



September 2025

PARISH MAGAZINE

Harvest Festival

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The Reverend Harvey Lloyd Gibbons, M.A.
St Oswald's Vicarage, Penylan Lane, Oswestry, SY11 2AJ. Tel: 01691 653467
email: revdharvey@gmail.com

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Tel: 653316

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What's in a word?

In a recent Sunday sermon, I pointed out that many of the words Christianity uses are small ones... words like God, Christ, sin, and love. Small words packed with big meaning. Faith is just one of those words, easily said but what do we mean by it? The word has an obvious spiritual dimension pointing to the realm of God's cosmic mystery, but we also put our faith in doctors, politicians, scientific and economic advancement.

So what is this thing we call faith? In my sermon I referred to the letter to the Hebrews which in chapter 11, offers a wonderfully concise definition; *'Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.'* The author of Hebrews sees faith as both belief in God, and trust in God, that God will keep God's promises to those who have faith.

Yet faith can be hard to find yet easily lost because faith is not just a statement of belief, it is a living thing. We are called upon to act in its name and so genuine faith is reflected in actions and obedience to God, showing that belief in God is not just a mental exercise but a way of life. Faith enabled Abraham and Sarah to make the journey towards the promised land and establish a people great in number; faith enabled the Hebrews to survive the wilderness years of exile; faith enabled Jesus to fulfil the ultimate promise of God, to offer God's people a way into new life.

Just as Abraham and his kin were wanderers, just as Jesus wandered the Holy Land, so we are wanderers of faith in a world of uncertainties; the life of faith is a journey, in the language of faith it is a pilgrimage. a pilgrimage with God in Christ towards God in Christ. If our faith is a living thing it should be growing, we grow in faith by daring to dig deeper into it, considering new thoughts and new ideas, taking the risk of challenging our own deeply held ideas.

This autumn there will be an opportunity for us to continue our pilgrimage together, to embark on a journey of faithful discovery through studying scripture and theology and joining together in prayer. We are running the *Pilgrim* course, a teaching and discipleship resource from the Church of England which aims to enable people to explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day.

Focusing on following Jesus Christ, the material flows from the Scriptures and draws deeply from Christian tradition, using extracts from a whole range of authors from Christian history to enhance the key biblical and liturgical texts. It approaches the great issues of faith not through

persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers.

It comprises two stages: the 'Follow' stage for those very new to faith, and the 'Grow' stage for those who want to go further. This Autumn we will be using the second of the 'Grow' stage books, *'The Eucharist'* which explores how Christians know and worship God and reveals the reasons why Eucharist is celebrated as a memorial of Christ's saving passion and stands at the very heart of Christian worship. The course comprises six 90-minute sessions centred on reading, and reflecting on scripture, and discussing its importance to our own spiritual journey. There is plenty of time for discussion and prayer.

And talking of prayer, prayer was central to life and ministry of Jesus. Through prayer Jesus spoke and listened to the Father, through prayer he discovered his Father's will and received his Father's strength. His disciples also knew the importance and power of prayer, so much so that they asked him to teach them how to pray; Jesus gave them and us, the Lord's Prayer as the model they and we should follow.

Prayer should be at the heart of our faith and the underpinning of all we do as we seek God's will and strength for our lives. Alongside the Pilgrim course we are offering a time of corporate prayer *'Praying for our World'*. Beginning on September 3rd and then on every first Wednesday of the month at 7pm in St. George's Chapel, *'Praying for our World'* offers an opportunity for you to gather alongside others to pray for the concerns you have for the church, the world, yourselves and each other. Each evening will last about half an hour or so, there is no expectation to pray out loud, or to lead others in prayer, simply drop in bringing your concerns and thanksgivings with you and offer them before God.

Being a Christian is a lifelong commitment requiring a lifetime of talking with and listening to Christ, reading our bibles and studying new thoughts and ideas about him and sharing them with others. I invite you to join us as we begin this new season in our journey of faith at St. Oswalds, a journey of reflection and discovery as we journey together on the pilgrimage we call faith.

Praying for the World starts on 3rd September at 7pm and there is no need to sign up, simply turn up. The first *Pilgrim* evening will be on September 22nd also at 7pm but please let us know if you are able join us by signing up on the list in the South aisle so I can arrange resources.

Harvey

This article is a slightly abridged version of Bishop Michael's Presidential Address to July 2025's Diocesan Synod. As Parliament resumed on 1 September after summer recess, it is timely to revisit this issue now before the Bills continue their Parliamentary journey and with the Second Reading of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill imminent on 12 September.

Two Bills await scrutiny in the House of Lords: The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, providing for 'assisted dying' in some circumstances, and the Crime and Policing Bill, removing criminal liability from women who end their own pregnancies.

Both Bills affect vulnerable groups, who have had a bad few weeks what with these two Bills plus the debate over meaningful yet cost-effective support for people with disabilities. Vulnerable people are Christians' first call for compassion and advocacy, but here I am specifically addressing beginning and ending of life issues.

Increasingly, there are concerns being expressed about the end of life Bill. The Third Reading majority of 23 in a (free) vote in the Commons was significantly lower than the Second Reading majority of 55.

Some of those concerns are shared widely. Following the abortion decriminalisation vote, the Bishop of London helpfully pointed out that, '*Women suffering from coercion, or those who are victims of sexual or domestic abuse, would be the most vulnerable to the proposed change.*' Paradoxically, making those women free from legal sanction could make them more at risk.

In the case of assisted suicide, vulnerable people could, in their last months, feel themselves to be a waste of bed-space or a financial burden on their families, and then avail themselves of this way out. Over the past few weeks, several people who have been in situations of medical, psychological or social vulnerability have written to me to describe thoughts exactly like this. Sadly, in some cases there could be temptations for overburdened hospital administrators, or for fatigued families, to reinforce those inward feelings by their outward attitudes or words, so that people really do end up feeling coerced. The statutory inquiry into the COVID pandemic has recently heard evidence of the effective abandonment of residents of care homes to the ravages of a deadly disease because they were seen as more expendable than others. It is also hard to believe that there will not, over the years, be a relaxation of restrictions on who may avail themselves of assisted dying procedures.

That has been the consistent experience of other jurisdictions.

As a Christian, I believe in the God-given sanctity of every human life, resting on the biblical truth that we are made in the image and likeness of our Creator. To take away God's gift of life is to choose to go against God's good purposes, whatever might be the circumstances in which that happens. That immediately raises a host of complex questions, particularly at the beginning of life. What if the life of a woman is endangered by a pregnancy, might not the imperative to save life point to abortion as the lesser of two evils? At what point does an incipient life become truly a human being and who has responsibility for the unborn life until that point? These complexities are addressed in this Church of England statement on abortion:

The Church of England combines principled opposition to abortion with a recognition that there can be strictly limited conditions under which it may be morally preferable to any available alternative. This is based on our view that the foetus is a human life with the potential to develop relationships, think, pray, choose and love. Women facing unwanted pregnancies realise the gravity of the decision they face: all abortions are tragedies, since they entail judging one individual's welfare against that of another (even if one is, as yet, unborn). Every possible support, especially by church members, needs to be given to those who are pregnant in difficult circumstances and care, support and compassion must be shown to all, whether or not they continue with their pregnancy.

At the other end of life, it is sometimes argued that no clear distinction can be made in borderline cases between assisting somebody to die, on the one hand, and on the other hand administering palliative drugs for pain control that will hasten the end of their life, or stopping intrusive medical interventions that artificially sustain a vegetative state. Many of us will have experienced issues like these in the dying days or hours of those we love. They can be bitterly difficult to decide. Nevertheless, there is a world of difference between acting to alleviate suffering in someone's dying hours and purposefully seeking to bring about death. Intentionality matters.

At the beginning and the ending of life, and at every point in between, as a Christian I affirm in wonder and gratitude that all human lives belong to God, and that every human life is to be treated with reverence and awe as an image of his glory and a temple of his spirit. Many people of other faiths or beliefs would share in that view, even if expressed in different language. In public as in private we must be free to bear witness to our strongest convictions; it is chilling to hear calls to exclude people from bringing their religiously grounded values to the debate because they are not 'neutral.' Faith or belief is not like a coat to be taken off and left at the

door as we enter into the house of public debate.

Finally, at the most practical and immediate level, the Assisted Dying Bill currently before Parliament is good neither in content nor timing. The safeguards it stipulates are viewed by many as woefully inadequate and it seems to me quite extraordinary to be proposing a fully-funded suicide service when palliative care is dramatically under-resourced often left reliant on charitable resources, and when the NHS in general is under such strain.

So, the Lords will now engage with the Bill. Please pray for all members of the House of Lords, and particularly for the bishops who sit there, as we deliberate. Please also pray for debate about disabled people's provision. Every day the chamber begins its business with prayers led by one of the bishops. On the last day of each week these include Psalm 121. I put my hope in the final words of that psalm: 'The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.'

+Michael

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Part of a letter I have received from Bradlee a girl I sponsor in Haiti -

'I am doing very well, thanks to God, and my activities are going well, thanks to Jesus. I am on vacation. I thank you for your support, and thank you for your help in prayer.'

'Thank you for the love you give me, and thank you for everything.'

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40 that caring for others reflects God's heart and is a response to His call. 'The King will reply 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'.

Haydn Jones

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MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting is on September 11th at 2.15pm in the Parish centre and our speaker will be Mr M Donkin. All Welcome.

Some of our members attended a Mary Sumner Day Service at Welsh Frankton and the speaker was our Mothers' Union Diocesan President and I thought I would share it with you.

Pam Musson

MOTHERS' UNION TODAY

Hello

It's lovely to speak today and be able share tea. Our organisation continues to be a quiet but mighty force for good—one that weaves faith, compassion, and action into the fabric of communities across the world: yes, this is: the Mothers' Union.

Founded in 1876, the Mothers' Union began as a vision to support women in Christian family life—and nearly 150 years later, that vision has evolved into a global movement rooted in love, service, and unwavering hope. The world has changed in unimaginable ways since then. And yet, what remains constant is the Union's heartbeat: a deep desire to strengthen families and support communities.

Today, our work extends far beyond church halls and prayer meetings—though those remain at the heart of our spiritual community. The Mothers' Union tackles modern-day challenges head-on, from gender-based violence and economic hardship, even modern-day slavery to loneliness and fractured families.

Through projects that promote literacy, parenting, financial empowerment and reconciliation, the Union lifts up those who are often overlooked enabling resilience. In places affected by conflict or poverty, Mothers' Union volunteers provide trauma support and help rebuild lives with dignity. In prisons, they offer companionship and mentoring for families of inmates. And in our very own neighbourhoods, they form circles of care—whether that's through meals, listening ears, or simple presence.

Importantly, we advocate. quietly but powerfully, we speak up for justice in government chambers and policy platforms, giving voice to the voiceless and challenging systems that harm the vulnerable. And our prayer network? It spans continents.

Every day, members pray for strangers they'll never meet—because their belief in the transforming power of love crosses borders and time zones.

What makes the Mothers' Union extraordinary is that it's not just about doing good—it's about being good. Being a stabilising presence. Being a source of warmth in moments of cold. And being a reflection of faith, live and active.

Supportive of our worldwide mission, members here in Lichfield adapt programmes around the needs of our own communities not just continuing work but developing strategies that tackle those needs we see in our daily lives. Prisoners and their families are supported by the cards we send at Christmas and our prayers, parents are listened to and helped with food banks and uniform banks. Those in need are given time and space to be together by going away via our away from it all programme. Knitting patterns give crafters the opportunity to produce items for all ages, prem baby clothes, breasts to help health visitors how feeding problems can be over come reducing stress and embarrassment, angel pockets for those who loose a loved one, lap blankets for care homes and nativity figures that tell the old, old story to fresh hopeful ears.

We don't just continue traditional interactions we innovate. Hats are now knitted to support local farmers access help they may need, socks, gloves and scarves are donated to those who find themselves homeless in harsh winter conditions, basic food boxes or cleaning supplies are given to young adults leaving the care system moving into their own independent living space. A voice is given to those who are vulnerable allowing them to see they are recognised and supported and our prayer chains move from silent wishes to deeper contacts and commitments.

I have a weekly reading and this weeks I'd like to share because I found it so apt for today.

ROMANS12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

So today, let us celebrate not just what we've done, but what we continue to do. Let us thank the thousands of members whose lives are devoted not to spotlight or prestige, but to service and kindness. We are proof that the most powerful movements don't always start in headlines—they begin in hearts.

Thank you.

Deb Tudor
Diocesan President

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St. Oswald's Readers List

I just want to begin by conveying our heartfelt thanks for the wonderful devotion, Maureen Crosby offered St. Oswald's in this role; a role which she fervently managed without fail, diligently delivering the Readings each quarter and stepping in whenever required!

Maureen provided this faithful service for 22 years and there is no doubt, Paul assisted her role conscientiously in the background.

Our heartfelt sympathies are with Paul, Andrew, Heather and all the family at this time.

"Though you are gone, your light will continue to shine in our hearts"



St. Oswald's Readers List – October 2025

I will be taking over the role of managing the Readers List going forward. I am presently trying to obtain our voluntary Readers Phone Numbers (preferably Mobile) and will distribute the new list for the next quarter once it is available.

Your forbearance will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks
Penn Harris 07704 218040

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 266.
A MONUMENT TO MARTHA HIPPISELEY – AND A LINK TO TV’S
FATHER BROWN

I am afraid that I have been drawn back to the monuments to be seen on our church walls, so that this month my subject is a fine mural monument, almost three hundred years old, to be found on the north wall of the church tower. This monument is one of those placed high up on the tower wall, so that it is difficult to read, also its inscription is wholly in Latin¹. It is on the left hand side of the north wall, close to the buttress, and commemorates Mrs Martha Hippisley and Mrs Cotton Powell, who died ten months apart in 1729. In common with other memorials now displayed on the tower walls, this monument was moved to its present location at the time of the major restoration of St Oswald’s in the years 1872-74.

Price’s *History of Oswestry* (1815) tells us that formerly it was sited in the chancel, fixed to one of the pillars dividing the main chancel from what is now the Lady chapel. Directly below the memorial, on the chancel floor, was a grave stone, inscribed in English, transcribed by Stanley Leighton in his list of church memorials printed in the *Montgomeryshire Collections* for 1874. The gravestone was one of those ‘saved’ from being hidden beneath the new church floor in 1874, being moved into the church tower where it remains, fixed firmly to the west wall.

The full text on the gravestone is recorded as “Disturb not the ashes of Mrs Martha Hippisley the beloved wife of Organ Hippisley of Lambourn in the county of Berkshire esq. Her soul adorned with every Christian grace she resigned up to God January 25 1728² in the 27th year of her age. Under this marble are also deposited the remains of Mrs C. Powell daughter and heir of Thomas Bowles of Kingston Lisle in Berkshire gent. She was relict of J. Hippisley junior of Lambourn in Berkshire esq. and wife of W. Powell A.M. She died November 23 1729 to rise again in glory. Also Katherine relict of Archdeacon Langford interred March the 9th 1751 aged 74.”

This inscription is very helpful, telling us that these were individuals of some means. The Hippisley family had inherited Place House, a Tudor mansion in Lambourn, in the 17th century – from John Organ, a relation. Organ Hippisley (b. 1701) was the elder son of John Hippisley (b. 1672)

¹ A sketch of the monument, and transcriptions of its Latin text are included in the papers of William Mytton: Birmingham University’s Cadbury Research Library, MYT/5/993-994, 1103

² Modern day 1729

and his wife Cotton Bowles, who were married in 1699 at Kingston Lisle. John Hippisley having died in 1708, his widow Cotton remarried in 1713, her second husband being the Rev. William Powell, vicar of Lambourn from 1709 to 1714, and vicar of Llanymynech and Llanyblodwel from 1713 onwards³. Organ Hippisley inherited the Lambourn estate in 1722, on the death of his grandfather John (1649-1722). In 1727 he married Martha Martyn at the church of St Peter and St Paul, Blockley, in the Cotswolds – a church you will have seen if you have ever watched an episode of the Father Brown TV series featuring Mark Williams in the title role.

Martha Martyn was the elder daughter of Francis and Elizabeth Martyn of Upton Old, in the parish of Blockley, baptised at the parish church on November 15th 1701. A brass, formerly on the floor of Blockley parish church, now displayed on the church walls there, tells us that Francis Martyn esquire (d. 1713) had “industriously and honourably engaged for many years in commercial pursuits with London merchants”. This brass, two more brasses to his younger daughter Anne (d. 1727) and his wife Elizabeth (d. 1748), and further details on the church’s benefactors’ board indicate that the family gave generously to the poor of the parish, founding a charity school next to the churchyard, and giving sums of money to pay for coal to heat the school, for clothes for the children attending the school, and for the instruction of poor girls in reading, knitting and sewing.

The mural monument here in St Oswald’s was erected for Organ Hippisley, to remember his wife Martha, and his mother Mrs Powell. It does not include any details relating to Katherine Langford, who died in 1751. Our registers indicate that her late husband, the Rev. Richard Langford, had been rector of Llanrhaeadr-ym-mochnant – and some research on family history sites including *Find my past* and *Ancestry* has indicated that they were married in 1719 at Aldbourne, Wiltshire, and that Katherine was another Hippisley, and from Lambourn.

Why is the memorial here in Oswestry? The obvious answer, perhaps, is that its subjects died and were buried here. Our registers record the burials of Martha on January 28th 1728/9 and of Cotton Powell on November 26th 1729. It is possible, perhaps probable, that Martha and her husband Organ were paying a visit to Organ’s mother Cotton Powell and her husband the Rev. William Powell, who may well have lived in Oswestry rather than Dr Powell’s parishes of Llanymynech and Llanyblodwel. They may have journeyed up from Lambourn to introduce Mrs Powell to her new grandson, as Organ and Martha had a son, named John, in June 1728.

³Vicar of Llanymynech 1713-1739 and Llanyblodwel 1713-1729. He was Dean of St Asaph from 1731 until his death in 1751

Organ survived only another seven years - he died in 1735 – leaving his young son John as his heir, but he died in 1736, aged only 8 years old. A memorial at St Michael's church, Lambourn, to his grandfather John Hippisley (d. 1722) tells the reader, once more in Latin, that "here also are laid the mortal remains of John Hippisley esquire ... who was translated to glory in the year 1708 aged 36, whose eldest son Organ Hippisley esquire departed this life A.D. 1735 aged 35 [who in turn] left behind an only son John. Alas! The tender little boy exhibited only 8 brief years on the Earth and was laid under this marble with his father A.D. 1736. Who in hearing of the tragedy and ruin of this family could refrain from tears?"

John Pryce-Jones

ST. OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP

Our next meeting will be in the Parish Centre on Monday September 1st at 2.30 p.m. when we welcome Andrew Preston who will speak to us about The RJAH Veterans Orthopaedic Centre.

We are always pleased to welcome new members for our monthly meetings. If you would like further details please contact me either in church or by email ann_sagar@btinternet.com or telephone 01691657903.

Ann Sagar
Hon. Secretary



RECRUITING NOW!

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

St. Oswald's Choir is recruiting for

Adult Choir members

**There are vacancies for
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but we will also welcome Altos**

Sopranos

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**For further details contact
Mike Donkin,
Director of Music
on 07779 917724
or via email at michaeldonkin44@gmail.com**

MUSIC NOTES - SEPTEMBER 2025

HOLIDAY TIME

Following a music filled celebration of St. Oswald's Day on 3rd August which brought to an end a demanding seven months of music, the choir was on holiday throughout August.

Kate and I have been in Bath and Brighton but we always follow St. Oswald's online. I have to say that, for me, nowhere we have been can compare with St. Oswald's for the dignity with which the services are carried out and the quality of the preaching. I was also particularly delighted with the fine congregational singing. Anglicans are never noted for being great at singing in the congregation, that distinction usually being given to the free churches. However, at St. Oswald's you raised the roof both with the hymns and the setting of the Eucharist. Well done to everyone.

If you read the July edition of the Parish Magazine you will know that a number of choristers have left us to pursue their studies at university. We now need to recruit and I would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to sing in the Choir.

For the first time we are opening the Choir to adult sopranos. We sing to a high standard but there is good support and practices are quite relaxed so don't be put off. You will be surprised at how quickly you can settle in. Just get in touch and have a go.

CHORISTER TASTER EVENT – SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

For young people who enjoy singing and want to develop their voices there is no better way than joining a choir like ours. This is because we use the Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' Scheme which has been designed to develop young voices naturally from starting to sing to managing the changes that take place as the adult voice develops"

So that they can judge for themselves we are having a Chorister Taster event on the morning of 20th September from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

I have been lucky enough to secure the services of professional singer and singing teacher, Samantha Lewis to lead the morning.

Samantha joined St. Oswald's Choir as a chorister aged 8 and remained with the Choir until age 22 when she left to study Singing at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. There she attained a Masters Degree and went on to study for an Advanced Professional Diploma. Upon graduating with distinction, she was awarded the Postgraduate Course Prize and the St Clare Barfield Rosebowl for Operatic Distinction.

She has been praised for her inspirational emotive singing that has left audiences spellbound. She has performed in numerous operas including Bizet's Carmen and Mozart's Cosi fan tutte and the Magic Flute. and in oratorio has been a soloist in, among others, Handel's 'Messiah', Bach's 'St. Matthew Passion' and Mozart's 'Requiem'.

This will be a fun packed morning in which participants will experience the way we teach, have a look at the organ and learn some music including John Rutter's version of 'All things bright and beautiful' which we will sing at Harvest Festival on 28th September. Those joining us for the morning can, if they like, come and sing at the Harvest Festival to see if they would like to stay.


Of course, we hope that they will but it will be up to them.

If you want to come along you can just turn up but it would be helpful for organising refreshments etc. to know so do please contact me on:-

Email: michaeldonkin44@gmail.com

Telephone: 07779 917724

Mike Donkin
Director of Music



HARVEST LUNCH

St. Oswald's harvest lunch will take place on **Sunday 28th September**, in the parish centre, doors opening 12.30 for 1.00pm

MENU

Cottage pie and peas
(vegetarian option available on request when ticket bought).

Apple crumble and cream

Tea and coffee will be served after the food

Please bring your own drink to accompany the meal.

Tickets: £10 per person will be available from June from Sunday 7th September. Numbers are limited, so please get your ticket as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!
Any monies made will go towards the parish centre repair fund.

Services at S. Oswald's

September 7	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Trinity 12</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
	18:00	Spoken BCP Evening Prayer

September 14	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Holy Cross Day</i>	18:00	Spoken BCP Evening Prayer
<i>Trinity 13</i>		

September 21	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>St Matthew</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 14</i>	18:00	Choral Evensong

September 28	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Harvest Festival</i>	18:00	Reflective Service for Harvest
<i>Trinity 15</i>		

Every Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion (BCP)

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

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

Services at Rhydygroesau

<i>First Sunday</i>	09:30	All Age Service
September 7		

<i>Second Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
September 14		

<i>Fourth Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
September 28		



Harvest Festival Celebrations at Christchurch will be on Friday
10th October. More information in the October magazine

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD, KING & MARTYR
MUSIC LIST - SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th September

Trinity 12

10.30am. Parish Eucharist

(*St. Oswald's Singers*)

Setting: Shephard - Addington Service

Anthem: Steal away - Spiritual (arr: Tambling)

Sunday 14th September

Holy Cross

10.30am. Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mathias - Communion Service in C

Anthem: Crux fidelis - King John IV of Portugal

Sunday 21st September

St. Matthew

10.30am. Parish Eucharist

Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas

Anthem: Christ has no body now but yours - Ogden

6.00pm Choral Evensong.

Introit: Lead me Lord - S. S. Wesley

Canticles: Morley - Plainsong with Fauxbourdons

Responses: Morley

Anthem: O how amiable are thy dwellings - Vaughan Williams

Sunday 28th September

Harvest Festival

10.30am. Parish Eucharist

Setting: Metrical to Hymn Tunes

Anthem; All things bright and beautiful - Rutter

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2025

St. Oswald's harvest festival will be on September 28th. As in previous years, any harvest donations will be taken to the Foodbank to support its work among the people of Oswestry and surrounding area.



We will be providing boxes in church so you can make a donation to support their work. We will provide a list of suggested items in the Sunday pew sheet and on the church notice boards.

Thank you on behalf of the Foodbank.



CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2025



Monday 1	0830— 1000 Oswestry School Assembly 1430 Ladies Group—Parish Centre 1930 St Oswald's Book Club in Parish Centre
Tuesday 2	1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 3	1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre 1900 <i>Praying for Our World</i> —St George's Chapel
Saturday 6	0800— 1000 Orthodox Divine Liturgy
Monday 8	1000 Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
Tuesday 9	1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 10	0830— 1000 Oswestry School Assembly 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Thursday 11	1415 Mothers' Union Fellowship Group
Friday 12	0830— 1000 Oswestry School Rehearsal for Founder's Day Service 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 13	0900 SHCT Ride + Stride 0900— 1200 Oswestry School Founder's Day Service
Monday 15	1930 PCC Meeting—Parish Centre
Tuesday 16	1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 17	0830— 1000 Oswestry School Assembly 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 19	1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 20	1000— 1230 Chorister Taster Morning—details on opposite page
Monday 22	1900 <i>Pilgrim Bible Group</i> —see pages 6/7
Tuesday 23	1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 24	0830— 1000 Oswestry School Assembly 1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Friday 26	1000 Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Tuesday 30	1030— 1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre



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St. Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry

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with

Samantha Lewis

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Ex Chorister in St. Oswald's Choir

and

Mike Donkin: Director of Music at St. Oswald's

Josephine Sands: St. Oswald's Church Organist

**Saturday 20th September
10.00am to 12.30pm**

**A fun morning for Boys and Girls
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at michaeldonkin44@gmail.com

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BONUS BALL

Congratulations to the July 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>
5 Jul	15	Mike Donkin
12 Jul	14	Ann Sagar
19 Jul	15	Mike Donkin
26 Jul	18	Bill Bowen

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

THE SECRET OF EXISTENCE

And this is outside logic;
the little game we play by day,
ridiculed by night's upsided dreams.

Truth is unexplained outside Spirit.
Becoming is progress in being;
liturgy will not catch the Dove.

The secret of life lies not here.
You learn nothing by dead rote;
doing the same repeats the same.

Try to see beyond the neat-boxed script;
be caught in the fire-tonguing wind,
welcoming the One already come:
*Knowing, receiving the released gift,
freedom in-breathed in our ever birthing.*

July, 2025

Mark Davis.



2P JAGUAR by SHAUN GAGG

THIS CAPTIVATING LIFE-SIZE SCULPTURE TAKES THE POWERFUL FORM OF A JAGUAR, SKILFULLY CRAFTED FROM HUNDREDS OF GENUINE 2 PENCE COINS. EACH COIN HAS BEEN METICULOUSLY WELDED FROM WITHIN, CREATING A SEAMLESS, POLISHED SURFACE THAT SHIMMERS BEAUTIFULLY UNDER THE LIGHT. THE RESULT IS A STRIKING PIECE THAT CAPTURES BOTH THE ELEGANCE AND THE STRENGTH OF THIS MYSTERIOUS PREDATOR.

EACH JAGUAR IS A UNIQUE MANIFESTATION OF SHAUN'S CRAFTSMANSHIP, AND NO TWO SCULPTURES ARE ENTIRELY IDENTICAL. THE REFLECTIVE QUALITY OF THE COINS BRINGS THE SCULPTURE TO LIFE, GIVING IT AN ALMOST LIFELIKE PRESENCE.

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Living back in Lichfield for the first time since leaving for university some time in the last century is a slightly bizarre experience. I am currently living fifty yards down the road from where I went to primary school and cross paths, while cycling to work, with pupils on the way to my old secondary. Sometimes I feel tempted to put the old red crimplene blazer back on and follow them in through the gates...

Although we think of September as the time when we 'go back' to school or to work after the holidays, the reality of course is that we can never go back. Life only moves in one direction. Even if we find ourselves in a place which feels like somewhere we've been before, we have changed – we've grown older, hopefully wiser, hopefully not too much less able to engage physically with the challenges of living. The people around us are different, some new friends and family, some are missing. The web of love and relationship from within which we engage with the world is different. The world changes but sometimes it's we who change more.

The same is also true with how we interact with our faith: how we read the Bible, how we engage with worship, how we pray, how we think about God. Many would say that becoming a parent, for example, changes their understanding of the Father's love radically. Everything changes because we change. And that is nothing to be anxious about. God is always revealing new things to us about who he is and how much and in what ways he loves us.

'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.' These words in the book of Lamentations in the Bible encourage us to see God as a faithful and never-ending source of love and mercy but that love and that mercy is new every morning. Because we are new every morning: a new me – older, wiser, creakier – with a new opportunity today to see my life afresh, through God's eyes. 'New every morning is the love' – why not go and look this hymn up on that new-fangled Google thing and be encouraged and uplifted by it? And then, what new road will you travel as you grow nearer to God today?



Sam Rushton returned to Lichfield in April (after spending most of her adult life in Bristol and York) to take up the role of Chief Executive, also known as Diocesan Secretary, for the Diocese of Lichfield, working closely with the bishops and archdeacons to provide all the practical support and training to parishes, schools and chaplaincies that the diocese can offer.

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OUR TWO SMALLEST BIRDS

By September many of our summer migrants have left the UK and we are starting to notice shortening days. It can be a good time to reconnect with the birds that don't migrate and which we can enjoy watching all year round. A churchyard classic is the tiny goldcrest. Goldcrests can be found in the canopies of evergreen trees, particularly yews and cypresses. Its rare to find a churchyard or cemetery without any yews or other evergreens and its also rare to find one without any Goldcrests too!

It can take patience to spot one, they are tiny, about 9cm from beak to tail tip, and well camouflaged apart from their namesake – a striking black and yellow stripe on their heads, their gold crest which they can raise giving them a punk style hairdo! Their Latin name is *Regulus regulus*, which can be translated as little prince, perhaps due to this golden crown. If you are not able to see a Goldcrest you may hear one, they have a repetitive call, sounding like zee, zee, often on the edge of one's hearing due to the high pitch.

Our Goldcrests do not migrate to warmer climes or join flocks of other small birds moving through the landscape searching for food as many other small birds do in winter. They stay put in their trees with needles, possibly living their whole lives in a few trees within one churchyard. They are always on the move, busy gleaning small insects and other invertebrates, using a thin beak to pick them out from between tree needles of bark cracks. Although they do not migrate you may however see an increase in Goldcrest numbers in the winter, mainly along the east coast of the UK, as they are joined by Goldcrests from Scandinavia, particularly in hard winters, when large numbers will cross the North Sea. This is quite a flying feat as goldcrests weigh about 5g.

There is another similar species that you may also spot, the Firecrest. These can be thought of as Goldcrests on fire, brighter colours, fiery orange-gold crown and the black head stripe accentuate by a white one below it. Firecrests are increasing in the UK, the first record of breeding birds was in Hampshire in 1962, they are now moving north and are breeding in the Midlands and Wales, with a few pairs in the north of England. There are now over 2,000 breeding pairs. It seems likely that they are responding to changes in climate.

Look out for both Goldcrests and Firecrests in your local churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery and as always please record what you see and hear, ideally using the iNaturalist app. It may be easier to record their song

rather than photograph this restless little bird, hidden within the dark canopy of needles.

Harriet Carty

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

COFFEE ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

7	Judi Neale	Babs Bone	Elaine Leek
14	Hazel Pryce	Dilys Lloyd	Jane Mayne
21	Val Hamer	Glenda Evison	KayCole/Fiona Pearson



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Fruit & snacks provided for
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Play with our toys or get crafty
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A chance to mix with other
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Friday Session Term Time Only

INFORMATION

 St Oswald's Parish Centre
 stoswalds5s@gmail.com

Optional £1 donation per adult & child
(50p for any additional children)

Pupils, teachers and support staff are now enjoying a well earned summer break. As they take time to relax, let us pray that they will have time to think about the message of Jesus and the seeds I have sown.

The summer term ended positively with many schools praising the quality of the It's Your Move books given to the pupils. The children also loved taking part in the activities and exploring their move to secondary school.

As we look to the new academic year, let us pray for wisdom and guidance in the planning of new activities and events.

Thank you for your faithful support of the project.

Blessings

Jane Webber

Things to Pray For

- Rest and relaxation for pupils and staff.
- For pupils who struggle without the routine of school over the summer holidays.
- Safety for families as they enjoy time off together

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required in the Office
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Make-up day for working party,
and publication:

Tuesday, September 23

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Come and see where we belong

On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles." Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory	N	G	R	A	N	G	L	E	S	A	L	T	Poor
History	O	A	D	O	O	G	T	E	T	D	O	E	Monk
Son	Y	H	S	N	T	M	V	S	L	E	S	L	English
Roman	M	S	P	H	H	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	Slaves
Senator	O	H	S	I	L	G	N	E	N	R	E	C	Angles
Converted	N	O	P	S	U	O	R	E	N	E	G	T	Angles
Young	K	S	E	T	A	T	S	E	S	V	N	E	Plague
Estates	N	Y	R	O	M	A	N	N	G	N	A	D	Pope
Monasteries	S	E	I	R	E	T	S	A	N	O	M	G	Apostle
Generous	E	P	O	Y	L	O	I	S	U	C	R	S	elected
	G	O	P	L	A	G	U	E	O	N	E	Y	
	P	P	S	D	L	R	O	E	Y	N	R	E	

Answers on Page 39

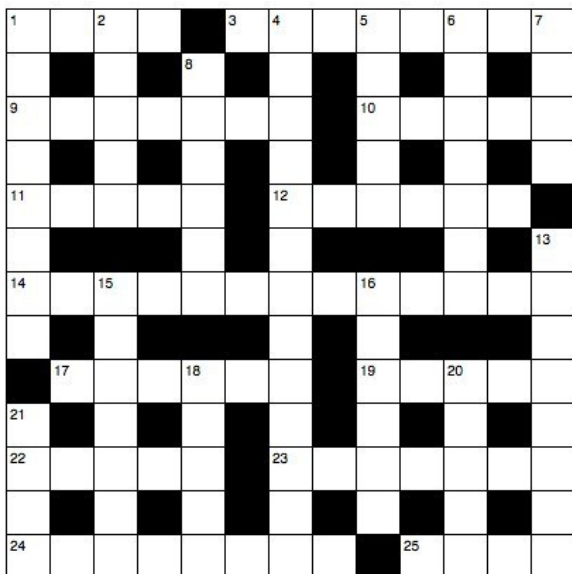
SAMARITANS

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Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)
 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)



Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)

- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

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Medium

PUZ?LES

**Solutions
on Page 39**



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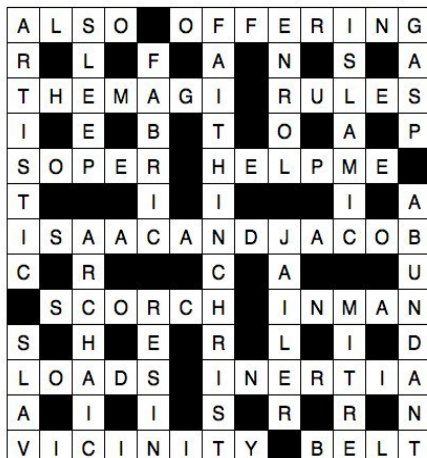
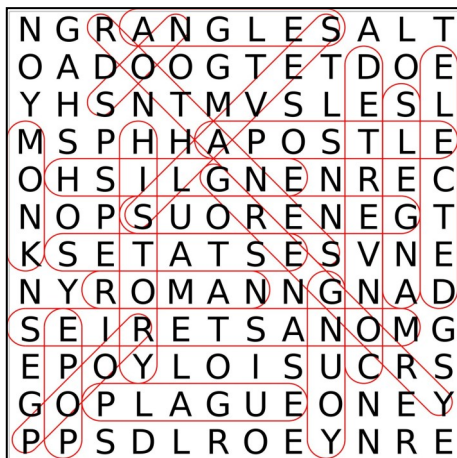
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Easy

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

Medium

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

It was.....

70 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1955 that Britain's first independent TV channel was launched. ITV ended the BBC's monopoly.

Also 70 years ago, 26th Sept 1955 that Bird's Eye frozen fish fingers went on sale in the UK.



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S Oswald's

August 6 Stephen Mosford, aged 69

August 18 Maureen Catherine Crosby, aged 80



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CONTACTS - ST OSWALD'S

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SACRISTAN	Mr Michael Jones	653598
UNDER 5's PLAYGROUP	Manager: Ms Sigourney Merrony-Potton Email: stoswalds.u5s@gmail.com	
WEBSITE: WEBSITE SPIDER	www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk Anne Pilsbury, email: annepilsbury@gmail.com	

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



Allun Jones



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