

FORUM

APRIL 2021



St Mary's Charity Shop—
update on page 9



Severn Valley Benefice



Highley Scarecrow Trail
(World Book Day)

Highley Scarecrow Trail (article on page 23)



The photos featured on the cover pages of this edition are from the World Book Day Scarecrow Trail. The article for World Book Day can be found on page 23. Credit: Pat Whitefoot and Mary Homer.

Submission of Articles and photos.

Material must be submitted to ... 'highleyforumeditor@gmail.com' ... Photos submitted must be of the best quality possible. Please give photos titles that relate to any accompanying articles / photos.

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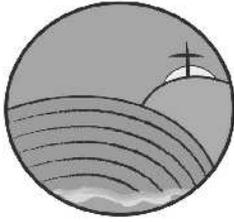
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The Highley Forum prints a wide range of articles (and welcomes your comments – some of which may be printed). The views expressed in these are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Management Board. The Editor(s) exercise their right to edit any articles (letters, etc.) submitted for publication at their discretion without consulting the author. Decisions as to which articles to print remain with the Editor(s).

St. Mary's Church Shop	Highley Library	Highley Forum
<p>The shop helps to raise donations to local, national and international causes. Re-saleable items are always welcome and bulky items can be</p> <p><i>Re-opening soon</i></p> <p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Tues 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Wed 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Fri 10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00</p> <p>Sat 10:00—12:00</p>	<p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Monday —Thursday 9:00—21:00</p> <p>Friday 9:00—19:00</p> <p>Saturday and Sunday 9:00—16:00</p> <p>Normally closed</p> <p><i>Check at Severn Centre</i></p> <p>Tel: 01746 860000</p> <p>The Customer First Point is available at the library, please speak to a member of the reception staff.</p>	<p>Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p> <p>For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.</p> <p>Subscriptions</p> <p>If you would like to take out a subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds.</p> <p>Cost: £6 per year</p> <p>Advertising</p> <p>If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p>

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Deadline for submission - 15th of the month preceding the date of publication; earlier for January issue.
Please send submissions to highleyforumeditor@gmail.com



Severn Valley Benefice

The Severn Valley Churches:

St. Mary, Highley

and at the Severn Centre

St. Mary, Billingsley

St. Peter, Chelmarsh

St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!

These words are attributed to the 4th century north African bishop St Augustine, though it is not known if he ever actually said them! They are, however, a wonderful anthem for Easter 2021 when we shall be back in our newly refurbished Church building gathered once more to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and loudly proclaim **“Christ is Risen; He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!”**

The lockdowns of 2020, which prevented a public celebration of Easter, felt very dark and bleak indeed. But with the reduction in infection and death rates and the very good news about the efficacy of the vaccinations which have been given to most of the vulnerable groups, we can at last start to enjoy the restoration of our freedoms, and how appropriate that we should begin at this most Holy and wonderful festival.

I don't care that the meteorological and official starts of Spring will have happened in March, for me the real start of Spring is Easter – a time when the evil and darkness of our world have been overcome by Christ's wonderful gift to us all and we can look towards a new life full of hope, peace and love.

For our parents and grandparents Easter meant new clothes, or embellishment of old ones, and a hat often decorated with spring flowers. Even if we do not buy new, we often bring out our spring clothes and put away our winter garments at this time: a “leaving behind” of the old, dark days, and a stepping out into the warm sunshine of spring.

It is sometimes difficult for non-believers to understand why Easter is, for Christians, the most important celebration of the year. I will never forget the Easter we spent on Crete with the family of Greek colleagues. The Good Friday lunch – no meat but plenty of wild artichokes, octopus and squid! – eaten in the family's vineyard in the hills outside Heraklion; during the evening a parade from the main church, which was in essence a funeral procession, their statues carried on decorated biers, with priests chanting, and much incense. The family then fasted until Easter morning. A humble and sincere observance of Christ's death on the Cross, then remaining quiet and expectant to celebrate the glorious Resurrection at first light on the third day.

In medieval times Easter was a much more important celebration than Christmas and in the 1590s Edmund Spenser wrote an Easter Poem which I would like to share with you (Before you reach for your editing pencils I have used Spenser's original spellings!):

Most glorious Lord of Lyfe! that on this day
 Didst make thy triumph over death and sin;
 And, having harrowed hell, didst bring away
 Captivity thence captive, us to win.
 This joyous day, deare Lord, with joy begin;
 And grant that we, for whom thou diddest dye,
 Being with Thy deare blood clene washt from sin,
 May live forever in felicity.
 And that Thy love we, weighing worthily,
 May likewise Thee for the same again
 And for Thy sake, that all lyke deare didst buy,
 With love may one another entertayne!
 So let us love, deare Love, lyke as we ought,
 Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.



Thankfully Easter has not yet been turned into quite such a commercial, secular bun-fight as Christmas is these days - though I am always disappointed to see hot-cross buns and Easter eggs in the shops before we have even finished the Christmas season on 12th night. It saddens me that so many people do not know the story of Easter and what it means for every one of us. The fear and jealousy among the civil and religious leaders of Jesus' time can still be seen today in our own and other countries.

The message of Easter is simply one of immense love – for everyone, and none of us is worthy of that love without the sacrifice Jesus made to win for us God's grace.

When I was a little girl at Sunday School, Mary Miles, our Sunday School teacher, suggested that we turn to John 3:16 (King James version) and replace "whosoever" with our own name so that it read, in my case "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that Linda Reynolds who believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life". At the age of 74 that is still the way I read that verse – a constant reminder of God's love for me, a sinner.

In our Holy Communion services we have a variety of Eucharistic prayers we can use at the time that the bread and wine are consecrated; one of my favourites is prayer B which includes the following words:

"He opened wide his arms for us on the cross; He put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people."

I love the imagery and power of those simple words.

I pray that you will experience God's love and joy in your life this Easter and that, as spring moves on into summer, along with the pleasures that the blossoming of His creation provide, you can once again meet with your families and dear friends and embrace them with love.

May you have a Blessed Easter,

Linda Ross

Highley St. Mary	Billingsley St. Mary	Chelmarsh St. Peter	Glazeley St. Bartholomew
Roy Adlington 861666	Vacancy	Derek Arnold 07956 844854	Vacancy



St Mary's, Highley

Much of March was spent in preparation for when we come out of Lockdown. Although it has been legally permitted to hold church services, the consensus amongst the congregation was to stay at home, to minimise risk both to ourselves and each other.

Thankfully, many have now had at least the first of their vaccination jabs and news from the Government is encouraging, so in hope and faith we are preparing for Church services on Palm Sunday and Easter Day (see page 17), when we can meet together to celebrate Jesus' resurrection—social distancing still in place! There is also a ray of hope and light for those who have planned weddings for late summer.

Last month (March) we said 'Goodbye' to David and Mary Rayner and presented them with gifts in appreciation of their service to the church over the last 5 years. They write,

Thank you so much

David and I would just like to say a big thank you for all the gifts, cards and prayers that will go with us to our new home in Gloucestershire. The photo book and framed pictures, together with the wooden cross Alistair fashioned from part of one of the old pews from St Mary's, will be a special reminder of our time here. Other gifts will also hold a special significance reflecting many shared meals and our love of gardening.



We are sad to be leaving but also excited by the prospect of new beginnings. Who knows what we might find ourselves called to do next? If you find yourselves in our neighbourhood, we are just a few miles from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, you can be sure of a warm welcome and I'm sure some cake at least.

May God continue to bless you and the community of Highley.

David & Mary

This year we are able to hold our Annual Meetings up until the end of May. We have set a date for our Annual Meeting at St. Mary's Highley on **Wednesday 19th May**, hopefully in Church at **7pm**.

Val Smith

St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh



St. Peter's Church remains closed due to Coronavirus, but as with the rest of the benefice, we hope to be able to open again in time for our Easter celebration.

We were saddened to hear that Mick Williams passed away on 11th March, after a long bout of illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with Glenys and the family as they mourn his passing and re-adjust to a different shape for their lives. Mick was much loved around the village and beyond. He will be greatly missed. His funeral took place on Saturday 27th March 2021 at St Peter's Church.

We hope to be meeting in Church again in April. Please see page 17 for Easter Services and page 36 for planned services throughout April.



Glazeley & Billingsley



With our church building closed and our communities still in the grip of a strict lockdown, news is in short supply this month. At Glazeley we again had sad news with the death of one-time resident, David Oliver, whose funeral took place in the church on 1st March. We extend our sympathy to all his friends and relatives. At Billingsley, the monthly 100 Club draws continue, with around £100 in prizes being shared every month. The latest winners were Bonnie Garvey, John Kirwin and Jenny Dutton (one of our "distant" supporters but a regular attender when visiting her daughter). We are grateful to Win Lewis for doing the draw for us this month. There are still plenty of numbers available; see <http://www.stmarys-billingsley.org.uk/100-club-draws-and-results/>

Moving ahead, we hope to re-open all our churches so we can have services over Holy Week. On Easter Sunday, our intention is to have an [8.00am](#) communion in Billingsley and a service later in the day at Glazeley; see the Glazeley church website for details; <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10533/> We are also exploring "Forest Church", an initiative where we celebrate the work of God in nature by holding services outside of the church building, although not necessarily in a forest! Both Billingsley and Glazeley are in good positions to take the lead with this initiative.

David Poyner, assistant curate, Severn Valley Benefice.
Tel 01562 68638/ 0121 204 3997; email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

Lectio 365

Covid-19, lockdown and a husband who is 'shielding' have caused me to peruse YouTube, set up Zoom and install new Apps. (Anyone who knows me well would never have thought it!)

During Lent I would normally study a particular book or programme of teaching in a church Home Group. It became obvious that this was not going to be the case during a Lent 2021 with Covid restrictions in place.

At St Mary's fortnightly Zoom gathering the App Lectio 365 was mentioned and I decided to install it and find out more.

Lectio 365 was inspired by a centuries old practice called Lectio Divina—reading, listening to a Bible passage twice and expecting God to speak through it. Each day follows the same format of P.R.A.Y.

PAUSE—to be still

REJOICE—with a Psalm and **REFLECT** on a Bible passage

ASK—God to help us and others

YIELD—to His will in our lives

You can read or listen and access a day at a time or alternatively download devotionals up to a week in advance, to follow later. I personally find that closing my eyes and listening helps intensify my concentration.



The devotionals are approximately 10 minutes in length, so even as we anticipate moving forward out of our lockdown lifestyle, this is a practice I recommend to anyone who has the desire to spend time in God's words and prayer. More importantly, develop the skill of listening to what he is saying through Scripture today.

I intend to continue this new 'habit' as we emerge into whatever lifestyle unfolds as 2021 progresses.

Jill Mansell

2021 Subscriptions - Important

A BIG 'THANK YOU' to everyone who supports the Forum by subscription. At £6/year it is really good value. Normally we collect subscriptions at your door in March, but due to Covid-19 we have decided to collect subscriptions in MAY this year. So, please wait until then.

Individual copies available at the Co-op and Pharmacy in Highley as well as in church on Sundays or Wednesdays.

If anyone would like to subscribe, please contact Pat Whitefoot on 01746 861155.

St Mary's Charity Shop

OUR CHARITY SHOP CAN OPEN SOON!

We are very hopeful to be able to open the charity shop on Friday 16th April, if the government allows us to. To enable us to open safely, any donations still have to be isolated for 48 hours, so we will have our system in place for accepting your items.

We will be receiving **donations at THE PARISH HALL (back entrance) from Tuesday afternoon 6th April 2021 and then on:**

Tuesday afternoons 2-4pm and Thursday mornings 10.00am – 12noon BY APPOINTMENT ONLY Please ring 01746 861722 to make an appointment.



We hope this will only be short term but **PLEASE DO NOT** leave items outside the shop or the Parish Hall.

Due to the smaller space, we cannot accept any electrical goods or large furniture at the moment.

Our hours of shop opening will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 10.00am – 12 noon and Friday 10.00am - 12noon and 2pm – 4pm.

We can only admit 2 people in the shop at any time, socially distanced and wearing a mask and would ask all our customers to adhere to Government guidelines at all times.

We should like to thank everyone for their patience and support and look forward to welcoming you all to our new shop.

Gay Lilley

Can it be Easter already? by Nigel Beeton

Can it be Easter already?
Can that really be so?
The carols and the Christmas tree
Don't seem that long ago.

Can it be Easter already?
Do April showers splash?
The weeks gone by since Christmas Day
Have gone in just a flash.

Can it be Easter already?
The time of Lent has passed
The forty days and forty nights
Went by so very fast.

If it is Easter already,
That time has sped away
Perhaps it's time to ponder, pause
And savour every day!



...rumours that we would be giving out easter eggs are unfounded - er, there aren't any left!



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**First Tuesday of the Month
 NEW TIME
 2pm - 4pm in the Parish Hall**

Currently no meetings taking place



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Letter from Westminster

With the continued rapid pace of the vaccine rollout in Shropshire, the long Easter weekend to look forward to, and clocks changing at the end of March, April really does feel like we have moved into a new phase of life returning to some sense of normality.

For so many in retail, personal care, community assets, self-contained accommodation, outdoor attractions and, of course, much of the hospitality sector, this month represents the end of the long wait to return to trading.

This month we move into Step 2 – no earlier than [12th April](#) – which sees the reopening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups), as well as most outdoor attractions.

Step 2 will also see a decision taken on whether to allow two named visitors to care homes. The past 12 months have been so tough for care home residents, so I sincerely hope we are in a position to do this. In addition, the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.

I know the past year has hit the pub and hospitality trade incredibly hard, so I am pleased that Step 2 also sees the reopening of hospitality venues to serve people outside, without the need for a substantial meal – so ending the scotch egg debate - and without a curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated (table service).

We are lucky to have so many brilliant pubs and restaurants across South Shropshire, so I hope residents will support their favourite local, once we are allowed to do so – though it will be important to adhere to the rules to prevent indoor mixing between different households.

Given the vital importance of tourism to the South Shropshire economy, and the thousands of local jobs it supports, it will come as a great relief to local accommodation providers and the many people who own touring caravans that this month self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, can also reopen.

The Global Travel Taskforce will also report to the Prime Minister [on 12th April](#) with recommendations about how to resume international travel as soon as possible, while managing the risk from imported cases and potential new variants – though this will be no earlier than [17th May](#), as we move to Step 3.

South Shropshire would, in normal times, be looking forward to hosting larger events throughout the year – including the Ludlow Food Festival, and Burwarton Show, both of whose committees are keen to hold their event if possible. No one wants another year gone without these stellar events, so I am pleased that from Step 2 the government will begin a scientific Events Research Programme, to run throughout the Spring. This will allow a series of larger pilot events, using an enhanced testing approach and other measures to evaluate the impact of larger crowds and reduced social distancing.

I wish readers a very pleasant Easter, and hope that the coming month will bring some relief and optimism as restrictions are loosened.

Philip Dunne MP



tearfund

Earlier this year, Rev. Mike Harris contacted the 'Tearfund' charity to answer his questions on the vital work they undertake around the world, tackling deprivation. Here are their responses:

How long has Tearfund been helping people around the world and what are your aims and objectives?

Tearfund has been working for over 50 years to tackle poverty and injustice through sustainable development, by responding to disasters and challenging injustice. We have partnered with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. Our mission is to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, responding to crisis and partnering with local churches to bring restoration to those living in poverty. You can also read our vision and values on our website.

How and where do you work?

We work in over 50 countries across the world. *[You can see a full list of the countries Tearfund works in on the website at: <https://www.tearfund.org/about-us/our-impact/where-we-work>]*

At this present time, what are the greatest barriers to successful working with your partners?

At this present time, we are focusing on our COVID-19 response and our local partners are on the frontlines working hard to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the most vulnerable communities. In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, we have been able to continue our COVID-19 prevention awareness work as well as our Church-led community development and disaster response work.

What is your experience of people trafficking and how are you working with others to stem the flow?

A part of our work focuses on tackling Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. We work through local partners and we aim to design and support projects which create safe and secure environments for those who are vulnerable.



Is there a short story you can share to inspire people to give to your work?

Currently we are also focusing on our work in the Middle East. Abeer's story highlights our work in Iraq with refugees to provide for their immediate needs. Taman's story also highlights the work we've been doing through our local partners in Lebanon to provide schooling, trauma counselling, and healthcare, as well as business training.

You can visit the Tearfund website (<https://www.tearfund.org>) to donate, see more of the work they do and where, and read some of the stories mentioned in this article.

Article compiled by Alex Edwards

Vestry Treasures Unearthed!



Amongst the various paraphernalia in the vestry, are a collection of old prayer and other books. These include some belonging to Mrs Shields, the much-loved wife of the Rev. Shields, who was vicar in Highley from 1915 to 1949. Mrs Shields was a leading light in groups such as the Mothers' Union (we also have a tray that the this group presented to her) and the Nursing Association (which paid for a district nurse). She was held in high regard by the numerous individuals whom she helped; it is no accident that even today the grave that she shares with her husband always has fresh flowers on it. Her books are a prayer book, dated 1912 when she was married to the Rev. Shields and also a communion manual, given to her on Easter Day 1900, perhaps on her confirmation.

A second prayer book gives a link with another much-loved woman of Highley, of an earlier generation than Mrs Shields. This is Ann Beddard, the wife of the "squire" of Highley in the late 19th century, John Bradley Beddard. John Beddard ran the Netherton Estate of the Jordin family; the story is that William Jordin promised that he could marry his daughter but she died of TB. John in any case came into the Netherton estate when William died. When he himself died, Ann, his actual wife, moved from Netherton House to Prestwood next door where she lived out her widowhood. She was a benefactor to the church, presenting the wooden boards with the Commandments, Lord's Prayer and Creed that are in the chancel. The book we have is an altar manual that she gave to the church in 1906. Her popularity in the village rested, however, on the concern she showed for individuals, especially the school children. She organised "school treats", that is parties, for the pupils to mark special occasions.

The oldest book in the collection is another prayer book designed for use by the vicar during the service. In the front there is a note that it was given to Highley Church in 1863. At this time the vicar was the Rev Samuel Du Pre, but at that date he appears to have been rather elusive within the village. The church appears to have been largely run by his curate, the Rev William Smythe. William established a Sunday School for village children in 1863 and played a key role in the building of the school itself, now the Parish Hall, in 1864. He left shortly after the building was started, but is quoted as saying that the Gospel must always be preached to the poor. He appears to have been popular in the village. I do not know if the prayer book was purchased by him or by Du Pre; I am sure he would have used it. I am equally sure that the book remained in use by every vicar until the time of the Rev Miles in the 1950s. I can tell this because in the prayer for the sovereign, the names of Edward, George and Elizabeth have all been inserted by incumbents concerned about moments of forgetfulness.



The pages with the funeral service are stained from use at almost a century of burials. The wedding service shows evidence of liturgical reform; the words commending marriage as a way of restraining "the brute demands" of mankind have been crossed out. Presumably the incumbent considered this unhelpful language. I suspect this was done by the Rev Shields; he seems to have been a great scribbler.

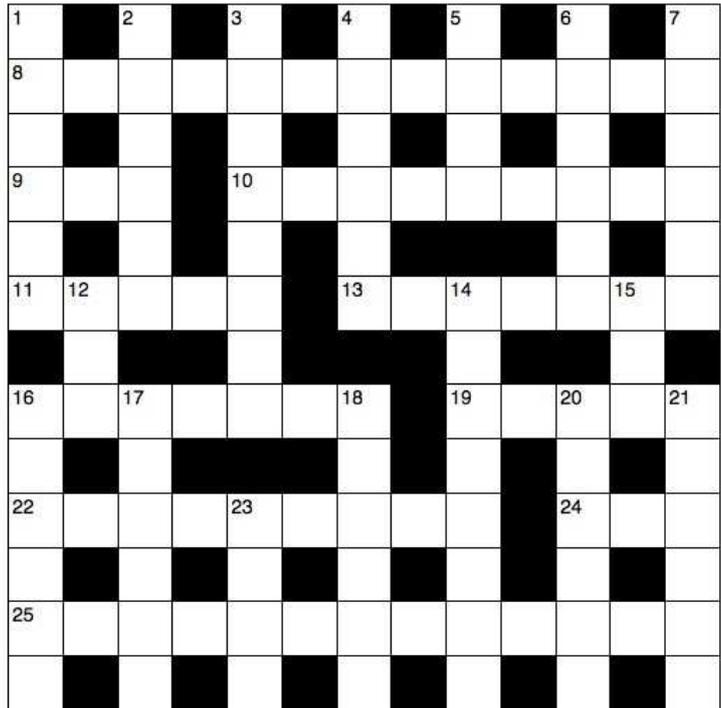
Continued on page 17

Puzzles for April

Crossword Clues

ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)



DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

Solutions on page 33

Hi Kids, have a go at this

Mouse Makes

Can you find these names of Jesus in the word search?

CHRIST
Matthew 16:16

SAVIOUR
John 3:16-17

HOLY ONE
Mark 1:24

VINE
John 15:5

DOOR
John 10:9

THE WAY

WAY
John 14:6

LAMB
John 1:29

V L I F E W D

D I A L A R O C K

C M H M O M S R E H C

H E O B R E A D O O R

R S L W D N V I N E E

I S Y A P R I E S T A

S I O Y P R O P H E T

T A N J E S U S T D O

S H E P H E R D E B R

K I N G O F K I N G S

D S O S O N O F G O D

L I G H T

PROPHET
Luke 24:19

PRIEST
1 Timothy 2:5

ROCK
1 Corinthians 10:4

LORD
1 Corinthians 1:9

AMEN
Revelation 3:14

LIFE
John 11:25-27

MESSIAH
John 1:41

SHEPHERD
John 10:11

LIGHT
John 8:12

WORD
John 1:1-50

BREAD
John 6:35

CREATOR
1 John 1:3

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Highley Primary School Fundraising Group

Highley Primary School Fundraising Group was established many years ago with the aim of raising money to support the education of the schoolchildren, with new equipment and services. The group consists of parents and staff of the school, who devote their spare time to organising events such as: the annual Christmas Fayre (the Christmas raffle in 2020), school discos, Mother and Father's Day sales, sports day refreshments, bingos, raffles, and more recently, treasure trails around the village. However, a lot of these events could not take place without the support of various local companies, who donate money and items, as well as parents and staff at the school.

Over the last year, the group has faced the challenge of raising money during a pandemic. In October 2020, the committee organised a train-themed trail around Highley, inviting parents to entertain their children with a journey around the village, before venturing into the Severn Valley Country Park. The trail was certainly a success, with the group raising £146 for the school.

The funds raised are spent on equipment the children can use to support their education and school activities. Purchases made by the committee over the years include: a new stage for school performances, maths equipment and Times Tables Rock Stars (an app students can download to practice their times tables), EYFS play equipment, termly team treats, Year 6 leavers t-shirts, Parking Buddies, sports kits, waste bins and clocks.

This Easter, the team will be holding another trail around the village and an in-school raffle. Keep your eyes peeled for some Spring updates! If you are interested in joining this fantastic group of parents and school staff, helping them to raise money and support the school, please email: highleyschoolfundraising1@gmail.com to declare your interest.

New bishop for the environment appointed

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, is to lead the Church of England's Environment Programme with a charge to lead bold, deliberate, collaborative action across the Church to tackle the grave existential crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Bishop Graham will work with the Mission and Public Affairs department of the Church of England, continuing the commitment to net-zero carbon impacts across the Church of England by 2030 set by General Synod in February 2020. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "This will be a key year for the UK's approach to climate change internationally." In June, the UK will host the G7. In November, Glasgow will host COP26. The Environment Bill will be coming to Parliament. "Now is the time for bold, deliberate, collaborative action."

Bishop Graham said: "Responding to the climate and biodiversity crises is not a luxury in the ministry of the Church, but an urgent imperative for our mission."

Churches are being encouraged to raise their voice to speak up about the need to tackle climate change across the whole of society through the Climate Sunday initiative, starting by holding their own climate focused service.

..... Continued from page 14

He also seems to have annotated the page with the wedding vows with the names of couples or individuals he was marrying; in 1924, Elsie Maud (Pearce) and then Morgan Rees (Edwards, of Severn Lodge Farm, Kinlet) and Frances Mary (Brick). The next year it was Clifford Henry (Willcox) and Hilda Maria (Brick) and then Horace (Holloway) and Elsie Mary Davies who were clearly causing him anxiety. Why he should only have been concerned about his memory in these two years remains a mystery but as someone who regularly forgets the Lord's Prayer and the concluding blessing, I feel his angst.

David Poyner



If you're an early riser, (or even if you aren't), come along to our Sunrise service at 6.30am on Easter morning. Weather permitting, we gather outside the porch, around a brazier, and remember that very first Easter morning, when a handful of women went to the tomb where Jesus had been laid just 2 days previously. What they found there was almost unbelievable—and yet was it?

With the benefit of hindsight the disciples put together things that Jesus had told them, but they didn't quite understand at the time.

Like how he was going to die and yet would herald everlasting life.....

Like how he would rise again, on the third day after his death

Like how he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them (and us)

This Easter there is a service for everyone. You can join in on Zoom, watch a Passion Play or come down to church. The choice is yours.

Make this year the year that you investigate the truth about Jesus and his claim to be the Son of God.

**Easter in the
Severn Valley Churches**

Good Friday, 2nd April
11am Service on Zoom
From 2 pm available on website (below)
3pm St. Mary's Highley
CROSSLIGHT - A Passion Play
 By Riding Lights Theatre Company

Easter Sunday
Highley: 6.30am Sunrise Service
10am Family Communion
 Ticketed - apply: 'stmaryshighley.co.uk'
 Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Billingsley: 8am Easter Communion
Chelmarsh: 10am Easter Communion
Glazeley: 10.30am Easter Communion

Please respect social distancing

'God so loved the world, that he
gave His only Son...'

Word for Today

YOU'RE COMMANDED TO LOVE

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you' John 15:12 (NKJV)

If love was a sentiment that depended on someone else's actions and reactions, or an emotion over which you had no control, Jesus wouldn't have said, ***'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you'***.

That means love is a choice you make. It's initiated by your will. Jesus also said, 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who spitefully use you' (Luke 6:27-28 NKJV). And what he commands you to do, He will give you the grace to carry out. For thousands of years (and to this day in some Eastern cultures), parents arranged their children's marriages. Many brides and bridegrooms never saw each other until their wedding day. A certain young lady from India was to be

married to a man she didn't know. One day she received a letter from her fiancé, designed to acquaint her with him prior to the wedding. But the bride-to-be returned the letter unopened, saying she believed love should be developed after marriage, not before. 'When we're born,' she wrote, 'we don't get to choose our mother, father, brothers and sisters, yet we learn to live with them and to love them. So it is with a husband or wife.' In societies that endorse this philosophy, divorce is almost non-existent. Now, we're not advocating arranged marriages, but the notion of 'romantic love' that's so prevalent today has little to do with a successful marriage. When you endeavour to love someone unconditionally the way Christ loves you, you experience joy and fulfilment.

(Printed by kind permission of UCB, who produce the daily devotional free of charge through the generosity of their supporters. Copies of Word for Today are available in Church and also through: publications@ucb.co.uk or www.ucb.co.uk.)

Operation Christmas Child

Back in December we sent over 50 shoe boxes full of gifts to children across the world, to places where the words *poverty* and *deprivation* take on a whole new meaning. They have now been delivered and you can see how delighted those children are! 'Thank You' to everyone who contributed in any way.



During the latest lockdown, I decided to start gathering items for next November. Usually I would prowl the sales, looking for beautiful things at rock bottom prices. This year, sadly, that wasn't possible, so I decided to take up my knitting needles, improve my carbon footprint(!) and knit my



way to victory! As I sat through tedious virtual meetings, my knitting needles clicked away. I can recommend any craft work as very calming and therapeutic. If you are 'crafty' in any way, get going now.

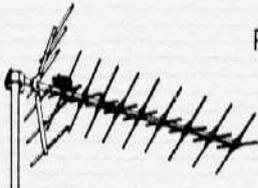
For information, 1 x100gm ball of wool will make a hat and scarf for around £2.

Val Smith

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Comrades in Arms

"Coming down the pub tonight?" asked Brummie.

"No, I have to check all my brasses and blanko my equipment," I responded gloomily.

"What are you doing that for?" enquired my friend.

"Well, I'm on duty tonight, boundary patrol."

He interrupted, "You know I was on office duty today?"

I groaned, "What have you done now? On jankers again I suppose."

"Naw. Nothing like that. Saw your name on the fire pick ups."

"The fire pick ups?" I queried.

"I mean prowling about the camp at night with broomsticks and such rot."

"Ah, you are talking about fire picket duty. That's what I have been telling you. I am on tonight, Brummie."

"Naw. You need not worry about that. I fixed it."

I looked at him, dreading the reply. "Tell me," I muttered faintly.

"Well, there was a great wad of papers in the office and Old Guts and Garters told me to sort out and collate it. What's collate mean, Ginger?"

"Assemble alphabetically and so forth," I explained.

"Hmm, I couldn't make sense of it so I chucked the lot in the stove except the leave passes of course. I made one out for you tonight and got Old Guts to sign it when he came back. He was so worried about that stack of rubbish disappearing he didn't even query it. He told me to search diligently for the missing papers. So, soon as he had gone, I emptied all the filing cabinets on the floor, rooted them round a bit and lit a fag, then did the crossword in the paper. Makes them too hard for me nowadays. When he came back he nearly had a fit at the mess so I suggested he make a new list and I made sure your name wasn't on it."

"I'm surprised you didn't make out a pass for yourself," I said acidly.

"No, even Old Guts would smell a rat at that. I know where there's a hole in the wire. See you down at the pub. You owe me a drink."

I never knew how they sorted out the mess in the orderly room. Returning from the pub I was dismayed to find we could not locate the hole in the wire. "Some idiot's moved it," growled Brummie, indignantly.

"How do you move a hole?" I snapped.

"What you can do," suggested my companion, "you show your pass and I'll sneak past while they look at it."

I replied that it seemed unlikely that a 14 stone, six foot-odd person would go unnoticed.

Brummie's face lit up. He had spotted a tall figure patrolling near the guard hut. "We'll ask him where the hole's gone."

"Why don't we go straight to the top and ask the sergeant?" I commented.

"The sarge doesn't know about the hole, but HE does," jerking a thumb towards the tall chap.

"That's Lofty Palmer from the next bed. He helped me cut the wire."

Without more ado my burly friend opened his mouth and gave a hoarse whisper. Lofty came over. "I hooked the wire back in place," he explained. "The sergeant on tonight is a keen type, inspects the wire etc." He lifted the wire and we both came through. We quickly sprinted



.... around a nearby hut. Just in time!

Emerging from the hut came a stout and well-known figure. Lofty bent down and pretended to look at the wire. "Looks like someone's tried to get in." The sergeant bustled over. "That wire's been cut." He whirled round, just in time to catch me peering round the hut. "There's one now. Call out the guard!" A raggie taggle of soldiers burst out of the guard room. I turned to Brum. "Quick!", I hissed, "You make for our hut and I'll lead them off the other way." I was not afraid of being caught as I was already pretty good at sprinting and they were carrying rifles. Brian Shenton, who was AA champion and later 200 metres European champion was in our mob and I was well trained. I swiftly made off and Ginger Doyle had guessed who I was by my turn of speed and was covering for me. The sergeant came up panting. "Search all the huts, if there are empty beds we've got them." Needless to say, Brummie and I were both in bed by the time they arrived. "Three empty beds," roared the sergeant triumphantly. "Get the names."

"We're right behind you, sarge," responded Doyle. "It's me and Samson, we're both on guard with you, and Lofty Palmer is the other."

"Bet they're breaking into the officers' mess to steal the silverware," offered Brummie.

"Two of you check the mess," bawled the sergeant. "Who's guarding the gate? You haven't left it unguarded?"

"No, sarge, Lofty Palmer's still there," grinned Doyle. As the sergeant left, Doyle leaned over my bed and whispered, "You owe me a packet of fags. I knew it was you by the way you legged it."

"Here have a drink of cider and call it quits," offered Brummie. "I bought it from the pub."



Ginger had a quick swallow and left giving the thumbs up. I declined Brummie's offer. "The next time you think of any brilliant wheezes keep it to yourself," I grumbled. "You might like living dangerously, but not me."

"You haven't handed your pass in," reminded Brum. I dashed after Ginger Doyle and handed in my pass. There had been no need to run away at all. I could have walked through the gate! While they were looking at my pass, Brum could have crept through the gate with no trouble.

Alan Honeybourne

Change has arrived

Last month Mike Harris announced that he was stepping down as Editor of the Forum after three and a half years. I have agreed to take it on for the next twelve months (and then review the future!) because I didn't want to see it scrapped. I believe that the Forum serves a purpose in our village and whether you read it in hard copy at the Surgery or have it delivered to your door or perhaps even read it online on the St Mary's website (www.stmaryschurch.co.uk) it is a mine of interest and information.

Alex Edwards has kindly agreed to be my right-hand man and has been a blessing already, both with compiling articles and his technical knowledge and ability. We hope to continue to reflect our Church and our community in the months to come.

Val Smith

*P.S. If we make errors, contact us at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com
Please be kind to us as we get to grips with the production of the magazine!*

Chelsea Flower Show 2021

Flower Show moves to the autumn

For the first time ever in its 108-year history, Chelsea Flower Show will not be held in the Spring, but in the Autumn. The 2021 Chelsea Flower Show will now take place from 21st to 26th September. The Royal Horticultural Society, the show organisers, will still hold it at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea.

The hope is that by September, millions more people will be vaccinated, so that mass outdoor events will be able to happen safely. 140,000 people are predicted to attend this year's Chelsea, over the six days.

Sue Biggs, RHS director general, says: "We believe many designers and nurseries will look forward to working with different plants that would not be available or at their best in May. We will do our utmost to deliver a beautiful, uplifting and different RHS Chelsea safely in September 2021."

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We can all be Friends of the Earth

In Highley we are trying to share ideas in order to live a more sustainable existence and reduce our carbon footprint. Anyone is welcome to send them to highleyfoe@gmail.com.



Fruit of the month - Peter

If we are serious about really addressing climate change, we need to become energy and carbon literate, and get to grips with the implications of not only our choices, but also the bigger infrastructures which underpin the things we consume. Some readers have expressed interest in the sustainability issues surrounding the consumption of bananas.

This information has been taken from 'How Bad are Bananas' by Mike Berners-Lee:

Bananas are a great, nutritious food and fantastic for anyone who cares about their carbon footprint.

They are grown in natural sunlight (no hot housing required).

They keep well and require hardly any packaging (they have their own), and although they are often grown thousands of miles from the end consumer, they are transported by boats (which is about 1% as bad as flying).

Whilst there is a monoculture of the 'Cavendish' variety of banana (which encourages pesticide and fungicide use), and some deforestation for new banana plantations, the only really bad bananas are the ones that are left to rot in the fruit bowl (but even these can be made into cakes and smoothies). If you want to discourage pesticide and fungicide use, then buy organic bananas (sold in Aldi, albeit wrapped in plastic to stop people separating them!).

Recipe of the month - Alastair

I've been experimenting with some vegan and vegetarian variations on the classic beef mince lasagne. It is very simple to replace the higher carbon ingredients.

I like to replace the beef mince with a tin of green lentils and some chestnut mushrooms (fried separately to lose some moisture, with a dash of soy) and then added to the Bolognese sauce that you normally make.

A white sauce made with a vegetable based butter alternative works well (with a bit of English mustard and nutmeg), and the cheese can be replaced with a coconut based block or cheese alternative. Easy and definitely still a winner for the tastebuds and the environment!

Response to Jane about Tetrapak - Bonny

If it helps, please check out: <https://www.foe.cymru/news/tetra-paks-unpacking-facts>. In short, Tetrapak claim to be fully committed to sustainability and are doing a lot to tackle climate change and deforestation. However, recycling Tetrapak cartons is difficult because the layers (aluminium, plastic, paper) need to be separated through a special operation, which in the UK is only available at a few sites. Also, the plastic and aluminium are down cycled as they are difficult to split (made into something else, but not able to be reused again). Shropshire Council state that you can take them to the local recycling centre, where they get transported to a proper Tetrapak recycling facility, or they can burn them in their Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Shrewsbury. Is burning our rubbish a sustainable solution?!

Vindicated!

For many years now my family have mocked me, because I hate to throw away anything that could possibly be mended, repaired or re-purposed in some way. I have to be honest; this is not because I have been concerned about the environment (Shock! Horror! Please don't shoot me!). It's probably got more to do with the fact that I was born less than a decade after the Second World War. My parents remembered the shortages and rationing and had an abhorrence of waste. Added to that, we weren't wealthy. Every penny counted.

So, as a teenager, I bought a sewing machine – huge investment – and made my own clothes. I even made my own wedding dress and can remember the anxiety as I spread 7 yards (!) of white satin across the living room floor, holding the scissors in my shaking hands. One wrong cut could ruin everything and there was no money to replace it. When our first daughter was born, I made her clothes from remnants of material lying around or from the good parts of my clothes, which were no longer in use.

My father had always heeled and soled our shoes and boots and so I went off to university, equipped with my tube of Bostik, a Stanley knife and some sheets of rubber. I still cut buttons off rags – my button tin overflows.

As I said, my family laugh at how hard I find it to throw things away, which, with a little love and care could be useful again. But now I feel vindicated. My instincts have a new title – Upcycling! I am proud to be a Re-Purposer. I am not old-fashioned or outdated - I am cutting edge (no pun intended!). I am Green. I am a Queen of the Environment!

Val Smith

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Co. Cllr. & Highley Patients Group	Mr Dave Tremellen	dave.tremellen@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
Highley Rugby Club	Mr Rob Parr		862094
Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Ms Emma Carter		07752207828
HWJFC: Mini Kickers (3.5—7 years)	Jo Matthews		862017
Housing Support Officer	Jan Moseley	862442	07582 003972
Highley Venturers	Mrs Chris Corfield		861477
Parish Hall Bookings			861242
Pop-in-club	Mrs Pam Stinton		861821
Severn Centre			860000
Severn Strollers	Barbara Skilton		862003
Women's Institute	Mrs Eunice Williams		861613



Do you suffer discomfort from
 Corns • Callus/dry skin • Thickened nails
 Verrucas • Athlete's foot • Ingrowing toenails
 Being unable to cut your own nails

For professional treatment of foot-related
 problems at my surgery, your workplace or
in the comfort of your own home

IRENA 01299 841277 • 07795 958186

Twenty years' experience

Complete foothealth check • Medical pedicure
 Foot massage • Evenings and weekend
 treatment • Free vascular check of the foot



The Old Farmhouse, Button Bridge, Kinlet
 Bewdley DY12 3AW • hessins@gmail.com
 IRENA s.a.c. dip. (Distinction), f.h.p.p. n.c.f.e.
 r.f.h.p



OVER 60?

In need of help and advice?

Not sure where to find it?

Age UK may be able to help.

**They are currently working on
 a fresh approach to the
 support they give locally.**

**In the mean time, please
 contact them direct on:**

01743 233123

email:

enquiries@ageconcernshrops.org.uk

Community Cars

Voluntary Driver(s) wanted

**Could you spare some time to drive
 people on essential journeys?**

**e.g. medical appointments at local
 surgeries & hospitals, occasional
 shopping trips, etc.**

Community Cars needs extra help!

Hours of work – flexible!

**Volunteers can specify times when they
 are usually available (or not)**

**Drivers receive payment for each journey
 to cover their running costs.**

**Please contact Richard Dudson on
 (01746) 861817 for further details.**

**Volunteers will need to complete a short
 application form, & a CRB check will be
 necessary.**

**No transport for essential journeys?
 We may be able to help...**



**For further information, or
 to book a car, please contact:**

**Richard Dudson
 (co-ordinator)
 (01746) 861817**

**Andrew Powell
 (01746) 861716**

**Daniel Humpage
 (01746) 862794**

Reasonable charges

The scheme is managed by Shropshire Council's
 passenger transport services

All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10	Highley Garage	22	Severn Valley Home Care	10
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Highley Minors	28	Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cost Cutter	11	Highley Pharmacy	19	Stark, A, Carpentry	19
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	25
Foot Health Practitioner	29	Kidderminster Storage & Removals	27	Wyre Forest Pest Control	29
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	29	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	29		
		Millfields Boarding Kennels	10		
		Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25		
		Ovenclean	19		
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24		
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10		
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				Events - General / Waste	33
				Library	3
				Parish Registers	32
				Registrar's Office	25

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS & mention HIGHLEY FORUM



Every Tuesday from 10.30 am-midday.
 Come along and have a chat whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Voluntary donations to St Mary's Church.

Venue: Yvonne 861723

Gay & Jim, Church St
 Moira & Ivor, Church St
 Gill & Alun Rees,
 Denise Lobban, 14 Church St
 Mary & David Rayner, Prestwood House, Netherton Lane
 Janette Hill, 62 Yew Tree Grove

Please check the notice board at church nearer the time to confirm locations.

A warm welcome is extended to all

Cancelled until further notice



**First Tuesday in the month
 2-4pm. (note time change)**

**Programme
 Cancelled
 until further notice**

**Allsorts of topics for
 Allsorts of ladies of
 Allsorts of ages**

Signs of Spring around the village.



APRIL 2021

April Services

Everything subject to change, check website

Virtual services available online
www.stmaryshighley.co.uk



Sunday 4th April—see page 17 for all Easter day services

Sunday 11th April 10am Holy Communion
 St Peter's Church Chelmarsh

Sunday 18th April 10am Holy Communion
 St Bartholomew's Church Glazeley

Sunday 25th April 10am Family Service
 St Mary's Highley

Wednesday evening Zoom home group
 Contact David Poyner

Also bi-weekly St. Mary's Sunday Zoom gatherings at 5pm for 40mins

Contact: markandamywilliams@gmail.com

The Sun setting over the Jubilee Drive allotments. Picture taken by Gary Scott.



Our beautiful village



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p>HOME GROUPS</p> <p>7.30pm The Byre, Woodhill Farm</p>	<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p>Coffee Morning 10:30 - 12 noon (page 34 - venues)</p>	<p>Holy Communion 9:30am</p> <p>HOME GROUPS 10.30am</p> <p>The Rectory, Church St 7.30pm Prestwood House, Netherton Lane</p>		<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p>Friday Event 19:30 at the Parish Hall Term time</p>
				Next Copy Date: <u>April 15th</u>

Currently not taking place