



St Bart's Autumn Plant & Bulb Sale



Saturday, 10th - Sunday, 11th Sept. 10am - 5pm
A selection of Perennial plants, Winter Bedding
and featuring our, now famous, Bulb stall.
Refreshments. Card Payments accepted.



Date	St Bartholomew's Church Minshull	St Mary's Acton	St Davids Wettenhall	St Oswald's Worleston
7 th Aug	11am Worleston	11am Worleston 5pm Evensong	11am Worleston	11am United Service
14 th Aug	11am United Café Church	8am Communion 11am Ch. Minshull	11am Ch. Minshull	11am Ch. Minshull
21 st Aug	10am United at Acton	10am Messy Church 5pm Communion	10am Acton	10am Acton
28 th Aug	11am Wettenhall	8am Communion 11am Wettenhall	11am United Service	11am Wettenhall
4 th Sept	11am Café Church	11am Communion 5pm Evensong	11am Morning Prayer	No Service
11 th Sept	9.30am Service of the Word	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer	11am Communion	9.30am Communion
18 th Sept	11am Communion	10am Messy Church 5pm Evensong	11am All Age	No Service
25 th Sept	11am Messy Church	8am Communion 11am Morning Prayer 5pm Evensong	11am Communion	9.30am Communion
2 nd Oct	11am Service of the Word	11am Communion 5pm Evensong	11am Morning Prayer	No Service

There is a Holy Communion service at Acton every Wednesday at 10.30 am

The Green Team Did you know that there are roughly 6000 vehicles which pass through the boundaries of our village each day, which equates to over 6000kg of CO² in total?

Church Minshull is forming its own local Green Team in an attempt to address some of the issues and impacts that our community may have on the planet. Our group has already organised a quiz, with a prize kindly gifted by Minshull's Garden Centre where our winners purchased a tree, aiding in the minimisation of carbon left in the atmosphere. We've included some hints and tips which you can utilise to help minimise your own environmental impact below:

- 1) Consider shopping locally when buying your fresh produce. If you're unable to reach a farmer's market, check the source labels on items you buy in the supermarket – a lot of fresh produce is flown from South America and Africa thereby increasing the environmental impact.
- 2) Turn off items which use energy when they're not in use – not only will this help the planet but also help keep your energy bills down too. Cheshire East are currently offering financial support to some households to make green energy more accessible, and you may wish to check if you're eligible on the council website.
- 3) Unsubscribe from all those marketing emails – every email sent across the globe is calculated to emit around 4 grams of carbon through electricity use. Consider giving your inbox a deep clean and reducing

the number of emails which you send straight to trash

- 4) Plant pollinator-friendly flowers and bushes in your gardens. Bees love wildflowers and lavender, and without them the planet would lose up to 90% of vegetables which humans consume as food sources.

- 5) Although one of the most tricky tips to adopt, one of the biggest positive steps which can be taken is to look into green banking. Consider exploring using a bank which has made a positive commitment to sustainable investment.

- 6) Check your own carbon footprint, by checking the UN's carbon footprint calculator online.

There's lots more that all of us could do to reduce our impact, and hopefully some of the tips we've shared here will be accessible to you. It's easy to become overwhelmed or to feel like the only options to you are restrictive with regards to sustainability; yet we'd encourage you to start small and make any changes which you feel align with your lifestyles. Every small change helps! If you'd like to join our Green Team, please contact Sarah on sarahgarrington@aol.com

Books on Wheels

The Cheshire mobile library bus service will be visiting Church Minshull next on August 16th and on September 6th & 27th. It will arrive at the Badger Inn car park at 10am then travel to Home Farm Park South at 11.10am and Home Farm Park North at 11.30am.

Church Minshull News



The Jubilee Celebrations

Church Minshull pooled its resources to ensure all 4 days of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were celebrated. Flower crowns for Chester Cathedral and St Bart's kicked off the week. The official church tower beacon, 1 of 3 in Cheshire, brought a crowd to

The Badger on Thursday, 2nd June, where the best view was obtained.



An Afternoon Tea in church on Friday 3rd, to support the Ukraine Refugee Fund, raised £276.



On Saturday, 4th the Village Hall opened its doors for the results of the photographic competition.

Winners were Mimi Freeman, Under 16s, Barbara Sproston, Nature, and Ricky Bache, with 3 entries



The evening continued with a showing of the London Jubilee Concert on the big screen with free party food.

4



Sunday the 5th completed the four-day Bank Holiday with a Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's service to the nation, followed by a free lunch.



The Pilgrim Door at Chester Cathedral

to celebrate H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, contains St Bart's 'angel' window etched into the glass, representing our church.



Jordan Gatley We were incredibly saddened by the



death of 24 year old Jordan Gatley who died while fighting in Ukraine. Jordan is the son of Dean Gatley who lives on Home Farm Park. Jordan was an incredibly brave and highly trained soldier who after leaving the British Army, felt it his

duty to support Ukraine in their fight against the Russian invasion. ITN Granada News arrived at St Bart's and interviewed Rev. Anne, as soon as the news broke and that interview was shown on the 6 o'clock News. Church was open for private prayer, but we ask you all to continue to pray for Jordan, his family and friends, particularly his mother, sister and brother from Sandbach.



June's Café Church was named 'How does your Garden Grow' and explored the idea of God as a gardener, tending and pruning his people.

July's theme was Faith and titled 'I'm starting to worry there might actually be a God' based on the story of Jayne Manfredi from Crewe. She found faith through a toddler group and became an ordained vicar this month. We looked at the question, 'What does Faith mean to you' which from the feedback was a difficult one to answer as it is such a personal belief. Many joined in with their own interpretation and experience, for which we were very grateful.



The subject for Messy Church in June was the 'Good Samaritan' but in July, to mark the start of the school holidays, the meeting was all about fun

and games. Rachael led and after Audrey had played a hymn we played charades to find words found in the Bible. After each word had been guessed there was the reading where it had been taken from and then while we had refreshments we went on to play more games, finishing with the Grace.

Happy Holidays!

Jim Britcliffe also known as 'Jim The Grace' for repeatedly saying The Grace at Café Church services, while training with the Rev. Anne, was ordained vicar of St Mary's, Alsager at Chester Cathedral on 18th June. Members of St Bart's were invited to the service presided over by the Bishop of Chester.



Ukraine Benefit Concert, St Bart's, 2nd July, 2022.



After an introduction from Richard Cluley, 'The Swinging Woodpeckers' played two pieces, the second of which was the Ukrainian National Anthem, for which the audience stood.

'The Beezzz' were the first to perform, followed by 'Folk Like Us'.



During a glass of wine in the interval Richard, was able to talk to some of the Ukrainian refugees who had



joined us, followed by the second half of the program when 'We Are Nomad' took centre stage. The final band to play was 'The Swinging Woodpeckers' once more, playing some big band hits. Into this repertoire, Ellie joined the band to sing 'Lean on Me', which earned her a standing ovation. For the finale, the audience joined with



the bands to sing 'Sweet Caroline'.

The event raised £1,000 and the village Refugee Fund has now topped £3,000.





Save Our Swifts

Answering the SOS in Church Minshull

How can we ignore the thrilling screams of swifts as they screech over our villages, towns and cities. They

make us look up and our hearts soar as we marvel that these global travellers have made it safely back to our shores. **“The swifts are back”**.

They have nested and lived alongside us for millennia, but things are changing. According to the RSPB (Royal Society for Protection of Birds) swift populations have plummeted by 58% in the past 23 years and have now been added to the UK list of most endangered birds and are at risk of vanishing from our skies.



UK swifts overwinter in SE Africa and everything except nesting is done on the wing. When they arrive at their nest site it will be the first time they've landed in 10 months and for young birds, that don't begin breeding until 4 years old, much

longer. Loss or lack of nesting sites is playing a part in their decline. Renovations to properties (no bad thing in themselves) can mean nest sites are unwittingly blocked or lost and as swifts pair for life and are site faithful, when a building is demolished or renovated they have to try and find a new nesting site quickly or a whole breeding season and colony can be lost.

Research into other factors impacting on swift numbers suggests habitat loss, the impact of pesticide use on insect populations and climate change may also be playing a part as extreme global weather patterns directly impacts on both swifts and their insect food sources. **Swifts are clearly in trouble-so what are we doing to help, here in CM?**

Well, it all started with a few residents within Church Minshull having genial conversations over the garden fence and in The Badger pub, about the return of swallows and house martins we'd seen in the village but also commenting on the lack of swift sightings in the village. In fact, I noted that I hadn't seen swifts here for years and the more we talked about the lack of swifts in our area the more we began to talk about how wonderful it would be if we could encourage them to return and nest back in our village. So, this set in motion a series of events. Firstly we needed to know where would be a good, central nesting site in the village and St Bart's Church seemed the ideal spot. The Swift Conservation Society (SCS) was contacted to confirm this and we then approached the church to

seek permission to use the tower as a nest site. The SCS sent us measurements and templates for the construction of the nest boxes, but then the pandemic hit and everything came to a standstill as social distancing and restrictions meant we couldn't gain access to the church tower for further site measurements to be taken pre nest box construction. Although this delayed our project and another nesting season was lost we were determined to get a nest box in place before the 2022 breeding season began.

The CM SOS Team spring into action!

Once all COVID restrictions were lifted our Save our Swifts (SOS) team (well 2 of them anyway) made numerous journeys up the church tower-(no mean feat I can tell you-those stairs are very steep and narrow!) and climbed up precariously perched ladders in the bell tower to take measurements for the nest box template. This was to make sure once it was constructed it would fit! Wood was then sourced and a favour asked of a local joiner to make the nest box. In April 2022 four members of the SOS team journeyed up to the top of the church tower for the installation of the first (of many-we hope) Swift nest boxes. It was so exciting and felt quite a momentous occasion and we are not alone as there are a growing number of swift community groups across the UK. So the box is in position-the hard part now is to let the swifts know there is a 'des res' waiting for them to use. In order to attract swifts to the new nesting site playing swift calls near to the site is crucial to attracting passing swifts and it is hoped, by us playing these swift recordings morning and evening we will encourage our first swifts back into the church tower. So keep your eyes to the sky and listen out for the magical sounds of the swifts and who knows, one day, they may return to nest in Church Minshull. Swifts are remarkably clean birds and their chicks make very little mess or noise, so if you would like to help answer the SOS call please consider putting up your own swift boxes or install swift bricks into your home. They need to be at least 4.5 metres above the ground, ideally on north to south-east facing walls with a flyway clear of obvious obstructions such as trees and wires. Swifts take quite readily to artificial nest boxes and nest sites and there are a wide range of nest box options available to purchase. If you would like further information on how to help swifts please visit:



www.swift-conservation.org.uk www.rspb.org.uk

Let's all do our bit to secure a future for the swifts.

The Church Minshull SOS Team

HARTNAECKIGKEIT

The last **Parish**

Council meeting took place on the 12th July and the topic of higher volumes of traffic going through the village was raised, especially due to the closure of Middlewich Road. The PC has tried many times to engage with Cheshire East highways, local MPs and Government ministers on roads & flooding but mostly to no avail. Actions are few and far between. I have also written to the Chair of the Cheshire East Council Highways and Transportation Committee - Cllr Chris Browne, to urge an urgent review of the highway issues here. Key areas include:- *Poor road surface over the Weaver Bridge *Speeding traffic approaching the bridge from the East and in the village * Missing road signage and worn road markings & give ways near the bridge inc. Vehicles stand-offs * Need for 40 Mph buffer zones outside the village

HGV traffic A safety speed review was undertaken a number of years ago, but the Cheshire East recommendations were later 'dropped'. The Parish Council will be campaigning for a new safety speed review and also to review the possibility of a 20Mph zone in the centre of the village as well. We'll keep residents posted on how those discussions progress. Also at the meeting the Chair of Cholmondeston and Wettenhall Parish Council attended and referred to a forthcoming meeting with the **Police and Crime Commissioner – John Dwyer** to discuss - speeding, HGV vehicle usage abuse on 7.5T weight-limited roads, rural crime & fly-tipping. This will be held on **29th September, at St David's Church, Wettenhall**, commencing at **7.00pm**. It is recommended that

concerned residents **make their voices heard and attend the meeting!**

Other topics covered at our PC meeting included - the replacement of the **Dog Bin** down Euchus Lane and the Lengths-man to deal with the overflowing bin. An update on the **redevelopment of the Village Hall** was provided. Repairs to the **Church Clock**, will be discussed at the next meeting and councillors reviewed the draft **Public Participation Policy for attending PC meetings**.

Clarification on Flooding and Roads Report – an article published on the website regarding a specific case around Google Searches is causing problems with a property. The PC would like to give a special shout-out to Pryce Jones for his work on the **Arena website**. Since we refreshed the Website a few years ago, Pryce has used his editorial skills to support the site and **villagena.org** has, with his assistance gone from strength to strength. This is exceptional for a small village and his efforts deserve to be broadcast! The Parish Councillors all undertake the Parish Council work on a voluntary basis, all put a huge amount of time, work and effort into the PC so please feel free to contact us, details can be found on the website. Thanks also to our Clerk – Mark Robinson for sticking with the PC for several years now. Well done Mark! This dovetails into the title '**HARTNAECKIGKEIT**'. It's a word I learnt in Germany. It means: tenacity, showing persistence and determination - Qualities many people in our village demonstrate. We wish you **all the very best over the summer holiday period and see you in September.** ☺ Cllr Nigel Lewis, Vice Chair



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