

St David's Wettenhall &
St Oswald's Worleston
December 2020



**The Cross Country Parishes
of
Acton, Church Minshull,
Wettenhall & Worleston.**

Heard or overheard recently:

'There won't be any Christmas this year'

'The government will have to cancel lockdown. They can't cancel Christmas.'

'What on earth will we do if there's a lockdown at Christmas?'



These things were said in all seriousness. However did any one of the speakers stop to think that it is not in anyone's gift to cancel Christmas. Neither the government, or the Health Secretary, or any of the people who have been regulating our lives this year, have the power to cancel Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate the coming to earth of God himself in the shape of a baby. And that's definitely not cancelled! The story of Mary and Joseph, the baby, the shepherds, angels, the stable in Bethlehem, the Wise Men and Herod, will all be told again for us to think about and be thankful because that baby came to bring light and love and peace to our world, and because God loves every one of us.

What might be cancelled this year is the freedom to celebrate Christmas, with over spending, over drinking, frantic work and worry about cards and trees and lights and cooking. Some secretly think 'A good thing too.' Not everyone loves the Christmas season. Lonely people for instance. At Christmas we are often asked to think of lonely people and do something for them. That can be rather patronising. However, during this strange year of pandemic and lockdown we have heard a lot about mental health and the toll which loneliness takes on many people. The subject has been taken seriously. Again, overheard on Radio 4, 'I've been isolating on my own since March and get very lonely. However I've learnt to do Zoom and life has changed!'

It has been an interesting week - the second week in November, when this letter has to be written. A vaccine to beat Covid19 has just been announced along with pleas not to forget our social distancing etc; we have remembered the soldiers of the two World Wars who did not return, and we have commemorated the 100 years since the Unknown Soldier was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey. He was and is unknown, but he was and is known and loved by God. Most of us are known only to a few but we are all known and loved by God. He sent his son to be our friend and saviour. 'Christ the babe was born for you' says the carol. We may not be allowed to sing that this year, and we may have to celebrate in very different ways from usual, and we may be alone but, whatever our circumstances, celebrate we can because Jesus was born to bring us God's love and give us joy and hope.

Christmas is never cancelled!

Isobel

*Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

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Sunday Services December 2020

Please note all services are subject to the current restriction being lifted on 2nd December. Get yourself added to the Parish Mobile SMS Service (details on page 5) or keep an eye on your churches website & WhatsApp group and church or local notice boards for up to date information.

Please See Page 12 for additional Christmas Services

Acton

- 6th Dec 11:00 am Communion
- 13th Dec 8:00 am Communion, 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 20th Dec 12:00 pm Follow the Star, 5 pm Music & Readings for Christmas
- 27th Dec No Service, United Communion at St Bart's TBC
- 3rd Jan 11:00 am Communion

Church Minshull

- 6th Dec 9:30 am Service of the Word
- 13th Dec 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 20th Dec 11:00 am Communion
- 27th Dec 11:00 am United Communion TBC
- 3rd Jan 11:00 am Service of the Word

Worleston

- 6th Dec No Service
- 13th Dec 9:30 am Communion
- 20th Dec 5:00 pm Carol Service
- 27th Dec No Service, United Communion at St Bart's TBC
- 3rd Jan No Service

Wettenhall

- 6th Dec 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 13th Dec 4:00 pm Drive in Christingle
- 20th Dec 4:00 pm Drive in Carol Service
- 27th Dec No Service, United Communion at St Bart's TBC
- 3rd Jan 11:00 am Morning Prayer

St David's Church Wettenhall		
Sidespersons		Cleaning & Flowers
6 th Dec	Mr N Moss	Mrs A Brooks
13 th Dec	Drive in Service	
20 th Dec	Drive in Service	
25 th Dec	Churchwardens	
3 rd Jan	Mrs M Sherry	
Visit: www.wettenhallchurch.org		

Christmas at St David's

Everyone at St. David's is determined to celebrate the festival of Christmas in the best way possible. We want to give all families a sense of the joy and excitement of the Christmas season. Our aim is to bring light into the darkness, in as safe a way as possible this year.

With this in mind, we are planning three 'Drive-in' services in the yard at Mrs. Edith Carr's, Cornhill Farm (the drive to the left of the church as you face it). Families will stay safely inside their vehicles. There will be an elevated stage to the front, which will be well-lit and complete with microphones enabling everyone to take part within their own vehicle 'bubble'. We'll be able to sing in our own private space!

Christingle

Sunday 13th December 4pm

Unfortunately, we have to ask families to provide their own components to make up a Christingle:

An orange with a hole cut in the top for a candle or glow-stick (If using a candle, a small square of foil for underneath the candle and please keep to light at home!)
Four cocktail sticks of small sweets eg jellies, marshmallows, dolly mixtures and/or raisins

Either a strip of red sticky tape or a red marker pen.

Children are invited to wear their favourite animal costume as we remember all those animals gathered into the ark during the Great Flood!

Please bring this Parish Magazine with you for the Christingle hymn.

Carol Service

Sunday 20th December 4pm

Please bring this Parish Magazine with you for the Carols.

Crib Service

Thursday 24th December 4pm

We intend to produce a 'Nativity Scene' on the stage & require life-size 'scarecrow' type figures for shepherds, wisemen, angels & animals. Please use your creativity as families, groups, classes etc to make this a fantastic display! We'd love to see as many characters as possible. Please bring this Parish Magazine with you for the Carols.

For all Drive in Services

Please bring this Parish Magazine with you for the Carols & to make sure everyone is accommodated safely **you must book in your vehicle** with Roger or Ann Nicholas on 01270 528273.

For any further information on any of these services please call Chris or Heather Pope on 01270 528755 or 07771 684000



Mobile Library

The Mobile library is due at St. David's on Dec 15th, between 12.05 & 12.20pm. This information may be subject to change at short notice.

For further information contact Alsager Library 01270 375325

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

this month to

Daniel Alexander	Joseph Mason
Daniel Leather	Josie Cowap
Danielle Butler	Monty Alexander
Emily Drinkall	Nina Burrows
Emily Williamson	Oliver Sparks
Emma Revill	Romilly Tomlinson
Finley Burrows	Ruby Leather
Honor Nixon	William Ablard
Jack Latham	

Remembrance Service

On November 4th we held our annual Service of Remembrance. Mrs Gillian Summers gave a heartfelt account of her experiences as a child in World War 2, along with memories of her father, Brigadier Sir Philip Toosey and his ordeal in a Japanese POW Camp. Many years after the war ended, one of the Commanders of the camp, visited England to make his peace at the graveside of Sir Philip and proclaimed himself a Christian after being inspired by such a great man. He declared 'He showed me what a human being should be. He changed the philosophy of my life'. Sincere thanks to Gillian for such a moving account, reminding us all of the importance of Remembrance. Gillian laid a wreath representing FEPOW (The Far East Prisoners of War) and Graham Tucker laid the second wreath. The collection of £115 has been sent to further the work of the Royal British Legion.

The whole service (after much technical tweaking) can be heard along with a slide show on YouTube titled: "Remembrance Service at St David's").



Gillian Summers laying a wreath representing FEPOW



The Children's Society

Thank you to everyone who returned their Children's Society Home Collection Boxes. Over £35 has been raised this year.

Reminder

Every Sunday Chris and Heather Pope provide a WhatsApp service at 11am. If you would like to receive this please contact Chris on 07771 684000 for details. For those of you without a computer or smart phone or similar device, See Daily Hope below.



"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are."

Archbishop Justin Welby

Parish Mobile SMS Service

The Parish Mobile provides a method of getting important information out quickly to parishioners. If you would like to be included in any parish updates please text your name to 07486 020084.



Darnhall Brownies

We were lucky that we were able to hold a final brownie meeting before lockdown where the girls had a Halloween party. They carved pumpkins and played traditional games including apple bobbing.

We are hoping to have a brownie meeting, restrictions allowing, after lockdown before Christmas.



Finding Hazey and Finding Community Spirit

I've found my little cat Hazey after nearly a month over 2 miles away from home! Very thin but well, thank goodness. The relief is immeasurable!

I've also found out about the community I live in. In three and a half weeks of searching I learnt more about this wonderful country community than I have in 26 years of living here! People listened to my tale of woe and people had time for me in their busy working days. They were generous allowing me to search buildings, sheds and gardens. They lifted my spirits every time I went out looking and kept me going.

I can't thank you all enough for being such a caring community. And thank you little Elsie, to know you were helping me that day gave me such a boost.

Love Dawn Hollinshead xx



Sacred Plants: The Holly & The Ivy



The Holly and the Ivy

A favourite carol at Christmas [whether we can sing it or simply listen!] is 'The Holly and the Ivy', a traditional carol first noted by William Hones in his paper of 1823 'Ancient Mysteries Described'. The lyrics were first printed in full in 1861, by Sylvester, and were said to come from a broadsheet produced about 1711. However, the links between Winter, the Winter Solstice and Christmastime with holly and ivy go back much further and are widespread. In ancient Egypt ivy was dedicated to Osiris, who represented immortality. In ancient Greece ivy represented vigour and was dedicated to Dionysus. Nearer to home, the Winter Solstice was celebrated in the pagan festival of Beltane with holly representing the male, ivy representing the female. The Druids, Celts, and Romans brought holly into the house in the Winter, its evergreen leaves were believed to be magical and would assure the return of the Spring.

By medieval times the association of holly and ivy with Christianity and Christmas celebrations was well established. The holly became known as Christ's thorn, the prickly leaves representing the crown of thorns, the red berries the drops of blood shed for our salvation at the crucifixion. The shape of the holly leaves resemble flames and God's burning love for his people. Holly holds its berries in the

house throughout Christmas and so became associated with the Christmas celebrations and the future crucifixion. The 'female' ivy was adopted as a symbol for the Virgin Mary, it had long been a symbol of fidelity because it is difficult to remove from the tree to which it clings. Its evergreen leaves were also a symbol of eternal life. Henry VIII was moved to write a love song 'Green Groweth the Holly', which associates the resistance of holly and ivy to the icy blast of Winter with a love that remains true and everlasting.

Do you hang a wreath on your front door throughout Christmastime? A wreath hung with holly and ivy is said to be an invitation for Christ to enter our home and its circular shape represents eternity. In this difficult year, when we may not be able to see our friends and family as much as we would like, we should hang a wreath on the door as a symbol of eternal love, men and women and Christ entering our homes to sustain us all forever.

Heather Pope



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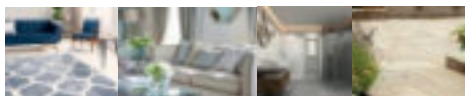
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Calveley School

This month class 4 have been learning about electricity in science. They have enjoyed building electrical circuits, experimenting with bulb brightness and testing insulators and conductors and how these affect the flow of electricity.

In English, we have been working with an interesting text called 'FARThER'. It is gripping the children's imaginations, especially the illustrations and vocabulary. The children have identified the features of this narrative and will write their own stories soon.

Our Early Years children and staff are very excited this term as their outdoor area is having a makeover! The children helped to redesign the playground and choose new equipment. We can't wait to explore our new environment, and all the new opportunities to learn through play.

We have taken part in a number of events this term where we have been able to come together as a school to celebrate important occasions. All classes created a Remembrance Wreath and were very respectful during our two minutes silence. For Children in Need, we all dressed in spotty clothing and had a Pudsey art competition to raise money for this important charity.

We are now offering school tours to prospective parents! Whether you are looking for a place in Reception for the next academic year, looking to enrol your child in our nursery or looking to move your child from another setting, we want to hear from you! If you are interested in taking a tour of our school, please contact the school office via email or telephone to make an appointment.



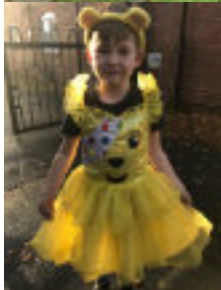
Worleston School

Since returning to St Oswald's after such a positive and lovely start to the school year, it has been lovely to see how much the pupils have all grown with such strength and courage. The children have continued to enjoy school life within their bubbles and have had lots of reasons to smile!

Over the last few weeks within school, we have made sure our St Oswald family, staff and children are happy. This week we held a special virtual assembly to remember Armistice Day led by Mr Goodwin. Our head boy and girl went to St Oswald's church and laid a wreath of poppies that had been sent to us from the family of Pte. E Griffiths, who was an ex pupil of St. Oswald's Primary who fought in World War 1. The children in school had been making poppies, painting pictures, and making poems and prayers. It was lovely to share these with parents at home.

On Friday the 13th we raised funds for Children in Need by dressing up in our clothes and we even had some Pudsey bears too! The children really enjoyed lots of activities too. We raised an impressive £130 which is an amazing amount. Well Done to everyone!

We are looking forward to getting into the Christmas spirit with the children over the next few weeks and letting our lights shine!



Christmas Services not on Rota

Acton

Thursday 24th December Time TBA Outdoor Crib Service, 10:00 pm Communion

Friday 25th December 11:00 am Communion

Church Minshull

Thursday 24th December Time TBA Communion

Friday 25th December 09:30 am Communion

Wettenhall

Thursday 24th December 4:00 pm Drive in Crib Service

Friday 25th December 10:30 am Communion

Worleston

Thursday 24th December 5:00 pm Outdoor Crib Service TBA

Friday 25th December 9:30 am Communion



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Christingle & Christmas Carols

The Christingle Hymn

The Christingle is made of an orange
Which is round like the world God made.
For He showed us His love in creation;
In the world we saw His power displayed.

Sing Christingle, Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.
Sing Christingle, Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, Light of Christ.

Every year we give thanks for the seasons,
And the fruits of the earth God gives.
The Christingle is here to remind us
Of the love of God for all that lives.

Then to show us His love, God sent Jesus.
We remember his birth again,
But the red ribbon round the Christingle
Shows that our sin cost Him blood & pain.

To complete the Christingle - a candle,
Shining out with a bright new flame,
Telling us of the true light of Jesus,
Shining on in those who live his name.

Mark Earey 2003

Once in Royal Davids City

Once in royal Davids city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us, He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles, like us He knew;
And He cares when we are sad,
And he shares when we are glad.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.

Words: Mrs. C.F. Alexander (1818 - 1895)
Music composed by H.J. Gauntlett.

O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth,
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years,
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep,
The angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts,
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel

Words Rector Phillips Brooks (1835-1903)
Music Lewis Redner (1831-1908)

Who would think that what was needed

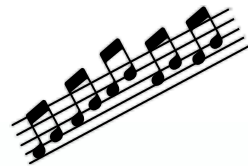
Who would think that what was needed
To transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army,
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
That a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon
Hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers
Watch a baby laid in hay:
God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science
Span the past from which we move,
Yet experience questions whether,
With such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder,
Lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Words John L Bell

Scarlet Ribbons (English Traditional)



Infant holy, Infant lowly,

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
Lying cradled in a stall.
Oxen lowing little knowing,
That the Babe is Lord of All.
Swift are winging Angels singing,
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing
That the Babe is Lord of All.
Flocks were sleeping,
shepherds keeping,
In the fields their vigil true.
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Which should bless the world anew.
Christians kneeling and appealing,
For the healing truth, revealing
That the Babe is born for you.

Polish Carol W Zlobie Lezy
Translated to English by

EM Gellibrand Reed (1885-1933)



Away in a manger

Away in a manger, No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus,
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky,
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay
The cattle are lowing, The Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus,
No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
'Til morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children,
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven,
To live with Thee there

Words: Unknown
Music: William J Kirkpatrick 1895

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.
Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain.
Heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him whom angels
fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may
have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air.
But only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti
Music: Gustav Holst



We three kings of Orient are

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star

O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy Perfect Light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign

O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God most high

O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume,
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to heav'n replies

O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Rev. John Henry Hopkins 1857



O Come All Ye Faithful

O Come All Ye Faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

O Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all that hear in heaven
God's holy word.
Give to our Father glory in the Highest;

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

Words: John Ware
Music: John Reading



Silent night, holy night,

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace Jesus,
Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

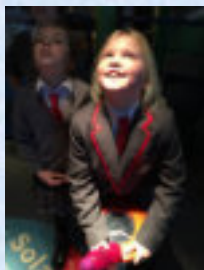
Words: Joseph Mohr
Music: Franz Xavier Gruber



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Recipe

Smoked Salmon Tartare Toasts

Ingredients

20 thin slices of small baguette
2 tbsp olive oil
For the tartare
300g pack of smoked salmon cut into small chunks
Small bunch of dill, roughly chopped
zest & juice half a lemon
3 tbsp creme fraiche

Method

- Heat oven to 180C/Fan 160C/Gas4
- Place bread on flat tray & drizzle with half the oil
- Bake for 10mins until starting to crisp. Turn over & drizzle with rest of oil
- Bake for 5mins. Leave to cool
- (Can be made up to 2 days ahead & kept in container)
- To make tartare, place salmon pieces, dill, zest & lemon juice in a bowl
- Season with pepper & mix all together.
- (Can be made a day ahead & kept in fridge)
- To serve, spoon salmon mixture onto toasts & enjoy!

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			St Oswald's Church, Worleston	
Sidespersons				Coffee
13 th	Dec	Mr & Mrs D Booth		No Coffee
25 th	Dec	Mr & Mrs M Alexander		will be served
Flowers				Cleaning
13 th	Dec	There will be	December	Mrs S Parker & Mrs I Burnley
25 th	Dec	no flowers	January	TBA
Visit: www.worlestonchurch.org				

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who, in difficult circumstances this year, has kept St Oswald's in good heart.

Thank you that the churchyard is always in excellent order and thanks to those who have continued to deliver magazines when we could, or swept leaves, or made phone calls and checked on the lonely, or fetched shopping or collected prescriptions or did unseen tasks. The care of the building and each other has been great!

It will survive the pandemic.

Christmas Services

No Decision can be made yet about a Carol Service on 20th December or a children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Please watch the notice board, the shop or the church website for the latest information.

Private Prayer

Please note that if the lockdown should continue then St Oswald's will be open for Private Prayer 9:30 am - 10:30 am on Sunday 13th December.

Food Bank

Lisa Gater has kindly offered to take local donations to the Nantwich Foodbank, as lockdown makes journeys more difficult. There is a large blue box in the porch at St Oswald's in which to place donations.

All your gifts will be gratefully received. Many thanks to Lisa for this initiative.

Advent Calendar

Again this year, the children at Worleston School will each receive one of the Real Advent Calendars. This is thanks to the kindness of St Oswald's PCC, the Schoolhouse Trust and other donors.

There are a few spare calendars for sale at £3.99p each (ask Isobel Burnley at 01270 624521), or at Tesco.



Remembrance Day

In spite of the lockdown parishioners gathered at the war memorial at St Oswald's to pay their respects and remember those who gave their lives during both world wars.

A collection for the British Legion raised £100. Thank you to all who contributed.



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Contacts for Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals etc are as follows

Rev'd Anne Lawson

01270 628864

The Vicarage, Chester Road
Acton, Cheshire, CW5 8LG

Email revanne@uwclub.net

Parish Office open at the vicarage - Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 am -12 Noon

Email: crosscountryparishes@outlook.com

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St David's

St Oswald's

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Mr M Alexander 624404

Mr R Brooks 528278

Mrs I Burnley 624521

Other Parish Office holders

PCC Secretaries

TBA

Mrs H Pope 528755

PCC Treasurers

Mrs G Ward 01606 554869

Mr D Booth 627277

Organists

Mr R Nicholas 528273

Mr G Heap 620199

Magazine Reps

Mrs A Nicholas 528273

Contact the Churchwardens

www.wettenhallchurch.org.uk

www.worlestonchurch.org.uk

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NO LATER THAN

Friday 11th December 2020

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