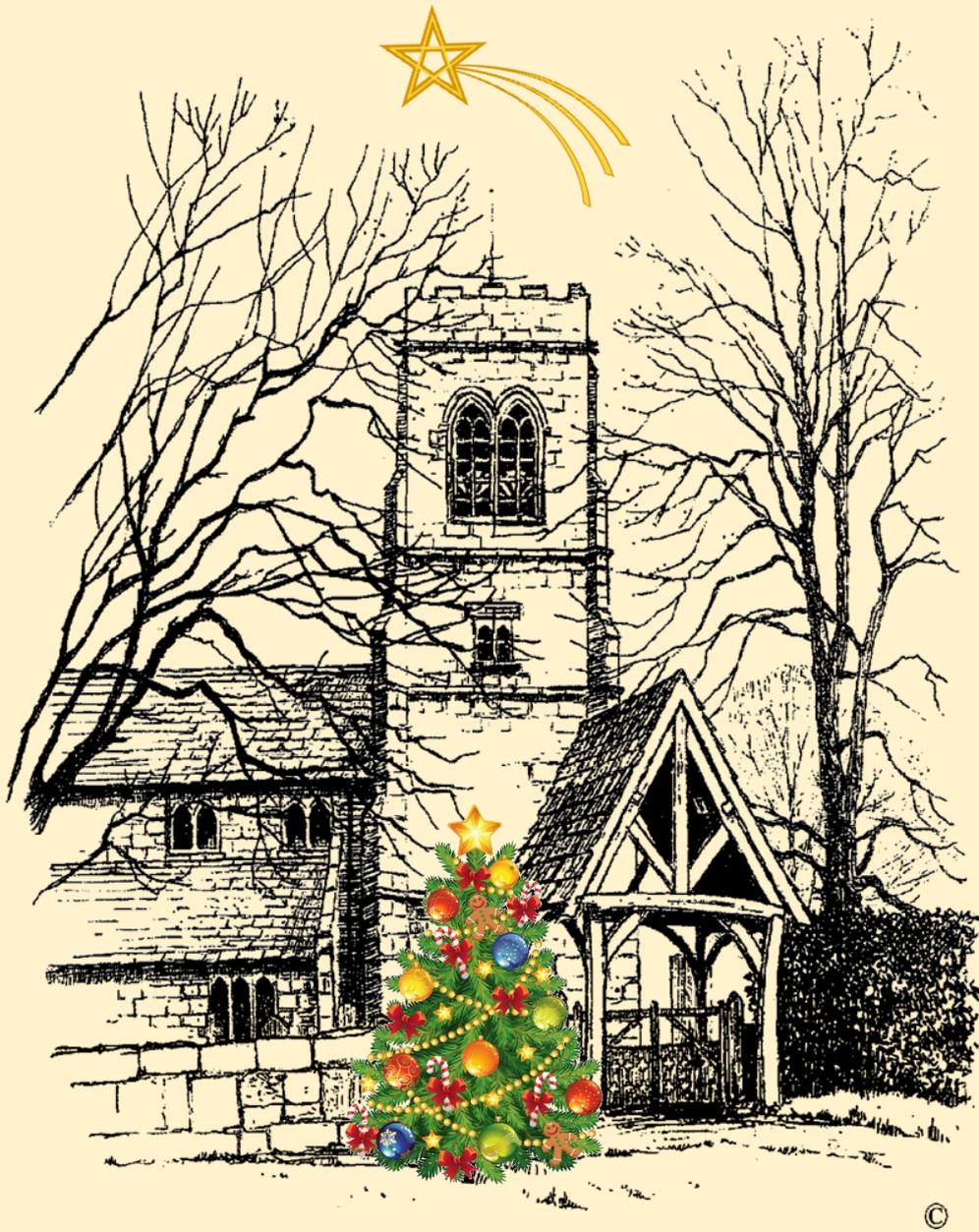


The Parish Church of St. Wilfrid, Mobberley



December 2022
January 2023

Church Diary for December 2022

Thu. 1st	The Beacon Drop-In Doorway	10.00 a.m. 7.45 p.m.
Sat. 3rd	Men's Breakfast The Beacon Drop-In	9.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.
<u>Sun. 4th</u>	<u>The 2nd 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. 5th	Infant Nativity Rehearsal in Church Licensing of Rev. Clare Leal (High Legh)	9.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m.
Tue. 6th	The Beacon Drop-In Infant Nativity School Governors	10.00 a.m. 2.15 p.m. 5.00 p.m.
Wed. 7th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 8th	The Beacon Drop-In Doorway	10.00 a.m. 7.45 p.m.
Fri. 9th	Upper Juniors Rehearsal	9.30 p.m.
Sat. 10th	The Beacon Drop-In Open-Air Carol Service	10.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.
<u>Sun. 11th</u>	<u>The 3rd Sunday of Advent</u>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Christingle Service	10.00 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 12th	Lower Junior Rehearsal	9.30 a.m.
Tue. 13th	Beacon Drop-In Lower Junior Nativity Service	10.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.
Wed. 14th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon Upper Junior Nativity Service	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 6.30 p.m.
Thu. 15th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.

Sat. 17th The Beacon Drop-In 10.00 a.m.

Sun. 18th The 4th Sunday of Advent

Said Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.
Messy Church Nativity Service 10.00 a.m.
Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 6.30 p.m.

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

Wed. 21st Communion at the Beacon 10.00 a.m.
Coffee Morning at the Beacon 10.30 a.m.

Thu. 22nd The Beacon Drop-In 10.00 a.m.

Sat. 24th **Christmas Eve**
Family Crib Service 2.00 p.m.
Family Crib Service 4.00 p.m.
Midnight Mass 11.30 a.m.

Sun. 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

Said Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.
Sung Holy Communion 10.00 a.m.



Church Diary for January 2023

Sun. 1st The 1st Sunday of Christmas

Said Holy Communion (BCP) 8.30 a.m.
Sung Holy Communion (CW) 10 a.m.

Tue. 3rd Beacon Drop-In 10.00 a.m.

Wed. 4th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 5th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sat. 7th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sun. 8th	<u>The Feast of the Epiphany</u>	
	Said Holy Communion (BCP)	8.30 a.m.
	All-Age Service	10 a.m.
	Choral Evensong (BCP)	3.30 p.m.
Tue. 10th	School Epiphany Service The Beacon Drop-In	9.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m.
Wed. 11th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 12th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sat. 14th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sun. 15th	<u>The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany/Plough Sunday</u>	
	Said Holy Communion (BCP)	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion (CW)	10 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	3.30 p.m.
Tue. 17th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Wed. 18th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 19th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sat. 21st	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sun. 22nd	<u>The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany</u>	
	Said Holy Communion (BCP)	8.30 a.m.
	Choral Matins (BCP)	10 a.m.
	Choral Evensong (BCP)	3.30 p.m.
Mon. 23rd	PCC Meeting	7.45 p.m.
Tue. 24th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Wed. 25th	Communion at the Beacon Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
Thu. 26th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.

The Rector Writes

Dear Friends,

Christmas, Eid, Hanukkah, Diwali, Tazaungdaing, they all have something in common in that they are all festivals of light. Christmas you know about, Eid is the Islamic festival commemorating Abraham's faithfulness in being willing to sacrifice his son Ishmael, Hanukkah celebrates the recovery of the Temple following the exile in Babylon and the rededication of the Temple following the Maccabean revolt. Diwali is a Hindu festival celebrating the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, whilst Tazaungdaing is a Buddhist celebration commemorating the Buddha's great renunciation, his vow to live the life of an ascetic.

You will see that many of these celebrations are commemorations of historic events and we might want to include our celebration of Christmas in with these, that at Christmas we simply remember and celebrate Jesus' birth in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. However that simply is not the case. It is no accident that our celebration of Christmas is immediately preceded by the season of Advent during which we look and prepare ourselves for the coming again of our Lord Jesus.

This is also the starting point of the Church's year, when we look forward not back. This also sets the tone for everything else that follows, his birth in Bethlehem, his revelation to the world, the calling of the disciples, his miracle and his teaching, his arrest, crucifixion, resurrection and, of course, his ascension. We retell these stories not simply as stories from the past but as pointers towards the future, towards our future.

At Christmas, as we read each year in John's gospel, we don't just welcome a child, we welcome the Light of the World. The Light who will guide and direct, who warms and comforts, who cleanses and heals and ultimately leads us home.

Two words that I desperately, if not always, seek to avoid using when talking of Jesus are 'stories' and 'remember'. I try to avoid using them because, to my mind at least, they are both passive and suggest that these things are frozen in the past. In truth, the 'story' of Jesus could and should be by the experience of Jesus; what we 'remember' are things that can be known and felt and put into practice in our daily living.

This Christmas, as we recall his birth in Bethlehem, may it be our fervent prayer that 'Christ be born in our hearts today'.

Yours in Christ,
Ian.

Christmas at St. Wilfrid's

Open-Air Carol Service

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

Christingle Service

Sunday 11th December at 10 a.m.

Sunday Club Nativity Service

Sunday 18th December at 10 a.m.

Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 18th 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.



Service Details

Open-Air Carol Service - 10th December



Each year we seek to bring the message of Christmas right into the heart of our community with a simple Carol Service outside The Bakery where we sing some favourite carols interspersed with gospel readings proclaiming Jesus' birth. You are welcome to join us for the whole service or for just a couple of carols.

Christingle Service - 11th December



The tradition of the Christingle began in the old state of Moravia in the Czech Republic. A little like the Christmas Crib it was a simple and figurative way to teach children about Christ's kingdom on earth. Our Christingle service is firmly a part of our Advent reflections and the collection at our service is donated to The Children's Society.

Children's Nativity - 18th December



On the Sunday morning before Christmas the children of our Sunday Club take a big part in leading and presenting our Nativity Service. The children work very hard on their presentation and it is always a great delight to see their interpretation of the Christmas Story.

Nine Lessons & Carols - 18th December



Begun at King's College Cambridge the pattern of readings takes us through the story of our salvation beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and ending with the birth of Jesus and the visitation of the Magi. You are invited to stay after the service to join in refreshments of minced pies and mulled wine.

Family Crib Services - 24th December



At this service we hear the Christmas story retold in a very simple way as the children help to piece the Christmas Crib together whilst we sing our favourite Christmas carols. Like last year we shall be holding not one but two Crib Services, the services will be the same but it is our hope that families will be able to participate more fully and in greater comfort.

Midnight Mass - 24th December



Our celebration of Christmas formally begins with our service of Midnight Mass beginning at 11.30 p.m. This beautiful and atmospheric service is very traditional, conducted according to the Book of Common Prayer and with readings from the King James Bible. There is something very special about worshipping at night, as the light from the church spills through the stained-glass windows painting images of our Lord and Saviour across the darkened lanes and fields.

Christmas Day - 25th December



We continue the celebration of our Saviour's birth with two services of Holy Communion on Christmas Day. The first of these is a said service at 8.30 a.m. which is conducted according to the book of Common Prayer. The second is a sung service in contemporary language at 10.00 a.m. Do come and join us and put the Christ into your Christmas.

Christmas Flowers



As ever help is needed to decorate the church for Christmas and despite what you may think, no experience is required, just a bunch of flowers and a few leaves. Scissors and a bin bag also help!

If you would like to join us, please sign the list of arrangements on the notice board by the north door. The church will be decorated on Saturday 17th December between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

Please would arrangers also remove their flowers either on Sunday 1st January after our evening service or Monday 2nd January at 9.30 a.m.

Due to the fact arrangers are responsible for removing their own flowers it is feasible to use your own container on the window sills. The church containers only hold floral foam, however any container that holds water is acceptable, if you would prefer to use a vase or similar. Thank you.



Sunday Service Update for 2023

As you will be aware the PCC has held a couple of extraordinary meetings over the last few months. We have been looking at a wide range of subjects that reflect on the worship, ministry and mission at St. Wilfrid's. After a good deal of discussion the PCC at its November meeting agreed to the following.

Change of Time on Sunday Evenings

From the 8th January our Sunday evening service will take place at 3.30 p.m. rather than 6.30 p.m. This is to make the most of the winter daylight and encourage those who don't like driving in the dark to attend and it also means we are saving energy costs on lighting and heating the church building.



The 4th & 5th Sunday Slot

From January 2023 Choral Matins will now take place on the 5th Sunday in the month (4-5 times a year) and we will be holding a contemporary non-Communion service on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Family Services

Our normal pattern of worship, on a four Sunday month, will be simplified with Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Family Services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. The Family Service on the 2nd Sunday will continue to be focussed more on children and young families.

Pet Service



It was agreed that in 2023 we swap our annual Pet Service with our Education Sunday services so the Pet Service will now take place on the 2nd Sunday of February and our Education Sunday Service will be on the 2nd Sunday of September.

Winter Warmth @ "The Beacon"

There are activities and events to warm the cockles of your heart at "The Beacon" over the winter months.



You'll be warmly welcomed **every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am til 2pm**, at our "Drop-In". Come in for a hot drink, with a biscuit or toast, and have a chat.

Wednesdays at 10.0am Jesus welcomes you to join us in a simple Communion Service followed by **Tea or Coffee at 10.30am**.

Every Thursday at 7.30pm we hold our "Doorway" course where we study the Bible and inquire in-depth, review and search for the relevance of our faith in today's world. With refreshments, of course.

Every Friday 6.00pm-8.00pm Youth Club. Board games, TV, Video games, Xbox etc. and don't forget the Tuck shop. Great fun for all youngsters.

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2.00pm are for those of a Knitting and Nattering disposition. You'll be made most welcome to join in.

1st Saturday of the Month at 9.00am is our Men's Breakfast. 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!



Last Saturday of the Month at 10.00am is Messy Church. A fun and playful way for children to begin to learn about the love of Jesus. Children bring your parents and come and join us.

17th December at 10.00am Messy Church Christmas Party.

"The Beacon" will be closed Monday 26th – Saturday 31st December

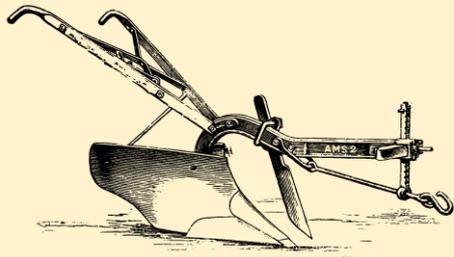
Special Services in January

Due to the first Sunday after Christmas falling on New Years Day our pattern of services is a bit different from normal this year.



The Feast of the Epiphany Sunday 8th January

More often than not we celebrate the Epiphany on the 1st Sunday of January but this year it is the 2nd which means our 10.00 a.m. service will be our Family Service. At this service we welcome the Magi who visited Jesus, who offered him worship and rare gifts and who were the first to take the good news of his birth into gentile lands.



Plough Sunday Sunday 15th January

This is usually our Family Service but this year we will be marking Plough Sunday with a sung service of Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m. On Plough Sunday we offer to God the labour of all who work on the land and ask God to bless their work with a rich harvest and to 'speed the plough'.



The Presentation of Christ/Candlemas Sunday 29th January

This marks the day when the baby Jesus was presented in the Temple according to Jewish custom and his mother, Mary, was purified. To us now this marks a turning point in the year when, remembering the words of Simeon that Jesus would be "a sign that will be opposed", our eyes turn from looking backward to Bethlehem and his birth to looking forward to Jerusalem and the events of his passion, death and, of course, resurrection.

He Emptied Himself

"The Eternal Being, who knows everything and who created the whole universe, became not only a man but (before that) a baby, and before that a *foetus* inside a woman's body. If you want to get the hang of it, think how you would like to become a slug or a crab."

CS Lewis - Mere Christianity

Bits'n'Pieces

Many of you will remember that each month there was the **Chester Diocesan News** included with the parish magazine. The Diocese stopped producing the Diocesan news and now produced an e-Bulletin. You can easily sign up for the Diocesan e-Bulletin by going to the Chester Diocese website and follow these links - Support & Information/Communications/Keep in Touch and fill in the online form. Alternatively you can go to the version of this magazine on the parish website and click on the link on this page and that will take you directly there.



Speaking of the Diocese, I need to remind you about '**Casting The Net Wide**', a vision development process within the Diocese aimed at capturing the widest number of people in our churches and wider community to help determine the vision and strategy for the future. You will be able to give your thoughts at various 'Vision Cafes' that are going to be set up in the Deanery in February/March time next year. More information about that in the next magazine.



Thank you to everyone who **delivers our magazine** each month. Magazine subscriptions will be collected at the end of January. The cost has been frozen at £6, it has been this for many years however we do now only produce 10 magazines a year as we have a joint July-August and December-January mag. If you would like yours delivered

each month then please contact Philippa, her details are on the back page of the magazine.

Go Back

from a Christmas sermon by St. Gregory of Nazianzus

This is our present Festival; it is this which we are celebrating today, the Coming of God to Man, that we might go forth, or rather (for this is the more proper expression) that we might go back to God – that putting off the old man, we might put on the new; and that as we died in Adam, so we might live in Christ, being born with Christ and crucified with Him and buried with Him and rising with Him. For I must undergo the beautiful conversion, and as the painful succeeded the more blissful, so must the more blissful come out of the painful. For where sin abounded grace did much more abound; and if a taste condemned us, how much more does the passion of Christ justify us?

Therefore let us keep the Feast, not after the manner of a heathen festival, but after a godly sort; not after the way of the world, but in a fashion above the world; not as our own, but as belonging to Him who is ours, or rather as our master's; not as of weakness, but as of healing; not as of creation, but of re-creation.

PCC Report

At our November meeting the PCC -

- ◆ Formally approved the recommendations of the Away Day 2 meeting that took place on the 12th November. This includes our new mission statement and other matters that you will find in a report in this magazine, please read '**Sunday Service Update for 2023**'
- ◆ Were commended to take part in the 'Cast The Net Wide' events which will be taking place throughout the Deanery in February and March 2023. This is a consultation run by the Chester Diocese as it seeks to develop and firm and coherent vision for the Diocese as a whole.
- ◆ Agreed to pay the outstanding £15000 owed on this year's Parish Share. This money would have too come from investments however we had been able to pay more from revenue throughout the year so thank you to everybody who donates to the church. It was noted that Parish Share, which makes up 70%-80% of our annual expenditure, will increase by 3% next year.
- ◆ Thanked Philip Armstrong and Neil Rowland for helping to fill in the potholes in front of church.
- ◆ Received a Safeguarding Report from Tim Mort our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Virtually all the PCC members had received their DBS checks and undertaken the online safeguarding training that is now required. The Rector commends all PCC and church members to watch 'Exposed: The Church's Darkest Secret' about the late Bishop Peter Ball. This 2-part documentary can be found on Youtube and on the Church of England website.
- ◆ Received an update on The Beacon. Usage has been slowly increasing and revenue alongside that and The Beacon does cover it's own costs.

