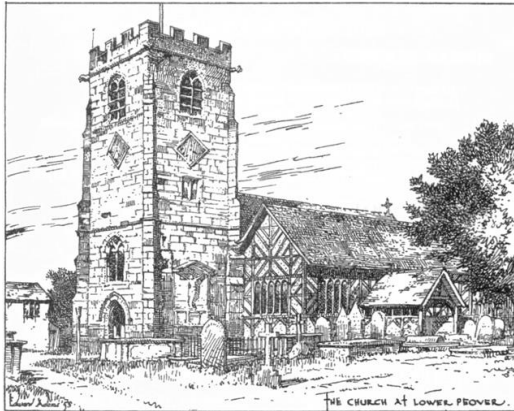


St Oswald's Parish Church

Lower Peover



October 2023

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 Norman Withenshaw: 07771 651888

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

Baptisms: Please contact Norman Withenshaw: 07771 651888

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

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

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.

Dear Friends,

Just this past week I was fortunate to visit somebody in the village who keeps bees and was presented with some home produced Peover honey which was absolutely delightful!

One of the big concerns currently is that there are fewer bees around. Now for some that might feel like a good thing, (and I might have agreed if we were talking about the more likely sting you wasp). However, in my experience (and that is very limited) bees seem somewhat different, less likely to sting and actually fulfil the important role of helping to pollinate flowers, helping many plants grow and develop as well as producing honey (which I love more than even Winnie the pooh!).

Bees are fascinating (don't panic neighbours– I am not having any beehives in the vicarage garden, yet! I could not risk it with Pickles racing up and down chasing the squirrels all the time!)

If you have ever looked inside a hive you will see a great deal of activity, as the bee family works together for the benefit of the whole of their little community. In fact, according to the guru google each member of the hive has a particular role, from the Queen bee and worker bees to drones. Bees work together in a variety of ways and here are some examples:

Bees are mathematical about their spaces and work together to bridge gaps. They keep each other warm and cool. Bees share where the food is. They bathe each other. They care for the sick. The honeybee is a sociable insect that lives in family groupings, communicating information to each other about the location, distance, size, and quality of a particular food source in the surrounding area and all this by dancing!

Bees therefore provide a good example of what a community can do when it works together for the benefit of all. As Christians we talk about the coming of God's Kingdom. This can be a phrase which we by-pass in our services, hymns, or prayers. However, this kingdom was something Jesus made central to his teaching. Part of what he was talking about was his people working for the benefit of all.

This month our schools and church family will be celebrating harvest at Saint Oswald's. For us Harvest is not only a celebration of God's generosity, but it is also an important reminder that we should be thankful to all our agricultural workers (there are so many in our villages) and also a reminder that we as a Christian family are all called in our own ways to work for the benefit of our community and show Gods love to those around us. When we do so what we produce is something that is good, and maybe even tastes as good as honey produced by those Peover bees (if not better!).

So, as the leaves begin to fall, the combines are working overnight and our farmers are at full stretch. May we all say a little prayer of thankfulness for God's bounty, for the work that goes on by our agricultural workers so we can be nourished, share a little of our blessings with those around us as we enjoy this wonderful place we call home, and thank Jesus who always gives us our daily bread.

Have a peaceful harvest and may God bless You all.

Fr Murray

CALENDAR OF SERVICES for OCTOBER at 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 1st October: 17th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am All age service

Sunday 8th October: 18th Sunday after Trinity and Harvest Festival

8 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Sunday 15th October: 19th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11am Family Communion (CW)

No Children's church

Sunday 22nd October: 20th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Sunday 29th October: 21st Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 5th November: Feast of All Saints

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am All age service

Please note that services may change so please check the 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

You can

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/lower-or-nether-peover-st-oswald/>

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.

A Prayer for October

Dear Lord and Creator of all things,

In this fast-moving and high-tech world, help us to slow down – just occasionally – to notice the rhythms of Your creation; the beauty of the colours of autumn; the annual ritual of falling leaves and darkening evenings, which are all part of Your cycle of the year that we often take for granted.

And yet Lord, there is evidence of changes in our climate – extremes of temperature, droughts, floods and wildfires. There is evidence that our behaviour might be responsible for damaging Your world.

Lord, we thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness and grace to us. We are sorry when we get things wrong. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us the way to be in a right relationship with You. Help us to put our trust in Him and as part of living Christian lives, to accept our responsibility for caring for the world You created.

In Jesus' name, Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Falling Leaves

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;

Lengthen night and shorten day;

Every leaf speaks bliss to me

Fluttering from the autumn tree. *From a poem by Emily Bronte (1818-48)*

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

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WHY I CELEBRATE WEDNESDAY

Open my diary and you will find multiple entries for Wednesday, 10.00 am St. Oswald's. This reminds me not to make any routine appointments and to keep time free to celebrate worship in the Shakerley Chapel.

Typically, around eight people attend the Wednesday morning service. Worship on a Wednesday reminds me that as a Christian I am encouraged to practice my faith every day and not just on Sundays.

At the close of service Father Murray offers anointing with holy oil for Healing and Wellness. A unique and special feature of Wednesday worship.

This service is for those who want to reflect quietly, perhaps seek support in difficult times or simply pray and say thank you to God.

Come and join us - all are welcome.

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The harvest produce was taken to the old
people's bungalows

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

The Rectory, St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

On the perils of Harvest

In the unlikely event of ever being put in charge of designing the course for those being trained for ordination, I would make a few significant changes. Modules on doctrine, Church history and Greek would all be dropped as unnecessary. In their place, I would add courses on how to run a tight jumble sale, ways to keep your church council in order – and especially close to my heart at present, how to negotiate Harvest.

The first skirmish starts in early Summer when it becomes clear that the flower arrangers' plans mean that the choir would disappear behind a huge array of chrysanthemums. The choir then retaliate by announcing that their Harvest anthem must take place just when the Sunday School intended to re-enact the parable of the Good Samaritan. They, in turn, raise the stakes by insisting that a stage will be needed for their performance, thus ensuring that I will be separated from the congregation by an impenetrable barricade.

In September, therefore, there is the traditional meeting to iron out all these little difficulties. This inevitably results with the annual act of the verger handing in his resignation, of the bell ringers threatening a mass walk-out, and those who organise coffee afterwards demanding that my sermon lasts no more than three minutes, so there will be plenty of time for socialising after the Service.

I greet all suggestions with a spontaneous burst of indifference, smile, agree with it all – and do nothing (this, incidentally, is a good policy for all decision-making). Inevitably, everything goes ahead exactly as it has always done for the last century.

Come the day, there will be the usual arrangement of eggs round the font, with the strategically placed card saying 'Given anonymously by Elsie Jones' and the pyramid of apples temptingly near the choirboys, so designed that when someone tries to pinch one during the sermon, the whole pile disintegrates as they roll all over the chancel.

On the following Friday, all will leave after the Harvest Supper saying that the entertainment was worse than the previous year and that the absence of red cabbage had quite ruined the hot pot. Everyone therefore has had an enjoyable evening.

My Harvest training course would be compulsory and a pass mark of 90% would be needed before ordination could be considered.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

1 October - Susu Lake

8 October - Alison Painter

15 October - Rosemary Warnes

22 October - Wedding

29 October - Louie Atkinson

Rosemary Warnes



**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

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

12th October

Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer

Elizabeth Fry had endless compassion and endless energy – and together with a steadfast determination to do God’s work, this outstanding philanthropist became one of the foremost promoters of prison reform – not just in Britain, but in all of Europe.

Elizabeth was born in 1780, far from any prison. The family lived in Norwich, where her father was a wealthy Quaker banker and merchant. In 1800 she married a London merchant, Joseph Fry.

Elizabeth could have spent her life safely at home, raising her many children. But instead, she felt compelled to help the desperate social needs of the time.

There was a good reason for this. Back in 1798, when she had been attending a Quaker meeting in Norwich, someone had spoken what Elizabeth felt was a prophetic word for her life. As she noted in her diary at the time:

‘Deborah Darby then spoke... she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? If I am obedient, I believe I shall.’ And she was.

Elizabeth was accepted as a Quaker ‘minister’, and her good works in London began. But it was not until one day in 1813, when she visited Newgate Prison in London, that Elizabeth’s life changed forever. That day she witnessed such horrors of the circumstances in which women and children were kept, that she knew she had found the focus for her life’s work.

Soon her daily visits to the prison, where she read the Bible and taught the women to sew, grew into a campaign to achieve basic rights for the women prisoners. She fought for the classification of criminals, the segregation of the sexes, female supervision of women, and some provision for education.

In 1817 she created the Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners, and then lobbied Parliament. By 1818 Elizabeth had raised such a storm that she was called to give evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee who was examining conditions in prison. They accepted many of her proposed reforms.

In 1820 Elizabeth tackled the huge problem of destitution in London. She opened a ‘Nightly Shelter for the Homeless in London’, which became the first of many.

Continued

She founded a society to help released prisoners with rehabilitation. And she was certainly a ‘hands-on’ sort of lady; it was said that for the next 20 years she personally inspected every single ship containing women convicts before it sailed to Australia.

Elizabeth also founded schools for poor girls, soup kitchens for the hungry, better housing for the poor, and also investigated mental asylums. She even established a nursing school, which influenced her distant relative, Florence Nightingale.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1845, she had helped tens of thousands of helpless people to find some relief from their suffering. She had indeed lived her life as a ‘minister of Christ’.

Bible Sunday – 29th October

At the recent Coronation the King was given a Bible with the words ‘*the most valuable thing that this world affords*’. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let us ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible is not a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority – God Himself! ‘*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*’ (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (‘*the word of God in the words of men*’) and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: ‘*When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth*’ (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let us consider the following guidelines: *Right time*: We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g., a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person. *Right Place*: We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen). *Right Version*: We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone. *Right Help*: Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

Let us get reading!!

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

Loaves and Fishes

They came together from far and wide
 All wanting to hear what the preacher would say
 Hanging onto His every word
 Nobody ever taught this way.

The crowd was hungry, so many to feed
 As a young lad offered the Master his lunch,
 Five barley loaves and two small fish
 For such a crowd it wasn't much.

Who could imagine what He would do
 As He blessed the crowd on the mountainside?
 And looking up and giving thanks
 Bread and fish were multiplied.

Whatever we give the Master to use
 Just like the lad with an offering small,
 Placed in the hands of the Miracle Worker
 He multiplies the gift bringing blessings to all.

By Megan Carter

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.

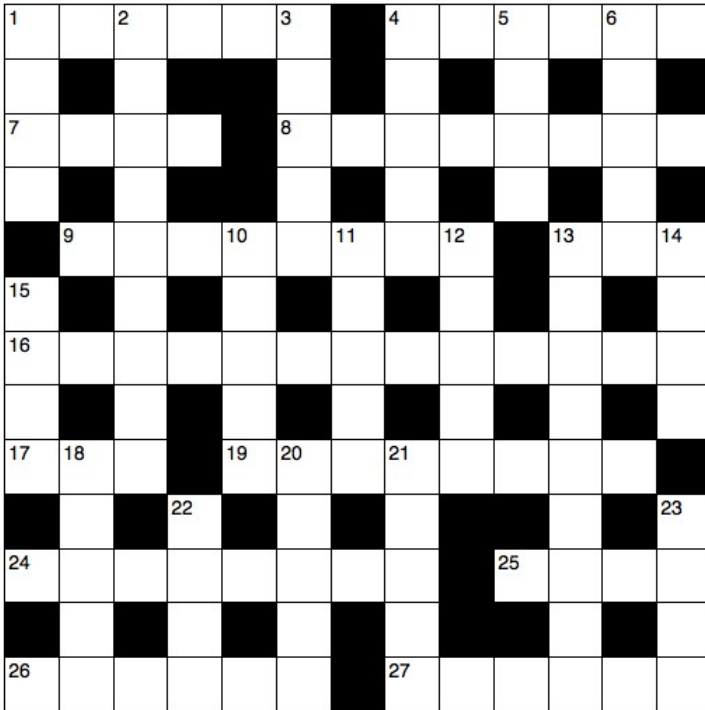
Hope Central was established in 2019, supported by three churches: Vine Life Wilmslow, St Chad's Handforth and St John's Knutsford.

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



Across

- 1 He must be ‘the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well’ (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 ‘For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 ‘They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end’ (Ps 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 ‘He has sent me to bind up the — ’ (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ‘ — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel’ (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a — !’ (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm'
(2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me'
(1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

**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**

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

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



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

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. 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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Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

Those endless roadworks

Do you keep encountering roadworks? No wonder. There have been more than 200,000 of them in the UK over the past three years – due to the need to fix faulty water pipes.

Here is another depressing statistic: an average of 159 road repairs has been carried out *every* day since the start of 2020, again, because of the leaks.

A recent investigation by the Liberal Democrats uncovered the scale of the problem. Tim Farron, Lib Dem environment spokesman, says: “The water companies have caused misery right across the country. From pumping out raw sewage into our waterways to now causing traffic jams, they are a complete shambles.

“Whilst they have been stuffing their pockets with dividends and bonuses, people have suffered at their lack of investment in infrastructure. It is time to get tough with the water companies.” Mr Farron wants “a new regulator with teeth that can hold these firms to account.”

SALT

The Sunday School teacher was describing how when Lot’s wife looked back at Sodom, she turned into a pillar of salt. Young James nodded with understanding. “My mum looked back once while she was driving,” he observed, “and she turned into a telephone pole.”

Chicken and pig

A chicken and a pig were walking by a church where a gala charity event was taking place. Getting caught up in the spirit of the fun, the chicken suggested to the pig that they each contribute to the meal. “Let’s offer them ham and eggs!”

“Not so fast,” said the pig. “For you, that’s a contribution. For me, it is a total commitment.”

Past and present

As half-term ended, the English teacher returned to teaching with a sigh. He felt nostalgic. He found the past perfect and the present tense.

A Bear called Paddington

It was 65 years ago, on 14th October 1958, that Michael Bond's children's book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was published. It marked the debut of the lovable Paddington Bear, who is now a household name after appearing in two irresistible films.

Paddington starred in more than 20 books written by Bond, who died aged 91 in 2017. The original story was inspired by the author witnessing Jewish and British evacuee children passing through Reading station. Bond wanted the bear to have come from "darkest Africa", but this was changed to Peru when his agent pointed out that there were no bears in Africa.

Many people have found Christian characteristics in the bespectacled, kind, red-hatted, innocent Paddington, who always tries to do the right thing but often gets into trouble as a result. He is invariably polite, but has a "hard stare" for those who behave badly. The two hugely successful films, with Ben Whishaw voicing Paddington and household names in other roles, established the bear in the national psyche – a natural successor to Winnie the Pooh.

A stuffed toy Paddington Bear was chosen by British tunnellers as the first item to be passed to their French counterparts when the two sides of the Channel Tunnel came together in 1994. The books have been translated into 30 languages and have sold more than 30 million copies.

Paddington has also reached the very top of society. Comedian and later President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky dubbed him in the Ukrainian version of the films, and to cap everything, Paddington joined the late Queen in one of her last public appearances – a brilliant comedy segment in the Platinum Party at the Palace on 4th June 2022, in which the Queen 'revealed' that she always carried a marmalade sandwich – Paddington's favourite food – in her handbag.

Apples

Mother: "Martin, last night I put two apples in this cupboard and now there is only one. How do you explain that?"

Martin: "I expect it was so dark I couldn't see the other one."

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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UK foodbanks busier than ever

More food parcels were given out in the UK this past year than ever before. During December 2022, an emergency food parcel was handed out the equivalent of every eight seconds. These are the most recent figures from the Trussell Trust, which supports more than 1300 foodbanks in the UK.

In all, the charity says it gave out nearly three million food parcels between April 2022 and April 2023. More than one million of these were for children.

These three million parcels from the charity's foodbanks represent a 37-per-cent increase in England on 2021. More than 760,000 people used a foodbank for the first time, which is up more than one third in 2021-22.

Soaring inflation and energy costs have driven the increase in demand. The charity reports an unprecedented rise in the number of employed people using their foodbanks, because they are "no longer able to balance a low income against rising living costs."

The problem now, says the trust, is that food donation levels are not keeping up with the need. "This is putting us under a lot of strain."

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:

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**

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

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LOWER PEOVER

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.....

Age:

Date of Death.....

Fee £30.00 Enclosed

Signed.....

Date.....

Name and Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone No.

Please return to:

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