

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



Public worship has now resumed. 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).

To receive 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.

Bible Readings for December

	First Reading	Second Reading	Psalm
5th Dec.	Philippians 1: 3-11	Luke 3: 1-6	Psalm 80
12th Dec.	Philippians 4: 4-7	Luke 1: 57-66	Canticle: Isaiah 12: 2-6
19th Dec.	Carol Service Readings Leaders' Choice		
24th Dec.	Crib Service Readings Leaders' Choice		
	Midnight Communion: Hebrews 1: 2-4		
25th Dec.	John 1: 1-14	Luke 2: 1-2	
	Philippians 2: 5-1		

Services in the Cross Country Parishes

(subject to change if Covid restrictions change)

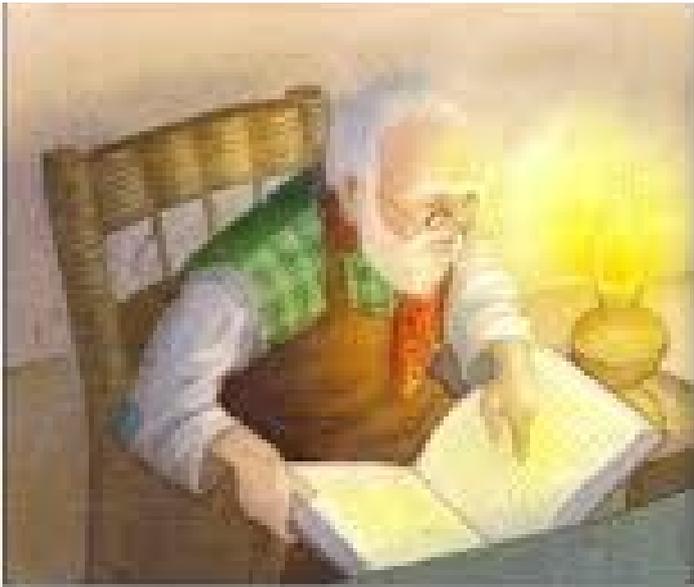
Acton	Church Minshull	Wettenhall	Worleston
Wed. 1st Dec. 10.30am Communion at Acton			
Sunday, 5th December			
11.00am Communion 5.00pm Evensong	11.00am Service of the Word	9.30am Morning Prayer	No Service
Wed. 8th Dec. 10.30am Communion at Acton			
Sunday, 12th December			
8.00am Communion 11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Café Church	11.00am Communion	9.30am Communion
Wed. 15th Dec. 10.30am Communion at Acton			
Sunday, 19th December			
10.00am Messy Nativity 5.00pm Carol Service	11.00am Messy Nativity	6.30pm Carol Service	Time TBA Carol Service
Wed. 22nd Dec. 10.30am Communion at Acton			
Friday, 24th December - Christmas Eve			
4.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion	7.30pm Sound & Light Carols	6.00pm Crib Service	5.00pm Crib Service
Saturday, 25th December - Christmas Day			
11.00am Communion	9.30am Communion	10.30am Communion	9.30am Communion

Sunday, 26th December - Boxing Day

No Service

Wed. 29th Dec. 10.30am Communion at Acton

Telling the Story of Christmas



I have just been looking again at a favourite book of mine. It is The Lion Storyteller Christmas Book.

It is for children of course, and has three sections - Christmas Stories from the Bible, Stories about Christmas Traditions, and Christmas Tales and Legends. Some stories in the second and third sections usually make children smile. There are naughty children with whom they can identify - and good ones

too. A favourite, when I was teaching, was a story from Russia about an old shoemaker called Papa Panov. He was all alone by the fire on Christmas Eve and he read again the story of the first Christmas in his Bible. It was the story of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. He fell asleep and dreamed that the grown up Jesus came and promised to visit him on Christmas Day so that he wouldn't be lonely.

Papa Panov spent Christmas day giving hot food and drink to the street sweeper, a beggar girl with a baby, and then more poor people, but by nightfall Jesus had not come. Papa Panov, was tired, sad and even more lonely and he dozed off by the fire. Suddenly Jesus was there beside him, and he thanked Papa Panov. "What are you thanking me for?" asked Papa Panov. "What did I do for you?" "You took in the hungry and poor and lonely and shared what you had. That is what my friends do" answered Jesus. "Thank you." And then he disappeared. Papa Panov was content.

The compiler of this book of lovely stories, Bob Hartman, writes of the privilege of sharing the story of Christmas with children. If you have children or grand children or there are any children you know, then make sure that they know the story of the first Christmas. Then this story gets passed on. A new generation will hear of God's love for us.

If you bring those children to church on Christmas Eve they will hear the story - the story of Mary and Joseph, shepherds and kings, and that special baby who came to be our Saviour.

Whatever anyone says, that story can never be cancelled!
Happy Christmas.

Isobel Burnley



Praise and Play

Praise and Play for pre-schoolers and their carers is taking a break until after Christmas. If you are interested in coming to our fortnightly Wednesday morning sessions, ring Tracey (01270 626802).

St Mary's Church Aeton
MAKE TIME
for our
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 11th December
7.30pm

Your generous support will aid
the repair of our church clock

Tickets £10 - Available from staff @ Tea at the Tower on Sunday afternoons between 2 - 4.30pm
Alternatively, call Stephan Davies on 01270 624135 or Joyce Percival on 01270 624158

Covid precautions; including social distancing and mask wearing, will restrict the number of tickets we can offer for this concert



“Good tidings of comfort and joy...”

Christmas Tree Festival

St. Mary's Church, Acton

Saturday 11th December

10am to 4.30pm, Christmas Concert 7.30pm

Sunday 12th December

12 noon to 5pm, Christmas Guided Walk 1pm

'Teas, Christmas gifts and a warm welcome'

Free entry - donations gratefully received

Social distancing and mask wearing requested

Festival Enquiries

Joyce – 624158

Concert Enquiries

Steve - 624135



Acton Music Group

Good news! Our small group have been meeting regularly in Church to learn a range of music including hymns, folk tunes and as we approach the Christmas season, a wider range of carols. At the moment we are flute, recorders, violin, mandolin, accordion and pianica. It's friendly and informal. If you are interested in joining us give me a call.



Peter Foster (01270 626802)

Acton Church Christmas Walk: Sunday, 12th December

Dear Festival Goers,

Do join me for a pre-Christmas walk where we will stroll through the grounds of Dorfold Hall. With the kind permission of the Roundell family, we will get the unique opportunity to view the exterior of Hall and walk up its driveway. We will then continue onto the Aqueduct and Nantwich Basin, before returning to Acton via the Shropshire Union canal.

We will arrive back at the Church in good time to enjoy a festive cake and drink plus the opportunity to wander around the Church to take in the Christmas Tree Festival. A donation towards Church Funds is appreciated for the drink and cake.

This walk will be short at around 2.5 miles and the pace of the walk will be relaxed, and the route will involve good paths and canal towpath. However as always, I recommend you wear stout outdoor shoes or walking shoes/boots. And please feel free to wear your "best" Christmas jumper or Santa hat on the walk.

I will start the walk from **outside Acton Church** slightly later than normal **at 1.45pm**, if you wish to join me could you **please arrive for 1.30pm**. Dogs on leads are welcome but they will have to negotiate or be carried over the stiles.

If you're arriving by car please park in the village car park.

Dates for the future walks I am doing from Acton Church are 9th January and 6th February 2022

Best Wishes, *Nick*

If Only!

A clergy friend of ours who is living and working in the church in Madagascar (look it up in your atlas) writes this week:

"8th November 2021 - There's not a whiff of Christmas in the air here as Christmas food and cards don't exist, and apart from Nativity plays and a few handouts to the children, Christmas in church is like a well attended Sunday."

If it was like that here then it would save parents a lot of money!

Isobel Burnley

Coffee & Cake

You are warmly invited to call in for Coffee & Cake at Wettenhall Church on Thursdays, 2nd December and 6th January and at Worleston Church on Saturday, 4th December, both 10am-12noon. Everyone very welcome.

CAP Money in Nantwich



CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money, sponsored by St. Mary's Church in Nantwich, is now offering face to face coaching, with Covid measures in place.

CAP Money is a simple, yet highly effective money management course that teaches people budgeting skills and a cash-based system that really works. This course will help anyone to get more in control of their finances, so they can save, give and prevent debt.

The next course starts on 25th January 2022 at Nantwich Methodist Church, Hospital Street, Nantwich, CW5 5RP. All sessions start at 10.00am. Numbers are limited to 8 to meet Covid distancing rules and to deliver an effective course to the delegates.

Delegates may register on line (preferable) at www.capmoney.org/ or by contacting capmoney.stmarys@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to help with

- General Admin
- Drivers for deliveries & pick-ups

Can you spare a few hours a week to help us, please?

e: info@nantwich.foodbank.org.uk



Contacts

Vicar

Rev. S. Anne Lawson
01270 628864
revanne@uwclub.net

Churchwarden

Penni Doyle
01270 481548
pennijean58@gmail.com

Parish Office

07486 020084
crosscountryparishes@outlook.com

Website

StMarysActon.org

Website e-mail

church@stmarysacton.org

Newsletter

acton.news@yahoo.com

January Newsletter

Don't miss out! Please send your contributions to this newsletter: forthcoming events or reports and photos of recent happenings to acton.news@yahoo.com by **Wednesday, 8th December**.