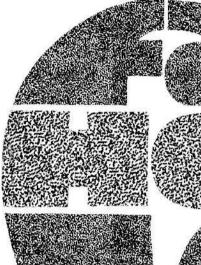
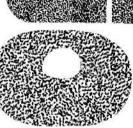




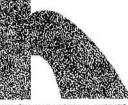
# February 2024

# Now these three continue . .











Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

# Life in Uganda

Many readers and members of the congregation will know the Reverends Simon and Sarah Cawdell, who ministered in Claverley and then Bridgnorth for many years. Last year they embarked on a journey to Uganda, where Sarah is Principal of the Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College in Gulu and Simon works for the local Diocese. It's a very different culture and lifestyle, which they've adapted to amazingly well and have been welcomed into local life.

In a third world economy nothing can be taken for granted. If you need a kitchen, you have to get on and build it yourself. If you need a chapel for worship, guess what! ...... Yes, you build it yourself!



The new chapel, built by willing volunteers.



Left—Simon standing proudly next to his oven.

Right—A newly acquired family of piglets to supplement the college economy.



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.

**Regular Contributions:** 

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		Highley Forum
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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

## God is Love and Love never fails



It's February already! Since last month we've endured very cold temperatures, floods and storms and gales. Despite this, our winter so far has been fairly mild and so the daffodils and tulips, snowdrops and hyacinths have been shooting up—a sign of hope for better weather to come. Our world is a delicately balanced ecological system where change in one area affects the rest of it. This is true of our lives as well. War in Eastern Europe and the Middle East can seem far away, but we feel the effect of it and the devastation it brings in many different ways, thousands of miles away, on our tiny island.

How will it end, when the conflict is so ingrained and bitter? Perhaps we need to look to some verses in Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church. He tells them that they need to use their individual (God-given) gifts and talents for the good of everyone, with genuine motivation -love; without that every action is worthless. But if our love for one another is genuine, it cannot fail.

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day. You'd be forgiven for not immediately seeing a connection between eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, attending a sombre church service on Ash Wednesday and on the same day having a romantic meal, complete with a single red rose and chocolates (not to mention inflated prices for the day)! The link can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love. Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, to love as God loves, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).



Jesus' experience in the desert hit at all the areas of human vulnerability. Hungry after 40 days without food, He was tempted to turn stones into bread. When we are hungry (or lacking something in our lives), our resolve is weakened. We give in to that longing, despite knowing it's not always good for us. It's the same spiritually. We can make New Year's Resolutions to read our Bibles more, pray more, attend church more, but very quickly we can be distracted by what may appear to be more pleasurable activities, but rarely live up to expectations.



Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of our love for God. When we sell out for anything less, when we make idols of material things, our business or careers, or even human relationships, we are losing focus. Worship is not just for an hour on Sunday mornings. It is the glue of our relationship with our Creator, expressed in our everyday lives.

Finally, Jesus was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the top of the Temple. 'If you really are who you say you are, then God will save you from hurting yourself'. Jesus didn't need to perform theatrical stunts in order to prove who he was. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to follow His plan for us and the world, trusting that it's the best plan. When Jesus performed miracles and signs and wonders during his ministry, it was to point people to God, never to show off and make himself look good.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD and that he was martyred on 14<sup>th</sup> February. There are several legends attached to him. One is that the Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives (!) and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married Christian couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate love for one another on this day.

Many of us give up chocolate or alcohol or even TV soaps during Lent as a form of abstinence or even proof of will-power! Other decide to do something practical or donate money saved to a good cause. Whatever you do, it won't hurt to let your mind wander to considering how you would define Ultimate Love. You might be surprised at what you really think!

Val Smíth

## A Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, is there anything in my life which could do with some disruption? Am I giving my time and energy to things which are getting in the way of more important things. Would you mend what is broken in my life, break and overthrow what is crowding out your purpose for me and show me the things which need changing. Amen

Adapted from 11.1.24 Lectio 365

#### Corinthians 13

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.



When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

Highley	Billingsley	Chelmarsh	Glazeley
St. Mary	St. Mary	St. Peter	St. Bartholomew
Roy Adlington 861666 Canev Clayton 862578	Vacancy	Vacancy	Laura Jones

## St Mary's Highley

Much has been going on behind the scenes as we have investigated the practical issues surrounding having a toilet installed at church. It's no mean feat to bring these plans to fruition, as St Mary's is a listed building, but it is long overdue. We will keep you informed about the progress of plans.



Last month, to keep spirits raised and to overcome the gloom of January, Arthur and Kath Painting held another Quiz, this time to raise money for the Highley Companions. It was a great evening of fellowship and fun, with just a tad of competition! The hot dogs went down a treat at half time. The raffle table was groaning with prizes and £180 was raised. Elaine Moore, who heads up the Highley Companions, was thrilled with the donation, which will go a long way to providing entertainment and treats for those who attend. We are very fortunate in Highley to have people who are willing to give up their time for the community. Thank you, Elaine and all your helpers. Also thanks to Arthur, Kath, Dale and Moira for a wonderful evening. There is treasure in heaven stored up for you!



On 4th February Bishop Richard will be coming to commission our new Local Lay Worship Leaders, who will assist Kina by leading services such as Morning Prayer and the Informal Services, which do not require a priest. We look forward to that.

February 14th is both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. We shall be having a service of Holy Communion with Ashing at 7pm that evening at St Mary's.

#### From the Registers:

21st. Dec 2023	Funeral	Melvyn Robert Bryan
13th Jan 2024	Funeral	George Edward

## St Mary's, Billingsley

We had a small turn-out to the carols at Lincoln Fields, before Christmas, but those who came enjoyed plenty of mulled wine and mince pies; many thanks to Donna and Ellen for helping.

On Christmas Day the church was decorated and we had a good turn-out for our 10am Communion Service. This was supported by

people from Billingsley, other nearby parishes and we also had some visitors to the village. Thanks to all who helped to decorate the church and make this service a success.

Until March we will have just a single service a month; Holy Communion on the 4th Sunday of the month at 8am. Once the evenings are lighter and the weather is warmer, we will add a monthly evening service at 6pm.

We are working on plans for these; Sue Bates, of blessed memory, has volunteered to come down from Audlem to talk about a trip she and husband Phil are planning to the Himalayas this Spring. Those who heard Sue speak about her trip last year to Antarctica will know that her talks are always full of interest.

## St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

There was a good turn-out to our carol service on 18th December. We were pleased to welcome back Rachael Davenhill from Spain to play the organ for us and we supporters from far and wide. After the service we enjoyed refreshments in the Old Rectory, thanks to Andrew and Laura.

With only a single Christmas service, there is always the problem of what to do with the Christmas tree after the service. A number of people suggested that this year we tried to find a home for it after our service. Anita contacted Oldbury Grange Care Home, who were delighted to accept it and thanks to Richard D'Arcy, it was duly delivered to them. It was excellent that we were able to reach out to the community and help in this way.

We have had a visit from the church architect to investigate the hole in the floor boards at the back of the church. He has suggested that we either replace the current floor with oak floor boards or use tiles to match the rest of the floor. We will discuss this at our next PCC meeting and then invite the architect to draw up specifications for the work. We will also be undertaking work to make safe some ash trees growing in the churchyard next to the road.

Our next service will be on 18th February at 10am.

**Chelmarsh Sports and Social Club** will be hosting a Charity Trivia Quiz in aid of 'Gateway' on Saturday 9th March@7.30 for 8pm. £10 per team of up to 5 persons.





## What's the Big idea?

## Seeing the Bigger picture—Books in the Bible

#### Genesis.

As the title suggests, Genesis is about beginnings. It records the creation of the heavens and the earth and human beings; marriage and family; sin's effect on society and the world. The following chapters record God's dealings with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, and their families. In this story of the Patriarchs (or Fathers) we see God establishing a people called to bless the world, as He blesses them.

The book of Genesis is key to understanding the whole Bible. It is really about relationships; the relationships between God and the created order, God and human beings, and between human beings themselves. Man has been created in the image of God, so that he can relate to God in a personal way: 'God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them' (1:27). However, Genesis plots how this relationship was broken by sin, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in the fall of human beings and the created order. By creating people with free will, God risked the possibility that they might reject Him. This is inherent in His love for human beings.

In Genesis, God enters into covenants with the world (the rainbow following the flood) and with Abraham and his descendents (circumcision), pledging His love and faithfulness to them and calling them to respond to Him in faith. It reminds us that God is fundamental to living. Without a sense of the centrality of God's place in our lives, we can never get our lives right.

#### Exodus

Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their *salvation* or *deliverance*, as story. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments.

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or 'I am who I am' to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title 'the LORD'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character ie His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God's promises of help remain true for us today: 'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today' Exodus 14:13

Written by Canon Paul Hardingham Parish Pump

## James the Least of All

On why rural church-goers like to freeze in church

The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, and complain about the half an inch of slush outside, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lych gate.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As they both explained, they couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, a few flakes of wet snow may close *your* car park for health and safety reasons, but we shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity. We return home after Mattins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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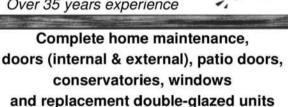


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# Letter from Westminster

Last month, in common with many parts of the country, rivers and waterways in South Shropshire including the Severn, Teme, Corve and Worfe broke their banks in places. For some poor house-holds affected by the rising flood waters, this was the second time in 12 months they had flooded, including some of those I visited in the immediate aftermath of Storm Henk. 2023 was not only the warmest year on record globally, but here in the UK we also saw higher levels of rainfall, more persistently from September to December. This followed a year of unusual drought conditions in 2022.

This goes to show climate change is impacting us here in South Shropshire, and highlights the importance of managing water resources and treatment, to ensure safe drinking supply, stewardship of our waterways, as well as ensuring we have good treatment to reduce risks from our sewage systems being overwhelmed, as they have been.

Managing our water systems is a topic on which I have focussed during my time in Parliament since the last General Election and as Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee. Last month I hosted an event in Parliament for the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, which was launching its new independent review "A Fresh Water Future", with recommendations for the next government, of whatever complexion, to maintain improvement of water infrastructure and regulation high up the agenda.

I have also been supporting my neighbouring MPs in our River Severn Caucus to seek government support for a holistic catchment wide response to manage flooding of the River Severn valley, to manage excessive rain levels from the Welsh hills through to the Severn Estuary. This is an ambitious £500m set of measures, which would help communities across Shropshire by reducing the flow of water, and the risk of localised flooding.

I am also pleased to be able to report by the end of December the government was able to announce that all Combined Sewer Overflows and treatment works were now fitted with event duration monitors (only 7% had them installed in 2010 - now 100%) so that comprehensive data will now be available to water companies, their regulators, and the public when sewage spills occur. This was something I was determined to push through in my Private Members Bill on sewage pollution, which the government then picked up in the Environment Act 2021. While I warmly welcome this progress, the key is to upgrade our water infrastructure to prevent sewage spills damaging aquatic life in our waterways in the first place.

To that end, the Government has a 25-year Plan for Water, under which water companies are together developing plans which amount to £96bn of investment over the next 5 years, once approved by Ofwat. Severn Trent is at the forefront, having pledged a record £12.9bn investment, with improvement of at least 562 storm overflows, as they try to meet the Government's target five years early.

Looking around at the impact of Storm Henk last month, it was clear the impact would not only be for households and business, but also for farmers whose fields had been submerged, with grants up to £25,000 to farmers whose land had flooded and damaged crops. There has also been recent progress in bringing water management more holistically into the wider DEFRA support mechanisms for agriculture, with the latest iteration of the Sustainable Farming Incentive published in January including 15 new measures to help farmers manage water flows and reduce the impact of farming practices on water courses and nature.

#### ...cont'd from page 12

There is also further government support available for homes and businesses, provided certain thresholds are met. I raised Shropshire's case with the Flooding Minister in the House of Commons last month, to seek to ensure the Flood Recovery Framework scheme is activated in Shropshire. In order to do so, it is vital that for any floods in in South Shropshire every homeowner affected informs Shropshire Council if their home or business has been flooded.

Flooding is a terrible experience for anyone who has to live through it, and it is right that we do what we can to mitigate the impacts and adapt to reduce the risk for those communities where it is becoming increasingly likely as climate change becomes a reality.

**Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP** 



# How well do you know what happened in Exodus?

1. Who rescued Moses from the basket in the bulrushes? a. Pharaoh's daughter; b. Pharaoh's maid;

c. Pharaoh's wife

2. How many plagues did God send on Egypt a. 5; b. 10; c. 15

3. What was the second plague?a. frogs; b. water turned to blood; c. locusts

4. What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed to escape the Egyptians?a. Dead Sea; b. Black Sea; c. Red Sea

5. At what place did the Israelites arrive to find the water was too bitter to drink and God made it sweet? a. Marah; b. Elim; c. Horeb

6. Which bird did God provide for meat in the wilderness?

a. pigeon; b. quail; c. turtledove

7. What guided the Israelites through the wilderness? a. a star in the sky; b. Moses had visions telling him where to lead the people; <u>c. a pillar of cloud and of fire</u>

8. When there was no water to drink, how did Moses provide it?

a. from earthen jars; b. from his rod; c from a rock

## Try this Quiz!

(Answers on P14)

9. On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments a. Mt. Sinai; b. Mt. Nebo; c. Mt. of Olives

10. What Is the seventh commandment?.a. Thou shalt not covet; b. Thou shalt not commit adultery; c. Thou shalt not bear false witness

11..What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?a. two cherubim ; b. candlestick; c. Aaron's rod

12. What compelled the Israelites to form and worship the golden calf ?

a. they wanted to make a statue to the Lord

- b. they made it as a symbol of their freedom from slavery
- c. they didn't know what had happened to Moses

13. What was the name of a man who was given the Spirit of God, to enable him to become a good craftsman, and assist with the building of the tabernacle?a. Caleb; b. Bezaleel; c. Buz

14. Who was Moses' successor? a. Joshua; b. Caleb; c. Aaron

15. For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?

a. 20 years; b. 30 years; c. 40 years

# Highley Parish Council

Our first Parish Council meeting of 2024 took place in new surroundings as our usual meeting room is no more! If you've visited the Severn Centre recently you won't have failed to notice the building work being done to relocate the medical centre to where the library used to be is progressing at great pace. It's fantastic to see how quickly things have got started and it's a positive sign the project will be complete as quickly as it can be and we'll be enjoying our new medical facilities before we know it.

The relocation of the library was something I was keen to understand from the very start of the project. The presence of a library service in the village is crucial and it was imperative it remained in the Severn Centre. The new location is the room which was being used by the cafe and it appears to be suitable from what I have seen. I was pleased to note that input from the village was sought through a survey, I believe the feedback will be invaluable in determining how the library will function in its new home

January has proven to be a busy month for the Parish Council. We diligently drafted, discussed and approved our budget for 2024/25 and our Police Working Group had its inaugural meeting. Policing in the village is a focal point for me, and I am optimistic that the working group will serve as an efficient mechanism for engaging with law enforcement in the future. Unfortunately, the issue of crime came to the forefront this month with damage to one of our CCTV cameras, possibly linked to a serious robbery within the village. We are actively collaborating with our technical partner to restore the camera promptly and will continue liaising with the police to assist in their inquiries.

Looking ahead to 2024 I'm excited to continue the positive work the Parish Council has been undertaking, aiming to make a real difference in the village. Our Village Maintenance Group will concentrate on ensuring Highley is at its best, including organising the annual flowers and we are all eagerly anticipating The Carnival in July.

**Cllr**. Tom Quinn

Chair, Highley Parish Council

 Answers to Quiz on page 13
 0

 Question 1: a (Pharaoh's daughter)
 0

Question 2: b (10) Question 3: b (Water turned to blood) Question 4: c (Red Sea) Question 5: a (Marah) Question 6: b (Quail) Question 7: c (A pillar of cloud and of fire) Question 8: c (From a rock) Question 9: a (Mt. Sinai) Question 10: b (Thou shalt not commit adultery) Question 11: a (Two cherubim) Question 12: c (They didn't know what had happened to Moses) Question 13: b (Bezaleel) Question 14: a (Joshua) Question 15: c (40)



# .

#### **Crossword Clues**

# Puzzles

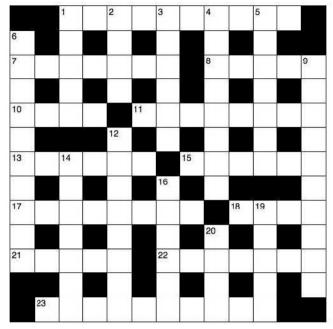
#### Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, Sunday (4)

21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)

22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)

23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)



Solutions on page 33

#### Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)

5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)

6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12)(10)

9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)

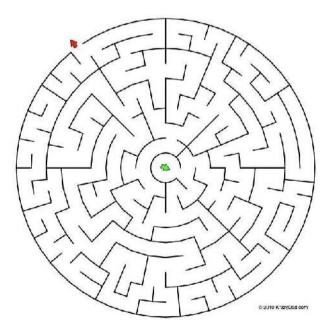
12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)

14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my - ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)

16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)

19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)

20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)



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- Highley Cricket Club
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- Highley Bowls Club & Indoor Bowling
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   Highley Community Project
- Highley Community Proje
   Highley Medical Practice

- Library
- Dynamic Taekwondo
- Uplifted Pole & Yoga
- Senior Table Tennis & Badminton drop in sessions
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- Full time students

Snace

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Details correct at time of going to print - December 2023

# Poets Corner

O pilgrim souls is this your day? Who strive for things above Your blissful hope for by and by That your dream is God, is Love.

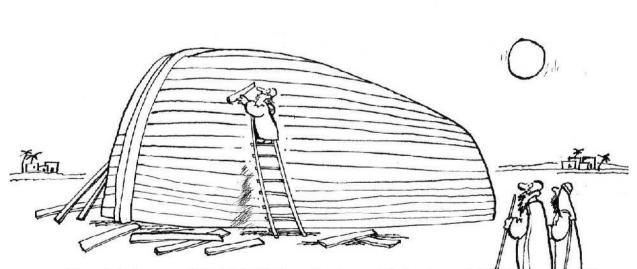
The world may mock, but undismayed Your toilsome path may go, Few oak and ash shed their shade Along Borle Brook we all know.

Yet though across life's desert sands The mirage gleams once more Fear not your fatherland Beyond the distant shore.

Nor shrink to tread the weary way That seers and saints have trod O sons of the eternal day Who seek their rest in God.



Les Hall ©



... I haven't the heart to tell Noah I think he's got the plans upside down!

The Forum

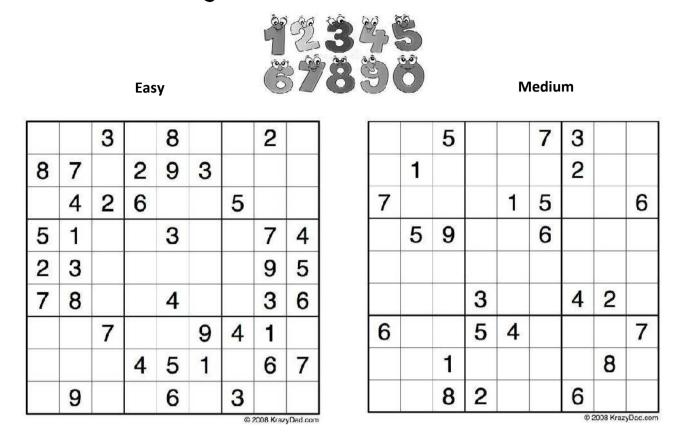
## Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23



Valentine	Present	hug	worship	temple
Rose	Restaurant	girlfriend	repentance	Mary
Romance	Hearts	boyfriend	angels	Candlemas
Love	Kiss	fiancé	baby	presentation

Have a go at Sudoku—answers on page 23



## UCB Word for Today -Sensing and seeing God

The Bible says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit' (vv. 9-10 NKJV). The Holy Spirit compensates for our sensory limits by enabling us to conceive things we cannot perceive with our five senses. Think of Him as a sixth sense. That sense must be cultivated, matured, and fine-tuned. And that can only happen when we spend time meditating in the Scriptures and fellowshipping with God in prayer. Until we are awakened by the Holy Spirit, we are unaware of our need for God, of the spiritual warfare that is being waged all around us, and of what God is doing all around us.

One night Jacob had a dream in which God appeared to him and said, 'I am with you and will keep you wherever you go' (Genesis 28:15 NKJV). When he awakened the next morning, Jacob said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know *it*...This *is* none other than the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven!' (Genesis 28:16-17 NKJV). Jacob went to sleep and woke up in the *same place*, but he woke up a *different person*. After his wake-up call, Jacob saw God every place he looked.

Today ask God for a spiritual epiphany. Pray, 'Lord, show me what You want me to see, teach me what You want me to know, lead me step-by-step in the path of Your perfect will.' That's a prayer God will answer!

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## Snowdrops and Salvation

## Thoughts from Kinlet Churchyard, from Alan Mansell

As we move steadily away from the darkest days of winter by early February the effect of the daily extra couple of minutes of light is starting to be quite noticeable. Some bulbs are starting to show themselves, snowdrops being the first. National Trust sites may urge us to visit their "snowdrop walks". Attingham Park is usually one. We may also know of other places where there is usually a fine display.

Snowdrops were often referred to as Candlemas Bells. On February 2nd the church celebrates Candlemas when we remember the presentation of the baby Jesus at the Temple as recorded in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2. The devout Simeon sees the Lord's Christ, as had been promised to him. His words on seeing the salvation that God had prepared for all peoples is known as the "Nunc dimittis" or "Song of Simeon". It is still often used in church services.

Kinlet Church has been a place of worship and prayer for centuries. Last February, when we were yet to see the white of a solitary snowflake, (though we had a little a bit later on), the snowdrops there were, I felt, truly remarkable. Later this month we move into Lent; a period of reflection and preparation for Easter, when on Easter Sunday (March 31st this year), we celebrate Christ's great victory. In these worrying, warming years perhaps the snowdrops can be a reminder to us of how sure this is.

The white of winter's snow we've killed For our greed has temperature raised, Yet God's will cannot be defeated For round an ancient store of praise, Resurrected Love rings loud and clear Each bright bloom His victory tells, Winter's churchyard is transfigured By a peal of Candlemas Bells.





Thanks to Alan Mansell for his photos of the snowdrops which have blanketed Kinlet Churchyard, due to the mild winter we've had so far this year.



# Highley Companions

First of all, a Happy New Year to you all.

2023 was a good year for Highley Companions ending with our Christmas Meal at the Parish Hall with the Highley School Choir entertaining us. Everyone enjoyed themselves and went home happy with their Secret Santa little gift, a calendar and six mince pies loving made by one of our volunteers.

We have had our first meeting of 2024 and it was lovely to be back together again. Everyone chatted away as usual, so happy to see each other. We welcomed a new member along with his carer and he seemed to enjoy his first session with us.

We had a lot to talk about; Christmas, New Year and reminiscences about how everyone spent these special times in past years - playing games, family traditions etc. We volunteers shared ours too. We did a quiz and played bingo which everyone loves, especially if they win and get a chocolate bar. Everyone had a hearty lunch and went home happy.

One thing I would mention is the meal which **Together at Christmas** put on for those on their own on Christmas Day. Four of our Companions received a meal, one going to the Endowed School and the others at home. One of our gentlemen said it was a lovely hot dinner and he thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you to the volunteers who give up their time to support this and also deliver meals for free to those on their own.

Remember if you know of anyone who would like to join our group, please contact me on 07870262944 or 861431

#### Elaine Moore

## Hi from the W.I.

The start of the New Year 2024 has exciting times ahead here at W.I.

We are looking forward to bringing you some interesting speakers as well as our hands on sessions with crafts, games and we are still working our way through the alphabet with members bringing along things which are special to them. You'd be surprised!!

We also have a jumble sale in March – Look for the date in the Forum March edition. Several trips are planned too. It's always nice to go out on an outing, isn't it?

You may wonder why I am not reporting on our January meeting, but I have to get my article into the Forum by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and our monthly meetings are usually held a few days after that.

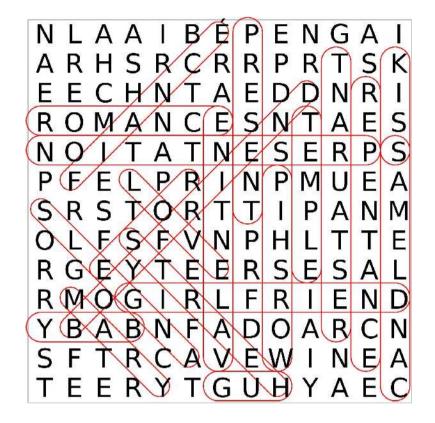
In brief our January meeting we will host Highley First Responders and in February our own Vicky Steadman will show us how to be creative in making crafts.

Don't forget, if you would like to come along to our meetings you will be most welcome, and we are always looking out for new members. Contact our Secretary Eunice Williams on 861863. We do have a Facebook page as well

## Picture Parable



Answers to Wordsearch (from page 18)



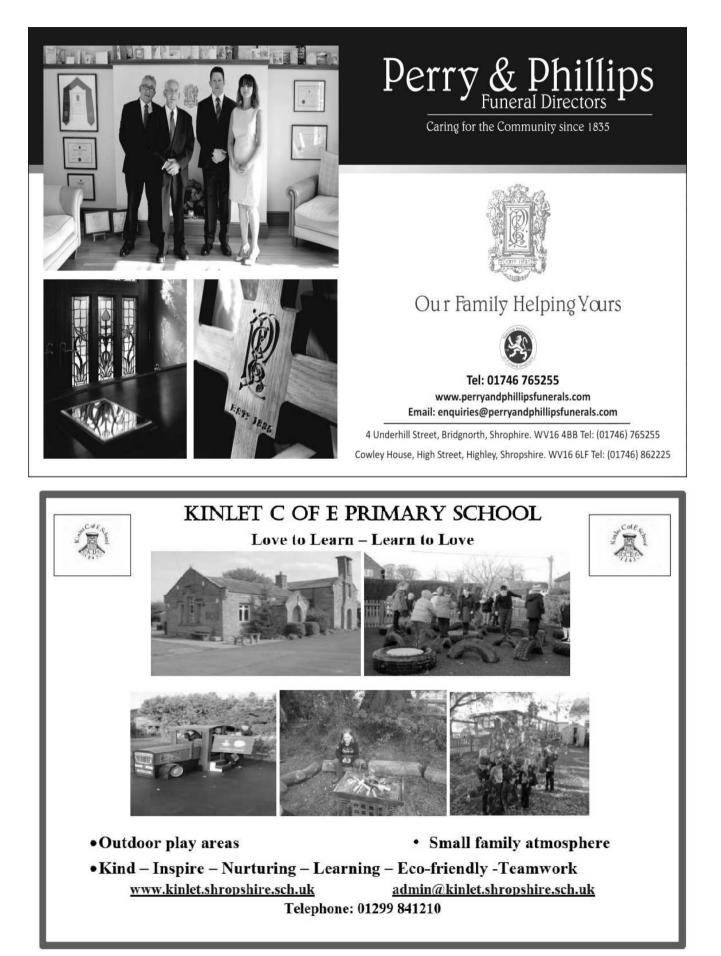
Answers to Sudoku (from page 19)

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

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

Medium

#### The Forum





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## Sustainable Highley

We can make Highley sustainable!

Please email your ideas to <u>mrmacnaughton@hotmail.co.uk</u> and I can share them in the next article. Anyone is welcome, any idea that helps us save energy and resources!

This week I have focused on the 'veganuary' movement, that tries to encourage people to make changes in their diet, and swap meat for plants. Eating less meat and dairy can reduce your saturated fat intake, and your carbon footprint, so it is definitely worth considering, even if you aren't going to cut it out completely - **Alastair** 

#### Information taken from the website 'The World Counts':

With 8.1 billion humans on our planet, eating plants instead of meat is a win-win for the world. Whether you like eating meat everyday, or just once in a while, it is a very "inefficient" food source. It requires more energy, water and land to produce meat than any other food source. For example, 1 hectare of rice or potato cropland can feed between 19 and 22 people in one year. For beef or lamb, 1 hectare can feed only 1 or 2 people. The world's population is increasing and the world's cropland area is shrinking. By 2050, we may have less than 0.1 hectares per person on the planet. At the same time, we also need to give more land back to nature so that our ecosystems can recover.

#### Meat consumption contributes to global food crisis

Almost HALF of the world's harvest is fed to animals. Globally, 90 percent of the ever-increasing soybean harvest goes for animal feed. Reduced meat consumption is needed to feed a world population of 10 billion people by 2050. It would be much more efficient to eat a soybean directly than feed it to an animal and eat the animal! Meat production is also a large source of greenhouse gas emissions and thereby plays a major role in climate change.

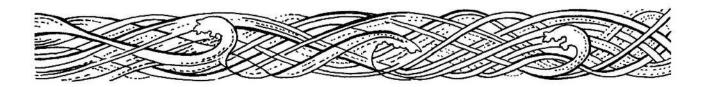
#### So, let's try swapping meat for plants and enjoy a meat free supper! – Katlyn

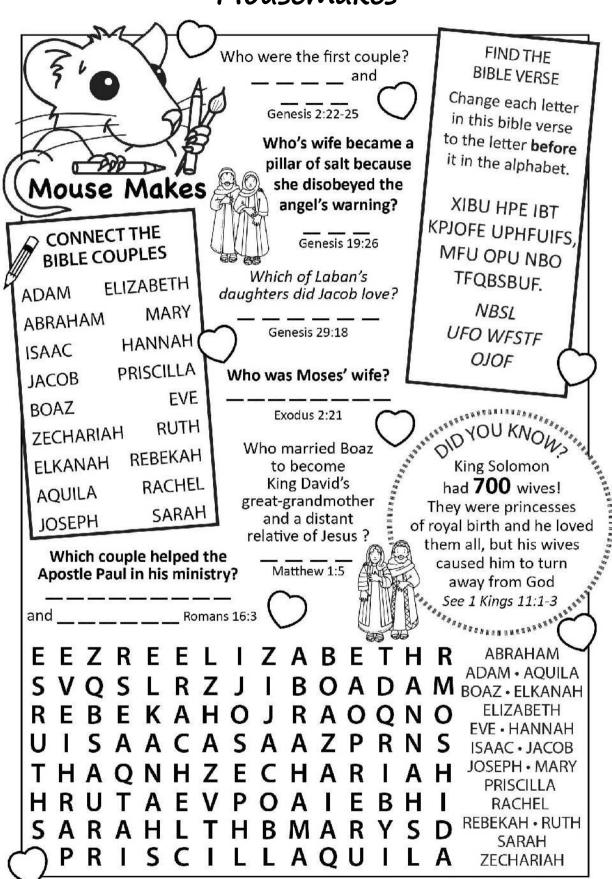
Cooked legumes such as beans, chickpeas and lentils can be swapped for a lot of ground beef recipes.

Mushrooms are one of the most popular vegetables to replace meat, due to their savoury, umani flavour and meaty texture.

Nutrient and protein-rich nuts such as walnuts and pecans can turn into a delicious meat substitute.

Seitan, tempeh and tofu can all marinate well and take on flavour and provide a real 'meaty' texture in your cooking.





Mousemakes

Feb24 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

#### The Forum



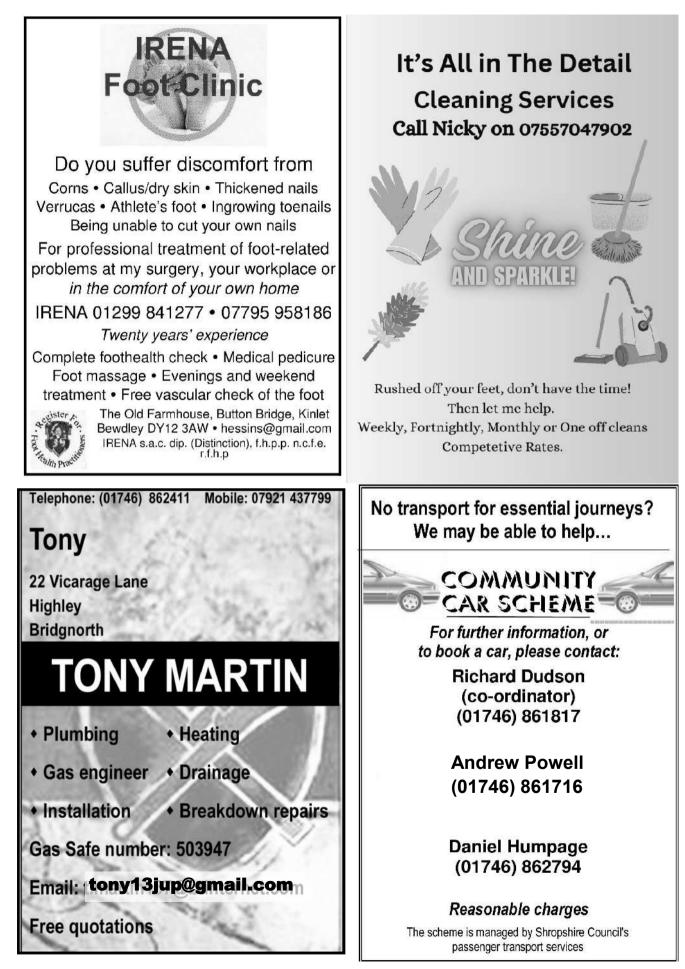


#### The Forum

## Contacts for Local Church Groups, Clubs & Organisations

Severn Valley Benefice –Rector	Rev'd Kina Robertshaw	revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com	862837
Associate Minister (retired)	Rev.'d Val Smith	valandkeiths@aol.com	861966
Associate Minister	Rev'd. David Poyner	d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	01562 68638
Retired clergy - Permission to Officiate	Canon Rose Lawley	rosemarylawley@gmail.com	862301
L Licensed Lay Minister with PTO	Mr Keith Smith	rosenia fiame y e ginameoni	861966
	Roy Adlington		861666
Churchwarden	Canev Clayton		862578
PCC Secretary & Church Administrator	Margaret Ritchie	secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com	861242
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
Guide and Scout Hut Enquiries	Gay Lilley		861722
Carers Trust 4 All			03333 231990
Community Car Scheme	Mr Richard Dudson		861817
Cricket Club	Mrs Denise Goulden		861031
Rainbows, Brownies and Guides		www.girlguiding.org.uk	
Highley Community Project	Emma Aspin	hcprojectshrops@gmail.com	
Highley Colliery Band	Dave & Lisa Burge		862018
Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
Highley County Primary School	School Office	(Tanya Mathers)	861541
Highley First Responders	Claire van Aswegen	claire.vanaswegen@gmail.com	861580
Highley Medical Centre	Dr J Tatton	Highley Medical Practice, Bridgnorth Road	767121 (option 0)
Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Emma Aspin		07752207828
Highley Minors Childcare Centre	Kath Davies	Severn Centre	860005
Highley Parish Council Parish Clerk	Alison Palmer	clerk@highleyparish.co.uk	07496821159
Co. Cllr. & Highley Patients Group	Mr Mark Williams	mark.williams@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Lisa Bill	Club Secretary	07983245480
HWJFC: Mini Kickers (3.5—7 years)	Dean Boden		
Housing Support Officer	Contact Star Housing		
Parish Hall Bookings	Margaret Ritchie	secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com	861242
Pop-in-club	Janis Rowe		860270
Severn Centre			860000
Severn Strollers	Barbara Skilton		862003
Women's Institute	Mrs Eunice Williams		861613

## Page 31



#### Current Timetable from March 2023 SATURDAYS with some variations - check.

#### The Forum

#### NOTE: TIMETABLE: Diamond

Buses

#### Monday to Friday - 125 - Bewdley, Load St - Stanmore Ind Est

т

Stourbridge Bus Station Stourbridge (Stand A)	0.24	-	08:05	05:10		10		15:10	16:20	17:20	18:25
Broadwaters Drive Broadwaters (SW)			08.23	09.25		25		15.25	16.35	17.35	18.40
Bus Station Kiddeminister (Sland 6) Arrive			08:33	09:35		35		15:35	16:45	17:45	18:50
Bus Station Kiddeminister (Sland 6) Depart		07.27	03.37	09.37		37		15.37	16.47	17.47	-
General Hospital Kiddeminser (Ad);		07:34	08:44	09:44		44		15:44	16:54	17:54	
Load Street Bawdley (Westbound)	06 30	07:45	03:55	09:55		55		15:55	17:05	18 05	17 <u>77</u> 0
Wyre Cottage B. tirrinas (NW)	D6 36	07:51	09:01	10:01	then	01		16:01	17:11	18:11	1.000
Hall Kinket (NW)	D6 43	07:58	09:08	10:08	at	08	until	16:08	17:18	18-18	
Bache Arms Highes (NW)	06.53	08 08	07 18	10 18	mins	18		16 18	17 28	18 28	8 <del>70</del>
Castle Inn Woodhil (Nw)	06.56	08:11	09:21	10:21		21		16:21	17:31	18:31	1444
Church Chelmarsh (NW)	07 00	00:16	09:26	10:26		26		16:26	17:36	18:36	3.00
Post Office Facility (NW)	07:05	08:21	09:31	10:31		31		16:31	17:41	18:41	-
Sainsbury's High Town (NE)	07: <mark>1</mark> 2	08:28	00:38	10:38		38		16:38	17:48	18.48	1970
Fostors Arms PH Low Town (NE)	07.15		-	-		-					
Stanmore Industrial Estate Stanmore (NE)	07 22	2000 J.		(1777)					137		:070

\* Not including bank holidays

#### Monday to Friday - 125 - Stanmore Ind Est - Bewdley, Load St

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Falcon Hotel Low Town (V/)		07:32	2.557		1000		1000	(T.)		(T.)
Sainsbury's High Town (NE)		-	C8 40		40		14 40	15 45	16.45	18 05
Post Office Eardington (SE)	2220	07:37	08.49		49		1.1:19	15:50	16:50	18:10
Church Chelmarsh (SE)		07 42	C8 54		54		14.54	15.55	16.55	18 15
Castle Inn Woodhill (3)	(200) 	07:47	08.58		58		14:58	16:C0	17:00	18:20
Bache Arms Highicy (SE)		07:51	C9.01	then	01		15:01	16:C4	17:04	18:24
Eagle & Serpent Inn Kniet (SW)	1200	08:01	C9:11	et these	11	until	15:11	16:14	17:14	18:34
Wyre Cottage Buttonoa< (SE)	(mm.)	06:08	C9 19	mins	19		15:19	16:21	17:21	18:41
Load Street Bawdley (Eastbourd)	1220	08:15	09.25		25		15:25	16:28	17:28	18:49
General Hospital Kiddeminser (NF)	1775)	08:27	09:35		35		15:35	16:40	1720	19:00
Bus Station Kiddeminister (Stand 8) Antre		08 35	69.41		41		15 41	16 48	17 48	19.08
Bus Station Kiddeminser (Sjan18) [Report]	07:30	08:37	09.43		43		15:43	16:50	17:50	53)
Broadwaters Drive Broadwaters (Opp)	07.38	08.45	C <mark>9</mark> 49		49		15 49	16.58	17 58	
Stourbridge Bus Station Stourbridge (Sland A)	07:58	09:05	10.05		05		16:05	17:18	18:18	

\* Not including bank holidays



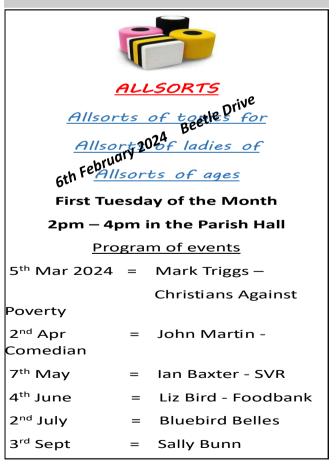
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#### **Regular Events**

Severn Strollers	Mondays
	(not Bank Holidays)
10:30 / 11:00	Severn Centre
(Contact: Barbara Skilton	: 01746 862003)
Women's Institute	Tuesday
	Severn Centre
Badminton Club (Seniors	s) Tuesday 19.00 SC

Waste / Recycling Collections Black bins: Thursday 1st, 15th, 29th February Crates & green bins: Thursday 8th & 22nd February

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



## The Forum

0					
All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10				
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Highley Minors	28	Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cost Cutter	11	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11		
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Irena Foot Clinic	31	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	
		Kidderminster Storage & Removals	27		33
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	33		
		Nicky Fogarty Cleaning Services	31		
		Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25		
		Ovenclean	19		
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24		
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10		
		Powell Clive - Gardening Services	10		
				Bus Information	32
				Events - Church	33
				Events - General / Waste	33
				Library	3
				Registrar's Office	25

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#### Page 35

## Flashback to Christmas



## Work on the New Surgery has begun!



Send your photos ......

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

## Church Services February 2024

Sunday 4th February Bishop Richard	10.30am Holy Communion Commissioning Service.	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 11th February	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Informal Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh St Mary's Church, Highley
Wednesday 14th February	7pm Holy Communion Service for Ash Wednesday	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 18th February	9.30am Morning Worship 10am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh St Bartholomew's Church, Glazeley
	10.30am Informal Worship	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 25th February	8am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Informal Worship	St Mary's Church, Billingsley St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh St Mary's Church, Highley

This is the information at the time of going to print. Please check times on the weekly sheet for any changes.

#### **Mid-week Groups**

Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7.30pm contact Liz and Mervyn tel 862989

Wednesday Prayer and Study Group 11am—1pm held in Parish Hall unless notified otherwise. Wednesday Zoom 7pm Contact David Poyner email d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk

Thursday evening Prayer Meeting @ St Mary's Church at 7.00pm

Friday Event Youth Club 7.30pm@ Parish Hall (term-time only) contact Rachel WilliamsFriday Night Prayer 9pmZoom contact David Poyner as above

For enquiries regarding Weddings, Christenings, Funerals or Churchyard memorials Weddings: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw: email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com Christenings/baptisms: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com Funerals: Contact your funeral director, who will liaise with clergy Churchyard Memorials: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw: email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com