

PARISH NEWS

For: Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton

April 2023



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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

Vacancy

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The Threapwood Community Group

Sue Pickering 01948 770236

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

Rector

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rev.janinearnott@outlook.com

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mary.butterworth@gmail.com

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val.capewell@btinternet.com

PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid

Andrew Higgins 01829 260885
andrew_higgins@me.com

Church Flowers

Janet Clark 01829 720827

Organist

Rachel Hall

Church 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

09.30 am Holy Communion every Sunday

Additional Services for Easter 2023

April 2nd	Palm Sunday	6.30 pm St Oswald's— Faure Requiem & readings
April 6th	Maunday Thursday	7.30pm St Oswald's - Service of Tenebrae
April 7th	Good Friday	10.00 Holy Trinity, Bickerton, Devotional Service 2.00 pm St Oswald's Last Hour , Readings and Reflections
April 8th	Easter Saturday	10.00am MESSY Easter! - St. Oswald's Malpas 2.00pm MESSY Easter! - Holy Trinity Bickerton 7.30 pm Service of Light—St Johns Threapwood
April 9th	Easter Day	6.15 am Maiden Castle sunrise service followed by breakfast at Holy Trinity, Bickerton 09.30 St. John's Threapwood 11.00 St Oswald's , Malpas

Services in red text are Benefice –wide opportunities to worship together—please support these special events if you can.

Please send photographs of children's art or craft work (coronation crowns would be great!) for our May magazine cover by April 9th to liane.smith@outlook.com

Dates for your diary!

APRIL 2nd 6.30pm	Faure's Requiem, a much loved piece sung by St Oswald's choir and members of Chester Philharmonic Orchestra on Palm Sunday interspersed with readings	St Oswald's Church, Malpas
APRIL 6th 7pm	Easter Bingo for All to raise funds for Holy Trinity Bickerton	Bickerton Village Hall
APRIL 10th	Teas outside the church	Holy Trinity Bickerton
APRIL 10th from 10.30am	Coffee morning followed by Piano Recital by Concert Pianist Jill Crossland (all donations to St Oswald's fabric funding)	St Oswald's Church, Malpas
APRIL 14th	Deadline for submitting entries for Coronation Photography competition!	St Oswald's Church, Malpas
APRIL 19th 7.00pm	Bingo With refreshments. Eyes down 7.30pm. Entry £1—All Money raised for Your Space.... charity for autism	Jubilee Hall, Malpas
APRIL 23rd	Bluebell Walk (& refreshments) to raise money for Tushingham church and Hospice of Good Shepherd—£5 cash only	Tushingham Hall SY13 4QP
MAY 5th— 8th, 10.00 - 4 pm	Coronation Flower Festival and Photography Competition Display	St Oswald's Church, Malpas
May 6th 3.30pm	Garden Party/Tea Party to celebrate the Coronation	Holy Trinity Bickerton
MAY 7th	Celebration Service for Coronation, Malpas Village Parade, Malpas Country Fayre, Band and Fireworks	Malpas
May 8th	Fun Run and Treasure Hunt and afternoon Teas	Malpas

St. Oswald's Church. Malpas

*PALM
SUNDAY
2nd April
6.30pm*

*Admission free
retiring collection*

*Sung by the
Choir
of
St Oswald's
Malpas,*

*Conductor –
Stewart Smith*

'Requiem'

By

Gabriel Faure

*Accompanied by
Members of the Chester
Philharmonic
Orchestra*

*Leader – Colin Waker
Organist – Henry Smith*

I am sorry to have to report that Nick Toosey passed away on 11/3/23. Funeral details not yet known, probably in Holy Week

Rector's Easter Letter: Despite the cold and inconvenience, I think there is something beautiful about a pristine, undisturbed heavy snowfall.

The journey through Lent can feel like a snowfall. A strange time of waiting, of cleansing, of pausing and reflecting while we wait to celebrate Easter and the new life that burst forth from the darkness of the tomb: life that overcame death and gives us hope and a new life in the risen Christ. That first Easter morning was, as NT Wright says "the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven" a kingdom we are invited to be part of.

As I look out of my window and see the delicate crocuses and daffodils swaying in the breeze I know that the real work by them was done hidden underground in the dark and cold and it is only because of that work that we can see their beauty and colour today. The real work of Christ was also hidden – it was not just His work on the cross that mattered, but His work hidden in the dark, cold, loneliness of the tomb. Because it is Jesus' resurrection not his death that brings us hope and new life.

As we move through Lent I encourage you to use this time in prayer and reflection – to see this time as an opportunity to dig deep in prayer and meditation and to invite God to work in you, preparing you for Easter and the celebration of that new life offered to us through Jesus' resurrection. For, as we read in 2 Corinthians: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Alleluia. Christ is risen

Rev. Jarine

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News from Holy Trinity, Bickerton

The Mission Café is up and running in the church every Thursday morning. Drop in anytime between 9.00 and noon for a chat and a cuppa with friends and get to know our Rector, Janine and our Churchwarden, Val.

Easter events

- we welcome **Bickerton School** for an **Easter service** at 10.00am on 30 March
- Wednesday 5 April, **Easter Bingo**, at Bickerton Village Hall - eyes down at 7.30pm
- **Good Friday**, a devotional service at 10.00am

- **Easter Morning, a sunrise service** beside Maiden Castle on Bickerton Hill (sunrise is at 6.15) - details will be on the website and in notices nearer the time.

A **breakfast** will follow in the church (please let Val know if you plan to eat) and then **Holy Communion** at 9.30am for later risers!

- We are serving **teas** in the church grounds on **Bank Holiday Monday, April 10**. All welcome, and help would be much appreciated.

Sunday 16 April - our yearly meeting (the **APCM**) takes place in church after the morning service. Please come along - we'd love to hear some new voices and new suggestions.

Advance notice:

Saturday 6 May, Coronation Day - we are holding an afternoon tea party in the grounds of Holy Trinity from 3.30pm onwards. More of a garden party than a street party, given our rural location! We hope lots of local people will come and join in – spread the word among your neighbours and friends.

Please **contact Val Capewell** (07720 219648 or 01829 782345) if you can spare an hour or two of your time to help at any of the events mentioned here. Val would also be grateful if you could let her know if you are breakfasting on Good Friday or coming to the Coronation Tea.



Could you help with Secretarial/ admin support at Holy Trinity? If you think you can give a little time to support the village church, please contact Val Capewell, our Church Warden, on 01829 782345, she would love to hear from you.



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Look Ahead—Flower Rota at St Oswald's

- ◆ Sunday April 9th/16th Easter Flowers - Church Flower Group
- ◆ Sunday April 23/30th Altar Ann Prudlove, Table, Karen Kirk
- ◆ Friday May 5th Wedding.
- ◆ Saturday May 6th Coronation King Charles III
- ◆ Sunday May 14/21st Altar Mary Needham. Table, May Roland
- ◆ Saturday May 27th Wedding

St. Oswald's Celebrates the Coronation

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

In recognition of King Charles' sustained interest and support for the countryside and rural life, St. Oswald's is hosting a display of YOUR photographs. The age categories are "Under 11", "Under 18" and "Adult" within each of the subject categories. There are many keen photographers in our village and we can all snap something for this event. There is no limit on the number of entries per person. The subjects are:

- **Wonder in nature around us**
- **Rural Life and people 2023**
- **My favourite hobby**

Judging of 1st/2nd/3rd places will be given and a special overall award for "best black and white" and "best colour" photograph. Get snapping! We suggest getting the photograph(s) printed at 10" X 8" size (or larger) but any size will be accepted.

You can mount your photograph stuck onto card or in a frame. **Please write your picture title, your name, age category, a contact phone number and address onto paper fastened to the back of the photograph mount or frame.** All entries should be submitted by **Friday April 14th** to allow time for the exhibition to be set up.

FLOWER DISPLAY

The Flower Club will be celebrating the Coronation with a display with flowers in St. Oswald's over the bank holiday weekend. We all know what a fantastic and skilled group the Malpas Flower Club are and their displays are definitely "not to be missed"! Refreshments will also be served. The flower display will be available for viewing from Friday 5th to Monday 8th May between the hours of 10.00 and 16.00.

CELEBRATING HIS MAJESTY

St. Oswald's is in the perfect setting for celebrating major historic moments, and the crowning of our King is certainly something to mark. We will all have the chance to watch televised events on Saturday and I'm sure they will be quite awe-inspiring, but we hope you will all join us on **Sunday May 7th at 11.00am** to be *part of history* yourself and mark the event in our own joyful church service. Bring the whole family, and let's make this something for our children to remember. The service will finish at 12.00 to leave good time to take your part in the parade.

Malpas Country Fayre—May Bank Holiday Weekend



The Malpas Country Fayre will be a **celebration weekend for the coronation of HM King Charles III** (which is scheduled for Saturday May 6th). From 24th April onwards there will be a scarecrow trail through Malpas—contact Rachel Williams on 01948 860627 for entry forms. St. Oswald's will have a flower display, refreshments and display of the Coronation Competition Photographs over the weekend from Friday 5th to Monday 8th May.

SUNDAY 7th May:

11.00—Celebration Church Service (finishing at 12.00)

1pm—Grand Parade along Malpas High St. (from Well Meadows)

2pm onwards—Country Fayre on the Rec with something for everyone including displays, events, hobby horse racing, Sheepdog and sheep handling display, Sheep racing (!), Dog Show, food, stalls.

18.30—21.00—Evening entertainment with bar, local band, Blozone, and fireworks.

MONDAY 8th May:

10.00am—5km Fun Run

2.00pm - Treasure Hunt.

2.30pm onwards—Afternoon tea in the Marquee.

4.00pm There will be a **Grand Raffle**—tickets available soon.

We want to make this a celebration of everything that makes living in the countryside so special, in recognition of King Charles' interest in, and support for, country pursuits.

Here is what you can do to help to make this an event to remember:

- Join our **Grand Parade!** King Charles was one of the longest serving Prince of Wales so we would like to include any children with Welsh National costume and a fun team of "Welsh Leeks" (can you make a leek costume?!)
- Step up if you already have a Duke of Edinburgh Award and join the parade wearing your badge(s). You worked hard for that, so let's celebrate it.
- Come to the Recreation Ground **with cash** to pay for drinks at the bar etc.
- Have fun with sheep racing, and enjoy the other entertainments, dog show and hobby horse racing
- Buy tickets in advance for the band, Blozone, from 6.30pm (closing at 9.00pm with firework display)
- Visit the church on any of the days to admire the flower displays and Photography Competition and the Sunday 11.00am special celebration service
- Get your tickets for the fun run on Monday and/or join the walking treasure hunt
- Get your tickets for the afternoon tea on Monday 8th May in the Marquee

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Easter Sunday Lunch
Sunday 9th April



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Easter Bingo

Make a note of the date **Wednesday 5 April**
And of the time **Eyes Down 7.30pm**
And of the venue **Bickerton Village Hall**

All proceeds in aid of Holy Trinity Bickerton
Donations most welcome for Raffle and Bingo prizes -
Please get in touch with **Pam Stevenson (01829 782144)**

Pam always puts on a great evening's entertainment so please come along and support her, even if you're not Bingo addicts. It will be fun.



Do You Like Walking?

How about a monthly stroll around **Brown Knowl** or **Hampton**?!!

We are looking for volunteers to deliver about 40 parish magazines in each of these villages. The magazines can be delivered to you around 22-24th of the month and you are asked to get them delivered before the end of the month if possible. It typically takes about 30—45mins. **Please contact liane.smith@outlook.com 07795457347 if you can help.**

Regular **Walks for Health** continue in Malpas (without magazines!)

2nd/ 4th Tuesdays - 30-45 minutes

1st/3rd Thursdays—60-90 minutes

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April Fool's Day Puzzles Page!

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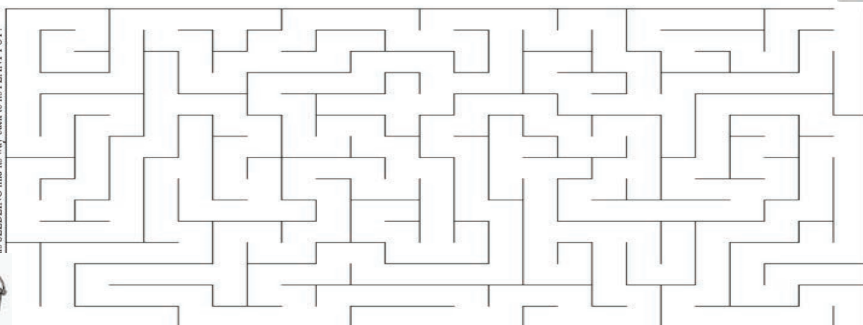
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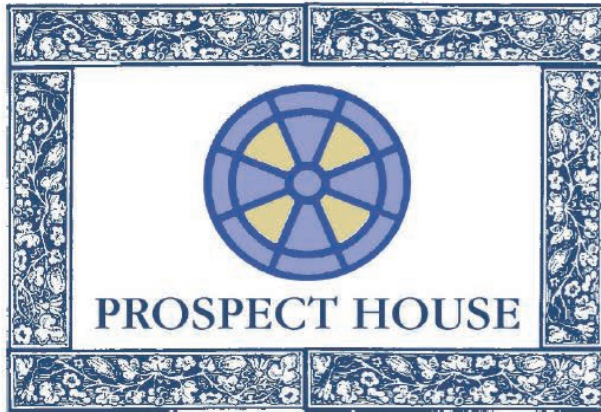
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Behind the Scenes in the Bell Tower

In the March edition of Parish News we looked mainly at the physical side of bell ringing. In this article we're going to delve a little deeper into the mental exercise that bell ringing offers.

Let me briefly remind you that each bell is numbered in sequence from the highest note (1) to the lowest note (8). Take a look at figure 1. This shows the simplest



pattern or method of change ringing known as a plain hunt. The position of each bell is joined up by a continuous coloured line. Each row represents one pull of the bell rope. If you follow the line that joins all the 1's you'll see that it gradually moves from the first column to the last column and then back to the first column.

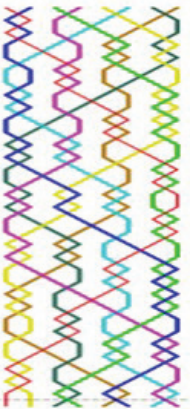
There are 3 things to notice:

Each bell follows the same shaped line but starts in a different place

No bell stays in the same column for more than 2 rows

All the rows are different

Ringing this pattern on St Oswald's bells would take about 10 seconds. Now take a look at figure 2. This shows a much more complicated pattern / method known as Cambridge Surprise Major. The bell



numbers are not shown but as with the plain hunt, the position of each bell is shown by a different coloured line. The same 3 things apply but this method would continue for 224 rows.

To extend the number of rows even further, the conductor (the lead member of the band) will call out some minor variations every few minutes which will enable the band to ring more than 5000 different changes without repeating any.

This is known as a peal. Memorising the pattern / method and not letting your attention wander for 3 hours or so is why bell ringing is such a powerful mental exercise.

If you want to see a local example of this, take a look at figure 3 or the peal boards hanging in the ringing chamber at St Oswalds on a practice night or before the Sunday morning service.

Charles Hobson



Chester Diocesan Guild

On Tuesday, 23 April 2019 in 2h 54

Malpas, Cheshire

St Oswald

Tenor: 15-3-6 in E

5088 Bristol Surprise Major

Robert D S Brown

- 1 Thomas D Miles
- 2 Peter W H Barker
- 3 David T G Jones
- 4 Andrew W Gordon
- 5 John S T Willasey
- 6 Paul B Hunter
- 7 Ben Kellett (C)
- 8 Peter I. Furniss

First peal as Conductor

Rung in memory of Geoff Edwards. Geoff was a ringer at Audlem and a prolific peal ringer for the Chester Diocesan Guild.

Good Friday

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy Blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky.
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

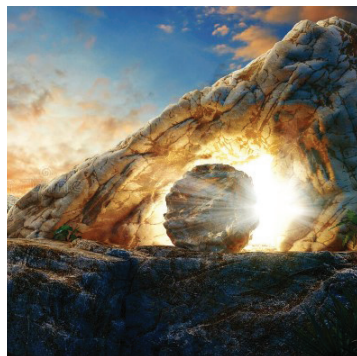


Two short poems this month, by **Christina Rossetti**, whose words vividly paint the horror and the ensuing peace that is at the heart of Easter. Better known perhaps for her much loved Christmas poem and carol, In the bleak midwinter, Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) was one of the great Victorian poets. Much of her poetry examines "honest doubt" as well as faith, but forgiveness and redemption are at the root of her Christian belief.

Kate Hobson

Easter Even

THE TEMPEST over and gone, the calm begun,
Lo, "it is finished," and the Strong Man sleeps:
All stars keep vigil watching for the sun,
The moon her vigil keeps.
A garden full of silence and of dew,
Beside a virgin cave and entrance stone:
Surely a garden full of Angels too,
Wondering, on watch, alone.
They who cry "Holy, Holy, Holy," still
Veiling their faces round God's Throne above,
May well keep vigil on this heavenly hill
And cry their cry of love.
Adoring God in His new mystery
Of Love more deep than hell, more strong than death;
Until the day break and the shadows flee,
The Shaking and the Breath.



Flourless Chocolate and Almond Cake



Ingredients

200g dark cooking chocolate, chopped into small pieces

200g [butter](#), chopped into small pieces

3 [eggs](#)

175g [golden caster sugar](#)

100g mascarpone or soft cheese

¼ tsp [vanilla extract](#)

100g [ground almonds](#)

30g cocoa powder, plus extra to serve

Many people have asked for this gluten free chocolate cake recipe—totally delicious, though slightly crumbly. It's a bbc good food recipe By [Barney Desmazery](#) —reference:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/flourless-chocolate-almond-cake>

STEP 1

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/ gas 4 and line the base of a 20cm springform tin with baking parchment. Melt the chocolate and butter in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of just-simmering water, or in the [microwave](#) in 20-second bursts. Stir, then leave to cool slightly.

STEP 2

Meanwhile, tip the eggs and sugar into a second bowl and beat with an electric [whisk](#) for 4-5 mins, or until thick and creamy. Add the mascarpone or soft cheese and vanilla, and continue to beat until everything is combined. Lightly fold in the cooled melted chocolate mixture until everything is one even colour, then fold in the almonds. Sift over the cocoa powder and a small pinch of salt, and fold in to combine.

STEP 3

Scrape the cake batter into the prepared tin. Put the tin on a baking tray and bake for 35-40 mins until the cake is puffed up and has cracked on top. Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin for 30-40 mins – it will deflate as it cools. Serve warm as a chocolate pudding, or leave to cool completely and enjoy as a fudgy brownie cake. Dust with extra [cocoa powder](#) before serving.

Local Elections—May 4th

Local elections are on May 4th. Local parish councils are looking for new volunteers to stand, with both Malpas and No Mans Heath & District Parish Council currently having vacancies. There will also be Borough Council elections across Cheshire. New laws about photo identity are in place. To vote you must now have photographic proof to show the polling clerk before you can receive your ballot paper. This can be a passport or a driving licence. It can be an old passport or driving licence, as long as it contains a photo which is recognisably you. Alternatively you can apply for a postal vote from Cheshire West & Chester Council by phoning 01244 977084 or by email to elreg@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

The Malpas ward on Cheshire West and Chester Council includes the parishes of Malpas, No Mans Heath & District and Threapwood, and is bordered by the west to the Welsh Border, the south by the Shropshire border and the east by the border with Cheshire East. In 2019 it was won by Rachel Williams with 774 votes, ahead of Charlie Higgle on 478 votes and Paula D'Arcy on 100 votes. This time Rachel Williams is standing again for the Conservatives. Charles Higgle is also standing for the Liberal Democrats. Labour have not yet announced a candidate.

St Oswald's Church Malpas

BANK HOLIDAY

MONDAY 10th April 2023

10.30am Coffee Morning

followed at 11.15am by a

Piano Recital



performed by Concert Pianist

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Admission free, all profits in aid of St Oswald's Fabric projects

For the chess players

Parish News reported last Summer about Malpas veteran chessplayer Charles Higgle who excelled on board 1 for Wales Cymru over 50s in the World Team Chess tournament In Italy. He has now been selected to play and captain Wales Cymru 65s and



over in **Swidnica, south-west Poland**, 11th-21st July in the European Team Chess tournament. He will play board 2 behind Rudy van Kemenade. Rudy and Charles also play boards 1 and 2 respectively for

Oswestry in the Shropshire Chess League. Also selected are Lee Davis and Tony Hughes. Wishing them all every success.

Chess is a game for all ages as this view of last week's Chess Club shows! Anyone interested in playing, please get in touch with higglecharles@gmail.com.

Did You Know?

The UK's woodlands are home to almost 50% of the world's population of the bluebell. But this much-loved plant is under threat. The Spanish bluebell is more vigorous than our native bluebell, so can outcompete it for resources like light and space.

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Further details from Sarah Collard t: 01948 860294 e: sarah.collard1@hotmail.co.uk



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WELL BEING WALKS!

2nd/ 4th Tuesdays - 30-45 minutes

1st/3rd Thursdays—60-90 minutes

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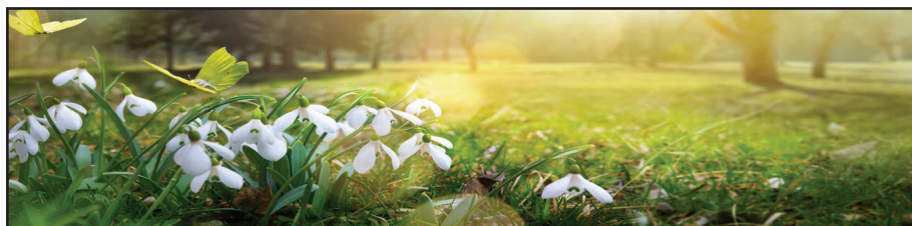
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