

The Benefice of St Oswald's, St John's, and Holy Trinity



Better together

Dear friends

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest... shall not cease." The turning of summer to autumn reminds us that change is part of God's good design. Leaves shift colour, evenings draw in, and we begin a new season together—not just on the calendar, but as a church family.

This autumn we're embracing that change with our Season of Invitation. Over the coming weeks we'll be hosting special guest services designed especially for newcomers and for those who haven't been in a while. We're opening our doors wide to friends old and new—and that includes you and the people you care about. Here's how you can join in:

- Pray for one or two people by name to join us.
- Invite someone to a guest service—"Come and see"
- Welcome warmly on the day: a smile and coffee!

Alongside our guest services, we're launching a few new activities for the season ahead—spaces to grow in faith and friendship. Look out for: short course exploring the basics of Christian faith, opportunities to serve in our hospitality and children's teams, and our Harvest celebrations. Details will be on the noticeboard, website, and weekly pew sheet.

Change can feel unsettling, but it can also be a gift. Scripture reminds us that God is always doing new and amazing things, so let's step into this season with hopeful expectation.

We hope to see you soon

With every blessing,

Rev Janine



Regular Services

Sunday

St Oswald's, Malpas

8:00am BCP Holy Communion
11:00am Parish Communion
5:00pm Evening Prayer

St John's, Threapwood

9:30am Parish Communion
(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

Holy Trinity, Bickerton

9:30am Parish Communion

Wednesday (St Oswald's)

10:00am BCP Holy Communion

Prospect House

First Tuesday of the month

Craddock Court

First Wednesday of the month

Key contacts

Rector: Rev Janine

Rev.janinearnott@outlook.com

Tel: 01948 860922

St Oswald's and St John's

Churchwardens: Vicky and Eric

malpaschurchwarden@gmail.com

Tel: 07900813368

Verger: Ann Welby

annwelby@live.co.uk

Tel: 01948861475

Safeguarding lead: Rev Janine

St John's contact: Jonathan Clark

01948770205

Holy Trinity contacts

Val and Steph

val.capewell@btinternet.com



News from the pews



A wonderful wedding season!

This summer was all about special life events and especially weddings. Holy Trinity Bickerton Flower Festival was themed around wedding anniversaries with flower displays featuring those special milestone moments such as paper, leather, and wood! There was a display of wedding dresses from people married in the local area along with a war time wedding dress made from a parachute! Congratulations to Libby and Rodney who won our Mr & Mrs competition.



This was a fabulous event that raised over £2000 for church funds. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a special weekend.



Weddings in the benefice

Our wedding season continued during August with some very special couples. Congratulations to Laura and Rob, Kate and Paul, and Alison and Noel.



Credits to Megan Maxwell Photography : Friends of Kate and Paul : Joanna Eardley



Christenings

August saw more special life events and we celebrated the Christening of Jax. Welcome to the church, Jax!

For more information about christenings contact Rev Janine



News from the pews: Regular events



Gardening and Church Grounds Group

Our new group is committed to

- Working towards a Bronze Award from A Rocha
- Working with God's Acre to ensure our work cares for our environment

If you have an interest in gardening or groundwork, or maybe you just love being outside, why not contact Rev Janine to see how you can help maintain our wonderful grounds.



Welcome cafe

Did you know we have a community welcome café every Wednesday morning after our morning service? We gather from around 10:45am for coffee, a chat, and friendship. You don't have to come to our service or even be a member of our church. This is a free café open to the community. Why not pop in a say hello!



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Prayer Meeting



Join us to pray for our world, our communities, and for each other.

Holy Trinity, Bickerton St Oswald's, Malpas

Thursdays at 2:00pm

August 7th
September 4th
October 2nd
November 6th
December 4th

Tuesdays at 3:00pm

August 12th
September 9th
October 14th
November 11th
December 9th

For more information see Janice Birch
birch.janice4@gmail.com

For more information see Rev Janine
rev.janine.arnott@outlook.com

Spotlight on...Evening Prayer

Not all our services take place on a Sunday morning. Evening prayer is a short but beautiful service of quiet reflection and prayer at the end of the day. From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to worship and pray together. Today, that pattern of regular prayer throughout the day makes up the Daily Office, and this includes Evening Prayer.

Why not join us at 5:00pm each Sunday at St Oswald's Church for this traditional service at the end of the day.



Coming up in the Benefice

Saturday 20th September

St Oswald's Church between 10:00am - 2:00pm

Call into St Oswald's Church, a Grade 1 listed church building at the heart of Malpas village. See historical artefacts and archives on display along with some never before see artefacts unearthed during the wall repair excavation. There's also a café, table top sales, and a chance to meet the team and find out more about who we are and what we do at St Oswald's.



Back to church Sunday: 21st September

Maybe you have....

- Never been to our church
- Drifted away for a while
- Have recently moved to the area
- Are curious about church but not sure what to expect



Whoever you are and whatever your story, you are welcome at any or all of our churches at any time. But, on Sunday 21st we offer a special invitation to join us - a bit like a taster session! Come and say 'hello', join a service, grab a coffee afterwards, find out what and who we are. Everyone welcome.

Holy Trinity Church, Bickerton at 9:30am
St John's Church, Threapwood at 9:30am
St Oswald's Church, Malpas at 11:00am

Harvest Festival Family Service



28th September

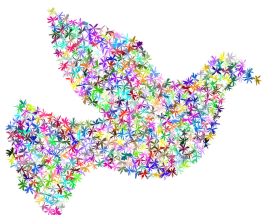
Holy Trinity 11:00am followed by a Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall. Lunch is £12.50 per head. Contact Val or Steph for details.

St John's 6:00pm followed by a Harvest Supper in church

5th October

St Oswald's 11:00am followed by a Bring and Share lunch in church

Confirmations 2026



Confirmation is an opportunity to confirm for yourself the promises made on your behalf by your parents and godparents at your baptism. Confirmation preparation classes will begin early next year. If you would like to explore confirmation, please see Rev Janine



Coming up in the Benefice

Toddler groups

Marie Lumb has done a wonderful job of running toddler groups and supporting parents in Malpas for many years, and more recently in Bickerton. Marie now needs to step back and follow a different path. We don't want to see the toddler groups close so we are delighted to announce that we will be taking over and re-launching those groups in September this year.

Malpas group will run on a Wednesday morning 9:00am
Bickerton will run on a Thursday morning 9:30am

See our Facebook page and websites for start dates and more information.



Stay and play sessions
for pre-school
children, parents and
carers
Weekly during term time

Malpas Young Person's Centre Wednesday 9-11:00am	Bickerton Village Hall Thursday 9:30-11:00am
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- Toys, games, craft
- Stories and songs
- £4 per session PAYG
- Refreshments



Looking further ahead ..and there is music in the air!

An Autumn Concert with the Border Singers

The Border Singers will be joining us at St Oswald's Church on the 15th November for their Autumn Concert. This promises to be a fantastic evening so please do 'watch this space' for more details nearer the time



Young and emerging musicians

Are you under 30 years old? Have no previous paid professional experience as a musician? Looking for opportunities to build your confidence in public performing? St Oswald's Church is a fantastic venue and is committed to supporting local young and emerging musicians. To discuss opportunities contact Vicky at malpaschurchwarden@gmail.com



**St. Oswald's
Voices**



St. Oswald's Voices is a group of people who love to sing and support worship at St Oswald's Church.

Love to sing? Could you be part of a Christmas Choir at St Oswald's?
No regular commitment, just the opportunity to join with people who love to sing during this special season.
Contact Vicky for information



The Christmas Shoebox appeal

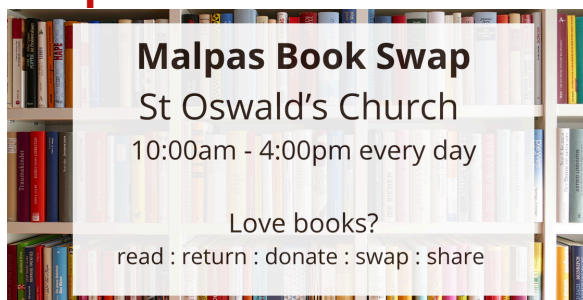
We will be running our Shoebox appeal again this year. The collection date will be the second week in November so please keep an eye out for notices during October. This is a fantastic initiative that helps change the lives of children across the world.

For more details contact Ann on 07444824521



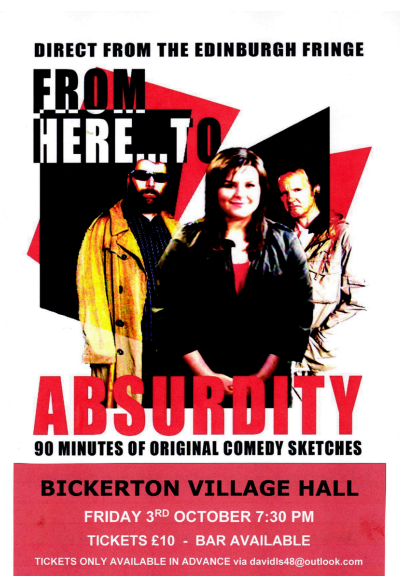
News from the community

Malpas news



Malpas Book Swap is located in St Oswald's Church and is open every day between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Take, swap, share, or leave a book. Or, why not stay a while in the beautiful building and read your book. This is a community project open to everyone in Malpas

Bickerton news



News from schools

There are two primary schools in our benefice: Malpas Alport Primary School and Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School. Both schools have open days for 2026 intake coming up. See blow for details.



News from Chester Diocese



St Oswald's, St John's, and Holy Trinity Churches make up one benefice (a group of churches). We are part of the Church of England. Locally, we are part of Chester Diocese - an area stretching from Stockport to Liverpool, and Warrington to Malpas. The diocese is overseen by our Diocesan Bishop - Bishop Mark, and two suffragan Bishops - Bishop Julie and Bishop Sam. I'm often asked 'what do the diocese do?' and my answer is 'a lot!' From training clergy and lay readers, to offering free events, advice and support to churchwardens, treasurers and safeguarding officers, safeguarding checks, clergy appointments, managing buildings, managing CofE schools...and much, much more. Chester Diocese has a new website. Why not take a look and see for yourself what your diocese is doing for local parishes and local people.

<https://www.chesterdiocese.org/>



<https://www.malpasthreapwoodbickerton.org.uk>