



January 2025

PARISH MAGAZINE

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



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Church Street, Oswestry SY11 2SY.

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Parish Administrator: Ms Carron Boulton

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Who turned the lights out?...

Luke's Gospel tells us that the first visitors to the scene of Jesus' birth were the shepherds, who, whilst tending their flocks on the hills surrounding Bethlehem, were disturbed by angels singing God's praises and proclaiming, 'Peace on Earth.' However, Matthew's Gospel offers an alternative, in his version of the story, the visitors are wise men, or Magi, bearing exotic and symbolic gifts.

The visit of the shepherds is rightly wrapped up in the celebration of Christmas, and whilst many Christmas cards and nativity or crib services in church include them, the visit of Matthew's visitors to Jesus has its own celebration, the feast of Epiphany on the 6th of January.

Matthew (2:1-12) is the only Gospel writer that tells us of the visit of the Magi, and although he doesn't tell how many there were, we assume the number three from the number of gifts they presented. The word Magi is a Latinisation of the plural of the Greek word '*Magos*', itself from Old Persian '*Maguš*.' However, the Magi are popularly referred to as wise men after the King James Version of the Bible referred to them as wise men; or as kings, an identification often linked to Old Testament prophecies such as that in Isaiah 60:3, which describe the Messiah being worshipped by kings.

Either way, they were members of the priestly caste of the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism. They paid particular attention to the stars and gained an international reputation for astrology, which was at that time highly regarded as a science. Their religious practices and use of astrology caused derivatives of the term Magi to be applied to the occult in general and led to the English term magic.

It is likely they were either Babylonians or Persians, or Jews from Yemen. The majority view is that they were from Babylon, which was at the time, the centre of Zurvanism, a branch of Zoroastrianism, and they found Jesus by following his star, the Star of Bethlehem. It was a journey of some 600 miles, a distance which by camel would have taken many months.

So, what about their names? Tradition identifies a variety of different names for the Magi. We commonly know them as Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar, from the carol. These names are apparently derived from a Greek manuscript probably composed in Alexandria around 500 AD. But what of those gifts identified by Matthew of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As you may expect there are many different theories of the meaning and symbolism of these gifts. Probably gold is the easiest to accept and explain, frankincense, and particularly myrrh, are much more obscure. Over the years, biblical scholars have presented many theories which appear to fall into two groups: The first is that all three of the gifts are ordinary offerings and gifts given to a king. Myrrh being commonly used as anointing oil, frankincense as a perfume, and gold as a valuable.

However alternative theories give the three gifts a more spiritual meaning: gold is stated as a symbol of kingship on earth, frankincense (which is incense) as a symbol of priestship, and myrrh (embalming oil) as a symbol of death. An alternative is alluded to in the carol 'We Three Kings' in which the magi offer their own meaning for the gifts they offer; gold symbolises virtue, frankincense symbolises prayer, and myrrh symbolises suffering.

And then there's the star, as you may expect there are several theories. Johannes Kepler (imperial astronomer for Rudolph II of Germany) appears to be the first to speculate when, just before Christmas 1603 he observed a pairing of Jupiter with Saturn from his observatory in Prague. He speculated that this or a supernova could have happened at the time of Jesus' birth. Mark Kidger an astronomer at Spain's *Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias*, in the Canary Islands agrees and put forward a scenario some years ago that the star, which the Magi first saw in the east at dawn, would have risen an hour earlier every two weeks until it was almost exactly due south at dawn. So, when the Magi set out for Bethlehem, travelling south from Jerusalem, they would have once again seen the Star before them, appearing like it 'hovered' right above the house where Jesus was.

Sadly, in the west, the Epiphany, meaning 'showing' or 'shining forth' or 'God made manifest' is overshadowed by the feast of Christmas. Maybe we've all had enough of celebrations by the end of December, but these Magi deserve better. Epiphany is the celebration of God made manifest to everyone; God is no longer the property of a select few. It is also celebration of finding truth and understanding beyond our familiar boundaries, in the unfamiliar and the challenging.

So let us bring Epiphany back to its rightful place and remember those extraordinary Magi and let us take time to look for God's glory wherever we go, in the familiar and the unfamiliar as we start this new year.

Wishing you all a happy, and peace and light filled, New Year.

Harvey

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ST OSWALD'S LADIES' GROUP

For our December meeting twenty five of our members gathered for our Christmas Lunch at the Orangery, Derwen College, with a lot of festive chatter and some Christmas jumpers. June welcomed us all.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and June thanked Glenda and Ann for organising it.

After the meal Jassica took the photograph below and encouraged us to sing "All good gifts around us..." She then said a prayer thanking God for the Derwen and it's work and the fellowship of the Ladies Group.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 6th January 2025 at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre when we welcome Chris Birdsell-Jones who will speak to us about taking fire engines to Ukraine.

Happy New Year to everyone.

Ann Sagar



Cover:

The Adoration of the Magi, by the Italian Renaissance painter Pietro Perugino in the 1470s, housed in the Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria of Perugia, Italy.

Frances Major

A NEW YEAR'S QUIZ – ST OSWALD'S AND ITS HISTORY

By way of a change from the usual article, here are twenty-five questions on St Oswald's and its history over the centuries. The answers are set out elsewhere in the magazine.

1. In the Civil War, were the Royalists or the Parliamentarians responsible for taking down the church steeple?
2. The Yale monument is well known – but what were the Christian names of Mr & Mrs Yale who are depicted at prayer?
3. When in the 13th century town walls were built to protect Oswestry, was St Oswald's inside or outside the walls?
4. Who is considered to have been the first vicar of Oswestry, appointed in 1223?
5. Oswestry is now part of the diocese of Lichfield. In which Welsh diocese did the parish lie from the mid-12th century through to the first quarter of the 20th century?
6. Peter Brereton, vicar of Oswestry from the late 1520s, is believed to have established a wayside chapel at the parish boundary, near the junction of the Gobowen and Whittington roads. To which female saint was the chapel dedicated?
7. Richard Hova, vicar of Oswestry in the early years of the 15th century, was one of the foundation trustees for which long-established Oswestry institution?
8. Which of Oswestry's former vicars was degraded from the rank of priest and deprived of the living for grave crimes and heinous misdemeanours?
9. For much of the 19th century our parish church was widely considered to be dedicated not to St Oswald but to another saint. Which one?
10. From the end of the 11th century through to the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, Oswestry parish church counted as one of the possessions of which Shropshire abbey?
11. In 1885 St Oswald's opened a mission church to serve the people living in a very deprived part of Oswestry which had been described as 'the dismal swamp'. On which street would you have found this mission church?

12. Name the stained glass maker responsible for the Millennium window.
13. The painter John Downes of Whitchurch is believed to have been responsible for a notable feature to be seen in the Lady Chapel – what is it?
14. The names of the churchwardens John Owen, Thomas Brown, William Jones, and Edward Woolfe can be seen above which church doorway?
15. The names of the wardens for 1715 – Peter Povall, Edward Haytley, John Lloyd, and Richard Thomas – are inscribed above a now blocked doorway – where can you see this inscription?
16. A third set of names – Robert Roberts, Richard Bill, Richard Thomas, and David Skellorn – can be seen carved on two sets of pillars, from 1817 and 1818. Where will you find these pillars?
17. Name the four female saints to be seen on the wooden reredos in the Lady Chapel.
18. The iron gates at the foot of the Broad Walk were installed in 1738 – which famous set of brothers made them?
19. Why did the congregation have to sit on chairs – rather than pews – when the newly-restored church re-opened in October 1874?
20. Where can you see some of the gravestones which were ‘saved’ from burial beneath the new tiled floor of the chancel as part of the restorations of 1872/74?
21. To which saint was the red brick Welsh church, built in 1912 in St Oswald’s new churchyard, dedicated?
22. The double headed eagle to be seen on the 17th century font belongs to which once prominent local family?
23. Before the present vicarage was built in Penylan Lane, where was the vicarage located?
24. Which of the church’s stained glass windows commemorates Edward Frederick Venables, who died in India in 1858?
25. What is the date to be found on the Lych Gate?

The answers can be found on page 34

By John Pryce-Jones

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MOTHERS` UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Bluebell View Care Home was the venue for our December meeting. This meeting was based around the Christmas Readings and Carols. We all said the Lord`s Prayer and members said the Mothers` Union Prayer. Three senior members of staff from the home joined with us to read the Bible story and Christmas related poems. After this we chatted with the residents and staff, giving some 20 residents Christmas cards. Everyone had a good sing wonderfully led by Rev`d Jassica, and we were then treated to refreshments. A big thank you to Jenny our accompanist.

Our next meeting will be an informal Eucharist Service as it will be our first meeting in 2025. This will take place in the Parish Centre at 2.15pm on Thursday January 9th. All welcome.

Pam Musson

MERRY-GO-ROUND (*A cautious New Year?*)

And so again, the wheel re-turns,
turns the old, old stubborn story;
business as usual, once more
the Hobbesian default position,
plunder by compulsive sleight,
revolt, inbuilt from the word go.

Is it really a happy new year,
for there are no spears turned ploughshares;
moneymaking armaments go round,
and the devil with deep, bulging pockets,
ensconced in his cosy counting house,
safe, while the lost innocents are doomed.

So cover-up platitudes pop out,
the God of all gets our stale old prayers;
but mocked not, holds all the cosmos,
judging freedom`s heart intent: And
Goodness remains, knows, shares all things,
dies for all, rises for all, lives for all.

December, 2024,

Mark Davis

Verse 1:4 Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679), influential political philosopher.

Twice in the last month I've heard it said that we shouldn't abandon the 'weirdness' of being Christian. If that means not holding an overly rational faith that leaves out the more miraculous and less explicable bits, I'll go with that.

'Mystery' and 'Christian' are words that go together easily and if 'weirdness' is a more modern way of expressing 'mystery' and it connects us with a different group of people, then I'll go with that too.

Some elements of the Christian story are easily described as weird. We've just heard the age-old story of Christmas and gone again in our hearts and minds to that hillside in Bethlehem. It's so traditional that we maybe no longer hear the weirdness of it.

The fact is that God's plan for communicating the story of salvation, the appearance of the angels to shepherds on that hillside is undoubtedly a weird way of announcing the most important event in history: the birth of Jesus in a stable, itself weird.

It's a story that is still being told 2000 years later. As a communications professional, I can't help marvelling at the choice of the shepherds to be the first to hear. Somehow, they made sure that they were not the last!

We know that the Christmas story is one that people react to, get their children involved in and which people are still reasonably familiar with even now, in supposedly secular Britain. In recent years in Britain over 80% of children have taken part in a nativity – even during the pandemic. That's in a country where church attendance is around 5% of the population. That's an effective communications strategy!

In the coming weeks and months, Lichfield Diocese will be rolling its diocesan strategy, including a communications plan. It's my responsibility to formulate it, drawing on wisdom and experience from many quarters and much help from excellent colleagues. If any of it looks odd to you, just comfort yourself that it's just me trying to be true to being weirdly Christian.

Back to the hillside in Bethlehem. At its heart, God was trusting us. Trusting the shepherds, no education, no standing. He was trusting them to report what they saw. They were witnesses. He trusts us with his

message too, asking us to be witnesses too of what we know of God's love and salvation.

That's God's communications strategy. How does it work? It's a mystery to me, but it does!

Speaking or writing from personal experience always makes for the most powerful, compelling and authentic stories. That is what God asks of us, each of us - to be ready to tell our story of faith, our story of God's goodness, kindness, mercy and forgiveness to us. Make it your new year's resolution to keep telling yours. And remember the shepherds: picking your audience could make all the difference.



*Arun Kataria is Lichfield Diocese's
Director of Communications.*

Communicate with him via

arun.kataria@lichfield.anglican.org.

*He loves to hear good news stories from the
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fresh expressions around the diocese.*





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PARISH NEWS

A reminder that subscriptions for the forthcoming year are due by the end of January - £5 for the twelve months or 50p each month. This means there is no increase on last year's price.

Subscriptions can be placed in the wall safe at the back of the church, either in cash (please note that the opening to the wall safe won't be wide enough to accept 5 x £1 coins) or by cheque made payable to St Oswald's Parish Church. Please include your name and mark your payment 'magazine'.

BONUS BALL

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ball Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
2 Nov	34	Peter Starbuck
9 Nov	18	Bill Bowen
16 Nov	41	George Gill
23 Nov	56	Graham Roberts
30 Nov	17	Olive Karran

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

Paul Crosby
658606

NEW YEAR CONCERT

FRON MALE VOICE CHOIR, OS ROCKS, SHAWBURY MILITARY WIVES CHOIR

Unfortunately, due to Storm Darrah, the Movement Centre, Orthopaedic Hospital had to postpone their Festive Voices Christmas Extravaganza evening. This has now been rescheduled for **Saturday, January 18** at St Oswald's Church, starting at 6.30pm. Doors open at 6pm. Tickets £15 can be purchased from The Movement Centre & Jeanie's Catering found in Oswestry Market Hall on a Wed, Fri & Sat or phone The Movement Centre 01691 404248.

Anyone who previously purchased tickets should get in touch with the Movement Centre 01691 404248.

MUSIC NOTES - JANUARY 2025

A very happy new year to all our readers.

Looking back 2024 was a year of good and bad. For me, personally, it started badly as my wife, Kate contracted pneumonia and was admitted to hospital three times. In all she spent a month in hospital. Fortunately, she made a good recovery. Then at the end of the year the Choir lost John Moore, a tenor in our choir for over 16 years, in a terrible accident on his way to sing Evensong. He will be greatly missed but particularly by Kate and me as he was also a very close friend. A full choir sang for his funeral on 6th December; a most moving service.

On the good front the Choir has maintained its high standard despite losing some senior choristers who left to go to university at the end of the summer term. We now need to recruit some more junior choristers to fill the gaps and, in this respect, we welcomed Ted Pink as a probationer in December.

The big event of the year was the Festival to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Restoration of the Church. As well as displays and lectures there were seven concerts. The Choir sang a special service for the opening of the Festival in July and again sang for the final service in October. They also sang one of the concerts and our resident chamber choir, the Scholars and Gentlemen sang the opening concert and one of the four part series 'Music for a Summer's Evening'

In December we had our first full length Advent Carol Service since the covid pandemic. It was very well attended and beautifully sung. I can't comment on the Christmas services as this is being written before Christmas but I fully expect that the standard will be as good as ever. It's always a pleasure during the holidays to welcome back some of our old choristers and I already know that four have expressed a wish to return for the festive season.

Now its full steam ahead into the new year with a very full programme of music to enhance our services. We have some vacancies in the choir, particularly for trebles/sopranos and tenors so if you are interested, or know someone else who might be, please have a word with me.

Recently, a regular member of our congregation and keen supporter of the music said that he had missed a number of events because he cannot

get out in the evening. As a result, our Chamber Choir, The Scholars and Gentlemen will be giving a concert on Saturday 1st February at 3.30pm.

We will be featuring the music of Palestrina, considered to be the greatest of the Italian Renaissance composers. Do come along; entry is free with a retiring collection for the music at St. Oswald's Church.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC

I am re-running the following from last month's magazine and ask you to particularly consider the final paragraph.

A reminder for existing 'Friends' that subscriptions become due on 1st January and a chance for those readers who are not already 'Friends' to join up. The subscription is a donation of your choice (usually £10 - £15).

Running a choir of the high standard that we have at St. Oswald's takes much time and effort. It also costs a considerable amount of money. We have to provide, not only music and robes, but the training that produces what is instantly recognisable as the traditional Choral sound and sets our choir apart from all others in the town. This training involves buying materials for use at home, but the bulk of the cost is in sending choristers on training courses, the main one being the one-week summer school held in Bath every August.

I would like to give the Friends a much more active role in the future but this requires more time than I have. If there is anyone who would be willing to get involved, or perhaps become Chair of the Friends, do please get in touch.

Mike Donkin
Director of Music

COFFEE ROTA FOR JANUARY 2025

5	Judi Neale	Babs Bone	Elaine Leek
12	Hazel Pryce	Dilys Lloyd	Jane Mayne
19	Val Hamer	Glenda Evison	KayCole/Fiona Pearson
26	Ann Sagar	Dilys Lloyd	Olwen Phillips



Services at S. Oswald's

January 5 08:00 Holy Communion
Christmas 2 10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting
Epiphany 18:30 Choral Evensong

January 12 10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting
Baptism of Christ

January 19 08:00 Holy Communion
Epiphany 2 10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting
 18:30 Choral Evensong

January 26 10:30 Parish Eucharist with sung setting
Epiphany 3 17:30 Reflective Space

Every Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion (BCP)

MORNING PRAYER is streamed online through the church Facebook page at 9 o'clock on Wednesday and Friday. Sunday worship is on the YouTube page.

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

Services at Rhydycroesau

First Sunday 09:30 All Age Service
January 5

Second Sunday 09:30 Holy Communion
January 12

Fourth Sunday 09:30 Holy Communion
January 26



Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr
MUSIC LIST - JANUARY 2025

Sunday 5th January

Epiphany

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Archer - St. Albans Service
Anthem: We three kings - Hopkins (arr: Stopford)
Voluntary: March of the kings, Noel traditional arranged by
Bernard Dewagtere

18.30 Choral Evensong

Introit: Bethlehem Down - Warlock
Canticles: Sumsion in A
Responses: Reading
Anthem: Here is the little door - Howells
Voluntary: March from King's Birthday Ode by William Boyce

Sunday 12th January

The Baptism of Christ

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mathias - Communion Service in C
Anthem: Behold the Lamb of God (from Messiah) - Handel
Voluntary: Trumpet Voluntary. Transcribed for Concert Organ solo.
Op.6 n.5 by John Stanley

Sunday 19th January

Epiphany 2

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Shephard - Addington Service
Anthem: O taste and see - Vaughan Williams
Voluntary: Finale (Adagio-Allegro vivace con fuoco) from Sonata
No.4 in D minor, Op.61 Alexandre Guilmant
(Choral Scholars & Adults)

18.30 Choral Evensong

Introit: lead me Lord - S. S. Wesley
Canticles: Dyson in F
Responses: Ayleward
Anthem: Expectans expectavi - Wood
Voluntary: Voluntary in E minor, Op. 6, no 9 by John Stanley

Sunday 26th January

Epiphany 3

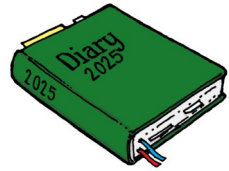
10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas
Anthem: Teach me O Lord the way of thy statutes - Byrd
Voluntary: Festive Trumpet tune by David German

18.30 Reflective Service

(No Choir)

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY



Monday 6	1000 Clergy Eucharist and Meeting 1430 Ladies Group—Parish Centre
Tuesday 7	0915—1045 Oswestry School Assembly 1030—1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 8	1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Thursday 9	1415—1600 Mothers' Union Fellowship Group
Friday 10	1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 11	0830—1100 Orthodox Divine Liturgy
Monday 13	1900 Building & Fabric Committee—Church Office
Tuesday 14	1030—1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 15	0830—0940 Oswestry School Assembly 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 17	1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 18	1830 Movement Centre New Year Concert in Church (set up from 1500)
Tuesday 21	1000 Holy Communion—Home Communion Team - St Catherine's. All welcome 1030—1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 22	0830—0940 Oswestry School Assembly 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 24	1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Tuesday 28	1030—1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 29	0830—0940 Oswestry School Assembly 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 31	1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre



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at St. Oswald's**

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**St. Oswald's Parish Church
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3.30pm**

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A Song for Winter

January can feel like a cold and grey month so it is very cheering to see a flash of colour and hear a little birdsong. During the winter most birds do not sing, instead making simple calls, one or two syllables which are contact calls, allowing them to keep in touch with others within a flock, whilst they move around, foraging for food. Longer and more melodic songs are generally heard in spring when male birds are using song to communicate that they are present and are holding a breeding territory. These territories will contain nesting places such as trees or shrubs as well as sources of food and male birds proclaim this by song, deterring rivals and attracting females. The Robin however has a proper winter song as it holds a territory over the winter. Robins are not in pairs during the winter so both males and females sing and hold separate territories. These territories are giving them winter shelter and food and they will defend them fiercely, flying at intruders as well as singing.



In winter many Robins migrate from further north into the UK, flying in from Scandinavia, Russia, Poland and elsewhere. This also explains why we seem to see more Robins in the winter as our own summer Robins remain here all year round so numbers increase. The Robin's song is tuneful and a little melancholy but the reality of Robin life is harsher with an average lifespan of only 9 months. Many do not survive the winter so holding and defending a territory containing good sources of food and shelter is vital. The combination of a churchyard with mature, sheltering trees, plentiful berries, seeds and insects as well as soil invertebrates



such as worms make them attractive to Robins. Churchyards tend to be rich in insect and other invertebrate life as no chemicals are used within them and the soils have been developing over decades or centuries, full of life. Churchyards are also usually surrounded by gardens so natural food may well be being topped up with mealworms, bird seed and fat balls too.

Why not look for Robins in your local churchyard or cemetery and listen for their winter song, you might like to put up some open-fronted nest boxes for them too, on churchyard trees and within gardens as well. Please let us know if you see or hear a Robin in your churchyard, use the

iNaturalist app and photograph it if it will stay still long enough or else record its song, a biological record can be made either way.

Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,
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The Christmas season is upon us, and I have been busy delivering Christmas in a Box workshops within our local primary schools. Both Children and staff have been excited to discover more about Jesus and the characters in the Christmas story. These workshops have not only been an effective way of sharing the importance of the Christmas story, they have also enabled the children to ask questions about Jesus and the Christian faith.

We are very thankful to God and his people for generously providing the funding for these workshops.

Another successful prayer space took place in November seeing 125 pupils engaging in 5 creative prayer activities. These activities encouraged pupils to think and pray for their hopes and dreams, things they are thankful for and for God to help them with their thoughts and feelings. They also had an opportunity to pray for peace in our world, and world hunger.

What Happened in December

- Assemblies took place in primary schools this month. They focused on themes such as respect and advent.
- Lakelands, Moreton Hall and The Marches Christian Unions explored the parables of Jesus this term.
- Christmas in a Box workshops continued this month. By the end of the term I will have delivered this workshop 14 times. Please continue to pray for these workshops and the impact they have on both the children and staff.
- RE lessons at St Martins took place this month. Through these lessons I will be able to share the gospel and some of the reasons why Christians believe.

Thank you for your continued support of the project.

Blessings

Jane Webber

Things to Pray For

- Christmas in a Box workshops taking place this month.
- Schools as they consider the Christmas story and its message, either through church visits or nativity plays.
- Pupils who are not looking forward to the Christmas holidays. Pray especially for those who have difficult family dynamics



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Word Search - Gifts of the Wise Men

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? One Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote the much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.



Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first Gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had!

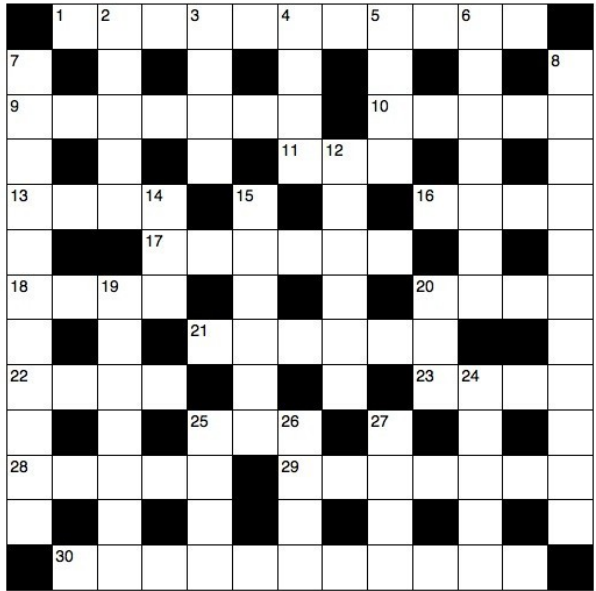
Gifts	N L E T N I F M F R L M	Temple
Gold	M C A R O L E A H B G I	Spice
Frankincense	T H R E E R O G I F T S	Ancients
Myrrh	E S H B U R I A L T S A	Bodies
Henry	M W G O Y R N E H T H C	Burial
Hopkins	P O S D E R U O N O H R	Honoured
Carol	L R G I E L W E P T R I	Divine
Three	E S N E C N I K N A R F	Sacrifice
Kings	C H I S G C I T S S Y I	Die
Orient	I I K O N N D V N E M C	Gentile
Worship	P P L A S I D A I E I E	faith
	S D A G S P I D H D G P	

Answers on page 35



Across

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7)
- 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3)
- 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4)
- 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)



Down

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)
- 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)
- 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)
- 5 Tidy (4)
- 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)
- 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)
- 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)

- 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)
- 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)
- 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
- 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)
- 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)
- 24 Rarely used musical note (5)
- 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)
- 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)
- 27 See 26 Down

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Medium

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PUZ?LES

**Solutions on
page 35**



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EXTRACT FROM THE OSWESTRY DEANERY MAGAZINE JANUARY 1908

OSWESTRY PARISH CHURCH

We take this opportunity of wishing all readers of this Magazine a very Happy New Year.

The Christmas Festival was well observed; the Church, as usual looking very pretty in its garb of green and red, and we have once more to thank those who sent such an abundance of evergreen and holly for this purpose, and also the willing band of workers under Miss Lloyd who put it all together. It means real hard work to prepare all the material the day before so that it may be put in its place in the Church in a quiet and seemly manner.

We must congratulate the Rev Ellis Williams on being appointed to the living of Pontrobert. We hear he is going very soon, and we wish him and his family all happiness in their new home.

The Sunday School Prize Giving and Entertainment has been definitely fixed for February 26th, the Entertainment to be repeated on the 27th.

The Quarterly Meeting of the members of the Mothers' Union was held in the Church House on Tuesday, December 10th. The Rev C. Leslie Jones opened the Meeting with prayer, and after speaking a few kind words to the members introduced Mrs Payne-Gallway, who gave an interesting and helpful address. She was much welcomed, all having a pleasant remembrance of her last visit.

C.E.T.S.—The next Monthly Meeting will be held on Monday, January 6th at 8 o'clock, in the Church House, when the Rev. J. Hamer Lewis, the Organizing Secretary for the Diocese, will give the address. We hope that all the members will endeavour to be present.

The Diocesan Inspector visited the Schools in the Parish on Dec. 4th and 6th and he reports as follows:-

- National Boys—"On the whole the boys did very well, but the results are very uneven. The Catechism requires more attention in several divisions."
- Girls—"The girls continue to be excellently taught"
- Infants—"This is a very well-taught school."
- Morda—"This school has done well, as usual."
- Castle Fields—"The religious instruction is thoroughly sound and good."

A NEW YEAR'S QUIZ – THE ANSWERS

1. The Royalists – in preparation against possible attack
2. Hugh and Dorothy
3. Outside the walls, beyond the New Gate
4. Philip FitzLeofth or Philip Leofchild
5. The diocese of St Asaph
6. St Edith, probably St Edith of Polesworth
7. Oswestry School
8. Nathaniel Tattersall
9. St Mary
10. Shrewsbury Abbey
11. Castle Street, at the rear of the Horsemarket
12. Jane Gray
13. The triptych, with full length portraits of Moses and Aaron who are shown holding the Ten Commandments
14. The door into the church tower from the churchyard
15. On the outside wall of the north transept – best seen from the Broad Walk
16. At the Welsh Walls end of the Broad Walk, and at the entrance to the New Churchyard nearby
17. St Melangell, St Winifred, St Bridget or St Ffraid, and St Marcella
18. Robert and John Davies of Bersham
19. The new pews had been damaged in a fire at the building contractor's premises in Shifnal
20. On the inside walls of the church tower, at first floor level
21. St David
22. The Lloyds of Llanforda
23. Off Morda Road, on what is now named Vicarage Drive
24. The east window of St Catherine's chapel. The glass was made by Pilkington Brothers
25. 1631



Easy



Medium

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

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

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required in the Office SUNDAY, 12 JANUARY

Make-up day for working party, and publication:
Tuesday, 21 January

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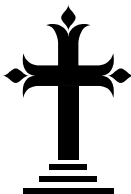
S Oswald's

November 17 Emily Elizabeth Davies

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

S Oswald's

November 29 Doreen Leggatt, aged 90
December 3 Emlyn Edward Evans, aged 87
December 4 Pamela Susan Bennett, aged 79
December 6 John Frederick Exelby Moore, aged 81



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

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