

St Mary's Acton  
St David's Wettenhall &  
St Oswald's Worleston  
February 2026



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

*Dear Friends*



### **From the Manger to the Cross**

Some years ago I attended an event at Ely Cathedral to mark the Festival of Candlemas. The Cathedral was filled with literally thousands of candles as we marked the day when Mary and Joseph went to the Temple to present the 40-day old Jesus, as Jewish Law required.

The proper name for that festival might be The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, but for centuries in this country, it has been known as Candlemas. A reminder, on the final day of the Christmas Season, that 40 days after Christmas Day, the light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it, not even as we leave Christmas behind and begin, in the cold, dark days of February, to move towards Lent and our journey to the cross.

In a world which feels increasingly unstable and uncertain, as we move away from Christmas, we need to take the light we discovered shining in the darkness around the manger out into the world. As we move towards Lent (which starts on 18<sup>th</sup> February), we need to walk towards the cross, confident that travelling the way of the cross will give us strength in the challenges and uncertainties of life. More than that, we can travel confident that, beyond the cross, lies the light of the resurrection. Yours in the light of Christ as we travel from the manger to the cross.

*Revd Anne*

## Contents

|                 | Page |                     |    |
|-----------------|------|---------------------|----|
| Letter          | 2    | Cross Country Pages | 16 |
| Services        | 3    | Worleston News      | 20 |
| Wettenhall News | 4    | Schools             | 22 |
| Acton News      | 8    | Contacts            | 31 |

# Sunday Services

## Acton

- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 11:00 am Plough Service at Reaseheath**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 10:00 am Messy Church
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall**

## Church Minshull

- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 11:00 am Plough Service at Reaseheath**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 11:00 am Communion
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 11:00 am Messy Church
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall**

## Worleston

- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 11:00 am Plough Service at Reaseheath**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 9:30 am Communion
- 15<sup>th</sup> Feb No Service
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall Patronal**

## Wettenhall

- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 11:00 am Plough Service at Reaseheath**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 11:00 am Communion
- 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 11:00 am All Age Service
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 6:30 pm Informal Communion
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 11:00 am United at Wettenhall**

**Additionally there is a 10:30 am Communion at Acton every Wednesday**

| St David's Church Wettenhall                           |     |                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sidespersons                                           |     | Cleaning and Flowers |                                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                                        | Feb | United at Reaseheath | Mrs K Noden and Mrs M Drinkall     |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>                                        | Feb | Mrs A Hignett        |                                    |
| 15 <sup>h</sup>                                        | Feb | Brownies             | Mrs M Drinkall and Mrs B Brockbank |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>                                       | Feb | Informal             |                                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                                        | Mar | Mrs A Brooks         | Mrs A Howard and Family            |
| <i><b>Find us on the A Church Near You website</b></i> |     |                      |                                    |

## Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Pauline Matthews** who died on 27th December 2025.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all who mourn.

## St David's Day

On Sunday 1st March we will celebrate St. David's Day with a United Service at 11am.

Everyone is very welcome to join us, as we look forward to singing some rousing Welsh tunes, enjoy the sight of early spring daffodils, and share in delicious refreshments following the service.

Make a note in your diaries now!

# Give a little - help a lot

## Thanksgiving and Remembrance

Thank you to everyone who took part in our pre-Christmas services to prepare us for the great day itself!

The beautiful lighting, Christmas tree, decorations, mince pies and mulled wine were much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who played their part in all the celebrations.

## Congratulations

To Lucy Bowes and Sam Lacey on their recent engagement. We wish them every happiness as they plan their future together.



Donations to St David's, Wettenhall

## Coffee and Cake

The next meetings will be on February 5<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 noon in Church. Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.



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| St Mary's Church, Acton<br>Sidespersons                               |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb                                                   | United at Reaseheath            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb                                                   | Chris and Christine Barratt     |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb                                                  | Tracey and Peter Foster         |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb                                                  | Kath Edwards and Elizabeth Bull |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar                                                   | United at Wettenhall            |
| Visit: <a href="http://www.stmarysacton.org">www.stmarysacton.org</a> |                                 |

## Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

### The next walk is:

1<sup>st</sup> February

1<sup>st</sup> March

12<sup>th</sup> April

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

On the above date 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.



## Legacy: Keith Ward

### LEGACY - St Mary's - Keith Ward

Grateful thanks are expressed for the receipt of a legacy from the Estate of the late Keith Ward, local Vet, who regularly attended Tea At The Tower and was often present at our Concerts.

### Leaving a gift in your Will

Leaving a legacy to St Mary's Church is a meaningful way to help St Mary's to continue its ministry, reaching out to everyone, with its accreditation as a "Place of Welcome", and as a warm, friendly and caring church.

You are welcome to contact Revd Canon Anne Lawson (01270 628864) or James Hickie, Treasurer (01829 260052) to discuss leaving a legacy to St Mary's church.

## Acton Christmas Concert

A festive Christmas concert featuring the acclaimed chamber choir Concordia filled St Mary's Church on Monks Lane in Acton, near Nantwich, on Saturday 13th December 2025.

Titled A Little Christmas with Concordia, the event delighted audiences with a varied programme of seasonal favourites, performed in the atmospheric setting of the Grade I listed church. A seasonal hamper raffle also gave concert-goers the chance to support St Mary's.

Concordia was formed in the summer of 2020, when a small group of singers met outdoors to sing in a socially distanced way during the pandemic. Since then, the choir has grown into a much-loved local ensemble, praised for its uplifting harmonies. The choir is led by musical director Alison Phillips, with John Gough on piano.

The first half featured works by John Rutter, Kerensa Briggs and Eric Whitacre, alongside traditional carols. After refreshments, Concordia returned with popular festive classics including Silent Night and Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

Adding to the festive atmosphere were 28 decorated trees from the church's Storybook Christmas Tree Festival. Proceeds from the evening will support the ongoing preservation of St Mary's Church.



Acton Church  
*presents*

# Megan Lee

*in Concert*

A stunning voice that bridges genres

**06.02.26 | 7PM | £10**

For tickets visit Tea at the Tower any Sunday afternoon or call Stephan 07731 800663

“Renowned for her stunning voice and genre-bridging style, Megan Lee promises an unforgettable performance, blending contemporary jazz and blues with a fresh, soulful pop edge. Her distinctive sound and expressive delivery have made her one of the North West’s most sought-after vocalists.

Megan has shared the stage with respected artists including Rumer, Kat Eaton and Sarah Jane Morris, and has performed at the legendary Ronnie Scott’s jazz club. Her musical journey began as a teenager, inspired by jazz and blues icons such as Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee, before embracing modern influences like Melody Gardot and Madeleine Peyroux. Years of live performances at venues and festivals across the region have helped her build a loyal following”



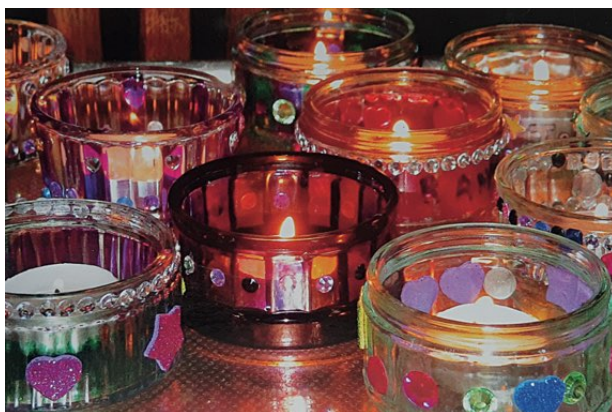
## Acton Messy Church

### Advent to Candlemas at Messy Church

We've let our light shine over the past few months. In November we heard Jesus comparing his followers to salt and light and explored what that meant for us. We decided it was no good hiding our light where it couldn't be seen – we need to shine if we are to make a difference to the lives of people round us. Then it was all hands on deck to make decorations for our Creation Story Christmas Tree.

Christmas came early as we opened gifts to tell the nativity story and fill the stable with a bumper crop of characters. We already had Jesus the best gift of all and baby Pippa played the part beautifully. The children all had a gift to take home and got busy with different Christmas decorations while we all enjoyed tea and Jesus's birthday cake.

Candlemas (2nd Feb) was celebrated in January. The children dramatised the story of Mary and Joseph presenting 6 week old Jesus at the Temple who was recognised as the Saviour, the Light of the world by Simeon and Anna. We explored different types of light to describe the character of Jesus, introduced a version of Simeon's song, the Nunc dimittis and made tea light holders and candle cakes.



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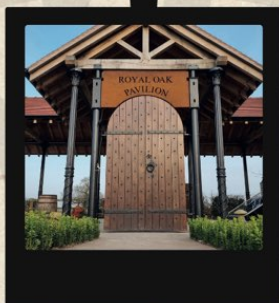
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## Cross Country Pages

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

this month to

Herbie Major Missy Shaw  
James Hassall Mollie Yarwood  
Louie Elliott Niamh Ward  
Madison Warrington Poppy Rowland

### Special Birthdays

Special Happy Birthday wishes to **Anne Brooks** as she celebrates her 70th birthday on 12th February.

### Congratulations

To **Lynne and Ginge Ablard** who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 26 February.

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### Ladies Lunch

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**  
at

**The Barbridge Inn, Barbridge**  
**12:30 pm**  
**All Welcome**  
**£13.00**

**For further details contact:**  
**Joyce Percival 01270 691315,**  
**Heather (07887 760930), Isobel**  
**(624521), or Ann (528273)**  
**A choice from the Lunch Menu**  
**And Tea or Coffee**

### Mobile Library

| Feb                    | Mar              | Mar              | Tuesdays  |       |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-------|
| 17 <sup>th</sup>       | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 31 <sup>st</sup> | 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                |                  |                  |           |       |
| Feb                    | Mar              | Mar              | Thursdays |       |
| 12 <sup>th</sup>       | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 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 |
| Feb                    | Mar              | Apr              | Thursdays |       |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>       | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Arr       | Dep   |
| Farmers Arms           |                  |                  | 10:00     | 10:15 |
| Ravensmoor             |                  |                  |           |       |
| Goodwill Hall Faddiley |                  |                  | 10:30     | 10:50 |
| Greenfields Farm       |                  |                  | 11:05     | 11:20 |
| Gradeley Green         |                  |                  |           |       |

## Archbishops Of Canterbury: St. Augustine – the first

Roman Britain had three Christian archbishops in London, York and Caerleon [near modern Newport]. However, the invasion of Anglo-Saxons in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries resulted in a return to paganism, with only a few native Christians remaining, mainly in the Western areas of England and supported by missionaries from Ireland. All this changed with the arrival of a prior from the Abbey of St. Andrew in Rome, Augustine. He was sent here on a mission by Pope Gregory the Great to rekindle the Christian faith and arrived by ship at Ebbsfleet in Thanet, Kent, in 597 AD. He was accompanied by Lawrence [his eventual successor in Canterbury] and a team of monks, teachers and translators. He travelled to Canterbury, and was quickly accepted by King Ethelbert, a major leader of Anglo Saxon Kings, whose wife Bertha was a Frankish Christian princess. Canterbury had a Christian church which had been established by the Romans, which Augustine re-consecrated following its use as a pagan place of worship. [Its remains were uncovered in an archaeological dig in 1973.] He founded the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul, which later became St. Augustine's Abbey. This lies close to Canterbury Cathedral to the southern side. Ever since then the Archbishops of Canterbury have been said to occupy the Chair of St. Augustine. It became known as the mother church of all England until the dissolution of the Catholic church and the death of the last Catholic Archbishop, Archbishop Pole, in 1558.

Pope Gregory had originally planned for two Archbishops for England – London and York, however, Augustine's success in Canterbury led to it becoming Canterbury and York, with Canterbury the more senior. Augustus sent Lawrence back to Pope Gregory to clarify issues for his growing church. Little seems to have changed over the centuries because the questions included those of

church organisation, guidance on who is allowed to marry whom, childbirth and baptism and the lawful celebration of Mass. Gregory advised that Canterbury and York should each have 12 junior Bishops to advance the spread of the church. Meanwhile thousands of people were being baptised by Augustine, said to be 10,000 on Christmas Day 597AD alone! Other Roman missionaries arrived in 601AD and by 604AD new bishops were ordained in London and Rochester, alongside the establishment of a school to train Anglo-Saxon priests and missionaries. Aware of the need to protect the continuation of the new churches, Augustine arranged for the consecration of his successor Lawrence. On 26<sup>th</sup> May 604 AD Augustine died and was buried in the church now known as St. Augustine's in Canterbury. He was later exhumed and reburied in Abbey Church, which became a place of pilgrimage. After the Norman Conquest [1066] a cult grew up around St. Augustine and King Henry I of England granted Canterbury a six day fair [8 – 13<sup>th</sup> September] to commemorate the time of reburial in the Abbey Church. Unfortunately, in the time of the Reformation of the church by Henry VIII, the shrine was destroyed and the relics lost. St. Augustine had established the role of the Archbishop of Canterbury so strongly that it survived the upheaval of the Reformation and remains the centre of the Church of England and a place of pilgrimage today.



*Heather Pope*

# Plough Sunday Service

11 am Sunday 1 February 2026

The Horticultural Building

Reaseheath College

**Preacher: Revd Canon Dr Judy Hunt**

(Judy has experience of rural life and ministry, both as a Vicar and Archdeacon. Prior to ordination she was a large-animal vet)

**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, both to the front and the rear of the building, accessed via Entrance 2 off Main Road, Reaseheath (the B 5074)**

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## Revd (Canon) John Malbon

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Revd John Malbon on 22 December.

John, together with Janet, became part of the Cross Country Parishes when John retired, around 25 years ago.

Unlike many retired clergy, who take services across a wide area, John committed himself to the Cross Country Parishes, taking services and being involved in activities across the benefice until his death.

In late September, John celebrated 60 years of ordained ministry as a Deacon and 59 years as a Priest. It was a joy to mark this milestone with John at the Harvest Service in Acton in early October.

It was at this point, that John took the decision not to renew his Permission to Officiate, and took his final service on a Wednesday morning at the end of September. John has touched the lives of many people during his long life and ministry. One of those people was Bishop Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood, who spoke of John's ministry in his sermon at an Ordination Service in Southwell Minster in July last year. Another colleague, on hearing of John's death, spoke of him as "The Saint of the Chester Diocese."

Even as we miss John's wise and gentle presence amongst us, we are thankful that he is now rejoicing at the heavenly banquet in the presence of the God he loved and served.

Our love and prayers are with Janet and John's family at this time.

S Anne Lawson



## *Lent Course*

*This year's Lent Course will take place at The Vicarage  
at 10.00 am on Thursdays beginning on 26 February 2026 for 5 weeks.*

*All Welcome*

*The Theme is The Lord's Prayer*

## St Oswald's Church, Worleston

| Sidespersons                  |                           |  | Coffee           |                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb           | Ann Fletton               |  | Sarah Parker     |                       |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb          | Marilyn Booth             |  | Pam Haigh        |                       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar           | Alison Stokes             |  | Diane Darlington |                       |
| Flowers                       |                           |  | Cleaning         |                       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb           | Lyn Ablard                |  | Jan              | Please see note below |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb          | Lent, so no flowers until |  |                  |                       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar           | Easter                    |  |                  |                       |
| Website currently unavailable |                           |  |                  |                       |

### From the Registers

#### Memorial Service and Burial of Ashes

8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### Julia Flanagan

Julia worshipped at Worleston until she moved to be with her daughter in Cornwall after her husband's death in 2016.

Condolences are expressed to Julia's family and friends.



The QR code to the left will take you to the Parish Giving Scheme website where you can make a donation to St Oswald's. Either a one off or a regular monthly donation

### Cleaning Note

All that is required is that those who come to services give a quick vac of the carpet and porch but only if it is needed. The rest has been attended to, as age has caught up with the cleaning volunteers!

### Help Needed

Two of our band of magazine deliverers, who have done a marvellous and much appreciated job, for some years, have decided to hang up their hats very soon. The magazine delivery is valued in our community, so if you could help, we would all be very grateful. For information about what is needed please phone Heather Pope on 07887 760930

### Coffee and Cake

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 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 have been very happy to return to school after the Christmas break. It has been lovely to catch up with our friends and share our holiday news. We even enjoyed playing in the snow, which made our first days back extra special.

We have a busy and exciting term ahead. In our geography learning, we are looking at maps of our local area and developing our map skills. The children will be sketching their own maps of Winsford, thinking carefully about landmarks and routes.

In PE, we have started a new topic on gymnastics. The children are exploring different ways of moving, balancing and travelling, and are already showing great enthusiasm and teamwork.

We are looking forward to a fantastic term of learning together!

As part of our collaboration with OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning) we are looking for items to help us enhance playtime. If you've had a clear out for the new year, perhaps you could donate something from the list. Donations can be dropped at Wettenhall Church or the School Office. We are particularly looking for:

Dressing-up clothes (all ages, child-friendly including real life items), Toy cars and vehicles, Wooden small-world toys, Fabric pieces (scarves, material squares, capes, etc., Lego or similar construction bricks, all sorts of kitchen items for a mud kitchen (bowls, measuring jugs, whisks etc.) Thanks in advance!





## St Oswald's C.E Primary School Worleston

Last term, our school was delighted to welcome families from across the local area to our spectacular Science Fair. The staff at St Oswald's Primary School planned and delivered a fully interactive and engaging event which showcased our school as a welcoming hub of learning and community. We were thrilled to welcome 67 families in total, including 34 families who were new to our school, giving many their first opportunity to experience the vibrant learning environment we are so proud of.

The Science Fair was a wonderful celebration of how we learn at our school and the strong links we have with our wider community. Families explored six exciting activity bases, each offering hands-on STEM experiences designed to spark curiosity and wonder. Children worked alongside parents to make volcanoes and lava lamps, test and experiment with magnets, and explore how forces work by launching rockets into the air—carefully adjusting angles and force to achieve the best results.

We were also delighted to welcome community partners who helped make the event so special. Mad Science brought high-energy demonstrations, while local company Gootopia entertained children by creating all sorts of weird and wonderful slimes to take home. Our woodland area was transformed into a busy nature hunt, where children searched for bugs, wildflowers and seeds, encouraging exploration and scientific thinking beyond the classroom.

The event truly promoted a love of science among pupils and families, showing that learning can be fun, collaborative and memorable. Our fabulous PTA provided wonderful refreshments, and every child who completed the science trail received a special science treat bag to continue their investigations at home. Huge thanks go to our dedicated staff who gave up their Sunday to make the event such a success. We can't wait until the next one!





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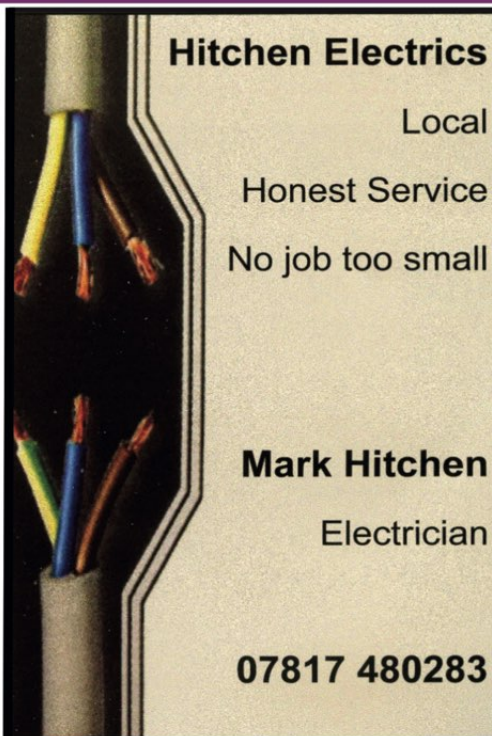
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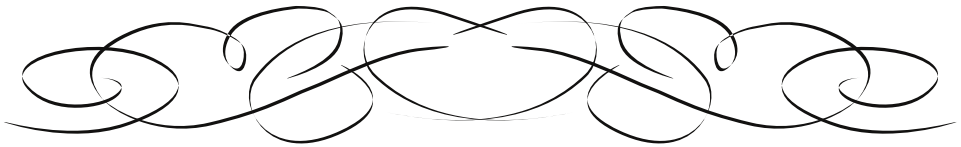
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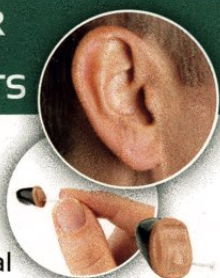
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**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Rosemary Shaw    [crosscountryparishes@outlook.com](mailto:crosscountryparishes@outlook.com)

**Usual Office Hours:** First Monday of the month (afternoon); Other Weeks: Wednesday afternoons

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