St David's Wettenhall & St Oswald's Worleston January 2021



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

Dear Friends

Going on a Journey

As we enter a new year, it is understandable that we are looking for a new start and a brighter future. Few people will be sad to see the back of the extraordinary year which 2020 turned out to be. As someone said to me recently, 2020 will become a swear word in the



English language (and probably many more languages around the world).

The one thing it has been difficult, if not impossible, to do in 2020 is to go on a journey, or at least not physical ones. Many of us have been on all kinds of emotional and mental journeys we could never have envisaged a year ago, not to mention journeys, even adventures, into technology.

Over Christmas we journeyed to the manger with Mary and Joseph and with the shepherds. In January we undertake the final journeys of the nativity stories; the journey of the Magi and the flight of Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus as refugees into Egypt.

The Magi set out on their journey knowing very little. They knew two things. The first that was that a new star had risen, indicating the birth of a King, just as their ancient writings told them it would. The second was that they needed to travel East to the place they had seen the star.

With this scant information they set out into the unknown. The star did not guide them day by day, night by night; it was not until they arrived in Bethlehem that they saw the star which they had seen in the East again – which at least explains how they managed to stop off in Jerusalem, mistakenly, but understandably searching for an infant king in a palace.

This was quite some journey; it took a couple of years as they travelled along established trade routes around the Fertile Crescent from Babylon to Bethlehem, but this epic journey was only the beginning. The healthy toddler they found playing in an ordinary home in Bethlehem was no ordinary toddler. This toddler was not even an ordinary King. This toddler was God, and they bowed down and worshipped him. The start of a journey which would last the rest of their lives, although we hear no-more of these exotic visitors after they return to their own country by another route.

As we begin another year, we too are called on a journey. Not necessarily a physical one, but a spiritual journey into God and with God in the company of King Jesus.

Yours in our journeying God,

Revd Anne

A Нарру
New Year
to You All

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Sunday Services January 2021

9						
Acton						
3 rd Jan	11:00 am Communion					
10 th Jan	8:00 am Communion, 2:00 pm Plough Service Live From					
	Cathedral					
17 th Jan	9:30 am Messy Church at home, 5:00 pm Evensong					
24 th Jan	11:00 am Morning Prayer					
31st Jan	11:00 am Communion					
6 th Feb	11:00 am Communion					
Church Min	Church Minshull					
3 rd Jan	11:00 am Service of the Word					
10 th Jan	11:00 am Cafe Church					
17 th Jan	11:00 am Communion					
24 th Jan	11:00 am Messy Church					
31 st Jan	9:30 am Communion					
6 th Feb	11:00 am Service of the Word					
Worleston						
3 rd Jan	No Service					
10 th Jan	9:30 am Communion					
17 th Jan	No Service					
24 th Jan	9:30 am Morning Prayer					
31 st Jan	No Service					
6 th Feb	No Service					
Wettenhall						
3 rd Jan	11:00 am Morning Prayer					
10 th Jan	11:00 am Communion					
17 th Jan	11:00 am All Age					
24 th Jan	6:30 pm Communion					
31 st Jan	11:00 am Morning Prayer					
6 th Feb	11:00 am Morning Prayer					
1						

St David's Church Wettenhall					
	Sidespersons	Cleaning & Flowers			
3 rd Jan	Mrs M Sherry				
10 th Jan	Mr G Tucker				
17 th Jan	Brownies				
24 th Jan	Informal				
31st Jan	Mrs M Drinkall				
6 th Feb	Mr M Moss				
Visit: www.wettenhallchurch.org					

Seasonal Thank You

The beginning of the new year is a good time to thank everyone who has worked so hard during the difficult circumstances of 2020 to support St. David's in so many unseen & different ways.

We are very grateful to those who deliver the magazines month by month; those who keep the church clean & tidy; those who arrange flowers & prepare refreshments (when permitted); those who read lessons and especially those who have kept services going via the Cross Country Community group.

Chris & Heather have been the main contributors but so many people in the community have helped to lift spirits with photos, amusing anecdotes, poetry & local news. We are extremely grateful to each and every one, and pray for a happier and healthier 2021!

Mobile Library

The Mobile library is due at St. David's on Jan 5th & 26th, between 12.05 & 12.20pm. This information may be subject to change at short notice.

For further information contact Alsager Library 01270 375325

PCC Meeting

The PCC Meeting
will take place in St. David's
on
Wednesday 20th January
at 7.30pm

The Christmas Tree

As most of the December services took place outside of the church, Chris & Heather kindly lit the yew tree in the church yard. I don't think any of us realised how big it was - least of all Chris & Heather! The official switch-on took place on 6th December by Ann Hignett. In the past, Ann & John have donated the tree, and so it was appropriate for Ann, accompanied by Gwen, to perform the ceremony.







this month to

Amber Drinkall Isabelle Herbert **Cameron Mather Jack Harding** Chloe Yarwood **Katie Drinkall Kiere Pelle** Ella Day **Elliot Nicholas Liberty Howarth Fallon Ward Lucy Bowes** Sienna Palin **George Drinkall Imogen Bond** William Herbert Hannah Boyd William Jones

A Special mention for **Lucy Bowes** who celebrates her **18**th **birthday** this month.

Also

Congratulations to **John & Ann Hignett** who are celebrating their **Diamond Wedding** this month. We wish them many more happy years together.

The Christmas Flag & Carols

Thanks to Helen & Michael Moss & family for the lovely Christmas Message flying from the flagpole during the Christmas season.

Thanks also to Phillippa, who delighted everyone during the season of Advent with a daily carol played beautifully on her cello. Phillippa is undertaking a trip to Costa Rica later this year to help community projects in some of the poorer areas. To help fund this she sold some very colourful Christmas decorations & vegan soaps in the run up to Christmas. We wish her well in all her preparations for this exciting trip.



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.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

"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

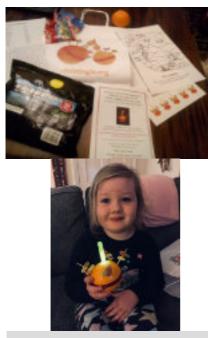
Parish Mobile SMS Service

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.



Christingle

The three major Christmas services were all drive-ins. The Christingle was the first event and Darnhall Brownies, along with all the children of Calveley school were provided with bags to prepare their own Christingles. Thanks to Mary Drinkall for supplying the oranges and for helping to pack almost 100 bags along with her granddaughter Alex.





International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Thanks to Chris and Heather who lit up St. David's in purple to commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3rd.







Sacred Plants: The Lily

The white lily has long had a sacred relationship with the Gods, first being the symbol of Hera, the Ancient Greek Goddess, of legend, tricked into marriage with the unfaithful God, Zeus. Hera became known as vengeful and dangerous towards the mortal children fathered by Zeus, the lily representing her own motherhood. In China the lily remains the flower of choice at weddings and is said to confer 100 years of love to the couple. It is surprising that from this rather variable marital symbolism the white lily flower has become the symbol of Mary, the mother of Jesus, a symbolism related in the Bible, in legend and, more recently, in the Roman Catholic church.



Lilies appear in the Old and new Testaments, they are particularly associated with The Song of Solomon, where the Bridegroom refers to himself as the Rose of Sharon or the lily of the valley. The lily of the valley became part of the symbolism of Mary, representing purity, fertility, sweetness and innocence, their beauty associated with fresh life and rebirth. The white lily became known as the Madonna lily, reflecting it's divine connection to Mary.

Perhaps the most well known reference to lilies in the Bible is in Luke chapter 12, verses 27-28. Again it refers to Solomon and says; 'Consider the lilies how they grow, they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass in the fields, which is alive today and tomorrow thrown into the furnace, how much more will he clothe you? You men of little faith.'

A legend, thought to have arisen in the second century A.D., reported that, when Mary's tomb

was opened to show Thomas that she had been assumed into Heaven, the space was filled with roses and white lilies. The lily is therefore associated with both birth and death. In death they are seen to symbolise the restored innocence of the soul of the departed. We can share in this lasting symbolism by growing Madonna lilies, in pots or in the garden, their beauty and perfume shining out in the summer months to the delight of the gardener and the bees alike.



Heather Pope

Chester Cathedral Plough Service

The Cathedral Plough service with Rev. Anne will take place on Sunday 10th January at 2pm. Unfortunately, numbers are restricted and so the service will be live-streamed for anyone wishing to 'attend' this event.

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Calveley School

The children and staff really got into the Christmas Spirit at Calveley Primary Academy. We took part in lots of Christmas crafts, sang Christmas songs and had a lovely festive dinner. We haven't let anything dampen the Christmas spirit! The children in the school learnt and performed two amazing mini performances. Our Class 1 and 2 children put together a rendition of 'We're Going on a Baby Hunt' and our Class 3 and 4 children learnt how to sing and sign to 'Jingle Bells'.

On our Facebook page we counted down the days to Christmas through 'The 12 days of Calveley Christmas' that showcased some of the learning the children have been doing and other fun activities that have happened around school. This has included our children

being climbers, scientists and computer geniuses!



We hope all the children, families and local community had a lovely Christmas and we wish you a very healthy 2021.













Worleston School

On the run up to Christmas, the children have been very busy at St. Oswald's doing lots of exciting activities in school. Our Hedgehog Class decided they would like to write Christmas Cards for the residents of one of our local care homes (Elm House in Nantwich) that may not be able to spend time with their loved ones this year. They also wrote to the same care home over lockdown in the summer which went down very well with the residents and just shows what lovely caring children we have at St. Oswald's.

Although we are not able to do our traditional Nativity Performance in St. Oswald's church this year, we are trying to keep things as normal as possible for the children in school. We have used the power of technology to pre-record 'St. Oswald's the Nativity' which is being shown to parents over zoom. How did we ever manage without zoom? Each class have taken a part of the Christmas Story and recorded this separately and this has been woven together with a number of songs ready to show to the parents.

The Christmas decorations and trees are all up in the class rooms and in the hall and the children are all looking forward to having their traditional Christmas meal in school. On Thursday 17th December, the children will be making their Christingles and learning all about the meaning of Christingle through some fun activities put together by Miss Ramage and our amazing Ethos Team. Then they will be watching a virtual pantomime performance of Sleeping Beauty in the afternoon with popcorn and a drink. All organised by our fantastic PTA parents.

The Head Teacher, Mr Goodwin, is available to conduct face to face show arounds for any interested parents with children of Nursery or Reception age and all you need to do is ring the school to book an appointment or just to ask for any information you need about our lovely school.

St. Oswald's would like to wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas.













More Pictures on next page



Look out for the Sunflower



You may have seen people wearing green lanyards, facemasks, lapel buttons, visors, baseball caps and tee shirts with bright yellow sunflowers on them. The eye catching symbol on its bright green background is cheerful, but the people you see sporting these items are not trying to cheer you up. They are trying to tell you something. Each of them has a hidden disability. They probably look perfectly normal, but they might appreciate a bit of extra space, or a little extra time at the checkout, or patience as they express themselves or try to communicate with you.

The sunflower has been chosen as the symbol of hidden disabilities, and many more people in our

communities have hidden disabilities than we might think. There is no defined list of the disabilities and conditions which make people eligible to wear the sunflower, but, among other things they might include:

- Autism.
- Asthma or COPD
- Brain injuries.
- Crohn's Disease.
- · Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.
- Chronic pain.
- Cystic Fibrosis.
- Depression, ADHD, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, and other mental health conditions.
- Diabetes.
- Epilepsy.
- Fibromyalgia.
- HIV/AIDS.
- Insomnia.
- Learning difficulties, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, dysgraphia, and language processing disorder.
- · Lupus.
- Renal Failure
- Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- Visual and auditory disabilities. These may be invisible if someone wears contact lenses and a hearing aid, for example.

Wearing a sunflower does not entitle you to anything, but it is recognised in supermarkets, airports around the world and in a growing number of other places where those with hidden disabilities may need extra space, time or assistance.

You can find out more, and purchase a lanyard, lapel badge, facemask etc at:

<u>The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower (hiddendisabilitiesstore.com)</u> where details of awareness for businesses can also be found.



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Recipe

Steak & Mushroom Pie

Ingredients

1 x 320g ready made puff pastry 750g Ash House Best braising/stewing steak, diced

50g plain flour

Olive or corn oil for frying

300g chestnut mushrooms, halved

1 large onion, chopped

3 garlic cloves, crushed

1 large sprig of thyme

2 bay leaves 300ml red wine

300ml beef stock

1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

½ tsp Dijon mustard

1 egg beaten with 1 tbsp water Salt and ground black pepper





Method

- Pat steak dry with kitchen paper and season well with salt and pepper. Dust lightly in flour and shake off any excess.
- Heat 1 -2 tablespoons of oil in a large pan and brown the steak in batches, so as not to crowd the pan. Remove the browned meat and set aside. Add more oil to the pan and briskly fry the mushrooms, when browned set aside for later.
- Reduce the heat and sauté the onions, until soft and add the garlic. Turn the heat up again and return the beef to the onion mixture, add the red wine, thyme and bay leaves. Allow to bubble for a couple of minutes then add the stock, Worcestershire sauce and mustard. The steak mixture should be just covered. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to simmer gently. Cover with a tight fitting lid or foil. Cook for 1½ 2 hours stirring occasionally to prevent the mixture from catching. Alternatively place in a slow cooker or in the oven.
- Add the cooked mushrooms and remove the lid to allow the liquid to reduce to a gravy consistency, about 30 mins.

Recipe Continued on next page

St Oswald's Church, Worleston					
		Sidespersons		Coffee	
10 th	Jan	Mr & Mrs D Booth		No Coffee	
24 th	Jan	Mr & Mrs M Alexander		will be served	
Flowers			Cleaning		
10 th	Jan	There will be	January	Mr & Mrs M Booth	
24 th	Jan	no flowers	February	Mrs C Black	
Visit: www.worlestonchurch.org					

Flowers & Coffee

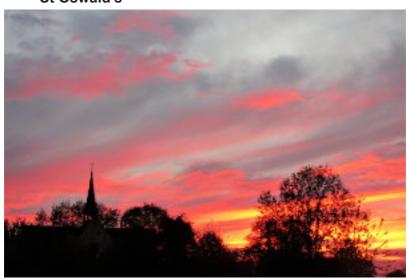
We are sticking to the rules governing Covid but will begin to have flowers in church and coffee after services as soon as we are allowed to.

Stunning Autumn Sunset over St Oswald's

Thanksgiving

On Sunday December 6th at St Oswald's Worleston, there was a service of Thanksgiving for Harriet Belle Tudor the infant daughter of Rachael and Andy Tudor.

We welcome all the family and pray that Harriet will bring them much happiness.



Recipe Continued

- Remove the thyme and bay leaves and place the mixture in a pie dish.
- Roll out the pastry to cover the of the top of the dish. Cut 2 slits in the centre to allow the steam to escape. Decorate, if desired, with any left over pastry trimmings. Lightly firm down the edges in a crimping fashion and brush with the beaten egg mixture.
- Bake in a preheated oven, 200c or Fan 180c, Gas 6 for 35/40 mins until the pastry is golden brown and well risen and the filling is piping hot.

PCC Meeting

The next PCC Meeting at St Oswald's Church 7pm Monday 18th January

Darnhall Brownies



Darnhall Brownies making Christmas table decorations.



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