



## Newsletter of St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham Week

commencing January 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 – **Epiphany** Year C

“To know God and to make God known”

Vicar: Rev Elaine Attack – [revelaine@nym.hush.com](mailto:revelaine@nym.hush.com)

Website: <https://slfchurch.org/> Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintells/](https://www.facebook.com/saintells/)

# Happy New Year to all

### This Week

January 5 <sup>th</sup> <b>Epiphany</b>	8.00 10.00	Holy Communion – said service Holy Communion – with music	Isaiah 60. 1-6; Matthew 2. 1-12
Monday - Friday		Church open: Monday - Friday - 10.00-15.00	
Tuesday	12noon 19.00	Funeral followed by Committal at Walton Lea Holy Communion – said service	
Wednesday	10.00	<b>Toddler Praise</b>	
Thursday	10.00	Bee Friends Coffee Morning at the Parish Hall	
Friday	13.00-15.00	Craft and Chat in the Lady Chapel	
January 12 <sup>th</sup> <b>Baptism of Christ</b>	8.00 10.00	Holy Communion – said service Holy Communion – with music	

### Prayers

**Our prayers for those who are sick** If you know of anyone whom you feel needs our prayers – please ask permission from them or their family and then pass their name to Rev Elaine: [revelaine@nym.hush.com](mailto:revelaine@nym.hush.com)

**Please pray for –**

*Those who are sick*

*Those who have died*

*Those whose anniversary of death falls this week*

**Prayer Wall** - You can write a prayer and light a virtual candle on our website. <https://slfchurch.org/prayerwall>

Please pass your requests to Rev Elaine at the Vicarage if you haven't got internet access.

### Dates for your Diary

**Children: Messy Church** Monthly during term time only [Read more here](#)  
**Toddler Praise** Every Wednesday during term time only [Read more](#)

**\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* FAITH IN ACTION** The next meeting is on Monday, January 20th at 19:30 at David's. See notices.

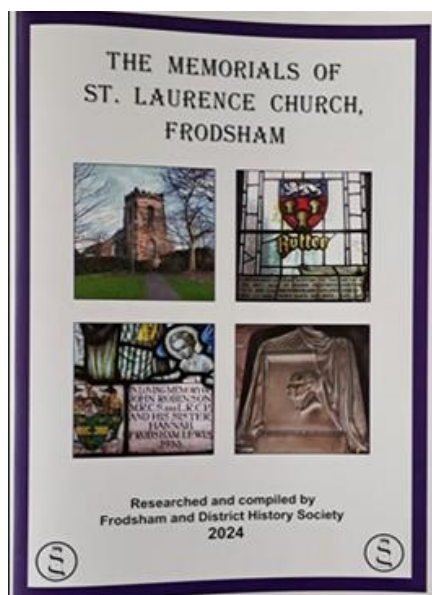
### Notices

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all involved in decorating the church and to all those involved in any of our Christmas services for their help and support – very much appreciated and attendances were amazing :) There are lots of photographs in the News Section below.

**FAITH IN ACTION** The next Faith in Action meeting is on Monday, January 20th at 19:30 at David's. Faith in Action is a discussion group that explores the beliefs and values that shape our lives, locally, nationally and globally. At our next meeting on January 20th, we will consider the concept of 'the common good' in a world that often seems fatally divided along the lines of religion, class, gender and race. How can we find ways to help our fragmented communities come together in ways that are inclusive and constructive, rather than divisive?

**A ROCHA ECO-CHURCH AWARD** We have passed the threshold for the Eco Church **\*\*BRONZE\*\*** award and have received a certificate and badge that we can display. Well done to all who have worked hard to achieve this. The Eco Church team of A Rocha sent this:

'Well done to everyone who has worked so hard to reach this milestone. From everyone at A Rocha UK, thank you. Thank you for becoming a beacon for saving nature. Thank you for joining A Rocha UK's Eco Church movement caring for God's creation. Nature is crying out. Thank you for answering the missional call for creation. Thank you on behalf of the insects that are now buzzing, the birds that are singing, and the plants that are springing into life.



**FROM FRODSHAM AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY** - After many months of researching the Memorials inside St Laurence Church, we are able to announce that this booklet is now available for sale. The booklets cost £9 each and if you would like to buy a copy they are available in Church or email [frodshamevents@gmail.com](mailto:frodshamevents@gmail.com)

**FOODBANK** Food drop-off - supermarket drop off points; in church; distribution centre on Ship Street (Fridays 1-3pm). The foodbank is currently short of: **Mashed Potato, Long Life Milk, Jam, Tinned Rice Pudding, Toiletries – shower gel, deodorant, shampoo**. For info on how to give or get help go to <https://runconrdistrict.foodbank.org.uk>

**DONATIONS TO CHURCH** If you would like to contribute to St Laurence, our Bank Account details are as follows: St Laurence Frodsham Parochial Church Council Sort Code: 09-01-55 Acc. No: 42559803. Alternatively, you can donate here: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/371c0c8f-ea13-4763-9688-e0de77dd8475> or scan the code. Thank you.



*Our safeguarding officer can be contacted on the dedicated phone line 07862 321 560  
Please use it only for safeguarding issues, not general enquiries. Thank you*





## News

The church looked lovely over Christmas. Thanks again to all those involved.



**CHRISTINGLE** Here are some pictures from our two Christingle services. Thanks to those who made the Christingles and all those who helped in the services and planning. It was lovely when the candles were all lit and the lights switched off while the children all sang, 'Away in a Manger'.







**CRAFT AND CHAT** celebrated Christmas in the Ring O' Bells - after knitting lots of Christmas figures for the Countess of Chester Fund Raising team in the previous weeks. P.S. Can you spot the honorary member?!



**OUR BELLRINGERS** gave special performances of Christmas Carols before our Christmas Services. Well done, campanologists! You can play a video of them doing this by going to our [website](#) and scrolling down a little way.





**MU's CHRISTMAS MEETING** involved mince pies etc., a Christmas carol puzzle and a visit from Father Christmas and his elf! *Editor: Sorry we caught you with your eyes closed, Little Elf.*



**BEEFRIENDS ON BOXING DAY** Around 40 friends and visitors had a great Boxing Day at BeeFriends in the Parish Hall. Games were played – Magnetic and Dominoes – whilst Christmas music played, and all enjoyed hot drinks and mince pies. A great morning.



**AND FROM TONY MCNALLY** - I came across this today: A GIFT FOR EVERYONE

I woke up very early this Christmas morning as I had two presents I still needed to wrap and get under the tree. Both were for my lovely and long suffering wife and this was my final opportunity.

I am a terrible gift wrapper. As a result, for me...the "Gift Bag" ...a twine-handled sack stuffed with colourful paper...is the greatest invention since indoor plumbing.

Knowing I was going to be an "elf" this morning, my wife had set out wrapping paper and two beautiful gift bags on top of the kitchen table. However, one of my Christmas offerings was not going to fit in either of the seasonally appropriate sacks. I was going to have to wrap it the hard way!

I did not want to wake everyone, so I relocated the entire operation out to the cold garage. Then, with scissors, tape...and ten thumbs...I resolutely went to work. Once complete, I had to break out the leaf blower to clear the resultant pile of mismeasured paper, wads of scotch tape and an assortment of slightly used "Hello Kitty" band-aids (don't ask). My finished product looked like it had been in a high speed collision with Santa's sleigh.

Nonetheless, my task was complete.

I went into the warmth of the living room and set my two gifts under the decorated tree.

I put the bagged one in the front. Then I crammed my "car accident" way in the back as a courtesy to the other gifts that had obviously been wrapped by skilled, holiday artisans...or...as my wife refers to them..."normal people".

All alone in the quiet, shadowy room, illuminated only by the soft glowing strands of red and green LED lights...I stood back and absorbed the scene before me.

I had been so busy that this was the first time, all season, that I had really stopped to look at our fun fake tree...or the wrapped gifts underneath its fire-resistant branches.

There was a time...as a child...that I would have had complete knowledge of every satin-ribboned box that had my name on it. Size, weight, scent and shape...I would have had it all indelibly inventoried in my young mind. I would have devoted hours and hours of overnight dreams...filled to the brim with speculative anticipation.

But...not anymore.

Oh...I still dream...just not about gifts for myself. Somewhere along the way, I was emancipated from that aspect of Christmas tradition ...the "getting stuff" part.

I greatly appreciate everything I receive. However, it is the act of giving...not the gift...that warms my heart.

That is why...even before my first cup of coffee, I can gaze upon all of these boxes and bows and see what they truly represent. LOVE.

The love of my family and friends. The thoughtfulness and graciousness of the people in my life.

These Yuletide "expressions" simply make me smile...even if I really do not care so much what is hidden inside their pretty, polychromatic paper.

Although, I realize that is not everyone's holiday experience.

For all I know, your entire Christmas may look like my misshapen "car accident". It may be devoid of family, friends, trees and gifts.

Perhaps you are at odds with your family...or time, health, proximity and personal circumstance have led to loneliness.

Some of you are facing today missing a part of yourself...that very special loved one...your everything.

Maybe you need to hear this or maybe you already know. Either way...I am going to say it out loud.

"You too have been liberated!"

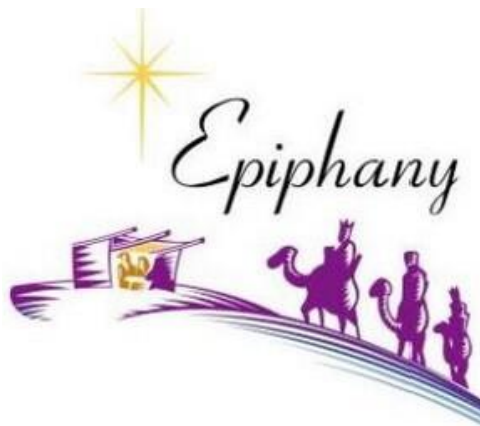
As much as I love them, these long standing traditions...trimmed trees, stuffed stockings and honey-baked hams...have very little to do with the true meaning of Christmas. Today we celebrate the birth of our Savior...Jesus Christ. The only "perfectly" wrapped gift given to all of us that believe...a loving companion that never leaves our side and the only salve to heal our deepest wounds. Even if you think there is nothing under the tree for you this year...I'm telling you...there is...and I think you are really going to like it. All you have to do...is open it. ...  
*Greg T Hall*



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## The Alternative Collect for Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen



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Contributions to the Newsletter should be emailed to [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) by 7pm on Wednesday. General articles will appear once a month in the last newsletter of each month. Thank you.  
If you wish to be unsubscribed from this newsletter, please email [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) with 'Unsubscribe' in the heading.