



July 2025

PARISH MAGAZINE

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The question of truth... the answer is simpler than you think, or is it?

We are living through interesting times, though I have said previously somewhere else, that the events of any and all times can be considered to be 'interesting'. The current events of the world are, for some, signs of the end times though I'm not sure whether that includes the traditional vision of the four horsemen of the apocalypse riding round lakes of burning sulphur in the light of a blood red sun, or not.

The Russo-Ukraine War has been raging since February 2022, though many date it back to the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, Israel is still at war with Hamas in Palestine and elsewhere across the Middle East and has now taken the fight to Iran. Trouble enough, but as the US is now increasingly distancing itself from the conflict in Europe, it seems to be moving increasingly closer to involvement in the Middle East, though whether that will result in another Gulf War is still to be seen.

According to the World Population website (www.worldpopulationreview.com), there are currently fourteen ongoing wars around the world, in addition to the two mentioned above there are twelve civil wars, primarily in Africa, and South America. In addition to those however, there are twenty terrorist insurgencies, again largely in Africa, with a few across the Middle East and the ongoing drug wars in Mexico and Columbia. In total, around thirty-eight significant conflicts.

There was a time when the nearest most people got to a conflict and to what lay at the root of that conflict was a newspaper, or the radio or television. Articles carefully constructed by journalists, who, if not always totally objective or neutral, were professionals. As they say, propaganda is as much a weapon of war as bombs and missiles. Today, whilst we still have access to endless 'stuff' through these traditional news channels, we are increasingly exposed to content on the internet, and social networks whose source is sometime impossible to verify. It has never been easier or quicker, for anyone to distribute whatever opinion they have, to a media hungry world.

A few years ago, I wrote about truth, and it seems apposite to revisit that as the question 'what is truth?' is perhaps even more relevant today than it was then. How do we know that what we are reading, watching or hearing is true? Can we recognise real news from fake?

So, what is truth?

As I pointed out previously, the idea of absolute truth is problematic.

There is factual truth, as for example in 'two plus two equals four', and truth that conforms to reality, in that winter follows autumn. Then we have truth which although universally agreed, is more nuanced as it depends on your point of view, so we describe someone as a 'true friend' or 'true love', meaning someone or something that is faithful, lasting, and genuine. Truth is also defined as honesty, speaking the truth and living consistently by it.

During his interrogation by Pilate, in answer to the question; 'So you are a king?' Jesus said, 'for this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' To which Pilate famously asks, 'What is truth? Whether Pilate was asking a genuine question or was verbally dismissing the issue, we don't know. In any event, Jesus provided no answer.

Truth has been at the heart of religion and philosophy for millennia and during that time theologians and philosophers have sought an answer to our question. Without writing a dissertation on the subject, virtually all of them seem to agree that truth is surprisingly difficult to define. Similarly, most would agree that truth is less a property than an attitude, a way of being in the world, and that it has as much to do with beliefs and assertions as it does logical thoughts and ideas.

The facts about something, the truth, is what people believe about it; the truth is what people 'take' to be true, where they place their trust. Truth is not necessarily the facts as presented, but how they are selected and interpreted; people can be persuaded to believe 'your' truth. Of course, there are processes for checking and verifying these things, but they in turn are based on further beliefs and perceptions. I guess that's why there are so many legal professionals and why there are currently nearly forty conflicts around our world.

People need the truth about the world so that they might live, as Jesus said, 'the truth will set you free' (Jn 8:32). Truth is therefore important and spending time validating the things we see, read and hear is crucial. Especially when those things, and the people who act upon them, can be devastating should it result in conflict and loss of life.

The truth is, we all carry the image of God within us, by whose grace we are redeemed and who calls us to live in peace and in the spirit of truth. But then again, that's just my opinion!

Harvey



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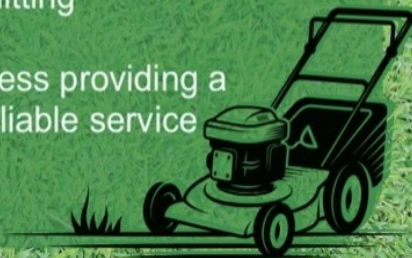
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A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM JASSICA

A heart felt thank you to everyone who took the time to come to Great Yarmouth on June 15, to everyone who watched the service online and also to those who sent cards and gifts.

Sunday was such a very special day. God bless you all.

Photo: Carron Boulton

Jassica Castillo-Burley

THE PUDDING CLUB NEWS



A huge thank you to all who participated in the first event of the "Pudding Club". It could not have been a success without the wonderful support of the audience, so again, many thanks for coming.

The donations, which will go towards the repairs to the parish centre, came to approximately £450, so well done everyone for getting us off to a flying start.

Watch out for our next venture, which we hope will take place in September.

June, Glenda, Natasha and Sal.



Cover: Bee orchid.

Shropshire is home to at least twenty varieties of orchids and they can be found on the thin limestone soils of the hills near Oswestry. This is a bee orchid photographed in fields near Nant Mawr on a Shropshire Wildlife walk.

We are lucky that local people are striving to preserve the old grazing methods which will enable these wonderful flowers to flourish.

*Image:
Frances Major*

Frances Major

Charity Concert

The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

with Guest Soloist

Rhys Meirion

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PRAYING FOR OUR WORLD

Do you find watching the news depressing? We are all aware that the world we live in is full of pain. War and famine; families displaced; young people losing their lives due to gun and knife crime: not to mention the changes due to global warming.

It's easy to despair and feel that nothing we can do will change the situation, but there is something we can do. The Bible tells us to "Pray without ceasing and continue to give thanks even in times of suffering and despair."

Mindful of this, the Mission and Ministry Team ask you to join them in prayer in St. George's Chapel at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning in September. You won't need to speak if you don't want to, but your silent prayer and thoughts directed to God will add so much to each meeting. So please join us and let's make this a "holy habit".

Mission and Ministry Team



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A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 264. MORE ABOUT THE REV. JAMES DONNE



Last month we considered the fine memorial to the Rev. Dr James Donne, to be seen in the Lady Chapel, near to the door to the church office. Dr Donne served as headmaster of Oswestry School from 1796 to 1833, and as vicar of Llanyblodwel from 1798 until his death in 1844. Burial was at Llanyblodwel, in the family vault; there is also a stained glass window at St Michael's in Dr Donne's memory. The memorial here at St Oswald's was paid for by former pupils of the school.

James Donne married twice. His first wife, Caroline Thomson, was the daughter of an Edinburgh merchant; they were married in August 1793 at St Cuthbert's, in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle. They had a son, James, who was baptised at St John the Baptist, Chester, in July 1795. They moved to Oswestry on the Rev. Donne's appointment as headmaster, reported in the *Chester Courant* for February 23rd 1796. However, Caroline Donne's time here in Oswestry was short; she died only eight months later; her burial, here at St Oswald's, being recorded in our registers for October 22nd 1796.

James remarried, at St Oswald's, on May 14th 1798, his second wife was Alice, eldest daughter of John Croxon, a prominent figure in Oswestry's civic and commercial life, Mayor of Oswestry in 1778, and with a range of local business interests. In June 1798, the Rev. Donne was appointed vicar of Llanyblodwel, but he continued to live in Oswestry, at the Grammar School. James and Alice had three children: John, born in 1800; Stephen, born in 1802; and a daughter Alice born in 1804. Sadly, Alice died in March 1805, aged only 8 months, with burial at Llanyblodwel. The three sons all survived into adulthood: the eldest, James, followed his father to St John's College, Cambridge, and into the priesthood, serving as Vicar of St Paul's, Bedford from 1824 until his death in 1861. Stephen, likewise, went to St John's College, Cambridge, succeeding his father as headmaster of Oswestry School – serving there from 1833 to 1860. He was vicar of Llansantffraid Glyn Ceiriog from 1837 to 1860, and rector of Marchweil from 1860 until his death in 1867. The middle son, John, followed a different path, to London, where he became a successful wine merchant. He married twice, and had three children, with his two sons John Edwards Donne (d. 1853) and Robert James Donne (d. 1863) both attending Oswestry School and remembered in a stained glass window in the school chapel. Their father, John, was able to retire from the wine

trade, and from London, eventually moving to Instow on the north Devon coast, where he died in 1875.

Returning to the Rev. James Donne, he continued to live at the Grammar School until he retired as headmaster in 1833. A notice in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* for March 1837 suggests that he may have moved from the school – to make way for his son Stephen, and his family – to Lloran House on Welsh Walls before moving to Llanyblodwel vicarage – after the completion of building works there directed by the architect Thomas Penson. The 1841 Census lists Dr Donne, aged 77, and his wife Alice, 75, living at the vicarage, and Llanyblodwel's registers record the burial of Alice Donne in October 1841 and of Dr Donne himself, in January 1844.

The *Gentleman's magazine* for 1844 records Dr Donne's death and includes an obituary, which notes that "while he grounded his pupils in human letters with diligence and success, he was most careful to make the knowledge of the Word of God the basis of his instructions. Religion, pure and undefiled, was mingled with every branch of education imparted at his school. He was fervently attached to the Apostolic Church of England [and] esteemed wherever he was known, and greatly beloved by his pupils and family". Histories of Oswestry School tell us that it was James Donne who completed the work of building the new school on Upper Brook Street; who was diligent in identifying land owned by the school – part of the original foundation by David Holbache – and bringing it back into the school's care; and who raised the school's reputation as a place of learning.

However, records make clear that James Donne found time, and energy, to be active on many other fronts. He was an active member of the Corporation, serving as Mayor of Oswestry in 1805, and deputy mayor to his brother-in-law John Croxon in 1812, and to the Hon. Thomas Kenyon in 1814. He was also deputy mayor to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn in 1831, and during that year, in August 1832, represented the town when the future Queen Victoria passed through Oswestry *en route* from Powis Castle to Wynnstay, the home of the Williams Wynns at Ruabon.

Reports and notices in the local newspapers of the time show the interest that he took on various issues including the relief of poor families, locally and in Ireland, the work of the Royal Humane Society, and of the S.P.C.K. He argued against Roman Catholic emancipation, and letters preserved at Shropshire Archives show him advocating for a Church of England school at Porthywaen and against plans for what he describes as a 'dissenting school', writing to Lord Powis in 1836 to stress that "in our school good Conservative principles will be taught among the children of

[your] Lordship's tenantry, and sound religious principles". For many years he was closely involved with the affairs of the Oswestry Association for the Prosecution of Felons. And he was closely involved in actions taken locally seeking to preserve the route of the London to Holyhead road through Oswestry, a report of 1823 noting concern that "the proposed diversion of the road would be highly injurious to the public and private interests of the Town and its neighbourhood".

John Pryce-Jones



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me for my half marathon run in Manchester. £420 has been sent to the Debra charity.

Haydn Jones

RELATIONSHIP BY ROTE?

The way is not by packaged rote.
It is not here in this charade,
famined within empty smiles,
the false desert of comfort,
where Abraham's springs remain blocked.

The game is up, always was,
for Love idles not in jest,
but wrestles angels night and day;
cheating time runs dry, the grass fades,
patience turns thief in the night.

Where will it end, deceit's farce,
when dimmed by declining lamps,
the soul wanders cloud lonely,
mocked by easy ritual's
slippery avoiding routine:
*And now the Bridegroom has gone,
waiting elsewhere for connection.*

June, 2025

Mark Davis

Note: Verse 3:3 With apologies to Wordsworth.

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THE STORY OF THE ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST WINDOW



IMAGE: Anne Pilsbury

No doubt you have been wondering about the stained glass window, illuminated in its wooden case which has appeared in the South Aisle.

The window shows St John the Evangelist holding a large book, presumably Revelations or his gospel. The window was from Emmanuel Church, Everton. On that church's demolition, the window and its companion became the property of Keith Bryson, a good friend of mine, who was a teacher at Welshpool High School. On his retirement he took up stained glass making and restoring and had a workshop in Leg Street, Oswestry. He became friendly with Stephen Eisenstein, a consultant surgeon at the Orthopaedic Hospital who was also interested in stained glass. As Keith thought that the restoration of the windows was beyond his ability

to do them justice, Steve bought them from him and stored them in his studio for some years. In the meantime, sadly, Keith was killed in an accident on his vintage motorbike at the Maesbury Road crossing. This would be in the mid 1990s.

The companion window shows St Agnes, and is now in its restored form in the entrance foyer at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. Prompted by Keith's death, Steve started on the restoration of the St John window. The removal had been rough, and the edges were damaged. In addition, the face of St John had been smashed, presumably while still in Everton.

In Steve's words:- "I started on the St John window without any experience or training in restoration. I did get some help from books. Every last piece of glass had to be removed from its lead, and cleaned very carefully so as not to damage the paint. I started at top left and finished bottom right. The last piece of glass carried the ornate initials of 'S&H', Shrigley and Hunt, a famous studio in its day. It took many months to complete the restoration because I was also a consultant spinal surgeon at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen, with little spare time. I did all the edge repair myself, including the painting, and found a professional firm in Birmingham, Hardman's, to make a new face for St John in the style that would have been expected. I had the opportunity to leave a tribute to Keith Bryson in the form of a triangle with his details painted on it.

The window was mounted in a sturdy wooden frame by Shaun Wood and LED backlighting installed by Iestyn Davies, Willow Street. I have enjoyed the presence of this window, installed on the landing of our staircase, for the past many years. Now is the time to pass it on to new safekeeping."

Shrigley and Hunt were based in Lancaster and made stained glass windows in several churches, mostly in the north of England and in Wales. There are windows by them in St Oswald's Askrigg, St Oswald's Grasmere and St Oswald's Preesall. There is a window by them depicting St Oswald in Lancaster Priory, so the links with St Oswald continue. The designer of the St John window was probably E.H. Jewitt, although his records with the company were destroyed in a fire.

Keith Bryson played the cello. He was in Oswestry Sinfonia for a while. He and I played in a string quartet with his girlfriend Ceri and dear old David Rutherford. We were rather awful, but we had a lot of fun, with a bottle of wine and nibbles prepared by Keith. We even played in public a few times, once in a large tent at a wedding, I remember. Keith had a horror of semi-quavers, and when he saw some on the horizon he panicked and speeded up. We had to calm him down to get back to the right speed. He is still missed by those who knew him.

Thanks to Steve Eisenstein for his account, his work in restoring the window and his generosity in donating it to St Oswald's. I think you'll agree that it has found a suitable resting place.

A Service of receiving and blessing the stained-glass window of St. John the Evangelist took place in church at 6.00 pm on Sunday 25th May 2025.

Anne Pilsbury

MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting will take place on July 10th at 2.15 in the Parish Centre.

Pam Musson

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MUSIC NOTES - JULY 2025

SCHOLARS & GENTLEMEN 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

On Saturday 13th June 2015, 10 members of the choir (4 Choral Scholars and 6 men) sang a programme of Elizabethan songs and madrigals at the Community Centre in Llanfechain as a fundraiser for the Village Show. Llanfechain is where Kate and I live.

The programme was very well received and afterwards the group asked if it could be kept together and the Scholars & Gentlemen was born. The Scholars & Gentlemen sings music from the Renaissance and Baroque eras and seeks to perform to a high standard.

On Saturday 5th July we will be celebrating ten years of our chamber choir with an anniversary concert at 7.00pm.

We will be singing some of our favourite pieces from the last ten years and the programme will be a mix of light hearted madrigals and some more serious works from our sacred repertoire.

We will be dedicating the performance to two of our original members who have sadly died, Michael Joby and John Moore.

Entry is free so come along and join the party and help us celebrate.

MUSIC FOR JULY

The Choir will be supporting our choral services until Sunday 13th July. Sunday 13th July is Sea Sunday so we will be singing Herbert Sumsion's dramatic setting of words from Psalm 107 'They that go down to the sea in ships'

Sumsion's anthem, written in 1979 for Dennis Kiddy and the Choir of Repton Preparatory School is one of the finest studies in word-painting in any music. One can almost feel the rise and fall of the ocean swell in the opening organ part and the depiction of the storm and the sailors trying to keep a steady footing on deck (*They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man*) is breath-taking.

For the remaining Sundays of July, the services will be led by the St. Oswald's Singers. This band of singers takes over when the Choir is absent, usually at half terms and after Christmas and Easter. It has developed well since its inception and its presence on non-choir

Sundays has been greatly appreciated. If you like to sing why not consider joining them; the commitment is not arduous, the music straightforward and the group extremely friendly and welcoming.

To find out more have a word with me or Margaret Smith, who directs the Singers.

The Choir will be back on Sunday 3rd August to celebrate St. Oswald's Day (our Patronal Festival) with a feast of music both at the morning Eucharist and at Choral Evensong.

Mike Donkin
Director of Music.

ST. OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP

Everyone was excited about meeting up again at the Orangery, Derwen College, for our afternoon tea on 2nd June. We are made so welcome and there is always a great variety of food which is well presented.

June Williams, our Chairman, welcomed twenty six members and said grace. She also thanked Glenda Evison and Ann Sagar for organising the afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on Monday July 7th at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre when we welcome Sarah Gibson to speak to us about Conservation—'Swifts and Us'.



We are always pleased to welcome new members to our very friendly Group. We meet in the Parish Centre on the first Monday of the month (except bank holidays when we meet on the second Monday) at 2.30 p.m. If you are interested and would like further information please speak to me in church or telephone 01691657903 or email ann_sagar@btinternet.com.

Ann Sagar
Hon. Secretary

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

Services at S. Oswald's

| | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| July 6 | 08:00 | Holy Communion |
| <i>Trinity 3</i> | 10:30 | Parish Eucharist with sung setting |
| | 18:00 | Choral Evensong |

| | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| July 13 | 10:30 | Parish Eucharist with sung setting |
| <i>Trinity 4</i> | | |

| | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| July 20 | 08:00 | Holy Communion |
| <i>Trinity 5</i> | 10:30 | Parish Eucharist with sung setting |
| | 18:00 | Evening Prayer |

| | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| July 27 | 10:30 | Parish Eucharist with sung setting |
| <i>Trinity 6</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) for an appointment.

Services at Rhydygroesau

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------|
| <i>First Sunday</i> | 09:30 | All Age Service |
| July 6 | | |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|----------------|
| <i>Second Sunday</i> | 09:30 | Holy Communion |
| July 13 | | |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|----------------|
| <i>Fourth Sunday</i> | 09:30 | Holy Communion |
| July 27 | | |



Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr

MUSIC LIST - JULY 2025

Sunday 6th July

Trinity 3

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas

Anthem: How lovely are the messengers - Mendelssohn

18.00 Choral Evensong

Introit: Holy is the true light - Harris

Canticles: Sumsion in A

Responses: Sumsion

Anthem: Evening Hymn - Balfour Gardiner

Sunday 13th July

Trinity 4 (Sea Sunday)

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mathias - Communion service in C

Anthem: They that go down to the sea in ships - Sumsion

Sunday 20th July

Trinity 5

10.30 Parish Eucharist

(St. Oswald's Singers)

Setting: Shephard - Addington Service

Anthem: Be still my soul - Sibelius

18.00 Said Evening Prayer

Sunday 27th July

Trinity 6

10.30 Parish Eucharist

(St. Oswald's Singers)

Setting: Shephard - Addington Service

Anthem: Ubi caritas - Taize



PATRONAL FESTIVAL - SUNDAY AUGUST 3

Everyone is invited to a BBQ lunch in the Vicarage Garden (Parish Centre if wet) from 12.45pm. June will be asking for a contribution of salads etc and, 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.

CALENDAR FOR JULY 2025



| | |
|--------------|--|
| Tuesday 1 | 1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre |
| Wednesday 2 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre |
| Friday 4 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre |
| | 1400—1600 Oswestry School End of Term Assembly |
| Saturday 5 | 0800—1000 Orthodox Divine Liturgy |
| | 1500—1615 Mid Cheshire Bell Ringers in Tower |
| | 1900 The Scholars & Gentlemen 10th Anniversary Concert in Church—see opposite page |
| Monday 7 | 1000 Clergy Eucharist and Meeting |
| | 1430 Ladies Group—Parish Centre |
| Tuesday 8 | 1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre |
| Wednesday 9 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre |
| Thursday 10 | 1415 Mothers' Union Fellowship Group |
| Friday 11 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre |
| Tuesday 15 | 1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre |
| | 1330 Morda School Rehearsal |
| | 1430 Morda School End of Term Service |
| Wednesday 16 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre |
| Friday 18 | 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 |
| Tuesday 29 | 1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre |
| Wednesday 30 | 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre |

COFFEE ROTA FOR JULY



| | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 6 | Jane Mayne | Chris Abram | Jean Lawrence |
| 13 | Jane Wilkinson | Val Hamer | Carol Burke |
| 20 | Judi Neale | Babs Bone | Elaine Leek |
| 27 | Hazel Pryce | Dilys Lloyd | Jane Mayne |

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Director: Michael Donkin

10th

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Sacred Music of the High Renaissance**

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

**Saturday 5th July
7.00pm**

Come and join the party

Free Entry

Give what you like on the way out.

Not long ago, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

One key moment of remembrance is the public one or two-minute silence. It's a familiar part of our acknowledgement of death, especially death through war or other grievous circumstances. In most church funeral services, there may be a moment during the prayers for remembering, silently, those we mourn.

Silence and stillness are two key ingredients of remembrance. Often, these are deeply appreciated qualities of our church buildings. In between regular services, churches hold space where people can be still and silent and let recollections flow. Memories of precious, departed friends and family that we hold in our heads are prompted by many things, but silent and still promptings can bring an added dimension.

Churchyards too, offer this quality, and so they should. Think of them as extensions of churches. In them, what was once a private life has become part of public memory. Reverent and respectful burials declare that people are loved in death as in life. Often there are ordered ranks of headstones or mosaics of memorial plaques, or just neatness and simple, natural beauty. Approaches to churchyards which embrace a wilder look, being creatively managed to foster their enormous biodiversity, still maintain this quality. Such settings encourage habitats with longer grass, more wildflowers, and preserve the now renowned lichen populations found on headstones.

Whatever the style, in speaking of order and stillness, churchyards consciously offer an unspoken testament to the beauty and diversity of God's creation, including those commemorated there, and to his lavish, generous love which transcends death. Churchyards are places where our thoughts naturally turn to resurrection.

If this is churchyards' intended purpose, then care and work is needed to preserve and retain that purpose. Keeping order depends on willing people. Some churchyards, once closed to new burials, are cared for by the Local Authority and that is enormously valued by the church. If they are still open, the church retains its responsibility for maintenance.

Resources are often stretched. Mowing is hastened by keeping churchyards free of clutter. Likewise, biodegradable flowers are brought onto graves without containers which can cause hazards to mowers and mourners alike. The Chancellor's Churchyard Regulations help PCCs to

maintain uniformity and consistency wherever memorials are introduced, but to help facilitate the most appropriate pastoral response, where local circumstances suggest, it is possible for PCCs to establish their own local churchyard policy which can permit certain variations to the regulations. Your Archdeacon can give advice about this approach.

Caring for churchyards can be demanding and some churches might look at creating a 'Friends of our Churchyard' community where people can enjoy the biodiversity, help care for the environment and help the wider public appreciate and enjoy this very significant part of our landscapes, urban and rural. The charity 'Caring for God's Acre' supports many aspects of this work and is active in Lichfield diocese. Who'd have thought it: helping churchyards to remain welcoming places where people can encounter God's presence, isn't all work and no play.



*The Revd Preb Terry Bloor, Associate Archdeacon of
Stoke-upon-Trent*

*To celebrate the best in caring for churchyards, keep
an eye on our annual Churchyard Award Scheme
lichfield.anglican.org/churchyard-award-scheme-2025
and join Eco Church lichfield.anglican.org/eco-church*

BONUS BALL

Congratulations to the May 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> |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 3 May | 9 | Sally Wright |
| 10 May | 18 | Bill Bowen |
| 17 May | 26 | Janis Gill |
| 24 May | 4 | Chris Abram |
| 31 May | 52 | Helen Roberts |

The new Bonus Ball year started at the beginning of March. 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 is now due.

The numbers which were available last month have now been taken but if you would like to join the St Oswald Bonus Ball please let me know.

Paul Crosby
658606

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Q: Where would you find a Hebrew Character, a Camomile Shark and a Striped Wainscote?

A: In a churchyard!

In the UK we have 59 species of butterfly, many of them familiar to us all, but did you know that we also have over 2,500 species of moth? Many moths have fabulous names. Some give a clue to their markings including Hebrew Character, China Mark, Garden Tiger or Orange Underwing. Others suggest possible frustration at identifying them, Uncertain or Clouded Drab for instance! Others give a clue to the food plant of the caterpillar, Appletree Skeletoniser or Bird-Cherry Ermine. And then there are names to let your imagination fly; Hoary Footman, Snout, Dusky Brocade, Scarce Dagger and Clifden Nonpareil for starters.

Most moths have evolved to fly at night in order to avoid predation, although they are the main food of bats, who have also evolved to fly at night. To avoid bats, some moth species can hear the eco-location used by bats and will zig-zag away or drop to the ground from mid-air when bats are close, to 'play dead' until the threat has passed. Whilst daytime predation of night-flying moths is reduced, moths and also their caterpillars are an important food item for creatures active in the day including small mammals, amphibians, spiders, lizards and many birds. Small moth caterpillars are fed in great number to the chicks of many of our common birds including blue tit, great tit, robin, wren and blackbird.

As with so much of our wildlife, moths are in trouble, down 28% in overall numbers since 1968. This is likely to be due to a combination of factors; agricultural change, increased use of garden and farming chemicals, development and also light pollution which has a profound effect on the lifecycle of moths. Churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries can be a moth haven however. Many contain a mix of grassland, mature trees, scrub and flowerbeds, lots of different habitats, used by a wide range of moth species. Churchyards and other burial grounds are usually free of herbicides and pesticides which benefits all insects, including moths.

There are also small management changes that will encourage and support moths; similar to gardening for wildlife, be a little untidy! How about leaving areas with leaf litter, dead plant stems and tussocks for overwintering caterpillars and eggs. If you have flowerbeds or planters, how about introducing some night-scented flowers including honey suckle, tobacco plant, evening primrose and stocks. Is there an area of turf that can be allowed to grow long for 3 to 4 spring and summer months, providing meadow flowers and flowering native grasses for pollinators including moths? A particularly helpful change might be to

reduce light pollution by keeping any outdoor lights low, pointing downwards and not on all night long.

Running a moth light trap overnight makes an interesting public event, the trap is opened in the morning, moths admired, identified and then released, but even if you do not manage to see these spectacular nighttime visitors, remember that our blue tit population need an estimated 35 million moth caterpillars every year and many people enjoy watching bluetits!

N.B If you are starting to identify moths, take a look at Moths Flying Tonight on the Butterfly Conservation website and put in your postcode to narrow down the moths you are likely to find.

Harriet Carty

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

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The final half term of the academic year has begun. For schools this term is a busy one filled with trips, sports events, transition and end of term presentations. Exams are also continuing for many this month, and as a project we are praying for confidence and peace for those involved.

For the project this term It's Your Move transition workshops are a key focus. These workshops allow pupils to consider how they are feeling about the move to secondary school, and celebrate their time in primary school. As part of the workshop we consider how Jesus can help support and guide us when we are faced with new situations.

What Happened in June

- Assemblies focused on creativity, perseverance, freedom. and courage.
- The Christian unions continued to consider the I Am statements of Jesus.
- It's Your Move transition to secondary school workshops began.
- RE lessons in St Martins school focused on creation, how Christians live out their faith, and how it can be difficult being a Christian in the world today.
- The national Scripture Union conference took place this month. Please pray that it will be a time of refreshing, resourcing and networking with other schools and youth workers.

Thank you for your faithful support of the project.

Blessings

Jane Webber

Things to Pray For

- All those taking exams
- RE lessons in St Martins School
- It's Your Move Workshops

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required in the Office SUNDAY, 13 JULY
Make-up day for working party, and publication: Tuesday, 22 July

Email dianedawson15@gmail.com

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Partners

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



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If you ever struggle with doubt, take heart: so did one of the apostles, whose Feast Day is this month. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------|
| Thomas | T N I A S I N D I A D | Appeared |
| Doubt | D M I S S I O N A R Y | India |
| Apostle | D A O M Y L A P O R E | Patron |
| Cross | O R E T R A P W E O I | Martyred |
| Dead | C T O D R E O D C T S | Spear |
| Truth | N Y D L A U S I P B R | Mylapore |
| Sceptic | A R T R N A T S A U A | Missionary |
| Wounds | R E E D M P L H T O E | Showed |
| Lord | O D S O E D E G R D P | Saint |
| God | R E H C P D E W O H S | madras |
| | W T S A R D A M N D O | |

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[illegible]

- ## Down

- 32

- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

Sudoku

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Easy

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| | | 5 | | | | | | |

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Medium

PUZ?LES

**Solution on
page 35**



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Bailey Head SY11 2PZ

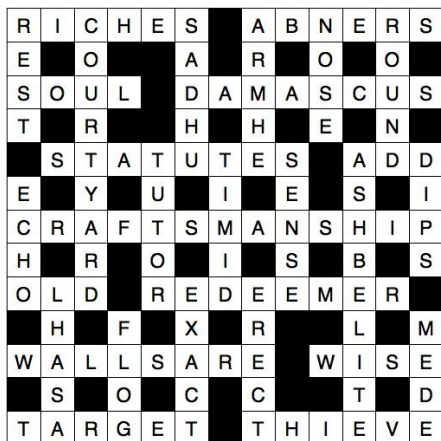
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Easy

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

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

REGISTERS



We welcome in HOLY BAPTISM

S Oswald's

June 1 Phillipa Ellen Francis-McGann
 T'Oluwade Eyidara Onadele.

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

S Oswald's

June 3 Edward George Holmes, aged 89
June 10 Heather Taylor, aged 59
June 16 Patricia Ann Hollywell, aged 82
June 18 Joan Hallam, aged 79



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Beatrice Rose Drummond Wilson,
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CONTACTS - ST OSWALD'S

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| | Secretary: Ms Jan Snowball, | 671152 |
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| LADIES GROUP | Miss June Williams | 652544 |
| LEGACY ADVISOR | Mr Michael Limbrey | 654081 |
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| | Email: stoswald.office@gmail.com | |
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| PLACE OF WELCOME | Mrs Elaine Leek | 778024 |
| | E-mail leek1@btinternet.com | |
| SACRISTAN | Mr Michael Jones | 653598 |
| UNDER 5's PLAYGROUP | Manager: Ms Sigourney Merrony-Potton | |
| | Email: stoswalds.u5s@gmail.com | |
| WEBSITE: | www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk | |
| WEBSITE SPIDER | Anne Pilsbury, email: annepilsbury@gmail.com | |

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

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