

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



A journey through Lent

Dear friends,

Lent has a quiet way of arriving each year. The days begin to stretch a little longer, there is the faintest hint of spring in the air, and we are invited – once again – to slow down and pay attention.

This year across our churches we are journeying through the Preparing the Way course as part of our wider commitment to becoming more intentionally “Jesus-shaped” people. Lent, at its heart, is about preparation. Not in a frantic or pressured sense, but in the way a field is prepared before sowing, or a path is cleared before a walk. It is about making space.

In the Gospels, John the Baptist speaks of “preparing the way of the Lord.” He calls people not simply to belief, but to readiness – readiness of heart, readiness for change, readiness to recognise what God might be doing among them. That call still speaks to us. Preparation can take many forms. For some, it may be giving something up. For others, taking something up: prayer, generosity, forgiveness, courage. Lent is not meant to be gloomy. It is honest, yes – but it is also hopeful. It reminds us that growth takes time and that God is always at work beneath the surface.

As we move towards Easter together, my prayer is that this season will not feel like an obligation but an invitation: an invitation to pause, to reflect, and to allow God to shape us afresh.

Whether you join us on Sundays, midweek, or simply follow along quietly at home, you are warmly invited to walk this road with us. Easter joy is always deeper when we have taken time to prepare the way.

With every blessing,

Rev Janine



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 and Craddock Court (check times)

Key contacts

Rector: Rev Janine

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St Oswald's and St John's

Churchwardens: Vicky and Eric

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Safeguarding lead: Rev Janine

St John's contact: Jonathan Clark

01948770205

Holy Trinity contacts

Val and Steph

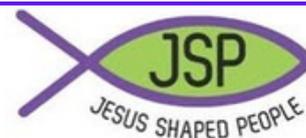
val.capewell@btinternet.com



News from the pews.

Preparing the Way: The Life and Work of John the Baptist

Preparing the Way is our Lent Bible Study course written by the team at Jesus Shaped People and looks at the life and work of John the Baptist.



After Easter our benefice will follow the full Jesus Shaped People programme. Together, we will explore the life and work of Jesus, focusing on People; Teaching; Team Building; Prayer; Prophetic Challenge

Find our more about Jesus Shaped people here: <https://jesusshapedpeople.net/>



"Pilgrimage lies at the heart of the Christian faith, reminding us that God journeys with us through every season of life. We are hopeful that these resources will help our churches welcome those exploring faith as they come into these wonderful buildings."

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

St Oswald's and Holy Trinity Churches have registered as Pilgrim Places. Working with Faith in the North, this initiative encourages churches to be places of both physical and spiritual pilgrimage. Our churches, which are open every day between 10:00am and 4:00pm will be providing additional resources for regular worshippers and visitors to help support their spiritual journey both in our parish and beyond.



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

Spotlight on... 11:00am service

Our 11:00am Parish Communion at St Oswald's Church is a traditional and welcoming service at the heart of our church life. With familiar hymns, thoughtful preaching and the beauty of well-loved liturgy, it offers a space of comfort, reverence and community. Whether you come every week or are simply curious to step inside, you will find a warm welcome and a place to belong. All are invited to share in worship and Holy Communion as we gather around God's table together. Refreshments served after the service.



News from beyond the pews



Gardening and Church Grounds team

Our gardening team is in full swing for spring!

We are committed to working towards a Bronze Award from A Rocha and with God's Acre to care for our environment.

Contact Rev Janine for more information if you want to join us

Flowers: A bucket full of love

To reduce lower our impact on the environment, we are looking to use local seasonal flowers and foliage to decorate our churches when possible. After Easter, we will place buckets by our church doors. If you have any seasonal garden flowers that you can donate to the church, please do pop them in the bucket for us to use - Thank you!





**Stay and play sessions
for babies, toddlers,
parents, and carers**

Weekly during term time

Malpas 

Young Person's Centre
Wednesday
9:00-11:00am

- Toys, games, craft
- Stories and songs
- £4 (£1 per extra sibling) per session PAYG
- Refreshments



Stay and Play (Malpas)

Stay and Play (Malpas) is our weekly toddler group for children under 4 years and their parents or carers. Sessions include free play, craft, snacks and songs. Come and meet other families and have a chat over coffee while the children play.

We meet from 9:00am at the Youth Centre in Malpas each Wednesday during term time.

Sessions are £4 per family and first child and then £1 for each additional child. Refreshments are included.

Find us on Facebook: [Stay and Play @ Malpas and Bickerton](#)

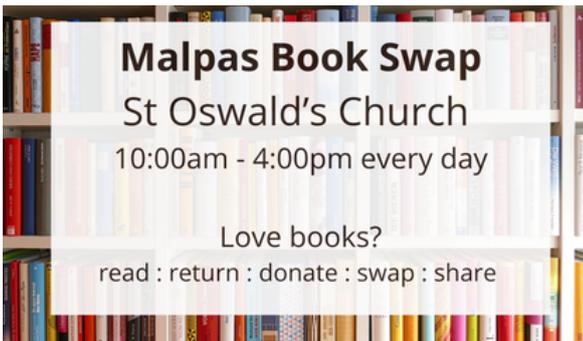
Or on our website: www.malpasthreapwoodbickerton.org.uk

Ladies Friendship Group

Feel like a chat over a coffee? Join us at Holy Trinity, Bickerton on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. This new group is open to everyone so please do feel free to pop in. Contact Pam or Steph 07507250833 or just turn up



Ladies Friendship Group
Holy Trinity Church
Bickerton
2nd Tuesday of the month
11:00am to 1:00pm
Refreshments, chat, and friendship.
Every welcome
Starting 10th February



Malpas Book Swap
St Oswald's Church
10:00am - 4:00pm every day

Love books?
read : return : donate : swap : share

Malpas news

Malpas War Memorial Upgrade

During the Malpas World War I commemoration in November 2018 and the Malpas VEDay+80 celebrations some men with Malpas connections were found not to be named on our War Memorial nor any UK Civic War Memorial elsewhere. A project to add them to the monument outside St Oswald's Church is underway. Do you know of any Malpas relation or family friend who died in WWI or WWII and is not named on any UK War Memorial? Please use this Contact link to get in touch or E-mail: editor@malpascheshire.org



**We will
remember them**

Bickerton news



BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ NIGHT
max 8 per team
with cheeses & pates platter supper
Ticket £10pp Licensed Bar
**Saturday
14 March
7pm**
Advance booking only. For tickets:
01829 720 801 or email
r.michael.butterworth@gmail.com

News from Chester Diocese

Interim Diocesan Secretary



The Bishop of Chester is pleased to announce the appointment of Sean Augustin as Interim Diocesan Secretary. Sean is known and respected across the Diocese as he presently leads the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. In this interim role, Sean will be responsible for providing operational leadership to Church House teams supporting parish ministry.

Find out more about Chester Diocese including news, who's who, access to prayer and worship resources, and much more. Follow the link or QR Code



www.chesterdiocese.org/ter-Diocese



Mothering Sunday

Sunday 15th March

Holy Trinity 9:30am

St John's 9:30am

St Oswald's 11:00am

Mothering Sunday 15th March

Join us at all our churches on Mothering Sunday on the 15th March to gather, celebrate and honour all those who hold a mothering role in our families and communities

Holy Week Services and Events St Oswald's, St John's, and Holy Trinity

We join our friends in Tilston with the Border Singers for Passiontide

Join us on this special day as we celebrate Palm Sunday

We gather for Holy Communion and a simple supper together

THE BORDER SINGERS
Conductor: Simon Davies
Organ/Continuo: Richard Morgan-Jones
present
MUSIC & READINGS
FOR
PASSIONTIDE
St Mary's Church Passion Sunday

A day of reflection and prayer with services across the benefice

Palm Sunday Services
29th March
St Oswald's Church
8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Parish Communion
4:00pm Evening Prayer
Holy Trinity Church
9:30am Parish Communion
So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!' John 12:13

All the fun of Easter! Join of family event for crafts and refreshments

St Oswald's Church, Malpas
The upper room
A simple service of Holy Communion followed by a shared supper
Maundy Thursday
2nd April at 6:00pm

A beautiful service of reflection and on this special evening

Good Friday
The ultimate sacrifice
Friday 3rd April
Holy Trinity Church 10:00am
St Oswald's Church 2:00pm

Holy Communion on Bickerton Hill as we celebrate Easter morning

Make an Easter Garden Refreshments
St Oswald's Church, Malpas
Craft Saturday 4th April at 10:00am
Easter Family Event
EASTER

Easter services across the benefice on this special day - He is Risen!

St John's Church, Threapwood
Service of Light
Saturday 4th April at 7:30pm
Taking light into the church for the first Holy Communion of Easter
All are welcome

See our website or notice boards for more details of all our Lent and Easter services and events

Holy Trinity Church, Bickerton
Easter Morning Sunrise Eucharist
on Bickerton Hill
5th April
6:00am at church : 6:30am on Bickerton Hill
All are welcome to join us in Holy Trinity Church after the service for a light breakfast

Easter Sunday Services with Holy Communion
5th April
Holy Trinity 9:30am
St Oswald's 11:00am
All welcome
He is risen