

St Oswald : Lower Peover Parish Magazine



December 2020/January 2021
50p



Full details of services at St Oswald's and St Lawrence's can be found on the website 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

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

Tel: 01270 878259. 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

Weekly Bulletin: Carl Douglas: Tel: 01625 861613

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that I am already writing the letter for the December edition of our magazine!

Very soon (Covid restrictions allowing) we will be lighting our purple Advent candles in church, then after weeks of anticipation we will finally get to Christmas Day and be able to light the white candle at the centre of the Advent ring to celebrate the joyful news that Jesus, the light of the world, has been born!

St John beautifully puts it like this: “the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” Something I think we all need to hear after such a challenging year!

A little while ago I was chatting away with somebody in the village, and I commented that I simply could not wait for Advent and Christmas to really get going, their response was to smile and then tell me that I was just a big kid!

Now those of you who know me at all will probably agree with that. But the truth is, I am hoping that as we all journey through the next few weeks, you too will begin to feel a little seasonal childlike awe and be touched by the ‘magic’ of what Advent and Christmas is all about.

As you all know the church has been unable to do all the usual things we would have done over the last few months and sadly we have also been very restricted in the services we have been able to offer too. Covid has had a profound impact on us all as individuals and as a whole community. There have definitely been moments when I was very aware that without my faith in Christ's light, the sense of darkness that sometimes accompanies us in our daily struggles may well have been overwhelming.

But that’s why St John's words are so encouraging; Jesus came into this world as a baby born in a poor stable. He and his parents were forced to flee as refugees from cruelty and the rest of his life was one that was ever familiar with the everyday challenges many of us at some point have faced.

He therefore understands only too well our fears, our sadness, and our despairs. Jesus is God with us, ‘Immanuel’. He comes to stand alongside us and offer his presence to comfort and strengthen, his light to lighten the darkness.

More than that he comes to offer a greater hope. The hope of the kingdom of God, a kingdom of immeasurable love, a kingdom where the lion will lie down with the lamb and where swords will be beaten into ploughshares. Where sickness, tears and death

will be no more. This is the kingdom that Christ came to earth to bring a kingdom of grace, peace and hope.

So often, we fail to see God's kingdom here on earth don't we? When terrible events happen in our lives and in our world people often ask the question;" Where is God?" My answer to that is that God is right here in the midst of us. His kingdom can be seen in every act of good that surrounds us, every hand that reaches out to hold us when we stumble or fall, every unexpected kindness of a stranger, every friend's arm that is put around us when we weep, every patient ear that listens to us when we mourn.

Wherever there is love, there is God, and the power of that love shines as a light that can never be extinguished. May we all find our hope renewed by the light, joy and peace that the Christ Child brings this advent, and may we all find ourselves this Christmas and new year being blessed by love, his greatest and most wonderful gift of all.

Blessings, Fr Murray x

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.

Private Prayer

The church will remain open until midday for individual private prayer following the 10am service of Holy Communion every Wednesday.

Please observe social distancing and hygiene guidance when you are in church.

Christmas Present Appeal

As usual we are supporting the **Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal** by collecting gifts of new toys and food for Christmas Hampers to be distributed by the Salvation Army in Northwich. There will be a box in church for donations when the church is open on Wednesday 2nd December and Sunday 6th December. Gifts should be unwrapped or in open gift bags.

Hello,

I hope you are all still keeping well and not too confined by the dreary weather of this last week.

We will be holding Children's Church, our service for young families, on Sunday despite lockdown as we will be trialling our use of Zoom! If you know of families with young children who would like to join in please ask them to get in touch with me.

If all goes well our next All-Age Service should take place on **Sunday 6th December at 11am**. Some of you will remember that we normally have a gift service in Advent when we collect gifts of new toys for families in need in the local area, to be distributed through the Salvation Army in Northwich. This year toys should be **unwrapped** or in open gift bags. I have been told that they will also be pleased to receive gifts of foodstuffs suitable for putting in Christmas hampers. There will be a box in church to receive the gifts for the next two Wednesday mornings when the church is open for private prayer or gifts can be brought along to the service on the 6th. If you have any questions do get in touch with me.

Every year, at this time, the PCC also makes donations to charity and this year we have agreed to support The East Cheshire Hospice and Hope Central. Hope Central is an organisation which supports people in poverty in East Cheshire by providing advice as well as managing foodbanks, including one in Knutsford.

I hope you all have a peaceful weekend. Take care, stay safe and God bless.

Ann

Advent Activity: For a bit of cheer in these uncertain times why not take part in our Advent Draw. Find full details on our website by following the link to **St Oswald's Advent Draw 2020**.

Donations to charity

Every year, at this time, the PCC makes donations to charity on behalf of the church and this year we have agreed to support The East Cheshire Hospice and Hope Central. Hope Central is an organisation which supports people in poverty in East Cheshire by providing advice as well as managing foodbanks, including one in Knutsford.

Services at St Oswald's

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty regarding the tier systems in place, it is not possible to publish details of the forthcoming services at this time. More information can be obtained from the website.

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.

Peover Benefice website

You may have noticed that the header has changed on the website. It has been updated to include news, information and images from St Lawrence's Church as well as St Oswald's.

Service sheets for Sunday services at both churches are available from a link on the home page by Saturday morning at the latest. In order to minimise risk of infection it is recommended that sheets should be downloaded beforehand in print or onto smartphone or tablet and brought to the service. If you are unable to attend, you may like to use the sheet to read through the service in your own home.

Any changes to services which may occur in these uncertain times will be posted on the website so please check it regularly. The address remains the same peoverchurches.org.uk

Parish Register

In memoriam

We give thanks for the life of Sandra Hall.

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

Income and Expenditure for October

Income	Expenditure
£2,523.70	£4,834.69

Christmas cake

Every Christmas, composer Giacomo Puccini would have a cake baked for each of his friends. One year, having quarrelled with Arturo Toscanini just before Christmas, he tried to cancel the order for the conductor's cake. But it was too late, as the cake had already been dispatched.

The following day, Toscanini received a telegram from Puccini: "Cake sent by mistake."

He replied by return: "Cake eaten by mistake."

100 Club winners

September

No. 50 Pamela Adlington - £70

No. 27 Mandy Spencer - £30

October

No. 25 Graham Silcock - £70

No. 95 Sarah Feekins - £30

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas. Just think! No Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero!

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been colour coordinated, the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected was allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long it would happen unexpectedly would have been decided by a committee and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

The one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so, we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

A Partridge in a Pear Tree

If there is one thing I like better than one biscuit with my mid-morning and afternoon cuppas, it is two biscuits! More often than not Christmas will usually see a box or tin of exotic biscuits nestling under the tree. Last year was no exception, but on this occasion, it was the design of the tin, rather than the contents which held my attention. Overall, it was finished in a bright poppy red lacquer. On its lid was an ornate pattern of gold leaves which ringed a partridge in a pear tree.

To complete the picture, around the outside of the tin were the other symbols of the well know carol The Twelve Days of Christmas. This got me thinking. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, pipers piping and partridges in pear trees have to do with Christmas. After much research, I eventually found an answer to the puzzle. It appears the symbols have a religious significance. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. During that time someone found an ingenious way to get round the ban by writing this carol as a catechism for young Catholics. Each picture in the carol is a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

Each time I use the tin I am reminded of the story behind the pictures.

12 Drummers Drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief
in the Apostles Creed.

11 Pipers Piping stood for the eleven disciples.

10 Lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

9 Ladies Dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

8 Maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

7 Swans a -swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit,
prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.

6 Geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

5 Gold Rings recalled the first five books of the Old Testament.

4 Calling Birds were the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

3 French Hens stood for faith, hope and love.

2 Turtle Doves were the Old and New Testaments.

The Partridge in the Pear Tree was Jesus Christ.

David Walker

Lower Peover School Pond Restoration

Earlier in the year, as part of the Parish Plan for Lower Peover, a working party was set up to explore the practicality of clearing the school pond. This pond, whilst mostly on school land, is adjacent to a public footpath. It had become overgrown in recent years and filled with fallen branches and saplings.

Cllr Ros Kendall led this initiative following consultation with the Head Teacher and adjacent land owner. She approached both Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council to see if any grants were available, but without success. A member of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust attended a site meeting to offer advice on improving the area to encourage wildlife. They were unable to offer a grant as unfortunately these are available only for creating new ponds not restoring existing ones.

Following discussion with the Richard Comberbach Trustees, the trustees agreed to fund the enterprise which required the services of a professional tree surgeon. At the end of October Norman Withenshaw, a trustee, arranged for the tree surgeon to cut and clear the huge branches which had fallen from the oak trees into the pond. All the saplings which were silting up the pond were cleared. All that remained was a big clear up job taking away the brash and weeds and debris! Cllr Kendall put out a call to residents, and the Head teacher informed pupils' parents. As a result a working party was formed to come the following weekend to clear up. All the team work had to be carried out with appropriate social distancing and full adherence to the Covid 19 rules. At the end of that day the pond and its surrounds were cleared. Sunlight can now make its way onto the water and the pond is again accessible. The stone retaining wall is visible and the pond dipping platform safe to use again. We hope that wildlife will return and the pupils will enjoy learning from it.

Thanks go to all involved, too many to name. It was a particular pleasure to have the help of three young (strong!) dads from school: Jonathan, Christopher and Graham. And it was very useful having Graham turn up with his farm tractor and trailer so that all the debris was cleared away in one go. It was a great team effort.

Thank you. Sally Geake

Children's Society News

A total of £288.25 has been received from the collection boxes. Thank you for your continued support. **Sylvia Hankinson**

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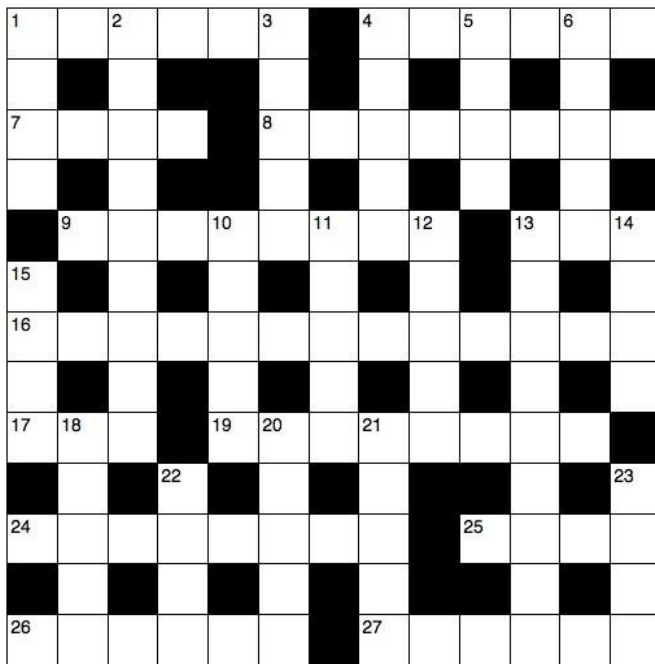
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	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

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Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark. (Genesis 8:11) (4)
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon. (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 ‘Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me’ (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph’s brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 ‘Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe’.
(John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 ‘What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?’
(Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse’s feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel’s northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia’s Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash.
(2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people. (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob’s first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw a picture of a Bible story with a Christmas theme. She was puzzled by Kate’s picture, which showed four people on an aeroplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. ‘The Flight to Egypt,’ was the reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: ‘That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus, but who is the fourth person?’

‘Oh,’ explained Kate happily, ‘that’s Pontius – the pilot!’

People say it’s the thought that counts, not the gift,
but couldn’t people think a little bigger?

Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.

Christmas is in my heart 12 months a year, and thanks to credit cards, it is on my
Visa card statement 12 months a year as well.



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

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

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

Stay safe and very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Thank you.

Keith Phillips – Churchwarden (Lottery Registration No. 08/LO/77)

A Christmas Card

A folded piece of Christmas cheer came through the post today!
I love it when those cards appear, I love the things they say!

And at this busy Christmas time I'm always glad to see
The Christmas scene or Christmas rhyme that you have sent to me.

The trouble that good people take is really, really kind.
Some people even sit and make a card for me to find!

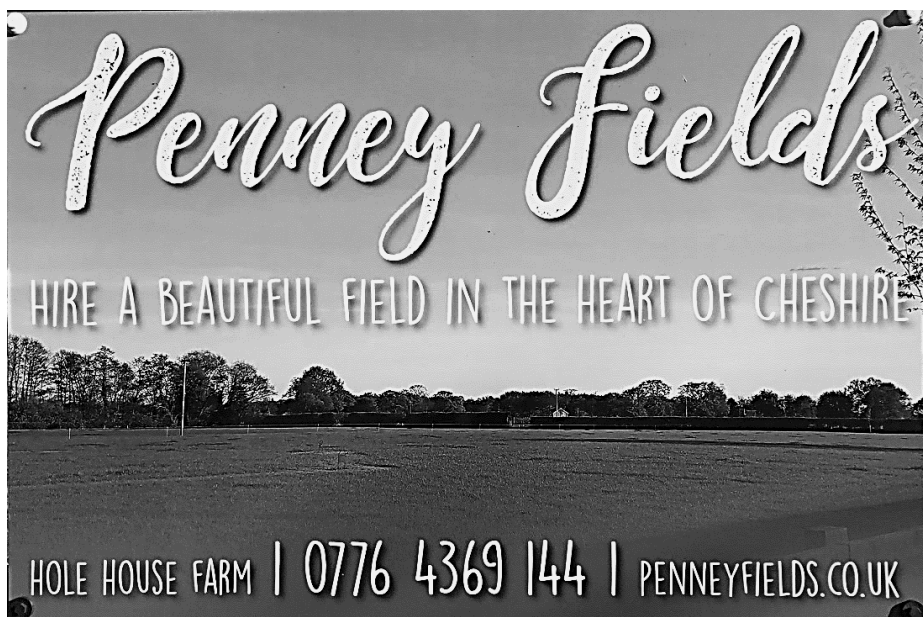
And in our virtual world of text and pictures on a screen
These bits and bytes leave me perplexed, if you know what I mean?

And so, I think that it is fine to see your kind regard.
I can admire this Christmas time your real Christmas card!

By Nigel Beeton

Our vicar, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organiser of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering. "Sir," the organiser said, "I trust you will see to it that the weather does not turn bad on us."

Our minister shook his head. "Sorry," he replied. "I'm in sales, not management!"



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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.**

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Information for the Magazine

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maybe to congratulate
someone for an achievement
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please contact me on

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or

lyndaboagmunroe@yahoo.co.uk

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

I just saw a local burglar kicking in his own front door.

I asked him what he was doing.

He replied, "Working from home."

The deadline for the next issue of the magazine is Friday 22 January 2021

Lower Peover Church Website

News and events can be found on our website 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

TEN COMMANDMENTS:

The most important, and oldest, Top Ten list.

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

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

Name

Address

.....

.....Post codeTel

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.

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