

THE RIPPLE

December 2022

50p



PARISH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8:00am 4th Sunday Holy Communion

11:00am Parish Communion weekly

6:30pm 3rd Sunday Informal Service

4:00pm 2nd Sunday Messy church (no service in August)

WEEKDAYS: 9:30am Holy Communion - Thursday

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"THE RIPPLE"
(Whittington Parish Church Magazine)
Vol 35 No 8

December 2022

Rectors Ramblings

Dear Friends,

I find myself sat at my computer to write this edition of the Rector's Ramblings in slight disbelief that in just three weeks Advent will be upon us. Where has this year gone! Its surprised me this week to find that a number of you feel exactly the same. There is some acknowledgment needed that the older we get the faster the days, weeks and months, let alone years seem to fly by.

But I am grateful for the opportunity that Advent gives us in the midst of the business in the rush to get to Christmas, to pause and really ponder the gift that is given us in Christ. The opportunity to rehear, and come afresh to the anticipation building up to the wondrous event that changed the trajectory of humanity for ever.

In a time and place in our culture where everything appears to be being shaken and left lacking. The reality of the truth that God came to earth in human form to bridge the gap between himself and us is pretty awesome! A baby born not to privilege and status, but born in a stable surrounded by animals and visited by shepherds. A baby born into vulnerability and humble circumstances for you and for me.

I wonder how you will respond to that gift this Christmas; will it make a difference to how you journey through the Christmas season? As you spend time with family and friends, giving and receiving gifts that have been specially chosen. Will you open that one true and special present that is waiting for us to unwrap it. That has the potential to transform our lives, and enable us to see others as our heavenly Father does.

I found this quote which wraps it up in a nutshell:

"To prepare our hearts for Christmas, we must cultivate the spirit of expectancy." "Peace with God, peace with others, and peace in your own heart." "The good news of great joy changed the course of every silent night to come." "The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us."

There are lots of opportunities for you to do just that leading up to Christmas including the following services:

Sunday 11th December 11:00am Scratch Nativity Service
Sunday 18th December 6:30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 24th December 4:00pm 'Christingle Service'
11:30pm First Communion of Christmas
Monday 25th December 8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Parish Communion with Carols

We would love to see you at any of these services which offer an opportunity for us to hear, respond and receive the love of God through his Son into our hearts.

Every Blessing

Suzan



December 2022

DIARY

- 1 9:30am Holy Communion
- 4 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
11:00am Parish Communion
- 5 10:30am-12:00 noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 6 2:00 – 3:00pm Praise and Play in church
3:00pm Whittington Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea
- 7 7:30pm Monthly Whist Drive in the Senior Citizens' Hall, £2.50 including light refreshments
- 8 9:30am Holy Communion
- 10 10:30am-4:00pm Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children at Garden Croft, Daisy Lane; further details page 7
- 11 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
11:00am Scratch Nativity service; further details on page 9
- 12 **LAST DAY** for magazine material for the December edition of "The Ripple" all material to Anne Ward, 5 Boot Street, Whittington – eaw4@btinternet.com
10:30am-12:00 noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 13 2:00 – 3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 14 7:00pm Whittington WI meets in the Community Centre
- 4

- 15 9:30am Holy Communion
- 16 12:00 noon Coach for Whittington Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch at the Navigation, Maesbury starts from Rosehill; further details on pages 11-12
Whittington Church of England School breaks for the Christmas holiday
- 18 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
11:00am Parish Communion
6:30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
- 19 10:30am-12:00 noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 22 9:30am Holy Communion
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
4:00pm Christingle Service in church, a great start to the family celebrations; further details page 19
11:30pm **A Celebration of the Birth of Christ, the First Communion of Christmas**
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Parish Communion with Carols
- 29 9:30am Holy Communion

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rector and Trustees of the Friends of St John the Baptist acknowledge the following donations:

Donation of £193.50 in memory of Dorothy Bussey from her Family and Friends
Donation of £28 Anon

Extracts from the Parish Registers
for the month of October 2022



HOLY BAPTISM

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

9th October 2022

Evie Anne Gittins
of Chestnut Ave., Duddleston
Heath



REQUIESCAT IN PACE

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

11th September 2022

Dianne Van Gils
aged 69 of Meadowbrook Court,
Gobowen



Magazine Subscription

This month there is an envelope stapled to the front of your magazine for your “Ripple” **£5.50** subscription money. For those who pay yearly in advance this means a free magazine over buying a copy singly each month. **Subscription is the only way to guarantee your monthly copy.**



Please return your subscription to your delivery person **before the end of December** to take advantage of the reduction; **and put your name on the envelope please**

Everyone involved with the magazine says thank you for your continued support and expresses special thanks to all distributors.

The Holy Family A Sunday school teacher asked her class, “What was Jesus’ mother’s name?” One child answered, “Mary.” The teacher then asked, “Who knows what Jesus’ father’s name was?” Another child ventured: “Verge?” Confused, the teacher asked, “Where did you get that?” He replied hesitantly: “Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n’ Mary.”

YOU ARE
WARMLY
INVITED TO A



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**



at Garden Croft, Daisy Lane, Whittington, SY11 4EA

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER

10:30am – 4:00pm

Seasonal Refreshments

Donations to Save the Children

For more information contact 01691 650711

We would be so pleased to see you – any jumper will do –
Everyone Welcome

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

From Sunday 28th November a basket will be seen at the rear of the church for donations towards flowers for decorating the church during the Christmas Season.



Please give generously in order for us to have a colourful display which needs to last at least four weekends. Perhaps you would like to give in memory of a loved one, or to mark a special anniversary.

The Churchwardens

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES 2020

A huge thank you to all who prepared shoe boxes, hats, scarves along with donations. They have already started their journey and we are told they will arrive in Belarus, Moldova and Romania in time for Christmas.

Kath Griffiths

The Children's Society



The Children's Society

Time to open the boxes! This has been such a difficult year for so many, so kindly bring your boxes to church, **or leave at the Rectory, by Sunday 15th January 2023**, or alternatively ring me to make other arrangements, if necessary, please.

We can then get the boxes opened, and the contents to the Society's Head Office quickly. Once again thank you for your support in helping the young people in the Children's Society care.

Mike Phipps - 01691 670940

Parish Secretary to the Children's Society

WHITTINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

These are very exciting times for the Whittington Women's Institute! This year we were about to close after 101 years in the village, but amazingly we were saved by managing to elect a new committee. They are Louise Idoux (President), Sophie Anderson (Secretary), Kathryn Greenwood (Treasurer), Julie Sheffield and Sara Hadfield. The new committee are lively and enthusiastic about women, local campaigns learning new things and creating lasting and supportive friendships.

November's meeting was the first with the new committee and there was a definite buzz in the room with laughter and excitement. Our speaker was a florist who demonstrated how to make two Christmas wreaths and a festive table decoration. These were then raffled and won by three very lucky ladies.

This month we will have our Christmas party, sharing a lavish buffet of food brought by each member, have traditional party games, secret Santa and two competitions: best Christmas earrings and best wrapped present! We will

also be collecting for a local charity. In December we will also have an outing is to see 'A Christmas Carol' at the Attfield Theatre in Oswestry, which sounds wonderful. Many of us will also be attending the Group Carol Service at Preeshenlle Church, Gobowen, 7:00pm, on Monday 5th December.

In January we are very much looking forward to an interesting talk about Muslim women and their culture with Alison Young.

Each WI meeting is held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Community Centre at 7:00pm. We generally have at talk or demonstration of something, a raffle, charity collection a small competition and some generous refreshments afterwards. If any ladies from the village, or beyond, would like to try the WI you will be made to feel very welcome. All activities are optional, so no pressure to join in; no qualifications or skills necessary; make friends and learn new things. Come and visit our friendly group, you might just love it! The Secretary can be contacted via: emailing WhittingtonWI@gmail.com; or on Facebook: [@WhittingtonWIShropshire](https://www.facebook.com/WhittingtonWIShropshire)

Louise Idoux



SCRATCH NATIVITY

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER at 11:00am

Come along, dressed as your favourite nativity character and take part in our interactive family service with crafts, games, food and more! Contact Suzan for more details on: 01691 238658 or revwilliams1991@icloud.com

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF
LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT**

as

**THE VERY NICE PRODUCTION
COMPANY**

presents



SWING INTO SPRING

on

Sat 28th JANUARY



7:30pm

In Whittington Parish Church

**Tickets: £10 to include a glass of
wine and mince pie**

**Available from
Mike Phipps 670940
Gill Roberts 662236**

**WHITTINGTON SENIOR CITIZENS
Over 50's Club – Recycled Teenagers**



We held our fish and chip lunch, in memory of Mr Philip Morris, on Tuesday 15th November, something which was originally his idea to celebrate his birthday, and we thought it appropriate to continue as he contributed so much to the life of the club. Thirty-three members sat down to the meal delivered by our village Fish and Chip Shop.

The next monthly lunch at the White Lion will be on Tuesday 24th January; we do not have one in December due to Christmas, instead we have a Christmas lunch at a different venue and this year we are going to The Navigation Inn, in Maesbury. The White Lion lunches are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and must be booked in advance. The cost is currently £10 per person and includes a two-course meal with a cup of tea or coffee. I must emphasise that once ordered, a lunch must be paid for as the club will be expected to pay should you not turn up. **Please contact ME on 01691 662236 if you wish to join us.** Club membership is not a necessity, if you would like to join us one month, you do not have to commit indefinitely; though many that do attend often become club members.

We held a mince pie and coffee morning on Saturday 26th November; thank you to all the various club members who made, and donated them – this gets us in the Christmas spirit.

We have three bookshelves full of novels by famous authors available for people to borrow in the small room at the hall. They can be accessed when the hall is open – perhaps a small donation of 20p to hall funds would be appreciated. Once again, I apologise if parts of my entry are repetitive, but new readers of the Ripple sometimes come along to see what we are about.

The Monday afternoon whist sessions are now underway and since the clocks were altered begin at 1:30pm so that players leave before it gets too dark. Anyone interested in joining in or wishing to learn will be made very welcome, the organiser is Liz Corrin. A small charge of £1.50 is made, and more players would be very welcome. There is also a Whist Drive at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday in the month, run by Carol and Derek Pope. The

charge on this occasion is £2.50 to cover tea/coffee and biscuits. **Please note there will be no Wednesday Whist on 4th January, and mince pies will be served at the December gathering on 7th December.**

The weekly coffee mornings on Thursdays continue to be very popular, we have a good natter and catch up, and again club membership is not a requirement. We currently entertain circa 30 people and meet any time after 10:00am, finishing when the person washing up starts collecting the mugs! We ask for £1.50 as we all know that utility bills are spiralling. Marion, our treasurer, informs us it costs £4,000 per annum just to open the doors. We may consider raising this to £2, which is not a lot for a coffee (or two) together with a biscuit. Should someone have a birthday, then cakes and a tippie are usually on offer, it is a very friendly gathering.

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, during the school term, 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 provides after school junior ballet classes on Thursday afternoons. TNS hold Youth Club Meetings on Thursday evenings during term time.

We are trying to be economical with our heating/lighting so are asking users to be thoughtful when opening and closing doors; we need to keep as much warmth in the building as possible – it is a large building and the heating costs are high. Thank you in anticipation; we are a charity and depend on members and fundraising events to keep our heads above water. It is not too late to become a re-cycled Teenager, and the fee is still only £10 for the year.

The following are planned for December:

6th December 3:00pm Christmas Tea
16th December 12:00 noon Coach pickup begins at Rosehill for our Christmas Lunch at the Navigation Inn, Maesbury – Coach provided courtesy of Mike Owen (Owen's Travelmaster)

Gillian Roberts Secretary 01691 662236

C A M E O – COME AND MEET EACH OTHER

in WHITTINGTON PARISH CHURCH MONDAY 5th/12th/19th



10:30AM – 12:00 NOON

Come along to our new, weekly, get together to meet other people from the community

There'll be tea, coffee and toast

Contact Suzan for more details: revwilliams1991@icloud.com or Tel: 01691 238658

LATEST POSTING DAYS FOR CHRISTMAS

UK internal –

2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For – **19th Dec**

1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For – **21st Dec**

2nd Dec – BFPO – Both Operational and Static HM Forces



International Standard (formerly Airmail), International Tracking and Signature Services

1st Dec – Australia and New Zealand

2nd Dec – China

5th Dec – All Caribbean destinations (except British Virgin Islands, Dominica and Anguilla – 7th October)

7th Dec – Africa, Asia (except China), Central and South America, Far East and Middle East

8th Dec – Cyprus and Malta

9th Dec – Greece, Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia) and Turkey

10th Dec – Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden & USA

12th Dec – Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland

14th Dec – Belgium, France and Luxembourg



Every large family has its angel and its demon. – *Joseph Roux*



**NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER at 6:30pm
In WHITTINGTON CHURCH**

**Come and hear the Christmas story retold again through familiar Bible readings and Carols.
Enjoy some mulled wine and a mince pie too!**

First sermon in British Sign Language at St Paul's Cathedral

A Baptist minister, the Revd Sue Whalley, delivered the first ever known sermon in British Sign Language (BSL) at St Paul's Cathedral on 25th September.



The invitation grew out of a meeting in London between Deaf Church Leaders and Church of England Clergy. Building on the momentum of the BSL Act last April (when British Sign Language was accepted as an official language in England and Wales), it was suggested that a Deaf person preach at St Paul's Cathedral.

A maximum of 30 Deaf people were expected to attend alongside the hearing visitors to the cathedral. But instead, 60- 70 Deaf people turned up, "highlighting the importance and significance of the event."



**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS OF
"THE RIPPLE"
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

OsWarm is helping to keep Oswestry Warm this Winter



We know that the cost-of-living crisis is really starting to take hold now, with people reporting that they are worried about how they are going to keep heating their homes and eating this winter. Here at OsWarm, we are hearing from people with disabilities that rely on electricity to keep medical devices going and need to keep warm at home, that they are worried about how they are going to survive this winter without additional support.

OsWarm was launched in September to provide a source of free warm clothes, warm household goods and non-perishable foods to people in Oswestry who need them this winter. Two market stalls have been held so far and we have received and recycled a huge amount of curtains, duvets, blankets and warm clothes to people, due to the massive generosity of our local community.

As well as recycling and re distributing items to people who need them, we have also been able to signpost people to local agencies for further support.

We are very grateful to have received support from local businesses who have generously donated printing, storage boxes, displayed posters, brought along their items for re-distribution and The Bailey Head pub who ran a quiz night making £160 to support us to buy items for the stall.

Stalls will take place on the Oswestry Outdoor Market from 9 – 3 on 3rd December and the final one for this year on 17th December and we would encourage people to come along and help themselves to what they need. We are also acting as a collection point for the Oswestry and Border Foodbank Christmas Food Hamper Appeal and the Oswestry North Pole Toy Appeal.

US elections – Edward Hale, while chaplain of the U.S. Senate, was once asked if he prayed for the senators. He quickly replied, "No. After getting to know the senators, I pray for the people."

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be when the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter. - *Anon.*

What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.

Love your trees: 26th November – 4th December



National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season (November to March each year). This year, it runs from 26th November to 4th December.

Trees are heroes of nature. They sustain wildlife, create oxygen, purify our air and are also beautiful.

Trees and hedgerows are some of the most powerful tools we have in the fight against climate change; we can all make a difference by planting just one – even if it is only in a pot on the doorstep. This is a good time to both celebrate your current trees, and to plant more trees in your area. You don't have to necessarily hug a tree to prove your appreciation.

Good King Wenceslas

Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking out on the Feast of Stephen... ever wonder who on earth he was? Here are three of the five verses...

Good King Wenceslas last looked out on the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel
When the poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel...

Bring me flesh and bring me wine; bring me pine logs hither;
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither.
Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the rude winds' wild lament, and the bitter weather...

In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men, be sure wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourself find blessing.

This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia.

For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, but when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.



But that was not the end of Wenceslas. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the *rex Justus* – or 'righteous king' – that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria's envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda and published his translation as a carol in 1853, making the 'Duke' into a 'King', as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26th December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king's footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol – it goes back to Finland in 1582. Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.

How well do you know your spouse? – At a seminar on Marriage, the minister was stressing how essential it is that couples discern what is important to their partner. He challenged the men: "Can you even name your wife's favourite flower?" Baffled silence followed, until one husband nudged his wife with a hopeful smile and hazarded: "It's MacDougall's Self-Raising, right?"

"'Exercise'?! I thought you said, 'Extra fries.'"



FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY

from 6:30pm

A CHARITY AUCTION

(At approx. 7:30pm)

At Halston, Whittington

SY11 4NS

IN AID OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

BY KIND INVITATION OF MR & MRS RUPERT HARVEY

IF anybody has items which they would like to donate for the Auction, or Silent Auction, they will be gratefully received. Please contact Lindsay Rutherford on 07976-700709

or wlr2447@gmail.com



Tickets: £7.50 available shortly

To include wine, beer, soft drink and canapés

Safe Driving this Winter

The temperatures are dropping now, and cold, damp weather can cause problems. The RAC recommends the following to take best care of your battery: Before you switch off your engine at the end of a journey, turn off the lights, wipers, and heaters. This prevents any unnecessary drain on the battery next time you start the car.

Check that everything is switched off before you turn on the ignition.

Avoid using the heater longer than necessary, as it puts high demands on the vehicle's battery. Check that you don't leave interior lights, satnavs or phone chargers connected. If possible, park in a garage.

Christingle



CANDLE

Jesus - he shows us what God is like

ORANGE

the world

4 COCKTAIL STICKS

4 corners of the world

RED TAPE

God's love for the world

SWEETS

the good gifts God gives us

<http://lucyathome.co.uk>

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER at 4:00pm

WHITTINGTON CHURCH

Come and take part in our interactive Christingle Service

WHAT IS YOUR CAT DOING?

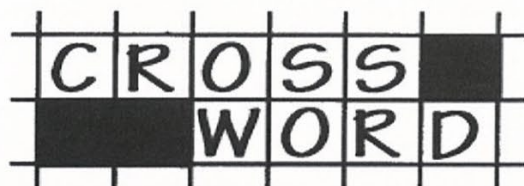
If you live with a cat, you will know the scenario: it is late at night and you want to go to bed, but the cat is sitting maddeningly just out of reach on the garden path. You keep calling 'kitty kitty' in your sweetest tones, and in response the cat twitches an ear - and just goes on sitting there. *WHY?*



Now researchers in France have discovered that your worst suspicions are right - cats *do indeed* know their names, and they are fully aware when you are talking to them.

In tests, veterinary students found that cats definitely do know their owner's voice. Cats can even differentiate between when you are talking to them or when you are talking to your friends. They *know*. So why don't they always respond? - sadly, no researcher has yet discovered the reason for feline impudence.

Wife - A Sunday School teacher was teaching how God created everything, including human beings. One little boy seemed especially intent when she explained how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill. The little boy explained worriedly: "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."



1zn

Across:

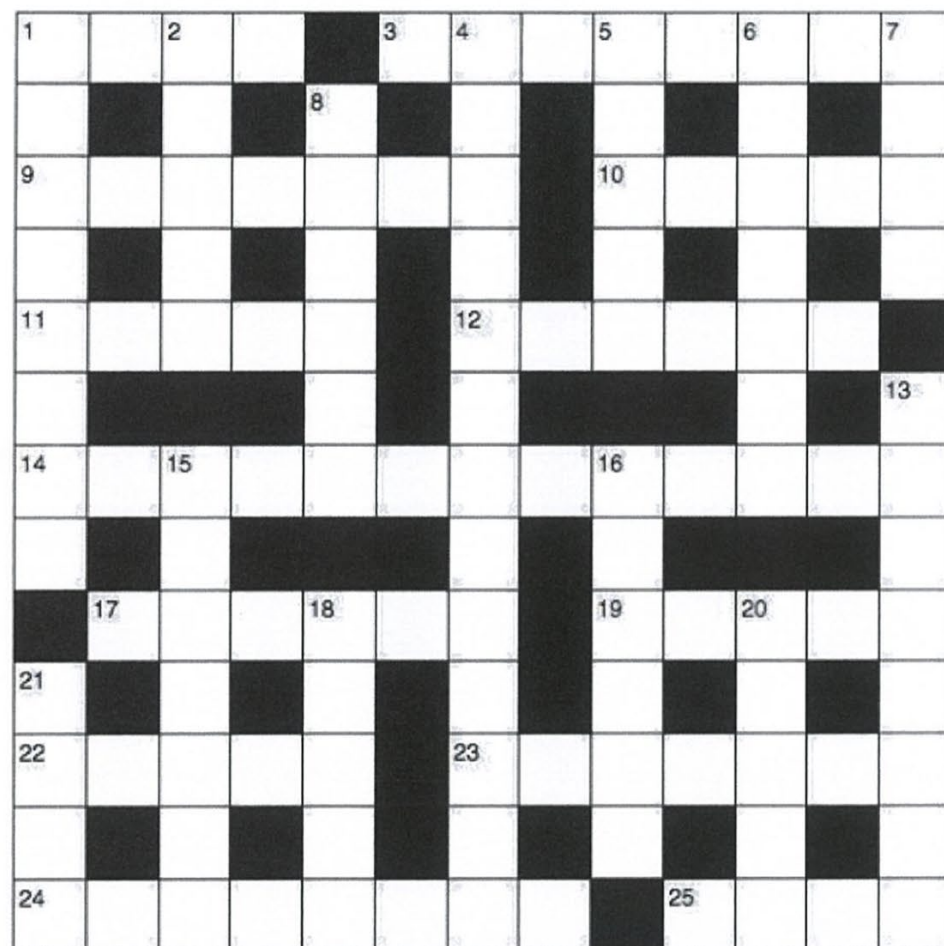
- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he
 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7) bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of
 the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — —
 women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New
 Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15)
 (4)

Down:

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — '
 (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — —
 murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2
 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly'
 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7) (Romans 8:23) (5)
 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
 20

20

- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my
 side"' (John 20:27) (5)
 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"'
 (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)



God bless – A little girl saying her prayers: "God bless Mummy, God bless Daddy, God bless my brother Tommy, God bless Granny – and God look after Yourself, 'cos if anything happens to You, we've had it!"

The best vitamin for making friends is B-1. – Anon

Answers to November's Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16, Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

DOWN: 2

7, Theology. 8, Proclamation. 12, Book. 14, Joy. 15, Menu. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

OSWESTRY LIBRARY

The library will close at 1:00pm on Saturday 24th December and re-open at 9:30am on Tuesday 3rd January; you will be able to access the online e-library as normal. No books will be due back over this closed period so don't worry about trying to return them.

As well as the usual events going on, here are two that might be of interest:

Saturday 3rd December – Writing, Pitching, Publishing!

Book signing (drop in) 10:00am – 12:00noon

Author talk (please book) 1:30 – 3:00pm

Want to write a book? Want to know how to get published? Author Geoffrey Fitchett had his first novel published last year and is busy writing the sequel. He will walk you through the process, the pitfalls, the barriers and your many options. You'll get advice on writing, pitching to publishers and getting the book to market. He will also talk about his hilarious, heart-warming book *The Rescuists*. **Free, but please book for the afternoon talk**

Saturday 17th December 2:00 – 3:00pm Wicked Harvest by R.J. Turner

Local crime author R. J. Turner has had his novel 'Wicked Harvest' published this year and is visiting Oswestry Library to talk about the book and answer questions about the writing process, the publishing process and more. Ron has published three successful Crime Novels set in Shropshire and has won prizes for his work. **Free, but please book.**

Siobhan Shaw CMgr MCMI

Branch Manager Oswestry Library SY11 1JN

(01743 255394 direct) siobhan.shaw@shropshire.gov.uk

Santa – I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

DECEMBER at Whittington Castle

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

10th/17th December Everlasting Wreath Making –

Join Fiona Winter; £55 includes all materials, complimentary mulled wine and mince pies. Contact Fiona on 07856 213525 to book.

16th/23rd December 'A Christmas Carol' –

Get into the festive spirit with readings from Charles Dickens' classic novel, performed in the atmospheric Tudor Cottage. Door 7:00pm, curtain 7:30pm. Complimentary refreshment during the interval. Tickets £12, members £8 – book directly with the Castle

10th December 4:00pm Join Revd Suzan Williams for a merry sing-a-long of **festive carols**. Wrap up warm for this outdoor service (if necessary, we will re-locate in the Castle) kitchen@thecastle will be open for hot chocolate and mince pies.

18th December **Father Christmas and his Elves** Cambrian Rotary will take Santa and his elves on a tour of the village at 5:00pm – They will be at the Castle **4:00/4:30pm** to meet children (of all ages) wishing to say hello. kitchen@thecastle will be open for hot chocolate and mince pies.

Kimberley Powell, Castle Manager

Telephone 01691 662500

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





Strength and balance classes across Shropshire for people aged 60+

- Warm, friendly and social environments
- Help to improve strength, balance and confidence, to reduce risk of falls
- Supported by 

Half price until 31st March 2023, just £2.50 per session



07852 871589 elevate@energizestw.org.uk

www.energizestw.org.uk/elevate

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This recipe comes from Bryan Webb, owner and head chef of Tyddyn Llan near Corwen. He recommends using the best chicken you can afford, preferably from a butcher. His favourite part of the bird is the oyster from the undercarriage – or as it is called the sol-l'y-laisse, which loosely translates as “the bit the silly idiots left behind”.

CHICKEN WITH MORELS AND TARRAGON (serves 4)

- 4 large chicken legs or breasts
- 1 glass of sweet white wine
- 1 glass of dry sherry
- 50g (2¼ oz) dried morels (or cheaper alternative if necessary), soaked in a little cold water and cut in half (save the water)
- 500ml (¾ - 1 pint) chicken stock
- 500ml (¾ - 1 pint) double cream
- Fresh Tarragon
- 3 tbsp sunflower oil

Heat the oil in a pan large enough to hold all the chicken. Place the legs in the pan skin-side down and fry until golden brown. Turn and season with salt and pepper, remove from the pan and discard the oil.

Add the wine and sherry and let it boil for a few minutes. Put the chicken back in the pan and cover with the stock and morel water. Bring to a simmer and cook for 30 minutes (10-12 minutes if you are using breasts).

Remove the legs from the pan and boil the juices until reduced by half. Add the cream and bring to the boil (taking care that it doesn't boil over) until the sauce thickens slightly.

Strain the sauce into a clean container and then back into the pan.

Add the chicken and the morels.

When ready to serve add the tarragon.

Silence: the art of conversation most appreciated when the Christmas Day feature film is on... – *W Hazlitt paraphrased*

Christmas card – Richard, my husband, and I had a hectic Christmas holiday schedule involving work, care of parents, driving of teenagers, shopping, and all the required doings of the season. Running out of time, I asked a local printer to simply print our name on our Christmas cards, to save me signing each one.

Soon we started getting cards from friends signed ‘The Modest Morrisons’, ‘The Clever Clarks’, and ‘The Successful Smiths’. This baffled me until I looked again at our card. I had posted out a hundred cards neatly imprinted with ‘Happy Holidays from the Rich Armstrongs’.



Children's version of the Christmas story:

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.



Visiting Father Christmas – A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: “And what would you like for Christmas?”

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. “Didn't you get my email?!”

WEST MERICA POLICE FRAUD AND SCAM BULLETIN

ENERGY BILL REBATE SCHEME

Several recent warnings have been issued about possible scams as this scheme comes into play. It's worth remembering the following points to avoid being trapped by fraudster's texts and emails which are circulating.

- Direct Debit customers will receive the Energy Bill discount automatically as a deduction to the monthly Direct Debit amount collected, or as a refund to the customer's bank account following Direct Debit collection during each month of delivery
- Standard credit customers and payment card customers will see the Energy Bill discount automatically applied as a credit to standard credit customers' accounts in the first week of each month of EBSS delivery, with the credit appearing as it would if the customer had made a payment
- Smart prepayment meter customers will see the Energy Bill discount credited directly to their smart prepayment meters in the first week of each month of delivery
- Traditional prepayment meter customers will be provided with redeemable EBSS Energy Bill discount vouchers or Special Action Messages (SAMs) from the first week of each month, issued via SMS text, email or post. Customers will need to redeem these at their usual top-up point
- Customers will NOT need to apply via any government link, website, rebate company, share-scheme; nor will they need to provide their bank account details or make contact with their energy supplier

If you've fallen for a scam, report it to **Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040** or via: actionfraud.police.uk

Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks. Forward **Fake Emails** received to: report@phishing.gov.uk

For further information visit: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Drive carefully this Christmas: It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. – Anon

FIVE SENSES

"After more than two years of pandemic, my wife finally contracted Covid. Ironically, she almost certainly caught it from a doctor at the hospital where she works. I never caught it from her! But she, like so many before her, suffered alterations to her senses of taste and smell, and I fell to considering how precious our God-given senses are. She has now tested negative, and I think my wife's sense of taste will return, but so many have lost one of these senses permanently, or, in some cases, were born without them. Do those of us who by the Grace of God have fully functioning senses really take the time to appreciate them?"

It seems sometimes we live our lives
Within our walls and fences
So nothing of the world outside
Can breach our strong defences;
So fully do we concentrate
On stresses and expenses
We fail to quite appreciate
Our five God-given senses.
Just touch and stroke a cat's soft coat
And smell a fragrant flower,
The taste of honey in your throat
A song's inspiring power!
The sight of rolling countryside
Of nature, gently thrilling
Just let your senses be your guide
To daily joys fulfilling.
For sometimes, through our ailing health
Our senses are denied us
No doctor's skill or plenteous wealth
Can put them back inside us;
So if you have your senses, five
Thank God – and daily use them
Part of the joy to be alive –
And one day we may lose them.



Nigel Beeton

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!" "What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"



On giving the after-dinner speech

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I have been slightly surprised that in your ministry so far, you have never been asked to give an after-dinner speech. Now you have delivered your first one, I can understand why. Speeches after any dinner come at the point where stomachs are dealing with a little too much food and brains with about the same quantity of wine. They should be short and witty; yours was neither.

An hour-long speech on the Herodians and Second Temple Judaism at the time of the birth of Christ was not quite what we had expected. I applauded your enthusiasm, but I was the only one; the rest of them were asleep. Long after you had left, the catering staff gently vacuumed the carpets around the audience, and it was only when the night security guard arrived that the last diners were woken and politely sent home. I suspect you will have put many marriages under strain as husbands, returning home in the early hours of the morning, had to explain to wives why they were so late. Their truthful answers would have been unbelievable.

When the head waiter appeared in a dressing gown and started placing chairs on tables, even you must have suspected that hints were being dropped and I have never heard of a hotel manager interrupting a speech to place his keys on the top table and asking if the last person to leave would kindly lock the main door.

I know that your clerical attire is more usually T-shirt and jeans, but borrowing the curate's dinner suit from your next-door parish was also not a good idea. He is a foot taller and several stones heavier than you. The result was quite worrying – several people wondered if you had just recovered from some dreadful disease that had made you shrink.

In the light of your qualified success, thank you for offering to come to repeat your speech after our annual Christmas dinner, but no thank you. The verger's son wants to share with us how many potholes he has counted in and around the town, and that should be most interesting.

**Your loving uncle,
Eustace**

THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WHITTINGTON

Registered Charity Number 1014040

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022

Income		Expenditure	
Interest	72.83	Whittington Church	260.80
Donations	4,180.00		
Bank of Scot divs.	7.67		
		Excess income	3,999.70
Total	4,260.50	Total	4,260.50

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022

Opening balance		Closing balance	
Bank balance	2,256.15	Bank balance	6,183.02
Central Board	24,371.03	Central Board	24,443.86
Excess income	3,999.70		
Total	30,626.88	Total	30,626.88

The above Charity also holds 805 ordinary shares in the Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc as at the above date. I confirm that the above is a true record of the Trusts' financial status as at 30th June 2022 and is in agreement with the bank and investment statements as at that date.

D M Davies  Treasurer

Date 22/7/22

Replace – Did you know? By replacing crisps with grapefruit as a snack, you can lose up to 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life.

Children await Christmas presents like politicians getting election returns.

Pay for it – Have you noticed? By the time you have paid off your holiday, it is time to think about Christmas presents.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

A SHORT AFTERNOON IN THE DECEMBER GARDEN

As the leaves fall from the trees this is an ideal time to prune apple, pear and quince trees. Stoned fruits such as plum, damson and cherry should be pruned in the spring as the sap is rising.

Thin out overcrowded branches by sawing with a clean cut right to the base. Due to such an abundant harvest some branches will have broken and should be removed; others which have bowed to the ground should be cut back to a strong shoot higher up. The weight of fruit will have taken a lot of energy. A dressing of green compost, or rotted manure, will be beneficial, and give to give it a spring boost a sprinkle of course bone-meal.

Flowering Tree of the month: **The Glastonbury**

Thorn, a twice-flowering hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna* 'Biflora' (indicating twice)). The tree flowers at Christmas with new green leaves and again in May; it grows on Wearyall Hill near Glastonbury Abbey. Legend has it that Joseph of Arimathea came to England with the Holy Grail, bringing Christianity. He is said to have set his staff upon the hill in Somerset on Christmas Day and miraculously it sprouted and bloomed into the original Glastonbury Thorn tree, or 'the Holy Thorn tree'.



An old English quotation reads that the tree: "Do burge and bere greene leaves at Christmas. As fresh as the other in May when the nightingale wrestles out her notes musycall as pure glas."

Joseph is said to have been related to Jesus through his mother Mary, and some believed that, as a young man, he might have accompanied his uncle on some of his travels including Glastonbury. This is the basis for William Blake's 1808 poem titled "*And did those feet in ancient time*" which was

then set to music as the anthem, Jerusalem.

A budded branch of the Glastonbury Thorn is sent to the monarch each Christmas. Cuttings are known to have been sent to both Charles I and Charles II, but the modern tradition dates from 1929, when the Vicar of Glastonbury sent one to Queen Mary and King George V.

This legendary, centuries old tree has marked old green lanes, provided stalwart hedges and an autumn feast for birds; bees swarm in for spring.



Christmas Remedies to Cheer about!

We often have mixed feelings about Christmas. Some love the big build up and family time. Others loathe the big build up and family time. Coping with Christmas and the stress it brings is something to strive for. Think of your nerves and those of others. Look after your nervous system and nourish those adrenal glands that deal with stress.

Liquorice is a sweet tasting remedy that also supports those stress coping glands, although it can raise blood pressure in those prone to it. Liquorice is also a supporter of the digestive system by keeping things moving! Sluggish digestion is another unwelcome visitor at Christmas.

Traditional spices that we associate with the yuletide are cinnamon, cloves and ginger. These warming spices are excellent for sprucing up your circulation in the colder season and can also act as digestive supporters. Their oils are also good for tense muscles. Something as simple as cinnamon tea or spiced milk are not only evocative of past times but also a good tonic to your digestion, helping discomfort to move on.

Peppermint is a simple remedy to alleviate indigestion as it calms cramping and bloating. A must at times of over indulgence. Finally, when everyone is testing your patience, remember that a shot of Valerian in your hot cocoa will bliss you out so you won't care!

Wishing you all a wonderful, relaxed and painless time.

Louise Idoux, Medical Herbalist
Oswestry Herbarium – 01691 656934

Mouse Makes
HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-21.
Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Word search grid:
 G L
 J O Y
 M R C
 S A Y G P
 O N V O J
 G B A B Y N G O O D A B L F
 V O S H E P H E R D S A V I O U R
 D A Y T M A R Y N E N F R R O
 S C H R I S T E P G L T D
 A L A I D R W H E O H
 E P R A I S E L C
 H E I V A L L S K
 E E A N I G H T O L D
 S M C N D E C R E E B
 E A E I S I G N
 E T D E

ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
 INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
 SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

Dec22 © Deborah Noble • parishpump.co.uk

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic piglet under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. - *Alfred Hitchcock*.

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. - *Jonathan Swift*

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. - *E K Kruger*

**Whittington Parish Council News,
Tuesday 25th October Meeting**

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Manford, Hickman and Davis.

Community Speed Watch: One of the volunteers provided a quarterly report, saying that there had been less monitoring due to a lack of volunteers and their availability. An issue at Penybryn was highlighted as motorists wishing to turn right were complaining that their vision was obscured. Volunteers were reported to step back so as to not cause an obstruction and the hedgerow follows its naturally line and does not obstruct the pavement. A mirror to aid visibility has been requested as once the new development has been completed the junction will get busier. The matter will be raised by Councillor Charmley at the next site meeting with the Highways Department. It was also reported that the police had been asked to provide support for the volunteers at key times when there are repeat offenders, but there had been no success. The Parish Council will follow this up. The volunteers were thanked for their time and efforts.

KEY ITEMS: Hindford phone-box (Councillor Charmley declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion/decision): Following the September meeting the Clerk had contacted Oswestry Handyman and Gardening Services for a quote to carry out the required maintenance work refurbishing the phone-box, which belongs to the Parish Council, prior to the installation of a defibrillator. Materials, including appropriate signage had already been purchased. Following a discussion, it was agreed to ratify approval of the quote, under section 4.1 of Financial Regulations, which had been done outside of the meeting, so that the work could be completed while the weather was still dry and warm.

Fitzwarine Play Area: The Clerk reported that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents had made their inspection of the site, but their report had not yet been received. Matter deferred to the November meeting.

Police Report: No officer present; damage to a caravan had been reported.

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

About your Team: Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community. An investment in mobile tablet style computers enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbour-hoods. Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high-quality service however you contact us – 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.

In the event of a Police emergency call 999 for urgent attention; or ring 101 for non-emergency calls. The Police mobile numbers above will only be answered if the Officer is on duty. If your call is not answered please leave your name, number and a brief message; officers will respond at their earliest convenience when next on duty.

Planning: (a) To note recent planning decisions published by Shropshire Council. **I. Reference:** 22/03686/FUL (validated 11/08/22) Vine Cottage, 7 Top Street, SY11 4DR **Proposal:** Erection of a two-storey infill extension and single-storey rear extension along with internal reconfiguration. **Decision:** Grant Permission.

(b) Consider the following Planning applications: **II. Reference:** 22/04583/FUL Development Proposed. The erection of one 40m to hub (67m to tip) wind turbine with control box and all associated works (re-submission).

Bryn-Y-Plentyn Farm, Middleton. (Councillor Stanton declared a bias and left the room). It was resolved to OBJECT with the following comments: Whilst the Parish Council note the noise impact report and the four houses that are identified within it, Councillors are surprised that the impact on the nearby hamlet of Babbinswood has not been referred to in the report. The Parish Council have concerns about the visual impact that the proposed 67m turbine would have on a rural area and concerns regarding the safety of the bountiful wildlife (refer to the ecology report). Again, the Parish Council wish to express their disappointment that there has been 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.

Festive Lighting: Council were updated on plans for the 2022 display, associated costs and permission to site an additional tree at the Drenwydd entrance to Park Hall. The Clerk reported that Shropshire Council had given permission for the additional tree, and the £100 cost was approved; It was agreed that no barrier around the tree will be required; Highline will loan the Council a set of white lights for this year and Councillor Davis has been asked to prepare the hole. The 8 bracket lights for Park Hall and the church have been ordered; the delivery date for the cut trees and of the lights being switched on is still to be confirmed.

Remembrance Sunday: A wreath has been purchased by the Clerk and presented to the Chairman to lay at the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council at the service in church on 13th November. Councillor Johnson reported that the poppy display will be going up in the church at the beginning of the month.

Highways, Pavements and Footpaths: (a) Councillor Charnley had been asked to canvas the Parish Council's views on the '20's Plenty' campaign, however the police were not present to provide their view. It is assumed that all 30mph signs will be replaced with 20mph, starting with town centres and identified zones. It was AGREED that currently no information is available for Parish Councils regarding the impact on villages, residential areas and rural roads and that therefore no comment or opinion can be given at this stage.

(b) The installation of a pavement between the Venue and Inglis Road; the embargo on the Community Infrastructure Levy remains in place so there

has been no progress.

(c) The area that floods in Burma Road, near the Venue.

(d) Penybryn Pedestrian Crossing – The Council are considering the costs provided by Shropshire Council to carry out a feasibility study.

(e) The extension of the 30mph speed limit on the B5009 Whittington to Gobowen road.

(f) Councillor Charmley had had a site visit to Whittington with Shropshire Council's Traffic Engineer.

Items b – f No updates were available and it was RESOLVED to defer to November meeting whilst the Clerk continues to follow up.

Next meeting: – This will be face-to-face meeting on Tuesday 13th December at 7:30pm in the Senior Citizens' Hall with limited space for members of the public wishing to attend. Future meeting dates 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

SIR ROWLAND HILL

Shropshire's military hero's 17foot high statue stands on top of the 133foot column near the Shirehall in Shrewsbury. The first stone, paid for by public subscription, was laid on 27th December 1814, and the last stone on 18th June 1816, the 1st anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo; during the battle Hill became the Duke of Wellington's right-hand man.

Rowland Hill was born at Prees Hall on 11th August 1772, the fourth of sixteen children. He was educated in Chester and in 1790 received a letter from his father suggesting that a career in law would be suitable for him, he replied that he would rather be a soldier and his father subsequently bought him a commission. However, he urged his son to go to the military academy in Strasbourg to receive a formal military training, something that was unusual at the time. After a second visit, and with the approaching dangers of the French Revolution, his uncle Sir Richard Hill, who was returning home

from Italy brought his nephew home with him. In all he would serve in campaigns in Egypt, Ireland and Hanover but it was his exploits in the Iberian Peninsula and France, against Napoleon, for which he is most famous.



Captain Hill saw his first action, at the age of 21, when a British expeditionary force landed to support the people of Toulon in southern France, against the Republican government in Paris; but the force had to withdraw after being defeated by republican troops led by Napoleon Bonaparte. The British General in charge stated of Hill that "that young man will rise to be one of the first soldiers of the age."

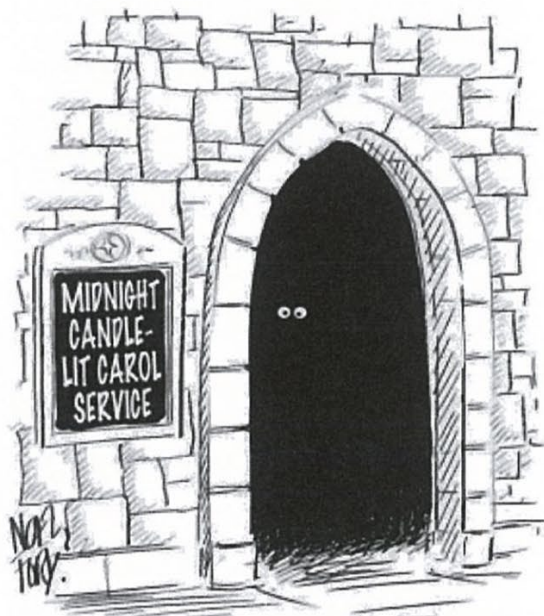
In 1808 when the Spanish rose up against a French invasion of their country the Peninsular War commenced, and saw Generals Wellington and Hill working together with ever -increasing trust and effectiveness. Hill, now a Major-General, landed in Portugal under Wellesley's overall command to defeat the French Marshal Junot's army, who were allowed to return to France aboard British ships. Shortly afterwards Hill received news that Sir Richard had died, leaving him £2,000 along with the Hardwick estate near Hadnall; his survival of the war he was engaged in was uncertain so he immediately wrote his will. Many more battles followed, along with promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-General; Wellington said of him "The best of Hill is that I always know where to find him"; Hill obviously followed his orders carefully. He was taken ill and returned to Hawkstone in January 1811 but was back at Wellington's headquarters by 24th May. In October that year Hill won a great battle near Arroyo del Molinos in Spain which resulted in the capture of the prince d'Aremberg, a member of Napoleon's family by marriage; the prince would spend the period of his captivity between Oswestry and Whitchurch. Over 1,300 prisoners were taken whilst Hill's casualties were less than 100 men and only 7 were killed. The result was that Hill was made a Knight of the Bath, becoming Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill KB. In November 1812 came the news that Hill had been elected as one of two Members of Parliament representing Shrewsbury.

Many more battles were fought, and won, until Napoleon abdicated and

exiled to Elba in April 1814.

Hill returned to Shropshire once more on 23rd June to a triumphal procession from Coton Hill, ending at the Lion Hotel where a splendid dinner was held. The decorations included a flag bearing the motto: "long life and success to the Hawkstone Lads" – a tribute to Rowland and his military brothers Robert, Clement, Noel and Edward; his eldest brother John had died at home earlier in 1814. Rowland Hill never entered the Commons as a result of his elevation to the peerage and he entered the House of Lords that same month. When news came that Napoleon had left Elba, and was back in Paris, Hill returned to the continent, arriving in Brussels on 1st April 1815 to be reunited with Wellington on 4th April. On 18th June the final battle, Waterloo, was fought and Hill is particularly remembered for leading a charge against Napoleon's Imperial Guard.

Hill went on to succeed Wellington as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in 1828 and held the post until 1842 when he was created a Viscount. He was also granted the privilege that the title could be inherited by his nephew, as Rowland had never married. He died at Hardwick on 10th December 1842 and is buried in Hadnall church.



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

WHITTINGTON ORGANISATIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Ian Chalmers
Ianwenachalmers@hotmail.com

BOWLING SECRETARY: Hannah Hampson
whittingtonbowlsec@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: Sophie Anderson

Tel: 07951 793350

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.

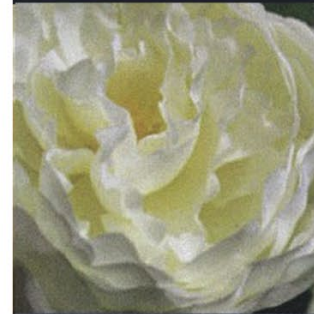
CHURCH WEBSITE: www.whittingtonchurch.org.uk

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

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