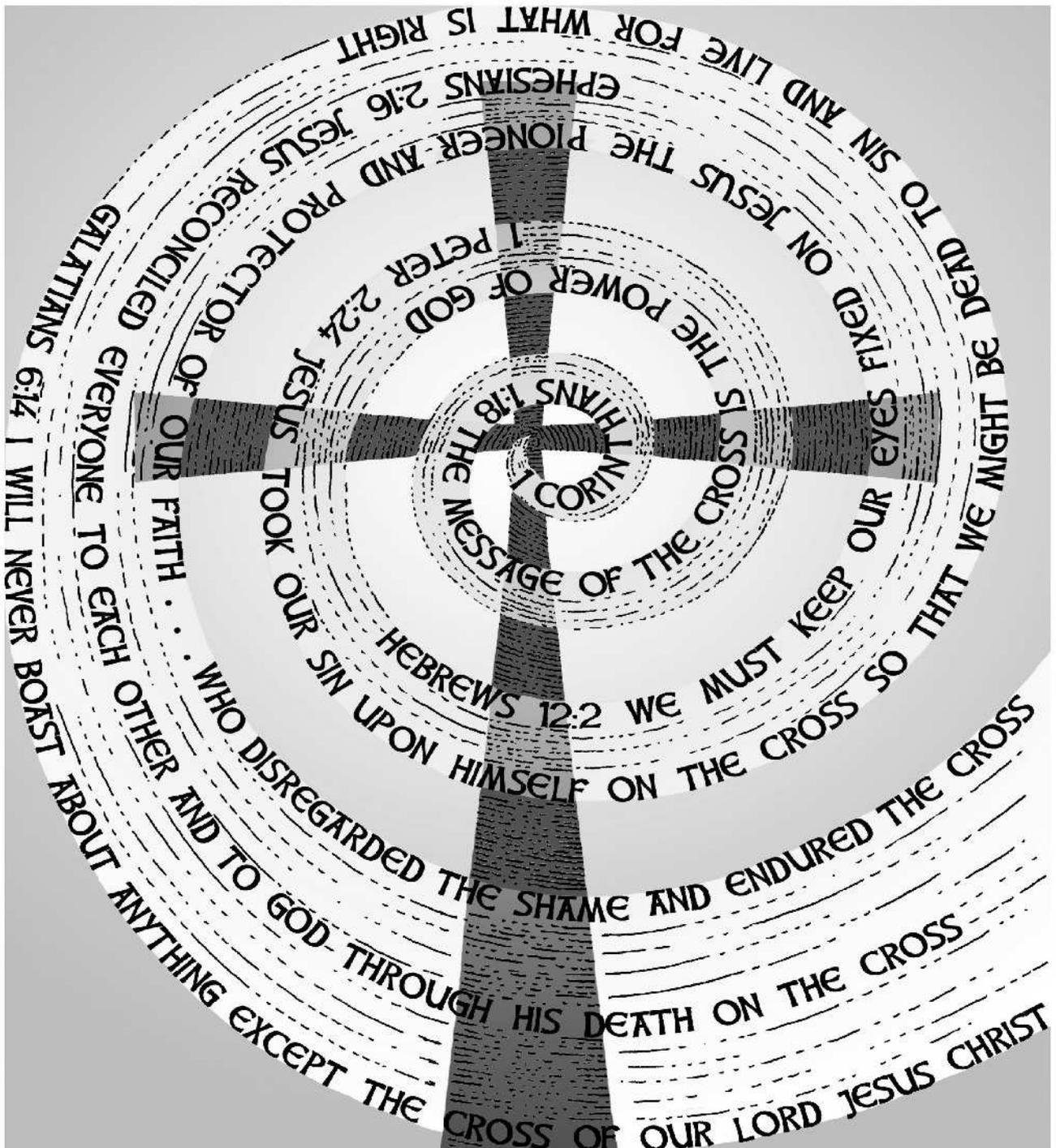


FORUM

April 2022



Well Done Questa, (and Hazel too!)



See page 21 for the full story of questa's day out to



A big 'Thank You' to all who gave so generously to the appeal for Ukraine.

Special thanks go to Bryn and also to Will and Chris Griffiths, who gave their time to help with packing up the 30 boxes, which have hopefully arrived in Poland by now.

See page 13 for more details of how the people in Highley have stepped in to relieve the suffering of refugees in this conflict.

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.

Main Contents:

Photo Gallery	2	Highley Parish Council	14	Friends of the Earth	26
Contents	3	Puzzles	15		
Who do you say I am?	4	Wordsearch	16	Local Organisations	30
		James the Least	17	Bus Timetable	32
Village Church News	6-8	Sudoku	18	General Information	33
		Alan Honeybourne writes ..	20	List of Advertisers	34
		Hazel French and Questa	21		
Letter from Westminster	12				
St Mary’s Charity Shop	13	UCB Word for Today	22	Photo Gallery	35
		Answers to Wordsearch & Sudoku	23	Church Services	36

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 collected</p> <p>Donations may be left at the shop during opening hours.</p> <p>Please don’t leave bags outside the shop when it is closed as it contravenes our rental agreement.</p> <p>Opening Hours</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mon</td> <td>10-00—12.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tues</td> <td>14.00—16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed</td> <td>10:00—12:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fri</td> <td>10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sat</td> <td>10:00—12:00</td> </tr> </table>	Mon	10-00—12.00	Tues	14.00—16.00	Wed	10:00—12:00	Fri	10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00	Sat	10:00—12:00	<p>Opening Hours</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Monday —Thursday</td> <td>9:00—21:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>9:00—19:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday and Sunday</td> <td>9:00—16:00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Normally c</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>	Monday —Thursday	9:00—21:00	Friday	9:00—19:00	Saturday and Sunday	9:00—16:00	<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> <p>Advertising fees due now for January—December 2022</p>
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Every effort has been made to acknowledge sources of material in this publication. Sometimes this is not possible, because sources may be untraceable, or material may have been used unknowingly. If you recognise any unacknowledged material please notify the Editor and we will do our best to rectify this.



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

Who do you say I am?

I write this against the backdrop of the ever worsening situation in the Ukraine. Tucked away in our comfortable homes, it is sometimes hard, almost impossible for us to imagine the kind of suffering that ordinary men, women and children are living through in that country.

Whatever your political views, most people in the West are horrified at the seemingly barbaric and indiscriminate bombing of civilians and helpless individuals in an offensive which seems to be about land-grabbing and power.

What has struck me about the response from many Ukrainians is that, rather than questioning why God has allowed this to happen, their faith has been strengthened and they have seen answers to their prayers beyond their wildest dreams and expectations. In other words, they have chosen to firstly believe that God is with them in their suffering and also to look for Him at work in the rubble of their lives.

Often, when we are in unhappy or difficult situations, we can have a clear idea of how that could be resolved If only this or that were different, everything would be alright again. We can look desperately for the solution to our problem in what may be the wrong direction.

That reminds me of the situation in Israel at the time of Jesus. (Quite topical as we move towards Easter.) The Romans had overthrown the country and were ruling the land. There was an uneasy collaboration between the Roman authorities (who didn't want to deal with local uprisings) and the Jewish religious leaders (who wanted to retain their position of being the religious authority to the Jews). The Jewish people wanted more than anything for the prophecy to come about, that God would send someone to rescue them and set everything in balance again, with God and within His creation.

The problem was, when God sent Jesus, to fulfil that prophecy they didn't recognise him, because they were expecting someone who would overthrow the Romans in human terms— riding in with a large army and physically defeating the Romans in battle— and God sent Jesus, who came in peace to overthrow the enemy in the spiritual realm. His message was not about routing the human enemy but about changing ourselves, our attitudes, our behaviours, our values. The kingdom of God is about Love, in all its different forms; about treating others with concern and respect, as we would like to be treated, of living peaceably with our neighbours

wherever possible. Many could see that there was something different about Jesus, but they hadn't joined the dots and recognised him as the Messiah, the one whom God had promised to send to rescue and restore them.

Whilst they were all arguing about who he might be, (was he just another itinerant preacher or was he some sort of a modern day prophet?) Jesus said to Peter, one of his closest friends

*'Who do **you** say I am?'*

It was one of those moments, when the words popped out of Peter's mouth, almost before he could stop them.

'You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the Living God.'

The penny had dropped; Peter knew instinctively that Jesus was the one they had been waiting for. Do you ever have times when words pop out of your mouth and you have a 'lightbulb' moment?

We are all on our own journey through life. We all have different expectations of how our lives will pan out. Each season of life brings with it circumstances we have not anticipated, some good and some not so good.

Lent is a time of reflection, leading up the celebration of what for some is the most life-changing and momentous event ever. The last week of Lent follows the final few days of Jesus' life, leading up to what seemed to be the end. There's nothing more final than being whipped and then nailed to a cross to die. If it all ended there, then we are left with nothing more than the wise legacy of a good life lived. For those who believe in the Resurrection, who choose to believe that the impossible did indeed happen, then it is the beginning of the next part of their journey.

God says to us all, rich or poor, young or old,

*'Who do **you** say I am?'*

As you tuck into your chocolate eggs and enjoy time with the family or just the relaxation of a few days off work, take some time to think what *your* answer to that question is.

Happy Easter!

Val Smith

PS If you'd like to join us at any of our services over the Easter period, they are listed on the back page and noticeboards outside St Mary's Church and around the village.

PPS Look out for free Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday, by the Orchard Street Car Park.



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

There's something about the sight of daffodils which encourages us to believe that Spring is really here!

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday notwithstanding, we've spent most of the month of March agreeing the Parish Profile and have the inevitable discussions about how we move forward towards advertising the post of Rector in the Severn Valley Group of Churches.



Everything was finally agreed and we look forward to the summer, when hopefully a new Rector will be appointed. We'll still have to wait until late autumn before that person arrives, as they generally have to give a 3 month notice period.

On a different note, Les Hall came across something that his late wife Janet's aunty wrote over 40 years ago, and yet seems quite relevant today, especially against the backdrop of what is happening in the Ukraine.

'Janet's family lived and worked on the canals for generations, taking goods all over the country. They lived and brought their children up on the barges. It was a very hard life and a lot of the time they didn't have enough to eat.

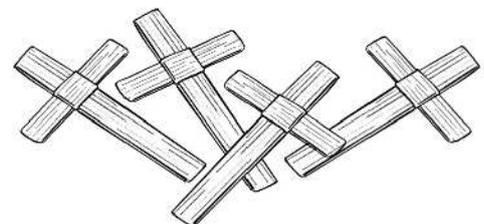
They didn't have much in the way of schooling, but they knew all about Christ and his teachings through reading their bibles.

When their way of life became redundant, due to the railways, they moved into houses, but weren't well accepted; people called them 'water gypsies'. They just had to live with that attitude, knowing that everything else could be taken from them, except Jesus. No-one could take Him away. He was bigger than all the insults.'

As we look towards the celebration of Easter, let's hope that the world shows a little more compassion than the folk Janet's aunty writes about.

There will be additional Church services over Easter week, as usual across the Benefice. Please see the back page for details. We look forward to welcoming you to any of them.

Val Smith



Looking to book a Wedding or Christening?

At present, whilst we have no full-time (employed) Rector in our Group of Churches, we are sharing out the work amongst the voluntary Clergy. This means that we won't always be able to get back to you immediately, but we will respond as soon as possible. Please bear with us as we do our best to keep everything going as smoothly as possible during this time of vacancy.

Please see below for who to contact:

Weddings

In the first instance, please contact Rev'd Val Smith, (tel 01746 861966 or email revval14@gmail.com), who will take some details and pass you on to the clergy available on the requested date. You will also be asked to fill in an application form, but the date will not be confirmed until a deposit of £60 has been paid.

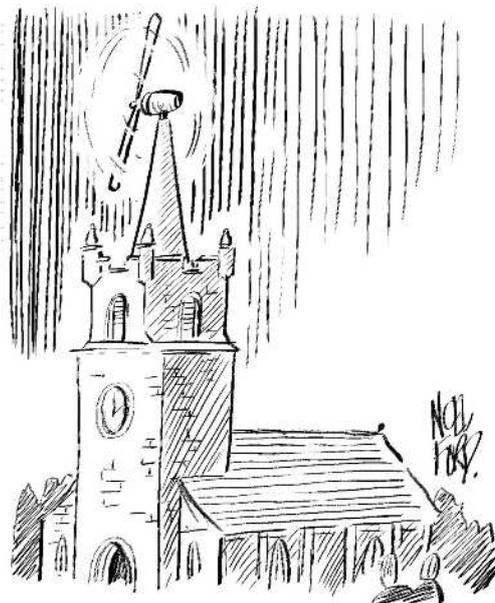


Christenings

At present we are encouraging parents to have their children baptised during a Sunday morning service. The service pattern is on the back page of this magazine. We also encourage you to come to a service first, and speak to the service leader. After that we can pass the information to whoever will be taking the service on the chosen date.



Please contact Rev'd Rose Lawley
tel. 01746 862301
email rosemarylawley@gmail.com



"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple
but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"

St Mary's, Billingsley

Our 6pm evening services restart on Palm Sunday (10th April); we are likely to make this a Songs of Praise service, featuring favourite Easter hymns.

On Easter Day, we will have communion at 8am; this is instead of the normal week for this service which is on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Billingsley church is the one church within our benefice that is always open, for prayer or simply as place to sit and reflect; we currently have printed out prayers for Ukraine. There are also usually spare copied of the Wheatland News; do take one if you wish.

Looking further ahead, on Saturday April 23rd we are pleased to be holding one of the regular Daddy's Hat concerts; an hour or so of music put on by a small team of musicians who perform in our local churches. Please support this!



St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

The most recent breakfast was at 9am at the Down on Saturday 26th March. I have been helping to put together the parish profile for Glazeley as part of the process of getting a new rector and have been looking at photos of breakfasts from a few years ago. It is fascinating to see how numbers at the breakfast have grown, to the extent that the main function room at the Down is now filled with tables. Our regular Sunday services continue on the 3rd Sunday of the month, we are grateful to those from Highley and Chelmarsh who support us. On Easter Sunday, there will be communion at 10am.



For those who want something different, every Friday evening at 9pm a small group meet over Zoom to say Compline; night prayer. This is one of the services the Church of England has inherited from the medieval monasteries; it takes no more than 30 minutes. If you would like to join us, please email me (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk) for the link.

We extend our best wishes to Lyn Parnaby, one of our stalwarts, who is recovering from pancreatitis.

THE SEVERN CENTRE

Proud to be home
to the following community based
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- Uplifted Pole & Yoga
- Highley Table Tennis Club
- 50+ Table Tennis & Badminton drop in sessions
- Women's Institute and Knit & Natter
- Jodie-Leigh School of Dance
- Highley Reach Youth Club
- Highley Minors Child Care
- Highley Community Project
- Mini Minors Toddler Group
- Bridgnorth Bus & Coach Company - community travel & excursions

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- Call 01746 860 000 • Pop into the Centre

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Details correct at time of going to print - December 2021



Working together for the people of Highley

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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



Ukraine

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24th February (having previously invaded in 2014), it has been uplifting to see people around the world uniting to do whatever they can to help those affected by the conflict.

The UK is a particularly charitable country, and people in Shropshire always go above and beyond when it comes to helping those in need. We saw this in spades during the covid pandemic, where community groups and friendly neighbours helped each other cope. This was especially important for those of us who had to shield, or were not able to get out for basic supplies and prescriptions.

There is also always a strong response from local communities whenever disaster appeals are organised through the major charities, which are so active in Shropshire. But the reality of renewed war in Europe following the devastation wreaked on the innocent people of Ukraine by the monster that is President Putin and his Russian war machine, has awakened a tremendous public spirit to try to help.

Most of us thought war in Europe had been consigned to history. Hardly anyone under the age of 75 has had experience of war in Europe, aside from those who served or supported people in the Balkan conflicts, and following the fall of the Berlin Wall at the end of the Cold War we did not expect nations would invade democratic neighbours in Europe.

I have been deeply moved by the outpouring of warmth and desire to help people in Ukraine and refugees escaping from the horror. Many of our communities have held fund raising events, have donated money, medicine, food, and many others have collected clothing and other consumables, which are waiting for the all-clear where to send them. At the time of writing, the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal in response to the crisis in Ukraine has helped raise over £150m, of which the government is providing £25m of match funding as part of its £400m assistance to Ukraine.

The displacement of people from their homes has been horrific to see, made all the worse by President Putin's decision to use indiscriminate destruction in Ukrainian cities, with innocent civilians paying the price.

Since the first days of this renewed conflict (it is important not to forget Russian aggression in Ukraine has been going on since 2014) I have called on the government to introduce a flexible approach to refugees, and to provide support to neighbouring countries, as the first point to which refugees will seek to flee.

Many constituents have offered to provide accommodation for refugees and their families, and I am pleased the government has put in place a specific Homes for Ukrainians Scheme, to allow anyone who can provide assistance to do so if they wish. I joined 100,000 others within the first day of the scheme opening to sign up to provide sponsorship. People arriving under this scheme will be able to live and work in the UK for up to three years, and will be able to access healthcare, benefits, employment support, education, and English language tuition.

...cont'd on page 13

...Cont'd. from page 12

The dire situation in Ukraine shows no sign of abating soon. I was in the House of Commons chamber last month when President Zelensky became the first non-Parliamentarian ever to give an address to the House of Commons. It was most moving. All MPs, Peers and journalists present stood united across party lines to show our support to him and the people of Ukraine in what they are going through to withstand this barbaric assault.

I stand foursquare behind the people and legitimate government of Ukraine, and the government has my full support for measures to ensure Putin fails in his policy of violent suppression of Ukraine.

Philip Dunne MP

St Mary's Charity Shop – Reaching out to Ukraine

Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, we decided to do something to help the many refugees resulting from the war, so we appealed for clothing, medical items and toiletries to send out. We also immediately sent £500 from our funds and made the decision to send two weeks of shop takings alongside this. However, we have since revised this and will be sending the whole of the March takings. We also have a 'whisky' jar in the shop, where customers have been putting their change and paper money, (which has been an initiative test for us to retrieve without breaking the bottle!) and which, at the time of writing, has amounted so far to just over £200.00

For the past two weeks, we have opened every day to enable people to drop in their contributions. The response from our village has been almost overwhelming in that on Saturday 12th March 30 large boxes were packed up ready to send. Many thanks to all who donated boxes and to Chris and Will Griffiths and Bryn, who gave their time and effort to pack and transport the goods to Bridgnorth, for their onward journey to Poland.

Since then, we have still been receiving surgical and medical items and toiletries, which will go next week. Raincoats are also requested, but clothes are not required at present due to the space they occupy on transport. We should like to thank our volunteers and the lovely people of Highley for their kindness, which we are sure will be appreciated by the people most in need. Please keep your donations coming as their need is very great.

God bless,

Gay Lilley and team



Highley Parish Council

The last few months have absolutely flown by, with Highley Parish Council seeing many changes because of last year's Council Elections, sadly we had 7 Councillors who didn't stand to be re-elected, which resulted in many new Councillors being elected. We do still have 2 vacancies to fill.

Special mention must go to ex Councillors Roy Broome and Ruth Honeybourne who both sat on HPC for over 40 years as

voluntary Councillors, which is an outstanding commitment to our village. Thank you for your commitment, time and energy given to us; a wealth of experience has been lost.



We must also say a huge thank you to our County Councillor David Tremellen who also stood down as Chairman and Councillor to HPC. Anyone who knows David will recognise his passion for our village and that he never gave up chasing our causes with Shropshire Council and others on our behalf.

We have our Committees and Working Groups up and running, the details of these can be found on our website and are also available within the Severn Centre, where we have our own office for parishioners wanting a confidential meeting with us.

We also welcome Holly Cordey who has joined us as a trainee Clerk and is working closely with Ella Preston who has been our Clerk and mainstay of HPC for over 30 years and will retire later this year.

Something to look forward to are the below events in Highley this year.

21 st May 2022 (part 2)	Highley Parish Meeting with events, Severn Centre
5 th June 2022	Queens Jubilee Celebration at the Severn Centre
2 nd July 2022	Highley Carnival at the Severn Centre
20 th August 2022	Highley Golf Fest at the Golf Centre, Netherton Lane.

Cllr Peter Vinall
Chair - Highley Parish Council

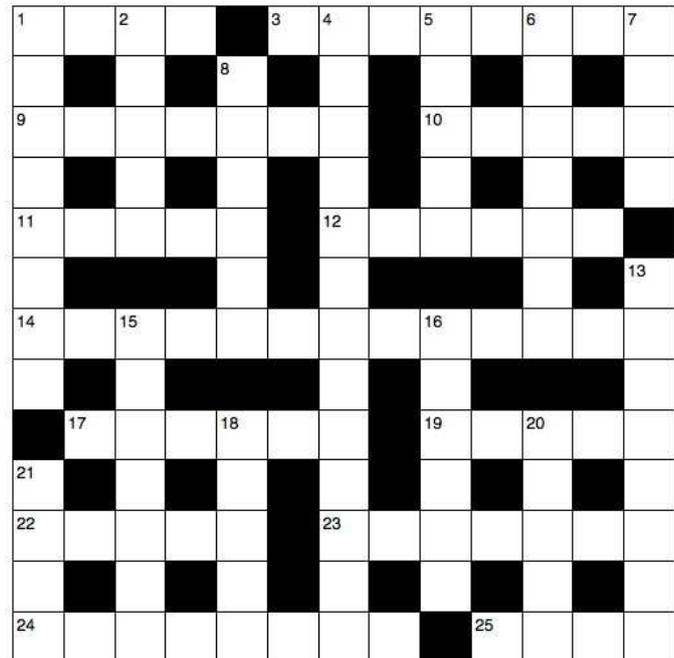


Puzzles for April

Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4)
- 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
- 9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
- 10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)
- 11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
- 12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
- 14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)
- 17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)
- 19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)
- 22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)
- 23 For nine (anag.) (7)
- 24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)
- 25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)



Solutions on page 33

Down

- 1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)
- 2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)
- 4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)
- 5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)
- 6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)
- 7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)
- 8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)
- 13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)
- 15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)
- 16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)
- 18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)
- 20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)
- 21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)

Wordsearch

Answers on page 23

F	B	P	N	O	L	A	M	N	O	D	W
E	E	L	H	W	S	S	V	N	C	A	P
E	V	G	O	S	P	E	L	O	R	L	N
T	O	R	J	O	U	L	R	G	S	P	F
D	L	A	E	L	D	P	Y	V	V	D	E
D	M	C	S	V	D	I	P	W	I	E	D
D	N	A	M	M	O	C	A	E	A	C	R
D	E	M	R	O	F	S	N	A	R	T	E
A	L	L	L	S	H	I	S	L	S	L	B
E	T	A	L	I	W	D	I	A	R	O	O
R	M	S	N	I	S	P	L	R	P	R	D
B	C	G	R	R	K	M	A	U	N	D	Y

Passover	Lord	blood	world	washing
ate	Supper	Lamb	John	love
last	bread	God	gospel	command
disciples	wine	die	killed	service
transformed	body	sins	feet	maundy

St James the Least

On how maintaining the churchyard can lead to turf wars

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small, paved area, and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish.



By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew Gardens to the Amazon Rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk, in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all around the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to stupefy them when she smokes her briar pipe. The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Highley Carnival 2022



Hayley Tromans is organising this year's Carnival.

If anyone would like to get involved, please contact either her or Diane Nichols

Hayley Tromans: tel 07960509404

Diane Nichols: tel 0788925309

Don't leave it too late ... There's lots to be done!

Have a go at Sudoku — answers on page 23



Easy

2			6				3	
		1			2	5	4	7
	4			5				
4	9			8	3		5	
			2	1	4			
	2		5	6			7	8
				7			9	
9	1	4	8			7		
	7				6			4

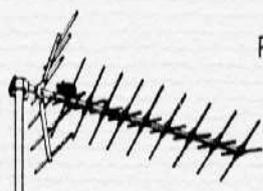
Medium

					6			3
		1		7				
		5	2			4		
7	6				3			1
		8		9		2		
9			1				7	4
		3			7	5		
						9		
1			9					

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Alan Honeybourne writes

THE SHEEP THAT OUTFOXED TOMMY

Tommy Fox was a local character who used a large, green, upright bike for transport. He carried a walking stick under the cross bar. Disabled by a hunting accident many years before, Tommy had been forced to give up riding and take to his mechanical steed. A cheerful type and a teller of tall tales. His local pub was The Malt Shovel.

Entering the old pub with its massive beams and wide open fireplace, he would take a deep draught of ale and usually begin some fantastic tale.

"I bought some sheep off the Clee Hill once", he informed Neville the bartender. "Do you know I couldn't keep them in pasture. Every night they was a roaming them by-ways. I looked all round, nary a gap in sight".

He eyed his audience with a rheumy eye.

"Gate catch loose?", suggested Skit, who was sitting in his usual seat near the roaring fire spitting a chew of twist into it now and again.

"No, them sheep were one up on me. So, one night I lay out nearby to watch how they did it. Well, one big sheep stood by the hedge and the others in turn jumped on his back and then over the hedge."

"Ar", said Neville. "How did the last 'un manage?"

"Well", said Tommy, adjusting his ex-world-war greatcoat and tying the binding string that served for buttons. He tipped his hat and stood up. "Good day gentlemen. As for the sheep he were the best jumper of the lot".

Alan Honeybourne

Smile lines

5th April is end of the tax year.

- ⇒ A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- ⇒ A few more deductions, and your take-home pay isn't going to be enough to get you there.
- ⇒ A penny saved is a government oversight.
- ⇒ The government not only has the bad habit of living beyond its income, but also beyond ours.



Hazel and Questa win Scruffts!

On Saturday 12th March, Hazel French, and her assistance dog Questa, ventured over to Birmingham NEC; unbeknown to anyone that they would, later that evening, win Scruffts Family Crossbreed Dog of the Year.

Hazel suffers with brittle asthma, arthritis, osteoporosis, and hypermobility; and since having Questa, she has been able to find her freedom once again. Questa helps with all kinds of everyday tasks: picking up dropped items, taking the washing out of the washing machine, and putting a fresh load in, fetching Hazel's nebulizer, helping her dress and undress, as well as opening and closing the doors. Questa may also be known by many Highley residents for picking up litter on her walks; keeping the streets of Highley clean!

The dynamic duo won the heats in the "Newbury – All About Dogs Shows" last year, and qualified for Scruffts Good Citizens Award class. Questa has also passed her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Kennel Club Good Citizens Awards, which are designed by the Kennel Club to improve behaviour of dogs (and their owners). Heats took place in the morning, and winners were announced in each group in the afternoon. Questa was entered into the Grand Final with the winners of the other 3 classes and deservedly won – becoming the Scruffts Champion of 2022! As well as their title, Questa won a years supply of dog food from the show sponsor, James Wellbeloved.

Hazel said "Attending Crufts was exciting. I have never been to Crufts before. I was very nervous but Questa took the whole day in her stride, and wagged her tail all day."

Questa is a five-year-old, Labrador-Golden Retriever cross, who was partnered with Hazel by Canine Partners at 16 months old. To date, Hazel has raised over £7000 for Canine Partners and has sponsored another assistance dog, named Highley.

Congratulations, and thank you, to Hazel and Questa!

Alex Edwards



UCB Word for Today

Listen to the right voice

This is the way, walk in it. Isaiah 30:21

A respected author, along with her husband and friends, were on a mountaintop discussing which direction to go. One man said, 'That's south!' Another countered, 'No, that's east.' Everybody threw in their two-pennies' worth, until finally the woman's husband produced a compass and said, 'We can settle this really fast.' Within seconds the *compass* confirmed they were, in fact, facing due west! The only reliable source had the final say, and nobody was about to argue with it. In the course of a day, many voices vie for your attention, and some that sound like experts can be dead wrong. Bottom line: you had better know which voice to listen to, because if you look only at your circumstances, you will become disoriented. An unexpected phone call, a floundering relationship, a lost job, or a sick child can make north look like south and east look like west. When that happens, it's easy to lose your bearings, jump to conclusions, and end up on the wrong path. The Bible says, 'Whether you turn...right or...left, your ears will hear a voice...saying, "This is the way; walk in it."' There is only one true source of wisdom and truth, and Peter recognised that when he asked, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life' (John 6:68 NIV). You don't need to know every detail in advance; that's not how God works. Often, He doesn't show us the big picture because we would be overwhelmed and think it was impossible. He wants to develop in you an unshakeable trust in His character and goodness; an acceptance that in order to fulfil His plan, you must depend on His strength.

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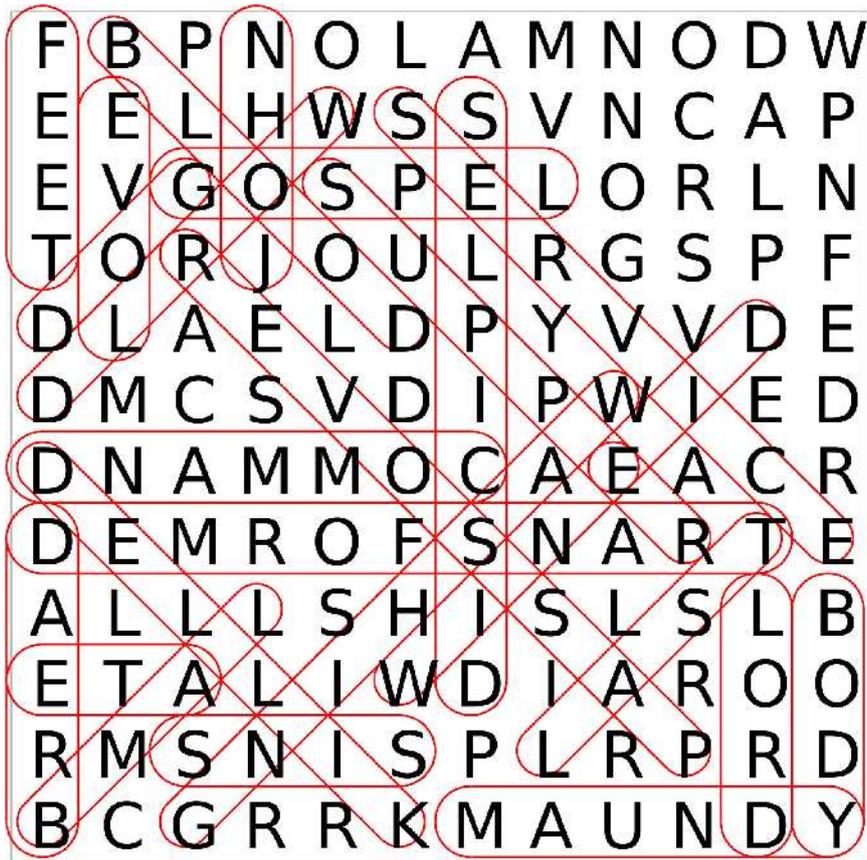
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Answers to Wordsearch from page 16



Answers to Sudoku (from page 18)

2	5	7	6	4	8	1	3	9
8	6	1	3	9	2	5	4	7
3	4	9	1	5	7	6	8	2
4	9	6	7	8	3	2	5	1
7	8	5	2	1	4	9	6	3
1	2	3	5	6	9	4	7	8
6	3	2	4	7	1	8	9	5
9	1	4	8	3	5	7	2	6
5	7	8	9	2	6	3	1	4

Easy

2	7	9	4	8	6	1	5	3
4	8	1	3	7	5	6	2	9
6	3	5	2	1	9	4	8	7
7	6	4	5	2	3	8	9	1
3	1	8	7	9	4	2	6	5
9	5	2	1	6	8	3	7	4
8	9	3	6	4	7	5	1	2
5	2	7	8	3	1	9	4	6
1	4	6	9	5	2	7	3	8

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We can all be Friends of the Earth

Actions in our community - Alastair

It was great to have a reader of the forum come forward to provide some extra saplings to grow on the bank at the Severn Centre. Thank you! I was slightly less enthusiastic when I found out that a lot of the other trees had recently been damaged. Not by the storms, but by people stealing the bamboo canes and breaking the protective covers. Those responsible were clearly blinded by the opportunity to get a few free canes, but they may be unaware of the importance of creating new wildlife habitats and the carbon sink that woodlands provide. Whether we like it or not, the existence of humans is intrinsically linked with nature. We need the natural environment to sustain us in nourishment, materials and shelter. Understanding climate change and the biodiversity crisis is only the beginning. If the human species wants to continue on Earth, they need to start thinking about the future, not just their immediate needs. That includes all people, of all ages!



On the flip side, I can see why bamboo is so popular with some people in Highley; it grows extraordinarily fast, sequesters a massive amount of carbon, is extremely strong and fire resistant, can hold the soil together well and helps to hold the soil together. Maybe we should have planted a bamboo forest instead! I will leave the topic of running or clumping bamboo for another day...

Spring is the time for planting - Jenny

I have been planting a number of seeds this week (incidentally in a seed planter made of bamboo)! I am now looking forward to harvesting beetroot, cucumbers and aubergines in the summer. They will have no food miles, and hopefully taste delicious, free from pesticides. Beetroot is incredibly nutritious, especially the leaves and stalks. The green leaves are rich in iron and calcium as well as vitamins A and C, so don't throw them away! The leaves can be chopped and frozen, ready to add later to stews and curries, as you would spinach.

Interested in aquafaba? - Ellen

Aquafaba is that magical liquid you find in a jar of unsalted chickpeas or white beans. Don't discard it - you can use it in a variety of dishes, often as an egg substitute (3 tablespoons equates to a whole egg). I use it in plant based chocolate mousse, meringue and marshmallow recipes (as an alternative to whipped egg whites). Check out plant based recipes online for a weekend treat!

News from Scotland

Mike and Moira Harris are now settling into their new home in Scotland – Brechin to be exact, 9 miles from Montrose which is on the East coast.

“We’re grateful for the well-wishes we’ve received on social media as well as the lovely cards which help line our new lounge. We’re gradually settling in, though with lessons to learn about actually owning a house/home instead of being ‘tenants’, with the associated problems around old alarm systems that haven’t been de-activated and the technology behind the previous owner’s heating system that boggles the mind!



The weather has been kinder up here of late than it has been down near the Severn, though we did have one day of snow recently – Climate Change is undoubtedly having an impact for all of us.

You will continue in our prayers, especially as you seek out a future incumbent and we look forward to hearing more in due course.

With Agape love and so many happy memories as well as the hope of seeing some of you again, either up here or down there.”

Mike & Moira



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Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Lin Evans		861087
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Coffee Morning (Tuesdays)			
<hr/>			
Children's Sunday Groups			
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Brownies		(Rainbows - Jessica Lloyd - 861090)	
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Gardening Club	Mrs Morag Ross		862450
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Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
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Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Mrs Sharon Dalziel		862087
Highley Minors Childcare Centre	Dawn Bethel / Kath Davies	Severn Centre	860005
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Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Ms Emma Carter		07752207828
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Highley Venturers	Mrs Chris Corfield		861477
Parish Hall Bookings			861242
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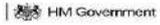
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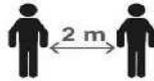
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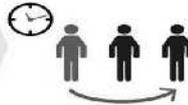
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Crossword Solution from page 15

W	O	M	B		A	G	N	O	S	T	I	C
I		I	Z		L		F		H			I
L	O	N	G	A	G	O		F	L	E	E	T
L		O		B		R		A		R		Y
H	O	R	E	B		Y	E	L	L	O	W	
I				A		O				B		P
D	E	C	E	I	T	F	U	L	N	E	S	S
E		H				C		E				A
	B	A	N	I	S	H		T	O	W	E	L
A		L		F		R		O		O		M
B	O	I	L	S		I	N	F	E	R	N	O
L		C		O		S		F		S		D
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Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins: **Thurs 14th & Thu 28th April**

Crates & green bins: **Thurs 7th & Fri 22nd**

Garden Village and Highley Park Homes:
please check your new collection day.

www.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/

Forthcoming Events

- | | |
|--|---|
| Gardening Club | Wednesday
Severn Centre |
| Police Surgery
10:00 - 12:00 | Thursdays
Severn Centre |
| Severn Strollers
10:30 / 11:00
(Contact: Barbara Skilton: 01746 862003) | Mondays
(not Bank Holidays)
Severn Centre |
| Women's Institute | Tuesday
Severn Centre |
| Patients' Group | see Facebook page |
| Computer Support Sessions | see opposite |

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		
				Bus Information	32
				Events - Church	33
				Events - General / Waste	33
				Library	3
				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 Mary's Church.

Venue: Yvonne 861723

Gay & Jim, Church St
 Moira & Ivor, Church St
 Gill & Alun Rees,
 Denise Lobban, 14 Church
 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**

What's happening at the W.I.?

Our February meeting included a demonstration by 'Luna Petals'. Two lovely boxed bouquets were constructed and were raffled at the end of the meeting.

We celebrated a member's wonderful 90th birthday : Mrs Mary Brown, a much valued member since 1975. Mary was presented with a boxed flower bouquet and an iced celebration cake by our president Mrs Pauline Tremellen.

Our next meeting on 19th April will be '**All about Chocolate**' by Jacqueline Smith,

The talking point will be "**something from school days**"

TEA duty : Eileen Chatterton, Margaret Hough, Sue Underwood

Membership fees are due to be paid

Any enquiries contact Mrs Eunice Williams 01746 861613 (



St Mary's Charity Shop presents



January/February's shop money was given to Top End Friendship Group and Chelmarsh Toddlers, who each received a cheque for just over £400.00 Both the Friendship Group and Toddlers expressed their grateful thanks for the donations.

Here is a photograph of Thelma Baxendale making the presentation to Pam Baker, the toddler group organiser and one of the little ones, who have a super time playing and learning.

Services 2022

Virtual services available online www.stmaryshighley.co.uk

Sunday 3rd April	10am Holy Communion	St Mary's, Highley
Sunday 10th April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10am Holy Communion 11am Informal Worship 6pm Evening Prayer	St Peter's, Chelmarsh St Mary's, Highley St Mary's, Billingsley
Thursday 14th April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7pm Stripping of the Altar	St Mary's, Billingsley
Friday 15th April <i>Good Friday</i>	3pm Meditation	St Peter's, Chelmarsh
Sunday 17th April Easter Sunday	6.30am Son-rise Service 8am Easter Communion 10am Easter Communion 10am Easter Communion 10am Easter Communion	St Mary's, Highley St Mary's Billingsley St Mary's Highley St Peter's, Chelmarsh St Bartholomew's, Glazeley
Sunday 24th April	10am Holy Communion (with Baptism) 11am Informal Worship	St Peter's, Chelmarsh St Mary's, Highley

Please see page 6 if you need information for booking a christening, wedding or funeral.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Prayer/Study Groups Ladies Prayer 11am –1pm Contact Val Smith 861966 valandkeiths@aol.com Or Pat Whitefoot tel 861155 for weekly venue	Zoom 7pm onwards Contact David Poyner d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	Friday Event 7.30pm Parish Hall During term-time 9pm Night Prayer Contact David Poyner
			Next Copy Date: <u>15th April</u>	
		Badgerprint.co.uk 01952730511		