



November 2026

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Interregnum

Interim Ministers

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Reverend Adrian Bailey Tel: 238744

Father Phil Hughes

Commissioned Lay Ministers

Mrs Jenifer Chippett Williams

Mrs Lindsay Clarke

Miss Sally Wright

Mrs Catherine Lefebvre

Churchwardens

S Oswald's: Miss June Williams

Mrs Muriel Jones

Mr John Abram MBE TD

Mrs Ann Ashworth

Christchurch: Mrs Elizabeth Stanley

Rosemary Davies

Tel: 652544

Tel: 653598

Tel: 653316

Tel: 07702027290

Tel: 676450

Tel: 07813757498

Parochial Church Councils

S Oswald's: Hon Secretary: Ms Carron Boulton

Hon Treasurer: Mr Paul Evison

Tel: 652861

Tel: 653315

Christchurch: Hon Secretary:

Hon Treasurer:

Director of Music

S Oswald's: Mrs Samantha Lewis-Widnall

Email: samanthalewiswidnall@gmail.com

Organist:

St Oswald's: Josephine Sands email: 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

Reg. Charity No. 1133346

Our November Pastoral Letter has been written by Father Phil Hughes.....

IN 1972, I was just twelve years of age. When I listen to the music of that decade, I am right back there, as if it was yesterday. For some reason, I know all the words of many of the popular songs of my youth.

Harry Forster Chapin, an American singer-songwriter, philanthropist and a hunger activist, wrote several folk, rock and pop songs during the 1970's.

He wrote a song which became his theme song at all his concerts, and that song was "Circle", which was recorded by The New Seekers as "Circles", and became a big hit for them around the World. As the autumn leaves are falling, I share a few of the lyrics of the song.

"All my life`s a circle, sunshine and sundown
the Moon rolls through the nighttime
`til the daybreak comes around

All my life`s a circle, but I can`t tell you why
The Seasons spinning round again
The years keep rolling by"

No doubt some of you will remember the song, and I think of all the time that has passed us by since 1972.

Harry Chapin died in a road accident, through no fault of his own, on July 16th 1981, aged 38 years. His music is his legacy, and through that he lives on.

Our memories of happy times are really important, and I always feel that we should indeed count our many blessings.

We now look towards the Season of Advent once again, a time of looking forward and waiting. On the first Sunday of Advent, the new round of the festivals begin once more. The movement of the Sun and the Stars in relation to the earth determine the course of the Christian year. Each of its festivals reveals part of the content of our Christian faith.

Advent, a Season of Preparation, of waiting, of listening for what is to come. Advent is the twilight which comes before the Sunrise of Christmas. For Christians the mood of this time should be quiet contemplation. The great truth of Christ's coming will be the theme of Christmas. It can be taken up in thought, and pondered in our hearts over the four weeks of preparation. Advent with its sense of expectancy increases as our thoughts deepen. The mood of expectancy gives the Advent Season its Special character.

Lindsay Clarke, one of our Commissioned Lay-Ministers and Pam Willing are offering some Advent Reflections: "The Hush before the Rush", and you are invited to join in on this Advent Quiet time which begins on Wednesday November 25th in St Catherine's Chapel 12-12:30pm.

Remember Advent is not experienced without effort.

Of course we are all waiting expectantly in another capacity, for our next Vicar. Please pray and ask the Lord to send a Priest who will both Serve and Care, Spiritually, Pastorally and Prayerfully.

Also, we need to pray for a Successor to Bishop Michael, and for the 100th Bishop of Lichfield. The Diocese have sent us this prayer:

"Eternal Father, You have promised faithful pastors in every age
to watch over your people and lead them in your ways:
as you chose your Servant Chad
to be the first Bishop of your Church in Lichfield,
so raise up for us, who follow Christ in His footsteps today,
a Shepherd to lead your people
in the joy and steadfastness of The Holy Spirit,
that all may know the abundant life
which you give us in Jesus Christ Your Son"
Amen

All God's blessing to everyone.

Father Phil



HOME COMMUNION

Each month members of the nine strong team visit the four residential homes and the homes of private individuals in the parish with Holy Communion and the love of Christ. If you know of anyone who is unable to come to church and would like to receive their communion please contact me.

Keith

Tel:- 01691656212

email:- musson908@btinternet.com

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THE HUSH BEFORE THE RUSH: ADVENT REFLECTIONS

ADVENT

Does Christmas seem to be coming round faster every year?

Do you feel swept along and caught up in all the spending and commercialism?

Do you feel that the meaning of Advent and Christmas is being lost?

Is there no time for anything because you have too many things to do?

Is it all getting a bit much?

Then **STOP** – and come and join us every Wednesday in Advent at 12 noon for half an hour of peace and quiet in St Catherine's Chapel. This year we will engage with the Advent story through four very different poems, gain new insights, and re-charge our batteries with a time of reflection and fellowship.

Reflections begin on **Wednesday 25th November** and we look forward to sharing a peaceful time together.

Lindsay Clarke and Pam Willing

PARISH EUCHARIST—NOVEMBER 8



To enable those who would like to attend both church in the morning and the Act of Remembrance at the park 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 park gates, it also means that the choir can help lead the Remembrance service.

MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

At our last meeting the speaker was Father Phil and we had an enjoyable time hearing how the Mothers' Union had influenced his life at times from the age of 7, when a neighbour, a Mothers' Union member, took him to church each week.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 12th November at 2.15 pm when Margaret and David Smith will tell us about their journey up the Amazon.

Pam Musson

THE SCHOLARS & GENTLEMEN

I want to tell you about two forthcoming concerts to be given by the Church's own chamber choir, The Scholars & Gentlemen.

In dulci jubilo—Saturday 28th November - 3.30pm

Firstly, we will be giving a concert at St. Oswald's on Saturday 28th November at 3.30pm. I have been asked if S&G could give concerts in the afternoon to allow those who don't want to go out on dark winter nights to be able to come along.

As we will be on the cusp of Advent, **In dulci jubilo** will be a programme of music for Advent and Christmas from the Renaissance period. It will be something a little out of the ordinary compared to the many carol concerts which will be given at this time of year and I can promise you that the music will be stunning so do come along and join us.

Tickets are £15 each and includes refreshments at the interval.

This concert will be given to support the Whittington Festival. For those who don't know this is a festival that takes place in May each year and is a platform for young professional musicians. It is a chance to hear some of the finest works played by highly skilled young musicians who may well go on to be the stars of the future. As well as concerts, the festival also works with local schools to encourage children to participate in playing instruments and singing so it is worthy of your support.

Double or nothing—Saturday 20th March 2027 - 7.00pm

For this the Scholars & Gentlemen will be singing a programme of music written for double choir (two choirs) and will feature some of the classic works of the Renaissance period including Palestrina's famous 'Stabat Mater'; another work like Allegri's 'Miserere' which the Vatican would only allow at that time to be sung by the Sistine Chapel choir.

This will be sung in aid of the music at St. Oswald's

There will be much more on this in the new year but do put the date in your diary.

It's good to be back with you and I look forward to seeing you at the November concert

Mike Donkin

PUDDING CLUB HARVEST LUNCH

We would like to thank all those involved in making the Harvest Lunch such a great success. A very special thanks to all who made and donated the lovely apple crumbles. This event raised the magnificent sum of £661.00.

As we are sure you are aware, the Pudding Club came about as a social side of Pastoral Care. It then became apparent that we urgently needed to raise monies for repairs to the Church and Parish Centre buildings and therefore the Pudding Club decided that all profits made from their events would go towards this fund.

It is hoped that anyone with a bright idea for another venture will come forward to organise/run an event. Please feel free to chat about it with Glenda, June, Pam, Sal or Natasha.



Our next event is "Come and Sing Your Favourite Carol" on Sunday, 13th December, 2.30pm – 4.00pm, with mince pies, tea and coffee, in Church.



Glenda, June, Pam, Sal and Natasha.

ANGEL TREE AT HMP BERWYN

The Christmas gift requests for Angel Tree at HMP Berwyn have been allocated but cash donations to help with postage can still be given to Elaine Leek until the end of November.

Thank you

e-mail: leek1@btinternet.com

Elaine

Tel: 01691 778024



NOVEMBER FRONT COVER

Photo by Chloë Fraser

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 280

WHAT A CHURCHYARD MONUMENT CAN TELL US

Regular readers of this column may wonder whether the author of these articles on the history of our church spends too much time in the churchyard, looking at the various monuments, or inside the church, gazing up at the various memorials affixed to the church walls. In so thinking, they may have a case. That said, it is true that monuments such as these can provide an insight into the history of St Oswald's and its congregation, and enable us to examine different aspects of life in Oswestry in times past.



So, this month, we are back in the churchyard, with my focus this time directed towards a neat, four-sided memorial sited next to the path, close to the south wall of the vestry. It is a monument that all readers will have walked past, many times. The text on two of its sides is still sharp and clear; one side is blank; on the remaining side (facing Church Street) the text has been attacked by the weather – the wind and the rain – so that some of it can no longer be read.

On one face, we can read the text 'In memory of Elizabeth Kyffin late of Park Issa who died March 25th 1854 aged 81'. On another, the text reads 'In memory of Sarah wife of Charles Osburn who died February 11th 1851 aged 66, also of the above-named Charles Osburn who died February 16 1851 aged 65'. And on the remaining face we can just make out the names Alexander Kyffin and his wife Margaret; she died December 20th 1815 aged 73¹. Transcriptions of the monument's text, by Stanley Leighton and Askew Roberts, tell us that Alexander Kyffin died on August 10th 1766, aged 51.

Some details may be familiar to readers. Park Issa is now the name, and the home, of a well-established veterinary practice. And some may perhaps recall the hotel and vaults named the Osborne Hotel, in Bailey Street, formerly Osburn's Hotel. And the surname Kyffin is one that keeps cropping up in Oswestry's history. Our vicar from 1625 to 1639 was the Rev. John Kyffin. Another John Kyffin was Oswestry's Mayor in 1725. And at least four Kyffins – Thomas, Morris, Richard and Griffith – served as Bailiff (the equivalent to the position of Mayor) in the sixteenth century.

¹ All the dates and ages on the monument are given in Roman numerals

So, what do we know about the Kyffins named on this monument, and about Charles and Sarah Osburn? Starting with Alexander Kyffin, our parish registers show that he was married at St Oswald's on June 4th 1767, that he was a maltster, and his wife was Margaret Lee. Readers may have spotted that 1767 is later than 1766, the date given by Leighton and Roberts for Alexander's death: clearly the text on the monument had already started to deteriorate. The registers record his burial on August 14th 1786, noting his address at that time as Cross Street. He had been one of our churchwardens in 1783 and 1784. Margaret Kyffin, his wife, lived for a further 29 years: her burial is recorded for Boxing Day 1815, the register noting that she was then living in Ellesmere, being 'late of this town'

Looking further back in our registers, we can find details of Alexander's baptism, at Morton chapel, in 1734. He was the son of John Kyffin of Crickheath, and his wife Elizabeth². It seems very likely that Elizabeth Kyffin (d. 1854) was one of Alexander and Margaret Kyffin's children, baptised here in June 1773³. Sarah Kyffin, seemingly one of Elizabeth's sisters, married Charles Osburn in July 1820 at the church of St Mary-le-bone, London; in 1822, still living in Marylebone, they had a daughter Margaret Elizabeth.

The Osburns had moved to Oswestry – in Sarah's case, moved *back* to Oswestry – by 1829, when a notice in the *Chester Chronicle* tells readers that Charles Osburn had taken on the hotel and commercial inn in Bailey Street previously run by William Leigh. Mr Osburn had "furnished [the hotel] with good beds, choice wines and spirits [and] every other requisite"; there was a "commodious room" reserved exclusively for "commercial gentlemen", as well as "excellent stabling and lock up coach houses", the latter accessed from Leg Street.

The Hotel – between the Albion Hill and the Star Passage, on a site now occupied by Bargain World, formerly by Poundstretcher - was soon known as 'Osburn's Hotel', and was run by Mr & Mrs Osburn into the mid-1840s. After they retired, the hotel was run by various individuals, still with the name 'Osburn's Hotel', with a subtle change to the 'Osborne Hotel' by the mid-1870s. As noted on the monument, Charles and Sarah died only five days apart, on the 11th and 16th of February 1851. At the time of their deaths, they were living in Salop Road. Might they have been living at Park Issa with Sarah's sister Elizabeth?

² John Kyffin of Crickheath was a churchwarden in 1733

³ The register lists her parents as Alexander and (erroneously) Elizabeth Kyffin

The 1841 Census shows Elizabeth living in Church Street, of independent means, with her niece Margaret Osburn, and a domestic servant Elizabeth Jones. Watkin's *Oswestry* confirms that this was 34 Church Street, the large house immediately to the right of today's Cae Glas park⁴. By 1851, they had moved to Park Issa – listed in the Census as Plas Issa. – with Elizabeth now described as 'landed proprietor'. Watkin⁵ tells us that this had been the home of Thomas Kyffin, who was a land surveyor. He died in 1844, and his will – available via the online resource *Ancestry* – includes bequests to a number of relations including his cousins Elizabeth Kyffin and Sarah Osburn, and to Sarah's daughter Margaret, with a life interest in Park Issa bequeathed to Elizabeth.

A report in *Eddowes's Shrewsbury Journal* for April 5th 1854 includes the report of the sudden death of Elizabeth Kyffin, "a lady residing in Salop Road [who] was taking her accustomed morning walk, when near to the Gallows Tree Bank Gate she was observed to fall upon the road. On going up to her she was found to be dead". Burial took place on March 31st. By mid-April, newspapers were advertising the sale by auction of "household furniture late the property of Miss Kyffin, deceased", and it seems that by the following year the Kyffins' house, Park Issa, had been demolished and replaced by the present building, home to the veterinary practice. This house was built for George Owen, surveyor and engineer, a key player in the development of Oswestry's railway network, our Mayor in 1864 and 1865.

John Pryce-Jones

⁴ Isaac Watkin, *Oswestry* (1920), p85

⁵ Watkin, p257

BONUS BALL

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ball Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
5 Sep	36	Jan Snowball
12 Sep	26	Janis Gill
19 Sep	45	Dilys Lloyd
26 Sep	31	Eric Clarre

The Bonus Ball year starts at the beginning of March. The cost of taking part is £13/quarter which is collected either annually, half yearly or quarterly. If you would like to join the St Oswald Bonus Ball, please let me know (Tel: 658606)

Paul Crosby

A note from the Building and Fabric Committee

After some very expensive months, I am delighted to report that recent activities have focussed on our DIY team and therefore have incurred no labour costs.

Most important, the leak in the disabled toilet has been fixed. Not only was this an inconvenience for users (pun intended) but we were also losing quite a lot of water. All is now restored to normal. The fire alarms and smoke detectors have had their periodic check and all were found to be working satisfactorily. The dishwasher in the Parish Centre kitchen has been serviced, detergent topped up and filters cleaned. (I am aware there was a failure at the time of the Harvest Lunch, this is being sorted). We are working on measures to improve access via the iron gate to the Parish Centre to meet recommendations from the Fire Safety Inspection. Finally, we have obtained a fire-retardant spray to be applied to the curtains in the Parish Centre and this is going ahead as I write.

To conclude, we had the final visit by the engineers who installed the new boilers. They were all found to be working satisfactorily. They have been programmed to start and stop as best suits the needs of activities in the church; we were advised that there is enough power in the boilers to make the church really warm, but we know we cannot afford the gas to keep it like that. Following the latest hikes in energy prices, we are all advised to remember to bring scarf and gloves in the coming winter season.

Mike Peters
(Committee Secretary)

2026 CHURCHES OPEN DAY

A Huge Thank you to all our Ride and Stride sponsors. We visited 8 churches, met some lovely people, consumed lots of tea and biscuits and had a very enjoyable day out.



Wearing our other hats as members of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group, we delivered copies of our booklet 'A Guide to Shropshire's Churches' to member churches at the same time.

We have sent the grand total of £623 to Shropshire Historic Churches Group. Half of the money collected goes towards giving grants to churches for repairs and improvements, and the other half will come back to St Oswald's. Thank you again for your great generosity.

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Come and see where we belong

ST. OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP

St. Oswald's Ladies Group met in the Parish Centre on Monday 5th October. June welcomed everyone including our speaker Margaret Jones from Llangollen and her husband Peter.

Margaret gave a most interesting talk on her life as one of the first female vets. She had always wanted to be a vet but her family did not encourage her. She had no veterinary background and there were very few female vets. There was a formal dress code ladies having to wear skirts. In 1967 she graduated from Edinburgh University and she never regretted her chosen career. Obviously in Margaret's lifetime she saw advances in diagnostics and treatments such as MRI machines, ultrasound scanners and digital X ray. These improvements enable precise diagnosis and advanced treatments.

June Williams thanked Margaret for her talk and slides on behalf of the Group.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 2nd November in the Parish Centre when we welcome Gracechurch Historical Dancers. There will be about six of them (all dressed in authentic costume) so that they can talk us through some of the aspects of regency life. The short talks will probably cover, dancing, music, costume and the etiquette of the period.

Our Christmas Dinner will be at the Butchers Arms, Wern, on Monday December 7th. Please bring your completed menu sheet together with payment to our next meeting on Monday 2nd November.

We always look forward to new members joining our group and if you require information, please contact me either in church or telephone 01691657903

Ann Sagar
Hon. Secretary



ST OSWALD'S BOOK CLUB

Starting on November 4, St Oswald's Book Club will meet fortnightly on a Wednesday at 7.00pm in St Catherine's. All are welcome to join us for coffee and cake and lively discussion! We look forward to seeing you there.

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A Musical November

Happy November, everyone!



As we move into this new month, I've been reflecting on what a wonderful time we had together throughout October. It was such a joy to celebrate Harvest, which coincided with our Younger Persons' Music Workshop. The church was filled with energy, enthusiasm and so much happiness throughout the day, and it was a real delight to see our younger musicians exploring music, learning together and sharing in the joy that it brings.

The following week, we turned our attention to our Adult Choral Workshop, where we were blessed with some truly wonderful singers. It was a lovely opportunity to come together, make music, learn from one another and, of course, enjoy some delicious food and friendly conversation! Moments like these remind us that music is about so much more than the notes on the page; it brings people together, builds friendships and helps us feel part of something special.

Looking ahead, November promises to be another exciting month for music in our church. As we approach the season of Advent, our music begins to take on a particularly special character, helping us to pause, reflect and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christmas. We have some lovely musical offerings in store, and I very much look forward to sharing them with you.

We will bring the month to a close with our Advent Carol Service, and I warmly invite you all to come along and join us. It promises to be a wonderful feast of music, reflection and worship, with beautiful music to help us enter into this special season of anticipation and hope. Whether you are a regular member of our congregation or simply enjoy the beauty of choral music, you will be most welcome.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and encouragement of music in our church. It is a privilege to be part of such a wonderful musical community, and I look forward to all that the coming weeks will bring.

Until next time, keep singing, keep listening, and keep sharing in the joy of music!

Warmest wishes,

Your Director of Music,

Sam

Services at S. Oswald's

November 1	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 8	09:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	10:50	Act of Remembrance at Park Gates
	18:00	Evening Prayer
Wed. November 11	11:00	Act of Remembrance at Park Gates
<i>Armistice Day</i>		followed by laying of a new wreath on the altar in St George's Chapel
November 15	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>2nd before Advent</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
	18:00	Choral Evensong
November 22	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Christ the King</i>	18:00	Reflective Space
November 29	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 Rhydycroesau

<i>All Saints</i>	09:30	All Age Service
November 1		
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
November 8		
<i>Christ the King</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
November 22		



Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr

MUSIC LIST - NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st November

All Saints/All Souls

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: MacMillan - St. Anne's Mass

Anthem: Beati Mundo Corde - Ives

4.00pm Commemoration of music for All Souls

Sequence of music for All Souls

Sunday 8th November

Remembrance Sunday

9.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: MacMillan - St. Anne's Mass

Anthem: So they gave their bodies - Aston

11.00 Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial (Park Gates)

Sunday 15th November

Second Sunday before Advent

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: Stopford - St. Patrick's Eucharist

Anthem: Christ has no body now but yours - Ogden

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Introit: O taste and see - Vaughan Williams

Responses: Aylewood

Setting: Stanford in C

Anthem: Listen sweet Dove - Ives

Sunday 22nd November

Christ the King

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mathias - Communion setting in C

Anthem: Let all the World - Vaughan Williams

Sunday 29th November

Advent 1

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: Thorne - Mass for St. Thomas

Kyrie: MacMillan - St. Anne's Mass

Anthem: O thou the central orb - Wood

6.00pm Advent Carol Service

Special music sequence

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER



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

Monday 2	1000	Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
	1430	Ladies Group—Parish Centre
Tuesday 3	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 4	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1900	St Oswald's Book Club—St Catherine's
Monday 9	1400	Churchwardens Meeting in Office followed at
	1430	by Lay Ministers & Clergy meeting in Parish Centre
Tuesday 10	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 11	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1100	Armistice Day Service at Cae Glas Park Gates followed by laying of new wreath on the altar in St George's Chapel
Thursday 12	1415	Mothers' Union Fellowship Group
Friday 13	1400	Building & Fabric Committee Meeting—Parish Centre
Monday 16	1900	PCC meeting—Parish Centre
Tuesday 17	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 18	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1900	St Oswald's Book Club—St Catherine's
Tuesday 24	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 25	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1200—	1230 Advent Quiet Time—St Catherines (see page 9)
Saturday 28	0800—	1700 Bell Ringers Meeting in Parish Centre
	1530	The Scholars & Gentlemen Concert - <i>In dulci jubilo</i> See opposite page.

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THE SCHOLARS & GENTLEMEN

directed by Mike Donkin

In dulci jubilo

A programme of
Renaissance
Christmas music

**St Oswald's Church
Oswestry SY11 2SY**

3.30pm

**Saturday 28th November
2026**

Tickets £15.00 on the door
Refreshments included



A fundraising concert in aid of
whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk

Regd. Charity No: 1168989



EVERYTHING WE DO IS DRIVEN BY YOU

As Brian May once sang, “everything we do, is driven by you”. Never has this been truer than in relation to the role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Safeguarding has rightly become a key part of how our churches, schools and chaplaincies undertake our ministry of caring for people, expressing the instruction to care for the weak and vulnerable as we share the love of God in our communities. Safeguarding is the sometimes uncomfortable or downright difficult part of that, but is something we are all responsible for – learning the signs that cause concern and informing the right people at the right time. In most situations, that’s the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

PSO’s are the beating heart on the ground, ensuring compliance and the point of first contact. The role is undisputably critical to helping make the Church of England safer, more transparent and accountable to those whose needs it seeks to meet. It is also true that those undertaking this role have not always received the recognition, training and empowerment they deserve in discharging such a crucial duty on behalf of all involved in the church.

One year ago, Lichfield Diocese introduced area based safeguarding leads and held the first PSO conference targeted at recognising and empowering our PSO’s. In 2026 we are again looking to build on this inaugural event with a second conference to be held at Telford Minster on Saturday 7 November 2026.

Introduced by Bishop Sarah the event will have representatives present from Thirtyone:eight, NSPCC and many other Safeguarding sector organisations. Our emphasis this year is working with those surviving abuse and our keynote speaker will be Sally Hope, author of ‘No visible Scars’, who will be exploring Christian focused work with survivors of domestic abuse. Lunch and refreshments will be provided and there will be ample opportunity to meet and talk with Senior Clergy, Safeguarding team members and our partner agencies.

As Diocese Safeguarding Officer I cannot express my awe, respect and gratitude for the work of PSO’s in the parish enough. I have been astounded time and time again by the sheer commitment and quality of the work undertaken. I thank PSO’s on behalf of the diocesan safeguarding team for the continued determination, commitment and professionalism PSO’s show in this often-difficult role. PSO’s help make a difference every

day and myself and the team look forward to thanking those attending in person on 7 November.



Neil Spiring
Diocese Safeguarding Officer
If you are or know of PSO or have a church role that supports safeguarding in a parish, a place at the event can be booked online via lichfield.anglican.org/diocesan-safeguarding-conference.
For more information about safeguarding, visit lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding

HOLY (NOT HOLEY!) SOCKS



We are selling socks, for both adults and children, in aid of the church repair fund. The socks will be £7.75 per pair but if more than one pair is purchased the cost will be reduced to £7.50 per pair. If you are interested in buying some there will be a catalogue in church from the end of October and Sally Wright and Pam Willing will be pleased to take your orders.

Sal and Pam

COFFEE ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

1	Mary Jones	Natasha Bell	Sally Wright
8	Jane Mayne	Chris Abram	Jean Lawrence
15	Jane Wilkinson	Val Hamer	Carol Burke
22	Judi Neale	Babs Bone	Elaine Leek
29	Hazel Pryce	Dilys Lloyd	Jane Mayne



SMILE-LINES.....

Miscellaneous observations on life

About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age.

An apology is the best way to have the last word.

I'm good at firework displays. I've got a flare for it.

The only thing that wakes you up faster than coffee is spilled coffee.



EVERGREEN IMMORTALS: YEW TREE FOLKLORE

In St George's Churchyard in Clun, Shropshire, stands a marvelous sight to behold. Estimated to be around 2,000 years old, lives a majestic ancient Yew tree. As the oldest tree in Shropshire, this beautiful specimen has likely bore witness to rich history. It has stood tall, guarding the churchyard since medieval times. If it could speak, it would surely have some stories to tell.

There are many Yews across the UK standing strong in churchyards and burial grounds, each with their own unique stories and heritage. The English Yew, *Taxus baccata*, is an evergreen tree that is commonly found in and associated with churchyards. Some are hundreds and even thousands of years old. Many of these Ancient Yews likely predate the churchyards they are found in, and have strong ties to Pagan, Celtic and Druidic traditions.

Yews are steeped in rich and sometimes dark folklore. They are known as the "tree of the dead" for several reasons. It is thought that these trees were planted in sacred places to watch over the dead and guide their passage to the other side. The species is known for its longevity and habit of rooting from drooping branches that touch the ground, further cementing its lore of being a tree of death and rebirth. The all parts of the tree are toxic to humans, and even features in Shakespeare's Scottish play, where a poisonous concoction featuring Yew berries is made.

The Kingley Vale Yews are one UK example of Yews with a spooky history. Legends say there was a great battle between local people and invading Vikings and when the local soldiers fell, their bodies were buried in the forests where the Yew trees now stand. The forests are supposedly haunted by the soldiers, who possess the Yews and come alive at night. We can't forget to mention the Bleeding Yews of Nevern Church in Pembrokeshire. These Yews appear to be continuously bleeding red sap from their trunks. Many legends and myths have arisen to explain this phenomenon, but one endearing explanation is that they bleed in sympathy with Jesus and his crucifixion. Nevertheless, Yews all over the UK will likely live on for hundreds more years, passing down their stories, legends and history forevermore.

If you find yourself with one of these majestic trees in your churchyard, here are a few things you can do to help them out. Most Yews don't need much management and generally like to be left alone. However, clearing anything over their root plate and underneath the trees as well as any ivy growing up the trunk will give them the best conditions to thrive. Get

thinking about how you can get your local communities involved with our [Love Your Yew Week](#) in Feb 2027. To find out more, follow the link to our website to see our Q&A on Ancient Yews and why they're so important to churchyards and how you can help them.

Kaitlyn Elverson
Nature in Sacred Places Engagement Officer

ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

It was

175 years ago, on 13th November 1851 that the first telegraph service between London and Paris began operating.

150 years ago, on 1st November 1876 that the North Sea Canal in the Netherlands was officially opened. It links Amsterdam to the North Sea.

125 years ago, on 12th November 1901 that German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics, for discovering X-rays.



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Dear Supporters

The first half term has come to an end and I have been encouraged by the response of the young people to my presence in schools. The three Christian unions have been thriving, with new members joining in every school. It is wonderful to see so many young people who have a desire to find out more about Jesus.

As November begins, so does Christmas for the SCWP. I am once again offering my Christmas in a Box workshop to the local primary schools, and these workshops will begin this month.

Christmas in a Box is an interactive workshop that enables children to explore what Christians believe about the characters in the Christmas story. It also encourages children to explore what they can learn from the characters' stories that apply to their lives.

As part of the workshop the children will receive a mini box to take home, containing items from the workshop activities, reminding them of what they have learnt.

What else is Happening in November

- Assemblies this month will focus on themes such as Kindness, respect, compassion and honesty.
- The Christian Unions will be focusing on people from the bible who had encounters with Jesus.

Prayer Meeting

Our monthly online prayer meeting will take place on Saturday 7th November 9am via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please use the details below.

SCWP Prayer Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74350939153?
pwd=uUzJKQNF9ShfGOBcrL5pvY2weITKhk.1](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74350939153?pwd=uUzJKQNF9ShfGOBcrL5pvY2weITKhk.1)

Meeting ID: 743 5093 9153

Passcode: 8SFJQx

Things to Pray For

- Christmas in a Box workshops.
- Assemblies in primary schools.
- Secondary School Christian Unions.

Jane Webber
Schools Worker

A THANK YOU FROM THE FOOD BANK

Dear St.Oswald's Church,

On behalf of everyone at the Oswestry and Borders Foodbank, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to your congregation for the wonderful donation gathered during your recent Harvest Festival celebrations.



Your generous contribution of **58.05kg** comes at a critical time. As winter approaches and the cost of living continues to impact families across our local area, demand for emergency food parcels remains high. The store cupboard staples, tins, and essential items you provided enable us to ensure local individuals and families in crisis receive the practical support and reassurance they need.

Around 48% of the food we distribute comes directly from the goodwill of our local community, and our partnership with local churches is at the very heart of this effort. Your continued support makes a tangible difference to people's lives right here in Oswestry and the surrounding border communities.

Please pass on our deep gratitude to all members of your church who contributed, collected, and delivered items.

If your congregation would like to learn more about our work, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With warmest regards and blessings,

Susannah Buckeridge

Deputy Manager

Oswestry and Borders Foodbank

56 Beatrice Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SL

REFERRAL ARRANGEMENTS

COLLECTIONS: We are open on Mondays and Thursdays between 11am and 2pm for collections.

DELIVERIES: Please note, the **cut off** for referrals requiring a delivery is **10:30am** on the day of delivery



Wordsearch - The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

Those endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such horror, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

World	R	O	R	B	D	G	N	I	W	O	R	G	Red
War	O	P	F	A	T	C	G	N	C	B	O	N	Poppies
France	R	U	B	R	I	G	H	T	L	A	T	I	Mud
Flanders	R	E	D	R	A	E	S	E	O	I	C	R	Chaos
Green	O	S	R	E	D	N	A	L	F	H	O	P	Seeds
Fields	H	E	D	N	Y	K	C	G	E	P	D	S	Grow
Bombed	S	E	I	P	P	O	P	E	R	O	E	W	Soil
Barren	N	O	I	T	C	U	R	T	S	E	D	A	Cheerful
Bleak	E	G	W	H	A	F	M	T	D	M	E	R	Growing
Destroyed	L	R	A	W	U	U	R	S	S	R	R	N	Horror
Spring	W	O	R	L	D	B	O	M	B	E	D	O	Doctor
Destruction	S	W	R	S	D	O	F	I	E	L	D	S	poem
Bright													

Solution on page 35

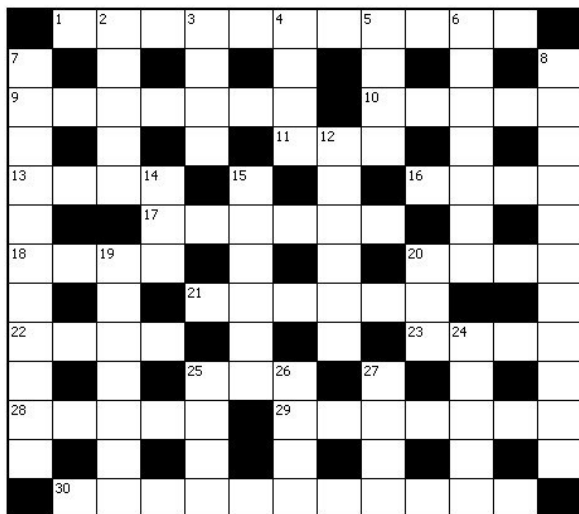
SAMARITANS

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Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all __, Lord of all __, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer "Why are you __ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline __ (2,3)
- 11 'At even __ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay' (3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (x Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but __ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must __ God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, __ Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat __' (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should __ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)
- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)



Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem __ how __ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)

- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
 20 See 1 Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)

Sudoku

Easy

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

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Medium

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

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PUZ?LES

**Solution
on page 35**



Oswestry Tourist Information Centre

Oswestry Town Market Hall

Bailey Head SY11 2PZ

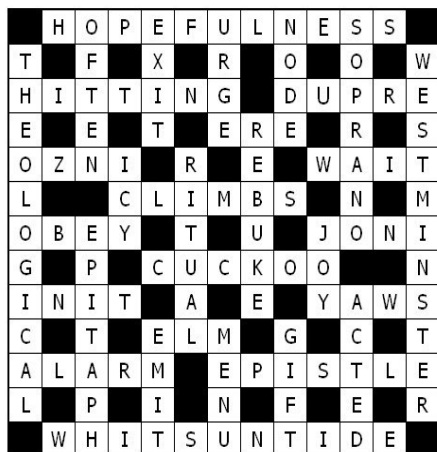
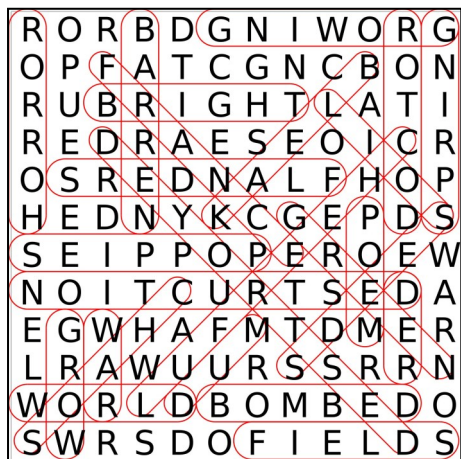
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Easy

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

Medium

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

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required SUNDAY, 15 NOVEMBER

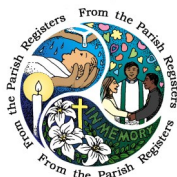
Make-up day for working party, and publication:
Tuesday, 24 November

PLEASE COULD ALL ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS
IN THE CHURCHES TRY TO SEND IN SOME NEWS - EVEN IF
YOU'VE NOT BEEN IN THE HABIT OF DOING SO.

Why not nominate a Correspondent?

Email dianedawson15@gmail.com

REGISTERS



We welcome in HOLY BAPTISM

S Oswald's

September 20 Seán Liam Bacon

We bless and congratulate in HOLY MARRIAGE

S Oswald's

September 19 Jessica Elizabeth Harvey to
Christopher Thomas Jones

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

S Oswald's

September 28 Zoe Georgina Gillings, aged 39
September 30 Kelly Marie Jones, aged 40

Christchurch

September 25 Hugh Hughes Lloyd, aged 91



BEREAVEMENT & PASTORAL SUPPORT

For Bereavement and Pastoral Care contact
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or cmcloud@me.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.

CONTACTS - ST OSWALD'S

BELLRINGERS	Captain: Mr Brian Rothera Secretary: Ms Jan Snowball,	657778 671152 07732712484
BUILDING & FABRIC COMMITTEE	Chairman: Mr David Smith	239552
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UNDER 5's PLAYGROUP	Manager: Email: stoswalds.u5s@gmail.com	
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