

THE RIPPLE

September 2022

50p



PARISH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8:00am 4th Sunday Holy Communion

11:00am Parish Communion weekly

6:30pm 1st Sunday Holy Communion According to the Book of Common Prayer

6:30pm 3rd Sunday Informal Service

4:00pm 2nd Sunday Messy church

WEEKDAYS: 9:30am Holy Communion - Thursday

RECTOR: Reverend Suzan Williams Tel:238658
The Rectory, Whittington SY11 4DF – email: revwilliams1991@icloud.com

CHURCHWARDENS:
Mr M Phipps, Wesley Cottage, Babbinswood, Whittington Tel:670940

Mrs G Roberts, 4 Western Avenue, Whittington, SY11 4BP Tel:662236
e.mail: gillian28.4dg@gmail.com

VERGER: Mr D. Howard, 16 Yew Tree Avenue, Whittington Tel:656389

ORGANIST: Mr K. Griffiths, 12 Park Crescent, Park Hall Tel:662116

MAGAZINE:
Editor: Miss A Ward, Manor Garden, 5 Boot Street, Whittington – eaw4@btinternet.com Tel:672838

Distribution: Mrs C Hughes, 9 Rosehill Close, SY11 4DY Tel:662417

WHITTINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL:
Headteacher: Mr Carl Rogers Tel:662269

e.mail: admin@whittington.shropshire.sch.uk
SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.whittingtonschool.co.uk

September 2022

Rector’s Ramblings

During the last month a phrase has been rattling around in my head; a bit like what is commonly described as an ear worm, or a song that once you’ve heard remains in your consciousness for a long time.

It’s a question from a teacher of the law in Luke’s gospel chapter 10 verse 29 ‘*And who is my neighbour?*’

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Verse 26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

Verse 27 He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Verse 28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

Verse 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

Jesus being affirmed by many as being the greatest storyteller in history responds by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan. A parable that deliberately and directly reveals attitudes of the heart in the religious leaders that who would worry more about becoming ritually unclean than stopping to help someone in need.

In the parable it’s a Samaritan who stops, binds up the injured person’s wounds, takes him to an inn and takes care of him. The next day he gives the innkeeper two denari and instructs them to care for him until he returns and any extra expense will be repaid. It’s the

ending statement that reveals the attitude of his heart and exposes the selfish and hardened hearts of the established authorities which was often the backdrop to Jesus’ teaching.

I can’t help but wonder if sometimes we are so busy moving from one thing to the next that we miss what’s right in front of us, and sometimes in that busyness we don’t see or acknowledge the suffering and struggles of those closest to us. My prayer is that God will give us eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to respond with compassion and love, and that our communities will be places of healing, acceptance and grace.

Every Blessing

Suzan





September 2022

DIARY

- 1 9:30am Holy Communion
- 4 **TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 11:00am Parish Communion
6:30pm Holy Communion According to the Book of Common Prayer
- 6 9:30am First pick-up at Rosehill for Whittington Senior Citizen's visit to Southport; further details pages 8–10
- 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 7 7:30pm Monthly Whist Drive in the Senior Citizens' Hall, £2.50 including light refreshments
- 8 9:30am Holy Communion
- 10 9:00am – 4:00pm **Ride and Stride** in aid of Shropshire Historic Church
- 10th LAST DAY** for magazine material for the October edition of "The Ripple" all material to Anne Ward, Manor Garden, 5 Boot Street, Whittington – eaw4@btinternet.com
- 11 **THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 11:00am Parish Communion
4:00pm Messy Church
- 13 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 14 **HOLY CROSS DAY**
- 4 7:00pm Whittington WI meets in the Community Centre

- 15 9:30am Holy Communion
- 18 **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 11:00am Parish Communion
6:30pm Informal Service
- 20 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 22 9:30am Holy Communion
- 25 **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Parish Communion
- 12:30 for 1:00pm Harvest Lunch in the Senior Citizens' Hall; Adults £12, Children (12 and under) £5; further details on page 7
- 7:00 for 7:30pm Bingo at the White Lion
- 27 12:00 noon Whittington Senior Citizens monthly lunch at the White Lion; further details on pages 8–10
- 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 29 **ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**
- 9:30am Holy Communion
- 12:00 noon Soup Lunch at the Rectory; further details on page 11

OSWESTRY SHOW BOTTLE STALL



We are very pleased to inform you that the Bottle Stall held at Oswestry Show, raised a fantastic £640 in aid of Whittington Church. We would like to

thank all those who generously donated bottles and kindly supported the stall. Our grateful thanks also to the volunteers who came to man the stand throughout the day. A special thank you to Suzan, our Rector, for having the idea of distributing leaflets to families about Messy Church at Whittington as they visited the stall. Indeed, it was a successful day all round, and so nice to be back at the Show after all these years!

Thank you, **Mark and Ruth Jones**

**Extracts from the Parish Registers
for the month of July 2022**

HOLY BAPTISM

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

3rd July 2022 Shem Michael Murray Stokes
and Ella-Raine Mary Stokes
both of West Place, Gobowen



17th July 2022 Ella Mary Reed of Castle Street

31st July 2022 Reuben Charles Franks of Victoria Close, Oswestry

HOLY MATRIMONY

We sent our Best Wishes to:-

30th July 2022 Dean John Graham
and Caroline Elizabeth Tomley
both of Houghton Close, Chester



“May the Souls of the Faithful Departed Rest in Peace”

14th July 2022 Rosemary Shirley Parsons
aged 76 of Fitzalan Close,
Babbinswood



The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. –

Dorothy Nevill

HARVEST LUNCH

On

Sunday 25th SEPTEMBER

In the

Senior Citizens’ Hall

12:30 for 1:00pm



Tickets £12 Adults - £5 Children (12 and under)

Tickets now available from the Churchwardens

A BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

As always, this event is open to anyone wishing to join us

However, for the purposes of catering it is important that we know in advance how many to cater for, so please reserve your seat with one of the Churchwardens no later than Thursday 22nd September

RAFFLE in aid of AIR AMBULANCE

Hearing is not believing – A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: “If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I’ll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home.”



ENJOYING A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION



Congratulations and our very best wishes go to Cissie Lokier on reaching her 100th birthday on Sunday 14th August. Cissie was joined by members of her family for a celebration lunch at Brookfield Farm to mark her very special day.

WHITTINGTON SENIOR CITIZENS Over 50's Club – Recycled Teenagers

At the beginning of August, we sadly lost three of our club members. One was Richard Catchpole who, although not a member for very long, had supported most of our events, being a regular at the White Lion and at the coffee mornings along with our day trips out, accompanied by his wife Doreen. I first met Richard when they came along on my parish holiday to Ayr; if I remember correctly, he celebrated a birthday whilst there. Richard will be sadly missed; he had a great sense of humour and enjoyed some fun. Shirley Parsons has also passed away, a dear friend of Wenna Lloyd; sadly, we had not seen Shirley for some time due to her failing health. Sadly, Frank Gray passed away on 8th August after suffering for a long time. Frank loved company and enjoyed coming to the club very much, joining in everything; our thoughts and sympathy go out to Carole, one of our committee members.

I apologise again if parts of my entry are repetitive, but there are new readers

picking up a copy of The Ripple now and again who find interesting things happening and come along to see what we are about.

The Monday 2:00pm Whist sessions are for regular players and anyone wishing to learn, just pop in, you will be made very welcome by Liz Corrin; there is a small charge of £1.50. This is a small gathering and more players would be very welcome. On the first Wednesday in the month at 7:30pm Carol and Derek Pope run another opportunity to play; this has now been going for three months and there has been a gradual increase in the number of people attending, with 7 tables in August, however there is always room for more. There is a small charge of £2.50 to cover tea/coffee and biscuits. Both Monday afternoons and the Wednesday evening are open to everyone, not just members of the club.



The weekly 10:00am Thursday coffee mornings continue to be very popular; we have a good natter and catch up and once again membership is not a requirement. Currently around 20 members and friends come along; two weeks running there were 30 of us nattering and putting the world to rights. We enjoy celebrating birthdays – with cake and maybe a glass of something. Donations of biscuits, tea, coffee or milk are very welcome. We finish when the person washing up starts collecting the mugs! we ask that you pay just £1.50. It is not too late to become a re-cycled Teenager, and the fee is still only £10 for the year.

The line dance classes continue with Steve Mason on Monday between 7:30 – 9:00pm, the cost is £6 per session for upper beginners and improvers, call him on 07963662426 for details. Steve always welcomes both new dancers and those that may not have danced for some time. Sonya holds Exercise Classes on a Wednesday afternoon 1:30 – 2:30pm; this is great fun and is open to all ages and capabilities. The exercises can be done sitting on a chair or standing as the class progresses; come along and give it a go for just £5 a class; regulars please note the revised cost. Eleanor Moss will restart her after school junior ballet classes on Thursday afternoons when the school reopens after the summer holidays.

Tuesday 27th September is the date of the next monthly lunch at the White Lion. These have to be booked in advance, the cost is currently £10 per person and includes a two-course meal plus a cup of tea or coffee. I must emphasise that once a lunch has been ordered it must be paid for as the club

will be expected to pay for the meal should you not turn up. Please contact ME on 01691 662236 if you wish to join us. Membership of the club is not a necessity, if you would like to join us one month, you do not have to commit indefinitely. Many people that do attend end up becoming a member of the club – we are a friendly bunch.

We are looking forward to a day trip to Southport on 6th September, the cost is £25.00 – the more the merrier – maybe we will get to see the sea. Pick-ups will be at the usual points starting at Risehill at 9:30am

The following events are planned for the future:

4th October Harvest Lunch – £12 pp and to include ham and beef accompanied by salads, followed by a sweet and cheese and biscuits. If anyone would like to contribute a salad, a fruit crumble or pie or biscuits for the cheese, they would be very welcome

November 26th – Coffee and Mince Pie morning – entry by donations

December 6th – Christmas Tea

December 13th – Christmas Lunch – The Rugby Club, Park Hall

Gillian Roberts Secretary 01691 662236

Going off to Uni



This month thousands of young people will be preparing themselves for the exciting prospect of going off to what they all call ‘Uni’ in the autumn but leaving parents, grand-parents and godparents with a mixture of pride and apprehension. This is a major step in life: leaving home, making new friends, study without compulsion and the heady gift of ‘freedom’.

For parents, there are a few basic rules that it is well to adopt. Firstly, don’t get too involved in the choice of university. Modern students are a savvy bunch and they do talk to their teachers; they know their way around the internet and social media and are highly likely to correctly identify the ‘right’ course and place for themselves.

Secondly, be available (on the end of a phone) but leave them space to make the odd silly mistake. Make sure they carry on their person the number of a reliable taxi service, for that occasion when they find themselves in the early

hours and far from their digs. Thirdly, don’t worry about their being ‘lonely’. The average student makes a friend or two in the first ten minutes of arriving in their digs – and sometimes it’s for life!

Look forward to their coming home for the odd weekend, probably with some washing, but don’t regret it when they go back. In fact, enjoy the experience at second-hand. And lastly, there’s a lot to be said for a little daily prayer for them.

SOUP LUNCH AT THE RECTORY, CASTLE STREET

ON THE FOLLOWING THURSDAYS

AT 12:00 NOON

29TH SEPTEMBER

27TH OCTOBER

24TH NOVEMBER

5TH JANUARY



**CONTACT SUZAN FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE:**

revwilliams1991@icloud.com

01691 238658

DO YOU STILL USE A PIGGY BANK?

Even in old age many of us put-aside particular coins when they appear in our change. The use of somewhere to store money goes back into ancient history; even 700 years ago in the 15th century people used plates or pots to store what money they had, and often these household items were made from

an affordable clay called 'pygg' and were referred to as a 'pygy' bank or pot.

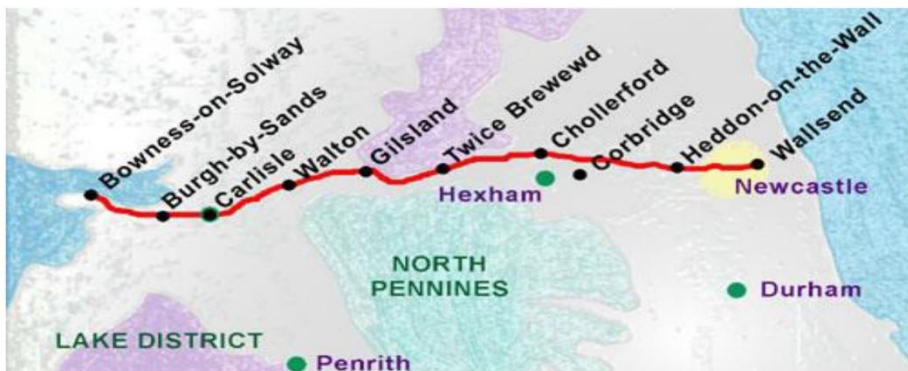
During Saxon times vowels had different sounds to them, therefore Pygg would be pronounced as Pug. However, soon after the pronunciation of 'y' changed from a 'u' to an 'i', making clay 'Pygg' and the animal pig sound the same. As both words sounded the same, English potters then began to shape 'pygg' pots into the shape of pigs, and people slowly forgot that 'pygg' referred to the clay and the name has stuck. So, few of these early 'pygg' jars have survived because to get at the coins you would have to smash the jar.



16th century Tudor money box

The oldest Western find of a money box dates from the 2nd century BC, in the Greek colony of Priene in modern-day Turkey, and is shaped as a miniature Greek temple with a slit in the pediment. Money boxes of various forms have been excavated in Pompeii and Herculaneum as well as Roman Britain excavations.

Happy Birthday Hadrian's Wall



1900 years ago, from 13th September 122 to 128, Hadrian's Wall was built, covering nearly 80 miles from coast to coast in northern England marking the northern limit of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, wanted to separate the Romans from 'the barbarians.'

In pre-Christian England the Picts – from Scotland, or Caledonia – were a real threat, often raiding Roman territories, using what we would call guerilla

warfare to steal cattle and capture slaves in a province far from the centre of the empire. But the Wall also served to encourage trading with those outside, and enable the Romans to tax anyone who entered their territory.

Hadrian had a mixed reputation as Emperor. Described by historian Edward Gibbon as one of the "five good emperors", he was regarded by many as a benevolent dictator but by others as remote (he did spend a great deal of time away from Rome) and authoritarian, sometimes generous and sometimes cruel. He was certainly ambitious. He was responsible for putting down the Bar Kokhba revolt in Judea (132-136) in an almost genocidal way. More than half a million Jews perished, and many more died of starvation or disease. This is a critical event in the history of the Jewish people.

Today the Wall remains the largest surviving archaeological feature from Roman Britain, and an amazing feat of engineering through difficult country – though only 10% of it remains still visible. It is sometimes mistakenly thought to mark the English-Scottish border, but in fact most of Northumberland is north of the wall.

Tim Lenton

On how to save electricity in church



The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Your church certainly seems to have taken to the idea of green electricity with a vengeance. To have covered the whole of your roof with solar panels was a brave move, and it makes quite a sight – especially when the sun catches them, dazzling motorists on the by-pass and causing multiple pile-ups. I pity the local pigeons, who try to land on it and then do a gentle glissade into the gutters.

I know there have been objections to your proposal to erect a wind turbine in your car park – although no one could claim that it spoils the aesthetic appearance of your church. Nothing, my dear Darren, could do that.

May I humbly offer you some further suggestions for reducing your electricity consumption. If you cut your sermons by half, then everyone could go home 20 minutes earlier. Similarly, if you only sang each chorus

once instead of your customary 17 times, that should cut your service times in half. And why have lighting so good that everyone can see everyone else? That is the last thing our own congregation ever want to do.

I raised the issue at our last church council meeting, but having only recently gone on to electricity, there seemed little enthusiasm for yet more change. Major Hastings still fondly remembers our old acetylene plant in the churchyard, destroyed during one Mattins when the verger was unaware of the gas leak and lit up a cigarette. We still occasionally find pieces of his cassock when mowing the grass.

Mr Prentice, with a slightly malicious gleam, suggested building a treadmill, to be worked by the Young Farmers – which would also keep them out of the pub while Evensong was taking place. I couldn't help feeling that our Ladies Group would have far more determination to keep the thing rotating – probably providing enough energy to light the entire County. I was tempted to suggest we invite the vicar from our adjoining parish, St Agatha's, to preach every Sunday, as that would fill our church with more than enough hot air.

I finally stopped all further discussion on the subject when a solar panel consultant arrived at the Rectory and began his sales pitch with the phrase: "I've come to convert you".

**Your loving uncle,
Eustace**

~~~~~  
**Highest temperatures ever recorded!**



Have you found these recent heatwaves unbearable, uncomfortable? Well 100 years ago on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1922 the highest temperature ever recorded in the world was reported to be 57.7 Centigrade (136 Fahrenheit) in Al'Aziziyah in Libya.

This record stood, despite various challenges but was eventually decertified by the World Meteorological Organisation in 2012, which believed there was a faulty reading. It was replaced by a record of 134F (56.7C), taken not in these heady days of climate crisis, but back in July 1913, at the aptly named Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, California.

There are many other examples of temperatures near to 60C going as far back as 1909 (Cherokee, Oklahoma) and 1966 (Sonora, Mexico). The WMO is an agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international co-operation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.

Temperature peaks are measured in three major ways: air, ground, and through satellite observation. Of these, air measurements are used as standard because of the persistent unreliability of ground and satellite readings. Since these measurements generally are taken of necessity in extreme conditions, they are frequently challenged, and a great deal of uncertainty remains.

For comparison purposes, the hot weather in the UK in July this year peaked at 40.3C (104.5F), at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of that month. Many schools closed.

**Tim Lenton**



~~~~~  
Tu-wit-tu-woo!

The Tawny Owl is probably our most familiar owl; children grow up learning that tawny owls say 'tu-wit-tu-woo' although this is not the call of one bird.



The familiar call is a duet between the female who starts with the harsh 'kee-vik' which is then followed by the male with the deeper 'woo-hoooo'. At this time of year, you may hear a lot of owl calls as the young are noisily driven from their natal territory by their parents. Each existing territory they pass through will elicit much calling, shrieking and hooting. This is a dangerous time for the young owls and many will die, driven from hunting grounds by resident birds before they reach their first year. Once they do find a suitable territory, which is likely to be only a few kilometres from their place of birth, they may remain in it all year round for the rest of their lives, making them one of our most sedentary birds.

Tawny owls are a bird of woodland, choosing to nest within chimney-like holes within large trees. As with many woodland species, churchyards can be good places for them, containing a range of habitats full of food as well as

trees for nesting. We think of tawny owls as eating mice and voles but they have quite a varied diet, depending on what is available. They may eat small birds, rabbits, beetles, frogs and worms too.

Tawny owls do well in owl nest boxes and churchyards can be good places for these. If putting one up, keep well away from paths as owls can attack people walking too near their nests. The best place for one is within a tree with ivy or lots of branches as when the young are preparing to leave the nest they start ‘branching’ – climbing up and down the trunk using ivy and branches as footholds, sitting in neighbouring trees and generally starting to explore. During this time the parent birds are still feeding them, and a young owl found on the ground is probably not in trouble and shouldn’t be picked up in case a nearby parent attacks.

So, listen out for the tawny owls and think of the two birds duetting each other. Please let us know if you have owls within your churchyard and if not, how about putting up a nest box in a large tree?

All the best, **Harriet Carty**

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

A new look at Whittington Parish

Around 50 people attended a fascinating presentation and discussion led by Whittington Castle Preservation Trust and SharedPast in the church in August. SharedPast is an organisation created by Professor Stewart Ainsworth and colleagues to work with communities on archaeological investigations: <https://sharedpast.org>

The two organisations shared plans for a proposed community project to investigate the archaeology of the medieval parish of Whittington as well as bringing to life many of the characters associated with the village before, during and after the building of the Castle. This will be subject to funding being awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A bid will be submitted in November.

Professor Ainsworth described how, by using a combination of online,

workshop-based and outdoors activities including research, training in understanding the landscape, community volunteers can learn to discover the past. He was keen to point out that there’s a lot more to discovering archaeology than just excavation although the project will include some digging at some stage!

The audience was shown stunning interpretations of the landscape using LIDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging). Professor Ainsworth talked about the recent visit of the University of Chester’s Digital on Tour, now captured on a delightful film of the day.



Davina Fairweather, a member of the Whittington Castle Preservation Trust Board explained how the project fits with their overall plans to develop the Castle for the community and visitors.

Professor Ainsworth went on to speak about how fascinated he was by the ‘lumps and bumps’ he discovered while researching our area prior to his first meeting with the Trust. ‘There is so much to explore, new discoveries to make and probably some history to rewrite!’

After the presentations everyone was invited to discuss the project and to put forward their views. There was a consensus that we need to put the community back into Whittington and that the project is a great way to achieve our goal. For more information, please contact Davina Fairweather: secretary@whittingtoncastle.co.uk

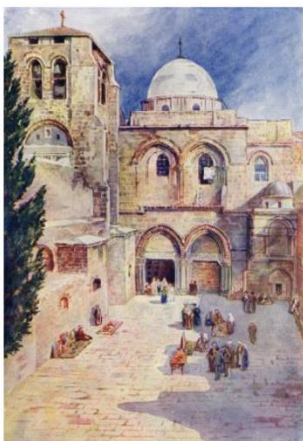
Labels – As part of the admission procedure in the hospital where I work, I ask the patients if they are allergic to anything. If they are, I print it on an allergy band placed on the patient’s wrists.

Once when I asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies, she said she couldn’t eat bananas. Imagine my surprise when several hours later a very irate son came out to the nurses’ station demanding, “Who’s responsible for labelling my mother ‘bananas’?”



I don’t know how I got over the hill without getting to the top

Holy Cross Day



On the 14th September each year the Church liturgical calendar celebrates the Holy Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14th September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians. Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them – the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14th September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross. What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is, you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service." On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

Christian YouTube channel for primary school aged children

The team who distributed nearly half a million free storybooks to schools for the Platinum Jubilee with the Church of England released a series of cartoons and songs for primary school aged children, on the *Fruit of the Spirit* which thousands of families made use of during the summer holidays.



The *Cheeky Pandas* is an online cartoon series created by Christian charity Swell Revolution, which has previously featured contributions from people including Archbishop Justin Welby, and CBeebies' Gemma Hunt.

With catchy pop songs and prayers, the stories are on love, joy, patience, faithfulness and kindness. *God Suit* is one of their most popular action songs. The episodes are all available with British Sign Language options too.

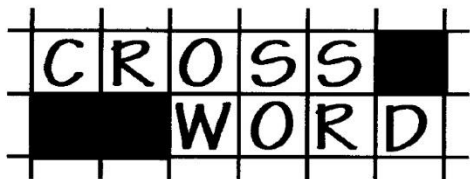
Songwriter Pete James says: "Cheeky Pandas is all about helping children have fun while they grow in their faith. The free storybook that went out before the Jubilee was on the theme of faithfulness, in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years of faithful service."

Songs and episodes are created by the makers of CBBC's 'Andy and the Band' and CBeebie 'The Baby Club', with voiceovers from Gemma Hunt.

YouTube is used by 86% of children aged 3-7, according to Ofcom. Parents are often concerned about what their children are watching so the charity behind *Cheeky Pandas* wanted to create something which children will enjoy, and parents can know that it is helping the children to discover the love of God for them. Churches can also use the resource; there are free assembly plans, Sunday school downloads and activity sheets too, with recipes, crafts and games.

The Cheeky Pandas might be an answer to prayer for some young families. Find out more at: www.cheekypandas.com or find Cheeky Pandas TV on YouTube.

Happiness sometimes comes through doors you didn't even know you left open. - Anon



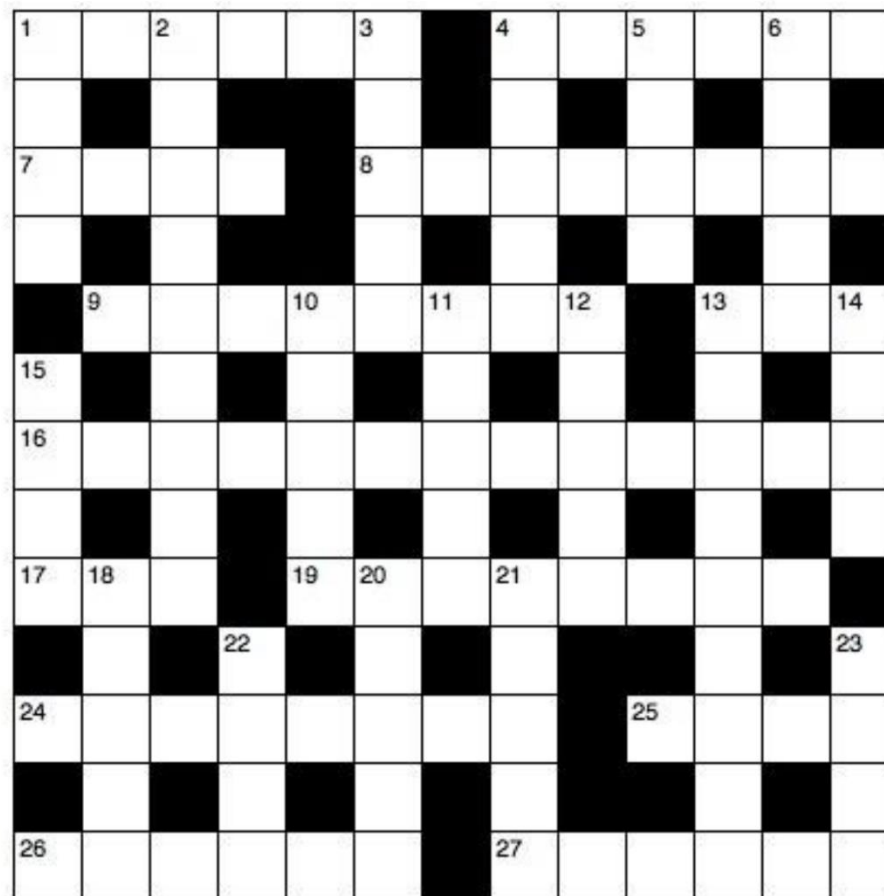
Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)
- 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten (anag.) (5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)

- 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



SEPTEMBER at Whittington Castle
The Castle is now open every day 9:00am – 5:00pm



- 3rd September 10:00am-4:00pm Solar Scope**
Astronomy Day – Local Astronomy Clubs display equipment and provide 3 talks during the day on different aspects of astronomy. Free entrance
- 6th Sept 10:00am-4:00pm Creative group meeting;** bring your project and learn from others; car parking charges apply
- 9th-11th Sept Archaeology Days**
- 17th/18th Sept 10:00am-4:00pm Handmade/local Fair** – free entrance
- 8th October 10:00am Make, Do and Mend @the Castle** – Join resident Castle crafters **Darnit, Patchit and Jointit** on an instructional crafting Day: Autumn Eco Printing*
- 15th October 10:00am Make, Do and Mend @the Castle** – Join resident Castle crafters **Darnit, Patchit and Jointit** – What to do with an old shirt – make a house*
- 22nd/23rd Oct 10:00am – 4:00pm Multi-Period Re-enactment**
- 29th/30th Oct 10:00am – 4:00pm Wellbeing into Winter**
- 31st Oct 4:00 – 6:00pm Halloween Crafts & Village Lantern Parade**

***The Crafting Day Creative Courses are £55 and include morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and car parking; they must be pre-booked as places are limited – details of the necessary materials are available from the castle.**

Kimberley Powell, Castle Manager
 Telephone 01691 662500

E-mail: info @whittingtoncastle.co.uk -Website: www.whittingtoncastle.co.uk

Old leaf? – A little boy opened the big Family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. “Mum, look what I found!” the boy called out, turning the leaf over and over. “What is it, dear?” asked his mother.



With awe in his voice, the young boy ventured: “I think it’s Adam’s underwear.”

Technology – After ringing mobile phones disrupted the flow of a service, one minister laid down the law in the following week’s pew-sheet: “Let’s turn off the technology and turn on each other.”

Nigel Beeton writes: “September is a time when we begin the celebration of harvest, and the rhythms of the seasons that lead up to it. But, as this Summer shows, the seasons have been disturbed. My cousins are farmers in Suffolk, and it has been so dry this year that they couldn’t even drill one field until June.... so, our harvest celebrations this year must be tempered with a humble awareness of the part we’ve played in upsetting the rhythms of creation.”

The Rhythms of Creation

The rhythms of creation –
 The never-ceasing beat
 Of seasons in rotation
 As cold gives way to heat;
 We know, when it is raining
 The sun will dry the rain
 And when the moon is waning
 It soon will wax again.



The farmer drills his acres
 When springtime rains shall fall
 Then gathers wheat for bakers
 As sunflowers grow tall;
 In spring, the fruit trees, blooming
 Attract the busy bees;
 As autumn clouds are looming
 We pick from loaded trees.



The Lord, our Great Creator
 Allowed us, by His grace
 To be the regulator
 Of earthly time and space
 But mankind has been greedy
 In burning coal and oil
 So farmers now are seeding
 In dry and desert soil.

The rhythms of creation
 Are wand'ring from their beat
 Increasing suffocation,
 Of fire, flood, and heat.
 Lord, teach us new behaviour
 To spend, with care, our days:
 Dear loving Lord and Saviour
 Forgive our foolish ways!



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Are you planning a late summer barbeque? Then here is a sweet that can be made the day before and brought out of the freezer just 40 minutes before serving.

FROZEN KEY LIME PIE (serves 8)

For the base: 300g (10½ oz) plain chocolate digestive biscuits
 75g (2¾ oz) butter

For the filling: Juice and grated zest of 5 limes, plus extra zest to decorate
 405g tin light condensed milk
 400ml (14fl oz) double cream
 Green food colouring – optional
 Chocolate curls, to decorate

For the base, place the biscuits in a plastic bag, remove the air and seal before hitting it with a rolling pin to make fine breadcrumbs – or blend in a food processor.

Melt the butter in a pan and add the biscuits; stir until the chocolate in the biscuits crumbs has melted

Press the mixture into the base of a 20cm diameter, 2cm deep loose-bottomed flan tin, and up the sides, pressing well with the back of a spoon.

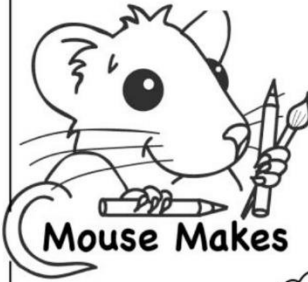
Chill while making the filling.

Place the lime juice, condensed milk and cream in a bowl and whisk until thickened, adding a drop of green food colouring if liked.

Stir in the lime zest, then spread evenly into the base. Freeze overnight.

Soften in the fridge for 40 minutes before serving, then top with the chocolate curls and zest. (To make the curls use a vegetable peeler)

CHILDREN'S PAGE




Mouse Makes

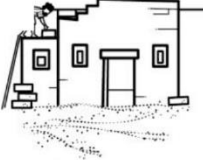
The _____ fell,
 The floods came and the _____ blew.
 Matthew 7:25

man.
 On what did he build his house?
 Matthew 7:24


man.
 On what did he build his house?
 Matthew 7:26



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does not** do them will be like a



Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49

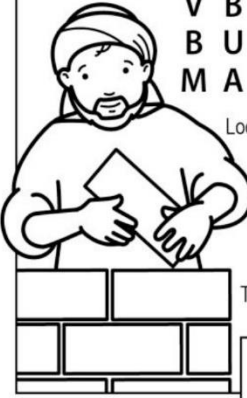

What happened to the houses?
 Read Matthew 7:25 and 27

What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching?
 Read Matthew 7:28-29

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
 DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
 DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
 STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
 TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
 RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word
FOUNDATIONS

Sep22 © deborah noble

Comfort



As the new vicar in the community, I tried to have a friendly word for everybody. And so, even while I sat in the reception area of my doctor's surgery, I felt 'on duty'.

Just then a woman rolled an elderly man in a wheelchair into the room. As she went to the receptionist's desk, the man sat there, alone and silent. I was thinking I should make small talk with him when a little boy slipped off his mother's lap and walked over to the wheelchair.

Placing his hand on the man's, he said companionably, "I know just how stupid you feel. My mum makes me ride in the pushchair, too."

ANSWERS TO AUGUST'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 8, Prince of Peace. 9, INF. 10, Unmarried. 11, Gulag. 13, Treason. 16, In aid of. 19, Arena. 22, Calvinist. 24, Pad. 25, Moses and Aaron.

DOWN: 1, Spring. 2, Sinful. 3, Scourged. 4, Commit. 5, Spur. 6, Matins. 7, Feed on. 12, Urn. 14, Erastian, 15, Own. 16, Income. 17, At last. 18, Friend. 20, Empire. 21, Adding. 23, Inst.

Weight – Signing the register at a wedding, the groom had difficulty in making his ball-point pen work. "Put your weight on it," said the vicar. So, the groom complied: 'John Smith (12 stone, four pounds)'

SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT OSWESTRY LIBRARY

Every Monday 2:00–2:30pm Rhyme Time at the Library!

Nursery rhymes and singing suitable for under 5s; **No need to book**

Every Monday 10:00am-12:00 noon Family & Local History Group

Trained volunteers run an advice service working alongside staff to help newcomers and experienced researchers. **No need to book**

Every Wednesday 10:30am Story Time for pre-schoolers. **No need to book**



Every Thursday 3:15-4.15pm Lego for all ages (children need parental supervision. **No need to book/Free**

Every Friday 1:30- 4:00pm Family & Local History Group Trained volunteers run an advice service working alongside staff to help newcomers and experienced researchers. **No need to book**



Every Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm Lego for all ages (children need parental supervision. **No need to book/Free**

Every Saturday 2:00pm Story Time for pre-schoolers. **No need to book**

Usually 1st Wednesday every month (7th Sept) Hearing Aid Clinic – Run by NHS trained volunteers offering battery changes and hearing aid cleaning. **Booking is now essential** – please contact the Hearing Loss Support Service on 01743 342168 or email shis@community-resource.org.uk for an appointment.



1st Board Game Café 10:00am–12:00 noon all ages/no booking/free

17th Board Game Café 10:00am–12:00 noon all ages/no booking/free

3rd 1:30-3:00pm Demystifying Counselling Siobhan Triggs (MBACP), from Eclipse Psychotherapy conducts an introductory workshop explaining more about the process of therapy, what to expect from counselling, how it can be helpful and what different types of therapy are available. **£4 per person and pre-booking essential**

Usually 2nd Saturday every month (10th Sept) Dungeons and Dragons

We welcome back the Shropshire Dungeon Master with magic and adventure! New players welcome, no experience required. Under 16s game in the morning, over 16s in the afternoon. **Pre-booking is essential** – contact the Dungeon Master direct on his Facebook Page (@shropshireDM) or call 07454797995

Thurs 22nd Sept 10:30am-12:30pm Carer's Support Drop-in – If you are a carer for someone you can seek support and advice from Shropshire Council's Carer Support team here. **No need to book.** You can contact Shropshire Carers support line on 01743 341995 (Monday to Friday 9:00am-5:00pm or email: Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk

Sat 24th Sep 11:00am-1:00pm 15 Years in India - Local author Barbara Maitra spent five years living in India in an extended family, and a further ten in a compound made up of British people left behind after India won its independence in 1947 witnessing history in the making, Barbara observed the unique cultural conflicts of the time which then inspired her novel **THE SPICE YEARS**. She will be speaking about her inspiration for the novel, her years in India and the publishing process for those aspiring to write their own. **£2 per person pre-booking essential (Barbara's book can be purchased for £5 cash on the day)**



Thurs 29th Sep (+ 6, 13, 20 Oct) – Managing Anxiety & Stress 11:00am-1:00pm This 4-week course with Siobhan Triggs (MBACP) aims to provide a better understanding of anxiety, why and how it affects us, how we can identify personal triggers, and help participants to develop a toolkit of practical coping skills to manage and reduce stress. **£40 per person for the whole course, pre-booking essential**



the finals.

The final league matches are being played in the first week of September, followed by the floodlit competition which is played during the month; teams of 4 play round robin leagues on neutral grounds with top teams contesting

The club entered a team in the League Doubles Competition for the E.J. Gittins Cup playing 2 pairs at home and another 2 away following a bye in the first round, A second round win against Cynwyd lead to the final being played on a neutral green at Llanymynech. In a keenly contested final against the Church Club, Whittington came out victors with an aggregate score of 21, thanks to the pairing of Ben Hampson/Jason Whitley; Mervyn Davies/Roger Whalen; Aled Davies/ Hannah Hampson and Mel Morris/ Mike Brunt.

Internal competitions were played on Sundays despite the extreme weather conditions. The Family Cup was won by Ben and Hannah Hampson who defeated Wena and Ian Chalmers; our thanks to all the couples who competed.

September home fixtures (start 7:00pm) are as follows:

- “A” Team Tuesday 6th September v Llangollen
- “C” Team Wednesday 7th September v Cynwyd “B”
- E” Team Thursday 8th September v Chirk AAA “D”

Junior Cricket coaching sessions proved successful, and it's hoped that this success can be built on next year with some age group teams being formed. The Ladies softball team is certainly gaining momentum with games being played home and away, and hopefully they can enter the league next season. Further information is available via our website or Facebook.

Car Boot sales have been well attended this year with the final one arranged for: **Friday 9th September** 9:00am – 1:00pm

Further information is available at: whittingtonbowlssec@hotmail.com

Mike Brunt

WHY IS IT CALLED A “JACK”?

I'm sure that whilst not all of our readers participate in the game of bowls, we are all grateful to Mike Brunt for updating us on the progress of the various village teams during the summer months. It really is a game for people of all ages – several septuagenarians won gold medals at the Commonwealth games in Birmingham last month.



The target that you are aiming for is known as the “jack”. This can be traced back to the Latin *Jacobus*, “little Jacob” and had a variety of shades of meaning implying maleness (a man or a male animal, like a jack-ass and relative inferiority or smallness). So, in English lawn bowls the little target ball was the “jack-bowl” or simply the “jack”. William Shakespeare was a bowls player and a member of the Falcon Bowling Club in Pairswick. Perhaps the first written use in English of the word “jack” to refer to the little wooden target ball is in Shakespeare's play *Cymbeline* (circa 1610), when a character named Cloten laments, “Was there ever man had such luck! When I kissed the jack, upon an up-cast to be hit away.”

If you want to have a try, I'm sure Mike would be delighted to hear from you.

Come and Sing!



FAURÉ REQUIEM

with CANTIONES

SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

Registration: 1:00pm

Workshop, tea and informal performance 2:00-6:00pm

Black Park Chapel, Halton, Chirk LL14 5BB

**Conducted by
Martin Bussey**

**Accompanied by
Christopher Symons**

Tickets £12/ Under 18s Free

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rowanthorn>

SAVING WATER

During the years I lived in France, I found the French women to be very friendly towards me and very helpful, too. They were always ready to share all their best recipes with me and even wrote them down for me, so that I would understand properly! One lady I shall never forget: Therese, an elderly Mother of seven children who had to resort to some very brave actions, just to be sure she could keep food on the table during the Nazi time in France. She really deserved a medal for all she went through and remained a generous and kindly soul.

Although she had been born in Les Vosges – that eastern region of France which had been swapped from France to Germany several times over the previous hundred years – she lived down in the South of France, in the beautiful Languedoc. That far southwards, there is no rain for at least four or five months of the year, so everyone has to be very aware of not wasting water and they had developed several ingenious ways of coping. She taught me the following, bearing in



mind that the first part of this advice was for those who didn't have dishwashers in those days.

She would take two plastic bowls and fill them both with water, the second one perhaps hotter than the first. Then she would scrape any leftovers into another bowl for the chickens. "But don't put any "perfume" into the water Margaret!", she meant washing up liquid of course. Having carefully cleaned the plates, she then rinsed them in the hot bowl and left them aside to drain.

When finished with the dishes and then the saucepans, she poured all the water into a bucket with which she washed the floor. Then, the lucky fruit tree or fruit bush whose turn it was that day (she was always very fair as to whose turn it was) received the rest of the water as its drink for that day. The beans and carrots also took their turns, too. You can see why washing up liquid was not to be used.

For those who were lucky enough to have a dishwasher in later years, the sequence was slightly different: During the day, having scraped the plates clean of any leftovers (for the chickens) they were put into a bowl of water in the sink. This water was made up from many sources: eg. the water from boiling an egg or from cooking the vegetables, and so on – whatever was appropriate and available. This meant that the dishes in sequence were stacked into the dishwasher throughout the day. The soaking water was however finally poured into the bucket, ready to wash the floor and/or water the fruit trees etc. perhaps the following day at the housewife's own convenience.

The mains water is extremely expensive along the Mediterranean, so most houses have a built-on cistern, on the north side of each house, to save the winter rain, too precious to be wasted; this was always cleaned out at the end of each summer. Interesting to note that there was always a collection of small wild animals found hiding there; anything from rats, mice, scorpions and snakes. "We always find everything in there" Therese used to say.

There were also rules about the toilet. Most houses in the country of the Languedoc had an outside loo, to be covered with soil and newspaper, when one had finished one's visit. This wooden-built construction was able to be moved from place to place around the garden at regular intervals and contributed its contents to the compost area. I have witnessed several quite

heated discussions as to what the best faeces is, well-rotted of course, to give nourishment to the growing vegetables etc.



Therese's house had an indoor loo, installed not long after the war, but which was only to be used strictly during the night. The problem was that a little scorpion had made its home behind the loo right in the corner there, so the nightly visit necessitated some almost athletic positions, to help one keep an eye on the scorpion's front door, just in case.

I have always been very grateful to Therese and her guidance and have never forgotten her shy and humble help to me – a foreigner far from home in a strange land. The way to save water is only one of her teachings but is so valuable from a day to day and practical viewpoint, that I hope you will find it helpful too, in these strange days of climate change.

Margaret Goff

AN AFTERNOON IN THE SEPTEMBER GARDEN

1. Between mid-September and early October is the best time to plant, or move, evergreen shrubs and young trees. Dig widely around the new site, and the plant to be moved, and lift in. Water generously before planting it firmly using well-rotted compost.
2. Lift late potatoes and store them in a dry dark place to avoid the tubers sprouting.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH: DAHLIA – Originating in Mexico these Autumn flowers give a wonderful show in an immense range of colours in double and single blooms. Some, such as Bishop of Llandaff, are further enhanced by their coppery-purple foliage. Growing from tubers, plants should be lifted and stored in dry frost-proof storage for winter.



TREE OF THE MONTH: ROWAN – THE MOUNTAIN ASH (SORBUS AUCUPARIA) – A tree of moor and woodland that grows well at high altitudes. Its leaves are similar to those of ash, but the two species are not related. The Rowan's flowers



supply bees with nectar in May, whilst birds feed on its juicy red berries in late Summer. A hardy species from China, Sorbus Hupehensis, produces clusters of pink or white berries. The tree can grow to 50 feet in height and live for up to 200 years; the bark is smooth and silvery grey, and the leaf buds are purple and hairy.

In both the UK and Ireland, the tree was once widely planted as protection against witches because the colour red was considered the best colour for fighting evil. In Wales rowan trees were often planted in churchyards whilst cutting down a rowan was considered taboo in Scotland. The wood was used for stirring milk to prevent the milk curdling, and as a pocket charm against rheumatism. Rowan berries are edible to humans; they are sour but rich in vitamin C, and can be used to make a tart jam.

The wood is strong, hard and tough, but not especially durable. It is sometimes used in turnery, furniture, craftwork and engraving; it was also used to make divining rods.



Whittington Parish Council News, Tuesday 26th July Meeting

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harvey, Bromley, Charmley and Hickman.

KEY ITEMS: The play area is now open; no issues had been reported by Councillor Davis. The fixings on the single-point swing will be replaced after the summer holidays; the tango swing and new glider handle are in order. There is a dip in the ground at the end of the slide with a risk of a head being hit on it – this will be monitored and referred to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents report. The glider may now have a reduced height due to new surfacing.

POLICE REPORT: 11th June Public Order Offense and a theft occurred on the 22nd June. Incidents that have been omitted for data protection reasons or non-crime incidents dealt with by the police were Anti-Social Behaviour (2); Concern for Safety (4); Domestic Incidents (3); 3 Highway Disruption – including Road Traffic Collisions (6) and Suspicious Incidents (3). PCSO Roberts confirmed that there had not been a spike in the crime rate as recent

reports had been compiled by a different officer and had included more minor details than was usually included.

Your Local Police Officer and Community Support Officers Contact

Numbers: Local Police Officer: - PC 3718 Kate Le'Clere – 07870219518
Police Community Support Officers: - PCSO 6412 Dave Hughes – 07870219190; and PCSO 40279 Pete Roberts – 07870219019. Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live. Officers will come to people when they need them and provide a high-quality service however you contact them – in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

Get in touch - 📞 **101** to talk to your local SNT or report a crime
✉️ oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
🌐 www.westmercia.police.uk
📱 / 🐦 @Oscops - Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Planning Applications: There had been no recent planning decisions published by Shropshire Council.

Consider the following Planning Applications: **I. Reference:** 22/0293/FUL (validated 24/06/22) Bryn-Y-Plentyn Farm, Middleton SY11 4LP **Proposal:** Erection of one 40metre to hub (67 metre to tip) wind turbine with control box and all associated work. Councillors Davis and Stanton declared a bias and left the room, not taking part in the decision-making process. It was **RESOLVED** to make a representation with the following comments: The Parish Council have concerns regarding the height of the turbine (whether it is of an appropriate size) and the noise it would create. Councillors request that Planning Officers consider what a suitable decibel noise level is for the area at present (ambient noise) compared to what it would be when the turbine is potentially active. The Parish Council are disappointed that there was no pre-application engagement as this would have provided councillors with the opportunity to ask questions and seek further information as the impact of the turbine is complex and significant for residents.

II. Reference: 22/03237/OHL Electricity Sub Station, Ascot Road, Albany Park, Oswestry **Proposal:** To rebuild the existing 33KV single circuit overhead line; the poles to support this line will be single or 'H' type poles

with supporting stays; the existing overhead line will be dismantled and removed during the construction and completion of the new line (partially in Whittington Parish). The Parish Council have no comments to make on this application.

Internet Access for Meetings: Council approved the annual grant of £283.00 to cover the cost of broadband to the Senior Citizens' Hall; the broadband speed is acceptable for meetings so there is no requirement, at present, to upgrade.

Street Lighting: a) The Clerk reported that the Scottish Power connections were completed on 20th July and the old concrete columns have now been removed will all outstanding work now completed; there is just light 129, by the Stanyards, still to be removed. The up-to-date inventory has been sent to Shropshire Council and the completion of Project A has reduced the annual energy charge by a further £500 per year. A draft Streetlight Maintenance Contract will be considered by the Street-Light working group and brought to the August meeting for consideration; column replacements to be considered once contractor appointed, under contract.

b) Council considered and approved a quote to replace the feeder pillar on Oaklands Drive.

Pen-y-Bryn Affordable Housing Development: The development is currently at the groundworks stage – drains and roadways. Good progress is being made with the bus shelter being used as a temporary noticeboard to display information and communicate site updates.

Community Car Park: Council discussed the proposal from Shingler Homes and Shropshire Council to transfer ownership of the car park to the Parish Council although no formal proposal has yet been received. It was agreed that the Council write the Leader of Shropshire Council requesting that the Community Infrastructure Levy Officer provide the Parish Council with paperwork, forming part of an audit trail, documenting the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Fund contribution to the Community Car Park (minute 67.20 refers). Council received an update on road markings and discussed the possible inclusion of disabled spaces; it **RESOLVED** to make a request for at least one disabled space outside The Big House and chase up the progress of the other road markings.

Other Matters Not on the Agenda: a) The Friends of Whittington Cemetery have had a quote for a new path in the top part of the cemetery. Funds are short, so they are looking for donations. b) A very overgrown hedge is covering the road sign and restricting the pavement width to 6inches as you turn into Oaklands Drive, on the right; this will be reported on Fix my Street. c) Credit and thanks were given to the volunteers carrying out Community Speedwatch who have recently been asked by TNS to carry out speed checks on North Drive at match times.

Next meeting: – This will be face-to-face meeting on Tuesday 27th September at 7:30pm in the Senior Citizens’ Hall with limited space for members of the public wishing to attend. Future meeting dates were agreed and will be published on the Parish Council website.

The Agendas for forthcoming meetings are available 3 clear days before the meeting, either on the Parish Council Website or the two Parish Noticeboards, one in Park Hall and one outside the School. The full minutes (in draft form) can be read on line two days after each meeting, <https://whittingtonpc.com>, or via a copy from the Clerk Amy Jones. Tel: 01691 829571 email: clerk@whittingtonpc.com

Jill Whitby

~~~~~  
**JOE THE BEAR AND BILLY CANTE**

It isn’t just the great and the good who get sculpted. In the grounds of what was Trinity Hospital, a grade II\* building in Clun near Craven, Arms is this statue, on the front cover of this month’s magazine, to John Weale and Billy Cante. John was nicknamed “Joe the Bear” as he was reputed to have wrestled with a dancing bear at Knighton fair; they were residents of the hospital, old alms-houses, which are now retirement apartments.

The Alms-houses were founded in 1607 by the Earl of Northampton, Henry Howard, and built of coarse limestone and sandstone ashlar with a red brick dressing; they were built around a central courtyard. Residents would eat in a communal dining hall and would almost certainly have worn a prescribed uniform; note the emblem on the coats Joe and Billy are wearing; the hospital warden would have occupied a separate house adjoining the main entrance. The full name of these six alms-houses is The Hospital of the Holy and Undivided Trinity and is a well-preserved example of courtyard-plan alms-houses.



Alms-houses stretch back to medieval times when religious orders cared for the poor. Originally called hospitals, or bede houses, in the sense of hospitality and shelter, the oldest alms-house foundation still in existence is thought to be the Hospital of St Oswald in Worcester, founded circa 990. It is believed that the then Bishop of Worcester (St Oswald) created this sanctuary where the brothers could “minister to the sick, bury the dead, relieve the poor and give shelter to travellers who arrived after the city gates had closed at night”.

By the middle of 1500s, there were about 800 such hospitals in the country but the dissolution of the monasteries meant that many were either sold off to landowners or left to ruin. It was during the late 16<sup>th</sup> century that the medieval craft guilds founded many hospitals to provide care for the “elderly decayed” members in their declining years. Today, links with the City Livery Companies remain strong, with many still retaining their own alms-houses; famous amongst these was the Mercer, Richard (Dick) Whittington. Benefactors came from all walks of life; Kings and Queens, Archbishops and clergy, the aristocracy, merchants and liverymen. Undoubtedly, many were driven by conscience and the needs of their fellow men, and perhaps a less charitable explanation was the possibility of securing their own salvation!

In more recent Georgian and Victorian times, alms-houses became more urban in character. During the later period housing became a huge social problem as people migrated to towns looking for work. The scandalous conditions in the workhouses inspired wealthy philanthropists to endow alms-houses, generally for their local area and in groups of 6-12 dwellings. It is estimated that some 30% of current alms-houses were founded during

this period.

Alms-houses are often splendid historic buildings with fascinating features such as dedications, statues, inscriptions, coats of arms, clock towers and sundials. Many retain beautiful chapels where regular services are still held and provide delightful gardens for their residents. They are often laid out in the traditional three-sided square providing a sense of security and community for their residents. A unique feature of an alms-house charity which has been consistent throughout the ages is that they are governed by locally recruited, volunteer trustees whose motives are purely altruistic and many of these beautiful, original buildings are still in use having been restored and extended in order to provide warm, comfortable homes with modern heating, bathrooms and kitchens.



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

## WHITTINGTON ORGANISATIONS

**CRICKET/BOWLING CLUB SECRETARY:** Tel:830901  
Jacqui Whitley – jacquiwhitley@yahoo.com

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Ian Chalmers  
Ianwenachalmers@hotmail.com

**BOWLING SECRETARY:** Hannah Hampson  
whittingtonbowlssec@outlook.com

**TREASURER:** grahamhumphreys63@gmail.com Tel:622385

**COMMUNITY CENTRE BOOKING SECRETARY:**  
Mrs Kath Griffiths Tel:662116

**SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR WHITTINGTON AND WEST FELTON:**  
Mr Stephen Charmley, The Coppers, Park Street, Oswestry SY11 2HF  
e.mail:Steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk –www.stevecharmley.co.uk  
Tel: 07870280747

**WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL:**  
Amy Jones (Clerk to the Council) Tel: 829571  
Held the fourth Tuesday in the month – clerk@whittingtonpc.com  
http://www.whittingtonpc.com

**WHITTINGTON YOUTH CLUB:** (Facebook page: Whittington Youth). Meets Thursday evening 7:00pm – 8:30pm in the Senior Citizens' Hall; entry fee £2. Activities for 10-16-year-olds supervised by qualified youth workers and activity coaches from The New Saints FC Foundation Ltd. Telephone 01691 889791 or email: info@tnsfcfoundation.org.uk

**FRIENDS OF WHITTINGTON CEMETERY:** Working parties are held throughout the year – we are always grateful for any help  
Sally Leppanen Tel: 658163 Mob: 07835338032 sally@leppanen.co.uk  
Mike Brunt Tel: 01691 661874 or Mob: 07855772527

**BAPTISM SECRETARY:**  
Mrs Margery Mellor, 10 Boot Street, Whittington Tel:681036  
e.mail: i.mellor@tiscali.co.uk 39



## WHITTINGTON ORGANISATIONS

### **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE:**

Second Wednesday in the month in the Community Centre

Secretary: Mrs Sandy Forde

Tel:654610

### **WHITTINGTON CASTLE PRESERVATION TRUST:**

Chairman: Jonjo Evans

Tel:671300

Castle Manager: Ms Kimberley Powell

Tel:662500

**BELL RINGING:** Details from Brian Rothera

Tel:657778

### **BROWNIES, GUIDES:**

6:00-7:15pm Thursday except in school holidays in the Community Centre

Brown Owl: Mrs D. Gough, 2 Newnes Barns, Ellesmere

Tel:624390

### **BEAVER, CUBS & SCOUT INFORMATION:**

Group Scout Leader + Akela: Mrs B Cassidy, 2 Heather Bank, Gobowen

Tel: 07907972657 or 01691 658016

Beavers 6-8yrs Tues 6.00-7.15pm; Cubs 8-11yrs Fri 5.45- 7.30pm

Scouts 11-14 yrs and Explorer Scouts 14-18 Fri 7.45-9.30pm

### **WHITTINGTON UNDER FIVES GROUP:**

Sessional and extended hours Carer and Toddler Sessions

Leaders: Dawn and Mandy

Tel:670127

Meet in the Community Centre 9:00am - 3:00pm

### **SENIOR CITIZENS:**

Monday Whist Drive, Thursday Coffee Morning

All meetings in the Senior Citizens Hall

Secretary: Mrs Gillian Roberts, 4 Western Avenue

Tel:662236

### **MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE:**

The Mobile Library will stop in the cul-de-sac by the Three Trees/White Lion on alternate Tuesdays between 2:55pm - 3:55pm.

**CHURCH WEBSITE:** [www.whittingtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.whittingtonchurch.org.uk)

**MESSY CHURCH:** <https://m.facebook.com/stjohnthebaptistwhittington/>

# David Davies & Sons

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ESTABLISHED 1840



A caring, compassionate  
and discreet service  
from a family business  
since 1840



1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry • SY11 2AA

Oswestry **01691 653116** (24 hrs)

[www.daviddaviesandsons.co.uk](http://www.daviddaviesandsons.co.uk)