

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



Photo: Annie Coombs

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.



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.

The Midweek Communion Service has now re-started on Wednesdays at 10.30am in St. Mary's and there is a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join us. Things will be a little different, but we are able to sing and refreshments are possible.

## Services in the Cross Country Parishes

(subject to change if Covid restrictions change)

Acton	Church Minshull	Wettenhall	Worleston
Wed. 1st Sept. 10.30am Communion			
<b>Sunday, 5th September</b>			
11.00am Communion  5.00pm Evensong	11.00am Service of the Word	11.00am Morning Prayer	No Service
Wed. 8th Sept. 10.30am Communion			<i>Continued overleaf</i>

Acton	Church Minshull	Wettenhall	Worleston
<b>Sunday, 12th September</b>			
8.00am Communion 11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Café Church	11.00am Communion	9.30am Communion
Wed. 15th Sept. 10.30am Communion			
<b>Sunday, 19th September</b>			
10.00am Messy Church 5.00pm Evensong	9.30am Brief Communion	11.00am All Age	No Service
Wed. 22nd Sept. 10.30am Communion			
<b>Sunday, 26th September</b>			
8.00am Communion 11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Messy Church	6.30pm Harvest	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wed. 29th Sept. 10.30am Communion			

## Bible Readings

	First Reading	Second Reading	Psalm
5th Sept.	James 2: 1-10, 14-17	Mark 7: 24-37	Psalm 146
12th Sept.	James 3: 1-12	Mark 8: 27-end	Psalm 116: 1-8
19th Sept.	James 3: 13-4: 3, 7-8	Mark 9: 30-37	Psalm 54
26th Sept.	James 5: 13-end	Mark 9: 38-end	Psalm 19: 7-end

## As Free as a Bird ... or not



Recently as I've walked around the fields and lanes around Acton, I've made a deliberate attempt to pay attention to the birdlife about me. I'm not sure I've got much better at identifying birdsong, but I've learned to appreciate it more and I've noticed the sheer variety of birdlife much more from the largest buzzard (has anyone spotted the Red Kite rumoured to be around Ravensmoor?) to a lone egret, to the tiny sparrows, wrens and other songbirds.

It has reminded me that some years ago I was fortunate enough to visit the Farne Islands off the Northumbrian coast. It was amazing to watch the multitudes of sea birds - terns, shags, guillemot, cormorants and the comical aerodynamically challenged puffins amongst them as they circled and dived for fish. Stepping onto the Inner Farne was like entering another world. Tiny, fluffy shag chicks clung to the cliff face in the fierce wind. Puffins dived into burrows. Terns circled round our heads.

Watching these thousands of birds, it was tempting to believe the often quoted proverb that they were indeed free as birds. They seemed to be restrained by nothing. Yet a rudimentary knowledge of birdlife (and my knowledge of birdlife is extremely rudimentary) tells us that the popular saying about birds being free is simply not true.

Birds are not free. They are controlled by the seasons, the necessity to reach their breeding grounds by certain times of year and to migrate before winter sets in. Even the swooping and diving is not freedom. It is driven by the need to feed and to feed their young. These magnificent birds are very far from free. They are entirely driven by powerful primal instincts which must be obeyed.

There is something in us as human beings which strives for freedom. We envy the birds because we perceive that they are free. Yet there is a freedom which is far greater and far more real than the freedom of the birds and it is only available to human beings.

The birds will never be free, but we can be when we put our trust in Jesus. It is one of the paradoxes of the Christian faith that by yoking ourselves to Jesus we can discover true freedom. Not the freedom of the bird, driven by instinct but the true freedom which we crave so much.

*"If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed."* John 8: 36

*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*

## Contact Details during Rev. Anne's Sabbatical

The first point of contact during Rev. Anne's Sabbatical is the Churchwardens. You can find their contact details on the back page of the magazine. Alternatively contact details will be available on the Vicarage answerphone. The parish e-mail address: [crosscountryparishes@outlook.com](mailto:crosscountryparishes@outlook.com) will be monitored.

## Thank You. Enjoy Your Retirement

Helen Harper, who has worked as Parish Secretary in the Cross Country Parishes for the last 18 years is retiring at the end of the month in order to spend more time with her family. We want to say "Thank you" to Helen for working behind the scenes keeping everything in order and wish her every blessing in her retirement.

## Church Minshull Autumn Plant Sale

### Plant Sale and Art Exhibition



The Autumn Plant Sale is back again for the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 5pm. The very popular bulb stall will be with us again and in church there will be refreshments and an Art Exhibition from a new group based in Winsford.

## Social Committee News

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).

### 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, 8th September**. Don't miss out!

*Miriam*

## News in Brief

### 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 October Newsletter:

**Wednesday, 8th September - [acton.news@yahoo.com](mailto:acton.news@yahoo.com)**