

PARISH NEWS

For: Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton

February 2022



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St. Oswald's, Malpas and St John's, Threapwood

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February Services

St Oswald's Malpas

8.00 am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer every Sunday
11.00 am Sung Parish Communion in Common Worship every Sunday
6.30 pm Evening prayer every Sunday
10.00 am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer every Wednesday

St John's Threapwood

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

Holy Trinity Bickerton

6th	11.00 am.	Rev Peter Lee
13 th	9.30 a.m.	Rev Jane Stephenson
20 th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Chris Samuels
27 th	9.30 a.m.	Rev Mike Rogers

Our Cover Picture

Cover picture: The front cover photo shows a lovely Winter Scene in 3D! This Gingerbread House and Gingerbread Train all covered in "snow" were constructed by **Sky** (9) and **Lili** (4) **Reeves** of Bickerton - with little bit of help from Dad. If you look closely it has some very interesting animals in the yard, a family looking out from the house and some delicious looking Smarties in the train truck! It must have taken some time to do this and I bet there were a few messy hands and faces too. A big THANK YOU to Sky and Lili. (I wonder how long it survived before getting eaten up?). Thanks also to Ruby and Davey for their snowmen pics in the magazine.

Our next parish magazine is March with SPRING starting (officially!) on 20th March so I'd like you to get your children and grandchildren to draw, paint, model or bake something about "SPRING" - lots of scope there. Please send a photograph or scan of the creation with name and age of the artist to my email any date *before 10th February*. (Advance notice of EASTER creations wanted for the April edition....).

Note From The Editor

It's a while back to Nov 14th but my first opportunity since then and I couldn't miss the chance to say how impressed everyone was by the contributions of the uniformed groups at the Remembrance Services. We were all proud to have such wonderful young people carrying out their flag-bearing duties with such attention to detail and pride. We are very grateful to all of you who came to show your respect to those who gave their lives to secure our freedom. I'm visiting all our uniformed groups over the coming months starting with 617 (Heber) RAF Air Cadets—read the cadets input in the centre pages this month.

A big thanks to the Wardens, Val, Bev and Angela for their hard work through 2021 in the interregnum, we really appreciate the effort you put in. The Christmas services were really uplifting and joyful so thanks to Stewart and Rachel for making the music part of them so special. 10th December was a really fun evening at the Gala Concert at St. Oswalds with thanks to all contributors, Wirral Community Wind Band, One Accord choir and St Oswald's choir plus the refreshments team and generous raffle prize suppliers. It was wonderful to see so many people back at these events in December.



Don't miss the chance to drop in from 9:30am – 12:30pm at the Jubilee Hall on 12th February to have a chat with Chris Whitehurst about Malpas plans for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June, *only 4 months away!* This is the **first time in history** that such a milestone has been reached so we do want to make it a memorable event that our children will remember when they are grown up.

Thanks to all our advertisers who help us to produce this magazine each month and lets hope the coming year is a good one for you all. Find out more about Prospect House in this month's issue. If you would like to tell us a bit more about your business in future issues — please get in touch.

The puzzles pages have a St Valentine theme and you can find out who he was, indeed, take your pick from 2 options 70 years apart! Apparently Valentine was a popular Roman name but it was Chaucer who associated him with Love. More fascinating *local* history snippets from David Hayns and gardening tips from Anne Harrison (don't sit back in the winter!)

I'd like to hear about hobbies you enjoy, walks or plans your clubs have for the year ahead. Other ideas for content always welcomed. Please think ahead and send details of any events in March through before 10th FEBRUARY to: my email below.

Liane Smith

Editor liane.smith@outlook.com

Warden's Letter Malpas

Dear All,

May we wish you all a very Happy New Year. The start of a New Year is the time to make new resolutions. The Benefice is still in an interregnum but as we learn to live with 'covid -19' we would like to restart a reader's list, a Sidesperson's rota, and a flower rota. We are also looking for help to serve tea and coffees in Church after the services and to help distribute the Parish News. If you would like to volunteer for any of these jobs, please contact Beverley or Angela.

Our Churches are very dependent on the visiting retired Clergy. We are so grateful for all the time and work they do to help us keep every thing running smoothly. At St Oswald's we will be celebrating Candlemass at 11.00am on Sunday 30th January. This will be a service of Lessons and Carols and everyone will be warmly welcome. This will also be a chance to hear our choir sing some special music.

St Oswald's Choir sang the Epiphany Eucharist in Chester Cathedral on Thursday, 6th January. A recording was made and is now on You Tube for all to enjoy. Please do take the time to watch this service, we are sure you will be as proud of them as we are! A very big thank you to the choir for all the hard work they do each week to maintain this standard.

We look forward to the year ahead and welcoming you to our services at St John's Threapwood and St Oswald's Malpas.

Angela Latham and Beverley Dobson Church Wardens for St Oswald's and St John's

Malpas Parish Council Vacancies.

This is not an official Malpas parish Council press release, just personal comments from Charlie Higgle, as an individual councillor.

Two of the vacancies on Malpas Parish Council have been filled by an uncontested by-election. The new councillors both live in Malpas. They are Santa Makuza who lives in Church Street, and Pauline Hood who lives in an estate off Chester Road.

Malpas Parish Council has still got one vacancy and does have the power to co-opt someone to fill it. We are in no hurry to fill it however, as there is a possibility of merging with Cuddington Parish, and if this is finalised we will invite Cuddington Parish Meeting to nominate one of their residents to join Malpas Parish Council, and fill the current vacancy.

If you have any questions, please contact me for further details on 01948 860083, email higglecharles@gmail.com or drop in on me at 1 Well Farm Close, Malpas, Cheshire, SY148QW.

Warden's Letter Bickerton

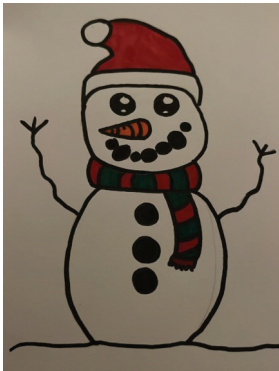
Dear Friends,

Firstly, let me wish you all a belated but nevertheless sincere Happy New Year for 2022. This New Year has brought with it some wonderful news, our Editor has been awarded a CBE (for engineering and materials science) in the New Year's Honours list, so our warmest and heartfelt congratulations to you Liane. (*Many thanks! I can't stop smiling! Ed.*)

I do wonder what 2022 will bring, hopefully if the scientists are correct the pandemic may well be on the wane, and we can return to "normality". Talking of "normality" hopefully we will be able to hold interviews for the Incumbency and be able to appoint a new Rector for the Benefice. It really is a year since Ian officially announced his well-earned retirement in April, since which we have been ably supported by retired Ministers and also members of your PCC to whom I personally am deeply indebted as a "new" Warden.

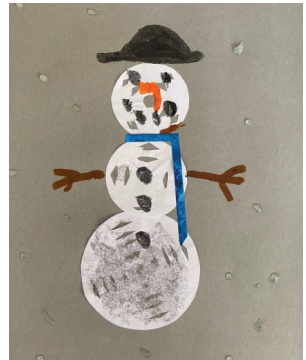
February 6th, 2022 is the Platinum anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne of the United Kingdom and also as head of our church. I am sure you will agree with me that she has demonstrated a tremendous witness of her Christian faith in addition to governing us wisely and adhering to the vows she made on her 21st birthday. June will see the official celebrations of her Jubilee and whilst our plans are in their infancy rest assured, we will celebrate with the rest of the country!

I look forward to welcoming you to all of our services at Holy Trinity during the coming month. *Val Capewell*, Warden Holy Trinity



Ruby Lea Horton aged 10

Thank you very much to Ruby and Davey. For these Cheerful Snowmen pictures!



Davey Turner-Roberts aged 3

Christmas Scenes from Bickerton



Residents and visitors to Bickerton through the Christmas season were greeted by a fabulous nativity tableau in the church yard which was lit all through Christmas. It survived storm Arwen and, along with the Christmas tree lights, really brought Christmas into our village. Many thanks to the creators and constructors from us all.

16th December was the Nativity service which over 60 children from Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School performed their nativity play to their parents and friends. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the children need to be congratulated for all their hard work in the preparation.



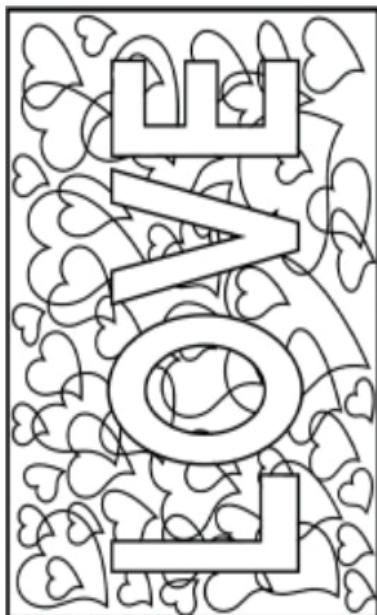
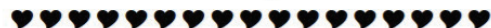
Murphy the Donkey and accompanying elf, Helen, did much to entertain the children whilst waiting for their 'big moment'!

We are so grateful to Head, Paul Sweetnam, Julie and Amelia and all the staff, and to the children and their parents for bringing Christmas to Holy Trinity church and Bickerton village.

St. Valentine Puzzles and Colouring

Valentine's Day Wordsearch

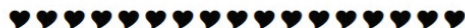
How many hearts can you colour in?



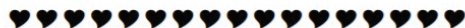
SAINT VALENTINE DAY FOURTEENTH FEBRUARY LOVE ROMANCE HEARTS
FLOWERS MARRIAGE PROPOSE CARD PRESENT ROSES FLOWERS CUPID
HUG KISS SWEETHEART RED PINK CHOCOLATES

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Valentine's Day Anagrams



STEVE TAILS DUMMY	
DAZES ONES ORDER	
HELEN SAT FORWARDS	
OR LEAVING A DREAM	
RUFFLE CHOW SNOB	
OF EXACT COOL HOBS	
YEMEN BE VITAL	
BE NEAR THREE HUFFY TROUT	
SHADES US KINGS	
MINDING ROAD	



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←—Answers on Platinum Jubilee page!

Don't forget to send your SPRING drawing to Liane.smith@outlook.com by February 10th and it may be on the cover in March!

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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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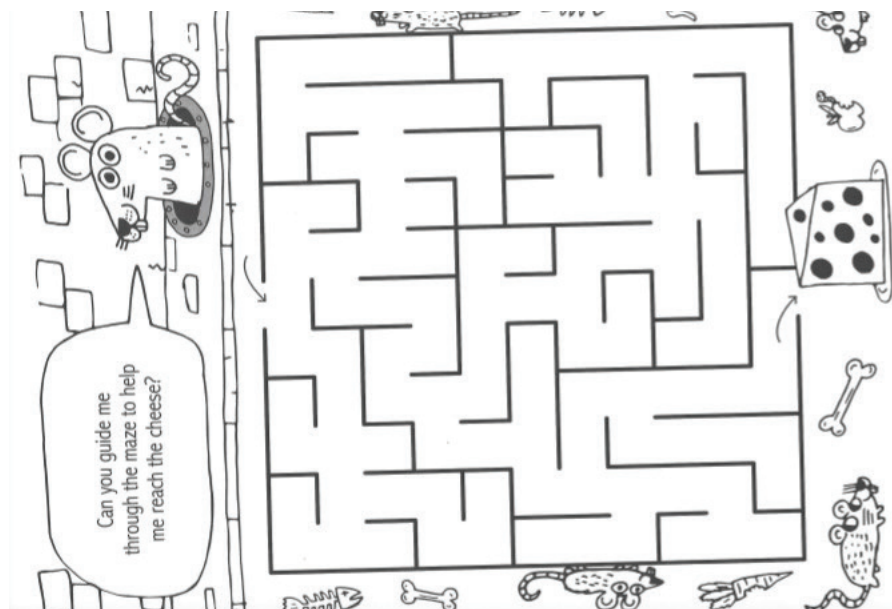
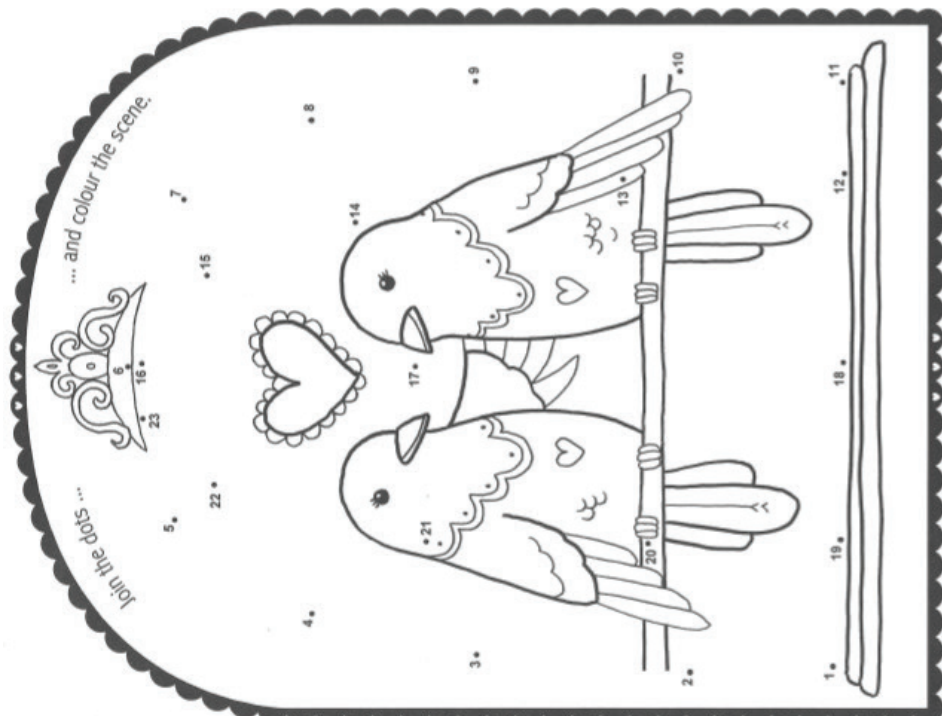
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Get Something to Colour with and Get Busy !



Winter Warming Curry

An easy chicken curry if you buy in the spice paste already mixed (*there's nothing wrong with cheating*)....with a recipe for the foodies who want to make it "to taste" below.



Ingredients

- 2 tbsp sunflower oil
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- thumb-sized piece of ginger, grated
- 6 chicken thighs, boneless and skinless
- 3 tbsp medium spice paste (tikka works well)
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 100g Greek yogurt
- 1 small bunch of coriander, leaves chopped
- 50g ground almonds
- naan breads or cooked basmati rice, to serve

Method

STEP 1

Heat the oil in a flameproof casserole dish or large frying pan over a medium heat. Add the onion and a generous pinch of salt and fry for 8-10 mins, or until the onion has turned golden brown and sticky. Add the garlic and ginger, cooking for a further minute.

STEP 2

Chop the chicken into chunky 3cm pieces, add to the pan and fry for 5 mins before stirring through the spice paste and tomatoes, along with 250ml water. Bring to the boil, lower to a simmer and cook on a gentle heat uncovered for 25-30 mins or until rich and slightly reduced. Stir through the yogurt, coriander and ground almonds, season and serve with warm naan or fluffy basmati rice.

EASY CHICKEN CURRY by Esther Clarke <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/easy-chicken-curry>, 5 mins prep, 45 mins cooking

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons coriander seeds
- 2 tablespoons cumin seeds
- 1 tablespoon fennel seeds
- 1 teaspoon black peppercorns
- 2 dried red chillies
- 1 shallot, peeled and chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled
- 4" fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric (turmeric powder)
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon red chili powder (add more if you like)
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste (tomato purée)
- 2 teaspoons white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt

Yield: 3/4 cup

EASY INDIAN CURRY PASTE

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Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time
10 minutes	5 minutes	15 minutes



1. Place coriander seeds, cumin seeds, fennel seeds, dried red chillies and peppercorns in a frying pan over low heat. Cook, stirring constantly, for about 2-3 minutes or until the seeds turn golden and aromatic. Remove from heat.
2. Allow to cool completely. Transfer cooked spices to a food processor. Grind to a fine powder.
3. Add shallots, ginger, garlic, ground turmeric, paprika, red chili powder, tomato paste, vinegar and salt. Grind again to make a smooth paste.
4. Use immediately, or store the paste in a sterilized jar for up to a week.

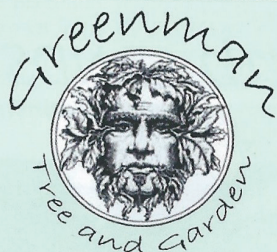
<https://niskitchen.com/easy-indian-curry-paste/>

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'MALPAS MISCELLANIES' - David Hayns

Malpas local historian David Hayns has re-issued his two 'Malpas Miscellanies', generously illustrated 36 page booklets. The first is '**A MALPAS MISCELLANY**', a collection of articles and poems about Malpas and the surrounding area. One article is about the two Rectors, who formerly served the parish, and their links with the 'King's Chair' which stands in the 'Lion at Malpas', including the full text of a long poem by a 19th century rector, claiming to recount the legend behind the Chair. Other articles tell of the town's links with the Romans, including the Malpas Tabula, a military 'pension certificate', which is now on display in the British Museum; the story of the Malpas Fire Service, from when the parish purchased its first two fire engines in 1832; Malpas churches and chapels; the Women's Institute on the 'Home Front' during the second World War; music and drama in the town during the 1940s and 1950s; windmills which have vanished from the area; the visit of Celia Fiennes to No Mans Heath in 1698; the Clayhole in Wrexham Road; local members of the Cheshire Yeomanry who became involved in a 'punch-up' at Aldershot when training for the Boer War campaign; and the provision of lower cost housing in the town.

'**A SECOND MALPAS MISCELLANY**', comprises a further collection of eleven writings about the area. They include a main article about the fairs and weekly markets which, until the 19th century, were a regular part of life in this agricultural community. Another chronicles the 17th century Civil Wars activities, including the Battle of Oldcastle, and how one of the outcomes was the founding, in the following century, of Richard Alport's charity school, the forerunner of today's primary school. A somewhat mysterious local character was Richard Minshull of Malpas Old Hall who had links with Bonnie Prince Charlie, the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion and the semi-secret society known as 'The Cycle of the White Rose'. Saint Oswald's church has three articles that tell the story of the church's 19th century orchestra, complete with the instrument known as a Serpent; investigate some of the persons who were buried actually under the church floor, rather than in the churchyard; and explain how the Churchwardens were responsible for vermin control in the parish! A local newspaper report from 1881 led to *The Empress and Sir Watkin*, about a visit to Malpas, in order to hunt with the Wynnstays, of Elizabeth, Empress of Austria. Some of the author's research into local place-names is presented in '*Tons, 'leys' and townships: The beginnings of our parish and Why 'Gallantry Bank'?*'. Of the two remaining articles, one tells the story of the town's water supply, the other reprints a 1901 poem about a Malpas ladies' hockey team who became rather 'too big for their boots'!

The booklets are on sale at £5.00 each from Nisa (Malpas Post Office) or for £6.50 (inclusive of postage) from David Hayns at Stoke Cottage, Church Street, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8PD Tel: 01948 860486 davidhayns.123@btinternet.com.

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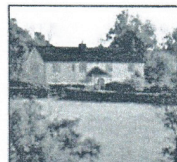
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The Malpas Youth Centre has been working with young people for nearly twenty years and is a charity

registered with the Charity Commission. Open to ages 8-17 we have 2 sessions a week: Wednesday Young Persons for school years 7 and up and Friday Youth Club Session for school years 4-7. Find out more at <https://malpasyouthcentre.co.uk>



MALPAS YOUNG PERSONS' PROJECT

To help us with our work the management committee is looking for additional **committee members and trustees**. The duties are by no means onerous. However, you do need to be enthusiastic about improving the lives of local young people and be prepared to volunteer for tasks or projects agreed within our meetings.

The committee meets approximately four times a year, and from time to time committee members also take part in local events such as the Village Christmas Fair. There is no expectation that committee members or trustees should volunteer to help with the youth sessions we run on Wednesday and Friday evenings unless they want to.

Anyone interested in finding out more and getting involved in our work with young people should get in touch with any of the individuals below.

Margo Webb, Chairperson, margo.webb@btinternet.com tel: 01948 861019

Anne Wright Treasurer, ann@offroading.net

John Pierson, Secretary, j.pierson@mac.com tel: 01948 860453

Sally Sharp, committee member, sallyksharp@gmail.com tel: 01948 860453

617 (Heber) Air Cadet Corps

It's a busy schedule of activities for the Air Cadets as I learnt when I went to visit 617 (Heber) Air Cadet Corps in mid December last year.

The Air Cadets were just in the middle of a quiz night when I arrived and as I left they were taking a break with drinks and Jaffa Cakes. I enjoyed meeting such a friendly group (listed below, asterixes denote new promotions) and they told me a lot about the activities they do. I was struck by how valuable the skills were that the cadets were learning, both for a future potential RAF career, but also as general life skills.

Air Cadets take a range of courses planned over the year, building up their knowledge of some really interesting specialist subjects and in practical skills. Whether it's training and education, parade and drill or team-work and problems-solving the cadets were clear that all activities are fun, and build strong friendships. Drill requires real self-discipline and is great training in personal organisation, ability to work in

a team and remembering instructions and carrying them out accurately.

All the cadets had basic first aid training and knew how to carry out CPR which they had practiced.



Contributions from:

Sgt Sam Hedges

Cpl Lydia Simpson

Cpl Alex Gilmour*

Cpl Rory Sinclair*

Cpl Alfie Byrne*

Cdt Sam Parry

Cdt Henry Scott

Cdt Seb Winder

Cdt James Abbott

Cdt Isla Sutton

Cdt Phoebe Hodgson

Cdt Olly Golding

Cdt Piers Roger

Cdt Franz Sakzsarov

They had recently had a great challenge night (see pictures) which included 3 teams that competed to design and build a vehicle from a range of equipment specially brought in for the evening, which they then raced. It was a real high pressure test with a time limit so all of the team members needed to play their part to achieve a successful outcome in time. It had clearly also brought out a great competitive spirit! The activity was organised by the RAF careers team who visited to also give them information about future career options. With the RAF requiring such a wide range of skills there are opportunities for everyone.



The many fascinating topics they have studied include **Space Technology**. They found out about how that is translated into wider use (box below). We chatted about what counts as space (currently defined as the Karman Line, about 100km (60 miles) above mean sea level), the need for satellites and the challenges of space debris. I was certainly impressed!

All the cadets get the chance to train on the flight simulator they showed me and once the cadets are over 14 they can apply for a flight with the RAF. I was surprised to learn that this is a 1-1

flight in a Grob Tutor plane as the co-pilot with an RAF pilot. Five of the group I met had flown from Cosford and one unfortunately missed out in 2020 due to lockdown happening on his appointment weekend.

The RAF organises a number of cadet camps throughout the year where they can join with other cadet corps, building wider friendships across the country and within the force. It all sounds like a really fun group to be involved with.

I had the chance to congratulate the newly promoted corporals and tell them to keep us all informed about their news in 2022.

Did you know that memory foam was originally developed to line astronaut seats to reduce the G-forces they experience? And commonly seen foil blankets came from thermal insulation in the space station?



Contact Flying Officer Gina Aldous RAFAC for more details: oc.617@rafac.mod.gov.uk

High Flight – John Gillespie Magee

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence; hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace.
Where never lark, or even eagle flew –
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

'High Flight' was written in 1941 by John Gillespie Magee, shortly before he died aged 19. It is the official poem of both the RAF and the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force). This poem is inscribed in full on the space shuttle challenger memorial at Arlington Ceremony in the USA, and was also taken into space on an index card by Michael Collins (who famously did not walk on the moon but instead controlled the Apollo 11 whilst his colleagues Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong took that "giant leap"). The poem is a moving depiction of what it is like to leave the earth and one's everyday life behind and fly.

Kate Hobson

Malpas Walking for Health Scheme—Feb Dates



All walks start from the High Street Church at 10.15 a.m. The walks last from half to three quarters of an hour on Tuesdays (**8th and 22nd February**) and from one to one and half hours on Thursdays (**3rd and 17th February**). Walks comply with Covid regulations and new walkers are asked to complete a health questionnaire. *Sorry....dogs are not allowed on these walks.*

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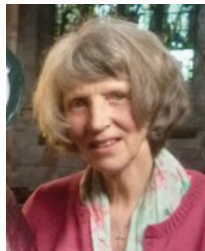
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## Introducing Ann Welby— St. Oswalds' Verger

St Oswald's church and the Malpas community are very fortunate that Ann Welby agreed to take on the role of Verger last year. The job no longer includes responsibility for control of vermin in the village, which makes it a *whole lot* easier to get volunteers, of course. The job of the Verger is to prepare the church for the different services; make sure the Clergy are supported in leading the service, and to lead clergy and special visitors to their places. Well that's the formal role, but Ann also helps enormously in many ways, including ensuring the kitchen facilities are ready for refreshments after Sunday service, sorting out this parish magazine into the piles that go out to our dedicated delivery team and doing a lot of the cleaning of the building—quite a daunting task. And who opens the church **every day of the week from 10.00 am to 4pm?** Yes, that is Ann too. For taking on that particular commitment I feel the whole village may be grateful, as are the visitors to the village who call in to the church (who would miss it out of a visit to Malpas?).



*Any time you feel you want to take time out, grab some quiet contemplation or private prayer, take the opportunity to step in to St. Oswald's. 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.*

Anyone who feels able to commit any amount of regular giving to support our parish church can set up a Standing Order to **Account Name: ST OSWALDS MALPAS, SORT CODE 55 81 16 and Account Number 08202877**. One-off payments to this account or giving electronically at the church or cheques payable to **ST OSWALDS CHURCH MALPAS** are all gratefully received.

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



### Do you love singing?

The Choir of St Oswald's Church is currently recruiting alto and tenors who can sight read. 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. Valentine....from *Vatican News*

**The Roman priest** The story of Valentine, the Roman priest, dates back to around AD270, during the persecutions of the Emperor Claudius Gothicus. Valentine was well known for his sanctity and the Emperor, who was intrigued by his fame, invited him to the palace. He offered Valentine his friendship and said he should adore the gods. But Valentino stated courageously and firmly that it was a waste of time worshipping the gods since Jesus Christ had brought the only true hope and the promise of a better world. The Emperor entrusted him to a Roman nobleman named Asterius, whom he ordered to convert Valentine using "mellifluous arguments" (*Ed: try that on the teenagers*). Asterius had a daughter who had been blind since the age of two. Valentino prayed over her and the girl regained her sight. Faced with this miracle, Asterius converted to Christianity along with his whole family. When he heard about their conversion, the Emperor Claudius condemned Valentine to be beheaded. The execution took place on the Via Flaminia in Rome. He was buried nearby and a church was built there in his honour.



**The Bishop of Terni** The story regarding the Bishop of Terni takes place about seventy years later: Valentine was invited to Rome by the rhetorician and philosopher Crato, a teacher of Greek and Latin. He had a son who suffered from a physical deformity. No doctor had managed to heal him. Crato promised Valentine half of his possessions if he healed his son. But during a long night-time conversation, Valentine explained that it would not be his useless wealth that would heal the boy, but his faith in the one true God. Valentine then prayed over the boy and he regained his health. Moved by this miracle, Crato and his whole family were baptized by the bishop, together with the son of the Prefect of Rome (Placidus). Placidus held office between 346-347AD, so this is the historical date associated with Valentine's martyrdom. Placidus was devastated by the conversion of his son so he had Valentine arrested and decapitated on the Via Flaminia in Rome.

**Patron saint of lovers** There are too many connections between the stories of the Valentine of Rome and the Valentine of Terni, including their places of martyrdom and burial, for us not to think they are one and the same person. Both give heroic testimonies of faith, both perform a miraculous healing that causes conversions, and both are martyred by beheading on the Via Flaminia in Rome. It was the Benedictine Order that maintained the church of St Valentine in Terni during the Middle Ages and that spread the cult of Valentine's Day in their monasteries in France and England.

The tradition of his being patron saint of lovers finds its origin in an ancient English text by Geoffrey Chaucer, according to whom birds start mating on Valentine's Day. So Saint Valentine has also become the saint who announces the coming spring – which is why he is sometimes represented holding the sun in his hand and the link to lovers increased by the fact that his Saint's day, Feb 14th, coincided with the date of the Roman fertility festival of the goddess Juno.

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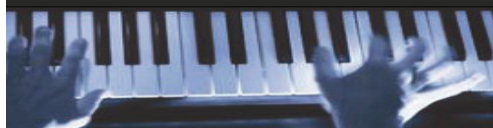
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## Introducing "Prospect House Residential Care Home"

### ◆ *What makes Malpas a great location for Prospect House residential care home?*

Malpas is a well-connected, friendly village which offers modern conveniences whilst still retaining its historical rural charm. Prospect House is a beautifully renovated Georgian house with panoramic views over the Cheshire plains which can be enjoyed from its numerous tranquil courtyard gardens. It's a lovely spot.

### ◆ *How many residents can you cater for?*

We can cater for up to 64 residents and we specialise in providing residential care, nursing care, dementia care and respite care. Based on individual needs, our dedicated professional care team design a bespoke plan addressing medical, personal and social requirements for each resident.

### ◆ *What do you think makes Prospect House special ?*

Our mission is 'Caring to be Better' and this philosophy underlies everything we do from the home's accommodation and facilities, to our CQC rating of GOOD across the board and our wonderful staff team who deliver care. The home offers old world charm alongside magnificent modern amenities including luxurious prestige rooms, our classical formal dining room, our state of the art catering kitchen, our new spa bath, extensive internet facilities and a dedicated hair salon. Our dedicated staff understand that Prospect House is our residents' own home in which they welcome us as a staff team to share their daily lives giving us the valuable honour of being able to help them live their best lives in their later years.

### ◆ *What plans for residents entertainment do you have in the year ahead?*

Our in-house Activities Team ensure that there is a strong sense of community, friendship and fun in the home. Events include Resident Meetings, Book Club, Arts & Crafts, music/singing events, church services, visits from zoo animals and a full diary of events for special calendar dates such as Remembrance Sunday, World Chocolate Day, Parliament Week and World Children's Day to name just a few. We also offer regular special dining events with all meals being prepared by our in-house Chef Paul who has Michelin star restaurant experience. From 'Dine Around the World' themed events to our 'Masquerade Ball' there is a wonderfully rich array of gourmet food and enjoyment available.

### ◆ *What makes a career in the care sector rewarding?*

Being supported as part of a team which has care at its very heart, working in an atmosphere of friendship, respect and, above all, providing the very best possible care to residents and making a real difference to their lives.



*If anyone is interested in developing a career with us on a full time, part time or bank basis we would be delighted to share more details of available opportunities. <https://www.prospecthousemalpas.co.uk/>*

## Valentine's today—Pub Quiz Trivia

The name Valentine is a boy's name of Latin origin meaning "strength, health" with the feminine version Valentina.

Shakespeare used the name twice: one character in *Twelfth Night*, and the other belonging to one of the two gentlemen in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

Apparently Valentine was the name of the father of James Bond-creator Ian Fleming; the young Humphrey Bogart played a dashing con artist named Valentine Corliss in an early film, *The Bad Sister*, and Kevin Bacon was Valentine McKee in the 1990 sci fi movie *Tremors*.

Valentine Michael Smith is a major character in Robert Heinlein's classic, *Stranger in a Strange Land*.

Though Valentine hasn't been in the Top 1000 favourite boys names for over half a century, it's currently in the Top 100 in France and Belgium.

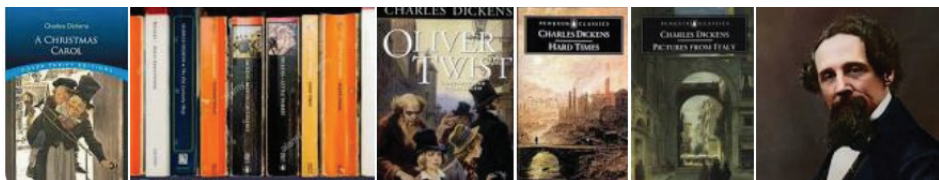
Valentine—a perfect name for a February baby? (you couldn't could you?!).

## A literary start to February

This month kicks off with two different literary events.

The week commencing 29th Jan is National Storytelling week which is aimed at the promotion of the oral tradition of storytelling, the very first way of communicating life experiences and the creative imagination. A good way to give this a go is the "Pass the Story" game for which you need a ball or toy to toss to the speaker. The person with the ball starts by speaking those magical words, "Once upon a time..." They then toss the ball to the next person who continues the story. They can add one sentence or more, just as long as they set up a cliffhanger for the next person who catches the ball ("...the dragon ran into a family of bunnies and then she..."). And the story continues. Bringing it to a satisfactory close can be quite a challenge!

It's also worth noting the birth date of Charles Dickens on **7th February** (1812-70). Dickens wrote some of the most incredible characters and fascinating plots in literary history. Perhaps a good reason to try one, or re-read an old favourite.





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# Malpas Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

(2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022)

In 2022, Her Majesty, The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee (seventy years of service) having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952.



Like to know more, or be involved, with the Malpas celebration events, then come along to our “Drop-in” information event.

## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February in the Jubilee Hall

9:30am – 12:30pm



Part of the Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee floral display in St Oswald's Church

If you have your own ideas on a suitable event that could be included in the programme then E-mail [editor@malpascheshire.org](mailto:editor@malpascheshire.org) or telephone 01948 860333

### Anagram answers!

St, Valentine's Day, A dozen red roses, Hearts and flowers, Love and marriage,  
Bunch of flowers, Box of chocolates, Be my valentine, February the Fourteenth,  
Hugs and kisses, Diamond ring

## Winter Gardening Tips From Malpas Amateur Gardeners

A Happy New Year to you all. You may have been given a houseplant for Xmas, so here are a few tips to keeping them looking good. Firstly all plants need as much light as you can give them at this time of year as light levels are so low, secondly only water them once the compost feels dry to the touch, preferably watering them from below with tepid rain water if you have it, keeping the foliage and flowers dry, do not mist flowering plants, as this encourages grey mould on the petals. Indoor azaleas (remember these are not hardy, so don't put them in the garden!) are an exception to these rules as they must be kept moist and always use rain water for them. Poinsettias particularly hate draughts or hot radiators, so try to find a spot where the temperature is fairly even, kitchens can be good. Don't beat yourself up if they eventually die, they are still always better value than cut flowers and a house in winter is a tricky environment with its fluctuating temperatures.

In the garden there is plenty to do, if the weather allows. Now is the time to prune wisteria, last year's whippy growth should be pruned back to two buds, do not remove entirely! This small piece of stem known as a spur is where your flowers will form. Apple and pear trees can be lightly pruned, do not prune heavily to reduce the size of a tree as you will only stimulate a rash of vigorous upright growth, which will crowd out the branches and take years to fruit. Simply remove any dead, diseased or damaged wood, then any crossing branches or very upright inward growing branches, aiming to open up the centre of the tree, letting in air and light. Do not prune plums in winter as you leave them open to silver leaf disease, wait until summer if it is needed.

Weed borders before the bulbs start to peep through and mulch any bare ground with leaf mould or garden compost. Perennials can be lifted and split discarding the old centre of the plant. Take time to enjoy any winter flowering plants such as Hamamelis, Mahonias and Sarcococca, my garden was alive with bees at the weekend as the mild weather woke them up and they came looking for food. If you don't have any winter interest maybe now is a good time to visit a winter garden such as Dorothy Clive to get some ideas to brighten yours up, after all winter is just as long a season as summer.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> Malpas Amateur Gardeners has its first speaker of the year, Jill Rawlings from Mynd Hardy Plants who will take us on a tour of Italian gardens, how lovely when we are not able to go for real. You can also rejoin the club and collect your new membership card. As usual we meet in the Methodist Church at 7.30. We are a friendly group and follow all government guidelines to keep you safe.

Happy Gardening! *Anne Harrison*



## St Oswalds' Choir News—Stewart Smith

For the Choir, Christmas began in the middle of July (yes July!) when, on one of the hottest days of the year we recorded our first Christmas CD. By Christmas Day we had sold nearly all of the 200 CD's produced. This has been a great fundraiser for all 3 Churches and we are very grateful to all who helped sell CD's and to those who bought them.

### **ADVENT**

The preparation for Christmas began with the Advent Carol Service on Nov 28th. The start of the service took a new format to give a more dramatic procession 'From Darkness to Light'. The choir began in the two side Chapels, processing to the centre to light their candles as they moved to the back of the church accompanied by a solo voice (Oliver Smith) singing the plainsong hymn 'Creator of the Stars of Night'. Once assembled at the back, the service began with the processional hymn by candlelight 'O come O come Emmanuel'. At the middle of the service, the Choir moved to the Sanctuary to sing 'Bogorodytse Dyevo' (Hail Mary) by Rachmaninoff. The Sanctuary is a lovely part of our Church to sing from as the surrounding stonework creates a lovely acoustic. We are grateful to the Rev Mike Rogers for his leadership of the Service and his helpful suggestions..

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Dec 10th**

The Christmas Gala Evening was the first one we have staged and it was a huge success raising nearly £1000. The raffle was very well received and thanks go to Judith Cruikshank for organising it. Thanks also to the Wardens for their help in arranging the refreshments. There was a wide variety of Music performed by The Church Choir, One Achord and the Wirral Symphonic Wind Band. Hearing Lee Roy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride' on the Organ led to suggestions that I should play it on Christmas Day but in the end I felt it was a little too secular!

### **CAROL SERVICE - Dec 19th**

The annual Carol Service was led by the Rev Roger Clark. It began in the traditional way with Once in Royal being started at the back by soloist Liane Smith before the choir processed forward.. Again we took advantage of the setting of the Sanctuary to sing two of the Carols in the middle of the Service .

### **TWO CHRISTMAS EUCHARISTS**

On Christmas eve the Midnight Mass was led by the Rev Roger Clark. The Organ was played by Henry Smith (Junior Organ Scholar at Royal Holloway University London). On Christmas Day the Rev Mike Rogers led the 11am Christmas Day Communion with Carols. The Choir setting of the service was Darke in F and 3 carols were sung during the Communion administration - Carol of the Bells, Sussex Carol and Christmas Lullaby.

### **ST OSWALD'S CHOIR AT CHESTER CATHEDRAL FOR EPIPHANY**

On a rather wintry evening on 6th Jan we went to Chester to sing (next page). Rather more warmly this was followed by a very happy social evening in a pizza restaurant to wind off a hectic end to 2021 and start with a Happy New Year for all.



## St Oswald's Choir at Chester Cathedral



The Choir of St. Oswald's Choir, Malpas sang the BCP Eucharist at Chester Cathedral on Thursday 6th January. The Mass setting was to the music of Charles Gounod. The choir sang the Motet Tantum Ergo by Severeac and during communion The Three Kings by Peter Cornelius with the Baritone soloist Oliver Smith. The Organ accompanist was Henry Smith (Junior Organ Scholar at Royal Holloway University). The service was led by the Cathedral Precentor Canon Jeremy Dussek and the choir was directed by Stewart Smith. LISTEN AT: [https://youtu.be/j94\\_S8qb9Ek](https://youtu.be/j94_S8qb9Ek)

The choir can be heard at St Oswald's every Sunday at the 11am Parish Communion Service. **We welcome new members of the congregation warmly.**

## St Oswald's Mothers Union



As we enter a new year let's look forward in hope to doing those things that have been put on hold for so long, due to the pandemic. This year is also the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, certainly something we will celebrate. A reminder that subs are due this month (same as last year) so please forward your cheques asap. *Ann Welby*

*A prayer for reflection*

Loving Lord

we give thanks for your faithfulness to Mother's Union through many years. Unite us together in vision and love that we may continue to reach out as your hands across the world to carry out your mission on earth. Amen





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