Sunday Worship:

8.00am	Holy Communion [Prayer Book Service]
11.00am	First Sunday - Family Communion
	Second Sunday - Family Service
	Third Sunday - Family Communion
	Fourth Sunday - Morning Prayer and Sermon [Prayer Book Service]
	Fifth Sunday - Morning Prayer and Sermon
6.30pm	Evening Prayer & Sermon [Prayer Book Service]

Weekday Services: [Additional Services are shown on the monthly Calendar and on the web at <u>http://www.achurchnearyou.com/lower-or-nether-peover-st-oswald/</u>]

Occasional Offices

Baptisms: Please contact one of the church wardens – details below Weddings: Please contact Mr Colin Gidman. Tel: 01565 722313 Funerals and Burials: Please contact Mrs Ann Barlow. Tel: 01565 722989

Church Officers:

Reader

Mrs Ann Barlow, 23 Trouthall Lane, Plumley, Knutsford. WA16 0UN.Tel: 01565 722989

Churchwardens

Mr Rodney Fowler, Tithe House, Chelford Road, Knutsford, WA16 8LY. Tel: 01565 634112. <u>rodneyfowler@talktalk.net</u>

Mr Keith Phillips, 49 Bailey Court, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2YH. Tel: 01270 878259. <u>kphil61@hotmail.co.uk</u>

Hon Secretary of PCC: Mrs Felicity Wilshaw, 46 Holly Tree Road, Plumley, Knutsford. WA16 0UJ. Tel: 01565 722527

Hon Treasurer of PCC: Mr Colin Gidman, Heron's Way, 13 Malt Kiln Road, Plumley, Knutsford. WA16 0TS. Tel: 01565 722313

Organist: Mr David Tredwell. Tel: 01565 634340

Lower Peover C of E Primary School Head: Mrs Sharon Dean Tel 01625 383292

Magazine Editor: Lynda Boag-Munroe Tel: 01477 534291 lyndaboagmunroe@yahoo.co.uk

Weekly Bulletin: Carl Douglas: Tel: 01625 861613

Resources for personal prayer

While we may not be able to meet for regular worship there are many resources which we can use to maintain times of prayer and bible study.

The Book of Common Prayer offers prayers and readings for all occasions and the orders of Morning and Evening Prayer can be read aloud in one's own home. The Psalter which is included in the Book of Common Prayer identifies a psalm or selection of psalms for each day of the month.

Radio and television

The BBC offers a **Daily Service** on Radio 4 Long Wave every day at 9.45am as well as **Sunday Worship** at 8.10am on Sunday mornings on Radio 4. There is **Choral Evensong** on Radio 3 every Wednesday at 3.30pm which is repeated on Sundays at 3.00pm. In addition, **Songs of Praise** is televised on BBC1 at 1.15pm on Sunday. Programmes are also available on BBC iPlayer or the BBC Sounds app.

Digital Resources

There are several apps available for smartphones and tablets including the Church of England **Daily Prayer** app which offers Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline in either Contemporary or Traditional Language. **Time to Pray** similarly offers an Order for Prayer During The Day as well as an order for Night Prayer. The app **Pray as you go** offers a short daily audio meditation with music. The Church of England publishes a **Prayer for the Day** both as audio and text on its website as well as on several social media platforms. Many Church of England resources can be accessed through **smart speakers** such as Alexa or Google home by asking 'Alexa open The Church of England' or 'Hey Google, talk to the Church of England.' As well as answering questions, the apps can be asked to read a range of prayers along with such things as the Apostle's Creed and The Beatitudes.

Chester Cathedral will provide worship through online streaming at 5.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 10am on Sundays.

There are many Bible Study resources available as apps or on the web. The ones which we have mainly been using for Exploring the Word of God can be found on the following websites:

Yale Bible Study yalebiblestudy.org The Bible Project bibleproject.com St John's Timeline stjohnstimeline.co.uk

Finally, we can keep in touch with each other by telephone, email or text messaging.

COVID-19

On 17th March the Archbishops of Canterbury and York issued advice that all public worship should be suspended until further notice. As a result, we are not holding services at St Oswald's Church for the time being. The church, however, will continue to remain open for private prayer. If you do visit the church we ask that you observe social distancing measures and recommended hygiene practices.

FINANCE

As you may be aware, a substantial part of our income is received through collections at our regular services. Given the current circumstances we will not be able to receive such donations so we would be grateful if you would consider making your usual contribution by cheque or by standing order.

For more information contact the treasurer Colin Gidman on 01565 722313

Parish register

Baptism We welcome into the church family Lily May Lane and Nikon Wright

In remembrance: We give thanks for the life of Albert Joseph (Joe) Roberts

In our prayers...

At all our services we ask God's blessing on those known to us who are ill or infirm, particularly those with whom we have close connections as members of the congregation. At this time, we pray particularly for those in isolation due to the coronavirus and for all healthcare workers.

If you would like to be named in our prayers of intercessions because you are undergoing treatment or know of someone who has requested prayer please contact Ann on 01565 722989 or by email <u>hannbarlow@btopenworld.com</u>

Thought for the Month

Living in strange times

As I write this, we are just entering a period of social distancing or self-isolation. As part of the measures for containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we have been instructed to suspend all public worship. This is unprecedented and I am sure I am not the only one who finds it quite distressing, particularly as we are heading towards the most important festival of the Christian year. It seems that we won't be allowed to gather for worship on Easter Sunday. It may well be several months before we next come together to celebrate the resurrection. These are strange times.

The disciples must have thought they were living through strange times too. The man they thought of as their leader had been crucified but on that first Easter morning they received the news that he had risen from the dead. Despite knowing that Jesus was alive they continued to hide away. We are told that they gathered together in a locked house as they were afraid of persecution (John 20).

But then things changed for them. They were visited by the risen Jesus who gave them the gift of his Holy Spirit. In the power of the Spirit they were able to spread the good news of the resurrected Christ to the world. Experiencing the presence of Jesus despite their isolation in a locked room began the process which led to our celebration of Easter.

Dame Julian of Norwich was another who lived in strange times. When she was a child the Black Death swept Norwich bringing the city to a halt. When she herself later succumbed to illness she received visions in which she saw Christ. When she recovered she withdrew into isolation to bring herself closer to Jesus in prayer and contemplation. She wrote of her experience of the presence of Jesus and one of her most well-known sayings, from the depth of her faith, is "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

We too can hold to that same faith as we find ourselves in isolation from our regular church congregation. We can remember that we are always in the presence of Jesus. That is what we celebrate at Easter. Our connection with God is not broken because we can no longer gather together for worship. It may even be a time when we can become more aware of the power of God's Spirit in our lives. So, while this Easter Day will seem very strange, we can continue to rejoice and give thanks that 'He is risen, he is risen indeed.'

Ann Barlow

Exploring the Word of God

The Book of Psalms probably holds some of the most familiar passages of our Bible. Over Lent there is an opportunity to share some of our favourites and to learn more about them. Six meetings on Thursday evenings, starting 27th February, 8.00pm at 23 Trouthall Lane, Plumley. The sessions are informal with short video input to provide background. Contact Ann 01565 722989 or hannbarlow@btopenworld.com.

Intercession

Pray for your neighbours – lift them to the Lord! Thank Him for all that they have done for you! Claim for your friends the promise of His Word; In intercession we find strength anew.

Ask of the Lord, and surely you'll receive Seek now His will, and surely you will find Knock at His door, and truly we believe In intercession we see God is kind.

Come to the Lord, for He is always there! Our worries, cares, and our concerns we bring; O waste no time, just come to Him in prayer In intercession we find God the King!

By Nigel Beeton

Pudding and Quiz Evening

We would like to thank everyone for their help and support at the Pudding and Quiz Evening. We raised £841.34. George and Noreen

Parish Magazine

If you are visiting the church at any time, please do remember to pick up your magazine.

While driving in the countryside, a family caught up an old farmer and his horsedrawn cart. The farmer obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: 'Ecologically efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

5th April - No flowers in Lent
12th April - Easter Sunday
19th April - Easter Flowers
26th April - Wedding Flowers
3rd May - Iris Richardson
10th May - Sylvia Hankinson

I do a rota only for the Altar flowers. If you wish to put flowers on the Remembrance Book Table there are always vases available.

e-mail: <u>edwina@lowerpeover.plus.com</u> or telephone: 01565 631441 Edwina Oldham - Flower Rota Organiser

Lower Peover WI – meets on the first Wednesday in the month In Lower Peover School at 7.30pm

For information contact Sally Geake LP 722489

Plumley WI meets on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Plumley Village Hall

Knutsford Floral Design Club has suspended all club meetings and events until further notice.

For more information telephone Lynda on 01477 534291

Church Collections for February

Gift Aided	£ 1,522.50
General Collections	£ 368.42
Total	£ 1,890.92
Thank you for your kind contributio	ms Colin Gidman

100 Club Winners for February:

No. 77: Mrs Joy Hoad - £70

No. 54: Mrs Elaine Griffiths - £30

Praise for the 'magical' Little House

Montessori nursery school awarded outstanding rating from the education watchdog

Parents say their children flourish in the 'magical' Montessori school, The Little House at Lower Peover.

The nursery school earned an outstanding rating from Ofsted in every area looked at during an inspection last month.

The inspection report said children at the school were exceptionally independent and confident, and had 'beautiful manners.'

The owner was passionate about her work, it added, and parents praised the school.

The report said: The owner has a very experienced and well-qualified team of staff who have worked with her for a long time and share the same philosophy.

A large number of parents strongly and compellingly explained why this setting is, in their view, outstanding and has been a wonderful place for their children to start their education.

They described their children as flourishing academically in this 'magical place'. Their children are eager to learn with the incredibly knowledgeable, professional and caring staff team.

Children are introduced to a rich set of experiences. The staff draw on the skills of parents and past, now adult, pupils to develop children's understanding of cultures and professions.

School owner Miss Su Su said: "We are once more delighted to have an Outstanding Ofsted, and it is lovely that respect, manners and courtesy were highlighted by the inspector.

The children of The Little House are taught to be kind, caring, tolerant and respectful, good manners are a very important part of our school life. We aim to generate security, trust and independence in the child, as well as encouraging them to be polite, considerate and kind".

GOOD FRIDAY: the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified in the morning, and died later. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches.

In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. *Pope John Paul*

Easter Story

The thud of nails on open palms, 'Father forgive' was all He said, 'Finished' was His final cry, As death approached God bowed His head.

Born of a woman He entered our world, Fully man yet fully divine, Such is the mystery beyond comprehension That One such as this should step into time.

He came to die and rise again The first fruits of the Father's love, That man should follow in His train On wings of light to realms above.

By Megan Carter

EASTER: the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

23 April - St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So, 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

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Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — hands, I will not believe it'. (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message. (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was because he had spoken with the Lord.' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit. C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in and you came to visit me.'
 (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury. (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine.' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

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[13]



Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

The deadline for the next issue of the magazine is Friday 17 April 2020

COFFEE ROTA

The coffee rota has been suspended until further notice.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE PARISHIONERS OF LOWER PEOVER AND OVER PEOVER

Subject to all legal formalities being fulfilled, the patrons of the Benefice of Lower Peover and Over Peover are delighted to announce the appointment of **Fr Murray Aldridge-Collins** as the new incumbent of the aforesaid Parishes.

Father Murray has recently completed his curacy in the Parish of Holy Trinity and Saint Peters Ilfracombe, with Saint Peters Bittadon, Devon.

There is currently no date fixed for his official Induction, but there will be further information on this in due course.

The appointment of Fr Murray comes at a time of uncertainty and national concern, and is therefore a most welcome and stabilising factor for us all.

Dear Friends,

It is with a great sense of excited anticipation that I sit down to write a few words of self-introduction to you this morning.



My name is Fr Murray Aldridge-Collins and subject to all the usual legal and administrative processes running smoothly, very soon I will begin serving you as your new Vicar. Over time it is my hope that we will all get to know each other well as we journey forward as the Christian family in Lower and Over Peover.

But in the mean-time your church wardens and I thought it might be helpful to share a little something about myself with you.



I was born and raised in Eastbourne East Sussex where at the tender young age of eight I started attending church as a chorister and have been a committed Christian ever since. Before Ordination I worked as a Mental Health Nurse in London, Bristol and South Devon. It was while living in Devon that my Vicar encouraged me to seriously think about ordained ministry.

After a time of discernment with the Diocese, I was accepted for training, went on to study pastoral theology at St Stephens House in Oxford and was ordained in Exeter Cathedral in 2015. During the final stages of my curacy I began to think about where God might be calling me to serve next. I have family who live nearby in Bramhall so began looking at posts in both Exeter and Chester Dioceses. It was then that I came across your advert and parish profiles.

As I read your story, I quickly realised that the passion you described for your parishes; your deep desire to see your churches grow in faith and the deep sense of

calling you have as a Christian family to reach out and serve at the centre of your local community were all aspirations I share.

So, I applied and (to cut a long story short), was delighted to not only be invited to interview for the position of your new Vicar, but to be offered the post too! So, God willing I will be with you soon. In the mean-time can I please assure you that you are all in my prayers and may I ask that you continue to pray for me too.

Yours in Christ, Fr Murray



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Information for the Magazine

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lyndaboagmunroe@yahoo.co.uk

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Lower Peover Church Website

News and events can be found on our website www.peoverchurches.com



You can

Smartphone users can access the site by scanning the QR code

also find a full calendar of events on <u>http://www.achurchnearyou.com/lower-or-nether-peover-st-oswald/</u> If you have any items which you would like included on the website or the online calendar contact Ann on <u>hannbarlow@btopenworld.com</u>

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I would like to buy number(s) at a cost of £1 per week.

*I enclose a cheque, made payable to 'St Oswald's Church Lottery Fund' for £52 per number for a full year, or * I have completed that attached Standing Order and will pay at the rate of £13 per number each quarter. *Delete as appropriate

Signed Date

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Keith Phillips, (St. Oswald's 100 Club) 49 Bailey Court, Alsager, Stoke on Trent. ST7 2YH.

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Account Name					

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