

**June 2025**

# **PARISH MAGAZINE**



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and Christchurch, Rhydygroesau    50p**



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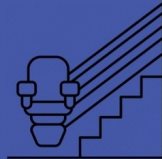
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**THE PARISH CHURCHES OF ST OSWALD, KING & MARTYR, OSWESTRY,  
AND CHRISTCHURCH, RHYDYCROESAU**

**Vicar of Oswestry & Rector of Rhydycroesau**

The Reverend Harvey Lloyd Gibbons, M.A.

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

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

**Licensed Readers**

S Oswald's:

**Reader Emeritus**

Mr Bill Bowen, BEM

**Churchwardens**

S Oswald's: Miss June Williams

Tel: 652544

Mr Alan Neale

Tel: 07901 543287

Mrs Muriel Jones

Tel: 653598

Mr John Abram MBE TD

Tel: 653316

Christchurch: Mrs Elizabeth Stanley

Tel: 676450

Rosemary Davies

Tel: 07813757498

**Parochial Church Councils**

S Oswald's: Hon Secretary: Ms Carron Boulton

Tel: 652861

Hon Treasurer: Mr Paul Evison

Tel: 653315

Christchurch: Hon Secretary:

Hon Treasurer:

**Director of Music**

S Oswald's: Mr M Donkin e-mail [michaeldonkin44@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldonkin44@gmail.com)

Tel: 07779 917724

**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)

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## ***Looking to the future...***

I have just begun my 8<sup>th</sup> year at St. Oswalds and in terms of ministry and ministers, it's been something of a roller-coaster. I inherited an established team of three Readers and three active retired clergy alongside four Churchwardens, a Director of Music with a well-stocked choir, a part-time administrator, a team of altar servers and numerous people doing a huge amount of work behind the scenes. I was, and remain, very grateful.

Sadly, Covid resulted in all three of our Readers stepping back for a variety of reasons and whilst we have gained two more retired clergy colleagues, '*Old Father Time*' has caught up with all but one of the original trinity. Three years ago, we gained two full time stipendiary clergy, one left at the end of last year, the other by the time you read this article; once again, I am the only full-time priest.

Thankfully, this is only half the story, for alongside the ordained team, is a growing team of lay ministers, though some of them would be reluctant to use the term 'minister.' My vision has always been to encourage everyone to engage in mission and ministry in a capacity which affirms their gifts and time availability, and it is joyful to experience new people ministering in existing and established areas, and established people ministering in new.

You will be aware that there is a significant drive to minister to and encourage families and young people into our church communities and, 'hand's up,' it's not one of our strengths. Sadly, we don't have sufficient people with the appropriate gifts or time to give. However, we do have a flourishing ministry to young people through our choir with young people in positions of ministerial and missional leadership, the bell ringers are having success in attracting and retaining young people as ringers, and our team of altar servers has seen two of its young people confirmed in the last two years; one of whom is on the PCC. We also resource two mums to run and oversee our Under 5's group, and one of them is on the PCC. But there is much to do in this area of our offering to the people of Oswestry; if it is something we want to do.

Whilst we should be aware of this particular missional limitation, we should also recognise and affirm our ministry to the more mature members of our congregation, we are a church of mature people with mature needs and experience. We have people helping with Sunday

worship, offering their time and gifts to help maintain our building, and the pastoral care team is seeing pastoral care in a much wider context. We run a MU fellowship and a Ladies Group, a Place of Welcome, we have a small team of parish visitors, and a growing number of home Communion administrators taking the sacrament and pastoral care to people in private and residential homes.

Our ministry to the people of Oswestry also includes a significant pastoral ministry of baptisms and funerals, and as the civic church we have been active in the events surrounding D-Day and VE-Day commemorations. I am honoured to have been asked by our new Mayor, Cllr. Rosie Radford to be her chaplain and I look forward to supporting her and the new Town Council in that role. All this points to the fact that this is a complex parish with complex needs and there will always be more opportunities to serve than time and resources to do so.

So, we return to the fact that I am now the only full-time priest at St. Oswald's and we, and I, must face the reality that I can only be spread so far. Despite the help and fellowship provided by my retired colleagues and the lay people who generously offer their time and talents, for which I am extremely grateful, I cannot be all things to all people. So, we need to spend some time prayerfully considering where and how we move forward in mission and in ministry.

Over the next few months, I will be working with the church wardens, PCC and others to see how we can regularise some of these roles and responsibilities and how we can enable people to feel able to participate in our ministry here at St. Oswald's in a way which is achievable and sustainable. I am already considering where I need to focus my time and energy in the parish. Alongside this however, is the simple truth that we need to increase the involvement of lay people in our church life. Many of our volunteer teams require more help, some of these roles require specific gifts, others simply require people to spare a little time and energy.

As we begin this process together, I simply ask that you prayerfully consider where you might be able to offer your time and talents to the service of God and God's people in this place, and then, just as importantly, speak to me or to a Churchwarden.

I look forward to the next twelve months with hope and anticipation...

Harvey



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## A NOTE OF THANKS FROM GORDON

Dear Friends of St Oswald's,

Thank you for the cards and best wishes on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

When Marjorie and I retired 25 years ago, you made us welcome and feel at home. And thank you for your kindness and support on my recent fall.

Thank you.

*Gordon Hodson*

### **Shropshire Association**

**Oswestry**, Shropshire

St Oswald King and Martyr

Sunday, 4 May 2025 in 47m (13–3–19 in F)

### **1290 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Jan Snowball
- 2 Brian J Rothera
- 3 Cordelia Warr (C)
- 4 Peter Neil
- 5 Anthony J Freemont
- 6 William J Lander

Rung to celebrate the 90th birthday of Reverend Gordon Hodson a long term ringing colleague.



The band celebrating Gordon's 90th birthday  
on behalf of all the ringers  
(Image: Anthony J Freemont)

# **The Scholars & Gentlemen**

**Director: Michael Donkin**

# **10<sup>th</sup>**

## **ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**

**A mix of music performed by  
the Scholars & Gentlemen in the last  
10 years**

**including**

**Madrigals, Elizabethan songs  
and  
Sacred Music of the High Renaissance**

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

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
7.00pm**

**Come and join the party**

## **Free Entry**

**Give what you like on the way out.**



## A historical perspective – 263

### An impressive memorial to the Rev. James Donne

A few weeks ago I visited St Eata's church in Atcham, and was struck by the similarity of a monument, on the east wall of that church, to the side of the altar, to one of the monuments here at St Oswald's. Having since then had the opportunity to look at that monument, on the south wall of the Lady Chapel, beneath the painted triptych featuring Moses and Aaron, the similarity is only partial: there are significant differences. That said, I was reminded that the monument, or memorial, here in our Lady Chapel, is one that I have not previously discussed, and prompted to correct that omission.

The monument is one which will be familiar to many, or most readers of these articles. Sited immediately to the right of the door leading to the church office, set against the wall, it was erected here in 1845, being described in *Eddowes's Shrewsbury Journal* for September 24<sup>th</sup> of that year as "a fine monument [whose] design is very chaste, of the florid Gothic style, beautifully executed in white Caen stone". The newspaper reported that "it is about 12 feet high, and stands on the left on entering St Mary's chancel by the eastern door ... [it] will, when the wall against which it is placed is coloured, have a very imposing effect". To explain, the eastern door referred to here was a door installed in 1830 in the east wall of (what is now) the Lady Chapel, and removed as part of the restorations of 1872/74.

The monument includes, in the recess of its central arch, a long inscription, wholly in Latin, indicating that it is a memorial to the Rev. James Donne, vicar of Llanyblodwel, and master of Oswestry School for 36 years, and telling us that the memorial was paid for by former pupils of the school. I could not find a maker's mark on the monument, but the report in the Shrewsbury newspaper notes that it was made "at the celebrated works of Mr Brown, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, and put up under the direction of Mr Weeks from that establishment". Robert Brown, of 58 Great Russell Street, was responsible for a number of notable monuments, in London churches and elsewhere; in 1851, he was an exhibitor at the Great Exhibition, displaying there a "sepulchral monument, of the decorated period, In Caen stone".

The memorial gives Dr Donne's date of birth, February 14<sup>th</sup> 1764, and the date of his death, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1844. However, he was not buried at St Oswald's, but at Llanyblodwel, where their registers record his burial on January 30<sup>th</sup>, aged 80. *Eddowes's Journal*, of January 31<sup>st</sup>, reported that

“the remains of the late Rev. Dr Donne were interred yesterday in the family vault at Llanyblodwell”.

James Donne was born in Radnorshire, and baptised at Llanfihangel Rhydiethon on February 26<sup>th</sup> 1764. He may have attended a school in Llanbister, and in 1784 was admitted to St John's College, Cambridge. He graduated with a B.A. in 1788, being awarded his M.A. in 1792, and made Doctor of Divinity in 1825. He taught at a school in Kensington in 1788, and was appointed second master at the King's School, Chester, in 1794. He was ordained as a deacon in 1790, and a priest in 1791; in February 1796, he was appointed a minor canon of Chester Cathedral.

Shortly afterwards, on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1796, the *Chester Courant* reported that he had been “appointed by the Lord Bishop of St Asaph to be master of the grammar school at Oswestry”. And a month later, the same ‘paper included an advertisement placed by the Rev. James Donne, A.M., telling readers that “the Grammar School at Oswestry will open upon Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, where young gentlemen will be boarded and instructed in Writing and Arithmetic, the Latin and Greek classics, French, ancient and modern History, Geography, Astronomy, and the Use of the Globes, Geometry, algebra, and the other branches of the mathematics”.

Reflecting the move by the school from its historic site next to the parish church to its present home on the Trefonen road, the notice continued, saying that “the situation of the school is in the highest degree healthful and pleasant, the house commodious, and the play-grounds extensive”. And readers were told that “very careful attention will be paid to the moral and religious instruction of the young gentlemen, and nothing left undone to promote their health and comfort: as well as their progress in the various branches of useful and polite learning”.

The entrance fee was two guineas; tuition a further two guineas per annum, and boarding another twenty-two guineas each year.

There is much more to say about Dr Donne – certainly enough for another of these articles in July. For the time being, I will conclude by noting that he served as Headmaster until 1833, when he was succeeded by his son Stephen Donne, who continued as Head until 1860. Oswestry School's own website states that “under Donne's headship, the school significantly improved in social and financial standing, so much so that Donne is often honoured as the school's second founder”.

John Pryce-Jones

*To be continued next month*

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# **Cantiones** Choir

## **Summer Concert**



### ***SPIRIT AND SONG***

***Songs to lift the spirit including***

***Barber: Agnus Dei***

***Allegrì: Miserere***

***Faure: Cantique de Jean Racine***

***Finzi: Songsto poems by Robert Bridge***

**3:30pm 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**Christ Church, Oswestry**

**Tickets: £15 Adult, U18s free  
(from [ticketsource.co.uk/cantioneschoir](http://ticketsource.co.uk/cantioneschoir),  
also Siop Cwlwm, 33 Bailey Street, Oswestry  
and on the door)**

## ST. OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP

Our May meeting was held in the Parish Centre on the second Monday of the month, 12<sup>th</sup> May, at 2.30 p.m. because of the Bank Holiday. June welcomed everyone and led us in prayer.

Unfortunately we had been unable to organise a trip out to one of our local churches for our meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with afternoon tea but, after discussion, it was agreed to return to the Orangery at the Derwen College, who always make us most welcome.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our Speaker, Julie, was unable to join us but Chris Abram very kindly organised a quiz. Members really enjoyed it and there was a lot of chatter and fun. Cynthia, Ann Harding, June and Ann Sagar were the winners.

Jassica joined us and June presented her with a card and some flowers. On behalf of all she wished her and her family all the best in her new ministry in Great Yarmouth. We will really miss Jassica as she has given us a lot of support during her ministry at St. Oswald's.

If you would like further details of our group please contact me on 01691657903 or email [ann\\_sagar@btinternet.com](mailto:ann_sagar@btinternet.com) or speak to me in church.

*Ann Sagar*  
Hon. Secretary



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

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*Some of the Choristers with Director of Music, Mike Donkin at Bath Abbey during the RSCM Summer School*

### St. Oswald's Choir is recruiting for

#### **CHORISTERS - Boys and girls aged 10 - 14**

We offer excellent singing and musicianship training through the Royal School of Church Music's *Voice for Life* scheme

All Choristers receive free singing lessons

Termly choir pay and fees paid for singing at weddings

#### **CHORAL SCHOLARS – Young people aged 14 - 18.**

Choral Scholars should have some experience of singing or playing an instrument. We offer excellent training in both voice and musicianship.

All Choral Scholars receive free singing lessons

Termly choir pay and fees paid for singing at weddings

#### **ADULT CHOIR MEMBERS**

##### **Sopranos**

We welcome adult sopranos who can blend with the treble sound of the Choir's top line.

##### **Other parts**

We have vacancies for **2 tenors and 1 bass** and are interested in hearing from adults in any section who would like to sing in one of the finest church choirs in the area with a wide repertoire.

**For further details contact Mike Donkin, Director of Music on  
07779 917724**

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## MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May we were delighted that Rev. Jassica was able to join us for our meeting. Rev Jassica has been our Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain so it was fitting we should give her our thanks and wish her every blessing in her new Ministry.

There is no meeting in June but we will meet on 10<sup>th</sup> July in the Parish Centre.

Pam Musson

## BONUS BALL

Congratulations to the April 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>
5 Apr	18	Bill Bowen
12 Apr	31	Eric Clare
19 Apr	33	Elaine Leek
26 Apr	21	June Williams

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.

I know of two numbers which are now available and to maximise the benefit of the Bonus Ball all numbers need to be allocated. If you would like to join the St Oswald Bonus Ball please let me know (Tel: 658606)

Paul Crosby

## GRACE AND WORK (*THE TRINITY*)

And so the Son already was God,  
already unmeasured Spirit unfolded,  
Word who laid his crownless head home nowhere;  
who in humility slept, ate, fasted  
in temporal time, budded, blossomed,  
entering dust's sick finality,  
welcoming, rebuilding the excluded,  
slowly, quickly, hoeing the surly soil,  
shaping, nurturing the embryo seed,  
*hidden love seed shaped for recovery.*

March, 2025

Mark Davis

## **MUSIC NOTES - JUNE 2025**

### **CONCERTS**

#### **June**

It is now 11 years since my late wife and Joint Director of Music, Veronica, died of bowel cancer.

We came to Oswestry in 2000 inspired by the fact that our then vicar had said that we could have a free hand but to give him a cathedral standard choir. Veronica was instrumental in helping to develop the choir into the fine group of singers that has contributed so well to the music for our services. She was also the guiding light in the restoration of our wonderful Hill Organ which was completed in 2104. She was able to hear the result of her labours on Easter Sunday but, sadly, by then was too ill to play it. She died that year on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Since that time (with the exception of the Covid lockdown), we have marked each year with a memorial recital on the Saturday nearest to the date of her passing. This year it is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June and the recital will be given at 7.00pm by James Kellas, Organist of St. Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch.

Do come along and support the event. Entry is free with a retiring collection for the Music at St. Oswald's.

#### **July**

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July we will be celebrating ten years of our chamber choir, the Scholars & Gentlemen, with an anniversary concert at 7.00pm.

We will be singing some of our favourite pieces from the last ten years and will be dedicating the performance to two of our original members who have sadly died, Michael Joby and John Moore.

Entry is free some come along and help us celebrate.

### **NEWS OF THE CHOIR**

Many of you will have seen the article in the Oswestry Advertiser edition of 7<sup>th</sup> May about Hannah Sietz, one of our chorister scholars at Oswestry School. Hannah has many interests, one of which is shooting and she has won the Senior Open category at the British Schools Shooting National Finals. Congratulations to her.

## **Vacancies in the Choir**

You may have noticed that the choir has looked a bit thin in recent weeks. This is because some of our choristers are taking time out for GCSE exams. Of course they will be back but, in the last two years we have lost some fine singers as they move on to take up their studies at university. We do need to recruit to make sure that we always have enough singers to maintain the standard of music that we are used to.

We particularly need some adult sopranos and tenors but altos and basses will also be welcome.

And of course, we always need new choristers. Young people from 10 to 14 receive a very fine training in vocal technique and musicianship.

Please think about whether you can offer your voice to the choir. We are a very friendly bunch and you will be made very welcome.

Please have a word with me if you want to know more.

## **Adopt a Chorister**

One of the main events in our choir training calendar is the Royal School of Church Music summer school in Bath. The Choristers receive a week of intensive training from some of the top choir trainers and vocal coaches in the country. The benefits are passed on to us in the fine singing that our choristers produce.

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

Please support our Adopt a Chorister scheme. Anything you can give, however small, will be gratefully appreciated..

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

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

or see me after any service in church.

Mike Donkin  
Director of Music

## Services at S. Oswald's

June 1	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Sunday after Ascension</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist and Confirmation with The Rt Revd Sarah Bullock, Bishop of Shrewsbury
	18:00	Evening Prayer
June 8	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Pentecost</i>	18:00	Choral Evensong
June 15	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Trinity</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
	18:00	Evening Prayer
June 22	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 1</i>	18:00	Reflective Space
June 29	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 2</i>		
<b>Every Thursday</b>	10.30	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Thursday 19</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Eucharist BCP</b>
<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>19:00</b>	<b>Festival Eucharist</b>

**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
June 1		
<i>Second Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
June 8		
<i>Fourth Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
June 22		



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

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**Easter 7**

10.30 Parish Eucharist with Confirmation

Setting: Archer - St. Albans Service

Anthem: If ye love me - Tallis

18.00 Said Evening Prayer

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**Pentecost**

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas

Anthem: O Lord give thy Holy Spirit - Tallis

18.00 Choral Evensong

Introit: Come Holy Ghost, the maker, come - Gibbons

Canticles: Stanford in C

Responses: Radcliffe

Anthem: Factus est repente - Aichinger

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**Trinity**

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mathias - Communion Service in C

Anthem: Above him stood the seraphim - Dering

18.00 Said Evening Prayer

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

**Corpus Christi**  
*(Adult Choir)*

19.00 Festival Eucharist

Setting: Merbecke Communion service 1549

Anthem: Ave verum - Plainsong

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Trinity 1**

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Shephard - Addington Service

Anthem: Sicut cervus - Palestrina

18.00 Reflective Service

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

**St. Peter**

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Archer - St. Albans Service

Anthem: Tu es Petrus - Hassler

# CALENDAR FOR JUNE



Monday 2	1000	Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
	1400	Ladies Group—Afternoon Tea at The Orangery Restaurant, Derwen College
	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre reading 'Three Vicars Talking' by Rev Richard Coles, Rev Kate Bottley and Rev Giles Fraser.
Tuesday 3	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 4	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 6	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 7	0800	Orthodox Divine Liturgy
Tuesday 10	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 11	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 13	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 14	1600—	1700 Bellringing—RAF Guild of Bellringers
Sunday 15	1500	Jassica's Licensing Service in Great Yarmouth
Monday 16	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre reading 'I heard the Owl Call My Name' by Margaret Craven
Tuesday 17	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 18	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 20	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Tuesday 24	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 25	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 27	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 28	1930	Veronica Donkin Memorial Organ Recital—see opposite page
Monday 30	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre reading 'I heard the Owl Call My Name' by Margaret Craven

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



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



**VERONICA DONKIN  
MEMORIAL ORGAN RECITAL**

**given by**

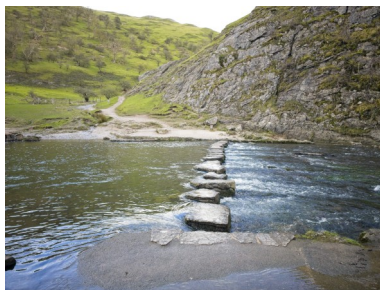
**James Kella**  
**Organist of St. Alkmund's Church**  
**Whitchurch**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025**  
**7.30pm**

**Free Entry**

**A retiring collection will be taken towards the  
music at St. Oswald's**

Recently I walked with a friend to the stepping stones at Dovedale. He suddenly stopped in his tracks and said “I just remembered the last time I walked across these steps. It was 65 years ago. I was 11 years old.”



*Image: Simon Jones*

A few weeks before, I was talking to a seasoned headteacher whose face lit up when I mentioned the same place. He shared vivid memories of a childhood stay at Dovedale House while at primary school. Why do I mention these memories?

Most teachers, administrators, school governors and youth workers appreciate an immense privilege to help develop hope and aspiration among young people. If it works as we plan, young people in our context



*Image: Simon Jones*

are happy and they move on with life-long positive memories. Dovedale House was birthed in 1967 with that same vision, that it can be a Christian place where positive life-long memories are created for young people. Everyone remembers the excitement of a first school trip, the coach journey, sharing a room with friends, getting out into amazing countryside, climbing hills, walking by rivers. All these

are at Dovedale House.

Hills, rivers and the great outdoors, feature so much in the Gospel accounts of Jesus's ministry. It was there that people became followers of Jesus, and also where people grew in their discipleship journey, where they learned about a vibrant faith being one where reaching out and serving others was pioneered.

We read that Jesus taught the Christian faith while sitting, standing or walking on hills, he was transfigured, arrested and subsequently crucified on a hill. Jesus was himself baptised in a river, and many people followed his example. The majority of recorded miracles took place in the great outdoors. The common feature of all these stories is that God revealed himself, and this created memories that have lasted forever.

Dovedale House provides a fabulous 50-bed setting, where you bring children and youths, to enhance the hard work that you currently do, to give hope and to raise aspirations for a great life. It is a breath-taking place where we can help young people make lifelong positive memories. In order to fulfil our dream and yours to accomplish this, we need your help.

If you have links to any school or youth work, please can you introduce the Dovedale House opportunity in your places of education, and amongst your peers. At present there is even an offer of a bursary to ensure that no one misses out on making positive life-long memories.

*The Revd Jeremy Oakley  
'retired to the countryside' from work as a vicar in Wolverhampton and  
with his wife, Julie, soon found himself offering to take on the  
role of interim warden of Dovedale House.  
Read more about Dovedale House at [lichfield.anglican.org/Dovedale](http://lichfield.anglican.org/Dovedale) or  
contact Jeremy by email - [dovedalewarden@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:dovedalewarden@lichfield.anglican.org)*



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A group of schoolgirls in grey sweaters and white shirts with red ties are sitting on a grassy area, surrounded by trees. They are engaged in conversation and some are holding food.

[www.marchesschool.co.uk](http://www.marchesschool.co.uk)

**Come and see where we belong**



## PROFUSION IN JUNE

June is a great month for spending time close to nature in your local churchyard or cemetery. The second week of June sees three initiatives; Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature and National Cemeteries Week all taking place in celebration of these special places and the fantastic volunteers who care for them.

You may be able to attend an event as part of one of these, take a look on the Caring for Gods Acre [map of events](#) to see what is happening near you but if not, please go to a churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery on your own, with your family or friends and see what you can see.

Wildflowers may be present in profusion if there is a meadow area, look out for oxeye daisy, lady's bedstraw, vetches, cat's ear, hawkbit amongst others. Is there a patch of medium length grass, where shorter-stemmed plants can flower without the mower cutting them off? If so search for bird's eye speedwell, self-heal, red clover, buttercups and medics. Burial grounds can be rich in species as they contain a mosaic of habitats, with large trees, areas of shaded woodland, stonework as well as grassland of varying lengths. The butterflies to be found can be a mix of species usually found in woodland, grassland and scrub. In June you may find a rich array, look out for comma, red admiral, small copper and common blue which favour shorter vegetation such as grasses and nettles for laying their eggs, all plants found in meadows or in the dappled shade of a woodland or large tree canopy. You may catch a glimpse of a yellow brimstone, which lays its eggs on buckthorn, a woodland shrub.

June is also a good time to sit quietly and watch birds busily feeding young, darting in and out of nests. Again, burial grounds can be rich in birds which may also use neighbouring gardens. The church itself can host house martins under the eaves, swallows in the porch or lychgate and perhaps swifts, nesting invisibly in the eaves or in boxes behind tower louvres. A visit in the early evening may be rewarded with the sound of screaming swifts circling around the church building.

Please let us know what you see and hear, be it plant, insect or bird. You can record species using a smart phone and the iNaturalist or iRecord app, by email or by post. Open this link to find out [how to make a recording](#) or visit our website.

Harriet Carty,  
*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, [harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk),  
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The summer term has begun with a sense of joy from the sun. But despite the fine weather, the month of May can be one of anxiety and uncertainty for those taking year 6 SATs, GCSEs and A level exams this month. It is important to pray for all those taking exams, and for teachers and families as they support them.

### What's Happening in May

- Assemblies this month will focus on perseverance, love, creativity, compassion and courage.
- The Christian unions are looking at the I Am statements of Jesus.
- My final Diary of a Disciple workshop takes place this month.
- I will be inviting primary schools to book It's Your Move transition to secondary school workshops. These workshops will start after half term, and are a great resource to encourage those moving to a new school.

Thank you for your faithful support of the project.

Blessings

*Jane Webber*

### Things to Pray For

- All those taking exams this month
- Bookings for It's Your Move Workshops



### **OPEN FARM SUNDAY – 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

June brings Open Farm Sunday, which can be a fabulous opportunity for the public to discover the crucial work farmers do in producing food, nurturing nature, and protecting the environment for future generations.

So says the website, [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org). And on the day, nearly 200 farms throughout the country will be welcoming the public to come and see their farms.

The day is organised by the group Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF).





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The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples had obeyed His command to stay in Jerusalem and to 'wait for the promise from the Father'. Jesus said this would be the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', but the disciples had no idea what that meant. They soon found out! Acts tells us that at about 9 o'clock one morning, a sound like a rushing wind from heaven suddenly filled the house, and divided tongues as if a fire rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit had come down and filled them with His divine power! Praise, preaching and witnessing followed that morning – and the Church was born.

Pentecost

Trinity

Jerusalem

Disciples

Praying

Tongues

Power

High

Fires

Flames

Languages

Praise

Drunk



Wine

Nine

Morning

Glory

Waiting

Place

Wind

Father

Son

Holy

Spirit

Eternal

## Solution on Page 35

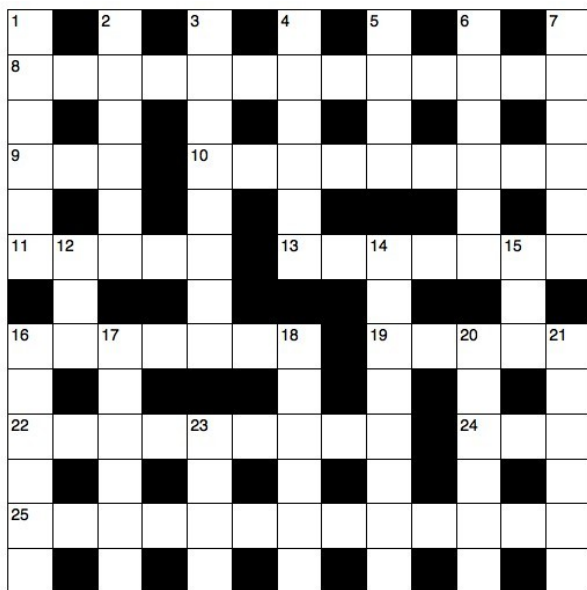
### COFFEE ROTA FOR JUNE

<b>1</b>	Judi Neale	Babs Bone	Elaine Leek
<b>8</b>	Hazel Pryce	Dilys Lloyd	Jane Mayne
<b>15</b>	Val Hamer	Glenda Evison	KayCole/Fiona Pearson
<b>22</b>	Ann Sagar	Dilys Lloyd	Olwen Phillips
<b>29</b>	Mary Jones	Natasha Bell	Sally Wright



## Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)
- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)



## Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — —' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)  
 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)  
 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)  
 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)  
 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)  
 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)  
 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

## Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

Medium

**PUZ?LES**

**SOLUTION ON  
PAGE 35**

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# Oswestry Tourist Information Centre

Oswestry Town Market Hall

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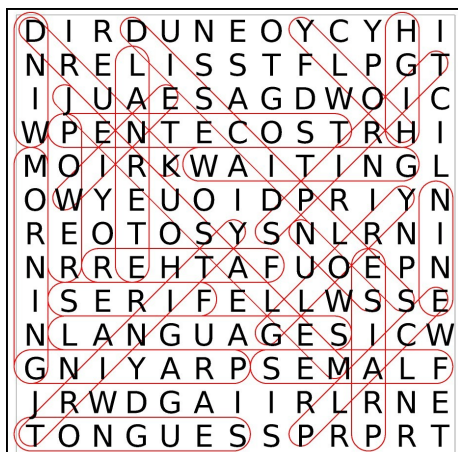
Open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

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### Easy

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

### Medium

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

### PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required in the Office  
SUNDAY, 15 JUNE  
Make-up day for working party,  
and publication:  
Tuesday, 24 June

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S Oswald's

May 18      Lillie Rose Ratcliffe

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

S Oswald's

May 6      Kathleen Mabel Hemus, aged 90



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:

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No appointments necessary



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WEBSITE: WEBSITE SPIDER	<a href="http://www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk">www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk</a> Anne Pilsbury, email: <a href="mailto:annepilsbury@gmail.com">annepilsbury@gmail.com</a>	

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