

August 2025

# PARISH MAGAZINE



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



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**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)

**Licensed Readers**

S Oswald's:

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Mr Bill Bowen, BEM

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S Oswald's: Miss June Williams  
Mrs Muriel Jones  
Mr John Abram MBE TD

Tel: 652544

Tel: 653598

Tel: 653316

Christchurch: Mrs Elizabeth Stanley  
Rosemary Davies

Tel: 676450

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)

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**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

***'The holidays are coming; the holidays are coming'...***

You might recognise these opening words as the soundtrack for a Christmas advert for a well-known fizzy soft drink. Of course, we call those holidays 'Christmas' and 'holidays' in our context usually refers to the summer break we all like to take some time between June and September. So, for those of us fortunate enough to be able to take one, the 'holidays are coming.'

What kind of holiday do you prefer? The comfort of the all-in package deal, a cruise maybe, caravanning, the knuckle-biting adventure of backpacking, or maybe something in-between? The nation's holiday habits have changed in recent years, and since COVID camping has boomed, and not just because it's cheap and you can keep your distance from each other! There is something about the flexibility and freedom it promises, plus comfort is no longer something you leave at home with half the tent pegs. Today's multicoloured tents appear to blossom in just a few minutes from a foldaway bag into a twelve-person palace. Electric hook-ups keep the milk fresh, or whatever liquid refreshment you choose to take with you, and collapsable bowls mean that you can literally take the kitchen sink with you. Camping, or should I say glamping, may be flexible, carefree and versatile, but it is certainly not travelling light. Even so, people love it – or at least some do.

Travelling light features twice in Luke's Gospel, when Jesus sends groups of people out into the Galilean countryside to preach the Good News. Firstly, the twelve disciples and a few chapters later, seventy followers. He gave both groups the same instructions, and orders both groups to take nothing for the journey, 'No purse, no bag, no sandals.' He reminds the seventy that they are to be totally focused on the task, they are to 'Greet no one on the road;' presumably the twelve disciples didn't need reminding.

Crucially, they are to travel light, staying where they are welcome and moving on where they are not. Surely it would have made much more sense strategically if Jesus had told them to go well prepared? After all, they didn't know what they might find, and their reception might be hostile. Surely better to find a safe base, some friendly people, and work from there. It seems, though, that Jesus wants them to learn from their task, and perhaps he knows that the quickest way to learn something new is to be thrown onto the unexpected, the untried and the different; to be 'thrown in at the deep end.'

In a culture which was strongly structured around familial ties, it would have been very unlikely that the followers would not have been able to find at least one distant relative to put them up safely. But Jesus tells them to stay in whatever house they go to first, provided they are welcome. In so doing, they discover that strangers can also provide a welcome and be willing to hear a story of hope. Should one of their garments tear, they must find someone to repair it from an unexpected place, and in so doing, that mender will hear the Good News first-hand from someone who believes it passionately.

We know that the followers returned to Jesus bursting with joy, having found that they too had something of the power of God in their hands, just as the disciples had found it a chapter or two earlier. So perhaps there is something in this travelling light; in taking nothing for the journey. The 'call of the wild,' that many people seek in a tent, is not just a desire for a refreshing and cheap holiday but has a spiritual cause at its heart.

We are a rooted people. We invest huge amounts of time, money and emotional currency into our houses and our communities. But while these things provide us with safety and security, they can also set a trap: a place where we become so used to the people and things around us that we somehow find it hard to bring God's message to bear upon our lives and those of the people we know. Perhaps the urge to travel, or any other urge to experience the unknown, is an attempt to remind ourselves what it means to be without all the responsibilities and even luxuries, and so be able to move as we please, even if it might involve a twelve-person tent and a fridge.

To learn something new about ourselves and about God, and to find the will to share it with others, often requires a new perspective that often only comes from the untried path. There is a place for home and security, but it is on the journey, unencumbered by all the things we rely on, that we most often break open our hearts and minds, and find what the powerful message of God's good news really means.

If you are having a holiday or not this summer, I hope you find an opportunity to rest and discover something new about yourself and about God in whatever you do, and wherever you do it...

Harvey

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## BUILDING & FABRIC COMMITTEE

We are pleased to report:

1. That the windows in the Parish Centre were replaced on Thursday and Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July. This is part of our eco-church project which aims to make the church more energy efficient.
2. The front drive main gates are in the process of being cleaned and repainted. They are not in bad condition considering they were installed 102 years ago.

Colin Tansley

*Peter Walley and Colin Tansley  
working on the gates*

*Image: Margaret Smith*



## COVER: ICON OF ST OSWALD BY AIDAN HART

We are using this picture by kind permission of the Shropshire artist, Aidan Hart. On his website he says;



"I am a member of the Greek Orthodox Church living in Britain, and have been a full-time liturgical artist for over forty years. My passion is to create icons and church interiors that reflect the beauty of life in Christ and help people on their path to union with God. This is the ultimate purpose of liturgical art."

In this recent icon, we can see St Oswald kneeling in prayer before the cross he erected before the Battle of Heavenfield. encouraged by St Columba. Adomnan, in his "Life of St Columba", recounts that Oswald had a vision of St Columba before the battle, predicting his victory.

Frances Major

# CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP 2025

*'To Be or Not to Be that is the question?'*

I announced at the last Ladies' Group Meeting that I would be calling for all interested parties to attend a meeting in the Parish Centre on the first Monday in August at 2.30pm to discuss the future of the Charity Christmas Card Shop.

As you all know I said that 2024 would be the last year that I would be willing to take full responsibility for running the Charity Christmas Card Shop at St. Oswald's because the daily commitment over a 6-week period was becoming too much for me.

I had hoped that someone might have come forward to shadow me in the role last year but that was not to be – however the good news is that Ann Ashworth who joined the team of volunteers for the first time last year has offered to take on some of tasks I have been carrying out behind the scenes – that is—**if we decide to run the shop this coming Christmas!**

Now that is the big question, and one that needs to be considered by all the members of the congregation – not just by those who have volunteered to run the shop in the past but by those who will volunteer in the future and all those who offer their support in other ways - by buying the cards on offer and by encouraging friends and colleagues to come along to support our efforts.

## **There are many things to be discussed and considered –**

- How much do the charities value our support through selling their cards and raising their profile?
- How many charities rely on being able to sell their cards through our outlet?
- What effect are on-line sales having on the number of charities that need our support?
- What effect is the increasing cost of postage having on Christmas Card Sales?
- How much does the community rely on being able to buy Charity Christmas Cards at St. Oswald's and how much do they appreciate the service we offer?

- Can we maintain a rota of 24 volunteers to run the shop from within the congregation?
- Should we consider making changes to the way we operate?  
Should we dispense with cash and offer a Card-Only service?

and perhaps most pertinent of all

- How does St. Oswald's benefit from the service we offer?

The list is endless –

So, I am now appealing to you all to come along to **a very informal get-together in the Parish Centre on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30pm** to have your say. Your input to the discussion will be much appreciated and hopefully will help us to determine the best way forward.

Chris. Abram

### **BRIEF ODE TO AI** (*Artificial Intelligence*)

You were born to a smart boffin's brain.  
But it was not so smart a birth,  
for you had no face, nor body, nor soul,  
merely a lodging, an abstract planting;  
yet having a good clean upbringing.

On paper your CV was remarkable.  
From nothing you grew fast, inhuman  
copy-cat, slyly suppressing pity  
while ousting all that was before, real;  
for fools primed you to be their god.

But being not the great cosmos Potter,  
they created a hollow-holed heart void,  
so you remain nothing, a nobody  
and will not sit down at the great feast,  
having never lived, sorrowed, repented.

July, 2025.

Mark Davis

**Follow us on Facebook at 'St Oswalds Parish Church Oswestry'**

## A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 265

### KEEPING DOGS OUT OF OUR CHURCH

Three years ago, in July 2022, we looked at our early churchwardens' accounts, for the years 1579 to 1615, to examine the arrangements at that time for keeping the church interior – its floors, and its fabrics – clean through the year. In the closing paragraphs of that article, I mentioned other payments in those accounts “for whipping the dogs out of church”, referring to my trusty copy of J. Charles Cox’s *Churchwardens’ accounts from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the close of the 17<sup>th</sup> century* (1913), which indicated that, in Tudor times, “almost every parish possessed a modestly paid official termed the dog-whipper”.

This month, I am returning to this topic. In July 2022, I said that payments for whipping the dogs appeared in our accounts from 1606 through to 1614, but a seemingly more thorough check of William Day’s transcript of the accounts for the years 1579–1613 has revealed that the printed accounts include a total of 18 entries for these payments, with three further items found in the loose pages of the accounts for 1613–1615, stored at Shropshire Archives, not included in the printed transcript.

In fact, the earliest payments date back to the 1590s. In 1592, there were two payments of one shilling and two pence, and of three pence, made to Owen Moynore or Owen Moynoure “for whipping the dogges out of the church”; and in 1596/97 a payment of thirteen pence to “Owen Boynagwre”. I will need to check the account book for this entry, to confirm the spelling, but it seems probable that all three payments were made to someone recorded in the burial records for April 1597 as “Owen Mwynwr a beggar”, his surname suggesting that he had been a miner, very likely a coal miner.

The remainder of the payments date from 1605/06 through to 1614/15, and with just one exception<sup>1</sup> were made to Hugh ap David, sometimes recorded as ‘Hugh o’r Pistill’ or ‘Hugh of the Pistill’, a name suggesting that he lived near to the Pistyll Croft at the foot of Beatrice Street.

Each of the payments listed for the years from 1605/6 through to 1610/11 was for one shilling, with later payments each of two shillings. However, it is not entirely clear whether this change represents a pay rise (indeed a doubling of the amount paid) or just a change in how the payment was made – from four quarterly payments of a shilling to two half-yearly

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<sup>1</sup>The exception was a payment in 1608/09 of one penny for replacement cords for the whip

payments of two shillings. In 1608/09 there were four payments, each of a shilling; in 1610/11 there were three payments, two of one shilling, and one of two shillings; and in 1613/14 there were just two payments, each of two shillings helpfully described as “his haulfe years wages” and “his laste haulfe years wages”.

Our burial registers tell us when Hugh ap David died – recording the burial on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1619 of “Hugh ap David or Pistill” but I have been unable to confirm anything further about our dog whipper. Baptism records seem to indicate that there were at least two men known as Hugh ap David living in Oswestry at this time, one living in Willow Street, another described as a weaver (he was still live in 1621, so can be ruled out).

We are left with the question: why was there a need at this time to employ someone to remove dogs from the church – here in Oswestry, and across the country? J. Charles Cox’s *Churchwardens’ accounts* tells me that in former times almost every cottager possessed a dog and that the dog was “often in the habit of attending church with its master. The dog whipper was armed with a dog-whip: Mr Cox describes one hanging in the vestry at St Anne’s, Baslow, Derbyshire<sup>2</sup>, with a stout lash three feet long, fastened to a short ash stick, with leather bound around the handle. Some churches had a pair of iron, or wooden tongs: again, my *Churchwardens’ accounts* describes a pair in the church at Llanynys, Denbighshire (and still there today) which, when closed were about 2 ft 6 inches long, but which extended to over 6 feet in length – long enough to catch hold of a dangerous dog from a safe distance.

Consulting the internet, I see that St Margaret’s church, Wrenbury, between Whitchurch and Nantwich, has a dog whipper’s pew; and I am told, by Wikipedia, that one of the last recorded dog whippers, employed to carry out the original role (rather than to a purely ceremonial office) was John Pickard, appointed dog whipper at Exeter Cathedral in 1856. I will need, when I have the opportunity, to check our churchwardens’ accounts from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to see if they may include any further payments relating to dogs.

John Pryce-Jones

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<sup>2</sup>Now in a glass case

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

**St. Oswald's Choir is recruiting for  
Adult Choir members**

**There are vacancies for  
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**For further details contact**

**Mike Donkin,  
Director of Music  
on 07779 917724**

**or via email at [michaeldonkin44@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldonkin44@gmail.com)**

## ST. OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group met in the Parish Centre on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Judi Neale led us in prayer and introduced our speaker Sarah Gibson to speak to us about Conservation - Swifts and Us'.

Swifts live almost entirely in the air. They eat, drink, sleep, mate and gather their nesting materials on the wing, fly thousands of miles across the world, navigating their way around storms, never alighting on tree, cliff or ground, until they return home for the summer to the same hole under the eaves as the previous year.

Sarah has written a fascinating story of discovery, exploring what is known about these mysterious birds, their ancient ancestry and how they have been regarded through history. Unfortunately the swifts are in real danger as we are sealing our homes against wildlife of any kind. Cracks, gaps and crevices which for thousands of years have offered nesting space in buildings are being closed off, while new housing rarely offers entry holes for nesting birds. Loss of breeding places is considered to be a significant factor in the steep decline of these birds over the last twenty years.

There are people in the UK and across Europe striving to ensure a future for swifts.

Sarah tells us that everyone can do something to keep these superb birds screaming through our skies. She has travelled across Europe watching swifts and meeting experts and key researchers along the way. We do have boxes in the tower of our Church but no residents yet!

This was a most interesting talk and enjoyed by everyone.

There will be no meeting in August but at our next meeting on Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre we welcome Andrew Preston who will speak to us about The RJAH Veterans Orthopaedic Centre.

We are always pleased to welcome new members for our monthly meetings. If you would like further details please contact me either in church, by email [ann\\_sagar@btinternet.com](mailto:ann_sagar@btinternet.com) or telephone 01691657903.

*Ann Sagar*



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## MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

During our meeting in July we thought about the choices Jesus had to make in his life and to think of some of the choices we have made and still make today and every day, not thankfully for us so life changing.

We do not have a meeting in August but we have been invited to Welsh Frankton Mothers' Union to a Mary Sumner Day Service, (she was our Founder 150 years ago) on August 5th.

Our next meeting in the Parish Centre will be on September 11<sup>th</sup>

Pam Musson

## SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST RIDE+STRIDE—13 SEPTEMBER 2025 (OR ANOTHER DAY IF YOU CAN'T DO THE 13<sup>TH</sup>)

Ride+Stride is a chance for you to raise money for your Church. Anyone can join in - collect sponsors, then plan your own route - walk, bike or car - visit some churches - enjoy the day.

You can get a Sponsorship Form from Sue Tansley, your local organiser. Telephone: 01691 652498



## BONUS BALL

Congratulations to the June winners of the weekly Lotto Bonus Ball draw who will each receive £29. The winners were:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ball Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
7 Jun	56	Graham Roberts
14 Jun	46	Rachel Lee
21 Jun	15	Mike Donkin
28 Jun	4	Chris Abram

The new Bonus Ball year started at the beginning of March and the cost of joining is £13/quarter, collected either annually, half yearly or quarterly.

If you would like to join the St Oswald Bonus Ball please let me know.

Paul Crosby  
658606

## MUSIC NOTES - AUGUST 2025

### GOINGS AND COMINGS

August brings not only the end of the Choir Term but the end of the academic year and, inevitably, some of our choir members are due to leave us to continue their careers elsewhere.

#### Eleri Roberts

Eleri joined the choir in April 2016 and has given over 9 years' service working through the Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' scheme and attaining the Gold Award before obtaining an Associate Diploma from the North & Midlands School of Music (ANMSM). She was Head Chorister and, following Alice Williams' departure last year, has served in the role of Assistant Choir Trainer.

I am not certain yet whether Eleri will leave us altogether; it will depend on which university she goes to once her A Level grades are known. Her first choice is to go to Glyndwr University at Wrexham and, if she does, then we may still see her at St. Oswald's.

#### Jools Brennan

Jools joined the Choir in 2012 and left in 2021 to study at Chester University. Having obtained his degree Jools returned, this time singing Bass but is now due to leave to move to Queen's University, Belfast to study for a Masters Degree.

#### Zach Jones

Zach joined the choir in 2019 and served as a treble until his voice changed, since when he has sung in the tenor line. Zach has attained his Silver Award in the 'Voice for Life' scheme and, elsewhere has a Grade 8 in singing with Trinity College, London.

Zach's primary interest is in Musical Theatre and he will be leaving us to study for a Performance Diploma at Shrewsbury. Having seen him perform in the Marches School's production of 'Grease' I am sure that he will do well.

#### Aoife Brennan

Aoife, like brother Jools, left in 2021 as she became a boarder at Shrewsbury School. Nonetheless whenever she is at home, she has come back to sing with us. She was last with us on Passion Sunday when she sang the high soprano part in the Allegri 'Miserere' and she was back again last Sunday (13<sup>th</sup> July) and will be with us for St. Oswald's Day.

Aoife will now be moving on as she has won a place in the Royal Marines Band and will be joining them in September. This is one of the most prestigious military bands, so Aoife is set for a successful musical career,

I would like to thank all these young choristers for the dedicated service that they have given to the musical life of St. Oswald's and wish them every success for the future.

Now, of course, we are faced with vacancies in the Choir which must be filled if we are to maintain the high standard of music at St. Oswald's.

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding a Chorister Taster morning for young people who love to sing and might be interested in the fine training in singing and musicianship that we offer here.

The session will run from 10.00am to 12.30pm and will offer a fun filled time learning about life in the choir and getting a taste of what we do. Please have a look at the advertisement in this edition and, if you know of anyone who would like to come along, please encourage them. There will be no commitment to join although, of course, I hope they will want to.

### **RSCM Summer School**

A big thank you to all those who supported our 'Adopt a Chorister' scheme which supports the choristers attending the Summer School in Bath from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August. The choristers will be singing the weekend services in Bath Abbey and I'm sure would be thrilled to see anyone who can get there.

Finally, Thanks to everyone at St. Oswald's for the support that you give to the Choir and the music. We look forward seeing you for our Patronal Festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and to returning in September.

Mike Donkin  
Director of Music

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### **It was.....**

**65 years ago**, on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1960 that the Twist became a national sensation in the US, and triggered one of the biggest dance crazes, when singer Chubby Checker performed the song on the show American Bandstand.

**60 years ago**, on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1965 that the Beatles' Album *HELP!* was released.

## Services at S. Oswald's

August 3	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Trinity 7</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr</i>	18:00	Choral Evensong

August 10	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 8</i>		

August 17	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Trinity 9</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting

August 24	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 10</i>		

August 31	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 11</i>		

**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 Rhydygroesau

<i>First Sunday</i>	09:30	All Age Service
August 3		

<i>Second Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
August 10		

<i>Fourth Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
August 24		



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

### MUSIC LIST - AUGUST 2025

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

St. Oswald

##### 10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Archer - St. Albans Service

Anthem: Beati quorum via - Stanford

##### 18.00 Choral Evensong

Introit: Locus iste - Bruckner

Canticles: Dyson in D

Responses: Smith

Anthem: Te Deum in B flat - Stanford

*The Choir and St. Oswald's Singers are now on holiday*

*The St. Oswald's Singers return on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September*

*The Choir returns on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September*

### PATRONAL FESTIVAL - SUNDAY AUGUST 3



Everyone is invited to a BBQ lunch in the Vicarage Garden (Parish Centre if wet) from 12.45pm. Please indicate on the sheet at back of church if you are able to attend and can contribute towards salads etc. If you wish, you are very welcome to bring a bottle to share or consume yourself. If you have a picnic chair or rug, you might want to bring that too.

Please come and enjoy one another's company. We look forward to an enjoyable time together; there is plenty of room and ALL are welcome.

### COFFEE ROTA FOR AUGUST

10	Ann Sagar	Dilys Lloyd	Olwen Phillips
17	Mary Jones	Natasha Bell	Sally Wright
24	Jane Mayne	Chris Abram	Jean Lawrence
31	Jane Wilkinson	Val Hamer	Carol Burke



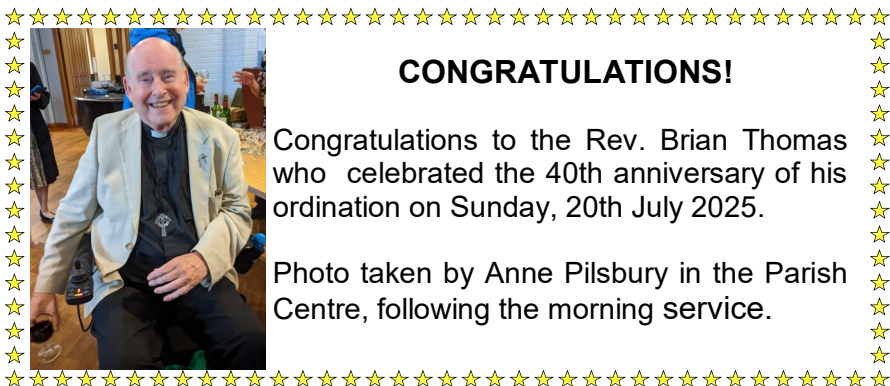
# CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2025



Saturday 2	1000	Orthodox Service in St. Oswalds and then walk to St. Oswald's well for blessing and return to the Parish Centre for a talk and refreshments at 1215. All Welcome.
Monday 4	1000	Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
	1430	Meeting to discuss the future of the Charity Christmas Card Shop—Parish Centre (See page 10)
Tuesday 5	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 6	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Tuesday 12	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 13	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Monday 18—24		RSCM Summer School, Bath. The choristers will be singing the weekend services in Bath Abbey
Tuesday 19	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 20	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Tuesday 26	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 27	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 30	1000	Peal attempt

## DATES FOR SEPTEMBER .....

Monday 1	1430	Ladies Group—Parish Centre
Wednesday 3	1900	Praying for our World in St George's Chapel
Thursday 11	1415	Mothers Union Fellowship Group—Parish Centre
Saturday 13	1000	Ride+Stride
Saturday 20	1000	Chorister Taster Morning



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the Rev. Brian Thomas who celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, 20th July 2025.

Photo taken by Anne Pilsbury in the Parish Centre, following the morning service.

# **St. Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry**

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Apparently, Summer = Rest and relaxation. Two things most of us need more of. As we enjoy the blue skies and sunshine (obviously alongside the very British moaning about the weather, “it’s a bit hot isn’t it!”) many people start thinking about holidays.

My experience is that holidays don’t necessarily equate to rest and/or relaxation! Whether it’s the anxiety of travelling, the cost, the kids (no we’re not nearly there yet!) or simply the fact that even on holiday there’s so much to do!

There is a wealth of information ‘out there’ that stresses the importance of rest and relaxation for our mental and physical wellbeing, and Jesus said we would find rest with him (Mt 11v28). But that’s not always the easiest. I believe that Jesus was quite a fan of wellbeing – he wanted us to be ourselves, not strive to be someone we’re not and he stressed the importance of resting.

I recently read an email that reminded me of the importance of looking after our own wellbeing and a specific line hit me “We are our own responsibility after all”. The article continued by suggesting that if we don’t look after our own wellbeing then our ability to truly embrace who we are, and to live that out, will reduce.

There is truth in this. Jesus commented that everything rests (excuse the pun!) on two things – Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself (Mt 22:37-39). If we focus on the last bit of that I believe it means that we need to be able to love ourselves – who we are – and to pay attention to how we look after ourselves; we need holistic rest (mental, physical, emotional, spiritual). Only then are we able to serve and love others.

Rest looks different for everyone, it’s not just about stopping and sitting quietly (although that can be good), to me it’s something that gives you chance to put aside work/life etc for a few minutes and focus on something that feeds your soul. This could be nature, exercise, art, coffee with friends, dancing, computer games etc etc.

For many of us the summer doesn’t automatically equal holiday, rest and relaxation. Life goes on; churches have summer fete’s and regular services need to function with various people on holiday; kids are off school and after two days are bored and searching for things to do – often whilst parents and carers are trying to juggle who has the kids whilst they

try and juggle work! So yes, rest and relaxation can be a tall order to reach.

Jesus doesn't ask us to be perfect though (phew!) - he simply nudges us to find small nuggets here and there where we can rest – in whatever way helps us.



*Helen Scheven works with those at the beginning of their vocational journey and with those interested in lay ministries as part of the diocese's Vocations and Training team.*

*Helen supports those on Reader Training.*

[lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training](http://lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training)

### SMILE-LINES....

**It's how you say it....**

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

A backward poet writes inverse..

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.

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## IN TRIBUTE TO THEIR RETURN

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### *Ed Chapman Unveils One-of-a-Kind Mosaic Tribute to the Gallaghers*

Renowned mosaic artist Ed Chapman has commemorated the long-awaited reunion of Liam and Noel Gallagher with a striking new portrait crafted entirely from hundreds of fragments of vinyl records

This singular work captures the essence of the iconic duo through

Chapman's signature technique, blending musical nostalgia with visual artistry. Each shard of vinyl contributes to a textured dynamic composition that pays homage not only to the brothers' legacy but to the medium that defined their sound. This is a one-of-a-kind piece and a true collector's item. Interested parties are invited to contact

us directly for acquisition details.

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## UNDER YOUR FEET

By August, areas of long, flowery grassland should have been cut (unless you have late flowering species such as scabious or betony present, in which case these areas can be left a little longer). With the cutting and raking of long grass there is often an opportunity to spy onto the world of small rodents such as mice, shrews and voles who may have made routes through the sward that are revealed by the cut.

Small rodents are short lived and highly reproductive, wood mice for example tend to live for about a year, during which time they may have up to six litters of between four and eight young. In a churchyard you may have several species of mice, shrews and voles, the most likely being wood mice, field vole and common shrew. Wood mice have large ears and eyes, useful for their largely nocturnal life whilst field voles have blunter noses and smaller ears and eyes, they can be active during the day and night. Shrews are distinctive with a long, pointed nose and tiny eyes. All of these animals need to feed frequently and are always on the move seeking food, with shrews eating 80 to 90% of their body weight each day. They feed on insects and other invertebrates but will also tackle quite large earthworms, far bigger than they are! Mice and voles seek out seeds, berries and fruits, some of which they may stash for later. Whilst mice can be agile climbers, voles tend to stick to the ground, following the trails they make through grassland that you can see after a cut.

Unfortunately for voles and mice, they are important prey items for a range of other species. Tawny owls, also often found in churchyards, hunt silently for small rodents as do kestrels, weasels, foxes and of course cats. If you are interested to find out more, look for owl pellets beneath a nest or roosting place, these are regurgitated bundles of the inedible parts of their food and often contain bones which can be teased out of the pellet and then identified, giving information on what they have been eating. Shrews by contrast are not such a staple food item, you may find a bitten and dead shrew lying on a path suggesting that it has been hunted but was not very tasty.

Churchyards and other burial grounds are havens for rodents, containing a mosaic of grassland, shrubs, woodland and lots of places to make burrows or use existing cracks, nooks and crannies. Free of herbicides and pesticides they are full of food, both invertebrates and plant material whilst areas of long meadow and tussocky coarse grass provide perfect cover. See if you can spot their burrows and runways and imagine their busy lives in the fast lane!

Harriet Carty,

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor.*

[harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk), [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)

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Schools are now in their final few weeks of the academic year, and busy with a variety of end of term activities. It's Your Move Transition workshops have been well received so far. Year 6 pupils have had the opportunity to think about their move to secondary school and how Jesus can help them with their worries. They have been excited to take home the Scripture Union books, full of tips to make their transition a positive one.

Recent lessons in St Martins have provided much discussion about the Christian faith and how it impacts the lives of those who believe. One lesson even prompted a pupil to ask how they could become a Christian.

### **What Happened in July**

- Assemblies focused on perseverance, independence, forgiveness and hope.
- The Christian unions continued to consider the I Am statements of Jesus.
- It's Your Move transition to secondary school workshops continued.
- Jane will begin planning for the new academic year.

Thank you for your faithful support of the project.

Blessings

*Jane Webber*

### **Things to Pray For**

Wisdom for Jane as she seeks God's direction for the new year and starts to plan for a variety of activities.

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## Wordsearch – The Transfiguration

The story of the Transfiguration is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). On that day, high up on a mountain, Peter, James and John were given a glimpse of Jesus' true glory. For Jesus' face began to shine as the sun, and his garments became white and dazzling. Then Elijah and Moses, suddenly appeared, talking with him.

Overwhelmed, Peter offered to build three tabernacles on that holy place, one for each. But God's 'tabernacled', or God's *dwelling* with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on being in the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a bright cloud covered them, and a voice spoke, saying that Jesus was his beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

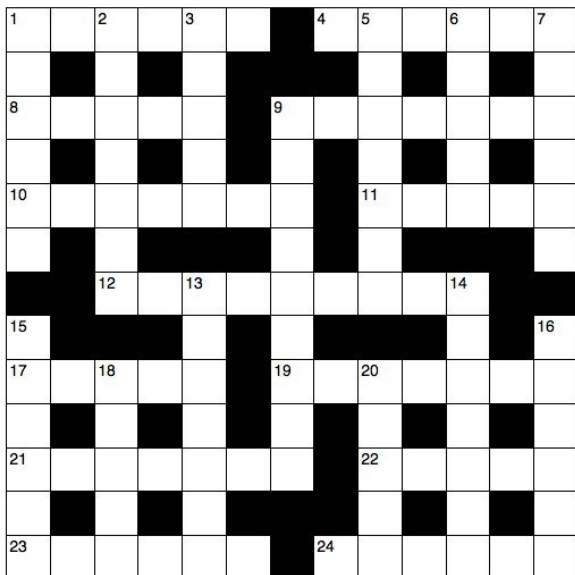
*Why did Moses and Elijah appear?* They represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they were handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Transfiguration	E N N I O A U I I D L A L R P B	Dwelling
High	L O A I E H M W E N N L G R I E	Shrine
mountain	T I E R D T D O R P N I E O O B	Presence
Glimpse	H T I D H U G S A F N S W S N N	Jesus
Glory	S A L R N O O L U R E T U A Y E	Bright
Shine	S R N D W E L L I N G E U E N G	Cloud
Sun	S U G H E H F Y C M A N K I N D	Mankind
Garments	I G S H R I N E S N P G H I L S	Listen
Dazzling	T I E E L G U P T N P S D M L N	Law
Appeared	L F G M J H A O N L E N E M N Y	Prophets
Moses	A S E L C A N R E B A T E S A S	Handing
Tabernacles	A N I A T N U O M H R W G H Y P	fulfilment
Holy	T A S T E H P O R P E E P R T S	
	B R I G H T S H A G D H O E D N	
	Y T A T O E C I G N I L Z Z A D	
	E R E S A U D O E G P O A H S	

**Answer on page 35**

## Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
- 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
- 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
- 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
- 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35)(7)
- 11 '— thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer)(5)
- 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
- 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
- 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
- 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
- 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
- 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)



## Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
- 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
- 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
- 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
- 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
- 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
- 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
- 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)

- 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)  
 15 See 12 Across  
 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)  
 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)  
 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

## Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

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Medium

**PUZ?LES**

**Solutions  
on page 35**



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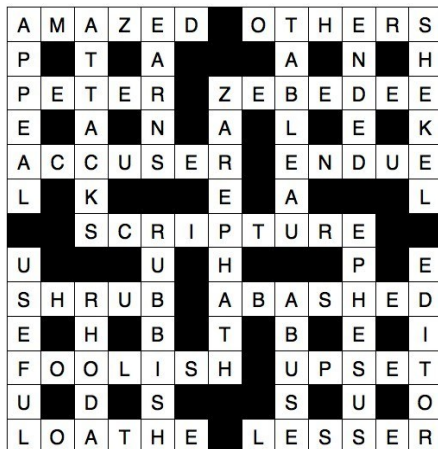
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### Easy

### Medium

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

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

### PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required in the Office SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Make-up day for working party, and publication: Tuesday, August 26

PLEASE COULD ALL ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS  
IN THE CHURCHES TRY TO SEND IN SOME NEWS

Why not nominate a Correspondent?

Email [dianedawson15@gmail.com](mailto:dianedawson15@gmail.com)

## REGISTERS



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

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July 12 Benjamin Paul Holland to Robyn Marie Guntrip

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

S Oswald's

July 2	Irene Joyce Burtoo, aged 78
July 3	Anne Elizabeth Creswell, aged 74
July 8	John Leonard. Aged 77
July 9	Marjorie Joy Williams, aged 91
July 10	Betty Patricia Griffiths, aged 93
July 18	Sylvia West, aged 93
	Barbara Stella Stratford, aged 89



We are a group of volunteers running advice sessions in Oswestry Library, to assist the general public with Family & Local History. Our sessions are free and include access to Ancestry.com, Parish Records, Local Maps, Photographs and copies of the Advertizer 1849 to date. Family & Local Historians available: Monday 10:00-12:00 and Friday 13:30-16:00. No appointments necessary

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