

St Mary's Acton
St David's Wettenhall &
St Oswald's Worleston
September 2023



**The Cross Country Parishes
of
Acton with Worleston, Church
Minshull and Wettenhall.**

'I hate September' says one. 'I hate that the summer's over, the fruits are all picked, the animals are hibernating, the swallows have gone, the leaves are dead and falling from the trees, the nights are drawing in and the weather is cold and damp. Roll on spring.....and another thing. My kids are going back to uni so the house will be empty.'



'I love September' says another. 'The crops and fruits are harvested safely and stored away, the trees and hedgerows are beautiful with their autumn colours, I can plant bulbs and seeds which will grow and give us food and beauty in the spring, and we have to cope, whatever the weather. I like planning now what I'll do in my garden and allotment, so that things will be even better next year.'

I wonder which one echoes how you feel? The glass half full or the glass half empty sentiment?

Perhaps they each have a point.

The fruit trees are indeed bare and so are many fields; there may be bad weather bringing problems for us all; some will have to cope with children leaving home, and things may look bleak.

However, the bare looking fields shelter seeds which are quietly growing, the bulbs we plant in September will give us pleasure and satisfaction before long; and perhaps later there will be enormous happiness to find that those immature children did cope with their new life and did you proud.

September seems to be a marker where some things are finished and over while there is also the satisfaction of knowing that the seeds we plant after we've cleared the ground be it in garden, field, allotment, or greenhouse, are signs that we hope and believe that they will flourish into new life. It's a picture of life continuing, new things, new beginnings. New beginnings for children leaving home too!

Christians know that God is with them whichever month it happens to be. He is the creator of the earth, the swallows, the animals, the wonderful autumn colours, the seeds which grow into our food, the sun and moon. night and day, the seasons, seedtime and harvest. All these wonderful things are his doing.

Whatever our feelings about September, the 'turn of the year', we surely need to give heartfelt thanks for God's goodness to us, the beautiful world, the miracles of seeds growing, and crops to harvest. We have the assurance too that he loves us and is with us always. He promised that through his son Jesus. What more do we need.

Glass full, I think.

Isobel

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Sunday Services

Acton

- 3rd Sep 11:00 am Communion, 6:30pm Christ in Quiet
- 10th Sep 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 17th Sep 10:00 am Messy Church
- 24th Sep 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 1st Oct 11:00 am Harvest, 6:30pm Evensong

Church Minshull

- 3rd Sep 11:00 am Service of the Word
- 10th Sep 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 17th Sep 10:00 am Communion
- 24th Sep 11:00 am Messy Church
- 1st Oct 11:00 am Service of the Word

Worleston

- 3rd Sep No Service
- 10th Sep 9:30 am Communion
- 17th Sep No Service
- 24th Sep 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 1st Oct No Service

Wettenhall

- 3rd Sep 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10th Sep 11:00 am Communion and Baptism
- 17th Sep 10:00 am All Age
- 24th Sep 6:30 pm Communion
- 1st Oct 6:30 pm Harvest Festival

St David's Church Wettenhall		
Sidespersons		Cleaning and Flowers
3 rd Sep	Mr M Moss	Mrs E Carr and Mrs A Nicholas
10 th Sep	Mrs A Hignett	
17 th Sep	Brownies	Mrs A Brooks
24 th Sep	Informal	
1 st Oct	Mrs A Brooks	Mrs A Hignett and Mrs A Hancock
<i>Visit: www.wettenhallchurch.org.uk</i>		

From the Registers

Holy Matrimony
 28th July 2023
Daniel Worrall and Jemma Moreton
 12th August 2023 at St. Bartholomew's Church Minshull
William Ellwood and Ashleigh Burbidge
 We wish both couples every happiness in their married life together.

PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting will be held in St. David's Church on

18th September at 7.30pm

Milford House Farm Gardens

Congratulations to Heather & Chris and to everyone who worked so hard to make such a successful series of events this year. *See full report on page 16*

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to Patrick, Lizzie and James Brunt on the death of Sally on July 26th. From her initial diagnosis, Sally and her family have been an inspiration to us all. James has raised many thousands of pounds for MND. The love and care Sally has received over the last four years from her family and friends has helped to support her along such a difficult journey. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this sad time. A celebration service for Sally's life was held in St David's on 14th August.

All is safely gathered in

Our annual Harvest Festival service followed by supper is on **Sunday 1st October at 6.30pm.** Everyone is very welcome.

Coffee and Cake

The next meetings will be on Thursday 7th September and 5th October from 10-12 noon in Church. Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.





Weddings
 Left:
 Daniel and
 Jemma Worrall



Right:
 William and
 Ashleigh
 Ellwood

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Eco Church at St David's

At a recent meeting of the PCC, we looked at our progress for the national Eco Church Award and progress is good in all areas. The Award looks at several aspects of church life and our scores so far are below:

B	Worship and Teaching	GOLD
B	Buildings	BRONZE
B	Land	BRONZE
B	Community and Engagement	NO AWARD
B	Lifestyle	NO AWARD

Now "No Award" means we haven't yet enough in place to achieve the Bonze award. During January – July we focused on Worship and Teaching. Through our Eco Café worship and our worship at Plough Sunday, Rogation, Lammas and Harvest we have raised our score from Bronze to Gold.

Our next focus will be Community and Engagement and Lifestyle. This means in our United Service in August and our Harvest Services in September the call at St David's will be to challenge ourselves as individuals to look at our own lifestyle and our daily Christian living – do we listen to what God says about how to live? At the United Service a Creation tide Reflection sheet will be available to everyone. It gives a varied menu for a thought or action each day from our United Service to the Harvest Services in our own separate churches. If you have watched news bulletins about climate change, the European heatwaves, wildfires and flooding during the summer and been concerned, then consider using the Refections. Will you take the challenge of reflecting, praying and taking action during our Harvest and Creation tide season?

Brenda Brockbank

St.David's Church Wettienhall

"Big Night Out"

Saturday 14th October

An evening filled with music, laughter
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with laughter of course

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included !!
(in other words, bucket loads)
Tickets are limited
(to very sad people)
so book early
to avoid missing
out on a wonderful evening

Coffee and Cake

Come and join us at St David's on the first Thursday of every month when we meet for Coffee and Cake between 10am and 12 noon. Make your stay as long or as short as you wish Enjoy your coffee or tea and cake. If you want a natter there will always be some one willing for a chat. Everyone welcome!



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Wednesday - Thursday 2 pm - 12 am

Friday - Saturday 1 pm - 12 am

Sunday 12pm - 11 pm

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St Mary's Church, Acton Sidespersons

3 rd Sep	Sandra and Mike Houlston
10 th Sep	Chris and Christine Barratt
17 th Sep	Tracey and Peter Foster
24 th Sep	Sue and Charles Hull
1 st Oct	Ena Furber and Gill Evans
<i>Visit: www.stmarysacton.org</i>	

Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

The next walks are:

3rd September 2023

1st October 2023

Tea at the Tower is open every Sunday from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

On the above dates there is a guided walk departing the church at 12:45 pm. Nick organises circular walks varying between 3 to 5 miles, then returning to the church for a refreshing cup of tea or coffee and a slice of delicious cake.

The pace of the walks is relaxed, and the routes generally involve canal towpath and lane walking. The footpaths should be good (also hopefully dry?) and only a small number of stiles are negotiated. Stout outdoor shoes or walking shoes / boots are recommended.

All are welcome including dogs on leads

For further information please phone Nick Harley, Lead Walker, on 01270-620612 or 07710983125.



July Messy Church at Acton

We were travelling light this morning with the disciples who were sent out by Jesus to do God's work wearing only the clothes they stood up in and hoping for a welcome! We discovered we don't need lots of stuff, just ourselves to be ready with a friendly smile, a listening ear or invitation. Actions speak louder than words! We decorated ginger biscuits as plates of food (spaghetti and meatballs very popular!) and painted a pocket pal pebble to take with us wherever we go. Peter's group discussed the disciples and pilgrimage today.



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9

9 AM—2 PM

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Acton and Reaseheath WI

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Cross Country Pages

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

this month to

Callum Woodward Olivia Uttley
 Elizabeth Parton Phoebe Presland
 Ella Thibeault Ruby Basford
 Henry Jones Sally Redmond
 Isla Presland Thomas Herbert
 Matthew Major

Special Birthday Wishes

Special birthday wishes were sent to **Lionel Parry-Williams**, who celebrated his 86th birthday on Saturday 22nd July, proudly sharing his day with Prince George! Cards, visits and phone calls have been and continue to be very much appreciated.

We send Lionel our love and prayers.



Ladies' Lunch

Tuesday 12th September
 The Badger Inn, Church Minshull
 12:30 pm - Cost: £12.50
 For further details contact:
 Heather 528755, Isobel (624521),
 Ann (528273) or Joyce (624158)
Please book with Joyce

Mobile Library

Sep	Oct	Oct	Tuesdays	
19 th	10 th	31 st	Arr	Dep
Badger Church Minshull			10:20	10:45
Home Farm Park South			11:10	11:20
Lea Green				
Home Farm Park North			11:30	11:50
Lea Green				
Wettenhall Church			12:05	12:20
Station Rd Calveley			13:35	13:55
Tollemache Arms			14:05	14:30
Alraham				

Sep	Oct	Oct	Thursdays	
14 th	5 th	26 th	Arr	Dep
Pinfold Craft Centre			11:00	11:25
Poole				
Worleston Station			11:35	11:45
Aston Juxta Mondrum				
Worleston Village Hall			11:50	12:10

Sep	Oct	Nov	Thursdays	
21 st	12 th	2 nd	Arr	Dep
Farmers Arms			10:00	10:15
Ravensmoor				
Goodwill Hall Faddiley			10:30	10:50
Greenfields Farm			11:05	11:20
Gradeley Green				

Thank You

Many thanks are due to **Joyce and Philip Percival** who had invited us to their home for the August Ladies Lunch. We enjoyed delicious food and drink and each other's company.

Thank you.

Oh we do like to be beside the seaside



A blustery but fine day greeted the coach load of friends who visited Llandudno on the 3rd of August. Dropped off by the pier everyone went their different ways, some fed the slot machines on the pier, others shopped or walked, lunched or paddled. All declared they had a lovely day and were keen to go again next year.



Educational Charity

What do you know about local charities? A number of ancient charities set up over many years were brought together in 1979, and are now known as **The Acton United Charities and the Darlington & Huxley Educational Charity**. They were established to provide for the poor or needy of the Parish, and for the education of children and young people.

A body of trustees including the Vicar and Mrs Candice Roundel along with representatives from Acton, Brindley, Burland and Worleston meet twice a year to distribute money to those deserving parishioners.

Who can apply for grants from the trust?

Mr Charles and Mrs Candice Roundel have invited anyone in the community who knows of a neighbour or friend who may benefit from regular or occasional monetary support, to come and hear details of, and purpose of the charities, speak to the trustees and learn more about this local help.

Thursday 28th September 2023
L'Ecurie at Dorfold Hall at 6.00 pm.

If you would like to come, please book a place with Helen Sweeney, Clerk to the Acton United Charities and Huxley and Darlington Educational Charity: spib88@gmail.com, by 20th of September, 2023.

The Alto's Lament

It's tough to be an alto when you're singing in the choir.
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire.
The basses boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee.
But the alto part is on two notes (or if you're lucky three).
And When we sing an anthem and we lift our hearts in praises
The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.
Of course the trebles sing the tune they always come off best;
The altos only get three notes and twenty two bars rest.
We practice very hard each week from hymn book and the Psalter,
But when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter.
'Too high! Too Low! Too fast! - you held that note too long!'

It doesn't matter what you do - it's certain to be wrong!
Oh shed a tear for altos, they're the martyrs and they know,
In the ranks of singers they're considered very low.
They are so very 'umble that a lot of folks forget 'em;
How they'd love to be sopranos, but their vocal chords won't let 'em!
And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,
Sopranos, bases, tenors - they'll be in the Heavenly Choir.
While they sing 'alleluia!' to celestial flats and sharps,
The altos will be occupied with polishing the harps.

Bob the Organist

Poem found stuffed behind the vestry door of All Saints Church, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield. Signed just "Bob the organist" Bob remains unknown

Modern Martyrs; Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Modern Martyrs; Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in Wroclaw [Breslau] in Poland on 4th February 1906. His twin sister, Sabine, and he were the sixth and seventh siblings of a family of eight children. When the twins were six years old the family relocated to Berlin, their father becoming the Head of the psychiatric clinic at Berlin University. The children were home schooled by their mother, a devout Christian and trained teacher. The family were musically talented, and Dietrich played the piano. He developed an early interest in the church and went on to study Protestant theology, achieving a doctorate and becoming a pastor to a German congregation in Barcelona, a lecturer at Berlin University and a leader of youth ministry. In 1930 he had a scholarship in New York at the Union Theological Seminary and travelled widely in the USA and Cuba. He had a close association with the African-American Abyssinian Church in Harlem. All this was to change with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany in 1933.

Dietrich and his family circle were critics of the National Socialists from the beginning. In 1933 Dietrich broadcast a radio address criticising the leadership principles of the Party and lectured about the 'Church and the Jewish Question'. He was a member of the Emergency Covenant of Pastors and of the Confessing Church and opposed the co-ordination of the Lutheran Church with the National Socialists. He travelled to London and made friends with Bishop Bell of Chichester, who became an advocate as life became more difficult. In 1935 he established an illegal seminary in the town of Finkelwalde to train Lutheran pastors opposed to the official church, writing 'Life Together' during this period. In 1937 the seminary was officially banned and went underground.

In 1939 he returned to New York, but as war broke out he went home to Germany and joined the Military Intelligence Office, which gave him an

opportunity to pass information back to Britain and to assist 14 Jews to escape to Switzerland. In early 1943 he became engaged to Marie Von Wedemeyer, but this happy period ended later that year when Dietrich and two of his brothers in law were all arrested in Berlin. Dietrich and Marie were able to write to each other throughout his imprisonment, poems and lectures compiled and published after the war. In 1944 the failed assassination attempt on Hitler's life resulted in him being moved to Buchenwald concentration camp, being moved to Regensburg and then finally to Flossenberg concentration camp. On 8th April 1945, in the closing weeks of the war, he was sentenced to death and was able to get a message to Bishop Bell – 'This is the End – for me the beginning of life.' On 9th April his life ended, but his writing, thoughts and work live on even today. The Third Reich could not silence him forever.



Heather Pope

National Garden Scheme

Milford House Farm has had a busy June and July with the National Garden Scheme. It is wonderful to report that **£2712** has been raised this year, the funds being divided between the **National Garden Scheme charity itself, St. Lukes Hospice [Winsford], the Cheshire branch of the MS Society, St. David's Church [Wettenhall] and Dementia UK.** Many thanks to all those people who so kindly helped in this fund raising. Those who baked, served refreshments, took gate monies, oversaw car parking, dog sitting, cleaning and sold plants, donated plants, and helped put up the marquee were so generous with their time and expertise. Those who attended the garden open days and private parties [sometimes the same people!] made it all worthwhile.

Ladies' groups featured prominently in the numbers attending the garden open sessions this year. Several W.I. groups came for afternoon teas, including Darnhall and Wettenhall WI, Aldersey and Coddington WI and Bridgemere WI. The Cross-Country Parishes Ladies lunch was held in the marquee in July despite rather mixed weather. Of course, lots of men attended too and were most welcome!



Thank you all.



Save The Date
19th October
7.30pm
Come and celebrate the Harvest
and Sharon's years of service join us
at Yatehouse Farm, Yatehouse Lane,
Middlewich, Cheshire CW10 9NS



By kind permission
of Mr Richard Atkin



PIC•COLLAGE



'Friendship when life is hard.'

'Who am I ?

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice or solutions, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm tender hand.

The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in our hour of grief and bereavement. The one who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.

Offer the outstretched hand, all human beings are bound together in some way.

It is by chance we are family, but it is by **choice** that we are friends.

So, I invite you to strengthen those bonds of friendship, work at it, those friends, they need you in difficult times, none of us are problem solvers, just listen and understand, it is an incredible honour, listen with your ears and your eyes.

From a personal angle my own husband is in care with Dementia and has been for a year now. I was like many other dementia families, I struggled to share it with anyone, putting on a brave face, until I could do it no more, then the guilt hits you.

From out of no where came two neighbours from three doors down. I had only ever spoken to them on an everyday level and yet, here they were, like angels, accepting me, and what was happening, walked my dogs, never judged me. I cannot tell you what they have meant to me and the support they have given me, every day, without question.

They have been friends to me when life has and still is hard.

People ask me how my husband is? They don't ask me how I am? Fear of the answer?, I want to say, actually he is physically fine, better than he has ever been. Wonderfully cared for and settled, but for me it's a long journey, sometimes lonely.

As many of you know I work as a Funeral Celebrant and conduct services and have had many decades working in the Hospice movement.

Funerals may be attended by well over a hundred people. When I thank them for coming to show their respect and support the family, I also ask them to carry forward that support, stay in touch, as that family is only just beginning to adjust to a new rhythm of life. It can be bewilderment, sorrow, abandonment. It is a long road back to something that resembles normality. It's been a seismic shift in their lives.

To close I end as I started,

'Who am I ?

I am someone you know very well,
Every man and every woman you meet.
Thank you for listening.

This is a transcript of the very moving contribution on 'Friendship' given by **Pam Haigh** at the united service at Church Minshull on 30th July.

Thank you Pam



Battle of the Bishops: Bishops Racing Tractors

Some of you may have heard the Bishop of Chester and the Bishop of Stockport talking about driving tractors when they worked on farms in their youth. In planning the Nantwich Show this year, the Directors of the Show decided it was time to put the Bishops' skills to the test.

So it was that on 26 July, Bishop Mark (Bishop of Chester) and Bishop Sam (Bishop of Stockport) climbed onto vintage tractors, took a few circuits round the main ring to familiarise themselves with their vehicles (blessing the crowd as they went), before racing each other up and down the main ring.

The Battle of the Bishops' was greatly enjoyed by the crowd and the Bishops', despite the rain which began to descend. For the record, Bishop Sam, the Bishop of Stockport was the winner.



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Ask about music lessons...

Concert and Party

It's a great opportunity to perform your pieces before an ABRSM examination to a very supportive audience of parents and fellow students. On 15th July 2023 Worleston Music School hosted an in-house concert and social time.

About twice a year Worleston Music School organises a special visit for an examiner from the ABRSM, an international Music Examination Board, to deliver face-to-face accredited examinations to students, both adults and children. Holding exams at the Music School is very helpful to students, who feel more relaxed in a familiar venue, and benefit from the chance to warm up with their teacher before the exam. We also host Invigilated ABRSM Music Theory Examinations.



Local students from Worleston include Ben McCarthy on Piano and Abigail Bassey on bassoon.



Left to right: Leyla violin, Ellen violin, Ben piano, Maria piano, Ruth piano, Abigail bassoon and Andrew Teacher.

Maria on the Piano



Playing a musical instrument is a very rewarding experience, especially when musicians have opportunities to share their skills in Performance / Working together in groups, from duets to an orchestra enables musicians to get together socially and further develop their skills. Worlestone Music School provides these opportunities for ensemble playing in various groups

including Worlestone Community Orchestra, which meets on Friday evenings at



Worlestone Village Hall during term time and is open to anyone in the community. If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact Andrew on 07985782085 or via the website WmusicS.com.

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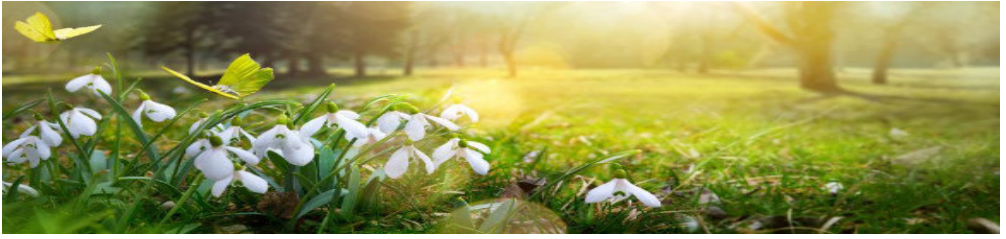
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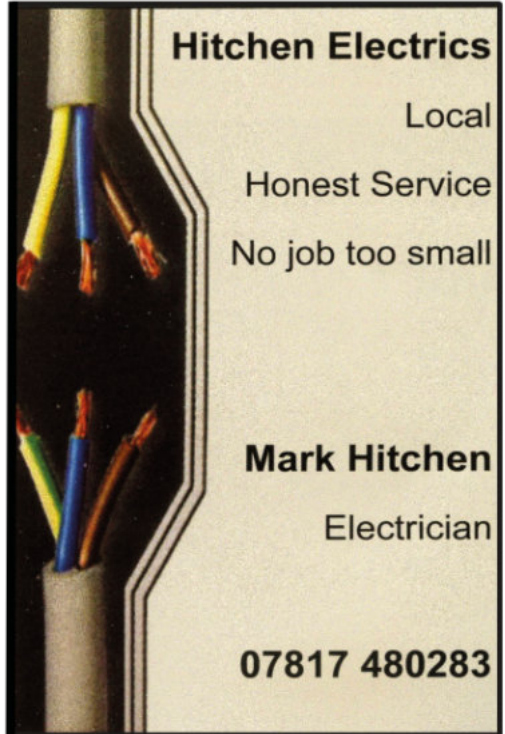
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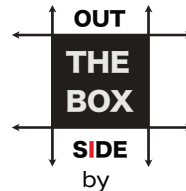
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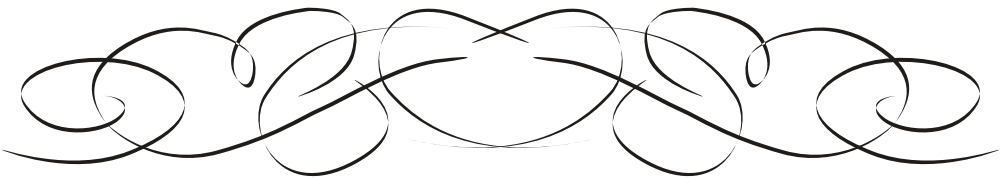
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Recipe

Milk Chocolate Cake

Method

Milk Chocolate Cake.

Line 2 deep sandwich tins. Not loose bottomed as the mixture is very soft.

Sift together:

7oz/200g SR flour

8oz/225g caster sugar

half teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons cocoa

Rub in:

4oz/110g margarine

Stir in:

2 beaten eggs mixed with

5 tablespoons evaporated milk

5 tablespoons water

1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Beat well.

Bake for 35 minutes at 350F/180C/gas 3/4

Milk Chocolate icing

Melt together:

2 ½oz/60g margarine

4 tablespoons cocoa

Stir in:

8oz/225g icing sugar

3 tablespoons hot scalded milk

1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Beat until thick.

Put in a layer between cakes and ice top and sides.

Enjoy

St Oswald's Church, Worleston

Sidespersons		Coffee	
10 th Sep	Mr & Mrs Booth	Sarah Parker	
24 th Sep	Mr M Alexander	Jill Alexander and Kath Alexander	
Flowers		Cleaning	
10 th Sep	Lynne Ablard	Sep	Diane Darlington
24 th Sep	Felicity Adams	Oct	Any Volunteers ?
<i>Visit: www.worlestonchurch.org.uk</i>			

From the Register

Wedding

On August 5th 2023

Lauren Pender and Shane Hughes were married at St Oswald's.

We send them best wishes for a long and happy life together.

Baptism

On August 6th 2023

Henry, the infant son of **Katie Ollerton and Brian Mullock**, was baptised at St Oswald's.

We welcome Henry into the family of the church.



Patronal Festival

On August 6th we held our first United Service of the month at St Oswald's, Worleston.

We also marked the fact that it was St Oswald's Day, and that the parish of Acton is now 'with Worleston'.

To mark the occasion, we welcomed a visit from Bishop Alan Winstanley, who celebrated communion and was our preacher.

Of course, we needed no excuse for some extra refreshments and so we enjoyed a delicious cake, made and decorated by Diane Darlington. There was also wine as well as the usual tea and coffee and this all made it easy for people from all our parishes to get to know each other better. Many thanks to all those who helped to make it a very happy service.

Photos on next page

Coffee and Cake

Saturday 2nd September from 10-12 noon in Church.

Come along and enjoy Coffee, Cake and Chat.

Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.



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Does anyone out there fancy a little job helping to produce this magazine? It involves finding and collecting information about rotas, baptisms, the school etc and sending them, by email, to the editor. Then part of a morning is spent proof reading all the contributions. Please let one of the Wardens know if you are interested. Thanks.



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revanne@uwclub.
net

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01270 528273

Parishes Safeguarding Officer Mr Tom Doyle 01270 481548
safeguardingxcountryparishes22@yahoo.com

St David's CW7 4DN

St Mary's CW5 8LE with St Oswald's CW5 6DR

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Contact for St Oswald's, Worleston; Mr M Alexander 01270 624404

All copy for the next magazine must be with your Parish Rep or sent to the Editor

at: crosscountryparishesnews@gmail.com

NO LATER THAN Friday 8th September 2023

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Cheshire Harvest

Sunday 24 September

Chester Cathedral

Harvest Festival Service
3.00 pm

Preacher: Revd Anne Lawson, Chaplain to the Cheshire Agricultural Society

Farming Roadshow outside the
cathedral and displays in the cloisters
throughout the day

