

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



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

Dear Friends

From Death to Life; From Crucifixion to Resurrection



Spring is springing. Daffodils have burst into bloom. In my own garden, the joyful gifts and hard work of friends and parishioners are coming to life and I'm starting to see a new garden spring to life before my eyes.

Most miraculous are the myriad of spring bulbs that I planted up over the autumn. What appeared dry, shrivelled up, uninteresting bulbs are springing up full of life and colour, brightening the garden, the day and my smile.

The pattern of nature, of the season of dying in autumn, the dark, cold days of winter and the joyful bursting forth of life in spring is the very pattern we celebrate each year during Holy Week and Easter.

First the final, dying days of Jesus' ministry from the triumph of Palm Sunday to the dark fear of the Last Supper and the anguish of Gethsemane, then the death by crucifixion on Good Friday. Finally, the joyful, fullness of resurrection springing out of death.

Real, full, joyous resurrection cannot spring forth without dying and death. To arrive at spring, without the period of rest which winter and death provide is simply not possible, any more than it is possible to celebrate the fullness of resurrection joy on Easter day if we have not marked the events of Holy Week, and knelt at the foot of the cross on Good Friday.

Yours in the dying, crucified and joyfully resurrected Jesus,

Revd Anne

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Sunday Services

Acton

- 5th Apr 11:00 am Communion
- 12th Apr 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 19th Apr 10:00 am Messy Church
- 26th Apr 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 3rd May 11:00 am Communion

Church Minshull

- 5th Apr 11:00 am Communion
- 12th Apr 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 19th Apr 11:00 am Communion
- 26th Apr 11:00 am Messy Church
- 3rd May 11:00 am Service of the Word

Worleston

- 5th Apr 9:30 am Communion
- 12th Apr 9:30 am Communion
- 19th Apr No Service
- 26th Apr 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 3rd May 9:30 am No Service

Wettenhall

- 5th Apr 11:00 am Communion
- 12th Apr 11:00 am Communion
- 19th Apr 11:00 am All Age
- 26th Apr 6:30 pm Informal Communion
- 3rd May 11:00 am Morning Prayer

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

St David's Church Wettenhall			
Sidespersons		Cleaning and Flowers	
5 th	Apr	Mr G Tucker	Mrs A Nicholas
12 th	Apr	Mrs M Drinkall	Mrs A Brooks
19 th	Apr	Brownies	
26 th	Apr	Informal	Mrs A Hignett and Mrs A Hancock
3 rd	May	Mr A Burrows	

Find us on the A Church Near You website

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Emily Smith who died on 25th March. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who mourn at this time.

Congratulations

To Matthew & Ceri Webb (nee Strachan) on the birth of their baby son Marcus Richard on 22nd February. Marcus is a brother for George, grandson for Richard & Julie and great-grandson for Graham & Brenda Tucker.

Maundy Thursday

On **Maundy Thursday, 2nd April** we will be holding a service and supper starting at **6.30pm** in St. David's church. There are sign up sheets in the four churches to help us with numbers for catering. The meal will consist of hot roast beef, ham and salads plus desserts. Please state if you would prefer a vegetarian option.

St David's Day

Our united service actually fell on St. David's day this year. It was a delight to see the beautiful window displays of daffodils and Welsh symbols as we remembered the calling of St. David. At the end of his life he told his followers to 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things.'
Thank you to everyone who played their part in providing the colourful decorations, the wonderful spread of refreshments and for joining in the worship to live out those final words of David. All the little things came together to create a joyful celebration.

Annual Parochial Church meeting and PCC

This will take place on **Monday 13th April at 7:30 pm** in church. Everyone on the St Davids Electoral Roll is invited to attend the Annual Meeting.

Coffee and Cake

The next meetings will be on **April 2nd and May 7th** from **10-12 noon** in Church. Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.



Eco Church in Spring

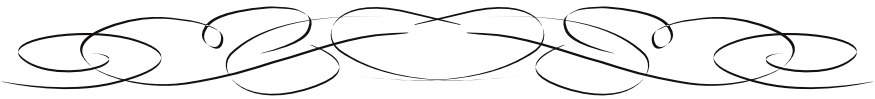
It's been a busy time for Eco Church. We are about 75% to our Eco Church Silver Award.

In February, at our Green Café Celebration that was both muddy and joyful! We made our own pots from newspaper then planted a range of seeds, broad beans, early peas, chillies, sage, rosemary and carrots, as well as sweet peas for planting later in our gardens. We focused on the beautiful Psalm 19 which reminded us that God's glory is reflected in all nature, The skies, sun, mud, water, dark and light. We challenged ourselves to growth, both spiritual and in life sowing seeds for the soul, as well as the garden as the days lengthen and spring arrives.

We also used our work to take part in "Show the Love", part of national Green Heart February, with a photo of our pots of hope, each marked with a green heart. This was sent to Aphra Brandreth MP to ask her what she is doing for issues on climate and conservation matters. In March, as a congregation, we are taking part in the national Big Plastic Count where we will count our household plastic waste for a week. The results will be submitted and results used to demand change from the big companies who use plastic packaging. Finally, we are all committing to Green Lent, taking challenges every day to help us think about our use of food, energy, waste and water throughout Lent.

On May 17th there will be Green Café Worship again, for Pentecost, where we will celebrate the gifts of wind, water and fire. Come along to make kites and hear how the spirit can energise us all for new life. In June, look out for details about BIG GREEN WEEK 6th-14th June with a workshop day on 20th June.





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Darnhall WI

March 2026

Ian Black; Horsepicks to Hairpins

The March meeting for our WI had a speaker who was surprising and entertaining in every way. He was travelling from Newton -Le- Willows and couldn't find Darnhall Village Hall. In the end he had to be escorted to the hall or he would still be out there somewhere! He arrived in a gorgeous vintage Vivianne Westwood coat /jacket. It was much admired and coveted by many of the members throughout the meeting. Ian Black was an award winning hairdresser, starting his career in a tiny hairdressers near to his home and progressing to London, Paris and a glittering clientele. He gave us a fascinating talk, alongside vintage posters of hairdressing styles from the time of Marie Antoinette to the styles of the 1960's and 70's. The history of hairdressing included the use of lard and chalk powder to support towering wigs, complete with ships in full sail, and the use of special scratching tools to fend off the mice and lice invading such creations. As the decades progressed the styles became smaller and softer, although some members could remember putting a pair of pants [or a bonnet !] over their beehives in the 1960's to protect the style while sleeping. We all felt relieved that we have the informal styles of today and don't have to contend with the trials of the past. With tea and cakes it was an evening to remember for everyone, and Ian did get home safely afterwards !

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Wednesday 29th April Charity Quiz Night in aid of St Lukes Hospice Entry £5 including Chip Butty.

Darnhall Brownies

To celebrate World Thinking Day, our Brownies enjoyed learning all about Italy, especially with the Winter Olympics being hosted there. The girls discovered interesting facts about the country, its culture and traditions and even researched their own Italian facts to share with the group.

We had lots of fun trying out some “Olympic” activities inspired by the Winter Games, giving everyone a chance to get active and work together as a team. Creativity was also in full swing as we made our own delicious pizzas and constructed our very own Leaning Tower of Pisa using toilet rolls! The girls were fascinated looking through Rachel’s scrapbook from her holiday to Rome, which helped bring our learning about Italy to life. More recently, the Brownies have been busy preparing for Mothering Sunday, making thoughtful cards and crafts to show their appreciation for the special people in their lives.

As always, it has been a joy to see the girls learning new things, building friendships and having fun together.



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**St Mary's Church, Acton
Sidespersons**

5 th Apr	Sandra and Mike Houlston
12 th Apr	Susan and Charles Hull
19 th Apr	Tracey and Peter Foster
26 th Apr	Claire and Chris Lewis-Jones
3 rd May	Miriam Harvey and Steve Davies
Visit: www.stmarysacton.org	

Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

The next walk is:

12th April

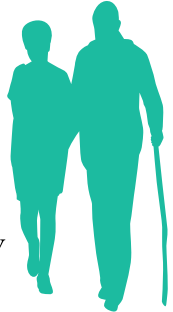
Tea at the Tower is open every Sunday from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

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.



Acton Movie Night Friday 17th April 2026 The Game Cert 15 starring Michael Douglas and Sean Penn at 7:30pm in Acton Parish Hall.

From the Registers

Baptism

22nd February 2026

Archibald "Archie" Timothy Cosford

Burial of Ashes

28th February 2026 Judith Rosemary Ellis Aged 84



Archie Cosford with mum Louise



Pauline Ash 100

We send our love, greetings and congratulations to Pauline Ash who will be 100 years old on April 26th.

During her long life, Pauline has helped and served others in many ways. When the second world war broke out, her older sister joined up and Pauline wanted to do the same. As soon as she was old enough, she went into the army and spent most of her time driving troops from bases in Lincolnshire down to Southampton docks. A few years ago, she joined a trip we had to the National Arboretum and she was really delighted to see all the ways in which service personnel have been remembered. She met Bill during her army days.

By the time they came to Acton, their four children had long left home and Bill had retired but they began a new job together. Bill was appointed as Verger at St Mary's Acton and Pauline supported him in everything. They took the job very seriously, were a boon to those taking the services, and friendly welcoming faces to everyone. Pauline especially enjoyed the times when the children from the school came into church for services or activities.

Pauline has been living at Mayfield House Care Home in Crewe for the last few years and we are sure that they will help her to mark such a special day. Even the King might join in!



Pauline Ash with her great friend
Kath Farrington



Birth Announcement

26th February 2026

Harley Rose Wilkinson-Shaw
Congratulations and best wishes to Kirsty and Daniel Wilkinson-Shaw on the safe arrival of their daughter; a beautiful granddaughter to Rosemary Shaw and James Hickie, Philip and Nikki Shaw from Poole, Nantwich, and Jane and Christopher Wilkinson from Chard, Somerset.



ACTON & REASHEATH WI

March 9th was our birthday meeting - 96 years since this WI began, and still going strong.

Our speaker for March was Chris Priddy, Head Teacher of Acton School. He told us the original school was opened in 1843. Since then, new classrooms have been added and recently there has been government funding to do building work at the school, to install heat pumps, new insulation, updated lighting and to create a larger playground. It started as a small Church Aided school for children in Acton but now has nearly 200 children, many from the west side of Nantwich.

Chris told us the school motto is Ready, Respectful and Safe. They keep the children safe, teach them to respect others and in various ways ready them for the next stage in their lives. The school likes to give the children 'adventures', sometimes local ones, like playing in the forest area for the smaller ones, a choir and handbell ringing for some and having a football team which is doing well in the local league. They also have a minibus and take older children to the theatre or library, swimming or kayaking and a year 6 group goes to London every year. Everyone enjoyed the talk, and he was thanked by Joyce Percival.

Next month Kate Blakemore will come to tell us about 'Her Place' a charity in Crewe aiming to provide accessible support to women and girls. We are encouraged to bring items which will be of use to the women such as hairbrushes, wipes, shower gel, maternity pads.

April's meeting will again be an open meeting, so any ladies who would like to hear more about Her Place would be welcome. There is no charge, and we serve tea and biscuits (and possibly cake) afterwards. The meeting is to be held in the Parish Hall on Monday 13th April at 7.00pm.

Judith Canning

Nantwich 10K Run

More than 2,100 runners took part in the HSW Solicitors Nantwich 10K on Sunday 1st March 2026, with the 6.2-mile race held in dry, mild conditions. Organised by RunThrough, the closed-road course started and finished near Nantwich town square, with spectators lining the route. Runners passed St Mary's Church on Monks Lane twice during the race.

Joshua Landmann of Wesham Road Runners won the Wheelchair Race in 27:54 and is aiming to qualify for the 2028 Paralympic Games.

Andrew Miles of Vale Royal AC won the men's race in 32:33, while Sarah Brown claimed the women's title in 36:35.

All finishers received a medal, goody bag and chipped time. The event supported children's cancer charity The Joshua Tree, backed by HSW Solicitors and Nantwich Running Club.



More Photo's at top of next page



Spring arrives in Acton

Daffodils are beginning to bloom across Acton, bringing a bright splash of colour and marking the start of meteorological Spring.

With March 1st signalling the seasonal change, the familiar yellow flowers have appeared along village lanes, in the church grounds and in gardens around the community. Recent mild weather has encouraged the early blooms, offering a welcome sign that winter is fading.

Residents out walking have been quick to notice the cheerful displays, which traditionally symbolise renewal and fresh beginnings. Their arrival adds to the charm of the village setting and hints at longer, lighter days ahead.

As temperatures gradually rise, more daffodils are expected to open in the coming weeks, creating an even more vibrant scene across Acton and reinforcing the sense that Spring has well and truly arrived.



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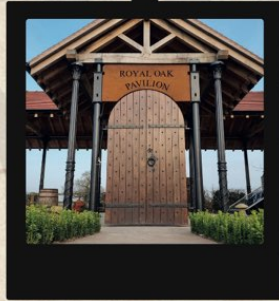


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Cross Country Pages

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

this month to

**Braden Tomlinson Henry Yarwood
James Major**

Special Birthdays

Special Birthday greetings go to **Lindsey Cochrane** (nee Brooks) who celebrates her 50th Birthday this month.

The Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group will resume on Thursday April 16th, at Glebe House, Acton, the home of Deana & Gerald Emerton. We will meet weekly until Thursday 21st May. The meetings begin at 10.30am.

Easter Anagram Quiz

AGES EGRETA

BOSTONS CRUSH

SALOPIAN SPY

AMANDY PLUS

DODY FIGARO

FOX RICI UNCI

ANDRA DUTY MUSHY

DYANE SWASHED

APP RESULTS

CITROEN SURER

Answers on Page 27

Carol Thayer

Ladies Lunch

Thursday 16th April
at

Farmers Arms, Ravensmoor
12:30 pm
£13.50
All Welcome

For further details contact:
Joyce Percival 01270 691315,
Heather (07887 760930), Isobel
(624521), or Ann (528273)

Mobile Library

Apr	May	Jun	Tuesdays	
21 st	12 th	2 nd	Arr	Dep
Badger Church Minshall			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
Apr	May	May	Thursdays	
16 th	7 th	28 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
Apr	Apr	May	Thursdays	
2 nd	23 rd	14 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

Archbishops Of Canterbury: Thomas Cranmer

Thomas Cranmer was born in Aslacton in Nottinghamshire in 1489 and was to become one of the most influential Archbishops of Canterbury, his influence over the English language and the church in evidence even today. He moved to Cambridge in 1503 and lodged with his mother's relatives at the Dolphin Inn in Jesus Lane, attending the Jesus College Grammar School and the Jesus College of Cambridge University. He married in the 1510's and graduated in 1512. His wife died in childbirth, and he moved, as a paying guest, into the College and teaching at Buckingham College [now Magdalene College]. From 1520 he belonged to a college group who met to discuss Martin Luther's Protestant teachings. They included William Tyndale, Robert Barnes and Thomas Bilney, all involved in the English Reformation in later years. From 1527 King Henry VIII was involved in the divorce of his wife, Catherine of Aragon, and remarriage to Anne Boleyn. In 1529 Cranmer was called to meet the King to discuss the divorce and the King asked him to concentrate on this task. He was made the King's Chaplain and produced a treatise in support of a legal divorce. He defended his arguments in Cambridge and Oxford Universities and was called to Rome to discuss the situation with the Pope. In 1532 he visited German Lutheran princes to further the religious situation in England, meeting his second wife Margaret and marrying, despite being a priest. The death of the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Wareham, enabled Cranmer to be raised to the position of Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. In that year he declared the King's first marriage to be void and the marriage to Anne Boleyn valid.

It was a turbulent few years for both the King and Cranmer, with the execution of

Anne in 1536, the divorce of Anne of Cleves in 1540 and the execution of Catherine Howard in 1542. However, Cranmer remained in the King's favour, despite some personal disagreements, until the King's death in 1547. When Edward VI succeeded his father, Cranmer came into his greatest period of influence. Thomas Seymour [Edward's uncle] and the Duke of Northumberland both sought to transform the Church of England, with Cranmer, into a fully Protestant church. In preparation Cranmer wrote a first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, followed by a second in 1552. He also produced '42 Articles', a set of formulas setting out the beliefs of the Church of England on various religious theories. In 1553 Edward VI was dying and forced Cranmer to transfer the succession from his sister, Mary, to his cousin Lady Jane Grey. Jane became the next Queen, but for only 9 days, when she was ousted by Queen Mary and executed. Mary charged Cranmer with treason and heresy, and he was removed from his role as the Archbishop of Canterbury, being replaced by the Catholic Cardinal Reginald Pole. Cranmer was moved to Oxford and went to trial in 1555. He was forced to witness the execution of two like-minded colleagues and friends [Ridley and Latimer] and coerced into renouncing his whole religious development. On March 21st, 1556, Cranmer was taken into Oxford to be publicly burned at the stake and to renounce the Protestant faith. However, at the last minute he stated his support for the creation of the Church of England and its Protestant faith. He famously held his right hand into the flames because it had signed the previous denials of his faith and his brave and dignified death deeply affected all those present.

Heather Pope



Iain Clarke, Assistant Principal Land Based and Sustainability at Reaseheath College invited Bishop Sam, Brother James Douglas and Canon Anne to the Lambing Weekend at Reaseheath on 7 March. Bishop Sam asked God's blessing on the lambs and on the shepherds tending to the ewes and lambs. Canon Anne also blessed the lambs and shepherds on 28 February.



A Little Gift for Mothering Sunday.

Mothering Sunday offered a moment to pause and appreciate the care, guidance and nurturing figures that shape our lives. This year the churches of Acton, Wettenhall and Church Minshull were delighted to share a little something extra with their congregations, thanks to the generous donation of Oxley's Funeral Services.

These small keepsakes of Forget-Me-Not keyrings were handed out at each of the Mothering Sunday services and were warmly received. It was a small object to hold big memories.

Easter Services 2026

The background of the page features a close-up photograph of several yellow tulips with green leaves and three colorful Easter eggs (yellow, pink, and green) resting on a light-colored wooden plank surface.

Palm Sunday 29th March
11am United at Church Minshull

Maundy Thursday 2nd April
6:30 pm Agape Communion and Meal
at St David's Wettenhall

Good Friday 3rd April
9:45 am Worleston
10:30 am Church Minshull
11:15 am Wettenhall
12:00 pm Acton
2:00 pm An hour at The Cross at Acton

Holy Saturday 4th April
11:00 am Churchyard Vigil at Acton

Easter Sunday 5th April
9:30 am Communion at Worleston
11:00 am Communion at Acton
11:00 am Communion at Church Minshull
11:00 am Communion at Wettenhall

St Oswald's Church, Worleston

Sidespersons		Coffee	
5 th Apr	Ann Fletton	Sarah Parker	
12 th Apr	Alison Stokes	Pam Haigh	
26 th Apr	Marilyn Booth	Diane Darlington	
Flowers		Cleaning	
5 th Apr	Marilyn Booth	Please see note below	
12 th Apr	Jill Alexander		
26 th Apr	Isobel Burnley		

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From the Registers

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Teresa Schofield aged 71** who died on 9th February 2026. Her funeral took place at St Oswald's, Worleston on 20th February followed by a private cremation.

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!



Coffee and Cake

Saturday 4th April 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.



Worleston WI

Our March Meeting

Members enjoyed a fantastic talk given by June Wilkinson who gave a most interesting and informative talk on “The Cow to the Cone”. She talked of the family history of ice cream at her Farm at Great Budworth which was started by her with her daughter. From those initial small beginnings it has become the successful business it is today with many visitors calling to choose an ice-cream. Whilst June is still responsible for making all the hand crafted traditional ice cream, many of the family are now involved and the ice cream is made from the milk that their cows produce as it is still a working farm. June had brought several unusual samples with her for members to try and these were devoured with relish. The apple and cinnamon, liquorice and fruits of the forest went down really well - to put it mildly. Members enjoyed the talk (and samples so much) they are planning a visit in the summer not only to see the pretty village of Great Budworth but to also sample more ice cream as well as going to see many of the farm animals on site. With tea and cakes also available we won't be short of members wishing to attend.

After the talk, our business meeting was concluded and as it was the end of our WI Year the results were announced for the winners of our competition; This was based on items produced over the year which were covered by our chosen words for the year which were “Jane Austen.”

This was won by Barbara Parkinson with Annita Grunner coming second and Chris Hulme third. Pictured below is the winner Barbara receiving the cup from the President Annita



New members are always welcome. We are a very friendly and easy going group who aim to have a fun evening and you can try us for free to see if you agree! We meet on the second Wednesday of every month at Acton Parish Church Hall from 7.15 to 9.00pm. and often car share is available. Further details contact Secretary Lyn Whitmore 07778503191 or President Annita Gunner 07751257937. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th April 2026



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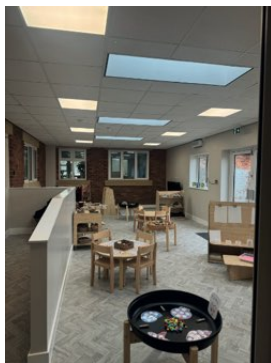
Calveley School

March has been another busy month at Calveley, filled with creativity, confidence-building and plenty of reasons to smile.

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day. The children arrived in an array of brilliant costumes and loved chatting about their favourite books, characters and stories. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm for reading shine through.

Sycamore Class Assembly was another highlight. The children proudly showcased work from across the academic year, sharing their learning through music, dance and confident performances. Their hard work and teamwork were clear for all to see. We also enjoyed an energetic and uplifting Rock Kidz workshop, which focused on self-esteem, positivity and team building. The children threw themselves into the singing, dancing and dressing up, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved.

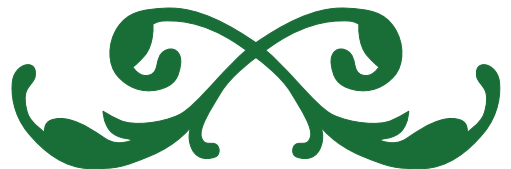
Finally, it has been wonderful to see our new nursery room now open and in use. We are extremely grateful for this additional space, which is already making a positive difference for our youngest children and supporting their learning and play.





Easter Anagram Answers

- Easter eggs
- Hot cross buns
- Passion play
- Palm Sunday
- Good Friday
- Crucifixion
- Maundy Thursday
- Ash Wednesday





Parent Governor Vacancy

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- Provide strategic oversight

Why become a governor?

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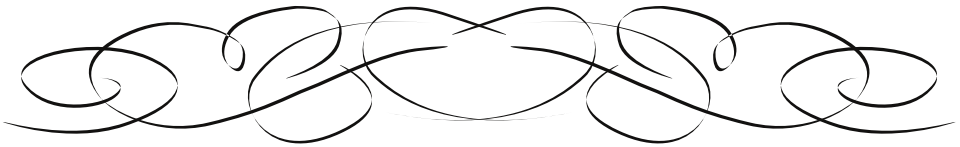
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