

April 2025

# PARISH MAGAZINE

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

email: [revdharvey@gmail.com](mailto:revdharvey@gmail.com)

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Mr Alan Neale

Tel: 07901 543287

Mrs Muriel Jones

Tel: 653598

Mr John Abram MBE TD

Tel: 653316

Christchurch: Mrs Elizabeth Stanley

Tel: 676450

Rosemary Davies

Tel: 07813757498

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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](mailto:michaeldonkin44@gmail.com)

Tel: 07779 917724

**Organist:**

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

Christchurch:

**Parish Office**

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Tel: 652861

Parish Administrator: Ms Carron Boulton

email: [stoswald.office@gmail.com](mailto:stoswald.office@gmail.com)

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I know the ending is great, but don't forget the journey.

*'As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' - Luke 19:36-39*

Words from Palm Sunday's gospel that echo words from the gospel from the Second Sunday in Lent when Jesus laments over Jerusalem, the *'city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it'*. Words that also take us back to the events of his birth when the angels having spoken to the shepherds, fill the sky with their voices, *'glory to God in the highest heaven'*.

And so begins Holy Week...

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of our worship during this most important week; a week that will end with the greatest feast in the Christian calendar, Easter. However, Easter Day is much diminished without the preceding Holy Week when we retell the events leading to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection and find an acknowledgement of their meaning for ourselves.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday before the crucifixion, we join in with the crowds who welcome Jesus into Jerusalem with coats and branches laid at his feet as they praise the coming of the promised Messiah. *'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!'* Those shouting Hosanna, or 'save us,' were looking for an earthly warrior to rescue them from the harsh Roman rulers. When we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and add our Hosannas to those who have gone before us, we pay homage to Jesus who came to be our Saviour, to save us from our sin.

On Maundy Thursday, the Thursday after Palm Sunday, Jesus and his disciples met in the upper room to observe the Passover, the 'Last Supper'. Jesus washes the disciples' feet and then makes communion with them. He charges them to eat the bread while thinking of his broken body and to drink the wine while thinking of his blood; *'do this in remembrance of me'* he commands them.

We re-enact the events of that night in our Eucharist of the Last Supper where feet are washed and Christ is invited into our midst in the sacrament of the Eucharist when we like those disciples '*do this in remembrance*' of him. Darkness then envelops the church as we enter the great vigil of Thursday night into Friday morning in a re-enactment of the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prays passionately before being betrayed by Judas and being arrested.

Over the next few hours, Jesus was abandoned, falsely accused, beaten, mocked and condemned to death. Those who just a few days earlier were hailing him as their King were suddenly clamouring for his death, '*Crucify him!*' How many of us after experiencing only a fraction of the hatred and opposition he endured, have simply given up? Yet despite knowing what lay ahead of him, Jesus stood there silently and humbly; there was no retaliation on his heart.

Wearing nothing but a crown of thorns, Christ was hoisted up on a cross to hang in humiliation and endure an excruciatingly painful death. He was the Lamb of God, the ultimate sacrifice for the sin of the world.

At 3 p.m. on Good Friday, Jesus breathed His last and died. He was placed in a tomb, which was sealed shut with a large stone and guarded by Roman soldiers. As we leave after the three hours service, the church sits empty overnight and through Holy Saturday as we contemplate the enormity of the love that God truly has for us, for him to have died for us.

And we wait... until as darkness falls on Saturday evening we gather to remember the saving acts of God throughout history. We retell the story from creation to exile and wilderness experience, from a humble birth to crucifixion and beyond to glorious resurrection as we celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

Then, on Easter morning, we gather to celebrate once again that the stone that sealed the tomb was rolled away, and Jesus had risen from the dead. He overcame death so that all who believe in him could also overcome death and one day live with him for all eternity.

Holy Week is about remembering the one who is truly holy - Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah. In Holy Week, it's important therefore, that we take time to remember and keep alive in our hearts what Jesus, the perfect Lamb and the risen Christ, did for us, and for all humanity. As we say each Sunday; 'Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again'.

So, this Holy Week, I encourage you to walk alongside others as we revisit the events of Christ's crucifixion, death and resurrection. Or if you prefer, you could always read and reflect upon it. I know it's Luke's year, but I have always preferred the immediacy of Mark's chapters 14-16. Take your time, read it slowly and prayerfully and reflect upon each of the events described there and their deep and life-changing meaning for each of us.

May you know the love of God this Holy Week and Eastertide.

*Harvey*

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

A brand new Electoral Roll is required every six years throughout the Church of England and 2025 is the year for the new Roll. It must be brought up to date before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

An individual new Electoral Roll form will be required from everyone – even if you have only been on the current Electoral Roll for a couple of months. Please note that couples require separate forms.

You may be aware that the Government introduced new legislation in May 2018 regarding personal privacy. The new GDPR laws require personal data to be protected. Your personal privacy is important to St Oswald's and, by signing up to the new Electoral Roll, you will only be contacted regarding Church matters. Your data will be kept within the Church and not be passed on to a Third Party.

The new Electoral Roll (without telephone numbers) will be on display on the table by the south door from late April.

Could you check your entry on the new Roll and make sure all the information is accurate. If you are not on the current Electoral Roll and are in any doubt as to whether you are eligible (eligibility details are on the application form), please have a word with me.

The New Electoral Roll will be removed to include any late entries on 14<sup>th</sup> May in readiness for the APCM.

*Maureen Crosby*  
Electoral Roll Officer





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## NEWS FROM YOUR PCC

The ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING will take place on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7 pm in the Parish Centre.**

Now is the time to prayerfully consider whether you could offer yourself for ELECTION to the Offices of CHURCH WARDEN (4) elected annually. New members (for one to three years) will also be elected to The PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

These representatives have to be elected at the Annual Parochial Meeting,

### QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONS TO BE ELECTED: CRR M8

(1) A person is qualified for election as a parochial representative of the laity to the deanery synod or the PCC under Rule M6(1) (a) or (b) if:

- a) the person is aged 16 or over
- b) he or she is an actual communicant, and
- c) his or her name is on the roll of the parish and, unless he or she is aged under 18 at the date of the election, has been on the roll for at least the preceding six months.

(2) But if the person has his or her name on the roll of more than one parish, he or she must choose one of the parishes concerned for the purpose of qualifying for election as a parochial representative of the laity to the deanery synod.

(3) A person may not be nominated for election under Rule (M6(1) (a) or (b) unless -

- (a) The person has indicated his or her consent to serve, or
- (b) There is in the opinion of the meeting, sufficient evidence of his or her willingness to serve.

### Disqualifications

(a) a person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected from serving as a member of a PCC if the person has been disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977 (breakdown of pastoral relationships).

(b) to serve on the parochial church council if he or she is disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities Act 2011.

You will find details of the elections on the board by the South door

together with nomination papers from March.

All papers have to be in to the Secretary (Carron Boulton) BEFORE the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Email: Carron either on [stoswald.office@gmail.com](mailto:stoswald.office@gmail.com). or [carronboulton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carronboulton@yahoo.co.uk)

Please keep the Parochial Church Council in your prayers.

*Carron Boulton*

### **COME AND HEAR THE MESSAGE – READTHROUGH OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**



‘The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one.’

So begins the Prologue to the Gospel of John in ‘The Message’ Bible. The opening of this wonderful gospel is familiar to us all, yet you may not have heard it like this before. There will be an opportunity to hear the whole of John’s Gospel read aloud in the contemporary language of ‘The Message’ on Holy Saturday (19 April) afternoon when we will be holding a continuous readthrough.

Come, sit in the quiet of the church (maybe bring a cushion) and listen. We will start at 1:45 pm and continue with no break, finishing around 4:00 pm. Stay for the whole time if you can, or arrive and leave as you like. There will be self-serve tea and coffee available.

We will need plenty of readers, so if you would like to take part in the reading please be in touch by email with Elaine Leek: [leek1@btinternet.com](mailto:leek1@btinternet.com).



### **DERWEN COLLEGE SPONSORED WALK**

Olive Morris will once again be taking part in the Derwen College Sponsored Walk which this year is to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to sponsor her, please sign the sheet in the South Aisle.

Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry

# **A PASSION FOR MUSIC**

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and featuring

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## “COME AND JOIN THE PUDDING CLUB!”



One of the initiatives of the Pastoral Care Group is to form the ‘Pudding Club’ which, we hope, will bring people together to share fun and fayre (namely puddings!).

If you would like to find out more and/or offer some further ideas for entertainment, please speak to June who will be in the office on most Friday mornings.

Watch out for our first venture on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May in the Parish Centre starting at 2.30pm.

*Glenda, June, Natasha and Sally*

### BONUS BALL

Congratulations to the February 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> |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 Feb       | 2                  | Olive Karran  |
| 8 Feb       | 51                 | David Smith   |
| 15 Feb      | 1                  | Sue Ganley    |
| 22 Feb      | 5                  | Bill Vine     |

As the Bonus Ball year drew to a close at the end of February, may I remind members that payment for your Bonus Ball number(s) for either 12 months (£52), 6 months (£26) to the end of August or just 3 months to the end of May was due at the beginning of March.

I know of one number which became available at the beginning of March so if you would like to join the St Oswald Bonus Ball please let me know.

*Paul Crosby*  
658606

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## ST. OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP

June, our Chairman, welcomed Rev. Jassica to our March meeting in the Parish Centre. Jassica informed us that she had accepted a post in Great Yarmouth and would be leaving the Parish in May. Everybody wished her well but did not want her to leave us as she has been a great asset to the Parish. Jassica's last Sunday will be May 25<sup>th</sup> and her Licensing Service in Great Yarmouth is on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Please keep Jassica, Roy & El-Nathan in your prayers.

Twenty two Ladies attended and Jassica conducted an informal Eucharist.

The Annual General Meeting of the group followed. The reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were all accepted. The Committee was re-elected en bloc. Subscriptions for the coming year will remain at £15. June thanked the Committee of Ann Sagar, Glenda Evison, Val Hamer, Jane Wilkinson, Olwen Phillips and Judi Neal for all they do for the Group and we must go forward and encourage other Ladies to join us. At present we have over thirty members and have organised some interesting Speakers for 2025/2026.

Our next meeting will be on Monday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre when we welcome Chris Birdsell-Jones as our Speaker. He will talk to us about taking fire engines to Ukraine.

If you would like further details of the Group do not hesitate to contact me on 01691657903, e mail [ann\\_sagar@btinternet.com](mailto:ann_sagar@btinternet.com), or in church.

*Ann Sagar*  
Honorary Secretary

### **CHURCH SPRING CLEAN SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 9.30AM—3.00PM**

As many people as possible are needed to give St Oswald's its annual spring clean in time for Easter. Please come along with brushes, mops, vacuum cleaners, etc. etc. so we can clean those places which are not done on a weekly basis. We welcome newcomers to St Oswald's, as well as our regular helpers, to assist with this annual task.

A list of areas to be cleaned will be available in church and it would be appreciated if you could please indicate which area you have cleaned so that cleaning isn't duplicated.

*Natasha Bell and Muriel Jones*



## A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 261

### FINDING OUT ABOUT OUR CHURCH’S HISTORY, PART 3

This month’s contribution is the third and penultimate part of a ‘mini series’ of articles focussing on the range of written material that is available for someone who wants to find out about St Oswald’s and its history: material that I have used over the past twenty years when preparing these monthly articles<sup>1</sup>, and, further back, in 1991, when researching the early history of our church for a talk to the Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group<sup>2</sup>.

In February, I concentrated on the written histories of Oswestry, and in March, my focus was directed upon other books, booklets, journal articles, newspapers and magazines, which can shed light on our church’s history. And this month, I will be concentrating on original records, mainly hand-written, to be found in archives, locally and further afield. Some of that material has been transcribed, and printed, or photographed and placed on the internet – including our parish registers (to 1900) – but much has not, and must be consulted at the relevant record office.

I will start with the oldest records relating to St Oswald’s, to be found amongst documents belonging to Shrewsbury Abbey, which was shut down (‘dissolved’) in 1540 by order of king Henry VIII. Records relating to Shrewsbury Abbey can be found in several archives, including the British Library, Shropshire Archives, Staffordshire Record Office and Cambridge University Library. The National Library of Wales holds the abbey’s cartulary – a collection of its charters and deeds – having acquired it in 1947 from a private collection. The cartulary has been edited, by Una Rees, and was published in 1975 in 2 thick volumes. St Oswald’s counted as one of Shrewsbury Abbey’s many possessions from the 1090s through to the dissolution, and the cartulary includes many documents relating to our church, including the establishment in 1223 of the position of vicar, and an early reference to St Oswald’s well from 1265. Dr Rees also edited the cartulary of Haughmond Abbey, published in 1985, which provides us with details relating to the establishment of the hospital of St John, founded in Oswestry in the early years of the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Reiner, bishop of St Asaph.

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<sup>1</sup>From February 2003 onwards. A number of these articles have been reproduced in *Oswestry: parish, church & people* (2005), *an Oswestry miscellany* (2007), and *A second Oswestry miscellany* (2020)

<sup>2</sup>*Oswestry parish church, its early history* (1992)



Moving then to our own church records. Like all Anglican churches, St Oswald's has followed Church of England guidance, *The care of your parish records* - with the eye-catching title *Keep or bin?* – which advises parishes on what church records must be kept (and stored safely), and on other church records which a church may want to retain for the future. Churches are advised to deposit their older records – those which have ceased to be of practical use in the parish – with the relevant county archives or record office, for safe keeping, in perpetuity. In our case, records deposited at Shropshire Archives, in Shrewsbury, include the parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, from 1558 through to the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, along with registers recording the reading of banns, and details of church services from 1874.

Regular readers of this column will know that I have often made use of our churchwardens' accounts from 1579-1616<sup>3</sup>, and from 1717 onwards, also at Shropshire Archives. Also held there are several faculties granted from 1815 onwards relating to building works in the church or churchyard, or for changes to the church fabric, including (as examples) the major restoration programme of 1872/74, the installation of electric light in 1902, the erection of the war memorial in the south transept, and the removal of many of the flat stones in the churchyard (to be stacked against the boundary wall) from 1972. Amongst other records held in Shrewsbury are three terriers – records of the church's land, property and assets - from 1685, 1791 and 1856. For many of these records – including the parish registers and churchwardens' accounts, Shropshire Archives directs enquirers to microfiche or digital images that they have of these records, to avoid unnecessary use, or wear, to the originals. The registers are also available on the internet resource Find My Past.

Other church records – records relating to St Oswald's but held by the Diocese – were formerly held at the Lichfield Record Office, and have now been transferred to the Staffordshire Record Office (in Stafford). These include numerous faculties, as well as tithe apportionment maps from the 1830s and other papers which would have originally been held at St Asaph, but which were transferred to Lichfield after Oswestry and some neighbouring parishes were themselves transferred to Lichfield in 1920. Staffordshire also holds some Oswestry-related material within the estate papers of the earls of Bradford – including, as an example, an illuminated pedigree produced in 1618 by the genealogist and poet Sion Cain. Other

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<sup>3</sup>Transcribed by William Day, and published in foolscap as a typescript in 1970

St Asaph records, including many local wills, are now held at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. These wills, some dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, are available online via the National Library's own website.

Details from two much earlier wills, from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, can be seen within the papers of the 18<sup>th</sup> century antiquarian William Mytton. His papers, covering the whole of Shropshire, are now held at the University of Birmingham, in their Cadbury Research Library. Alongside these wills, both relating to the Salter family, are details relating to St Oswald's, including its dimensions, and sketches of church monuments including the Yale monument. The Mytton papers are available online via this link: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/cadbury> with Oswestry material found in volume 5, with the references MYT/5/986 through to MYT/5/1010, and MYT/5/1103.

Next month I will conclude this short series, aiming then to outline the remaining major sources of material relating to St Oswald's, but acknowledging that the list cannot never truly be said to be complete, as fresh material – fresh to me, at least – keeps on turning up, often quite by chance.

John Pryce-Jones

**THE HAND OUTSTRETCHED** (*A poem for Good Friday*)

You hold out your unseen hand  
and I do not see to take it,  
but like the Psalmist on a bad day,  
rage hot against the corrupt gods,  
so continue shut up, boxed in.

You hold out your stretched body,  
that is iron-pierced for us all,  
and I not looking, see it not,  
see not the bridge of exodus,  
way out from this estranging darkness.

You hold out life, truth and way,  
welcoming without the small print,  
receiving our worst as your worst,  
victory's strange pained paradox:  
*So let me look, see and take hold.*

February, 2025

Mark Davis



## KING CHARLES & QUEEN CAMILLA

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EXPERIENCE THE BRILLIANCE OF STEPHEN KETTLE, A MASTER OF SCULPTING WITH INDIVIDUALLY STACKED SLATE. HIS BREATHTAKING SCULPTURE OF KING CHARLES AND QUEEN CAMILLA SHOWCASES HIS PRECISION AND ARTISTRY. KNOWN FOR MASTERPIECES LIKE HIS ALAN TURING SCULPTURE AT BLETCHLEY PARK—CRAFTED FROM NEARLY ONE MILLION SLATE PIECES—KETTLE’S WORK IS A TRUE MARVEL. HIS LATEST CREATION NOW GRACES CLARENCE HOUSE.

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## MUSIC NOTES - APRIL 2025

### NEWS OF THE CHOIR

One of the problems with an early publishing date is that some news is quite old before you get it. Nonetheless I want to refer back to February and the Oswestry Music Festival.

Two of our choristers had success in the festival. Demi Moreton came first in the Under 11s solo singing and Head Chorister, Ella Wilkinson came first with four other pupils from Oswestry School, in the A Capella Ensemble (unaccompanied group) Class. Indeed, Ella got a special mention for being the strongest voice in the group.



*Here is a very excited and happy Ella holding the cup that the group won.*

Well done to both these choristers; we are very proud of you.

### **A PASSION FOR MUSIC A PROGRAMME OF MUSIC FOR PASSIONTIDE SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - 6.00PM.**

Every year in the evening of Palm Sunday we try to do something a little different. This year our Chamber Choir, The Scholars & Gentlemen, will be giving a concert of music that reflects the season of Passiontide.

Don't be put off by the fact that Passiontide is about Christ's suffering. I often think that composers are at their best with penitential subjects and this is certainly the case with the music that the S&Gs will be singing. We have works by Tallis, Gibbons, Purcell and will feature the famous

'Miserere' by Allegri, a stunning piece noted for the fact that the 1<sup>st</sup> soprano soloist has to sing to a high C no less than 5 times. Do come along and join us.

### **ADOPT A CHORISTER**

Once again, a number of our choristers will be attending the Royal School of Church Music Summer School in Bath during August. The Summer School has now become a tradition with the choristers. More importantly it is one of the ways in which we maintain the high standards of singing that grace our services week by week.

The total cost per chorister this year is £625. It seems a lot but it includes full board for a week together with all teaching including special voice coaching sessions and music and transport from the school to Bath Abbey.

The 'Adopt a Chorister' scheme is now open for this year. More information can be found on the church website music pages.

If you would like to sponsor a chorister, please send your donation to:-

Michael Donkin,  
Director of Music, St. Oswald's Church, Oswestry  
Cae Bach,  
Llanfechain  
Powys SY22 6UT

or see me after any service in church

Any amount, however small, will be gratefully appreciated.

*Mike Donkin*  
Director of Music

### **MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

Our March meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> was held in St Catherine's Chapel. We had our usual prayers and Jassica read the month's reflection from our Mothers' Union prayer diary. I gave a short talk on stained glass windows which had been inspired by the fact that we were meeting in St Catherine's Chapel which has two very fine examples.

Our next meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> April at 2.15pm in the Parish Centre.

*Pam Musson*

## Services at S. Oswald's

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| April 6<br><i>Passion Sunday</i> | 08:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting<br>18:00 Choral Evensong            |
| April 13<br><i>Palm Sunday</i>   | 10:30 Blessing of Palms, Procession & Eucharist<br>18:00 Passion for Music—A concert of sacred music |
| April 20<br><i>Easter Sunday</i> | 08:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting<br>18:00 Festal Evensong            |
| April 27<br><i>Easter 2</i>      | 10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting<br>17:30 Reflective Space                                   |
| <b><i>Every Thursday</i></b>     | 10.30 Holy Communion (BCP)   |

**MORNING PRAYER**, which is streamed online through the church Facebook page at 9 o'clock on Wednesday and Friday, will have a break until **Wednesday, April 23**. 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>Passion Sunday</i><br>April 6 | 09:30 All Age Service    |
| <i>Palm Sunday</i><br>April 13   | 09:30 Holy Communion     |
| <i>Good Friday</i><br>April 18   | 19:00 Devotional Service |
| <i>Easter Sunday</i><br>April 20 | 09:30 Holy Communion     |



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES 14<sup>th</sup>—19<sup>th</sup> April

|                  |                                  |   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Monday           | 09:00<br>12:00<br>17:00<br>19:00 | Morning Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel<br>Stations of the Cross<br>Evening Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel<br>Compline                                   |
| Tuesday          | 09:00<br>12:00<br>17:00<br>19:00 | Morning Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel<br>Stations of the Cross<br>Evening Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel<br>Compline                                   |
| Wednesday        | 09:00<br>12:00<br>17:00<br>19:00 | Morning Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel<br>Stations of the Cross<br>Evening Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel<br>Compline                                   |
| Maundy Thursday: | 10:30<br>11:00<br>17:30<br>19:00 | Eucharist<br>Chrism Eucharist at Lichfield Cathedral<br>Seder Meal in the Parish Centre<br>(limited seating)<br>Eucharist of the Last Supper with Vigil |
| Good Friday      | 12:00                            | Three Hours with Good Friday liturgy at<br>12 noon  |
| Easter Eve       | 19:00                            | Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter  |

Further information will be available the week before...

### Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr

#### MUSIC LIST - APRIL 2025

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

**Passion Sunday**

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mathias - Communion Service in C  
Kyries: Plainsong - Lux et Origo  
Anthem: God so loved the world - Stainer

18.00 Choral Evensong

*(The Gentlemen of the Choir)*

Introit: Troped Kyrie on Cunctipotens - Anon (11<sup>th</sup> C)  
Canticles: Plainsong (Tones VII & VI)  
Responses: Plainsong  
Anthem: Aestimatus sum - Victoria  
Antiphon: Ave Regina Caelorum - Plainsong

*/Cont overleaf*

*Music List Cont.*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**Palm Sunday**

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Introit: Hosanna to the Son of David - Weelkes  
Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas  
Anthem: Were you there - Chilcott

18.00 Passion for Music

A concert of sacred music for Passiontide  
Works by Tallis, Gibbons, Purcell plus Allegri's 'Miserere'  
given by The Scholars & Gentlemen

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**Maundy Thursday**

19.00 Solemn Eucharist of the Last Supper (*Choral Scholars & Adults*)

Setting: Byrd - Mass for Three Voices  
Anthems: At the washing of feet: Wash me throughly S.S.Wesley  
At Communion: Ave verum - Byrd  
At the stripping of the altars: Psalm 22 - Plainsong

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**Good Friday**

12.00 The Good Friday Liturgies

Anthems: Popule meus - Victoria  
Crux fidelis - King John VI of Portugal  
Crucifixus a 8 - Lott

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Holy Saturday**

19.00 The Easter Vigil

(*Choral Scholars & Adults*)

Exultet: Plainsong  
Anthem: Alleluia! Haec dies - Donati

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**Easter**

10.30 Festival Eucharist

Setting: Archer - St Albans Service  
Anthem: Hallelujah (from Messiah) - Handel

18.00 Festal Evensong

Introit: This joyful Eastertide - Dutch carol (arr: Ledger)  
Canticles: Murrill in E  
Responses: Rose  
Anthem: Blessed be the God and Father - S. S. Wesley

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**Easter 2**

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Shephard - Addington Service  
Anthem: Ye sons and daughters of the Lord – Walford Davies





# CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2025



|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Tuesday 1    | 1030—1230 Place of Welcome—Parish Centre<br>12.30 Christ Church Lent Lunch at 61 High Fawr Avenue – all welcome   |
| Wednesday 2  | 1900 Lent Group—8 Lower Brook Street<br>0830—0940 Oswestry School Assembly<br>1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre<br>1200 Lent Reflection and Litany in Lady Chapel<br>1230 Lent Group in St Catherine's |
| Thursday 3   | 1400 Lent Group in Parish Centre  |
| Friday 4     | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre<br>1330—1600 Oswestry School End of Term Assembly  |
| Saturday 5   | 0800—1000 Orthodox Divine Liturgy   |
| Monday 7     | All Day Organ Tuning<br>1000 Clergy Eucharist and Meeting<br>1430 Ladies Group—Parish Centre<br>1930 St Oswald's Book Club reading 'A Splash of Words: Believing in Poetry' by Mark Oakley—Parish Centre    |
| Tuesday 8    | 1000 Corporate Communion for Home Communion—St Catherine's<br>1030—1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre<br>1900 Lent Group—8 Lower Brook Street<br>1900 Building & Fabric Committee                        |
| Wednesday 9  | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre<br>1200 Lent Reflection and Litany in Lady Chapel<br>1230 Lent Group in St Catherine's<br>1330 Morda CE School rehearsal<br>1430—1515 Morda CE School Easter Service |
| Thursday 10  | 1400 Lent Group<br>1415 Mothers' Union Fellowship Group—Parish Centre   |
| Friday 11    | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre  |
| Saturday 12  | 0930—1500 Church Spring Clean—see page 15<br>1900—2100 Shropshire Bellringers Assoc—Parish Centre   |
| Tuesday 15   | 1030—1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre  |
| Wednesday 16 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre  |
| Tuesday 22   | 1030—1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre  |
| Wednesday 23 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre  |
| Friday 25    | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre  |
| Monday 28    | 0830—0940 Oswestry School Assembly  |
| Tuesday 29   | 1030—1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre  |
| Wednesday 30 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre  |

Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr

## ST. OSWALD'S CHOIR

# ***ADOPT A CHORISTER SCHEME 2025***

Once again our choristers will be attending the Royal School of Church Music summer school at Kingswood School, Bath, this year from 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August. The intensive training that they receive from some of the top choir trainers in the country adds immeasurably to the high standard of singing in St. Oswald's week by week.

The cost per chorister is £625 to include full board, music and tuition.

Please help us maintain our choral excellence by adopting a Chorister and helping towards the cost of the course.

Donations of any size will be gratefully appreciated.

If you are interested in Adopting a Chorister there are details on the Church website

[www.stoswaldsowestry.org.uk](http://www.stoswaldsowestry.org.uk)

or pick up a form on the table by the South Door.  
or contact:

**Mike Donkin**  
Director of Music.  
Cae Bach,  
Llanfechain  
Powys SY22 6UT  
Tel: 07779 917724

e-mail: [michaeldonkin44@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldonkin44@gmail.com)

The world is a busy place. Whether it's the speed of news flying at you, the amount of things you have to fit into 24 hours (whether you have kids to negotiate or not!) or just the way everyone needs something *now*; it's exhausting.

Our lives at church can be no different and it can be hard to find the time, or the energy to stop and think about anything, let alone our 'calling'. We all have one. Even serving coffee is one.

This Easter we're not only trying to slow down and stop to remember God's amazing love for us but Bishop Michael is also offering us an amazing opportunity to slow down, take stock and join in the adventure, the journey, the strategy of the diocese – to grow our faith and love our communities 'following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad'. For many this may feel like 'yet one more thing' to 'do' or find time for – and that would be an understandable response. In reality however this isn't what the strategy is – it's an amazing opportunity for us to stand together and move forward for a common purpose.

It's one of those 'we're stronger together' moments.

We won't all move forward in the same way – we're all different and unique and can bring amazing talents, opinions and gifts to the diocese.

For some of us this is totally overwhelming – 'I don't have anything special to offer', 'I'm too tired to think about this' or 'I have too much to do'. This is where Chad Foundations can help. Chad Foundations can offer the chance to slow down and have chance to actually think about what we think! To ask ourselves what we believe and why. Chad Foundations can give you the space to reflect on what you are good at, what you are passionate about and maybe how you can use these things to help God and others.

It might sound crazy to take on a nine-month course to find space; and it is a commitment. You will need to find time, and for some that might mean stopping something you currently do, or stepping back from a church position for a little bit. Sometimes though, we have to stop to move forward.

We would love to see you at Chad Foundations. The next course starts in September and applications are open now. If you want to know more please check out [www.lichfield.anglican.org/chad-foundations](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/chad-foundations)



*Helen Scheven  
works as part of the diocese's Vocations & Training  
team, helping those interested in lay ministries  
including Chad Foundations and Reader Training.  
Contact her at [helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org) or  
visit the team's website at  
[lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training](http://lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training).*

**EXTRACT FROM OSWESTRY DEANERY MAGAZINE APRIL 1909  
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY**

My Dear Friends—May I very earnestly invite you to use the opportunities presented to us during Holy Week and Eastertide. In regard to Holy Week, I would again urge the great value of taking such times as you can get during the week for quiet prayer, and reading and meditation in the church. I hope you will come to as many of the special services as you can; but what I should personally reckon to be the best outward sign of the week being rightly used would be to find people continually turning into the church naturally and unconventionally, at mid-day, or on the way back from work, at any time, not so much because there was a service going on, as because they wanted a few minutes' quiet time for prayer or meditation.

Amongst the special services, I commend to you the Three Hours' Service, from 12 to 3 on Good Friday, and I venture to say that its main value will be those who make up their minds to use it as a whole. It is the consecutive time that is of such value if a serious attempt is made to use it rightly.

On Easter Day I hope that you will all keep the Festival by receiving the Holy Communion on one or other of the opportunities provided. Old people, invalids, and those who are not up to the length of the Easter Day services, should note the celebrations on Easter Monday and Tuesday.

On the following Sunday, the closing day of the Festival, it would be surely most right and seemly that we who, at sundry times and in separate groups, have made our Easter Communion, should all gather visibly as one body of communicants, to offer our Easter Eucharist of praise. The opportunity of doing this is offered at the Choral Celebration, on the First Sunday after Easter at 9.30 a.m.

M. Lutener

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## NATURE'S CALENDAR FOR EASTER

In the past, plants were more important for people in charting the passing year than they are now. Many flowers have names that link their flowering time to that of the church calendar with several associated with Eastertide.

Greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) was also known as Easter Bell and Good Friday Grass is still a commonly used name for Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*). Good Friday Grass is a frequent component of churchyard grassland, particularly in places with either acid or lime-rich soils. It's brush-like flowers are quite subtle but always appear in time for Easter. Another name for it is Sweep's Broom due to the shape of the flowers.



*Greater stitchwort photo credit Illuvis on Pixabay*

Another small but beautiful plant to look out for at this time of year is Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) which has several names including Cuckoo's Bread and Cheese, Granny's Sour Grass and Alleluia as its delicate white flowers appear between Easter and Whitsun, and its trefoil, shamrock-shaped leaves bring associations with the Holy Trinity.



*Pasque flower—photo credit Hans on Pixabay*

Pasque flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) also blooms at Easter time, the name Pasque meaning 'of Easter'. It is now rare in the wild, found in a few places where there is ancient, undisturbed grassland on limestone. It is often associated with old earthworks such as barrows, hillforts and boundary banks and there was a legend that it grew where the blood of Danes or Romans had been spilt. \*

It's not only flowers that chart the passing months and the Christian calendar. St Mark's Fly (*Bibio marci*) is a long, black, shiny fly which hatches around St Mark's Day, April 25th. Large numbers of flies can be found in woodland edges, hedgerows and fields often mating in mid-air giving them the alternate name of Love Bug! They fly rather aimlessly with dangling legs, usually surviving as adults for about one week and getting eaten in large numbers, providing a ready food source. They are also an important pollinator of early flowering trees such as many fruit trees.

As you watch the spring unfurling, spare a thought for our ancestors who used nature as a calendar and lived much closer to a profusion of plants and animals than we do now. Perhaps this could be an inspiration to get involved in nature recovery in our much depleted land.

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

\*Flora Britannica, Richard Mabey

### COFFEE ROTA FOR APRIL

|    |                |               |                       |
|----|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 6  | Jane Wilkinson | Val Hamer     | Carol Burke           |
| 13 | Judi Neale     | Babs Bone     | Elaine Leek           |
| 20 | Hazel Pryce    | Dilys Lloyd   | Jane Mayne            |
| 27 | Val Hamer      | Glenda Evison | KayCole/Fiona Pearson |



### PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required in the Office  
SUNDAY, 13 APRIL

Make-up day for working party,  
and publication:  
Tuesday, 22 April

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"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

God's word calls us to rejoice always and pray continually, and there have been many reasons to rejoice over the last month. Two primary schools took part in a whole school prayer space, allowing the children to engage in praying for themselves, and others. Staff who were present commented on how calm some of the children were while taking part in the prayer stations. One member of staff also spoke to me about how being in the session made them feel emotional. This enabled me to talk further about prayer and how God can connect with us.

#### What Happened in March

Diary of a Disciple workshops started this month. 11 Primary schools have signed up so far. These workshops allow Children to explore the life of Jesus through the gospel of Luke. They will take part in activities including art, quizzes, reading and drama. At the end of the workshop, each child will take home a mini copy of Scripture Unions Diary of a Disciple book.

Assemblies continued this month and included themes such as, Forgiveness, courage and hope.

Lessons in St Martins Secondary this month will focus on the life and death of Jesus and how the gospel spread through the witness of the first Christians.

Thank you for your faithful support of the project.

Blessings

*Jane Webber*

#### Things to Pray For

- Christian Unions taking place in The Marches, Lakelands and Moreton Hall.
- Diary of a Disciple workshops taking place this month.
- Lessons taking place in St Martins.

# GARNER PUGH & SINCLAIR

Chartered Accountants

Partners

Paul Evison, F.C.A.  
Jonathan Hughes, F.C.A.  
Philip Evison, F.C.A.  
Heather Kirby, F.C.C.A.



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# SAMARITANS

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Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life. But because He does live, we have a sure and certain hope for our future.

|             |                           |          |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------|
| passover    | E A E S E B C C E B B R G | soldiers |
| bread       | W C L T J E R U S A L E M | cross    |
| wine        | S B P I B T U R S T O N E | nails    |
| body        | A E M R I R C T S B O E N | vinegar  |
| blood       | E N E O A A I A T L D D Y | temple   |
| betrayal    | Y A T T T Y F I E S I R L | curtain  |
| jerusalem   | D M S I A A I N R R A A J | tomb     |
| pilate      | S E N I W L X E C M L G N | angel    |
| judas       | I S E C L A I R T E E E T | stone    |
| gethsemane  | E H G S E D O P G X S N G | risen    |
| trial       | B T E A L S N N T I T I F | gardener |
| crucifixion | R E V O S S A P R I A V S | Mary     |
|             | P G S A D U J B O D Y O O |          |

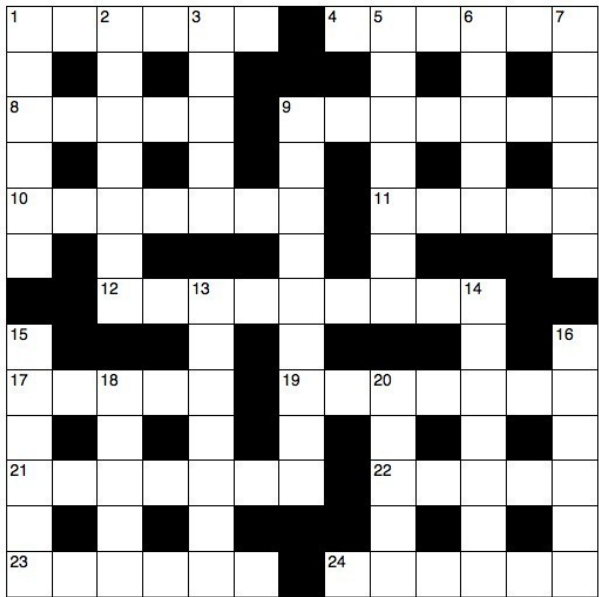
### Solution on Page 39

#### 10 EASTER ONE-LINERS

- What do you need if your chocolate eggs mysteriously disappear?  
*An eggsplanation*
- What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*
- What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? *Hip hop*
- What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch*
- What do you call a bunny with fleas? *Bugs Bunny*
- What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards?  
*A receding hare-line*
- How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group?  
*Just look for the grey hares.*
- Why do people paint eggs for Easter?  
*It's easier than trying to wallpaper them!*
- What do rabbits say before they eat? *"Lettuce pray."*
- Where does Christmas come before Easter? *The dictionary.*

**Across**

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)



**Down**

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)

- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)  
 15 The human mind or soul (6)  
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is —' (Graham Kendrick) (6)  
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not —' (Matthew 11:17) (5)  
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

## Sudoku

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

Easy

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 5 | 7 |   | 3 |   |
| 3 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 8 | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   | 6 | 2 | 3 |   | 7 |
|   |   | 3 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |
| 6 |   | 7 | 5 | 3 |   |   |   | 4 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 4 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 8 |   |   | 3 |
|   | 4 |   | 6 | 1 |   |   |   |   |

Medium

**PUZ?LES**

Solution on  
Page 39

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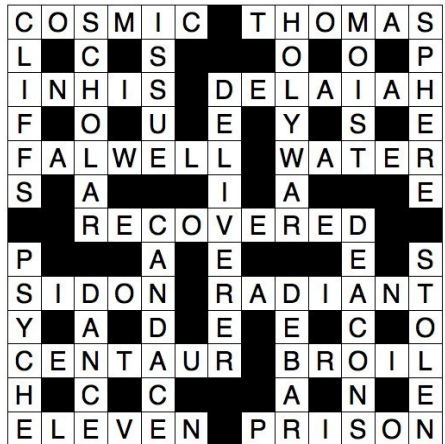
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**Easy**

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

**Medium**

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



**SMILE-LINES...**

**Easter chocolate dilemma**

364 days of the year we tell our kids: "Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground, or anything from strangers!"

On Easter morning we tell them: "Why don't you go outside and search in the dirt for chocolates that a strange giant bunny has left for you?"

# REGISTERS



## ***We welcome in HOLY BAPTISM***

S Oswald's

February 16

Ruby Rose Crossley

## ***We bless and congratulate in HOLY MARRIAGE***

S Oswald's

March 15

James Stephen Gibbison to Jodie Ella Mobbs

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

S Oswald's

February 18

Phyllis Evelyn Tanner, aged 97

February 27

Rosemary May Pierpoint, aged 85

February 28

Terence Williams, aged 78

March 5

Sylvia Margaret Finlay, aged 87

March 13

Elsie Mary Griffiths, aged 84

March 21

Elizabeth Anne Goulding, aged 77

Cyril Laycock, aged 93





## CONTACTS - ST OSWALD'S

|  |  |                                 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| BELLRINGERS                                    | Captain: Mr Brian Rothera<br>Secretary: Ms Jan Snowball,   | 657778<br>671152<br>07732712484 |
| CARETAKER                                      | Mr Matt Wilson   | 07377 087595                    |
| CHURCH CLEANING<br>CO-ORDINATOR                | Natasha Bell   | 653783                          |
| CHURCH FLOWERS                                 | Glenda<br>Chris.   | 653315<br>653316                |
| ELECTORAL ROLL                                 | Mrs Maureen Crosby   | 658606                          |
| HOME COMMUNION                                 | Revd Keith Musson  | 656212                          |
| LADIES GROUP                                   | Miss June Williams   | 652544                          |
| LEGACY ADVISOR                                 | Mr Michael Limbrey   | 654081                          |
| MOTHERS' UNION                                 | Mrs Pam Musson   | 656212                          |
| PARISH ADMINISTRATOR                           | Ms Carron Boulton  | 652861                          |
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| WEBSITE:<br>WEBSITE SPIDER                     | <a href="http://www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk">www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk</a><br>Anne Pilsbury, email: <a href="mailto:annepilsbury@gmail.com">annepilsbury@gmail.com</a>     |                                 |

*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.*

# Derwas of Oswestry

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