

# FORU//\

# August 2021



Who is the man behind the mask? Turn to page 9 to find out.

# Photo round up





St Mary's Shop—what a treasure trove!





### 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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### The Severn Valley Churches:

St. Mary, Highley
and at the Severn Centre
St. Mary, Billingsley
St. Peter, Chelmarsh
St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

# God has a plan!

Over the past 2 years I have been going through the discerning process, asking God to show me His plan for His future ministry in my life. He has opened many doors in this time and whilst some still remain open, others were most definitely sealed shut, not long after they were opened. Though this sometimes felt confusing, there was always a sense that something bigger and better was on the horizon.

All through this process and, I would probably say, my life, I have trusted that the things that were happening to me were making me into the person God wants me to be. Even after I lost my mum and went through a very dark time in my life, I knew the love of God was keeping me from doing something that would devastate my family. I knew people were praying for me and this was such a big part of my recovery, and even when I turned people away, because I just couldn't face them, they never stopped praying for my health to recover.

Recently, I have been thinking about these dark times and how alone I actually felt, even though I had my family around me. This made me wonder how those who live alone have coped over the pandemic. We were not created to be on our own and, through the discerning process, I have realised, that to me, the most important thing is relationships. Being a friend is such a gift and privilege. It's getting to share the good times and the not so good times and to be there for each other. Jesus showed us how to be the best friend anyone could have during His time on earth. He was loving and caring but also very honest, not always saying what His friends wanted to hear. He was patient when His friends didn't quite understand His teachings and most of all He showed us all how to come back to the Father, by dying on the cross for OUR sins!

Now you're probably thinking, "Yes, but He was God's son. He knew He was perfect and would return to His father's house." But guess what, we are His children too. Yes, we may not be perfect and mess up on a daily basis, but if we try to do our best and follow the 2 most important commands, then we are also guaranteed a room in the Father's house.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and love your neighbour as yourself.

So today I pray that you listen and know that God has a perfect plan for your life and that you trust Him enough to follow it.

Angie Forster

# Press one for vicar, two for curate....12 for prayer....



The Rectory
St James the Least of All

### My dear Nephew Darren

Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of 'press 1 for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary', until we end with '12 for requests for prayer.' I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing 'Thine be the glory' on one finger on an electric organ while I am 'on hold' I will have him excommunicated. At least you have the grace not to ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not, as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second message on 8 for baptisms, and save on a large phone bill in months to come. As for 9 for funerals, entire families could be born, marry and die before they reach that one. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine does not accept incoming messages, and that I only answer personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may (or may not) be answered, at my convenience.

As for the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to say that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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

## St Mary's Highley

June 21st came and went and we were no further forward with moving out of the restrictions we have become used to over the past year and a half, albeit reluctantly.

July 19th arrived and with it came some easing but less clarity as the regulations were removed but left to local institutions and groups to decide how to move forward. What had been a legal requirement now became a recommendation. At our informal services before the restrictions were lifted, thanks to fairly clement weather, we gathered outside to sing.

As regards the church, we also had to wait for Diocesan directives as to how we should proceed. The outcome could be summed up in two words—with caution! Many of our older members are still naturally nervous about gathering together en masse. Thankfully most of us have had both injections, which provides the best protection.

At the moment we are still opting to wear masks in church and to request that hand sanitiser is used. We can sing again—at the moment behind masks—and



actually chat to each other, but are still encouraging people to move outside for longer, post service conversations. At the moment we are still debating how to safely offer refreshments once again.

Throughout the summer weeks we are inviting various people to share their experiences of being a Christian at work. Do check out the back page for these services. Even if you don't attend regularly, you might be interested to hear some of our speakers. Amy Williams and myself 'kicked things off' with how we showed our faith through both being teachers, in quite different contexts. (You can watch this service online on our website stmaryshighley.co.uk and Facebook page.) See page 36 for more details of our Summer Services.

Due to holidays and the need for some relaxation on the part of all our volunteers, just the Sunday talks will be available online throughout August. After that we will look at reverting to a fuller service or recording our Sunday service live.

On 12th September we shall be saying 'Goodbye' to Revd Mike Harris, who has been our Rector for the past 6 years. More about that next month!

Val Smith

## St Peter's, Chelmarsh

### June was a very busy month for Chelmarsh.

#### Woodlands Hall Open Garden - 12. 6. 21

Some of the ladies from Chelmarsh Church helped to provide cakes and serve teas for Caspar Gabb's event for charity. It was the first weekend after the easing of restrictions and a huge number of people came. There was a queue for cake all afternoon and visitors



sat around enjoying the lovely weather and drinking tea. Donations of £500 were given to Glazeley and Chelmarsh churches, and the rest of the money raised went to the charity for Kidney Research. We are really grateful for the extremely generous gift.

### Churchyard Working Party - 19. 6. 21

Following the hard work of delivering flyers around the village by Liz, a wonderful turnout of 30 people of all ages came with tools and implements to tidy, mow, strim and cut back hedges, overlong grass and weedy flowerbeds. We were so grateful for their Trojan work, what a difference it has made. Most of the volunteers stayed the whole time 10am till 4pm, with only small refreshments because we didn't expect so many! Thank you to all concerned, we really appreciate your giving of your time, and will be able to admire the wild flowers which now have room to grow.

### Plant Sale and planted footwear competition - 26. 6. 21

This was a hugely successful fund raiser. A fine day dawned, and thanks to Darren putting up Barbara's tent and borrowing the tables from the Parish Hall, the plants donated by everyone almost filled the whole space, with just enough room for the produce and cake stall. Teas sold well from a gazebo, and visitors sat around on the benches in the sun. The fantastic amount of £750.00 was raised, so thank you to everyone who helped in any way, the money will be used for the work of the church.

### July has been a quieter month!

#### New service pattern

This is bedding in as 2 services per month for the country churches until such time as a new Rector is appointed. **Chelmarsh's services are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month.** There will be a notice on the gate as a reminder.

#### Grand Auction Saturday 24. 7. 21 at 12 noon in the Parish Hall

A catalogue was prepared of items donated which was available for viewing on **Friday 23rd July.** Those present bid generously and proceeds will be shared by all the churches in the Benefice.

Covid restrictions will be relaxed from 19th July, but caution is advised.

#### **CHELMARSH FRIENDS:**

A notice will be posted on Chelmarsh Parish Hall Website with details of the date Friends will resume, hopefully once restrictions are lifted.

#### **CHELMARSH WALKING FOR HEALTH:**

Chelmarsh Walking for Health meets every Monday from the Village Hall at 10am. Walks are available at two levels – a short walk and a longer walk lasting 1½ to 2 hours.

## St Mary's, Billingsley

On Sunday 11th July, we had a triple bill at our evening service. The main theme was "Women of Billingsley church", looking at some of the women who have played a part in the history of the church, including both residents of Billingsley and saints associated with the church (Mary and Agatha). St Agatha probably features in our history as the mother of one of the owners of the medieval manor was called Agatha and in the 1870s a wall painting of St Agatha was discovered during rebuilding of the church. Her story can be found at <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha of Sicily">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha of Sicily</a>; in the light of current discussion on violence against women, her story has a very contemporary ring.



Billingsley march on Stottesdon

We were also pleased to welcome the great-niece of one our past incumbents; the Rev Beynon James. The Rev James came from a farming family living in north Pembrokeshire, where his great-niece and her husband still live; it was wonderful to be able to share stories and photos of this clearly much-loved priest.

The least successful part of the service were the prayers for the England football team; the ways of God are always just and good, but sometimes hard to understand...

We are experimenting with open-air worship, "Forest Church", to better connect with God the lord of creation and to experience him through nature; please look at our website(s)/facebook for details. We also have monthly walks to which all are welcome; again, check our website or contact me.

David Poyner, Tel 01562 68638/0121 204 3997; email <a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a> Follow us on Facebook<a href="mailto:Follow.com/BillingsleyChurch/">https://www.facebook.com/BillingsleyChurch/</a> or our websites, <a href="mailto:www.st-marys-billingsley.org.uk">www.st-marys-billingsley.org.uk</a>, <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10415/">https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10415/</a>

## St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

It's been a quiet month for Glazeley. Our monthly communion took place on Sunday 18th July, when we also welcomed friends from Highley. We were particularly pleased that Rachael Davenhill was able to join us and play the organ.



This must have been the first time this year that we have been able to have an organ at any service in the benefice and it was lovely to welcome Rachael. Her mother June is very much in our prayers at the moment.

The recorded service on 18th July was also from Glazeley and we were delighted that Ian and Jeremy were able to read the lessons for us; this does help to properly ground the recorded service in the hosting church. The service is available to watch on https://youtu.be/b9PiPJua6Tw or via stmaryshighley.co.uk

# The Grand Auction

Thanks to all who donated items, those who attended and gave generously, and of course, to our auctioneer Mike and his willing stewards, Derek and Roy. As always, it couldn't have happened without those who were behind the scenes, doing the real work and providing refreshments! Thank you one and all. (The proceeds are still being counted!)

The masked guitarist on the front cover? Our very own Derek, churchwarden at Chelmarsh!







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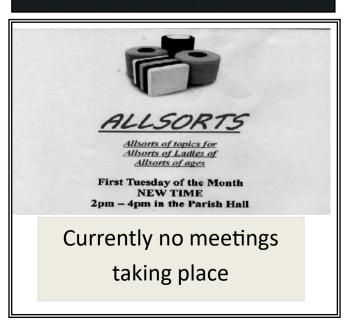


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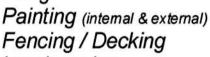


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## Letter from Westminster



Parliament rose for the Summer Recess last month, after yet another period of working with social distancing under COVID restrictions.

As I write, these are being relaxed in England as we move through Step 4 of the planned emergence from national constraints on the conduct of our daily lives.

It provides a time to reflect on this unprecedented period in peacetime, in which the nation has been obliged to live our lives without normal contact with each other. I have been struck by the impact this has had on our relationships.

The lack of day to day contact with family and friends has been very difficult over the past 16 months or so. For those who have lost loved ones especially so.

But there has also been a remarkable resilience shown by people across our communities, with helping hands extended to those in need, as the whole country has come together to combat this pandemic. None more so than those in our NHS, treating those caught up with COVID, and the volunteers helping others and the teams of people enabling vaccination of the adult population.

I was briefed on the day I write this by NHS leaders in Shropshire who pointed to their expectation that by mid-August all adults in the county will have had the opportunity to have received their double dose of vaccine. They are finalising plans for booster doses to be given alongside annual flu jabs from September to those most vulnerable. This has been a monumental effort and we are all grateful for the extraordinary commitment they have shown to keeping us safe.

The latest delta variant of the virus is increasing cases rapidly, but the incidence of hospitalisation is vastly lower thanks to the efficacy of the vaccine. As of today there are ten patients with COVID in Shropshire's hospitals, six of which have not been vaccinated. The SAGE committee advising the Government expect cases to rise and that this will lead to an increase in death rates across the country, but to less than the number of people who die from smoking related causes each day.

I am struck by the division of opinion locally between those with understandable anxiety about the risk posed from new variants and the relaxation of restrictions, and those who feel we have to find a way to live our lives by managing the virus through vaccines and treatments like we do other diseases.

There is no right answer to this conundrum, only a balanced judgement. Governing the country requires making difficult decisions. I think the success of the vaccine programme justifies the decision to relax restrictions.

But as someone with an underlying lung condition which has required me to be cautious and vigilant through this long period, I shall continue to take precautions to limit exposure to the virus in confined spaces. I am looking forward to spending as much of August as possible out of doors enjoying what I hope will be a splendid month of summer sunshine in Shropshire. I hope you can too.

# Highley Miners Welfare Junior Football Club

On the 26th June the Highley Welfare Junior under 10s football team travelled to Telford to compete in their first 9 a side tournament. This was the boys' first experience of playing the offside rule and on a larger size pitch than they have been used to. Unfortunately two members of the team were unable to make the day and new players Danny and Sonny were drafted in to complete the team. Despite these new challenges the boys adapted really well and we soon found ourselves in the tournament final. Each and every player contributed to the team success. Harry Griffiths scored a wonder goal in the group stages, followed up by Isaac Purdy (GK) making a first class save against a very good team.

The final game was tense and closely fought. A hand ball from the other team in the box resulted in a penalty awarded to Highley, after some discussion on who would take it and a row of parents who could barely watch, the winning goal was scored by Joe Griffiths. The final whistle went soon after and the boys celebrated their achievement.

It was a brilliant day which was enjoyed by players and parents. It has given the boys confidence for the new season in September when they will go up to the under 11s age group.

We would like to send a big thank you to Costcutter Highley who have sponsored our kit over the last two years. This support makes grassroots football affordable for all children in the village and is very much appreciated.



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# County Councillor's Report

By the time this report appears the work on the B4555 will hopefully have been completed and, if indications at the time of writing this are anything to go by, it will have been worth the major hassle the unpredictable road closures have caused. I'm offering a not-so-silent prayer that for a few years at least our tyres may now see out their normal service life!

But what a ridiculous fight it's been, with Shropshire Council highways going out of their way to be obstructive in the most patronising way imaginable. They have consistently denied there was a problem – when they've bothered to respond at all – insisting on their absolute right to deny that what WE were experiencing on a daily basis was not, in their "professional opinion", an issue worth investigating let alone doing something about.

I was subsequently taken to task by the current highways portfolio holder, Deputy Council Leader Steve Charmley (who is expecting the rest of us to find several tens of millions of pounds to pay for the North West Relief Road that feeds into his council patch of Oswestry), although the experience was a bit like being savaged by a dead sheep. In his response he deliberately managed to completely miss the point. Pretty pathetic way of going about things. The whole point of my campaign being that Shropshire Council highways had arrogantly **ignored** local representations and then lied, dismissing the detailed submissions of myself and local parish clerks out of hand.

But the highways stuff is relatively small beer when you consider all the other changes that are now in place at what used to be referred to as "Shirehall", a place that now exists in name only, where the business of responding to community representatives hardly figures. It is no longer a "shire hall" in the sense of its being a civic centre where the people elected by the people of Shropshire do the business of running the county on behalf of that electorate, the process otherwise known (or used to be known, although it's now a foreign concept) as democratic governance. The council is now managed by its directors of service according to how they see fit, the consequences of which we've seen in the way the council highways department is run, according to how THEY think it should be run to give us what they think we really need, forget what we WANT and which we pay for!

Years ago I was in Carvers, the Wolverhampton-based builders' merchants, ordering a special connector for a bidet and found myself in argument with the guy serving me who had no idea what I was talking about, despite my showing him a picture of the item. He wouldn't even check his inventory. He was insisting I just didn't fit the bidet. So I asked him how much he was paying me for this visit. "Well, nothing, you're paying us!" 'Right, that's established the basis of this COMMERCIAL relationship. Care to reconsider?'

A female colleague of his stepped in and within about two minutes returned with the part.

That's all I'm expecting from Shropshire Council on behalf of the people who pay their wages, the very minimum you lot have every right to expect for your money.

# Puzzles for August

#### **Crossword Clues**

#### Across

- 1 Of Moses (6)
- 4 'You have been weighed on the and found wanting'

(Daniel 5:27) (6)

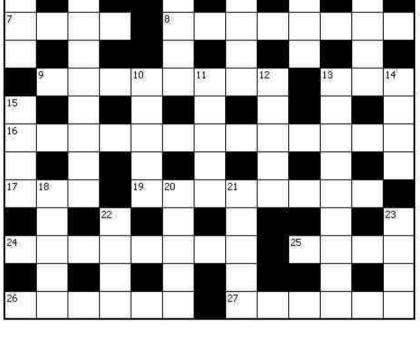
- 7 Where Jesus performed the first of his miraculous signs (John 2:11) (4)
- 8 Roman emperor who ordered all the Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:2) (8)
- 9 Member of a conservative Jewish party in the Sanhedrin which believed there was no resurrection

(Acts 23:8) (8)

- 13 South London Mission (1,1,1)
- 16 Sure of one's own ability (2 Corinthians 11:17) (4-9)
- 17 'At this the man's face fell. He went away —, because he had great wealth' (Mark 10:22) (3)
- 19 Airs used (anag.) (8)
- 24 'The Lord is my —, I shall not be in want' (Psalm 23:1) (8)
- 25 'He has sent me to up the broken-hearted' (Isaiah 61:1) (4)
- 26 At or towards the rear of a ship (6)
- 27 Cross-carrying evangelist and world traveller, Blessitt (6)

#### Down

- 1 Ridicule (Luke 18:32) (4)
- 2 Encased in strapped-on light shoes (Song of Songs 7:1) (9)
- 3 Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (1,1,1,1,1)
- 4 'Father, give me my of your estate' (Luke 15:12) (5)
- 5 Assistant (4)
- 6 On a par (John 5:18) (5)
- 10 Credo (anag.) (5)
- 11 Beaten with a rod (5)
- 12 The fourth of Job's 'comforters', who deferred making his contribution because of his junior status (Job 32:6) (5)
- 13 Chosen as a temple attendant, he was described by Ezra as 'a capable man' (Ezra 8:18) (9)
- 14 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where and rust destroy' (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 15 Employs (4)
- 18 Associated with penitence for sins, along with sackcloth (Matthew 11:21) (5)
- 20 Association of South-East Asian Nations (1,1,1,1,1)
- 21 Sub-continent to which Baptist missionary pioneer William Carey devoted his life (5)
- 22 Recess at east end of a church (4)
- 23 One of the nine sons of Beriah (1 Chronicles 8:15) (4)





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# Highley School Sports Day



This year Highley Primary School sports day was different due to the Corona Virus. The classes of this Primary have not been able to mix like they usually would. Instead, this year, they were kept in their own Classes or 'Bubbles'. Reception, Year One and Year Two were racing in the morning, whereas Year Three, Year Four, Year Five and Year Six raced in the afternoon.

Last year, the children may recall having a special sports day at home. Back in home schooling, they had sports videos for children to tune into and try being little athletes themselves.

This year the classes practised lots throughout the week, to train for the big day. The children at Highley School are split into four amazing teams in each of their bubbles to compete against their classmates. The radical 'Red' team, the 'Green' team of greatness, the brilliant 'Blue' team and the shining team of 'Yellow'.

The sport's day comprised of five exciting events, which included: a baton race, where the different teams would pass their batons along their lines and then score points by coming around the cones and passing them to the next participant. They also had a discus throwing tournament: trying to score points by getting the discus past certain cones (beanbags for KS1). Another one of the activities was a long jump, with the teams leaping across cones, spread out across the ground. In addition, there was a 'howler' throwing contest, where each child would throw a howler across a certain distance. The final event was slightly different for KS1 and KS2. In KS1 children had an obstacle relay to conquer featuring hurdles & a tunnel to crawl through. In KS2 there was a football kicking contest, whereby children tried to kick the ball between some cones to gain points and they also had a ball tossing contest, whereby the contestants had to hit a target to score points.

The last activity was on the racetrack. Each child ran a circuit of the school playing field for the long distance race, and then a short sprint along the running track. The children of Highley Primary cheered each and every participant on, with some children overcoming obstacles and challenges to become victorious!

The School's headteacher, Tom Plim, said this: "Despite parents not being here, it was a tremendous day where we were all together as a whole school for the first time in many months."



Now this was certainly a sports day to remember, even if it was different, the children of Highley Primary School showed it could still be fun!

Charlie Palmer-Hulse and Libby Sherry, Year 6
Highley Primary School

# News from the W.I.

Hello, old friends, hello. It's been a long time but we are gradually coming out of hibernation; families, friends and neighbours getting together at last. We held our first meeting in July, a pure delight to sit chatting, catching up with everyone's news, only our smiles were contagious.

Some of our members have spent July afternoons with sewing machines chugging away, making beautiful fabric bunting to decorate our events, our crafting skills put to great use. Many of our members have spectacular skills; please share your particular skill, send me pics and a quick description and we will include it. <a href="mailto:chrismaczeb@gmail.com">chrismaczeb@gmail.com</a>

August sees us getting back to basics with a return to regular format of meetings, speakers, fundraising events and raising our profile in the village. At our meeting on 17th August 7pm in the Severn Centre our speaker will be Jo Gobie— "A Guided Tour". There will be a Raffle and refreshments.

Squeeze the last drops out of our summer, take a last minute trip, preserve blooms from your garden, visit family, friends before work and school takes over. August is a pretty wonderful time of the year, school holidays, the warmest weather, festivals, events, for gardeners. Anglo-Saxons called it *weod monath*, when weeds and plants grow most rapidly.

August also brought us one of the most iconic speeches of all time on August 28th 1963, when Martin Luther King Jr spoke to 250,000 people on the steps of Lincoln Memorial—"I have a dream". Unfortunately we still campaign for equality; our WI promotes diversity and equality in all things.

Our Shropshire County news continues, with women's health forums resuming events which cover many topics of interest to us all, such as awareness of ovarian cancer, heart disease in women and many other aspects of our physical and mental health.

Are you involved in a local project to protect your local spaces? Let us know by contacting me, Christine Cotton on <a href="mailto:christine">chrismaczeb@gmail.com</a> and we can include them in next month's Forum, How are your sun flowers growing? Send me pictures.

New members are welcome, any queries contact our secretary Mrs Eunice Williams.

01746 861613



This was taken in 2018, pre Covid. We are in full voice, singing 'Jerusalem', which we do at the beginning of each meeting. Some may find this old-fashioned, but we find joining together in song brings a wonderful cohesion to our group.

**Christine Cotton** 

Our members recipe of the month is that old school favourite—Jam & Coconut sponge tray bake; good for sharing and fundraising. Some serve with custard (remember school pink custard?) but just as good on its own.

Makes 18-24 slices

Line a Baking Tray rectangular 18x32x2.5cm, 180 /160 fan, 350 degrees F, gas mark 4

170g/6oz butter

170g/6oz caster sugar

170g/6oz self-raising flour

3 eggs large

Seedless jam strawberry or choose your favourite

50g/2oz desiccated coconut

Use stand /hand mixer or just beat it

Mix butter/ sugar until fluffy

Add eggs one at a time

Add flour, stir gently

Pour into lined baking tray spread evenly

18-20 mins until risen and golden brown

Leave to cool 15mins

Spread jam while still warm, sprinkle with half of coconut

Wait 20 mins then sprinkle rest of coconut. Slice & serve.

Enjoy!



# Have a go at Sudoku—answers on page 23

				/				
8		4	3	0				9
	7		1					
	6			8		2	3	
4	5	6		1	8	3		7
	9		5		3		2	
3		8	7	9		1	2 5	4
	3	5		2			6	
					5		1	
9					1	5		3

Easy

		9	1					4
4	2					6		
		1	2	4			8	
,	7						05	
1	3		6		2	0.	9	7
							6	
	6			5	1	9		
		3					1	5
2					9	7		

Medium

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# Alan Honeybourne writes ..... THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Nipper Cook watched with interest. Professor Gaunt had recently moved to a nearby village after what he called an 'unfortunate accident' at his previous home. During an experiment with explosives he had succeeded in blowing out the windows of his own abode. At the moment he was lighting a small fire under a large balloon that gradually filled with air and mounted aloft carrying a basket with a live cockerel inside. As the balloon mounted aloft, this container rocked violently and the bird, squawking in protest, flew out and fluttered safely to earth. "Tut tut," muttered the inventor. "That wretched bird has ruined the whole experiment." He explained to Nipper that he had previously "borrowed" the neighbour's dog and the creature had nearly come to an unfortunate end when the balloon crashed.

"The fellow who owned him was quite unreasonable. In spite of the fact that the animal had a painless landing, chewing on a bone." He informed our old friend that he had a much larger balloon constructed in his shed, but needed a volunteer pilot. "He must be entirely fearless, intelligent, but not too careful about his own safety, and willing to go on, even when injured, in the cause of science," he declaimed. "Hmm, not too many of them about," declared Nipper. "Have you tried the local asylum?" The Professor was not amused. "Certainly not. I did have one volunteer but he had an unfortunate tendency to alcoholism and was really unsuitable." Nipper nodded, "I'll bet that was my old friend Sam Sanders." The Professor beamed. "Indeed, that was his name and he suggested a substitute. A certain Mr Cook." Nipper looked alarmed. "That happens to be me, but I have no intention of becoming the latest casualty." The Professor looked indignant. "There is no real danger. In any case I have designed a parachute for the aviator to wear in an emergency." Nipper privately considered that if the parachute was as well designed as the balloon it was likely to prove more of a shroud. The inventor invited Mr Cook to take a little trip. "The balloon is safely tethered and will simply land itself when the hot air cools." Much against his better judgement, and clad in a padded outfit complete with safety helmet, Nipper clambered aboard. "There is a small hamper containing victuals and refreshing drinks but that is for longer flights," he informed Nipper. "You are welcome to drink a little toast to future success when aloft."

Much to his surprise Nipper enjoyed the ascent and was toasting the Professor from aloft when he noticed the complication. Flames were coming from the basket work where the tethering rope was tied. Hastily using his helmet he beat out the flames. The tethering rope had been passed across the hot brazier and had snapped. Quickly uncoiling the rest of the rope he threw it towards the now minute figure on the ground. "Haul me in!" he roared. Alas! The tether was too short to reach the ground. "Pity he hasn't designed the parachute. Abandoning ship is certainly in order," groaned the amateur aviator. He decided to let the brazier fire die down a bit and reasoned that the balloon would then descend. Unfortunately, when this occurred, he happened to be over a small farm. Realising that this would make descent difficult, he noticed a number of sand bags on the floor. He knew that these were ballast so he heaved a couple overboard. The balloon shot up immediately and, looking down to see the result of this jettisoning, saw that one had gone through the roof of a cow shed. The farmer below was dancing with rage then dashed into the farm house re appearing with a large shotgun! Nipper heaved two more bags overboard and he

faintly heard the shot as he rocketed beyond range. The trailing rope now caused trouble as it bounced from roof to roof in a neighbouring village eventually becoming lodged in a line of washing. "Good," thought our friend. "They can haul me in and I'll explain." Another gust of wind, however, broke the washing line and the balloon carried onwards trailing a line of smalls. Mr Cook decided that distance would improve relations with the earthbound population and piled fuel on to the brazier. The balloon responded feebly and with sinking heart he realised the farmer's shot had holed the balloon.

Luckily there were open fields below interposed with bramble bushes. As he seemed to be heading for a clump of these, he threw overboard the last of the sandbags, his helmet and padded jacket. This last item landed on the face of a sleeping tramp below, who blessed his good fortune, until the following helmet struck him a glancing blow. The balloon was suddenly arrested in flight as the rope became entangled in a tree. Slowly Nipper clambered down and went in search of a phone. The irate Professor arrived with a posse of locals demanding recompense. "I have decided to abandon balloon research. I am going to build a large glider for military purposes. Think of the advantages. A silent approach and raining hand bombs on the enemy below." Picking thorns out of various parts of his anatomy, Mr Cook responded, "The disadvantage would be landing behind enemy lines and being lynched by aggrieved troops." The Professor sniffed. "There are always problems with new ventures," he declared. Nipper, however, declined the offer of test pilot.

"I know just the chap for you. He's known as Mick the Masher and he is pretty durable. I don't think he's got a passport though in case your glider lands in France." The Professor snorted indignantly. "No glider can travel so far. He would probably land in the English Channel." "I doubt if he's much of a Captain Webb either, but he's mug enough to take that chance." Jingling the cash Professor Gaunt had given him, he sauntered off. "There must be easier ways of making a living," he mused. "A rocket to the moon perhaps?"

Later on he heard that the Masher was in hospital with multiple injuries after an accident with a glider. He was given the information by Soapy Sam who was carrying two wreaths. "In case he takes a turn for the worse. They will look very tasteful each end of the coffin."

#### **Author's footnote:**

Captain Webb was the first person to swim the English Channel, using breaststroke all the way. A feat not equalled by later contestants, who use the less exhausting over arm action.

**Alan Honeybourne** 

## Village Club Reports

If you are responsible for any clubs or groups in the village and would like to contribute regularly, please get in touch and, space permitting, we will do our best to include your news. Photos always appreciated. (Please obtain permission from anyone appearing in them.)

Contact Val Smith at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com Copy must be sent by 15th of the preceding month.

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# UCB Word for Today

**Build Others up!** 'Say only what helps' Ephesians 4:29 The Message Translation

The apostle Paul writes, 'Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.' (Ephesians 4:29 New Living Translation)

Eugene Petersen paraphrases it this way: 'Say only what helps, each word is a gift.' Think of the people you most enjoy spending time with. How would you describe them? Grumpy? Bitter? Negative? Of course not! They're celebrators, not complainers. They're passionate about life. As you live this day, realise that everyone you meet, you will leave: 1) better off; 2) worse off; 3) unaffected. The way to build others up is to see them as opportunities instead of obstacles or obligations. One leadership expert writes, 'One of the best things you can do for people—which also attracts them to you—is to expect the best of them. I call it putting a '10' on everyone's head. It helps others think more highly of themselves and at the same time it also helps you.'

A survey of 100 self-made multi-millionaires showed only one common denominator. These highly successful men and women routinely looked for the best in people. Benjamin Disraeli, one of Britain's finest Prime Ministers, put it this way. 'The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches, but to reveal to him his own.' And you do that by appreciating, encouraging and helping others to reach their potential. Napoleon described leaders as 'dealers in hope'. He understood that hope is one of the greatest of all possessions. If you can be the person who bestows that gift on others, they'll not only be attracted to you, they'll be forever grateful.

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## Answers to Sudoku (from page 18)

6	1	3	7	4	5	2	8
7.5	3	2	9	5	6	7	1
	5	8	1	6	9	3	4
	9	7	5	2	4	1	3
_	2	9	4	1	8	6	5
754	4	6	3	8	7	9	2
5.53	7	1	8	3	2	4	6
-	6	5	2	9	3	8	7
200	8	4	6	7	1	5	9

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

Easy Medium

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Our team will also be on hand to answer all and any questions that you may have, from how to arrange a funeral, and the questions you should ask your Funeral Director, to how we are working to provide further education for children who are bereaved, and even our policies around the handling of donations and funeral costs.

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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.



#### Not so new idea of the month - Alastair

Whilst we have been trying to reduce the amount of meat and dairy that we eat, we have also been trying to reduce the number of processed foods we eat (sometimes it is shocking to see the list of individual ingredients on packaging). Eating wholesome, home cooked dinners is better for your health, but often with work, children, and the 21st century lifestyle we choose, it can be challenging to make something quickly without using a processed food. A simple solution is batch cooking. If you make 2x or 3x as much food as you need, keep it in the fridge for a couple of days or freeze it. It saves time and helps maintain that healthy balance your body needs.

#### Time for a pint

Raise your glass to organic beer; conventionally grown hops are sprayed up to a dozen times a year. I've smelt 'spray' before from a drifted application, and it doesn't smell remotely good. Is the price of beer made with sprayed hops worth it for my body or that of the wildlife which it destroys?

#### **Defrost and dust - Jamie**

I have to defrost our freezer a couple of times a year, as the ice builds up so much that the drawers won't shut. The best time to do it is in the summer, when I don't need the energy of a hair dryer to remove the ice. If you are defrosting yours, clean the back of your fridge at the same time. Dusty coils can increase energy consumption by 30%!

#### Out on the bike - Alastair

As a keen cyclist, there is nothing better than getting out on my bike in the Shropshire countryside. I find the best times to go are before most people have breakfast (which is convenient for an early commute) and after most people have had their supper. This is for 2 reasons. Firstly, I find there are a lot of drivers who scare me by driving too close or simply don't understand what 'safely overtaking' involves, either because of their speed or their inability to anticipate dangers ahead. Secondly, it is the fumes. The number of cars has increased dramatically in the last 30 years and so too has the pollution. I cycle in the countryside and often feel disgusted by the air I have to breathe in, especially if I'm working hard up a steep hill. I hate to think how a cyclist in the city fares. Slowing down decreases your fuel consumption and pollution output, but hopping on your bike is better!

## Poetry Corner

## **Garden Of Tranquillity**

As I sit in the garden
On a warm summer's day
Looking up to the heavens
As the dark clouds move away

As I take in the view
Of all the flowers on display
Each side of the driveway
On such a warm summer's day

Along the stone pathway Leading to the potting shed Standing next to the greenhouse And the raised vegetable beds

Just so relaxing in the garden On a warm summer's day And enjoying the perfume From the flora on display



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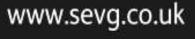
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Assistant Curate	Rev. David Poyner	d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	01562 68638
Retired with Permission to Officiate	Canon Rose Lawley	rosemarylawley@gmail.com	862301
Churchwarden	Roy Adlington		861666
Readers	Mr Keith Smith (PTO)		861966
PCC Secretary	Mrs Rose Lawley	rosemarylawley@gmail.com	862301
Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Lin Evans		861087
Coffee Morning (Tuesdays)	Mrs Yvonne Shaw		861723
Children's Sunday Groups			
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
Age UK		enquiries@ageconcernshrops.org.uk	01743 233123
Bowls Club	Lorraine Brooks		860386
Brownies		(Rainbows - Jessica Lloyd - 861090)	
Carers Trust 4 All			03333 231990
Community Car Scheme	Mr Richard Dudson		861817
Cricket Club	Mrs Denise Goulden		861031
Gardening Club	Mrs Morag Ross		862450
Guides	Mrs Gay Lilley		861722
Highley Colliery Band	Dave & Lisa Burge		862018
Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
Highley County Primary School	School Office	(Tanya Mathers)	861541
Highley First Responders	Dave Fulton	Coordinator	861580
Highley Medical Centre	Dr Alan	Bridgnorth Road	861572
Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Mrs Sharon Dalziel		862087
Highley Minors Childcare Centre	Dawn Bethel / Kath Davies	Severn Centre	860005
Highley Parish Council Parish Clerk	Mrs Ella Preston	81 Woodhill Road	861979
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



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**Andrew Powell** (01746) 861716

Daniel Humpage (01746) 862794

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## Page 32 The Forum

As lockdown gradually unfolds and we return to a more flexible lifestyle, do double check timetables and shop and bank opening times, all of which could vary from place to place.



18:25 18:43 18:53 18:53

ATURDAYS with some variations - check

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* Not including Bank Holidays											
Stourbridge Bus Station, Stourbridge	-	-	08:00	-	09:10		10		15:10	16:20	17:20
Broadwaters Heath, Hare and Hounds, Broadwaters	-	_	08:18	-	09:25		25		15:25	16:38	17:38
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Arrive	-	07:27	08:28	08:37	09:35		35		15:35	16:48	17:48
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Depart	-	07:27	08:28	08:37	09:37		37		15:37	16:50	17:50
Kidderminster General Hospital, Kidderminster	-	07:34	-	08:44	09:44		44		15:44	16:57	17:57
Bewdley Load Street, Bewdley	06:30	07:45	-	08:55	09:55		55		15:55	1,7:08	18:08
Button Oak, Buttonoak	06:36	07:51	<u>===</u> 5	09:01	10:01	then	01		16:01	17:13	18:13
Kinlet, Kinlet	06:43	07:58	_	09:08	10:08	at these	80	until	16:08	17:20	18:20
Highley, Highley	06:53	08:08	<del>-11</del> 3	09:18	10:18	mins	18		16:18	17:30	18:30
Highley Garden Village, Woodhill	06:56	08:13	427	09:21	10:21		21		16:21	17:33	18:33
Chelmarsh, Chelmarsh	07:00	08:18	-	09.26	10:26		26		16:26	17:38	18:38
Eardington, Eardington	07:05	08:23	-	09:31	10:31		31		16:31	17:43	18:43
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore, High Town	07:12	08:33		09:38	10:38		38		16:38	17:50	18:50
Bridgnorth Low Town, Low Town	07:15	77	-	-	_		-			2	_
Stanmore Industrial Estate, Stanmore	07:22	-	-	-	$(x_i)_{i=1}^{n}$		-		-		-

## Monday to Friday - 125 - Stanmore Industrial Estate - Stourbridge Bus Station

		* (0712)								*RS
Stanmore Industrial Estate, Stanmore	-	07:24	-		-			-		-
Bridgnorth Low Town, Low Town	-	07:32						1277		_
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore, High Town	-	-	08:40		40		14:40	15:45	16:45	18:05
Eardington, Eardington	-	07:37	08:49		49		14:49	15:55	16:55	18:14
Chelmarsh, Chelmarsh	( <del></del>	07:42	08:54		54		14:54	16:00	17:00	18:18
Highley Garden Village, Woodhill	·	07:47	08:58		58		14:58	16:05	17:05	18:23
Highley, Highley	* ==	07:51	09:01	then	01		15:01	16:09	17:09	18:26
Kinlet, Kinlet	-	08:01	09:11	at these	11	until	15:11	16:19	17:19	18:35
Button Oak, Buttonoak	100	80:80	09:19	mins	19		15:19	16:27	17:26	18:42
Bewdley Load Street, Bewdley	·	08:15	09:25		25		15:25	16:33	17:32	18:48
Kidderminster General Hospital, Kidderminster	<u> </u>	08:27	09:35		35		15:35	16:44	17:43	18:57
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Arrive	07:30	08:35	09:41		41		15:41	16:50	17:49	19:03
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Depart	07:30	08:37	09:43		43		15:43	16:52	17:50	19:03
Broadwaters Heath, Hare and Hounds, Broadwaters	07:38	08:45	09:49		49		15:49	17:00	17:58	
Stourbridge Bus Station, Stourbridge	07:55	09:05	10:05		05		16:05	17:17	18:18	

<sup>\* (0712)</sup> service serves Sainsbury's Superstore out of normal sequence. RS - Continues to Rail station by request

HM Government

NHS

## Bus travel guidance

### Stay safe

Keep 2m apart from people not in your own household while waiting





Look out for 'bus full' signs

The bus will only stop when people want to get off or if there is enough space onboard



If they do stop, they will normally only be able to let one passenger on for each one that gets off.



Be prepared to wait and please help others by prioritising those who need to travel more urgently than you

STAY ALERT - CONTROL THE VIRUS - SAVE LIVES

## Parish Hall Office 01746 861242

For information about weddings, Baptisms (Christenings), child's Decication or for general enquiries about church service times and parish information, please contact the Parish Office.

The office will be open on Thursdays (generally) om 10:00 - 12:00pm.

If there is no answer and at other times, there is a telephone message service and if you leave your name and telephone number someone will get back to you in due course or phone: 01746 862837

## Star Housing

Housing Support Officer in Rhea Hall.
Contact Jan Moseley: 01746 862442

#### Services available:

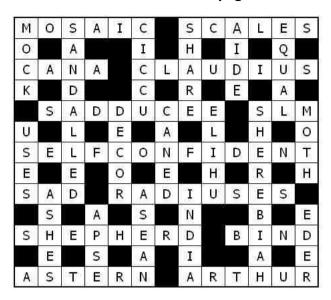
General Drop-in: Friday 9.30am-1.30pm **Phone for more information** 

Cregarding services s:

Wednesdays 10.30am-12.30pm

Community Room, 73 Rhea Hall Estate, WV16 6LD

### **Crossword Solution from page 15**



Waste / Recycling Collections

Please note change in collection days:

Black bins: Thursday 5th & Thursday 19th

Crates & green bins: Thurs 12th & Thurs 26th

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

www.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-andrubbish/

## Forthcoming Events

Gardening Club Wednesday

Severn Centre

**Police Surgery** 

Thursday

10:00 - 12:00

Seventre Centre

**Severn Strollers** 

wiondays

(not Bank Holidays)

10:30 / 11:00

Severn Centre

(Contact: Bathara Skilton: 01746 862003)

Women's Institute

Tuesday

Severn Centre

Patients' Group

see Facebook page

**Computer Support Sessions** 

see opposite

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All Round Property Maintenance	11
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10
Cleobury Country Centre	11
Cost Cutter	11
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22
Foot Health Practitioner	29
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	29
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25

Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25
Highley Garage	22
Highley Minors	28
Highley Pharmacy	19
Holford, CE (Electrical)	11
Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25
Kidderminster Storage & Removals	27
Kinlet C of E School	24
Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	29
Millfields Boarding Kennels	10
Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25
Ovenclean	19
Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24
Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10

1116 1 61 41	
Severn Edge Vets	29
Severn Valley Home Care	10
Shropshire Registration Services	25
Stark, A, Carpentry	19
Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	25
Wyre Forest Pest Control	29

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. I have a chat whilst enjoying a cup of Come alon a biscuit. Voluntary donations to tea or c

Venu t: Yvonne 861723

Denise Lobban, 14 Churc

Cancelled until further notice Gay & Jin Church St Church St Moira & Iv. Gill & Alun Rees, 2

Mary & David Rayner, Prestwoo use. Netherton ⊾ane 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



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

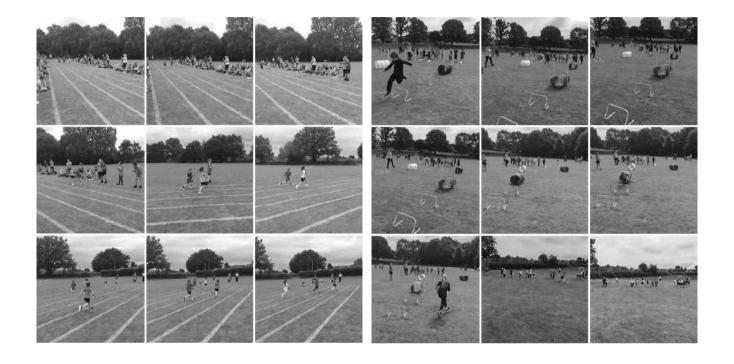
> Programme Cancelled

until further notice

Allsorts of topics for Allsorts of ladies of Allsorts of ages

# Highley School Sports Day!

One, two, three ...... and they're off!



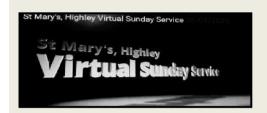
See page 16 for a more detailed account of what seems to have been a very successful Sports Day for everyone involved. Well done to all who took part!



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## August 2021

## **August Services**



Virtual services available online www.stmaryshighley.co.uk

Wednesday evening Zoom home group Contact David Poyner

Sunday 1st August 10am at St Mary's Highley Family Communion The faith of .... a Scientist David Poyner

Sunday 8th August 10am at St Mary's Highley Family Service
The faith of.... a Midwife Bev Bevan
10 am St Peter's, Chelmarsh Holy Communion
The faith of.... a Family Anita Manley
6pm St Mary's Billingsley BCP Sung Evensong

Sunday 15th August 10am at St Bartholomew's Glazeley Family Communion The faith of.... an Engineer Richard Law

Sunday 22nd August 10am at St Mary's Highley Family Service
The faith of..... a Photographer Roger Littleover
8am St Mary's, Billingsley Holy Communion
10am St Peter's, Chelmarsh Morning Service

Sunday 29th August 10am at St Peter's Chelmarsh Benefice Communion The faith of.... a Priest Francis Biddlecombe

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Prayer 9:00am  HOME GROUPS  7.30pm  The Byre, Woodhill Farm	Morning Prayer  Y noto a king  Coffee Morning  10:30 - 12 noon (page 34 - venues)	Holy Communion 9:30am  Plant Roups 10.30am The Rectory, Church St	<sup>efull</sup> y return	Morning Prayer 9:00am  Friday Event 19:30 at the Parisin Hall Term time
			Next Copy Dat	e: <u>August 15th</u>