

# St. Mary's, Acton Dates & News August 2021



Public worship has now resumed. E-mailed resources are continuing for the time being as is WhatsApp worship in a reduced form. Please be aware that changes may, regrettably, need to be made depending on the Covid-19 infection rate. NB All services continue to be subject to change if the situation with COVID changes.

<b>Services in the Cross Country Parishes</b> (subject to change if Covid restrictions change)				
	<b>Acton</b>	<b>Church Minshull</b>	<b>Wettenhall</b>	<b>Worleston</b>
<b>1st August</b>	<b>5.00pm</b> Evensong	<b>11.00am</b> - United Communion at Worleston		
<b>8th August</b>	<b>8.00am</b> Communion	<b>11.00am</b> - United Café Church at Church Minshull		<b>1.00pm</b> Baptism
<b>15th August</b>	<b>5.00pm</b> Communion	<b>11.00am</b> - United Messy Church at Acton		<b>1.00pm</b> Baptism
<b>22nd August</b>	<b>8.00am</b> Communion	<b>11.00am</b> - United Communion at Wettenhall		<b>1.00pm</b> Baptism
<b>29th August</b>	<b>1.00pm</b> Baptism <b>5.00pm</b> Evensong	<b>11.00am</b> - United Communion at Acton		



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.

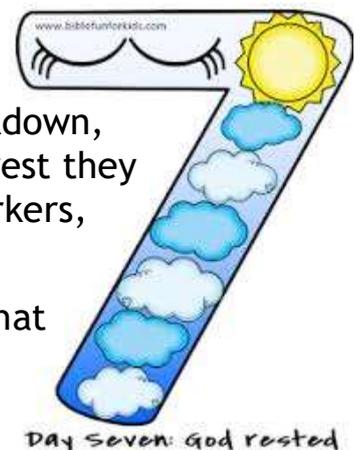
## Bible Readings

	First Reading	Second Reading	Psalm
<b>1st August</b>	11.00am TBD	5.00pm Ex. 16: 2-4 & 9-15	5.00pm Psalm 78: 23-29
<b>8th August</b>	1 Kings 19: 4-8	John 6:35, 41-51	
<b>15th August</b>	Proverbs 9: 1-6	John 6: 41-58	
<b>22nd August</b>	Joshua 24: 1-2a & 14-18	John 6: 56-59	
<b>29th August</b>	James 1: 17-end	Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15 & 21-23	Psalm 15

## "God rested from all the work he had done ..."

If God needed to rest after he finished creating the world, it is hardly surprising that rest is essential for humanity. It may seem odd to write about rest as we emerge from lockdown, with some feeling they are emerging from a long, enforced rest they would prefer not to have had ... others, particularly key workers, and especially many NHS staff are desperate for rest.

Rest is not something we really think about, yet God knew that it was so essential to our humanity that he built it into the heart of creation, resting on the seventh day of creation and making the seventh day holy.





In the Jewish-Christian tradition this seventh day has become the Sabbath; a practice we have largely lost in our frenetic 24/7 society, but which endures in the Jewish tradition. It is perhaps something we should all aim to recover in a way which is appropriate to our lifestyle and stage of life. Time to rest and re-create is never time wasted. It is essential, even for God.

In the Church and in academic life, the concept of sabbath has long been valued, and takes the form of "sabbatical", a period of weeks (sometimes months or even a year) when a break is taken from daily life for the purpose of study and refreshment. It is a

concept which is growing in secular life too, with some large employers recognising the benefit of their staff taking time out for personal development and refreshment.

In the Chester Diocese, clergy are able to request a sabbatical every 7 years, provided they have been in their current post for at least 3 years. The guidelines state that it is helpful to have a clear purpose, although sabbatical need not be achievement-driven, and at least some of the sabbatical should be used for nothing more than recreation.

Some of you may remember that I began to talk about taking a sabbatical 3 years ago. This should have taken place in the autumn of 2020, but was delayed for obvious reasons. I will now take my sabbatical from 5th September until 3rd December inclusive.

During this time, I will be talking to lay people and clergy about what they think the rural church will look like in the future, both in the Chester Diocese, and in the Diocese of Exeter. This will form the next phase of the research which I have been carrying out over the last few years as I write a series of papers which will become a portfolio for examination for a PhD. I will also be taking a few days retreat at Sheldon, a community in Devon which specialises in the care of people in ministry.

Arrangements are being made to ensure that cover is in place, not only for services, but for other areas of parish life whilst I am on sabbatical.

Please pray for me as I take this sabbatical, that it will be a time of refreshment, and consider too, the ways in which you can be refreshed, and discover again the benefits of Sabbath in daily life.

*Rev. Anne*

## Acton Music Group



A small group of us has been meeting recently at the Church to remind ourselves what a challenge playing live music can be, but also how enjoyable. We would like to invite any instrumentalists to join us, particularly if you have been learning or re-learning an acoustic instrument over the last year. This is not a highbrow group; we are all learning. The aim is to encourage each other in a friendly, informal setting.

If you are interested, give me a ring (01270 626802).

*Peter Foster*

## Christian Aid 2021

Thanks to those who donated to Christian Aid using the e-envelope I set up in May. We raised £215 (£256.25 with Gift Aid) a bit short of the target. The envelope will close Friday, 2nd August, so if you would like to bump up our contribution please do!



<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/st-marys-acton>

*Tracey Foster*

## Congratulations



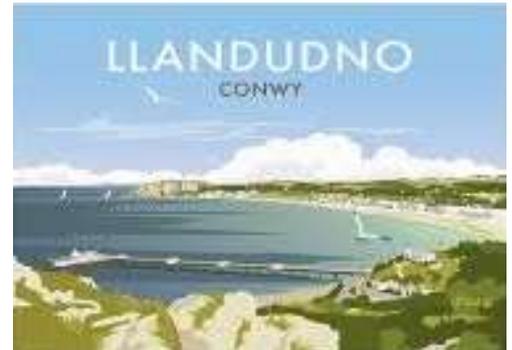
Congratulations to Jim Britcliffe who was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Chester in the Cathedral on 7th July. Jim has been on placement for the last 18 months in the Cross Country Parishes. In the order of service, each of the ordinands being ordained was asked to write a couple of sentences telling how they had seen of the grace and power of God in the past year of their ministry as ordinands. Jim's response was: *"This past year of ministry I have seen the grace and power of God most clearly in the people of my new home parishes who have so warmly welcomed and encouraged me on my journey."* We were able to present Jim with a copy of Nicholas King's new translation of the Bible on behalf of all the parishes on his final Sunday with us.

## Social Committee News

After postponing the Ladies Lunch due to wet weather, the sun shone on to the gardens at Glebe House, where Deana Emerton and her family made us very welcome and we all enjoyed a lovely lunch and a catch up with friends across the parishes.

Next month we will meet on Tuesday, 3rd August at Milford House Farm, Long Lane, Wettenhall, again at 12.30pm and once more in a stunning garden setting. Please join us for lunch £10. Ring Joyce (01270 624158) for more details, but no need to book.

Later that week on Thursday, 5th August we will again enjoy our Annual trip to Llandudno, the coach will leave Acton at 9am and return by 7pm. Numbers are limited due to the pandemic therefore the price has risen to £16 but this may reduce if restrictions are lifted. Please book your seat by ringing Joyce (01270 624158).



## Norman Phillips



It is with sadness that we reflect on our friend Norman Phillips who died recently, Norman and his dear wife Ruthie came to live in Burland 35 years ago and became great friends and supporters to all that went on within our Parish. Norman served the Church as Churchwarden for many years, he helped in serving communion, gardened in the Churchyard, made refreshments, represented the Church on wider committees and welcomed everyone in his own special way.

Norman loved music, and was learning to play the clarinet. The local Conservative committee will miss his leadership and enthusiasm. Recently he had

bought an old Landrover which he was enjoying renovating and driving.

Norman was one of life's true gentlemen, he had served his country and served our community honourably. We will all miss him and send our condolences to his family.



## Don't Miss Out!

Do you have a (brief) contribution for this newsletter? Any forthcoming events that you don't want anyone to miss out on or reports and photos of what we've already missed? We'd all love to know about it ... but there's only one way to make that happen! Please send it to me at [acton.news@yahoo.com](mailto:acton.news@yahoo.com) by **Wednesday, 4th August**. Yes, I know that's a ridiculously early deadline for something that isn't published until the end of the month but it's the only time I can do it so please plan ahead and don't miss out!

*Miriam*

## News in Brief

### 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).

### New Website

The new St. Mary's Church website is now live. The new web address is [www.StMarysActon.org](http://www.StMarysActon.org)

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

## Contacts

<b>Vicar</b>	Rev. S. Anne Lawson	01270 628864 revanne@uwclub.net
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Penni Doyle	01270 481548 pennijean58@gmail.com
<b>Parish Office</b> (Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm)		07486 020084 crosscountryparishes@outlook.com
<b>Website</b>		StMarysActon.org
<b>Website e-mail</b>		church@stmarysacton.org
<b>Newsletter</b>		acton.news@yahoo.com

Deadline for September Newsletter:

**Wednesday, 4th August - [acton.news@yahoo.com](mailto:acton.news@yahoo.com)**