

August 2026

PARISH MAGAZINE



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and Christchurch, Rhydyroesau 50p



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**THE PARISH CHURCHES OF ST OSWALD, KING & MARTYR, OSWESTRY,
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Vicar of Oswestry & Rector of Rhydycroesau

Interregnum

Interim Ministers

Reverend Dr Keith Musson Tel: 656212

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

Christchurch: Mrs Elizabeth Stanley

Rosemary Davies

Tel: 652544

Tel: 653598

Tel: 653316

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

PASTORAL LETTER AUGUST 2026 BY THE REV DR KEITH MUSSON

I suppose one advantage of an interregnum is that the pastoral letter is written by a different person; I have certainly enjoyed my colleagues contributions but now, as we come to the second round our messages, have to draw more deeply on our current situations than previous experiences.

August, as we all know, is the home of our Patron Saint's Day and on the 2nd, we will celebrate St Oswald's acts of dedication and bravery with the usual service and social gathering, but he has been well covered on previous occasions and I want to take this opportunity of drawing our attention to another life of dedicated service which is celebrated during this month. Well done if you had remembered that the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on the fifteenth, a Saturday this year.

In the Anglican Church our celebration of this feast tends to be rather muted, unlike our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters who give Mary a much higher profile, both in worship and in church adornment. Over the past few years Pam and I have been in Austria for Corpus Christy and have witnessed the Body Of Christ being processed around the town accompanied by his mother, Mary. I don't know what they do on Mary's Day but I would expect there to be at least a festival service.

As we know Mary was a young, uneducated village girl preparing for marriage to an older man. A normal scenario in her day but one that was disturbed by the appearance of an archangel. Mary's obedience to God's call and her life-long dedication to her calling are in part what we celebrate, but more significantly we celebrate the fact that God, in his loving generosity, implanted part of himself in human flesh, thus enabling us to have direct experience of his love and of the nature of his heavenly kingdom. Christmas may be several months away but the opportunity to experience a glimpse of heaven is ever present if we look carefully at the world around us and especially at the acts of kindness and generosity by those who come to our notice.

In August we remember the contribution to building God's kingdom here on Earth by another faithful Mary when, on Tuesday 9th, we celebrate Mary Sumner's day. Mary was of course the founder of the Mothers' Union and although she died on the 11th of the month, some confusion in the early days of the organisation led to a mistake being made which it was decided not to correct, so the 9th August is still her day. Mary Sumner also recognised God's call to her in that as the wife of a clergyman she was in the position to exercise some authority in her community. She also recognised the fact that many of her neighbours lived in conditions much

less comfortable than her relatively generous vicarage. She realised that the women of her husband's parish had little chance of improving their situation through lack of education, skill training and fellowship so she set about rectifying this, initially in a small way, but the social climate was right and the branch rapidly grew into a large tree both nationally and internationally. Today the Mothers' Union has a smaller role in the Church of England in the UK but overseas, especially in Commonwealth countries, it is still a major force in supporting women and families.

I suppose the Mothers' Union, along with other groups formed at that time, could be said to have been at the forefront of women's emancipation in England. In the church this has eventually led to the priesting of women and most recently the appointment of a woman as our spiritual leader. Not a Mary this time but a Sarah.

Thinking of appointments, we are moving forward towards advertising for a new parish priest so please keep in your prayers all those who may feel a calling to come and work with us in the never-ending job of building God's kingdom in this place. In the meantime let us continue to enjoy sharing together in the life of our church, enjoying the pleasure of mutual support all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To help us in this I end with Mary Sumner's personal daily prayer as I think it speaks to us in our everyday lives.

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee:
And every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken.
Whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe,
Or the life I live.

Amen

Yours in Christ

Keith

MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Jan Chesworth led our worship and talk about Churches around the world that they had attended, in the past. It was very interesting and informative.

There will not be an August meeting in the Parish Centre as we have been invited to Welsh Frankton to a service to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. This will take place at St Andrews Church on Tuesday 11th August at 2.30.

In September we will meet as usual in the Parish Centre.

Pam Musson

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THE FOLLOW-UP OR SEQUEL TO ALAN'S WINTER FORECAST

I have just paid £47,409.18 representing 95% of the total cost of the new heating system. 5% retention has been deducted until the snagging list is completed and the building & fabric committee are satisfied that all is working correctly. A further £2,495.22 will then have to be paid.

The total cost will be £49,904.40 which is a few pounds short of the £50,000.00 which had been budgeted for.

Unfortunately when we first planned the replacement of the church boilers we had expected to reclaim back the VAT figure of £8,317.40 through the Government Listed Places of Worship Scheme. However, as Alan stated, it was necessary for us to wait before we could start the work until a Faculty (permission) was granted by Lichfield Diocesan authorities which was exhaustive and we also had to prove that there was no renewable energy alternative. During this drawn out procedure the Government withdrew the scheme and as a result we are faced with covering the VAT figure of £8,317.40 from our own resources.

Fortunately in 2023 we received a substantial legacy from a deceased member of our congregation which has covered the cost, but now our cash resources have been depleted.

Whilst Paul Crosby is looking into grants, the Finance Committee will now be looking into ways of saving money as well as asking for contributions from our parishioners and also fund raising.

As I stated at the Annual Parish Meeting in May we did not cover our expenses for the year 2025, and my projection was that we would eat into our cash reserves in 2026.

There will be more articles to come in the next few months as we all will have to put our thoughts into how we increase our giving, and at the same time reduce our costs.

We need to create a Fund Raising Committee as David Smith stated in the February magazine.

Paul Evison
Hon Treasurer

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, CRIGGION

*We are delighted to invite you to
our fourth annual*

Hymns and Pimms

*an afternoon of singing some
well-loved hymns followed by a
glass (or two!) of Pimms*

*Guest organist –
Revd Philip Harratt*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th
at 3.00pm**

retiring collection

ROBING ROOM VESTMENT CUPBOARD

Over many years Eucharistic vestments have always been stored in a vestment chest within the Church. In days gone by Vestments were made of silk and were protected by being covered with acid free tissue paper, but as years have moved on silk has become very expensive so other types of material are used.

St Oswald's have been blessed by the generosity of people who have given much needed replacement vestments which are no longer able to be folded and kept in the chest.

Just before Christmas, on speaking to John Watson of Traditional Products Ltd. He asked "if there was there anything that his family run company could make for the Church". In the robing room was an old wardrobe in which some of the vestments were kept and this was falling to pieces. I asked John if he could make a replacement for it, which he agreed to do and he said "that he would like to try and copy the carving as on the 17th century cupboard" on the other side of the room.

I am pleased to say that John and Jean Watson and family have donated to the Church the magnificent crafted Vestment cupboard which you can see from the picture below. The cupboard, now in full use, will be blessed at a later date.



We are so grateful to John, Jean and family for this much needed gift.

Mike Jones

LAST CHANCE TO VIEW - 2026!



Mr & Mrs Harvey of Halston Hall, Whittington have been opening the Grade 1 listed, 15th Century timber-framed Chapel in the grounds of the Hall for public viewing during the summer months - for those who haven't visited yet there is one last opportunity on –

Friday 14th August 2026 from 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

Please advise Mr & Mrs Harvey of your attendance before you visit, either by Telephone: **01691 662335** or
by Email: info@halstonestate.co.uk

There is no charge, however donations towards the upkeep of the chapel will be gratefully received.

Visitors should meet in front of Halston Hall, Whittington SY11 4NS before being escorted to the chapel which is some distance from the Hall.

Chris Abram

COVER: STATUE OF ST OSWALD, CHURCH OF SAN STAE, VENICE.

This is an example of how widely the fame of “our” St Oswald has travelled. The statue is on the façade of the church, overlooking the Grand Canal and was made by Giuseppe Torretto in the C18. Apparently there is also a painting within the church entitled ‘St Oswald in Glory’ (or ‘The Exultation of St Oswald’) by Antonio Balestra in the early C18.

Why does a church in Venice have a statue of St Oswald? One reason may be that St Oswald was considered a protector against the plague. He was well-known outside the British Isles especially in Germany and Slovenia. Also Venice at this time was recruiting men from all over Europe to fight in its armies and this led to saints from different regions being honoured in the city.

Frances Major

BONUS BALL

IMPORTANT NOTICE

I mentioned this last month but it's worth repeating.

The National Lottery, which generates the Bonus Ball number that we use every week, from mid-June have started using two separate machines to generate two sets of winning numbers and hence two separate Bonus Ball numbers. **The Churchwardens have agreed that the St Oswald's Bonus Ball draw will use only the number from the first machine (known as Round 1).**

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ball Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
6 June	50	Martyn Bentley
13 June	44	John Abram
20 June	44	Jonn Abram
27 June	24	Peter Walley

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.

Paul Crosby
658606

RIDE AND STRIDE

Ride and Stride this year will be on **Saturday 12th September**. All are welcome to collect sponsors and ride, stride, drive or bike to any number of churches on that day. Half the sponsor money will go to Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants to churches, and the other half will come back to St Oswald's. Last year we raised about £500.

Sponsor forms will be at the back of the church. Please support us.

Much more information on the SHCT website:-

<https://www.shropshirehct.org.uk/OtherActivities/RideStride.aspx>

St Oswald's contact:- Anne Pilsbury (annepilsbury@gmail.com)

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 277

IS IT SHREWSBURY OR SHROWSBURY?

WHAT OUR CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS CAN TELL US

I may have mentioned before that I keep a list of the articles written for this column – so that I don't repeat a topic – and that, at the end of that list, is a much shorter one of topics that I haven't covered so far, and which might provide the subject for an article at some point in the future.

One of the topics on that reserve list has been, for some years now, 'Shrewsbury or Shrowsbury, or Salop?'¹ and, spurred on by recent media discussion of the topic, I thought that now might be the time to bring this down from the shelf, to 'bring it off the bench' as a football commentator might say.

As source material I used William Day's transcription of our churchwardens' accounts for the year 1579 to 1613, supplemented by other stray sheets from those accounts for the years to 1615. These, written up by or sometimes for the churchwardens of the day provide – alongside the details of church expenditure – a glimpse (from how words are written and spelled) of how local people spoke at that time. There is no index, so the only thing to do was to read through Mr Day's transcription, page by page, for 205 pages – the ideal task, true multi-tasking, when watching the World Cup or Wimbledon.

The result of this skim reading was 13 references, plus one for expenditure at Battlefield Fair². Two further references were found in the stray sheets. I may have missed one or two items in my skim through the pages, but Shrewsbury would not have been key to the affairs of Oswestry parish church which was, of course, in the diocese of St Asaph at this time – there are more entries in the accounts for visits to St Asaph, or for payments hosting officials from St Asaph. What references there are to Shrewsbury relate very largely to purchases made there, work undertaken in Shrewsbury, or to the hiring of specialist tradesmen from the county town.

For example, in 1594, the wardens Roger Edwards, a glover, and John Blodwell paid payments for a lock and for four ropes (three shillings and fourpence each – dearer than those bought at Battlefield), bought "at Salope". They also reimbursed William Thomas fourpence, the cost of his dinner "at Salope being sent to buy the ropes". The accounts for 1595

¹Recent enquiries made of the Shrewsbury public have floated another option 'Shoesbury', with no spoken 'r'

²In 1591 the wardens paid 12/6d for five bell ropes at Battlefield Fair, 2/6d each with no discount for a bulk purchase

include details of a contract to make a new clock and chimes drawn up with the blacksmith Adam Bradshaw “of the towne of Salope”, and those for 1608 include the payment of twenty shillings to the mason John Moris “of Salop ... for amending of the pinnacles of the steeple”. Evan ap Thomas was paid for a journey to “Salop Towne”. In 1613, the wardens paid a shilling “at Salop” for an hour glass, and in 1614/15 paid five shillings to “mr powell of Salop for preachinge”. In fact, three fifths of the references that I have found used the name ‘Salop’ neatly avoiding the question of Shrewsbury or Shrowsbury.

We are in fact left with a very small sample – only six references. In 1596 the church drew up a contract with the two John Pellitories, father and son, plumbers “of *Shyrosburie*” for the maintenance of the church roof. In 1597, the wardens paid 1/6d to an unnamed glazier “of *shrosbery*”. In 1603, payments were made in relation to the casting of a church bell – for “gowinge and cominge to *sherowsbury*” with an overnight stay, and for the carriage of the bell “to *shewrosbury* and home againe”. In 1609, the churchwarden Roger ap David paid three shillings for carrying “the brasses to *shirosbury* & [home]”. Finally, in 1611, the wardens claimed for their costs “going to *Sherosbury* to the bell founder”.

So, we have, for the years 1594 to 1611, six examples: *Shyrosburie*, *shrosbery*, *sherowsbury*, *shewrosbury*, *shirosbury*, and *Sherosbury*. All start with the ‘Sh’ and all end with ‘bury’ – true, but that is not the crux of the argument. More interestingly, all include the ‘r’, suggesting that the ‘Shoesbury’ option was not used here in Oswestry, at that time at least. More interestingly, all six examples include the element ‘ros’ or ‘rows’, though only one - *shrosbery* – completely reflects the Shrowsbury side of the argument. All the others suggest that Oswestrians at the time may have employed four syllables – she-rows-bur-y – or similar. But, as noted, most may have stuck with the simpler ‘Salop’.

And statisticians would offer caution – it is after all a very small sample.

P.S. One detail that I failed to mention in last month’s article about John Lloyd of Gloucester and his wife Rebecca, is that Rebecca Lloyd’s name is included on the Benefactors’ Board, currently to be found within the church tower, fixed to the wall. By her will dated January 10th 1733³ she bequeathed a sum of money to be given by the vicar to the poor at Christmas each year, the sum “issuing out of a house in Cross Street”, modern day Church Street⁴.

John Pryce-Jones

³Modern day 1734

⁴W. Cathrall, *History of Oswestry* (1855), p126; I. Watkin, *Oswestry*, p122

BELL RINGING NEWS

We were delighted to be awarded Hub status with the Association of Ringing Teachers in May. As soon as this was confirmed we ran a session in early May on our Abel Simulator, focussing on listening skills alongside scoring the quality of striking. All attendees found this a really interesting and useful exercise. We had ringers from Oswestry, Whittington and St Martins and we hope to include Ellesmere ringers in the future.

The rest of June saw the steeple keeper and tower captain at Oswestry finish the installation of our new Higby training bells and connection to the simulator. At the first practice after this we successfully rang on a very light 6, and light 8 and 10 bells. We are very pleased with how this has worked so far as it will give us many good training options going forwards.



*Picture of Training Bells - during installation in the clock room
(between the ringing room and belfry)*

We plan to kick off full Training Hub events after the summer holidays, going to support member tower practices in the meantime.

On 12th of July we rang a Quarter Peal for Evening Prayer as follows:

Shropshire Association

Oswestry, [Shropshire](#)

St Oswald King and Martyr

Sunday, 12 July 2026 in 46m (13–3–19 in F)

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Jan Snowball
- 2 Cordelia Warr
- 3 Pippa Tucker
- 4 Anthony J Freemont
- 5 Richard Major
- 6 William A M Barter
- 7 Brian J Rothera (C)
- 8 Matthew T Leak

For evening prayer. God speed to Andrew & Christine Ball as they move to Southwell. In the centenary year of the Shropshire Association

Brian Rothera



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026

The academic year has come to an end and staff and pupils are enjoying a well-earned break. It has been a privilege once again to be able to share the gospel within 17 of our local schools.

It has been a great encouragement over the year to see so many engage in the gospel and consider what it means for them.

The summer break for many is one of excitement, and a chance to spend time with family. But we must also consider those who find the summer break a struggle. The lack of routine and structure to their day can affect the mental health of some young people. It is therefore important that we continue to pray for pupils and their families during the summer.

Jane Webber

Things to Pray For

- Teachers and Pupils. Pray that they will have a restful summer.
- Families as they manage the logistics of having their children at home.
- Young people who struggle with the change in routine during the summer.

EST. 1906



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MUSIC NOTES

As we move towards the summer break, I would like to thank everyone for their continued enthusiasm and commitment to our music-making.

Recently we introduced Philip Stopford's new Morning Setting into our worship. You all coped with it wonderfully, and it has been a real joy to hear it developing week by week. Our Junior Choir have taken to it with particular enthusiasm—judging by their wonderfully loud and confident singing, I think it's safe to say they enjoy it! It is also encouraging to see how well the children are settling into the choir. We hope and pray that this continues, and we are very grateful for the support and encouragement shown to them by the whole congregation.

Although the choir will be taking a well-earned summer break from Sunday rehearsals after 2nd August, St Oswald's Day, we certainly won't be idle. We are delighted to have been invited by the Library to lead another workshop on Saturday 29th August, and preparations for that are already well underway.

Behind the scenes, we are also busy rehearsing for the celebrations on St Oswald's Day. This is always a very special occasion in the life of our church, and we are all looking forward to sharing it with you. We have three new pieces of music that we are especially excited to perform, so please do come along to one—or even better, both—of the services if you can. Your support means a great deal to all of us.

As for me, the summer will be anything but quiet! Alongside rehearsing for St Oswald's Day, I'll be busy planning ahead for the Christmas season, with some exciting musical ideas already taking shape. I'll also be involved in several performances over the holidays, including a concert at the Hermon Arts Centre on Sunday 9th August at 4.30 pm. At home, life has become rather busier too, as our dog, Crumpet, recently gave birth to a litter of puppies, so they will certainly be keeping me occupied!

Finally, congratulations and sincere thanks to Jamie Rogers of Canterbury Cathedral for his excellent organ recital on 25th July. It was a wonderful afternoon of music that was greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. Our thanks go to Jamie for sharing his talents with us, and to all those who came along to support the event.

I wish you all a happy and restful summer, and I look forward to making music together again very soon.

Samantha Lewis-Widnall
Director of Music, St Oswald's Parish Church

Services at S. Oswald's

August 2	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Trinity 9</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr</i>	18:00	Choral Evensong

August 9	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 10</i>	18:00	Evening Prayer

August 16	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Trinity 11</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
	18:00	Evening Prayer

August 23	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 12</i>	18:00	Reflective Space

August 30	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Trinity 13</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>First Sunday</i> August 2	09:30	All Age Service
<i>Second Sunday</i> August 9	09:30	Holy Communion
<i>Fourth Sunday</i> August 23	09:30	Holy Communion



Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr

MUSIC LIST - AUGUST 2026

Sunday 2nd August

St. Oswald's Day

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: Stopford - St. Patrick's Eucharist

Anthems: Do not be afraid - Stopford

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Introit: Beati mundo corde - Ives

Responses: Smith

Setting: Roth - Hatfield Service

Anthem: Faire is the Heaven - Harris

Sunday 9th August

Trinity 10 (Choir on holiday)

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: Shephard - Addington Service

Sunday 16th August

Trinity 11 (Choir on holiday)

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: Shephard - Addington

Sunday 23rd August

Trinity 12 (Choir on holiday)

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: Shephard - Addington

Sunday 30th August

Trinity 13 (Choir on holiday)

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Setting: Shephard - Addington



PATRONAL FESTIVAL - SUNDAY AUGUST 2

Everyone is invited to a Bring and Share lunch in the Parish Centre from 12.30pm. Please indicate on the sheet at the back of church if you are able to attend and what food you can contribute.

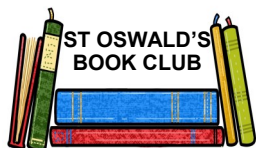
If you wish, you are very welcome to bring a bottle to share or consume yourself.

Please come and enjoy one another's company. We look forward to an enjoyable time together. ALL are welcome.

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2026



Saturday 1	0900	Orthodox Church Matins and Pilgrimage to St Oswald's Holy Well—see opposite page for details
Monday 3	1000	Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
Tuesday 4	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 5	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1900	<i>Praying for Our World</i> —Reading Area
	1415—	1600 Mothers' Union Fellowship Group
Saturday 8		Organ Repairs
Sunday 9	1200	Organ Repairs
Tuesday 11	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
	1430	Mothers' Union Fellowship Group service at St Andrews Church, Welsh Frankton—see p.7
Wednesday 12	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Tuesday 18	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 19	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Tuesday 25	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
Wednesday 26	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1000	Town Hall Meeting Re Remembrance Service



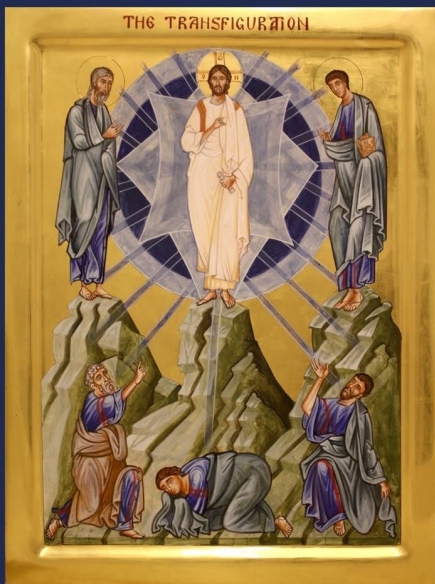
Please check St Oswald's website and weekly pew sheet for information on dates and books. All are welcome to join us for coffee and cake and lively discussion!

COFFEE ROTA FOR AUGUST

2 St Oswald's Day Bring & Share Lunch

9	Jane Wilkinson	Val Hamer	Carol Burke
16	Judi Neale	Babs Bone	Elaine Leek
23	Hazel Pryce	Dilys Lloyd	Jane Mayne
30	Val Hamer	Glenda Evison	KayCole/Fiona Pearson





Saint Oswald annual Pilgrimage

Saturday 1st August 2026

The Parish Church of St. Oswald,
King and Martyr,
Oswestry SY11 2SY

9.00 am - Matins

10.00 am - Divine Liturgy
Veneration of relics of St. Oswald

11.30 am - Pilgrimage to
St. Oswald's Holy Well

12 noon - Refreshments

12.15 pm - A Talk on
'The Transfiguration' with Q&A

Presbyter Panteleimon Maxfield
Presbyter John Petkov



ALL WELCOME!

ST OSWALD'S LADIES GROUP

St. Oswald's Ladies Group met in the Parish Centre on July 6th for our monthly meeting. June welcomed Alan Lewis to speak to us about his own experiences of metal detecting.

Alan has lived in Oswestry for fourteen years and has been registered with National Council for Metal Detecting for six years.

He gave a most interesting talk accompanied by photographs of several items he had discovered including Bronze Age Gold Ring - 7 strips, Axe head 1000-800 BC and other items 1500BC - 3500 - 4000 years old. Caesar Coin, Tudor family - old copper nose, coins, Horse Harness Pendant twelfth century - Unicorn, Cynetryth - 785 AD, Fibula - 65 - 125AD - Polden Hill type, Lucius Calpurnius Piso Frugi 90BC rome Obverse Apollo reverse horseman galloping, 1030 -1035 CNUT Coins Father Sukin Forkbeard and many more items.

Glenda Evison gave the vote of thanks to Alan.

There will be no meeting in August. For our meeting on September 7th at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre we welcome Julie Dean from Ellesmere Honey Company to speak to us about their Business and their bees.

We have some interesting talks for the rest of the year and if you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me in church or telephone 01691657903.

Ann Sagar
Honorary Secretary



JOIN THE JOURNEY OF GROWTH

Someone once said "Not everything that counts can be counted" – and when it comes to our faith it is hard to see a way of 'measuring' where we are at with God. Indeed, do we need to?

Whilst the national church demands our attendance and finance figures (both essential to track), we might see our spiritual growth and deepening of our discipleship as equally – or if not more - important to consider.

The Church Development Tool is a refreshed online survey tool which can help whole congregations better understand themselves and how they feel about their faith.

Launched on 1 June, it is free, anonymous and now housed on the Online Parish Returns platform. It can enable congregations to have their voice heard about the life and ministry of the church and includes modules on diversity, children & young people, lay ministry, giving and discipleship.

With only 22 questions in total, even a church conducting all six modules will find it quick and easy to administer and gather the results from. You can then run it twelve months later for example and compare the results to monitor your journey.

In my role as Whole Life Discipleship Officer, I was particularly interested in the discipleship module – thought-provoking questions such as ‘How often do you pray?’ and ‘to what extent you feel you have someone you trust to share questions about God’ prompted me to reflect personally - irrespective of any wider results. So as a diocese we offered to help pilot the ‘CDT’ with a few churches to gather feedback on the process and the questions – then suggest tweaks – to help those at Church House developing this nationally.

If you are interested in running the survey at your church, see the link below for more information. It could be as a one-off snapshot or as part of a wider development piece – either way please do get in touch with me and I can set that up for you. I can even come and talk it through with church leaders / PCC if that is helpful.

I am excited to see what this survey can do to support our churches to celebrate what is going well – and identify areas ripe for development. Whilst our walk with God is never straightforward or something we can quantify easily, my prayer is that the Church Development Tool is a means of us all joining in the journey forward – together. You never know, it might even lead to more souls in our services praising God with us.



Helen Emery, Whole Life Discipleship Officer
helen.emery@lichfield.anglican.org Mobile: 07498 192669.

The Church Development Tool survey and resources can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/church-near-you/church-development-tool>

RECYCLING NEWS

USED STAMPS:



As you probably know, all the used stamps collected in St. Oswald's are passed to Mary Beaman who gathers in collections from other churches in Oswestry to send to EMBRACE the charity whose aim is to ***"Embrace the people of the Middle East and help our Christian partners tackle poverty and injustice."***

Mary recently received this letter from Embrace extending their heartfelt thanks for our contributions which she has asked me to share with you.

"We have been truly touched by your generosity in sending your used postage stamps to Embrace. What may seem a small act has a meaningful impact helping us raise additional funds for our partners' education programmes.

Education is a fundamental human right, it empowers individuals with the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to lift themselves out of poverty and take an active role in society. Yet for many marginalized and excluded communities across the Middle East, access to education remains a significant challenge.

*Thanks to the support of people like you, our partners are able to respond to this need. Partners such as **Think & Do** provide literacy, numeracy and vocational training for women in rural Egypt; **The Learning Centre for the Deaf** support children with hearing impairments to thrive and reach their potential; and **Tahaddi** run an education centre on the edge of Beirut, offering stability and hope to children growing up amid the uncertainty and devastation of conflict.*

None of this vital work would be possible without your support. By donating your stamps you are doing far more than raising funds – you are empowering vulnerable children, women and men to shape their own futures and build better lives for themselves and their families.

Thank you for being part of this change.

*Carla Gregory
Individual Giving and Retention Lead"*

Please keep them coming and please encourage your friends and family to help fill our little box for Hope House, too!

In doing so we have helped them to keep 407,396 Kg of ink cartridges out of landfill sites whilst raising over £50 for Hope House.

Chris Abram

For people who wish to come in and pray during the day, prayer resources can be found in St. George's Chapel.

Chartered Accountants

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



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JUST ANOTHER BUTTERFLY ON THE WALL

As August rolls in, you might start to see some new wings fluttering in your local churchyard. The Wall Brown or Wall butterfly is named after its habit of basking casually on walls or rocky places. This behaviour allows the butterfly to raise its temperature enough to fly around comfortably. Perfectly camouflaged against stones, the best way to identify the species is by checking the eyespots on its wings. One large eyespot on the forewing and four smaller ones on the hindwing is a dead giveaway that you have a Wall on your hands.

The Wall's habitat is diverse across England and Wales, spanning coastal zones, open grassland, disused quarries, railway edges, gardens, field edges and even churchyards and cemeteries. They may be found in sunny spots, basking on warm stone monuments, walls surrounding the churchyard, or the gravel of kerbed graves. Walls lay their eggs on grass tussocks and the broader leaves of coarse grasses such as Yorkshire Fog. Larvae and caterpillars will munch away on the grasses, while the butterflies rely on a variety of grassland wildflowers for nectar.

Inland Wall populations saw dramatic decreases in the 1980s, but not for the reasons you might expect. Habitat loss and degradation or abandonment of traditional farming or forestry practices didn't fit the bill for the Wall, so researchers instead had to come up with other theories.

Belgium researchers discovered they were witnessing similar decline with their Wall populations, so decided to do some digging. They proposed that warming climates were causing the species to have a third brood late in the year, leaving little time for the caterpillars to develop before winter. This brood was then unfortunately lost, causing the downward spiral.

Though, this might not be the end for the inland populations. Many butterfly species can change their voltinism (the number of generations produced per year). This flexibility allows species to respond quickly and often unexpectedly to years with favourable conditions, producing more broods than would be typical. Based on this principle, we can expect inland Wall populations to experience strong natural selection as climates warm, eventually recovering and becoming as resilient as their coastal relatives, where temperatures are more consistent.

It's a waiting game for the Wall, but in the meantime, we can be doing our part to support the species. Leaving coarse, grassy and sunny patches in your churchyard or garden gives them places to do their sunbathing.

Creating gorgeous wildflower meadow areas gives the Wall, as well as many other pollinators and invertebrates, lots of variety for food. If you spot a Wall, be sure to record it in your iNaturalist app or send us a photo, especially if you see one in your local churchyard or burial ground. Every record builds a picture of just how important burial grounds are for wildlife.

Kaitlyn Elverson
Nature in Sacred Places Engagement Officer

Thank You to Harriet Carty for all her articles over the years as she hands the churchyard articles baton to Kaitlyn Elverson who's joined Caring for God's Acre

SAMARITANS

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PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required
SUNDAY, 16 AUGUST

Make-up day for working party,
and publication:
Tuesday, 25 August

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

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John the Baptist

This month, on the 29th, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

John	E	E	Q	E	U	Q	I	N	U	D	E	
Baptist	G	G	C	R	C	Y	D	D	U	M	E	Muddy
Rough	N	G	B	A	P	T	I	S	T	S	A	Jordan
Obscurity	E	G	M	P	R	I	G	R	E	A	T	Arrested
Desert	L	E	B	E	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	Dungeon
Bugs	L	N	I	R	R	U	E	B	C	A	G	Head
Camel	A	J	A	P	E	C	U	S	U	T	U	Cut
Heat	H	H	O	D	E	S	E	R	T	Y	O	History
Sun	C	E	E	H	R	B	U	G	S	E	R	Great
Challenge	U	A	A	M	N	O	E	G	N	U	D	Unique
	D	D	U	T	Y	R	J	H	T	E	S	prepare

Solution Page 35

IT WAS:

250 years ago, on 2nd August 1776 that the formal signing of the US Declaration of Independence took place.

175 years ago, on 12th August 1851 that the American inventor Isaac Singer was granted a US Patent for his sewing machine. Since then, well over 100 million various models of Singer sewing machines have been sold worldwide.

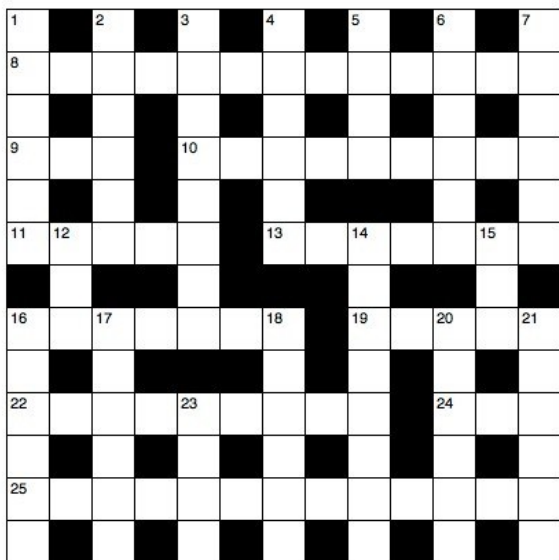
150 years ago, from 13th to 17th August 1876 that the German composer Richard Wagner's complete Ring cycle (Der Ring des Nibelungen) was performed for the first time, over four nights, at the Bayreuth Festspielhaus.

Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
- 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
- 10 Single (1Corinthians7:27) (9)
- 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)
- 13 Treachery (2 Kings11:14)(7)
- 16 Of India (anag.) (2,3,2)
- 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)
- 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)
- 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
- 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)
- 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)
- 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings12:11) (8)
- 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
- 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
- 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
- 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
- 12 Run (anag.) (3)
- 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)
- 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm12:4) (3)
- 16 Earnings (1Corinthians16:2) (6)
- 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that—you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)



- 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1) (6)
- 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state (Daniel 11:4) (6)
- 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
- 23 This month (abbrev.) (4)

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Medium

PUZ?LES

Solution
on page
35



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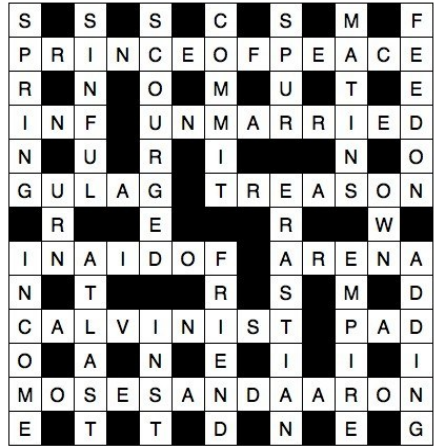
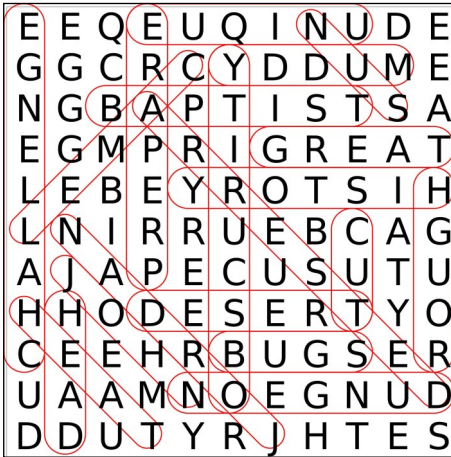
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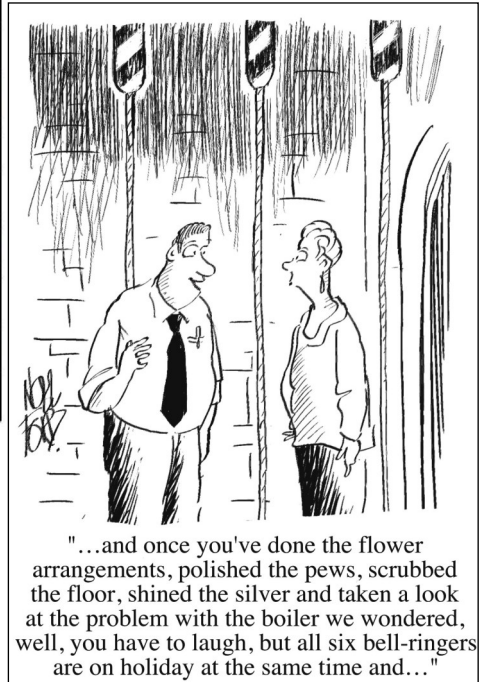


Easy

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

Medium

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



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REGISTERS



We bless and congratulate in HOLY MARRIAGE

S Oswald's

July 4 Richard Jeremy William Elmhirst to
 Nichola Holly Lawrence-Millard

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

S Oswald's

July 1 Norma Siegrid Hilde Emmi Brannan, aged 89
July 9 Bryan Ernest Martin, aged 82
July 15 John Mellor, aged 77



BEREAVEMENT & PASTORAL SUPPORT

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

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