ST MARYS
NANTWICH

# December 2024 - January 2025





A.W.Burrows & Son

Independent Family Funeral Directors

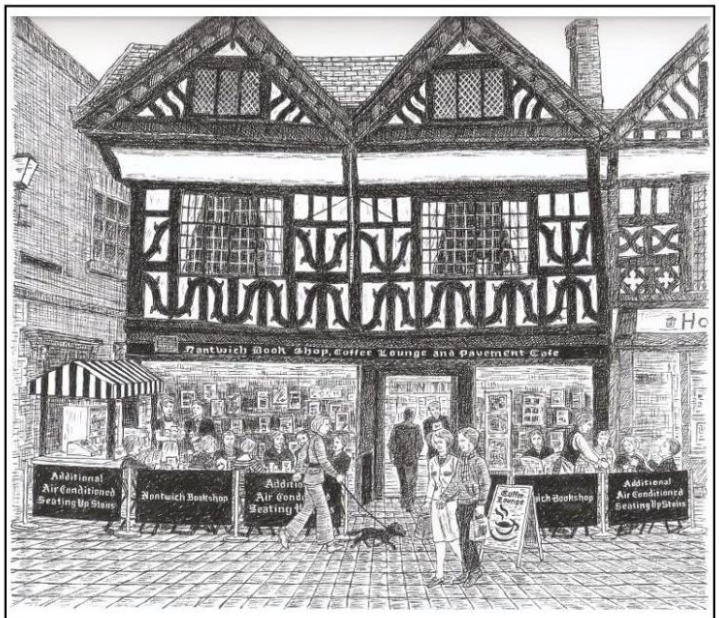
ESTABLISHED: 1841

Complete Funeral Arrangements, Funeral Plans Arranged,
Personal Day and Night Service,
Private Chapel of Rest in Peaceful Rural Surroundings.
Snowdrop Villa, Swanley, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 8QB

**Tel: 01270 524243 / 07711468917**

**Email : barb.burrows2@gmail.com**

**www.awburrowsnantwich.co.uk**




**Nantwich Bookshop and Coffee Lounge**

Your award-winning Bookshop and Coffee Lounge

**01270 611665**

**steve@nantwichbookshop.co.uk**

*Front cover: The crowning piece of the bellringers' tree (see p. 23)*



*A rare dusting of snow in November. Photo: Jonathan White.*



## From the Rector

"God of God, Light of Light …" We say these words in our Communion services, and we will sing them at Christmas, and next year we will be celebrating their 1700th anniversary. They are part of the Creed which in its first version was formulated at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

"Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb", the carol continues, using the 5th century words of the Te Deum hymn which we say in Morning Prayer. In contrast to the pagan view that wombs (along with many other body parts) are shameful, it is here emphasised that God was at home in one for nine months.

In word and in song, the early Church, against much opposition, unequivocally affirmed two truths that are essential to our salvation: that Christ was fully divine, of one substance with the Father, as sunlight is of one substance with the sun; and that Christ was made flesh, incarnate, fully human, sharing our frail, mortal condition.

If Christ were not God he could not *save*, and if he were not man, he could not save *us*. This is the heart of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and it is our task, with the angels, to sound it forth.

Over the centuries the Church found new words and songs and sounds to proclaim God's praise; and the Church at its best also recognised that before this mystery we must also fall silent, and recognise that no words are sufficient.

Our 2025 Lent Course (5 Tuesday afternoons or 5 Wednesday evenings, starting 11th and 12th March) is entitled "The Sound of the Church", when we will learn about the Church's use of Bells, Organ, Song, Speech and Silence. Stefan Zientek, Simon Russell, and Alison Phillips will share something of the practice of their respective arts, and I will ask how these sounds, along with said liturgy, can bear the Good News; then Brian Statham will lead us into silence and its meaning. Look out for further announcements in the New Year.

For now, have a peaceful Advent, with some quiet reflection. And then we may join the singing of the angels and the merry ding-dong of the heavens as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, the Birthday of Christ, at Christmastime.

*Mark Hart*

# Oxley's
## Funeral Services

Family Owned and Serving the Community for Three Generations

**Caring & Dedicated Funeral Directors providing a Complete 24 Hour Service**

Individually tailored funerals at competitive prices to meet your personal requirements



- Diplomas in Funeral Arranging & Administration NAFD Dip. FAA
- Finance Available
- Monumental Masonry
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

**CREWE**
**01270 214009**
Cumberland House
Market Close

**NANTWICH**
**01270 625230**
32 Pillory Street
Nantwich

enquiries@oxleysfuneralservices.co.uk
www.oxleysfuneralservices.co.uk
Serving Nantwich, Crewe and all Surrounding Areas



# Alan Griffiths Jewellers




Big enough to cope, small enough to care.

6 Hospital Street
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 5RJ

01270 627316
alangriffithsjewellers@btconnect.com



## Would you like to advertise here?

Please contact
St. Mary's Parish Office:
01270 625268 or
office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk
for further details



# Mary's Mobile Hairdressing

Mary has been working in the industry for 25 years and specialises in mature ladies hair styles.

Call today to book an appointment in the comfort of your own home.

*Covering the Nantwich and surrounding area.*

**Call 07890 096 249**



FIRSTSTOP

**Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.30pm**
**Sat 8.30am - 1.00pm**

D&D Tyres Limited

M.O.T.'s Class 4 & 7 • Tyres • Brakes • Exhausts • Batteries
Tracking and Balancing • All types of Servicing undertaken

BEAM HEATH WAY • MIDDLEWICH ROAD • NANTWICH • CW5 6PQ
Tel: 01270 610610 Fax: 01270 610636
**www.ddtyres.co.uk**



## OLD POSTCARDS WANTED

As a collector, I buy old postcards (pre 1950).

If you have any cards (any subjects) that you would like to sell please contact me.

Mike 07979 155795



## "O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord"

I have a friend who adores Christmas. She adores buying gifts in the shops (hearing George Michael giving her his heart; Noddy Holder asking her if she's hanging up a stocking on the wall) and most of all, watching re-runs of "Nativity" with Martin Freeman and all the kids trying to put on a show … who was it about again? Oh yes, baby Jesus being born; she adores it. Adores all of it.

"Adoration", as a concept, has pretty much lost its original meaning. Like the words "amazing" or "awesome" it's become over-used and devalued, thanks to the advent of Social Media. In the on-line world of X and Tik-Tok, if you're not adoring awesome life experiences, what **are** you doing?

Adoration was a very ancient prayer tradition favoured by saints and mystics such as Teresa of Avila. She wrote about the unexpected presence of God when picturing Christ or reading about him; she describes "a tenderness in devotion, as a feeling which does not primarily come from our own efforts, but from the power of God himself".

The nearest some of us might come to that contemplative concentration might be spending some time deciding where to go next year for our holidays. (I adore that too, I'll be honest). However, the Cambridge dictionary definition of Adoration is to have "strong love and respect" for someone.

One of the main reasons that some of us adore Jesus is that we know he came to earth from heaven, to be born and live a very human life in a very extraordinary way. Loving the unlovable, healing the sick, challenging injustice and dying on the cross for the sins of the whole world, then rising to life again.

That's what I'd call "awesome" and "amazing" in the original sense. All I want for Christmas is – to Adore Him.

If we think about it, who else deserves our love and respect more than Jesus – after all he is the reason for the Season:

**O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

Merry Christmas, *Rev. Dot*

# Church News

## Christmas Shopping?

Christmas Cards and Advent Calendars are now on sale in the Church Shop as well as 2025 Church Diaries and a St. Mary's 2025 Calendar!

## Seniors' Lounge

The next Seniors' Lounge will be on **Sunday, 8th December**, 3pm in the Parish Hall - friendly company and a chat over a cup of tea/coffee and cake with a varied programme of activities and singing.

## Salvation Army Christmas Gifts

The Salvation Army Christmas Gifts for Children – you are invited to bring an unwrapped gift (new or nearly new) to the All Age Nativity service at 9.30am on **Sunday, 15th December** or leave at the Parish Office. These gifts will be given to The Salvation Army to be distributed to less fortunate children at Christmas.

## An Amazing Mystery Solved

We're having an amazing time rehearsing our amazing crib service under the leadership of our amazing director, Andrea Howell-Jones with lots of amazing performances by adults, youth and children. Join us on **Christmas Eve** at 2pm, 3.30pm or 5pm.



The next issue of **Bible Reading Fellowship notes** is available in the pew postal system for current subscribers. If anyone else is interested in subscribing to the notes which assist daily Bible reading please contact Beth Roberts for more information (07703 126163).

# Mums and Toddlers

If you look at the Weekly Notice Sheet during school term time, and more specifically look in the "Whats on This Week" section, you will see at 10.00am on a Tuesday "Mums and Toddlers in the Parish Hall". Of course you may just gloss over it because it's not a new notice, in fact it has been there for years.

So what's relevant about that? Well perhaps over the years things have changed slightly. The name itself possibly should be changed to Carers and Toddlers as now it is not just mums but also dads, grandparents and childminders who accompany the children. Yet it is not just toddlers either, as the ages range from babies who are weeks old up to school age children.

One thing that has not changed though is the light on the children's faces and the fun they have playing and singing many of the old nursery rhymes their parents sang when they attended as children. Or it could be from the time they have spent in the craft room where Mothers' Day cards are made, pine cones are made into robins and Christmas baubles are decorated. Meanwhile the adults can sit down and, over a cup of tea or coffee, enjoy each others company whilst watching over their charges as they grow and explore new things.

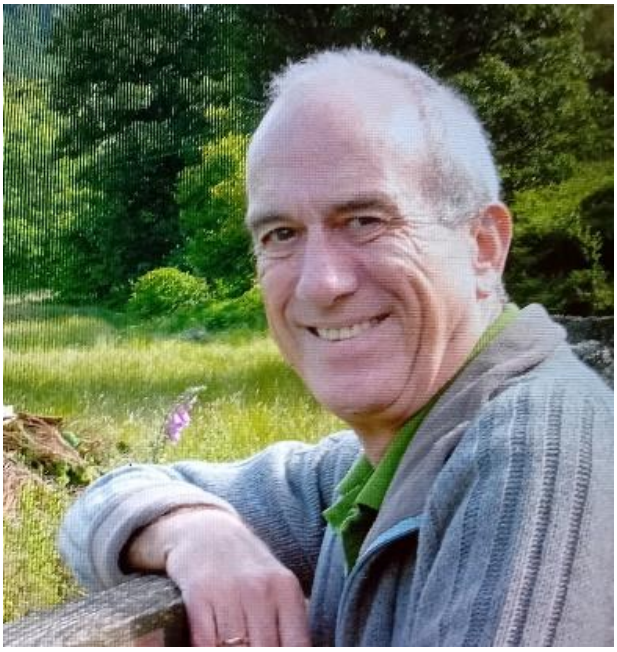


It has now been over 28 years since Gill Appleton and Celia Kay took over the leadership of the group and at that time they would not have been able to comprehend what a thriving group it would still be all these years later.

In July of this year, Gill decided it was time to retire from her role, but did not do so before a succession plan was put in place. Thank you, Gill, from all of us for your service. So here's to the next 28 years!

*Wendy Beastall*

## Thinking of Noel



On a bright, sunny day at the beginning of October, it was wonderful to see our family and the church family, including the worship band, joining together to celebrate Noel's life.

Noel had experienced a very challenging year with his heart issues, finally passing away very peacefully in September. The thanksgiving service showed the full life he had, both before I knew him and since we met.

As a family we have gone through many photos and memories in the last couple of months. In doing this we have "met" him as a young man learning the jewellery trade, eventually running his own, very successful shop; developing his music skills in many ways and playing in different bands; becoming a brilliant and fun loving Dad, according to Megan and Toby, passing on his jewellery knowledge to Toby and his love of music to them both. At one time in his life he was even a Morris dancer!!

Noel loved the natural world in all its varying forms and seasons, which also led to his enjoyment and delight of growing both plants and vegetables. Some of you will remember him from Brookfield allotment.

On becoming a Christian in 2004, Noel was guided by God to use his music skills in helping lead people in worship, eventually joining the band at St. Mary's. He felt privileged to serve the Lord in this way and was grateful to the band for welcoming him and providing fellowship too.

As ill health took over, Noel spent his time listening to music, propagating his own plants and sharing his jewellery knowledge with others. Brian will tell you he was still doing sudoku puzzles in hospital!!

So thank you for all your prayers in the last few months. Thank all of you who made the cremation service and the thanksgiving service so beautiful. Thank you to our lovely home group for their support and a thank you to God for the amazing sun rays that shone down upon Noel's guitar in the church.

God Bless,

Angie

# November Breakfast



Director of Music, Alison Phillips led us through a fascinating history of carols. Starting in 129 AD carols were spread by pilgrims and sung the entire year for many centuries. In the 17th century Oliver Cromwell tried to ban carols – but they lived on with a huge revival in Victorian times. They have continued, survived and new ones have been composed in the 20th and 21st centuries. Although we still sing some carols from mediaeval times, most are from the 19th century.



Alison then warmed us all up before we sang three carols. Vocal warming up comprised shoulder rotating and shoulder shrugging, arm waving, blowing and chewing jaw exercises. Then we had to stand tall, expand our chests and sing from our diaphragms. Fortunately there were members of the choir and Concordia present to give some umph to the singing.

It was the first carol singing of 2024 for most of us and an enjoyable and instructive session. We hope the others in the room (Slimming World) enjoyed the singing – but they were probably put off their good, slimming intentions with the lovely aroma of bacon, sausages, hash browns and the rest. A double booking at the Football Club's ballroom provided a contradictory juxtaposition of breakfasters with slimmers.



## Saturday Breakfast (an unserious sonnet)

At the Football Club last Saturday we were double-booked,
not in a red-card sense, but with the would-be sylphs
of Slimming World. Screened from hungry eyes we tucked
with relish into brimming plates of "The Full English",
as they sat in a confessional semi-circle and clapped
their latest weight-loss stats. Vestigial scents of eggs and bacon
escaped across the room while Alison briefly mapped
for us,the history of Christmas carols and their inspiration.

We stretched our shoulders, ribs and tongues before we sang
"Away in a Manger", "Ding-Dong Merrily on High", "In Dulce Jubilo".
Though joined by expert members of the choir, our voices rang
out in less than perfect harmony. But how were we to know
that, as we subdued their conversation with our "singing",
the slimmers would be more sinned against than **"synning"*?

*Chris Driver*

* *"syn", in Slimming World parlance, is a naughty treat.*

## Christmas Shoeboxes 2024

It is nearly 30 years since the Cooke family originated the idea of the "Christmas Shoebox", asking children in the UK to fill shoeboxes with stocking fillers for Romanian orphans. In 2015, they celebrated the 25th Anniversary and returned to Cluj-Napoca, Romania to re-visit Dave's original partner from 1990, Liviu Balas, and brought shoeboxes to the marginalised communities there. The current need is still extraordinary and the power of the shoebox has never faded.



Here at St. Mary's, well-supported by the congregation and the wider community, we have sent off 282 Christmas Shoeboxes along with skillfully knitted hats, vests, baby clothes and puppets to Teams4U Charity in Wrexham. Thank you for this wonderful support. This year our shoeboxes will be heading to the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania where they will be given to vulnerable children, or families, through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages. The aim is that each box is given in relationship with the local community as part of a long-term commitment to these children. Teams4U work with "in country partners" like the Red Cross to help them find children that are most in need.

On their website they explain that Teams4U is all about drawing alongside children, showing them someone cares about them and believes in them. They say, "We want to be dream-makers, the kind of people that challenge these often forgotten-about kids and ask them what they want to be; what do they want to do? We are about helping remove the obstacles that can prevent these kids from achieving their hopes and plans (such as our education programmes in Romania and Develop with Dignity programme in Uganda) but we want to go deeper than that. We want to help these kids believe in themselves; sow that one seed that says they can achieve what they want to achieve."



So you can see that our Christmas Shoeboxes not only bring a smile and moment of joy to these children but also help to build up a sense of self-worth which can lead to so much more. It's remarkable how our "little seeds" can develop and grow.

**Thank you** for the part you have played in this, whether it's wrapping and filling those 282 Shoeboxes, sourcing the Shoeboxes, knitting, providing fillers, or, with special thanks from me, providing large elastic bands to go round those which arrive without them!

*Sue Hutt*

# Encounter Supper

Encounter is a cafe-style get together which meets in the Church Hall on Sunday evenings, twice monthly. Do pop along if you get the chance. We're a friendly bunch.



*Ernie answering questions after the supper, which was attended by 22 people.*

The (quarterly) Encounter Supper is a testimony from someone involved with the Christian faith. The last supper (*no, not that one!)*, held on 17th November, featured the life-story of a once strangely confused, educationally challenged, spiritually conflicted, emotionally erratic, mildly crazy sort of man.

But, I have to say, I'm feeling much better now - thanks for asking. (Maybe still a little crazy, but I'm getting there.)

I spoke of how I managed to get through my education without any qualifications, and how I was eventually asked to leave school at the age of 15. Home life was a difficult time for me because of sick parents who had their own problems to deal with. I was a depressed, lonely and "rudderless" teenager.

The turning point in my life started when I broke into a Church one night and pleaded with God to help me. I didn't get a response from God *(although I did frighten the Vicar!)* that night but a few years later, I met an old school friend who had "got religion" and he warned me that I needed to be "saved". And so my spiritual journey began.

Over time my spiritual life developed and I realised God was less threatening and more loving than I had first thought. I improved my education, eventually becoming a teacher of English (ironic really, since I had never read a book until I left school).

I realise now how many other rudderless souls are out there; people who are hurting and need help as much as I once did at a critical time in my life. Engaging with them is part of giving back to God what he graciously gave to me.

Love God, love people. (And do visit Encounter if you get the chance.)

*Ernie Charlton*

# Forthcoming Events

## Concordia at Christmas

**Saturday, 7th December** at 3pm. "Sweet was the Song". Donations to St. Mary's Church. Refreshments.

## Tom Seals by Candlelight

**Saturday, 7th December**, 7.30pm in Church. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £25 available from *www.tomseals.co.uk/nantwich.html*

## Church Walk

There is a church walk on **Sunday, 8th December** from St. Mary's to "Tea in the Christmas Trees" at Acton Church. The walk will leave St. Mary's at 1.45pm and the complete return trip is approximately 3 miles along flat easy paths. If you would like to come please book with Carole Tilt or the Parish Office by **6th December**.

## Mini Christmas Fair

On **Saturday, 14th December** there will be a mini Christmas Fair/Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon, in the hall and outside (weather permitting). Donations of tombola items, books, jigsaws, bric a brac, cakes, and offers to help on the day, would be welcome.

## Next Breakfast

The next St. Mary's Breakfast will be on **Saturday,18th January**, 8.30am at the Football Club. A sign-up sheet will be in Church after Christmas or leave a message at the office before midday on **Wednesday, 15th January**.

## Beetle Drive

**Saturday, 18th January** 2025, 6.30pm upstairs in the Parish Hall. Bring your own drinks and we will serve tea/coffee/juice. Fish and chips will be served. For adults, fish and chips will be £10, children fish strips or nuggets and chips will be £5. There will be a vegetarian option of cheese pie if required. Advanced purchase of a ticket is essential. Tickets will be available from the Parish Office. We are hoping that all ages will come along to this event. There will be prizes!

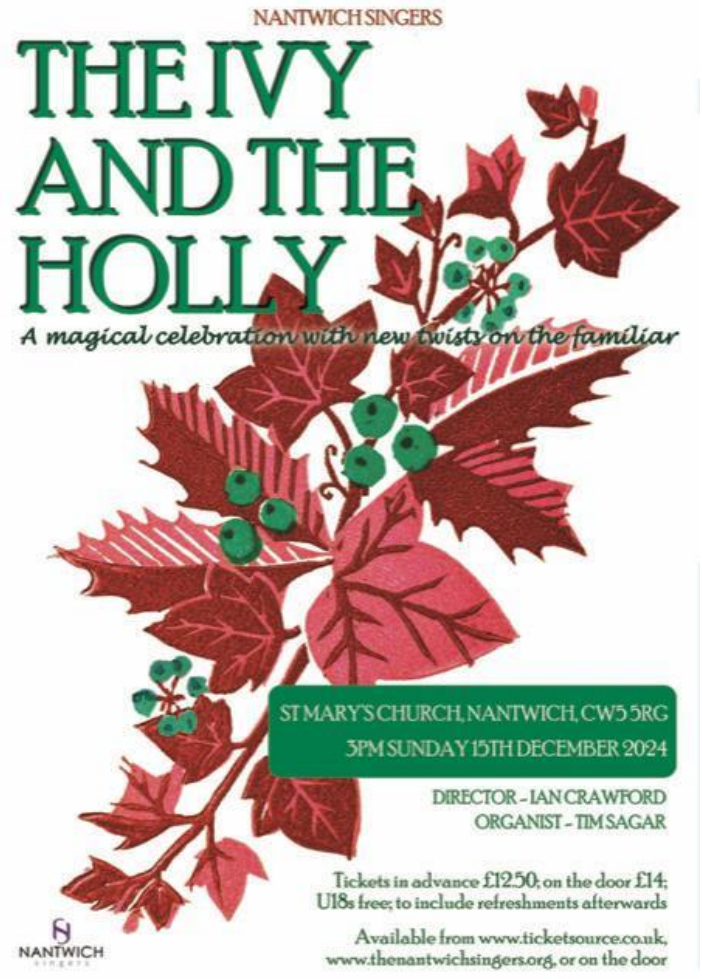
For more Forthcoming Events see the **Special Services & Events Calendar** on p. 37.

# Churches Together in Nantwich - News & Information

*Living alone in Nantwich? On your own on Christmas Day?* Churches Together invite you to **Christmas Day Lunch, 11.30am-3.00pm. Transport available.** Details on the noticeboard in church. Lifts available. Booking essential: phone Sue Piddock Jones (07933 237538).

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th January).** A **United Service** will be held at Market Street Church at **7.30pm** on **Monday, 20th January**. Further details will follow in the New Year on church notice sheets and posters.

**CTiN Pilgrims** - Churches Together Pilgrims travel to one another's churches to join in Sunday worship. In October nine Pilgrims attended the 9.30am Mass at St. Anne's RC Church where they were warmly welcomed. To join the Pilgrims simply come along to the next service which will be on **Sunday, 2nd February, 11am** at **Reaseheath College.** The service will mark Plough Sunday and will be a celebration of our rural community and its churches. All are welcome. Contact Canon David (01270 618936 or *canondavid12@uwclub.net*) to let him know of your interest so that we have a sense of the numbers attending.

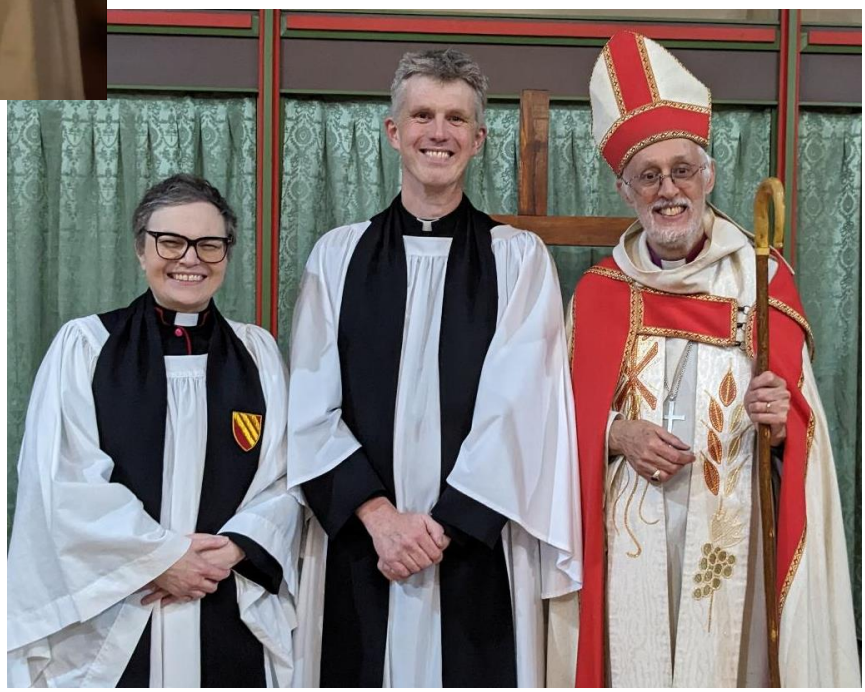





# News in Pictures



*Congratulations to The Rev. Grace Gaze (left) who was inducted by The Rt. Rev. Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn (right) on 7th November as Rector of the Bowland Benefice: St. Peter & St. Paul Bolton by Bowland, St. Mary Gisburn and St. Ambrose Grindleton.*



*Congratulations to The Rev. Peter Bennett (centre) who was inducted by The Rt. Rev. David Walker, Bishop of Manchester (right) and installed by The Ven. Rachel Mann, Archdeacon of Bolton and Salford (left) as Team Rector of the Salford All Saints team of parishes on 14th November.*




*A coach load from Crewe and Nantwich attended the service at St. Thomas, Pendleton.*



*A Quarter Peal, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles, was rung in 46 minutes on Sunday, 3rd November, to celebrate the installation that week of The Rev. Grace Gaze (daughter of the Rector, who rang the Tenor, first quarter), and rung prior to the Tree of Light Service and the All Souls' Service.*

*L to R Andrew Bradshaw (bell 3), George Basford (4), Nicola Basford (2), Stefan Zientek (5, conductor), Fanny Weiss (1), Mark Hart (6).*

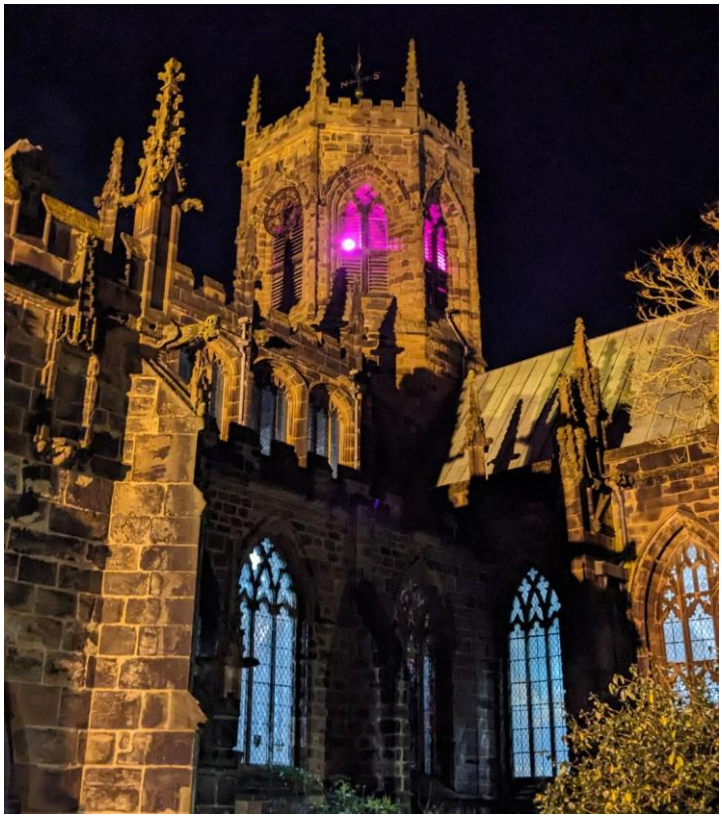
*A large crowd gathered for the Tree of Light Service held on Sunday, 3rd November at 5.30pm. St. Mary's Choir sang at this service, and at the All Souls' service in memory of loved ones, following in church at 6pm.*







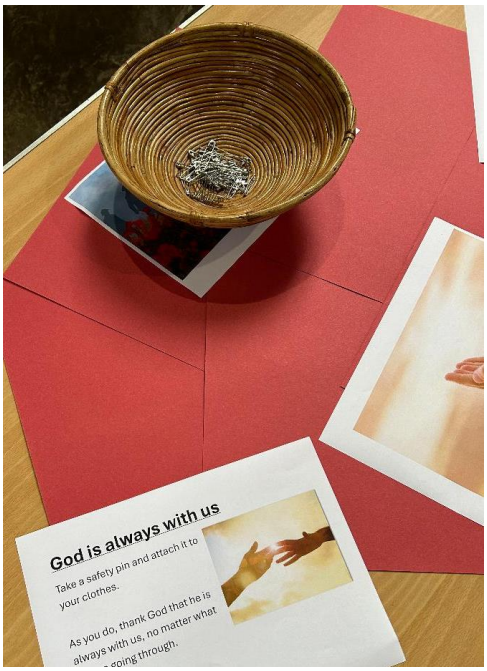
*The Sealed Knot made a significant presence and provided a guard of honour for the funeral of Colin Bisset at St. Mary's on Wednesday, 6th November. A senior member himself, over many years Colin made a huge contribution to ensuring the Holly Holy Day commemorations took place in Nantwich annually and brought dedication and organisational skill to the task. May he rest in peace.*



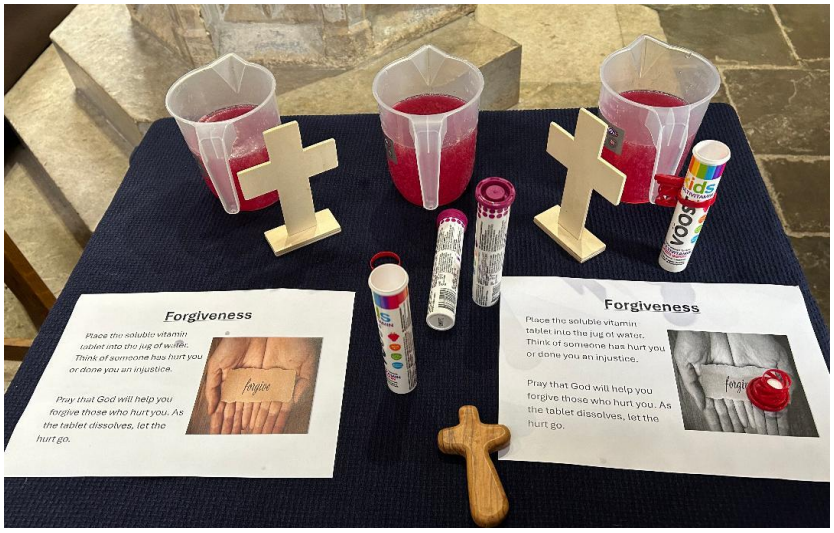
*Thank you to David Allman, Paul O'Brien and Stefan Zientek for fitting lighting in the tower (behind the louvres) to allow the tower to be illuminated for the Christmas Tree Festival, and at other times in the future. On 30th November the tower was lit orange to raise awareness of the UN campaign (supported by our local Soroptimists) to eliminate violence against women.*

# 9.30 Remembrance Service

Following thoughts about what it means to be a peacemaker, Emma, who was leading the service with Rev. Dot, had set up creative prayer stations, which we attended during the time for reflection.




***God is always with us***. *Take a safety pin and attach it to your clothes and thank God for always being with us, no matter what we are going through.*




***Forgiveness***. *Dissolve a vitamin tablet in the water jug. Pray that God will help us forgive those who hurt us and let the hurt go.*




***People we miss***. *Take a button (insignificant until you lose one) and thank God for someone you miss who has made a significant impact upon your life.*

***Working for peace***. *Think of a place that is currently enduring war. Give thanks for the peacemakers working to bring peace. Write a prayer of thanks on a Dove. Place the Dove on the camouflage net.*






***Refugees***. *Sit in or look at the tent, pray for those who are refugees, that they might find safety and shelter.*

# Service of Remembrance



*The Rector led a well-attended Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 10th November following a parade from the Civic Hall led by the Band and Drums of the Cheshire Constabulary. The singing was led by St. Mary's Choir and the bells were rung half-muffled as the parade formed up on the Square. Wreaths were laid by representatives of many organisations of the town.*



*I rather like the way most people have a usual place to sit in church (though we should never make newcomers feel uncomfortable for taking our space). And I know that some people sit where loved ones used to sit. Looking out at the congregation, I sometimes notice gaps and remember those who are no longer with us. Each Remembrance-time we place these "There But Not There" silhouettes in the pews. Deliberately, they are hard to see, and difficult to photograph. But we must not forget.* *Mark Hart*

# Christmas Tree Festival

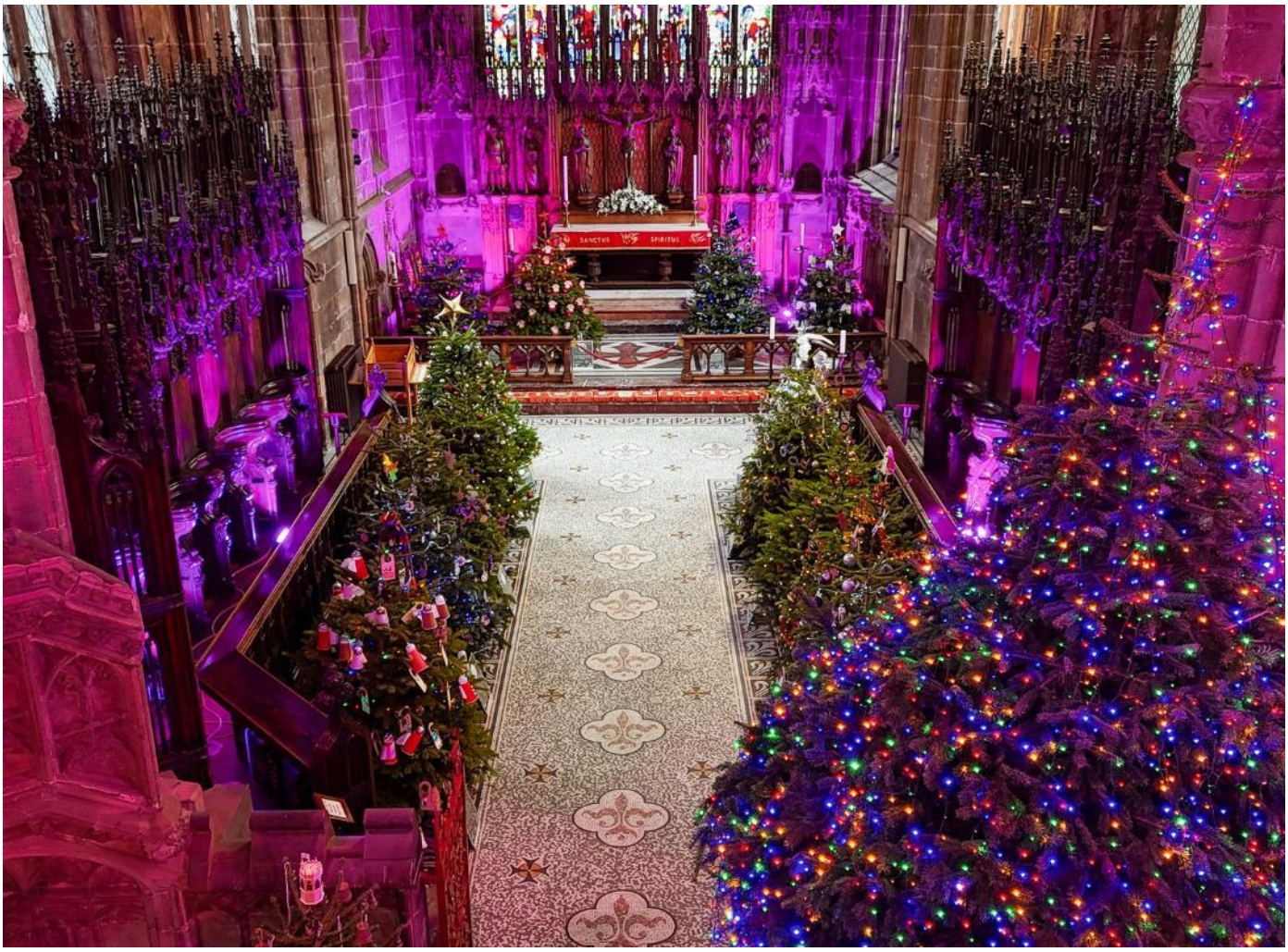
St. Mary's was delighted to host a second Christmas Tree Festival in partnership with St. Luke's Hospice, over the weekend 21st - 24th November. At the beginning of the week St. Mary's own large tree arrived from Crewe Road Nurseries, its width and weight providing a considerable challenge. On the Tuesday morning 54 trees arrived from Nantwich Christmas Tree Farm, all sponsored by local businesses, charities, schools or other groups.




*Ultimate Bublé performed on Thursday, 21st November at the sell-out launch event of the Christmas Tree Festival.*

The festival opened with a launch event on the Thursday evening, and then generally to the public from the Friday onwards, with thousands attending, many more than last year. We wait to hear how much has been raised for the hospice and the church.

Thank you to all who helped in so many ways over the weekend. The weather on the Saturday wasn't good and the Christmas Fair had to be confined to the hall downstairs, but nevertheless a total of £830 was raised - a great effort, and thank you to all who helped and donated.



*The chancel was the glorious high point of the tour.*
*Photo: Jonathan White.*





*A sell-out for Home Alone at the "silent" cinema on the Saturday afternoon of the festival. The evening film was Miracle on 34th Street.*



*The local Rock Choir provided some entertainment for half an hour on the Friday evening.*



*Paul O'Brien added an extra light show on the Friday evening, which was busier because of the lights switch-on in the town.*



*Some of our youth group after the light switch on in church.*



*An elderly couple relaxing with a cuppa on the Richmond Village Nantwich tree.*
*Photo: Jonathan White.*



*The Nantwich Almshouses had a tree by the piano, near where the trustees sat for the Sir Edmund Wright service held at 10.45am on Sunday, 24th November, the 451st anniversary of the founder's baptism. The orders of the almshouses (seen decorating the tree) were read by Amanda James, treasurer, and a lesson was read by Richard Morgan-Wynne, the longest-serving of the current trustees.*



*The Nantwich Bellringers' tree was located in the crossing, skilfully decorated with bats, bells and sallies, and crowned with a lovely model of the tower made by David Allman. The tree now adorns the ringing chamber.*



*The north and south aisle pews were decorated with ten trees on each side, resting on boards kindly provided by Richard Potter Ltd.*



*The Egerton Strings, led by James Warburton, entertained a crowd in St Mary's on Saturday, 30th November for the third Candlelight Concert this year, featuring brilliant arrangements of Christmas hits and carols. Watch out for the next concerts, on 1st February and 22nd March.*





*The Christmas pudding stir up, held in November, was greatly enjoyed by all who came whether for the first time or the third. 58 puddings were stirred over the 3 sessions. It was a very happy day and is becoming a lovely tradition for some including families! Thank you to all those who helped on the day.*




*Local Yarn-Bombers have been active around the town leaving this wonderful creation on duty outside the Post Office.*

*Beryl Hughes also caught the knitting bug and made all these lovely bobble hats to go in the Christmas Shoeboxes.*





*FNL hard at work with sweets, oranges and candles for the Christingle Service.*

# Confirmation 2024

*"God has called you by name and made you his own"*

A joyful service of Holy Communion took place on Advent Sunday, 1st December, with the Bishop of Birkenhead, The Rt. Rev. Julie Conalty, when the following fifteen of God's people were confirmed:



Ireoluwa Adebiyi
Natalie Buckley
Solomon Carson
Emily Carson
Xanthia Fagan-Checkman*
Candesse Finney
Alistair Hackshall
Natasha Hemmings
Adam Kirkpatrick
Miquel*
Ann Oliver
Shane Richardson*
Gill Shears
Jess Shears
Josh Taylor*

* also baptised at the same service

Please pray for all these candidates as they have taken this step of faith.

Here are some words shared by some of them about themselves:

## Ire Adebiyi

I am a true child of God, born into a Christian home, pray and fellowship with my family, listen to the word of God so I can grow in wisdom and knowledge of God. I hope I will be able to teach others about Christ.

Baptism means an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ and the sign of cross on the head and sprinkling of water. Although I had an infant baptism I grow up to see how it is done. It's so fascinating when I witnessed one in church.

Confirmation is a special church service to prepare me to remember Jesus died for my sin and to be a partaker of the body and blood of Christ. I pray after my confirmation I will continue to shine the light of God in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen.

## Ann Oliver

In making a public affirmation of my Christian faith and beliefs, I hope to continue to grow, with the help of God's grace, and embrace the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## Xanthia Fagan-Checkman

My parents believe it is my choice whether to be christened or not. Hence why I am here today. My grandmother however, who I miss very dearly since her passing believed it would protect me. After great deliberation over the years of my beliefs and values, I come to you feeling some of me is missing and that part is for me to be christened.

## Alistair Hackshall

My name is Alistair and I have lived in Nantwich for most of my life. Having now graduated from the University of Southampton I find myself back in Nantwich for a while before starting my career. I look forward to becoming a part of the St. Mary's community!

## Natasha Hemmings

My confirmation is a deeply meaningful step in my faith journey. It is a moment to affirm my commitment to God and to invite his presence more fully into my life. My faith has always been a source of guidance, and through this confirmation, I hope to strengthen my relationship with him. As I move forward, I pray that his influence and wisdom will guide my decisions, shape my actions, and inspire me to live with purpose and grace. Confirmation is not just a milestone; it is a promise to continue walking with God in faith, trust, and love.

## Adam Kirkpatrick

Hi, my name is Adam and after some travelling around I have settled back in the place where I grew up in Nantwich. St. Mary's Church

provides a great community and I attend the 8 o'clock communion service where possible. I am looking forward to being confirmed to feel closer to God and to fully participate in Holy Communion each week.

## Miquel

This is what the Lord says - he who created you, Jacob; he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour" *Isaiah 43: 1-3*

This verse feels powerful. I pray that Christ enters the lives of all reading it.

## Jessica Shears

My name is Jess and I am 14 years old. I enjoy French, Maths and Art at school and I am working through my grades for the violin, piano and guitar. I was baptised as a baby and have lots of memories of going to Kid's Church and Sunday School when I was younger and lived in Wirral. Since moving we have tried a few different churches and after moving to Nantwich last year, St. Mary's was the one that offered us a closer sense of belonging and community. After attending the Start course with my Mum, I'm ready to commit to Confirmation.

## Gill Shears

My name is Gill and I am 48 years old. I am a Primary School Teacher. I was brought up as a Christian and spent my younger years in Sunday School, Brownies and Guides. Many years later, after meeting my husband, attending his parents' church and having our daughter Jess, we knew that we wanted her to be baptised and follow a Christian way of life. Moving to Nantwich coincided with a time in my life when I felt as though I was looking for something more. St. Mary's has welcomed us as a family and on my daughter's suggestion we decided that being confirmed was the next step for us.




*The Christingle Service on Advent Sunday was led by Susie Phillips and Dot Woods. It was a lovely atmosphere as everyone formed a circle around the nave with the candles lit, singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".*



*Thank you to the choir for the beautiful music at the Advent Carol Service, when we heard of God's promise of deliverance for his people. If you missed it, you can catch up with the recording on our YouTube channel.*




At Richmond Villages, we believe that exceptional care is more than just meeting needs – it's about creating moments that matter. It's the familiar smile from the same friendly face each morning, the shared stories over lunch, and the laughter of a game well-played with a caring team. Whether you're looking for short- or long-term care, our residents are kept active, engaged, and are part of a community that feels like home. Here, care is in the details – creating moments that bring comfort to our residents and peace of mind to you.

Experience the difference for yourself with our
**3 weeks for the price of 2 offer* in our Bupa care home.**
**Call *01270 629 080* or visit *richmond-villages.com***

*Terms and conditions apply,
visit richmond-villages.com/care-homes for more information.

Richmond Villages Nantwich, St Joseph's Way,
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6LZ

Richmond Villages Nantwich | Residential Care | Respite Care

# Readings for December

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st December<br>*(1st Sunday of Advent)* | 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end<br>Luke 21: 25-36 |
| 8th December<br>*(2nd Sunday of Advent)* | Philippians 1: 3-11<br>Luke 3: 1-6 |
| 15th December<br>*(3rd Sunday of Advent)* | Philippians 4: 4-7<br>Luke 3: 7-18 |
| 22nd December<br>*(4th Sunday of Advent)* | Hebrews 10: 5-10<br>Luke 1: 39-45 |
| 24th December *(Midnight)*<br>*(Christmas Eve)* | Hebrews 1: 1-4<br>John 1: 1-14 |
| 25th December *(10am)*<br>*(Christmas Day)* | Titus 3: 4-7<br>Luke 2: 1-14 |
| 29th December<br>*(1st Sunday of Christmas)* | Colossians 3: 12-17<br>Luke 2: 41-52 |

# Christmas Services

## Sunday 15th December

**9.30am** All Age Nativity with the Donkeys, followed by Messy Christmas

*A scratch nativity play with carols. Children may come dressed as a character or use our costume box. Follow the donkeys to the crib. This service will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. All are then invited to head upstairs for Messy Christmas; craft, activities and games.*

## Sunday 22nd December

**6.00pm** A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

*The traditional carol service with all the great carols and readings, and glorious music from the choir.*

## Christmas Eve

**2.00pm** Crib Service

**3.30pm** Crib Service

**5.00pm** Crib Service

*The festive mood is high as families fill the church to sing well-known carols and enjoy a nativity drama with a twist.*

**11.30pm** Midnight Mass

*Silent night! Holy night! The clock strikes twelve. The choir soars. It's Christmas present. The Word is made flesh.*

## Christmas Day

**8.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

*Christians awake! salute the happy morn.*

**10.00am** All Age Communion

*Joy to the world! Children and adults celebrate together. Church with cheer. Choir and carols.*

No tickets required. Come in good time to be sure of a seat at the busier services.

Enquiries: office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk or 01270 625268

# Weekly Services & Groups

The church is open for all our usual regular services, and open to visitors Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-4pm. The 9.30am and 10.45am Sunday services continue to be live-streamed on YouTube most weeks.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sunday** | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | All Age Worship (Communion 1st Sunday) |
| | 10.45am | Holy Communion |
| | 6.00pm | Evensong |
| | 7.00pm | Encounter (1st & 3rd Sundays) |
| **Tuesday** | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | 10.00am | Mums & Tots in the Parish Hall |
| | 3.45pm | SING!@St.Mary's in the Parish Hall |
| **Wednesday** | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | 11.00am | Holy Communion |
| **Thursday** | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | 10.00am | Little Fish Toddler Group in church |
| | 7.00pm | Bellringing practice in the Tower |
| **Friday** | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | 10am-1pm | Place of Welcome in the Parish Hall |
| | 7.00pm | Choir Practice in church |
| | 7.30pm | FNL |
| **Saturday** | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |

# Readings for January

| | |
|---|---|
| 5th January<br>*(The Epiphany)* | Ephesians 3: 1-12<br>Matthew 2: 1-12 |
| 12th January<br>*(The Baptism of Christ)* | Acts 8: 14-17<br>Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22 |
| 19th January<br>*(2nd Sunday of Epiphany)* | 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11<br>John 2: 1-11 |
| 26th January<br>*(3rd Sunday of Epiphany)* | 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a<br>Luke 4: 14-21 |

# Epiphany

Jesus is revealed to the Gentiles. At Christmas he is revealed to the Hebrews in Judea and now we celebrate his arrival and his blessings for the whole world. This magazine, for December and January, covers most of Advent at the beginning of the Church's year, Christmas and all of the celebrations of Jesus' birth. Then we move into January and the New calendar Year.

**6th January**, in the western church, is the day on which we celebrate Epiphany. The three wise men, who were the first gentiles to meet Jesus gave his parents gifts for this special child. Gifts of gold, for kingship, frankincense, for deity and myrrh foretelling his death. Although it is commonly thought that they were kings and hence the carol, "We Three Kings of Orient are". There are no contemporary or even later written references to kings.

Their names are reputed to be Balthasar, Melchior and Gaspar. They came from the east, the Orient, as it says in the carol. They were probably priest diplomats who took and received information to and from the leaders of different countries. This is why they called on Herod to find the new prince. King Herod was famous for killing anyone who challenged him including his family. This reputation could explain why they realised that they should not revisit Herod after finding Jesus but go home another way. Jesus was revealed to them and to a wider audience at his Baptism in the river Jordon and at Cana at the wedding in Galilee. The Epiphany season celebrates all these events with its readings in the church services.

There is more evidence for the wise men in Bethlehem. There is a mosaic on the Church of the Nativity which shows people in Persian dress. When the Persian armies attacked in 614 AD(CE) they saw the mosaic and recognised the clothing. They therefore saved the church and did not destroy it. It is the oldest Christian church in continuous use in the world.

In the Epiphany season we begin to realise the blessings that Christ brings to us. "Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." We can all do this each day and transform our lives by "Looking on the bright side of life" in thanksgiving for the daily gifts we receive.

*Dot Roxby*

# From the Registers: October 2024

## Holy Baptism

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

| | |
|---|---|
| 6th | Jude Bailey |
| 6th | Sophia Caro |
| 6th | Lily Lewis |
| 20th | Marcel Oliver-Moss |
| 20th | Emma Pemberton |
| 20th | Teddy Waller |

## Funerals

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

| | |
|---|---|
| 3rd | Noel Bartlett (74) |
| 7th | Kathleen (Kath) Alcroft (88) |
| 15th | Edna (Vicky) Kimberley (96) |
| 15th | Carol Smith (71) |
| 21st | Geoff Berrisford (61) |

# November 2024

## Holy Baptism

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

| | |
|---|---|
| 3rd | Chester Dutton |
| 3rd | Charlie Dutton |
| 3rd | Zara Brooks |
| 3rd | Francis Taylor |
| 3rd | Luca Jackson |

## Funerals

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

| | |
|---|---|
| 5th | Marjorie McMurray (87) |
| 6th | Colin Bisset (83) |
| 12th | Mabel Lloyd (96) |
| 18th | Derek Astles (93) |



Specialist Day Care with a difference

## Belong Experience Days

are our way of inviting you to use the facilities at Belong Crewe

Book a FREE 'taster' session

The specialist day care service offers meaningful experiences and the chance to get involved in our community.

- **Available weekdays from 10am - 4pm**
- **Full and varied programme of events**
- **Enjoy lunch in The Bistro, drinks and snacks**
- **Access to our specialist gym** *(charges apply)*

*Get in touch to ask about a free 'taster' session*

T: **01270 561 200** | E: **enquiries@belong.org.uk**

**Belong Crewe,**
**Brookhouse Drive,**
**Crewe CW2 6NA**
www.belong.org.uk

BELONG CREWE

---

MIDDLEWOOD treecare

**Services include:**

Tree Felling
Tree reduction
Deadwooding
Fine pruning
Storm damage
Hedge trimming

**Friendly and experienced tree surgeons covering South and West Cheshire**

**Email:**
middlewoodtreecare@gmail.com

**Mark Taylor:** 07572736715

**Tom Trevers:** 07539261716

**Find us at:**
www.middlewoodtreecare.com



---

TEACHING SINCE 2010

# YOGA

7PM TUESDAY

PARISH HALL



TIME FOR YOU

FRIENDLY GROUP

CLASSES FOR ALL ABILITIES

IMPROVED WELLBEING



CONTACT RUSSELL

SOY@YOGA-BIJA.ME.UK

07712 610 120

YOGA-BIJA.ME.UK

# Gavin Palin Funeral Services

## 01270 624153

Independent Family Funeral Directors

NANTWICH, CREWE, AUDLEM AND SURROUNDING AREAS

*Direct Pure Cremation • Traditional Services • Bespoke Arrangements.*



• 24 Hour Personal Service • Private Chapel of Rest • Memorials • Floral Tributes
• Obituary Notices • Visual Tributes • Live Streaming Services • Order of Service
• Pre-Paid Funeral Plans • Memorial Jewellery • Eco-Friendly Coffins and Caskets

68 James Hall Street, Nantwich, CW5 5QE
gavinpalinfs@hotmail.co.uk
www.gavinpalinfuneralservices.com

FUNERAL PLANS FROM Golden Charter
Smart Planning for Later Life

SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

HOW MUCH IS YOUR HOME WORTH ?
FREE
Property Valuation ..
SCAN ME!
07419 21 28 27
valuation.adrianknapper.exp.uk.com
NB : If your home is currently on the market with another agent, you should check the terms of business to avoid paying two commissions.




Estate Agent & Property Marketing Expert


ST MARYS
NANTWICH

**February Magazine Deadline: Monday, 20th January 2025**

Please send submissions to:
*mah4now@yahoo.com*


## French Tuition

Looking to learn French? Need to improve your French level and confidence?
Looking to boost your GCSE grade or improve confidence in French at school?

I am an experienced, friendly and patient French tutor based in Nantwich.
Please contact 07840 393808 or e-mail daj1389@live.com

# Special Services & Events Calendar December 2024

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **December** | 7th | Concordia Concert, 3pm |
| | 7th | Tom Seals in Concert, 7.30pm |
| | 9th | Love Music Trust Concert, time TBC |
| | 11th | Pear Tree KS2 Christmas Concert, 6pm |
| | 13th | Primary Carols, 10.30am |
| | 14th | Bell Ringers' Service, 4.30pm |
| | 15th | All Age Nativity with the Donkeys, 9.30am followed by Messy Christmas |
| | 15th | Nantwich Singers Concert, 3pm |
| | 16th | Malbank School Carol Concert, 7pm |
| | 18th | Oxley's Charity Carol Service in Church, 7pm |
| | 21st | Nantwich Choral Society Carol Concert, 6.30pm |
| | 22nd | Nine Lessons and Carols, 6pm |
| **Christmas Eve** | | 2pm, 3.30pm, 5pm Crib Services |
| | | 11.30pm Midnight Mass |
| **Christmas Day** | | 8am Holy Communion |
| | | 10am All Age Communion |

# January-March 2025

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **January** | 12th | Airman's Grave Service, 1pm |
| | 15th | Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm |
| | 18th | St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am |
| | 18th | Beetle Drive in the Parish Hall, 6.30pm |
| | 25th | Holly Holy Day talk/exhibition, 11.30am |
| **February** | 1st | Candlelight Concert in Church, 7.30pm |
| | 2nd | Sung Compline for Candlemas with Concordia, 6pm |
| | 2nd | Encounter Supper, 7.15pm |
| | 15th | St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am |
| | 26th | Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm |
| **March** | 2nd | Encounter Explore in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm |
| | 5th | Ash Wednesday Holy Communion, 8am, 11am & 7.30pm |
| | 11th | Afternoon Lent Course begins, 2pm |
| | 12th | Evening Lent Course begins, 7.30pm |
| | 15th | St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am |
| | 22nd | Candlelight Concert in Church, 7.30pm |
| | 25th | Mothers' Union Lady Day Communion Service, 2pm |
| | 29th | Nantwich Singers Concert, 4pm |
| | 31st | Easter Experience in Church (4 days) |

CELEBRATING
46
YEARS
1997 - 2023

Graham Tresidder & Son
CREWE & NANTWICH FUNERAL SERVICES

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS | SINCE 1977



AN INDIVIDUAL CARING & PROFESSIONAL 24HR SERVICE

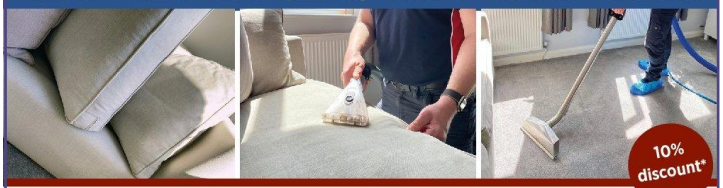
62 Hospital Street
Nantwich
CW5 5RP

448 Crewe Road
Wistaston, Crewe
CW2 6PZ

The Square
Audlem
CW3 0AB

www.nantwichfuneralservices.co.uk | 01270 812 512

Professional carpet & upholstery cleaning services
• Carpets • Fabric & Leather Upholstery • Curtains • Mattresses • Hard Floors



10% discount*

Contact Dave at Safeclean Nantwich & Wrexham for a free quote:
07944 486173 • 01270 382 059 • 01978 504 173
dave@safeclean.co.uk
www.safeclean.co.uk/nantwich-wrexham

@Safeclean Nantwich

Safeclean®
BY GUARDSMAN

* 10% off with mention of this advert - minimum spend of £75

J | C Julies Boutique Est 1965

Situated in the heart of Nantwich



Stocking clothes for the discerning woman

AMMA, Bianca Dolcezza, Joseph Ribkoff,
Smith & Soul and many more!

Shop instore or online!
www.julies-boutique.co.uk

T: 01270 624555 | E: julie@julies-boutique.co.uk JuliesBoutique

Julie's Boutique | 24 Pepper Street | Nantwich | Cheshire CW5

bentleysolicitors
PERSONAL INJURY EXPERTS
Find us on facebook

ACCIDENT OR INJURY?
Choose your LOCAL personal injury Solicitor



NO WIN NO FEE
EXPERIENCED QUALIFIED SOLICITORS
ALL ACCIDENT CLAIM TYPES
MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE
GENERAL LITIGATION

CALL FREE ON
0800 533 5800

Stapeley Coach House, London Road, Nantwich.
01270 509 800 www.bentleysolicitors.co.uk

Looking to release equity on your home?

Watts
Mortgage & Wealth Management Ltd

For local, independent advice and access to thousands of mortgage deals, contact our Senior Mortgage Adviser Rachel Price today.

01270 620555
advice@watts-ifa.com
www.watts-ifa.com

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage. Watts Mortgage & Wealth Management Ltd is directly authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. 624815



# Contacts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rector: | Rev. Dr. Mark Hart | |
| | markhart61@gmail.com | 620668 |
| | The Rectory, Nantwich CW5 5RQ | |
| Assistant Priest: | Rev. Dot Woods | dot@stmarysnantwich.org.uk |
| Honorary Clergy: | Rev. Oluseye Adebiyi | 07944 410025 |
| | Rev. Tony Long | 561113 |
| | Rev. David Marsh | 610079 |
| | Rev. Gordon G Roxby | 619898 |
| | Rev. Brian Statham | 07724 133215 |
| | Rev. Canon David Taylor | 618936 |
| Reader Emeritus: | Paul Ramsey | 623093 |
| Youth and Children's Worker: | | |
| | Susie Phillips | 07795 696234 |
| | susie@stmarysnantwich.org.uk | |
| Churchwardens: | Phil Boxhall | 07368 497427 |
| | Paul O'Brien | 07973 743909 |
| Verger: | Linda Lewis | 07534 272901 |
| Pastoral Worker: | Mary Harris | |
| | maryhma@icloud.com | 628393 or 07753 840118 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Adoption Matters: | Robert & Angela Sivocha | 01244 390938 |
| Baptism Coordinator: | Jo McCauley | 620745 |
| Bellringers: | Mary Stanwell | 628900 |
| | marystanwell@icloud.com | |
| Christian Stewardship Recorder: | Margaret Winzer | 623768 |
| Director of Music & SING! | Alison Phillips | 07891 620678 |
| Parish Hall Manager: | Nigel Winzer | 623768 |
| | (Bookings via mah4now@yahoo.com) | |
| Parish Safeguarding Officer | Belinda Coghlan | 568945 |
| | safeguarding@stmarysnantwich.org.uk | |
| PCC Secretary: | Beth Roberts | |
| | pccsecretary@stmarysnantwich.org.uk | |
| PCC Treasurer: | Steve Lockett | 628203 |

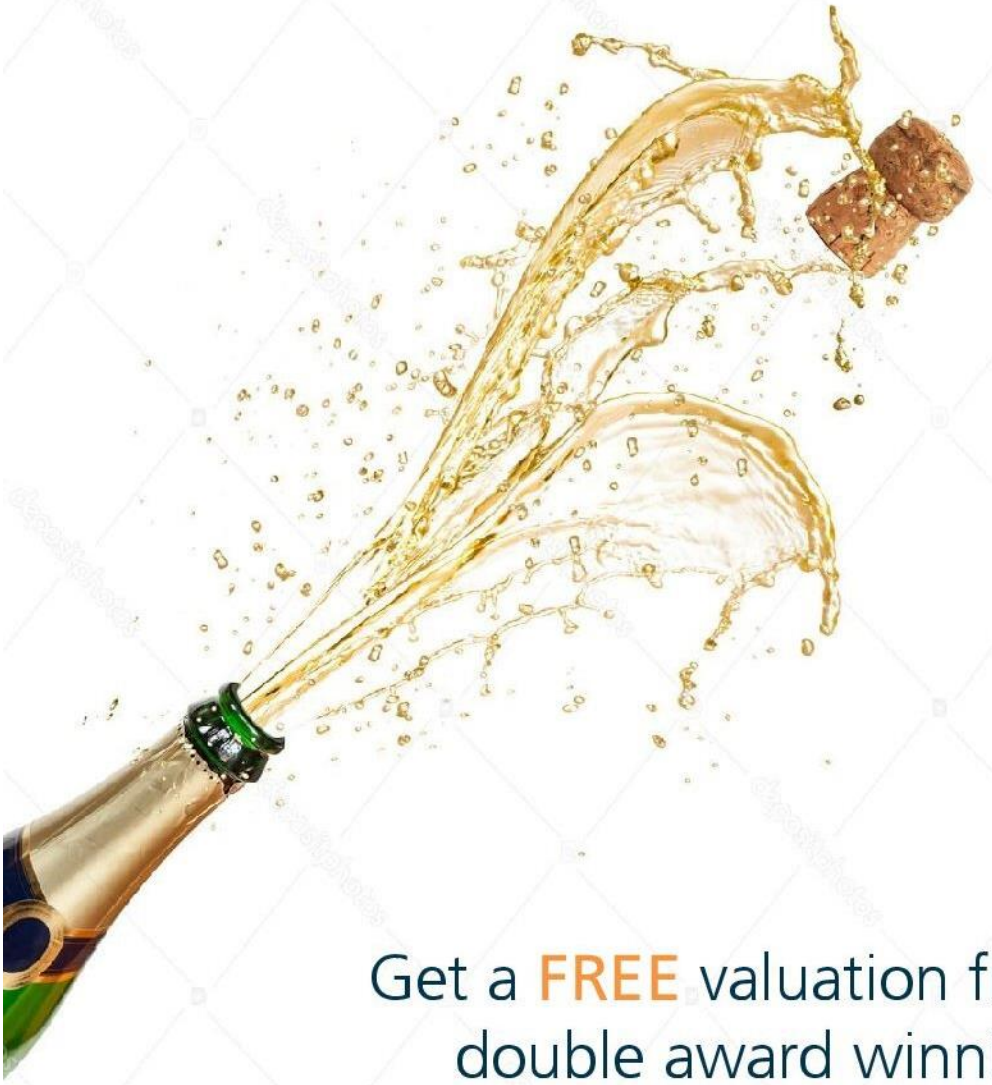
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Parish Office: | Gail Johnson & Miriam Harvey | |
| *(Open 9am-12noon Mon-Fri* | Church Walk, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5RG | |
| *and until 3.30pm Wed)* | office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk | 625268 |

*@stmarysnantwich*

*www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk*

*Registered Charity no. 1130903*

# ARE YOU A PROPERTY WINNER TOO?



BEST ESTATE AGENT GUIDE AWARDS 2022
WINNER
SALES
AWARDED FOR MARKETING | SERVICE | RESULTS

View Agents™
EXCEPTIONAL ★ REPUTATION ★
2021-2022 WINNER

Get a FREE valuation from Nantwich's double award winning agent today

## 01270 230044


Whitegates Nantwich,
30 Hospital Street, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 5RP

E: nantwich@whitegates.co.uk

T: 01270 230044


whitegates

nantwich.whitegates.co.uk

We're also in Crewe

173 Nantwich Rd CW2 6DF T: 01270 230043 E: crewe@whitegates.co.uk