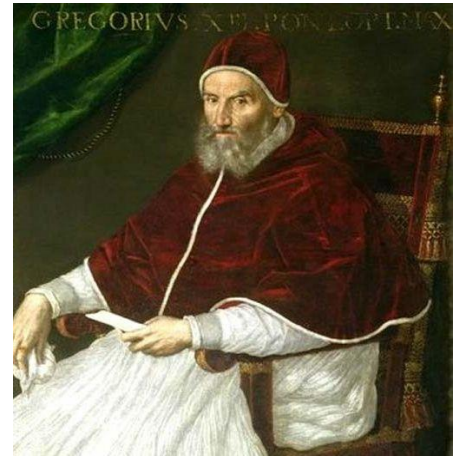


Julius Caesar v Pope Gregory



In 46 B.C. the Roman emperor Julius Caesar first established January 1 as New Year's day. Janus was the Roman god of doors and gates, and had two faces, one looking forward and one back. Caesar felt that the month named after this god ("January") would be the appropriate "door" to the year. By the early medieval period most of Christian Europe regarded Annunciation Day (March 25) as the beginning of the year. This was when the angel Gabriel's announced to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus.

After William the Conqueror became King of England on 25th December, 1066, he decreed that the English return to the date of January 1. This move ensured that the commemoration of Jesus' birthday would align with William's coronation and the commemoration of Jesus' circumcision (January 1) would start the new year. This was eventually rejected, and England rejoined the rest of the Christian world and returned to celebrating New Years Day on March 25.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII abandoned the traditional Julian calendar because it was slightly inaccurate and had slipped by one day per century. This regression had amounted to 14 days, so the seasons and longest and shortest days were off. The Gregorian Calendar was adopted to replace it and New Years Day returned to January 1st, with the tax year remaining on March 25th until 1900 when it was formalised as April 6th.

Who we are ...

Rev. Anne Lawson – Vicar The Vicarage, Chester Rd. Acton, CW5 8LG Tel. 01270 628864
Parish Sec. office open Tues & Thurs 9.30am – 12 noon countryvicar@outlook.com
Churchwardens **John Headon** 01270 522353 & **David Barrett** 01270 522266
PCC Sec. **Richard Cluley** 01270 5222457802 **Treasurer** **Elizabeth Headon** 07925 062173
Organists Audrey Colquhoun 01270 255671 & Ruth Edge 01270 522234
websites www.stbartschurchminshull.org.uk www.facebook.com/stbartschurchminshull
Safeguarding Officer tmddoyle@gmail.com
To contact us email: insightstbarts@gmail.com

A Letter from the Vicar God with flesh on

The story is told of a little boy away on a church weekend with his dad. Come the evening, the dad put the boy to bed, and told him not to worry, 'Daddy will be downstairs with the grown ups'. The little boy was worried about being on his own in a strange place. Dad reassured him not to worry, because God was with him all the time. The little boy's response was that he knew that, 'But just for tonight I'd like God with flesh on.' Out of the mouths of children... that is exactly the point, and the good news of Christmas. Unlikely as it sounds, at Christmas, we celebrate the remarkable truth that in the baby in the manger, God has come to us with flesh on. As I write, the world feels like a challenging place. We are living through a cost of living crisis which, despite promises of improvement, doesn't feel that way as many people struggle to make ends meet. War continues to rage in Europe between Ukraine and Russia, and a viscous conflict is playing out between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. All this before we add the ever-present concerns of climate change. The world feels less safe than it has done for a long time. If we feel like that little boy, scared of being left alone, we need look no further than the manger, and the baby lying in it. Despite all the uncertainty and insecurity in the world around us, nothing can change the truth that in Jesus, God has come to us with flesh on. He is Emmanuel, God with us, not just for Christmas, but all the time.



Dates for your Christmas Diary

7.30pm – Thurs. 14th Dec. at St Bart's
Carols Round the Tree with the Brass
Band, mulled wine and mince pies.

2 - 4pm Sun. 17th Dec. at Village Hall
Messy Church Team throw
A Children's Christmas Party
All Welcome - See Poster Below

7.00pm – Sat. 23rd Dec. at St Bart's
Swinging Woodpeckers Swing Concert

7.30pm – Sun. 24th Dec. at St Bart's
Carols and Lessons with
Sound and Light

YOU ARE INVITED TO A VILLAGE

Christmas

PARTY FOR FAMILIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
2PM - 4PM

Church Minshull Village Hall

RSVP TO LIZ ON LIZ.BOOTE@GMAIL.COM
FREE TO ATTEND

PARTY GAMES. NIBBLES.
GIFTS FOR ALL KIDS

Services Correct at time of going to press

Date	St Bartholomew's Church Minshull	St Mary's Acton	St Davids Wettenhall	St Oswald's Worleston
3 rd December	11am Service of the Word	11am Communion	4pm Christingle	4pm Advent Carol Service
10 th December	11am Café Church	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer	11am Communion	9.30am Communion
17 th December	11am Communion	10am Messy Church 5pm Carol Service	5pm Carol Service	4pm Carol Service
24 nd December	7.30pm Carols with Sound & Light	4.30pm Christingle 10.30pm Communion	6pm Crib Service	5pm Crib Service
25 th December	9.30am Communion	11am Communion	10.30am Communion	9.30am Communion
31 st December	United Service at Acton	11am United Communion	United Service at Acton	United Service at Acton
7 th January	11am Service of the Word	11am Communion 6.30pm Christ in Quiet	11am Morning Prayer	No Service
14 th January	11am Café Church	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer	11am Communion	9.30am Communion
21 st January	11am Communion	10am Messy Church	11am All Age Service	No Service
28 th January	11am Messy Christingle	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer	6.30pm Informal Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer

There is a Communion Service at Acton every Wednesday at 10.30am

Church Minshull News



Rachael put together a superb service in October in preparation for 'Remembrance' the following month. We had a film on World War I and the poem 'Flanders Fields'. We were also shown the contents of a food parcel that would have been sent over from Canada during World War II. We had prayers and hymns about Peace and decorated mini food parcel lids with our own poppy designs. Inside we wrote prayers and these were then displayed around church.



November Messy was all about Advent and the preparation for Christmas. We had our usual Hymns, reading and prayers but our craft session was making advent crowns. We made the candles from Cardboard tubes and stuck them onto a paper plate decorated with leaves and berries. We learnt the meaning of each candle, Hope, Joy, Peace and Love with a fifth for Christmas Day. Our next service will be in the Village Hall for a Christmas Party from 2 - 4pm on Sunday 17th December.



Our thanks go to The Badger Inn for once again providing the village Christmas tree outside St Bart's church



Harvest Cafe Church was in October and our service included the usual collection of long-life foods for the Foodbank and was naturally on the subject of food. We looked at how much is wasted, shared our tips for making the most of everything we buy, growing our own and cutting down food miles. The children were busy making scarecrows from wooden spoons and coloured card and Lesley brought a crate of apples for everyone to share. Richard accompanied one of our hymns on the trombone, which was a first for us. Thank you to all who attended and donated.



In November our thoughts turned to Remembrance and all who had died or suffered from conflict or terrorism. Our readings and

hymns revolved around the subject and Celia read out a letter sent to a relative in the Second World War, but sadly, he was probably killed before he received it. John read the poem 'In Flanders Fields', Elizabeth said prayers and Richard played the harp while they all took part in a poem called 'Remembrance. During the interval the congregation looked round the 'Discipleship' Exhibition.



St Mary's Church, Acton



Christmas Tree Festival

Nursery Rhymes : Magical Times

Friday 8th December

14.30 Opening with Acton School Choir

Saturday 9th December

10.00 – 16.30 Exhibition

15.00 Concordia Singers

19.30 Christmas Concert

Sunday 10th December

12.00 – 16.30 Exhibition

14.30 Folk Band

No Entrance Fee

Refreshments

A Blue Christmas Service for the Longest Night

*Christmas is not always easy, especially if
life is challenging or painful.*

Prefer a quieter, more reflective Christmas

Service? You are warmly invited to

Light in the Darkness

to be held in St Mary's Church, Acton

at 7.00 pm on Thursday 21 December.

ALL WELCOME

Christmas Cards in St Bart's

Once again, this year, there will be racks left out at the back of church to take Christmas Cards. Anyone can use this service, but please remember, there is no point in leaving cards there for anyone unlikely to visit the church over the Christmas period. This is a drop off and collect service only.



CHRISTMAS SWING '23

For the last two years the Swinging Woodpeckers Big Band have held a charity fundraiser concert in the Village Hall. This year the band will hold the event in the Church on Saturday 23rd December. The event will start at 7:00pm and the programme will be suitable for families.

The band, and their singers will perform a number of regular Christmas big band pieces with audience participation! Joining the band will be some jazz students from the Leeds Conservatoire so everyone who comes can be assured of some very high standard performances. The last time the band played in the church was at the Concert for Ukraine, this time the band will set up at the back of the church.

Admission is by donation with all the proceeds going to the church's current nominated charity - Hands at Work in Africa.

A Memorial Service was held at St Bart's on 23rd November for Andrew John Banton who died in Canada in 2021. His wife, Julie carried his ashes to a new grave in the churchyard, accompanied by Friends and family. Our prayers are with you all.

The Secret of Nantwich's Healthier Population

Nantwich Nutrition celebrates 1 year of transforming people's health daily.

Nantwich Nutrition Club on Hospital Street (above Steven Burgin Hairdressing), celebrates their 1 year milestone of enhancing the communities health and wellness. The buzz sweeping Nantwich of life changing, energy boosting results in weight loss, shape change, fat loss, sports nutrition, muscle gain, energy and digestive health to name a few. This revolutionary, members only club is the place to be for an inspiring, fun vibe breakfast. Open Monday to Saturday 7am – 11am, the Wellness Coaching team are passionate about helping their members produce fast and impressive results.



"We are dedicated to the mission of helping over 10,000 people in the local Nantwich area get healthier and happier. The club is my happy place, I'm so inspired and proud of the results our members experience and the impact we are making in the community" says Club Owner and Wellness Coach with over 25yrs experience, Carol Sinfield of Church Minshull. The club has already expanded into 4 other locations and more coming soon.

"Nantwich Nutrition has changed my life. I thought I was going to be overweight and unhealthy forever. I'm now 17 kilos down and the lowest weight in 30 years! The club is vibrant and helpful." Ruth Craggs.

To celebrate their 1 year anniversary – they are offering a 1 hour Wellness Evaluation (normally £50) completely FREE to any reader of this article to help Nantwich get healthier. This highly interesting appointment looks at your current nutrition, any health improvements you'd like to make and contains a body analysis on their super fancy scales - that shares things like visceral fat around your organs, metabolic age and body fat! Claim your FREE appointment today by calling/texting 07736 064645.

MAD Group - Murder at Chester House

Saturday 18th November the MAD Group presented a 'sell out' murder/Mystery play in the village Hall, written by John Headon. One group successfully identified the murderer but the biggest success of the night was how much the audience said they had enjoyed the show afterwards.



National Harvest

Following the success of the British Food Fortnight National Harvest in 2022, we wanted to build on the success to create an annual Cheshire Harvest Celebration. On 24th September, a new red tractor drove through the streets of Chester and pulled up outside Chester Cathedral, where it remained for the afternoon. Throughout that time, an enthusiastic member of the agricultural community talked to passers by about the tractor and the link between food and farming. He also helped children and adults who were game enough, to milk a model cow and have a feel of what it might be like to hand milk a real cow. In the afternoon, the cathedral choir enjoyed looking at the tractor and having photographs taken with their Director of Music in the cab.



Agricultural and countryside groups and organisations had displays in the Cloisters. Cheshire Young Farmers, Reaseheath College and Norton Priory spoke to visitors, cathedral congregations and staff about their work, making contact with people they would never otherwise meet. Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy were also represented, and NFU children's activity sheets were handed out to young visitors, and adults who knew children and wanted to take an activity sheet for them. By 3.00 pm, the nave of the cathedral was comfortably full as around 200 people from the food and farming community gathered for the Cheshire Harvest Festival Service. A farmer who has created a successful dairy business by layering different parts of the business spoke about how farming and dairy work hand in hand on their farm, and I, Chaplain to the Cheshire Agricultural Society.



**Church Minshull Parish Council
wish all Church Minshull
residents a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year .**

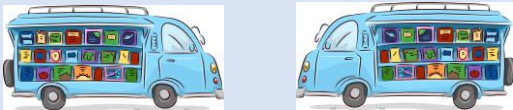
Gents Breakfast



**The next meet up is on
30th December at 9.30am
in The Badger Inn.**

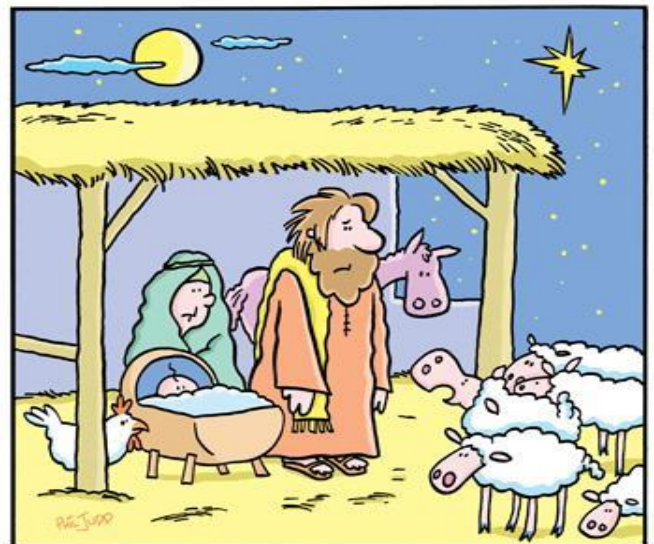
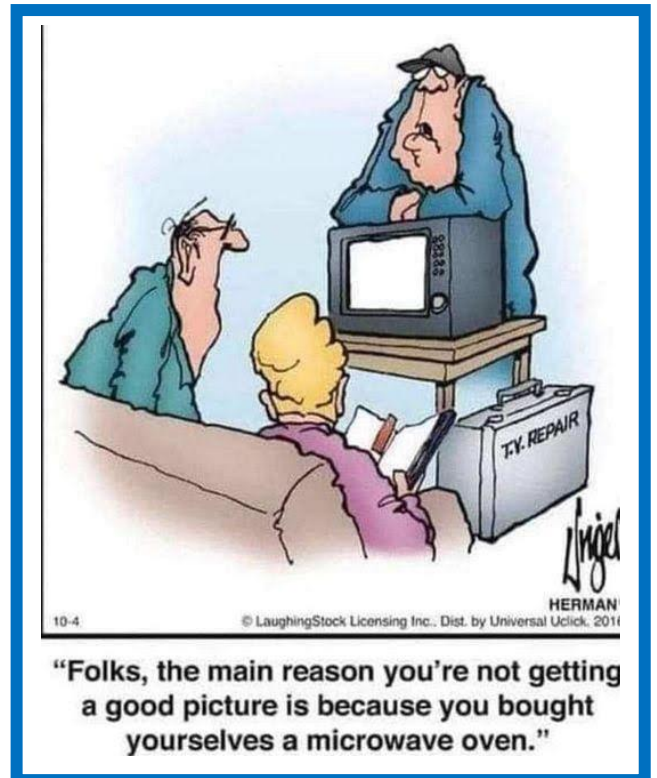
Cost £10

All Welcome



Books on Wheels

**The Cheshire mobile library bus
service will be visiting Church
Minshull next on December 12th
and on January 2nd & 23rd. It
will arrive at the Badger Inn car
park at 10am then travel to
Home Farm Park South at
11.10am and Home Farm Park
North at 11.30am.**



"The shepherds couldn't make it!"




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Contact the St Bart's team, using the details on page 2 and we will try to fit you in the next issue. This free service is provided for residents of Church Minshull to promote community businesses, services and events.



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