

Sunday Worship

8.00am.	Holy Communion	1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
10.30am.	All Age Worship	1st Sunday
	Mattins	2nd Sunday
	Parish Communion	3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
4.00pm	Holy Communion	2nd Sunday
6.30pm	Evensong Arley Chapel	3rd Sunday

Week-day and other activities

Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday in month at 10.30am
Celtic Evening prayer 1st Thursday in month 7.00pm in the Lady chapel

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January 2025



St Mary & All Saints Great Budworth

Serving Arley, Aston-by-Budworth, Comberbach, Crowley, Great Budworth,
Lower Wincham, Marbury, Marston, and Pickmere.

January

- Sunday 5th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am All Age Worship for Epiphany
- Wed 8th 10.30am Holy Communion followed by coffee
- Thurs. 9th 1.30pm Play and Praise
7.00pm Celtic Evening Prayer
- Sunday 12th 10.30am Plough Service
4.00pm Holy Communion Common Worship
- Sunday 19th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Parish Communion Common Worship
6.30pm Evening Prayer at Arley Chapel
- Thurs. 23rd 1.30pm Play and Praise
- Sunday 26th 10.30am Parish Communion Common Worship
2.30pm Forest Church (venue TBC)

Plough Service

As a rural parish, we like to hold agricultural services which are pertinent to many people who live and work in the villages of the parish.

On Sunday 12th January, we will be holding our annual Plough Service at 10.30am.

Start the year with hope for farmers, farm workers and the land, with a traditional blessing of the plough.

This is the first agricultural festival of the year, and you are all welcome to join us.



Rota for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers & Intercessors January 2025 Year C

F I R S T S U N	<p><u>5th January - The Epiphany (White)</u> <u>8.00am HC BCP</u> Isa.60. 1 – 6 LL38 SL33 Eph. 3. 1 – 12 LL40 SL35 Matt. 2 1 – 12 LL41 SL36 <u>10.30am All Age Worship</u> <u>Special Service Sheet</u></p>	<u>No Evening Service</u>
S E C O N D S U N	<p><u>12th January – The Baptism of Christ (White)</u> <u>10.30am Plough Sunday</u> <u>Special Service Sheet</u></p>	<u>4.00pm H.C. CW</u> Isa. 43. 1 – 7 LL773 SL689 Acts 8.14 – 17 LL775 SL691 Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22 LL775 SL691
T H I R D S U N	<p><u>19th January – Epiphany 2 (White)</u> <u>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</u> <u>8.00am HC BCP 10.30am HC CW</u></p> <p>Isa. 62. 1 – 5 LL776 SL692 C Rees 1 Cor. 12. 1 – 11 LL777 SL693 S Gray John 2. 1 – 11 LL778 SL693 INT K Hammond EM S Ollier</p>	<u>6.30pm EP BCP Arley Hall Chapel</u> Ps. 96 Page 535 1 Sam. 3. 1 – 20 Lord Ashbrook Eph. 4. 1 – 16 Officiant
F O U R T H S U N	<p><u>26th January – Epiphany 3 (White)</u> <u>10.30am HC CW</u></p> <p>Neh. 1-3,5-6,8-10 LL779 SL694 J Martin 1 Cor. 12.12-31a LL781 SL697 J Rees Luke 4.14 – 21 LL782 SL698 INT Vicar EM S Gray</p>	<u>No Evening Service</u>

A big thank you

to the parish magazine distributors for their work during the year and to the contributors for their talent in making the magazine so interesting.(I hope)

Sides persons' Rota – January 2025

1st Sunday 5th January Christmas 2

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Robert Steele
Marian Steele

10.30am All Age Worship Anne O'May
The Epiphany Rebecca Brierley

2nd Sunday 12th January The Baptism of Christ – Epiphany 1

10.30am Plough Sunday Service Geoff Taylor

4.00pm Holy Communion CW Hazel Taylor
Shirley Humphreys

3rd Sunday 19th January Epiphany 2

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Pat Hart

10.30am Parish Communion CW Robert Cross

6.30pm Evening Prayer at Arley Chapel Anne O'May
xxxxxxxxxx

4th Sunday 26th January Epiphany 3

10.30am Parish Communion Maggie Earl
Robert Cross

February

1st Sunday 2nd February The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Robert Steele
Marian Steele

10.30am All Age Worship for Candlemas Anne O'May
Rebecca Brierley

Margaret Cross 07732324001

Pauline Ridgway 01565 733494

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment

From the Vicar

Happy New Year!

I'm writing this in the middle of one of the busiest times of the year, with Carol and Christingle and School Services in full swing, as well as a baptism, two funerals, sadly, and the last wedding of the year! December is always a very busy month of course, but last December just seemed busier than normal and, in addition, the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury and calls for the resignation of the Archbishop of York have cast quite a shadow over the work and ministry of all of us in the Church of England.

The theme of the Comberbach Methodist Advent Study Group, which some of us attend each year, was "hushing the noise" (from the well known and beautiful Christmas Carol "It came upon the midnight clear") and it has been hard to "hush the noise" of everything that has been happening in our Church, society and world in the last few months and to concentrate upon the message of the angels, and to hear them sing. But, in the midst of all these "Babel sounds" I have thought, prayed about and reflected on our discipleship, work and witness as followers of Jesus, the "babe in the manger" and Messiah among us, to bring tidings of "comfort and joy", peace and hope to all those whom we encounter. Given the vagaries and circumstances of life, this is not always an easy thing to do, but our (and I stress "our") work in this Parish with people in the weeks leading up to Christmas, and in all sorts of situations, has been I think a very good example of our Christian faith in action and really what the Church is expected to be and should be about – encouraging and nurturing faith and hope and love, bringing comfort to people and always looking forward whilst acknowledging that there are, inevitably, things that hold us back and things for which we have to express our sorrow.

Continued over

This month, and in a new year, which sees the 1700th anniversary of the formulation of The Nicene Creed, which we will be remembering during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and which links all Christians throughout the world and across all denominations, we celebrate one of the most significant festivals in the Church, the Epiphany, as well as celebrating the work of members of our rural communities on Plough Sunday. This is what the Church is about – giving thanks to God for the revelation of the Messiah among us and, at this time, and amongst many other things of course, for the ongoing “busyness/business” of our farming communities, as they “plough the fields and scatter.....” – and we are all part of this ongoing story and journey, and what a joy, and a privilege, that is.

“Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing” and, as we all try to do this, may God bless each one of us in this coming year, whatever it may bring!

The Revd Alec Brown.

Vicar of Great Budworth.

From the Registers

Baptism – welcome to Bonnie Bell who was baptized on 15th December

Marriage – congratulations to Natalie Jane and Anthony Pelosi who were married on 14th December, and to Stephanie Hindley and Patrick Whitney whose marriage was blessed at Arley Chapel on 19th December.

Funerals – rest in peace Thomas Pearce and Geoff Ridgway whose funerals and burials took place on 2nd and 17th December respectively.

Your feedback and snippets you send are important, if there are any comments on the parish magazine or if you would like anything particular in the issue then please let me know.

The views of our contributors are, of course, entirely their own, and do not necessarily represent those of the P.C.C., the Editor, members of the congregation or parishioners in general.

*Articles for February 2025 edition send to Rob Cross:
robross43@gmail.com by **18th January** please*

We are available by phone or email if you want to talk to us. We can offer a chat or prayer or both. If you have Facebook, have a look at the church page, @greatbudworthchurch where Christina posts prayers and reflections

We keep you all in our prayers. Stay well.

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All phone calls etc. will be treated with confidence, but may need to be shared with somebody else on the team.

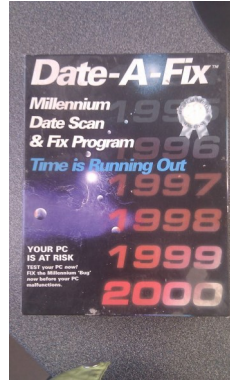
If you don't wish this to happen, please let the person you speak to know at the time of first contact.

What were you doing as the year 2000 approached?

Looking forward to serious partying

Practicing as a new bell ringer for the recently rehung church bells

Worrying about computer Armageddon

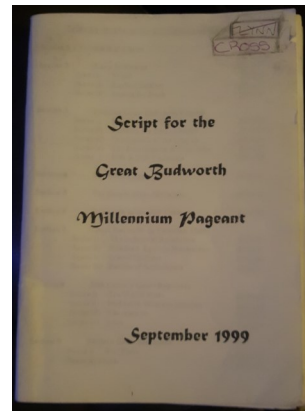
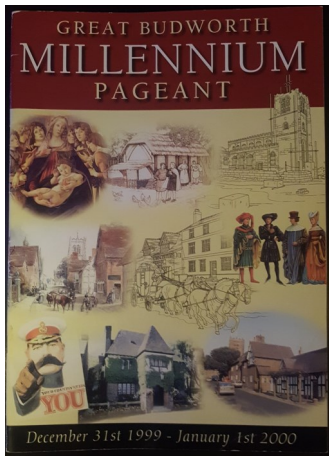


Or preparing, practicing, rehearsing for what must surely have been the greatest community event of this Parish.

Its 25 years since the Millennium Pageant

Paddy and Caroline McGuigans Epic production

Over 340 roles acting/ narrating/ musical/ behind scenes. Although many people took on 2 or 3 roles this still involved a huge proportion of the community.



Thank you

We hope you all had a good Christmas and were able to welcome in the New Year in good health!

We keep in our prayers, all those for whom the festive season was a time of worry or sadness. For those coping with illness, for those mourning the loss of a loved one, for those who struggle with loneliness.

We would like to thank everybody who helped over the Advent and Christmas period, in whatever capacity, and indeed to thank everybody who helped in any way with church life in 2024. A real church is first and foremost the people who worship there, the people who give of their time, often unseen, the people who support the church with their many varied talents.

St. Mary And All Saints is a beautiful, medieval church, with wonderful architecture, but there is always some repair or renovation pinpointed after each quinquennial inspection; this can amount to thousands of pounds required to carry out any work. We give thanks for the past and present Restoration Appeal Committee, who have over many years facilitated this work by the raising of funds and also The Friends of Great Budworth Church who also raise funds for work on the church.

So, we are pleased to say the fellowship is good and strong, and we look forward positively to the year ahead.

The Ministry Team

The Rev Alec Brown, The Rev Christina Westwell
Churchwardens, Mrs Margaret Cross and Mrs Pauline Ridgway
Mrs Janet Rees



Great Budworth C of E Aided School News



GREAT BUDWORTH
CE Primary School

After the hustle and bustle of our Christmas term, January is a time of reflection and new beginnings. We give thanks for the wonderful experiences our children enjoyed last term & the people who helped us to make it all happen.

We are particularly grateful to our Friends of the School for supporting and organising so many different events, Brio Leisure Centre for their generosity in helping us to take the whole school to the Pantomime and Lord & Lady Ashbrook for choosing our Hedgehog inspired tree as the winner of the Schools Christmas Tree Competition. We held a raffle for our prize of tickets to Luminare & raised funds for Northwich Hedgehog Rescue, the inspiration for our tree.

Our successful open days last year and the introduction of a flexi-school offer has seen a significant increase in pupil numbers & we will be welcoming our new families over the coming weeks, as well as the little ones starting nursery and those joining our Reception class in September.

As we step into the New Year, we have lots of things to look forward to in school including residential trips, sports competitions and making plans for Easter and the Summer term. Our daily collective worships will focus on 'Turning over a new leaf', starting afresh and setting new personal challenges.

The Bible offers many verses that inspire new beginnings and personal growth. These verses speak to the heart of what it means to start anew, guided by faith, hope and love – our core school values.

Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



-Visit an outstanding area of beauty in the UK. Check out [The National Trust's](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit) website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit>

for your nearest escape to nature too.

-Get to your nearest green space more often. Time spent enjoying God's creation will help set your mind and seek the things that are above. Bring your sketch or note book, your Bible, or whatever helps you connect with our heavenly Father. Or perhaps God is inviting you to just bring yourself (with some extra layers!) and simply sit.

-Bring a friend along! Next time you meet up with a friend, why not suggest an extended or brisk wintery walk together (don't forget your reusable coffee cups!)

-Grow your own. What could you grow inside your home, in the garden or even at church? Who can you bless along the way?

-Plan a Wild Time! Plan something *completely* wild in nature for later this year. Experience kayaking, wild camping, forest school, forest church... Make it your resolution to *really* enjoy what nature has to offer this year. Break out of your normal routine and join a volunteer work party or take to the water for wild swimming. Whatever you do – do something different and have fun!

Do you have other ideas that would help others to enjoy and connect to God's wonderful creation?

Creation Care

JANUARY

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator.

Here are some ideas to help you make 'enjoying nature' more intentional:

-Bring nature into your home or garden. Plant a herb or flower as a reminder of our responsibility to steward God's earth. As you tend to this plant, prayerfully ask God how you might nurture nature better at home.

-Take a wildlife quiz. From cool questions on the coldest regions to testing for knowledge on the deep blue sea, learn something new about nature alone or with your family with a selection of fun quizzes. from [WWF's](https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/quizzes) <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/quizzes>

-Spot winter wildlife. Winter is still a great time to be outdoors and see wildlife. Soak up the seasonal sights on your doorstep or find out what you can see in different parts of the UK [here](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/countryside-woodland/places-to-spot-winter-wildlife). <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/countryside-woodland/places-to-spot-winter-wildlife>

-Walk and Worship. Go for a walk in nature and note all the signs of the season. Use this time to reflect on the changing season and what we can be thankful for.

-Write about or draw something that inspires you in nature. Try this one as a group activity and share your ideas and reflections.

-Birdwatch. A great way to begin could be taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch this January (24-26).



May our New Year resolutions focus on spiritual growth, acts of kindness and service, fostering community and relationships, and set goals that align with Christian values and principles.

Let us be filled with encouragement, perspective, and wisdom, and above all, be reminded of God's love, the importance of faith, and the potential for personal growth and renewal this New Year.

Our best wishes to you all for 2025.

Great Budworth School

Big garden birdwatch

is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.



Spend an hour watching the birds in your patch, between 24 and 26 January, and record the birds that land.

For more details go to:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Just breathe

*You show your majesty
In every star that shines,
And every time we breathe.
Your glory, God revealed
From distant galaxies
To here, beneath our skin.*

These words from the song *Magnificent* by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin speak volumes to me as a scientist. Redman is an astronomy geek who has ‘an appreciation for the universe that surrounds us, particularly its unique ability to lift our hearts to see how massive and mysterious God truly is’.*

The microscopic level on the other hand – what goes on ‘beneath our skin’ – is less available to ordinary people. I have had the privilege of exploring this world to my heart’s content, and what I’ve seen has given me such a sense of awe that I want to share with others.

Every time you breathe, a series of air pockets with a combined surface area the size of a tennis court is bathed with oxygen. These minute air pockets are covered with blood vessels. The boundary between air and blood is so thin that oxygen and carbon dioxide can diffuse freely from one to the other.

When your heart beats at a normal rate, a single red blood cell takes about three quarters of a second to travel through the small blood vessels in your lungs. But in just one third of that time, a quarter of a second, that cell has already received all the oxygen it needs from the air. So, when you exercise, causing your heart rate to increase and the blood to flow faster, you’re still getting plenty of oxygen, as long as you keep breathing!

Redman and Myrin wrote in their song, “*You are higher than we ever could imagine, And closer than our eyes could ever see.*” The universe demonstrates God’s awesome power. This is a place made by a Being whose imagination is not limited by time and space.

Biology, on the other hand, helps to remind me of God’s creativity and closeness. I am a product of a long and painstaking process of continued development over aeons of time. Beneath my skin are incredibly detailed, beautifully regulated processes that give me life. Jesus said that ‘even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.’ The knowledge that God intentionally made me and knows every detail of my physiology is both amazing and humbling.

**Indescribable: Encountering the Glory of God in the Beauty of the Universe, Matt Redman & Louis Giglio (David C. Cook, 2011)*

Poetry, going head to head with the vicar

As any regular readers will know our Vicar, Rev Alec Brown considers himself a bit of a poet (*we do too but don’t tell him*). Now there may be someone else out there that enjoys composing a Sonnet or a Haiku or maybe even a limerick. If this is you and you would be prepared to have your work exposed to the readership of the Great Budworth Parish magazine, why not submit it to the editor for possible inclusion.

