

St Mary's Acton
St David's Wettenhall &
St Oswald's Worleston
March 2023



**The Cross Country Parishes
of
Acton, Church Minshull,
Wettenhall & Worleston.**

Dear Friends,

God's Wings



After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird, literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body. The mother had remained steadfast because she had been willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live.

This month we give thanks for the love of our mothers; for our mother churches in the centre of our communities, and for the never-ending love of God who created us and redeems us through His Son Jesus Christ.

Happy Mothering Sunday to mothers everywhere!

Ann

'He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge' (Psalm 91:4)



Don't forget we change the clocks 1 am 26th March-forwards!

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Sunday Services

Acton

- 5th Mar 11:00 am **United at Wettenhall**, 6:30pm Songs of Praise
- 12th Mar 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 19th Mar 10:00 am Messy Church
- 26th Mar 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 2nd Apr 11:00 am **United Confirmation**, 6:30pm Evensong

Church Minshull

- 5th Mar 11:00 am **United at Wettenhall**
- 12th Mar 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 19th Mar 11:00 am Communion
- 26th Mar 11:00 am Messy Church
- 2nd Apr 11:00 am **United Confirmation at Acton**

Worleston

- 5th Mar 11:00 am **United at Wettenhall**
- 12th Mar 9:30 am Communion
- 19th Mar 9:30 am Mothering Service
- 26th Mar 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 2nd Apr 11:00 am **United Confirmation at Acton**

Wettenhall

- 5th Mar 11:00 am **United Communion**
- 12th Mar 11:00 am Communion
- 19th Mar 11:00 am Mothering Service
- 26th Mar 6:30 pm Communion
- 2nd Apr 11:00 am **United Confirmation at Acton**

St David's Church Wettenhall		
Sidespersons		Cleaning & Flowers *
5 th Mar	Mr N Moss	Mrs D Drinkall & Mrs B Brockbank
12 th Mar	Mrs M Sherry	
19 th Mar	Brownies	Mrs A Howard and Family
26 th Mar	Informal	
2 nd Apr	United at Acton	Mrs H Moss
Visit: www.wettenhallchurch.org.uk		

* Lent begins 22nd February. No flowers until Easter Day 9th April

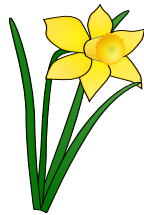
St David's Patronal

On Sunday March 5th

we will celebrate

St. David's Day

with a United Service at 11am.



Everyone is very welcome to join us, as we look forward to singing some rousing Welsh tunes, enjoy the sight of early spring daffodils, and share in delicious refreshments following the service.

Make a note in your diaries now!



Coffee & Cake

The next meetings will be on Thursday 2nd March & 6th April from 10-12 noon in Church. Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.



Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Andrew Powell**. Andrew passed away in the loving care of the David Lewis Centre where he spent most of his life. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are mourning at this time.

Diary Dates

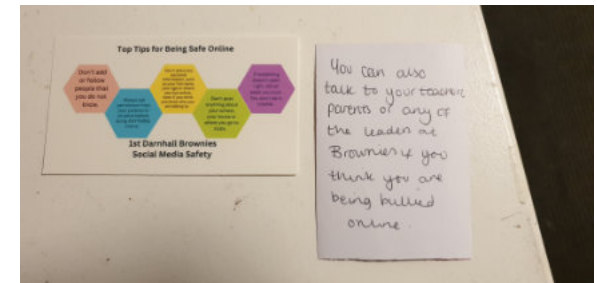
The next **Parochial Church Council** meeting takes place in church on Monday 20th March at 7.30pm
Cholmondeston & Wettenhall Parish Council
 Will meet in church on Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30pm

Mothering Sunday

Please join us as we give thanks for our mothers & our mother church on 19th March at 11am.
 We look forward to our usual celebration of flowers & cake for everyone!

Darnhall Brownies

At Brownies in February, the girls have been learning about staying safe on-line and internet safety, as well as making rice crispy cakes !!



St.David's Church Wittenhall "Comedy Quiz Night"

Saturday 25th March

Your Quizmaster host is
our very own comedian
Mr Don Reid

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and prizes - should be
a real fun night out

Who played Del Boy's Grandad ?
Billy Connolly has a famous
wife, who is she ?

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St Mary's Church, Acton Sidespersons	
5 th Mar	United at Wettenhall
12 th Mar	Gill Evans And Claire Lewis-Jones
19 th Mar	Tracey & Peter Foster
26 th Mar	Chris and Christine Barratt
2 nd Apr	Ena Furber and Kath Edwards
Visit: www.stmarysacton.org	

Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

The next walks are:

- 5th March 2023
- 2nd April 2023
- 14th May 2023

Tea at the Tower is open every Sunday from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

On the above dates there is a guided walk departing the church at 12:45 pm Nick organises circular walks varying between 3 to 5 miles, then returning to the church for a refreshing cup of tea or coffee and a slice of delicious cake.

The pace of the walks is relaxed, and the routes generally involve canal towpath and lane walking. The footpaths should be good (also hopefully dry?) and only a small number of stiles are negotiated. Stout outdoor shoes or walking shoes / boots are recommended.

All are welcome including dogs on leads

For further information please phone Nick Harley, Lead Walker, on 01270-620612 or 07710983125.



Congratulations and Blessings to

William and Ellie Emerton and baby daughter **Daisy Philipa**

Chris and Katy Hulme and baby son **Hector Alfred**



Songs of Praise

Sunday 5 March 2023 6.30 pm

Please join us to sing hymns relating to "Love" on Sunday evening.

The couples who are planning to get married in the Cross Country Parishes will also be joining us following an afternoon of Marriage Preparation.

Family Love and Love of Nature or Animals will all be celebrated at this special service followed by refreshments (We love food at Acton).

**Do come along. More details from:
Joyce Percival 01270 624158.**

Holly Holy Day

St Mary's Church organised several events during the annual 'Holly Holy Day' on Saturday 21st January 2023. The events took place on the same day as The Sealed Knot Battle of Nantwich re-enactment in Nantwich.

The church was open from 9am and visitors were served hot drinks and buttered toast. A number of them enjoyed the opportunity to join guided tours up the church's tower to the ringing chamber.

Addressing an audience of approximately 130 people, local historian Mike Lea brought history to life - as he talked the audience through the key stages of the Civil War and the strategic importance of Nantwich in the outcome of the wider conflict. Nick & Caroline Harley and Nigel Anderson explained specifically how Acton Church was used during the siege before leading dozens of people on a guided walk to view the battlefields. The walkers were able to visualise where the opposing forces were positioned and gain a better understanding of the way the landscape influenced the battle and what happened at the different stages of the conflict. Everyone gained a fascinating insight into the role of Acton Church at the time of the battle of Nantwich. The event raised £128.70 towards church funds.



Local historian Mike Lea brings history to life



Members of the Sealed Knot outside Acton Church



Nick Harley (right) addresses the audience on the original battlefield



Churchyard Records

The records of the words on grave headstones in the churchyard are an important part of church family history. I have been working in the past months with Stephan Davies and Tracey Foster to update these records with a view to reprinting them. The Church recognised the importance of transcribing the so called "monumental inscriptions" in the late 1990s. The first survey of the churchyard was carried out by the Family History Society of South Cheshire. It was updated from time to time but the current paper records kept in the Vestry did not include any of the memorials since 2009, or the new extension area now in use. We are working to gather this information and add in any other corrections and new details.

The Church often receives enquiries from relatives searching for the resting place of a loved one. It is important that these are available so that the details can be traced and passed on. The lettering of headstones does not last forever, and reading the older ones can be a challenge. We have to admire the patience and diligence of the team who undertook the original survey. Letterings on stones are soon choked with moss or covered by lichen. Every winter sees the disappearance of some of the inscriptions in almost any churchyard.

The oldest headstone record on a grave is this:

F. 29. Upright headstone which is leaning against a bricked up doorway. In good condition but broken and with pieces missing. The edges are broken away.

ere lyeth inte / the body of RICHA / FILCOCK of CHOLMO / DESTON who died / July the 16 1671

There are about 2700 headstones recorded in the churchyard, which also hosts a small number of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission graves. In addition there are many family graves who record a family member who is buried in a battlefield far away.

We are working toward a reprint on the documents in 2023, changing from one large volume to three smaller ones. If all goes well, we will digitise the finished documents and add them to the church web site pages. Rather than one large plan for the whole churchyard, there will be an overview for orientation, and then smaller convenient section views for the plot numbers and exact locations.

Continued on next page



Part of the plan is to have the records in a form that can be readily updated and safeguarded. Tracey is going to do this.

I am a genealogist and know the value of parish records like these held by the church. With the virtual absence of burial registers and the relatively recent date of baptismal and marriage registers, gravestones are an often unique source of information for the seventeenth to early nineteenth centuries. It is a privilege to work with these records.

David Fletcher



The grave of A N Hornby



Commonwealth War Grave

Love is in the ...Churchyard!

Take a walk to the bottom of the Churchyard and this month enjoy the 2,000 daffodils and snowdrops, planted last Autumn after being kindly and generously donated by Rosemary Shaw. Rosemary designed the heart shape which formed a template to plant the bulbs as a tribute to her parents.

The consecrated Churchyard receives so many compliments from visitors, some of whom come regularly, others are passing by or tracing their family tree. It is a local and social history lesson in our midst.

We are fortunate that we have recently updated our records and soon a plan and details of all the graves will be available on our website. stmarysacton.org (see separate article).

We are especially grateful to Dave and Scott who spend many hours each week, mowing trimming and keeping the whole area surrounding our Church in tip top condition. We must also ask that you help us too, by keeping within the diocesan regulations which do not permit the planting of trees or shrubs. Flowers and artificial flowers, are allowed, but it is requested that they are removed when faded or become out of season. Please; no photos or lights.

Continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 11

The diocesan rules ask that the surface of the grass in front of each memorial is levelled after six months and all vases placed on the plinth of the memorial. These conditions will help our groundsmen to easily mow the grass, keeping the Churchyard beautifully maintained for everyone's enjoyment.



Acton and Reaseheath WI

Edith England was a long time member of our WI, and known to many for her marvellous Christmas puddings, chutneys and pickles sold on the WI stall in Nantwich Market.

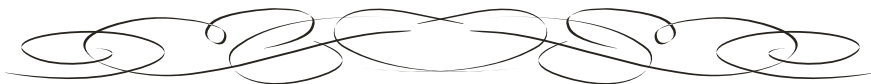
Each November we hold a draw in Edith's memory for the contents of a willow basket of goodies (including the famous spiced oranges). This year Mary McMath was very pleased to win the basket itself at our February meeting.

We are now looking forward to seeing Edith's daughter Elizabeth again in March when she will be taking us through our paces with some Chair Pilates. Oil painting and a felt workshop are being lined up and outings to David Austin Roses and Wildgoose Nursery in the summer.

There are usually ten of us at the craft group which meets every fortnight and we are looking forward to seeing the schedule for Nantwich Show this year.

Acton and Reaseheath WI usually meet the second Monday of the month in Acton Parish Hall (NB Bank holidays mean a change to April 17th and May 15th).

If you would like a taste of our WI please get in touch with Fiona Ross 07791 171415. You will be very welcome.



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Cross Country Pages

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

this month to

Connor Farrell Sonny Shaw
James Rowland Sophie Briggs
Megan Drinkall Trudy Tomlinson
Scarlett Swain

Belated Birthday Wishes

Allen Wood celebrated his 90th Birthday in January

Sue Hull celebrated her 80th Birthday on Friday 10th of February.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone from Church who sent cards and best wishes during my recent stay in hospital, on my return home and on my birthday in January. Thank you everyone. Hopefully I'll see you all soon.

Zoë Sutton

United Confirmation

2nd April - Palm Sunday
11am at Acton Church
With Mark Tanner
Bishop of Chester

Please support those who are taking this important step on their Christian Journey

A prayer for the earthquake in Turkey and Syria

We pray for the people of Central Turkey and Northwest Syria, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake. Be present O Lord, our Good Shepherd, to bring comfort, relief, shelter and human kindness. Shield the people who suffer, console those who are bereaved, prosper the provision of relief, strengthen the work of emergency teams, and shine your light and hope in the midst of despair.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Ladies Lunch

Thursday 16th March
Tollemache Arms, Alraham
12:30 pm - Cost: £12.50
For further details contact:
Isobel (624521), Ann (528273)
or Joyce (624158)

Mobile Library

Mar	Apr	Apr	Tuesdays	
14 th	4 th	25 th	Arrive	Depart
Badger Church Minshull			10:20	10:45
Home Farm Park South Lea Green			11:10	11:20
Home Farm Park North Lea Green			11:30	11:50
Wettenhall Church			12:05	12:20
Station Rd Calveley			13:35	13:55
Tollemache Arms Alraham			14:05	14:30
Mar	Mar	Apr	Thursdays	
9 th	30 th	20 th	Arrive	Depart
Pinfold Craft Centre Poole			11:00	11:25
Worleston Station			11:35	11:45
Aston Juxta Mondrum			11:50	12:10
Worleston Village Hall				
Mar	Apr	Apr	Thursdays	
16 th	6 th	27 th		
Farmers Arms Ravensmoor			10:00	10:15
Goodwill Hall Faddiley			10:30	10:50
Greenfields Farm Gradeley Green			11:05	11:20

Plough Sunday

On 29 January, the Cross Country Parishes returned to Reaseheath College to celebrate Plough Sunday.

The college was delighted to welcome us back. Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Chester, preached and blessed the plough and the dairy industry and asked God's blessing on all involved in the agricultural industry.

Staff and students took part in the service, together with Helen Rutter, Assistant Chaplain to the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy, who spoke about the need to provide mental health support to all farmers. Michael-John Parkin, Chair of Nantwich Agricultural Society and Reaseheath Principal Marcus Clinton delivered Bible readings. Members of the Nantwich Agricultural Society and staff from the college also swelled the congregation. A donation of £76.30 was made to the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy, a charity that supports people across all areas of agriculture going through challenging times.



Voting Regulations for Local Elections May 2023

Changes to Voting

Make Sure that You Can Vote on 4th May 2023

Voting regulations were changed last year in the Elections Act 2022. From now on make sure that you can vote in local and National elections by being registered to vote and having photographic identification [photo ID] if you are voting at a polling station.

Registering to Vote

You must register to vote before Monday 17th April 2023. This can be done online at: gov.uk/register-to-vote or telephone the electoral services team at 0300 123 5016.

Photo ID

If you are voting at a local polling station **you must have photo ID**. The acceptable forms include :-

- UK, European Economic Area [EEA] or Commonwealth passport.
- UK or EEA photo driving licence [not Commonwealth driver's licence].
- Travel passes such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card.

If your photo ID has expired it can still be used if you are recognisable from the photograph.

If you have no photo ID you can apply for free online at gov.uk website or voteridentification@cheshireeast.gov.uk, or complete a paper form, or telephone the electoral services team on **0300 123 5016**

Voting By Post

You can vote by post and must apply before Tuesday 18th April. The form can be found at The Electoral Commission website or by phoning **0300 123 5016**.

For Websites use QR codes below

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID



Modern Martyrs

Modern Martyrs; Westminster Abbey

St. Maximilian Kolbe

One of the statues of Modern Martyrs above the west door at Westminster Abbey is that of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Christian who died in the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz - Birkenau alongside mainly Jewish prisoners. So how did he come to be a prisoner at Auschwitz, passing beneath those infamous gates to his death?

Maximilian was born on 8th January 1894 at Zdunska Wola to a devout Christian, nationalistic family. At age 18 he travelled to Rome to study philosophy and theology, becoming a founder member of the Militia Immaculatae with other fellow students in 1917. Their religious order existed for devotion to the Virgin Mary, to evangelise and to undertake good works. He returned to Poland to lecture at the Franciscan seminary at Krakow and was given land near Warsaw by Prince Jan Drucki - Lubecki in 1927. This land became Niepokalanow, the City of the Immaculata. The movement became famous throughout Poland for its influential publications, some of which did contain anti-semitic material, although not written by Maximilian.

In 1930 Kolbe moved to Nagasaki in Japan

to establish another base for the Immaculatae and to publish further journals. As the Polish journals became hugely successful he returned home to his 'modern workshop of the improvement of man' - his religious publications. When war broke out in Poland he sent the Brothers away, but remained himself. He was soon arrested and eventually interned in Auschwitz. He maintained his faith in the camp, hearing confessions, secretly celebrating mass and giving his food to fellow prisoners. In July 1941 a prisoner escaped from Auschwitz and fellow prisoners were selected for punishment. Franciszek Gajowniczek was condemned to death until Maximilian offered himself in exchange. Ten prisoners were placed in a starvation cell and within two weeks six had died. However, Maximilian remained fully conscious and was executed by lethal injection on the Eve of the Assumption of Mary, 14th August 1941.

His cell remains a shrine and he was beatified as Confessor by Pope Paul VI in 1970 and Canonised as a Martyr by Pope John Paul II in 1982. He was commemorated at Westminster Abbey on 13th January 2019 following the placing of his statue amongst those of the other Modern Martyrs.




Heather Pope

Calveley School

The children at Calveley have been excited by the arrival of some sunshine and spring is in the air. The Eco Council (student representatives from each year group) are ready to start work on an action plan to help school achieve their 'green flag award'. They've been planting bulbs and seeds all around the school in blue and white - Calveley colours! Spare yoghurt pots or ice cream tubs would be really useful for this venture, any donations could be dropped off at Wettenhall Church.

Children from Beech class (years 1 and 2) participated in Young Voices at Manchester Arena on 31st January. They represented the school incredibly well and really enjoyed the opportunity to perform songs that have been months in preparation with thousands of their peers from all over the North West. In other musical news, the children loved a workshop day learning about Djembe drums, all the way from West Africa.

FROCS (the school PTA) has challenged each class to organise a bake sale to see who could raise the most money. This month was the turn of the youngest students - Willow Class and Little Acorns, they did a brilliant job and raised over £70, setting the bar high!

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Worleston School

It has been an exciting month at St Oswald's Primary School. As a school, we are busy looking at how we can make our school as kind, respectful and safe as possible. Mrs McDonough has been celebrating children's successes with 'hot chocolate with the head' which has gone down a real treat. Our youngest children in school have been busy exploring traditions and celebrations that take place across the world. Our Y1/2 Deers class celebrated Chinese New Year in style. They made lanterns, learnt about different Chinese traditions and even had a tasty lunch of Chinese noodles. In Key Stage Two, we were really fortunate to have Reverend Anne come in and remind the children all about communion. The children learnt about why we have communion and even got to try some important foods that go alongside communion and important events in the church calendar. We are all looking forward to the half term holidays and the days getting longer and lighter.



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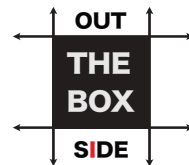
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workplace or home and enter your green space

Recipe

Simnel Cake

Mothering Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Back in the 1700s, the day was marked by young house servants returning home to spend time with their mothers. That custom evolved from an earlier one in which families who had moved away would return to the original church they attended. Today, the holiday remains grounded in religion, with many churches handing out daffodils for children to give to Mum. Traditionally, girls also bake a fruitcake for their mothers.

Ingredients

For the almond paste

- 250g/9oz caster sugar
- 250g/9oz ground almonds
- 2 free-range eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp almond essence
-

For the cake

- 175g/6oz butter or margarine, plus extra for greasing
- 175g/6oz soft brown sugar
- 3 free-range eggs, beaten
- 175g/6oz plain flour
- pinch salt
- ½ tsp ground mixed spice (optional)
- 350g/12oz mixed raisins, currants and sultanas & peel
- ½ lemon, grated zest only
- 1–2 tbsp apricot jam
- 1 free-range egg, beaten for glazing

Method

1. For the almond paste, place the sugar and ground almonds in a bowl. Add enough beaten egg and mix to a fairly soft consistency. Add the almond essence and knead for 1 minute until the paste is smooth and pliable. Roll out a third of the almond paste to make a circle 18cm/7in in diameter and reserve the remainder for the cake topping.
2. Preheat the oven to 140C/120C Fan/Gas 1. Grease and line a 18cm/7in cake tin.
3. For the cake, cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs until well incorporated and then sift in the flour, salt and mixed spice (if using) a little at a time. Finally, add the mixed dried fruit, peel and grated lemon zest and stir into the mixture.
4. Put half the mixture into the cake tin. Smooth the top and cover with the circle of almond paste. Add the rest of the cake mixture and smooth the top leaving a slight dip in the centre to allow for the cake to rise. Bake in the preheated oven for 1¾ hours. Test by inserting a skewer in the middle – if it comes out clean, it is ready. Once baked, remove from the oven and set aside to cool on a wire rack.
5. Brush the top of the cooled cake with the apricot jam. Divide the remainder of the almond paste in half. Roll out a circle to cover the top of the cake with one half and form 11 small balls with the other half. Place the circle of paste on the jam glaze and set the balls round the edge. Brush the cake topping with a little beaten egg.
6. Preheat the grill. Place the cake onto a baking tray and grill for 1–2 minutes, or until the top of the marzipan begins to brown. Alternatively, lightly heat the cake topping using a cook's blowtorch, until the marzipan is golden brown.
7. The eleven balls of almond paste represent Jesus' disciples - minus Judas!



St Oswald's Church, Worleston			
Sidespersons			Coffee
12 th	Mar	Diane Darlington	Jo Bailey
19 th	Mar	Marilyn Booth	Marilyn Booth
26 th	Mar	Pam Haigh	Jill Alexander
9 th	Apr	Mike Alexander	Kath Alexander
Flowers *			Cleaning
		No Flowers In Lent	Mar
			Chrissie Black
9 th	Apr	Marilyn Booth and Josie Foster	Apr
			Alison Stokes

Visit: www.worlestonchurch.org.uk

* Lent began 22nd February. No flowers until Easter Day 9th April

Ukraine

Just over a year ago, we all watched in horror as the Russians invaded Ukraine. One young man felt that he had to do something practical to help, so he left his job and went to Ukraine where he still is, helping those who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

His name is Jacob Howard (22yrs) and he is Josie Foster's grandson. She will show you a photo he sent where he is helping to serve food on Christmas Day, and looking quite cheerful.

Josie and his family are rightly proud of him but worry for his safety. We have prayed for peace in Ukraine and will continue to do so, especially remembering Jacob and his family.



Help Wanted

Does anyone out there fancy a little job helping to produce this magazine? It involves finding and collecting information about rotas, baptisms, the school etc and sending them, by email, to the editor.

Then part of a morning is spent proof reading all the contributions. Please let one of the Wardens know if you are interested. Thanks.

Coffee & Cake

Saturday 4th March from 10-12 noon in Church.

Come along and enjoy Coffee, Cake and Chat.

Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.



Worleston WI

Worleston New Year Party 2023 The January Meeting of Worleston WI was held on Monday 16th January in Acton Parish Hall.

A number of other WI's had been invited to the party, which consisted of a light buffet followed by entertainment provided by Worleston WI Drama Group. The entertainment included sketches and comedy poems written by members and finished with members of the group dressed up in various costumes acting out what they would do:

'If I Were Not In The WI'.

The cast and WI were thanked by one of the guests for a lovely entertaining evening.



Visit of Bishop Mark

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Chester, to St Oswald's on 22nd January. He had planned to come before that, on 8th January, but found that he had another engagement - preaching at the morning service at Sandringham. Bishop Mark preached and presided at Holy Communion at St Oswald's and we trust that this will be the first of many visits.





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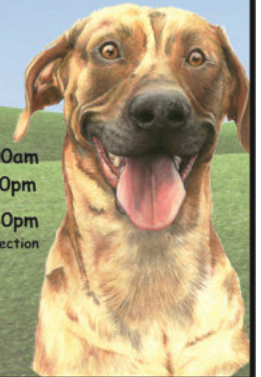


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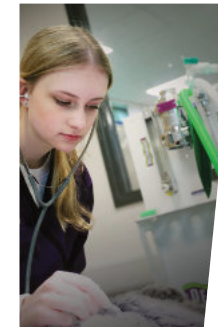
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All copy for the next magazine must be with your Parish Rep or sent to the Editor at: crosscountryparishesnews@gmail.com
NO LATER THAN Friday 10th March 2023
For advertising contact Roger on 01270 528273
For missing birthdays on the list or for special birthday announcements email the editor as for copy or phone Peter on 07939 954806

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