

# **St Oswald's Church**

## **Lower Peover**

### **Parish Magazine**



**July and August 2023**

**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 Norman Withenshaw: 07771 651888

Funerals and Burials: Please contact Mrs Pam Adlington or Norman Withenshaw

Baptisms: Please contact Norman Withenshaw: 07771 651888

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## Church Officers:

### Vicar:

Fr Murray Aldridge-Collins

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

### Churchwarden:

Norman Withenshaw, Tabley Brook Cottage, Pickmere Lane, Knutsford,

Cheshire, WA16 0HS. Tel. 07771 651888. [norman.withenshaw@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:norman.withenshaw@yahoo.co.uk)

There is still a vacancy for one churchwarden.

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

**Hon Treasurer of PCC:** Mrs Gerry Jones, Allostock Cottage, Middlewich Road,  
Allostock, Knutsford. WA16 9JG. Tel: 01565 722064/07884 252887

**Organist:** Mr David Tredwell. Tel: 01565 634340

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

**Magazine Editor:** Mrs Lynda Boag-Munroe Tel: 01477 534291  
[lyndaboagmunroe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lyndaboagmunroe@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Forgiveness

Late for a meeting and unable to find parking, I pulled into a spot behind a church. It was only after I had gotten out of the car that I spotted this sign:

**“No parking. Forgiveness is our business,  
but do not make it harder than it already is.”**

[2]

Dear Friends,

I like to think that July is a month of expectation. Perhaps this goes back to my school days: for me the long hot school holidays in July and August were I time when I could be home, run free across the south downs, or spend days swimming in the sea. I would lose the constraints of daily lessons and anticipate spending time on exciting adventures with my brother and our friends.

The church year by comparison might seem at odds with this sense of excitement: with the celebrations of Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Thy Kingdom Come, now over, we slip into a prolonged period of a quieter period of ‘ordinary time’ or ‘the green season’ (*after the designated liturgical colour of vestments and church hangings that you will now be familiar with at St Oswald’s.*) To some it may feel as though the church has gone into a kind of summer hibernation with very little anticipation of very much at all.

However, rather than being ordinary, this new season is in actuality full of potential. The word ‘ordinary’ can mean unexceptional, but for many, the next few weeks are a time of exceptional transition; children leaving or changing schools, saying goodbye to teachers and classmates, those with exams finished leave university, weddings, and those within the church being made deacons and ordained priests begin looking forward to the next stage in their journey, there are many very un-ordinary goings on. So, we continue to hold all these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

Whatever is going on for you during this season, it is perhaps a good opportunity to take the time to pray and reflect. Long summer walks around our beautiful parishes are great for this. I know Pickles the vicarage dog loves running in the fields at the back of the church, chasing squirrels and paddling with children in the Peover Eye as I lag behind wrestling with my own thoughts and giving thanks for this beautiful place!

Perhaps our ‘ordinary’ summertime does have a unique purpose then. Reminding us that we equally need to take time to reflect on those things that we do well, that bring joy and lift us up and those around us, and also of course those actions which bring us in closer contact with God.

Ordinary time should remind us to invest a little in that relationship and to take joy in the little ordinary things that make our journeys of faith extraordinary.

This is the arena of our faithfulness, the field in which we sow and nurture the seeds that will bring future joy and grow God’s kingdom of joy and love here in our benefice.

So, may we all meet that challenge this summer, and whatever obstacles we may face, try to appreciate and celebrate all that is good. To take time to be prayerfully mindful of our blessings so that we can be good gentle people of faith, full of the Holy Spirit and eagerly bless those around us.

There are many words of encouragement and wisdom in the letters of the New Testament; one of my favourites is from St Paul's letter to Philippians and I leave it with you now, perhaps you might like to be mindful of it as you tend your garden or walk our beautiful lanes and fields this summertime:

*'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'*

So, whether 'ordinary' or 'extraordinary', may the next days and weeks bring you all blessing, joy, hope, and peace.

Fr Murray (& Pickles too)

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### **Storms of Life**

The boat was tossed from side to side, buffeted by the wind and rain.  
Alarm and panic filled their hearts. Would they ever reach the shore again?

The sky was dark and looking out they thought they saw a ghost appear,  
Transfixed with horror, what could it be treading on water and drawing near?

Their hearts were stilled as hope arose as they heard the voice of the One they knew,  
'Do not be afraid, this storm will pass' and the sea grew calm and the wind  
withdrew.

When storms of life assail our boat and our hearts are filled with dread and fear,  
Remember the One who treads the waves, He sees our plight – He's drawing near.

*By Megan Carter*

## Services at St Oswald's

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

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

**Second, third and fourth Sundays of the month 11am – Morning service**

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

**Fifth Sunday of the month 10.00 am - Benefice service**

(alternate services held at St Oswald's and St Lawrence's)

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## Lower Peover Church Fete

**1 July 2023 from 12 noon until 4pm**

This year we are joining with Lower Peover School to create a really enjoyable afternoon.

There will be the usual attractions with more, and of course we are calling on you to buy raffle tickets, quiz sheets, bring books, bake cakes and of course help in any way you can.

Thank you. Joan Drye. Tel: 07812 655493

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### CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

9 July - Marilu Knowles

16 July – Wedding flowers

23 July - Sally Geake

30 July - Rosemary Warnes

6 August – Wedding flowers

13 August - Rosemary Warnes

20 August – Wedding flowers

27 August – Nerys Bradford

Rosemary Warnes

**CALENDAR OF SERVICES for JULY and AUGUST  
LOWER PEOVER**

BCP-Book of Common Prayer. CW-Common worship

*Midweek Holy Communion services followed by prayer and anointing for Healing and Wholeness are on each Wednesday morning at 10am.*

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am All age service

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July: Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am Holy Communion (CW) and Children's church

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July: Wedding**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July: Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11am Family Communion (CW)

**No Children's church**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July: Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am Holy Communion (CW) and Children's church

1.30 pm: Baptism

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July: Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

10 am Benefice service of Holy Communion at St Oswald's

1.30pm Baptism

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August: Wedding**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August: Ninth Sunday after Trinity  
(Patronal feast day and feast of Transfiguration)**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am All age service

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August: Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am Holy Communion (CW) and Children's church

## **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August: Wedding**

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am Family Communion (CW)

**No Children's church**

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am Holy Communion (CW) and Children's church

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am All age service

*Please note that services may change so please check the website.*

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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/>

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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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### **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 one of the churchwardens.

## From the Registers

### Weddings,

Hannah Wilson and Luke Alderdice

Hannah Williams and Joshua Flood

Beth Spellacy and Jason Parry

### Baptisms

Olivia Frances Jones

Milla Helenius-Bates

Agatha Craig

### Funerals

Margaret Ollier

Fred Asley

William Adlington

William Gill

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

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Grandchildren don't stay young forever, which is good because grandfathers have only so many horsey rides in them.



## **Knutsford Floral Design Club**

Knutsford Floral Design Club meets every third Wednesday in the month at 1.30pm for 2pm in Plumley Village Hall (except June - the second 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

For more information telephone Lynda on 01477 534291

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**15<sup>th</sup> July**

**St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day**

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15<sup>th</sup> July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle-ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

## **‘Yes, I am an atheist churchgoer’**

An English vicar had a regular church attender who came to church on average twice a month, and who volunteered to keep the church hall tidy. He also frequently helped out by doing practical repairs or improvements. But – he did not believe in God, in Jesus or the Bible!

In another church, while the PCC was discussing worship, the lady church treasurer suddenly said, “Yes, that is all very well, but what about those of us who don’t believe?”!

An American university survey undertaken in 2022 by the Public Research Institute found that 29% of people who said they were atheists “sometimes” went to church. Another survey by *Christian Today* found that 1% of atheists went to church regularly, even weekly!

The obvious question to these findings is “Why does someone who clearly does not believe in God go to a church set aside for the worship of God?”

An article published in *Backyard Church* on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 suggested three reasons:

- 1) Some go to keep their spouse happy, usually the wife dragging the husband along.
- 2) Some go for the sake of their children, to increase family bonding.
- 3) Some go because they want to feel part of a community, and church communities are usually very friendly, welcoming and open.

In the 2021 Census, while 37% of English people said they had No Religion (which is not the same as being an atheist), just 14,000 (0.02% of the population) wrote in the word ‘Atheist’ in answer to ‘other religion’.

Sadly, no survey in Britain seems to have ever asked atheists if they go to church!

In a 2011 study, 12% of the UK population said they were spiritual AND religious, and 34% said they were spiritual but NOT religious. Clearly this is a debatable topic!

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If a lot of swimming is so good for your shape,  
then why do the whales look the way they do?

## **CHURCHES OF CHESHIRE by DAVID PAUL**

The county of Cheshire has a rich and varied past which is reflected in its historic churches. In *Churches of Cheshire*, author David Paul explores a selection of the most interesting churches across the whole of the county. The buildings range from a church located in the heart of the city of Chester to market towns, villages and remote locations, and represent the many different architectural eras and styles to be found in Cheshire's churches. The book covers a cross-section of churches throughout the county, both well-known and those waiting to be discovered by a wider audience. This fascinating picture of an important part of the history of Cheshire over the centuries will be of interest to all those who live in or are visiting this attractive county in England. It will appeal to those interested in the history of Cheshire. The author, David Paul is a well-known local historian and author, who has written a number of books for Amberley on places in the North West and West Midlands and elsewhere. He lives in Widnes.

A fascinating exploration of Cheshire's historic churches, both the well-known and those waiting to be discovered by a wider audience. Available from Waterstone's.

Publication: July 2023. Price: £15.99 Size: 234 x 165mm. 96 pages Illustrations

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God cares for His creation, He knows each sparrow well  
None from the sky are falling but God can fully tell;  
You're worth more than a sparrow! You have no need to dread,  
He even knows the number of hairs upon your head.

Fear not men who can kill you – for they cannot touch your soul.  
They ought to fear our Father who loves us as a whole.  
He sees not just the body; He sees the soul as well;  
He can punish the sinner in fires of burning hell.

For death's the wage for sinning, but Jesus paid the price!  
New life God gives so freely through His Son, Jesus Christ.  
And we from sin are freed now. For us there's no more strife!  
Through faith in Christ our Saviour, we have eternal life.

*By Nigel Beeton*

## SOCC

Our children's church, now nicknamed 'SOCC' (St Oswald's Children's Church) is starting to feel like part of the furniture. We have continued to meet during the 11 o'clock service and have taken advantage of the warmer weather by holding some sessions outside on the far side of beautiful churchyard, as well as in The Little House, if it was too hot or rainy!

The children have taken part in many activities. We always share a bible story or a scripture on the reading of the week, and often sing a song with silly actions and plenty of jumping up and down. A recent favourite of mine was 'One finger, One thumb, Stand up, Sit down, Keep moving' - as the children had learnt that God knew when they stood up and sat down.

We have been really glad to welcome quite a few new visitors to SOCC over the past couple of months, and we hope that more will come! The regular children are getting to know one another well now and become friends, which is lovely to see.

As part of our new celebration of family communion on the third Sunday of the month it was a delight to watch two of our older children serving on the altar. They both thoroughly enjoyed it and are excited to get up there again and learn more jobs to help Fr Murray.

Over the summer months we will have a break from formal SOCC as many families will be away on holiday but we will come back refreshed and ready to go come September. More details will be emailed out to the families with children.

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Constant nagging did not seem to provide any relief from having to clean up the bathroom after each of my three teenage children. After I cleaned it one day, I resorted to posting a sign that read: 'Please leave the bathroom as you found it'.

Then I noticed the bathroom was in the usual mess after my son used it, so I called sharply:

"Brian, how did you find the bathroom?"

After a brief pause, he replied, "Straight down the hall, first door on the right."

## **Butterflies**

Butterflies Tots Group has gotten off to a wonderful start. The new group has found its feet and the volunteers, mums and children are settling into the routine of the morning. We have had donations of toys and a fabulous little table from Goostrey Primary reception class, that is just the size for the tiny tots on which to build with their bricks. The children love the ‘house corner’, complete with dolls, a market stall and kitchen and cleaning equipment. We also have an activity table with jigsaws, play dough or crafts, and some physical activity with little ride on toys and a slide and tunnels to climb through.

After a good play one of the children helps to ring the bell, and we gather round the table for snack time. We say ‘Grace’ over our food, and lots of the children know the rhyme off by heart already. After the food we gather on the rug for songs and a story. There have been many noisy times, as the children love to play on the instruments, but we have also enjoyed some beautiful singing and softer songs too. A favourite recently was ‘I can sing a rainbow’ using the soft, brightly coloured scarves to dance around with and wave. The children really listen well at story time and have heard the story of The Good Samaritan, Daniel and the lion’s Den, Moses in the basket and more!

We have just three weeks left in the term! Our last Tuesday will be July 18th, and we will be having a party week - just for fun for the children, and to say thank you to everyone who has volunteered.

If you would like to know more about Butterflies Tots Group then contact me (Rosie) on 07916129153. We meet every Tuesday 10-11.30am in Plumley Village Hall (Term Time). It is £2.50 per child and an extra 50p per sibling. We welcome Mums, Dads, Grandparents and carers, and any age of children from 0 - 4. You can Pay-as-you-go or sign up for a full term and receive a discount. News of our new Term dates for September and a summer session will be on our Facebook page soon!

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I have found in the Bible words for my inmost thoughts, songs for my joy, utterance for my hidden griefs and pleadings for my shame and feebleness.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

## St Oswald's Church

### Memorabilia goods for sale

**There are various items including postcards, tea towels, aprons, mugs and greeting cards for sale at the back of the church**

### Memorabilia price list

*Many thanks for supporting the upkeep of this beautiful old church.*

Please put your money in the pot which is emptied daily. However, if you have spent a larger sum of money, and prefer to put it in the wall safe in the Bell Tower that is appreciated. Please use the envelopes provided. It is also possible to make contactless card payments using the device adjacent to the display of goods.

**Greetings Cards:** 'Millennium Window' design (blank inside):

Single Card - £1.25 each. Pack of 5 cards: - £5 per pack

Photographs of the church cards: Pack of 2 - £2.50

**Postcards** - three designs: 'Millennium Window', 'The Church by day' and 'St. Oswald's on a starry night' all 50p each

#### **Aprons**

'Church and Flowers' design - Green or Blue on white - £5 each

#### **Tea Towels**

'Celebration with Flowers' design - Black on Cream or Blue on White - £5 each

**Mugs** - Bone china, dishwasher and microwave proof

'Celebration with Flowers' design - Blue on White only - £7 each

**Booklet** – 'Beside the Bright Stream' - £2 each



**Help us to raise Funds for  
The Christie at Macclesfield**

As part of their centenary celebrations, Over Peover WI has produced a very high quality cookbook containing 100 of their favourite recipes.

With a wipeable cover, the book is A5 size, spiral bound so it's easy to open and beautifully illustrated.

Available at £10/copy with all proceeds going to The Christie. Please help us to raise as much money as possible.

Contact Stevie,  
T: 07885 235100  
E: [mail@stephanieingram.co.uk](mailto:mail@stephanieingram.co.uk)

### **Bible Society to sponsor a garden at RHS Tatton Park**

Bible Society says it is “excited” to be sponsoring a garden based on Psalm 27 at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park in July. Psalm 27 is a profound meditation on loss, fear and faith.

Inspired by designer Ollie Pike’s reflections on burial grounds – “scenes of sadness, but also of hope and spiritual refreshment” – the Psalm 27 Garden will aim to lead visitors on a journey through pain to peace.

Ollie Pike first heard the psalm when attending a funeral. “Its hopeful message was very comforting at a time of sadness,” he said.

“The psalm speaks to me of protection and to be hopeful. It gives a feeling of comfort in difficult moments and to have faith that things will improve.”

The garden follows Bible Society’s sponsorship of Sarah Eberle’s Psalm 23 Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2021. The Psalm 23 Garden won a gold medal, Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction.

Bible Society hopes to use this garden to “introduce people to biblical wisdom, and to help them see that the Bible can speak to them today.”

## **Food Basket for Hope Central**

As a church we appreciate that a lot of people are struggling at this time. So, what can we do practically to help?

From Sunday 6th November, a basket will be placed in Church on a weekly basis for non-perishable food donations. This will be taken each Monday for distribution by Hope Central, a local Christian Charity.

Hope Central is an Ecumenical project based in St John's Church Knutsford and covers North East Cheshire, so our donations will be distributed locally. It is a Christian charity committed to bringing hope and relieving poverty in Cheshire East.

At Hope Central we recognise that everyone needs a helping hand at some point and we want to provide support to anyone in need. We do this because we believe in a heavenly Father who loves everyone unconditionally, and we want to express that love in practical ways by supplying food to people in difficult circumstances and helping people address underlying reasons that contribute to their distress.

As well as the usual staple tins and packet foods which are so necessary, why not put a few extra goodies in for Christmas. We all need treats.

Hope Central was established in 2019, supported by three churches: Vine Life Wilmslow, St Chad's Handforth and St John's Knutsford.

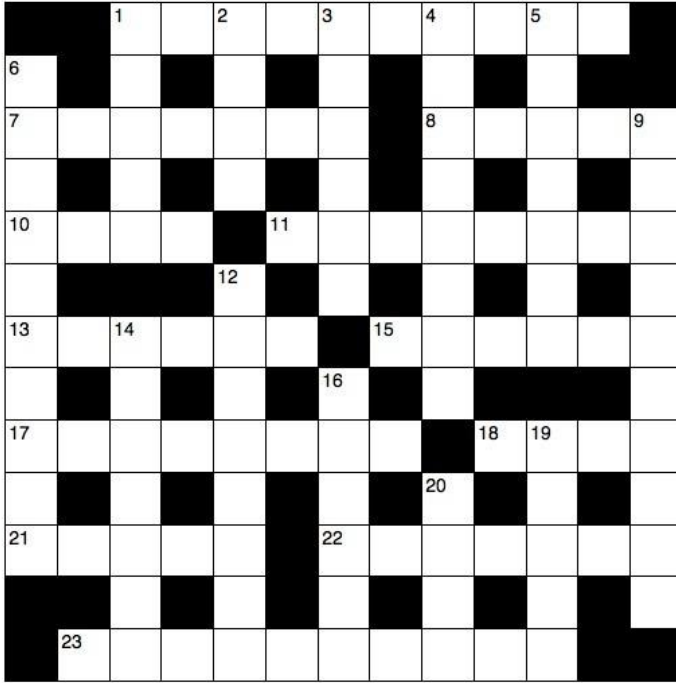
As well as meeting people's immediate need for food, we also want to support people to get back on their feet, so as well as providing a Foodbank we offer a Job Club, Money Course, Life Skills Course, Fresh Start Course, Debt Centre, Hope Centres and Refugee support.

All the staff and volunteers working with Hope Central are passionate about seeing lives changed for the better. As Christians we believe in a Heavenly Father who loves everyone unconditionally and we want to express that love in practical ways, especially to people who find themselves in difficult circumstances. Everyone needs a helping hand at times. So please donate.

Thank you. A link for further information is attached below.

[hopecentral.org.uk](http://hopecentral.org.uk)





**Across**

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

**Down**

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
  - 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
  - 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
  - 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
  - 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
  - 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
  - 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
  - 12 Abusive outburst (8)
  - 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
  - 16 Printing errors (6)
  - 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
  - 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)
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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**

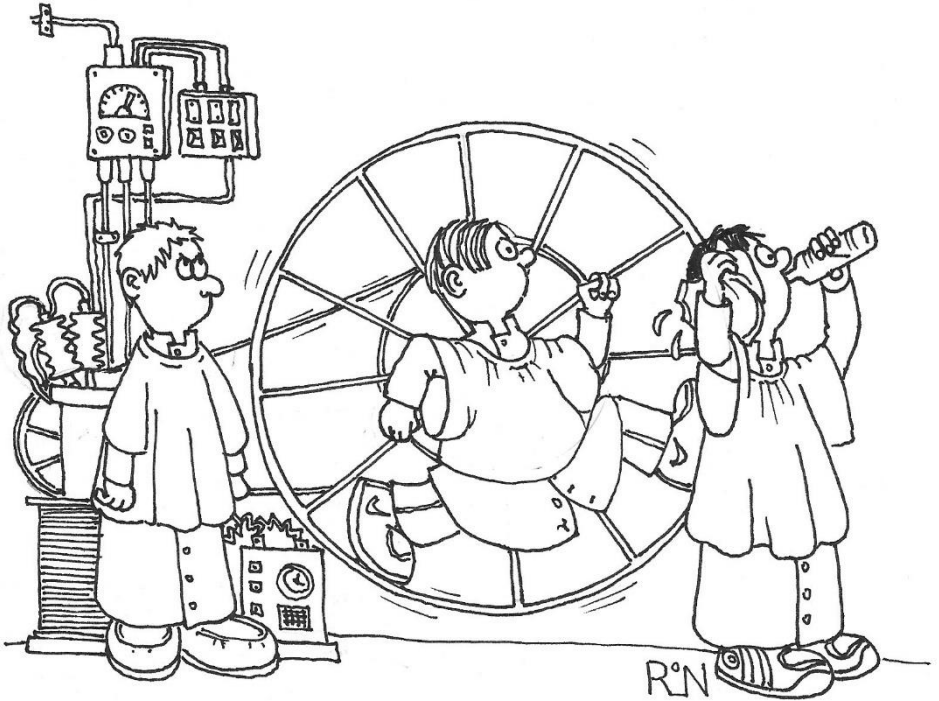
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**Over Peover WI meets on the last Thursday of each month  
at 7.30pm in Over Peover Village Hall.  
Contact June Leach – 07500 250969**

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Dame Edith Sitwell, when asked why she had come to faith, said she had looked at the pattern of a frosted flower on a windowpane, she had studied shells, feathers, petals and grasses; and she knew without a doubt there must be a cause... "I have come to believe that the cause is God."

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When the solar panels weren't working,  
there was Plan "B"

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**Crossword Answers**

**ACROSS:** 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

**DOWN:** 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

The Rectory St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

### **On why we no longer bother to lock the church**

Since I happened to be in your area last week, I tried to call in at your church, and was sorry to find it was locked and bolted, with surveillance cameras watching me.

We tend to be a little more relaxed about matters of security. The key to the medieval lock was lost some time during Queen Victoria's reign and never replaced. How someone managed to misplace a foot long piece of cast iron, weighing about 10 pounds is a mystery. If it had fallen out of someone's pocket, it would certainly have broken their foot. Ever since, no one has bothered with locking the door, which makes me wish our burglars last year had thought of trying it, before wasting so much energy smashing a stained-glass window when they visited in the early hours one morning. On the other hand, were the key still in use, I should probably be arrested these days for carrying an offensive weapon.

As with most rural churches, keys which open just about everything in the village are hidden in various parts of the church. The vestry key is under my seat cushion, the organ key under a vase on the altar, the church hall key on top of the hymn book cupboard, and Miss Simpson's spare front door key inside the font. I have never been certain whether the latter is there for safety, or as a general invitation. I am sure someone could usefully produce a book suggesting the many places that keys are likely to be found secreted in churches for the use of vergers, flower arrangers, cleaners – and thieves wanting to save themselves time and effort.

I suspect that the burdened look that many urban clergy wear is not because they are weighed down with parish troubles, but because they are obliged to carry with them a superfluity of keys needed to negotiate every door in church, hall, school, and vicarage. And why is there always one for which no one has any idea what it opens?

The only occasion I have ever thought it would be useful to be able to lock a church is when you have a party of visitors inside. So often, on hearing the words "let us pray" or the start of an appeal for funds, they bolt for the door.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

## 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 Tracy Knott. If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues concerning a safeguarding matter within the parish please contact Tracy in confidence.

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### Confidence in God

Alone with none but Thee, my God,  
I journey on my way.  
What need I fear, when Thou art near  
O King of night and day?  
More safe I am within Thy hand  
than if a host did round me stand.

*By St Columba*

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

**Norman Withenshaw** – (Lottery Registration No. 08/LO/77)

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

**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:

Sue Jennings – Church Administrator

**STANDING ORDER**

To: The Manager

Bank	
Address	
Sort Code	/ /
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.

Signed .....Date .....

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



## A prayer for July

Loving Father,

July brings long days and summer pleasures, for many, but not for all. Lord, we pray for those who are finding life to be a struggle; for families with no hope of a holiday this year; for parents who do not know how they will feed their children during the upcoming long school break; for those who are lonely, or discouraged, or isolated, or afraid.

Lord, we pray for justice and compassion from those in positions of power and responsibility. And please Lord, show us how to help, how to be part of the solution. May we, as your children, reflect your loving kindness wherever we can. May your Kingdom come on earth, through us.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

*By Daphne Kitching*

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A barbie or a salad or a fresh takeaway  
A picnic in the countryside just makes a summer day!

The birds a-singing in the trees bright flowers feast our eyes  
The only thing that's not to like is beating off the flies!

*By Nigel Beeton*

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Perhaps the straight and narrow path would be wider if more people used it.


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To: Lower Peover Church

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.....

Age: .....

Date of Death.....

Fee £30.00 Enclosed

Signed.....

Date.....

Name and Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone No. ....

Please return to:

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