

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID, MOBBERLEY



SEPTEMBER 2021

50 PENCE

Church Diary for September 2021

Thu. 2 nd	Doorway	7.30 p.m.
	Greater Chapter	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 4 th	Church Open	12.00 p.m.
Sun. 5th	The 14th Sunday after Trinity	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 6 th	School Service	9.15 a.m.
Thu. 9 th	Doorway	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 11 th	Wedding Blessing	1.00 p.m.
Sun. 12th	The 15th Sunday after Trinity	
	<i>(Wilmslow Half Marathon)</i>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	All-Age Pet Service	3.00 p.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 13 th	Fabric Committee	7.00 p.m.
Tue. 14 th	Wedding Rehearsal	7.00 p.m.
Thu. 16 th	Doorway to Living in Love & Faith	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 18 th	Church Open	12.00 p.m.
Sun. 19th	The 16th Sunday after Trinity	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.
	Wedding (Fabian Ashurst & Jessica Britland)	12.30 p.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 20 th	Wedding Rehearsal	6.30 p.m.
Tue. 21 st	PCC Meeting	7.45 p.m.
Wed. 22 nd	Faith & Worship Review 2	7.30 p.m.
Thu. 23 rd	Doorway to Living in Love & Faith	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 25 th	Messy Church at The Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Wedding (Josh Northover & Grace Jung)	1.00 p.m.
Sun. 26th	The 17th Sunday after Trinity	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Choral Matins (Guest Speaker Mrs. Sue Fielder)	10.00 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion	6.30 p.m.
Tue. 28 th	School Governors	5.00 p.m.

Wed. 29 th	St. Michael & All Angels Said Holy Communion Coffee Morning Said Holy Communion	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 7.00 p.m.
Thu. 30 th	Doorway to Living in Love & Faith	7.30 p.m.

Pet Service Sunday 12th September

As mentioned in the last magazine our first All-Age Service since the Covid pandemic will be our annual **Pet Service on the 12 September**. Unfortunately, the day of the service is also the day of the rescheduled Wilmslow Half Marathon therefore our Pet Service will still go ahead but it will take place at **3.00 p.m.**



Our service also takes place very close to the Feast of St. Francis (October 4th). He preached the message that animals are as much God's creatures as humans and as such should be protected. His benevolent attitude towards animals and nature was the reason he became known as the Patron Saint of animals

Our Pet Service also fits into a period of Thanksgiving that concludes with our celebration of Harvest at the start of October. At Harvest we thank God for 'all good gifts around us' which, of course, means giving thanks for our food, but also it gives us the chance to give thanks for the animals which bring us so much love, joy and companionship. From them also we learn empathy, care and responsibility for those who are often weaker and more vulnerable than ourselves.



Within our service there will be the opportunity to bring your pets forward to receive a blessing. All animals are welcome however please be aware that there are usually a lot of dogs which may have an impact on other animals so do bear that in mind.

A very worried man calls his friend and explains that his dog has gone missing and asks what he should do. "You could put a notice in the shop windows" he replies. "What's the use of that" says the man, "My dog can't read"

The Rector Writes

Dear Friends,

I don't think anyone would have believed that when we first had to shut for worship on Mothering Sunday 2020 it would take until September 2021 before things got back to normal. I have listed before, in this magazine, some of the steps we have taken over the last 18 months to enable us to keep in touch with one another and to worship together and however difficult that might have been there are some clear positives to have come out of it.

However, the thing that has been very difficult to maintain has been that sense of community, of togetherness, that we so much took for granted previously. I know that one of the things people are really looking forward to doing is meeting up and chatting with old friends and one thing I think we will be painfully aware of when we get back together is exactly how many gaps there are in our pews that were once filled by dear friends.

Yet when we meet for worship, we do so in the light of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We do so surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Much of our magazine is looking ahead to October and our Harvest celebrations. Our view of Harvest is almost entirely earthly and physical, we think of the harvest of the crops and the food we have to eat. But there is another layer to harvest, a layer referenced in the final verse of 'Come, ye thankful people, come' that reads "Then, thou Church triumphant come, raise the song of harvest home! All be safely gathered in, free from sorrow, free from sin." This reflects the words of Jesus in Matthew 9, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." He says this after he saw the people who were "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

This reminds us that the true Christian harvest isn't the wheat of the field but the people of the world and we are those labourers, called to bring in the true harvest of God. This September we have the opportunity to press the 'reset' button and think afresh and anew about our mission and ministry, not to one another but to those who know little or nothing about the presence and activity of God in our church, in our streets and in our lives. Following the anxiety and confusion of the last 18 months people feel more "harassed and helpless" than they have for a generation. May we find the means to bring them in.

Yours in Christ,
Ian.

Covid Update

On the 23rd August the Faith & Worship Group met to review our response to the relaxation of Covid guidelines in England. Many of you will have received the paper following the last meeting entitled 'Moving Forward Together' which outlined the changes that were brought in from the start of August and the things that were to be reviewed.

At the last meeting it was agreed that –

- From the 5th September we shall **resume our normal pattern of Sunday services** at 8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. In accordance, rotas for Readers, Sidesmen and women and Communion Assistants will again be produced.
- From the 5th September we will no longer ask people to **wear face masks** although you are, of course, welcome to do so should you wish.
- We will **retain social distancing** measures at 1 meter and only use ever other pew. The southwest quarter of the church is set aside only for those wearing a mask and 2-meter social distancing will remain in that section. We ask people to be mindful of the space around them and not crowd others.
- We will continue to receive **Communion in one kind** and this will continue to be distributed from the chancel step using the one-way system.
- From the 5th September we will start **serving refreshments again** at the end of the 10.00 a.m. service. We ask people to please be aware of those around them and avoid crowding, after getting your drink we ask you to move away from the coffee station and not congregate around it. We suggest those not staying for coffee or who wish to minimise risk to leave via the south door.

St. Wilfrid Beacon



The Beacon

The opening date for The Beacon has had to be pushed back by a few weeks, along with everyone else we have found it difficult sourcing the building materials. This means we won't be restarting our mid-week Communion services on the 1st September as planned. Instead, we expect to be able to open the week of the 20th September in time for our Messy Church on the 25th. This means also our first Communion service will take place on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, Wednesday 29th September.

Living in Love & Faith

In the last magazine I raised the Living in Love and Faith process.



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

The Church wants to understand what it means to follow Christ in love and faith given the questions about human identity and the variety of patterns of relationship emerging in our society, including

marriage, civil partnership, cohabitation, celibacy and friendship.

To assist this dialogue the Church of England has produced a range of resources, a book, videos, a study course and podcasts, by which individuals and groups can engage with the issues raised.

At St. Wilfrid's we shall be running the 5-week Living in Love and Faith course through our regular Doorway Group that meets each Thursday at 7.30 p.m. It is our hope and expectation that we shall be able to meet in person at our room on Town Lane and the course will run from the 16th September – 14th October inclusively.

If you wish to join us for these meetings were as asking that you contact either the Rector or John Grainger by the 12th September so we can supply you with a course booklet. Finally, this is not the kind of course that people can 'dip' in and out of so we do ask that those interested in attending commit themselves, so far as is reasonable, to the full discussion. Thank you.

*"love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honour."*

Romans 12:10

The Six Pastoral Principles

To facilitate the Living in Love and Faith discussion Pastoral Advisory Group of the Church of England has produced 6 pastoral principles that it asks everyone to consider –



1. **Acknowledge Prejudice** - No one is unconditioned by their experience of life, positively or negatively. All of us must reflect deeply on our attitudes and behaviour. All are loved children of God. The cross of Christ is for all. The journey from prejudice to hatred is a short one.

2. **Speak into Silence** - Good pastoral care of LGBTI+ people can never happen in an environment where their presence or questions are



intentionally ignored by those in church leadership. Silence can shelter abuses of power. People must be given space, permission and opportunities to speak if they want to – so that those who are vulnerable can hear and thus not feel that they are alone. If our church really believes that it wishes to welcome everyone, no matter their personal circumstances, then this welcome must be voiced in words that come from both head and heart.

3. **Address Ignorance** - Ignorance is inevitable, but ignorance about the experiences and perspectives of everyone in our church communities can and should be addressed and taken into account in our teaching and learning about the foundations of our shared Christian faith. Taking Scripture and our tradition seriously should not necessitate ignoring these pressing pastoral issues.

4. **Cast our Fear** - There is fear about 'breaking ranks' and speaking out. There is fear that if one's personal circumstances are known then friendships may be affected or the validity of one's ministry may be called into question. There is fear among the clergy of how they may be held to account as they attempt to care. There is fear that a bishop's known views will colour her or his engagement with their people. These kinds of fear must be addressed because it can corrupt our life together and imprison individuals.



5. **Admit Hypocrisy** - We do not commend intrusive questioning, rather shining a light on structures and practices that promote evasiveness that can be seen as hypocrisy.
6. **Pay attention to Power** - Inequalities of power have led to abuses in the past and will continue to do so unless all who exercise pastoral care reflect continuously on the power that they hold. Power must always be acknowledged.

Church Fair Raffle & Tombola

The Church Fair will take place on the 20th November and we need some decent Raffle Prizes. If you have anything that you think might be suitable please contact us as soon as possible so we can get the tickets printed. We also need smaller prizes for the Tombola stall, please bring them to church or contact the Rector and he will collect them from you.

Harvest Festival Weekend

1st – 3rd October

I am delighted that we are now able to resume our full timetable of Harvest celebrations at the start of October. Harvest is still an important part of the life of our church as we give thanks to God for all the good things he has given us, as we pray for our farmers, and for those who do not have enough to eat in this world of plenty.

Harvest Supper – Friday 1st October



Our traditional Harvest Supper takes place at Mobberley Cricket Club, rounding off a day of decorating the church building. Alongside our meal of hot pot followed by apple crumble we shall also partake of the Rector's Harvest Quiz. Tickets cost £10 adults and £5 children.

Open Church & Gift Day – Sat. 2nd October



The church will be open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for the opportunity to see the beautiful Harvest decorations and flower arrangements. This is also our Gift Day. Harvest provides us with the opportunity to make a one-off 'Thank Offering' to God for the blessings we have received in this past year. This might be a special birthday or anniversary, the gift of a child or grandchild, a new job or a problem resolved. The Church Treasurer and Rector will be available all day to receive your gift. There is also information available about joining the Friends of St. Wilfrid's.

Harvest Services – Sun. 3rd October



As well as our usual 8.30 a.m. service there will be two special Harvest Services. The first of this is our Harvest Thanksgiving Communion Service at 10 a.m. whilst in the evening at 6.30 p.m. we shall be holding our service of Harvest Songs of Praise including readings, both scriptural and secular, on the theme of Harvest and Autumn.

At the service we ask congregation members to bring a gift of flowers which will be distributed the following day to people around the parish. If you know someone who is has been bereaved, who is sad, lonely or for any reason in need of cheering up please put their name & address on the list in church and they will receive flowers from St. Wilfrid's.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire

At the end of August David Briggs stood down as the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, a role he has served since his appointment in 2010. David has fulfilled his role with great dedication and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done in that time.

As Lord Lieutenant David has been the Queen's representative in Cheshire, working closely with the Local Authorities, connecting Businesses and the voluntary sector and supporting numerous Cheshire charities. As well as his long-term relationship with the St. John's Ambulance Service, David is Chair of the Cheshire Community Foundation which raises funds to support hundreds of small local charities and voluntary groups, so far the Cheshire Community Foundation has given over £8 million in grants. David also served as Chair of the first West Cheshire Poverty Truth Commission and issues surrounding poverty are very close to his heart.



Amongst many other roles David has served as President of the Cheshire Commonwealth Association, Cheshire Young Carers, East Cheshire hospice, and Vision Support, whilst also being a patron of Active Cheshire, Cheshire Childbirth Appeal, the NeuroMuscular Centre in Winsford and, perhaps a little less demanding, Cheshire County Cricket Club.

Stepping back from this role David will have much more time to spend with Michelle and his family and, also, back here at St. Wilfrid's where he will shortly be back on the Reader's Rota (I already have him booked in for Nine Lessons and Carols). Thank you for all you have done over the last 11 years, and previously as High Sheriff, thanks also to Michelle for lending him to Cheshire for the last decade and every blessing on whatever you decide to do in the future.

David's successor as Lord Lieutenant is Lady Alexis Redmond who received an MBE for her support for many charities in our region, amongst which she sits on the Poverty Truth Advisory Board and is President of St. Luke's (Cheshire) Hospice.



Welcoming Bishop Sam

A few weeks ago I had the great pleasure of welcoming our new Bishop of Stockport, the Right Reverend Sam Corley, to St. Wilfrid's. Bishop Sam doesn't formally take up his post until September, so this was a simple, informal, visit to introduce him to the Archdeaconry.



Archdeacon Ian was taking Bishop Sam on a whistle-stop tour around the Deanery but Bishop Sam, along with the Bishop of Chester, Bishop Mark, will be coming for a longer visit in October when it is planned for one of them at least to join us

for our mid-week service and dedicate and formally open The Beacon in the village centre.

Both Bishop Sam and Bishop Mark have taken up their new roles in very challenging times. Bishop Mark has been in post for over a year but, due to Covid, hasn't really had a chance to get around and meet everybody as he would have liked. Please uphold them in your prayers as they seek to work together in building up the Church in this area over the coming years.

Introducing Sue Fielder

On the 26th September at 10.00 a.m. we welcome, as a special guest speaker, Mrs Sue Fielder. In 2013 Sue was undergoing chemotherapy treatment when she began to think about the issue of faith and fear. Having reflected on these issues she was asked by her parish priest in Dorset to speak of her experience and from this Sue developed a ministry speaking of her experience.

Sue has felt a close affinity to the Northwest where many of her family lived and where ten of her ancestors served as members for over 150 years. Now she has preached all over the country including at St. Michael and All angels Marbury where her great-great-grandfather was the Vicar for 62 years.

From her experience of cancer she has come to the realisation that the Lord can bring something good out of even the darkest situation. Come and join us on Sunday 26th September at 10.00 a.m.

Camino de Santiago

The Way of St James

Sunday 25th July was the feast day of St James the Greater. During the Sunday morning service I was reminded of our visit some years ago. Gordon and I set out, going from Dover to Calais on the ferry. We travelled down to the south of France and stayed at the town of Arcachon on the coast.

Discovering that we had passed part of the Camino we went back and walked from a little town in the woods and found a small Chapel that had served many pilgrims over the centuries. From Arcachon, we crossed the border into Spain. I was quite surprised that it looked more like Austria than Spain with chalet style houses set in the hills. It was a lovely drive. We saw a sign for Leon that we knew was on the route and found ourselves driving between hills reaching up to either side of us.



I was bemused by the fact that passing us on what was little more than a lane, were mostly English cars. We followed the river until we started to climb up the hill and it became very misty, (cloudy you might say).

We decided to pull over for a coffee and as I put on the kettle a car pulled up beside us. I said to Gordon "they must be English, I'll go and ask them if they want a coffee." As I got out of the van, two men were disappearing up the hill(mountain you might say) into the mist. The ladies declined the coffee, as they were rather worried about the disappearance of their husbands who were in search of miniature Daffodils. Who knew that Spain is famous for miniature daffs? We finished our coffee and set off down the other side of the hill. The sun came out to reveal a beautiful day and as we got to the bottom of the hills we passed a meadow full of these beautiful miniature Daffodils!!!

We reached Leon at about midday and went to look for the information centre. We parked the van some distance away and walked through the town and saw the signs for the Camino in the form of the brass sea shells planted in the pavements. We had to join the queue and I had noticed a couple of people getting out of a similar van to ours, I thought she looked like the kind of person that would live in Mobberley so I tried to get into



conversation with her. She wasn't so keen and we split up as we moved up the queue. Well, she was Italian and didn't speak any English and I couldn't speak Italian. But not easily phased I had another go when I found her close by on the campsite. By the time we reached Santiago we had formed a nice little friendship.

The next day we carried on to Santiago de Compostela, passing several Pilgrims on the way, found a campsite and there we stayed for five days as the rain came down in stair rods. When it stopped raining we caught the bus into Santiago and were eventually at our destination. Was it



worth it? Yes, it was amazing! The large square in front of the Cathedral gives a wonderful view as you walk up to this enormous red building. I remember going up the steps into the entrance and seeing enormous pillars, the base of the centre pillar is almost worn away by the millions of hands that have touched it over the

centuries. People say "Lord I am here at last, Thank You".

It's difficult to remember all that I saw on that day as there was so much, but we were lucky enough to see the great incense burner (Botafumeiro) being swung over the hundreds of Pilgrims that were there that day.

I had to queue to be able to touch the many jewelled gold effigy of St James, while Gordon took my photo. The carvings and paintings were superb. There is one massive painting of St James when he was said to have ridden a white horse beside the King of Spain enabling the King to win the war over the Moors, several hundred years after the body of St James had been discovered.

We left Santiago next morning on our way to Oporto in Portugal and stopped at a wayside cafe for a coffee only to bump into our Italian friends again, we left the after lots of hugs and kisses, but that is the way of the Camino.



When we were back home I read an Ernest Hemingway book referring to that area of Spain. He said that when it isn't raining the water is dripping off the trees. Wish I had known that before we went!

PAM SMITH

The Next Train Arriving at Chester...

A massive model railway has come to life at Chester Cathedral, the result of the Cathedral's two-year collaboration with lifelong railway enthusiast Pete Waterman OBE.



The event, dubbed 'Making Tracks - Discover the West Coast Main Line' is Chester Cathedral's fabulous summer event and will see an exciting 74ft long model railway occupy the length of the Cathedral nave until early-September.

Most people think of Pete Waterman as a successful record producer, a songwriter and TV personality, however, he's had a lifelong love of all things railway, and has, with the 'Railnuts' - a group of dedicated friends who live and breathe model railways - created an enormous model railway for the Cathedral, which follows on from their celebrated 2003 creation 'Leamington Spa.' Speaking ahead of installing the model railway into the Cathedral, Pete Waterman says "We've worked very hard

on this model, used some innovative techniques, and created a layout that represents how the West Coast Main Line really appears.

The model railway will also feature the work of Thomas Brassey, the Chester-born civil engineer who had, by 1847 built one-third of the railways in Britain, and is memorialised in the Cathedral's St Erasmus Chapel.

Dean of Chester, the Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford says "Brassey was the most remarkable civil engineer and at his death he was responsible for one in every twenty miles of railways around the whole world. He is estimated to have kept 80,000 people in employment and is remembered as an honourable and fair man.

The model railway will be accompanied by Nicky Thompson's "Marvellous Days Out" railway poster exhibition, courtesy of the Northern and Mid-Cheshire Community Rail Partnerships.

'Making Tracks' runs until Friday 3 September. The event is open Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm (last entry 4.30pm). Tickets are on sale now - at just £2.50 per person. Click to chestercathedral.com to book.