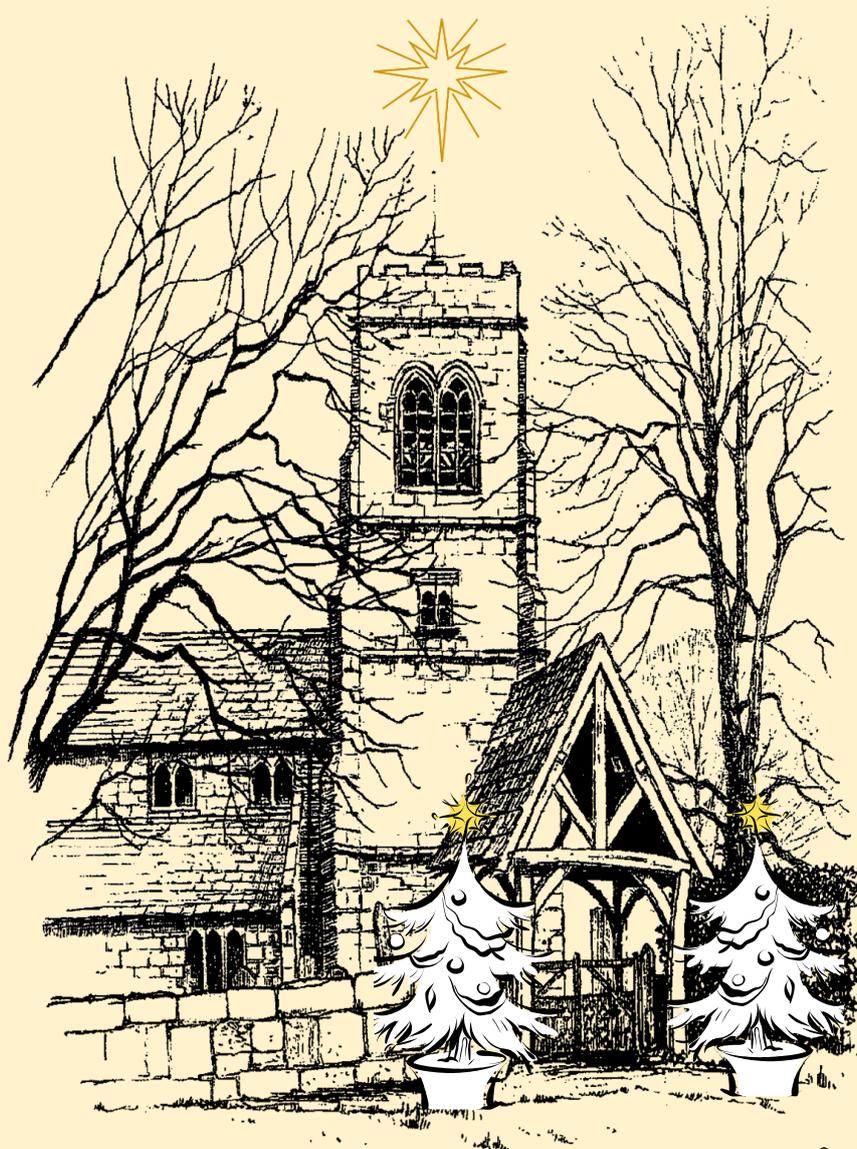


The Parish Church of St. Wilfrid, Mobberley

Making Christ Known



©

December 2024
January 2025

Church Diary for December 2024

<u>Sun. 1st</u>	<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. 2 nd	Parents & Tots at The Beacon	10.00 a.m.
Wed. 4 th	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.
	Knit & Natter	2.00 p.m.
	Alternative Service (Compline)	7.00 p.m.
Thu. 5 th	Doorway	7.30 p.m.
Fri. 6 th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 7 th	Men's Breakfast	9.00 a.m.
<u>Sun. 8th</u>	<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. 9 th	Parents & Tots at The Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	PCC Standing Committee (Zoom)	7.30 p.m.
Tue. 10 th	School Governors	5.00 p.m.
Wed. 11 th	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.
	Wednesday Matinee	1.30 p.m.
Thu. 12 th	Doorway	7.45 p.m.
Fri. 13 th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 14 th	Open-Air Carol Service	10.00 a.m.
<u>Sun. 15th</u>	<u>The 3rd Sunday of Advent</u>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion	10.30 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.

Mon. 16th Parents & Tots 10.00 a.m.

Wed. 18th Communion at the Beacon 10.00 a.m.
Coffee Morning at the Beacon 10.30 a.m.

Sun. 22nd The 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

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

Wed. 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Said Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.
Sung Holy Communion 10.00 a.m.



*Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin,
Mother and Child
Holy Infant
so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace*



*Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams
from Thy holy face
With the dawn
of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth*

Sun. 29th The 1st Sunday of Christmas

Said Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.
Choral Matins 10.00 a.m.
Sung Holy Communion 6.30 p.m.

Church Diary for January 2025

<u>Sun. 5th</u>	<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. 6th	Parents & Tots	10.00 a.m.
Wed. 8th	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.
	Wednesday Matinee	1.30 p.m.
Fri. 10th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 11th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
<u>Sun. 12th</u>	<u>Plough Sunday</u>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	All-Age Family Service	10 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	3.30 p.m.
Mon. 13th	Parents & Tots	10.00 a.m.
Tue. 14th	School Epiphany Service	9.30 a.m.
Wed. 15 th	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.
	Knit & Natter	2.00 p.m.
Thu. 16th	Doorway	7.45 p.m.
Fri. 17th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 18th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
<u>Sun. 19th</u>	<u>The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany</u>	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.
	Choral Evensong	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 20 th	Faith & Worship Group	7.45 p.m.
Wed. 22 nd	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.

	Wednesday Matinee	1.30 p.m.
Thu. 23rd	Doorway	7.45 p.m.
Fri. 24th	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 25th	The Beacon Drop-In	10.00 a.m.
Sun. 26th	The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	
	Said Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	Family Service	10 a.m.
	Sung Holy Communion	6.30 p.m.
Mon. 27th	Parents & Tots	10.00 a.m.
	PCC Meeting	7.45 p.m.
Tue. 28th	School Governors	5.00 p.m.
Wed. 29th	Communion at the Beacon	10.00 a.m.
	Coffee Morning at the Beacon	10.30 a.m.
Thu. 30th	Doorway	7.45 p.m.
Fri. 31st	Youth Club at the Beacon	7.00 p.m.



Christmas Flowers

Please come and help us decorate our lovely Church **from 9am onwards on Saturday 14th December.**

New helpers are welcome to do their own arrangement, or assist an experienced arranger. Please bring flowers from your own garden or the shops, containers are in the church. The notice inviting people to sign up and join us to do the flower arrangements for Christmas, is now on the Church notice board. Many thanks to everyone in advance.

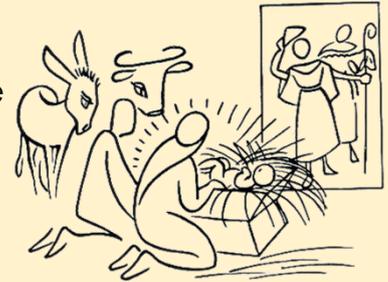
Sarah Baron

The Rector Writes

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you, like me, can remember or even have seen the play or the film 'Godspell'? This was a musical that began in 1971, ironically the same year as the more successful 'Jesus Christ Superstar', but which focussed more on Jesus' teachings, being, primarily, a re-enactment of some of Jesus' parables. 'Godspell' was strongly rooted in the slightly hippy-ish counter-culture in which it was written which makes it slightly odd that it was called 'Godspell' which is an archaic Anglo-Saxon word commonly now translated as 'gospel' and which means 'good news'

There was a strong emphasis at the time on the Bible being Good News, some of you will remember there was a very popular Bible translation known as the Good News Bible. This was a hugely successful, paraphrase, translation and included beautiful linear artwork by the Swiss artist Annie Vallotton.



The Good News Bible has faded in popularity but that emphasis on Good News is something that we should hold on to for we live in a world that is crying out for good news, and there is no greater news than the coming of Jesus Christ into our world.

There is a great irony that a play called 'Godspell', like it's musical stablemate 'Jesus Christ Superstar', ultimately failed to follow through with their promise and both shied away from the greatest good news of all because, although both included representations of Jesus' crucifixion, they both steered clear of his resurrection. They both sought to portray Jesus simply as a good man, as a great teacher, and so both fell short.

In Jesus God entered into our world in weakness and vulnerability, knowing homelessness, hunger and poverty. At his birth Jesus was laid to sleep in a food trough, in a stranger's animal stall, in a town far from home. As a toddler his parents were forced to take him into exile in a foreign country under the threat of death. In Jesus God entered into our world! This is the good news we have received, this is the good news we celebrate, this is the good news we are called to share. In Jesus heaven has stooped down to earth so that earth might be raised to heaven, truly tidings of great news to all men and women of every age and of every time.

Yours in Christ,
Ian.

Advent

In our modern world of electric lights and street lamps we forget how much the seasons shaped the way people lived.



December is month of encroaching darkness leading to the shortest day around the 21st/22nd December. It was a time when people tired of the darkness and looked forward, with hope, to the return of the light. Advent as a church season began in the 5th century and followed that some hope and expectation, not in the return of the sun but in the return of the Son of God.

Advent is a season of hope, of expectation and of preparation as, like the bridesmaids in the famous Advent text from Matthew 25, we await with longing and anticipation the arrival of our Lord.

Yet, we are told, when Christ comes he will come with judgement and so we prepare, we look to ourselves, we try and cast away those things that keep us from God, that stop us from walking in his way and obeying his command.

Self examination is something we often shy away from , either from the misguided opinion that we don't do anything wrong or from the knowledge that we fall so short that, like the cupboard under the stairs, it is easier just to leave everything into the dark and hope it will go away. Jesus however addresses this exact point for in Matthew 12 we read, "Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ³Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops."



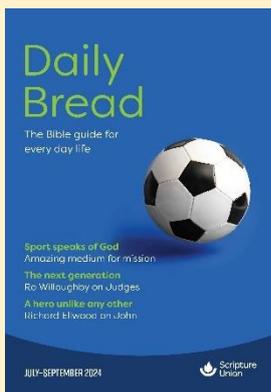
Adults don't run away from problems, nor do they deny them, as mature Christians we have the strength to face up to our shortcomings, we accept the forgiveness we find in Christ, and we celebrate the opportunity to stand before our God with clean hands and pure hearts.

Ian.

Bible Reading Schemes & Advent Books

At our Bible Sunday service I challenged you with the question of when you last read your Bible and mentioned the many aids that help open the scriptures to us, here are just a few of the possibilities that are available to you -

Printed Daily Reading Booklets



This is one of the longest standing ways, a printed booklet with a daily reading, and including a meditation based upon it and a prayer. Some of these booklets are for the whole year and others are quarterly and titles include 'Daily Bread' and 'Encounter with God', both produced by Scripture Union. There are many different versions by different publishers including 'Explore Time with God', 'Our Daily Bread' and 'New Daylight' all of which are available through Eden.co.uk.

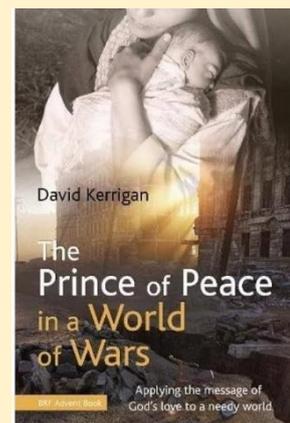
Online Daily Readings

With similar content to the printed versions these online versions are free and can be accessed anytime and anywhere. Popular ones include WordLive produced by Scripture Union, but for those who fancy a bigger challenge the Bible Society produces Daily Reflections designed for those who want to read the whole Bible in a year.

Advent Reading

The Bible Reading Fellowship produce a number of titles that provide daily Bible readings and reflections exploring Advent through to Epiphany. These include 'The Prince of Peace', 'At Home in Advent' and 'Image of the Invisible'.

Ian.



Christmas at St. Wilfrid's

Christingle Service

Sunday 8th December at 10 a.m.

Open-Air Carol Service

Saturday 14th at 10 a.m.
outside the Village Bakery

Childrens' Nativity Service

Sunday 22nd December at 10 a.m.

Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 22nd 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

Christingle Service - Sunday 8th 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.

Open-Air Carol Service - Saturday 14th 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.

Children's Nativity Service - Sun. 22nd 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 our continuing mission to the young people of this parish.

Nine Lessons & Carols - Sun. 22nd 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 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 Communions - 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 Communions 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.

Ian.

'Look Up'

"Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come."

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is In the Manger*

DECEMBER & JANUARY @ "THE BEACON"

"MEN'S BREAKFAST" - the first Saturday of every month at 9.00am, Dec 7 but NOT Jan 4. There's a misconception that men are reluctant to speak about themselves and/or "sensitive" issues. That doesn't happen here, try shutting us up! Perhaps it's the brew and the sausage/bacon baps!

"PARENTS AND TOTS" Monday 10.00am - 12.00pm, NOT Dec 23 & 30. 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 Saturday, 10.00am - 2.00pm, NOT DEC 21, 28 & Jan 4.

You'll be warmly welcomed. Why not drop in for a chat and hot drink, with a biscuit or toast.

"COMMUNION SERVICE" every Wednesday at 10.00am followed by "Tea, Coffee and Biscuits" at 10.30am, NOT Dec 25 & Jan 1.

"ALTERNATIVE EVENING SERVICE" on Wednesday Dec 4th at 7.00pm not Jan. 1. Experience a different style of worship in this short 30 minute service.

"KNIT & NATTER" meets Wednesday Jan 15 at 2.00pm.

If you're of a Knitting and Nattering disposition you'll be made most welcome.

"MOVIE MATINÉE" on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, NOT Dec 25, at 1.30pm for 2.00pm.

Dec 11, "MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET.

Jan 8, "THE LITTLE MERMAID" and Jan 22, "FUNNY FACE".

"DOORWAY", our study group, meets every Thursday at 7.45pm, Not Dec 19, 26 & Jan 2, 9.

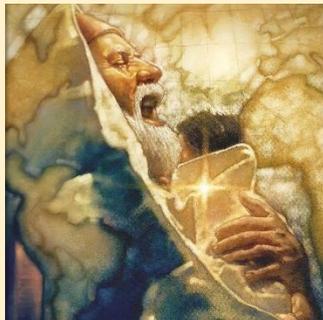
In December we're looking at Advent and in January continuing our journey through St. John's Gospel with the inspiring Bruce Gore.

"YOUTH CLUB" meets every Friday from 6.00pm - 8.00pm, NOT Dec 20, 27 & Jan 3. Lots of activities, board games, TV, Video games, Xbox etc. and don't forget the Tuck shop. Great fun for all youngsters age nine and upwards.

The Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany, which falls on 6 January, marks the beginning of a season which recognizes Jesus to be the Son of God. The word 'epiphany' means 'manifestation' or 'appearance', and the Feast of the Epiphany marks the recognition of the newborn Jesus by the world.

There are a number of events in Jesus life that are part of this Epiphany season. The first, and perhaps most famous, is the arrival of the Magi, foreigners from distant lands who come and pay him homage and present him with those exotic, and costly, gifts. Other events include his baptism at the hands of John the Baptist and the wedding at Cana when Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.



Finally, on the 2nd February, the season of Epiphany ends with the Feast of the Presentation. Jesus is brought to the Temple by his parents according to the law of Israel. There, he is recognized by Simeon, who declares him to be 'a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel.' The traditional service for this feast includes a procession of candles, and so it is often known as Candlemas.

With this emphasis on revelation Epiphany encourages each one of us in our mission of making Christ known in the world.

Ian.

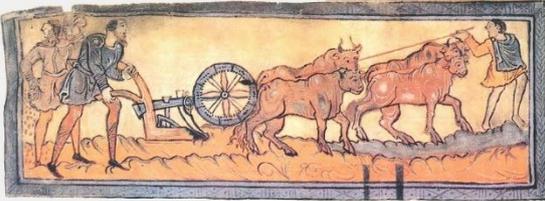
For by gold the power of a king is signified, by frankincense the honour of God, by myrrh the burial of the body; and accordingly they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man.

— St John Chrysostom



Plough Sunday

Plough Sunday is thought to be a very ancient festival,



abandoned at the Reformation and then revived by the Victorians. Traditionally it was celebrated on the first Sunday after Epiphany, which

falls on 6 January, and then ploughing began the next day, Plough Monday.

In the medieval period, when there was only one plough in each village, the village plough was drawn through the streets to be blessed at the church, and was followed with much food, drinking and revelry. For medieval farmers it was an important occasion. The village plough was



cleaned and decorated, it was then dragged to the church to be blessed and for prayers for a good harvest before the start of the new season's work.



Modern farming practices have changed, of course, and the widespread sowing of winter wheat means that much farming is now carried out in the autumn, but how marvellous to have two opportunities to celebrate the work of

our farmers and uphold them in our prayers – both at Harvest Festival and on Plough Sunday.

Plough Sunday

January 12th

Family Service 10.00 a.m.

Jesus said 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

Luke 9:62

Church Heating

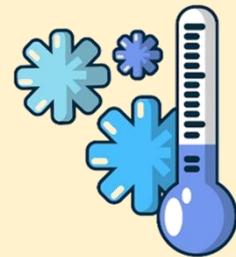
Somewhat in passing I reported in the November magazine that the heating in church wasn't currently working, this was part of a longer report on how the PCC were having to address the question of the church heating in the long-term. However, even before we went to press last month, it was already becoming clear that the situation was much worse than we thought.

Regular congregation members will be aware that most years, at this time, we have issues with leaks in the heating pipes, usually at the joints. This time however, although starting at a joint, we have a crack that runs laterally down length of the pipe. This indicates that the corrosion isn't simply at the pipe ends, which was already causing massive problems, but is spreading into the body of the pipes.



We can't complain too much about the pipes, which we estimate have been in service for 140 years, but it is clear that they are fast approaching the end of their serviceable lives.

This leaves the PCC facing two related but distinct issues. The first of these is what to do in the short term, specifically this winter? Is it possible to bodge a repair, are there alternative heating solutions, and how much will they cost? The second issue is more to do with my piece in last month's magazine regarding the long term future and a likely new heating system.



It is unfortunate that this, possibly terminal, fault should occur just as we are seriously looking at long term solutions however it is what it is and we will all have to pull together and make the best of it. In the meantime please wrap up warm when attending church and keep an eye on the weekly email and e-bulletin for updates.

Ian.

A Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of Chester



I am writing to you in the wake of the publication of the Makin review into the abuse perpetrated by John Smyth and today's resignation announcement from the Archbishop of Canterbury. I know that there are many questions, quite a lot of which remain unanswered. Like you, I am listening to the media coverage with all manner of mixed feelings, mainly grief over the failings of our church. You will know what a focus this kind of work has been in this diocese following the Pearl Review four years ago: there is no place for cover-up or complicity with abuse in any part of society, least of all in the church.

I do want to say a number of things as we seek to respond in the Diocese of Chester.

First and foremost; if the report raises concerns for you in any way at all, please do reach out for support. You can either talk with our safeguarding team or Safe Spaces and contact details are available. These conversations can trigger all manner of emotions in us, and support is available.

Secondly, please keep victims and survivors in your prayers. This is a very hard time for those who have journeyed through the kind of horrific experiences Makin outlines. Our aim to be '*survivor centred and trauma informed*' can never just be a strapline. Please be kind to each other, and please pray.

Thirdly, may I thank all who are working to make our parishes, chaplaincies, and church schools safer spaces. I appreciate all that you do to enable this; there is always more work needed, but we can be grateful.

Fourthly, alongside my deep regret and concern about the failings of the church, I want to express gratitude for the good things that Archbishop Justin has done in this role.

As we have found in Chester Diocese, safeguarding is always a shared responsibility, and I am thankful for all who partner in this vital part of the life of the church.

Friends, please pray. Please care for each other. Please reach out for support if you need it. I will write further in due time.

Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester

St. Wilfrid's Registers –



Baptisms in November

3rd	Hugo Louie James Doodson	Summerfield Rd, Mobberley
24th	Noah Frederick Mountney	Forge Lane, Congleton
	Rory Alexander Ralph Mountney	Forge Lane, Congleton



Funerals in November

11 th	Helen Christine Grayson	Greenfield Cl, Timperley	Church
25 th	Kaye Evans	Hall Bank North, Mobberley	Church
27 th	John Arthur Whiston	The Belvedere NH, Alderley	Church

Year's Mind in December

<p>Dorothy Pope Harold Gardiner Jill Higginson Betty Williams Tim Hall 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</p>	<p>Annie Cooper George Hastie Jean Riley Jamie Atherton Sybil Simcock Samuel Ross John Grassby Mary Boyling Branda Knott Ernest Brown Edward Murray Nancy Capey Sheila Scott Janet Taylor Frank Bleakley Dorothy Groves Margaret Wattam Mary Chinn James Barber Bernard Whittenberg</p>	<p>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</p>
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Year's Mind in January

Mary Southam
Charles Southern
Susan Halliwell
Winifred Cooke
Dorothy Ward
Stephen Thorpe
Geoff Moores
Sarah Roberts
Beryl Lomas
Robert Shaw
John Denton
Vera Pritchard
James Windle
Brian Greenwood
Mary 'Tim' Barker
Barbara Martin
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