# Parish News

For Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton

# **November 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:

Liane Smith 07795 457347

liane.smith@outlook.com

Mothers Union:

Ann Welby 01948 861475

Director Of Music:

Stewart Smith 01948 662412

Verger:

Ann Welby 01948 861475

**Tower Captain:** 

Ben Kellett 07742 976950

Friend's of St. Oswald's:

Lady Christine Bibby

Social Media:

Sue Anderson 07506 994550

sueanderson.quoisleybridge@btopenworld.com

Website:

Nigel Dobson 01948 662412

## ST. JOHN'S THREAPWOOD

Church Wardens: as above The Threapwood Community Group:

Sue Pickerting 01948 770236

PCC Reps:

Gill Edwards 01948 770694

## **HOLY TRINITY BICKERTON**

Church Wardens: PCC Secretary:

Val Capewell 01829 782345 Mary Butterworth 01829 720801

PCC Treasurer & Gift Aid: Church Flowers:

Andrew Higgins 01829 260885 Janet Clark 01829 720827

Organist:

Rachel Hall



As this is my first month as the new editor of the Parish Magazine I'd like to thank Nigel Briers warmly for his past work in this role. I also want to acknowledge that the printing of this magazine is fortunate to be supported by the advertisements of our local businesses. Please read the adverts and make use of their services. Many have had an extraordinarily tough 18 months of business and our support NOW will make all the difference to them.

I have introduced a new children's page and feedback from children will be welcomed. I'd love to put our children's artwork on the front cover, so let's start by asking for a lovely Christmas theme picture for me to use on the December front cover. Please send a photograph of the picture with name and age of the artist to my email before 10th November. (Getting into the seasonal spirit early—why not?!)

Our next issue is a combined December—January edition. I really welcome contributions, on local history, great walks, your hobbies and especially of upcoming activities ongoing across the many clubs in the parishes, most of which are back into normal operation now. Please think ahead to all the Christmas and New Year events and send details through before 10th NOVEMBER to: Liane.smith@outlook.com

#### Liane Smith

*Cover picture:* A drone view of Malpas taken a couple of years ago—spot the changes. It shows the dominant position of St Oswald's church looking down above the village.



# Do you love singing?

Being part of a friendly welcoming choir? Enjoy singing weekly in the most beautiful Church in South Cheshire? Then why not join the Choir of St Oswald's Church. We are currently recruiting all voice parts and particularly 1st sopranos. If you are interested just come along to the Church on a rehearsal night at 6.45 on a Thursday and give it a go!! Or if you would like to know more, please contact the Director of Music - Stewart Smith 07745422204

## St Oswald's Malpas

8.00 am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer every Sunday11.00 am Sung Parish Communion in Common Worship every Sunday6.30 pm Evening prayer every Sunday

10.00 am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer every Wednesday

Remembrance Sunday; November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.45 a.m.

## St John's Threapwood

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month: 09.30 am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer

Act of Remembrance—Gather at the War Memorial at 10.45 on 11/11/21

## Holy Trinity Bickerton

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month: 11.00 am Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month: 09.30 am Holy Communion

Remembrance Sunday; November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.50 a.m. led by Rev Mike Rogers.

Whilst we are in an interregnum every effort is made to ensure we have a Minister to officiate at the Communion Services but they may revert to Morning Prayer or a layled service if no-one is available.

# Looking Ahead—Get these dates in your diary NOW!

**2nd and 3rd December**—Christmas Wreath Making at Bickerton Village Hall—see details in this magazine.

**Friday 10th December**—a fantastic **Gala Christmas Concert** at St Oswald's with Wirral Concert Band, Malpas Ladies choir, St Oswald's choir, Abbey Gate Bell Plates plus wine and refreshments . A chance to get in the mood for Christmas including a chance to sing some of your favourite carols and catch up with friends—Don't miss it!

**Thursday 16**<sup>th</sup> **December** — Please join us at Holy Trinity Church at 4.15 pm to celebrate the Joy of Christmas with Bickerton School for Carols, Mince pies, Mulled Wine and Surprises !! Whatever your age you are all very welcome, this service is not just focused on the young, we hope to bring all of our congregation together in our preparations for welcoming the Christ Child. ( we advise you to wrap up warmly as this service will be held out doors)

Details of all our Christmas services at all the Churches in our December magazine.

# November 14th — Remembrance Sunday - A Key Date

Remembrance Sunday is an extremely important date for very many people, as both a thoughtful and respectful service and the civic ceremony aspect of honouring the dead from the World Wars. Our village churches always have a special

Malpas Remembers.

Malpas Church

service at which the names of all those who gave their lives for our freedom are read out. It's a sombre moment to imagine how many families were impacted from such small communities.

Many of the surnames resonate today as familiar Cheshire names which really brings home the local aspect of this service. I urge you to go to the Remembrance Service, to take time out of your hectic life to think about the sacrifice of these often very young men and to show that "We will remember them".

Bickerton War Memorial

11.00am with two minutes silence, so

Trinity and 10.45 for St. Oswald's Malpas

The act of remembrance is held at exactly 11.00am with two minutes silence, so please get to the service at 10.50 for Holy Trinity and 10.45 for St. Oswald's Malpas on 14th November or at 10.45 in Threapwood on 11/11/21

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. / At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them." *Laurence Binyon, For The Fallen* 

"When you go home, tell them of us and say,

for their tomorrow we gave our today." Rudyard Kipling, The Old Issue



# Warden's Report Malpas

Things at St Oswald's are beginning to normalise themselves and we now serve tea and coffee after the 11 am communion service and communion is being taken at the altar rail, although only wafers at present. Its great to be back to chatting together in a leisurely way after the service.

Our summer season of Chorale Evensongs was completed on Sunday  $3^{rd}$  October with The Border Singers. These Evensongs have greatly contributed to our worship and the standard of singing has been amazing.

We would like to thank all our visiting Clergy who have been so generous with their time and help during the Interregnum. We will continue to hold all our normal services, even if we lead them and therefore adapt them ourselves.

Did you know St. Oswald's is open every day of the week from 10.00 am to 4pm? Any time you feel you want to take time out, grab some quiet contemplation or private prayer, take the opportunity to step in. It's a magnificent Grade 1 listed building offering, literally space, time, quiet, rejuvenation, healing and inspiration. Its your parish church, please feel welcome to make use of it.

Like many churches in the country all three churches St Oswald's, St Johns Threapwood and Holy Trinity Bickerton have taken a great hit in the amount of money the churches are receiving to help maintain the upkeep of the buildings and day today running costs. We at St Oswald's held a "Support the church day" on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October in possibly the worst day weather-wise we could have chosen, Liane Smith, Richard Hoffman and Bob Bennett braved the cold wind and rain in the village whilst we the church wardens and volunteers organised the teas, coffees, and cakes in the warmth! The day was a success, and a very big thank you goes to all those involved and an even bigger thank you to Stewart and Oliver Smith and their wonderful recital on the Organ, Piano and Flute. But the biggest thank you of all must go to you, the villagers who did support us. We raised nearly £400.

Next year "The Support the Church Day" will be on a lovely sunny summers' day!

November is marked by our Remembrance service on the 14th which we hope will be a large congregation as we know that many Malpas families want to mark this special day, especially to pass on to their children this knowledge of our village's history and the stirring traditional Act of Remembrance. We do hope you will join us.

Angela Latham and Beverley Dobson ,Church Wardens, St Oswald's Church

### Warden's Letter Bickerton

Dear Friends,

By the time you will receive this magazine the Benefice should have appointed a new Incumbent, and my grateful thanks go to all who have supported Holy Trinity during this Interregnum, not only to the retired Clergy who have been invaluable but also to those lay people who have helped ensure that our services have continued by leading The Service of the Word.

The life of our Parish has continued during the late summer despite Covid, the Smiths very kindly opened their Vineyard on Bank Holiday Sunday; we successfully opened Holy Trinity to walkers and passers by on the August Bank Holiday Monday, and we have held our annual Harvest Lunch at the beginning of October. Sadly, we have held funerals, but more joyously we have had a wedding and also two baptisms.

But what of the future? Well as I said I am hopeful we will have appointed a new Incumbent but before they can be in post, we have November, which is a time of reflection, remembrance, and thanksgiving. We are fortunate in that the Rev Mike Rogers will lead our service on November 14th so do please join us.

The month of December follows which is Advent and preparation for the birth of the Christ child; here at Holy Trinity we are focusing on "Putting Christ back into Christmas." We would like to warmly invite you to join us and a number of the children from Bickerton School at an outdoor service with carols, mulled wine, mince pies and surprises on Thursday 16th December at 4.15 p.m. We are also holding our annual Christmas Wreath Making fundraising event at the beginning of December, so please book your places.

I look forward to welcoming you to all of our services at Holy Trinity during the coming months.

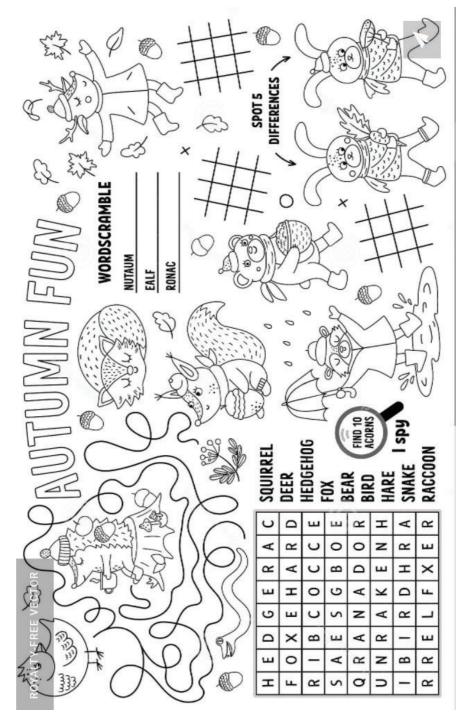
Val Capewell, Warden Holy Trinity



# "The Community of Malpas (Cheshire)".

There are now two vacancies on Malpas Parish Council, to serve up until the next full council election in May 2023.

If interested please contact, Cllr Charles Higgie on 01948 860083, email higgiecharles@gmail.com or Charles Lowick Higgie on Facebook.



Don't forget to send your Christmas drawing to Liane.smith@outlook.com by Nov 10th and it may be on the cover next month!

#### HUXLEY'S COUNTRY STORE & BAKERY

The bakery serves homemade products such as pies, pasties, breads, cakes and sandwiches. They also sell fresh vegetables, cooked meats (including spit-roast chickens), cheeses and general groceries and wines & spirits.



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# Bickerton Village Hall Christmas Wreath Making Workshops 2021

Thursday 2 December 1.30 pm Thursday 2 December 6 pm Friday 3 December 1.30 pm

# £35 inc all materials and refreshments

To reserve your place, please call:

Mary Butterworth 01829 720 801

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

Please place in an envelope marked Wreath Workshop

and send to:

Briar Cottage, Wrexham Road, Bickerton SY14 8BD or Bickerton Village Hall, Long Lane, Bickerton SY14 8AU

Please bring apron and secateurs

# Proceeds in aid of Holy Trinity Church Funds











# November 21st. - "Stir-Up Sunday"

"Stir-Up Sunday" is the last Sunday before Advent. It is so called for two reasons. The first is from the opening words of the collect in the church service for the day "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen", and the second is because traditionally this was the day upon which the Christmas Pudding should be made in order for it to have

It might seem a bit of a chore, but making your own pudding is surprisingly easy and the smell of it is fantastic when mixing and cooking. Its great to get this made well in advance of the festive season as it keeps very well (for months actually). I tend to like

time to mature before Christmas Day!

the Delia Smith recipe for reliability, but there are several on the internet. [https://www.deliaonline.com/recipes/occasions/christmas/christmas-puddings/delias-classic-christmas-pudding-with-brandy-sauce] .Get your ingredients list and shopping done and that is half the battle. Christmas pudding is traditionally made with 13 ingredients to symbolise Jesus and the 12 Apostles. The most common ingredients are: sultanas, raisins, demerara sugar, currants, glacé cherries, stout, bread-crumbs, sherry, suet, almonds, orange and lemon peel, cognac and mixed spices. However, there are lots of variations and you can adjust the recipe to fit with your preferences or dietary requirements.

To make a Christmas pudding the only equipment you need is a mixing bowl and spoon, a pudding basin (most recipes are to fill a 2-pint pudding basin – which will serve 6-8 people), some string, foil, baking parchment/greaseproof paper and a pan large enough to comfortably steam your pudding in. You assemble the ingredients and some recipes recommend soaking the dried fruit overnight in brandy, stout or tea then next day just mix them together in a large mixing bowl; it doesn't get easier. Then everyone in the household has a stir of the mixture whilst they shut their eyes and make a secret wish for what they want for Christmas. My kids always whispered what they wanted which was a good way to ensure a happy Christmas morning. The smell of the spices is wonderful and it's a great excuse to have a glass of mulled wine or just test the sherry to get in the Christmas mood. Then you spoon the mixture into a greased pudding basin. The only tricky bit is getting the folded greaseproof paper fastened in place with string. Foil goes over the top to stop the greaseproof paper getting too wet and then you steam it for a about 6 + hours, just topping up with water every hour to avoid it boiling dry.

These days Christmas pudding can seem a bit of a heavy option after the "main event" on Christmas Day but it is a wonderful moment in the meal to produce the pudding with some warmed brandy to set fire to it at the table. If there are not many takers on the day it keeps very well in the fridge for months and its very easy to microwave portions. I find it disappears over the week after Christmas.

## St. Oswald's Financial Outlook October 2021

December year end totals show that that income was depressed in every category in 2020 and overall down by about 25% compared to 2019. Costs were down overall by about 12% but we were obliged to draw down our bank balance by about £10,000 to cover costs over the year. No great surprises there in the circumstances, but one of great concern in terms of our cash recovery.

Regular giving into the Stewardship scheme was sustained last year when the church doors were closed which is a great testament to the generosity and faith of those in the scheme, but numbers giving have decreased again this year as people have sadly passed away or moved. This drop is slightly offset by the increased number of weddings and social events arranged in the church since we resumed normal services. Costs have gone up as insurance charges and utility bills have increased etc. Overall we face another shortfall this year, presently estimated at £15,000.

**ACTION!** In the short term, we have a crucial 3 months left in this year where we can help to reduce this deficit. Sale of 100 CDs would generate £1000. Fundraising events can all help to make a difference, and its wonderful that we can get together as a village for social activities which bring both generous contributions to our funds and also enjoyment for all. So please put **10<sup>th</sup> December "Gala Christmas Concert"** in your diary now and lets make a huge effort to ask our friends to join us for this enjoyable evening of entertainment, a chance to catch up with friends with seasonal refreshments.

Whilst I hesitate to turn to those who already contribute every month, if your finances allowed you to make a *one-off "extra month"* payment between now and the year end, that, combined with the gift aid claim could add a massive £4000 to our income in 2021. In 2022, if you can consider any increase in your monthly giving amount that would be hugely appreciated.

Thinking ahead to 2022 the sustainable options to reverse the decline in our financial situation will, I feel, be given a kick start with a new Rector in place. It's a chance for the growing community of Malpas to join our congregation for lots of positive reasons. I also hope we can heighten awareness in the village that the church is an important part of the identity of the village and something that everyone, even non-church-goers, feel they wish to contribute towards maintaining. Our recent "Church Support" day reaching out to the wider community beyond our congregation raised around £400 and that will be repeated in 2022 and hopefully become a more important fundraising event in the diary.

Anyone who feels able to commit any amount of regular giving can set up a Standing Order to Account Name: ST OSWALDS MALPAS, SORT CODE 55 81 16 and Account Number 08202877. This is our account especially for Stewardship payments. If you prefer to pay cash and would like to join the envelope scheme, please let me know. 10 more regular givers in 2022 would be wonderful.

Liane Smith, Gift Aid Administrator (liane.smith@outlook.com)



# St Oswald's Malpas



# Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December – 7.00pm



# A Christmas Gala Evening with Food and Wine

Performed by

St Oswald's Choir One Achord Choir

Abbey Gate College Junior Dept Choir and Belle Plates

Wirral Community Band

-----

Admission is free with a retiring <u>collection</u> but you need to reserve your attendance to help with catering.

For reservations please either email stewartsmith@gmail.com or text with your name to 07745422204 by Friday 3rd December A Table At Eaton's 5 Church Street Malpas Cheshire SY14 8NU 01948 861177

Thanks for all your support during Covid

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# Autumn Gardening Tips From Malpas Amateur Gardeners

In early October it is still not too late to sow a new lawn or repair bald patches as the soil is moist and warm. Herbaceous perennials like Hostas that are looking tatty can be cut down, but leave ones with interesting seed heads like grasses and coneflowers ( Echinacea and Rudbeckia ) as they look good when frosted and provide seed for the birds.

Tender plants like Fuchsias that have looked lovely all summer now need bringing in to the greenhouse , annuals like Petunias and marigolds can go on to the compost heap. They can be replaced to give winter cheer with pots of Pansies, Violas, polyanthus and Wallflowers. So called hardy Cyclamen are seen for sale everywhere but they are not really hardy beyond -5C , however they will give colour often up to Xmas.

All types of bulbs can go into pots or borders apart from tulips which go in later (November) to avoid a disease called tulip fire. Hyacinth bulbs can be potted and put in a cool dark place to force them for Xmas or January, but watch out for mice if you put them in a shed like I did! Net ponds to stop leaves falling in and rotting.

November is a good time to plant bare root trees so that they can establish before those dry springs that we keep having.

If you love gardening and want to learn more why not join your local club? We meet every second Thursday at 7.30 in the Methodist church , we would make you very welcome.

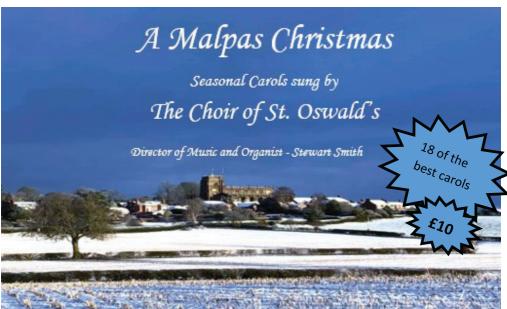
Anne Harrison



# Anyone for chess?

I am looking for chess players, both online players and over the board, all abilities. I have teams to suit all styles - speed chess, conventional chess and also "daily chess" where typically players on average move once a day. Charlie Higgie—contact 01948 860083, email <a href="mailto:higgiecharles@gmail.com">higgiecharles@gmail.com</a> or Charles Lowick Higgie on Facebook.

Further details about both this, and other community activities on my Facebook Group "The Community of Malpas (Cheshire)".



We are delighted to announce the release of the St.Oswald's Choir singing its first Christmas CD. The CD is now on sale in Church every Sunday priced £10. Please contact Stewart Smith 07745422204 if you are unable to purchase from Church.

1.	O Come, O Come Emmanuel	15th century arr. David Willcocks
2.	The Truth from Above	trad. arr. Ralph Vaughan Willliams
3.	ORGAN— Noel	Henri Mulet
4.	Adam Lay y Bounden	Boris Ord
5.	While Shepherds Watch'd their Flocks	1592arr. David Willcocks
6.	In the Bleak Mid Winter	Gustav Holst
7.	O Little Town of Bethlehemarr.	R .Vaughan Williams & T. Armstrong
8.	Away in a Manger	W. J. Kirkpatrick arr. D Willcocks
9.	Once in Royal David's City	English trad arr. D. Willcocks
10	. Infant Holy	Polish Carol arr. D. Willcocks
11.	The First Nowell	English trad. arr. D. Willcocks
12.	ORGAN - In Dulci Jubilo	J. S. Bach
13.	God Rest You Merry Gentlemen	English trad. arr. D. Willcocks
14.	. The Angel Gabriel	Basque trad. arr. Edgar Pettman
15.	Christmas Lullaby	John Rutter
16.	Hark the Herald Angels Sing	Felix Mendelssohn arr. D. Willcocks
17.	. Lully, Lulla, Lullay	Philip Stopford
18.	O Come All Ye Faithful	18thc. arr. D. Willcocks

# Redemption by George Herbert

Having been tenant long to a rich lord, Not thriving, I resolvèd to be bold, And make a suit unto him, to afford A new small-rented lease, and cancel th' old.

In heaven at his manor I him sought;
They told me there that he was lately gone
About some land, which he had dearly bought
Long since on earth, to take possession.

I straight returned, and knowing his great birth, Sought him accordingly in great resorts; In cities, theaters, gardens, parks, and courts; At length I heard a ragged noise and mirth

Of thieves and murderers; there I him espied, Who straight, *Your suit is granted*, said, and died.

This sonnet by George Herbert (1593-1633) is one of my favourites. He manages, within its fourteen lines, to summarise why Jesus came, with a simplicity that only the greatest writers achieve. He would no doubt have said that with such a great subject, how could he fail.

Kate Hobson

# St Oswald's Mothers Union



Hope you have all received your MU matters magazine. As we approach the post pandemic future, let us hope we can begin to meet together soon as a branch and continue to help support Mothers Union and the valuable work they do - reaching out to others in need both at home and abroad.

Meanwhile, why not come along to the mid week Communion Service at St Oswald's Church at 10am followed by coffee and cake on the second Wednesday of the month and enjoy some fellowship.

'This is the day that the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it 'Psalm 118:24

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