

# **St Oswald : Lower Peover**

## **Parish Magazine**



**March 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:**

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Tel: 01565 634112. [rodneyfowler@talktalk.net](mailto:rodneyfowler@talktalk.net)

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

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

## Thought for the month

With Easter falling fairly late into April this year, the beginning of March coincides with the beginning of Lent. So, I imagine that several of us have already decided what we might give up for Lent. That seems to be the understanding these days. Lent is a time for giving up something.

Even my non-Christian friends will tell me that they are giving up alcohol or chocolate or sticky buns for Lent. I wonder though whether we may be missing the point a bit if we simply think of Lent as the time we give up something, especially if we are doing that because it would be good for our physical wellbeing.

Giving up something does of course mean that we are having to establish some kind of discipline in our lives but the idea of the Lenten discipline is that it should have a particular purpose. We should be trying to grow in faith so that we can come closer to Jesus and greet him with joy on Easter Day. Traditionally this was done by fasting and abstinence which is where the idea of giving up something comes from.

What we might ask ourselves is whether our giving up of something actually helps us to think more about the place of Jesus in our lives. It may do and if so all well and good but there are other ways. At the moment my inbox is full of advertisements from publishers promoting their latest Lent books, with a scripture related passage to think about for every day of Lent. Other people prefer to focus on accomplishing charitable acts such as those promoted by the organisation *40 acts*.

The emphasis on discipline can make Lent seem like a rather forbidding season but I prefer to think of it as a season in which our faith is given the nurture it needs to grow and flourish. It seems appropriate that Lent falls at the time of year when the whole earth seems to be waking up and growing too. So, I leave you with the prayer which seems to me to capture what our Lenten observations should really be all about.

**As the days lengthen and the earth spends longer in the light of day, may we spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord. May the seeds of your Word which have long been buried within us, grow like everything else around us, into love for you and for other people, a visible declaration of your lordship in our lives.**

**Grant, Lord that there may be a springtime in our lives this Lent.**

Ann Barlow

## **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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### **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. The next time we meet is on Sunday 20 February. If you would like 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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## **FLOWER ROTA**

2nd March - Ash Wednesday - No flowers in church during Lent

17th April - Easter Flowers

If anyone wishes to put flowers in church, there are always vases on the Remembrance Book Table. I do a rota only for the pedestals.

Edwina Oldham - Flower Rota Organiser

E.mail: - [edwina@lowerpeover.plus.com](mailto:edwina@lowerpeover.plus.com) - Tel: 01565 631441

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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 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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## **Ash Wednesday:**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6).

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12–18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10).

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19).

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

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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

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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 prayers please contact Fr Murray or our Reader, Ann.

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A baby-sitter is a teenager acting like an adult, while the adults  
are out acting like teenagers.

## **What did your church learn during lockdown?**

This month marks two years since the UK's first Covid lockdown. Churches closed their doors for worship as infection levels, hospital admissions and, tragically, deaths rose.

Even today, some worshippers are reluctant to return to 'in person' worship, and churches are still taking care to limit Covid risks.

What did we learn in the 24 months since the pandemic became part of our everyday lives? I have picked out four learning points:

Churches built stronger links with their local communities. Church services may have been suspended, or moved online, but many churches set up networks of support for people within their congregations and across their areas. Churches supported or set up ways of helping the most vulnerable in their communities, and many churchgoers volunteered to help local caring charities and, later, at vaccination centres.

Churches reached new people by going online. Overnight, many churches threw open their doors to people on their doorstep, and further afield. Suddenly, distance did not matter – and people were 'attending' online services at churches around the world. Worshippers with disabilities welcomed the online services – and gently asked why it had taken the wider Church so long to acknowledge their needs.

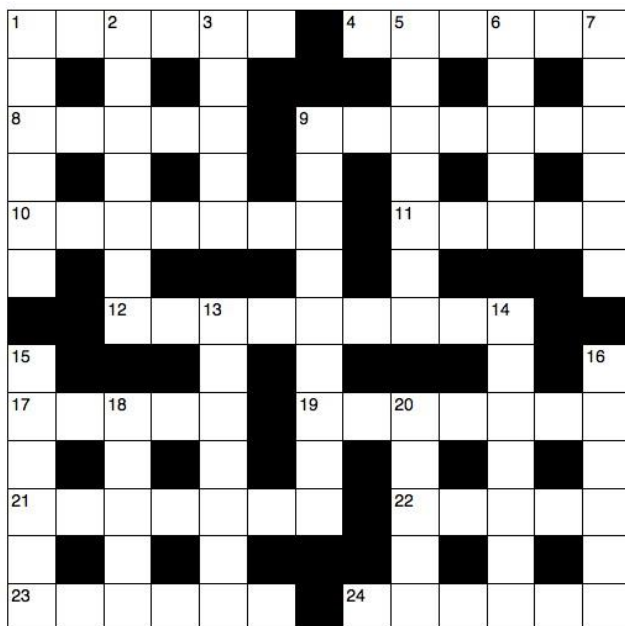
Churchgoers learnt to be grateful for all the things they had taken for granted. Suddenly, singing hymns or worship songs together, receiving communion with bread and wine, and responding to a sermon together, all became a memory from an earlier time. We realised how much we needed each other and appreciated each other's fellowship and presence. Home-based fellowship groups, now online, thrived at many churches.

Churches chose their priorities. During lockdown, many churches asked themselves, what really matters? What are our priorities now? Disputes around issues of church governance or practices were put on the back-burner and congregations focussed on providing services of worship and supporting those in need.

These are just my 'top four' suggestions – and of course they will not apply to all churches. Perhaps I have painted too rosy a picture?

Why not ask yourself, what your church learnt during lockdown – and how far those lessons could help you plan for the future?

*Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler*



### Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “‘They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’  
(Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian  
Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’  
(Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one  
(Luke 16:20) (6)



## Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
  - 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea'  
(Acts 27:30) (7)
  - 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
  - 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!'  
(Luke 12:50) (7)
  - 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
  - 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
  - 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
  - 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well.  
(John 4:5) (7)
  - 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
  - 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
  - 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth  
(Acts 16:14) (6)
  - 18 Donkeys (5)
  - 20 Raked (anag.)(5)
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## 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. The next time we meet is on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March**. If you would like 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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## Income for January

General collections	£ 242.90
Gift Aided	£2778.30
Gift aided donations	£ 50.00
Donations	£ 310.00
Card reader	£ 205.36
Total	£3496.56

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

## **17<sup>th</sup> March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland**

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you have ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you would think he was the patron saint of New York as well - the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It is all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde, but as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

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Some people treat God as they do a lawyer;  
they go to him only when they are in trouble. —Anon

**Knutsford Floral Design Club is delighted to announce the reopening of its club meetings at Plumley Village Hall**

**We meet every third Wednesday in the month at 2pm  
(except June when it is 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, August – no meeting – and  
December when we hold our Christmas lunch)**

**We have a floral demonstration by qualified demonstrators,  
followed by tea and biscuits**

**Visitors are very welcome for a small fee of £8**

**Sanitising and social distancing are in place**

For more information telephone Lynda on 01477 534291

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### **1<sup>st</sup> March: St David's Day, time for daffodils**

1<sup>st</sup> March is St David's Day, and it is time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It is a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

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The need of the world is to listen to God. *—Albert Einstein*

## **The computer swallowed Grandad!**

The computer swallowed Grandad!  
Yes! Honestly! It's true!  
He pressed Control and Enter –  
And disappeared from view!

It devoured him completely  
The thought just makes me squirm!  
He must have caught a virus  
Or been swallowed by a worm!

I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even searched the internet  
But nothing did I find.

I went to Mr Google  
My searches to refine  
His reply was in the negative,  
'Nothing found' was Google's line.

So, if inside your inbox  
My Grandad you should see –  
Please copy, scan, and paste him  
And send him back to me!

*By Nigel Beeton*

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### **January 100 Club Winners**

No. 36 Jan Holloway £70

No. 81 Pam Adlington £30

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**Advance notice of Church Spring Clean at 9.30am on 9 April 2022**

**Volunteers are very welcome**

## The Vernal Equinox

In the season of the Spring  
The day is equal to the night;  
Summer's song we soon shall sing!  
Evenings filled with summer light!

Winter's cares seem long ago  
Mornings spiked by bitter frost  
But we shall bask in summer glow  
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the Spring  
And for all the seasons, too,  
Of life's rhythms we shall sing  
Giving all the praise to You.

*By Nigel Beeton*

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*...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!*

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The Rectory  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

### **On how to sabotage a music festival**

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias from Donizetti operas being sung *al fresco* in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties, with drugs labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped serving coffee after Mattins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.

It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral Evensong on Friday night, to help set the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to reassure him. "Heavy metal? We are doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bellringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing." The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: "On Sunday we will do a Songs of Praise and, not to worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from 'Ancient and Modern'."

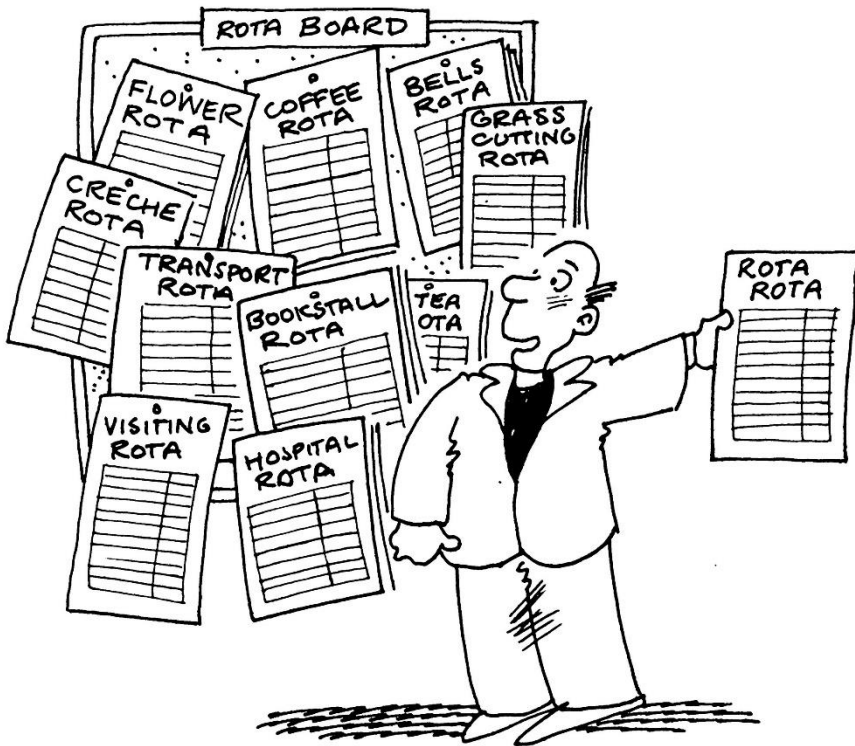
I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

## SPRING

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,  
Petals of every colour and hue,  
Rain and sun caressing the earth  
Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view  
Now is the time of new beginnings  
Giving us pleasure all season through.

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"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota,  
rota... do I see a hand...?"

# HOPLEY

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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)

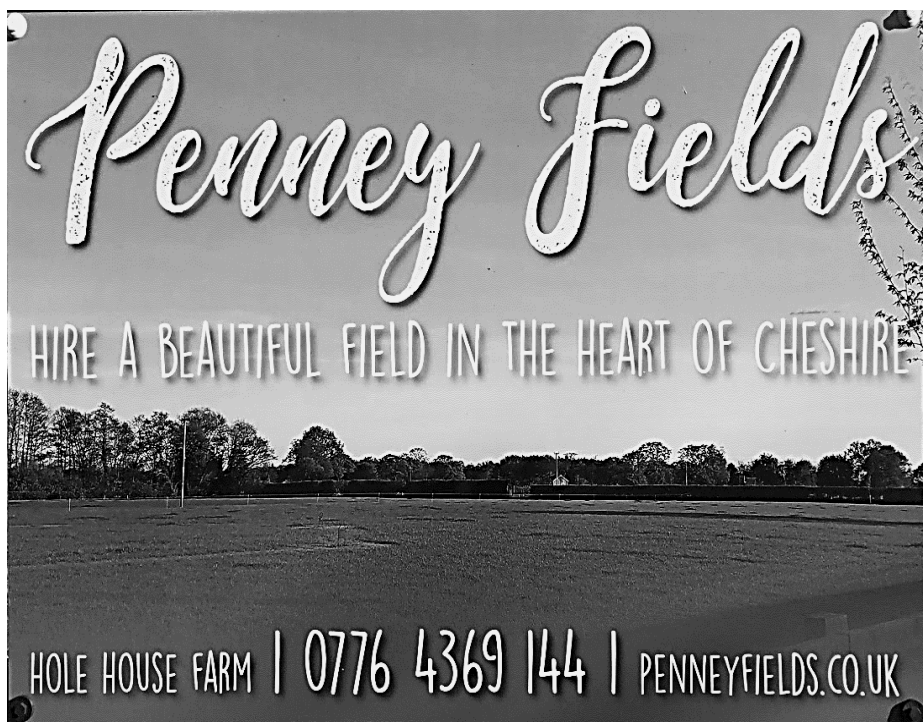
Many congratulations to all our winners – and our thanks to all members who are currently supporting the 100 Club. Stay safe and thank you.

**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)

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

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### **Crossword Answers**

**ACROSS:** 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge.  
12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as.  
24, Beggar.

**DOWN:** 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten.  
9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.

## 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.'

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

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[28]

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LOWER PEOVER

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Date of Death.....

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Date.....

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