

The background of the entire page is a dense, overlapping pattern of red poppies with black centers and green leaves. The poppies are in various stages of bloom, and the leaves are interspersed among them, creating a textured, floral effect.

November 2023

PARISH MAGAZINE

Lord God,
our refuge and strength,
bring near the day
when wars cease,
suffering and pain end
and all the earth knows
the peace of heaven.
Amen

St. Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry
and Christchurch, Rhydygroesau **50p**

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The Reverend Harvey Lloyd Gibbons, M.A.

St Oswald's Vicarage, Penylan Lane, Oswestry, SY11 2AJ. Tel: 01691 653467

email: revdharvey@gmail.com

Curate:

The Reverend Yin-An Chen

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Associate Minister

The Reverend Jassica Castillo-Burley

Tel: 07809 414747 email: stoswald.minister@gmail.com

Licensed Readers

S Oswald's:

Reader Emeritus

Mr Bill Bowen, BEM

Tel: 654571

Churchwardens

S Oswald's: Miss June Williams

Tel: 652544

Mr Alan Neale

Tel: 661613

Mrs Muriel Jones

Tel: 653598

Mr John Abram MBE TD

Tel: 653316

Christchurch: Mrs Elizabeth Stanley

Tel: 676450

Rosemary Davies

Tel: 07813757498

Parochial Church Councils

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Tel: 652861

Hon Treasurer: Mr Paul Evison

Tel: 653315

Christchurch: Hon Secretary:

Hon Treasurer:

Director of Music

S Oswald's: Mr M Donkin e-mail: michaeldonkin44@gmail.com Tel: 828130

Organist:

St Oswald's: Josephine Sands email: joasands@hotmail.co.uk.

Christchurch:

Parish Office

S Oswald's: Church Street, Oswestry SY11 2SY.

Tel: 652861

Parish Administrator: Ms Carron Boulton

email: stoswald.office@gmail.com

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Living Without Hope?

October has been an interesting month, being British of course we start with the weather which continues to be unseasonably warm and storm Babet refuses to move away from the British Isles. In Oswestry we have been very lucky compared to other parts of Shropshire, let alone the country with extensive flooding, damage to property and sadly, loss of life. Elsewhere, violence continues in Ukraine, and tragically, has broken out once again in the Holy Land with fresh atrocities seemingly happening there every day.

Our domestic political landscape seems to be stuck very firmly in neutral with no one it seems, able to lift us out of the ongoing cost of living crisis as more and more families find themselves in debt and rising poverty. The rising usage of Foodbanks, Babybanks, Warm Spaces, and local charity initiatives is now, it seems accepted as normal and the closing of Oswestry's Wilko store earlier this month seemed to sum up the national mood of gloomy acceptance, even resignation to the feeling that people simply don't have the energy to be angry about it anymore.

November, the month of remembrance, will soon be upon us. Perhaps it will provide a much-needed opportunity to reflect on the memories of those we love but see no longer at All Souls, or over the weekend of national remembrance which falls this year on the 11th and 12th. Maybe it will enable us to change the mood music for a while, as we reflect on the lessons of the past, lessons which we ignore at our peril, lessons which teach us that however dark things might feel there is always hope.

But are we really living without hope?

As war seems increasingly probable in the Holy Land, let us remember that the people who populate the pages of New Testament were not immune from times which seemed hopeless. Like now, life was often full of signs and portents that things weren't as they should be. Like now, they had those who reinforced the sense of hopelessness and those who suggested things might not be as bad as they might be, if only people changed their behaviour.

Such as it was then, sadly it remains now. In 2023 there are still all kinds of reasons to lose hope as our news is filled with reports of natural disasters, wars, genocide, injustice, and cruelty. Hope seems impossible, justice far off, and waiting for it difficult and painful. In sympathy with the ancient faithful, who isn't tempted to cry out 'How long, O Lord?'

We are soon to embark on the season of Advent. Deriving from the

Latin *adventus*, it means 'coming', or 'arrival' and so December is an exciting month. For the majority, it is so because it forms the run up to Christmas when we go to parties and 'shop 'till we drop'. Now, who am I to deny the fun of giving gifts or of Christmas festivities, but Advent must precede Christmas for a reason...

It does, because Advent is all about beginnings, it is the season of anticipating the arrival of a child. Advent is about waiting expectantly, for a few weeks each year it provides us with a reminder that we continue to live in an age of hopeful anticipation. Advent is a reminder that hope, however far off and fleeting we might feel it to be at the moment, remains at the heart of God's promise, because God's promise always arrives. It arrives in the form of a child, Jesus, Emmanuel, 'God with us'.

So, let this short but glorious season of Advent enfold you in hope and anticipation. Let it, in the face of doubts and fears, be a time of expectation in 'that which is yet to come' because Advent is the time when we remember that God answers his promises and is always faithful.

This year St. Oswalds is offering a range of resources to enable you to keep a hopeful Advent. There will be weekly addresses in December, seasonal prayers for you to use at home with your family or by yourself, and there is an Advent book which you can read and reflect upon by yourself or gather to share your reflections on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Parish Centre from November 29th. The book is **An Advent Manifesto: Daily Readings and Reflections from Isaiah and Luke**, written by Martyn Percy who was a former Dean of Christ Church, Oxford.

The book celebrates Advent as the season of contemplating Jesus's historic arrival and his return, but it reminds us that Advent does not leave Christians simply waiting in hope, biding our time. It invites us to turn again to the Lord and in penitence and preparation to declare and live out the 'manifesto' of God's kingdom. As Percy said, *'The more we invest in the work of furthering God's kingdom of compressive and total love for others and for our world, the closer we draw to Jesus: for God so loved the world, he gave his only Son.'* Copies of the book can be obtained from the Christian Book shop in Oswestry, or online, or if you prefer, sign up on the list in church and we can sort out a copy for you.

November beckons us to gather in grateful remembrance to reflect on past events before we turn once again in hope to embrace the future as we journey towards the fulfilment of God's Kingdom.

May God bless you on that journey...

Harvey

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CALLED TO WAIT

How many sleeps until? Children often ask this when waiting for something. How many sleeps until my birthday, our holiday, Gran comes to stay, new school? It can be something they are looking forward to or perhaps something that they are apprehensive about. Either way, counting the number of sleeps helps them wait because it helps them cope with the unknown space of time stretching before them.

There's a lot of waiting in the Nativity story. We meet Joseph and the two angels who bring him news and instructions which involve waiting. We wait with Mary and Elizabeth as they rejoice together. Zechariah, a sometimes overlooked figure, was told to wait to announce the name of his son. Then there was Herod and his visitors, the Magi, who gave him news for which he'd been waiting. All these people were expecting something to happen. They knew something was coming, they weren't sure what it was going to be but they waited, in many different ways.

Joseph must have had very mixed emotions as he waited with Mary for the birth of their baby. Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy and happiness. Zechariah was frightened when he first saw the angel but was then struck dumb until his son was born so must have been very frustrated. Herod had waited in fear for this very thing to happen. The Magi had been waiting with great patience because the stars had told them for a number of years that there would be 'a child born king of the Jews' Patience, fear, disappointment, joy and happiness.



We wait through Advent for the Incarnation. Are we waiting in excitement, expectation, hope, for the greatest event on earth? Do those four weeks of Advent feel very long or maybe there isn't enough time. Come and wait with us and the people we meet in the Bible. Come on November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 20th at 12 noon in St Catherine's Chapel, to take part in an half hour service and see how, through these biblical people, faith waits in hope.

*'Wait for the Lord; be strong
And he shall comfort your heart,
Wait patiently for the Lord.'*

Psalms 27: 17 (The Daily Office SSF 2010)

For more information ask Lindsay Clarke or Jan Chesworth

Advent Reflection Group

with St Oswald's Book Club

7:30 pm at St Oswald's Parish Centre

The sessions will start from 29 November



If Jesus returned tomorrow, what would be put right immediately or simply swept away? What would he have to say about our religion?

‘Our return to Christ during Advent is an inner spiritual decluttering of our heart, mind and soul. It is also an outward-facing turn to the world and an invitation to take part in the establishment of God’s kingdom.’

This year we will read **Martyn Percy’s** book, **An Advent Manifesto (2023)**, to prepare ourselves for Christmas and Candlemas. The book includes **daily reflection** with a **prayer** and **further contemplation**. We gather together for discussion and share our reflections every Wednesday. Hot drinks and refreshments are provided.

Please contact Revd Yin-An Chen (stoswald.curate@gmail.com) to purchase a copy.

ST OSWALD'S LADIES' GROUP

June welcomed Father Phil to a Harvest celebration. We started with the first two verses of "Come you thankful people come" and then Father Phil said he would be giving us a quiz which elicited a few groans. It was a fairly simple verbal quiz and we all called the answers out and felt good.

We had prayers, readings, and poetry all about Harvest. Father Phil told us that the celebration of Harvest as we know it today was Victorian initiated by The Reverend Robert Hawker from Cornwall in 1843. From



the Middle Ages the celebration was known as Lammas when each farmer made a loaf from one sheaf of wheat. Lammas was marked with fairs and feasting and thanksgiving proclaimed and beer, wine, cider and whisky were made from hedgerow produce and drunk. We closed with the last two verses of the hymn.

Thank you Father Phil – and we could hear you!

We held a moment of silence to remember our long-standing member Janice Allport. She was so proud when her daughter, Natalie as Chairman of Oswestry in Bloom, spoke to us recently. Janice will be missed.

June then read out notices for forthcoming events and Glenda gave us details of our Christmas lunch at the Derwen. She will be taking details and collecting money at our next meeting.

Glenda also told us of her annual NSPCC Coffee Morning on Saturday, 4th November which will be at the Memorial Hall.



Our next meeting will be on Monday 6th November at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre when we welcome Liz Jermy from Oswestry Food bank to speak to us.

Ann Boulton



A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 245. SOME THOUGHTS ON OUR CHURCH MONUMENTS

My articles for August, September and October have focussed on two long-serving vicars, the Rev. Thomas Trevor, our vicar from 1736 to 1784, and the Rev. Turner Edwards, vicar from 1784 to 1803. Both men are commemorated by impressive wall-mounted monuments in St Catherine's chapel, and I drew heavily on details set out on these monuments when preparing the three articles.

In recent weeks I have visited St Andrew's, Wroxeter, now a redundant church, and St Mary's, Chirk, both of which have a number of very impressive church monuments, some wall-mounted but others much larger, much grander. At Wroxeter, I was particularly impressed by the monument to Francis Newport, earl of Bradford (d. 1708) who, in his mid-twenties had fought at Oswestry in the Civil War, being captured and imprisoned by the Parliamentarians. Chirk parish church has several monuments to the Myddelton family of such size and quality that they threaten to overwhelm the visitor. And I remember a visit made earlier this year to Witley Court in Worcestershire, where the baroque church has a monument of 1737 to the Foley family, one of the tallest church monuments in the country, which fills the church's south transept.

Here at St Oswald's, in comparison, setting aside the wall-mounted memorials for the time being, we have just the one monument which might possibly be seen to be in that league – the Yale monument, recently conserved, which stands in the nave's north aisle. The Shropshire volume of the Buildings of England series of books, published in 2006, describes it as an "ambitious display of Corinthian side columns, entablature and strapwork achievement between obelisks" adding that the "big figures, kneeling at a prayer desk, are crudely carved". The earlier edition of this book, published in 1958 and written by Nikolaus Pevsner, talks of "big coarse strapwork". We get the picture: in quality, it cannot compare with the work of John Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770), who was responsible for the Foley monument, or with Francis Newport's memorial at Wroxeter, attributed to Grinling Gibbons. That said, Hugh Yale was a significant figure, from an important family, with links to Yale University in Connecticut, which gives his memorial an added importance to us; likewise, the memorial's history – its apparent restoration and move to the north aisle after damage in the Civil War – is a visible part of our church's history.

For a church like St Oswald's – a large church, serving a large parish and

a busy, prosperous town, a church with a history stretching back more than 900 years – should there be more such monuments? Are there reasons why there is just the Yale monument? Probably there are, those reasons being related to the history of the town, and the history of our church.

Records for the first four hundred and fifty years of our church's history are few, and provide little in the way of details about burials and church monuments. Earlier this year, in March, we noted the claim by the historian John Leland, writing in the 1530s of our parish church, that “the cloister stoode in the memory of men where there were [or perhaps are] monuments to monks”. And fully two hundred years earlier, in 1335, Richard le Salter, in his will, instructed his executors that he wished his mortal remains to be buried in the church of St Oswald, by the altar of blessed Virgin Mary, and next to the grave of his father. Notable Welsh poets such as Tudur Aled, Guto'r Glyn and Willilam Llŷn all wrote poems in praise of Oswestry, referring to the parish church in positive terms but, sadly for us, none refers to monuments or memorials to be seen in the church.

And surviving wills from the 16th and first half of the 17th century, though they often include instructions for burial within the church (rather than in the churchyard) do not give details relating to the form of monument to be set up. Dated September 1582, the will of Elizabeth Lloyd, widow, formerly the wife of John Lloyd ap Richard of Oswestry included instructions for her “bodie to be buried in the parishe churche of Oswestrie in the chauncell latlie called the chauncell of our Ladie in the tombe where [my] grandfather Jeffrey Kyffin esquire was buried”. And from April 1583, the will of Margaret Newton, gentlewoman, directed her executors that her mortal remains should “be buried within the chauncell called our ladies chauncell within the parishe churche of Oswestrie weare the place wheare my sister lloid was lately buried”. However, neither gives a clear indication that there was a monument rather than a flat stone (a ‘ledger stone’) marking the place of interment.

The clearest indication of such a monument that I have found is in the will of the lawyer Richard Dryhurst (d. 1607), three times bailiff of the town, and a churchwarden in 1595. He bequeathed his “bodye to the earth, ... to be buryed in Christian buryall where yt shall please my executors. My will ys to be layed and buryed where the bodye of my father hath ben interred there in Oswestre And I give to make a tombe in some convenyent place there in the wall neare the sayed buryall in memoriall of my sayed father and me twenty pounds”. And another hint at a free-

standing monument can be found in the churchwardens' accounts for 1602, which include a payment of three shillings and fourpence, from Thomas Staney, "for a place for a forme [a seat] in the Churche ner the Backers toume". The Baker family appear in deeds and documents relating to Oswestry from the late 14th century through to Elizabethan times. A Richard Baker was one of our churchwardens in 1548.

We must assume that these monuments to the Bakers and the Dryhursts, and any others which had been set up in the church were swept away by the immense damage to the church caused in 1644, during the Civil War, or during the next fifty or sixty years spent in rebuilding and restoring the church. The Yale monument includes an inscription which tells us that the bodies of Hugh and Dorothy Yale had been interred "within the chancell of this church commonly called St Marie's before its demolition in the late warrs", indicating that the monument had been moved to the nave as part of the rebuilding of the church after the Civil War years. Why did this monument survive, possibly repaired, certainly re-assembled in its present location, whilst others did not? Possibly because the Yales had set up a charity, with trustees, to provide for the local poor, and the trustees would have wished to see their benefactor remembered – which indeed he is.

To be continued in January.

John Pryce-Jones

St Oswald's Prayer Breakfast

*An initiative to help nurture our spiritual growth,
foster Christian discipleship and to pray for our
town and its people.*

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 25

8:00 am in the Parish Centre

Please join us for 45 minutes of reflection and prayer,
followed by fellowship over a light breakfast (juice,
cereal, toast, tea or coffee – no charge)
for those who are able to stay.



*Breakfasts take place throughout the year on the last Saturday of January,
March, May, July, September and November*

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A Choral Service for Advent

Let's prepare ourselves in reflection and contemplation at
the beginning of the season of Advent...

Sunday 3rd December 6:30 pm

Churches Together Carol Service

Let's be joyful in singing carols and Christmas songs with
other churches in the market square...

Sunday 10th December 2:30 pm

on the Bailey Head

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Let's listen to the Christmas story and sing carols in a
traditional King's College Chapel style...

Sunday 17th December 6:30 pm

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- Find SASRA on the PrayerMate app on your smartphone
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Every blessing,

Sandra Davenport

MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

We were pleased to welcome 2 new members to our meeting on 12th October, when our speaker, Leslie Willis, gave an interesting and informative talk.

Our speaker next month is Elaine Leek who will share her experience of prison visiting. The meeting will start at 2.15pm in the parish centre on November 9th.

Pam Musson
(656212)

FUNDRAISING FOR DEBRA CHARITY



£450 was raised for the Debra A Life Free of Pain Appeal.

Thank you

Haydn Jones



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MUSIC NOTES – NOVEMBER 2023

NEWS OF THE CHOIR

I am delighted to tell you that Myles Wilkinson has been awarded a Choral Scholarship at Somerville College, University of Oxford, commencing in September 2024.

Myles was one of the first young people to achieve a St. Oswald's Chorister Scholarship at Oswestry School. He has followed the RSCM Voice for Life programme and achieved its highest award, The Gold Award with Distinction. At the same time he has attained a Grade 8 in singing from Trinity College, London.

Myles, who is currently singing in the Alto section, has been an exceptional chorister and given 8 years of dedicated service to the Choir.

This scholarship is richly deserved and we wish him well in his studies in Oxford and in his future career.

ST. OSWALD'S SINGERS

The St. Oswald's Singers have now sung their second service and it is great to have a group who will sing on those occasions when the Choir is not present. This at present amounts to half term weeks, the period between Christmas and Epiphany, the two weeks after Easter and during the summer holidays.

We have room for more singers so if you are interested in joining us please have a word with me after any service or contact me on 07779 917724.

It is all very informal and there is no audition, so why not give it a go.

SCHOLARS & GENTLEMEN CONCERT

The Scholars & Gentlemen is a chamber ensemble attached to St. Oswald's. On 14th October the group gave a concert of music by the great Spanish composer, Tomas Luis de Victoria.

The performance was well received and I am pleased to be able to tell you raised £386 for St. Oswald's Church.

Mike Donkin
Director of Music

Services at S. Oswald's

November 5	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>All Saints/</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist for All Saints
<i>All Souls</i>	16:00	Commemoration of All Souls
November 12	10:30	Parish Eucharist with Act of Remembrance
<i>Remembrance Day</i>	17:30	Question Time
November 19	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>2nd before Advent</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
	18:30	Choral Evensong
November 26	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Christ the King</i>	17:30	Reflective Space
<i>Every Thursday</i>	10.30	Holy Communion (BCP)

MORNING PRAYER is said in the Chapel of St Catherine at 9am on Mondays and Tuesdays. It is streamed online through the church Facebook page at 9 o'clock on Wednesday to Friday. Sunday worship is on the YouTube page.

Enquires for Baptisms, Marriages etc should be made to the Parish Office. Please email the Parish Administrator (stoswald.office@gmail.com) for an appointment.

Services at Rhydygroesau

November 5	09:30	All Age Service
<i>All Saints/All Souls</i>		
November 12	09:30	Holy Communion
<i>Remembrance Day</i>		
November 26	09:30	Holy Communion
<i>Christ the King</i>		



Remembrance Sunday (November 12) - The town Act of Remembrance will as usual be at Cae Glas gates where there will be a full Act of Remembrance. More information can be found on the Town Council website (www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk). There will be no Civic service at St. Oswald's which will have a short act of Remembrance within the 10:30 Eucharist. This will be live streamed from the YouTube page as normal. It will not be possible to physically attend both.

Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr

MUSIC LIST - NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday 5th November

All Saints / All Souls

10.30 Parish Communion for ALL SAINTS *(Juniors & Choral Scholars)*

Setting: Metrical to Hymn Tunes

Anthem: The heavenly aeroplane - Rutter

Voluntary: Music for the Royal Fireworks iv - Handel

16.00 Service of Remembrance for All Souls

Music: Justorum animae - Byrd

Burial Sentences - Croft

God be in my head - Walford Davies

Voluntary: Prelude & Fugue in C (BWV531) - J. S. Bach

Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Day

10.30 Parish Eucharist with Act of Remembrance

Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas

Anthem: Justorum animae - Stanford

Voluntary: Dambusters & RAF March - Eric Coates

17.30 Question Time

(No Choir)

Sunday 19th November

Second Sunday before Advent

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Archer - St. Albans Service

Anthem: O taste and see - Vaughan Williams

Voluntary: Concerto in A minor 3rd mov^t (BWV 539) - J. S. Bach

18.30 Choral Evensong

(Choral Scholars & Adults)

Introit: Never weather-beaten sail - Campion

Canticles: Howells in G

Responses: Dowlen Psalm: 89 vv 20 - 36

Anthem: Zadok the Priest - Handel

Voluntary: Prelude & Fugue in Eb major (St. Anne) - J. S. Bach

Sunday 26th November

Christ the King

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas

Anthem: Thee will I love - Armstrong Gibbs

Voluntary: Prelude in a classical style - Gordon Young

17.30 Reflective Service

(No Choir)

CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2023



**Charity Card Shop Open
10.00am to 4pm
Monday to Saturday**

Wednesday 1	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre
Thursday 2	0945	Franciscan Prayers
Friday 3	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 4	0900	Orthodox Divine Liturgy
Monday 6	1000	Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
	1430	Ladies Group—Parish Centre
Tuesday 7	1030—1230	Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 8	0830—0940	Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre
Thursday 9	1415	Mothers' Union Fellowship Group
Friday 10	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 11	1500—1800	Teen Film Club in Parish Centre
Tuesday 14	1030—1230	Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 15	0830—0940	Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre
Thursday 16	0945	Franciscan Prayers
Friday 17	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 18	1130—1230	Bellringers Quarter Peal
Tuesday 21	1030—1230	Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 22	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre
Thursday 23	0945	Franciscan Prayers
Friday 24	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 25	0800	Prayer Breakfast—Parish Centre
Monday 27	0930—1200	Woodside School Visit—Reception
Tuesday 28	0930—1200	Woodside School Visit
	1030—1230	Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 29	0830—0940	Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1200—1230	Reflections for Advent—St Catherine's Chapel (see page 9)

/Cont. on opposite page

NOVEMBER CALENDAR Cont.

Wednesday 29 1930 Advent Reflection Group (with St Oswald's
Book Club) in Parish Centre—see page 10
Thursday 30 0945 Franciscan Prayers

St Oswald's Movie Room for Teens



With movie snacks and chats!

3 pm-6 pm on Saturday

11 November

[decided on the day!]

2 December

Winter Gathering Party

Contact Rev'd Yin-An

stoswald.curate@gmail.com;

 **07785749951**



ST OSWALD'S **UNDER 5'S PLAYGROUP**

St Oswald's Parish Centre
(access on foot from the Broadwalk, off Church Street)

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
10:00 - 12:00

Please bring snacks and drinks for your children
Tea, coffee & hot chocolate is provided for adults
Parking available

For more information contact
Reverend Jassica Castillo-Burley stoswald.minister@gmail.com



UPDATE FROM REFUGEE COUNCIL

Their latest research shows that 3 out of 4 migrants arriving in Britain are genuine refugees, predominantly from five countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea, Sudan and Syria.

eg. Amir from Afghanistan, was told, 'get out or be killed', (by the Taliban).

Apart from people from Albania, whose numbers are much reduced, the numbers wanting to enter the UK are up this year.

Under the new Illegal Migration Act some 27000 people may be denied status in Britain, and thousands could be left in limbo.

The Overseas Aid budget was cut by the present Government, and a sizeable proportion is being spent on housing etc for immigrants awaiting the processing of their cases, which is still abysmally slow. Sadly, overseas projects that were helping the very poor, have been stopped.

Ukrainians have been exempt from normal processes, due to the war against their country.

Please remember refugees in your giving, prayers and by standing up for them when you hear dismissive or negative remarks.

Judith Haslam



RIDE AND STRIDE 2023

I have received a cheque from the Treasurer of SHCT (David Crowhurst) for £77.50 which I have passed on to the Treasurer of St Oswald's.

David has asked that I pass on their thanks to all who contributed this year. I, personally, was very disappointed as only one person took part, but hopefully it will be better next year.

Our church has been the recipient of half of the money we raised, so at least it will go towards something that needs doing.

Best wishes from your Local Organiser,

Sue Tansley

The Diocesan Digest was founded in 1989 and is the Sound Magazine for Lichfield Cathedral and the Diocese. Volunteers produce a full audio magazine every month which gives news and conversation for people who are blind or partially sighted, as well as anyone else who is interested.

It continues to appear online each month and is also sent out on memory sticks with listeners all over the country and in many parts of the world.

And there really is something for everyone.

This month as well as the latest news from the parishes around the diocese there is the headlines from the wider church, what's on at the cathedral, a Pastoral Letter, music, plus longer interviews with people making the news and performers appearing in the region. Some members see articles in magazines or newspapers and bring them along to the recording while others read whatever the editor selects for them. In addition volunteers record longer interviews on a wide range of subjects. Recently you would have heard chats with performers at the Lichfield Festival, a local author who has just had his first novel published and from the project managers behind the very visible and major restoration work currently being undertaken on the central spire of the cathedral.

We also get into the undergrowth of churchyards to learn more about the fauna and flora courtesy of our friends at the charity Caring for God's Acre and there is always some music sent in by talented listeners.



Digest members come from all walks of life. Some have broadcasting and sound editing experience, others have none at all but are just keen on helping to make sure as many people as possible hear about what is happening in the diocese. We meet once a month in a small studio

equipped with the latest recording software.

The podcast duration is about two hours but the best thing about it is you can listen however you wish. You can hear a few minutes, switch off and then come back later and pick up where you left off.

The Digest is funded entirely by donations and any financial help is gratefully received.



Paul Marriot is the leader of the Diocesan Digest team having escaped a career in BBC local radio. To get in touch to let the team know what's going on in your parish, email us at

soundmag@lichfield-cathedral.org.

The postal address is

The Editor, Diocesan Digest, St Mary's House, Lichfield WS13 7LD.

The latest edition is available at

www.lichfield-cathedral.org/about-us/diocesan-digest

SEEMING AND BEING

This seeming world has a pleasant air,
yet here everything is inside out,
and we but devil charmed royal Duncans,
looking outside in, duped by appearances,
as once King Priam by the hollow beast beguiled,
unleashing the end of Troy's golden days.

So is Cawdor bewitched, desire's invading thirst
upsets the cart, turns ploughshares into spears,
starts descent into Cerberus' jealous jaws;
for the many millioned keen go, forsaking
green willowed banks, they taste iron's sharp wrath.
Now stone bears their graven names in sepulchral silence.

*Why is our strength not as a towering tree,
that flowers strong in serene wordless being,
telling of the peace beyond all broken seeming?*

October, 2023.

Mark Davis

Notes: Verse 1:1-3. cf. *Macbeth*: (Act 1: scene 6).

Verse 2:1 *ibid.* (Act :1 scene 5).

Verse 2: George Butterworth composer of *The Banks of Green Willow*, died at the Somme, 1916. He has no grave, but his name appears on the *Thiepval* memorial.

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Come and see where we belong

The clocks have gone back and the dark evenings and cold winter months can be challenging for everyone, but the winter is especially tough on people who feel lonely and isolated, and for anyone who worries about the cost of heating their home. So here at St Oswald's our 'Place of Welcome' drop-in on a Tuesday morning has joined the Warm Welcome Campaign.



Across the UK, thousands of Warm Welcome Spaces are opening their doors to their local communities this winter, offering everyone a safe and friendly space to keep warm, connect and make new friends. There are more than 7,000 Warm Welcome Spaces across the UK, and the network has a big ambition to grow in every part of the country.

The Warm Welcome story began when former Prime Minister Gordon Brown and faith leaders came together in 2022 to see what could be done about the cost-of-living crisis. What happened next was quite remarkable. During the worst cost-of-living crisis in 70 years, the Warm Welcome Campaign emerged as a collective response to build a movement for a fairer and friendlier society by supporting warm and welcoming spaces in every community in the UK. The campaign is now led by a coalition of 50 charitable organisations. You can read more about Warm Welcome Spaces at www.warmwelcome.uk.

Warm Welcome Spaces come in all shapes and sizes: community centres, libraries, churches, community cafes, arts centres, local businesses, and schools. No matter where they are based, they assure local people of a friendly welcome, offering an open invitation to come and enjoy free hot drinks in a warm place. Warm Welcome Spaces also help with signposting to other local support for anyone who might feel a bit down or lonely, or is worried about heating and food bills.



**PLACE OF
WELCOME**

'Place of Welcome' at St Oswald's is open **every Tuesday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm** in the Parish Centre (entrance off the Broadwalk from Church Street or Welsh Walls). On offer you will find filter coffee, tea or hot chocolate, cakes, biscuits or toast, all free of charge. We have an information table with leaflets from local support organizations. We also have a book swap, where books are free to take away and read, and then bring back or pass them on. We look forward to welcoming you.

BONUS BALL

Congratulations to the September winners of the weekly Lotto Bonus Ball draw who have each received £29. The winners were:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ball Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
2 Sep	16	Rev'd David Hart
9 Sep	56	Graham Roberts
16 Sep	50	Martyn Bentley
23 Sep	13	Mike Jones

Though all the numbers are currently taken, two numbers will be becoming available in March. If you would like to join the Bonus Ball and help to raise £1,508 each year for St Oswalds, let me know and I'll allocate one, or both, of these numbers to you. The cost is just £1 per week - collected quarterly, half yearly or annually to suit you.

Paul Crosby
658606

NOVEMBER COFFEE ROTA

5	Val Hamer	Glenda Evison	Kay Cole/Fiona Pearson
12	Ann Sagar	Dilys Lloyd	Olwen Phillips
19	Mary Jones	Natasha Bell	Sally Wright
26	Jane Mayne	Chris Abram	Jean Lawrence



PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required in the Office SUNDAY, 12 NOVEMBER

Make-up day for working party, and publication:

Tuesday, 21 November

PLEASE COULD ALL ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS
IN THE CHURCHES TRY TO SEND SOME NEWS IN - EVEN IF
YOU'VE NOT BEEN IN THE HABIT OF DOING SO.

Why not nominate a Correspondent?

Email dianedawson15@gmail.com



BOUNTIFUL BERRIES

Have you ever noticed how many holly berries there are in November but not by the time you may be wanting to use them for Christmas wreaths and other decorations?

Autumn is the best season to enjoy berries and this year seems to be particularly rich, with hawthorn trees glowing a colourful orange. The combination of a dry, warm spring with a wet summer has led to this plethora.

Berries are a crucial food source for many birds and animals that are building up their energy reserves before winter, so between now and Christmas a great many get eaten. Rodents such as mice, voles, shrews and squirrels eat a range of berries as do less obvious animals including foxes, badgers and hedgehogs. Deer love plants from the *Rosaceae* family which includes roses and brambles and will delicately pick off berries and hips. Birds love berries and can make quite a mess! Look out for members of the thrush family including song and mistle thrush as well as blackbirds. Winter migrants arrive in the autumn so you may see both redwing and fieldfare in your churchyard feasting on yew and other berry-bearing trees such as a holly, hawthorn and rowan. Brambles carrying blackberries are popular and feed a range of birds, animals and also insects. You can often find the next stage of the food web with spiders spinning webs to catch creatures attracted to the berries.



If you are planting shrubs within your churchyard how about choosing berry-bearers, particularly native species such as spindle and guelder rose. If you already have shrubs or a hedge then try and delay any pruning work until the berry feast is over. The end of winter is a good time to cut back hedges and other shrubs, this gives birds and animals food, plus shelter from the winter weather (and from predators such as cats), whilst getting things under control before birds start to build nests in the spring.

We'd love to know what creatures you see eating the berries in your churchyard, please put a record onto iNaturalist or let us know by email.

All the best,

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk, www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code diomem22



The beginning of the new academic year has begun and my diary has been filling up with lots of my usual activities. I have received a very warm welcome back from both staff and pupils, and it has been clear that they have missed me and of course the puppets. During September I have been able to continue the CU at the Marches, conduct assemblies in 8 different primary schools, take some RE lessons in St Martins and start mentoring students at Lakelands.

My diary for October is looking healthy so far. I will have the opportunity to share the gospel in some primary classrooms delivering lessons on what Christians believe and self-esteem. Being in the classroom allows the pupils opportunity to ask further questions about the Christian faith.

Assemblies this month include themes such as Thankfulness, friendship, peace and community.

At the marches CU we are looking at Ephesians 1 and what it means to be blessed, chosen, loved, holy and forgiven.

Please continue to pray for each of the schools, and that I will be able to build positive relationships with both pupils and staff.

Jane Webber

Prayer

- For pupils who have moved to a new school this term and are struggling to make new friends.
- For Staff as they hear the message of Jesus through the work of the project.
- That the light and hope of Jesus will overshadow the influence of Halloween

SAMARITANS

Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you

Phone **116 123** calls are free

WORDSEARCH FOR NOVEMBER 2023

This month, on 30th November, Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured, not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

Scotland	H T H G I E F I F S B L E	eighth
disciples	S N P I L G R I M A G E R	remains
Jesus	A I A H C R A E R N N A E	translation
Andrew	T R A N S L A T I O N N M	Fife
honoured	M E S S I A H C R D W A A	pilgrimage
Peter	T S R E I O U T E N E H I	tenth
Nathanael	N S C H L D A A V P T T N	pious
Bartholomew	I A A O O P R U O I V A S	patron
Messiah	A T M R T E I I L O E N U	saint
Saviour	S E T T T L C C C U O D S	love
Patras	W N U E N A A A S S N R E	introducing
Archaia	I T P N E L P N L I I E J	place
	P H O N O U R E D P D W T	

Solution on page 38

It was

75 years ago, on 4th Nov 1948 that American-born British poet and playwright T S Eliot won the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature.

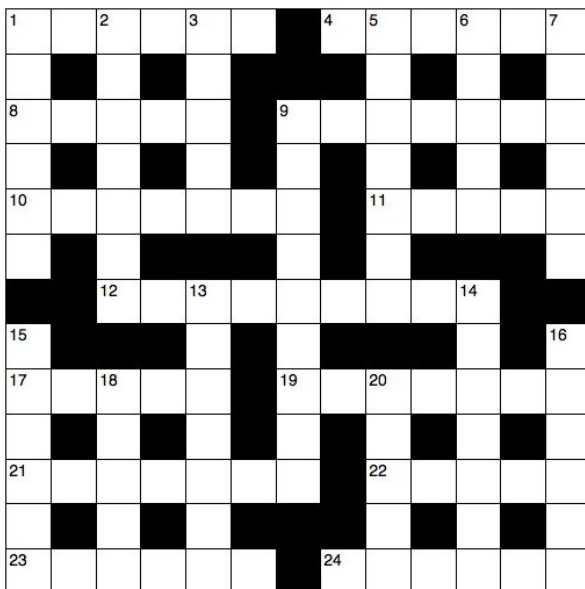
Also 75 years ago, on 14th Nov 1948 that Charles, King of England, was born.

Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4)(6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)



- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

Sudoku

		4	1					
		9	4				2	
		2	6			3		8
	6		8	4	3		9	
2	8	5				4	3	1
4	9		2	1	5		8	
3		6			9	5		
	2				1	9		
					4	8		

Easy

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6						2		4
			3				6	
	1			4				
		9				7	8	
		2	1		5	6		
	8	4				1		
				2			1	
	5				7			
4		8						3

Medium

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Solutions
on page 38

REGISTERS



As God has lent them to us, so we say farewell and give back in HOLY DYING:

S Oswald's

September 27

October 11

October 19

Delia Marion Tanner, aged 94

Janice Mary Allport, aged 85

Pam Cutler



We are a group of volunteers running advice sessions in Oswestry Library, to assist the general public with Family & Local History. Our sessions are free and include access to Ancestry.com, Parish Records, Local Maps, Photographs and copies of the Advertiser 1849 to date. Family & Local Historians available:

Monday 10:00-12:00

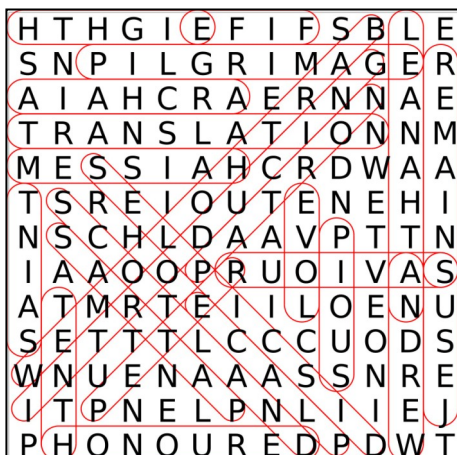
Friday 13:30-16:00

No appointments necessary

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PARISH CENTRE		
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WEBSITE:	www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk	
WEBSITE SPIDER	Anne Pilsbury, email: annepilsbury@gmail.com	

Oswestry Parish Church exists to propagate and nurture the love of God through the teachings of Jesus Christ thereby serving the needs of the whole community and enriching everybody's lives, through worship and prayer.



Easy

8	7	4	1	3	2	6	5	9
6	3	9	4	5	8	1	2	7
1	5	2	6	9	7	3	4	8
7	6	1	8	4	3	2	9	5
2	8	5	9	7	6	4	3	1
4	9	3	2	1	5	7	8	6
3	4	6	7	8	9	5	1	2
5	2	8	3	6	1	9	7	4
9	1	7	5	2	4	8	6	3

Medium

6	9	3	7	1	8	2	5	4
2	4	7	3	5	9	8	6	1
8	1	5	6	4	2	3	9	7
1	6	9	2	3	4	7	8	5
7	3	2	1	8	5	6	4	9
5	8	4	9	7	6	1	3	2
9	7	6	4	2	3	5	1	8
3	5	1	8	9	7	4	2	6
4	2	8	5	6	1	9	7	3

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lot of fishing when he was on the
Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could
he, with just two worms?"

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