

Our Plant Sale & Art Exhibition is back

10am – 5pm on Fri. 3rd – Mon. 6th May

The original, biggest and best sale. All the usual top quality plants, shrubs and trees from renowned local growers, art from local artists, bric - a - brac stall and refreshments. Local plant expert available Saturday and Sunday for advice and queries.



Stop Press – Easter Day Service on 31st March changed from 9.30am to 11am

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Who we are ...

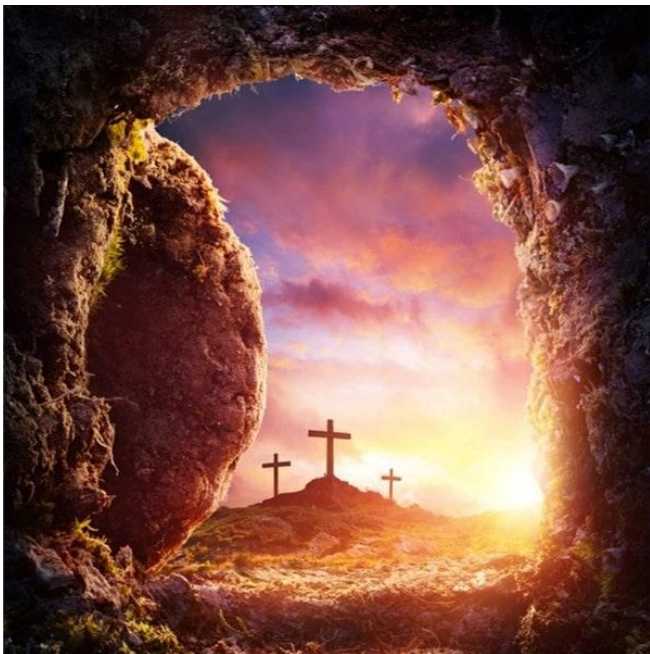
Rev. Anne Lawson – Vicar The Vicarage, Chester Rd. Acton, CW5 8LG Tel. 01270 628864
e-mail countryvicar@outlook.com **Parish Sec.** Office Open Tues & Thurs 9.30am – 12 noon
crosscountryparishes@outlook.com

Churchwardens **John Headon** 01270 522353 & **David Barrett** 01270 522266
PCC Sec. **Richard Cluley** 01270 522245 **Treasurer** **Elizabeth Headon** 07925 062173
Organists Audrey Colquhoun 01270 255671 & Ruth Edge 01270 522234
websites www.stbartschurchminshull.org.uk www.facebook.com/stbartschurchminshull

To contact us email: insightstbarts@gmail.com

A Letter from the Vicar - One step at a time...

By the time you read this we will be celebrating the great Christian festival of Easter. Our alleluias will be filling the church, not just on Easter Day, but for 50 days afterwards when we arrive at the feast of Pentecost. Although it is no more important than the other 9 principal Holy Days in the Church calendar, Easter feels particularly special, as Spring erupts in all its glory and the promise of new life can be seen all around. It is as if all creation joins our celebrations. Our very familiarity with the resurrection, and the knowledge that it will follow the crucifixion, sometimes blinds us to the reality of the first Easter, when disbelief, confusion and joy kept close company.



Despite Jesus' careful teaching and preparation, the disciples weren't expecting him to rise from the dead. Instead of unfettered joy, the first Easter was a series of stumbling steps and joyous discovery. Mark's Gospel ends with the disciples fleeing in terror when they find the tomb empty. Seeing him through her tears, Mary Magdalene mistakes the risen Jesus for the gardener before she recognises his voice. She joyously runs to tell the disciples, only to find they don't believe her. Thomas wasn't present when Jesus

appeared to the disciples the first Easter evening, and refused to believe that Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus for himself a week later. Despite a lengthy Bible study on the road to Emmaus, it isn't until Jesus breaks bread that Cleopas and his companion recognise Jesus. Step by step, the disciples began to understand and rejoice in the resurrection and continue to discover what it meant for them, one step at a time, through the rest of the New Testament. We are an Easter People, and Alleluia is our song. It is right that we celebrate the resurrection with all the joy and energy we can muster. We are also disciples of Jesus. What the resurrection means, even as we sing our Alleluias, will only make sense as we walk with Jesus' first disciples one step at a time; walking in the company of Jesus through the rest of our lives.

Confirmation

A Confirmation Service with Bishop Sam will take place at 11.00 am on Sunday 2 June (Trinity Sunday). I am aware of a small group of young adults wishing to be Confirmed. If you have not been Confirmed and would like to think more about the possibility of joining them, please contact Rev Anne. (countryvicar@outlook.com or 01270 628864)

A 6 week course looking at the Christian faith will be held after Easter, for anyone interested in Confirmation or in refreshing their understanding of the Christian faith. If you have already been Confirmed but have recently come back to faith it is possible to renew your Baptism Vows as a way of publicly re-affirming your commitment to Christ. Adults who have not been Baptised and would like to be are normally baptised and Confirmed at the same service. Participating in the course does not commit you to being Confirmed, although you will need to do the course if you wish to be Confirmed, Baptised or renew your Baptism Vows.

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
31 st March Easter Day	11am Communion	11am Communion	11am Communion	9.30am Communion
7 th April	11am Service of the Word	11am Communion	11am Morning Prayer	No Service
14 th April	11am Café Church	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer	11am Communion	9.30am Communion
21 st April	11am Communion	10am Messy Church	11am All Age	No Service
28 th April	11am Messy Church	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer	6.30pm Informal Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
5 th May	9.30am Plant Sale Service of the Word	11am Communion	11am Morning Prayer	No Service
12 th May	11am Café Church	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer	11am Communion	9.30am Communion
19 th May	11am Communion	10am Messy Church	11am All Age	No Service
26 th May	11am Messy Church	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer	6.30pm Informal Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
2 nd June	11am Confirmation	11am Confirmation	11am Confirmation	11am Confirmation

There is a Communion Service every Wednesday at St. Mary's, Acton at 10.30 am

Canal & River Trust's 1st Concept Workboat & Hopper named at Aqueduct Marina



This first boat of a new concept design has been named Bass during its recent launch at Aqueduct Marina, where the boat was built. Named after David Bass, a Senior Project Delivery Manager at the Trust who, along with British Waterways, David has worked for the past 27 years. The boat was named in recognition of all of David's years of hard work and effort he has put into the concept and its unique design. He has been a leading force in developing and building this first boat, using laser-cut components in the build of its hull and CNC-cut components for the cabin interior, all of which have reduced the cost of future builds for the Trust and the manufacturing time for Aqueduct Marina.

The new design features an easier form of stackable craft, which reduces transportation costs and enables the boat and hopper to be manoeuvred around the canal network with ease.

The naming of the boat had been kept a secret from David, with the unveiling presentation being led by Mick Carrington, National Workboat & Plant Manager for Canal & River Trust, who was joined by David's wife Karen, work colleagues from the Trust, Stuart Norton, Marine Architect and all of the team at Aqueduct Marina.

The new workboat, along with two more under construction at the marina, will be used at various locations around the canal network to enable the Trust's colleagues to familiarise themselves with this new concept of workboat and hopper.

AQUEDUCT MARINA

AWARD WINNING 147 BERTH MARINA IN CHURCH MINSHULL

ON-SITE CAFE - VISITORS WELCOME

WWW.AQUEDUCTMARINA.CO.UK
INFO@AQUEDUCTMARINA.CO.UK **01270 525040**

A Letter from Cindy in Kenya

The Refuge and Rescue Home (Familia) is situated in a very beautiful rural location called Holo overlooking Lake Victoria about a 40 minutes drive from the City



of Kisumu and founded some years ago by my sister Julie. The girls house comprises a large kitchen/diner, recreation/living room, two large dormitories

with bunk beds and shower and toilet facilities for 16 girls, ranging in age from 9yrs to 18yrs. All the girls are encouraged and responsible for helping with daily chores like cooking, cleaning and washing etc. Their school day starts very early and after a breakfast of milk tea and bread they leave the compound at 5.30 am to travel to the various schools. Their school day commences at 6am (prep) and finishes at 5pm!!



You may recall Julie raised funds two years ago to build a Nursery School on adjoining land. Last year a further three classrooms for Primary education for the local village community was constructed by a small group of English volunteers. This project is ongoing and currently there are 43 local children attending. All education has to be paid for in Kenya by parents and most want to see their children educated. The Nursery/Primary School is called Arc en ciel Academy (Rainbow) and as can be seen on the photographs all classrooms are painted in primary colours with attractive nursery themes. Smart uniforms with the school logo are worn by most pupils.



All children attending either Nursery or Primary School are provided with a nourishing lunch every day at 1pm which in most cases is possibly their only meal of the day. Their school day starts at 8am and we have recently commenced a project of providing a breakfast of porridge to each child at 10am when it is break/playtime. This porridge (unlike our oats) is made from maize and millet and is in liquid form so is nutritious and drinkable. The kids love it and of course it's feeding empty tummies, leading to more learning, in the hope of helping to get this generation out of poverty in future years. For more information check out the website kenyankids.org



Church Minshull News



The theme of February's Café Church was reconciliation and followed on from January's service of 'Peace in a conflicted World' There were videos from the Archbishop of Canterbury, discussing God's generosity and the role of a Christian to promote reconciliation and peace, followed by one from a Christian living in Palestine. We watched the burning of old palm crosses to create ash, as performed on Ash Wednesday, 14th Feb. this year, marking the beginning of Lent which ends on Good Friday when Christ made the ultimate act of reconciliation. There was a quiz in the interval and a challenge on arguing for an opposite point of view, with our usual hymns, prayers and refreshments.



In March our service was on Mothering Sunday and we looked at the history of where it had evolved from. During the interval, while eating traditional simnel cake and drinking coffee (compulsory), we looked at words that describe a mother using the letters M O T H E R. We finished with the ever faster 'You shall go out with joy' and everyone left with a complimentary bunch of daffodils.



Café Church Music Group

The Café Church Music Group has continued to evolve and has a key role in the Café Church events. Recent surveys showed that those attending Café Church like to have a mix of accompaniments to their singing, with some pieces sung to a pre-recorded video accompaniment and others to live music. At the moment, the instrument line up varies with mandolin, electric violin, guitar, harp and even trombone being used recently.



We are looking to expand our group further and we would be delighted to have more players joining in. This might even be an opportunity to learn an instrument as tuition is available on several instruments if required; it is never too late to learn to play a musical instrument. Some instruments are even available to borrow while you start the learning process!



If you would like to give this a try or have a chat to see what is involved, then please contact Richard Cluley (01270 522245)



Our February get together was about Ash Sunday and how we could use the day to do better. To mark the change we took papers outside and burnt them, to use the ash for crosses on ourselves later. Our activity was making butterflies, creatures that change visibly and we had our refreshments as we worked.



Chair of Partners in World Mission



Chester Diocese has appointment Lesley Bentley to this role of chair to strengthen our links with churches across the world and our formal Diocesan partnerships with the Diocese of Aru and Boga, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the Diocese of Melanesia. Other partnerships between churches in the Diocese and with churches in other cultures, abroad or even in this country, will also be celebrated and recognised. Lesley comes to this role, having volunteered with the

African NGO Hands at Work in Africa and is currently at the point of submitting a PhD thesis having researched cross-cultural partnerships and short-term mission visits as a way of fulfilling God's call of the whole people of God to mission. Now living in the village of Church Minshull, she spends some of her free time hedge laying, a traditional rural craft that regenerates our hedge rows, making them more hospitable to wildlife.



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Design advice

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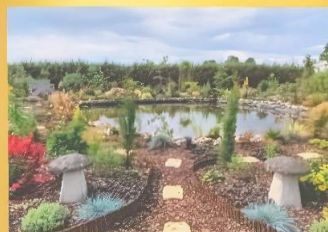
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Parish Council News

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT by Cllr Posnett.

Cheshire East Council had agreed its budget for 2024/25 including cost saving proposals which included green bin charges and sale of the offices in Sandbach. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the poor state of the highways in the village.

Resurfacing of Over Road was a priority in 24/25 and there would be a request to review the speed limit at the same time. With regard to the streetlight opposite Lea Green Lane, there were insufficient highways funds available therefore Cllr Posnett had request a quote to consider an alternative funding source.

Councillors thanked Borough Cllr Posnett for the continued support. **FLOODING AND RIVER POLLUTION**

It was noted that the proposal to re-stock the River Weaver with fish had been put on hold. There had been a serious incident upstream with a leak from a slurry tanker polluting the river.

ROAD ISSUES The Police and Crime Commissioner would be reminded about the potential provision of speed cameras for the village.

VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT Cllr Boote confirmed that the Funding Committee had agreed to proceed with the project and was seeking more volunteers.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS Cllr Lewis advised that improvements continued to be made to the website and the Parish Council pages were in the process of being updated. It was confirmed that the defibrillator was checked on a monthly basis. The Clerk has received a quote in the sum of £370 for a metal dog waste bin. The Council accepted the quote although Borough Cllr Posnett agreed to liaise with ANSA to ascertain whether a bin could be provided.

CLIMATE CHANGE/BIODIVERSITY Cllr Dobson had drafted a leaflet on biodiversity which would be circulated to Councillors for consideration and would attend the forthcoming Plant Sale to promote the scheme.

FINANCE REPORT Councillors reviewed the report which identified there was £5,668 in the Council's bank accounts and the forecast outturn was £4,877. Payments Peter Wilson Lengthsman 594.00: HMRC PAYE Q4 310.80: 310.80 Mark Robinson Expenses 29.00: St Bart's PCC Room Hire 35.00: St Bart's PCC Insight Magazine 150.00.

The Clerk circulated the risk register & Fixed Asset register which were approved. Cllr Smith had received a response from the Forestry Commission who had advised that the matter was still under review and no enforcement action had been taken.

Road Safety. With regards the request for information

from the Road Safety Office regarding road safety issues on Over Road, a response would be provided together with a copy of the B5074 speed survey. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Tuesday, 07 May 2024, at the Village Hall.

Recipe Idea for Easter



Chocolate cake for one in just a few minutes thanks to nifty use of the microwave. Add extra toppings, if you like – ice cream, strawberries, raspberries, sprinkles, chocolate flakes and wafers all work well.

Preparation time **less than 30 mins**

Cooking time **less than 10 mins**

Serves **Makes 1 mug cake**

Ingredients

- * 2 tbsp soft unsalted butter
- * 1 tbsp light brown sugar
- * 2 tbsp caster sugar
- * 4 tbsp self-raising flour
- * 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- * 1 egg yolk * ½ tsp vanilla extract
- * handful chocolate chips

Method

1. Put the butter into a large, microwave-safe mug. Microwave for 10–20 seconds, or until the butter has melted.
2. Once the butter is melted, use a fork to stir in the brown sugar, caster sugar, self-raising flour and cocoa powder. Mix until well combined without any lumps.
3. Add the egg yolk and the vanilla extract and stir again. Microwave for 30 seconds.
4. After 30 seconds, remove from the microwave, taking care to protect your hands as it could be hot. Put the chocolate chips on top of the cake mixture and use a teaspoon handle to push them down slightly into the mixture. Microwave for a further 30–40 seconds.
5. Carefully remove from the microwave and leave the cake to cool for 15 minutes.
6. Eat on its own or add a topping such as a scoop of ice cream, sprinkles, a chocolate flake or strawberries.




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Books on Wheels

The Cheshire mobile library bus service will be visiting Church Minshull next on April 17th and then on May 7th & 28th.

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.

Want a free advert in Insight Magazine?

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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