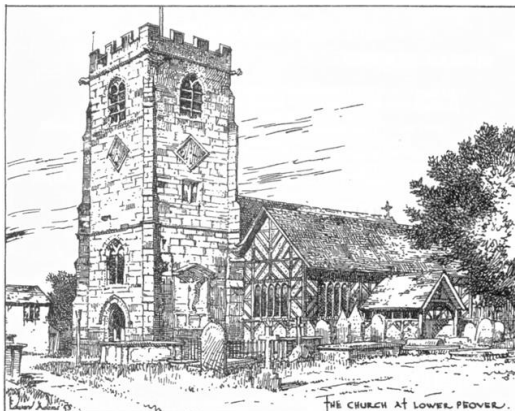


# **St Oswald : Lower Peover**

## **Parish Magazine**



**December 2021/January 2022**

**50p**



# Full details of services at St Oswald's and St Lawrence's can be found on the website [peoverchurches.org.uk](http://peoverchurches.org.uk)

## Occasional Offices

Weddings: Please contact Mrs Ann Barlow. Tel: 01565 722989

Funerals and Burials: Please contact Mrs Ann Barlow. Tel: 01565 722989

Baptisms: Please contact Keith Phillips Tel: 01270 878259

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## Church Officers:

### Vicar:

Fr Murray Aldridge-Collins

The Vicarage, Crown Lane, Lower Peover. Tel: 01565 723624

### 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. [rodneymfowler@talktalk.net](mailto:rodneymfowler@talktalk.net)

Mr Keith Phillips, 49 Bailey Court, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2YH.

Tel: 01270 878259. [kphil61@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kphil61@hotmail.co.uk)

**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](mailto:lyndaboagmunroe@yahoo.co.uk)

**Weekly Bulletin:** Carl Douglas: Tel: 01625 861613

Dear Friends,

During the next weeks that include *Advent, Christmas, and New Year* there is always a great sense of anticipation and hope beginning to build up inside so many of us who love this time of year.

*(I have noticed a few Christmas trees being put up and twinkling away around our villages over the past weeks, so I guess I am not the only one who gets so excited about it all!)*

As we make our plans for Christmas in church, we anticipate the variety of services which help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus: School services, Little House nativity, 9 Lessons and Carol services, Crib services, the more relaxed 'All Age' family worship and of course the uniquely special service of Midnight Mass. There is so much to look forward too, so many to share in, so much to be part of and to enjoy.

One of the things I always love are our schools' nativities and one of my favourite clergy Christmas stories is about a school nativity (*not in our school!* is of the little boy who wanted to play the part of the Blessed Virgins other half Joseph. He didn't get the part and was very disappointed to instead be given the part of the innkeeper, but he appeared to accept his teacher's decision and got on with his part in the play. Besides he thought it would be better to be the inn keeper than the last sheep, an octopus (which he knew made no sense at all) or a palm tree, which were the only other parts left.

However, things were not as resolved as the teacher and poor vicar had assumed and on the day of the performance, in front of a church packed with parents and the visiting bishop, the little boy took his revenge. When St Joseph asked him if there was any room in his inn, he instantly abandoned the script, stood back so that the door to the inn was wide open, he bowed at the Holy couple and promptly waved them towards the open door and said, 'Yes there's plenty of room! Come on in!!'

Now that might not be the way the familiar story goes but I think the little boy's actions has something to say and remind us all of at Christmas time.

The truth is that we all are invited to 'come in' to greet the holy child, born into such very humble surroundings so he could save the world and bring us all such joy and hope.

The message of Christmas is that there literally is 'room for all' because God welcomes each one of us home. He does not want anyone to be turned away, because He loves each of us so much.

So, we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, not only because it is a great excuse for a bit of a party, but also because his birth gives us hope. Hope for the future. Hope during all the challenges of the past couple of years and when so much seems to be changing all around us.

Our Christmas celebrations then lead into celebrations of the new year, with a heightened sense of anticipation for all that 2022 might bring. Many will be praying that the next year will be better than the last; others will be going into the New Year with a deep sense of anxiety and uncertainty. However, as we approach 2022, we should remember the wonderful promise which Jesus made to us: 'remember that I am with you always,' (Matthew 28, verse 20). Jesus promises to be there with us in whatever it is that life brings; in the happy times and in the sadness; in the pain and also in the joy.

So, as we travel through the Christmas season and into the new year may we all across the benefice try to keep that truth in our hearts. That at Christmas, God welcomes us all to celebrate the birth of His Son, the One who brings hope to the world, who made sure that there is room for everyone and who invites us all to peacefully come in and be loved.

*Have a wonderful, blessed Christmas and a hopeful and happy new year*

Fr Murray

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### **Safeguarding**

St Oswald's and St Lawrence's take their duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at [www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding). The Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Oswald's is Tracey Wallace. If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues concerning a safeguarding matter within the parish please contact Tracey in confidence on 07724 840753 or by email at [ktwallace@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ktwallace@hotmail.co.uk)

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### **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. 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 Fr Murray or our Reader, Ann.

## Services at St Oswald's

St Oswald's is now open every day for individual prayer

Every **Wednesday at 10am** - Holy Communion

Every **Sunday at 8am** - Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer

**First Sunday of the month 11am** - All Age Worship

**Second, third and fourth Sundays of the month 11am** - Holy Communion  
(Common Worship)

**Third Sunday of the month 9.30am** - Children's Church (except in August)

**Fifth Sunday of the month 10.00am** - Benefice service (alternately at St Oswald's  
and St Lawrence's)

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### From the Registers:

#### Baptisms

We welcome into the church family:

Jacob Burnside

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### Christmas Toy Appeal

Once again, we are supporting the [Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal](#) by collecting gifts of new toys to be distributed by the Salvation Army in Northwich. There will be a box in church for donations until the Gift Service on 5th December. Gifts should be unwrapped or in open gift bags.

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### Annual Charity

The PCC has agreed that charitable giving in the coming year will be in support of the Farming Community Network. Retiring collections will be invited at services up to Christmas and at relevant services throughout the year. This charity is particularly important in our rural community and we are encouraged to give generously.

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### Children's Society News

£268.90 has been collected for the children's society.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sylvia

[5]

## **Children's Church**

Children's Church takes place on the third Sunday of the month at 9.30am except in August. This is a short service with activities for families and is currently taking place outdoors. The next time we meet is on Sunday 19 December. If you would like to be kept updated on activities for families please email Ann ([hannbarlow@bopenworld.com](mailto:hannbarlow@bopenworld.com)) to be added to the mailing list.

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### **Dates for the Diary**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm** Nine Lessons and Carols at St Lawrence's

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm** Nine Lessons and Carols at St Oswald's

**Christmas Eve Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December;**

**4.00pm** - Crib Service at St Lawrence's

**11.30pm** - Midnight Holy Communion at St Oswald's

**Christmas Day Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December:**

**8.00am** - Traditional said service of Holy Communion at St Oswald's

**9.30am** - Holy Communion at St Lawrence's

**11.00am** - All age worship at St Oswald's

**Boxing Day Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am** Morning Prayer at St Oswald's

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am** United Benefice Plough Service at St Oswald's

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### **Income for October**

General collections	£ 581.29
Gift Aided	£3060.50
Gift aided donations	£ 850.00
Donations	£ 230.00
Total	£4721.79

**For more information contact the treasurer  
Colin Gidman on 01565 722313**

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Over Peover WI meets on the last Thursday of each month  
at 7.30pm in Over Peover Village Hall  
Contact June Leach – 07500 250969

## **Christmas throughout the Christian world**

For nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace.

Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide try to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25<sup>th</sup> December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.

Those who treat Christmas seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God. Two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.

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The only trouble with doing your Christmas shopping early is to get your wherewithal on the same schedule.

## **Loving, Almighty God,**

Thank you that You came into the darkness of this broken world on that first Christmas night, pouring in your Light, in the person of your Son, Jesus.

Lord, so much of our world seems dark, still. So many dreadful things we cannot make sense of: the on-going pandemic, acts of violence and injustice against good people – innocent people, child poverty, employment problems, broken relationships so many difficulties. It is easy to feel overwhelmed.

Lord, help us to focus on you this Christmas. Open our eyes to see your bigger, eternal picture. Help us to hear afresh the Good News that nothing and no-one can ever extinguish your Light

Jesus overcame the troubles of the world by His death and resurrection. Father may we re-connect with you, through Jesus, this Christmas and know the Love, the Joy and the Peace, which are your Christmas gifts to us, as we trust Him.

We pray in Jesus' wonderful name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

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### **FLOWER ROTA**

5th and 12th December - Ruth Hague  
19th December - Christmas Flowers to the end of the year  
9th and 16th January - Louie Atkins  
23rd and 30th January - Yvonne Coates

If anyone wishes to put flowers in church, there are always vases on the Remembrance Book Table.

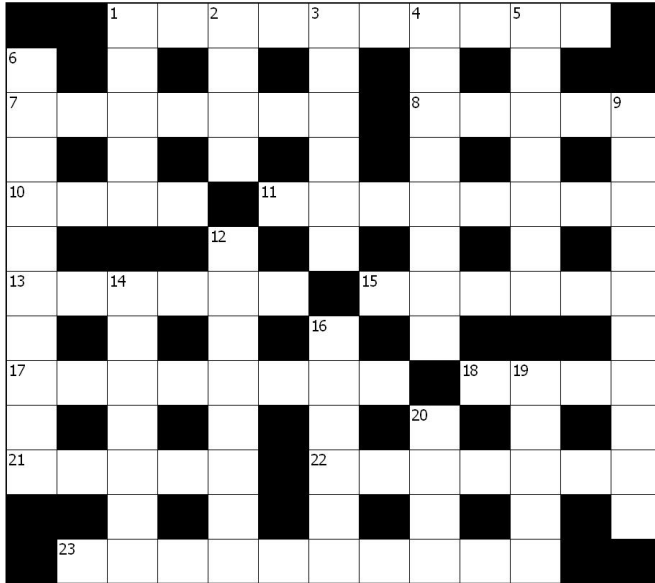
Edwina Oldham - Flower Rota Organiser  
E.mail: - [edwina@lowerpeover.plus.com](mailto:edwina@lowerpeover.plus.com) - Tel: 01565 631441

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### **Daily Hope phone line**

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line is free and available 24 hours a day on 0880 804 8044





**Across**

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith \_\_\_\_ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

**Down**

- 1 '\_\_\_\_ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as \_\_\_\_ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)

- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living \_\_\_\_\_, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will \_\_\_\_ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

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In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a large star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. "Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked. Jane replied: "Oh, he is looking for a place to park."

## **The Word of Light**

The Word was in the beginning, the Word was with the Lord;  
When the worlds were set to spinning by that same Almighty Word.  
Not a thing that was created was made without His will,  
And His power has permeated our world, and does so still.

In Him was life, and light eternal to all men He gives His light;  
Shining in the gloom nocturnal, shines like day within the night!  
And to men in sinful starkness the Word in glory comes –  
And the deep surrounding darkness to the Word of Light succumbs!

Though by Him the world was moulded when He came unto His own,  
Yet mankind, in sin enfolded their Creator they disowned.  
But for those who do believe Him – who see that He is right –  
He makes those who do receive Him into Children of the Light!

*By Nigel Beeton*

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**Knutsford Floral Design Club is delighted to announce the  
reopening of its club meetings at Plumley Village Hall every third  
Wednesday at 2pm.  
Sanitising and social distancing are in place**

For more information telephone Lynda on 01477 534291

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### **Easy come, easy go**

Father Christmas enters through a hole in the chimney and leaves through a  
hole in your pocket.

---

Parents are people who bear children, bore teenagers,  
and board newlyweds. – Anon

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Christmas is the season when your neighbour's radio keeps you awake playing  
'Silent Night'.



© www.parishpump.co.uk

*We don't sing carols no more...  
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

---

### Christmas Rush

That time again, my trolley's full, buying all the Christmas fare,  
A turkey crown, a rib of beef, crisps and nibbles, lots to spare.

Christmas crackers and serviettes, paper for wrapping and cards to send,  
Nuts and oranges, figs and dates, the list goes on, there seems no end.

In all this rush it's good to pause and think about that special Day,  
When shepherds watched and angels sang as a Baby lay in a bed of hay.

By Megan Carter

The Rectory at St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

### **On the peril of choosing new kneelers**

After all these years, I now understand why the non-conformist denominations sit down, rather than kneel, to say their prayers. That way, no decisions have to be taken over the number, size, shape, colour, material and design of kneelers in church.

Our present set was donated by a retired Major-General in 1899 to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking, and after more than a century of use by the pious and not-so-devout has taken its toll. Like certain members of our congregation, they now look a little worse for wear. Many have sprung leaks, so that when used, a jet of flocking is emitted all over the clothes of their neighbour, who then leaves Mattins looking like a Yeti.

Other kneelers have been occupied by grateful mice, who find them most congenial for nesting and who leave in high umbrage, creating chaos as Miss Mapp chases them down the aisle with her umbrella; that this provides her with the perfect excuse to leave before the sermon is, I am sure, entirely coincidental. The final straw came when my own, by some quirk in its design, now sounds like a whoopee cushion every time I kneel. It may cause the choirboys much amusement, but it lends nothing to the dignity of our worship.

So, we have decided to have a completely new set – and therein lies the problem. Who makes them? What will be the designs? Who co-ordinates the whole project? There is enough here to occupy the combined minds of our Church Council for the next Millennium and there will be enough scheming, manoeuvring, signing of non-aggression pacts and formation of tactical truces to make the United Nations look like amateurs. Unfortunately, we do not have the ecclesiastical equivalents of the blue berets to enforce peace.

The more patriotic members of the congregation have suggested they all show the Union Jack – presumably so they can be waved at appropriate moments in our services; one belligerent individual wants to see depictions of St Michael slaughtering the dragon, John the Baptist's head on a platter and other such tasteful scenes. On the other hand, dear Miss Timmins wants them all to depict doves or small fluffy creatures, which would make the church look more like pets corner.

Cutting through these vital issues, I have suggested that the entire congregation converts to Roman Catholicism and then we could stand for our prayers and do without kneelers entirely.           Your loving uncle, Eustace

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7	2	9	5	3	1	4	6	8
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## **Please join the ‘St Oswald’s Lower Peover 100 Club’**

Dating from 1269, St Oswald’s church has been central to the village of Lower Peover for centuries. Throughout that time, it has been the spiritual home of many people, and not just those living in the village itself.

It still fulfils that role today, a peaceful haven in an ever busier and complicated world. As a Grade 1 listed building, it enjoys a setting of particular importance, and the assumption is that it always will be. But escalating costs mean that we can no longer take that for granted. Buildings such as St Oswald’s are hugely expensive to maintain and ever-increasing running costs need to be found.

**It is a sobering thought that our Parish Share (the money we pay to Chester Diocese for our church and a vicar) is £51,395. That is £988 each week.** That is before any lighting, heating, maintenance etc. is taken into consideration, and, contrary to what many people still think, the State does not pay towards a church’s upkeep.

We launched the 100 Club in May 2008 and membership currently stands at 71, although it has been as high as 106. The club currently raises about £2,500 each year (after prizes) and really does make a huge difference to our resources. So far it has raised over £25,000 for the running costs of our church. **And all for the minimal cost of £1 per week to members!**

The 100 Club works in this way:

We collect £1 a week from each member per number held, which can be paid either as an annual fee of £52, or £13 per quarter, by standing order. Members are allocated individual numbers and each month two numbers are drawn. The first receives a prize of £70, the second receives £30. The remainder of the proceeds go to the church. You may individually hold more than one number and indeed, past winners have often had multiple holdings. It really is as simple as that!

The 100 Club is designed to appeal to regular churchgoers and those people who may not be able to worship regularly with us, but who also think it is important that the church remains open as an important part of village life.

We really would like to get our membership back up to at least 100 and hope that if you are reading this you may feel able to help – all for £1 per week! Please do join the 100 Club by completing the membership form at the back of this magazine or online at our website, and simply post it back to me.



Likewise, if you have any queries or questions about the 100 Club, please call me, Keith Phillips on 01270 878259 or mobile 07973 900032.  
Email [kphil61@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kphil61@hotmail.co.uk)

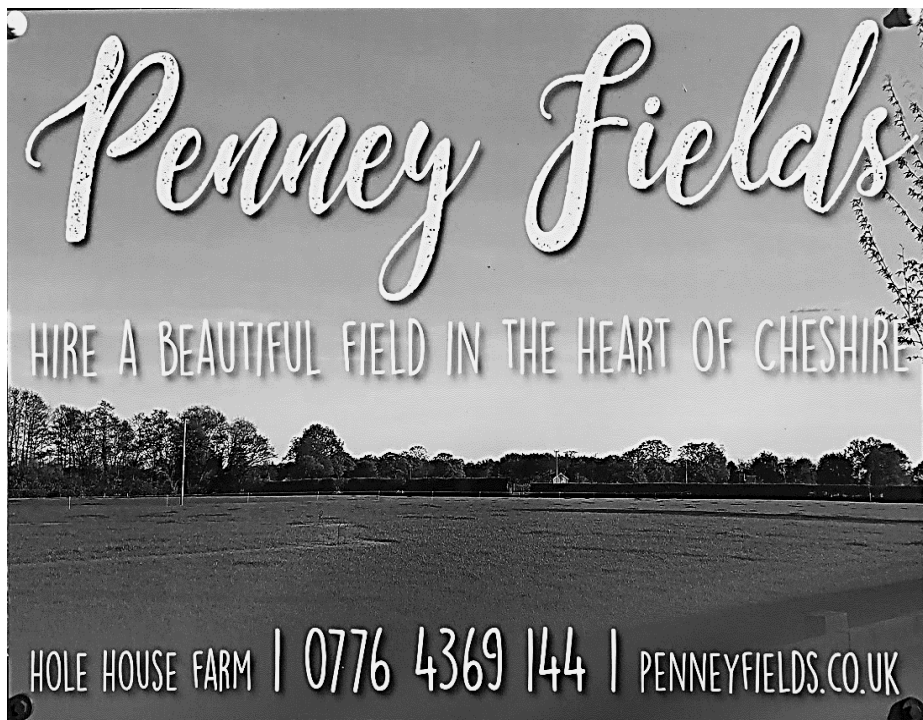
Many congratulations to all our winners – and our thanks to all members who are currently supporting the 100 Club. Stay safe and thank you.

**Keith Phillips – Churchwarden**

(Lottery Registration No. 08/LO/77)

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## **Information for the Magazine**

If you would like to put an article in  
the magazine,

maybe to congratulate  
someone for an achievement  
or to share a big birthday

with others,  
please contact me on

01477 534291

or

[lyndaboagmunroe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lyndaboagmunroe@yahoo.co.uk)

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**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

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

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### **Crossword Answers**

**ACROSS:** 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured.  
13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

**DOWN:** 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices.  
9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

## Lower Peover Church Website

News and events can be found on our website [www.peoverchurches.com](http://www.peoverchurches.com)



Smartphone users can access the site by scanning the QR code You can also find a full calendar of events on <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/lower-or-nether-peover-st-oswald/> If you have any items which you would like included on the website or the online calendar contact Ann on [hannbarlow@btopenworld.com](mailto:hannbarlow@btopenworld.com)

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### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is being called "an amazing opportunity" to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

HOPE Together, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Biblica and other key partners are currently planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a specially commissioned souvenir book to give away; a new anthem for communities and churches to sing; a '70 Acts of Service' community challenge to adapt to use together with churches and other organisations, and lots of resources for children and schools.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director said, "Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes!

"It is so appropriate that the nation and Commonwealth should be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as Pentecost, the day when the church celebrates the gift of God's Holy Spirit."

The anointing of God's Holy Spirit was central to the Coronation and, in preparation for the day, The Queen prayed: 'Come, Holy Spirit, and daily increase in all of us, and in me, thy humble servant, thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and forever. Amen.'

**I wish to join the 'St Oswald's Lower Peover 100 Club'**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....Post code .....Tel

No.....

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 .....

Please return this page and the Standing Order instruction below to:

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

**STANDING ORDER**

To: The Manager

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Address	
Sort Code	/ /
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[27]

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