

The Benefice of St Oswald's, St John's, and Holy Trinity



Better together

Dear friends,

We are currently journeying through a sermon series on the Nicene Creed. This ancient statement of faith has been said by Christians for 1700 years and it still speaks powerfully into our lives today.



Rev Janine

Each line of the Creed reminds us who God is and what He has done for us. We've reflected on God the Father as Creator, on Jesus Christ His only Son—Lord of creation and our Redeemer—and on the Holy Spirit who gives life and unites us as His Church. My prayer is that our reflections deepen our understanding of the words we say each week, but also draws us closer to each other and to God.

The coming weeks promise to be joyful. We have several weddings—occasions full of joy, colour, and promise. We also have several Christenings - joyful occasions where we welcome babies and children into the church family.

And at the end of August, we look forward to our Flower Festival at Holy Trinity -a celebration of creativity, community, and the beauty of God's creation. Please do share the news, come along, and perhaps even lend a hand.

The Creed reminds us that our faith is not only something we declare but something we live out—in celebrations, in community events, and in the everyday life. May we continue to live as people rooted in the hope and truth we proclaim each Sunday.

With every blessing,

Rev Janine

Regular Services

Sunday

St Oswald's, Malpas

8:00am BCP Holy Communion
11:00am Parish Communion
5:00pm Evening Prayer

St John's, Threapwood

9:30am Parish Communion
(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

Holy Trinity, Bickerton

9:30am Parish Communion

Wednesday (St Oswald's)

10:00am BCP Holy Communion

Prospect House

First Tuesday of the month

Craddock Court

First Wednesday of the month

Key contacts

Rector: Rev Janine

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St Oswald's and St John's

Churchwardens: Vicky and Eric

malpaschurchwarden@gmail.com

Tel: 07900813368

Verger: Ann Welby

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Safeguarding lead: Rev Janine

St John's contact: Jonathan Clark

01948770205

Holy Trinity contacts

Val and Steph

val.capewell@btinternet.com



News from the pews.

We believe



A 6 week sermon series exploring
The Nicene Creed
Starting Sunday 27th July

Go deeper by joining a midweek group
St Oswald's: Exploring the Nicene Creed through scripture
Wednesday at 7:00pm
Holy Trinity: Exploring the Nicene Creed through the arts
Thursday at 1:00pm



We Believe: A sermon series on The Nicene Creed

Each Sunday we say the Nicene Creed. It is our shared affirmation of faith—but how often do we pause to reflect on what we are saying, and why it matters?

This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, and we are exploring its rich meaning in our current sermon series.

Alongside our Sunday sermons, we are also holding midweek small groups—spaces where we can unpack the week's reading and sermon in more depth, ask questions, and learn from one another.

You are warmly invited to join us:

- Wednesday at 7:00pm – St Oswald's
- Thursday at 1:00pm – Holy Trinity

Come ready to think, to share, and to discover afresh the life and faith we confess together.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Prayer Meeting



Join us to pray for our world, our communities, and for each other.

Holy Trinity, Bickerton St Oswald's, Malpas

Thursdays at 2:00pm

August 7th
September 4th
October 2nd
November 6th
December 4th

Tuesdays at 3:00pm

August 12th
September 9th
October 14th
November 11th
December 9th

For more information see Janice Birch
birch.janice4@gmail.com

For more information see Rev Janine
rev.janine.arnott@outlook.com

New Prayer Groups: In August, we launch our new monthly prayer groups at St Oswald's and Holy Trinity. Join us at any of our meetings or email us to ask for prayer. We will use the church prayer books and tree to guide our prayers. See Janice or Rev Janine for details



A model church! Pupils from Alport Primary School in Malpas have been studying listed buildings. As part of their studies they made a model of St Oswald's Church. The model now sits at the back of church and we think it is wonderful! Please do pop in to see it. Thank you Alport!



News from the pews.



Gardening and Church Grounds Group

Our new group met for the first time in August:

We committed to:

- Work towards a Bronze Award from A Rocha
- Work with God's Acre to ensure our work cares for our environment

Our work plan includes

- Weeding the paths
- Designating no mow areas. These will only be cut twice a year.
- Reinstating the flower bed by the front door
- Sowing poppies around the war memorial

For more information or to talk about joining us, please contact
Rev Janine

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>



<https://arocha.org.uk/>



Flowers: A bucket full of love at St Oswald's To reduce our carbon footprint, we aim to use local seasonal flowers and foliage to decorate our church when possible. If you have any flowers or foliage to share, please do pop them in the yellow bucket by the back door. Thank you!

Pet Service

On Sunday 3rd August we held our annual pet services and opened our churches to furry and feathered friends.

We loved blessing our animals and having them join us in church - we think they enjoyed themselves too!



Spotlight on...Songs of Praise

Each month we hold a Songs of Praise service at both St Oswald's and Holy Trinity. This September, we're trying something new: our very first all-age Songs of Praise! The theme? Old-Style School Assembly Hits. Think *One More Step Along the World I Go*, *Give Me Oil in My Lamp*, and other much-loved favourites that will have you singing (and smiling) in no time. So, if you didn't see James Partridge at Glastonbury this year, don't worry—Join us on 14th September for a step back in time!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/videos/c98w54n23k0o>

**All age
Songs of Praise**

14th September
9:30am Holy Trinity
11:00am St Oswald's

School Assembly Hits!
Everyone welcome



Coming up in the Benefice



St Oswald's 15th August at 11:00am

A short service of remembrance and celebration.

This service will be in person and live streamed.

"The 80th anniversary of VJ Day is a moment of profound significance for our nation. It is a time to remember with deep gratitude the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. In an increasingly dangerous world, I encourage all our churches to participate in these commemorations, to ring their bells, to offer prayers for peace, and to provide spaces for their communities to come together in remembrance. As we honour the past, so we renew our commitment to building a more peaceful and just world for all."

+Hugh Nelson, Bishop to the Armed Forces



Holy Trinity Flower Festival is back again this year with stalls, a pop up café, dog show, games and quizzes and lots of family fun. The theme this year is wedding anniversaries!

Saturday 20th September

St Oswald's Church

Coffee Morning

10:00am - 12:00pm

Everyone is welcome to call into church to say 'hello', grab a coffee, and look around our beautiful building. There's a book swap and a book sale, information about our church and church history, and a chance to meet the team and find out more about who we are and what we do at St Oswald's.



Confirmations 2026

Confirmation is an opportunity to confirm for yourself the promises made on your behalf by your parents and godparents at your baptism. Confirmation preparation classes will begin early next year. If you would like to explore confirmation, please see Rev Janine



Coming up in the Benefice

Harvest Festival dates



Harvest Festival Family Services this year 28th September

Holy Trinity 11:00am followed by a Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall.

St John's 6:00pm followed by a Harvest Supper
6th October

St Oswald's 11:00am followed by a Bring and Share lunch

Young and emerging musicians

Are you under 30 years old? Have no previous paid professional experience as a musician? Looking for opportunities to build your confidence in public performing? St Oswald's Church is a fantastic venue and is committed to supporting local young and emerging musicians. To discuss opportunities contact Vicky at malpaschurchwarden@gmail.com



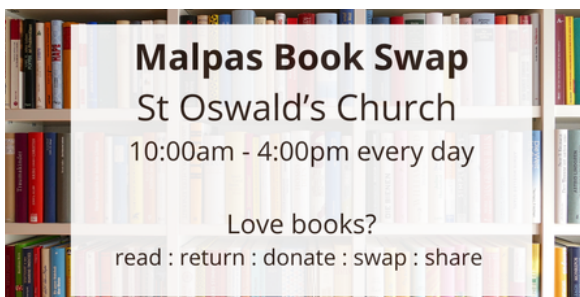
News from the community



Farewell to Year 6 students

At the end of the school year we said goodbye to our year six students as they head off to 'big school'. Students from Alport Malpas, and Holy Trinity Bickerton packed their primary school pencil cases for the last time and are now enjoying a summer break before heading off on their next adventure. We hope they are having a wonderful time and take treasured memories with them as they begin the next chapter of their school journey. Please pray for all students starting and moving school this coming term.

"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."



Malpas Book Swap is located in St Oswald's Church and is open every day between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Take a book, swap a book, share a book, or leave a book. Or, why not stay a while in the beautiful building and read your book. This is a community project open to everyone in Malpas



Malpas news

Community Lunch

Free lunch every Wednesday from 11:30am at the Jubilee Hall. Meet with friends and share a hot meal. Everyone is welcome.

Buzz About
Malpas Baby and Tots
Let's Play!

Wednesday's Term Time
with Marie @ Malpas Youth Centre



Marie writes: We are looking for a new Leader and volunteers to keep our Wednesday morning Buzz About playgroup session open at Malpas Youth Centre. The playgroup recently located after being held at Malpas Community Church for many years. If you are interested, please get in touch - as it would be such a shame to see this close.

Bickerton news

BICKERTON CARBOOT & TABLE TOP AND CAFE
BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL SY148AU

BUYERS FREE ENTRY 9-1

NEXT DATES
SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST

£10 ONE 6FT TABLE INSIDE & MARQUEE (TABLES PROVIDED)
£5 CAR OUTSIDE
£10 VANS OUTSIDE (BRING OWN TABLES)

EMAIL BVHMCARBOUT@GMAIL.COM IF INTERESTED IN SELLING IN MARQUEE OR INSIDE.

OUTSIDE IS 1ST COME 1ST SERVED ON DAY 7-8 ARRIVAL FOR SELLERS

EVENTS MONTHLY CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR FUTURE EVENTS
BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL CAR BOOT AND TABLE TOP SALE OR WEBSITE



Bickerton makers market

Bickerton village hall
Sy148au
10-2

Market dates
Sunday 17th August

£10 indoor and marquee tables one 6ft table provided or £15 for 2 tables
£5-£10 outdoor stalls depending on size (provide own tables)
sellers arrive 8-9

Email
bvhmarkets@gmail.com
for booking



Buzz About
Bickerton Baby and Tots

Monday's Term Time
with Marie @ Bickerton Village Hall

9.30-11am
Starting Monday 9th June 2025


Free play, baby area, craft, song time and snack time

£5 Pay as You Go, includes refreshments for Grown Ups and Tots.



DIRECT FROM THE EDINBURGH FRINGE

FROM HERE TO



ABSURDITY
90 MINUTES OF ORIGINAL COMEDY SKETCHES

BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 7:30 PM
TICKETS £10 - BAR AVAILABLE
TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE via david48@outlook.com

News from Chester Diocese

Take part in the Big Summer Safeguarding Survey this summer



Big Summer Safeguarding Survey

SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE

As part of a Church of England-wide initiative, we are participating in an independent safeguarding audit.

We're inviting everyone in the diocese to take part in a confidential and anonymous online survey. The more voices we hear, the better we can serve and support everyone in our community here in the Diocese of Chester.

Take the survey now:
<https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/chester>

Let's work together to build a Church where everyone feels safe, supported, and heard. Thank you for being part of this important journey.

This comes with my thanks and prayers
+Mark

The Rt Revd Dr Mark Tanner
Bishop of Chester

