

# Parish News

For Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton

June 2021



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## 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:**

Ann Welby 01948 861475

### **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

### **PCC Reps:**

Sir Jonathan Clark Bt 01948 770205

*The Friends of St John's:*

Gill Edwards 01948 770694

*The Threapwood Community Group: Sue Pickering 01948 770236*

## HOLY TRINITY BICKERTON

### **Church Wardens:**

Val Capewell 01829 782345

### **PCC Treasurer & Gift Aid:**

Andrew Higgins 01829 260885

### **Organist**

Rachel Hall

### **PCC Secretary:**

Mary Butterworth 01829 720801

### **Church Flowers:**

Janet Mitchell 01829 720549

## **Note from the Editor**

This is a time of change for our Churches with the departure of both Ian and Helen. We all wish them the very best for the future and we will remember their contribution to our Communities for some years to come.

My thanks to Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School for sending a copy of a painting by one of their pupils which serves as the cover for this magazine. If you have any paintings/photographs you would like us to use please send them to the e-mail address given below. If you wish to make a contribution to future issues please let me know. I am hoping to secure an on-line interview with our Bishop for an Autumn edition of this magazine. If you have any questions for him please send them to me.

For all future issues if you wish to advertise or amend an existing advert please contact David Ackroyd at [davidackroyd1@outlook.com](mailto:davidackroyd1@outlook.com)

The next issue will cover the months of July and August and then it will be monthly until a joint December/January issue. It does take some time to assemble and print, so any items for inclusion should be with me at the start of the preceding month.

**Nigel Briers**

[nigelbriers@btinternet.com](mailto:nigelbriers@btinternet.com)

The United Benefice of St Oswald Malpas and St John Threapwood  
and Holy Trinity Bickerton Services for June 2021

Holy Communion is usually celebrated on Wednesdays at 10am at St Oswald's.

**Sunday 6th June The First Sunday after Trinity**

- 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
- 6 30pm Evensong sung by a small Choir from St Oswald's

**Sunday 13th June The Second Sunday after Trinity**

- 8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
- 9 30am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
- 11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's
- 6 30pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

**Sunday 20th June The Third Sunday after Trinity**

- 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
- 6 30pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

**Sunday 27th June The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

- 8 00am Holy Communion at St Oswald's
- 9 30am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
- 11 00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's
- 6 30pm Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

## The Vacancy has started.

The congregations said a sad farewell to Ian, our Rector of the last ten years, at our services on Sunday, 25th. April. We would just like to thank everyone who contributed to the very generous collections we did for Ian, it was lovely to see how pleased and surprised he was by his presents. We, the Churchwardens will endeavour to keep all the services going during the Vacancy, but please check the Weekly Sheet and the Parish News for any updates.

Our Curate the Rev. Helen Mouldsworth has come to the end of her curacy and we will be saying goodbye to her at the 10am service on Wednesday, 16th June at St Oswald's. Before that she will be taking her last service at Threapwood at 9.30am and her last 11am service at St Oswald's on Sunday, 6th June. She will be at Bickerton on Sunday, 13th. June at 9.30 am. Helen has been with us for four years and has brought a unique style of ministry to us all. Helen celebrated her first Communion Service on Sunday, 16th. June 2019 at St.Oswald's. Covid has brought many new challenges to us all. We have been particularly fortunate to have had Helen with us at this time, to help guide us through the difficulties. Her Study Group and the Prayer Circle that she has run each week along with weekly reflections has encouraged and inspired us all. We thank you Helen for your ministry with us, your kindness, enthusiasm, care and guidance. We all wish you a long and fulfilling ministry as you go forward to pastures new.

Best wishes and thank you.

**The Churchwardens, Beverley Dobson and Angela Latham.**



# Confirmation Service at St. Oswald's Church

## Sunday 9th May

With the New Bishop of Chester Bishop Mark Tanner also the New Rural Dean Tim Haywood. Revd Karen Andrews. Curate in charge of Whitewall, Marbury & Tushingham. With her 2 candidates from Whitewall. And Revd Helen Molesworth Curate St. Oswald's Church and her 3 candidates.



# Church Wardens Report from Val Capewell Bickerton Holy Trinity

Rector's farewell: I want to thank all who contributed to Ian's farewell gift. It was amazing that a such a small congregation raised more than £1500 and I was able to thank Ian on your behalf for all his years of dedicated service and wonderful ministry to us. He deserves a well earned rest and a cheque for £1,420 as well as a Roberts radio and a few decorated cards were presented to him at his final service with us.

## **Reverend Helen's leaving:**

Helen is leaving us in mid June at the end of her curacy and moves on to the prison service at the Berwyn Prison, Wrexham. We are deeply sorry to wave goodbye. Her last service with us which will require a booking please will be on June 13th at 9-30am.

Interregnum: It is indeed a time of change and some will be concerned at what will happen in the future and yearn for the return of Ian and Helen, or of course we can look back with joy in our hearts and fond memories of them both. We must now look to the future and embrace the change. We will be without a Minister for some months but the PCC has worked hard to produce a Parish profile and other documents that were needed for advertising the vacancy. I shall endeavour to ensure we have a Minister each Sunday but on occasions we may have 'Lay led' services where the service will be led by the congregation based upon a Service of the Wardenship: I became Warden a few weeks ago at the last APCM taking over from Colin who is facing some health issues. I shall now be the only Warden and very much the 'new girl'. The PCC are very supportive and have offered to help if I am unavailable, and our previous Warden Brian Jeffcoat has also offered to help. Please be patient and I am determined to ensure that the warm, caring Church under the rector's previous ministry will continue despite the absence of a minister.

**Val Capewell**

# Journey's End

Where to begin? Since setting foot in St Oswald's on Advent Sunday 2016 as an ordinand in training so much has happened along the road of faith and ministry. I thank God with all my heart that He called me to make this journey. Every journey has summit moments and valley lows; sunny days and grey skies; and, if we've never made it before, a surprise around every corner and an element of the unknown. My journey is no exception! I've reached my destination as far as my training curacy is concerned. The Church of England sees fit to let me loose! Thank you, God!

Allow me to reminisce a while.....There was breakfast in a clerical collar for the first time on the morning of my ordination as Deacon in Chester Cathedral. When I woke that morning it felt like my Wedding day. A day of unspeakable joy! And then a year later I'm there again, this time to be ordained priest. And to see so many of our Church family there cheering me on was so generous and affirming. My ordinations were summit days! And then I was floating on air as I presided as a priest at my first Holy Communion in St Oswald's. Our church family of Holy Trinity, St John's, St Oswald's and my home church of St Martins all gathered. Even bell ringers came from St Martins. I shall never be able to thank you all enough for how you marked the occasion. These summit days made bearable the valley lows. And there have been moments of deep sadness, not least the funerals of parishioners I had come to know and love as their curate. But what a privilege to commend them to their Maker. By contrast there were the sunny days of baptisms.....tears too but this time from the bewildered babe in arms. Again, sheer joy and a privilege to be part of another's adventure of faith. 'What's the weather today?' we would sing at Rainbow Rhymes in High St Church every Friday.



How I have loved being with those toddlers– a breath of fresh air! Who said that children are the Church of the future? They are the Church of today! I will always keep Bickerton school prayer in my heart too, picturing those little pray-ers, hands together and eyes tightly closed. By contrast I have been enriched by the wisdom of those of riper years. And home visits to parishioners, celebrating Holy Communion together - will they ever know how much these visits were a blessing to me? And the bible study groups and the film studies that kept my reservoirs topped up, with much laughter along the way as well as spiritual food for thought and fellowship. In all the busyness there have been those precious moments of silence and stillness , just me and God in church with the door closed. And then what of the sublime times of worship – my first Midnight Mass as a priest; Holy Week when to the sound of St Oswald's choir singing Allegri's Miserere I was lifted to another place; or simple worship with the faithful when just 2 or 3 gathered in His name but we felt the whole company of heaven with us. Thank you Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton for accompanying me on this important stretch of my journey. We've been companions on the road and for that I shall be forever grateful. As the sun sets on my curacy and rises on the next exciting phase in the life of your community and its churches, I pray that you will know the hand of God guiding you forward on the wind of His Spirit. God speed, my friends, and thank you for having me.

**The grace and peace of the Lord be with you always, Revd Helen**



# Thank you to The Revd Helen Molesworth from Canon Ian Davenport, Former Rector

I first came into contact with Helen when she was a very much respected and well known Diocesan Registrar. Helen was always most helpful to clergy and laity alike and her excellent advice was always very thought through and she has helped so many of us make our way through the minefield that is the law surrounding marriage and faculty applications. Helen was very good at attending all the annual Archdeacons Visitations . This took her the length and breath of the diocese, often working till late in the evening especially if she had to travel a distance to and from an evening service. Helens clear faith shone through in all her dealings with us and so I was delighted to hear from Bishop Peter that Helen would come to look at doing her college placement in our Benefice. As we all know she quickly made her mark amongst us and settled in and was able to join in worship and other activities around our two parishes and in all 3 churches. I was delighted when it was decided that Helen would stay on to serve her title here and so she joined the clergy team on ordination as Deacon in 2018 and then was Priested in 2019.

It has been a privilege for us all to be a part of Helens formation as she has stepped out in Ordained Ministry and we have all been touched by her living and vibrant faith and her deep desire to reach others for Christ. Helens preaching is lively, clear, Bible based, strengthening, encouraging and challenging . Many a time I have come away from a service at which Helen has preached with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Her relaxed style is one of engagement rather than “preaching at” and so people respond-I have learnt so much from her as I know so many have. Helen has further developed the Bible Study Group at St Oswald’s and her ministry to the group has been much appreciated as it has also by the group that met to consider the Christian Message in films such as “ The Kings Speech”. From the beginning of her time with us Helen brought new direction to the Monthly Family Service and along with others of the Ozzies Club sought to open the worship to a wider group. She introduced us to Tazie chants in prayer time and this and the relaxed style was much appreciated. It was Helen who encouraged Marie and others to get involved in the Family Service and also to explore the use of part of the north isle to be a children’s corner. This has been a great success and prior to the sad months of Covid 19 and when church was open the corner was the focus for younger ones to make for. A wonderful opportunity for teaching the faith. I will always remember the Saturday workshops and the Easter one especially. A church full of young people busily engaged in craft and then in worship. This same theme was carried out by Helen, Marie and Andy ( the youth worker from High Street Church) in an ecumenical setting at The High Street Church. I was privileged to be there. Helen has been very active on the ecumenical scene in Malpas being part of Rainbow Rhymes each Friday morning and that has been a special outreach that it would great to continue.

Helen has brought her own style to the leading of worship be that at St Oswald’s in Holy Trinity or at St John’s and be it from The Book of Common Prayer from the more formal Common Worship services or at a Service of The Word. All have felt included and many had said this to me.

Helen has brought a very special gift to her leading of the Good Friday services. We will all long remember the nails put into the cross (made by Steve from the Christmas tree) that were changed to white on Easter Day. The devotion brought many to tears as we recalled the passion and death of Our Lord that is at the heart of our faith. In these troubled times of Covid Helens Good Friday liturgy that was done at both St Oswald's and Holy Trinity was deeply moving so much so that one person who was there put a message on my answering machine to say it was the most splendid and moving Good Friday service that she had ever been to.

Helens ministry in Holy Trinity Church School Bickerton has been very special. Her use of visual aids and her God given ability to engage with people of all ages has meant that she was very soon a very special part of the school community. The sadness of this last year is that assemblies could not take place. Helens preparing young people for confirmation in school has been much appreciated. In this year of coronavirus Helen's talent for communication has led to the setting up of the Wednesday Wave of Prayer and the Prayer Warriors have grown and grown. Helens leadership of this has been very much appreciated as has also the truly wonderful videos that she and Steve have produced. Very special times that can be played over many times and be a continued means of inner strength. Helen has always had time for others and so her visiting the sick in hospital or at home and her taking of Holy Communion out to those who cannot get to church has been very much appreciated as is her officiating at Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

As part of her deep desire to reach folk with the gospel and Good News of Jesus who would not come within the orbit of Church Life Helen became involved with the work of Chaplaincy at HMP Berwyn. This has proved to be a very special part of her ministry and one which will be at the focus of her next steps in ministry when as she moves on in Gods plan for her. I was very privileged to be at her licensing as Chaplain at Berwyn just recently and I found it a most moving service of commitment and dedication to a very special ministry. Its front line in every way and Helen and all the team there are bringing Gods light, healing and grace into a dark place. This is so much needed and I know that one of the greatest things that we can all do for Helen now is to pray for her and Gods leading as she continues the work there and where ever He leads her.

I want to thank Steve for all he has done in supporting Helen's ministry and also for his ministry to us as well in his contribution to the videos, Christmas Trees turned Crosses and being here at services and events with Helen when he could be. Thank you.

My final comment is one of thanks personally to my colleague in Christ for all Helen has done for me and in support of ministry here in The Benefice. I am very grateful and will recall to the end of my days her comment " Seek to serve and please only God" which is something that I feel that she would say to everyone.

May God bless you very richly Helen and we know that you will be a blessing to all you meet in your ministry now and always.

**Ian.**

# Tributes to Helen

The Reverend Helen Molesworth led our Bible studies here in Malpas on arriving in our Parish to train in her curacy.

Helen brought to the group her love of God, her dedication and her knowledge. She was always positive, thoughtful and encouraging. We loved our discussions and the pieces of information she brought with her to stretch us in our understanding. These gave us a better insight into the passages we were covering. When we couldn't meet because of Covid restrictions, Helen launches the Wave of Prayer which grew in participants with every passing week. So many benefitted from this with her prayers and her meaningful and helpful reflections on the readings.

We shall miss her so much but hope she will take our grateful thanks for the time she has spent with us forward into the Ministry that God has planned for her.

## **Bronwen Guest**

As well as saying goodbye to Ian, we will have to bid farewell to Helen in June too. It will be hard to think of her going, and she will leave a very empty space which will be hard to fill. She has been a quiet presence all along but will be remembered for her wonderful snowy ski slopes background for her Zoom calls, her sign language lessons for the Peace, and her wonderful hugs (when they were allowed). She will continue her fine work at Berwyn Prison Wrexham and she goes with our love, blessings and grateful thanks for all she has brought to the Benefice.

## **Judith Wadham**

During her time in the benefice Helen has been a great asset, not only preaching at our services at Holy Trinity, but also supporting many individuals and good causes. Having run very successful Alpha courses at HMP Berwyn, she will be taking up a role as prison chaplain there. Our loss, their gain! We wish you every success in your new career Helen and hope you will be able to spare a few minutes occasionally to keep in touch.

## **Charles Hobson**

St. Oswald's Mother's Union wish to express our thanks and appreciation to Helen for all her support and fellowship given to us during her curacy here.

She often led prayers at meetings and enlivened our meetings with a sense of fun whether it was a quiz or making prayer beads we were always challenged.

Wishing her every blessing and success in her new ministry as she moves on.

## **St. Oswald's Mothers Union**

When Helen first came to St Johns we were all impressed by her commitment and were so pleased when she was ordained. A service we were privileged to attend in Chester Cathedral.

She was a very able back up to Ian and their influence has increased the congregation of St Johns. Her Wednesday Wave of Prayer thoughts have been inspirational and thought provoking in these extraordinary times. We all wish her well in her next position at HMP Berwyn.

## **Johnathan Clarke St John's Threapwood**

# An Appreciation of Revd Helen Molesworth

A sincere thank you Helen for all you have brought to our parish, as a much loved and respected Curate, always willing to listen to others and supportive of Ian's ministry throughout. Helen always greets everyone with a warm, welcoming smile and a cheery sense of humour, features apparent when I first met her in her role as registrar at the Archdeacon Visitation services. She has a deep faith, very hard working and puts considerable thought into everything she does. This is evident in her inspiring and encouraging sermons which display her deep faith, always well planned and clearly presented, much appreciated by our congregation. She has introduced us to some inspiring special services, helping to challenge and develop our commitment. Especially note worthy was her Service of Nails conducted, with her husband, on a Good Friday, a quite emotional occasion. Her weekly on line reflections and prayers during Covid 19 have also been much appreciated and given continual spiritual encouragement to many during these difficult times.

We have been really lucky to have had such a talented Curate and wish her every success in her chosen future journey into the ministry of the church.

**Brian Jeffcoat**

## Reverend Helen's leaving

It seems only yesterday that Helen Molesworth arrived as our new Curate. How quickly two years passed until the day she was ordained at Chester Cathedral, which some of us were privileged to witness, and later present when she took her first Eucharist. Now, in the blink of an eye, another 2 years have rolled by and it is time for her to move to ministry in the Prison Service, where she feels called.

During her time with us, Helen has become a much-loved member of the community in Bickerton, being known affectionately to some as "our Helen". She worked closely with Ian and helped to spread his load in the 3 parishes. On the occasions she took services in Holy Trinity, her sermons were quietly inspirational. She developed a lovely rapport with the children at Holy Trinity Primary School. We will remember the wonderful artwork, displayed in Church, representing the Stations of the Cross which the children created under her guidance. And I'm sure Ian was grateful for her IT expertise, especially during lockdown!

Our loss is the Prison Services gain. I know Helen has many thoughts about how she will bring her Faith and Ministry to the men in HM Berwyn. They are someone's son, father, brother, partner and need a non-judgemental person alongside them, to help them not only practically but spiritually. Helen has those qualities and we know she will soon become "their Helen". I admire Helen for leaving the safety and security of a middle -class comfortable parish to work in a Prison, but isn't that just what the Lord would have wanted? I believe they will take her and her Faith into their hearts and protect her.

We wish you every blessing, Helen, in your calling. Be assured you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

We will miss you.

**Val Capewell, Warden**

On behalf of the PCC

# High Street Church Malpas

Methodist & URC



## Welcome again to Worship

Services will re-commence at the beginning of JUNE, initially on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAYS of each month at 10.45am.

We look forward to seeing you so

*'Come, just as you are to Worship'*

Contacts: Rev. David Hamblin 01270 625789;

Rev Rob Weir 01948 663936



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# **The Rectors Retirement Lunch**

## **Sunday 27th June**



**Please join us on the  
Ground Behind St Oswald's Church  
From 12 noon**

**£10 per person (Children £5) Which includes a glass of prosecco  
(Children Glass of Fruit Juice)**

**Tickets available at Table at Eaton's and Honey Bee Florists  
or contact Church Wardens**

**Beverley Dobson on 07928534065**

**beverley.dobson21@gmail.com**

**Angela Latham 07968593112**

**amlatham1@outlook.com**

**Tickets are limited to 200**



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# Easter Julian Meeting

There are in every life, except perhaps in the most severely diminished by disability or circumstance, days when we cannot avoid the transcendent and mysterious. The most obvious have to do with birth and falling in love, illness and death. These times may be at once deeply spiritual and deeply carnal experiences, putting us in touch with levels of experience that we sense but may find it difficult to describe. To hold your newborn child in your arms for the first time is something wholly different from awaiting its arrival and imagining what it will look like. To see a living creature emerge with ears and fingernails, and a palm engraved with the lines he or she will carry to the grave, and to know that without you this tiny human being who is unlike any other who has ever been born, with a unique personality and a unique destiny, simply would not be, must be a cause for wonder.

As is falling in love, especially when that leads to a deep and lifelong commitment; and to give yourself without reserve to that particular mystery is to trust that you are able to be lifted out of the narrowness of self in the give-and-take of love, and in so transcending yourself become more, not less, what you truly are. But the key moments of our lives are not all happy ones: they are often moments of darkness and confusion. Inevitably, some people have to bear heavy crosses from time to time: darkness and pain of different kinds: sickness, or the loss of work, or the death of one who means more to them than life itself.

At those points of crisis it is hard to escape questions about what a human being is and what hidden depths lie within us, and each of us has sometimes been amazed and humbled by the inner resources of courage and self-sacrifice people can call upon at such times. People have not been taught to think of their response to crisis or their coping with pain or - and this is the most significant gift - their natural compassion, as a mark of their Godlikeness, but insofar as they enlarge our potential to give our loving attention to others, then they are precisely that; and there are innumerable ordinary experiences which have the quality of transcendence because they have taken us beyond our own egoistic selves.

In any age, and particularly in the last 12 months, we witness many examples of true compassion; in the NHS, the lifeboat and ambulance services and, in every local community where many souls are prepared to assist those in every sort of need. We are indeed blessed in our own village that so many are striving to help others in so many ways without acclaim. There are so many displays of true compassion which have the quality of transcendence because they have taken us beyond our own egoistic selves. That has got to mean working with the raw material each of us is given, the stuff of daily experience, and helping one another to build on whatever glimpses we may have had of the reality of God at the heart of our own lives. For almost certainly those glimpses will be authentic, if unrecognised, experiences of the transcendent reality in which our lives are rooted.

Frederick Buechner puts it much better than I can:

“There is no event so common-place but that God is present within it, always hiddenly, always leaving you room to recognise or not to recognise him.....If I were called upon to state in a few words the essence of everything I was trying to say both as a novelist and as a preacher, it would be something like this: Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the heavenly and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.”

Brian Fletcher



# Beeches Pre-School

Edge Village Hall,  
Edge, Malpas,  
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We are a community-based pre-school in a wonderful rural setting, accepting children aged 2-5 years for early years care and education, with a play-based, inclusive curriculum in a friendly, safe and secure environment.

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# **MALPAS SURGERY PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP**

## **PATIENT'S MATTER**

## **PATIENT MATTERS**

Following responses received from over 100 patients to a recent questionnaire sent out by the Patients Participation Group (PPG) it became evident that there is a lack of both clarity and understanding regarding the changes taking place within the NHS across the whole country – but more particularly within our own area. Consequently, over the next few issues of the Parish Mag, the PPG will attempt to demystify both the changes and the many acronyms, used by the NHS and others, to explain how these will affect us all – regardless of whichever practice we attend.

**INTEGRATED CARE** – A key part of the NHS long term plan.

### **Integrated Care Systems (ICS)**

From April 2021, every part of England will be served by an Integrated Care System (ICS.) which is a partnership bringing together providers and commissioners of NHS services across a large geographical area - typically covering a population of 1-3 million people. We are part of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care partnership.

[www.cheshireandmerseysidepartnership.co.uk](http://www.cheshireandmerseysidepartnership.co.uk) with a population of 2.6 million people consisting of 9 integrated care partnerships.

### **Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)**

Integrated care partnerships (ICPs) are alliances of NHS providers that work together to deliver care by agreeing to collaborate rather than compete. These providers include hospitals, local councils, community services, mental health services, GPs, social care. Independent and third sector providers may also be involved. These ICPs relate to local authority areas and we are part of West Cheshire ICP.

<https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk>

### **Clinical Commission Groups (CCGs)**

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were created to replace Primary Care Trusts. They are clinically-led statutory NHS bodies responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services for their local area. As of 1 April 2021, following a series of mergers, there are 106 CCGs in England – though their future is, as yet, unclear. We are part of the Cheshire CCG which now forms an equal partnership with other members of West Cheshire ICP.

### **Primary Care Networks (PCNs)**

Probably of most relevance to our community, PCNs are groups of general practices joining together in a local area to work collaboratively across the practices and with community service providers and other health and care organisations, serving populations of around 30,000 to 50,000 patients. There are 9 PCNs within WCICP. Bunbury, Kelsall, Malpas, Tarporley Adey, Tarporley Campbell and Village Surgeries (Farndon & Tattenhall) forms one such PCN and is known as:-

**'The Rural Alliance'**

**– of which more information can be seen in the next issue of the Parish Mag!**

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# Malpas Community Links History

The 2007 Malpas Parish Plan contained some 42 actions designed to improve life in the town. Some 7 of these actions were about improving the commercial environment for the local business community.

The initial approach was to form a Business Association (Malpas Biznet) which ran successfully for 7 years and at its peak had some 200 members.

Very early on it became clear to the Malpas Biznet Committee that many of the actions in the Plan could not be solved by the business community.

So on 18th May 2010 an initial gathering of a few representatives of some key village organisations was called in the Malpas Alport Primary School.

Organisations represented were at the meeting were:

Malpas Alport Primary School

Malpas Biznet

St Oswald's Church

Young Persons Centre

Parish Council

The objective of the meeting was to understand what Malpas meant to residents and how the local community might be improved.

The outcome was the formation of Malpas Community Links organisation, and an initiative to organise a gathering of the 70 clubs and organisations that existed in the town at that time.

The objective of the gathering was try to replicate the Biznet approach of making each organisation aware of other local organisations and to try to get them to co-operate more readily and hence bring the local community closer together.

It took some months and a number of meetings to firm up our approach and to generate interest in sufficient organisations to make the event worthwhile.

However we managed to hold our first organisation gathering in the Alport Primary School on 17th January 2011, with some 70 individuals attending the event.

The outcome of this meeting was the arranging of an open public Organisational Fair in the Jubilee Hall on Saturday 26th March 2011.

We had a successful day with the hall being full of clubs and organisations, and supported by a good public attendance of local residents.

The next event took place in the Alport Primary School on 29th June 2011. The objective of this meeting was to:

1/ gauge interests in repeating an organisational fair in the autumn of 2011.

2/ to encourage clubs to consider what they could do for the Queens's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations that were scheduled for June 2012.

3/ to establish if organisations were willing to support the Malpas Day Centre with activities and events.

The next step was a community networking evening which took place on 4th July 2011 in partnership with the Malpas Parish Council. Topics covered at the event were:

The Malpas Recreation Ground development

The Beeches / Brockbank, Tilston Road Access

Parish Council Plans and priorities

The Jubilee Club Future proposals. (Now OPAL, but formerly the Malpas Day Centre)

On 13th December 2011 a meeting was organised in the Jubilee Hall; this to brief the clubs and organisations as to what we were planning for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

The whole Community Links initiative was extremely positive and well received by residents. Underlined that our activities, during the previous 12 months had resulted in Malpas being awarded runner up position in the West Cheshire Community Spirit Awards.

Community links was the driving force behind the 4 day Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, in Malpas with community events running from 31st May to 5th June 2012, and incorporating the 2nd Malfest series of entertainment vents.

Community Links was then involved in organising the village fairs in 2013 and 2014 before stepping away to allow a newly formed Village Fair committee to take over.

After 2014 Community Links lay dormant until in March 2017 planning started for the Town's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One.

Finding the correct balance between creating an enjoyable community event and marking the sombreness of the occasion was a real challenge, but the committee managed to deliver an event that was enjoyed by all.

The committee went on to plan the VE75 event scheduled for last May, but unfortunately the extensive plans were derailed by COVID-19 pandemic.

We were put into a national lockdown March 2020 and the team again sprang into action. This time recruiting some 140 willing volunteers to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and even making regular phone calls to those residents in self-isolation.

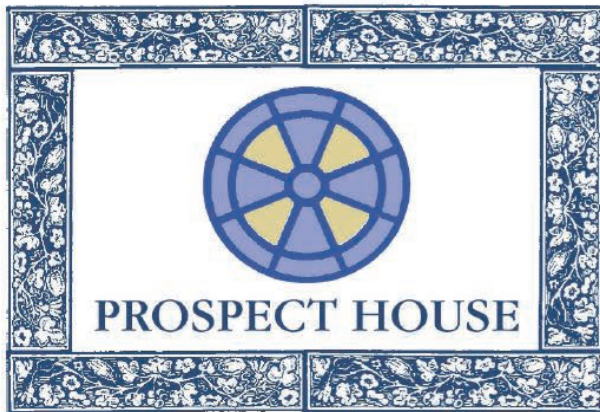
Since then, we have produced and delivered a community Christmas card, supported the Malpas food bank, supported Malpas Alport School with their request for IT equipment and planned new 2021 initiatives, which includes a sunflower growing competition.

Look out for further details in due course.

**Chris Whitehurst**

Chairman

Malpas Community Links



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**OUR PARISHES 100 YEARS AGO**  
**(NEWS FROM THE MALPAS DEANERY MAGAZINE)**  
**JULY - DECEMBER 1921**

Further names to those recorded in my last article, found among the baptisms for the three parishes, were: **GIRLS:** Ada, Joan, Vera, Mary, Marion, Prudence, Muriel, Edna, Nesta; **BOYS:** Arthur, Douglas, Joel, Raymond, Harry, Frederick, Richard, Charles.

**MALPAS** The choirs at Malpas and Edge had their annual trip on 8th August, to Llandudno. In July the Sunday School Trip went to Rhyl. Harvest Thanksgiving Services during late September and early October, were celebrated at Malpas, Edge Mission Church and Stockton Mission Room.

‘We must congratulate the Malpas Band on their smart appearance and on the good music which they provided (on the Oxheyes) on the occasion of the Wyvern Tontine Society’s anniversary’ (the ‘Tontine’ was a form of friendly/benefit society, similar to the Oddfellows).

A rummage sale in May made a profit of £53.5s.8d (£53.29) of which £25 was paid to Mrs Armitstead (wife of the Rector) for Malpas Church Clothing Club and the rest to the funds of Malpas and Stockton Sunday Schools. An appeal was to be launched on behalf of Chester Diocesan Clergy Stipends Fund, to help poorer parishes in the Diocese. The Malpas Branch of the Thurlow Nursing Institute was also appealing for funds – ‘except in midwifery and maternity cases no fee is charged to cottagers’. A Sale of Work and Tableaux in aid of the SPG (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) in November raised a total of £62.15s.0d (£62.75). Thanks were expressed to all who helped and to the Sunday School children who took part in the tableaux.

The death was announced of Mr Greenshields of The Beeches (in 1938 his family gave to the town the field which is now Malpas Recreation Ground). Miss Wright, who for some years had been Assistant Teacher first in the Alport Boys’ and then in the Girls’ School, had been appointed Headmistress of the Girls’ School in succession to Miss Wilson, who had been appointed Headmistress at Poynton Girls’ School. The Hut which had been erected at Cuddington by the Chorlton and Cuddington Women’s Institute would be opened by Mr Sandbach (of Cherry Hill) on Wednesday 2nd November.

**BICKERTON** On 24th July the Archdeacon of Chester the venerable W L Paige Cox would preach at both services, in aid of the Chester Diocesan Church fund. A Missionary Sale of Work would be held in the Vicarage on 27th September – ‘The workers at Mrs Barbour’s and Mrs Davies’ working parties have made a good many most serviceable articles’. Harvest Festival would be on Michaelmas Day (29th September). ‘The Missionary boxes will be “milked” again early in January. These admirable creatures not infrequently yield better in winter than in summer. There cannot be too many of them in Cheshire!’

Broxton Sports, in Mrs Vernon’s field, on 4th June were a great success – ‘a substantial sum was realised for putting the fire engine into a state of efficiency’ (the former fire engine shed still stands on the Old Coach Road, opposite the entrance to Frogg Manor).

'On 21st July a very enjoyable tennis match was played against the Cholmondeley Club at Cholmondeley. We were decisively beaten; but a time will come (!) though it will be hard to outdo them in hospitality'. Members of Mostyn Lodge of Oddfellows were welcomed to church on the occasion of their 78th Anniversary Festival, which also included a procession, a tea, sports and dances. 'We are very pleased that a Football Club has been started in the parish and we wish it good luck'.

**THREAPWOOD** 10th August had been fixed for the Parochial Sale and Dance, for which Whixall Silver Band had been engaged. It was reported in September that this had been a great success despite the loss of £6.10s to a pickpocket, who had raided the pocket of a committee member! 30th June was the wedding of the organist, Florrie Griffiths. 'After the ceremony Mr and Mrs Hugh Humphreys motored home, where upwards of 40 guests enjoyed an excellent breakfast'. The children of the Church Sunday school went to Ellesmere for their treat - 'A stop was made at Overton where Mr Broad with his band of helpers provided a good tea at the Cocoa House'. The Harvest Festival would be on 7th October.

David Hayns



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# Bickerton Holy Trinity Church Lottery

When I took over in May 2020 all 49 members were allocated.  
There have been x12 winners up until April 2021.

## **2020:**

May: Mr R. Clayton

June: Mrs A Lees

July: Mr R Corn

August: Mr J Goodwin

September: Mr R Clayton

October: Mr M Roberts

November: Mrs G Brown

December: Mr P Shone

## **2021:**

January: Mr J Goodwin

February: Mr C Hobson

March Mrs: A Newton

April: Mr B Jeffcoat

We have paid out £20 to renew the licence. At end of April we have been able to give the Treasurer, Mr Higgins, a cheque for £1500 for the Church fabric fund. This will leave a small working capital in the bank (£125).

**Thomas Wainwright**

## Church Calendar - June 2021

In the Anglican Church, June has no major feast days such as Pentecost or Palm Sunday, but a minor one, Corpus Christi, is celebrated on different dates in June each year, the next one being 3rd June. It was brought into being by St. Thomas Aquinas who proposed it to the Pope Urban IV in 1264. It was abolished by Oliver Cromwell and re-instated in the Reformation becoming known as 'Thanksgiving for Holy Communion'.

There are three notable births to note in June also, John the Baptist on the 24th and Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the 29th. They lived in turbulent days, denied the freedom to worship as they chose and suffering torture and death because of their beliefs.

Fortunately for us there is always cause to celebrate peace, and the fellowship of worship in freedom.

**Judith Wadham**

# Bickerton Holy Trinity Garden Project

The PCC have been discussing the piece of land behind the toilet and shed, reflecting the wonderful use in years gone by. With the positive encouragement from the Diocese we are looking to restore this land into a form of garden which can be used for Church/community based projects. This will of course take time whilst the legal matters are explored as well as plans/costings etc needless to say the plan is in its infancy. Some of us are not getting any younger, so it is not the intention that we look to undertake the work ourselves.

We will seek funding from various charitable trusts and sponsors both locally and nationally so if anybody knows of such a source please get in touch with **Jan Clark on 01829 720827** [janetjclark@hotmail.com](mailto:janetjclark@hotmail.com) or myself on 01829 782345 [val.capewell@btinternet.com](mailto:val.capewell@btinternet.com).

We need to ascertain just how much this will cost, so we are now in the process of discussing ideas with Landscape gardeners/builders. We wish the garden to be suitable for all ages with the minimum of maintenance and one which will be a heritage for the future. Let us be under no illusion this project will be fairly costly and will be a form of outreach, we need to build on the wonderful legacy of the past and look to our future. Previous generations have invested time, energy and money into Holy Trinity because it was the focus of their prayer, witness and glory of God. Please work with us to ensure that the Church flourishes under our stewardship. The attraction of a Church should reach beyond its congregation into the wider community. So please support us in prayer and constructive advice as we seek guidance on this which will provide space for locals and those seeking a place of solitude for reflection.

I trust we will all stay safe and well and that the Covid restrictions will ease allowing us more freedom to meet each other.

**Val Capewell**

Warden Holy Trinity Bickerton



Although we have not been able to hold meetings during the pandemic Mothers Union members have nevertheless kept in touch with each other by phone calls and emails. MU magazines and literature have been regularly sent out along with greeting cards. Many members have also been busily knitting blankets and scarves for refugees. It is our hope that we will be able to meet together again later in the year.

We would also like to thank the Rector for all his support, and wish him a long and happy retirement.

St Oswald's MU.

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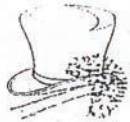
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# Gifts to girls in the Gambia from Bickerton Holy Trinity Church

A big thank you from the girls at Sanyang school in the Gambia who have received reusable sanitary towel kits. We had a fantastic response at the coffee morning hosted by Mike & Penny Voisey last year, plus donations, so I was able to buy a huge amount of reusable sanitary towels and knickers which were shipped over. I transferred money for the facecloths and soap to the charity 'Goals for the Gambia' so they could buy them there to give support to a local shop and save on the shipping cost.

Unfortunately Coronavirus also caused big problems in The Gambia and the schools were closed for many months but now the restrictions have eased some of the girls in the Sanyang Scout Group took on the challenge of making up the 250 kits which include 5 pads, 5 pairs knickers, soap & facecloth in a discreet bag. They were all given one of the kits as a thank you for helping.

The kits were taken and distributed in Sanyang school which is in a very poor area and the girls were so pleased. This will make a big difference to the girls' education as they will no longer have to miss school during menstruation.

Also a huge thank you from me to everyone who supported the initiative and changed the lives of these girls in such a positive way.

**Kate Holland**



# POETRY CORNER

I hope to make a poetry corner a regular feature of the Parish News. If you wish to send in a poem of your own or a suitable published poem please send to the Editor with a short commentary please.

## **The Windhover by Gerard Manley Hopkins**

To Christ our Lord

I CAUGHT this morning morning's minion, king-  
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding  
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding  
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing  
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,  
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding  
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding  
Stirred for a bird,—the achieve of; the mastery of the thing!

Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here  
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion  
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!  
No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough down sillion  
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,  
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.

The language may seem strange (it's based on Welsh rhythms of speech) - try saying it aloud and feel the music in it. I think of Hopkins as a local poet although the time he spent at St Bueno's in Tremeirchion was but a short period in his life. I imagine him looking out over the beautiful Welsh landscape and seeing the kestrel hovering, just as we see them here on the Sandstone Ridge, and marvelling at God's amazing creativity revealed in nature. It sparks in him a renewed faith. It's hard to question his existence when confronted with such perfection.

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**On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July – 7.30pm**

Admission is FREE with a retiring collection in aid of the Church



Henry Smith who sings in St Oswald's Choir and plays the organ on occasions has been awarded the Organ Scholarship at Royal Holloway University London when he begins the undergraduate BA course in Music when he starts in September. Henry is completing his 3rd year at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music where he has studied Tuba under Leslie Neish and Organ under Simon Mercer. He is the Deputy Head Boy at Abbey Gate College where he sings in the Chapel Choir and the Concert Band. At University his main study will be organ and his second study will be jazz piano which he has developed to a high standard at the JRNCM. He is hoping that the draw to London will bring opportunities to play jazz in venues in London. Last year just before lockdown Henry raised £1300 for St Oswald's performing his 'One man show'. He will be giving another performance at St Oswald's on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July for a Concert/Soiree Evening and the evening promises to be as entertaining as last year. Admission is free but to help with catering, please reserve a place for you and your friends by either texting 07745422204 or giving your name to a Church Warden.

# THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Last year we were unable to have our usual bx opening. As for all charities in the current climate, the Children's Charity need for funds is a great as ever. If you would like to make a donation by cheque or have a box that you would like emptying this year please could you bring it to Bickerton church before the end of June. (Cheques to be made to Bickerton Church warden's account)/All funds will be passed to Andrew our treasurer who can then issue a cheque from Holy Trinity which I will send off to the charity. With grateful thanks

**Joan Jeffcoat**

## **WIRRAL CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 16-18th July 2021**

Involving musicians from RLPO.

Check it out at [wirralchamberfest.co.uk](http://wirralchamberfest.co.uk)

## **30 DAYS WILD**

Take on the UK's biggest nature challenge this summer. The Wildlife Trusts are asking you to do one wild thing a day throughout June for your health, wellbeing, for wildlife and for the planet.

Go on a bug hunt, make a bird feeder, switch to green energy, splash in puddles... whatever you do, just make sure it's wild!

The **30 Days Wild** annual challenge from The Wildlife Trusts has had more than a million participants to date. In 2020, more than half a million people got involved including over 4,000 of you here in our region!

From families and couples, to teachers, care homes and workplaces, everyone is invited!

When you **sign up** to take part in 30 Days Wild you'll get a FREE:

- Big Wild Breakfast nature 'bingo' placemat to download
- Bundle of educational and fun resources
- Top technical tips from wildlife webcam experts
- Details on how to record your nature spots
- Wildlife guides, how-to guides, a fun quiz event and much more.

**Sign up today** and do a 'random act of wildness' every day throughout June at:

[www.wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild-2021-individuals-sign](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild-2021-individuals-sign)

1 - 30 June



#30DaysWild



# Are you ready for #30DaysWild?



Can you do something wild every day for 30 days?

Take the challenge! Register your interest now to know when sign-up opens!

[wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild](http://wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild)

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