

# The Overton Oracle

Volume 23 Issue 8

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 22 years



At the time of going to press Overton is subject to all Wales Covid-19 Alert Level 1. All being well we will move to Level 0 on August 7th, but still use your common sense!

The latest information is available on <https://gov.wales/coronavirus> or on <https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/coronavirus>

If you need assistance email - [volunteer@overton-on-dee.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@overton-on-dee.co.uk)

## Oracle Deadline

Because of the printer's well deserved August Holiday shutdown, the September Oracle will be delivered a few days later than usual.

## Coronavirus Test Kits

The free Lateral Flow Test kits are still available (subject to supply) from Overton Pharmacy. If you've not picked yours up yet just pop into Rowlands Pharmacy. You are entitled to 2 kits per person (7 tests per kit) and they will hopefully give you peace of mind navigating this strange path back to normal/different!

Also, don't forget that we can also offer advice in branch, without an appointment, for other common ailments.

## Summer Holiday Club

Summer childcare, FUN and social time with other children this summer at Overton Playcentre, for 2-12 years old.

We are child led, so we ask the children what they want to do in their club and within reason try to do as much as possible.

We are open 7.30am to 6pm every day except the Bank Holiday! Phone us on 01978710688 or email [overtonplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:overtonplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk) for more details!



## Celebrations and Goodbyes at St Mary's School

With school trips and residential stays off the agenda since the start of the pandemic, Year 6 were thrilled when



rule changes meant that they could experience an adventure day out to Pentrellyncymer at the start of July. Part of the North Wales Outdoor Education Service, Pentrellyncymer is set in an area of outstanding beauty and perfect for a range of outdoor pursuits. Pupils participated in gorge walking and kayaking on nearby Llyn Brenig. It was a fabulous day and an opportunity for Year 6 to make some special memories in their last weeks of primary.

For the second year running, we had to make adaptations to our end of year Leavers' Celebration, with the ceremony being held virtually. Year 6 pupils and their families joined St Mary's staff on Zoom as we took an emotional trip down memory lane and celebrated the achievements of this very special group of young people. Our annual Global Citizenship Award, sponsored by Overton Twinning Association, was won by Sofia Burton for her outstanding efforts, with Evie Hughes a worthy runner-up (see the Twinning Association's article). Sportsperson of the Year Award was won by Henry Ellis for his maturity, teamwork skills and true sporting spirit.



Celebrations were rounded off on the last day of term with a whole School assembly. As the sun shone, classes sat in their 'bubbles' under the shade of the trees, as we said our fond goodbyes to Year 6 and some key members of St Mary's staff. We are sad that leaving us are Foundation Phase Teaching Assistant, Mrs Wilde, KS2 Teaching Assistant, Mrs Wyer, and KS2 Teacher Mrs Ashworth

(photo above). They have all given so much dedication to St Mary's and will be missed very much but we wish them good luck as they journey on to new adventures. To round off our celebratory assembly, our special Daisy Haynes Art Award was awarded this year to Elli in Year 2, not just for her fantastic artwork but her wonderful musical skills too. (photo right)

Whilst it's been another challenging and strange year for us all at St Mary's, we couldn't be prouder of the resilience and positivity of all our pupils. Wishing everyone a well-deserved Summer break.

by Mrs Williams (Year 6 Teacher)



## Seeds from St Mary's

.....  
with Rev'd. Peter Mackriell



If you're a driver, what is your attitude to your fuel gauge? Do you perhaps fill up at every opportunity, stopping at every petrol station to top up the tank, or do you wait until you see the sign that says 'last fuel before the motorway'? Do you tend to refuel when your gauge drops into the red, or as soon as the tank is half full? How low can you go? Personally, I often have the fuel light on, but I have never broken down because of a lack of fuel. I suppose that means I like to live dangerously.

Some of us like to live dangerously when it comes to praying – or, not praying - pushing ourselves to the limit and running on low. Prayer should support our relationship with God, it's the way we stay in touch with him, but some of us live in the red all the time. Weekly worship, in church on Sunday, can be like a fuelling station, a regular 'top up'. And just as some cars run on diesel, and others need unleaded, whilst some call at the garage for oil or windscreen wash, we probably find ourselves at church topping up on different things; God's love, a sense of his presence, guidance, hope, fellowship, worship, silence. But if we attend less regularly, if we go just a bit longer between visits to church, we might find ourselves running low on some of these things, even dangerously low. Indeed, weekly worship may itself not be enough to sustain us.

Prayer is a vehicle that keeps us in tune with God. Not praying has the same impact on your relationship with God as not speaking to your wife (or husband) would have on your marriage. And yet, even if we know what prayer should be like, we struggle to do it. We drive round and round, running out of fuel, and one day we will break down.

So, what can we do?

- set aside 10 minutes a day specifically to pray; if you don't know what to do in those 10 minutes, read on...
- come to Evening Prayer at 5.00 p.m. on Mondays, or Morning Prayer at 8.30 a.m. on Thursdays, in St Mary's
- read a book on prayer and apply it – try Philip Yancey's "Prayer", for example, or Henri Nouwen's "The only necessary thing"
- get an 'app' for your phone or tablet – try Daily Prayer (from the Church of England) or get the Bible Society app and follow the daily "Lyfe" readings

...and let me know how you are doing; please email [petermackriell@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:petermackriell@churchinwales.org.uk)

Please don't run on empty when there are so many ways in which you can fill up!

And go prayerfully,  
Peter

email: [overtonoracle@gmail.com](mailto:overtonoracle@gmail.com)

## Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge for children is back! Get ready for 'Wild World Heroes', arriving online and in Overton library this summer.



Pack your bags as we'll be heading to Wilderville, a pretty cool place, where there's lots of things Wild World Heroes can do to make their local town or village even better for the people and animals who live there. Join the Wild World Heroes for this year's Summer Reading Challenge to discover how you can make a difference to the environment too. Head over to your local library to collect your packs and read a minimum of two books over three visits to the library to collect your rewards. This year we have stickers, a certificate and the coolest bag ever as your reward for completing the scheme!

Rebecca  
Overton Library

## From the Horsebox

Originating during lockdown with an aim to connect those isolating with local voices, the podcast "From the Horsebox" has proved a great success



and now has eight episodes. Hosted in the horse box - local podcasters Kate Churton and Claire Rosselli travel the countryside chatting to inspiring people about wildlife, farming and field sports - while you can listen relaxing at home! You can join Kate and Claire to listen to the hidden stories behind the banjo-playing farrier or the recently retired racecourse executive who ran two of England's premier racecourses.

Claire and Kate Churton have just released their latest episode of 'From the Horsebox' which features Peter Rosselli - with an Italian name - originating in France but at home in Overton on Dee! For 50 years Peter worked for T&J Harrison, transporting commodities from Liverpool to India, the Far East and Central America.

Learning to ride horses was interesting but crossing a trench with just a plank and rope was much more difficult! A firm believer in the countryside and its communities working together, he tells us how to enjoy life as well as contribute to it.

Catch up on <https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1728353.rss>

### Date for the Diary

Put the date, 14th September, 6pm to 8pm, in your diary for the first of what will be an annual St Mary's Party. The party will be held in The Brow, the beautiful Georgian house on Wrexham Road, Overton, with stunning views and grounds.



Tickets will be on sale soon, they are £10 which includes drinks and light refreshments. The event is organised by the Friends of St Mary's Church to raise funds for the preservation of the most historic building in our village, and everyone is welcome.

### The Rainbow Centre becomes a Living Wage Employer.

Over the past two years the Rainbow Centre has been working towards becoming a Living Wage Employer and are very proud to confirm that they have achieved this milestone! As one of nearly 7000 UK employers who have proudly committed to pay a real Living Wage to their staff, the Rainbow Centre believes a hard day's work deserves fair pay. Their accreditation as a Living Wage Employer means that every employee under contract for the Rainbow Centre will earn a real Living Wage.

The real Living Wage is higher than the government's minimum, or National Living Wage, and is an independently calculated hourly rate of pay that is based on the actual cost of living. It is calculated each year and is announced by the Living Wage Foundation as part of Living Wage Week. It is currently £9.50 in the UK, with a higher rate of £10.85 for London. Chief officer Caroline Tudor-James says: "I'm absolutely delighted that the Rainbow Centre is now a real Living Wage employer, this is a proud moment for us as we have been working towards this for the last 2 years.

All our staff have worked relentlessly since the Covid pandemic started, so this rise in pay matched with additional bonuses that we have paid, is well deserved. Thanks to the support of most of our local Community Councils, including Holt, Marchwiell and Maelor South, we were able to include our team of Community Agents in the scheme too. We believe that by raising standards the whole community benefits."



#### About the Rainbow Centre

We have been tackling loneliness and isolation whilst promoting good health and wellbeing for more than 25 years. Our mission is to help older

people to regain their sense of worth, and to provide access to support, services and facilities that can empower people of all ages to retain as much independence as possible.

The Centre is a hub of activity providing day opportunities, home care, a meal service, community classes, community transport, and much more. The Rainbow Centre also provides Social Prescribing services in GP surgeries across Wrexham alongside Community Outreach support through our Community Agent service.

### Twinning News



Hopefully, this time next year a party from Overton will be off to La Murette in SE France to tighten the bonds of friendship between our two villages during a week of fun and frolics.

This year though, we can only strengthen old friendships and make new between local folk keen to be involved in the Twinning Association. We can't do much yet. Buoyed up by the interest shown during the Virtual Fete, we made plans to have a socially distanced get together in the garden at the end of June but that had to be abandoned because of self isolating and a bit of a scare at that time. Hopefully we will be able to meet up sometime in August.

Meantime, we have news of the winner of our annual Citizenship award, presented to an outstanding year six pupil of St Mary's and chosen by the staff. This year's winner is Sofia Burton, a real community-minded young person who has done things such as building relationships with older people in care homes during the first lockdown and making dog poo bag dispensers. "All round a lovely considerate and well-balanced young person".

Mrs Williams, Year 6 teacher, had difficulty choosing the winner and gave second place to Evie Hughes - "a delightful, sunny, positive pupil who always thinks of others and has a wonderful, mature approach to both adults and her peers alike".



**Our congratulations to them both.**

For more information about the Twinning Association, please contact Sheila Miller tel 710823.

### Catch up on Overton's Got Talent

We ran an Overton's Got Talent competition last year, which unfortunately didn't have many entrants so was never completed to competition stage.

BUT we have now put the videos of our amazing contestants on to our website and you can see them at <https://www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org/overtons-got-talent>

Talent from all ages - piano playing - singing - cake making, and not to forget - how to make a volcano! We thanked them all at our National Thank You Day service in July (that too will soon be available to watch on our website) but do visit the site and celebrate these fantastic folk yourselves.



## Overton's Bell Ringing Update

This month I thought I would begin with a little bell history and facts. There are 6 bells in St Mary's, although originally there were only 3. The treble (bell 1) is the smallest, lightest bell and dates back to 1912. Bells 2, 3, 4 and 5 date back to 1826 and the tenor (bell 6), the biggest, heaviest bell (7cwt 3qr 9lb) dates back to 1615!



They are all hung in an oak frame built in 1826 by James Jacques, carpenter and joiner of Hereford. His name and date are carved into the frame (*Photos left and right*). It is thought that James has only built 3 frames before he died in 1837 aged 32 in Llangarron Lunatic Asylum.



It is a tight squeeze moving around the bells as they sit snugly in the wooden frame. Bells 1 and 2 are positioned near the front of the tower and the ropes go through a complicated pulley system to avoid the clock, making them 'unusual' to ring. When allowed, we hope to start a 'tower tour' where you can walk up the spiral staircase to see the clock room and the bells for yourselves. It is possible, with suitable ear defenders in place, to watch what happens when the bells are actually rung, but that is a story for another day.

Since my last update, ringing for Sunday Service recommenced on March 14<sup>th</sup> and on May 3<sup>rd</sup> the regulations were eased to allow 6 ringers to ring the 6 bells (but there are only 4 of us!). To mark the funeral of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, one bell was rung half muffled for 10 minutes. In June we held our first Saturday morning practice session for some time to ensure we were "wedding ready". Finally, we have 3 new learners ready to start bell handling training again, one of which is so excited to start, she brings her young son on a Sunday morning and sits in front of the church on the gravel watching and learning. Now that is keen!

*Claire Morris, Tower Captain*

## Jo is ordained

Revd Jo Mackriell, who lives at The Rectory in Overton with her husband, Revd Peter Mackriell, was ordained as priest in St Asaph Cathedral on Saturday 26 June; she was ordained deacon, under strict Covid restrictions, in July last year, and has been serving as curate at St Margaret's, Garden Village, and St Mark's, Caia Park.



Jo was born and grew up in South Derbyshire before going to university at Westminster College, Oxford to study theology. She had grown up in a Methodist family and became a lay preacher in her twenties. When she met – and, later, married – Peter, she knew that he had a calling to full-time ministry in the church, and he was ordained 27 years ago, in 1994. Jo says, "Who would have guessed it would have taken me over 30 years to get to the point of being ordained, from the time of those early preaching appointments in the Methodist Church?"

For nearly 20 years, Jo worked in adult education, teaching English and Maths to those who didn't manage to gain qualifications at school; she thoroughly enjoyed being able to give people a second chance and felt very proud of her students when they gained a qualification for the first time. Jo and Peter have three adult children; their two sons live in north Wales and their daughter is in York.

This last year has been a strange time to be starting out in a new ministry, with only online worship at first. But Jo has been tremendously heartened by the way in which churches have risen to the challenge of the lockdown and thinks this is a great opportunity for the church to be more inclusive. In her spare time, Jo does a lot of textile crafts, including knitting, embroidery, spinning and weaving and she is looking at how we can include more visual arts in our faith journey.

*email: overtonoracle@gmail.com*

## Overton on Dee W.I. News

For the first time in a long while Overton on Dee WI gathered together for their July meeting at the Village Hall. But not for long as they soon set off in pairs, on a beautiful, warm summers evening, for a Treasure Hunt around the village.

With clues cunningly devised by Sue Foulkes, members puzzled over anagrams and cryptic questions, along the High Street, Willow Street, Wrexham Road and through the churchyard to Church Road. Many commented that they had discovered details around the village that they had never noticed before. On their return to the Village Hall, welcome refreshments were served to conclude a delightful evening with lots of chat. What a difference from the past year of Zoom get-togethers.

The August meeting will take the form of an early evening barn picnic.

*Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451*

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## Going Electric

With the government working towards the end of the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030, it means the sale of electric and hybrid cars is increasing. It's good to know that there is now repair & servicing for electric & hybrid vehicles locally.

At the Trotting Mare Garage we are getting on board. We have already been servicing hybrid vehicles for a number of years, but are now changing the workshop space and tooling to cater for full electric. Our staff members are attending a number of courses to keep them up to date and this will be an ongoing process over the next few years. So we'll be ready for the future.

## June 2021 was 'Fete Lite'

June 26<sup>th</sup> .... After a very uncertain week weatherwise, Community Councillors were up early to get a start on fete preparations looking nervously skywards. Would this fete be the first fete when it rained?! Incredibly it hasn't rained during the fete for 13 years. We didn't want Fete Lite to be the event to break that cycle – especially not after the past year we'd all endured.

Stall maps and markers were placed strategically around the village, picnic markers festooned with ribbons and what looked like about a mile of bunting went up around the football pitch. Overton was itself already bedecked with bunting outside people's houses so goodness knows



how many miles of bunting adorned Overton in the end! Stallholders arrived to pitch their stalls and Overton positively bustled with activity. And still it did not rain.

10.00 arrived and with it the official start time of 'Fete Lite'. The array of produce on offer on the 32 stalls dotted around the village just goes to demonstrate the amazing creativity of the mostly local businesses and organisations in and around Overton. There were stalls selling everything from cakes to cider, bird boxes to chopping boards, with quizzes, tombola, treasure hunts, bacon butties and everything else in between.



Gradually the streets of Overton thronged with people visiting the stalls, enjoying the 'walking market' feel and – most importantly after these past difficult months – relishing the chance to be out and about and chat with each other after such a long time locked in their houses. And still it did not rain.



The stalls closed at 1pm and, whilst these were being packed up, the action moved to the football pitch for the Community Picnic which was another happy community event. Everyone gathered in their appointed socially distanced groupings dotted around the football pitch, spread out their picnic rugs and munched happily watching children playing in the playground and relaxing for what may have been for some the first time in months.



And then the sun came out. There were some who, at the start of the day wore raincoats, ended up with a touch of sunburn! So for the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the sun shone on Overton's fete.

Thank you to everyone for making the event such a wonderful success: for the bunting which sprang up over the course of the week all over the village leading up to the event, to all the stallholders, to the picnic goers, to the



volunteers who helped organise the event, to the Football Club for allowing us

to use the pitch for the picnic and **everyone** who came to visit the stalls and make 'Fete Lite' such a wonderful community event. In the words of one resident who attended, "Well done, Overton. Such a lovely place to live"



Lots of colour photos are on the Oracle website  
<https://overtonoracle.weebly.com/gallery.html>

**Thanking the Pharmacy** Simon Baynes MP, recently visited Rowlands Pharmacy in Overton. During the visit, he met with Claire Chapman (Rowlands Pharmacy Regional Leader), Michelle Bullivant-Evans (Pharmacist) and Annette Lightfoot (Branch Manager) *photo right*, to see the fantastic work that the pharmacy has been conducting during the pandemic, particularly with the Overton GP Surgery next door. The team in Overton highlighted to him the NHS initiative 'Choose Pharmacy' which emphasises to patients that your local pharmacist can provide confidential NHS advice and treatment without you having to make an appointment to see your GP.



Claire Chapman said: "The COVID pandemic clearly demonstrated the importance of pharmacy in our local communities providing people with drop-in face-to-face professional healthcare support and advice." Simon Baynes MP said: "I was delighted to visit the Rowlands Pharmacy in Overton and to meet with their dedicated staff members and to hear that they provide so many new services to the community taking pressure off our GP surgeries. I encourage all residents to look into the services provided by their local pharmacy. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the pharmacists and pharmacy staff for all their hard work during the pandemic."

**Overton Wildlife Group** We had a great time planting on our June Saturday meeting, though the ground was very tough so it was slower going than expected. We filled in gaps in the Millennium Meadow test plot and planted plenty of wildflowers near the gates. Our volunteers really loved joining in the village picnic. One of our volunteers, Serdal, who comes from Turkey, commented on what a beautiful village Overton is and how happy he is that he and his children are able to come here to volunteer.



**Overton Royal British Legion  
120 Club**

Results of the "120 Club" Draw for July 2021. 120 members entered and the draw was made on 8th July 2021. Winning numbers were selected by Mrs Janet Davies. **Winners** -  
 1st Prize £240.00 No 17 Hayden Austin  
 2nd Prize £120.00 No 20 Beryl Williams  
 3rd Prize £ 60.00 No 46 Eleanor Gooding  
 Legion Fund: £180.00

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Next Draw will be on Thursday 12th August 2021**

If you wish to join please ring DAVE AUSTIN 01978 710678.

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## What's On

**August Diary for St Mary's & St Hilary's**  
 Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> 10.00am All Age Worship 11.00am Holy Communion  
 Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Holy Communion 9.45am Morning Prayer  
 Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Morning Prayer 9.45am Holy Communion  
 Sunday August 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am Holy Communion 9.45am Morning Prayer  
 Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Group Eucharist

Every week:

Mondays 5.00pm Evening Prayer  
 Wednesdays 9.15 am Holy Communion  
 Thursdays 8.30 am Morning Prayer

For all service details see

<https://www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org/worship>

### August Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> 6.30pm Rev. Neville Pugh  
 Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mr. Collen Ndro  
 Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Rev. Phillip Poole  
 Sunday August 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm Local arrangements  
 Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Rev. Phillip Poole

**Wednesday August 4<sup>th</sup> & every Wednesday** 3.00 - 4.00pm Mindfulness Walks. Meet at Royal Oak, Bangor on Dee, Book on 01948 830730

**Thursday August 5<sup>th</sup>** 12.00pm-2.00pm Rainbow Lunch Club. Meet - Eat - Socialize - Enjoy. £7.50 for a freshly cooked 2 course meal. Book 01948 830730

**Monday August 9<sup>th</sup>** 10.00am-2.00pm Craft & Create and a spot of lunch at Penley Rainbow Centre. Booking essential, 01948 830730

**Thursday August 12<sup>th</sup>** 7.00pm Royal British Legion Meeting at the Village Hall

**Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup>** 6.00pm Overton WI meeting will be a members' Barn Picnic

**Wednesday August 25<sup>th</sup>** 6.30-8.00pm Menopause Support Group at the Rainbow Centre, Penley. Call 01948 830730

**Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>** 11.00am-3.00pm Guided walk on local wildlife, and lessons on how to grow your own fruit and vegetables. 07725 224151

## Dustbin Days

Thurs. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> *Garden Waste & Recycling / food*  
 Thurs. Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> *General Waste & Recycling / food*  
 Thurs. Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> *Garden Waste & Recycling / food*  
 Thurs. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> *General Waste & Recycling / food*

## Family Announcements

**Congratulations** to Jenna Williams and Adrian Fox on their marriage on July 31<sup>st</sup> at St Mary's Church.



**Happy August Birthdays** to Harriet Clarke, Tara Stubbert, Francis Glynne Jones, Belinda Matthews, Seanie Clarke, Jackie Grindley, Gladys Evans, Carol Dykes, Lewis Evison, Chloe Malam, Brian Williams, Dave Bellis, Matt Worsdell, Trena Haynes, Alex Natrass, Charlotte Scott-Davies, Ethan Saunders, Jackie Tombs and Gill Evans. Cindy Myers, Kacey and Kevin Owens, Katherine Scott-Davies, Matthew Lawrenson, Derek Kellet and Liesel Netzband-Piggott.



**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of Ray Jones of Parkside who passed away recently.

**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of Canon Philip Crowe who passed away in June aged 84, and who was Rector of Overton some years ago.

## Was your bin not emptied?

From WCBC: Our refuse crews are still reporting cases where they haven't been able to access a street because parked cars were causing an access issue. Please consider how you park your car, especially on collection day. Our wagons are heavy and wide, so our drivers need to be certain they can manoeuvre without causing any damage. If parked cars are preventing our crews from accessing your street, unfortunately they will have to leave without removing waste or recycling. We know it's really important for all of us to get our bins emptied and have our recyclables collected on time, and for most of us this happens pretty smoothly. If parked cars are preventing access to your street, unfortunately they will have to leave without removing waste or recycling. All our vehicles are fitted with in-cab technology including CCTV, that allows the crews to record any instances where bins have not been put out before 7:30am, or if there are access issues, which prevent our crews from making the collection.

### PLEASE REMEMBER

**Copy deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.**

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

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