

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



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

Dear Friends



No such thing as 'Ordinary'

Have you ever noticed that all the major festivals and seasons of the church fall in around 6 months of the year? Starting with Advent in early December, we have Christmas, Candlemas, Lent, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, and Trinity in quick succession, and then a gap until we mark All Saints' Day in early November and Christ the King at the end of November, before going round again. The Church calls that gap between Trinity and All Saints 'Ordinary Time'. Look more closely, and we find that it is anything but 'ordinary'. The summer and early autumn months are scattered with celebrations, religious and secular, most notably Harvest. As we look to June and into the summer, I'm aware that there are a number of notable celebrations coming up in my own life. A 60th birthday in early June, the anniversary of my ordination as Deacon on 25 June and then in early July, the 25th anniversary of my ordination as Priest. There will be celebrations of weddings and baptisms across the parishes in the summer months. You may well have your own personal celebrations of birthdays, wedding anniversaries, exam celebrations etc etc. Then I think of the celebrations of rural life that happen at Agricultural Shows large and small, Royal Cheshire Show, Darnhall Show and Nantwich Show. The church may call the season between Trinity Sunday and All Saints' 'ordinary', but there is no such thing. There are always celebrations, large and small to encourage us and break the rhythm of 'ordinary' life. That is even more true when we put God into the picture. As a colleague reminded me recently, our God is a great big God. He is more than capable of working in our lives and the lives of others, whether or not we acknowledge him. With God in control, there is no such thing as 'ordinary'. Whatever you are celebrating in the coming months, or even if life is just 'ordinary', God can be at work when we acknowledge him and welcome him into our lives, even when it feels as if life is very 'ordinary' indeed.

Yours in the God who surprises, whatever the time of year,

Canon Anne

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Sunday Services

Acton

- 7th Jun 11:00 am Baptism
- 14th Jun 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 21st Jun 10:00 am Messy Church
- 28th Jun 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 5th Jul 11:00 am Communion

Church Minshull

- 7th Jun 11:00 am Service of the Word
- 14th Jun 11:00 am Cafe Church
- 21st Jun 11:00 am Communion
- 28th Jun 11:00 am Messy Church
- 5th Jul 11:00 am Service of the Word

Worleston

- 7th Jun No Service
- 14th Jun 9:30 am Communion
- 21st Jun No Service
- 28th Jun 9:30 am Morning Prayer
- 5th Jul No Service

Wettenhall

- 7th Jun 11:00 am Morning Prayer
- 14th Jun 11:00 am Communion
- 21st Jun 11:00 am All Age
- 28th Jun 6:30 pm Informal Communion
- 5th Jul 11:00 am Morning Prayer

St David's Church Wettenhall		
Sidespersons		Cleaning and Flowers
7 th Jun	Mrs A Brooks	Mrs M Drinkall and Mrs B Brockbank
14 th Jun	Mrs M Sherry	
21 st Jun	Brownies	Mrs A Howard and family
28 th Jun	Informal	
5 th Jul	Mr G Tucker	Mrs M Sherry

Find us on the A Church Near You website

Brownies

On Wednesday 22nd April, our Brownie pack enjoyed a fun and creative evening exploring fruit in a whole new way. The girls used a variety of different fruits to design and make their own imaginative animal creations, showing great creativity.

As well as crafting their fruity animals, the girls had the opportunity to taste a range of fruits. For some, this was a chance to try something new and it was wonderful to see them being adventurous and open to new flavours.

It was a fantastic session filled with creativity, laughter, and discovery. Well done to all the girls for their enthusiasm and brilliant ideas!

See Photos on Page 6

Thank You

Thank you to **Sue Entwistle** for the lovely selection of home made cards kindly donated to St. David's. We are very grateful and appreciate your beautiful handiwork.

Thank you also to **Mark and Steven Latham and their families** for the wonderful care of the churchyard. The favourable comments from visitors and regulars are testament to your hard work and dedication. **We are very grateful to you all.**



Coffee and Cake

The next meetings will be on
June 4th and July 2nd
from 10-12 noon in Church.
Everyone is very welcome to pop in for as little or as long as they wish.



Last Supper Candlestick Appeal



In January, the families of Flight Lieutenant James Edward Downey and Flight Lieutenant John Keith Roberts kindly donated a 'Last Supper' candlestick to St David's Church on the 50th anniversary of their deaths in a plane crash over Wettenhall.

We would like to purchase a second 'Last Supper' candlestick so that we can have a pair on the altar. The total cost is a little over £100 and £50 seed funding has already been donated. If you would like to make donations, these can be paid to St David's Church.

50 years of Brownies

Ann Hignett has been recognised for an incredible 50 years of working with the Brownies and Guides at Darnhall Village Hall. She has been awarded a beautiful brooch for her work with the 1st. Darnhall Brownies, a group that she set up in 1976! Since that time Ann has enjoyed activities with the Brownies such as games, crafts, and community involvement activities. These have included events such as attending and fund raising at The Cheshire Show and Darnhall Show, picnics and forest walks in Darnhall and its localities, camping at Petty Pool and making decorations to sell at the Darnhall Christmas Fayre. She is the mainstay of the group, leading and encouraging the other Brownie leaders, involving all the Brownies in the activities and helping everyone to have a good time alongside learning respect and care for other people. In April 2026 her magnificent contribution to local Brownies was recognised by the Cheshire wide organisation - so well deserved. Thank you, Ann, for your dedication to the local Brownies over half a century. Few leaders across the whole country could have such an amazing record as you do. Well done from all your friends at St. David's and Darnhall Village Hall.

The photos show Ann's brooch and her delight to receive this award.



Darnhall and Wettenhall WI

Darnhall and Wettenhall W.I Meeting April 2026

The April meeting for our W.I. had Glenys Harrison as the speaker. Her topic was 'Women on the Homefront', celebrating the huge contribution that women have made during the two World Wars of the 20th Century. We often think that women were housewives and mothers in the first half of the last century, only coming into the workforce in more recent years. Yet in World War II they became land girls, farming while the men were away in the forces. Their jobs covered all the farming duties of the time, raising animals for meat, growing vegetables, managing the grasslands, woodland and waterways. If not out in the fields they may have had roles in caring for displaced families or child refugees who had been transferred out of the dangerous cities to the quieter countryside. When families arrived from the cities they had often lived in poor circumstances and had lice or other infections. Women cared for terribly war injured service people and civilians in hospitals and large houses. In the towns and cities, they worked in industry, replacing men in various factories and manufacturing munitions for the war effort. These roles on the land and in factories were dangerous and heavy jobs, for which they had received no preparation in schools or earlier training. The brave pilots conducting bombing raids over Europe have been rightly recognised, but their supplies and new aircraft were all flown and delivered by female pilots, often acting as their own engineer and navigation support. Fortunately, it was not all hard work, with dancehalls, servicemen's clubs and theatres or cinema all providing welcome relief from the war and its fears. Fake stocking seams were drawn on legs with pencils and lipstick was still manufactured to keep up everyone's spirits! It's good to know how men and women pulled together for the war effort, and good to know that the WI is here to tell us about it.

Next meeting Tuesday 2nd June 7.00pm and the topic is 'A Taste of Cheese', at Darnhall Village Hall.

Brownies Photos (see text on page 4)



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Eco Church

We were blown away in our Green Café Worship - which is always different! We celebrated the giving of the Holy Spirit in wind and fire. We made candles to take away to inspire our prayer throughout May. We made and flew kites to enjoy the power of the wind and remember that worship is joyful and active. All that and Wettenhall's famous cakes too!

And now for something completely different.....

On Saturday, 21st June at 11am there is a Green Workshop. We, the people of St David's Church have decided to make one corner of our land more hospitable to animals, amphibians, insects and invertebrates. We now have a pond, which is still under construction. Part of this area is damper than other parts. We hope to finish building our pond, create some insect and bee-friendly planting and create a bug hotel. Chris will bring his five drills and many tools for us to create our solitary bee refuges. Everyone is welcome to Green Café - with a difference! We are doing this on a Saturday morning when we can have more time to create a wildlife-friendly area to our churchyard. The area is behind the church, quiet and peaceful. Come from 10am-12.30pm, ready to make, plant and dig (please wear suitable clothes and shoes to work in as well as gardening gloves), to make the land God has given us full of all his



creatures in a safe and healthy habitat. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow in heaven above and earth below, one God, three persons we adore, to him be praise for evermore."

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



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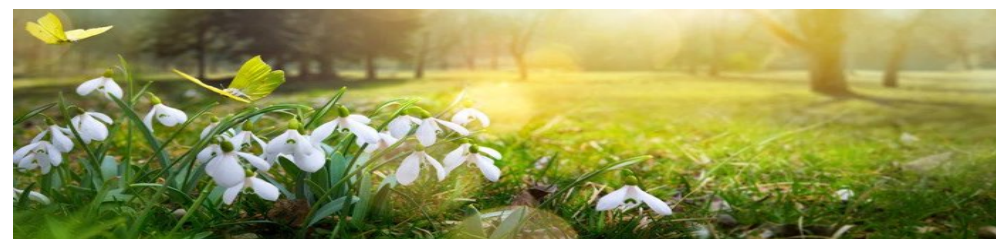
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St Mary's Church, Acton Sidespersons	
7 th Jun	Sandra and Mike Houlston
14 th Jun	Chris and Christine Barratt
21 st Jun	Tracey and Peter Foster
28 th Jun	Susan and Charles Hull
5 th Jul	Lesley and Peter Latronico
Visit: www.stmarysacton.org	

Tea at the Tower Guided Walks

The next walks are:

There is no walk in June. Next walk 5th July.

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 12th June at 7:30pm The Horse Whisperer – PG13 – 1998
starring Robert Redford, Kirsten Scott Thomas

From the Registers

Baptisms

3rd May 2026

Albie William Charles McAuley

Sophie Helen McAuley

Funerals

1st May 2026 **Mary Constance McMath**
aged 86

Condolences are expressed to family and friends following their sad loss.

Dorfold Autumn Gala

We will be holding a special fundraising lunch at Dorfold Hall at the beginning of Autumn, Thursday 24th September. Tickets will be £50.00 for a three course lunch and a glass of wine, and can be booked with Joyce Percival 07703292900



Acton Church

10 Year Wedding Anniversary Renewal of Vows & Thanksgiving for Baby
18th April 2026



Kirsty & Daniel Wilkinson-Shaw and Baby Harley Rose

Acton and Reaseheath WI

Our April meeting promised to be rather interesting, however, the speaker didn't turn up! We waited a while but then decided to have an early cup of tea and a discussion about possible speakers and items for next year.

The May meeting was where we discussed the WI resolutions. Every year National WI put forward various resolutions that local members vote on. The ones with the most votes then go forward either to be actioned at a local or national level. This year's resolutions were 'Action on Women's homelessness', which will be lobbied in parliament and 'Accessible Public Toilet Facilities' which will be put to local councillors for future improvement.

After we had discussed the resolutions, one of our members, Maggie Harper, gave a presentation telling us about her 20 years living in the Isle of Man. She started with a map showing where it is in the Irish Sea, (as people often confuse it with the Isle of Wight which is off the south coast of England.) Maggie told us about the history, the culture, and the beauty of the Isle. It has been invaded many times and has in the past belonged to Scotland and Norway but now is a Crown Dependency of the UK (The same as Guernsey and Jersey). It can make its own laws and tax rules. One of its laws was passed in 1881 to give women the vote - the first place in the world to do so and 37 years before Britain got round to it! She then took us on a photographic tour of the island showing the tourist spots such as the Laxey Wheel, the mill where Manx tartan is made, the horse drawn trams (opened in the 19th Century and still going) in Douglas and the electric and steam railways and of course pictures of the TT races. It was very interesting, and we thought Maggie was a good advocate for the Isle of Man.

Next month's meeting will be a talk about Batik fabric dyeing and will be on June 8th at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.

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Cross Country Pages

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

this month to

April Hitchen	Emily Powell
Arabella Ellwood	Emma Holman
Archie Lloyd	Grayson Donnellan
Ava Chapman	Isabelle Edwards
Daniel Mason	Sophie Burrows
Edward Whalley	Thomas Powell
Ella Edwards	Warren Nixon

Special Birthdays

We send congratulations and love from all the parishes to our vicar, **The Rev Canon Anne Lawson** who will celebrate her 60th birthday on 2nd June. **Pauline Ash** had a lovely day celebrating her 100th birthday with family and friends. Pauline's son, David, would like to express his thanks for the card sent from Acton Church. The card meant a great deal to Pauline.



Congratulations

We send hearty congratulations to Kath and Mike Alexander who celebrated their **DIAMOND** wedding anniversary on Thursday May 7th. Congratulation and love too from all your friends in the Cross Country parishes. Congratulations also to **Tom and Freda Orme** married 78 years on May 15th. A wonderful achievement!

Ladies Lunch

Thursday 18th June
at
Canalside Garden Centre
Wrenbury
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

Jun	Jun	Jul	Tuesdays	
2 nd	23 rd	14 th	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				
Jun	Jul	Jul	Thursdays	
18 th	9 th	30 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
Jun	Jun	Jul	Thursdays	
4 th	25 th	16 th	Arr	Dep
Farmers Arms			10:00	10:15
Ravensmoor				
Goodwill Hall Fadditley			10:30	10:50
Greenfields Farm			11:05	11:20
Gradeley Green				

Archbishops Of Canterbury: Reginald Pole

Last Catholic Archbishop Reginald Pole [May 1500-November 1558] was born into a wealthy and well-connected family based at Stourton Castle in Staffordshire. His father was Richard Pole and his mother Margaret, the Countess of Salisbury. Through his maternal grandparents he was closely related to Edward IV and Richard III, King Henry VIII was his second cousin. He was educated at Magdalen College in Oxford in 1512, partly financed by Henry VIII. On graduation in 1518 Henry made him Dean of Wimbourne Minster, followed by Dean of Exeter in 1527. He was not an ordained priest, but had senior church positions in Salisbury, Yetminster and York. He studied at Padua University, meeting many influential priests who were to influence his future. In 1529 he was sent to Paris to discuss the grounds for annulment of the King's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. He was offered the role of Archbishop of York if he would support the annulment and re-marriage to Anne Boleyn but refused to support these actions and remained in Europe. In 1532 he returned to England as the vicar of Piddletown in Dorset. Meanwhile the Imperial Ambassador to England suggested that Pole should marry Henry and Catherine's daughter, Princess Mary, to consolidate his position and influence. By 1536 Henry was desperate to divorce Anne and Pole was questioned by Thomas Cromwell and other statesmen on behalf of the King. In reply he submitted his treatise of the religious and moral issues regarding both the King's marriage to Catherine, his brother's widow, and the divorce and re-marriage to Anne. His relationship with the King was over. Later that year he was made a Cardinal by Pope Paul III and was tasked with arranging a Pilgrimage of Grace in England to protest that the King remain a Catholic and not progress further to the Protestant faith.

Despite assassination attempts Pole was sent, by the Pope, back to the Emperor of France and safety. These actions led to the King persecuting Pole's family, who were arrested, had their property seized, and the family destroyed. Sir Geoffrey Pole, Lady Salisbury, Henry Pole and Henry Courtney were all arrested and charged with treason. All, apart from Sir Geoffrey, were eventually executed. Pope Paul III died in 1549, and, at the conclave for his replacement, Reginald Pole received 26 out of the 28 votes required to appoint him as the next Pope. It was not until Queen Mary I came to the Throne in 1554 that Pole was able to return to England. He intended to assist in bringing the Church back to its Catholic foundations. In 1555 the Protestant Thomas Cranmer was removed from his role as the Archbishop of Canterbury. Pole was finally ordained as a priest on 20th March 1556 and became the Archbishop of Canterbury two days later. He was also made Chancellor of both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. However, at this time Mary I [later known as Bloody Mary] started to burn Protestants for heresy and 280 men and women were executed in this way. These executions led to the population turning against the Queen and her faith. The archbishop was recalled to Pope Paul IV to discuss the situation, but Queen Mary refused permission for the visit to Rome. The executions and protests continued until Mary's death in 1558. We will never know how Reginald Pole would have conducted himself when Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne, because, in the midst of a flu epidemic, he died just 12 hours after Queen Mary. The end of a brief, but dramatic, period as Archbishop of Canterbury.

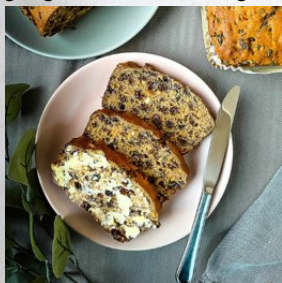
Heather Pope

Recipe

Tea Loaf

Ingredients

- 170 g sultanas
- 170 g raisins
- 1 orange – zested
- 300 ml strong hot tea.
- 2 Eggs
- 250g Self-raising Flour
- 200g Light Soft Brown Sugar



Method

- ☞ Mix the first four ingredients together and leave for 6 hours or overnight.
- ☞ Heat the oven to 180C (160C fan oven) Gas Mark 4.
- ☞ Grease and line a 2 lb loaf tin. Add 2 Beaten eggs, 250g self-raising flour and 200g light soft brown sugar to the soaked fruit. Combine well.
- ☞ Then place in the lined tin and put into the centre of the oven for one and a half hours or until firm. Cool in the tin for 15 minutes, turn out and wrap, store up to 5 days. Enjoy
- ☞ Practice and taste then bring your entry to Nantwich Show.

Enjoy

There is time this month to practice this easy Tea Loaf recipe, which is one of the competitions in the Home section of the Nantwich Show. The Show will be held at Reaseheath College on 29 July 2026. For more ideas on what you can enter please look at the Nantwich Show, Home Produce and Arts and Craft sections on their website.

25th Anniversary of our Priest

A special UNITED service for our Cross Country parishes will be held on Sunday July 12th at 11am at St Oswald's.

This will be to celebrate Canon Anne's 25th anniversary of being ordained as a priest. It will be a joyful occasion, so do join us.

National Garden Scheme Open Garden

Milford House Farm CW7 4DN Saturday 11th July

The garden at Milford House Farm will be open to raise funds for the National Garden Scheme health related charities from 11am to 5.00pm admission £6 for adults, free for under 16's. Parking at St.David's Church, where there will also be refreshments on sale, alongside stalls offering jewellery and other items. Funds will also be raised to support the work of the church. We will be delighted to see you [and your dog] at the garden. Full details online or in the 'Garden Visitors Handbook'.



Safe for all

VISITS WITH HIS DISCIPLES

Following on from HIS Resurrection, Jesus greeted HIS followers but unbeknownst to them. (Blind in one eye; couldn't see out the other?!). Many of us recall that from the Bible. We remember in the aftermath of HIS visit how HIS disciples reacted.

"...only after Jesus broke bread with them; ...then their eyes were opened".

("More wine, Vicar"? none of that carry on!).

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

During this season of spring we too should remember how vital forgiveness and fairness is to our overall well-being. As part of a loving community, it's essential we take time to look after ourselves, our families & each other (but not too scrutinising; it's SAFEGUARDING after all!). Helping and aiding each other reinvigorates and energises ourselves. Finally, recalling the love, care and support St Joseph provided to his wife, Mary & Son, Jesus; let us wish each other continued support and encouragement in keeping our communities safe and well

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! (although St Joseph is not only Patron Saint of fathers but virgins, expectant mothers and workers as well as others; quite the father; quite the saint!) Sunday, June 21st!

Best wishes,

Tom Doyle

Lead Safeguarding Officer

Cross Country Parishes

Confirmation

A Confirmation Service with Bishop Sam will take place at 11.00 am on Sunday 6 December 2026

If you have not been Confirmed and would like to think more about being Confirmed, please contact Canon Anne

(countryvicar@outlook.com or 01270 628864).

A 6 week course looking at the Christian faith will be held in the autumn for anyone interested in Confirmation or in refreshing their understanding of the Christian faith.

If you have already been Confirmed but have recently come back to faith it is possible to renew your Baptism Vows as a way of publicly re-affirming your commitment to Christ. Adults who have not been Baptised and would like be Baptised are normally baptised and Confirmed at the same service.

Participating in the course does not commit you to being Confirmed, although you will need to do the course if you wish to be Confirmed, Baptised or renew your Baptism Vows.

St Oswald's Church, Worleston	
Sidespersons	Coffee
14 th Jun Sue Adams	Pam Haigh
28 th Jun Isobel Burnley	Sarah Parker
Flowers	Cleaning
14 th Jun Lynn Ablard	Please see note below
28 th Jun Felicity Adams	
Website currently unavailable	

Condolences

We were very sorry to hear of the death of **Pat Stalker** on March 19th. She was 92 years old. Her contribution to the community over many years was considerable. She served as a JP in the Crewe courts, She was a governor at Worleston school including a spell as Chair of Governors. She was an enthusiastic member of Worleston WI and at various times served as Secretary and President. She worked hard for various churches in the neighbourhood. She and her husband Barry cut the grass in St Oswald's churchyard - quite an undertaking. She served on the PCC at St Oswald's, and was Deanery Synod Secretary. For a time, she was a Steward at Poole chapel. After Barry's death she moved to Nantwich, and later became Church Warden at Nantwich parish church. However, her friends and acquaintances will remember her most for her friendly

welcome to all the places and groups of which she had become a part. Marilyn Booth remembers the day that she and David moved into Worleston. The removal men were still busy and Pat appeared from the house next door with a bottle of wine for the newcomers and a friendly welcome. We send our condolences to her family and friends while we give thanks for a long life of service to those around her.



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 6th June 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

News from Worleston WI for April 2026 and events for May 2026

Worleston WI members enjoyed a splendid evening out this month, gathering for a thoroughly satisfying carvery at The Bickerton Poacher. Friends and partners joined in, making the most of an extensive and tempting menu. Those with any appetite left, after the main course, bravely ventured into the dessert selection—though only the truly committed managed a second round!

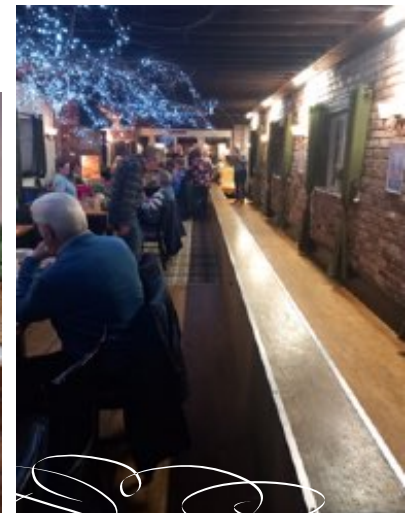


In the interests of “balance” (and perhaps



redemption), the meal was followed by a fiercely contested skittles match. Spirits were high, competition was close, and considerable energy was expended in pursuit of glory. After much valiant effort, David Booth claimed victory - and received his prize voucher - with Jeanne Soddy a very close runner-up.

Pictured below one of David's rivals Brian Smith lining up for the final decisive, match, under the watchful eye of Jeanne Soddy, whilst Carol Hocknell ensured that no rules—however flexible—were being bent.



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Calveley School

It has been a wonderfully busy month across Calveley Primary Academy, with every class throwing themselves into learning, creativity and new experiences. Willow Class had an exciting adventure on their trip to Imagine That! in Liverpool, where the children explored hands-on science, art and imaginative play. They moved from one activity to the next with huge enthusiasm, and it was lovely to see their curiosity shining through.

Beech Class have continued their work on the Royal Family in History, learning about key figures and how the monarchy has changed over time. In Maths, they have been focusing on measuring length and height, practising accurate ruler skills and comparing different objects around the classroom.

Sycamore Class have been busy with their modroc art projects, developing sculpting techniques and bringing some very creative ideas to life. Their Maths lessons have centred on 3D shapes and coordinates, helping them build confidence with grids and spatial reasoning. In Geography, they have been exploring capital cities and strengthening their understanding of the wider world.

Oak Class are in their final stages of preparation for the Year 6 SATs, showing real determination and maturity as they work through their revision. Alongside this, they have been studying significant historical figures, creating thoughtful profiles on Adolf Hitler and Winston Churchill and discussing the impact of their leadership during major world events.



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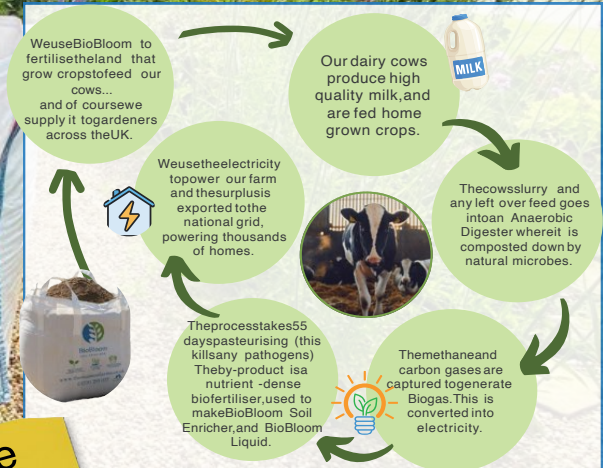
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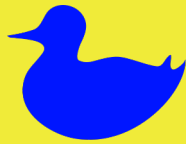
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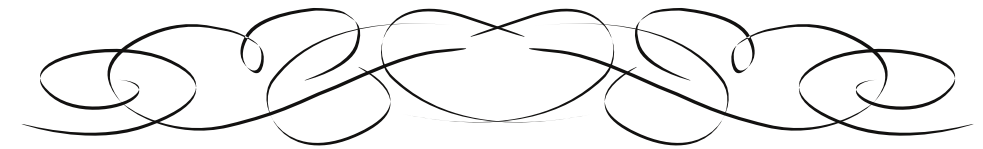
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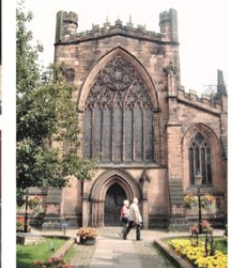
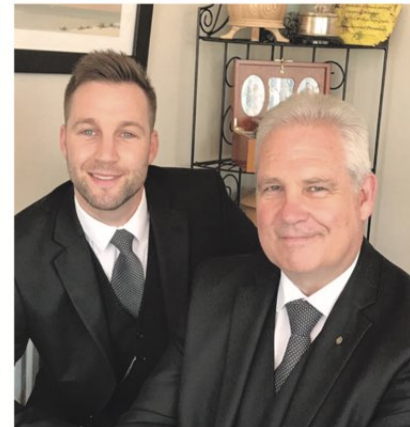
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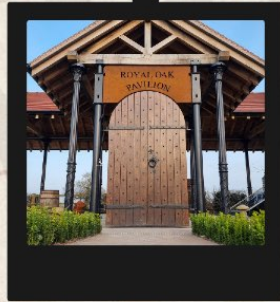
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