

THE RIPPLE

December 2023

50p



Merry Christmas

PARISH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8:00am 4th Sunday Holy Communion

11:00am 1st Sunday Informal Family Service

11:00am Other Sundays Parish Communion

6:30pm 3rd Sunday Carol Service

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

WEEKDAYS: 9:30am Holy Communion - Thursday

RECTOR: Reverend Suzan Williams Tel:674948
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

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

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

**“THE RIPPLE”
(Whittington Parish Church Magazine)
Vol 36 No 8**

December 2023

Rectors Ramblings

I wonder if you’ve ever had a moment where you’ve just watched the news or read the paper and seen what’s going on in the Middle East, or somewhere else in the world, and felt the absence of anything hopeful. There is a sense that things are not going to improve and get better. But I think we all, as humans, have an underlying need to have hope.

If you search for songs with a theme of Hope, something that a lot of us need, the list is a little longer than you might at first expect. For example, Emelie Sandé sings ‘I just hope I’m not the only one’ and Jack Jackson sings ‘you better hope you’re not alone’.

Experts say that the antidote to any despair might be hope. It’s one of the most powerful—and essential—human mindsets, and possible to achieve even when it feels out of reach. “Hope is a way of thinking,” says Chan Hellman, a psychologist, the founding director of the Hope Research Centre at the University of Oklahoma, “We know it can be taught; we know it can be nurtured. It’s not something you either have or don’t have.”

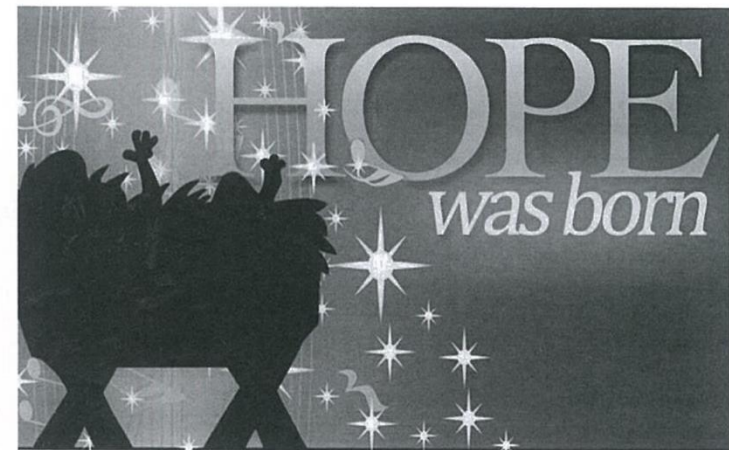
As we begin our journey through Advent this year with the joy of Christmas fast approaching, I wonder if we need to be reminded that the hope that God, our Heavenly Father, offers us is much more robust and rooted in the reality of all he came to bring when he was born as a vulnerable baby. As we enjoy time catching up with friends and family over the next few weeks and through the Christmas period itself let’s take the opportunity to be thankful that we live in peace in comparison to others across the world and don’t often fear for our safety. Let’s take the opportunity to be generous with what we have. So that those in more vulnerable situations, financially and otherwise, might have the chance for that grounded hope to be nurtured in their situation and circumstance.

As we meet in Whittington church week by week, during advent we will be

praying for the hope of the Christ child to stir in our hearts, and remind us, that we are not alone. We draw strength from knowing the buck doesn’t stop with us, but we take responsibility for our part in making our community a more hope filled place.

Every Blessing

Suzan





The Prince of Peace

December
2023

DIARY

1 7:30pm "Christmas Bells" presented by The Very Nice Production Company, tickets £10; further details on page 7

3 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

11:00am Informal Family Service

7:30pm Quiz Night at Ye Olde Boote Inn

4 10:00am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)

5 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church

3:00pm Whittington Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea in the Hall; further details on page 8-9

6 7:30pm Monthly Whist Drive in the Senior Citizens' Hall, £2.50 including light refreshments

7 9:30am Holy Communion

2:30pm Home Group meets at 4 Inglis Road, Park Hall

9 10:00am Decorating the church Christmas tree; further details on page 12

Carols and Christmas Market at The Boote

10 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

11:00am Parish Communion with Scratch Nativity; further details on page 18

2:30pm Carols at the Bailey Head

4 4:00pm Messy Church

11 **LAST DAY** for magazine material for the January edition of "The Ripple" all material to Anne Ward, 5 Boot Street, Whittington – eaw4@btinternet.com

10:00am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)

12 10:15am First pick-up at Rosehill for Whittington Senior Citizens' visit to the Grosvenor Garden Centre, Chester; further details on page 8-9

2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church

13 7:00pm Whittington WI meets in the Community Centre

14 9:30am Holy Communion

15 10:00am Whittington Church of England School Reception Class Christmas Nativity, parents welcome
1:00pm Whittington Church of England School Reception Class Christmas Nativity, parents welcome

Whittington Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch at the Navigation, Maesbury; further details on page 8-9

16 10:30am-4:00pm Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day at Garden Croft, Daisy Lane; further details on page 10

17 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

11:00am Parish Communion

6:30pm Carol Service with Llay Welfare Brass Band

18 10:00am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)

1:30pm Whittington Church of England School KS1 Christmas Performance in church, parents welcome

19 1:30pm Whittington Church of England School KS2 Christmas Performance in church, parents welcome

Whittington Church of England School closes for the Christmas Holiday

21 9:30am Holy Communion

- 24 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – CHRISTMAS EVE**
- 10:30am** Joint Advent service with West Felton and Haughton
 4:30pm Christingle Service
 11:30pm First Communion of Christmas
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- 08:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Parish Communion with Carols
- 28 **HOLY INNOCENT**
- 9:30am Holy Communion
- 31 **THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS**
- 11:00am Parish Communion

Extracts from the Parish Registers
 for the month of October 2023



HOLY BAPTISM

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

1st October Elsie Alma Squire of Mytchett, Camberley,
 Surrey



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

From Sunday 26th 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

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

PRESENTED BY

**THE VERY NICE PRODUCTION
 COMPANY**

"CHRISTMAS BELLS"

Songs From the Shows



SING-A-ALONG



on

Fri 1st DECEMBER

7:30pm

In Whittington Parish Church

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



Available from:

**Mike 01691 670940
 or Gill 01691 662236**



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



Here we are in December 2023, where on earth has the last 12 months disappeared to?



All of the committee, that is Bobby, Carole, Glenys, John, Marion, Mary, Sue, Veronica

and myself, want to take this opportunity to wish members and readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We also thank you for your support during the year.

I wish to thank the committee for their unfailing support and work during the year. I know there are not many of us, but we work well together; the club would not function without their hard work and support.

During this last year we have enjoyed several days out to Garden Centres, seaside resorts, a shire horse establishment and the Black Country Museum which included a ride along the canal and through the tunnels. We have had several teas at the hall and attended monthly lunches at the White Lion. Thanks are extended to Mary and Brian and their fantastic staff for looking after us all so well at these lunches. We also thank Mike Owen of Owen's Travelmaster, and his staff, for providing the transport to ferry us on our outings; going out of their way to pick up and drop off some of our re-cycled teenagers. It is very much appreciated.

We have two events in December, the first being our Christmas Tea on Tuesday 5th at 3:00pm, the cost is £7. The second is a visit to the Grosvenor Garden Centre on Tuesday 12th, please let me know if you wish to join us, the cost is £15. We will continue to meet for coffee on Thursday mornings during December as well.

The line dancing will continue during December, Monday evenings 7:30 – 9:30pm and there will be the monthly Whist Drive on the first Wednesday in both December and January.

The White Lion Lunch in January will be on Tuesday 23rd. There will not be a White Lion lunch in December as we are going to the Navigation for our

Christmas lunch. Last January 20 of us enjoyed a brunch at the White Lion shall we try for a repeat?

We also need to think of where we would like to go for a few day-outings next year – any ideas will be welcome, please consider the distance and transport cost.

Once again, a **VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS** to everyone, and let's look forward to a healthy 2024.

Gillian Roberts (Secretary) 01691662236

Why King Charles never throws cake away

King Charles is on a mission to tackle food poverty and rising food waste. It is said that he and the Queen eat daily slices from the same cake until it is finished, as part of a drive to curb their personal food waste.



As for the nation, the king has been increasingly concerned that in the UK, 12 million tons of food is thrown away each year – even though almost three quarters of it could still be eaten, according to experts. In contrast, an estimated 4.7million people are living in food poverty.

To combat this problem, King Charles has launched The Coronation Food Project, to coincide with this, his 75th year. Up to eight new food hubs around the country will store food, prepare it, and package it, before redistributing it to organisations like food banks and community kitchens. The long-term goal is to circulate 200 million meals a year.

In the meantime, King Charles is careful not to throw his cake away. Is there one simple thing you could do in your own kitchen this Christmas, to curb your personal food waste?

Mother in a storm – One cold winter night, during a violent storm, a mother was tucking her small, frightened little boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he said with a tremor in his voice: "Mummy, will you stay with me tonight?" Mummy smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy." A long silence – and then came his shaky reply: "The big coward!"

**YOU ARE
CORDIALLY
INVITED TO A**



**Save the Children
CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**



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

SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER

10:30am – 4:00pm

**Mince Pies and Hot Drinks
Music from “Bagpipe Andy”**

Donations to Save the Children

For more information contact 01691 650711

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

On how to make the most of carol singing

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



Carol singing is not what it used to be. My fond memories of a group of choristers, muffled in scarves and overcoats, carrying lanterns, and walking from door to door in the snow, as they sang ‘While shepherds watched ...’ had to be suddenly revised when I saw your own music group, in T-shirts

inscribed with ‘Jesus loves You’, singing ‘Little donkey’, in your shopping centre. I suspect any money you raised would just about have paid for the electricity used to power your banks of electronic equipment. Singing in the main square of the Centre next to the fountain may have looked good, but it seemed to mean that the choir members were obliged to make constant trips to the lavatory.

Here at St James the Least of All, carol singing is regarded as a staff perk for the choir; the year when the Boys’ Brigade tried to break their monopoly was suppressed with a ruthlessness that would have impressed Genghis Kahn.

Our annual carol-singing route involves months of meticulous planning. We find that a transparent collection box is vital, so that donors can see what earlier patrons have given. This means that those who are bound to put in notes must be visited first – ‘*pour encourager les autres*’. It also needs a detachable base, so that if coppers are given, they can be removed from sight before the next call.

Those homes that contain several children are visited just after bedtime, so that parents will give generously simply to get the choir to go somewhere else. Veiled threats to stay and sing more carols (unless they give generously) are usually very effective. Getting whoever looks the most innocent and photogenic to ring the bell and ask for money is a far more subtle way of ensuring a donation than planting any number of mafia lookalikes (such as our church treasurer) on the doorstep.

The choir always finishes its evening at the local pub – but again, the timing must be carefully managed. Too early and there will only be the landlord, his wife, and their Labrador to listen; too late and people will be so full of Christmas cheer that any carols will be hi-jacked and become the equivalent of back-of-the bus rugby songs.

**Your loving uncle,
Eustace**

Sums up Christmas – Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: ‘Peace on Earth’; ‘Goodwill to Men’; and ‘Batteries not included’.

Red – What’s red and white, red and white, and red and white? Father Christmas rolling down a hill.

Wise – 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!”

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR ONE DAY A MONTH
FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR

Do you live either on Rosehill or its vicinity?

Would you be willing to volunteer to deliver Ripple magazines – and once a year collect subscriptions?

Please contact Chris Hughes: Tel: 662417
 9, Rosehill Close – and thank you



SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER

10:00am

**Christmas Tree Decorating
 in Whittington Church**

**Come along and have a cuppa and mince
 pie and get in the Christmas spirit**

Sniffing out a wildfire

The National Trust has installed ‘electronic noses’ on Marsden Moor, Yorkshire, which has had 7 fires this summer, to ‘sniff’ out wildfires. The electronic sensors will detect changes in the air and immediately report its presence and exact location via a wireless network. This Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is home to rare plants, wildlife, and carbon-rich peat. If the scheme works, could this be the future for conservation areas?

EXTERMINATE!

60 years ago, on 21st December 1963 the Daleks made their first appearance on the British science fiction TV series Doctor Who. The idea was conceived by writer Terry Nation and designed by Raymond Cusick. In 1999 a Dalek appeared on a postage stamp celebrating British popular culture. Then in 2010 readers of science fiction magazine *SFX* voted the Dalek as the all-time greatest monster beating Japanese monster Godzilla.

FRIENDS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, WHITTINGTON
 Registered Charity No: 1014040

FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 2023

INCOME:		EXPENDITURE:	
INTEREST	729.45	WHITTINGTON CHURCH	632.50
DONATIONS	1,496.50	REV S WILLIAMS	63.00
BANK OF SCOTLAND DIVIDEND	21.52	EXCESS INCOME	1,551.97
-----		-----	
TOTAL £2,247.47		TOTAL £2,247.47	

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 2023

OPENING BALANCE		CLOSING BALANCE	
BANK BALANCE	6,183.02	BANK BALANCE	7,005.54
CENTRAL BOARD	24,443.86	CENTRAL BOARD	25,173.31
-----		-----	
TOTAL	£32,178.85	TOTAL	£32,178.85

The above charity holds 67 ordinary shares in the Natwest Group plc as at the above date. I confirm that the above is a true record of the Trust's financial status as at 30th June 2023 and is in agreement with the bank and investment statements as at that date.

D.M. Davies..... Treasurer

Date 30/6/23.....

CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONS

It's thought the legend of the original Christmas sock dates back centuries. The story goes that a widowed father was struggling to make ends meet, and was concerned it would affect his three daughters' marriage prospects. St Nicholas, the Christian bishop Santa Claus is based on, heard about their

plight and one night he emptied gold coins down the chimney, which fell into the girl's stockings that were drying by the fire. When they woke in the morning the family were overjoyed by this Christmas miracle; perhaps that's why chocolate coins are a firm favourite in today's stockings.



The first mention of a jovial figure magically visiting children's homes appeared in a poem in 1823 "A Visit from St Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, until then Santa Claus had always been depicted as a disciplinarian. Before it became a Christmas tradition children would hang their stockings on Saint Nicholas Day, the 19th December, in the hope he would leave them a gift while naughty children were warned they may find lumps of coal, rather than presents, waiting for them. That's inspired by Italian folklore, where Befana (an elderly woman said to be searching the country for the three wise men and baby Jesus) would leave sweets for the good children and coal for the rest on Epiphany Eve, 5th January. She's also sometimes known as the Christmas Witch.

To add good cheer to the merry-making of English Christmases, posset was drunk on Christmas Eve; made of hot milk combined with spices, lemon and sugar, with bits of oatcake and bread sometimes added. The posset was taken with a spoon, and lucky was the young man or woman who drew out the lucky coin or the wedding ring which had been dropped in the posset cup. During the 19th century Christmas Eve carollers would each be offered a posset cup, together with a piece of apple pie or tart.



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

Big Ben Bongs – were reintroduced live on BBC Radio 4 on 6th November 2023 after a 5-year restoration project of the Elizabeth Tower. They were broadcast live for the first time 100 years ago on 31st December 1923.

LATEST POSTING DAYS FOR CHRISTMAS

UK internal –

2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For – **18th Dec**

1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For – **20th Dec**



27th Nov – BFPO – Operational HM Forces

4th Dec – BFPO – Static HM Forces

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

6th Dec – Australia and New Zealand, Caribbean, China, Africa, Asia, Central and south America, Far and Middle East,

7th Dec – Cyprus and Malta

8th Dec – Greece, Eastern Europe (Except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia) and Turkey

11th Dec – Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Spain, USA and Canada

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



NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER at 6:30pm
With the LLAY WELFARE BRASS BAND

Come and hear the Christmas story retold again through familiar Bible readings and Carols.

Enjoy some mulled wine and a mince pie too!

**DECEMBER at Whittington Castle –
The Castle is open daily 9:00am – 5:00pm**

2nd Dec 10:30 – 12:00 noon Eco-Warriors –
our regular children's club; dress
appropriately for the weather and finish with a
complementary hot chocolate. at kitchen@thecastle. All
children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

5th Dec 10:00am – craft@thecastle Join our
informal crafters – patch-work, paint, scrap book, sketch or
knit, do it with others. Find inspiration or do your own thing – there is
coffee, cake and laughter. Everyone is welcome, a small fee applies.

24th Nov – 23rd Dec Art Exhibition 'From the Darkness Came Light' in the
Lady Eleanor Room by international award-winning artist, Elizabeth
Darlington, from Gobowen (last admissions at 3:30pm). Meet the artist and
discuss the origins of her work which have been inspired by powerful visions
that she has experienced when fighting for her life in ICU. An all-age **Art
Competition** is open to all, with works using any medium. 1. Up to age 11,
£1 per entry (prize: age relevant art supplies and award certificate). 2. Age
12– 17 £2 per entry (prize: age relevant art supplies and award certificate). 3.
18 and above £3 per entry (prize: a sumptuous cream tea for 2 at
Kitchen@theCastle and award certificate). Unlimited number of entries per
person. Need inspiration? Elizabeth is happy to offer ideas. Entry forms can
be collected from the Castle Gift Shop, and artwork must be delivered by the
end of the exhibition – Saturday 23rd December. The winners will be
announced in the New Year when the submissions can be collected. Visitors
to Elizabeth's exhibition will also be in with a chance to win one of her
pieces.

Kimberley Powell, Castle Manager
Telephone 01691 662500

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

Curlews in North-west Shropshire

The local Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group together with the Three
Parishes Community Wildlife Group have been working with Shropshire
Ornithological Society 'Save our Curlews Campaign' to try and locate all the
breeding pairs of curlews. Finding as many nests as possible, protecting them
from predators with an electric fence, and then radio-tagging and tracking
the chicks to see what happens to them.



Between the two groups 12-15 pairs have been located; one nest was found
and fenced and three of the four eggs hatched, but all the chicks were
predated, one definitely by a fox (the tag was recorded transmitting from
inside its den), and the other two also probably by a fox.

A well grown chick from a nearby nest was found and
colour-ringed, and went on to fledge, and two other
separate pairs also produced at least one fledged young. If
you saw or heard a curlew this year and particularly if you
observed evidence of breeding, please tell us don't assume we know about it.



The number of fledged young is less than half of the productivity that
curlews need if they are to maintain their population. The county-wide
curlew population is estimated at 100 – 110 pairs, and at the current rate of
decline it will halve in 12 years and become extinct in 25. We haven't got
long to save them. The surveys monitoring lapwings and other priority
species will be reported early in the New Year.

Celia Todd, an active member of the Three Parishes Group, has spent a lot of
time monitoring curlews will be speaking about her experience, and showing
excellent photos on 13th December at 7:30pm in the Methodist Church Hall,
Castle Street, Oswestry and all are welcome.

We will be carrying on this work again next year and we need more people
to help with the surveys. There will be a public meeting in Morda next
March, but if you're interested in getting involved, please email:
leo@leosmith.org.uk

Leo Smith

Locksmiths

- Local & Independent
- No Callout Charges
- Free Security Advice

IDP Locksmiths (Ian)
t: 01948 666116 m: 07918 617744
e: idplocksmiths@hotmail.co.uk
w: www.idplocksmiths.co.uk

What do you get Dad? – December is the month when the family begins to
discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold
out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.



SCRATCH NATIVITY

SUNDAY 10th 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

MARKET DRAYTON – HOME OF GINGERBREAD

I learnt recently that Market Drayton claims to be the home of gingerbread; it was first baked in the town over 200 years ago. The first known recipe apparently came from Greece in 2400 BC, whilst Chinese recipes were developed during the 10th century. The first record of it appearing in Europe appears in 992AD when an Armenian monk Gregory of Nicopolis is thought to have taught Christian bakers in France how to make it. Nuremberg in Germany became known as the “gingerbread capital of the world” in the 1600s; known as ‘lebkuchen’ the biscuits were heart-shaped and decorated with romantic messages.

The first documented instance of figure-shaped gingerbread biscuits was at the court of Elizabeth I. She had the gingerbread figures made and presented in the likeness of some of her important guests which brought in the human shape of the gingerbread biscuits. Within a few years of Elizabeth’s death, the gingerbread pendulum had



Swung to the dark side. The sweet fell so far out of favour that Dutch magistrates declared it illegal to bake or eat the moulded cookies. Witches supposedly made gingerbread figures, ate them, and thereby caused the death of their enemies.

Market Drayton's first contribution to gingerbread is said to be linked to the spice trade routes and Clive of India, who hailed from the town; there are records of gingerbread being made by a Roland Lateward, malster, in Shropshire Street from 1793, although it was probably made earlier, as ginger had been stocked in high street businesses since the 1640s.



The story of Billington’s Gingerbread, in Market Drayton, begins in 1817, when a Mr Thomas was baking gingerbread in the basement of his bakery and confectionary shop. Whether already conscious of the value of his recipe or just out of family pride, in 1829 Mr Thomas passed the recipe down to his nephew W. Harper. Closely guarded for a further two generations, in 1864, Mr Harper passed the recipe to his cousin, Richard Billington, and hence the famous “Billington’s Gingerbread” brand was born. The family proved to be outstanding marketers. Judging from their advertising, they would have been competing with the trail blazers who were developing famous brand names at the time. The Billingtons’ enjoyed success both locally and internationally and claimed to sell to 15 countries including Russia and Japan. However, the agricultural depression hit Market Drayton and the family hard, and it was decided to sell the Billington’s recipe.

Two other local bakers tried to replicate the success the Billington’s family had enjoyed but both struggled and it was former apprentice Mr. S.T. Hayward-Hughes who was to rescue the gingerbread for posterity. Mr. Hayward-Hughes preserved the gingerbread from any twentieth-century changes and after his retirement in 1964 passed the business to his son John. Subsequently he sold the rights to the product to The McCarthy Family in 1995, but the gingerbread is still crafted today using one of the oldest gingerbread recipes in the county, with a blend of secret spices, a dash of rum and golden syrup, now manufactured under licence by local artisan baker, Mr T. Hopcroft, who wants to re-introduce Shropshire’s spicy secret to the world.

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table – and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas, we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

~~~~~  
**Christmas shopping** – It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. “Doing my Christmas shopping early,” replied the man. “Why, that’s no offence,” said the judge.

“How early were you doing it?” “Before the store opened,” replied the defendant.

**Christmas gifts** – Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, “When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange.” The little girl clapped her hands in joy. “Brilliant! I’d love a new computer and a mobile!”



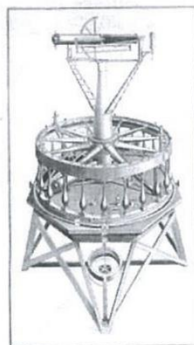
**SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 4:30pm**  
**WHITTINGTON CHURCH**  
**Come and take part in our interactive Christingle Service**

## FINDING THE WAY

It all began in military strategy, mapping the Scottish Highlands following the rebellion in 1745. It was a young engineer, by the name of William Roy, aged just 21 and with no military background, who was tasked with the initial small-scale military survey of Scotland. Starting in 1747, it took eight years to complete what was known as the Great Map at a scale of 1:36,000 (1.75 inches to a mile). Roads, hills, rivers, types of land cover and settlements were recorded; Roy described it rather as ‘a magnificent military sketch than a very accurate map of the country.’ His survey parties used simple surveying compasses to measure the angles, and chains up to fifty feet long to measure distance between important features; much of the rest was sketched in by eye. By the time of Roy’s death in 1790 his vision of a national survey for Britain was almost within reach.



In 1784, Roy was commissioned by the Royal Society to geodetically connect the Royal Observatories of Greenwich and Paris to solve a dispute over their relative positions. To do this he needed a more sophisticated theodolite (an instrument to measure angles horizontally and vertically) than had previously existed. The leading instrument maker of the day was Jesse Ramsden, and he produced a spectacular Great Theodolite which took 3 years to make and which measured three feet across. Using this instrument and trigonometry a network of accurately measured triangles was extended to France and then back again to a verification point in Kent. For this work Roy received the Royal Society's highest honour – the Copley Medal. The date was 21<sup>st</sup> June 1791 – officially recognised as the birth of Ordnance Survey.



Then in the 1790s across the English Channel the French Revolution was beginning and there were fears the bloodshed might cross to these shores and as a result the defence ministry of the time, the Board of Ordnance, began a survey of England's vulnerable southern coast. Without good maps the army couldn't be strategically best positioned. The surveyors often built small stacks of stones to indicate where their theodolite had been placed and these remained in the landscape for months afterwards.

The term 'Ordnance Survey' wasn't used until 1801 when it was written on a draft document. The first Ordnance Survey map featured Kent and was published in 1801, it took three years to complete with the surveyors working to a scale of two inches to one mile, which was reduced to one inch to a mile when printed. But the name wasn't printed on a map until the 1810 'Ordnance Survey of the Isle of Wight and part of Hampshire'. Maps could be bought either direct from the Board of Ordnance headquarters in the Tower of London, or from William Faden, a map seller at Charing Cross. The first maps cost three guineas (£3 3s) per county survey, which was between one - three weeks' wages for the average person. Within twenty years about a third of England and Wales had been mapped at the one-inch scale; the entire first series of maps wasn't published until 1870.

Today everything is on line; all 243,241 square kilometres (93,915.8751 square miles) of Great Britain and Ireland are surveyed, and up to 20,000 changes are put into the database daily.

### The story behind the hymn: O Come, All ye Faithful

Nobody knows who wrote this well-loved Christmas carol. It was originally a Latin Christmas hymn, 'Adeste Fidelis'. It seems to have first 'surfaced' in English due to a John Francis Wade, who lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and who made his living copying manuscripts and, sometimes, music by hand. Wade was a Roman Catholic, and all services in the church at that time were conducted in Latin, and so he knew the language well.

The story goes that in about 1750 he slipped this hymn into a manuscript he was copying for the English Roman Catholic College in Lisbon, Portugal. 35 years later, in 1785, it turned up in the Portuguese Chapel in London, where it became known as the 'Portuguese Hymn'.

From there, the hymn appears to have 'travelled' across to the Margaret Chapel in London's West End. Young William Ewart Gladstone, who later became Prime Minister, was an attendant at this church and said that the congregation were "the most devout and happy that I have ever seen." The minister at that time was Frederick Oakley who believed strongly in the power of religious symbols and fine music, and before he bade farewell to the Margaret Chapel, he introduced this hymn to the congregation. Having started as 'Adeste Fidelis', and been for a while 'The Portuguese Hymn', this hymn soon became known – and loved worldwide – as 'O Come, All Ye Faithful':

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 Come and behold Him, born the  
 King of angels;  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 Christ, the Lord!



Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
 O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

~~~~~  
From a church newsheet: The vicar is away on holiday for two weeks. Massages can be given to the curate.

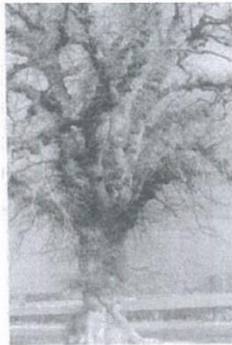
A FEW HOURS IN THE GARDEN

1. Clear away fallen leaves and the debris from alpine and rockery plants to let in the light.
2. Shorten stems of hybrid tea roses by 1/3rd less to prevent wind rot.

Berries for the month: Cotoneaster horizontalis – Cotoneasters are used ornamentally in shrub borders or as hedges and come in a range of forms and varieties, from deciduous to evergreen and from large shrubs to dwarf plants.



Cotoneaster horizontalis has excellent late colour, and is popular for the characteristic herringbone pattern of its stems, which develop into a decorative basketwork across the ground or on a wall, according to how it is trained. It is invaluable in shade, although its crops of neat pink flowers and bright red berries are more prolific in full sun. The flowers are a magnet for bees and the berries are eaten by birds. While it makes an excellent garden shrub, the horizontalis is listed as an invasive, non-native plant so carefully dispose of the cuttings when pruning. The shrub is toxic for humans, cats, dogs and horses.



Tree of the month: Wych Elm (Ulmus Glabra) – Despite the English elm's name, wych elm is the only elm that is regarded as being truly native to the UK; as a result of Dutch elm disease in the 1970s, wych elm is now rare. The Wych refers to the wood being pliant and enables it to withstand wet conditions very well. It usually grows in hilly or rocky woodlands, or beside streams and ditches. Growing to over 100 feet in height, it is hardier than the English elm, so is found much further north and west, and in parts of *Old Bury Elm, Nr Ford* Scotland. It flowers in February and produces nut-like fruits with wings.

Many birds eat elm seeds and the leaves provide food for the caterpillars of many moths. Wych elm is easier work for carpentry than common elm as it will split. It has been used in decorative turning, and to make boat parts, furniture, wheel hubs, wooden water pipes, and floorboards.



C A M E O – COME AND MEET EACH OTHER in WHITTINGTON PARISH CHURCH

MONDAY 4th/11th/18th DEC

10:00am – 12:00noon

Come along to our get together
to meet other people from the community,
there'll be tea, coffee and a light buffet

Contact Suzan: revwilliams1991@icloud.com or Tel: 01691 674948



Carols
with
Cantiones
Choir

*including choruses from
Handel's Messiah
and seasonal refreshments*

*Saturday 9th December 2023
at 3.30pm*

*Christ Church,
Oswestry SY11 1LF*

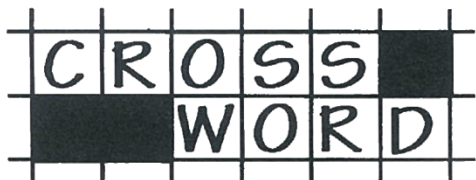
*Conducted by
Martin Bussey*

*Accompanied by
Stephen Owens*



Tickets £15 from Rowanthorn, Oswestry
or online at Ticketsource. (under 18s free)





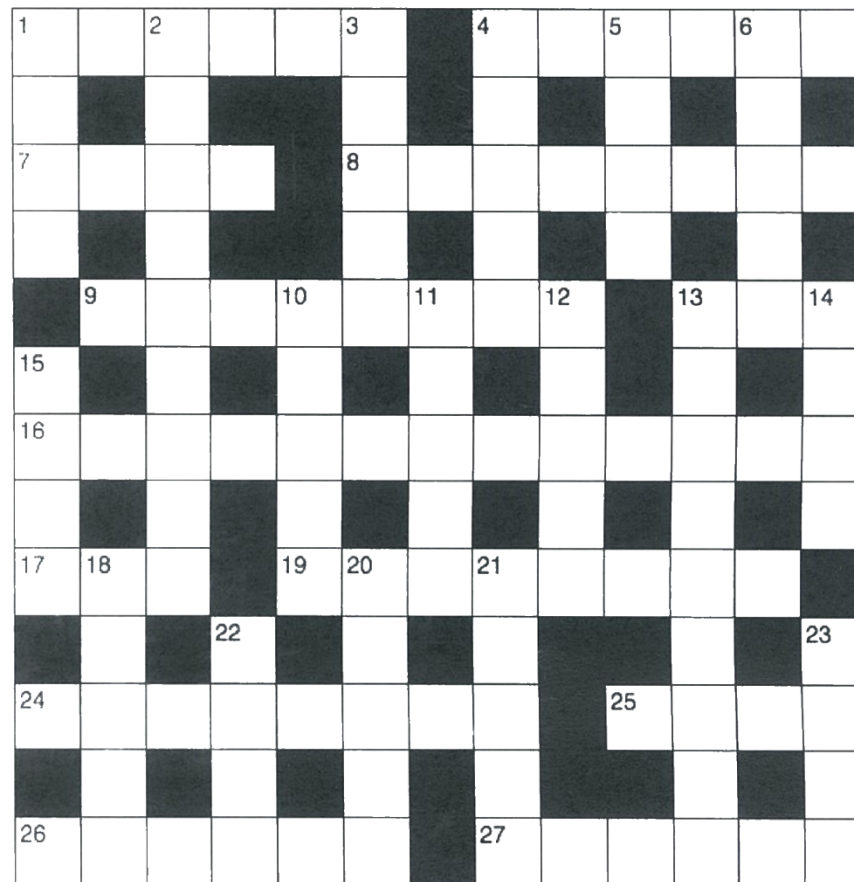
ACROSS:

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8) (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3) (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

DOWN:

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5) (4)
- 26

- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)



Answers to November's Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Thanks. 4, Banner. 8, Esher. 9, Azariah. 10, Compare. 11, Ishma. 12, Doorposts. 17, Oaths. 19, Galatia. 21, Papyrus. 22, Frail. 23, Listen. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Trench. 2, Ashamed. 3, Karma. 5, Ananias. 6, Neigh. 7, Reheat. 9, Areopagus. 13, Observe. 14, Satraps. 15, Compel. 16, Gallop. 18, Tapes. 20, Lofty.

Tickets
£15
Tickets include a mince pie



Lingen Davies
Cancer Fund

Christmas Concert
SATURDAY, 9TH DECEMBER
6PM
SHREWSBURY ABBEY
WITH MUSIC FROM
THE HOT JAZZ BISCUITS
AND
THE SHAWBURY MILITARY WIVES CHOIR

Proudly sponsored by
 Radfield Home Care

Scan to book your place 

www.lingendavies.co.uk | 01743 492396

WHEELCHAIR ASSISTANCE APPRECIATED

Do you have a wheelchair that you no longer require? You don't want to get rid of it, but you lack storage space?

Would you consider either donating it – or loaning it to the Senior Citizen's Club in case one of their members has a temporary need of one? Of course, if at any time you needed it, then it would be returned to you.



Please contact Gill Roberts – 01691 662236

CHILDREN'S PAGE

This poem was written over 200 years ago by Clement Clarke Moore to read to his children on Christmas Eve, but because he was a professor, he was too embarrassed to admit to being its author. He had written it while travelling in a sleigh 'taxi' to buy a turkey to go into baskets that his family then donated to the poor at Christmas. Perhaps he was inspired by the plump, bearded Dutchman who guided the sleigh. Christmas Eve 1823 it was published without his permission, but he finally admitted to being the writer in 1824.

"A VISIT FROM ST NICHOLAS"

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,

With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!* now *Prancer* and *Vixen!*
On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donner* and *Blitzen!*
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,

And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
“*Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*”

Cheese - Ban sliced cheese. Make Britain grate

Are you planning a large social gathering this year? Then this might just be what you need to greet your guests. According to one theory the name ‘punch’ is derived from *panch*, the Hindu word for ‘five’ as the drink was introduced to Britain by East India Company merchants in the 17th century. Some of the simplest recipes do contain just 5 ingredients, but there are many variations.

This recipe is attributed to Dr Samuel Johnson, and although it may not cause the present-day inbiber to utter Johnsonian words of wisdom, it is a cheerful and heart-warming drink to serve at Christmas time. Drink it hot in small glasses and top them up frequently!

DR JOHNSON’S PUNCH

25 – 30 glasses

1 orange
3 bottles of red wine (Burgundy or other)
8 tbsp granulated sugar
7 cloves
8 whole allspice
1 inch (2.5 cm) piece of ginger
3 pints (1.7 litres) boiling water
6 fl oz (175 ml) brandy
6 fl oz (175 ml) Cointreau

A 10 pint (5.6 litre) saucepan is required for this quantity, and a preserving pan may be the only household vessel of suitable size – otherwise, the recipe can be divided between 2 large saucepans.

Prick the whole orange in about 15 places with a clean skewer.

Put the red wine into the pan and add the sugar, cloves, allspice, ginger and the whole orange. Cover with the boiling water and simmer for 30 – 40 minutes.

Remove from the heat.

Just before serving add the brandy and Cointreau and mix them in with a few turns of a ladle.

It is not necessary to strain out the spices, as it is easy to avoid scooping them up in the ladle when serving, and the orange will float on top.

Church of England launches initiative to help schools reach Net Zero

The Church of England has launched an ambitious initiative to help its network of schools reach net zero, as part of the first phase of its multi-million-pound Net Zero Carbon Programme. It involves the establishment of a National Framework to help schools reduce their carbon emissions by improving their energy efficiency. Funding will initially focus on analysing the option of replacing inefficient, polluting fossil-fuel heating systems.

“Church schools produce almost half of the Church’s carbon emissions and are therefore a fundamental part of the Church’s ambition to reach net zero carbon across the whole estate,” said Nigel Genders, Chief Executive of the National Society. Funding of £30 million is from the Church Commissioners for England via grants to churches, cathedrals, schools and clergy houses in England in its ambitious plan to achieve net zero by 2030.

Preparing for the cold winter weather

According to the RAC website if you will be out in your car a lot this Christmas, there’s an easy way to stop your windscreen from misting up: Simply clean it with shaving foam. It provides a protective barrier which stops mist forming. Ice hockey players use it to stop their face masks from steaming up while they’re on the ice. It’s easy to do. Put a good dollop of shaving foam onto a clean towel, and then wipe it all over the windscreen. Then take a second clean towel, and gently wipe off the shaving foam. This leaves a protective barrier, but it will need to be regularly reapplied, to continue to work.



It may look silly, but cover your windscreen wipers with old stocks to prevent them sticking to the windscreen on a freezing morning. The RAC warns that if the wipers cannot move there is a risk the circuit will overheat and blow a fuse. And cyclists are recommended to wear a swimming cap under their cycling helmet as this extra layer will help you to stay warm.

Pet owners should check their dog’s paws for road grit salt after every walk as it is toxic for them; neither should dogs be left outside in extremely cold weather. Nor should cats be left outside in freezing weather and check that the water bottles of rabbits and guinea pigs are not frozen.

Whittington Parish Council News Tuesday 17th October 2023

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Stanton, Pugh, Johnson Bromley and Lillis.

Members of the public were in attendance and spoke on the following issues: **A)** Glamping Cabins at Hindford – a change of use application from agricultural to tourism is in the process of being submitted. **NOTED.** **B)** Oswestry Boys Club, Park Hall, have seen growth from 100 to 350 members in the last 3 years. This is causing issues with parking and they have applied for a grant to increase parking space which is currently going through planning permission. They are also in discussions with Shropshire Council about acquiring additional land for more pitches. Discussions took place with Councillors regarding a possible joined-up approach in regard to the play area the Parish Council are looking to build in Park Hall. It was **RESOLVED** that this be included as an agenda item at the November meeting and discussed further, before any proposals/suggestions are made to Shropshire Council by the Parish Council.

KEY ITEMS: Fitzgwarine Play Area: Councillor Davis has completed his monthly check. The Clerk reported that whilst the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Report has not yet been published, the Parish Council have been notified by the inspector that the single point swing was classified as High Risk as the shackles have worn in excess of 60%. The Clerk has requested that the contractor remove the swing while the replacement chains are purchased and the Clerk was delegate authority to spend up to £1,000 on replacement parts for the swing to ensure it is back in action as soon as possible.

Police Report: The written report and verbal report provided by PCSO Hughes were discussed and **NOTED.** Speeding was identified as of serious concern in the following areas of the parish: Babbinswood (6:30am – 8:30am and 4:30 – 6:00pm); Penybryn (traffic travelling into the village from Ellesmere) and on the B5009 from Gobowen where Anit-Social Behaviour have been witnessed.

Your Local Police Officer and Community Support Officers Contact Numbers: Local Police Officer: PC 3718 Kate Le’Clere – 07870219518
PCSO 6412 Dave Hughes – 078702 19190; and PCSO 40279

Pete Roberts – 07870219019

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.

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: a) To note recent planning decisions published by Shropshire Council I. **Reference:** 23/03519/FUL (validated: 21/08/2023) **Address:** 19 Fitzgwarine Drive, SY11 4NZ **Proposal:** Erection of a rear single storey extension to semi-detached dwelling, dimensions 4.1 metres beyond rear wall, 3.5 metres maximum height, 2.4 metres high to eaves. Decision: Grant Permission.

b) Public Consultation Event - Land at North Drive - Public consultation event at Oswestry Rugby Club on Wednesday 25th October 2023. It was noted that Councillors have been invited to attend the event at 1:30pm. Discussions took place around the possible use of Open Space on the proposed development and it was RESOLVED that a request be put forward to the developers for a 106 agreement to be put in place, that specifies play equipment must be installed on an area of open space.

Other Matters: Parish Council Asset Management: a) The Clerk reported that a new bus shelter for outside the Orthopaedic Hospital has been ordered. The orientation of the shelter was discussed and it was RESOLVED to install it the opposite way to how it currently stands.

b) **Streetlights** – Council had an update from the Streetlight Working Group on projects to upgrade the existing concrete columns and brackets requiring replacement and considered quotes from their contractor. The Clerk advised the council on procurement regulations as laid out in Financial Regulations. Councillors discussed the funds available for this project and the £25,000 allocated would only permit for 1 of the 4 areas to be completed at this stage. It was RESOLVED to approve Project A, the conversion of all existing

grade 5 concrete columns in Whittington to steel columns. The quote from the Parish Council's Streetlighting Contractor was approved as the preferred supplier, as quotes for replacing columns were previously supplied in January 2023, when the contract was awarded. The work is to be carried out as maintenance, as identified in the annual structural survey but the new steel columns will be added to the Asset Register as an asset improvement.

Remembrance Sunday: The Service will take place at 10:30am on Sunday 12th November in the Parish Church and the Chair will attend to represent the Parish Council. A wreath has been ordered from the Royal British Legion.

Festive Lighting: The Clerk reported that the new replacement lights for the Three Trees are now ready to be put up and all other lights/ brackets have been ordered as agreed. It was RESOLVED that a larger tree be purchased for Park Hall (Drenewydd Junction) this year. Clerk to check with Highline about lighting a larger tree.

Highways, Pavements, Footpaths and Environmental Maintenance:

Items a – d were covered in the form of an update from Shropshire Council/ WSP: a) Installation of a pavement between the Venue and Inglis Road (S106) and from Normandy House to The Venue (CIL) and associated works in the woodland area to prevent flooding: This matter has been escalated to Senior Officers within the Council for further consideration.

b) Penybryn Pedestrian Crossing / A495 Boot Street/Ellesmere Road – Crossing facility and extension of the footpath: An initial site visit to the grassed verge outside the residential property, 'Imola', has taken place, concluding that in principle a crossing facility could be situated at this location. Despite being possible in principle, actual confirmation will depend on further investigations – including a street lighting, drainage and Road Safety Audit – in addition to clarification on the land ownership.

c) Extension of the 30mph speed limit on the B5009 (both at the Gobowen end (currently in progress) and at the Babbinswood end): This request is certainly feasible, but still awaiting clarification on whether this request has already been identified and programmed for delivery.

d) Top Street – Road Safety Improvements to reduce 'rat running': An initial investigation has found that while prohibiting turn movements as detailed previously is feasible there are inherent challenges including the locations of signage and potential wider impact on the network that should be investigated as part of any further design.

It was RESOLVED to note the update and await further information.

e) **Village Entrances/Welcome Gates** – Council was updated from the Road Safety Working Group and considered locations/quotes and funding from grants and internal funding (road safety budget/neighbourhood fund). It was RESOLVED to apply for the grant, based on the current quotes and continue to investigate gate options, including ones that would incorporate signage as this could have more visual impact.

Next meeting: Will be on **Tuesday 12th December** at 7:00pm in the Senior Citizens' Hall with limited space for members of the public wishing to attend. Future meeting dates, the full minutes along with membership of committees, working groups etc. are published on the website. attend. Future meeting dates, the full minutes (in draft form) along with membership of committees, working groups etc. will be published on the Parish Council website two days after each meeting, <https://whitting-tonpc.com>, or via a copy from the Clerk Amy Jones. Tel: 01691 829571 email: clerk@whittingtonpc.com. The Agendas for forthcoming meetings are available 3 clear days before the meeting, either on the Parish Council Website or the two Parish Notice – boards, one in Park Hall and one outside the School.

Jill Whitby

WHITCHURCH

Surprisingly Whitchurch is the oldest continuously inhabited town in Shropshire. Remnants of the Neolithic area suggest that people lived in the area as far back as 3,000 BC. The town of Mediolanum (meaning “The place in the mid plain”) was established in about AD 52 – 70 by the Romans on the site of modern-day Whitchurch. Built on a low hill, Whitchurch provided a perfect location on a major Roman route, Watling Street, half way between Chester (Deva) and Wroxeter (Viroconium). But there is nothing in the town to demonstrate this age, but nearby mosses have provided both Iron Age and Roman artifacts.

The Saxons called their village Westune (‘west farmstead’). The first church was built on the hill in AD912. After the Norman Conquest a motte and bailey castle and a new white Grinshill stone church were built. Westune became Album Monasterium (‘White Church’), eventually becoming simply ‘Whitchurch’. It was granted ‘town’ status in 1284, and awarded a market charter in the 14th century. The replacement third church collapsed in July 1711 and the present Queen Anne parish church of St Alkmund was

immediately constructed to take its place; it was consecrated in 1713.

The town has a famous reputation for cheese making. Despite lying in north Shropshire, it is widely regarded as the home of Cheshire cheese. Cheese fairs were held every third Wednesday and they would be transported via a short arm on the newly opened Llangollen Canal after 1811. The railway station was opened in 1858 on the first railway line in North Shropshire, running from Crewe to Shrewsbury. Previous inhabitants include composer Edward German (1862 – 1936), Sir John Talbot, twice governor of Ireland, and the first Earl of Shrewsbury who is also thought to have fought against the legendary Joan of Arc, who then became immortalised in Shakespeare’s play Henry IV part 1. To this day the Earldom of Shrewsbury is the premier Earldom of England.

The town has a reputation for being ‘The home of tower clocks.’ Forty-five clock makers were listed in the town between 1698 and 1886. Clock-makers JB Joyce & Co (now part of the Smith of Derby group), were established in 1690 and are the oldest tower clock manufacturers in the world. If you visit Chester there is the majestic Eastgate clock and visitors to China can see the famous Joyce clock at the Customs House in Shanghai. Many other clocks are in situ in churches and public buildings across the British Isles as well as Australia and India; Joyces’ even had a hand in the building of Big Ben.

During the Second World War a secret ‘Y’ station, for enemy signals interception, operated in Whitchurch at the Old Rectory in Claypit Street. On 23rd November 1981, a tornado passed through Whitchurch as part of the record-breaking nationwide tornado outbreak; it was the longest-lived tornado of the entire outbreak, having first touched down 35 miles away in the south Shropshire village of Norbury. After passing through Whitchurch, the tornado dissipated.

There are currently over 100 listed buildings in Whitchurch. Two of the oldest buildings are the Old Eagles pub built in the 16th century and 17, 19 and 21 Watergate Street. These three properties were built in 1625 and were called the Raven’s Inn. Over the last four centuries, the Raven’s Inn has seen a great deal of alteration, but more recently restoration work has been undertaken to restore some of the original half-timbered facade. The town offers a wide selection of independent shops and eateries to visitors, making it a worthwhile destination for a day out.

The street names in the town centre reflect the changing history of the town.
Roman: Pepper Street, a common name in former Roman settlements. It is a derivation of the Roman Via Piperatica, the street on which pepper and spices were sold.

Norse: Several streets end in 'gate' which is Norse for street (e.g., Watergate, Highgate, Bargates). Watergate Street was named after the old Medieval or Roman Watergate which used to exist. Others refer to the castle which was located here (e.g., Castle Hill or Yardington referring to the castle yard).

Modern: Some refer to local industry (e.g., Claypit Street, clay was used for making bricks; Mill Street, named after the local water mill; and Bark Hill, bark was used for tanning).

The areas of Whitchurch also have some interesting names including:
Dodington – this is derived from Dodtune (the settlement of the people of Dodda – a local Anglo-Saxon chieftain)
Chemistry – this is derived from an oak-acid making business located nearby which was used in the tanning industry in the town



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

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

WHITTINGTON WITCHES SECRETARY: Caroline O'Reilly
cjoreilly74@gmail.com Tel:07525 212 905

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@tmsfcfoundation.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

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:

Contact: District Commissioner Nickie Phillips for details at:
Nickie.Phillips@scouts.org.uk

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:

1st Wednesday evening Whist Drive, Thursday morning 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/>
40

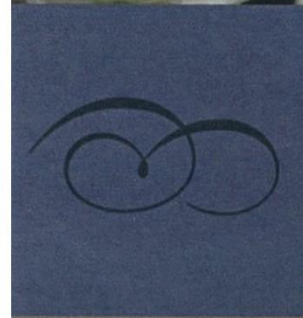
David Davies & Sons

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

Photograph on the front is of Whitchurch

Contents of "The Ripple" printed by Maxwell's Printing