

Parish News

For Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton
December 2020 & January 2021



*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS*

WHO TO CONTACT IN THE BENEFICE

Rector :

The Revd Canon Ian Davenport
The Rectory, Church Street
Malpas. SY14 8PP
Telephone: 01948 860 922
Email: malpas.iandavenport@live.co.uk.

Curate:

The Revd Helen Molesworth
I Wigfield Terrace (office)
Malpas SY14 8PZ
Telephone: 07835 752 499
email revdhelenmolesworth@gmail.com

ST. OSWALD'S MALPAS & ST JOHN'S THREAPWOOD

Church Wardens:

Beverley Dobson 01948 861313
Angela Latham 01948 860544

PCC Secretary:

Karen Kirk 01948 860988

PCC Treasurer:

Louise Furnival 01948 820440

Gift Aid Secretary:

Brian Fletcher 01948 861152

Mothers Union:

Ann Welby 01948 861475

Director Of Music:

Stewart Smith 01948 662412

Julian Prayer Group (monthly, first Monday)

Verger:

Bob Carter 01948 861 017

Tower Captain

Ben Kellett 07742 976950

Friends of St. Oswald's:

Lady Christine Bibby

Ozzies Club—Family Service

Vicky Ridgeway 01948 861140

Social Media

Sue Anderson 07506 994550
sueanderson.quoisleybridge@btopenworld.com

Website

Nigel Dobson 01948 861313
nigel.dobson28@gmail.com

Bible Study Group (monthly second Wed)

ST. JOHN'S THREAPWOOD

Church Wardens: as above

The Friends of St John's:

Gill Edwards 01948 770694

PCC Reps:

Sir Jonathon Clark Bt 01948 770205

The Threapwood Community Group: Sue Pickering 01948 770236

HOLY TRINITY BICKERTON

Church Wardens:

Colin Capewell 01829 782345

PCC Secretary:

Val Capewell 01829 782345

PCC Treasurer & Gift Aid:

Andrew Higgins 01829 260885

Church Flowers:

Janet Mitchell 01829 720549

Organist

Rachel Hall

A Big Thank you for leadership given for our wonderful Parish News

This is the last issue of The Parish News that **Joan Jeffcoat** is doing as the editor and so I write on behalf of the 3 churches of our benefice to thank her very much for all that she has done. Joan has worked so very hard and with enthusiasm and dedication over the past 7 years. Being editor is rather like painting the Fourth Bridge in that one no sooner has the latest edition off to the printers than the next is beginning to take shape and with 10 editions each year this requires planning and preparation to ensure that all is in place to meet the printing deadlines each month. It has been a privilege to work alongside Joan who can now look forward to receiving her Parish News each month without having to be involved in its production.

I also thank **Helen Ravenhill** who has stepped down from heading up the distribution team at St Oswald's for many years. Helen has had the job of dividing up the magazines and bundling them ready for the collectors to take out and this has made it so easy for those calling at church when they are ready. Thank you Helen very much and the next edition will just arrive through your front door without your having to sort it all out!

I also thank **Angela Witter** very much for being our Parish News advertising and finance Officer. Angela is stepping down from this post which is an important role involving responsibility for liaison with our advertisers and collecting the yearly fees which enable us to continue to offer a free copy to every house in our communities.

Thank you Angela very much for all you have done for us it is very much appreciated.

I am delighted to report that **we welcome new members** of the team Nigel Briers and David Ackroyd and they will introduce themselves in the February Edition which will be the first that they will be involved with. Thank you very much Nigel and David for taking this on. Ian.

The United Benefice of St Oswald Malpas and St John Threapwood
and Holy Trinity Bickerton Services for December 2020
Morning Prayer is said from Monday to Thursday at 8 30am at St Oswald's.
Holy Communion is celebrated on Wednesdays at 10am at St Oswald's .

**Please note that the services below may change due
to covid19 restrictions**

Sunday 6th December 2020 Advent 2

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
9 30am Parish Communion at St John's
11 00am Christingle Family Service at Holy Trinity
11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's
4 00 pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

Sunday 13th December Advent 3

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
9 30am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
11 00am Christingle Family Service at St Oswald's
6 00pm Carol Service at St John's

Sunday 20th December Advent 4

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
9 30am Parish Communion at St John's
11 00am Carol Service at Holy Trinity
11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's (Said)
6 30pm Carol Service No 1 at St Oswald's

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve

4 30pm Carol Service No2 at St Oswald's
8 00pm First Communion of Christmas at Holy Trinity
11 30pm Midnight Communion at St Oswald's

Friday 25th December Christmas Day

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
9 30am Communion with Carols at St John's
11 00am Communion with Carols at St Oswald's

Sunday 27th December Christmas 1

No services all day





Friday 1st January The Naming of Jesus and New Years Day

10 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's

Sunday 3rd January Celebration of The Feast of The Epiphany

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's

9 30am Parish Communion at St John's

11 00am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity

11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's

4 00pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's



Sunday 10th January The First Sunday of Epiphany

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's

9 30am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity

11 00am Family Service at St Oswald's

4 00pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

Sunday 17th January The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's

9 30am Parish Communion at St John's

11 00am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity

11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's

4 00pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

Sunday 24th January The Third Sunday of Epiphany

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's

9 30am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity

11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's

4 00 pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

Sunday 31st January The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's

9 30am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity

11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's

4 00pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

Letter from the Rector

Dear All,

Greetings for Advent, Christmas and the New Year.

As I write we are in the middle of a second lockdown in England during this very sad year for the whole world community. We all know of the heartbreak, anxiety and sadness of these very worrying months of Coronavirus. So many have died and so many are bereaved. Throughout it all though the light of goodness, love and dedication, of skill; and self giving and of community spirit has shone through again and again. So many are giving their all to help us and we are grateful. Our thanks to our wonderful NHS, Care Home Staff and all Key Workers is immense, our prayer should be for them in the long hours and stress of the work they do. We are all affected in the suffering of others and so my prayer this Christmas time is that all may know the peace that the Christ Child came to bring in the midst of the worst pandemic to hit us all in a very long time. Pray too for those in Government and Parliament who have major decisions to make on a daily basis.

This is the backdrop to our celebration this year of the birth of The Prince of Peace which Christian people the world over celebrate on the 25th December. The good news is, I believe that a new light came into the world when Jesus was born and although the darkness may seem to all but engulf us at times the light that is Christ can never be extinguished. The message of Christmas is therefore one of hope for us all both in our personal situations, in our local communities, nationally and internationally and this gives me reason to look forward once again in the weeks of Advent to Jesus' birth for me and for you and for all people. People of all faiths and none also have this same sense of hope, if expressed in a different way. There is so much goodness in the world as we all know and see evidence of in our daily lives and so the other side of the Christmas Celebration is a huge thanksgiving for lives lived for others and their good and well being. Let's celebrate that too and let us also approach Christmas and another year in 2021 with hope in our hearts and with a prayer on our lips that as the New Year opens before us the light that we know is there at the end of the tunnel will come closer and closer to us.

God bless you all and our keeping of this season,

Ian.
Rector

Sunday Evening Prayer at St Oswald's 4pm.

Please note that we have decided to change the time of
Sunday Evening Prayer at St Oswald's from
6 30pm to 4pm from now until the end of April.

This will mean that those who come can do so in the light in these winter
months.

Ian(Rector)



Christmas Service for 2020

Please note that although these services times were correct at going to print they may have to change depending on the latest Coronavirus Restrictions. Please note the new times for services that have been put in due to Covid19 and the need to clean afterwards.

Please contact Val and Colin at Bickerton and The Rector for Malpas and Thrapwood to book in for a service that is labelled TICKET ONLY. Thank you.

Sunday 6th December Second Sunday of Advent



- 8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
- 9 30am Parish Communion at St John's
- 11 00am Christingle Service at Holy Trinity.
- 11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's
- 4 00pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's



Sunday 13th December Third Sunday of Advent

- 8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
- 9 30am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
- 11 00am Christingle Family Service at St Oswald's
- 6 00pm Carol Service at St John's (Detail to follow TICKET ONLY)

Sunday 20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
- 9 30am Holy Communion at St John's
- 11 00am Carol Service at Holy Trinity(TICKET ONLY)
- 11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's
- 6 30pm Carol Service at St Oswald's(TICKET ONLY)

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve

- 4 30pm Carol Service at St Oswald's(TICKET ONLY)
- 8 00pm First Communion of Christmas at Holy Trinity(TICKET ONLY)
- 10 30pm First Communion of Christmas at St Oswald's(TICKET ONLY)

Friday 25th December Christmas Day

- 8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
- 9 30am Communion with Carols at St John's(TICKET ONLY)
- 11 00am Communion with Carols at St Oswald's (TICKET ONLY)

Sunday 27th December NO SERVICES ALL DAY.



JULIAN MEETING FOR DECEMBER 2020

We live in a world of increasing communications supplied to us in a myriad of forms trying to inform, convince and so lead us to form opinions about the subject matter. Communication is not just about finding intelligible words. It is also about giving something of yourself. It has validity only if, like Edgar in *Lear*, we ‘speak what we feel, not what we ought to say’. But communication may go deeper still and be about a desire to say, and a yearning to receive, something which words can only point at. We sense there is something more. Words are always approximate: they hint at the reality some call God. Words point to the experience of love, but never entirely capture it. It needs to be enfleshed. Words struggle to describe the beauty of a primrose. It needs to be seen. What words sometimes do is to exclude. Perhaps by being technical, and a book on computers or a book on the Trinity may be equally nonsensical to one who has not learned that particular language.

In writing about wonder I am writing above all of what it means to be human. I happen to be a Christian. So often Christians write as if they possess a privileged insight into what it is to be human and go on to speak a language that only the enlightened will understand. But if it is true (as I profoundly believe) that we are each made in ‘the image of God’, that we are bodies and we are also spirits, embodied spirits that have qualities not found in inanimate nature, then ‘human’ and ‘Christian’ are not mutually exclusive terms, nor is a Christian called to be anything other than human. Each of us is unique, yet the story of any one of us is in some measure the story of us all. What a Christian claims to have is a different frame of reference which may enable us to become the kind of people God calls us to be.

In order to do this, we must learn how to see. Artists know this. The true artist does not manipulate or indoctrinate us: he doesn’t have to. He simply shows us how things truly are. For van Gogh, Christ is the supreme artist ‘disdaining marble and clay and colours, working in the living flesh’. Those who write of the impact of Jesus upon them are saying: ‘Look! Listen! A child is born and a man dies, and in that story of that birth and that life, in images of water and bread, in damaged lives healed and in people forgiven and set free, and on a wooden cross and in an upper room a new way of living becomes possible, a new creation is set in being, and a whole new understanding of God is revealed.’

Dag Hammarskjöld, the United Nations Secretary General killed in a plane crash in 1961, wrote in his personal journal: “God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason.” One of the wisest Jewish teachers of the last century, Abraham Joshua Heschel, a refugee of the Nazis, said towards the end of his life: ‘I did not ask for success: I asked for wonder.’ As we draw near to Christmas, a time of great wonder at the mystery of the birth of Christ, we pray for a better understanding of the coming of the Christ child and an increase in our belief that he cherishes every one of us whatever our circumstances and problems we encounter. “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel!”
Brian Fletcher

CHURCH FINANCES

I would like to keep you informed of the church's financial status at this moment.
(31st October 2020)

The total giving for the month of September was about £4,150 which was about £100 more than September 2019.

I thank those parishioners who have responded so positively to the information I included in the church magazine for June re. the church's bank account details and have used them to make their regular donations.

However, we still need more parishioners to contribute regularly in order to meet our weekly costs of £1,300.

Please, if you can, make your financial commitment to the church on a regular basis. Although services have restarted, no collections are taken in them for obvious reasons of safety. Hence, the details which follow indicate how your financial support might be made.

The weekly envelopes for 2021 will be available from mid November and will be displayed in boxes on the table at the back of church. Please collect them before the end of the year.

Details of how you can give financially:

(1) Direct to the bank or by direct debit/standing order:

Church Account Number 08202877

Bank Sort Code 55 81 16

(2) By Cash or Cheque (made out to St Oswald's Church) in your weekly envelope or a yellow one (with your name and address). Put it into the large chest near the main door.

Thank you for helping our church to survive and to continue to play its important role in the local community.

Brian Fletcher Gift Aid Recorder

ST OSWALD'S WITH DECORATIONS MADE BY THE CHILDREN



OF THE ALPORT SCHOOL FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY



Owing to the pandemic sadly it is not possible to produce a programme for 2021 at this time as usual. But when we can gather safely together again for meetings the details will be given here.

During this Advent season as we approach Christmas a prayer from Mother's Union.

This Advent, as we wait for the Hope of the world,
We pray that the love of God will fill us
with sure and certain hope.
God of light and hope
hear our prayer
Amen



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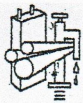
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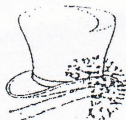
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MALPAS & THREAPWOOD NEWS

MENTAL HEALTH HELP LINES.

MIND helpline: 0300 123 3011

Open Mon to Friday 9am to 6pm

Local Urgent Mental Health helpline

For mental health support contact Cheshire and Wirral partnership NHS foundation trust - Urgent Mental Health helpline on **0800 145 6485**.

Open 24/7 to people of all ages (including children and young people). The first port of call for mental health help. Operated by trained professionals who understand how best to support local people.

Number 71 (based in Chester) Support to anyone in a mental health crisis (face to face or over the phone). They are open 10am-midnight **01244 393 139**.

[SilverCloud](#) - People that are registered with any medical practice in Cheshire West and Chester borough can access SilverCloud. An online self-referral option that enables people to access a programme full of techniques for anxiety and depression.

People can complete therapy in their own time, at pace that suits them, whilst having regular online reviews with a qualified mental health practitioner.

The programme can be tailored to your specific needs. It provides access to different modules that provide information about depression and anxiety and tools and skills to manage these more effectively. <https://www.cwp.nhs.uk/services-and-locations/services/western-cheshire-iapt/self-referral-and-how-to-get-help/>.

National mental health help:

Samaritans **116 123** (open 24/7) they will listen to anyone, no matter how big or small their problem is (it's not just for people who are suicidal).

[CALM](#) (campaign against living miserably) **0800 585858** (open 5pm-midnight) CALM helps support people through their depression and aims to lower the rates of suicide, particularly for males. They also have a webchat

option for those who find it hard to speak about how they are feeling.

[Sane](#) provides emotional support to people affected by mental health and their friends and families. People can leave a message on **07984 967708** and a trained volunteer will get back in touch with them.

[Papyrus](#) is the leading national charity to prevent suicide in younger people (under 35 years old). They have a hopeline - **0800 068 4141** (open 9am-midnight every day)

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Information about local services and support for residents in Cheshire West.
<https://cwc-live.occsites.co.uk/>

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Cheshire West and Chester Council central contact: **0300 123 7031** Line open Mon -Fri and Sat. morning.



MALPAS AMATEUR GARDENERS

Malpas Amateur Gardeners wish all their members a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. As our schedule remains suspended due to Government Guidelines our Annual AGM will be dealt with by email during the next few weeks and a new schedule and committee will be arranged for 2021. Sadly after many years of devoted service Paul and Alan will be retiring from the committee, but wish the club every success for the future once meetings are resumed, for any additional information please contact Paul or Alan on 01948 770522 or any committee member.

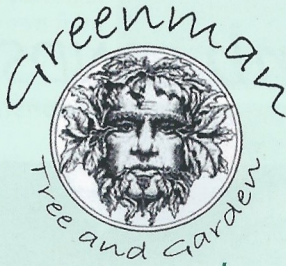
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Residents support during the Covid19 lockdown

When the last Covid19 lockdown started in March, the government through the NHS instructed many individuals with underlying health problems to self-isolate.

At that time, Malpas Community Links recruited a team of volunteers and took action to support these specific individuals and others in our local community that requested our support.

During the current lockdown which is scheduled to run to the 2nd December, it is only people classed as being in a clinically extremely vulnerable category who are to receive a letter of advice from the NHS

We have many very self-sufficient and proud residents in our community, but we recognise that from time to time, we all need the support of others.

Notwithstanding the new social distancing rules, as a first step we would ask residents to “look in” on their near neighbours to see if they are well and if they require any assistance. We believe that this can be achieved without breaking any of the social distancing rules.

However, if you need help from Community Links we are here:

Contact us by telephone:

Cathy Reynolds (07808 772215) or Chris Whitehurst (860333) or Rachael Williams (860627)

Or E-mail editor@malpascheshire.org

If you are willing to help out as a volunteer then please get in touch using the above details.

Best wishes.

Chris Whitehurst

High Street Church Malpas

Methodist & URC



We are sorry to announce, that due to the current situation and uncertainty of government



guidelines, the High Street Church remains closed for Sunday Worship, Cheeky Monkeys and any group meetings. When we re-open we will welcome you all to

'Come, just as you are to Worship'

Contacts: Rev. David Hamblin 01270 625789, Rev Rob Weir 01948 663936



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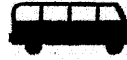
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CHESTER CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2020

This year the trees will be spread across the Cathedral to allow plenty of space for social distancing and exploring the whole building.

There will be a nominal entry fee of £2.50 for adults, children free. Please book in advance, tickets will be on sale shortly.

BICKERTON NEWS

Bickerton Village Hall

(Long Lane, Bickerton SY14 8AU)

CHRISTMAS WREATHS WORKSHOP

Saturday 5 December 2020 at 2pm

£35 inclusive of all materials

To reserve your place, please call Mrs Val Capewell 01829 782 345

Cheques in advance please made payable to *Bickerton Village Hall*.

Please place in an envelope marked *Wreath Workshop*

and send to *Mrs Val Capewell, Meadow Cottage, Hill Lane, Brown Knowl, Broxton CH3 9HT.*

PLEASE BRING AN APRON AND SECATEURS

WREATH ORDERS

£35 To reserve your custom made door wreath or table decoration, call Val - details as above. Available for collection from the Hall on Monday 7 December 3-5 pm.

Please note: Covid restrictions will be strictly adhered to both at the Workshop and for collection of wreaths.



BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL REOPENING

The village hall is hoping to open for business again, under Covid-related safety conditions as soon as lockdown has ended at the beginning of December. Any one-off bookings will be welcome, provided they meet government requirements.

Here's a great new way to make contributions to the Bickerton Village Hall charity at no cost to yourselves!!

If you shop on Amazon, you can ask them to donate 0.5% of your purchase amount to a charity of your choice. I have registered Bickerton Village Hall as one of these charities, so if you want to support us, here's the simple process you need to follow:

- Instead of going into Amazon on-line in the usual way, log on to **smile.amazon.co.uk**. The first time you enter this, you will be asked to register your details and to choose a charity to donate to. Bickerton Village Hall is on an alphabetic drop-down list.
- After that, every time you log into smile.amazon.co.uk you will go straight to the normal Amazon shopping screen, but there will be a message saying that when you make a purchase they will be donating 0.5% of the value to BVH or whatever charity you've chosen.
- Proceed with the purchase as normal. The donation will happen automatically without you doing anything else, and without any extra cost to yourself.

Clearly some donations will be fairly small, depending on how much you spend, but they will all add up and will help to get BVH through this difficult time.

You don't need to tell us if you are making use of this function or not - it is all automatic after your initial registration.

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The Parish News has been produced under the control of the **Rector** and the **Parochial Church Council** who bear ultimate responsibility for the contents

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