

St. Mary And All Saints Church



Great Budworth

Sunday 13th October 2024

Trinity 20



**God of delight, Source of all joy,
Thank you for making me part of the web of life,
Depending on the rhythms and fruits of the earth
for my existence.
Help me to be wholly present to you,
now, in this place,
where my feet are on the ground,
and where I am surrounded by creation's gifts,
from concrete to clouds,
if I have the wit to notice them!**

A.A.

Good morning/evening to everyone (depending on when you read this)! It has been a few months since we sent a sheet, so we thought we had better have a catch up and let you know what is coming up at St. Mary and All Saints over the next few months. Firstly, a reflection from The Rev Alec Brown.

From the Vicar.

One of my favourite poems from schooldays (a long, long time ago now.....) was “Ode to Autumn” by John Keats, whose opening line “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” is so evocative. Gathering apples in the Vicarage garden for the Harvest Services and looking out from the height of the Churchyard over low lying early morning mist bring Keat’s wonderful poem to my mind each autumn, and never fails to remind me of God’s presence with us in and through creation. The passages we have read at our Harvest Services, from the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, make clear our responsibilities at this time of the year – to give thanks to God for the many and varied fruits of creation, and to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. These are spiritual and practical responsibilities which we as individual Christians, and as members of Christ’s body on earth, the Church, should always take seriously, but also joyfully.

Autumn is of course a time of change, which we see most dramatically and beautifully in the natural world around us, and in the calendar and festivals of the Church. The festivals of All Saints and All Souls, Remembrance Sunday and others draw us on towards our celebration of Christ the King and the beginning of the season of Advent. There is, in these coming weeks, much to remember and give thanks for, and much to celebrate, even if we have gradually less daylight in which to do this!

The theme of this year’s National Poetry Day was “counting”, and I strongly resisted the temptation to write something along the lines of “...counting down the days till Christmas”, knowing that this will be starting very soon in the worlds of commerce and marketing! Giving thanks to God for the wonders of creation, the fruits of the earth, and all our blessings, and rejoicing in the beauty of autumn, will be counting enough for me in this “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”.

The Revd Alec Brown.



On Monday 7th October, we remembered what had happened 12 months previously in Israel, and the continued fall out from that.

As like many human beings, the deep sorrow we feel at the events in the Middle East, is almost too much to bear; it is difficult to watch the news unfold on the tv or read about in the newspapers. The situation is so complex, but we pray for all the people of the countries and areas involved and hope that peace can be brokered by people that care, and quickly before the situation escalates any further.

We continue to pray also for Ukraine and all it's people, and for all countries where there is war, unrest, persecution, oppression;

*O God, you bring hope out of emptiness,
Energy out of fear,
New life out of grief and loss;
Comfort all who have lost family, friends, homes,
Through persecution, war, exile or deliberate destruction.
We pray for those who oppress and manipulate others,
And in doing so lose sight of their own humanity.
We pray for those who work for peace and justice, whatever the cost.*

*O Lord Jesus,
Stretch forth your wounded hands in blessing over your people,
To heal and restore,
And to draw them to yourself and to one another in love.*

Services for Sunday 13th October

10.30am Matins *Book of Common Prayer* – Rev Alec Brown

12.15pm Baptism – welcome to Emelia and Arthur Dentith – Rev Christina Westwell

6.30pm Holy Communion *Common Worship* – Rev Christina Westwell

Readings:

Amos 5: 6 – 7, 10 - 15

Hebrews 4: 12 – 16

Mark 10. 17 - 31

Intercessions:

As members of the body of Christ,
Bound together in his love,
Let us pray together now,
Confident in God's promise to be amongst us.

We pray for all who form the Church
In its variety and richness throughout the world;
May the weak be encouraged and strengthened,
The wanderers return,
Those besieged by doubt be given the assurance of faith,
And the jaded refreshed by your living Spirit.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all councils, committees and governing bodies,
For those serving on juries,
For air, sea and mountain rescue teams;
That in working together in your strength,
They may strive for what is good, just and honest,
So that your will is accomplished in them.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we pray for those whose countries are at war,
For those who must watch their children die,
those forced to leave their homes, their livelihoods, their way of life.
For those whose faith in God and in man has been weakened or destroyed.
We remember today especially the crisis in the Middle East,
praying for all in this complex war.
We pray for the people of Ukraine suffering under the continued oppression from Russia,
And all other countries who suffer from war, terrorism, persecution.
We pray for the peace brokers and peacekeepers, working to improve relationships,
That they may find the true way of reconciliation.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God we pray for harvests in parts of your world suffering drought, natural disaster, disease
and terrorism. We pray for the struggling and the oppressed.
Help those without power to negotiate or bargain within fairly traded markets and help all whose work
goes unrewarded or whose produce is undervalued to realise their true value and worth and to be
paid a fair wage for their labours.
We keep in our prayers all who suffered the ravages of Hurricane Milton this week.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we pray for all the loving care that goes on in all our communities;
For those who take time to care for others,
And for those who crave tenderness
And are weary of the struggle to be strong.
We pray for all who come to this church and share worship and fellowship,
And all who come for baptism, marriage, and services of blessing here and at Arley.
Lord we are all your children, give us deeper insight, more awareness,
And greater love for one another.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Father, we commend to your healing
All who are in pain or danger;
All who are recovering from surgery;
All who depend on others for life and movement;
We give thanks for all carers, doctors and nurses,
And pray that those who they tend
May be given courage, patience and wholeness.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Father, we pray for those who have died,
And those who are at present on that last journey;
This morning, we pray for those who have died recently,
Those from this parish and beyond
and all those known only to ourselves.
Lord, may they have peace in the joy
Of your presence for ever.
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Loving, heavenly Father,
We know you hear our prayers,
Because we ask them in the name
Of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Collect for Twentieth Sunday after Trinity:

God, the giver of life,
Whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
By the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
And make us eager to do your will,
That we may share with the whole creation
The joys of eternal life;
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

Blessing

Bless to us, O God, the road that is before us,
Bless to us, O God, the friends who are around us,
Bless to us, O God, your love which is within us.
Bless to us, O God, the light that leads us home.



Reading this next article by Robert Steele, made me re-look at the window in the Lady Chapel, what a story it tells once you really observe it!

The Lady Chapel Window

The Lady Chapel stained glass window of Mary and the Christ Child is one of those “marmite” experiences: the viewer either loves it or hates it.

I often sit opposite it at the 8 o'clock communion service on Sundays and have observed it through the seasons and watched its colours change as the back lighting changes, and with it the mood from dark and sombre to bright, vibrant and dynamic. Careful study shows it to be a very thoughtful and powerful piece of art.

First, a little of its history: it was put in place during the 1960's church restoration, inspired and funded by John L. Snyder who was a wonderful benefactor of the church. It was made by the Whitefriars Glass Company, the leading manufacturer at the time (look for their hooded friar figure in the bottom righthand corner of the window). It was designed by Pierre Fourmaitreaux, their chief designer, a Frenchman who had moved to England. Fourmaitreaux identified his work by adding PF by the hooded friar emblem.

In 1965 this piece of expressionist art was fitted in the church and shortly afterwards that phase of restoration ended because Mr. Snyder died, and the funding stopped.

The window represents Mary and the baby Jesus. As the art critic, Waldemar Januszczak has pointed out, this is an extremely common topic in religious art, but rarely “pulled off.” Mary is easy to paint, but how do you represent a babe in arms who is also a member of the eternal Trinity and Saviour of the world? Few artists succeed in achieving this, but I believe that Fourmaitreaux does. The Christ Child spreads his arms to embrace and bless the world. His face remains childlike but serene, wise and determined. His head is framed by a halo which is backed by a cross, a sombre reminder of what was to come.

Mary is clothed in shades of blue, her traditional colour, and holds a lily, a symbol of her purity and calling to bear the Christ Child. The lily is usually found in paintings of the Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel tells her that she will bear the Saviour. Mary's expression is serene, apprehensive and thoughtful. Both figures look directly at the observer; their message and its promise is for each one of us.

Directly above Mary is a dove, the symbol of both the divine presence and the deliverer of peace for the troubled soul. At the top of the picture, the heavens are represented by stars, a fitting background for Mary who has been known since the Middle Ages as the “Queen of Heaven.”

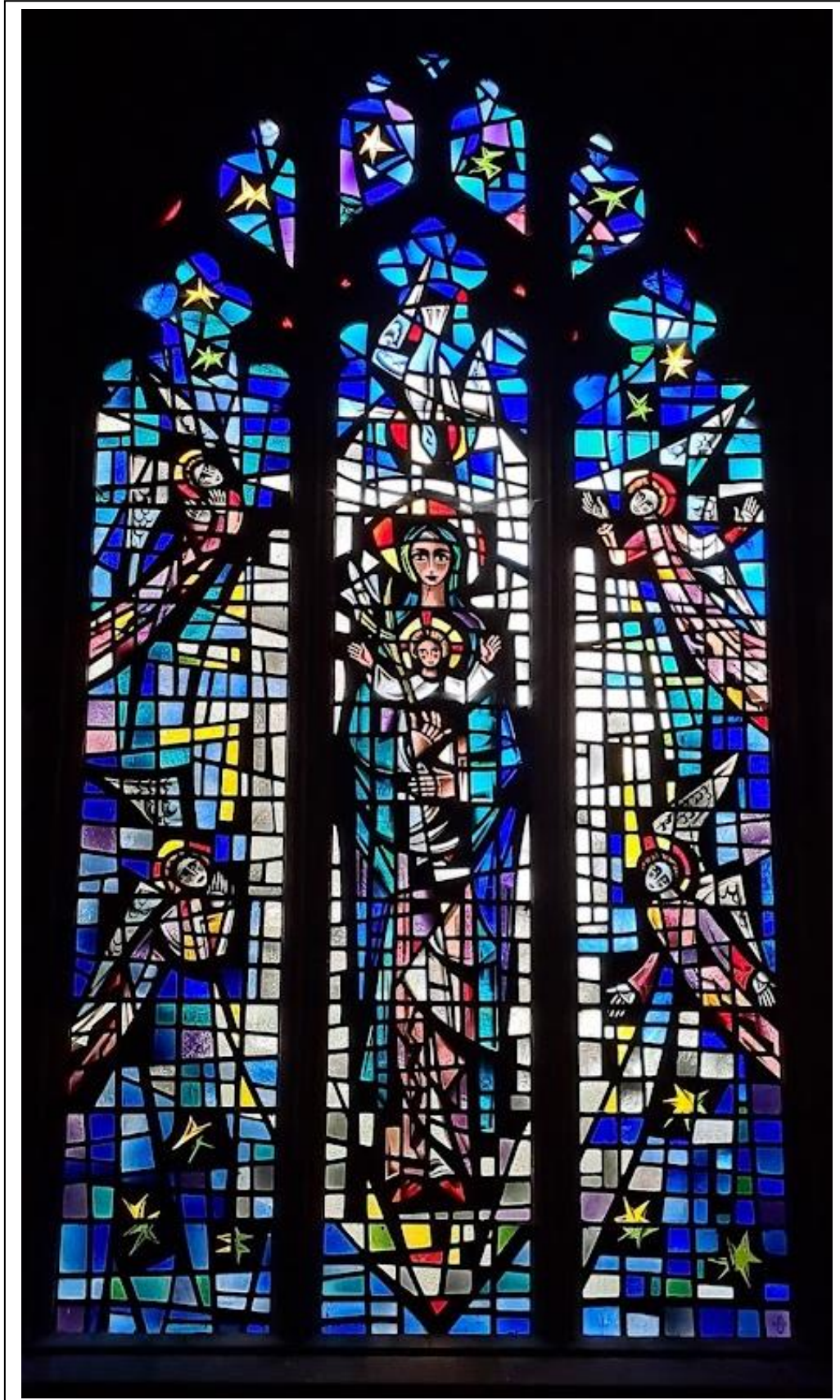
Angels are portrayed on each side, worshipping and praising. Each has a different arm and hand gesture representing prayer (hands making a steeple), praise (arms raised), acceptance (arms lowered) and reverence (arms crossed).

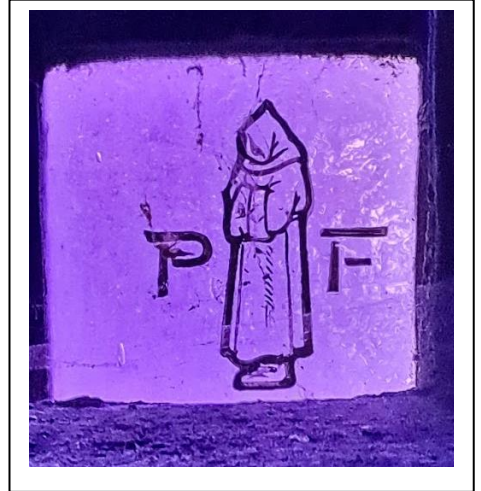
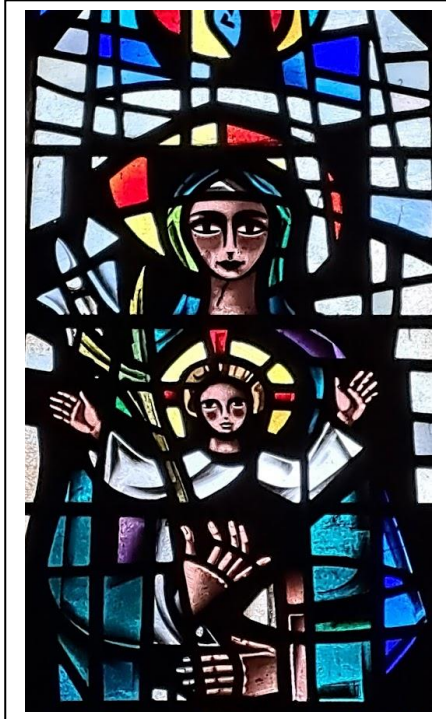
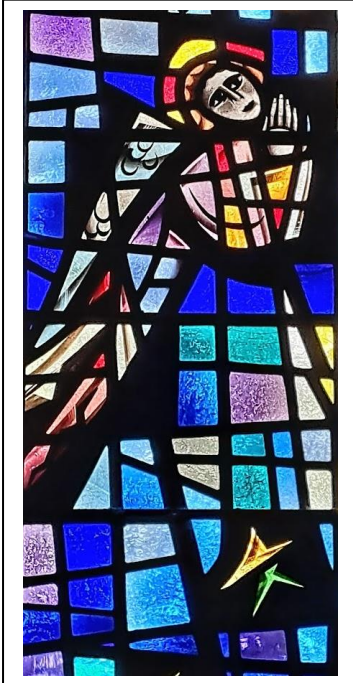
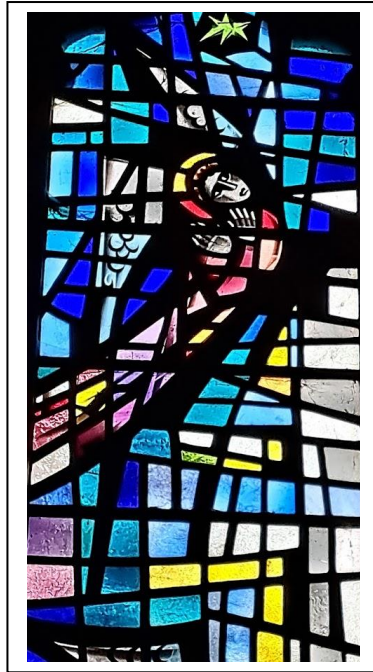
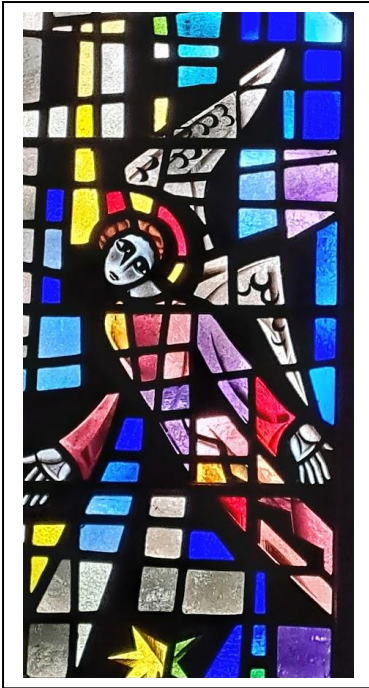
It is interesting to note that the surrounding glass creates an oval of curving lines around Mary and Jesus. This is typical of Fourmaitreaux' work where his central subject is framed by the glass.

The other windows in the chapel should not be forgotten, as they provide the frame or environment for the main window.

The Lady Chapel window is really very powerful and worthy of careful study as it is full of symbols, but its overwhelming strength is the majesty and glory it represents.

Robert Steele





Events and services:

October

Sun 13 th	Matins BCP	10.30am
	Baptism Emelia and Arthur	12.15pm
	Holy Communion <i>Common Worship</i>	6.30pm
Tues 15 th	Flower Festival sub-comm	4.30pm
Thur 17 th	Deanery Synod Meeting Stretton	7.30pm
Fri 18 th	Burial of C/Remains Winifred Percival	11.00am
	GB School Harvest Service in Church	1.15pm
	Sponsored Sleepout in C/Yard	10.30pm
Sun 20 th	Holy Communion BCP	8.00am
	Parish Communion <i>Common Worship</i>	10.30am
	Harvest Thanksgiving at Arley Chapel	6.30pm
Wed 23 rd	Craft & Natter Old School	10.30am
Thur 24 th	Play and Praise in church	1.30pm
Sun 27 th	CLOCKS GO BACK	
	Parish Communion with Baptism	10.30am
	Baptism	12.15pm
	Forest Church Marbury Park	2.30pm

November

Sun 3 rd	Holy Communion BCP	8.00am
	All Age Worship for All Saints	10.30am
	Service of Commemoration for the faithful departed	4.00pm

Note:

Friday 18th October – Great Budworth School Harvest Festival in church 1.15pm

Friday 18th October – Sponsored Sleep out in the churchyard, raising funds for St. Mary And All Saints. Please join us and get yourself sponsored, or sponsor the ones sleeping out (one sheet for all). See larger advert for more details. 10.30pm

Sunday 20th October – Harvest Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Chapel, Arley. Please join us for this Harvest service in the beautiful surroundings of Arley Chapel. All welcome. 6.30pm

Wednesday 23rd October – Craft and Natter in the Old School – just come along with your knitting, sewing, craft work and enjoy a coffee and a chat. Show somebody else how to craft if it is a new one we haven't experienced, or if you haven't tried any knitting etc before and want someone to show you how, come along and someone will show you how to get started. £2 donation please. 10.30am

Sunday 27th October – Forest Church. 2.30pm We meet in Marbury Park for the Oct session. Meet under the Oak canopy for reflection, fun, walks, craft and refreshment with friends. All welcome, all ages, bring your dog, dress for the weather!

Sunday 3rd November – All Age Worship for All Saints 10.30am

Service of Commemoration for the Faithful Departed. 4.00pm
If you wish a loved one to be remembered at this service, please add their name to the list at the back of church. Their name will be read out during the service and you may come and light a candle in memory of your loved one. If you can't get to church, but wish a name adding to the list, please phone Margaret (07732324001) or Pauline (01565 733494) and we will add them to the list.

Sunday 10th November – Remembrance Sunday – special service 10.30am

Sunday 10th November – Wakes Lunch in Parish Hall; book in with Shirley Humphreys 12noon

Sunday 24th November – Forest Church – 2.30pm venue tbc

December

Sunday 1st December – All Age Service – Toy Service

Wednesday 4th December – Christmas Wreath Making with Maggie Earl. 2pm – 4pm

Mulled wine, mince pies, tea/coffee, always fun! This is to raise funds for the big Flower Festival we have planned for July 2025.

Book in with Maggie or Margaret Cross - £45/person.

Pay with cheque or card on the day.

Thursday 12th December – Festive Cheese and Wine in church. Bring your friends and enjoy a social evening out in our lovely medieval church.

Put the date in your diary – tickets £20 from Margaret Cross, Maggie Earl. Raffle.

Sunday 15th December – Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Mary's Chapel, Arley 6.30pm

Tuesday 17th December – Equali Choir in church 7.30pm

Thursday 19th December – Joint Schools Antrobus and Great Budworth Carol Service 6pm

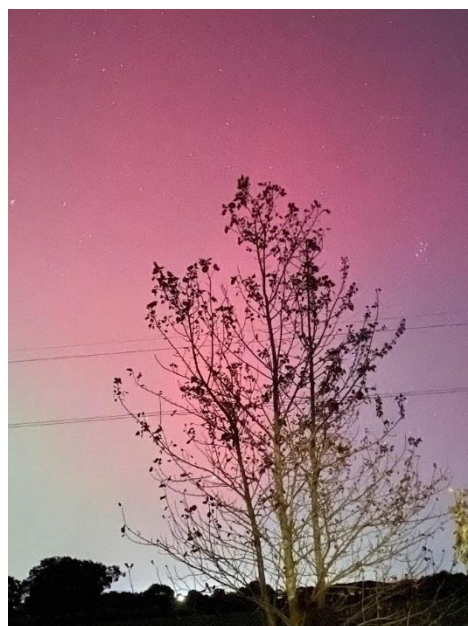
Christmas Eve – Crib and Christingle service 4.00pm

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

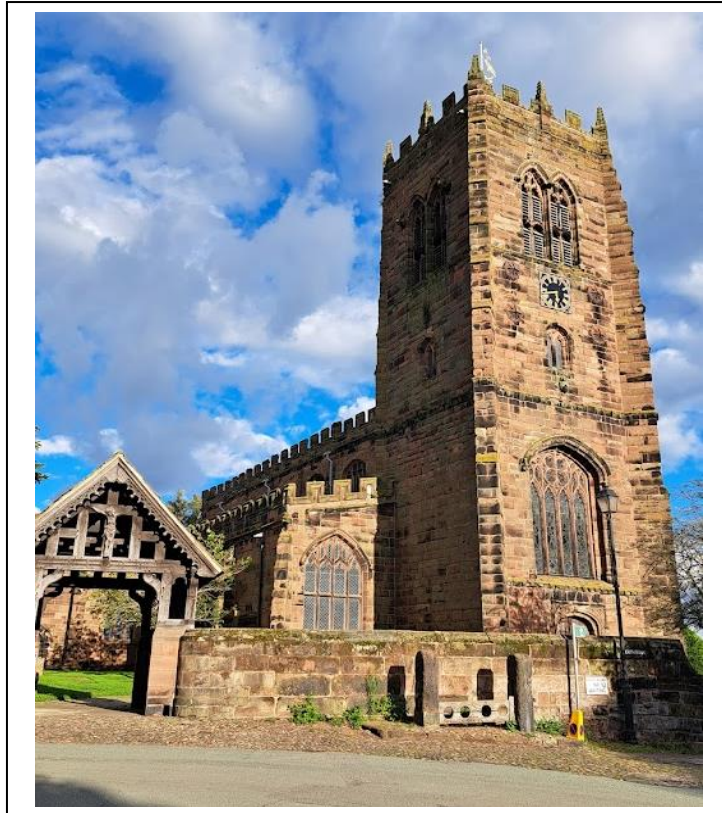
Christmas Day – Holy Communion BCP 8.00am

Family Communion Common Worship 10.30am

Church Teas 2024 – a huge thank you to everyone who hosted, baked, helped set up and tidy up, or helped in any way with the teas this season. You have all helped raise £5800! (costs of hall to come out of that yet). Another huge thank you to all the visitors who made it worth while and came along to support us, some coming along every week! A brilliant result.



Hope lots of you managed to see the Northern Lights on Thursday night!



Sponsored sleepout in the churchyard

to raise funds for

St. Mary & All Saints Church

Great Budworth

Friday 18th October 10.30pm

To Saturday 19th October 7am

Please join us or if not, sponsor us!!

Sponsor sheets in church – Thank you.

Ways to pay: Gift Aid declarations available if you are a taxpayer and able to Gift aid your donation.

Cash – place in envelope (pink gift aid ones available) and pass to Rev Alec Brown, Margaret Cross or Pauline Ridgway or place in the envelope in the floor safe in church (Red church on top).

Cheque – made payable to Great Budworth PCC pass on as above

On line bank transfer – Great Budworth Parochial Church Council

Sort code: 60-15-29 Account: 91220726

Mark as ‘Sleepout’

Card machine – please note on the sponsor sheet if you have paid this way (gift aid can be given via the machine)

Thank you so much for your support

Are you weighed down by possessions?



Kathryn Fleming *reflects on* Hebrews 4:12-end and Mark 10:17-31

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword," says the reading from Hebrews today.

Ouch – I just cut myself on scripture!

Indeed, I do so whenever I hear Jesus' words to that rich young man, who has somehow become possessed by his own possessions and just can't let go. Perhaps, like me, you'd love to be the kind of person who really does put the kingdom of God before everything else, but who struggles to jettison precious inessentials that we seem to take a lifetime to accumulate. On a good day, perhaps we can sit reasonably lightly to our material possessions, but sitting lightly to our relationships is another matter altogether. The prospect of leaving children, in particular, for Jesus' sake is quite simply impossible for me to contemplate. So, what am I, what are we, to do with these challenging, uncompromising words?

Thankfully, we have two comforts in today's readings.

To quote my son in his teenage years "Jesus gets it." Or, if you prefer the words from Hebrews: "we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses". No matter how abject and frequent our failures, Jesus understands the tangled muddle of motivations and longings that shape our actions, and if we can't order our priorities properly ourselves, there's the immeasurable comfort that "for God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26), even when we can't quite let go. 🙏

Gracious God, when we fail to put you first, when we lean on other things, when we are tempted to give up following altogether, thank you that you understand and love us still. Help us to trust you always. Amen.

People of the New Testament

Part 5 – Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

by Caroline Fletcher

Caroline explains what inspired her to write about one of the characters in her new book.

The author Michael Card has called Zacchaeus "a genuinely bad man". And it's true that to have risen to the position of chief tax collector, he is likely to have been particularly corrupt in a system based upon greed and deceitfulness.

The Law demanded that he repay what he had taken plus a

fifth, although after his encounter with Christ, he promised to repay four times the amount he had embezzled and to give half his possessions to poor people.

Luke's readers would have been shocked at Zacchaeus' wholehearted repentance. Christ's unconditional love melted this man's heart and turned him completely around. And all these centuries later, Christ's love continues to overwhelm and transform the unlikeliest of people, no matter who they are and what they have done. 🙏

“ Whatever we do that creates deadness is a sin.”

John V. Taylor (1914-2001), Anglican bishop

Prison chaplaincy

by Heather Smith

Today is Prisons Sunday, which is held each year on the second Sunday in October and marks the start of Prisons Week. For forty years, Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community, both individuals and churches, to pray for prisoners and their families, for victims of crime and their communities, as well as for those who work in the criminal justice system.

The aim of Prisons Week is to encourage prayer and awareness. It motivates volunteers to step forward and give their time and gifts, whether in prison or in their own community. It provides an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together, building capacity and motivation to make a difference for people who are out of sight and often out of mind.

We will be looking at prison chaplaincy over the coming weeks. In the meantime you can find out more at: <http://prisonweek.org> 🙏