St Mary's Acton St David's Wettenhall & St Oswald's Worleston March 2024



The Cross Country Parishes
of
Acton with Worleston, Church
Minshull and Wettenhall

Dear Friends,

There is an old story that, when the Battle of Waterloo was being fought, the people in England were dependent upon a system of semaphore signals to inform them of the latest state of the conflict being waged on the opposite side of the channel against Napoleon Bonaparte. One of these signals was on the tower of Winchester Cathedral.



Late in the day it flashed the disheartening signal: Wellington defeated.' Just at that moment a cloud of fog obscured the signal and the whole countryside was plunged into deep despair. Suddenly the fog lifted, and the remainder of the message became clearly visible: Wellington defeated.......the enemy!'.

Within the space of a moment, sorrow was turned into joy, and defeat was swallowed up in victory. The good news turned groaning sadness into infectious joy!

And so it was, for those close friends and followers of Jesus when Mary returned from the empty tomb on the first Easter Day. The dramatic effect on them is testimony to its reality and truth. On Good Friday the disciples were utterly miserable. Eleven men weeping and frightened because their Master had died and they had great hopes for his future Kingship. The bottom had dropped out of their world. Three years together with Him and all seemingly for this crushing defeat. They thought he was to be a King and yet he had been crucified like a common criminal.

However, forty eight hours later these same men were no longer miserable- defeat had been turned into victory!. Soon the disciples were up on their feet proclaiming a life-affirming message to set the world wondering: 'Jesus risen from the dead!? Can it really be true?' Their words and actions for the rest of their lives proved that it was. They were willing to die for the truth they now understood. They had seen and believed.

Sometimes it's hard for us to believe in God's presence when our dreams don't turn out as we planned. We ask ourselves, 'How could God let this happen?' We can become so devastated by our sorrow that we can't see God at work around us; and yet we can be sure that He is. The words and deeds of those early disciples in their final years are testament to what they witnessed.

May we too be caught up in the infectious joy of this Easter-time and in our own moments of despair, may we be reminded of His presence, not just at Easter but throughout the rest of our lives.

Happy Easter!

Ann.

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Sunday Services

Acton

- 3rd Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall, 6:30 pm Christ in Quiet
- 10th Mar 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Mothering Service
- 17th Mar 10:00 am Messy Church
- 24th Mar 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 31st Mar 11:00 am Communion
 - 7th Apr 11:00 am Communion, 6:30 pm Songs of Praise

Church Minshull

- 3rd Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall
- 10th Mar 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 17th Mar 11:00 am Communion
- 24th Mar 11:00 am Messy Church
- 31st Mar 9:30 am Communion
 - 7th Apr 11:00 am Service of the Word

Worleston

- 3rd Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall
- 10th Mar 9:30 am Communion
- 17th Mar No Service
- 24th Mar 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 31st Mar 9:30 am Communion
 - 7th Apr No Service

Wettenhall

- 3rd Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall
- 10th Mar 11:00 am Mothering Service Communion
- 17th Mar 11:00 am All Age
- 24th Mar 6:30 pm Communion
- 31st Mar 11:00 am Communion
 - 7th Apr 11:00 am Morning Prayer

	St David's Church Wettenhall					
		Sidespersons	Cleaning and Flowers			
3rd	Mar	Mr G Tucker	Mrs H Wilson and Family			
10 th	Mar	Mrs M Drinkall	Mrs S Ward and Mrs Drinka			
17 th	Mar	Brownies	Wis 5 Ward and Wis Dillikali			
24 th	Mar	Informal	Mrs K Noden			
31st	Mar	Mr A Burrows	Mrs K Noden			
7 th	Apr	Mrs A Hignett	Mrs M Drinkall and Mrs B Brockbank			
	Visit: www.wettenhallchurch.org.uk					

No Flowers during Lent until Easter Day

St.David's Patronal Festival



We welcome Bishop Sam Corley,
the Suffragan Bishop of Stockport,
to celebrate our Patronal Festival on Sunday 3rd March at 11am.
Do join us to sing some rousing Welsh hymn tunes
and enjoy seeing the first spring daffodils
decorating the windows of St. David's.
The service will be followed by tea/coffee and light refreshments.
Everyone is very welcome.



Coffee and Cake

The next meetings will be on 7th March and 4th April from 10-12 noon in Church.
Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.





Diary Dates

Tuesdays during Lent Lent course continues at 2pm in St. David's

Mon 18th March St. David's Parochial Church Council meeting at 7.30pm in church.

Wed 20th March

Cholmondeston & Wettenhall Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm in church. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you wish to add anything to the agenda please contact John Woodward on woodwardjohn@hotmail.co.ok or Heather Pope on hclp@btinternet.com. Thank you .



Mothering Sunday

Don't Forget!

Mothering or Refreshment Sunday is on 10th March. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 11am - and cake!.

Community Speed Watch

Cheshire Police are looking at recruiting Community Speed Watch volunteers.

Community Speed Watch volunteers will be trained in using a speed detector device, which will be clear to vehicle drivers their speed is being monitored. This may be enough deterrent for many motorists to slow down.

The details of speeding vehicles are recorded and then passed onto the Police.

If this is something you are interested in getting involved in or are an existing volunteer that requires re-training due to the recent changes then please contact PCSO Sharon Jones

sharon.jones@cheshire.police.uk

Darnhall and Wettenhall WI

Darnhall and Wettenhall WI February Meeting

Darnhall and Wettenhall WI met in the Darnhall Village Hall on the 6th February 2024 following our annual January break .

It seemed a long time since we had all met together at the previous meeting at the beginning of December 2023, although the Lunch Group and Walking Group have met at least twice during the January break. For the February meeting the speaker for the evening was Elizabeth Folding, who spoke on the topic of Hearing Dogs. This was a most interesting subject and she had brought along her Hearing Dog for Deaf People. Elizabeth explained the process of being matched with a suitable dog, together with the training of both the hearing impaired person and the assistance dog. It was very interesting to learn how puppies are trained and the health checks they have to take prior to their placement . Jean Cornes had also come along to the meeting with Elizabeth and many W.I. members remembered her from her time as a previous president of the Darnhall and Wettenhall W.I. It was good to meet up again with friends and make new friends too.

In the business part of the meeting, dates for future events were confirmed in the diaries and membership programmes were distributed.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm and visitors and new members are always welcome.

For more information contact Jean Hitchen on 01606 833010.

Darnhall Brownies

Welcome and well done to Keira on making her Brownie Promise on 24th January!

Brownies have a enjoyed a wide range of fun-packed activities over the last few weeks. A quiz centred around recognising and naming as many different fruits as possible proved to be very popular. We enjoyed apples, blueberries, mangoes, passion fruits and many more. The session was rounded off by making a delicious fruit salad.

Another fun activity involved our Sixes using newspapers and sellotape to make a ring and, working as a team, managing to walk it from one end of the hall to the other!

Finally, well done to Missy, Orla, Anna and Millie for attending the All Age service and parading the Brownie flag.











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St Mary's Church, Acton Sidespersons		
3 rd Mar	United at Wettenhall	
10 th Mar	Sandra and Mike Houlston	
17 th Mar	Tracey and Peter Foster	
24 th Mar	Lesley and Peter Latronico	
31 st Mar	Sandra and Mike Houlston	
7 th Apr	Miriam Harvey and Steve Davies	
Visit: www.stmarysacton.org		

Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

The next walks are:

 $3^{\rm rd}$ March 2024

7th April 2024

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.

Message from a Parishioner

I sat in my office watching the prisoners on the roof of Strangeways. I sat in the pews at church listening to the Bible readings about prisons and prisoners. I sat on the settee watching prison documentaries on TV. I became an expert, the usual type of armchair expert critic full of useless opinion with no first hand knowledge.

A colleague who was leaving the railway to become a Methodist minister challenged me to do something about my interest in prisons rather than just talk. That shook me. So I did, I volunteered for the Independent Monitoring Board and was accepted and have spent the last 12 years becoming much better informed and hopefully helping in a small way some of those who will one day be released back into our community. Challenging, rewarding, fun and sad, all kinds of emotions but engrossing. I always try to have in mind the victims, some of whom I meet in the family visits hall. What is this job? Could you do this job?

See page 17 for details A Parishioner



Candlemas at St Mary's

On the afternoon of the 3rd February the Forest Church Group celebrated Candlemas - the presentation of Christ to the Temple - and also remembered St. Brigid, patron saint of Ireland, whose death is celebrated on the 1st February. She founded an Abbey in Kildare and we reflected on aspects of her spirituality - healing, witness, creativity and hospitality.



The celebration started in the churchyard in the midst of snowdrops where Sue Hull explained the meaning of the returning of the light in the Christian calendar. We then retired to the church where Ann Williams ran an excellent craft workshop making candles and Brigid crosses and Penni Doyle and Steve Davies gave interesting talks on Witness and Healing respectively.

This was followed by refreshments namely ginger tea, seed cake, sheep's cheese and ginger cake (all associated with St. Brigid) which was enjoyed by the 15 participants who took part.

Sue Hull





Cross Country Pages



this month to

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

Scarlett Swain

Special Wishes

Birthday wishes to Emily Smith of Wettenhall, who celebrates her 90th birthday this month.

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to Jane Brookes on her retirement this month. Jane has cared for many of the parishioners in the Cross Country group throughout her lifetime of nursing, particularly in the Fracture Clinics at Leighton Hospital. We wish her a long and happy retirement!

Don't Forget!!!

The clocks go forward one hour at 1 am On the 31st March 2024



Ladies' Lunch

Thursday 14th March
The Royal Oak, Worleston
12:30 pm - Cost: £12.50
For further details contact:
Heather (528755), Isobel (624521),
Ann (528273) or Joyce (624158)
Please book with Joyce

Mobile Library

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On a Lighter Note

The Sunday School teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to, my mother is a good cook!"

Luke 24:30

Easter Services 2024

Palm Sunday 24th March Services as shown on page 3

Maundy Thursday 28th March 6:30 pm Agape Communion and Meal at St David's Wettenhall

Good Friday 29th March 9:45 am Worleston 10:30 am Church Minshull

11:15 am Wettenhall

12:00 pm Acton

2:00 pm An hour at The Cross at Acton

Holy Saturday 30th March 11:00 am Churchyard Vigil at Acton

Easter Sunday 31st March 9:30 am Communion at Church Minshull

9:30 am Communion at Worleston

11:00 am Communion at Acton

11:00 am Communion at Wettenhall

Plough Sunday Service at Reaseheath

A service of Thanksgiving was held at Reaseheath college on Sunday 4th February to give thanks for the many wonderful gifts that God placed on the Earth to allow his people to farm and feed the nations.

With joyous hymns sung by a congregation made up from across the four parishes, who were joined by several current farming students, Rev Anne Lawson conducted proceedings and brought the farm yard right into the centre of the service.

Bible readings were given by the principal of Reaseheath College Mr Marcus Clinton and Mr Michael-John Parkin, the Chairman of the Nantwich Agricultural Society.

A talk about the work of the Agricultural Chaplaincy was followed by the blessing of the Plough, the milk churn and the local Cheshire soil.

It was a fitting service to acknowledge the gifts of the land and the hard work our farmers do on our behalf. Thanks to Rev Anne and Reaseheath College for all their efforts in giving farming its voice within the church community.









The Apostles; Judas Iscariot

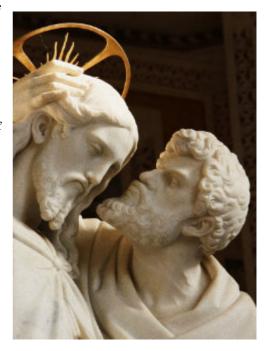
At the end of March we will be thinking of guards of the temple and then takes his the Easter story and Christ's crucifixion. Alongside Jesus there is the central figure of Judas Iscariot, the apostle who betrayed him, resulting in Jesus's death on the cross. The Greek translation of Iscariot means 'a man from Kerioth', a town in Judea. The Latin translation comes from the word sicarius and means murderer or assassin. The Greek sets him apart from the other 11 Galilean apostles and the Latin predicts his role in the life of Jesus, perhaps indicating that he had no escape from his own destiny as the man who betrayed Jesus, part of God's plan to save humanity.

The Bible does not give us much information about Judas and his calling to be an apostle. He was the treasurer for the group of disciples, and the Bible indicates that he was a thief who would dip into the money donated, motivated by greed. As Jesus travelled around Jerusalem and Galilee and became well known to the local people through his healing and teaching, he came to the attention of religious and political leaders. They thought that he was dangerous, a false prophet, and may even become thought of as the 'King of the Jews'. Judas decided to co-operate with the religious authorities in the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, being given 30 pieces of silver for the deed. During the Passover supper with his fellow apostles and Jesus he slipped away from the table. Jesus knew what would happen but did not stop him. Later, with the group praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he approached Jesus, called him Master and kissed him on the cheek. Iesus was identified, arrested, and ultimately executed.

The Bible gives two versions of Judas' actions after the death of Iesus. Matthew says that Judas was full of remorse and returns the money to the priests and

own life by hanging himself. The people who accepted the returned money decided to buy a local field in which to bury foreigners. In Acts Judas is said to use the money to buy a field, but suddenly dies in that field. In both cases the field becomes known as 'The Field of Blood'. reflecting the deaths of both Jesus and Iudas.

In 2006 a translation of a 5th Century copy of a 2nd Century document was published. This was the Book of Judas, said to contradict the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It is not included in any version of the Bible but is said to be a positive reflection of Judas and his life as an apostle, very different from his role in our Easter Story.



Confirmation

A Confirmation Service with Bishop Sam will take place at 11.00 am on Sunday 2 June (Trinity Sunday).

I am aware of a small group of young adults wishing to be Confirmed. If you have not been Confirmed and would like to think more about the possibility of joining them, please contact Rev Anne (countryvicar@outlook.com or 01270 628864).

A 6 week course looking at the Christian faith will be held after Easter, for anyone interested in Confirmation or in refreshing their understanding of the Christian faith.

If you have already been Confirmed but have recently come back to faith it is possible to renew your Baptism Vows as a way of publicly re-affirming your commitment to Christ. Adults who have not been Baptised and would like be Baptised are normally Baptised and Confirmed at the same service.

Participating in the course does not commit you to being Confirmed, although you will need to do the course if you wish to be Confirmed, Baptised or renew your Baptism Vows.

On a Lighter Note

A Banker and a Pope arrived at the pearly gates at the same time. Saint Peter threw open the gates and shouted, "He's here! He's here!" As he led the banker inside, trumpets began to sound, flutes began to play and a chorus of angels sang a celestial greeting. In the excitement, the Pope was knocked down and the pearly gates slammed in his face. He knocked again and Saint Peter opened the gates and let him in. "Saint Peter" cried the Pope, "I have served God all my life and dedicated myself to the salvation of mankind, yet you ignore me and give a great welcome to a Banker!" "Oh, I'm so terribly sorry," explained Saint Peter, "See, we get a great many Popes up here but this is the first Banker we've had!"

"I wonder what we will wear in heaven?" a lady said to her next door neighbour, "I know what I will wear if we are there together," her friend said. "What is that?" the first lady asked, "A surprised look," her friend said.

Matthew 7:21



Congratulations, Gladys: 100 Not Out!

Congratulations to Gladys
Heppell, who celebrated her
100th birthday on 20 January.
Gladys spent many of her
formative years at Church
Cottage, Wettenhall living with
her Aunt, Hilda Tickle and her
Uncle Edmund. She played an
active role in the life of St
David's, and played the organ
occasionally.

Gladys has lived in Chester for many decades, but remains an avid reader of this magazine, and passes it on to other relatives when she has finished with it.

Gladys marked her 100th birthday with family and friends, including Revd Anne, together with members of the community at Kingswood Retirement Centre where she has lived for 10 years.



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Independent Monitoring Board (IMB)

Could you do this job?

Inside every prison there is an Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) – a group of ordinary members of the public doing an extraordinary job. HMP/YOI Stoke Heath near Market Drayton is no exception and we are recruiting new members from early April details below. Stoke Heath is a Category C adult mens Training and Resettlement Prison where men towards the end of their sentence prepare for release.

By law every prison must have an Independent Monitoring Board. IMBs in prisons derive their responsibilities from the Prison Act 1952. The principle of independent monitoring of prisons is one that has been around since Tudor times, although the IMBs of today are very different to those that existed in the past.

IMB members are independent, unpaid and work an average of 2-3 days per month and normally live within about 25miles. Their role is to monitor the day-to-day life in their local prison to ensure that proper standards of care and decency are maintained.

Members have unrestricted access to their local prison at any time and can talk to any prisoner they wish to, out of sight and hearing of a member of staff if necessary. A typical monitoring visit, for example, might include time spent in the kitchens, workshops, accommodation blocks, recreation areas, healthcare centre and chaplaincy.

Board members also play an important role in dealing with problems inside the establishment. If a prisoner has an issue that he has been unable to resolve through the usual internal channels, he can put in a confidential request to see a member of the IMB. Problems might include concerns over lost property, visits from family or friends, special religious or cultural requirements, or even serious allegations such as bullying.

If something serious happens at the establishment, for example a riot or a death in custody, representatives of the board may be called in to attend and observe the way in which the situation is handled.

Could you do this job? Could you work with others to monitor Stoke Heath prison? Listen to prisoners and staff to come to an objective view? You will need to go through a formal interview process and security clearance before appointment. Training and mentoring is provided. If you are interested to find out more about what IMB monitoring involves have a look at our website, our recruitment drive will start in early April, express an interest and apply online at www.imb.org.uk. The same web page can be used for applications to other prison Independent Monitoring Boards.

Recipe

Easy Microwave Brownies

Ingredients

- 150g Salted butter- cut into small pieces ō
- ត 150g Caster sugar
- ត 1tsp Vanilla extract
- ត 2 tbsp Milk
- <u></u> 2 Medium eggs- beaten
- ā 50g Plain flour
- ō 75g Unsweetened cocoa powder
- 80g Milk choc chips



Enjoy

Method

- Put butter in a 20cm x 20cm microwaveable dish & cook in 20 second bursts until melted.
- Remove, swirl around to coat the dish & then pour into a mixing bowl
- Add sugar to the bowl & whisk until creamy.
- in a jug, stir the vanilla extract into the milk along with the beaten eggs.
- Whisk this, a little at a time, into the sugar & butter mixture.
- Sift the flour & cocoa powder together & fold gently into the cake batter.
- Stir in the milk & choc chips.
- Tip into the buttered dish & smooth level
- Cook for 5 minutes or until it's well-risen & slightly firm to touch
- Don't worry if it is still soft in the centre.
- Put the dish on a cooling rack & leave for 20 mins to firm up
- Cut into 8 squares and enjoy!

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St Oswald's Church, Worleston				
Sidespersons	Coffee			
10 th Mar Mike Alexander	Jill and Kath Alexander			
24 th Mar Ann Fletton	Pam Haigh			
31⁵t Mar Marilyn Booth	Sarah Parker			
Flowers	Cleaning			
No Flowers in Lent	Mar Chrissie Black			
31 st Mar Josie Foster and Marilyn Booth	Apr Alison Stokes			
Visit: www.worlestonchurch.org.uk				

No Flowers during Lent until 31st March

Congratulations

Congratulations from everyone at St Oswald's to Mrs Alice Croft, a teacher at St Oswald's School.

Her baby daughter, Zoe Joy, arrived on 28th January. We send our best wishes and hope to meet Zoe soon.

Help Wanted

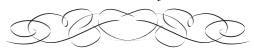
Does anyone out there fancy a little job helping to produce this magazine? It involves finding and collecting information about rotas, baptisms, the school etc and sending them, by email, to the editor.

Then part of a morning is spent proof reading all the contributions.

Please let one of the Wardens know if you are interested. Thanks.

St Luke's Hospice

For 35 years, St Luke's has been providing free of charge specialist palliative care and support for people in mid & south Cheshire living with life limiting illnesses. Our support begins from the moment someone is diagnosed, through to palliative care and then ultimately end of life care. Nevertheless just over 85% of our funding depends upon fundraising and donations carried out in and by our local community which translates into 4740 episodes of care across our services in a year!



Coffee and Cake

Saturday $2^{\rm nd}$ 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 Church Double Whammy Concert

Friday 12th April 2024 at 7 pm
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and
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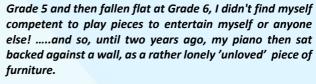


Worleston Music School

Student Spotlight!

Playing the Piano - a journey, for me, that could have reached a dead end, as an unfulfilled ambition ... but for... finding Worleston Music School and the inspirational talent of Andrew Bassey as a teacher.

I have, throughout my life, entertained an underlying ambition to play the piano but, as the saying goes 'life got in the way'. Two attempts, the first as a child lacked supportive guidance and direction, the second attempt was solely focused on playing notes, mastering pieces just sufficiently well in order to pass exams. Having achieved



Some thirty years later I now find myself with time available and having discovered Andrew, I now have renewed hope that 'all is not lost' and my childhood ambition is not on the scrap heap!

Andrew is a skilled musician and he has such a positive attitude, patience and understanding in the way he teaches which I find encouraging.

I now approach the time I spend at the keyboard with a joyful frame of mind - my piano is no longer an unloved piece of furniture! I feel that Andrew is helping me to gain a deeper understanding of music in general and create a sound and secure practice, giving me confidence in my ability and the sense that it is not 'too late' to achieve my ambition to play the piano in a far more competent manner.

I cannot recommend Andrew Bassey as a teacher highly enough.



At Worleston Music School adults and children can learn any orchestral instrument, singing, and piano. Free introductory lesson given!

Worleston Community Orchestra is open to all grade 3 and

above orchestral players and meets at Worleston Village Hall Fridays 7pm during term time. Please contact us if you would like more information and join the fun.

079 857 820 85 WmusicS.com

Calveley School

In recognition of Children's Mental Health Week (5th-11th February) we were excited to welcome well-being writer and children's author Jessica Bowers into school. Children learned about her journey as a writer and completed breathing and mindfulness exercises. It also marked the start of early morning yoga club, and after school club used this week to create bright sunshine art work in Eco Club.

We were so proud of Sycamore and Oak class who sang at Manchester Arena as part of Young Voices. They performed songs alongside thousands of other children from schools all over the North West. The songs were tricky and required months of preparation; they had a brilliant time and did really well.

At the end of January the whole school and nursery took part in a day trip to Chester Zoo. We were so lucky with the weather and saw a fantastic range of animals. There were some tired legs on the way home!

























St Oswald's School. Worleston

This month, the pupils at St Oswald's Primary School have been very busy!

In Years 5 and 6, all of the class went to Safety Central in Lymm to learn how to stay safe and healthy in the community. This included making healthy choices at the shops by looking at sugar and salt content, learning how to cross railway lines in a safe place and how to behave at a train station. They really enjoyed themselves and learnt so much!

We had a Forces Day in Foxes class this month too! The children took part in many experiments using pushes and pulls, moving objects and resistance. They used so many different skills, such as maths, problem solving and even computing skills to predict! We love practical activities as they inspire us to think outside of the box, especially when in a team competing against others!

The whole school took part in the NSPCC Number Day last month. There were computer challenges for multiplication quizzes, problem solving using a variety of



calculations and even a teacher verses pupils 'fastest finger first' test! We love maths and hope to now do a number day each term!





















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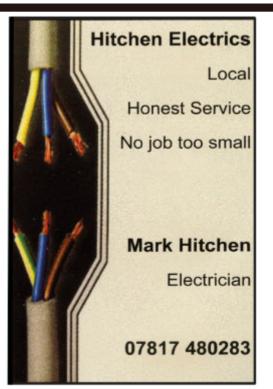
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St Mary's CW5 8LE with St Oswald's CW5 6DR

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