

St Mary's Acton
St David's Wettenhall &
St Oswald's Worleston
February 2024



**The Cross Country Parishes
of
Acton with Worleston, Church
Minshull and Wettenhall**

Dear Friends

Can we walk with God in the cold days of Spring?



February can be a month of hope; early spring flowers, especially snowdrops, begin to flower, and in these days of global warming, perhaps a brave daffodil. February can also be a month when winter feels unending, and we long for the warmer, longer days of spring.

It is also a busy month, especially this year when Easter falls relatively early. On 2 February, we mark Candlemas, the celebration of the 40-day old Jesus being presented in the Temple. Candlemas is associated with many country sayings, many centred around the midway point of winter, and the likely weather that is to come in what remains of winter.

Candlemas is also the point at which we turn from the manger to the cross. It was whilst Jesus was being presented in the Temple, that the godly Simeon took the child in his arms, giving thanks that he has seen God's salvation, and predicting the sword which will pierce Mary's heart when Jesus is crucified.

On 14 February this year, we turn in a very real way towards the cross, as we mark Ash Wednesday and the beginning of 40 days of Lent. The name 'Lent' comes from the old English word for 'lengthen', relating to the lengthening hours of daylight. It is a time of growth, both as the season of spring gains in strength, but also the spiritual growth which Christians seek as they prepare for Easter.

This leaves us with a challenge. Can we grow with God through this season of the year? Nearly 40 years ago, I was deeply struck by words written by the then Chaplain of what was, in those days, Chester College. I end with some of them now:

... The infant prince of Christmas becomes the strange, discomfoting King of Good Friday. Can you live with that sort of King? In the cold spring days, can you grow up with him, and walk with him till Easter Day dawns?

Stephen J Ridley

Yours in the God who invites you to walk with him,

Revd Anne

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Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 14th February United Communion at Acton 10:30 am

Sunday Services

Acton

- 4th Feb 11:00 am United at Reaseheath, 6:30 pm Christ in Quiet**
- 11th Feb 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 18th Feb 10:00 am Messy Church
- 25th Feb 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 3rd Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall, 6:30 pm Christ in Quiet**

Church Minshull

- 4th Feb 11:00 am United at Reaseheath**
- 11th Feb 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 18th Feb 11:00 am Communion
- 25th Feb 11:00 am Messy Church
- 3rd Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall**

Worleston

- 4th Feb 11:00 am United at Reaseheath**
- 11th Feb 9:30 am Communion
- 18th Feb No Service
- 25th Feb 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 3rd Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall**

Wettenhall

- 4th Feb 11:00 am United at Reaseheath**
- 11th Feb 11:00 am Communion
- 18th Feb 11:00 am All Age
- 25th Feb 4:00 pm Informal Communion ***
- 3rd Mar 11:00 am United Patronal Festival at Wettenhall**

St David's Church Wettenhall			
Sidespersons		Cleaning and Flowers	
4 th	Feb	United at Reaseheath	Mrs A Brooks
11 th	Feb	Mrs M Sherry	Mrs A Hignett and Mrs A Hancock
18 th	Feb	Brownies	
25 th	Feb	Informal	Mrs H Wilson and Family
3 rd	Mar	Mr G Tucker	
<i>Visit: www.wettenhallchurch.org.uk</i>			

No Flowers during Lent From 14th February

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Chris and Heather on the death of Chris's mother, **Edith Pope**, on New Years Eve. Edith was known to many of us as a larger than life lady in spite of her small stature. She always had lots to talk about and was never lost for conversation! She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Children's Society Boxes

Many thanks to everyone who returned their Children's Society Boxes for opening. The sum of **£67.10** has been forwarded to further their amazing work.



St. David's Patronal Festival

We will have a special celebration this year with Bishop Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport, in attendance at 11am on Sunday 3rd March. We look forward to sharing this celebration with the Cross Country churches as we enjoy some rousing Welsh hymn tunes, great fellowship and all rounded off with our usual delicious refreshments.

Everyone is very welcome.

Crib Service

The Christmas Mouse, written by Heather Pope, was busy on Christmas Eve retelling the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Thanks to everyone who took part as shepherds, wise men & angels, and especially to Harry & his friends who added some extra Christmas cheer as the baby in the manger!

Photo on next page

Coffee and Cake

**The next meetings will be on
1st February and 7th March
from 10-12 noon in Church.
Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as
little or as long as they wish.**





Darnhall Brownies

As we return to Brownies for the new year, the girls celebrated with a new year party, complete with slider burgers and chips, kindly donated by the Howard family. The girls also enjoyed party games and activities. We are all looking forward to a great 2024.





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Wednesday - Thursday 2 pm - 12 am

Friday - Saturday 1 pm - 12 am

Sunday 12pm - 11 pm

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St Mary's Church, Acton Sidespersons

4 th Feb	United at Reaseheath
11 th Feb	Kath Edwards and Elizabeth Bull
18 th Feb	Tracey and Peter Foster
25 th Feb	Chris and Christine Barratt
3 rd Mar	United at Wettenhall
<i>Visit: www.stmarysacton.org</i>	

Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

The next walks are:

4th February 2024

3rd March 2024

7th April 2024

Tea at the Tower is open every Sunday from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

On the above dates there is a guided walk departing the church at 12:45 pm. Nick organises circular walks varying between 3 to 5 miles, then returning to the church for a refreshing cup of tea or coffee and a slice of delicious cake.

The pace of the walks is relaxed, and the routes generally involve canal towpath and lane walking. The footpaths should be good (also hopefully dry?) and only a small number of stiles are negotiated. Stout outdoor shoes or walking shoes / boots are recommended.

All are welcome including dogs on leads

For further information please phone Nick Harley, Lead Walker, on 01270-620612 or 07710983125.



Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to Elizabeth Bull and her family on the sad death of her son Mark. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

Forest Church

The Forest Church Group at Acton warmly invites you to celebrate Candlemas with us at 2.00 pm on

Saturday 3 February at St Mary's. After a short introduction outside, we will be in the church; please wrap up warmly!! We look forward to seeing you.



Churchyard Maintenance

On Saturday 17 February 2024, we are meeting to give the Acton Churchyard a spring clean. We hope to clean some graves, clear Christmas wreaths, and make way for the spring flowers. Please come and join our jolly team for two hours from 10.00 am.

More details from Philip Percival 01270 624158.

St Mary's Services

Looking for an oasis of calm and tranquility? Then give the "Christ in Quiet" Service at St. Mary's, Acton a try. Details are on the Sunday Service Sheet on page 3.

Messy Nativity

Our nativity was AMAZING! and AWSOME as we watched Mary's visit from the angel, Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, (they couldn't afford a donkey), the birth of the baby Jesus and the stories of the angels and shepherds who found the baby in the manger and the star watchers who brought gifts for a toddler. Angel Tim and all the children were AMAZING! speaking clearly and with some great acting while everyone produced sound effects! We sang happy birthday to Jesus and ate his cake while nativity baubles were decorated to take home.

Come and join the celebration - It's always a special day at Messy Church!



Christmas Concert

Acton concert retells Dickens' Christmas classic

Local choir The Groves Singers performed a special re-telling of the Dickens' classic, 'A Christmas Carol'. The concert took place on the evening of Saturday 16th

December at St Mary's Church Acton. The well-known story, written by Charles Dickens, was told in song, interwoven with some familiar old carols. Jon Henderson (Musical Director) conducted the choir and instrumental accompaniment.

A representative from St Mary's Acton said, "The Groves Singers were fabulous - we had a full house once again. The performance really told the story in a clever musical style with instrumental accompaniment including percussion, drums, violin and piano. It was wrapped up in one hour exactly - a real Christmas treat. The performance was followed by refreshments including mulled apple juice. The Christmas trees and decorations added to the atmosphere. The concert raised £1170 for Acton Church. The feedback from the audience has been tremendous."



Churches Together in Nantwich

We have a longstanding partnership with all the other Churches in Nantwich and are pleased to share ideas and events with them. Rev Anne and Joyce Percival attend the meetings to report on the life and activities at Acton and learn of the successes and ideas from the town churches. Sue Hull has recently joined us and we would love more parishioners to experience the love and joy of sharing local events for our community, including supporting the Street Angels and mentors for the town's High Schools.

We prayed for all during the week for Christian Unity in January, we have our AGM in February, and support Lent Courses. On Good Friday there is an outdoor service on Nantwich Square. Our presence at Nantwich Show is always appreciated and at the end of the year a Christmas Day lunch for all who would otherwise be on their own is most worthwhile.

Please join us for the Annual General Meeting of the Churches Together in Nantwich group on Wednesday 21st February, 2024 at 7.00 pm at St Anne's community hall or contact Joyce or Rev Anne to share a lift.

LOVE NANTWICH A special event will take place on Saturday 24th February at St Mary's Church, Nantwich, at 6.00 pm to celebrate our town through music and worship. Please join us for a unique evening.

Acton and Reaseheath WI

Our New Year Soup and Social Meeting on the 8th January was kindly hosted by Joyce Percival at Henhull Hall and started our New Year off beautifully.

In the spirit of recycling, members were asked to bring any unwanted treasures that could be sold and passed on to another member to cherish and take home. We had a vast array of gifts with something for everybody from homemade jams and chutneys, chocolates, toiletries, candles, scarves, etc. Sheryl organised our usual book shop with a large selection of second-hand books for all tastes. I had a hard time choosing between three books so I bought all of them, at such a bargain price it would be rude not to.

The members had a choice of three homemade soups; celery, spicy mixed bean and tomato accompanied by an assortment of bread; followed by a variety of delicious desserts including apple pie, plum crumble, rhubarb, apple and ginger crumble, mascarpone and ginger cake or fruit pavlova with cream or custard. This made a colourful sight, and it was very tempting to try them all as extra servings were offered on both courses.

After lunch we got down to the serious business of voting on this year's Resolutions which had been shortlisted in October by the Federations from 58 down to 4. The four chosen were Dental health matters, Impact of poor housing conditions, Say 'no' to gambling advertising and Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. We all agreed they were all worthy campaigns which made decision making difficult. We wait to hear which of these will go forward to the National AGM in June.

The members are looking forward to a new year of book and craft groups. The Book group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 2pm at Windrush, Dig Lane, Acton and the Craft group, which meets fortnightly, recommenced on Friday 19th January 2pm to 4pm at Acton Parish Hall. This year we have visits lined up to RHS Garden Bridgwater, a flower grower who makes confetti in Worcester, Glass Deja in Chester to name just a few. The members were also asked if they would like to put forward any suggestions for future activities they are interested in doing. Pottery throwing was one suggestion put forward. Other dates for the diary include the Royal Cheshire Show at Tabley on 18th and 19th June and the Nantwich Show at Reaseheath on 31st July.

The members received their programme of activities for 2024 with some gorgeous photos of last year's activities on the front. I particularly like the one of Millie with the paintbrush in her mouth from the oil painting course. Each photo portrays the warmth, friendship and companionship the WI embraces so if you would like to know more, please come and join us at Acton Parish Hall where we meet every second Monday of the month at 7pm March to October and 1.30pm November to February or phone Fiona Ross for more information on 07791 171415. You will be very welcome.

Christmas Tree Festival

The seventh annual 'Christmas Tree Festival' took place at St Mary's Church on Friday 8th to Sunday 10th December 2023.

The event was free entry, with donations gratefully received towards church funds, and welcomed visitors to view over thirty beautifully dressed 6ft Christmas trees. The trees were sponsored and decorated by parishioners, local societies, and local businesses.

The theme this year was Nursery Rhymes & Magical Times. Visitors could take part in a fun quiz to answer twelve nursery rhyme questions relating to a selection of the trees.





On a Lighter Note

Grandfather and granddaughter were sitting talking when she asked, “Did God make you Granddad?” “Yes, God made me,” the grandfather answered. A few minutes later, the little girl asked him, “Did God make me too?” “Yes, He did,” The old man answered. For a few minutes, the little girl seemed to be studying her grandfather, as well as her own reflection in the mirror, while her grandfather wondered what was running through her mind. At last she spoke up, “you know, Granddad,” she said, “God’s doing a lot better job lately.” Psalm 139:14

Cross Country Pages

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

this month to

Herbie Major	Missy Shaw
James Hassall	Mollie Yarwood
Louie Elliott	Niamh Ward
Madison Warrington	Poppy Rowland

Special Wishes

We hope **Lucy Bowes** had a wonderful 21st birthday, and that

Gladys Heppell enjoyed celebrating her 100th birthday, both in January!

Gladys's family home was Church Cottage in Wettenhall and she and her family enjoy reading the Parish magazine every month!

Congratulations from us all!

Shrove Tuesday

13th February 2024



Valentines Day

14th February 2024



Ladies' Lunch

Wednesday 14th February

The Tollemache Arms, Alraham

12:30 pm - Cost: £12.50

For further details contact:

Heather (528755), Isobel (624521),

Ann (528273) or Joyce (624158)

Please book with Joyce

Mobile Library

Feb	Mar	Mar	Tuesdays	
13 th	5 th	26 th	Arr	Dep
Badger Church	Minshull		10:20	10:45
Home Farm Park	South Lea Green		11:10	11:20
Home Farm Park	North Lea Green		11:30	11:50
Wettenhall Church			12:05	12:20
Station Rd	Calveley		13:35	13:55
Tollemache Arms	Alraham		14:05	14:30

Feb	Feb	Mar	Thursdays	
8 th	29 th	21 st	Arr	Dep
Pinfold Craft Centre			11:00	11:25
Worleston Station			11:35	11:45
Aston Juxta	Mondrum		11:50	12:10
Worleston Village	Hall			

Feb	Mar	Mar	Thursdays	
15 th	7 th	28 th	Arr	Dep
Farmers Arms			10:00	10:15
Ravensmoor			10:30	10:50
Goodwill Hall	Faddiley		11:05	11:20
Greenfields Farm				
Gradeley Green				

Death Café

On Thursday 29th February a Death Café, will be held at Nantwich Bookshop from 6pm - 7.30pm. Come along and meet others & talk about death as a natural part of life. We have lots of laughter and a chance to talk about making the most of the time we have. The Death café movement has no agenda, objectives and themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session.

Refreshments and cake available to purchase on the night.

The Twelve Disciples; St James, Son of Zebedee

James is the Patron Saint of Spain but was born in Bathsaida in Galilee in 4AD and was the brother of the Apostle John. Both were sons of Zebedee and Salome, and she was said to be Mary's sister, so both were first cousins of Jesus. When Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to follow Him, he saw James and John mending fishing nets with their father and called them to join Him too. They are known as the Boanerges [sons of Thunder] because of their robust belief in Jesus and his teachings. Together with Peter they are said to be the Apostles closest to Jesus and shared with Him the experiences of the miraculous catching of fish after a night of catching nothing, the raising of Jairus's daughter from death, the Transfiguration of Jesus, and His final night of prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane. When Samaritans refused Jesus' hospitality in their village the brothers are reported to have demanded that he bring down fire on the people. He responded by saying that He had come to save men, not destroy them.

After the death of Jesus, James went out to preach about the risen Lord. There are various legends concerning him preaching in Spain and returning to Jerusalem after seeing the Virgin Mary in a vision. In 44AD he was arrested by King Herod Agrippa and condemned to be beheaded for his preaching. It is said that the Roman soldier taking him to court was so affected by his faith and preaching that he immediately converted to Christianity. The Apostle blessed the soldier and kissed him, and both were beheaded together for their beliefs.

James was the second apostle to die [after Judas] and the first to be martyred. This martyrdom was said to have taken place in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem; James's head buried beneath the altar in the Cathedral.

There is a belief that James's body was carried back to Spain in a stone boat, which landed at Padron. The body was carried overland to Santiago de Compostela in Galicia and buried. This town became a centre for pilgrimage and the Way of Saint James established to lead pilgrims to his burial site. Today the Santiago de Compostela is followed by over 300,000 people every year. To qualify to receive a Compostela pilgrims must walk 100km or cycle 200km. It has been the subject of numerous broadcasts and TV programmes and is now walked by believers, people of different faiths, and none.



Confirmation

A Confirmation Service with Bishop Sam will take place at 11.00 am on Sunday 2 June (Trinity Sunday).

I am aware of a small group of young adults wishing to be Confirmed. If you have not been Confirmed and would like to think more about the possibility of joining them, please contact Rev Anne (countryvicar@outlook.com or 01270 628864).

A 6 week course looking at the Christian faith will be held after Easter, for anyone interested in Confirmation or in refreshing their understanding of the Christian faith.

If you have already been Confirmed but have recently come back to faith it is possible to renew your Baptism Vows as a way of publicly re-affirming your commitment to Christ. Adults who have not been Baptised and would like to be Baptised are normally baptised and Confirmed at the same service.

Participating in the course does not commit you to being Confirmed, although you will need to do the course if you wish to be Confirmed, Baptised or renew your Baptism Vows.

Lent Course

Caring for Creation

This year's Lent Course is a 'York Course' which focuses on the care of creation. It provides opportunity to discuss a subject which is of great interest to many people inside and outside of the Church.

All Welcome

'Sessions will take place at St David's Wettenhall at 2.00 pm on Tuesdays beginning on 20 February 2024.'

*Plough Sunday Service
11 am Sunday 4 February 2024
The Horticultural Building
Reaseheath College*

The Horticultural Building is the new building behind the large new Agricultural Engineering building. Car Parking is via Entrance 1 off Main Road, Reaseheath (the B5074)

Limited parking for the disabled is available immediately outside the horticultural building, accessed via Entrance 2 off Main Road, Reaseheath (the B 5074)

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Recipe

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Ingredients

- ☐ 4 ounces or 100grams of Plain Flour
- ☐ A pinch of salt
- ☐ 1 medium egg
- ☐ 1/2 Pint of skimmed milk

Method

- ☐ Blend all the ingredients together, and leave to stand for 20 minutes.
- ☐ Put a small knob of butter in the frying pan.
- ☐ Test for readiness by holding the palm of your hand over the pan.
- ☐ When you feel the heat rising, the pan is ready.
- ☐ When the pan and batter are hot, pour in just enough batter to cover the base of the pan, by tilting the pan around. Fry until golden brown and then toss or turn the pancake until the second side is also golden.
- ☐ It should look like a lace doily.
- ☐ Sprinkle with caster sugar and lemon juice and serve immediately.

A heavy frying pan helps, as it will heat well and never stick.



**A kiss for a woman,
A cake for a man,
Run to the Church,
with a frying pan.**

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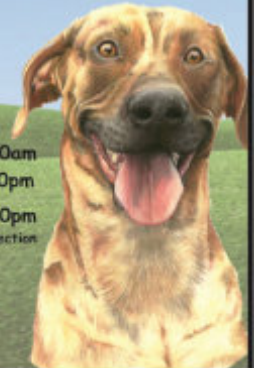
Mon - Sat 9.30 - 11.00am

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St Oswald's Church, Worleston

Sidespersons		Coffee	
11 th Feb	Diane Darlington	Sarah Parker	
25 th Feb	Pam Haigh	Ann Fletton	
Flowers		Cleaning	
11 th Feb	Jo Bailey	Feb	Lynne & Ginge Ablard
25 th Feb	No Flowers in Lent	Mar	Chrissie Black
Visit: www.worlestonchurch.org.uk			

No Flowers during Lent From 14th February

Celebration

A Celebration for the life of
Tim Robert Jackson,
 who died on 16th December 2023,
 was held at St Oswald's on Tuesday 2nd
 January 2024.
 We continue to hold his family in our
 thoughts and prayers.



Help Wanted

Does anyone out there fancy a little job helping to produce this magazine?

It involves finding and collecting information about rotas, baptisms, the school etc and sending them, by email, to the editor.

Then part of a morning is spent proof reading all the contributions.

Please let one of the Wardens know if you are interested. Thanks.



Coffee and Cake

Saturday 3rd February from 10-12 noon in Church.
 Come along and enjoy Coffee, Cake and Chat.
 Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as
 long as they wish.



Worlestone Music School

Student Spotlight!

Hi, my name's Ella.

I took up the bassoon 2 years ago, having been playing clarinet and flute for a few years already. Like many others, I hadn't really heard of a bassoon before starting lessons, and it's been such a joy becoming more familiar with the instrument and what it can do.



It's been difficult getting to grips with the technique, but I'm grateful for my teacher, Andrew, for helping me along the way with those challenges.

I've just completed my grade 8 with a distinction and am aiming towards a music diploma in the summer.

Overall, taking up this instrument has been such an amazing experience, and I'm incredibly happy that I did.



At Worlestone Music School adults and children can learn any orchestral instrument, singing, and piano. Free introductory lesson given!

Worlestone Community Orchestra is open to all grade 3 and above orchestral players and meets at Worlestone Village Hall Fridays 7pmduring term time. Please contact us if you would like more information and join the fun.

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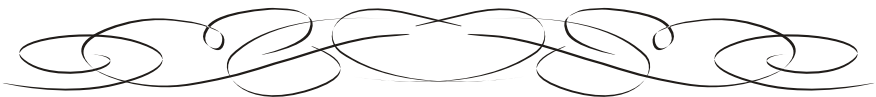
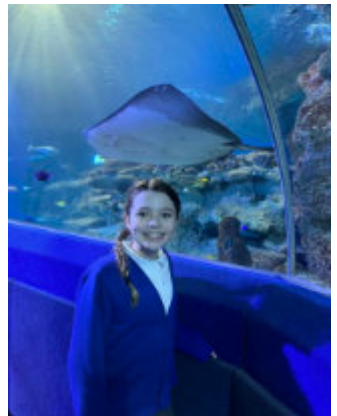


Calveley School

The Calveley community has started the new year with a bang. After only four days to settle into the new term after Christmas the whole school set off on two school trips. Oak and Sycamore (years 6 to 3) went to Blue Planet Aquarium in Chester and Beech, Willow and Little Acorns (years 2 to Nursery) set off to Legoland Discovery in Manchester.

At Blue Planet the children explored lots of different habitats and were introduced to many species of fish and aquatic animals. They spent time sketching what they could see in the tanks and watched an aqua diving show.

At Legoland the children enjoyed workshops about the science behind a seesaw and used their imaginations to write a story with a Lego scene. They also played in the soft play, built and raced model cars and even drove some mini cars. There were some sleepy little ones on the way home!

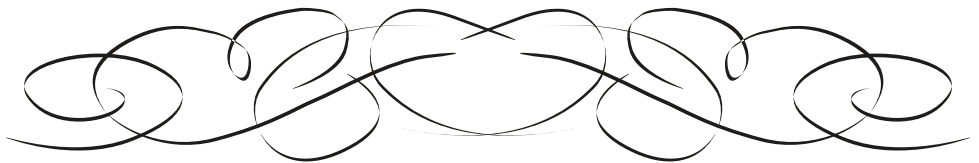




St Oswald's School, Worleston

The pupils at St Oswald's have recently welcomed Crewe Alex Football Club coaches in to school, focusing on team building and ball skills. We have all really enjoyed the PE sessions and developing our fitness and football abilities. The Sports Ambassadors took part in Junior Academy, learning about coaching and delivering sports activities for younger pupils during lunchtimes. We can't wait for some of the Crewe and Nantwich Football tournaments taking place later in the term to show off our skills!

We are so proud of Year 3 and 4 for their amazing art work! After spending many weeks practising their sketching, colour mixing and painting techniques, every child was given a small part of a large image of a David Hockney painting to recreate and explore. All of the individual masterpieces were put back together to create one huge piece of art work that is now on display in the classroom. A magnificent effort!







CANALSIDE GARDEN CENTRE

GRAND REOPENING

MARCH 2024

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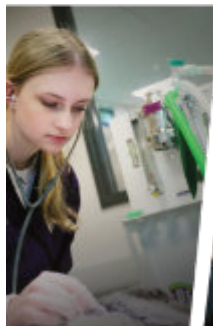
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