

# PARISH NEWS

*For: Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton*

**November 2022**



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"St Oswald's with St John's Threapwood & Holy Trinity, Bickerton"



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

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Rev. Janine Arnott 01948 860922  
rev.janinearnott@outlook.com

### PCC Treasurer

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### Friend's of St Oswald's

Lady Christine Bibby 01948 860809

### Friend's of St John's, Threapwood

Gill Edwards 01948 770694

## Holy Trinity, Bickerton

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### PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid

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### Church Flowers

Janet Clark 01829 720827

### Organist

Rachel Hall

## November Services

### St Oswald's Malpas

13th November **Remembrance Sunday - 10.45 am**

27th. November—6.30 pm—**Advent Carol Service**

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

11<sup>th</sup> November: 11am **Remembrance service** at St Johns with bugler

### Holy Trinity Bickerton

6th November— 09.30 am Holy Communion.

13th November **Remembrance Sunday—10.45 am** officiant Rev Jane Stephenson.

20th November— 09.30 am Holy Communion.

27th. November—**Advent Sunday** 9.30 am Holy Communion

## Our Cover Picture

*Cover picture:* This picture, created by the pre-school children at Malpas Alport School is an absolute masterpiece. What a fabulous collage of Autumn colours, animals and birds and leaves! It was part of the Harvest service decorations on 9th October at St. Oswald's. The children of Malpas Alport contributed some thoughtful poems and prayers about Autumn and harvest and sang a lovely song. We all really enjoyed their contributions and send all of them a big THANK YOU!

Our next parish magazine is our combined December—January issue so I would like to have contributions of any artwork or craft or modelling or baking on the theme of Christmas. I promise that every contribution sent through will be printed and something will be on the front cover! The only problem is that you do need to get moving to get it to be in time for printing....

So please send a photograph or scan of the artistic creation with name and age of the artist to my email any date **before 10th November**.

## Note From The Editor

This year seems to have been packed with huge life-impacting events and I am sure many of you shared the sense of “another broadside” on hearing of the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. It’s a times like this that the role of the church in channelling public emotion and enabling an opportunity to come together is so very important. Services marking the death took place in our benefice on 18th September, the day before the funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Holy Trinity welcomed representatives from the Sandstone Scout Group who honoured the service with lowering of the flags before the silence. A similar service took place at St Oswald’s which is shown later in the magazine.



In less sombre vein our benefice celebrated the harvest in traditional style with sharing of food and a sense of thankfulness to God for “all good things around us”. A “Bring and Share” lunch at St. Oswald’s was a great feast with three tables laden with food contributed by our regular congregation and much enjoyed by everyone who came to a very uplifting harvest service. At our “Harvest Messy Church” we made harvest lanterns and at St John’s we had a we shared a community supper together after the service in the beautifully decorated church. The Bickerton harvest lunch was a great success with over 90 sitting down to one of Sue’s wonderful roast beef lunches.

This month in the magazine you can read about the first and last Queen’s Scouts in Bickerton and the expedition highlights from our Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Explorers. I’m also letting you know that earlier this year the benefice contributed images to the “Pilgrim Porch” at Chester Cathedral. I’ll provide updates and hopefully photographs when it is finished. There’s plenty coming up so keep the “news handy”, or better still - *put the key dates for November and December in your diary now!*

As always, please take a look at all the suppliers who generously support the publication of the parish magazine. Please mention that you have seen their advertisements in the “parish News” when you use their services.

Please think ahead and send details of any events in December *and January* through before 10th November to: my email: [liane.smith@outlook.com](mailto:liane.smith@outlook.com)

*Liane Smith*



## Rectors Letter

Autumn is my favourite time of year. As the warm days of late summer give way to autumn, the trees are a riot of colour and there is a crisp chill in the air. The seasons are changing. The nights come earlier, and the days are shorter. The colour on the trees gives way to bare branches that stand proud against cold winter skies. Winter beckons

The abundance of life that fills the summer days is coming to end, at least for this season. But in these darker days, life continues at a gentler pace. The fruit fallen from the tree buries itself in the ground and waits. The seeds scattered from the dead flower heads lie just under the surface of the ground and they wait too.

All are waiting to spring into life when the time is right: when the winter chill in the air has gone, when the earth gently warms, and when the days begin to lengthen. They sit and wait knowing that spring will come as it does every year, and when it does, those dormant, sleeping seeds will spring into life. That is the circle of life. Each season depends on the season before it. Without the dying down of plants, there can be no new growth.

Our lives can seem like seasons. There are times when life seems new and exciting. At other times life is full of joy and growth. There are also times when we seem to be moving out of one season to another; times when we feel we are in a season of transition. At other times, we seem to be waiting and at times we can find ourselves in a season that is not where we want to be.

In Ecclesiastes we read *"For everything there is a season, A time for every activity under heaven"* (Ecc 3:1). Wherever you are right now, know that it will not last forever. The seasons of our lives change just like the seasons of the earth. One season cannot start until another one ends, and each season depends on the one that has gone before. Even in those darker colder seasons, we are preparing for growth and renewal – just like seeds lying dormant in the ground.



*Rev. Janine*

*Autumn colours in St Oswald's harvest flower displays*

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

**19th November**— 3.00 p.m. Special Re-dedication Service of Malpas Community Church with Buffet Tea. RSVP [helenproudlove@btinternet.com](mailto:helenproudlove@btinternet.com) Mob: 07928340299



**23rd November**—THREAPWOOD COMMUNITY **COFFEE MORNING** 10.30-12.30 at Somerset House, Threapwood. Stalls: jewellery, cakes, chutneys, jams, Bring and Buy, Raffle. £3 at the door for refreshments

### **24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> November — Christmas Tree Festival!**

Our first Christmas Tree Festival! The church will be lit up with Christmas Trees during Advent weekend. Community groups, schools, uniformed organisations, and social groups are all welcome to enter a tree. **Contact Beverley** on [beverley.dobson21@gmail.com](mailto:beverley.dobson21@gmail.com)

**30th November – 3rd December— Dick Whittington**—Panto! Whitchurch Civic Centre. *See poster in this magazine.*

**1st and 2nd December**—Christmas Wreath Making at Bickerton Village Hall. There's still time to reserve your places for the remaining few left for the Christmas wreath making ! Get in there fast to have a fun craft session and get ahead on your Christmas decorations!

**11th December** - 4.00pm Holy Trinity **Carol service** followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

**13<sup>th</sup> December** **Bishop Heber School** Carol Service at St Oswald's

**14<sup>th</sup> December** The **Alport School** Christmas Carol Service at St Oswald's

**15th December** —4 pm Holy Trinity Outdoor **Nativity around the Christmas Tree** at presented by **Bickerton School**

***Details of all our Christmas services at all the Churches in our December Parish News***

Many congratulations to Amy Salt from Cuddington, Malpas, who represented Wales Cymru at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham this summer. She competed in the weight lifting.



## A fresh look.....



*I just caught this beautiful ray of sunshine from the low -in-the-sky autumn sun lighting the magnificent interior of St Oswald's before our harvest service –Rev Janine*

People always enjoy it when someone sends in a story about their hobby (heavy hint to you all!) but we'll have to wait for a future month to get Rev Janine to tell us more about her passion for photography. However, she sent me the above picture, she took from the main altar in St. Oswald's and I think its fabulous, like seeing the place with fresh eyes.

I'm going to use it shamelessly here to remind all the Malpas residents that you have a gem of a Grade I listed building in your village, somewhere to treasure for its beauty and historic significance as well as its religious focus for centuries. You can imagine the cost of the upkeep —just the insurance bill is £1500 *a month*. Please consider if you could make any contribution towards the maintenance of the fabric of the church. Even £1 per month from each household in the village would be fantastic.

Anyone who feels able to commit *any* amount of regular giving to support can set up a Standing Order to **Account Name: ST OSWALDS MALPAS, SORT CODE 55 81 16 and Account Number 08202877**. Tax-payers can increase the value of their gift by 25% through gift aid.

*Liane Smith*, Gift Aid Administrator

## Could you help the finance team at St Oswald's?

Do you feel called to serve in our church?

We are looking for people to join our new finance team.

After 8 years, our wonderful treasurer Lou Furnival is stepping down and we are looking for a team of people to support the role of a new Treasurer.

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The finance team consists of an established Gift Aid officer and support with the day to day handling of cash is provided by the verger and church wardens.

This is an exciting opportunity to help shape this new team as it develops

If you have a heart to help the church and want to know more then please do contact Rev Janine on Tel: 01948 860922 to find out more.

## Christmas Wreath Making Workshops 2022 Bickerton Village Hall

Thursday 1 December 1.30 pm

Thursday 1 December 6 pm

Friday 2 December 1.30 pm

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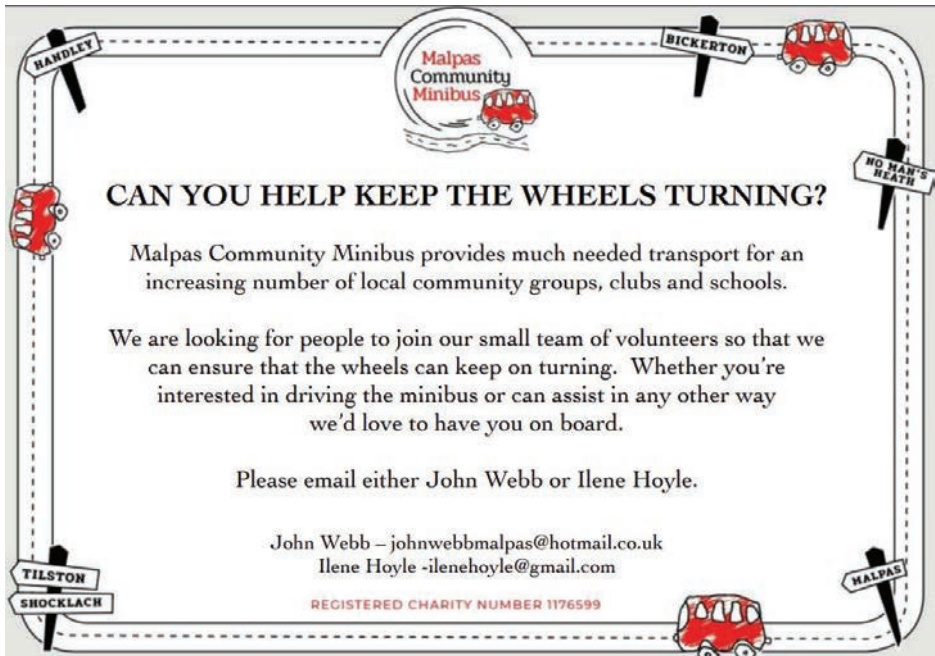


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The poster is framed by a dashed line with a red double-decker bus at each corner. The top-left bus is labeled 'HANDLEY', the top-right 'BICKERTON', the bottom-left 'TILSTON' and 'SHOCKLACH', and the bottom-right 'MALPAS'. A signpost on the right side of the frame reads 'NO MAN'S BEATH'. In the center, a circular logo features a red bus and the text 'Malpas Community Minibus'.

**CAN YOU HELP KEEP THE WHEELS TURNING?**

Malpas Community Minibus provides much needed transport for an increasing number of local community groups, clubs and schools.

We are looking for people to join our small team of volunteers so that we can ensure that the wheels can keep on turning. Whether you're interested in driving the minibus or can assist in any other way we'd love to have you on board.

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## St Oswald's Harvest Festival Service



*Children from Malpas Alport School sing in the harvest festival service*

### **"Autumn has Arrived" by Jasmine, Year 6**

Leaves on the trees going green to orange to yellow,  
Fruits and vegetables ripening in the sun,  
Leaves falling on the ground everywhere,  
Orange, red, yellow and brown.  
Thankyou God for the harvest season  
It truly is amazing!

September and October bring darker nights,  
And a warmer coat to wrap up tight.  
Farmers gathering in their fields  
To harvest vegetables  
With a tractor with colossal wheels.

But most of all for harvest season,  
There is a most amazing reason  
To enjoy this time of year.  
To thank God for bringing this joy to us  
In whispering winds  
Flowing in the trees.



*Several children read poems and prayers and gave harvest gifts, making a great contribution to the service. Then we all ate a splendid bring and share lunch together.*

## Puzzles for All



Each of these children has a favourite insect, can you find out whose is whose?



Spot 10 differences



Copy the dog and colour him in!

What are you going to call him?

\_\_\_\_\_





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## November 13th — Remembrance Sunday - A Key Date



*617 Squadron ATC marching after the Remembrance Service— November 2021*

The war in Ukraine is an unhappy reminder of the impact of war, the loss of loved ones in communities and families. Perhaps it brings closer to us the need for remembering past sacrifices of individual young men from within our own communities.

Please do join us at our churches on Remembrance Sunday, 13th November, to reflect and to honour the memories of those who died in wars since World War 1 by hearing their names read aloud with respect and dignity.

I always reflect myself how many of the surnames resonate today

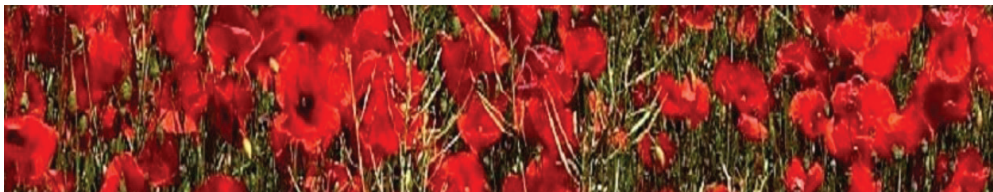
as familiar Cheshire names which really brings home the local aspect of this service. I urge you to go to the Remembrance Service or to take time out of your hectic life at 11.00 am on the 11th November to think about the sacrifice of these often very young men and to show that "We will remember them".

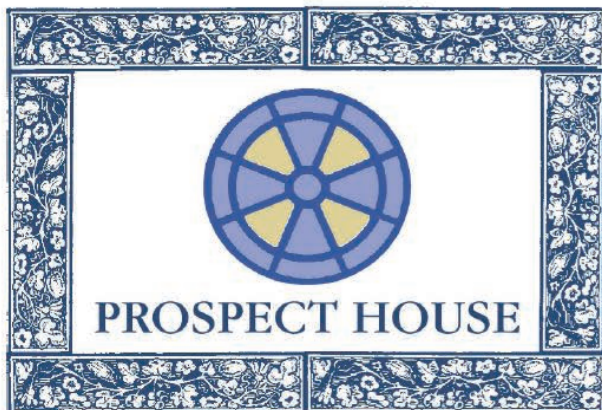
The act of remembrance is held at exactly 11.00am with two minutes silence, so please get to the service at 10.45 at Holy Trinity and St. Oswald's Malpas on 13th November or at 10.45 at Threapwood war memorial on 11/11/22.

"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*



Threapwood War Memorial





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## Sandstone Explorers—Duke of Edinburgh Gold



From left,  
Toby  
Harry A  
Tom  
Joe  
Fin  
Harry G  
Freddie

The team gave a presentation about their 4 day/3 night expedition on the Long Mynd 16-19th August. They had to carry all their kit and food with them whilst travelling up to 25km each day. They were checking public footpaths as they went to identify hazards and barriers that needed clearing (which were later reported with bearings and photographs to Shropshire Canal. They had shared out roles depending upon the personal strengths of the individuals and fortunately that included someone who was good at navigation and others who majored on tent erection and food preparation (though it seemed that the best “meals” were Mars bars...). It had been a successful and enjoyable trip, made easier through the training they had received from David Lithgow Smith through DoE Bronze and Silver levels. Advice to others was to pack with care, and plan for every weather, take more food, enjoy it.



*Presentation with the rest of the Explorers, parents etc. and the group's Assessor. She provided each with comments on their performance in the written report. They all passed this stage of the Award.*

## First and Last Queen's Scouts Meet—September 14th



Terry Taylor was the first scout at Bickerton to be awarded the honour of “Queen’s Scout” in about 1957, having joined the cubs in 1932. His picture is shown at the top on the wall. William Lithgow Smith (photo bottom right on the wall) was given the same award this year and will therefore be the *last* Queen’s Scout from the Sandstone Scout group. Both felt that scouting had been a lot of fun but challenging and rewarding. Terry subsequently became a roofer and told some hair-raising tales of installing chimney liners without any safety harness.



The Explorer Scout group with new members who have just moved up from Scouts at the front, Terry centre, and the DoE Gold Assessor standing left at the front.



## Honouring HM Queen Elizabeth II



The scout, cubs and beaver groups of Malpas joined a special civic service on September 18th at St Oswald's to mark the passing of the widely loved and respected monarch, HM Queen Elizabeth II whose funeral was held in Westminster Abbey on the 19th September. The church was beautifully decorated with magnificent flowers. Flags were presented and lowered prior to the minute's silence and then the National Anthem sung.

Long Live the King.



Thanks to Paul Worthington for his "stately and beautiful" white delphiniums, "a fitting tribute", as remarked by a fellow member of the Delphinium Society based in Utah USA who added, "Queen Elizabeth II certainly was our world support and shall be sorely missed".




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### To Queen Elizabeth II on her Silver Jubilee

In times when nothing stood  
but worsened, or grew strange,  
there was one constant good:  
she did not change.

**Philip Larkin, 1978**



### Splendour in the Grass

What though the radiance  
which was once so bright  
Be now for ever taken from my sight,  
Though nothing can bring back the hour  
Of splendour in the grass,  
of glory in the flower,  
We will grieve not, rather find  
Strength in what remains behind;  
In the primal sympathy  
Which having been must ever be;  
In the soothing thoughts that spring  
Out of human suffering;  
In the faith that looks through death,  
In years that bring the philosophic mind.

**William Wordsworth, From *The Prelude* , 1850**

Two poems that in their own ways acknowledge grief but celebrate constancy. Larkin pays tribute to our late Queen's enduring commitment to her people in a poem that was widely quoted on her death. Wordsworth mourns the passing of so much that life offers in our youth but reminds us that suffering is part of nature's continuing cycle, which eventually strengthens and soothes by its constancy. In our season of remembrance, these words may be of comfort to us.

*Kate Hobson*







# Dick Whittington & His Cat

*A pantomime by Garry Bailey*

**30th November - 3rd December**

**Whitchurch Civic Centre**

**Evening :**

**Doors Open 19:00 Curtain Up 19:30**

**Matinee:**

**Doors Open 14:00 Curtain Up 14:30**



## **Tickets**

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Standard      | Concessions   |
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### **Available From:**

Civic Centre Community Hub

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[waodsboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:waodsboxoffice@gmail.com)

03336663366

Booking fees apply online & over the phone

Look behind you! Oh no she's not! Oh yes she is! - Now you've learnt your lines, time to book your tickets for a fun pre-Christmas panto. The Whitchurch Civic Centre is a splendid theatre and WAODS put on a great show, so don't miss it. You might even spot St Oswalds crucifer in a different role! All together now: "Oh, no he isn't!!"

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## The Pilgrim Porch at Chester Cathedral

Chester Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese – a Christian community encompassing 273 parishes – and the seat of the Bishop of Chester. Despite being one of the most important medieval buildings in the north west of England, the Cathedral has a problem with visibility. Visitors – both tourists and worshippers – to our building are often unsure about where to find us, what we do, and whether they can come in.

The Pilgrim Porch will address these issues of visibility. As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee commemoration, this project will see a set of interior transparent doors being installed at the west end of Chester Cathedral in 2022. Once complete, the Pilgrim Porch will allow our arresting medieval wooden doors to remain open to the city, and allow a view of the interior of the Cathedral church from the outside: reinforcing the idea that we are an open, welcoming Church, guided by the mission 'Discovery, Encounter, Faith'.

The relationship between Cathedral and Diocese is at the heart of this project. Artist Stephen Broadbent – renowned for his sculpture and artwork across the country, and in Chester for The Celebration and The Water of Life, located in Chester Town Square and Chester Cathedral Cloister Garden, respectively – has designed the sculptural bronze porch with ceremonial glass which will feature, etched in the design of a labyrinth, images significant to churches across the diocese. As visitors gaze on our impressive church interior, they will get a sense of the communities across Cheshire invested in heritage and faith and will begin their own journey of pilgrimage in Chester Cathedral.

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford  
**Dean of Chester**





*Images submitted for inclusion in the Pilgrim's Porch windows at Chester Cathedral from St John's (left) and St Oswald's (right)*



"St. John's Threapwood is designated by English Heritage as a Grade II\* listed building. The authors of the Buildings of England series state that it is entirely Georgian in style. Situated on the south side of the Paradise Brook, St John's Church was built in 1815 on waste land belonging to Threapwood and consecrated on January 8th 1817 by the Bishop of Chester. The church yard was later consecrated on 1st Jan 1829 by Dr Sumner - Bishop of Chester.

The domestic appearance of the exterior and the use of iron make this an unusual and significant ecclesiastical building. The integrity of the original design remains largely intact due to only limited additions (such as a discreet vestry inserted in the 1900's). The church is a single cell brick building, with no separation between the nave and chancel. However, a kind of cruciform is achieved internally by the placing of doors on the north and south elevations, creating a crossing with the central aisle.

The interior is distinguished by a gallery on three sides, supported by cast iron pillars and wrought iron railings, which can also be seen around the communion table. There are box pews, for the Kenyon and Broughton families, either side of the table at the east end, and two types of pew in the nave, the ones closest to the front being simpler in design.

In recent years the slate roof was renewed and the pretty bell tower containing its single bell."

More about the lovely stained glass picture of Bishop Heber in a future edition.....

# Beeches Pre-School



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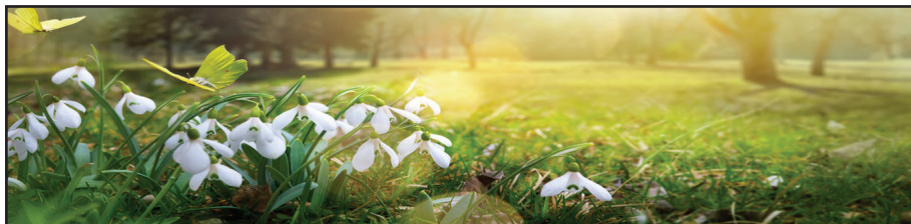
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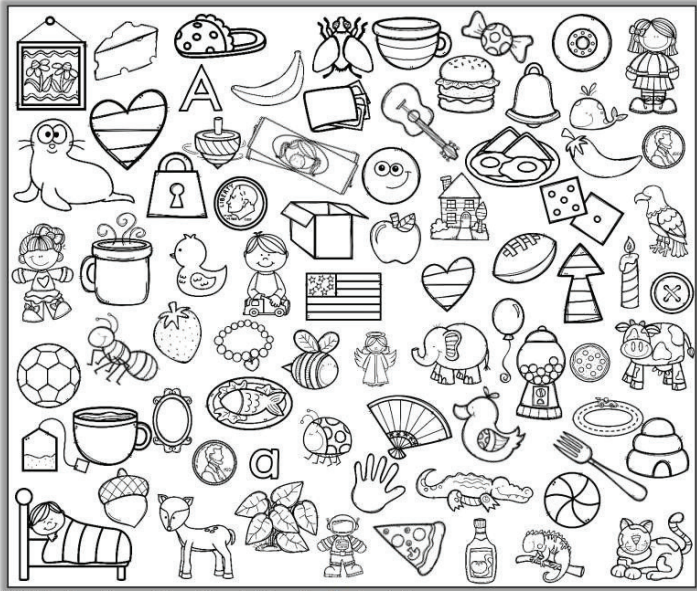
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Connect the things beginning with A to the pictures on the right.

WORDSEARCH: Find words about Apples.

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| S | W | G | R | E | D | P | M | U | Z | E | J | T | R |
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## Malpas Parish Council

The Malpas Neighbourhood Plan Group will meet at 7pm on Thursday November 3. This group will update the Malpas and Overton Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted in 2015. Since then there has been a lot of growth in the parish and the parish boundaries have changed. The group is looking for Malpas residents who would be willing join the group. If interested please contact the Co-ordinator of the group, Vice Chair of Malpas Parish Council Mike Boxall, on [Mike.Boxall1@gmail.com](mailto:Mike.Boxall1@gmail.com)

Other councillors involved in the project are Chair John Webb, Planning Lead Karen Meredith, Charles Higgle and Chris Whitehurst. So far we have only one non councillor in the group and ideally we would like equal numbers of councillors and non councillors!"

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