

St. Mary's, Acton Dates & News July 2021



Public worship has now resumed and many services are also being held on Zoom, WhatsApp and via e-mailed resources for the time being. Please be aware that changes may, regrettably, need to be made depending on the Covid-19 infection rate.

Services in the Cross Country Parishes

(subject to change if Covid restrictions change)

	Acton	Church Minshull	Wettenhall	Worleston
4th July	11.00am Communion	11.00am Service of the Word	11.00am Morning Prayer	No Service
11th July	8.00am Communion 11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Café Church	11.00am Communion	9.30am Communion
18th July	TBA Messy Church 5.00pm Evensong	11.00am Communion	11.00am All Age	No Service
25th July	8.00am Communion 11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Messy Church	6.30pm Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer



To access worship via WhatsApp you need a smart phone with WhatsApp installed. You can join the Cross Country Parishes WhatsApp by contacting Chris Pope (07771 684000)

If you would like to receive SMS Text Messages about Services and Activities at St. Mary's please send a message, including your name, to 07486 020084 and we will add you to the circulation list. As well as a way of receiving reminders, this is the fastest way of letting you know if any last minute changes to worship have to be made.

Bible Readings			
	First Reading	Second Reading	Psalm
4th July	Ezekiel 2: 1-5	Mark 6: 1-13	Psalm 123
11th July	Amos 7: 7-15	Mark 6: 14-29	Psalm 85: 8-end
18th July	Jeremiah 2: 1-6	Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end	Psalm 23
25th July	2 Kings 4: 42-end	John 6: 1-21	Psalm 145: 10-19

High Hopes and Disappointments

As I was thinking what to write, and enjoying the June sunshine shining into my study, I wondered how long it would be before someone complained they were too warm ... then the phone rang and it happened. The person I was talking to complained they were too hot.

After a long, challenging winter and a slow, cold spring, we have been longing for the warmth of summer, with the usual high expectations of everything summer holds ... Yet this year, as so often, when it arrives it doesn't quite live up to expectation. We long for the warmth, only to be reminded how uncomfortable our frequently humid heat is; we long for light evenings only to realise we are too busy to enjoy them; we long for the full, lush vegetation of summer only to remember the reality of itchy eyes, runny noses and sneezes of hay fever.

Our changeable weather certainly gives us something to talk about, it also brings high hopes only for the reality to fall so far short it is a disappointment. Whether it is deep snow, warm summers or crisp autumn days it rarely measures up to our expectation and collective memory.

The weather is not the only thing which disappoints us in life. As I write there are very high expectations of a life without restrictions; of a return to "normal life"; large wedding; social gatherings without masks, hugs from our family and friends. Whether those expectations will be met, we do not yet know.

Thankfully there is one area in which our high hopes and expectations are rewarded. Far from being a game of chance with high expectations and dashed hopes, the life of faith is sure and certain. It is perhaps the only area of life in which we can say that with absolute certainty and know that our high hopes will not be dashed.

The definition of faith is "*the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen.*" (Hebrews 11: 1). This means that we can live in the sure and certain hope of eternal life in our Lord Jesus Christ which the funeral service speaks of with such confidence. Here is something which we can be confident will not disappoint, however high we set our hopes.



However high our hopes of summer and of life without COVID-restrictions may be; whether they are fulfilled or not, we can move forward with confidence, knowing that the hope of eternal life will never disappoint or fail us when we place our trust in Jesus Christ.

Rev. Anne

Your new Bishops of Birkenhead and Stockport

The Venerable Julie Conalty, currently Archdeacon of Tonbridge, will be the next Bishop of Birkenhead, and the Rev. Canon Sam Corley, currently Rector of Leeds Minster, will be the next Bishop of Stockport, Downing Street has announced today, 27th May.



Bishop-designate Julie says of her appointment: "Being nominated to be the next Bishop of Birkenhead is a huge privilege. I am both honoured and daunted to have been appointed. I have a strong sense of calling to this role and to serve the people of Chester Diocese but that doesn't stop me from feeling unworthy and slightly terrified.

"I am assured that I will receive a warm welcome and I really look forward to getting to know my new colleagues and community. Please pray for me as I prepare, just as I will pray for you."

Bishop-designate Sam Corley says of his appointment: "It is humbling and so very exciting to have been nominated as the next Bishop of Stockport.

"Any act of discernment is as demanding as it is energising, but I have had a strong sense of God's leading throughout the appointment process and I am eager to begin getting to know people across the diocese and to learning about the different communities we serve. And what a gift to be able to join a new episcopal team at such a key time in the life of the diocese. I am so excited about working together with Bishop Mark and Julie as we strive to enable the discipleship and ministry of the whole people of God to flourish and as we support churches, schools and chaplaincies across the diocese in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

"I know I have much to learn. But I come ready to listen and look forward so much to meeting you all and to all that is to come."

The appointment of the two suffragan bishop posts completes the new episcopal team for the Diocese of Chester after Bishop Mark Tanner's appointment as the diocesan Bishop of Chester in May 2020.

Social Committee News

It was lovely to see everyone again on Tuesday, 8th June in Philip & Joyce Percival's farm garden for the Ladies Lunch. Usually we meet in a local pub or restaurant each month for a soup and sandwich lunch. It was too hot a day for soup but everyone enjoyed a banquet of savouries and cakes in the sunshine.



Our friends from across the four Cross Country Parishes all share this event with us and we hope to visit Wettenhall in August.



Next month we will meet outside again in the Garden of Glebe House, Acton kindly invited by Deana Emerton at 12.30pm on Tuesday, 6th July. Please come along and bring a friend.



Thursday, 5th August is the date of our Annual visit to Llandudno. The coach will leave Acton at 9.00am and hope to return by 7.00pm. The fare will be £16, less if the Covid restrictions allow more passengers on the coach. Please book your place by ringing Joyce (01270 624158).

Car Boot Sale, if you have items which we could sell at a Car Boot sale, raising money for Church funds then please arrange collection with Joyce (01270 624158).

News in Brief

Congratulations ...

to Deana Emerton who has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the Community of Nantwich.

New Website

The new St. Mary's Church website is now live. The new web address is www.StMarysActon.org

If you would like anything adding to the website the new e-mail for this is church@stmarysacton.org

Newsletter

For the foreseeable future it will not be possible to pick up a hard copy of this newsletter in church because of Covid restrictions. If you don't have internet access and you'd like a copy posted for the time being please contact Rev. Anne or the Parish Office. Contact details below.

Over to You ...

Do you have a (brief) contribution for this newsletter? Please send it to acton.news@yahoo.com by **Wednesday, 7th July.**

Contacts

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