

St Mary's Acton
St David's Wettenhall &
St Oswald's Worleston
January 2025



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

Happy New Year!



Some people dislike January, not because of the cold weather or dark nights, but because it has 31 days and the money runs out before that! Also, Christmas has been expensive, heating bills are coming in, and it seems that all we can do is hunker down and wait for spring.

Perhaps by the time you read this, the New Year parties will be over, the fireworks from Sydney Harbour Bridge, long gone, and the Black Buns all eaten up north of the border. (Black Bun is a fruit cake, encased in a thin pastry crust and baked for Hogmanay). This all seems rather dispiriting and when we look at the news, things only seem worse - the wars in Gaza, and Lebanon, and Ukraine seem unending, and smaller disputes in Africa take a backseat. Then there is global warming, and an unpredictable future for the Western world with the inauguration of a new and unpredictable president of the United States. To many people all this is true but of no importance as they struggle with their own health, money, family, housing, or employment problems.

Before you turn the page to find relief from all this gloom, remember that the things I have described are not new, that life has always been uncertain. We must remember too, what we celebrated a few days ago - that God sent his only son into the world to be our saviour. In her letter to guests at her Carol Service in Westminster Abbey, the Princess of Wales used the word 'love' 11 times. That is the whole point of Christmas - that God is love and he came to live among us.

We pray to the God of love, for his help, presence and guidance each day, for ourselves and for those beyond our reach and for whom prayer is all we can offer. Then we will find that we are living and believing and joining in with the words of Saint Paul, when he said 'There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord' I suggested that we learn these verses a year ago, and make no apology for using them again, because they are true!

Happy New Year!

Isobel

PS Cheer up. February only has 28 days!

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Sunday Services

Acton

- 5th Jan 11:00 am Communion, 6:00 pm Christ in Quiet
- 12th Jan 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 19th Jan 10:00 am Messy Church
- 26th Jan 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 2nd Feb 11:00 am United Plough Service at Reaseheath**
6:00 pm Christ in Quiet

Church Minshull

- 5th Jan 11:00 am Service of the Word
- 12th Jan 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 19th Jan 11:00 am Communion
- 26th Jan 11:00 am Messy Church
- 2nd Feb 11:00 am United Plough Service at Reaseheath**

Worleston

- 5th Jan No Service
- 12th Jan 9:30 am Communion
- 19th Jan No Service
- 26th Jan 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 2nd Feb 11:00 am United Plough Service at Reaseheath**

Wettenhall

- 5th Jan 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 12th Jan 11:00 am Communion
- 19th Jan 11:00 am All Age
- 26th Jan 6:30 pm Communion
- 2nd Feb 11:00 am United Plough Service at Reaseheath**

St David's Church Wettenhall			
Sidespersons		Cleaning and Flowers	
5 th	Jan	Mrs M Drinkall	Mrs A Nicholas
12 th	Jan	Mr A Burrows	
19 th	Jan	Brownies	Mrs A Brooks
26 th	Jan	Informal	
2 nd	Feb	United at Reaseheath	Mrs A Hignett & Mrs A Hancock
Visit: www.wettenhallchurch.org.uk			

From the Registers

Funeral Service and Burial

25th November 2024

Louise Probin

We extend our deepest sympathy to Susan and Stuart and all Louise's friends.

Burial of Ashes

7th December 2024

Gillian Alexandra Summers

Our thoughts and prayers are with Julie, Stephanie, Tim and Jeremy, and all who mourn.

PCC Meeting

PCC meeting on 27th January at 7.30pm in St. David's Church.

Congratulations

To **Ceri and Matthew Webb** on the birth of their son **George Kenneth** on the 24th November.

The first Grandchild for **Julie and Richard Strachan** and the third Great Grandchild for **Brenda and Graham Tucker**.

A lovely early Christmas present for all the family.

Thank You

To **Sue Entwistle** for another box of lovely hand-made cards, in aid of St David's Church. There's a wonderful variety covering all occasions. Please have a look next time you are in church.

Thank you Sue!



Coffee and Cake

The next meetings will be on January 9th and February 6th from 10-12 noon in Church. Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.



Wiggles of Wettenhall

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Christingle Service

On Advent Sunday we welcomed the children, parents and staff of Calveley School to our annual Christingle service. The children provided Bible readings, prayers and two jolly songs to prepare us for our Christmas celebrations. As usual Ann Hignett had arranged for a lovely Christmas tree, beautifully decorated by Angela, to be in place for the afternoon.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to prepare the Christingles, especially to Mary for supplying the oranges and to Chris for providing the beautiful lighting effects for the service. The afternoon raised £50 for the work of the Children's Society. Many thanks to everyone involved.



Darnhall Village Hall

Darnhall Village Hall Christmas Wreaths.

There are lots of Christmas activities at Darnhall Village Hall every year, from the Village Hall Christmas party and quiz to the special events organised by groups such as the Brownies and the WI. Last Christmas a wreath-making class was successfully introduced and repeated this year. The hall was packed with people, foliage, ribbons, baubles and foam wreath rings.

Angie Hancock was our instructor and led us through the various stages of creating a wreath that could be used for a door or laid flat for a table centre display. The huge amounts of foliage, that form the body of a decorative wreath, were provided by Angie and brought along by the wreath-makers themselves. It's a damp and messy process, expertly demonstrated by Angie, allowing complete novices to create a beautiful wreath, of which they can be proud. We worked all afternoon, cutting and sticking the holly, eucalyptus, ivy, and pine cuttings into the rings. If it wasn't going to plan, Angie was on hand to guide us towards a more pleasing result. The wreaths were finished with various ribbons, ready to grace any door or table. Many people commented how different they all were, despite us all having access to very similar plant material and decorations. They truly did reflect our own sense of beauty for Christmas. After all that work there was a cuppa, glass of mulled wine, cakes and mince pies. The perfect ending! As we brushed up the debris people were already talking about doing it all over again next Christmas.

Thank you to Angie and Jean Hitchen, and their team of helpers, for organising such a creative and satisfying afternoon.



Happy New Year

Darnhall and Wettenhall WI

Darnhall and Wettenhall WI Christmas Party 2024

At Christmas most organisations have a party to create shared memories and enjoy warmth, good food and friendship at a chilly, gloomy time of year. The Darnhall and Wettenhall WI is no different, and each year the Committee work together to provide a memorable party for all the members. On Tuesday 3rd December we met at the Darnhall Village Hall for good conversation, laughter and a buffet style Christmas dinner, the delicious baked ham and turkey prepared and served by John Major from Grants Butchers. After the meal there was an exchange of Christmas cards and a raffle, not to mention a tricky Christmas themed quiz. There were beautiful glass baubles for each member to take home - a lovely gift organised by Jean Hitchen, the President of our WI.

Thanks to all the Committee members for their work throughout 2024, to give everyone a varied, informative and informal programme each month.

The next meeting in 2025 is Tuesday 4th February at 7.00pm Darnhall Village Hall. Why not join us for friendship, and more, in 2025? New members always welcome.



Darnhall Village Hall

During November we made lots of beautiful crafts to sell at Darnhall's Christmas Fair. We made clay baubles, paper stars made from pages of a book and pom pom gnomes as well as lots more.

We have had a fantastic 2024 as a pack and we can't wait to see what adventure we have in 2025 at 1st Darnhall Brownies.



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St Mary's Church, Acton Sidespersons	
5 th Jan	Ena Furber and Gill Evans
12 th Jan	Chris and Christine Barratt
19 th Jan	Tracey and Peter Foster
26 th Jan	Miriam Harvey and Steve Davies
2 nd Feb	United Plough Service at Reaseheath
Visit: www.stmarysacton.org	

Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

The next walks are:

5th January 2025

2nd February 2025

2nd March 2025

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.

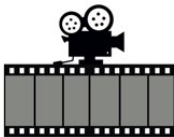
All are welcome including dogs on leads

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



Acton Movie Night

As the Young Farmers Association will be holding their Pantomime in January 2025, there will be no Movie Night in January, but keep a look out for the February Film details - soon to be advertised!



Acton Church Bibles

The New International Version (NIV) bibles, which are in the pews, need replacing. The new bibles will also be NIV bibles, but a more up-to-date version. If you are able to support this initiative, the cost is £10.00 and, we hope, will have the donor's name inside. Please contact Joyce 07703292900 or Rev Anne 01270 628864 to place an order.

The new bibles will be dedicated by the Bishop when he visits in January.

Happy New Year 2025

Children from Millfields Academy visit St Mary's

On the 18th November 31 Year 6 pupils and 4 support staff from Millfields Academy spent the morning at St. Mary's as part of their project "Past Meets Present Week". The children listened to a talk on the Battle of Nantwich, in particular how it impacted St. Mary's, and this was followed by a review of the history of St. Mary's from Saxon times to the present. They were then escorted around the church by members of the church community, more details of the church history were amplified and explanations of the current use of the church were outlined. Following this, the children were given drinks and biscuits and had their picnic lunch within the church before making their way back to school.

The following are a few lines written by one of the children:-

"We are very grateful the church took their time to offer us a tour and tell us all about its uses during the Battle of Nantwich, it is amazing to think it was used during the battle and still stands now."

A morning enjoyed by both the students and St. Mary's support staff.



Congratulations

100


Congratulations to Pat Brand (Hough) who celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday 8th of December.

A large theatrical family party took place, with grandchildren singing and great grandchildren reciting and performing songs from *The Sound of Music*. A special card was received from The King and Queen along with almost 100 more, full of best wishes at this milestone birthday.



Battle of Nantwich

Tea, Toast and Civil War talk at Acton Church on 25th January 2025

09:30 am	Hot drinks and toast.	
10:00 am	Mike Lea (Local Historian) will outline the impact of the Civil War Locally.	
10:45 am	Soldiers from the battlefield (in costume) will take questions from the audience.	
11:15 am	Walk to the Battlefields	

Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Concert

Festive Cheer Lights Up Acton at St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

The eighth annual 'Christmas Tree Festival' at St. Mary's Church delighted visitors, spreading holiday cheer from Friday 6th December.

The free-entry event transformed the historic church into a sparkling wonderland of over thirty beautifully decorated Christmas trees, each uniquely designed by parishioners, local societies, and businesses.

This year's theme, "Gogglebox - Past & Present," inspired creative tributes to iconic TV shows and memorable moments from television history. From retro classics to modern favourites, the tree designs celebrated the joy of gathering around the screen with family and friends.









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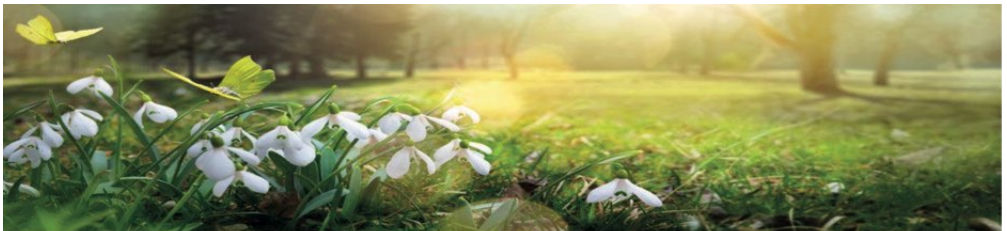
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Cross Country Pages

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

this month to

Cameron Mather	Jack Harding
Chloe Yarwood	Katie Drinkall
Ella Day	Kiere Pelle
Elliot Nicholas	Liberty Howarth
Fallon Ward	Sienna Palin
George Drinkall	William Herbert
Hannah Boyd	William Jones
Isabelle Herbert	

Congratulations

Congratulations to **George Drinkall** on his 18th birthday this month. We hope he has a lovely day!

*Wishing you
all a
Happy,
Healthy,
Spiritual and
Prosperous
New Year*

Ladies' Lunch

Wednesday 15th January

at

The Little Man, Wettenhall

12:30 pm

For further details contact:

Heather (528755), Isobel (624521),
or Ann (528273)

Mobile Library

Jan	Feb	Feb	Tuesdays	
14 th	4 th	25 th	Arr	Dep
Badger Church Minshull			10:20	10:45
Home Farm Park South Lea Green			11:10	11:20
Home Farm Park North Lea Green			11:30	11:50
Wettenhall Church			12:05	12:20
Station Rd Calveley			13:35	13:55
Tollemache Arms Alraham			14:05	14:30
Jan	Jan	Feb	Thursdays	
9 th	30 th	20 th	Arr	Dep
Pinfold Craft Centre Poole			11:00	11:25
Worleston Station Aston Juxta Mondrum			11:35	11:45
Worleston Village Hall			11:50	12:10
Jan	Feb	Feb	Thursdays	
16 th	6 th	27 th	Arr	Dep
Farmers Arms Ravensmoor			10:00	10:15
Goodwill Hall Faddiley			10:30	10:50
Greenfields Farm Gradeley Green			11:05	11:20

2025

Jerusalem; A Favourite Hymn

We all know the song 'Jerusalem' from the many events where it is sung and broadcast on the radio, television or even from films and drama programmes such as 'Chariots of Fire'. It was written as a poem by William Blake in 1804 as part of his work about the poet Milton – 'A poem in two books'. It is said that he was inspired by a legend that Jesus accompanied Joseph of Arithamea to England and visited Glastonbury in Somerset, where Joseph is also said to have pushed his staff into the soil where it grew into a tree which still stands today. However, Blake is also said to have had a personal belief that the 'dark Satanic mills' meant that the devil is a miller who grinds human souls!

In 1916 the First World War was certainly grinding human souls and the poet laureate, Robert Bridges, put together a collection of patriotic poems called 'The Spirit of Man' which included 'Jerusalem'. He suggested to Sir Hubert Parry that it could be set to music, and it was first sung at a meeting of the Fight For Right movement, which was formed to boost the morale of soldiers fighting in the trenches. It became the anthem for Fight For Right until Sir Hubert became disillusioned with the politics of the organisation and gave the copyright to Millicent Fawcett of the National Union of Women's Suffrage [NUWS]. Sir Hubert himself conducted Jerusalem at a National Service for Women at the Royal Albert Hall in 1917. It continued its association with women's groups after the NUWS was disbanded when the copyright was reassigned to the Women's Institute. Famously it is still sung at every branch and national meeting of the WI. Jerusalem is not strictly a hymn: it doesn't praise God, but it has become an unofficial second National anthem, played

at many sporting and political gatherings, usually to the arrangement written by Elgar in 1922. It is said that King George V actually preferred it to God Save The King. The Commonwealth Games use it at medal ceremonies where the member countries of the UK are separately involved. It is now the official song of the English and Welsh Cricket Board, Rugby League Challenge Cup and Super League final. Politically it is sung at Labour Party conferences alongside The Red Flag. Probably its most famous annual appearance is as part of the Last Night of The Proms. It was introduced to the Proms by Sir Malcolm Sargent in the 1950s and sung with great gusto each year since then. Whatever Blake and Parry actually thought it represented, it is part of our culture, sporting and religious lives. Its opening chords command our attention, we recognise the melody, and we are moved by its grandeur and solemnity whatever the setting. A fitting second National anthem.



At Acton Proms

Heather Pope

Plough Sunday Service

11 am Sunday 2 February 2025
The Horticultural Building
Reaseheath College

The Horticultural Building is the new building behind the large new Agricultural Engineering building. Car Parking is via Entrance 1 off Main Road, Reaseheath (the B5074)

Limited parking for the disabled is available immediately outside The Horticultural Building, accessed via Entrance 2 off Main Road, Reaseheath (the B 5074)

Gardening Club

NEW for 2025; Gardening Club

Darnhall Village Hall

Darnhall Village Hall is starting a brand new Gardening Club. All gardeners, or those interested in gardening, are welcome to attend.

You may be a lifelong gardener or a complete beginner, have rolling acres or plants on your window ledge.

The first meeting is on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 10.00am until 12 noon.

It will be a monthly meeting and the cost is £3.00, including tea/coffee.

Darnhall Village Hall CW7 4DG.

For further information contact Gilly Higgs on 07772135612



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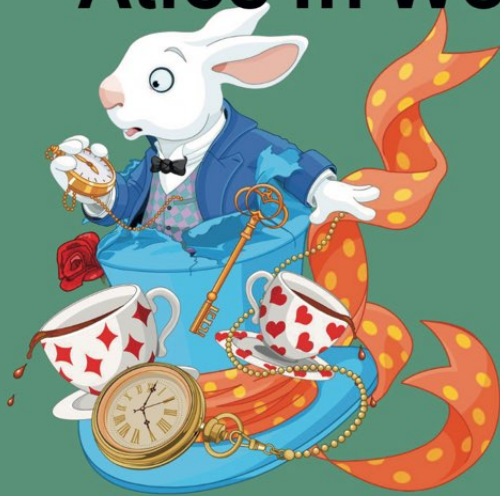
MMM's
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Nantwich Young Farmers present...



Alice In Wonderland



Wednesday 8th January YFC night,
7:30pm £5

Thursday 9th January, 7:30pm £5

Friday 10th January, 7:30pm £10

Saturday 11th January Matinee, 2pm £5

Saturday 11th January, 7:30pm £10

*Friday and Saturday evening tickets
include refreshments*

All in aid of MPS & The milk
maid marchers for the Christie

Contact Suzanne Kinsey on 07828
018739 or pskinsey@hotmail.com

Recipe

Beef and Cider Casserole

Ingredients

- 2lb Ash House Braising Steak, diced
- 1 Onion, chopped
- 1 Red pepper, sliced
- 1/2lb Mushrooms, quartered
- 1 Carrot, sliced.
- 1/2 Pint of Tomato juice
- 1/2 - 1/3 pint Cider
- 2 tbsp Flour
- 2-3 tbsp Olive oil
- Salt & Pepper



Method

- Coat meat in seasoned flour, heat oil in a non-stick frying pan, fry beef until browned well.
- Remove & place in a casserole dish. Fry onion & carrot, until starting to soften then add pepper and finally add mushrooms and fry lightly.
- Add the vegetables to the casserole along with the tomato juice.
- Deglaze the pan with some of the cider and add to the casserole along with the remaining cider to cover the mixture.
- Season with salt & pepper.

Cover and cook for 3 hours at 160C/300F or until the meat is very tender.

Enjoy

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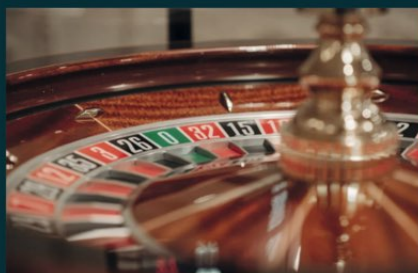
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 [Gemma Peters](https://www.linkedin.com/in/gemma-peters)



St Oswald's Church, Worleston

Sidespersons		Coffee	
12 th Jan	Pam Haigh	Sarah Parker	
26 th Jan	Diane Darlington	Jo Bailey	
Flowers		Cleaning	
12 th Jan	Felicity Adams	Jan	Marilyn and David Booth
26 th Jan	Sue Adams	Feb	Lynne and Ginge Ablard
Visit: www.worlestonchurch.org.uk			

Bonus Recipe

Rhubarb Cake Pudding

This delicious recipe using early rhubarb is just right for cold January days.

Ingredients

Pudding

- 1 lb / 450 g early rhubarb
- 4 oz / 100g caster or soft brown sugar
- grated orange rind
- 2 tablespoons water
- icing sugar

For the Topping

- 3 oz / 75g self-raising flour
- pinch salt
- 2 oz / 50g butter
- 2 oz / 50g caster sugar
- 1 egg



Method

- ☞ Wash and trim rhubarb. Cut stalks into 1 inch / 2 ½ cm lengths and put in buttered pie or baking dish (2 pint / 1 litre).
- ☞ Add the sugar, grated orange rind and water. Set aside while preparing the topping.
- ☞ Sift flour and salt. Cream the butter and sugar until light, then gradually beat in the lightly mixed egg. Add a little of the flour along with the last few additions of egg, and then, using a metal spoon, fold in the remaining flour to make a medium soft consistency. Spoon the mixture over the rhubarb and spread evenly.
- ☞ Place in the centre of a moderately hot oven (375 F, 190 C, gas mark 5) and bake for 35-40 minutes or until cake topping is well risen and golden brown.
- ☞ Sprinkle with icing sugar and serve hot with cream or custard or ice cream.

Enjoy

Coffee and Cake

Saturday 4th January 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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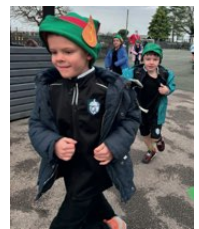


Calveley School

We got thoroughly into the Christmas spirit here at Calveley, Children have decorated a tree in each classroom - this year we have treated ourselves to new decorations (thanks to FROCS) so that has been very exciting. We've also done some Christmas craft to help decorate the hall. Having the hall looking festive was especially important as all parents were invited to join us for Christmas lunch with the children. We must shout out to Josie our cook who made all those delicious meals.

We've also done our bit for charity by taking part in an Elf Run, the annual fundraising event for St Luke's Hospice. Children ran sponsored laps of the playground and tennis court (the record was 14 in Sycamore Class) raising a ginormous £1,322. Upon completing their laps children enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate with all the trimmings in the outdoor classroom. We're very proud to support such a brilliant local cause.

We also took part in National Christmas Jumper Day. This coincided with Beech Class's trip to Iddenshall Hall Care Home where they took part in Christmas craft with the residents and gave them a sneak peak of some songs from our nativity performances.



Happy New Year





St Oswald's School, Worleston

All the children of St Oswald's Worleston came together to explore Christianity around the world. The children have explored festivals, Churches, crosses and Bibles. The children did an amazing job of developing their understanding of Christianity through writing, Art, DT and some classes even used Lego.

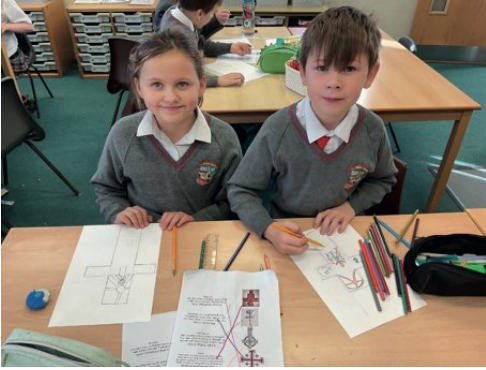
We have had a visit from two very special footballers, Crewe Alexandra players Max Sanders and Omar Bogle who came to speak to us for Collective Worship. The children learnt lots about different people in sport who can inspire us. Max and Omar told us all about what they do, and the children had the opportunity to ask lots of questions. Special thanks to Crewe Alexandra Football Club and the players for taking the time to visit us.

The school Eco team under the guidance of Mrs Evans have been working really hard to improve the outdoor environment at school. They have been busy getting the flower beds ready with the help of parent Mr Denton and friends. The beds are now ready for each class to plant some new wild flowers in before spring. Thank you to Mrs Evans, the Eco team and our parent helpers for working so hard to improve our school.

We have learnt all about Christingle, each child made a Christingle in school with an orange to represent the world, red ribbon to symbolise the love and blood of Christ and sweets to represent all of God's creations. We put a glow stick in the centre of the orange to represent Jesus's light in the world which brings hope to people living in darkness. The whole school went to St Oswald's church where we were joined by our families for the Christingle Service. It was a joyful celebration that brought together the school community to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. We give thanks to Morrison's in Nantwich who kindly donated some oranges. We are very grateful for their generosity.

Our Key Stage One Teacher Mrs Alex Evans left at Christmas to start her new post as Assistant Head at a school near Chester this month. We will miss her and wish her lots of happiness in her new role. She will be in our thoughts and prayers.

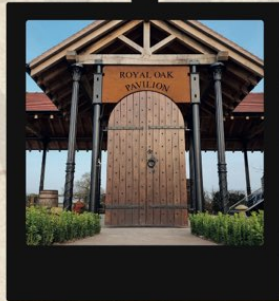






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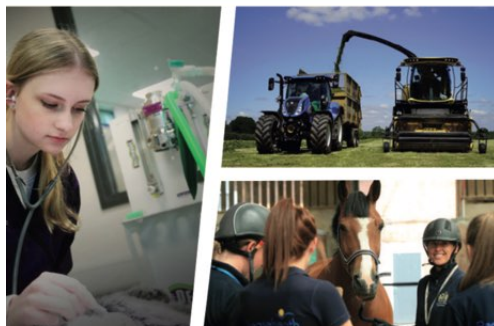
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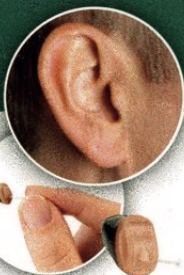
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