

# THE RIPPLE

January 2024



## PARISH SERVICES

### SUNDAY SERVICES:

8:00am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Communion

11:00am 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Informal Family Service

11:00am Other Sundays Parish Communion

6:30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Informal Service

4:00pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Messy church (no service in August)

**WEEKDAYS:** 9:30am Holy Communion - Thursday

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**“THE RIPPLE”**  
**(Whittington Parish Church Magazine)**  
**Vol 36 No 9**

January 2024

**Rectors Ramblings**

I wonder what your approach to the New Year is? I’ve possibly become a little cynical when it comes to the whole New Year’s resolution element of crossing the threshold from one year into the next. But this week, at the beginning of December, I came across this poem written by an unknown author which seems to hit the spot for me.

*Take twelve whole months.  
Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness,  
hate, and jealousy.  
Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.*

*Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or  
thirty-one different parts,  
but don't make up the whole batch at once.  
Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.*

*Mix well into each day one part of faith,  
one part of patience, one part of courage,  
and one part of work.  
Add to each day one part of hope,  
faithfulness, generosity, and kindness.*

*Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation,  
and one good deed.  
Season the whole with a dash of good spirits,  
a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play,  
and a cup full of good humour.*

*Pour all of this into a vessel of love.  
Cook thoroughly over radiant joy,  
garnish with a smile,  
And serve with quietness and unselfishness, and cheerfulness.  
You're bound to have a happy new year.*

With all we see going on in the world at the moment, an intolerance if you like, of those who may think, act, behave or look different to us, if you take the principles contained within these words, what a difference it would make. Of course, we have no guarantees or promises of what 2024 holds in store, but we can pledge to be kinder and more generous with our time (and this speaks to me too, so don’t think I’m pointing the finger!), and looking out for those on our doorstep or further afield.

In Matthew chapter 5 we read Jesus clearly saying “you are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” And “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

So, I wonder what you or I can do to bring that enhanced flavour to lives of those that we meet. May our words be seasoned with compassion and love, kindness and care as we journey over the threshold from all that 2023 has been, and into 2024 and all it has in store for us.

Every Blessing

Suzan





# January 2024

## DIARY

- 3 7:30pm Monthly Whist Drive in the Senior Citizens' Hall, £2.50 including light refreshments
- 4 Whittington Church of England School opens for the Spring Term
- 9:30am Holy Communion
- 7 **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
- 11:00am Informal Family Service
- 7:30pm Quiz Night at Ye Olde Boote Inn
- 8 10:00am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 9 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 10 7:00pm Whittington WI meets in the Community Centre
- 11 9:30am Holy Communion
- 2:30pm Home Group meets at 4 Inglis Road, Park Hall
- 14 **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
- 11:00am Parish Communion
- 4:00pm Messy Church with a special invitation to Baptism families
- 15 **LAST DAY** for magazine material for the February edition of "The Ripple" all material to Anne Ward, 5 Boot Street, Whittington – eaw4@btinternet.com
- 4 10:00am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)

- 16 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 18 9:30am Holy Communion
- 2:30pm Home Group meets at 4 Inglis Road, Park Hall
- 21 **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
- 11:00am Parish Communion
- 6:30pm Informal Service
- 22 10:00am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 23 12:00noon Whittington Senior Citizens monthly lunch at the White Lion; further details on pages 10 – 11
- 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 25 9:30am Holy Communion
- 2:30pm Home Group meets at 4 Inglis Road, Park Hall
- 28 **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
- 8:00am Holy Communion
- 11:00am Parish Communion
- 7 for 7:30pm Bingo at the White Lion
- 29 10:00am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 30 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rector and members of the Parochial Church Council acknowledge the following donation:

£50 in memory of John Henry Lea from his wife Ruth and family



Extracts from the Parish Registers  
for the month of November 2023



**REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

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

18<sup>th</sup> November 2023    Thelma Barclay  
aged 97 of Rosehill Drive

25<sup>th</sup> November 2023    Sandra Jill Weaver  
aged 82 of Rosehill Drive



**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 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024**, 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**

**MUSICAL CONCERT**

A varied programme of music was enjoyed by many in the parish church on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November with Mair Thomas being the headline performer. Refreshments were provided by the group running the CAMEO get-togethers on a Monday morning and were enjoyed by both performers and audience. £480 of the money raised was donated to church funds and we are extremely grateful to Ruth Fisher and all her friends for organising a splendid evening.

**Gill Roberts**

**Did Noah fish?** – A Sunday school teacher asked, “Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?”

“No,” replied Johnny. “How could he, with just two worms?”

**CHRISTMAS BELLS**

A wonderful evening of musical entertainment was enjoyed on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December in the parish church when The Very Nice Production Company entertained us once again with a wonderful selection of songs from the musicals. Although the weather conditions may have kept a few away, it was good to see a good number of new faces coming along. Everyone also enjoyed the wine which was served with some lovely home-made mince pies supplied by Ruth Haile. In all £757.50 was raised and this has been donated to The Friends of St John the Baptist. Thank you all for coming along and giving your support.

**Mike Phipps**

**Welcoming in New Year’s Day or Hen Galan**

We are all very familiar with the Scottish traditions of welcoming in the New Year, but what about traditions of our nearest neighbours – the Welsh?

A well-known Welsh tradition, still seen in some areas of south and mid Wales is the collection of calennig. Many children miss school and tour the villages during the morning carrying from door to door, as bearers of good luck, a decorated apple or orange, pierced with three sticks and smeared with flour and adorned with a sprig of box, fruit and hazelnuts, akin to a pomander. The children usually sing a simple verse such as:

“I wish you a merry Christmas,  
A happy new year,  
A pocket full of money and a cellar full of beer,  
A good fat pig to last you all year,  
Please give me a New Year’s gift for this New Year.”



*Two boys collecting  
Calennig c 1904-1910*

In return they usually received a gift, food or money for their troubles. Rhymes and songs are concisely worded and their message was to announce the New Year’s arrival, to wish the family a prosperous twelvemonth, and ask from it ‘calennig’ or New Year’s gift. The word calennig is derived from the Latin word ‘kalends’ which translates to ‘the first day of month’; the English word ‘Calendar’ has its roots in the same word.



This tradition at some point crossed over the border into Shropshire at some point; children around Clun are recorded to have recited the following verse:

“Happy New Year. Happy New Year, I’ve come to wish you happy New Year.

I’ve got a little pocket and it is very thin,  
Please give me a penny to put the money in,  
If you haven’t got a penny, a half penny will do, if you haven’t got a half penny – God bless you.”

Another Welsh tradition was the water ritual. Children would fill cups or small bowls with spring water, which they’d drawn from the well that morning, then dipped it into a sprig of box, myrtle or mistletoe. Then they would sprinkle it either on grownups hands or faces or around the house, in order to do away with the old year and usher in the new. Seen as a sign of cleansing or purifying in return the adults would give them a small gift.

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



All of our Committee, Bobby, Carole, Glenys, John, Marion, Mary, Sue, Veronica and myself want to take this opportunity to wish both club members and readers of ‘The Ripple’ a very healthy and peaceful 2024. We hope that we can count on your support during the coming year.

At the end of November Phil and Di Rogers organized a Bingo Night in aid of Therapy Stars Foundation in the hall and over £300 was raised. We also held a Coffee and Mince Pie morning on 25<sup>th</sup> November, raising £150 for club funds. Ruth Fisher and her music group kindly donated £475 towards our club from the proceeds of the Musical Concert held in church on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Our very grateful thanks to them all as we had roof repairs done in November amounting to £1200, so every contribution is very gratefully received.

In December we continued to meet for coffee on Thursday mornings and Year 2 children from the school visited us on 7<sup>th</sup> enabling them to talk to our members about their school days.

We held our Christmas Tea on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December and there were at

least 30 people who sat down to enjoy a lovely spread. On the day before we did think that we might have to cancel as we had problems with the heating system, water pouring out of the roof, what a mess. Our thanks must go to Phil Rogers who came over and was a great help; he contacted plumber Dave Bebbington, who advertises in The Ripple. Thankfully Dave was able to come in on the Tuesday morning and sorted it all out for us. Our thanks also to Di Rogers who helped Phil put tables out for the tea as I was waiting to hear from my dentist; I ended up having 2 teeth extracted.

On a more cheerful note, we had a trip to the Grosvenor Garden Centre, Chester on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> to see the singing, dancing reindeers and spend a bit of cash prior to Christmas.

Line dancing continued during December on Monday evenings 7:30 – 9:30pm, you are welcome to join us in the New Year. The TNS Youth Group and Ellie Moss’s ballet classes had a rest during the school holidays.

The monthly Whist Drive will be held as usual on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of January, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the White Lion Lunch will be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. We will need to give some thought to a few days’ outings for 2024 – any ideas are welcome, please consider distance and transport cost.

Sadly, we lost two members during November, Thelma Barclay and Jill Weaver, our condolences go to both their families. Our heartfelt thanks go to Derek Buckle for the kind donation of a wheelchair.

**Gillian Roberts (Secretary) 01691662236**

**Columbia Pictures celebrates 100 Years on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

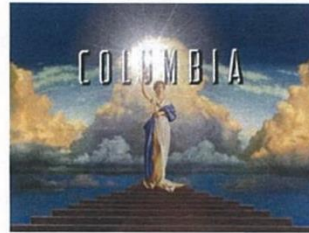
Unless you grew up on Mars, Columbia Pictures has played some part in your life. Who doesn’t recognise that opening ‘logo’ to a film you are about to watch. Columbia was founded in June 1918 by two brothers, Jack and Harry Cohn, and their business partner Joe Brandt under the name Cohn-Brandt- Cohn, it adopted the name Columbia Pictures on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1924.

At first the company was a minor player, one of the so-called ‘Little Three’ among the eight major film studios of Hollywood’s Golden Age. Then in the late 1920s it helped to have the director Frank Capra on board, and a string of hits directed by him solidified Columbia’s status as a major player. Columbia also distributed both Disney’s Silly Symphony film series and the



Mickey Mouse cartoon series. In the 1930s contracted stars included Jean Arthur and Cary Grant before Rita Hayworth became their premier star in the following decade, followed soon after by William Holden and Glen Ford. During these early years the company could not afford to keep a huge roster of contract stars, so usually borrowed them from other studios. These included James Stewart, who got his first Academy Award for the 1938 film “Mr Smith Goes to Washington”, Jack Lemmon, Larry Parks (The Al Jolson Story 1946), and Lucille Ball. At Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the industry’s most prestigious studio, Columbia was nicknamed “Siberia”; and it was the last major studio to use the expensive colour process, Technicolour, in 1934. In the late 40s and 50s its TV production arm was producing programmes which many of us will still remember – The Partridge Family, Bewitched, I Dream of Jeannie and The Monkees.

Larger studios declined in the 1950s due to a reduction in audience numbers, over 90% in some cases, but because Columbia did not own their own theatres their position improved. They continued to produce 40-plus films a year, not all of them good, but there was From Here to Eternity (1953), On the Waterfront (1954), and The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) all of which won the Best Picture Oscar.



Columbia did turn down Albert Broccoli’s James Bond Films, but did produce the spoof Casino Royale in 1967. By the early 1970s the company was nearly bankrupt and in 1972 it formed a partnership with Warner Bros. in which both companies shared the same production lot. In the 1980s there was E.T. The Extra Terrestrial, Kramer vs. Kramer and Stir Crazy. Then the company was bought by The Coca-Cola Company in June 1982 for \$750 million and went on to make more hits such as Tootsie, Gandhi and Ghostbusters. In 1989 the studio was sold once again, this time to Sony for \$3.4 billion and in 2002 it broke the record for the biggest domestic theatrical gross – \$1.575 billion. This grew to over \$4 billion by 2012 following such success as Skyfall, The Amazing Spider-Man, Men in Black 3, and Hotel Transylvania.

Back in 1924 the original company logo featured a female Roman soldier holding a shield in her left hand and a stick of wheat in her right hand. In 1936 it was changed to the Torch Lady now stood on a pedestal, no

headdress and the text “Columbia” appeared in chiselled letters behind her. There have been many variations since and on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Son Pictures unveiled a special centennial anniversary logo based on the 199 logo for its unit ahead of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary which will debut in Madam Web on Valentine's Day 2024. Today Columbia is the world’s third largest major film studio.

**Who needs retirement?**

It seems that working into your old age can be very good for you. Certainly, there are increasing numbers of people in their 70s who are still going strong – and loving it. As one 77-year-old swimming coach explains: “It gives me purpose and satisfaction, and I get a real buzz from the interaction.” As for celebrities, Dame Zandra Rhodes, 83 recently released her autumn/winter 2023 capsule collection and Dame Esther Rantzen, 82, is still writing, campaigning, and broadcasting – all with stage four lung cancer.



As for leaders, King Charles, 75, has only just begun one of the world’s most prestigious jobs. And the next American president? Likely candidates seem to be Donald Trump, 77, or Joe Biden, 81.

Certainly, medical evidence suggests that work is good for you. A 202 BMC Public Health study found that full-time and part-time workers score higher in mental health tests compared with retirees.

**Synod backs trial of special services asking for God’s blessing for same-sex couples**

Special services of prayer and dedication asking for God’s blessing for same sex couples will soon be introduced in the Church of England on a trial basis. This follows a vote at the last General Synod of a motion containing an amendment tabled by the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, to bring forward the standalone services based around texts known as *Prayers of Love and Faith*.

PLF is a collection of prayers, readings for praying with and for a same-sex couple who wish to mark that love in faith before God. The House of



Bishops had already agreed that structures for special standalone services based on the PLF could go forward to be formally authorised under canon law and expected to take about two years. But this General Synod motion means that the services could be authorised for use sooner, but temporarily, under separate legislation. That would enable the first standalone Prayers of Love and Faith services to take place in churches at the same time as the process of seeking permanent authorisation is under way.

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, and the Bishop of Winchester, Philip Mounstephen, who have been co-chairing the Living in Love and Faith steering group, said: “During more than nine hours of debate we have heard very clearly what has been said, with passion and deep conviction, from a whole range of different perspectives. The truth is – and as we have seen again today – that the Church of England is not of one mind on questions of sexuality and marriage. Synod has agreed – narrowly – that standalone church services for same-sex couples should be authorised under Canon law on a trial basis. The House of Bishops will now consider how best to implement that call as we also commend the Prayers of Love and Faith for use in worship. Yet we must also reflect on all that we have heard from Synod – from across the whole spectrum – and redouble our efforts to find a space where we can live with our current disagreements because we believe that is what God is calling us to do.”

The Archbishops Welby, and Cottrell have said: “We have heard loud and clear, through an extensive debate over two days, the depth of feeling across the Church on these hugely important questions. So, while this motion was passed, narrowly, we do not underestimate the depth of feeling and will reflect on all that we have heard as we seek to move forward together.”

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**Why?** – A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, “Would you like to say the blessing?” “I don’t know what to say,” the girl replied. “Just say what you hear Mummy say,” the father answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, “O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?”

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**Windows** – A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: “Windows frozen.” Her husband texted back: “Pour some lukewarm water over it.” The wife texted back five minutes later: “Computer’s completely not working now.”

### New year’s resolutions are one of the most ancient traditions to have existed

Every year, we make promises and pledges to begin the new year with a better version of ourselves. From abandoning alcohol to working harder, embracing exercise and the most popular one – keeping a diary, most people try to keep at least one promise.

Did you know that this tradition is nearly 4,000 years old? The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make new year’s resolutions. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honour of the new year — though, for them, the year began in mid-March, when the crops were planted. During a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, they either crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to their ruling monarch.

Promises were made to the gods to pay their debts and they returned any objects that they had previously borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our new year’s resolutions. If the Babylonians kept to their word, it was believed that their gods would bestow them with good luck in the coming year.

The Romans continued the tradition. It was not until 46 BC, when Julius Caesar proposed a reformed calendar, that January 1<sup>st</sup> was established officially as the beginning of the year. Roman new-year festivities included the worship of Janus, the god of beginnings and endings, after whom the month of January is named. Romans would offer sacrifices to their deity and make promises of good conduct for the coming year.

By the time the phrase “new-year resolutions” first appeared in a Boston newspaper in 1813, the pledges were losing their religious sobriety. An article published a few years earlier in Walker’s Hibernian Magazine, or, Compendium of Entertaining Knowledge, an Irish publication, satirises the practice. It stated that physicians had pledged to “be very moderate in their fees” and statesmen to “have no other object in view than the good of their country.”

Even now the making of unrealistic pledges has remained a tradition.

Take my advice. I’m not using it.



## Bringing warmth to our local Community



Supporting Shropshire Communities since 1960

As the wintry weather sets in we turn our thoughts to those in our community who are vulnerable to the biting cold and the financial strain of rising energy costs. Community Resource's "Warmer Winter Appeal," embodies our spirit of compassion and unity. The appeal aims to provide warmth and comfort to local vulnerable households at risk of fuel poverty during colder, winter months.

Rising energy costs make it increasingly difficult for many households to afford the basic necessity of a warm and comfortable home and our "Warmer Winter Appeal" is our response to this challenge within our communities.

You can get involved by making a donation to our appeal which will use it to help those struggling families with payment of energy debts, the provision of coal, logs or oil to those living off-gas who cannot afford these more expensive heating materials. We also help people who need repairs to their boilers, so they can heat their homes, or need carpets in children's bedrooms where they have none to stop drafts and keep them warm. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference. We work closely with our referral partners such as local foodbanks, debt advice organisations, the NHS and Councillors to ensure our beneficiaries are getting all round support where they need it.

You can also spread the word with your friends, family and neighbours, encouraging others to make a positive impact in our community – together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those facing fuel poverty in our community.

As the days grow colder, let us come together in the spirit of giving and support. To make a donation please visit – <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/shropshirefuelpoverty> or email our Fundraising Manager – [Stacey.teece@community-resource.org.uk](mailto:Stacey.teece@community-resource.org.uk) to discuss other ways to make a gift. Community Resource is an operating name of the Community Council of Shropshire A Company Limited by Guarantee 4652487 and a Registered Charity 1096779. Registered Office Address: Community Council of Shropshire, 4 The Creative Quarter, Shrewsbury Business Park, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LG Tel: 01743 360641

## THE HARDEST FOUGHT AND BLOODIEST BATTLE OF THEM ALL

Eighty years ago, from the 17<sup>th</sup> January until the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1944 the Battle of Monte Cassino, also known as the Battle for Rome, took place in Italy. Monte Cassino was a Catholic monastery, a symbol of peace, situated on a rocky hill above the town of Cassino.

Benedict of Nursia established the very first monastery of his new order on this promontory in 529 AD. The site possessed historical importance prior to his arrival having been the location for an ancient Roman Temple of Apollo for more than 1,000 years. Its strict standard became the foundation of further monasteries founded by Benedict throughout Europe. Inside the Abbey, monks painstakingly worked to preserve both contemporary and ancient texts, ensuring important documents and manuscripts were not lost to the ravages of time. The Abbey had been rebuilt many times as a result of natural disasters and sieges and the complex that stood above Cassino in 1944 was built mainly in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Allied progress up the "boot" of Italy had ground to a halt during the winter of 1943–44, thwarted by the Nazis' Gustav Line (one of three that comprised the "Winter Lines" and the main one that spanned 100 miles across the width of the peninsula, from the Tyrrhenian Sea in the southwest to the Adriatic Sea on the northeast coast). The towering hill of Monte Cassino—topped by the monastery—was the linchpin of the line that the Allies were determined to capture, because breaking through the Gustav Line was necessary for reaching Rome, which was finally captured on June 5<sup>th</sup>; Monte Cassino overlooked the main highway leading to the capital.

The battle consisted of four engagements. The first (January 17<sup>th</sup> –February 11<sup>th</sup>) was conducted by French and U.S. troops, and the Allies were repulsed by the Germans, led by elite Luftwaffe paratroopers. The second (February 15<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup>) was controlled by the New Zealand and 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Divisions and involved an attack on the famous monastery. The British divisional commanders demanded that the monastery be destroyed, although the German military had formally declared that their troops would not use the building; the Germans had actually evacuated the monks and the art treasures housed at the abbey to Rome. Despite reservations, the monastery was flattened by U.S. bombers, whereupon Nazi paratroopers moved into the





The Abbey after the Allied Bombing

ruins, which made an excellent defensive position. The subsequent Allied assault was thrown back with heavy casualties. The third engagement (March 15<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>) was also an Allied failure. The fourth engagement (May 11<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup>), spearheaded by the Polish Corps, which faced fierce counter-attacks and suffered heavy losses, finally took the hill. The Germans had already decided to retire to a new defensive line farther north, and, when the lead Polish troops gained the summit of the hill on May 18<sup>th</sup>, they found it unoccupied, except for some wounded soldiers unable to travel. More than 900 Polish troops had died in the battle; the large white “Monument to the Battle of Monte Cassino” in Warsaw commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of these troops. Losses for the Allied forces numbered 105,000 casualties, and the Germans suffered 80,000 casualties. Two monks who had remained at the Abbey survived the attack, but an estimated 115 refugees taking shelter perished during the attack. The total ruin of Monte Cassino evoked mixed emotions on both sides and remains one of the most debated decisions of the war itself.

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



**2<sup>nd</sup> January 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.

**6<sup>th</sup> January 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.

**Kimberley Powell, Castle Manager**  
Telephone 01691 662500

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

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**A.S.A.P.**

Have you ever considered the abbreviation A.S.A.P. (As Soon As Possible)? Generally, it brings even more hurry and stress into our lives, but there is another way to think of A.S.A.P, which may help us deal with difficult times.

When there’s work to do, and deadlines to meet, and colleagues are rushing around, here’s what you can do to help – *Always Say a Prayer*. When your worries mount up and you don’t know how you are ever going to cope with what is coming at you – *Always Say a Prayer*.

God knows how stressful our lives can be, and He wants to ease our cares. In the Bible He promises to respond to our calls for help. So – call Him! A.S.A.P.!

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**Answered prayer** – During the minister’s prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy’s mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, “Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?” Tommy answered soberly, “I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!”

Common sense isn’t



## IN THE GARDEN

1. To overwinter dahlias put the dry tubers in the smallest possible pot with dry soil or grit, and store in a dry, frost-free place. For extra insulation place in a cardboard box.
2. January is the best time to give the greenhouse a thorough tidy and clean, enabling maximum light through the glass.

**Flower of the month: Cyclamen Coum** – With marbled leaves and pink flowers this short plant flowers on the shortest day of the year and continues through to February. It has a flat tuberos root which should be planted just below soil level and prefers light shade.



**Tree of the month: Pedunculate Oak (Quercus Robur)** – A tree renowned for its durability and longevity, it is prized for its shelter, longevity and ornament. The tree is of particular interest in Shropshire for its well-known group of nine oaks just outside Shrewsbury. One of these is the ‘Darwin Oak’, so called because it grows close to ‘The Mount’, Darwin’s home. This venerable tree is 550 years old with a girth of seven metres (23 feet). Trees of this size bear huge numbers of densely packed leaves which store



carbon, making a real contribution to the environment. A big cause for concern is that all of these venerable giants are due to be felled to make room for the new Shrewsbury bypass, a grave decision.



### **From medical records....**

- ~ On the second day, the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.
- ~ The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 2022.
- ~ She slipped on wet leaves in late September, and her legs went in separate directions.
- ~ The patient was released to the Outpatient department without dressing.
- ~ She is numb from the toes down.

## ANOTHER LOOK BACK

Delving into those 70s Whittington News magazines again I find in one of them a list of the production staff: Editor – Tony Butler (Rector); Assistant Editor – Peter Smith; Finance Manager – Richard Graves; Advertising – John Carroll and Printer: Geoff Williams. A regular contributor used the pseudonym ‘Jackdaw’ and I have yet to discover their name. My first thought had been that it was the late Philip Morris, who had kept these copies of the magazines I am exploring, but several different editions there is an article from “Morhys” which is a familiar name used by Philip. Jackdaw seems to be someone who had access to church records as there are often quotes from notes made in the church records by previous Rectors.

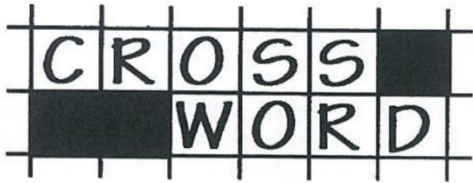
Apart from news of the various village organisations articles included such topics as in May ’75 as to whether the roadworks on the A495 (Oswestry to Ellesmere) might prejudice the village by-pass, a topic still being discussed in the July ’76 edition with comments about the speed of traffic entering the village on the A5 from Gobowen. I think we have given up on that wish.

In June ’75 it was the ‘vote on the great European Question’, a referendum to confirm continuing membership of the EEC, following renegotiations led by PM Harold Wilson. Quoting directly from the article “Personally, I find myself confused by the arguments for and against staying in or coming out. So many of the ‘pundits’ put their own ideas in such a vindictive and aggressive way that one wonders if they are trying to hide their political ambition under a thin veneer of concern for the people?” Sound familiar? Have no fear readers – no politics in “The Ripple”.

Other topics included whether dog licensing should be compulsory and the problems of dog fouling. Moving on to January ’76 there was the announcement that the new Community Centre would be opening soon following a busy twelve months of fund raising. In the same edition it was reported that the village branch of the County Library was to close, a decision taken at Borough and County level, without reference to our representative at either, thus preventing any form of protest having time to be organised.

Next time a look at some of the pen-wit-manship of some of the, often anonymous, contributors.





**ACROSS:**

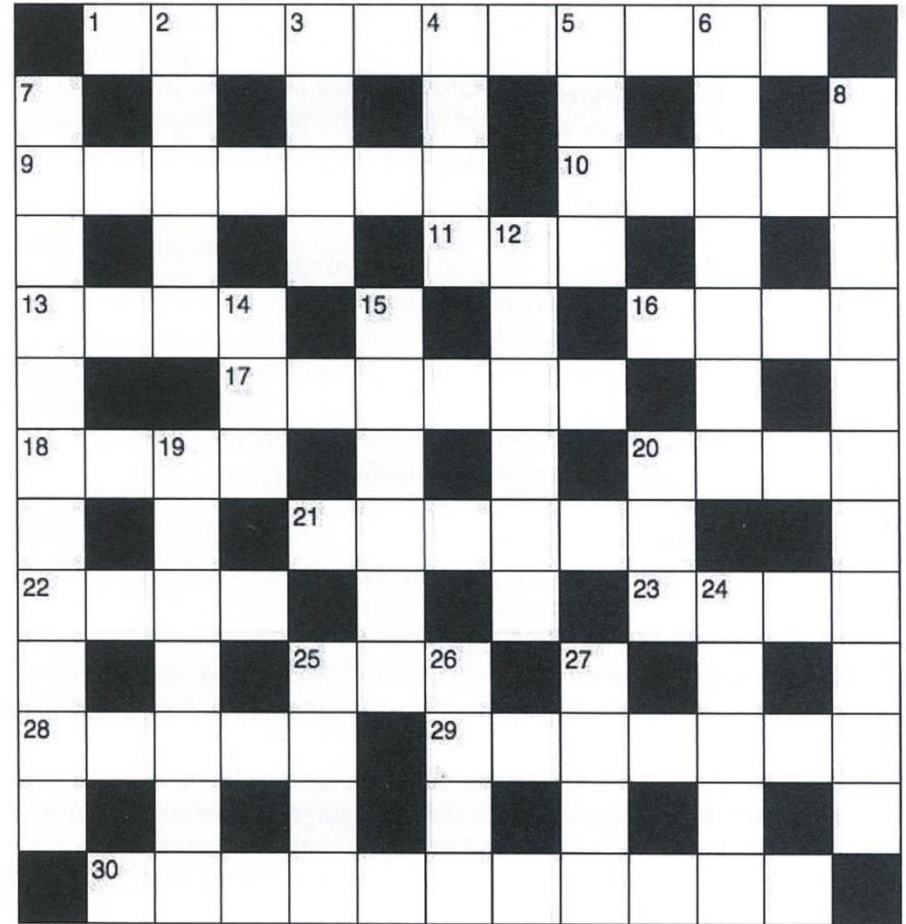
- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3)
- 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4) was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

**DOWN:**

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)
- 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)
- 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)
- 5 Tidy (4)
- 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)
- 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26)
- 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11) (11)
- 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)
- 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1) Songs 7:8) (6)
- 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
- 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)
- 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3) 6:13) (7)
- 24 Rarely used musical note (5)

20

- 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)
- 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)
- 27 See 26 Down



- ACROSS:** 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

- DOWN:** 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

What could be better on a cold, wet or snowy winters day!

### BEETROOT, RAISIN AND STEM GINGER PUDDING (Serves 6)

Butter for greasing  
3 tbs golden syrup  
100 g (3½ oz) vegetable suet  
80 g (2¾) dark brown sugar  
100 g (3½ oz) raisins  
50 g (1¾ oz) wholemeal breadcrumbs  
50 g (1¾ oz) self-raising flour  
1 tsp ground mixed spice  
125 g (4½ oz) plain cooked (vacuum packed) beetroot,  
3 eggs  
100 g (3½ oz) stem ginger, chopped finely  
custard, crème fraiche or vanilla ice-cream to serve  
900 ml (1½ pint) pudding basin,  
Butter for greasing  
Baking paper, string and tin foil

Grease the pudding basin well with butter.

Pour the golden syrup into the greased pudding basin and set aside.

In a large bowl, mix the suet, sugar, raisins, breadcrumbs, flour and mixed spice.

Purée the beetroot in a food processor, add the eggs and blend together well.

Pour into the mixing bowl, along with the stem ginger, and stir thoroughly.

Put the mix into the pudding basin and pat down with the back of a spoon.

Cover with a layer of baking paper and tie securely with the string, then cover with a double layer of foil.

Carefully lower the pudding into a large pan of hot water, ensuring the water comes no further than half way up the basin.

Cover with a lid and simmer gently for 3 hours, checking every now and again whether the water needs topping up.

Carefully remove the pudding from the pan, remove the foil and baking powder and invert on a serving plate.

Serve with custard, crème fraiche or vanilla ice-cream

### No more 'postcode lottery' recycling

Life is going to become simpler when it comes to recycling. From 2026, the national recycling laws are to be standardised, with Councils across the UK all having to collect the same glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food waste and garden waste. It is expected that the plans will lead to packaging that is clearly labelled 'recyclable' or not, without the need for households to check local provisions.



“Simpler recycling will help us all recycle more easily, doing our bit to help save the planet and make the best use of precious resources that we use every day,” said Therese Coffey, the former Environment Secretary.

“Alongside weekly food waste collections, we are ending the postcode lottery of what you can put in your bin, so that wherever you live in the country, you will be able to recycle the same products with confidence.”

### NHS Hearing Aid Tube Changing

There is now the option to either go to Oswestry Library on the first Wednesday of each month or to visit, Our Space, Trimpey Street, Ellesmere on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month between 10:00am and 12:00noon. Prebooked appointments are required for both venues. As well as replacing the tubing you can collect batteries and get advice. To make a reservation call 01743 342168 or email [SHLS@community-resource.org.uk](mailto:SHLS@community-resource.org.uk)

**Answer to prayer** – A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So, after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed: “It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did.”



**Friday** – Nothing ruins your Friday like realising it's only Wednesday.



## World Leprosy Day 2024 – 28<sup>th</sup> January

World Leprosy Day is always the last Sunday of January. It aims to raise awareness of a disease that is at least 4,000 years old, making it one of the oldest diseases known to humanity. Leprosy still exists! Around 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy each year, and many millions are living with leprosy-related disabilities, particularly across Asia, Africa, and South America.

The good news is that leprosy is curable with a combination of antibiotics known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) and is available for free across the world. Christians first became involved in 1869, when Wellesley Bailey, a teacher from Ireland, went to India to work. It was there that he saw the appalling living conditions and the social isolation of people with leprosy. Bailey's compassion and energy soon birthed The Leprosy Mission. At the time, there was no known cure for leprosy, and the bacillus that causes the disease was not even identified until 1874.

Yet that first year, Bailey's friends raised £600, and Wellesley Bailey was appointed the first secretary of the mission. By the late 1870s the Mission was caring for 100 leprosy-affected people in north India. Nowadays, Leprosy Mission brings healing, inclusion, and dignity to leprosy-affected people around the world and aims to end the transmission of leprosy by 2035. It costs £24 to find and treat someone with leprosy. More information is available at: [www.donate.leprosymission.org](http://www.donate.leprosymission.org)

### Why churchwardens love January

Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
Both clergyman and lay!  
But they're seldom disappointed  
To get past Christmas Day!  
The hectic Christmas season is  
Of service constantly –  
There can't be better reason  
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar  
A busy schedule keep,  
As they rush, ever quicker –

They don't get that much sleep.  
And overworked Churchwardens  
And their sidespersons team –  
Sure don't get time for boredom,  
And only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over,  
The crib has been put by,  
The drapes to green changed over,  
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!  
They laugh and smile with pleasure,  
And sing a merry rhyme,  
But short-lived is their leisure –  
For soon comes Easter time!

By Nigel Beeton



### Launch of 7-inch 45 – RPM Vinyl Record (The Single)

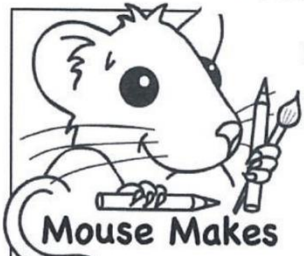
RCA Victor launched the first 'Single' 75 years ago on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1949 providing greater fidelity and clarity than the old 78 rpm record. "Listen, compare, and you, too, will agree that RCA Victor's 45 RPM record is the finest and best ever made," said one record company promo. Though not everyone agreed -- including the folks at arch-rival Columbia Records, which was promoting a new record of its own, which played at 33 1/3<sup>rd</sup> rpm.

With its small size and modest price, the 45 became THE standard for Top 40 hit songs, not to mention a mainstay for the jukebox. The 45 did not arrive in the UK until 1952 but from the '50s through '60s ... from Elvis to The Beatles and beyond ... millions first played their favourite songs on a 45. Eventually, however, technology turned against the pint-sized record. Cassette tapes, CDs, and online streaming services all eclipsed the 45 (and its 33 1/3<sup>rd</sup> big brother as well), relegating vinyl records of all types to that most dreaded of categories: music your parents – even your grandparents – listened to.

Then in 1988 record label Sun Pop relaunched the 45 for members of their 'Singles Club' featuring groups such as Sonic Youth and Babes in Toyland. So you might say, what goes around – comes around – again, as its popularity continues to grow amongst those who enjoy their music on vinyl.



## CHILDREN'S PAGE



**Mouse Makes**

Where was Jesus born?  
-----  
Luke 2:1

Who was the king?  
-----  
Luke 2:1

Where did the wise men come from?  
the -----  
Luke 2:1

What had the wise men seen?  
a -----  
Luke 2:2

What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?  
-----

and -----  
Luke 2:11

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?  
In a -----  
Luke 2:12

Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

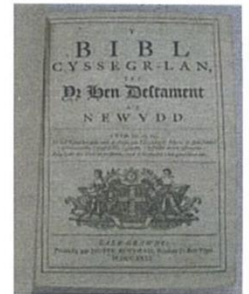
JESUS  
WISEMEN  
WORSHIP  
SHEPHERD  
KING • JEWS  
CHRIST • CHILD  
BORN • RULER  
ISRAEL • REJOICE  
JOY • HOUSE • MARY  
GIFTS • EPIPHANY

Jan24 © deborah noble @parishpump

## Vestry cupboard that hid “precious” Welsh Bible

We are now well into the season of Winter, and before long some of us will be doing our Spring cleaning. Should we perhaps do the same inside our various public buildings such as our parish church? A Bible printed in 1620, one of the very first to be produced in Welsh, was recently discovered by chance in a vestry cupboard in St Martin and St Enfail’s Church in Merthyr, near Carmarthen.

Mari James, Library Development Officer at St David’s Cathedral, described the 400-year-old Bible as “quite a treasure” and “a precious part of Wales’ history of Christian worship”. A former Merthyr churchwarden, Huw Evans, found the Bible forgotten and unrecognised among candles, communion wine and linen in the back of the cupboard.



Copies of the Bible, known as the Bishop Parry version, were distributed to all churches in Wales to comply with Queen Elizabeth I’s instruction that everyone should be able to read the Scriptures in their own language. This was the main Reformation project in Wales, intended to consolidate Protestantism. The volume was based on the 1588 translation by Bishop William Morgan. The Old Testament was translated directly from the original Hebrew, and the New Testament from Greek. Some of the work was carried out in St David’s.

A Welsh Book of Common Prayer, dating from 1710 in the reign of Queen Anne, was also found languishing – in the same vestry cupboard.

**Sunday School Lesson:** - A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then she asked the class, “If you saw a person lying on the roadside all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?” Jenny, a thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, “I think I’d be sick!”

**Light** – A small boy was fascinated by the red Sanctuary lamp during a rather long sermon. Finally, he whispered: ‘Mum, when the light changes to green, can we go?’





## REFLEXOLOGY ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Indulge in a relaxation experience to benefit from stress relief through the power of gentle foot massage – Kerry is based in Park Hall: Call: **07376 038253**  
[www.rahannireflex.com](http://www.rahannireflex.com)



### Why you might want to eat 8 strawberries a day

Strawberries are better for you than you probably know. They provide 100 per cent of the recommended daily vitamin C amount in a single cup serving, and they also contain heart-healthy nutrients such as folate, potassium, fibre, phytosterols and polyphenols. They are also minimal in sugar and calories with only 50 calories and eight grams of sugar in each one-cup serving.

A recent study has found that eating about eight of them a day for three months can improve your mood, help your memory, and lower any symptoms of depression. The study was carried out at the University of Cincinnati's Academic Health Centre.

You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you don't trust enough. – *Frank Crane*

### On how to run your Diary for 2024



The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you have just attended a course on 'Diary Management', to get you prepared for another year. If you had visited me, I could have told you all you need to know in half the time. Allow me to provide you with useful information which was probably not provided in your conference hand-outs.

First, buy the smallest diary you can find. Large blank pages only encourage you to fill them with too many appointments; the smaller the page, the easier it can be made to appear that your days are fully booked.

Second, make sure that it is of a size that will conveniently fit into any pocket. When dates are being arranged for subsequent meetings, you can theatrically start going through jacket, trouser and overcoat pockets. By the time you discover it was in your briefcase all along, all the dates will have been fixed and no one will notice you never got any of them.

Third, adopt your own private code for bookings. This means that any parishioner looking over your shoulder and seeing '1.30pm PLS' or '7.30pm WTD' will assume you are attending important church meetings. The fact that they mean 'Post Lunch Sleep' and 'Walk The Dog' will be known to you alone – although do have alternative possibilities for your acronyms should you ever be challenged. My congregation know I am assiduous in attending the 'Pauline Letters Seminars' and my membership of the 'World Theology Directorate' is of many years standing.

Fourth, record everything in pencil so that once you return home, you can rub most of it out and can then deny you knew anything about those meetings you were supposed to attend – and to prove it, you can show the blank page in your diary.

Fifth, put someone else's address inside your diary. Should you ever have to resort to the ultimate act and need to lose it, you do not want some Good Samaritan returning it to you from the churchyard compost heap.

So, you see, your day of flip charts and group discussions were quite wasted – and I would gladly have presented my course for half their price.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

**Whittington Parish Council News**  
**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Johnson & Charmley.

**Top Street Traffic Management Proposals:** Council was updated by the Planning Consultant following the latest consultation with the residents of Top Street. The intention is to make a planning application for 6 dwellings and the traffic order to create the access only would be funded by the applicant, if planning is granted. Residents have been consulted regarding



the proposals for traffic management which initially involved white lining Top Street. The meeting established that the preferred way forward would be an 'only for access' order. Discussions have taken place, informally, with Shropshire Highways and the next stage is that an application for the development will be prepared for submission. There may be another consultation about the development prior to submission.

**KEY ITEMS: Damaged Bus Shelter** in Inglis Road. The Clerk presented a report which provided 4 quotes for supplying a replacement shelter, whilst still waiting for a quote to make necessary repairs. It was RESOLVED to delegate the Clerk authority to authorise repairs up to the value £1,000.00. If the quote to repair the shelter is more than it was FURTHER RESOLVED to delegate the Clerk authority to raise an insurance claim and APPROVE the agreed quote from ACE Shelters to remove the existing shelter, and supply and install a new one on a like for like basis.

**Fitzgwarine Play Area:** The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Report arrived only a few hours prior to the November meeting so a discussion was postponed until the December meeting.

The report highlights two units as being MODERATE Risk: • The Junior MultiPlay – 16 issues were identified but the one considered a moderate risk is the rotten timbers which require replacement. • Single Point Swing – Moderate Risk relating to bearings and fixings which Councillor Davis will rectify as all parts have been supplied. • Inclusive Swing – Newly installed but graded low risk as too close to the ground – to be raised with Ray Parry Playgrounds.

**Police Report:** No Police presence at the meeting. One offence of theft of Showground gates had been reported.

**Your Local Police Officer and Community Support Officers Contact Numbers:** 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:** 22/04085/FUL (validated: 06/09/2022) **Address:** Pen Y Bryn House, 34 Boot Street, Whittington, SY11 4DG. **Proposal:** Erection of infill two storey extension, double garage to rear and side gates and piers to inner driveway - Grant Permission

**II. Reference:** 22/03943/FUL (validated: 26/08/2022) **Address:** 1 Mellor Meadows, Whittington, SY11 4FN **Proposal:** Erection of extension to side creating a carport with bedroom over - Grant Permission

**III. Reference:** 22/02023/VAR (validated: 27/05/2022) **Address:** Castle Teas, Whittington Castle, SY11 4DF **Proposal:** Variation of Condition no.2 (approved drawings) attached to 20/03753/FUL to allow for the siting of a roof mounted extractor fan with associated ducting - Grant Permission

**IV. Reference:** 22/02385/VAR (validated: 20/05/2022) **Address:** Castle Teas, Whittington Castle, SY11 4DF **Proposal:** Variation of Condition no.2 (approved drawings) attached to 20/03754/LBC to site an externally mounted roof extractor fan with associated duct work - Grant Permission

**Festive Lighting:** It was reported that: • The hole has been dug for the new tree at Drenewyd and now waiting for the delivery. • The lights to be turned on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. • Shropshire Council notified for Electricity Charges.

**Emergency Bleed Control Kits:** The Chair reported that she will not be claiming the £350 Chair's Allowance for 2022/23 and proposed that these funds could be transferred to the defibrillator budget heading and used to purchase four kits for each Defibrillator Cabinet (£85.00 each, total cost £340.00) from the Daniel Baird Foundation; it was RESOLVED to approve; it was noted that the kits have a 5-year shelf life.

**Highways, Pavements and Footpaths:** No updates had been received on the following matters: **a)** The installation of a pavement between The Venue and Inglis Road. **b)** Burma Road flooding. **c)** Penybryn Pedestrian Crossing. **d)** Extension of the 30mph speed limit on B5009 Whittington – Gobowen and **e)** An update from Councillor Charmley following a site visit in Whittington with Shropshire Council's Traffic Engineer.



**Next meeting: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024** 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](mailto: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**

### THE DANDY HIGHWAYMAN

Descended from a Welsh Prince and born around 1468, “Wild” Humphrey Kynaston was the youngest son of Sir Roger Kynaston, High Sheriff of Shropshire and his second wife, Lady Elizabeth Grey. He was brought up at Myddle Castle, which his father had inherited from his first wife. He would later inherit the Castle, but because of his riotous manner of life Humphrey fell into debt and the Castle fell into disrepair. Humphrey married at least twice and had two children, Edward who died young, and Isabella from the first marriage. From his second marriage there were six children Margaret, Edward, Thomasina, Robert, Roger and Jana and there was possibly, a third marriage which added Elsbeth and Edward.

Humphrey, following a skirmish in Oswestry, along with his half-brother Thomas, and Oliver and Richard Kynaston, was accused of a felony in December 1487, subsequently becoming a notorious outlaw; these were unsettled times, with the Wars of the Roses still ongoing, and the Welsh Marches a lawless no man’s land. He took up with local highwaymen who robbed Welsh wool traders enroute to the Oswestry markets; his knowledge of military strategy made him and his gang highly effective and soon he became notorious, though endeared himself to the locals by redistributing a good proportion the stolen money and goods amongst them. It is said if he saw two carts, one led by a single horse and another drawn by three, he would ambush them both and then would simply take one horse from the cart with three and donate it to the owner of the cart with just one to make things closer to equal. He endeared himself to locals by convincing other bandits to

target only rich merchants and debt-collectors, whilst providing protection and safe passage for local merchants.

In December 1492 Humphrey, rode to Stretton Dale, (Church Stretton) with his half-brother Thomas Kynaston of Shrawardine, and Robert Hopton of Hopton, Nesscliffe. There, on the 20<sup>th</sup>, they killed John Hughes, an over-zealous debt collector. Many aided and abetted them in their escape and they were hidden and fed in Pontesbury, Shrewsbury and Nesscliffe. Humphrey was tried and convicted for the murder in 1493 but being nobility, Sir Humphrey was neither executed nor imprisoned but was outlawed by Henry VII; sometime later he moved into the cave on Nescliffe Hill. Some sources claim that the reason he moved was due to the criminal charges, whilst others say he was outlawed due to debts. Because of his support of the locals, they in return protected him and provided him and his horse with food and fodder. The horse, Beelzebub, the devil’s horse, and was said to have been shod backwards to confuse pursuers.



The cave has two rooms; Humphrey lived in one, and stabled Beelzebub in the other. It was reached via a stair of 24 steps which Humphrey was said to have climbed whilst still on horseback. The cave also featured an iron door for an entrance which is said to later have become the door for Shrewsbury jail. There is an engraving in the cave which reads H.K. 1564, (*The only known likeness and although this engraving is said to have been of Sir Humphrey Kynaston*) made by Humphrey, he had been dead 30 years by then; it is possible that his grandson, Humfridus (b.1530), may have left the inscription.

It is said that one time, in an attempt to capture Kynaston, the local sheriff removed several planks from Montford Bridge, to keep him from crossing the River Severn, but his horse managed to leap and safely clear the distance, forty feet!; the spot is still known as Kynaston’s Leap. It is also said that he was a regular patron at the Old Three Pigeons in Nesscliffe and his original stone seat by the fireplace is still there. In one account, he arrived at the tavern to find a stranger sitting in his seat. Suspecting him to be one of the Sherriff’s men waiting to arrest him, he strode right up to the man, drew his pistol, shot him dead and without pause continued into the fireplace, up the chimney and made his escape over the roof! At the sound of the pistol,



guards who had been waiting outside rushed in, but their quarry had 'disappeared'. To prove the point to those who did not believe, Humphrey turned up the next day, in broad daylight, at Aston Hall, where some of the Sherriff's men were billeted. Dressed as if ready for a hunt, he demanded ale in a stirrup-cup, so he could drink without dismounting. The guards quickly barred the courtyard gates, took up their weapons and surrounded him. Unperturbed, he casually drained his ale, pocketed the fancy silver cup, then charged at the guards, his horse leaping over them and the barred gates with ease. By the time they had recovered from their astonishment and unlocked the gates, there was no sign of Wild Kynaston.

One suggestion is that he was pardoned by Henry VII in 1493, but some accounts state that in 1513, Humphrey provided 100 men to aid Henry VIII in France, and in return received a royal pardon 3 – 5 years later. Humphrey died in 1534 but how he died and where are disputed. One suggestion is that he lived comfortably on an estate near Welshpool whilst others claim he died in the cave. In his will he requested that he be buried in St Mary's Church, Welshpool.



*...the good news is - I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...*

## WHITTINGTON ORGANISATIONS

### CRICKET/BOWLING CLUB SECRETARY:

Jacqui Whitley – jacquiwhitley@yahoo.com

Tel:830901

### 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@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



## 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:**

1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.whittingtonchurch.org.uk)

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

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