

# **St Oswald : Lower Peover**

## **Parish Magazine**



**February 2021**

**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 Fr Murray Aldridge-Collins Tel: 01565 723624

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

Baptisms: Please contact one of the church wardens – details below

## 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. [rodneyfowler@talktalk.net](mailto:rodneyfowler@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,

One of you not long ago reminded me that despite the fact that life has been somewhat chaotic since Christmas there is always something to do.

I should not forget to stop and metaphorically smell the roses.

I was thankful for that reminder in the midst of another national lockdown and all the worries that go with that. Hearing that person say stop for a moment, take time to breathe, steal a moment to go out look at the night sky with its mysterious and wonderful myriad of stars was a bit of a life saver.

It is so easy to get bogged down with the daily grind isn't it, and I guess that is even more true than ever as we all try to deal with the challenges we face with the pandemic. We all need to take a moment and get perspective.

The suggestion to 'go smell the roses' also reminded me that February, or at least some time around it, is a time to look out for one of my other favourite flowers – 'Snowdrops' (*galanthus nivalis*) or otherwise known as "Candlemas Bells".

These flowers often bloom around this time of the year and many Christians see the flower as a symbol of Jesus Christ, our hope for the world bursting forth out of the dark days of winter and giving us a glimpse of the life that is about to come in the spring and Easter.

'Candlemas' is an annual Christian holiday on the first Sunday of February. It celebrates the moment when Jesus the light of the world is taken to the great Jewish temple and is recognised there as God's Son.

Had our churches been open for face-to-face worship we would have had a great celebration, all the candles left over from our Christmas celebrations would have been lit, we would each have had a candle to hold while we sang jubilant hymns and all the candles we have been squirrelling away for use over the next months in 2021 would have been brought out to be blessed.

It is a great celebration and is normally just what the doctor would order to bring an additional bit of sparkle after our old dark January nights.

I am mentioning it today, not to bemoan the fact that it is another thing we are going to miss out on because of this retched covid business, but to remind us all that although we might not be gathering in church to think about Christ's light in the darkness it is in fact still here!

God sent Jesus into the world to bring us hope for such times as this. Yes, all the glitzy churchy services are wonderful, but Jesus is not constrained by church services is he, he is actually doing what he does best (bringing hope and light and love) in the everyday moment of our lives, in the toughest moments we face in our homes, our places of work and in our schools he is there with us each and every day.

So, let us be encouraged during February and our Candlemas celebrations, and the next time you spot a little flower poking its head through the downtrodden earth, remember that there is hope, there is still beauty, and above all there is and will always be the possibility of new hope, new life, and new beginnings too.

In the words of '*Saint*' Bette Midler:

When the night has been too lonely, and the road has been too long.

And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong.

Just remember in the winter, far beneath the bitter snows,  
lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.

Stay blessed with that hope and love,

FrMurray

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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.

### **Parish register**

We give thanks for the lives of  
**Geoff Hopley and Malcolm Rawlinson**

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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### **Peover Benefice website**

While in-person services have been temporarily paused Fr Murray and Ann will be recording Sunday services. These can be accessed from the website along with the Order of Service and a reflection for the day. Please check the website regularly for any changes to ongoing activities particularly at this time of uncertainty.

## Winners of the Advent Draw

Prize	Donated by	Winner
1 Christmas tree	Tom Stockdale	Chris Bradford
2 Christmas wreath	Alison Painter	Edwina Oldham
3 Set of Christmas lights	Ged Coates	John & Julia Wilson
4 Turkey	Garnett family	Elaine Maloney
5 Christmas table decoration	Marilu Knowles	John Dickinson
6 Christmas pudding	Pat Wharfe	Sylvia Hankinson
7 Bottle of whisky	Carol & Mike Ashley	John & Louie Atkin
8 Chrysanthemum bouquet	Lawrence family	Linda Richardson
9 Christmas cushion	Caroline Aspin	Anthony Speake
10 Vegetable hamper	Iris Richardson	Sarah Lawrence
11 Christmas Afternoon Tea	George & Noreen Dutton	Pat Wharfe
12 Bottle of prosecco	Sue Lake	Pamela Sanger
13 Bottle of whisky	Clive Leigh & family	David Seddon
14 Hamper of church memorabilia	Sally Geake	Mrs D Collinge
15 Biscuits and wine	Sylvia Hankinson	Kath Bell
16 Two games	Glynis Knott	Nicola Kelting
17 Thornton's chocolates	Joe and Ruth Hague	Sue Kellett
18 Southern Comfort	Lawrence (LP shop)	Matthew and Solange Livings
19 Bottle of gin	George & Noreen Dutton	Jonathan Richardson
20 £20 book token	Yvonne Coates	Helen Vernon
21 Bottle of damson gin	Sally Aspin	Mike & Carol Ashley
22 Six bottles of wine	Ralph Mannerswood	Roger and Elspeth Turner
23 Christmas cake	Roger/Elspeth Turner	Glynis Knott
24 £50 Golden Pheasant meal voucher	Richard Lees Jones	John Dickinson
25 Meal for two and bottle of wine	Bells of Peover	Caroline Aspin

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Advent Draw especially Fr Murray for his interesting and enjoyable presentations which kept us all entertained in the run up to Christmas. We raised £1500 towards the upkeep of our beautiful church.

*George Dutton*

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**Make the most of today  
Time waits for no man  
Yesterday is history  
Tomorrow is a mystery  
Today is a gift  
That is why it is called the  
present**

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### **Children's Church**

Children's Church is now taking place on the third Sunday of the month at 9.30am. During lockdown it is taking place over Zoom and the next time we meet will be on 20<sup>th</sup> February. All-age services are currently suspended but Ann is sending out activity sheets for the children by email every week. If you would like to receive the activity sheets for your children, a Zoom invitation for Children's Church or to be kept updated on activities for families please email Ann ([hannbarlow@btopenworld.com](mailto:hannbarlow@btopenworld.com)) to be added to the mailing list.

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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.

## 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

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### Income and Expenditure

	November	December
General collections	£ 403.60	£ 356.48
Gift Aided	£3178.50	£2299.50
Donations Gift Aided	£ 250.00	
Special Collections		£ 137.55
Total	£3832.10	£2793.53

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### 23rd Psalm for the hard-pressed student

The Lord is my real instructor and I shall not want.  
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.  
He gently reminds me to pray before I speak and to do things without complaining.  
He reminds me that He, and not my school, is my Salvation.  
He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honour Him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of social isolation, live streaming and exams, I will not stop – for He is with me!  
His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.  
He will raise me up, even if I fail to get a good grade.  
He claims me as His own and knows that I have done my best.

His faithfulness and love are better than any A+.  
In eternity it won't matter what degree I got.  
When all is said and done, I will be working for Him a whole lot longer than I will be in school (even when it doesn't feel like it) and for that, I bless His name!

## Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

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*Misers aren't much fun to live with, but they make great ancestors.*

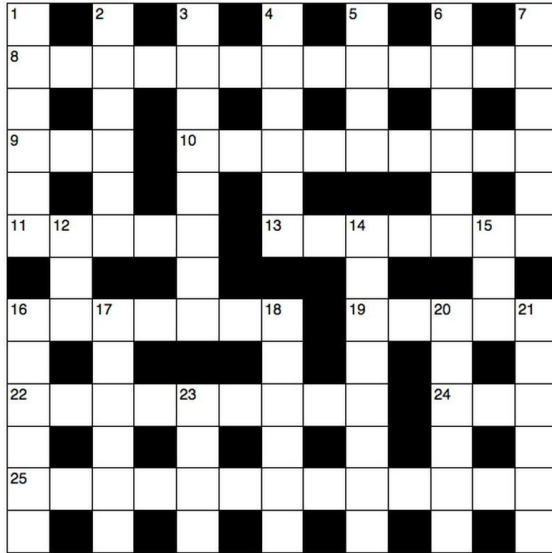
*Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again*

*Some people are like blisters. They don't show up until the work is done.*

*If at first you succeed, try to hide your astonishment.*

*People like criticism - just keep it positive and flattering.*





**Across**

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 ‘Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap’ (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 ‘Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices’ (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David’s plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: ‘On — — let them escape’ (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

**Down**

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 ‘Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father’ (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau’s grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me.'  
(Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain.  
(Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he was not rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases  
(Luke 9:1) (4)
- 

## *St Sofa's*

*We worship at St Sofa's now, since Covid came to stay  
We don't dress up or do our hair but still we come to pray!*

*Our Vicar is a clever chap, a Zoom with his IT  
And so we sit down every week and meet up virtually!*

*Our Parish Church stands empty,  
with praise she does not ring;  
But still her people gather round to pray  
and praise and sing!*

*The virus is a nasty thing yet it has helped us see  
The church is NOT a building but folk like you and me!*

By Nigel and Carol Beeton

My dear Nephew Darren

I appreciated your recent concern when you heard one of our parishioners had slipped on a gravestone. Your desire to help was entirely commendable, and I do know that sending your own church's health and safety officer to give us some advice was kindly meant. But the 200-page report was not welcome. If we implemented even half of your officer's suggestions, life would become unbearably safe.

St James the Least of All has survived perfectly well for the last 600 years without gutter cleaning inspections, path degreasing and electrical safety certificates, so I think we may survive a little longer without them. As far as I am aware, the only disaster to hit us was when Cromwell's soldiers stabled their horses in the nave – which I suspect a few of our oldest members still clearly remember.

The shock the sidesmen sometimes get when switching on the lights occurs only occasionally, is relatively mild and soon over – and if it happens when preparing for the 8am Service, helps to wake them up. The weight of the Duke of Clumber's marble sarcophagus *is* slowly detaching the south aisle from the rest of the church, but it is very slow – and the pews in that area are used only once a year when his relations visit from America to commemorate his death at Agincourt, which is probably just beyond remembrance of the oldest of our congregation.

Leaks from the ceiling in the north aisle are solved with a row of buckets and even you must concede that the fungi on the oak beams look really rather attractive when the sun catches them. The sapling growing out of the spire is certainly an issue – although it looks so attractive in Spring when in blossom. As for our fire extinguishers, they were serviced when my predecessor-but-two was in office, and I have the certificate to prove it.

So, do thank your health and safety officer for all his work and tell him we will bear his recommendations in mind. Also tell him I was so sorry he slipped and broke his leg in our choir stalls while he was with us. But that bit of floor has been out of alignment since 1748, and it seems a shame to disturb it now. If only he had arrived encased in bubble wrap, it would never have happened. Perhaps you could put that on the agenda of your next health and safety meeting.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

## The cat

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it.

The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the vicarage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

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200 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1821 John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25.

125 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1896 the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera *La boheme*, took place in Turin, Italy.

75 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1946 The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

50 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1971 the UK's currency was decimalised.

40 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1981 Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

30 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1991 the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.

25 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1996 the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven, Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2001 the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the UK was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

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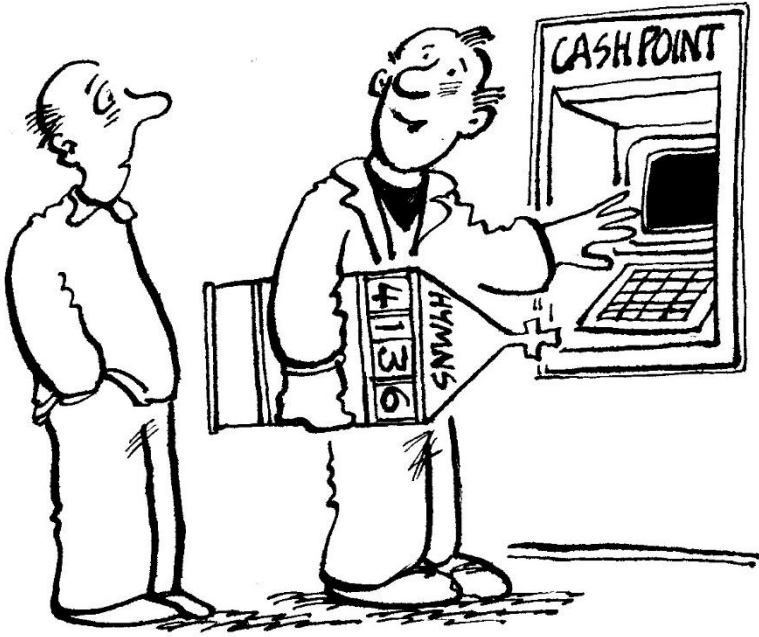


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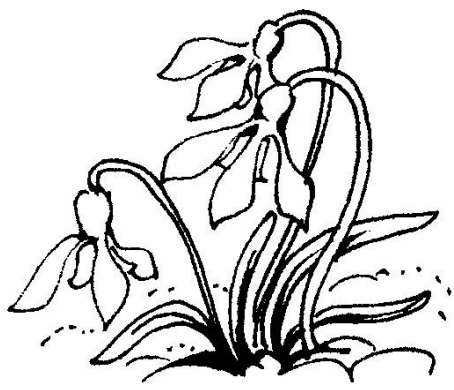
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*...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!*

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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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**Wrinkles mean you laughed;  
Grey hair means you care;  
Scars mean you have lived;  
Life is for living.**

If money talks, my wallet is whispering.

I am on two diets. I was not getting enough food on one.

Stealing someone's coffee is called mugging.

Why did they not play cards on the Ark?  
Because Noah was always standing on the deck

On a house's fence: "Salespeople welcome! Dog food is expensive."

### **Bag for Life**

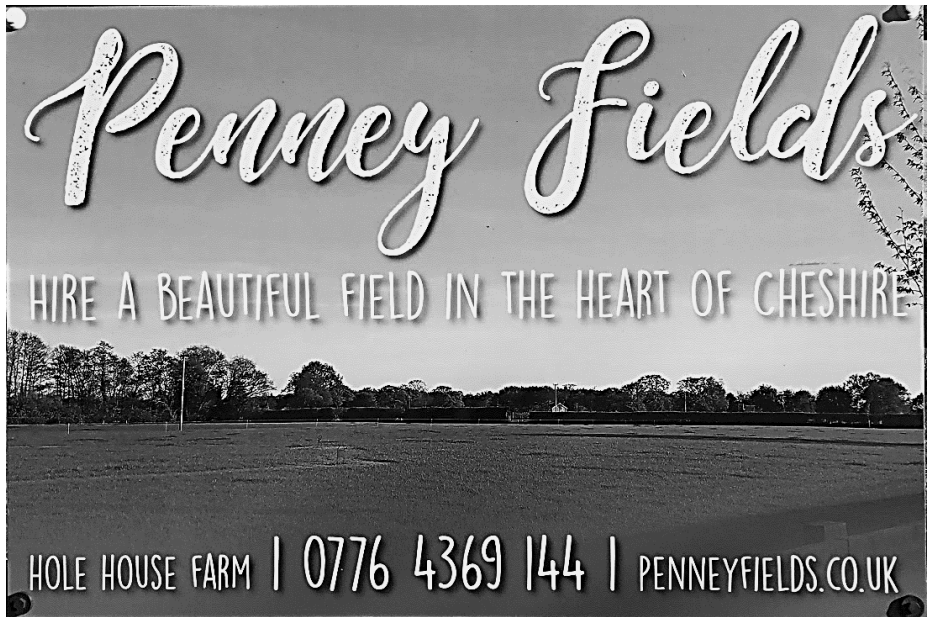
Why is it that supermarkets charge the same for a Bag for Life irrespective of how old you are when you buy it?

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### **100 Club winners**

Winners of the December 100 Club are:

No. 28 Stephen Knowles £70  
No. 46 Ian Finlay £30



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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 Monday of the month  
at 7.30pm in Plumley Village Hall**

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

For more information telephone Lynda on 01477 534291



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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)

## **Crossword Answers**

**ACROSS:** 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical.  
16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

**DOWN:** 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all.  
12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow.  
21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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## **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)

3	2	1	9	6	7	4	8	5
8	4	6	5	3	1	9	7	2
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6	8	3	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	1	2	4	8	3	6	5	7
4	6	8	1	7	9	5	2	3
2	9	7	3	5	6	1	4	8
1	3	5	8	2	4	7	6	9

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The deadline for the next issue of the magazine is Friday 19 February 2021

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### A February Rose

My love, she likes a red, red rose  
 Of deep magenta hue,  
 A gift for Valentine that shows  
 That someone's love is true.  
 But think on this, my bonnie lass,  
 As you admire the bloom  
 That flower has been forced under glass  
 You ought to wait till June!

*By Nigel Beeton*

**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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Account Number	
Account Name	

Please pay to the account of **St Oswald's Church Lottery Fund** at **Lloyds TSB, PO Box 1002, BX1 1LT.** Sort Code **30-90-16.** Account Number **00018000**  
The sum of £ ..... \* on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of ..... and quarterly thereafter.

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\* Insert your regular payment (£13.00 for each number you wish to hold)

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[28]

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