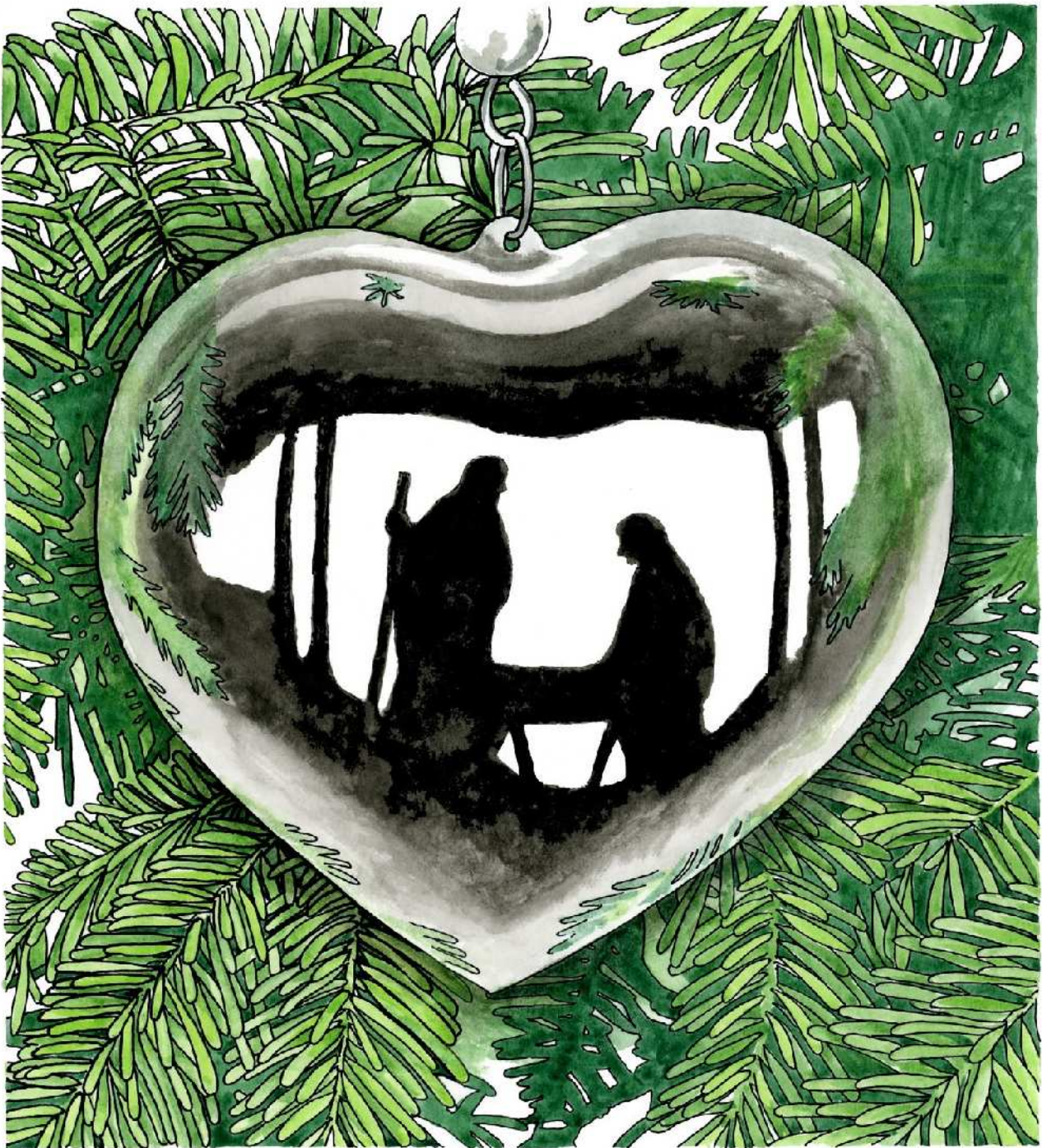


FORUM

December 2022



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Christmas—a message of Love



Adapted from St Paul's message about love, found in his letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13.



If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtimes, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at a soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the Christmas tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend parties every night and sing in the choir in church, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though busy and tired.

Love doesn't envy someone else's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust... But the gift of love will endure.



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.

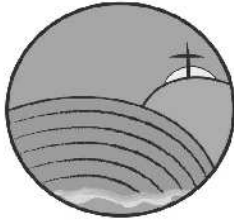
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Severn Valley Benefice

The Severn Valley Churches:

St. Mary, Highley
 St. Mary, Billingsley
 St. Peter, Chelmarsh
 St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

The Real Deal

When I was growing up we were only allowed to watch TV in the evenings. In fact, when I was very young, there were limited programmes anyway. I think my Dad thought our brains would frazzle if we peered at the tiny screen in the massive wooden casing for too long! Now I am (supposedly) an adult I can make my own choices, but I still feel a bit naughty if I turn the TV on in the early afternoon.

For those of you who are also occasionally naughty in this way, you've probably seen a host of antiques programmes; *Antiques Road Trip*, *Flog it*, *Cash in the Attic*, *The Yorkshire Auction House* and, of course, *Dickinson's Real Deal*. They are often about finding treasures hidden away in a loft or cupboard, which the owners hope will turn out to be priceless.

Sometimes the most valuable things look as if they are worthless, or at least not highly sought after. They look ordinary, no glitter or fancy adornments. Just ordinary.

It was like that the first Christmas; a baby born to a couple who weren't rich and prosperous. They were just ordinary; an older man and his young wife. They'd come with everyone else to register for the census. Bethlehem and Jerusalem were heaving with similar travellers. There was nowhere to stay, even for a heavily pregnant woman.

Yet we read that there was something special about this birth that some people picked up on. Shepherds, the lowest of the low in Jewish society, seemed to have had some sort of angelic visitation and ran down the hillside, abandoning their sheep, to find this new-born baby. Wise men from a distant country had been drawn by a star months, even years, before and had made a perilous journey to find him and bring significant gifts. King Herod was so paranoid that another King might be lurking in the shadows that he ordered all the new-born babies to be killed.

More than two thousand years later, the story is still told and we celebrate that baby's birth. There are so many worthless and fake things in our lives today. All around us adverts are promising us the world and often fail to deliver. But God still offers us the same gift he offered all that time ago. Emmanuel—God with us. Born as a helpless baby into a harsh and unforgiving world. Yet that baby grew up to be the means by which we can be reconciled to our Creator. God's original plan for us is restored. All we have to do is accept the gift. It's not fake or worthless. Jesus is the real deal!



...../ cont'd on page 5

..... Cont'd from page 4

We shall be telling the story again in our services throughout December, especially at our Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 7pm on Wednesday 14th December.

We look forward to seeing you there. Come and receive the gift which will be more valuable than anything else you possess.

Have a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Val Smith

Good News

(Luke 2:1-14)

Good news!

Good news of great joy –
and it outweighs the bad news
of the journey, of the rejection,
of the confusion that made, and makes up life
for Joseph and Mary and for us.

Good news!

God's timing, God's sovereignty,
God's plan for His people
through Jesus, His gift.
The time has come to accept and not be afraid.
God's news is good and everlasting.



Glory to Him and peace to those
who trust and receive
without always understanding.

By Daphne Kitching



Highley St. Mary	Billingsley St. Mary	Chelmarsh St. Peter	Glazeley St. Bartholomew
Roy Adlington 861666	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

St Mary's Highley

Remembrance

This year we had a short service on Friday 11th November, around the War memorial, when Highley school joined us to also look around the church discover the War Graves which are in the Churchyard. On Sunday 14th November Rev'd David Poyner led us in our annual Act of Remembrance around the War Memorial, when we were joined by other organisations in the village. This year, sadly we were without George Poyner to read out the names of those soldiers who died, but children from Highley School stepped into the breach and did a tremendous job!



We are now on the countdown to Christmas. David also led the Lights' Switch-On at the Severn Centre at the end of November. We shall be holding our usual Carol Service in St Mary's Church on Wednesday 14th December and the Crib service and Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve, as well as a Family Service on Christmas Day. Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of the services. Normal Sunday services will also take place throughout December. All services and timings are listed on page 36. Why not make this the year you come to a Christmas service?

We were very pleased to send 43 shoeboxes of gifts to Operation Christmas Child this year. Everyone is feeling the pinch as we go into a winter season, with the concern of higher food prices and escalating energy costs, so we are particularly grateful to those who felt able to give so generously. (See page 35 for photos.)

Our thanks go to all who regularly give their time to look after our Church and Churchyard, particularly at this busy time of year. Particular thanks go to Pat, Bev, Gay and the team who decorate the church for our festivities. We appreciate all they do.

A very happy and peaceful Christmas to all.

From our Registers

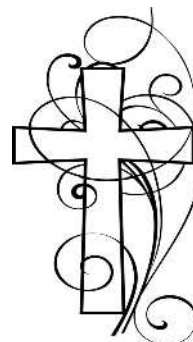
Christening:

6.11.22 Eveline Carter

Funerals:

25.11.22 Marjorie Ward

28.11.22 Carol Taylor



St Peter's, Chelmarsh

Table Top Sale Apology

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, this sale has had to be postponed until the spring. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.



Christmas Magic Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th December 10am till 4pm

At popular request, Marie has once again agreed to organise the Christmas tree event, but we could do with a few more volunteers with ideas and skills to help us out. If you as an individual or as part of one of the organisations in the village, would like to decorate a tree, please ring:

Marie tel. **01746 763973**,

Glenys tel. **01746 861971**,

Barbara tel. **01746 861291**.

Thank you, it will be such a help. We would also be grateful if people could help us to get the trees out of the shed on the Thursday before the opening.

There will be stalls selling homemade goods and Christmassy items, activities for children, and mulled wine and mince pies.

Crib Service Saturday 17th December at 4pm.

This is a short service for children to be able to dress the Crib and hear the Christmas story read by the older ones.

Christmas services in St Peter's church will be published nearer the time on social media and posters around the village. Note; it is our turn to have Midnight Mass this year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!

Smile Lines

Times, they are a-changing ...

- * I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. Then she implored: "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us some e-mail."
- * A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?" The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

St Mary's, Billingsley

A short Act of Remembrance in Billingsley Church was led by Amanda and Dave Prescott, when the names of Billingsley's fallen were read out, in front of the wooden cross that originally marked the grave of Lt Gibbs, one of those who was killed in active service in France in 1918.



We are now reverting to our winter pattern of services, with a once-a-month Holy Communion at 8am on the 4th Sunday of the month. We will resume the 6pm evening services on the 2nd Sunday of the month in April, once the pews have defrosted... However, at a time and date yet to be decided, there will be another open-air Forest Church, to mark how we can celebrate God in the natural world in winter; watch out for details on our websites and Facebook pages (Google "Billingsley St Mary's").

We have an open-air carol service at 7pm on Monday 19th December outside on the green at Lincoln Fields. As last year, there will be mulled wine and mince pies. On Christmas Day we have a service of music and words at 10am in the church.



Many thanks to the donor of the old sign that used to be in the churchyard. It dates back at least 50 years, to when the Rev Dore was in charge locally and before he moved to the rectory at Sidbury. It is currently in the porch but we will put it in the church.

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

This year's Remembrance Sunday service was led by Laura Jones; I am very grateful to Laura for taking the service as I had to be at Highley. It was good that the event was well supported; we must continue to remember the sacrifice of those who have served in our armed services whilst at the same time working for peace within our own communities.



I am writing this before our next breakfast at the Down has taken place, but I anticipate that it will be well supported. If you have not been to one of these, please come along; details are on our website, under "Services and Events" at [Events - Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew - A Church Near You](#) or phone/text Marion on 764585 / 07918559043

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Sunday 18th December at 10.00 am. All are welcome to this. There are Midnight Communion services at Highley and Chelmarsh and Christmas Day services at Highley and at Billingsley (10am) .

Don't forget to fill in your forms for 2023 subscription for The Wheatland Magazine & return to Marion.

Best wishes for a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all the members of the Glazeley PCC.

St. James the Least of All

On giving the after-dinner speech.

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I have been slightly surprised that in your ministry so far, you have never been asked to give an after-dinner speech. Now you have delivered your first one, I can understand why. Speeches after any dinner come at the point where stomachs are dealing with a little too much food and brains with about the same quantity of wine. They should be short and witty; yours was neither.

An hour-long speech on the Herodians and Second Temple Judaism at the time of the birth of Christ was not quite what we had expected. I applauded your enthusiasm, but I was the only one; the rest of them were asleep. Long after you had left, the catering staff gently vacuumed the carpets around the audience, and it was only when the night security guard arrived that the last diners were woken and politely sent home. I suspect you will have put many marriages under strain as husbands, returning home in the early hours of the morning, had to explain to wives why they were so late. Their truthful answers would have been unbelievable.

When the head waiter appeared in a dressing gown and started placing chairs on tables, even you must have suspected that hints were being dropped and I have never heard of a hotel manager interrupting a speech to place his keys on the top table and asking if the last person to leave would kindly lock the main door.

I know that your clerical attire is more usually T-shirt and jeans, but borrowing the curate's dinner suit from your next-door parish was also not a good idea. He is a foot taller and several stones heavier than you. The result was quite worrying – several people wondered if you had just recovered from some dreadful disease that had made you shrink.

In the light of your qualified success, thank you for offering to come to repeat your speech after our annual Christmas dinner, but 'no thank you'. The verger's son wants to share with us how many potholes he has counted in and around the town, and that should be most interesting.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Letter from Westminster



Although it is still early in November as I write this, I am looking forward to Christmas. A warming climate has been high on the agenda this past year, not least at the UN conference COP27 which has yet to conclude as I write, but after the UK has handed over the Presidency to Egypt. It is clear that 2022 will go down as the warmest year on record with drought conditions and record temperatures over 40 degrees leading to some of our rivers running dry in their upper reaches.

We've had the warmest and driest autumn since records began and as I write, have not yet had the first frost. Of course, I cannot predict what will happen for the rest of the year nor whether we will enjoy a white Christmas – I will leave that to the papers - but I have no doubt that our climate is changing around us. It is reassuring that our changing climate and the contribution we have made to our planet's warming is now near-universally recognised by global leaders, 110 of whom attended the COP27 Climate Conference in Egypt in December, including our new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

In November, I had the opportunity to ask the Prime Minister, now that we no longer have the COP Presidency as our forcing mechanism, how his Government will secure the necessary cross-departmental working to ensure our national net zero ambitions are achieved. He gave me a resolute response with a personal commitment to ensuring all government departments work towards decarbonising our economy.

Ahead of the COP27 Conference, our new King, HM Charles III hosted world leaders, business figures, environmentalists, and NGOs at Buckingham Palace. King Charles has been a leading figure in the environmental movement for half a century, long before many others had awoken to the developing crisis. We are fortunate to have both a Prime Minister and a Monarch fully committed to a sustainable future and the protection and preservation of our natural environment.

As Christmas approaches, like me, many people will be looking forward to spending time with loved ones, watching younger family members open their presents from Father Christmas and catching up over the Christmas Turkey.

But Avian Influenza, more commonly known as bird flu, may put our Christmas dinner at risk. At the time of writing, there had been 220 outbreaks since October 2021, 88 of which were during October this year.

Bird flu is a very virulent disease with turkeys particularly susceptible. The poultry industry is taking what steps they can to protect their flocks. I have joined colleagues in calling on the Government to harness our best scientists and virologists to develop a vaccine with the same urgency as we saw during the Covid pandemic.

Poultry farmers are not always highlighted for praise, but avian flu can completely devastate their business. The sector provides over 50% of the meat that we eat. Not to mention how critical they are to our traditional Christmas meal which dates back to Henry VIII who is thought to be the first person to eat turkey on Christmas day.

I hope that our poultry growers can provide the 10 million turkeys thought to be eaten each year at Christmas so that we can all enjoy the festive period and our Christmas Dinner to the full! Have a wonderful Christmas.

Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP

UCB Word for Today

Don't keep your love in a box!

'She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.' Mark 14:3

Mark records: 'A woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume...She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold...and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly. 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus...'She has done a beautiful thing ...The poor you will always have with you...But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you... wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her'' (Mark 14:3-9 NIV).

Joseph of Arimathea brought a hundred pounds of ointment to embalm Jesus after He was dead, and not a word of praise is spoken about it in Scripture. This woman brought one pound of ointment and poured it on Him while He was still living, and Jesus pointed out two things: a) 'She did what she could.' Acts of kindness are usually not about doing great things, but about doing small things with great love b) 'What she has done will also be told, in memory of her.' What will you be remembered for, a life of service or self-centredness?

If you think good things about someone, tell them. Go out of your way to fill their lives with joy while there's still time. Those expressions of appreciation, those words of forgiveness, that special gift you've had in mind, give it while you can. Don't keep your love in a box!

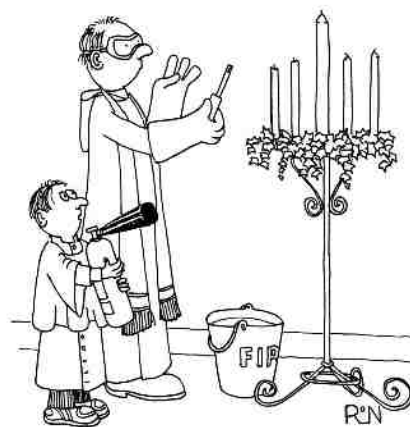
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If you would like a free copy of the UCB daily notes, pick up a copy from St Mary's Church or contact Angie Forster.



It's a letter from your church. They want to know if you've done the flower rota, if you've done the brass-cleaning rota, and have you ordered the mince pies for the carol singers Christmas party?



After the first candle fiasco, Brian took no chances

News from the Parish Council

During the last month I have attended both of our Remembrance services, the first being on Friday 11th November which was organised by the Royal British Legion, thank you to Cllr John Marshall for his efforts in arranging this event. It was very moving to see so many children representing Highley Primary School where not only did they read the names of those from Highley who lost their lives during the two world wars, but also recited the poem Flanders Fields. Roy Adlington also walked the children around the war graves which ensures future generations will remember those who gave so much. The second was the parade from the Severn Centre to the churchyard where we had a great turnout from our village, thank you to all at St Mary's church for both services and to the Highley Brass Band for their support too. Wreaths were laid to remember those lost in service.

Recently I have been involved in 2 events led by Shropshire Council, one being Care in the Community and the other JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) all aiming at improving the health and wellbeing of our village, the results of these surveys will be presented to us soon together with some action points to follow up on.

In January we are expecting several teams from Shropshire Council and the NHS to book a day at the Severn Centre in Highley, this will be advertised once we have confirmation of dates and exactly who will be attending.

Don't forget our Eat, Meet and Greet event on Fridays 3pm – 6pm where hot food and drinks will be supplied in a warm friendly environment.

Finally, on behalf of all Councillors of Highley Parish Council, we wish you and your families a very Merry Xmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Statement from the Parish Council re. Highley Medical Practice

Following the notification from Highley Medical Practice informing NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin that it will close the medical practice on 31st March 2023, Highley Parish Council are happy to support any future developments that can enhance the medical facilities open to the residents of Highley. We would also like to thank the practice for their extended notice as they were only required to give 3 months' notice.

We have offered our assistance to the NHS by sharing any information that will keep our residents informed within our village through our Parish Council website, notice boards and social media.

Over the next few weeks, we will liaise with the NHS, our Member of Parliament Philip Dunne and County Councillor Mark Williams to work towards obtaining the best results possible. Claire Parker has stated that this preferably would be to retain a medical practice in Highley and that they will prioritise access to general practice services to those affected by this notice.

Help is available through the Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS) by emailing: stw.patientservices@nhs.net. Staff members at Highley Medical Centre are also available to answer any questions.

Cllr Peter Vinall
Chair - Highley Parish Council

Email; peter.vinall@highleyparish.co.uk



Puzzles for December

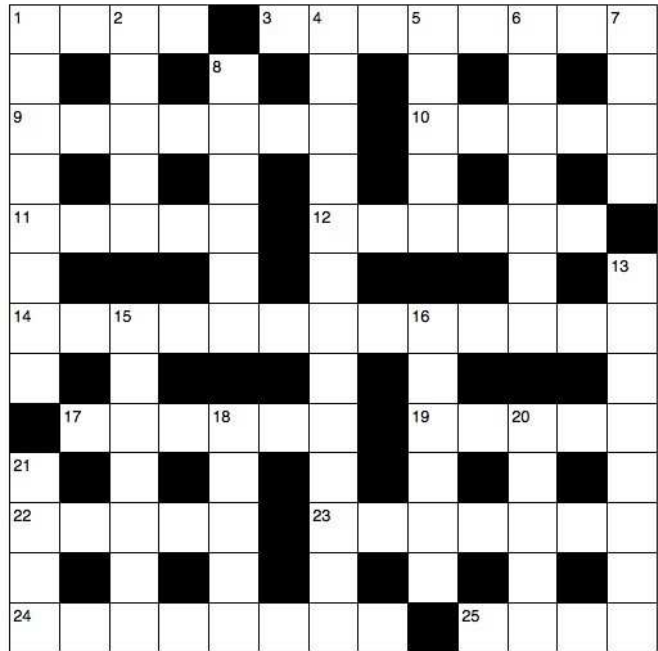
Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

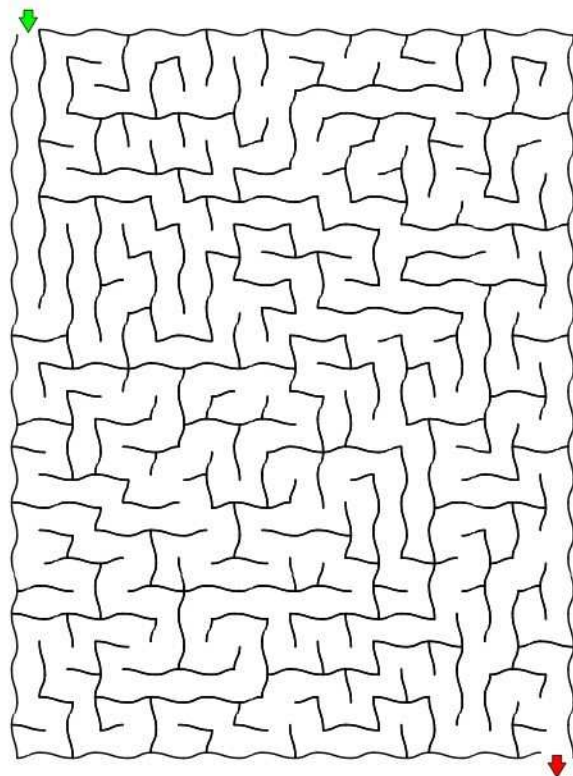
Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)



Solutions on page 33

The Maze



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Details correct at time of going to print - December 2021



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halo

Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23



Messiah	Favour	Crown	God	Jesus
Broken	Prisoners	Beauty	Seen	Darkness
Heart	Comfort	Ashes	Father	Longing
Freedom	Mourn	Son	Whoever	Thousand

Have a go at Sudoku — answers on page 23



Easy

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

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Medium

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

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Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

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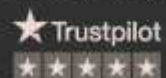
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Highley Medical Centre:

Q: Is Highley Medical Centre closing and if so, when?

A: The existing GP Partnership at Highley Medical Centre has given formal notice to NHS Shropshire Telford and Wrekin to end their GP contract. We are now working hard to ensure that wherever possible, GP services are maintained in Highley, however, in the event that alternative provision is not secured by 1 April 2023, services would cease at that point. Please be assured that every effort is being made to secure the continuation of GP services in the village.

Q: Should patients be looking to register elsewhere?

A: No – we would like to advise patients to wait for developments over the coming weeks. NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin will provide clear guidance to patients when the situation is clearer. Please be assured that no patient will be left without access to GP services. If patients wish to register elsewhere, they are free to do so but please note that as independent businesses, practices are not contractually obliged to accept patients from Highley.

Q: Why have the partners made this decision?

A: The partners have given a variety of reasons including significant pressures to the service, such as the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating, struggles to recruit and retain staff, an ever-growing workload and financial pressures.

Q: What is happening to secure provision in Highley?

A: NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin are leading urgent and extensive work with a range of partners to prioritise access to General Practice services for Highley patients and residents. The primary focus of this work is to secure an option that sustains provision in the village.

Q: Might there be differences in services from April onwards?

A: Possibly - the main priority is to do all we can to secure a provider for general medical services in the village meaning that core GP services are maintained wherever possible. It is too early to say whether there will be any wider changes.

Q: Will patient care be affected in the meantime?

A: No - Highley Medical Centre remains contracted to continue to deliver services until the contract ends. The practice is subject to the same requirements and quality controls up until this date. As such no patient's care should be adversely affected by this decision.

Q: How can I be sure that I am kept updated?

A: NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin will co-ordinate regular updates and will work with partners to issue timely communications to ensure people are kept fully informed.

Q: Who can I speak to if I am concerned or want more details?

A: Help is available through the Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS) by emailing: stw.patientservices@nhs.net. Staff members at Highley Medical Centre are also available to answer any questions.

<p>Patient Services Telephone: 01952 580407 Email: stw.patientservices@nhs.net In writing: Patient Services Team, NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Halesfield 6, Telford, TF7 4BF</p>	<p>Tom Brettell Partnership Manager Primary Care Team NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin tom.brettell1@nhs.net</p>
---	--

Good King Wenceslas—the story behind the Carol

Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking on the Feast of Stephen... ever wonder who on earth he was? Here are three of the five verses...

*Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel
When the poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel...*

*Bring me flesh and bring me wine; bring me pine logs hither;
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither.
Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the rude winds' wild lament, and the bitter weather...*

*In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men, be sure wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourself find blessing.*



This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia. Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

But that was not the end of Wenceslas. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the *rex Justus* – or 'righteous king' - that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria's envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the 'Duke' into a 'King', as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king's footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol - it goes back to Finland in 1582. Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke ch. 1 verses 1-25 & 57-80

The Romans had invaded Israel and still ruled it. Zechariah and Elizabeth were an old childless couple living in the hill country.



It was Zechariah's turn for temple duty in Jerusalem.

He was given a once-in-a-lifetime chance to burn incense in the holiest place in the temple



As it burnt he prayed



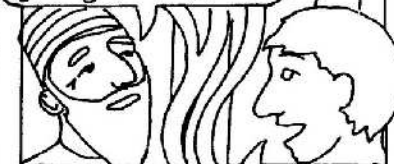
Lord God, please rescue us, your people.

Then he saw the angel standing next to him



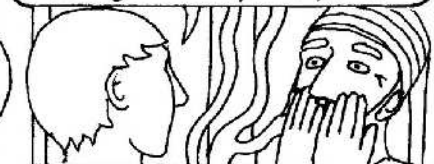
God has heard your prayer, and you will have a son.

At our age that's not going to happen



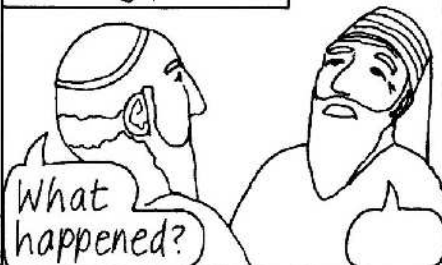
To show you that God means what He says..

you will be unable to speak until your son, John*, is born



*In Hebrew, 'John' is 'Yochanan' or 'God is gracious'

When Zechariah came out of the holy place..



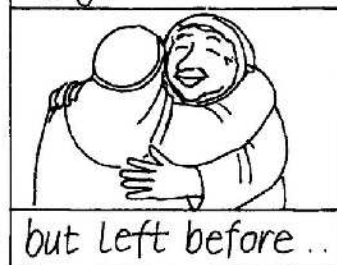
What happened?

He went home and soon Elizabeth had good news



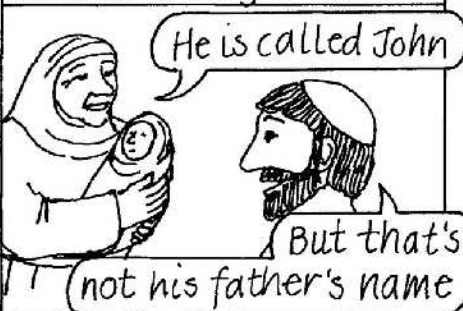
I'm pregnant!

Elizabeth's cousin Mary visited her...



but left before..

Elizabeth's baby was born.



He is called John

But that's

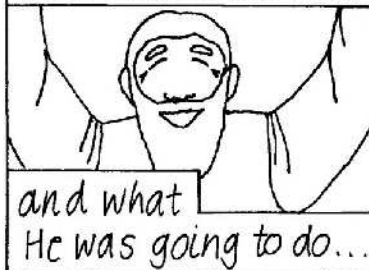
(not his father's name)

Zechariah wrote...



and could speak again..

He praised God for what He had done...



and what He was going to do...



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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.



So far in our articles, we have focussed on individual actions to slow climate change. However not everyone can afford to implement all these ideas at once. Fortunately there is one thing that we can all do:

Urge leaders in business and government to stop global warming getting worse, as quickly as they possibly can.

No single person or group of people are to blame for climate change. But governments have more power than individuals to stop global warming getting worse. And some industries currently contribute far more to the problem than others.

Overall, rich countries have caused more global heating than poor countries. This is because wealthy people everywhere tend to emit more CO2 into the atmosphere through their lifestyles than poorer people. With many rich people and businesses, per-person emissions are high in the UK compared to many places around the world. Plus, the UK has historical responsibility for the climate crisis that dates back to the Industrial Revolution, in the heart of the Midlands.

There are global systems in place that are making it hard to do what's necessary. Corporations use fossil fuels and other natural resources to keep growing and expanding. Governments want to keep their economies going and give their citizens a certain standard of living, so they support these industries that are harmful to the climate.

This doesn't mean things can't change. Governments can make laws and policies to limit emissions and pollution and encourage better business practices. Corporations can work in ways that have less impact on the climate, and provide more environmentally friendly products.

Be sure to get active in lobbying your representatives and putting pressure on corporations to do the right thing. You can write to your MP to let them know what you or your community needs to protect the climate for future generations. Or you can help put pressure on a company to reduce its carbon footprint. You can also organise or participate in boycotts or divestment campaigns. If you don't tell people how you feel, they won't hear you!

Information taken from <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/challenges/climate-change/what-can-i-do-to-stop-climate-change/> November 2022



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Associate Minister	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
Reader	Mr Keith Smith (PTO)		861966
PCC Secretary	Margaret Ritchie	Margsaret_ritchie@hotmail.com	—
Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Lin Evans		861087
Children's Sunday Groups	Amy Williams		860230
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
The Shed	Lisa Delmar-Shaw		07376752633
Age UK		enquiries@ageconcernshrops.org.uk	01743 233123
Bowls Club	Richard Green		861052
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	Holly Bowkett	clerk@highleyparish.co.uk	07496821159
Co. Cllr. & Highley Patients Group	Mr Mark Williams	mark.williams@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
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**Andrew Powell
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**Daniel Humpage
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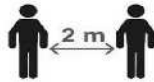
HM Government

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Bus travel guidance

Stay safe

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



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Crossword Solution from page 15

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

Black bins: **Thursday 8th & 22nd Dec**

Crates & green bins:

Thurs 1st & 15th December and Friday 30th December

Don't forget to put out your new purple recycle bins!

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

All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10	Highley Garage	22	Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Highley Minors	28	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Cost Cutter	11	Highley Pharmacy	19	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	25
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11	Wyre Forest Pest Control	29
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25		
Foot Health Practitioner	29	Kidderminster Storage & Removals	27		
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16	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.


Cancelled until further notice

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



First Tuesday in the month 2-4pm.
At the Parish Hall, Highley

**Tuesday December 6th
Mince Pies and Punch**



No meeting in January

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

Out and about



Thanks to everyone who contributed in one way or another, through donations of items or money, to make it possible for us to send 43 boxes to Operation Christmas Child for their Shoebox Appeal.

At a time when everyone's purses are stretched, we are grateful for this extraordinary act of generosity. Thanks also to Keith Smith for transporting the boxes to Bridgnorth Baptist Church., which was our local collection point.

If you put a bar code inside your shoebox, you can track where it ended up. More news on the destinations in early 2023. Thank you one and all!

Send us your photos

Don't forget to send your photos of any events which have taken place in and around the villages. I'd be glad to receive any from the Remembrance activities and Christmas services and events. Please make sure that you have permission from anyone in them and their agreement for the pictures to be published. - Ed.

Send to highleyforumeditor@gmail.com

Church Services December 2022

Sunday 4th December	10am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 11th December	10am Holy Communion 11am Informal Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh St Mary's Church, Highley
Wednesday December 14th	7pm Carol Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
Saturday December 17th	4pm Crib Service	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
Sunday 18th December	10 am Holy Communion & Carols 5pm Carol Service	St Bartholomew's Church, Glazeley St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
Monday 19th December	Carol Service	Lincoln Fields, Billingsley
Saturday 24th December	4pm Crib Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
Christmas Eve	11pm Midnight Communion 11pm Midnight communion	St Mary's Church, Highley St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
Sunday 25th December	10am Family Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
Christmas Day	10am Christmas Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
Sunday 1st January 2023	10am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley

Mid-week Groups

Wednesday Prayer and Study Group

11am-1pm see Val Smith 861966 or Pat Whitefoot 861155 for venue

Wednesday Zoom 7pm

contact David Poyner d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk

Friday Event Youth Club 7.30pm @ Parish Hall (term-time only) contact Rachel Williams

Friday Night Prayer 9pm Zoom contact David Poyner as above



For enquiries regarding Weddings, Christenings, Funerals or Churchyard memorials

Weddings: Rev'd Val Smith email revval14@gmail.com

Christenings/baptisms: Rev'd Canon Rosemary Lawley: email rosemarylawley@gmail.com

Funerals: Contact your funeral director, who will liaise with clergy

Churchyard Memorials: Rev'd Mark Daborn (Rural Dean) email mark.daborn@hotmail.co.uk