



November 2025

PARISH MAGAZINE

Remembrance Sunday
9th November

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and Christchurch, Rhydygroesau **50p**



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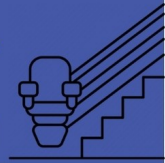
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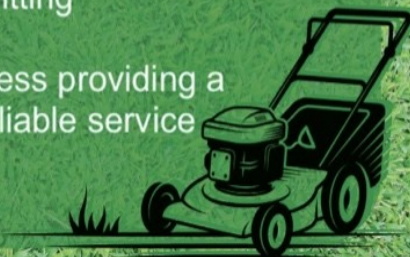
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Remembering in new ways... again

November is traditionally a time of remembering. At our annual All Souls service on 2nd November, when we gather to remember those we love but see no longer. On the 9th and the 11th of this month, Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, we think of those who have died or have been injured in the service of our country. In addition, on the 7th some will gather at the cemetery with local school children to place a cross of remembrance on the war graves and hear the stories of some of the fallen.

Sadly, this year, as in years gone by, it remains the case that wars still rage; the conflict between Ukraine and Russia dominates the European headlines whilst significant wars across the continent of Africa, rarely appear. It isn't all bleak of course, at the time of writing, the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas is holding though violence continues in Gaza where life remains precarious for many. Whilst life is still full of signs and portents that things aren't as they should be, the sense of relief across the world is palpable and hope shines brighter day by day.

This Remembrance Sunday, we are trying something slightly different. To enable those who would like to attend both church in the morning and the Act of Remembrance at the gates, we are holding the service in church at 9:30 am. This will finish around 10:30 which will give enough time for people to walk to the gates, it also means that the choir can help lead the Remembrance service. The choir will also be in action later in the day at the Civic Commemoration service beginning at 4pm.

Looking a little further forward into November and December. Advent and Christmas will soon be upon us and whilst there will be more information in next month's magazine about Christmas, I thought it might be helpful to outline what we are doing at St. Oswalds to help you keep and celebrate the season of Advent.

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'coming', or 'arrival' starts on November 30th. Advent is all about beginnings, it is the season of anticipation, of waiting expectantly for the arrival of a child. For a few weeks each year it provides us with a reminder that despite the events in the world around us, we can continue to live in an age of hopeful anticipation. Advent is a reminder that hope, however far off and fleeting we feel it might be, remains at the heart of God's promise, because God's promise always arrives. It arrives in the form of a child, Jesus, Emmanuel, 'God with us.'

December is always an exciting month. For many because it forms the run up to Christmas when we go to parties and 'shop 'till we drop'. The festivities of Christmas are important for many reasons and the giving of gifts and sharing of time with each other can reinforce ties of family and friendship. It can however feel rather pressured, and Advent allows time to prepare as we anticipate Christmas and all that it brings.

So, let this short but glorious season of Advent enfold you in hope and anticipation. Let it, in the face of doubts and fears, be a time of expectation in 'that which is yet to come' because Advent is the time when we remember that God answers his promises and is always faithful.

This year St. Oswald's is offering a range of resources to enable you to keep a hopeful Advent. There will be weekly addresses on the Wednesdays in December, and cards and prayer resources for you to use at home with your family or by yourself. These can be found in the Library Area in St. Oswald's as the pop-up Charity Christmas Cards shop is once again located in the Chapel of St. George.

Advent is the season of contemplating Jesus's historic arrival and his return, each year reminds us that Advent does not leave Christians simply waiting in hope, biding our time. It invites us to turn again to the Lord and in penitence and preparation to declare and live out the 'manifesto' of God's kingdom.

November beckons us to gather in grateful remembrance to reflect on past events before we turn once again in hope in December, to embrace the future as we journey towards the fulfilment of God's Kingdom.

May God bless you on that journey...

Harvey



PRAYING FOR OUR WORLD



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. The next meeting is on November 5



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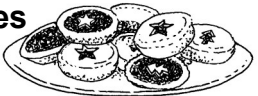
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HARVEST LUNCH

Thank you to everybody who attended, those who contributed Cottage Pies and Apple Crumbles and especially the kitchen party and the waiters on.

There was a buzz in the Parish Centre and everybody was well fed. In excess of £500 was raised for Parish Centre repairs.

The next event is on



Sunday, December 14th
2.30 pm – 4.00 pm
in Church

when you can come and
sing your favourite
carols

Tea, Coffee and Mince Pies
will be served.

Natasha, Sally, Glenda and June
The Pudding Club Girls

LIGHTEN OUR PATH: REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT

Do you find the build-up to Christmas exhausting?

Do you feel that the season of Advent gets forgotten?

Do you need a haven of calm in your week?



If so, come and join us every Wednesday in Advent, at 12 noon in St Catherine's Chapel, for half an hour of peace and reflection. Everyone is welcome. Sessions begin on Wednesday, 26th November at 12 noon.

Pam Willing and Lindsay Clarke

Much as I'd prefer not to think about Christmas presents and cards until the week before Christmas, the reality is that as soon as Bonfire Night and Remembrance Sunday are over, I must procrastinate no longer! Poor Advent. It's lost in the mists of time, its season of spiritual preparation for Christmas overtaken by ever exotic Advent Calendars, their numbered windows promising expensive 'treats' to help us to get through the stress of Christmas preparations. I've even seen a cheese-a-day Advent calendar. Seriously, who thought of that one?

Instead of moaning about the commercialism of Christmas, here at Lichfield Cathedral we do all we can to keep the Sundays of Advent special, beginning with the hauntingly beautiful Advent Carol Service. But then we go 'full bling' with the Christmas Light Show and the Christmas Tree Festival. They're ever popular, a seasonal 'must' in many people's diaries. And at the heart of both, is a search for the light in the midst of the darkness. Physical light in the long nights of winter. And spiritual light in a world which feels chaotic and dark.

One of my favourite worship songs is 'Christ be our Light' by the Roman Catholic songwriter Bernadette Farrell. It's beautiful. If you don't know it and have access to the internet, do search for it. You'll soon be singing along to its gentle tune and meaningful lyrics.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.

This is why, I think, so many people turn to the Church at Christmas, on the shortest days of the year. Our ancestors prayed that the sun would return. We search for the Son – the one who is the Light of the World. Even those who don't yet know him for themselves. But light and truth are in short supply at the moment – and in the Church we know both.

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

So many people are lonely at Christmas. So many are searching for somewhere to belong. As Christians we belong to one big family, made brothers and sisters through our baptism. Who might we 'serve' this Christmas by simply inviting them to 'come and see'? Invite them to a carol service, or a social event at church, or bring them to their cathedral to see the Christmas Trees or Christmas Light Show. You might make someone's Christmas, and it might be for them the first step to joining the

church and finding faith. The worst that can happen is that they say no, so what's to lose?

A blessed Advent from us all at Lichfield Cathedral. Your Cathedral.



*The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane
Dean of Lichfield
The Advent season begins on the
fourth Sunday before Christmas Day
- in 2025, that is November 30.
Lichfield Cathedral's programme of
worship and events for Advent and
Christmas can be found on the
cathedral website:
www.lichfield-cathedral.org*

ST. OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group met in the Parish Centre on Monday 6th October. June welcomed everyone. Unfortunately our Speaker Rev. Brian Thomas was unable to be with us and we all wish Brian a speedy recovery.

Our theme was reflections on Harvest and Linda Roberts accompanied our members with singing of the well known harvest hymn 'Come ye thankful people come'. June our Chairman, led us in prayer.

Some of our members gave a reflection on Harvest in their younger days which was very interesting how things have changed over the years.

Our next meeting will be on 3rd November in the Parish Centre at 2.30 p.m. when we welcome Hannah from Pollen Pantry who will demonstrate Wreath Making.

We will return to the Orangery at the Derwen College for our Christmas Dinner on Monday 8th December 12.00 for 12.30 p.m. Menus will be circulated.

If you would like further information about Ladies Group please do not hesitate to contact me on 01691 657903 or in church.

Ann Sagar
Hon. Secretary

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RIDE AND STRIDE

This year Peter Walley and his neighbour, Duncan McCormick, cycled from St Oswald's to six other churches in our deanery: Whittington, West Felton, Knockin, Kinnerley, Morton and Maesbury. Peter reported that Duncan's electric bike had an emergency towing rope - which was not used, despite the adverse weather!

Anne Pilsbury and Fiona Pearson drove to South-East Shropshire where they visited eight churches which are also members of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group: Longnor, Frodesley, Acton Burnell, Harley, Hughley, Easthope, Cardington and Hope Bowdler.

Between them they raised nearly £560, with the addition of about another £100 in Gift Aid. Half of this will come back to St Oswald's, while the other half goes to Shropshire Historic Churches Trust who help needy churches with grants for renovation and restoration. Many thanks for your generous donations.

Fiona Pearson

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 268 ST ANNE'S CHAPEL AT MORDA HOUSE

Last month I mentioned that the online British Newspaper Archive had recently added four more years of the *Oswestry Advertiser* to its files, increasing the number of years which could be accessed in this way to twelve. At the same time, the Newspaper Archive had added copies of the short-lived *Oswestry Herald*, which was published weekly from March 1820 to December 1822, and last month's article looked at some of the reports featured in the *Herald*.

This month, I have taken a look at the *Advertiser* for 1882 and 1883, to see what stories related to St Oswald's it might contain. As you might imagine, these included reports on church meetings, the Archdeacon's Visitation, a choral festival, services for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the annual church schools' summer outing with a visit to Oakhurst, supper for the bellringers at the Sun Inn, and a church parade by the Oswestry Company of Volunteers. There were letters, some from the curate the Rev. T.C.V. Bastow, regarding 'Saint Oswald's potatoes' (which I might well come back to on a future occasion), and editorial support from the *Advertiser* for our clergy having omitted a sentence from a prayer circulated by the Archbishop of York giving thanks

for a military victory in Egypt (again, I may return to this). Local newspapers, particularly at this time, were a real mine of information, covering a wide range of local events, and doing so in great depth.

However, for the time being, I will focus on three items, from the editions of the *Advertiser* for August 16th 1882, November 29th 1882, and October 31st 1883 – all relating to the construction of a chapel at the House of Industry (the ‘workhouse’) in Morda.

Readers may recall an archaeology series on Channel 4 fronted by the comedian and actor Hugh Dennis called ‘The Great British Dig’, where a small team of archaeologists would visit somewhere, for a limited period, and conduct small scale excavations often in people’s gardens, to answer questions about the past. In May 2022, one of these programmes focussed on Morda, and on the site of Morda House, which was destroyed by fire in 1982; little now remains beyond one handsome red brick house near to the main road, with much of the site now redeveloped for housing including Kingfisher Way and St Anne’s Drive.

I recall conversations in the days directly after the programme was broadcast where, after comments that it was good to see our part of the world featured in this way, puzzlement was expressed at the apparent surprise shown by what they found – including evidence for a free-standing chapel. Hadn’t the producers looked at old maps of the area which would have shown the footprint of Morda House, including its chapel? Looking this week at these *Advertisers* for 1882 and 1883 brought those conversations back to me, as I saw the level of detail set out in the various newspaper reports.

On August 16th 1882, the *Advertiser* carried an advertisement placed by the Shrewsbury architect Mr S. Pountney Smith, seeking “tenders ... for the erection of a Chapel at the Union Poor House, Morda ... for the Honourable Mrs Cotton [of Park Hall]; the Plans and Specifications for which may be seen, and any further information obtained, at the offices of the Architect, Coleham, Shrewsbury”. The deadline for tenders was Wednesday August 30th.

It is often commented that building plans proceeded fast in Victorian times. In this case, building works commenced on the ground in November 1882, under the supervision of the Shrewsbury builder John Gethin. The *Advertiser* for November 29th reported at some length on the laying of the foundation stone the previous Thursday, carried out by the Hon. Mrs Stapleton Cotton, who, readers were told, had “most generously undertaken to defray the entire cost of the new building” except for the foundations which were funded, in cash and kind, by members of the local community. The foundation laying ceremony commenced with a service

in the existing workhouse chapel, attended by the Directors and Officers of the institution, and “all the inmates of the House who were able to attend” including children, with prayers by the chaplain (the Rev. John Morris), the Rev. T.C.V. Bastow, and the Vicar of St Oswald’s, the Rev. Canon Howell Evans. All then processed to the site of the new chapel, unfortunately in pouring rain. There were speeches, hymns and, a silver trowel and mallet having been presented to Mrs Stapleton Cotton, “the stone having been raised and the mortar deftly spread by Mrs Cotton, it was lowered into its place”. At the close of the ceremony, tea and coffee were served in the Dining Room, which had been decorated for the occasion.

Just under a year later, on Saturday October 27th the new chapel was consecrated by the Bishop of St Asaph. The *Advertiser* noted that it was “henceforth to be known as the Chapel of St Anne, Morda”, and “for the use of the officers and inmates of the Oswestry House of Industry, and for the district of Morda”. Though sited next to the workhouse, the new chapel was not part of it: Mrs Stapleton Cotton had acquired the land on which it was built, and appointed trustees to manage its affairs.

The *Advertiser* described the building as “a very elegant little Gothic structure, which will for the future replace the commonplace room within the house which has hitherto done duty as a chapel”. The ‘paper commented on the delay in constructing the building, due largely to the difficulties presented by the site, which required more substantial foundations than anticipated. The chapel itself, built to accommodate 250 worshippers, had a nave, transepts to north and south, and an apsidal chancel, with a total length of 71 feet. The *Advertiser* noted that “a peculiar feature is an unusually large and commodious western porch with richly moulded stone work and carving at the entrance door. There is another porch entering into the south transept for the convenience of infirm worshippers”. The chapel was built of hollow walled bricks from the Sweeney Company’s Works, with stone dressings; there was an open timber roof covered externally with Broseley tiles; the chancel area was laid with Maw & Co.’s glazed tiles; and there were, in all, nine windows, glazed by Mr Davies of Shrewsbury. All the furniture was provided by Mrs Stapleton Cotton.

As with the laying of the foundation stone, the report provided a lengthy description of the service of consecration, which was attended by numerous clergy from the neighbourhood. A surpliced choir had been provided for the occasion, largely composed of members of St Oswald’s choir, and Mr Percy Mull, St Oswald’s organist, “presided at the harmonium”.

John Pryce-Jones



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Toccata - Widor | Jo Sands

THE OSWESTRIAN ORGANIST - SHARING THE MUSIC OF ST. OSWALD'S

St. Oswald's Parish Church has a long and proud musical tradition, which is now being shared more widely through The Oswestrian Organist YouTube channel.

The channel was launched in April 2024 and is managed by Chloë Fraser, with performances by Jo Sands, who serves as the organist at St. Oswald's. Together, we aim to celebrate the rich heritage of church music and to showcase the beauty of our parish organ.

The Oswestrian Organist features a varied selection of liturgical, contemporary, and film music, alongside sacred and classical works such as Charles-Marie Widor's Toccata, hymn arrangements, and seasonal pieces familiar to many who worship here.

Since its launch, the channel has received over 186,000 views from listeners around the world, including the United States, Germany, France, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. Through this musical outreach, Jo and Chloë helping to share the sound of St Oswald's far beyond Oswestry, bringing the joy of church music to a global audience.

YouTube accounts are free to create, and subscribing to a channel costs nothing. To subscribe, simply click the red "Subscribe" button on the channel's page. Subscribers can also choose to receive a free notification whenever a new video is uploaded.

Parishioners and friends are warmly encouraged to visit the channel, listen, and subscribe. Simply search "Oswestrian Organist" on YouTube or Visit <https://youtube.com/@theoswestrianorganist?si=laf5clHwOdRsqqiM>

We look forward to welcoming you online and sharing the beauty of St Oswald's music with you. May God's blessings be with you.

Chloë Fraser

MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting is on Thursday, November 13th at 2.15pm in the Parish Centre.

Pam Musson



Allun Jones



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MUSIC NOTES - NOVEMBER 2025

November is a busy time for music in church. We open with a double bill on Sunday 2nd November when we celebrate the Feast of All Saints at the Eucharist and remember those who have passed away during the year at our All Souls Service at 4.00pm. This is a particularly moving event when those whose loved ones have had funerals at St. Oswald's during the year are invited to return for a service of remembrance.

The following Sunday (9th November) is Remembrance Day. This year there is a change to the format which has been in use since the Covid lockdowns. There will be a Said Eucharist at 9.30am in church and everyone is invited to attend the Town's Act of Remembrance at Park gates at 11.00am. I understand that there will be seating for those unable to stand for the duration of the service but do check this out if you want to take advantage of it.

In the afternoon there will be a Civic Commemoration at 4.00pm in church. Do come along to remember those who gave their lives in war and to pray for peace.

On Saturday 22nd November at 11.00am there will be a Memorial Service for Brian Gresham. Many will remember Brian and his wife Elizabeth who lived in Lower Brook Street for many years. Brian was a retired naval commander and took an active role in the life of the church. He was for some years a church warden and who can forget the hilarious pantomimes which he put on each year.

Do come along and support Brian's family as they give thanks for the life of this very special and extraordinary man.

Finally, Advent begins at the end of the month and we will have our popular Advent Carol Service at 6.00pm on Sunday 30th November. The first part of the service takes place in darkness, so do come in good time so that you can be seated before the lights are put out.

The symbolism of the service is the moving from darkness into the light of Christ. The procession forms at the west end and from there visits every part of the church. As the service progresses, light increases until, when the procession enters the Chancel and Sanctuary, the church is ablaze with light.

It is a wonderful way to begin Advent and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Mike Donkin
Director of Music

Services at S. Oswald's

November 2	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>All Saints</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>All Souls</i>	16:00	Commemoration of All Souls
November 9	09:30	Parish Eucharist (Said)
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	10:50	Act of Remembrance at Cae Glas gates
	16:00	Civic Commemoration
November 16	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>2nd before Advent</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
	18:00	Choral Evensong
November 23	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Christ the King</i>	18:00	Reflective Space
November 30	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Advent 1</i>	18:00	Advent Carol Service <i>From Darkness to Light</i>

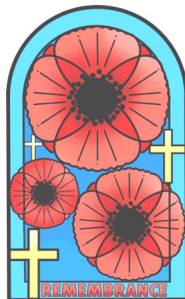
Every Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion (BCP)

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 Rhydcroesau

<i>All Saints</i>	09:30	All Age Service
November 2		
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
November 9		
<i>Christ the King</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
November 23		



PARISH CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD, KING & MARTYR

MUSIC LIST - NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday 2nd November **All Saints / All Souls**

- 10.3am. Parish Eucharist
Setting: Archer - St. Albans Service
Anthem: O quam gloriosum - Victoria
- 4.00pm Commemoration of All Souls
Anthems: Holy is the true light - Harris
Burial Sentences - Croft
God be in my head - Walford Davies

Sunday 9th November **Remembrance Sunday**

- 9.30am. Parish Eucharist (Said)
- 11.00am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial (Park Gates)
- 4.00pm. Civic Commemoration
Music: For the fallen - Douglas Guest
Psalm 121 – Walford Davies
My soul there is a country - C. H. H. Parry
The souls of the righteous – Geraint Lewis

Sunday 16th November **2nd Sunday before Advent**

- 10.30am. Parish Eucharist
Setting: Mathias - Communion Service in C
Anthem: Jesu, joy of man's desiring - J. S. Bach
- 6.00pm Choral Evensong.
Introit: Confitemini Domino - Constantini
Canticles: Plainsong (Tones II & VI)
Responses: Plainsong
Anthem: In pace - Orlandus Lassus

Sunday 23rd November **Christ the King**

- 10.30am. Parish Eucharist
Setting: Mathias - Communion Service in C
Anthem; Thee will I love - Armstrong Gibbs

Sunday 30th November **Advent 1**

- 10.30am Parish Eucharist
Setting: Shephard - Addington Service
Kyries: Plainsong – Deus Genitor alme
Anthem; People look east - Carol (arr: Malcolm Archer)
- 6.00pm Advent Carol Service (from Darkness into Light)

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2025



St Oswald's Christmas Card Shop **Open 10:00am—3:00pm** **Monday to Saturday**

Saturday 1	1515—	1615 Bellringers from Beeston
Monday 3	1000	Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
	1430	Ladies Group—Parish Centre
	1900	<i>Pilgrim</i> Course
Tuesday 4	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 5	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1900	<i>Praying for Our World</i> —St Georges Chapel
	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre
		Reading 'Five for Sorrow, Ten for Joy', meditations on the rosary, by J Neville Ward.
Friday 7	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 8	1530	Cantiones Concert—Duruflé: Requiem
Tuesday 11	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
	1100	Armistice Day Service at Cae Glas Park Gates
Wednesday 12	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Thursday 13	1415—	1600 Mothers' Union Fellowship Group
	1930	CTOD meeting in Parish Centre
Friday 14	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 15		Organ Tuning
Tuesday 18	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 19	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1930	St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre
		Reading 'Five for Sorrow, Ten for Joy', meditations on the rosary, by J Neville Ward.
Friday 21	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 22	1100	Cdr Brian Gresham's Memorial Service
Tuesday 25	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 26	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1200—	1230 Advent Reflections in St Catherine's Chapel—see page 9
Friday 28	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre

BONUS BALL

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ball Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
6 Sep	24	Peter Walley
13 Sep	10	Pam Willing
20 Sep	22	David Banks
27 Sep	59	Judi Neale

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

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

Paul Crosby
658606

NOVEMBER COFFEE ROTA

2	Hazel Pryce	Dilys Lloyd	Jane Mayne
16	Ann Sagar	Dilys Lloyd	Olwen Phillips
23	Mary Jones	Natasha Bell	Sally Wright
30	Jane Mayne	Chris Abram	Jean Lawrence



ST OSWALD'S BOOK CLUB MEET ON NOVEMBER 5 AND 19 AT 7.30PM IN THE PARISH CENTRE

All are welcome to join us for coffee and cake and lively discussion. We are reading 'Five for Sorrow, Ten for Joy', meditations on the rosary, by J Neville Ward.

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



OVERWINTERING REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries are great places to find both amphibians and reptiles. These two groups include frogs, toads, newts, lizards and snakes.

The first three can come as a surprise as burial grounds rarely have ponds in them but actually, frogs, toads and newts all spend much of their time on land and really use ponds mainly for breeding and laying spawn. Amphibians (frogs, toads and newts) and reptiles (lizards and snakes) all hibernate, except for some individuals in particularly mild winters, and whilst some amphibians may overwinter within ponds, most find a suitable spot on land.

Both amphibians and reptiles need to overwinter in places that are frost-free and unlikely to flood. They need to be protected from predators and from disturbance. This might be within the soil, perhaps using a crack caused by grave subsidence or beneath tree roots, under stones and grave kerbs, inside a chest tomb with a suitable hole or wide crack to clamber in, between the stones of a wall, under a pile of leaves or in a pile of deadwood. Woodland soil, with shade and leaves can be particularly good.

One of the differences between amphibians and reptiles is in their skin. Amphibians have smooth skin which can look velvety or have a bumpy, warty texture. Their skin is permeable which means they can dry out. When on land, they need to keep moist, so will overwinter in a damp and shady spot, often under leaves or deadwood. Reptiles have scales and impermeable skin so don't need a damp spot and may use compost heaps as well as cracks in walls and monuments. Amphibian skin can also pick up chemicals easily, herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers can be fatal, again making burial grounds, with their lack of chemicals, particularly suitable. N.B. you may see coloured frogs that have picked up the colour of the soil where they overwinter, these can be quite brightly coloured red, orange or yellow.

Try to imagine that you are an amphibian or reptile and take a good look around your local churchyard or cemetery and you'll probably see that its full of good spots to hibernate. You can increase these however. How about making a dead hedge or pile of deadwood in a shady spot? Do you have a compost heap? Try not to empty it after the end of October in case its in use for overwintering. Tussocks of coarse grass and grassland plants like hogweed, particularly when next to a wall are favoured by slow worms, probably the most common reptile found in burial grounds. Shrubs and scrub often offer suitable nooks and crannies at their base.

By November its likely that amphibians and reptiles will be tucked safely away, although the timing does depend on the temperature in a particular year, but it's nice to know that they might be there awaiting the warmer weather of spring.

Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor. harriet@cfga.org.uk,
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October is upon us, and both staff and pupils are beginning to settle into the new term.

Harvest is a key focus for schools this month, with activities and harvest services being planned and rehearsed. It is a wonderful opportunity for schools to reflect on the importance of sharing with those around them. Let us pray that they will be inspired by the life of Jesus and His example of sacrificial giving.

As many of you are aware, St Martin's School has suffered a devastating fire that has severely damaged the building. As a result, the school is currently closed to all pupils. Let us join together in prayer for the pupils, staff, and families as they navigate the challenges this has brought. Please pray especially for their new headteacher as she leads the school community through this difficult time.

NEW TRUSTEES

The SCWP are looking for new trustees, and in particular a new secretary. The trustees meet 6 times a year to pray for and manage the project. If you would be interested in finding out more; have a heart for passing on the Good News of Jesus to the next generation and have 6 free evenings over the course of a year, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Andy Cranston at adcranston1@gmail.com for more information

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER

- Assemblies this month and will focus on themes such as friendship, respect, doing our best, using kind words, compassion, thankfulness, and generosity.
- CU sessions are exploring the letters of the new testament and how we can apply their teachings to our lives today.
- RE lessons in St Martins are on hold until the school reopens. Please pray that this will happen soon.
- The Meadows primary school have invited me to attend some of their lessons to talk about what Christians believe. The pupils will have an opportunity to ask lots of questions about the Christian faith during these sessions.
- Bookings for our new **Advent in a Box** workshop will begin this month. This interactive workshop explores the story of Jesus' birth through the Advent themes of love, joy, peace, and hope. Through storytelling and reflection, children will meet key characters of the Nativity and discover



BUNCH OF CLOWNS by GJohn

A COMIC YET CUTTING PIECE THAT TAKES A LIGHT-HEARTED LOOK AT THE PERCEPTION OF A BOARDROOM. "...THE BOARD WISHES TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR COMMENTS & WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THEIR FEEDBACK WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. IT WILL BE DOCUMENTED, REVIEWED & FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMPANY POLICY...". IN BUNCH OF CLOWNS, GJOHN USES HUMOUR TO EXPOSE THE ABSURDITY OFTEN FOUND IN BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEMS, WHERE FORMALITY REPLACES FUNCTION AND DECISIONS DISSOLVE INTO MEANINGLESS PROCEDURE. BENEATH THE LAUGHTER LIES A SUBTLE CRITIQUE OF AUTHORITY, EGO, AND THE THEATRE OF PROFESSIONALISM. THE EXAGGERATED CLOWN IMAGERY REFLECTS HOW EASILY SERIOUS INSTITUTIONS CAN BECOME PERFORMATIVE ACT, WHERE MASKS, NOT AUTHENTICITY, TAKE CENTRE STAGE.

DIMENSIONS: 50 CM X 60 CM | (FRAMED): 53 CM X 63 CM

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Wordsearch on St Andrew (Feast Day 30th November)

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

Andrew was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the prophet John the Baptist. When one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend, and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

When Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?'

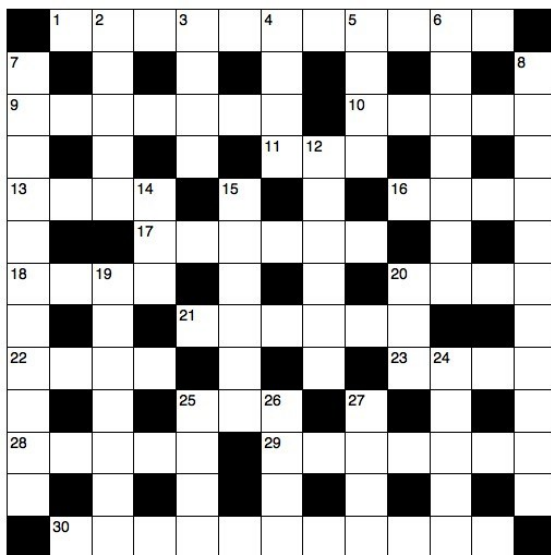
The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. So they did, and the results of their response were life changing. For Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus, and soon the little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was formed. And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.

Andrew	P F I F E W L A M B D	God
Patron	N A D E I E J M E P D	followed
Saint	J S M W I R E E S W N	Jesus
Scotland	P O I R R D S I S O I	Come
Fife	C R H E O N U T A R L	See
First	P A T N I A S E G L B	Peter
Disciple	J E F O L L O W E D A	Apostolic
John	P S B A P T I S T O N	Band
Baptist	S R N T N O R T A P D	Message
Lamb	I E L P I C S I D W O	world
	C I L O T S O P A A G	

Answers on Page 35

Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — —' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)



Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made —' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)

- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
 26 Heroic tale (4)
 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32)(4)

Sudoku

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

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Easy

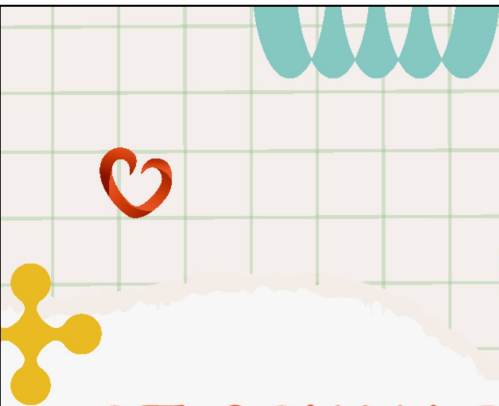
2		5				8		
			6	5	3			
9							6	
			4		6			1
3								4
7			2		9			
	2							9
			5	7	4			
		4				6		5

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Medium

PUZ?LES

**SOLUTIONS
ON PAGE 35**



ST OSWALD'S UNDER 5'S STAY & PLAY

WEDNESDAY &
FRIDAY
10AM-12PM

St Oswald's parish centre is
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and the Oswestry Prep School.

Fruit & snacks provided for the
children, tea's & coffee for the
grown ups.

Play with our toys or get crafty
on the craft table.

A chance to mix with other
children in a safe & fun
environment.

All Welcome.

Friday Session Term Time Only



INFORMATION



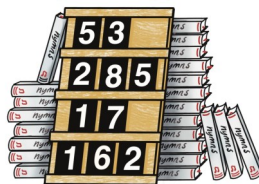
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SONGS OF PRAISE AND THE NATION'S FAVOURITE SCHOOL HYMN



This autumn the BBC has been in the process of discovering our favourite school hymn. It gave the public a shortlist of 50 hymns to choose from.

The vote was organised by the BBC's Songs of Praise team, with an accompanying programme, The Big School Assembly Singalong, hosted by singer and presenter Aled Jones.

Aled Jones well remembers his school hymn days. "Every morning, we sat cross-legged on an uncomfortable wooden floor, which doubled up as our gym and school canteen.

"We would sing the songs that don't get sung in cathedrals, where I ended up, because they're perhaps seen as child-like, but actually that's what brought me into religious music in the first place.

"There's a joy in being able to sing these hymns that uplift you and make you feel out of this world, but back at school, it was even better to do it with mates. I think that these hymns and this collective singing just takes you back to an easier, simpler, safer time."

The vote was cast on 20th September, but at the time of this going to press, we do not yet have the results.

The results were due to be announced on 11th October, during The Big School Assembly Singalong, held at the Victoria Hall in Bolton. On the night, a choir led by music teacher and TikTok star James B Partridge will present a range of school assembly classics. The Big School Assembly Singalong (1 x 35 minutes) will be broadcast at 1.15pm on BBC One, on Sunday 23 November 2025.

Partridge said: "I think the school assembly songs that we sang as children have a special place in our heart. Having that experience of singing together as a community really brings back the joy of those childhood days."
(Parish Pump November 2025)

SMILE-LINES.....

Careful!

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing the old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments."



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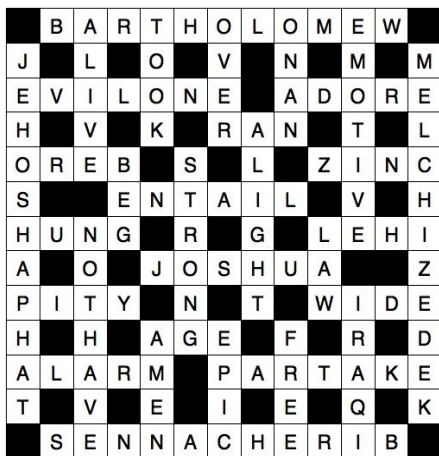
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Easy

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

Medium

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



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S Oswald's

September 21

Maeve Marg Sumner

We bless and congratulate in HOLY MARRIAGE

S Oswald's

October 5

Samuel James Widhall to Samantha Ann Lewis

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

S Oswald's

October 8

Gary Turner, aged 45



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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WEBSITE: WEBSITE SPIDER	www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk Anne Pilsbury, email: annepilsbury@gmail.com	

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