

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



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

*Dear Friends*



## **One step at a time...**

By the time you read this we will be celebrating the great Christian festival of Easter. Our Alleluias will be filling the church, not just on Easter Day, but for 50 days afterwards when we arrive at the feast of Pentecost. Although it is no more important than the other 9 principal Holy Days in the Church calendar, Easter feels particularly special, as spring erupts in all its glory and the promise of new life can be seen all around. It is as if all creation joins our celebrations.

Our very familiarity with the resurrection, and the knowledge that it will follow the crucifixion, sometimes blinds us to the reality of the first Easter, when disbelief, confusion and joy kept close company.

Despite Jesus' careful teaching and preparation, the disciples weren't expecting him to rise from the dead. Instead of unfettered joy, the first Easter was a series of stumbling steps and joyous discovery.

Mark's Gospel ends with the disciples fleeing in terror when they find the tomb empty. Seeing him through her tears, Mary Magdalene mistakes the risen Jesus for the gardener before she recognises his voice. She joyously runs to tell the disciples, only to find they don't believe her. Thomas wasn't present when Jesus appeared to the disciples the first Easter evening, and refused to believe that Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus for himself a week later. Despite a lengthy Bible study on the road to Emmaus, it isn't until Jesus breaks bread that Cleopas and his companion recognise Jesus. Step by step, the disciples began to understand and rejoice in the resurrection and continue to discover what it meant for them one step at a time through the rest of the New Testament.

We are an Easter People, and Alleluia is our song. It is right that we celebrate the resurrection with all the joy and energy we can muster. We are also disciples of Jesus. What the resurrection means, even as we sing our Alleluias, will only make sense as we walk with Jesus' first disciples one step at a time: walking in the company of Jesus through the rest of our lives.

Yours in our risen Lord Jesus,

*Revd Anne*

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Please Note: Starting in April, evening services at St Mary's, Acton will in future be held on the third Sunday in the month instead of the first Sunday!

# Sunday Services

## Acton

- 7<sup>th</sup> Apr 11:00 am Communion
- 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 10:00 am Messy Church, 6:30 pm Christ in Quiet
- 28<sup>th</sup> Apr 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 5<sup>th</sup> May 11:00 am Rogation at Henhull Hall, Welshman's Lane

## Church Minshull

- 7<sup>th</sup> Apr 11:00 am Service of the Word
- 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 11:00 am Communion
- 28<sup>th</sup> Apr 11:00 am Messy Church
- 5<sup>th</sup> May 11:00 am Service of the Word

## Worleston

- 7<sup>th</sup> Apr No Service
- 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 9:30 am Communion
- 21<sup>st</sup> Apr No Service
- 28<sup>th</sup> Apr 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 5<sup>th</sup> May No Service

## Wettenhall

- 7<sup>th</sup> Apr 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 11:00 am Communion
- 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 11:00 am All Age
- 28<sup>th</sup> Apr 6:30 pm Rogation
- 5<sup>th</sup> May 11:00 am Morning Prayer

## St David's Church Wettenhall

### Sidespersons

### Cleaning and Flowers

7 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Mrs A Hignett	Mrs M Drinkall and Mrs B Brockbank
14 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Mrs A Brooks	
21 <sup>st</sup>	Apr	Brownies	Mrs A Howard and Family
28 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Informal	
5 <sup>th</sup>	May	Mrs M Sherry	Mrs A Nicholas

*Visit: [www.wettenhallchurch.org.uk](http://www.wettenhallchurch.org.uk)*

## Rogation Sunday

Sunday 28th April is Rogation. Traditionally a time when Christians prayed for God's blessing on their crops and other aspects of their work on the land. We'll consider some aspects of God's wonderful work as we listen to readings and share in prayers about the garden, the living water, the crops, the animals and the wild.



Rogation 2019



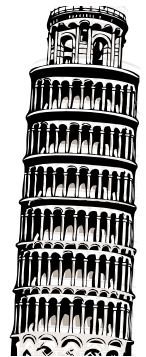
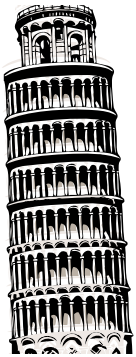
## Coffee and Cake

The next meetings will be on  
 4<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
 from 10-12 noon in Church.  
 Everyone is very welcome to pop in for a  
 little or as long as they wish.



## Darnhall Brownies

For World Thinking Day, 1st Darnhall Brownies learnt about Italy. They enjoyed making their own pizzas, eating ice cream and learning facts about Italy. They also attempted to make their own leaning Tower of Pisa!



## St.David's Patronal Festival

*Sunday 3rd March was the most beautiful sunny day to celebrate our Patron Saint, St. David. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport and enjoyed listening to his sermon and sharing in fellowship with our sister churches of St. Mary's, St. Oswald's and St. Bartholomew's.*

*Thank you to all who decorated the church so beautifully with early spring daffodils - and leeks! Thanks also to everyone who filled the tables with delicious refreshments. We were truly blessed with a wonderful morning and left feeling replenished in body, mind and spirit, ready to face the world!*



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## St Mary's Church, Acton Sidespersons

7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Miriam Harvey and Steve Davies
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Gill Evans and Elizabeth Bull
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Tracey and Peter Foster
28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Chris and Christine Barratt
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Susan and Charles Hull
<i>Visit: <a href="http://www.stmarysacton.org">www.stmarysacton.org</a></i>	

## Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

### The next walks are:

7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

9<sup>th</sup> June 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

It is sad to record the passing of George Harding, husband to the late Nora. George aged 90, passed away last December but was laid to rest in early February following a lovely service in Crewe Crematorium Chapel. The delay was due to two of his sisters visiting their elder brother John who lives in Australia.

George and his family were brought up at The Old Vicarage, Gradeley Green and from a boy until after his retirement George sang in the choir at St Mary's Acton. George loved the countryside, and following in the footsteps of his father, was a keen gardener. The picture shows the daffodils he planted in Welshmans Lane an annual reminder of George Harding.





## Acton and Reaseheath WI

At our February meeting we were treated to a fascinating talk from Graham Dodd, a volunteer at the Nantwich Museum, about the fires of Nantwich, including the Great Fire of 1583. Our town was plagued by fires from the 12th century through to the 20th century due to the construction of our buildings. Wood, wattle and daub, and thatch being flammable materials and as we cooked on open fires and lit our homes by candle these posed a constant threat of fire. The Great Fire in 1583 destroyed a large part of the town which was rebuilt by funds collected by Queen Elizabeth I and her Privy Council which raised £1000. This deed is marked by a plaque in Nantwich Square, now called "Queen's Aid House".

Graham also entertained us with stories about our local fire brigades and the rivalry between the two fire stations located next door to each other. Some of the equipment they used to put out the fires is on show at the Museum.



Photo Credit: Nantwich Museum

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## Cross Country Pages

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

this month to

Aaron Peers	Jodie Basford
Braden Tomlinson	Henry Yarwood
James Major	Megan Alexander

### Belated Wishes

Belated birthday greetings for a special big O to the Rev Dot Woods. Dot was a Reader in our parishes, was later ordained and is now NSM (Non-Stipendiary Minister) at Madeley in the Lichfield Diocese. We send our love and best wishes to Dot, Rob and their family.

**The Parish of Acton  
with Worleston  
Annual Church Meeting  
7.00 pm  
Tuesday 23 April  
St Mary's Church,  
Acton**

There is a warm welcome for all those on the Church Electoral Roll to come and vote for the Churchwardens and PCC, and to hear about the vision which the PCC has developed for the parish.

### *On a Lighter Note*

A lady was trying to impress those at a party. "My family's ancestry is very old," she boasted, "It dates back to the days of King James." Then, turning to a lady sitting quietly in a corner, she asked condescendingly, "How old is your family my dear?" "Well," came back the woman with a quiet smile, "I can't really say as all our family records were lost in the flood".

### Ladies' Lunch

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**  
**The Little Man, Wettenhall**  
**12:30 pm - Cost: £12.00**  
**For further details contact:**  
**Heather (528755), Isobel (624521),**  
**Ann (528273) or Joyce (624158)**  
***Please book with Joyce***

### Mobile Library

Apr	May	May	Tuesdays	
16 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	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
Apr	May	May	Thursdays	
11 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Arr	Dep
Pinfold Craft Centre	Poole		11:00	11:25
Worleston Station	Aston Juxta Mondrum		11:35	11:45
Worleston Village Hall			11:50	12:10
Apr	May	May	Thursdays	
18 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	Arr	Dep
Farmers Arms	Ravensmoor		10:00	10:15
Goodwill Hall	Faddiley		10:30	10:50
Greenfields Farm	Gradeley Green		11:05	11:20

## Thank you Rev. Anne!

Can you believe it's ten years on the 1st April since **Rev. Anne** was inducted into the Cross Country Parishes!

Under her steadfast guidance we have been led through many happy, sad and sometimes frighteningly difficult times - particularly thinking of the pandemic. Following the Induction service, the centrepiece of the refreshment table was a beautifully iced cake by Linda Clarke, bearing the words

'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer'. Romans 12:12.

These words of wisdom are something for us all to live by. We are grateful to Rev. Anne for her joy, patience and faithfulness throughout the last ten years and give thanks to God for her ministry in these parishes.



## Trek Talk

**Trek Talk - Saturday 20th April 2pm at St Davids Church Wettenhall.**

Last October **Carol Thayer** embarked on the adventure of a lifetime trekking 50 Km (30 miles), in the Sahara desert with a small but equally crazy group of hospice supporters.

Come and hear about the heat, the food, the terrain and the people of the Sahara, see the photos of the amazing landscape and incredible skies.

Refreshments will be served.



## **Confirmation**

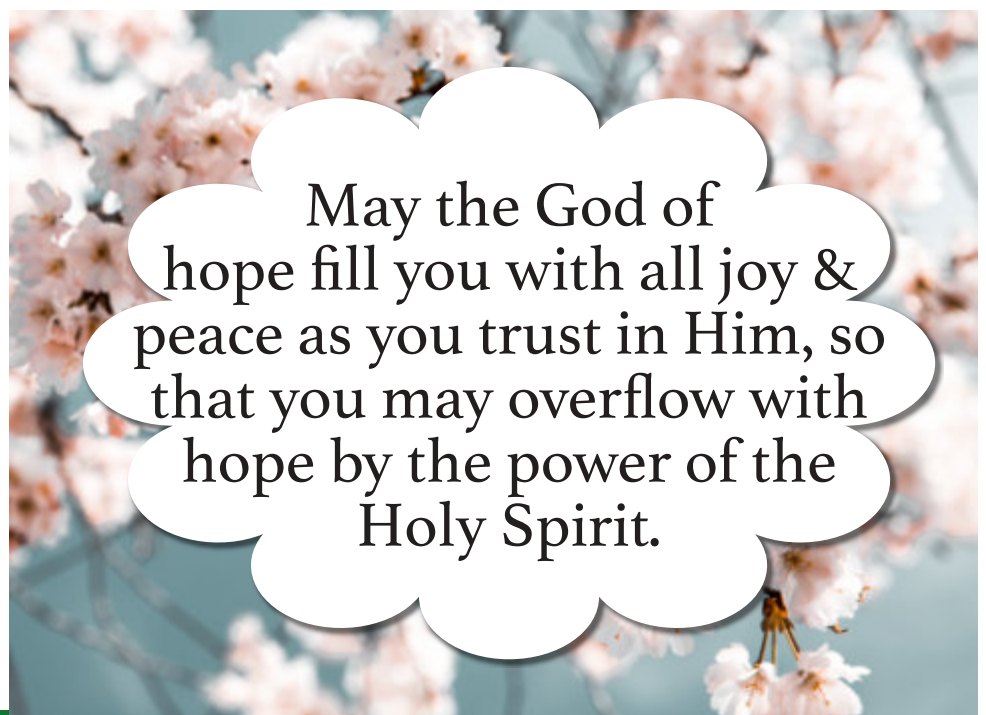
A Confirmation Service with Bishop Sam will take place at 11.00 am on Sunday 2 June (Trinity Sunday).

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.



May the God of  
hope fill you with all joy &  
peace as you trust in Him, so  
that you may overflow with  
hope by the power of the  
Holy Spirit.

## The Apostles; Saint John

John was the younger brother of James and was the son of Zebedee and Salome, making him a first cousin to Jesus. It is believed that he was one of the first Apostles to be called, alongside Andrew, when Jesus was named as ‘The Lamb of God’ by John the Baptist and the two of them became disciples immediately. With his brother he was known by Jesus as the ‘sons of thunder’ because of their loud vocal support of Him. John is thought to be the youngest of the Apostles, and the only one to live a long life and to die of natural causes rather than as a martyr. We all associate John with the Gospel of John, and there is a traditional belief that he was also the author of the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. The Gospel of John is said to be written by the most beloved of the disciples, a term for John and his relationship with Jesus. John is said to be the man who sat next to Jesus at the supper when He was betrayed and then to be the only disciple present at the crucifixion when Jesus called to him to take care of Mary after His own death. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke concentrate mainly on the last year of Jesus’s life. However, it appears that John’s writings were written much later than the other Gospels, perhaps about 75-100 years after Jesus’s death. Research into John’s four documents has indicated that they are likely to have several anonymous authors and were written over an extended period of time, but there are differing views on this, and many believe that John was the true author of his Gospel.

There is no indication in the Bible of how many years the Apostles remained in Judea, but about 12 years after Jesus died the Roman, Herod Agrippa, came to power and increased the persecution of Christians. The disciples scattered

throughout the Roman Empire and John continued his preaching. He trained other followers such as Polycarp, who eventually became the Bishop of Smyrna and continued to expand the church with the teachings of Jesus. John continued to travel and reached Rome in his old age. There he was arrested by the Emperor Domitian, a Roman known for his persecution of Christians. John was condemned to death and sent to the colosseum, where he emerged uninjured from a vat of boiling oil. The audience in the arena, witnessing this miracle, were all converted to Christianity. He ended his life in Ephesus and his remains were said to be buried at the Basilica of St. John in Selcuk, a town close to Ephesus. His life is celebrated on 27th December and his saintly image is that of an old man with his tablets of writings and a chalice to represent his survival after drinking poison, another miraculous escape for the most beloved Apostle.





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## Recipe

### Beef Short Ribs

Serves 4

#### Ingredients

- 4 large or 8 small Ash House Beef Short Ribs
- 1tbsp Olive oil
- 15g Butter
- 2 Onions, thickly sliced
- 4 Garlic cloves, sliced
- 2 Bay Leaves
- 1 Large thyme sprig
- 250ml Beer
- 225ml Ginger beer

#### Rub

- 1 tbsp garlic powder
- 1 tbsp mustard powder
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp cayenne
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp sunflower oil

#### Method

- First make the rub. Put the spices into a bowl with the salt and oil. Mix thoroughly and coat the short ribs. Cover and leave them to marinate in the fridge for a few hours or overnight.
- Heat the olive oil in a large casserole dish and sear the ribs until well browned. Remove the ribs and add the butter. As soon as the butter has foamed, add the onions and sauté them until golden brown. Add the garlic and stir for another few minutes.
- Add the bay leaves, thyme, beer and ginger beer. Stir to make sure the base of the dish is deglazed and bring to the boil. Place the ribs into the casserole dish, cover and simmer the ribs over the lowest heat for 2 hours.
- Preheat a grill to a medium - high heat / heat a griddle pan on the hob or prepare a barbecue. Brush the ribs liberally with the sauce and grill for a few minutes on both sides until lightly charred and heated through.
- Serve with more of the sauce.



Enjoy



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## St Oswald's Church, Worleston

Sidespersons			Coffee	
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Alison Stokes		Diane Darlington	
28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Diane Darlington		Marilyn Booth	
Flowers			Cleaning	
14th Apr	Sue Adams		Apr	Alison Stokes
28th Apr	Felicity Adams		May	Jill Alexander and Emma Basford
Visit: <a href="http://www.worlestonchurch.org.uk">www.worlestonchurch.org.uk</a>				

### 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.



### What's in a name

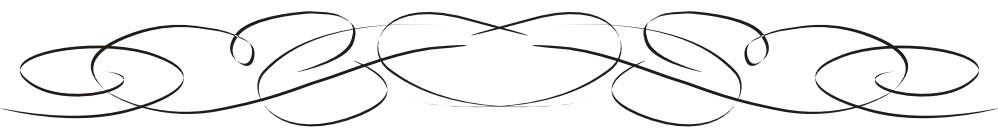
Recently a friend of mine had a new grandchild. 'What are they calling her?' I asked excitedly.

'Miriam, Delilah' was the reply.

'Oh. 'Why why, why Delilah'. The parents must be Tom Jones' fans.'

But, no. The parents are confirmed church-goers and had chosen two biblical names. How wonderful and refreshing.

It reminded me that as a child I had a great aunt called Auntie Del. She must have been a Delilah too!



### Coffee and Cake

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 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.



# **Worleston Church**

## **Double Whammy Concert**

*Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7 pm*

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## **Worleston Village Hall**

Worleston Village Hall trustees are looking for a reliable, community minded person, preferably with some finance experience, to take on the role of Treasurer at Worleston Village Hall, due to the retirement of the current post-holder.

The role would be on a voluntary basis with expenses paid by the trustees of the Village Hall as required.

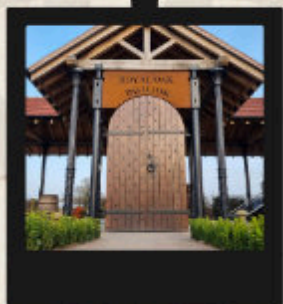
If you are interested in becoming part of a very successful, friendly committee team, or you know of a suitable candidate, please contact the hall on 01270 629733.

Please visit <http://www.worlestonvillagehall.net> for further information about the hall and it's role within the community.



# THE ROYAL OAK

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## January and February Meetings

### January

Annita Grunner, the newly elected President, welcomed members and guests to the January meeting of Worleston WI at Acton Parish Hall.

After a short business meeting guests and members partook of a delicious buffet, provided by members, after which, Worleston Drama Group entertained the New Year Party with their version of 'Would I Lie to You'.

Each member on the two teams told of such delights they had or had not taken part in and the other team had to guess whether the story was true or false. The teams consisted of Annita Grunner and Marilyn Booth, with their team leader, Hazel McLean. The opposing team was Linda Smith and Lyn Whitworth with Rosalind Lea as team leader.

The stories included such things as 'I have been an international balloonist for 20 years, I have been all over the world and even 'out of bounds' into countries we shouldn't have gone into', 'I performed with a dance keep fit team in a competition at the Royal Albert Hall' and 'I always loved horses and I am a proficient side saddle rider'.

The audience were also asked to vote on one of the rounds as to whether they thought the story was true or false.

The winning team were Annita Grunner and Marilyn Booth and Hazel McLean.

The evening finished with Annita thanking everyone for coming along and wished them all a safe journey home.

### February

February meeting for a change from having a guest speaker, was a Quiz and Dominoes Night, organised by Rosalind Lea.

The quiz had a wide range of questions from geography based, 'which peak overlooks the city of Cape Town?' to general knowledge, 'What is Hobson's choice?' and history 'who was the second wife of Henry the eighth?'

The members played in teams and the winning team of Jeanne Soddy, Claire Edgeley, and Marilyn Booth won a box of chocolates.

After a cup of tea and biscuits, Anne Fletton won the domino competition with a score of less than 30. Anne was rewarded also with chocolate.

The next meeting in March will have Barry Frewster, who will speak about the hills of Hawkstone Follies.



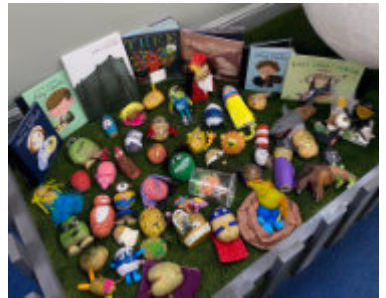
## Calveley School

We are extremely proud to announce that Calveley Primary Academy has been awarded The Wellbeing Award for Schools, a national standard for positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. We do our utmost to ensure that school atmosphere is positive and supports every child to be themselves, but to have this validated by an outside expert is very special.

Thank you to Boughey Distribution who have gifted the school the entire Little People, Big Dreams collection. These wonderful resources will be added to our school library to develop reading for pleasure and enhance teaching and learning. Also on a literary theme, we celebrated more reading for pleasure on World Book Day on 7th March. It was fabulous to see so many creative costumes. The children were also challenged to decorate a potato to represent their favourite book or character.

Inter-school football season has begun - huge congratulations to the year 5 and 6 girls who came second in their tournament. Hopefully we'll be bringing you more positive news over the coming weeks.







# CANALSIDE

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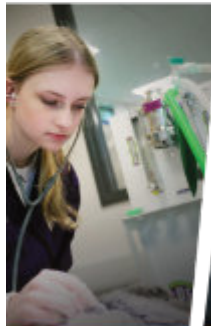
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#### Churchwardens

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Penni Doyle  
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[pennijean58@gmail.com](mailto:pennijean58@gmail.com)

Mr R Brooks  
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#### Other Parish Office holders

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##### Organists

Mr R Nicholas  
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Contact for St Oswald's, Worleston; Mr M Alexander 01270 624404

All copy for the next magazine must be with your Parish Rep or sent to the Editor

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# Worlestone Music School

## Student Spotlight!

***Hello! My name is Elizabeth. I'm a flute player in the Worlestone Community Orchestra.***

***I returned to playing the flute, after twenty years of not playing, about 5 years ago. Three of my children also play in the orchestra and it was for them I joined initially. I'm so glad I did!***



***Despite having so many holes in my formative music education, Andrew's instruction has enabled me to play pieces I'd never played, and I've grown in my ability to read and play more challenging and interesting music.***

***It's a real pleasure and privilege to be able to play an instrument, however imperfectly, and much joy is had in challenging myself to aspire to do it well.***

***I've recently started Oboe lessons with Andrew and am really enjoying stretching myself to learn a new instrument, even at my age.***



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 7pm during term time. Please contact us if you would like more information and join the fun.*

079 857 820 85 [WmusicS.com](http://WmusicS.com)