

St Oswald's Parish Church

Lower Peover



September 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,

I expect that many of us have at some point climbed to the top of some hill or even clambered up one of our church towers. It is a wonderful experience in which we are taken away from the everyday detail of our all-familiar lanes and are able to take in some spectacular view across the Peover Eye and of a much expanded horizon (*even have a nose into somebody's garden that is usually hidden from view by trees and fencing*).

I have often found it helpful to get a larger perspective. It is so easy to focus on all the millions of tiny details of life that take up so much of our attention and precious energy, or cause us concern. All these things can help us lose sight of the bigger picture.

This is also true within the life of our little church where there are so many details to attend to, with services, weddings, funerals, building maintenance, committees, trusts, village halls, children's work, home visits and so on.

So, over the past month I have been aware and talked about the importance of regularly taking a step back, to take a moment to smell the roses, to look at the bigger picture, and to remember why we are doing what we are doing.

What I have found is that this really can help us determine what really matters and to step by step focus on what we can change rather than become overwhelmed.

Here in Peover we are blessed by living in such a beautiful area. Looking around the church and churchyard, walking around the village, seeing the changing pictures of our farmland and even enjoying watching the dog chase sticks in the Peover Eye can help us to remember that we are part of a bigger picture and a bigger story that stretches back for generations.

However, for us as a people of faith the main way we change our perspective is through our worship. The writer of Psalm 8 says:

“When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers— the moon and the stars you set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?” Yet he does!

Worship reminds us that God is sovereign over all creation and that we are loved. At our Sunday services we reconnect with this truth as we sing songs and hymns of praise, when we shed the odd tear or find ourselves being unexpectedly moved to laughter, where we hear the scriptures, find others who are also struggling, where we

pray for the needs of the world, and, at services of Holy Communion, share bread and wine together to remember Jesus and the hope that we have in him. Through worship we step back from the details of our lives and reflect on God's wider purposes for the world and for our lives. This can often renew our vision as we seek to live out our faith in our everyday lives during the week.

So, if you do not normally attend church, or have not been for a while, why not give it a try, why not come back? We would be delighted to see you and it may help you find new life perspective too. Just remember St Oswald's is your church, so please come as you are, a warm welcome awaits.

Every blessing,
Fr Murray

A Strong Hold

Should I slip and lose the way
The Lord will hold me fast,
Should I choose to walk away
I am firmly in His grasp.

Though I walk through death's dark vale,
His rod and staff are there
I would not dare to walk this path
Without His loving care.

Although my hold on Him is light
His loving arms are wide,
What He's begun He will fulfil
Till I am safe on Canaan's side.

What God is this who loves us so?
Our future He has planned,
We're ever safe in His embrace
And none can snatch us from His hand.

By Megan Carter

CALENDAR OF SERVICES for SEPTEMBER 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 3rd September: 13th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 am All age service

Sunday 10th September: 14th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Sunday 17th September: 15th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11am Family Communion (CW)

No Children's church

Sunday 24th September: 16th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Sunday 1st October: 17th Sunday after Trinity

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.
also find a full calendar of events on

You can

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

LOWER PEOVER CHURCH FETE FUNDRAISING QUIZ

ON THE MENU
by Jay Rees

IN MEMORY OF
Joe Leigh

The Answers

Thank you for supporting the quiz!

1. Beatles' label (5)
 2. Make moonshine here (almost), weight (7)
 3. Third wheel, jester (10, 4)
 4. Pretender, encrust (6, 4)
 5. Rio's country, goes on bolt (6, 3)
 6. Blue or cottage, Dundee or Jaffa (10)
 7. Hunt Basque trust movement (9, 6)
 8. Mason is a lawyer (5)
 9. Add 22 over 7 for computer kit (9)
 10. Dad, Fitzgerald (6)
 11. Medusa, Emile or Gianfranco (10)
 12. Overturn a letter cart (7, 4)
 13. Old unit of measurement, TV awards (7)
 14. Crustacean, Cosmopolitan (5, 8)
 15. Gemstone, harbour (4, 4)
 16. Not a long loaf (10)
 17. Uncommon part from Llandaff? (5, 7)
 18. River, not you, sounds like rock (11)
 19. Can be red, white or black, can be stone or bread (10)
 20. Amphibian in hiding? (4-2-3-4)
 21. Ghost without home, tree (7)
 22. Spoil, fastener, article (8)
 23. State, radius, degree, bad actor (5, 3)
 24. Even Skye's dog hears Eden (8)
 25. Fizzy drink, money (4, 5)
 26. British Isle, board game (5)
 27. Not poetry, Charlie, officer (8)
 28. Revolutionary snack? (9, 7)
 29. Away from Italian square (5)
 30. Add white for butterfly (7)
 31. What to make when life gives you lemons (8)
 32. Loaf or industry, contained 24 blackbirds (7, 3)
 33. Gravity, sun god, stolen, airport serving 58 (7)
 34. Cinque port, sounds like he plays Hutch (5, 4)
 35. Can be bee or comb (5)
 36. Headless Dalek moves (4)
 37. Witch, US soldier, shilling (6)
 38. Seen in a pod, energy, dessert (5, 7)
 39. Shade of pink (6)
 40. Urban analogue enclosed (6)
 41. Poirot's secretary, light rain, add walk for dance (5, 7, 4)
 42. Shown by red rose, stolen, calls kettle black (10, 6)
 43. Rub on bonce (internally) (3-3)
 44. Milk or Labrador, hair product (9, 6)
 45. Lesson, saint, blood group (5)
 46. We've just had one (Vivat Rex), poultry (10, 7)
 47. Light coat, King Edward (6, 6)
- Apple
Stilton
Gooseberry Fool
Simmel Cake
Brazil Nut
Cheesecake
Butternut Squash
Perry
Raspberry
Paella
Gorgonzola
Treacle Tart
Polenta
Prawn Cocktail
Ruby Port
Shortbread
Welsh Rarebit
Pomegranate
Grapefruit
Toad-In-The-Hole
Goulash
Marzipan
Parma Ham
Kedgeree
Soda Bread
Mango
Prosecco
Garibaldi Biscuit
Pizza
Cabbage
Lemonade
Cottage Pie
Gravlax
Dover Sole
Honey
Kale
Haggis
Pease Pudding
Salmon
Banana
Lemon Drizzle Cake
Lancashire Hotpot
Bon-Bon
Chocolate Mousse
Pesto
Coronation Chicken
Jacket Potato

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 48. Bagatelle (6) | Trifle |
| 49. It's cool (8) | Cucumber |
| 50. Title reversed, part of shoe (7) | Rissole |
| 51. Talk vaguely and at length (6) | Waffle |
| 52. Tizzy, knave (8) | Flapjack |
| 53. A humble frog sign set oddly (9) | Aubergine |
| 54. Put directions in post (6) | Posset |
| 55. Mule seen on TV (6) | Muffin |
| 56. Disagreement, boot (4, 10) | Beef Wellington |
| 57. Globe or Jerusalem (9) | Artichoke |
| 58. Relative, duck, US city (7) | Granola |
| 59. Fake window glass (we hear) (9) | Champagne |
| 60. Could be fish or bean (5) | Jelly |
| 61. If you're successful you bring it home (5) | Bacon |
| 62. Fields or blonde, pickle (10, 3) | Strawberry Jam |
| 63. Incites Sherlock? (4, 8) | Eggs Benedict |
| 64. Enclosed starter is Ottolenghi (7) | Risotto |
| 65. Pixar film (11) | Ratatouille |
| 66. Cowardy... (7) | Custard |
| 67. Drink to someone's health (5) | Toast |
| 68. Dispose of heather (8) | Dumpling |
| 69. Switzerland, coin in cellar tossed (6, 3, 5) | Chilli Con Carne |
| 70. Rocket Man loses pound, World Cup winner loses info (4, 4) | Eton Mess |
| 71. Mix green melon with Mike and Papa in Greece, in other words (5, 8, 3) | Lemon Meringue Pie |
| 72. Point, sphere, middle of yeti (6) | Sorbet |
| 73. Old coin, very loud, the French (7) | Souffle |
| 74. Crucial, citrus fruit, add bald for horse (3, 4, 3) | Key Lime Pie |
| 75. Trout plus bits off the old block (4, 3, 5) | Fish And Chips |
| 76. Old King's edict? (8) | Coleslaw |
| 77. Rue Tarka's exchange outside university (10) | Sauerkraut |
| 78. Church, Spielberg film (4) | Chai |
| 79. If you like this you might like getting caught in the rain (4, 6) | Pina Colada |
| 80. In a box with Statler, best days (7, 5) | Waldorf Salad |
| 81. Sang with Mel, herb with end chopped off (6) | Kimchi |
| 82. Second, pronoun, greeting (5) | Sushi |
| 83. Part of a dance, LuPone or Smith (8) | Chapatti |
| 84. Container, the Spanish (5) | Bagel |
| 85. Baby Jane holds gold with key inset (8) | Baguette |
| 86. Skip perfectly inside (6) | Kipper |
| 87. Eighteenth century dandy, say it in a photo (8, 6) | Macaroni Cheese |
| 88. Scottish stone (5) | Scone |
| 89. Paddington's sandwiches (9) | Marmalade |
| 90. Play the ball between your opponent's feet (6) | Nutmeg |
| 91. Town in Derbyshire, sharp (8, 4) | Bakewell Tart |
| 92. Can't be made without breaking half of 63 (8) | Omelette |
| 93. Made by Faberge (in Thurso) (6, 3) | Scotch Egg |
| 94. Jet, New or Kielder, has five bars, gold (5, 6, 6) | Black Forest Gateau |
| 95. Colour, crush (6, 6) | Orange Squash |
| 96. GEGS (9, 4) | Scrambled Eggs |
| 97. Art in Tate altered with time (5, 5) | Tarte Tatin |
| 98. Cobalt is an element (in part) (6) | Tisane |
| 99. Male is Mercury in re-tailored suit (8) | Tiramisu |
| 100. Can be green or builder's (3) | Tea |

Lower Peover Church Fete

‘What a lovely afternoon enjoyed by a large crowd. It could not happen without the dedication of the many volunteers who worked in all sorts of roles, whether in the planning, manning the stalls, donations of books, raffle and tombola prizes, cakes etc, then getting the field set up and taking it all down again. So to everyone involved, many, many thanks.

Joan - Fete Chairman

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.

To encourage you to attend church, how about if we offered:

Beds - for those who say Sunday is their day to sleep-in.

Safety helmets – for anyone who fears the roof would fall in if they entered a church door.

Blankets and hot water bottles – for those who find our church too cold.

Fans and ice cream - for those who find our church too hot.

Cushions - for anyone who find our seats too hard.

Bicycles – for those who exercise on Sunday mornings.

Hearing aids - for those who find the minister speaks too softly.

Cotton wool - for those who find the minister speaks too loudly.

Score cards - for all who want to rate the hymns/sermons/coffee.

Ready-meals - for anyone who cannot come because they have to cook Sunday lunch.

Some flowers - for those who prefer to seek God in nature.

Christmas poinsettias and Easter palms - for all those who have never seen the church without them.

See you Sunday!!



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www.whiston-britland.co.uk**

From the Registers

Weddings

Rebecca Hyams and George Alcorn

Beth Holmes and Daniel Volpicelli

Baptisms

Thomas Smith

Christopher Watmore

Andrew Watmore

Funerals

Rose Goode

2		5				8		
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Scientists have finally discovered exactly how much sleep a human being needs ...
just five minutes more.

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

1st September - St Giles of Provence - helping those damaged by life

St Giles was an immensely popular saint in the Middle Ages; he was the patron saint of cripples. In those days, there were many people who, once injured, were never really whole again. Even today, a serious injury – either physical or mental or emotional, can leave us damaged for months, years or even longer. At such times, we, too, find inspiration in others who, though also damaged by life, have not been overwhelmed.

St Giles was probably born in Provence, southern France early in the 7th century. The 10th century *Legenda Aurea* (Golden Legend) tells us he lived as a holy hermit deep in the forest of Nimes, near the mouth of the Rhone. A deer, was his only companion. Then one day, while out hunting, King Wamba spotted the deer, and pursued it. The hind fled back to St Giles for protection. King Wamba shot an arrow which missed the deer but pierced the saint who was protecting it. Thus the king encountered the saint. The saint's acceptance of his injury, and his holiness greatly impressed the king, who conceived a great admiration for St Giles.

In the end, much good came out of the original harm of the encounter, for the king built St Giles a monastery in his valley, Saint-Gilles-du-Gard. The little monastery was put under the Benedictine rule and became a source of blessing for the area roundabout. In later years, St Giles' shrine would become an important pilgrimage centre on the route for both Compostela and the Holy Land, as well as in its own right. There is a further story connected with St Giles.

St Giles, the crippled saint who helped others find wholeness with God, became patron saint of cripples, lepers and nursing mothers. In England 162 ancient churches are dedicated to him, as well as at least 24 hospitals, the most famous being St Giles in Edinburgh and St Giles in Cripplegate, London.



"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

Reflecting faith – pews and chairs

Most of us think of pews as having been installed at the same time the church building was built, with occasional upgrades over time. But that's not the case. Originally church floors consisted of little more than stone flags or beaten earth on which grasses or rushes were lain as a renewable winter covering for cleanliness and insulation. Each year, in late summer, the old and rotten rushes were cleared out and new ones taken to the churches in carts. There are still a number of English towns, in particular in the north of England, that celebrate 'Rushbearing' each year.

The people stood for all the services. However, it was recognised that the infirm and elderly needed support, and stone benches – often backless – were placed by the walls for them. It was not until the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s that wooden pews were introduced for everyone to be able to be seated. Naturally, people being people, there were pews and then there were *pews*!

Society was organised in classes or hierarchies and the richer and more important folk had the best seats near the front so they could hear what the priest was saying and watch the service. One's place to sit was arranged by your place in Society, so the poorer and least important were at the back.

Sermons alone could be lengthy; two hours was not unusual, and if you could pay for privacy to doze off and have some form of personal heating for winters, then clearly that made sense.

Have a look at the seating in a church near you. Are all the chairs or pews the same? Are some more elaborately decorated or larger? Is there a difference between the pews in the nave for the congregation and those for the choir and different again in the sanctuary? Does any of this reflect your faith?

We have relatively few illiterates in the country, but millions of people who cannot read the road signs. – *Anon*

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To me, old age is always 15 years older than whatever I am. – *Anon*

~~~

People say 60 is the new 40. The policeman who just pulled me over didn't agree.

When Autumn Comes

Should we be sad when autumn comes and winter looms ahead?
Is it so bad that days grow short and verdant leaves grow red?

We'll miss the sun and long, hot days, we'll miss the sea and sand;
But soon will come the starry nights and wintry landscapes grand!

Perhaps it's best that nature sleeps and things no longer grow;
We get a rest from vibrant weeds and grass we need not mow.

So celebrate the equinox, the autumn season's here!
It is a date to mark, with joy, the turning of the year.

By Nigel Beeton

The Secret of Living

The secret of living is learning to pray
It is asking our Father for strength for the day!

It is trusting completely that His boundless grace
Will overcome care and each problem we face!

It is walking by Faith every mile that we plod
And knowing our prayers bring us closer to God.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

3 September - ~Sylvia Hankinson
10 September – Sue Jennings
17 September – Rosemary Warnes
24 September – Nerys Bradford
1 October – Susu Lake
8 September – Alison Painter
15 September – Rosemary Warnes
22 September – Wedding flowers
29 September – Louie Atkinson

Rosemary Warnes

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 Peaver 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

8								
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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.

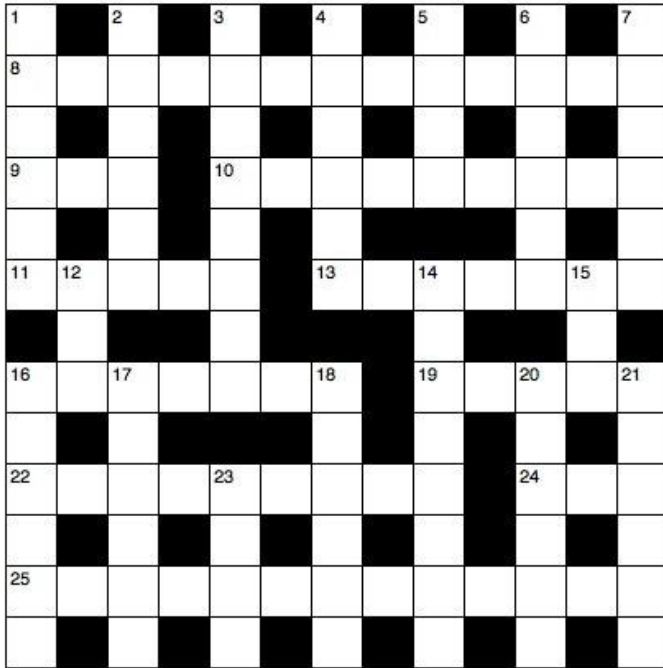
Hope Central was established in 2019, supported by three churches: Vine Life Wilmslow, St Chad's Handforth and St John's Knutsford.

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

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 11 ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (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**

The Rectory St James the Least

On the absurdity of a vicar ever retiring

My dear Nephew Darren

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answerphones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone - ever. My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend -preferably on another planet - on the day he suggested.

I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts – although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to drift somewhere above his head.

He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for *my* Queen Anne rectory to be sold and *my* five acres of garden be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as if they were told that Buckingham Palace was to be converted into a sports centre.

The matter, I was told, was confidential – which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counter attack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we have had in years. Retirement indeed! I am sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans.

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. 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: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

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

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**

The sum of £ * on the 1st day of and quarterly thereafter.

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

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Dear Father,

Thank you for teachers. Thank you for their gifts of knowledge and communication. Please give them patience and understanding in their work and most of all the wisdom to listen to you and to be directed by your Kingdom values. Thank you for Jesus – the best teacher of all. Help us all to learn from Him that greatest of all lessons, that you are the living God, His Father and ours, and that you love us and want us to know you.

Father, as we pray and trust in the name of Jesus, our teacher and Lord, may that close knowledge of you become our reality. Amen.

Church of England announces £13 million of grants to reach children, youth and families

Awards of nearly £13 million have been made for dioceses to help churches reach more children, young people and families, from toddler groups to apprentice youth ministers. These come as the latest round of grants for mission from the Church of England.

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**‘He gave us eyes to see them’:
Flowers – the beauty of the Lord**

In this month of September, we give thanks for God’s blessings in all that the earth yields us. Those blessings are focused in a wonderful painting by Jan Davidsz de Heem. He was born in Utrecht in Holland in 1606 and studied art under his father’s guidance. De Heem then moved to Antwerp, where for the rest of his life he created paintings of such beauty and depth that one of them – a portrait of Prince William III surrounded by blossoms and fruits - received the highest price ever paid for a painting at that time.

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Signed.....

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