

November 2024

# PARISH MAGAZINE



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





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AND CHRISTCHURCH, RHYDYCROESAU**

**Vicar of Oswestry & Rector of Rhydycroesau**

The Reverend Harvey Lloyd Gibbons, M.A.  
St Oswald's Vicarage, Penylan Lane, Oswestry, SY11 2AJ. Tel: 01691 653467  
email: [revdharvey@gmail.com](mailto:revdharvey@gmail.com)

**Curate:**

The Reverend Yin-An Chen  
Tel: 07785 749 951 email: [stoswald.curate@gmail.com](mailto:stoswald.curate@gmail.com)

**Associate Minister**

The Reverend Jassica Castillo-Burley  
Tel: 07809 414747 email: [stoswald.minister@gmail.com](mailto: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**

S Oswald's:	Hon Secretary: Ms Carron Boulton	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](mailto:michaeldonkin44@gmail.com) Tel: 828130

**Organist:**

St Oswald's: Josephine Sands email: [joasands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:stoswald.office@gmail.com)

Reg. Charity No. 1133346

## ***What is Remembrance?***

Looking back at my article for last year's November magazine, I was struck at how many of the big things affecting our world in 2023, are still filling our news headlines twelve months later... like last year, the weather during October resulted in many places experiencing dramatic weather events with hurricanes in the US, and elsewhere, extensive flooding, damage to property and sadly, loss of life. In Oswestry we were until the end of the month relatively unscathed until we too experienced flooding in many parts of the town.

Violence continues in Ukraine, and tragically, has grown both in geography and ferocity across the Middle East, with fresh atrocities seemingly happening there every day. Things have barely changed on the domestic front either, with the use of Foodbanks, Babybanks, local charity initiatives concerning poverty and the cost-of-living crisis still on the increase, not to mention energy bills rising once again. Despite a change of Government, the national mood appears to have returned to one of gloomy acceptance.

Unchanging also, is the fact that November, the month of remembrance, is upon us. Whilst most of us carry memories of loved ones upon our hearts all year round, November has become that time of year when our reflections take on a more communal feeling as they combine with the emotions of All Souls Sunday (November 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

But what is remembrance?

The Remembrance Sunday service traditionally begins with the words... '*Let us remember before Almighty God*', whilst the Act of Remembrance itself ends with, '*we will remember them.*' So, is Remembrance simply about remembering and memory, or is it more complicated than that?

Memory involves the brain's capability to store, retain, and recall information and experiences. Operating on a personal and often subconscious level, it enables us to recall both enjoyable and unpleasant facts, events, and experiences without conscious, or deliberate effort. Sitting within our subconsciousness explains those 'out of the blue' moments when you find yourself suddenly remembering something quite unexpected, and often, at the most unconnected or unhelpful of moments.

Our memory is a fundamental component of humanity's cognitive function and learning. It enables us to build on past experiences and knowledge (or not!) to develop personally or collectively. However, as more and more

of us are coming to realise, memory's accuracy can fade or become distorted over time. Affected by various factors including age, emotional state, mental health, and subsequent experiences, remembering the simplest of tasks can become distressingly difficult.

Remembrance, on the other hand, is somewhat simpler and potentially more robust in that it applies to the act of remembering, or the fact of being remembered. Remembrance usually involves a conscious or deliberate decision to recall or honour past events, often shared within a community or culture. It is often but not always, expressed through rituals, ceremonies, or moments of silence. Whilst memory can be involuntary and spontaneous, bringing back both positive and negative experiences without any control in those 'out of the blue' moments, remembrance is a selective process, we choose to focus on events or individuals deemed worthy of honour or commemoration.

Whilst memory and the remembering of events, places or people can be highly personal, remembrance usually involves a collective or shared aspect. It is an act which enables societies, groups, or families to maintain and pass down memories through stories, rituals, and traditions, sometimes enhancing their symbolic importance over time. Though of course, like all generalisations, there are exceptions and acts of remembrance can be deeply personal and private.

It is not surprising that throughout history, remembrance has played a key role in cultural and historical identity, helping societies to remember and respect their history, traditions, and the contributions of those who came before. Remember also, that given its collective nature, it is possible that someone can participate in an act of remembrance without having any personal memories of the event or people being remembered.

As Christians, we have the ultimate act of remembrance. As Jesus gathered with his disciples at the last supper, he *'took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me'* (Lk 22:19). Every celebration of the Eucharist is an act of remembrance of the entirety of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Each time we gather for Eucharist, be it Sunday or mid-week, we consciously and collectively recall and honour the events of that night, and we receive and repeat Jesus' hospitality. Through our remembrance of the hospitality of Jesus, we make our communion with God, with each other and with the great cloud of witnesses that surround us.

May the blessing of God rest upon you and guide you...

Harvey

## HARVEST POEM—COMPETITION 2024

A huge thank you to everyone who entered either a poem or a limerick. The entries were very diverse, with interesting interpretations about Harvest. I certainly enjoyed reading them to the judges, and all entries were well received. I did not reveal the writers, until after the voting. The judges were unanimous in choosing the worthy winner and runner-up! However, all entries were much appreciated.

The winning entry: Harvest Poem by Gary Edwards

When the Autumn air has descended  
The evenings are lit up by the moon  
Farmers look at the crops they have tended  
On a Summer that has ended all too soon

Reaping of the grain  
Field mice hanging by their tails on the wheat  
Passers-by watching the combine harvester from the lane  
which when finished always look neat

Time for celebration  
Churches filled with fruit and food  
Going back through a generation  
Harvest suppers to put us in the mood

We need to reflect and pray  
In a world that is so unfair  
Mothers, Fathers and children will starve today  
I wish we all could share

Limerick—The Harvest Festival Offering by Pam Willing

There was a young farmer from Gwent,  
whose carrots were knobbly and bent.  
The Vicar, dismayed,  
Said "They can't be displayed,  
But they'll make a good soup when it's Lent!"

Congratulations Gary, and well done Pam. Thanks to Harvey for giving your permission to hold a competition. All entries will be displayed, so that they can be appreciated by everyone!

Here`s to Harvest 2025.

*Father Phil*



## HARK THE GLAD SOUND, THE SAVIOUR COMES!

Do you find it hard to make time to participate in Advent calmly? Do you find it impossible to switch off from the busy-ness surrounding us all in the build-up to Christmas? Do you find that Christmas arrives without you having had time to prepare spiritually? If so, come and join in half an hour of peace, readings, reflection and prayers, every Wednesday in Advent at 12 noon in St Catherine's Chapel. We will use the words of the hymn 'Hark the Glad Sound' as a starting point for opening our hearts and minds to the miracle of Jesus' birth. All are very welcome. The first one will be on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Lindsay Clarke

## MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

At our October meeting, after our worship, I gave an illustrated talk about my recent visit to "Manchester's Garden in the Sky".

Our next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> November at 2.15pm in the Parish Centre.

Pam Musson

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## BLUEBELL VIEW NURSING HOME

We have welcomed the staff and residents of this new care home into our parish having visited them on several occasions and I know they would welcome visitors should you wish to call in either to see someone in particular or simply to satisfy your own curiosity.

The home is situated at the southern end of Victoria Road next to Lidl on what I believe was part of the town gas works but the new building certainly does not reflect the previous history of the site and is a magnificent facility.

To date we have commenced our monthly visits to take out Holy Communion and share in fellowship with the residents.

The Mothers' Union Fellowship Group have also held a meeting in one of their lounges and are planning to visit again for their Christmas meeting. Pam was invited to open their Garden Fete last month and duly cut the ribbon with a few suitable words and is now preparing to hold a session to make Christingles and an Advent Ring.



On a different subject we are pleased to welcome three new members to our visitor's team. At their last meeting the PCC agreed that Sally Raisen, Julia Kleinemeyer-Hale and Frances Major were the right people to engage in this ministry and they are currently being introduced to the residential homes and private individuals who are regularly visited by the existing team members, Sally Wright, Pam Musson and myself. Please remember us in your prayers as we take out the love of Christ to those unable to join us in worship.

Keith Musson



**Cover:** Wilfred Owen statue in Cae Glas Park  
Photograph by Frances Major

REMEMBRANCE

## **A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 257**

### **AN IMPRESSIVE CHURCH MONUMENT, HIDDEN FROM VIEW**

I am afraid that this is another article devoted to our church monuments. Last month I looked at one of the gravestones moved in 1874 from the chancel floor into the church tower, and in November 2023 and January 2024 I sought to address the question why St Oswald's doesn't have the truly monumental memorials that can be seen in many other churches – in Chirk or Ruabon, for example. And of course my talk in the Parish Centre on September 28<sup>th</sup> was also all about our church monuments, and the impact upon them of the church restorations of 1872/74. So, after this month, I promise to move on to other topics!

This month's subject is one of the more impressive of our monuments. It's not been consigned to the church tower, and it's not one of the mural monuments now placed high up above the nave on the tower walls, so high that it can't be read. This one is in the north chancel – very probably in the place that it was before the restorations of 1872/74 – but is not in St Catherine's chapel but in that part of the chancel to the other side of the organ pipes. Affixed to the north wall, to the left of one of the church's Clayton & Bell windows, and partly hidden by a metal cupboard, this is a large mural monument to Richard Maurice, gentleman, who died in 1749, to two of his wives, and to two of his children, both of whom died in infancy.

Details of the memorial can be found in the *History of Oswestry* published in 1815 by the bookseller and printer William Price. Described as an elegant monument, the inscription – wholly in Latin – is provided in full (these details can also be found in Cathrall's *History of Oswestry* of 1855). The memorial records the death of Richard Maurice's first wife, Alice, daughter of Thomas Carpenter, gentleman, of Home, Herefordshire, who died aged just 22 and was buried in September 1700, referring also to their daughter Anna. Next, the memorial records the death of Richard's second wife, Margaret, daughter of John Price, master of arts. She died in September 1716, aged 32, the monument indicating that the mortal remains of their infant son John were also buried here, below the memorial, with those of his mother. Finally, the monument records the death of Richard Maurice himself, who died on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1749 aged 84.

What further light can be shed on these people?

Details for the marriage of Richard Maurice and Alice Carpenter could not be found in our registers. However genealogy sites available online



located their wedding, at the chapel of Lincoln's Inn, in London: on July 10<sup>th</sup> 1697, Richard Maurice of Lincoln's Inn, gentleman, a bachelor, aged 22, and Alice Carpenter of Ham, co. Hereford, spinster, also listed as 22, her parents both dead. The baptism of their daughter Anna can be found in our registers, on August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1700, listed as the daughter of "Richard Moris of Cross-street (Attorney at Westminster) & of Alice his wife", the baby born on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Sadly our registers also record Anna's burial on August 21<sup>st</sup> 1700, followed ten days later by that of her mother Alice on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Also in our registers, for April 15<sup>th</sup> 1703, we find the marriage of Richard Moris of Cross-street, Attorney at Westminster, and Margaret Price. They record the baptism of John, son of Richard Moris of Cross-street, Attorney at Westminster, on August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1704 – and the infant's burial the very same day. Margaret died twelve years later, her burial recorded on September 8<sup>th</sup>: "Margaret, wife of Mr Richard Moris, Attorney at Law". There were no further children after the infant John.

As for Richard Maurice, other records held at the Guildhall show that he was admitted as a burgess of Oswestry in 1701, listed as 'Mr Richard Morris'. He was a member of the corporation, a common council-man, by 1707, sometimes listed as 'Morris', more often as 'Maurice', and elected as Mayor of Oswestry in 1722. After his year as Mayor, he was made an alderman, with the council's records showing him as such through to 1733. Stanley Leighton, writing about him in his great work on the corporation records (published in the *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society* between 1879 and 1884) noted that there had been complaints about his accounts from his Mayoral year, including expenditure on beautifying the corporation maces. The matter dragged on for ten years and in 1734 Mr Maurice was expelled from the council, and disenfranchised. Leighton tells us that he appealed, and commenced a suit at the Court of King's Bench, in Westminster, with the Town Clerk instructed to defend the council's position.

Stanley Leighton notes Richard Maurice's "readiness to commence legal proceedings" and a quick look at the catalogues of the National Archives at Kew revealed a number of cases where he is listed as either the plaintiff or the defendant in legal actions in the central courts of law. Mr Leighton also mentions that his name appears on the back of a legal document of 1734 relating to the Old Chapel, the then minister the Rev. Joseph Venables having noted "I think that the original of this copy is in the hands of Rich, Morrice of Oswestry, attorney at law, commonly called Beau-Maurice".

Finally, to a short news item from *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, of February 14<sup>th</sup> 1743 (old style), also picked up by other provincial newspapers of the day. The 'paper reported that "On Tuesday morning last, Richard Maurice, of Oswestry in the County of Salop, Esq., aged 75, Principal Coroner of the said County, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and Major of the Militia, was married at Aston Chapel, to Miss Molly Owen, of Aston, aged 15, a beautiful young Lady, of fine Accomplishments, and an agreeable Fortune". Our registers confirm, on February 1<sup>st</sup> 1742 (modern day 1743), the marriage of "Richard Maurice Esqr & Mrs Mary Owens of Aston ... at Aston Chapel".

Further research is needed on this matter; to clarify dates, also to clarify their ages (my initial researches on this point suggest that Mary may have been born in 1724, the daughter of Richard Owen of Aston and his wife Catherine). Also to enable me to better understand Richard Maurice's will, of 1749, which includes numerous large bequests, principally to his nephew John Maurice of Selattyn and to other nephews and nieces, smaller payments to his servants, gifts of mourning rings to a long list of local landowners who attend his funeral, but only "five guineas to my unfortunate wife Mary". Why?

*John Pryce-Jones*



## ST. OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP



The Ladies group met in the Parish Centre on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate Harvest. This was an open meeting and it was nice to see some new faces joining us for the occasion. June, our Chairman, led us in prayer and Linda Roberts, one of our members, accompanied us for the singing of 'Come ye thankful people come'.

We welcomed retired Bishop John Davies and his wife Shirley who gave a most interesting and emotional talk on their life in Empangeni South Africa from 1956. His posts included Missionary Director for Empangeni and Chaplain at the University of Witwatersrand. While he was chaplain at the University John played a major role in drafting the document 'A Message to the People of South Africa'. In 1970 they returned to this country.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November in the Parish Centre at 2.30 p.m. when we welcome Lindsay Hughes as our speaker. Lindsay will speak about the Hope House charity, what they do supporting families and also about the volunteers they recruit to make this happen.

If you would like any further information about our friendly group please do not hesitate to contact me either in church or by email [ann\\_sagar@btinternet.com](mailto:ann_sagar@btinternet.com). We are always pleased to welcome new members.

*Ann Sagar*  
Hon. Secretary

## 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>
7 Sep	2	Olive Karran
14 Sep	54	Jill Thomas
21 Sep	56	Graham Roberts
28 Sep	12	Paul Evison

If you would like to join the Bonus Ball draw when the next number becomes available, please let me know.

*Paul Crosby*  
658606

## MUSIC NOTES – NOVEMBER 2024

### **NEWS OF THE CHOIR**

On 20<sup>th</sup> September brother and sister Zach and Cora Jones travelled to Birmingham to sit their Royal School of Church Music Silver and Bronze award examinations respectively. They were examined by the RSCM's head examiner, Adrian Lucas, formerly Organist and Master of the choristers at Worcester Cathedral.

I'm delighted to say that they both performed well and passed comfortably.

It is always a pleasure to see the young people in the choir progressing in their musical education.

### **ST. OSWALD'S SINGERS**

This group sings for services when the Choir is absent and fulfils a real need in providing a lead for the congregation on these occasions.

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.

### **FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH**

Last weekend we concluded our celebrations which have been running since the 6<sup>th</sup> July. It has been a busy time with displays in church including the famous 'Knitted Bible' which attracted a lot of interest. There were also a number of talks. Musically we put on seven concerts each with very different styles; there was truly something for everyone.

We began by telling the story of the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal. Thanks to Keith Shuttleworth who narrated, ably assisted by Christopher Symons and Carole Joby reading from historical documents. Carole's interpretation of Elizabeth 1 was brilliant. The whole was illustrated by music sung by our Chamber Choir, the Scholars and Gentlemen,

A series of 4 concerts under the banner 'Music for a Summer's Evening' followed. The first was an evening of music for Organ and Flamenco



guitar given by Colin Porter and Ignazio Lusardi Monteverdi (guess who played which instrument). It isn't a combination that one would expect but was an interesting and thoroughly enjoyable concert.

Haydn Jones with some of his pupils then gave an evening of light classical and romantic piano music and this was followed by a recital by our own Samantha Lewis, Mezzo-Soprano ably accompanied by Beth Haughan on piano.

The series concluded with the Scholars and Gentlemen singing a programme of madrigals and Elizabethan song.

Concert number 6 featured the Penybontfawr Male Voice Choir. What a superb group of singers. I was impressed by their depth of tone and wonderful tuning together with the enthusiasm they put into their singing.

Finally, our own Choir gave the closing concert of music that we have sung in services. This included music by Haydn (The heavens are telling) Allegri (Miserere – Aoife Brennan's top Cs were of great clarity and enthralled everyone) and Handel (two pieces from 'Messiah' 'He was despised' sung with great feeling by Eleri Roberts and The Hallelujah Chorus which closed the evening).

The next day the Choir sang for the closing service presided over by the Bishop of Lichfield.

Now its all downhill to Christmas apart from All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance Sunday (The Requiem by Fauré will be sung at 6.30pm), the Advent Carol Service and every Sunday in between.

Mike Donkin  
Director of Music

### COFFEE ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

<b>3</b>	Jane Mayne	Chris Abram	Jean Lawrence
<b>10</b>	Jane Wilkinson	Val Hamer	Carol Burke
<b>17</b>	Judi Neale	Babs Bone	Elaine Leek
<b>24</b>	Hazel Pryce	Dilys Lloyd	Jane Mayne



## Services at S. Oswald's

November 3 <i>All Saints</i>	08:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Parish Eucharist for All Saints 16:00 Commemoration of All Souls
November 10 <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	10:30 Parish Eucharist with Act of Remembrance 18.30 Performance of Fauré's 'Requiem' with Compline
November 11	11:00 Armistice Day service at Cae Glas Gates
November 17 <i>2nd Before Advent</i>	08:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting 18:30 Choral Evensong
November 24 <i>Christ the King</i>	10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting 17:30 Reflective Space

**Every Thursday** 10.30 Holy Communion (BCP)

**MORNING PRAYER** is streamed online through the church Facebook page at 9 o'clock on Wednesday and 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](mailto:stoswald.office@gmail.com)) for an appointment.

## Services at Rhydycroesau

<i>First Sunday</i> November 3	09:30 All Age Service
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i> November 10	09:30 Holy Communion
<i>Christ the King</i> November 24	09:30 Holy Communion



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**Remembrance Sunday** (November 10) - The town Act of Remembrance will as usual be at Cae Glas gates where there will be a full Act of Remembrance. 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 2024

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

### All Saints / All Souls

#### 10.30 Parish Eucharist for All Saints

Setting: Archer - St. Albans Service  
Anthem: O quam gloriosum - Tomas Luis de Victoria  
Voluntary: Music for the Royal Fireworks iv La Rejouissance

#### 16.00 All Souls Service

[G.F. Handel]

Music: Requiem aeternum - Giovanni Anerio  
Burial Sentences - William Croft  
God be in my head - Walford Davies  
Voluntary: Prelude on Rhosymedre - Vaughan Williams

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

### Remembrance Day

#### 10.30 Parish Eucharist with an Act of Remembrance

Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas  
Anthem: So they gave their bodies - Peter Aston  
Voluntary: Nimrod from the Enigma Variations - Elgar

#### 18.30 Performance of Fauré's 'Requiem' with Compline

Requiem Mass Gabriel Fauré'  
Voluntary: Master Tallis' Testament - Herbert Howells  
Compline sung to Plainsong  
Nunc Dimittis: Plainsong with Fauxbourdons - Morley  
Antiphon: Salve Regina - Plainsong  
Voluntary: Come, Sweet Death. Trascrizione da Concerto per Grande Organo. BWV 478. Johann Sebastian Bach

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent

#### 10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mathias - Communion Service in C  
Anthem: My soul there is a country - H. Hubert Parry  
Voluntary: Fantasia super 'Komm heiliger geist', BWV 651 –  
[J. S. Bach]

#### 18.30 Choral Evensong

*(Choral Scholars & Adults)*

Introit: Gloria tibi Domine - William Byrd  
Canticles: Plainsong (Tones II & VI)  
Responses: Plainsong  
Anthem: Hear the voice and prayer - Thomas tallis  
Antiphon: Salve Regina - Plainsong  
Voluntary: Fugue in C – Eberlin

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November

### Christ the King

#### 10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas  
Anthem: Let all the world in every corner sing – Vaughan Williams  
Voluntary: Concerto "Das ist der Tag den Gott gemacht" by Paul Fey

#### 17.30 Reflective Service

*(No Choir)*

# CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER



**St Oswald's Christmas Card Shop**  
**Open 10:00am—3:00pm**  
**Monday to Saturday**

Friday 1	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 2	0830—1130	Orthodox Divine Liturgy
Monday 4	1000	Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
	1430	Ladies Group—Parish Centre
	1900	Building & Fabric Committee—Parish Centre
Tuesday 5	1030—1230	Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 6	0830—0940	Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Thursday 7	1400	Jassica's Bible Study in St Catherine's
Friday 8	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Monday 11	1100	Armistice Day Service at Cae Glas Park Gates
	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre reading 'The bad Christian's manifesto' by Dave Tomlinson
Tuesday 12	1030—1230	Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 13	0830—0940	Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Thursday 14	1415—1600	Mothers' Union Fellowship Group
Friday 15	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Monday 18		Electrician in Church
	1900	PCC Meeting
Tuesday 19		Electrician in Church
	1030—1230	Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 20	0830—0940	Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Thursday 21	1400	Jassica's Bible Study in St Catherine's
	1400—1500	Booka Tour of Church
Friday 22	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Monday 25	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre reading 'The bad Christian's manifesto' by Dave Tomlinson
Tuesday 26	1030—1230	Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 27	0830—0940	Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1200—1230	Advent Reflection—St Catherine's (see p.9)
Friday 29	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre

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## BELL RINGING NEWS

Last month you heard from Sam, our youngest recruit, this month it's the turn of two of our older new recruits (both retired, I'm sure they won't mind me saying) on their experience of learning to ring:

Ann

What an experience the striking competition was! Having only started ringing in mid January of this year I was very apprehensive about the whole event. This proved to be unfounded. Great venue, great weather, great food but, above all, great company! I couldn't have been more proud of our efforts and can't wait for the next one. Huge and heartfelt thanks must go to the band members of St Oswald's for allowing me into their team. Their patience knows no bounds!

Jeanne

I had never considered bell ringing until, at the Midnight service on 24 December last year, I saw an advertisement for trainee bellringers at St Oswald's Church. I told my partner, Peter, that I was going to sign up. I'm not sure he believed I would keep it up!

Having attended the introduction session, I had my first lesson on 29th January. That lesson, and many of the lessons after, were a real challenge for me. I never dreamed, back then, that I would actually participate in a Striking Competition this September.

But we did just that! There were three trainees in our group of six bellringers. We rang call changes and I called the changes. It was a brilliant experience. That we were able to do all of that is down to the superb training (and tremendous patience) we have had from our St Oswald's instructors.

I must also say a huge thank you to all of the other experienced ringers at St Oswald's, who have been unflinching in their support and advice for all of the 'newbies'!

I hope we can participate in the striking completion next year too!

PS. And five months later my partner started training too!



*Tony, Jeanne, Ann, Stella,  
Frances, John*

On Sunday, 13th October, we rang the following quarter peal:

1296 changes of Cambridge Surprise Minor, in 46 minutes

- 1) Jennifer A Hoare
- 2) Richard Major
- 3) Peter Neil
- 4) Chris W Hoare
- 5) Anthony J Fremont
- 6) Brian J Rothera (conductor)

Rung after the Eucharist conducted by the Rt. Revd. Michael Igrave, Bishop of Lichfield. The service was to close celebrations of the anniversary of the restoration of the church, which was reopened on this date 150 years ago.

*Brian Rothera*



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The **Lichfield Diocesan Digest Sound Magazine** passes its thirty-five year anniversary this autumn. Founded in 1989 under the leadership of Dean of Lichfield, John Lang, former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC, it is an audio publication dedicated to serving the Lichfield Diocese. Designed for the visually impaired and for anyone preferring audio over print, the Digest provides an accessible way to stay updated on diocesan news, events, and faith-based initiatives.

Distributed on USB sticks, the Digest features a wide range of spoken content, including poetry readings, parish magazine highlights, sermons from Lichfield Cathedral, and messages from the bishops. It also delivers updates on church projects, stories of faith from parishioners, details of upcoming events, and reports on charitable efforts. Produced regularly, the magazine connects listeners to the Church's mission, fostering a sense of inclusion for those unable to engage with traditional printed materials.

As an early example of inclusive outreach, the Digest has embraced modern audio technology to serve the entire community.

We have had a sound studio by the cathedral for many years where some of our recording takes place. In the early days, programmes were distributed on cassette tapes, before moving to USB memory sticks. In many ways, the Digest like many 'talking newspapers' has been a pioneer, well ahead of the recent phenomenon of podcasts.

However, as audiences and audio content evolves, so must the Digest. We are now seeking volunteers to help expand its reach. Whether it's contributing ideas, recording material, or assisting with distribution, we need fresh perspectives and new voices.



Based in the cathedral close, we also work virtually and travel throughout the diocese. If you're passionate about helping us reimagine the Digest for a contemporary audience, please reach out to **Gregory Platten**, Canon Chancellor at Lichfield Cathedral and Chair of the Digest, at [gregory.platten@lichfield-cathedral.org](mailto:gregory.platten@lichfield-cathedral.org).



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**People love to visit** churches, chapels and cathedrals. Recent visitor surveys have shown that more people are visiting cathedrals this year, with an increase in visitors of 17% since 2022. They come for a variety reasons, attending services and concerts, enjoying the heritage and history and visiting exhibitions. This increase in visitors is the result of hard work and lateral thinking, focussing on making these special places appeal to those who may not be regular attendees.

Actually, it's possible that even more people are visiting burial grounds, be they churchyards, chapel yards, cemeteries and of course cathedral grounds. A survey in 2018 found that more than half the visitors to churchyards were neither entering the church building or visiting a particular grave, they were there to enjoy the peace, tranquillity, bird song, flowers and history of these special outdoor places. They were also making use of facilities such as surfaced paths, benches, ramps and other accessibility features. For those of you who care for and love your local churchyard, can you help to make it even more welcoming for visitors? Is there any information on the more interesting memorials to be visited, the locally famous or infamous or perhaps particularly beautiful stone carving? Could you put up a list of the wildlife to be seen at different times of year or steer people to spend time in the presence of a veteran tree and think how long it has been growing there?

Managing a churchyard for both people and nature really creates a space that looks cared for, is accessible but still full of the peaceful and enriching sights and sounds of wildlife that people so enjoy. By the autumn, all of your grassland areas will be cut short but can you leave a small patch of tussocky grass, nettles and hogweed around the back, perhaps by a compost heap, so that insects and other invertebrates have somewhere to overwinter? This will be used by frogs, toads, newts and slowworms who will be feeding on these invertebrates as well as by small mammals and birds. Hedgehogs in particular need shelter like this as well as food such as worms, slugs and beetles.

Do you have any berry bearing shrubs or hedges? Could they be left until the late winter before pruning or trimming in order to feed and shelter birds and small mammals? If there is ivy present you may have noticed the buzz of ivy bees on the flowers in September, flowers which have now been replaced by small black berries. Birds such as thrushes, blackbirds, pigeons and



*Bullfinch eating autumn berries, photograph by Andrew Fusek Peters*

blackcaps love these berries which are rich in fat so good winter tuck! Autumn is a great time to make deadwood piles from windblown twigs and branches, pile up autumn leaves to rot down and perhaps erect some bird and bat boxes.

All of this work will enhance your churchyard so that it is teeming with even more life next spring and summer, giving pleasure to locals and visitors alike.

Harriet Carty

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, [harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk), [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**



## NEWSLETTER AND PRAYER DIARY OCTOBER 2024

It has been good to be back in schools this term, and to meet some of the new students who have started their new school for the first time.

Secondary lessons in September went well with a number of pupils asking further questions about Christianity. It has been a real privilege to enable discussions of faith within the classroom. Please continue to pray for the impact of these sessions on the pupils and teachers present within the classes.

### What Happened in October

- Assemblies took place in both Secondary and Primary schools this month. They focussed on themes such as friendship, community, sharing, harvest, respect.
- Lakelands and Moreton hall Christian Unions started in September, and will continue this month focusing on the parables of Jesus. The Marches CU has yet to start, but I am hoping to see the group back up and running this month. The day and time of the Marches CU is on my prayer diary, so please pray that it takes place on those dates.
- My first prayer space of the year takes place this month in West Felton Primary School. This year the prayer space will focus on praying for thankfulness, global hunger, peace in our world, help with our feelings and hope for our futures.
- Bookings for Christmas in a Box workshops will start this month. Christmas in a Box is an interactive workshop which enables primary school children to learn what Christians believe about the characters in the Christmas story, and how it applies to

their lives today. This workshop is the subject of our autumn term fund raising project, aiming to raise £2000 to provide the workshop for 400 pupils within our local schools.

Thank you for your continued support of the project.  
Blessings

Jane

### Things to Pray For

- Schools booking the Christmas in a Box workshop
- That God's light will shine brighter than the Halloween activities taking place this month.

### WORDSEARCH

Remembrance Day this year has a special significance – it was 80 years ago this June that the D-Day Landings of the Second World War took place.

Those D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy led to the liberation of France and Europe. And this year the Normandy region has been celebrating – with events including synchronized fireworks at the major D-Day sites, a giant picnic on Omaha Beach, Liberation balls, bagpipe parades, and international parachuting of hundreds of soldiers above Sainte-Mère-Église.

It has been estimated that between 15 and 20 million people died in Europe alone during the Second World War. Worldwide, an estimated 75 million people died.

fireworks

Remembrance

Day

Landings

Second

World

War

Normandy

Liberation

France

S	A	S	W	N	O	R	M	A	N	D	Y	E
K	E	G	B	O	D	S	N	C	S	R	E	O
R	T	N	M	I	R	A	E	H	N	Y	A	B
O	U	I	E	T	S	L	I	D	C	W	W	H
W	H	D	A	A	E	R	D	N	A	A	U	I
E	C	N	A	R	B	M	E	M	E	R	E	P
R	A	A	E	E	P	E	P	I	P	G	A	B
I	R	L	S	B	U	E	R	L	D	K	R	P
F	A	O	R	I	R	R	C	N	K	L	O	P
E	P	M	I	L	L	I	O	N	S	D	O	R
A	O	A	C	I	N	C	I	P	A	P	N	S
P	I	H	I	E	E	C	L	Y	E	R	I	A
H	R	A	G	S	A	O	E	P	E	I	F	O

Europe

Picnic

Beach

Omaha

Bagpipe

Parades

Parachute

Millions

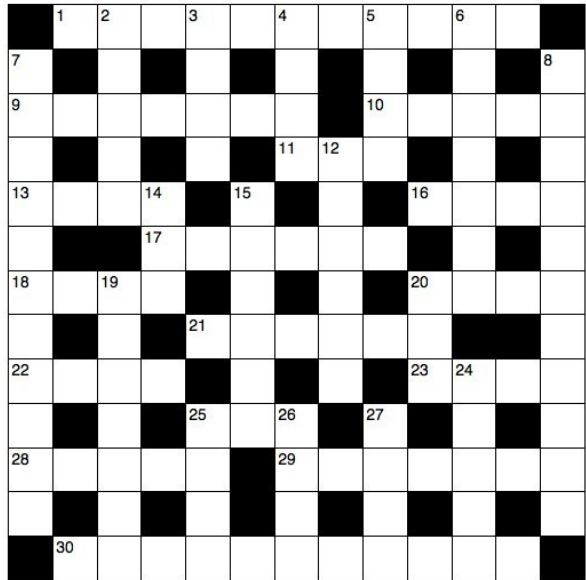
Soldiers

died

**Answer on page 34**

**Across**

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18)(11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)



**Down**

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)



- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4)(5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across

## Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Medium



Answers on  
page 34

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## REGISTERS



*We welcome in HOLY BAPTISM*

S Oswald's

October 6

Paisley Lewis,  
Leo Nathaniel Simpson  
Renesmae Rose Sally Sheppard

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

S Oswald's

October 1

October 7

October 8

October 9

October 15

October 17

Renee McInroy, aged 94  
Iris Margaret Owen, aged 82  
Alan William Bryan, aged 86  
Joanna Davies, aged 74  
Alison Claire Griffiths, aged 58  
Dorothy Brenda Hampson, aged 88



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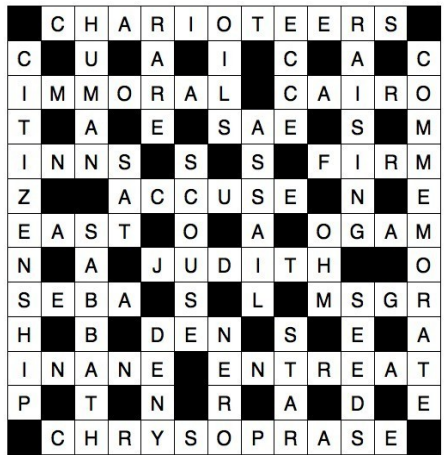
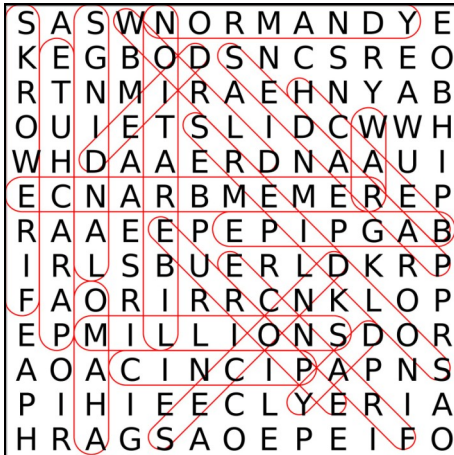
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*Oswestry Parish Church exists to propagate and nurture the love of God through the teachings of Jesus Christ thereby serving the needs of the whole community and enriching everybody's lives, through worship and prayer.*



Easy

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

Medium

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

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