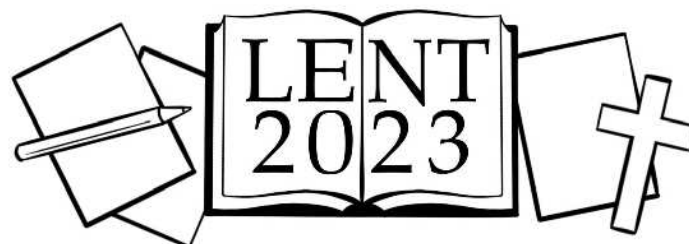


# Forum

February 2023



*"But look", said Martin, "Maltesers have hardly any chocolate on"*



# Why Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days leading up to Easter, when Jesus' earthly ministry ended on the cross, fulfilled through his resurrection, three days later.

Lent is a time for remembering the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert after his baptism, preparing for the ministry which he had come to exercise.

Lent is a time of abstinence (holding back from temptation). We remember Jesus fasting in the desert and being tempted by Satan. When we are tired or hungry or thirsty, we can be weak, especially if someone offers us the very thing we are trying not to eat/drink/do/think about. Jesus resisted temptation and came away stronger, ready to do the work that God had for him and fulfil his destiny.

The ashes are symbolic. We were created from dust (Genesis 2:7) and we return to dust (the words of committal at our burial. (Genesis 3:19). On Ash Wednesday we remember all of this and are remind of our own mortality and our need to be reconciled properly to our Creator, God. If you are thinking about any of this and want to talk it over, do contact one of the clergy. Contact details are on page 36.



## **Submission of Articles and photos.**

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

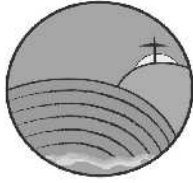
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The Highley Forum prints a wide range of articles (and welcomes your comments – some of which may be printed). The views expressed in these are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Management Board. The Editor(s)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

<b>St. Mary’s Church Shop</b>	<b>Highley Library</b>	<b>Highley Forum</b>
<p>The shop helps to raise donations to local, national and international causes. Re-saleable items are always welcome and bulky items can be collected</p> <p><b>Opening Hours</b></p> <p>Mon 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Tues 10.00—12:00</p> <p>Wed 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Thurs 10.00—12.00</p> <p>Fri 10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00</p> <p>Sat 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot take large items of furniture.</p>	<p><b>Opening Hours</b></p> <p>Monday —Thursday 9:00—21:00</p> <p>Friday 9:00—19:00</p> <p>Saturday and Sunday 9:00—16:00</p> <p>Normally closed</p> <p><i>Check at Severn Centre</i></p> <p><b>Tel: 01746 860000</b></p> <p>The Customer First Point is available at the library, please speak to a member of the reception staff.</p>	<p>Please send correspondence to: <b>highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</b></p> <p>For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.</p> <p><b>Subscriptions</b></p> <p>If you would like to take out a subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds.</p> <p><b>Cost: £6 per year</b></p> <p><b>Advertising</b></p> <p>If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p>

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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

## Candlemas



The 2nd February marks the festival of Candlemas in the Church's calendar. This is forty days after Christmas and has its roots Jewish law as set down in Leviticus. A woman had to present herself thirty-three days after the circumcision of a male child, to sacrifice a pair of doves or pigeons and a lamb and so become ritually clean. In our Bibles, St Luke describes how firstly Jesus was circumcised and named and then Mary subsequently came to the temple with Joseph and Jesus to be purified. This has given us the stories of Simeon and Anna, the two elderly individuals

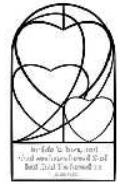
who attended the temple on a daily basis and who recognised that Jesus was the Messiah when Mary brought him to her purification.

We know that back in the late 4<sup>th</sup> century, the equivalent of Candlemas was celebrated by the church in Jerusalem; this was a major event for those who lived in the city. It may be that the festival originated in Jerusalem and spread to other areas of the church. It now formally marks the end of the Christmas season, as the church changes gear and moves through Lent to Easter. The name "Candlemas" comes from the custom in some churches of blessing all the candles that will be used throughout the rest of the year. More recently, it has given us Christingle; a merging of the theme of candles with the proclamation of Christ to the world. However, even within the church, Candlemas is often at best a footnote; a far cry from the major festival that so excited the Christians of Jerusalem round 390. I had to check to make sure I had remembered correctly what exactly we celebrate at this time. Christmas seems a long time ago and a lot of what we do at Candlemas seems to duplicate things that also happen at other times.



Perhaps to make more of Candlemas, we could go back to Luke's Gospel. Luke uses the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary to close his account of Jesus's infancy. Apart from an interlude in Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve, we have thirty hidden years, when we do not know exactly what Jesus did, until he presents himself to be baptised by John. But in these hidden years, we do know that much must have been going on within the mind of Jesus, of how he learnt what the Father required of him, the Son; how he, the Son, discovered the power of the Holy Spirit. It was not public, it was not spectacular, it was an inner journey. But it was vital for Jesus and it is also for us. Perhaps we can mark the time between now and Lent by a similar process of inner reflection; even by lighting a candle from time to time, to stare at the flame and in the stillness, wait on God in the silence of eternity.

*David Poyner*



## Les Hall writes .....

### Love

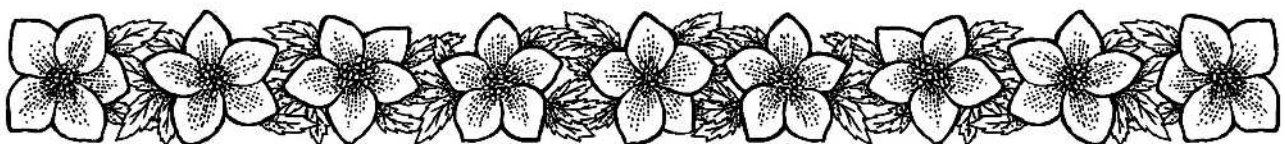
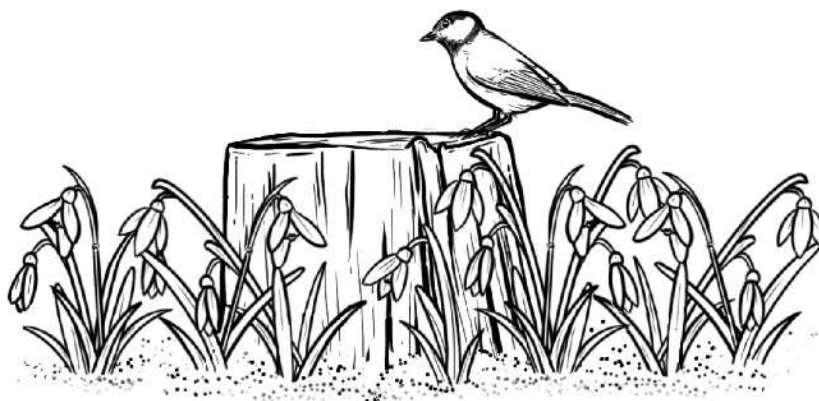
*While sitting under the bank  
Somewhere down New England woods  
I was reading my favourite book  
'A Pair of Blue Eyes' by Thomas Hardy*

*I heard a noise that startled me  
And to my left I saw three females walking  
One tall, one short and the other slim  
'Good Morning', I said and they smiled  
And walked past me.*

*I heard the murmur of Borle Brook  
As it wound its way through the valley  
I watched it flow under the Donkey Bridge  
And as it came along past me.*

*They say, 'Time waits for no man'  
And our stay on earth is short  
So make the most of your time here  
Before God above calls for you.*

Les Hall



<b>Highley St. Mary</b>	<b>Billingsley St. Mary</b>	<b>Chelmarsh St. Peter</b>	<b>Glazeley St. Bartholomew</b>
Roy Adlington 861666	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

## *St Mary's Highley*

January often appears to be a quiet month, after the busy-ness of the Advent and Christmas period, but in actual fact, it was a busy month behind the scenes, as we reviewed our Christmas services and activities, caught up on things set aside and made plans for the coming year.



We were fortunate to welcome Rev'ds Simon and Sarah Cawdell to our service on Sunday 8th January 2023. Simon and Sarah have given up their roles as clergy in Bridgnorth to work for the Church Mission Society. We, at St Mary's Church, have committed to supporting them as they venture to Uganda, to work alongside local Christians, helping them to grow in their faith, teaching theology to local leaders and building self-sufficiency. They filled us in on their plans and we were able to pray for them as they embark upon this fresh call from God.

This year we look forward to the arrival of our new Rector Kina Robertshaw, who will be moving into the Rectory in March and will be licensed on Tuesday 18th April at St Mary's. Her first service will be on Sunday 23rd April. Before Kina arrives we will be planning for Lent and for Easter. If you have any ideas of things you would like to see or do (and organise!) during this period (volunteers for Pancakes, Hot Cross buns outreach, study groups, Passover meals, meditations, Easter Egg hunts....) please let me know and we'll see what we can weave in. All of the above need people to take the lead and be responsible for it happening. Ideas are great, but they need a workforce!

February sees the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2023. Lent is traditionally a time to remind ourselves of the wider purpose of Jesus' life and ministry. At present we have two regular home groups—one on Wednesday mornings 11-1pm (contact me, Val Smith revval14@gmail.com; tel 861966) and another via Zoom on Wednesday evenings (contact David Poyner d.r.poyner@aston.ac.org). Do consider joining a group for the weeks through Lent, leading up to Easter. It does us all good to re-focus ourselves at this time.

### **From the Registers:**

Funeral	12.1.23	Patricia Ann Helm
	27.1.23	Leslie Derek Honeybourne

## St Peter's, Chelmarsh

January was a quiet month for St Peter's after the excitement of Christmas. Normal service resumed with the PCC meeting in January, where we discussed the quinquennial report which was carried out at the end of November and reviewed the fabric of the church. We also reviewed the safeguarding procedures and have ensured the correct training and notices are available to all. We were also delighted to be able to support Anita and Michelle to start their journey to become our local leaders, after training they will be commissioned by the Bishop to be more involved with the local church(es) supporting the clergy.



We began another year of the 100 club in January 2023, thank you to all those who are participating in 2023. We will announce winners during the year after we administer the 4 draws. Please keep an eye on notice boards for results. Any queries please speak to:

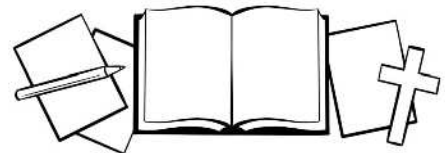
[Elizabeth\\_Bebb@hotmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth_Bebb@hotmail.com) or a member of the PCC.

### Advance Notice:

We are hoping to hold a table top sale to raise funds for the Church in the near future. Please keep an eye out for updates or speak to one of the members of the PCC for further details.

### From the register:

Sadly, we say goodbye to former Churchwarden Derek Arnold on 3rd February. A memorial service is to be held at St Peter's Chelmarsh at 1pm with the wake at the Unicorn Inn Hampton Loade. Derek was a much-loved member of the community and will be missed by us all, our thoughts are with his family.



### Church cleaning:

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, 2.30 pm-ish.



"The knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."

## *St Mary's, Billingsley*

As with Glazeley, we had good attendances at our Christmas services. We battled with the weather for the outdoor carol singing at Lincoln Fields this year, but still had 11 people (as well as plenty of mince pies and mulled wine!). On Christmas Day, we had 20 people in church; you have to go back 20 years to find a comparable Christmas Day congregation. Many thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church or with refreshments at the carol singing. It is really encouraging to see good numbers supporting us!



The observant may note some repairs have been made to the gate of the churchyard. When the hedge was cut back in the autumn, this revealed that the gate post had rotted and was only being held in place by the hedge. With this being cut back, it was now in a precarious position. Plan A was to source a new gate post, whilst temporarily supporting the existing post with stakes driven in either side of it. However, whilst attempting to drive in the said stakes, it became apparent that the post had been set in concrete and so removing this is a serious undertaking. In the absence of a pneumatic drill to break up the concrete, the post has now been supported by stakes and tied back to the hedge. It is literally a lash-up, but it is the best your intrepid assistant curate can manage. We are always looking for people who can help with the running of the church, either with paperwork or practical jobs or indeed by supporting the 100 Club (see Glazeley news for more details). You do not need to attend the church to help; we are grateful for any assistance offered! Please contact me if you are interested. We are small but very sociable...

David Poyner (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk, tel 01562 68638/0780 100 9693)

## *St Bartholomew's, Glazeley*

Our Christmas Service was a great success. The church was beautifully decorated by an enthusiastic team of volunteers, we had the best attendance I have seen in ages at the service itself (35) and afterwards we enjoyed refreshments at Laura and Andrew's house next to the church. Many thanks to all who helped and made this possible!



The saga of the church ceiling unfortunately continues. We hoped that this would be done in January. The architect has specified a particular brand of plaster board; this took a lot of hunting down by our contractor, who has now been told that it needs a special primer to paint it; there is a waiting list for this. But once he has got that, we should finally be able to replace the damaged panels. The next job will then be the heating....

The monthly breakfasts at the Down, in aid of Chetton and Glazeley churches have resumed after Christmas. The next breakfast for Glazeley has been pencilled in for Saturday 18th February. We also have a 100 Club, run jointly with Billingsley Church. Members pay £4 a month; there is a monthly draw and half the money raised through subscriptions is used for prizes (one first and two second) and the rest goes to support either Glazeley or Billingsley; you can nominate the church you wish to support for your contribution. Application forms are available at 100 Club - St Mary's Church Billingsley (stmarys-billingsley.org.uk) or speak to me: *David Poyner*.



## St. James the Least of All

### On why rural churchgoers 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, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, 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 five-foot drift under the lychgate. We now have to climb over the churchyard wall and negotiate buried gravestones before we can reach his pristine paths.

Miss Margison, ever meaning to be helpful, 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, our congregation has soared these past few weeks. 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 her husband explained, he 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, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate, and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your carpark for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, feeling we have proved our Christian commitment by being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

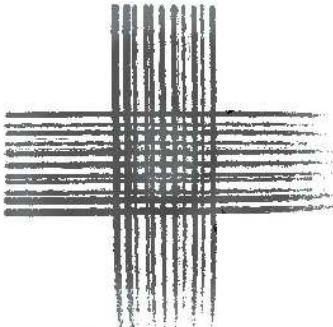
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# LENT 2023

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## Letter from Westminster

Local planning issues often fill my postbag and can be a source of significant concern to local residents affected by an application and rightly so.

Planning issues are at the heart of our communities, permitting the very homes we live in, the schools our children go to, the hospital we visit and the roads that take us there. That is why reforming the way our outdated and bureaucratic planning system works is so important. Many people complain to me that it is not currently delivering for the people locally that use it or the communities that need good homes to live in.



Most people recognise that we need to build more houses, especially affordable homes, across the country. In Shropshire sadly many young families are forced into renting for longer than they want to and struggle to find suitable homes when they can afford a mortgage. But that also means we need to build the right homes in the right places.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which finished its passage through the Commons before Christmas, recognises that it is communities themselves who are best placed to make decisions on local development. The Bill will modernise the planning system for the 21st century and give residents a louder voice to ensure that development reflects community preferences. Under the reformed system, local plans will be given more weight and the plan making process will be sped up.

This will not only give communities like ours in South Shropshire more certainty that the right homes will be built in the right places but will also give more assurance that areas of environmental importance will be respected in decisions on planning applications and appeals and crucially, will remove centrally imposed house building targets.

The legislation puts communities at its heart. It will introduce a requirement for local planning authorities to produce design codes for their areas, which will have full weight in planning decision making. Digitising the planning system will make it easier for communities to access the system and help groups typically underrepresented in planning decisions to make their voices heard in their area. This compliments ongoing pilots which are testing new digital initiatives, such as online 3D maps and QR code systems to enable residents to interact with the system in new ways.

A new Infrastructure Levy will also be introduced to help fund the schools, GP surgeries and road improvements needed, which has been a regular concern in local planning applications in South Shropshire. The levy will be set locally to allow Shropshire Council to tailor it to our local circumstances. There will be a consultation on the workings of this new levy, which I was pleased to have confirmed will also be available to ensure water supply and treatment improvements can benefit.

The Government remains wholeheartedly committed to the benefits of neighbourhood planning. The new Bill will strengthen neighbourhood planning and give these plans greater weight in planning decisions. The legislation will also help even more people to get involved in neighbourhood planning by introducing a new tool for parish councils and neighbourhood forums called a neighbourhood priorities statement. This will allow communities to identify priorities and preferences for their area which the local authority will be obliged to take into account when preparing its local plan.

It is our neighbourhoods that feel the impact of planning most immediately. I am hopeful that these reforms will genuinely empower people from all backgrounds to get more involved in decisions that shape where we live.

**Rt. Hon. Philip Dunne MP**

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- Women's Institute and Knit & Natter
- Jodie-Leigh School of Dance
- Highley Parish Council Drop In Sessions
- Highley Reach Youth Club
- Highley Minors Child Care
- Highley Community Project
- Highley Toddler Singing Group
- Mini Minors Toddler Group
- Warm Welcome Space

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Details correct at time of going to print - December 2022



Working together for the people of Highley

  
halo

## Highley Parish Council

Last month I mentioned that we will have some road works that will affect Highley and surrounding areas. Although we still do not yet have the full details I can confirm that New Road will be closed from 13<sup>th</sup> February for a maximum of 3 weeks. This will be 24 hours a day, whilst circa 120 trees are removed. It will be closed just after Coomby's Farm and up to the entrance to Borle Mill. There will be no HGV access into Highley from the Kinlet side, Borle Mill will be one way only into the village; Netherton Lane will be one way towards New England / Hagg Corner; New England / Bind Lane will be for access only and Covert Lane will be one way from Sutton to the B4363 for those travelling to Cleobury, Bewdley and Kidderminster etc. HGV vehicles can access Highley but cannot go through the road works.

Diamond Buses will run the Shuttle Service; we will advise timetables as soon as we receive them. Shropshire Council will write to businesses and residents where the most disruption will be.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February we have a Family Information Drop-in day at the Severn Centre from 2pm to 5pm, some of the teams below will be there to support Highley. Once the details are finalised we will advertise further, closer to the time.

**Parenting team**

**Targeted Early Help team**

**We Are With You (Support for Young people's substance misuse )**

**School Nursing team**

**Healthy Lives Advisors- Children and Young people and adults**

**Fire Service**

**Young Carers**

**Christians Against Poverty**

**Just Credit Union**

**Strengthening Families Employment Advisor**

**Shropshire Domestic Abuse Services**

**Detached Youth team**

**Shropshire Youth Association.**

**Connexus Housing**

**Shropshire Local**

**Police**

**Strengthening Families Employment Advisor**

We still have 2 vacancies for Councillors, if anyone wishes to enquire further for information on what this entails. Please contact either myself or Holly at: [clerk@highleyparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@highleyparish.co.uk)

Clr Peter Vinall  
Chair - Highley Parish Council

Email; [peter.vinall@highleyparish.co.uk](mailto:peter.vinall@highleyparish.co.uk)





# Puzzles

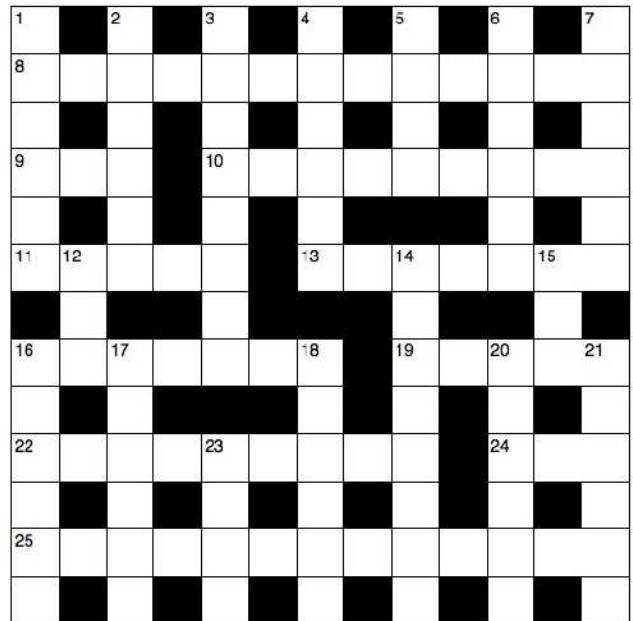
## Crossword Clues

### Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

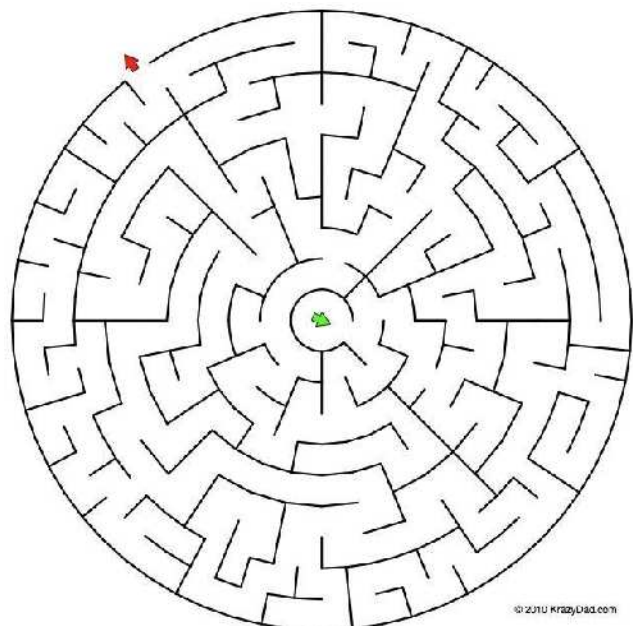
### Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



Solutions on page 33

## The Maze



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## Footpaths and Rights of Way



The article below was sent to Highley Parish Council. Our Council have a 'Footpaths Working Group' with the aim of making sure our local footpaths are in good order. Currently group members are walking all the footpaths to note its condition and find any problems which need addressing. We would be very interested to hear from any residents who would like to be a member of the group.

Please contact **Councillor Eileen Moore, [eileenmoore@outlook.com](mailto:eileenmoore@outlook.com)**

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Shropshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/shropshire> has loads of walks to download and print, free of charge. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Shropshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.



With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris [www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

## Smile lines

### **Answer to prayer**

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment and then cautiously observed:

"It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."





# Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23



Forty	Appearance	Jesus	Presentation	Nunc
Days	Mary	Purified	Light	Dimittis
Baby	Jewish	Present	World	Office
Boy	Mothers	Lord	Candlemas	Evening
Public	Temple	Festival	Simeon	Prayer

# Have a go at Sudoku

answers on page 23



Easy

Medium

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

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

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## UCB Word for Today

### Connecting begins with caring

‘May the Lord make your love increase and overflow’

1 Thessalonians 3:12

A successful telephone company created a TV advert using the slogan, ‘Can you hear me now?’ It shows a man talking on the phone, but the person on the other end can’t hear him. So, he repeatedly asks, ‘Can you hear me now?’ The ad was designed to convey the message that this particular phone company delivers a high-quality signal and doesn’t drop calls. When your phone drops a call, you know it. And what’s your immediate reaction? Annoyance? Frustration? Anger?

In *Everyone Communicates, Few Connect*, Dr John Maxwell writes: ‘When I interact with people... I know I’ve connected when I sense extra effort – people go the extra mile; unsolicited appreciation – they say positive things; unguarded openness – they demonstrate trust; increased communication – they express themselves more readily; enjoyable experiences – they feel good about what they’re doing; emotional bondedness – they display a connection on an emotional level; positive energy – their emotional “batteries” are charged by being together;...unconditional love – they are accepting without reservation. Anytime I interact with people and I see evidence of these signals, I know I’m connecting. I’ve learned what it takes to connect...and...to gauge when I’m succeeding. How are you doing when it comes to connecting? When you interact one-on-one with someone important in your life, do you receive these signals?...Even if connecting with others isn’t something you’re good at today, you can learn how to do it and become better tomorrow.’ But first, you must genuinely care about the person you are trying to connect with. That’s why St Paul writes,

‘May the Lord make your love increase and overflow.’

Printed by kind commission of UCB, who produce the daily devotional free of charge through the generosity of their supporters.

Copies of Word for Today are available at St Mary’s Church and also through: [publications@ucb.co.uk](mailto:publications@ucb.co.uk) or [www.ucb.co.uk](http://www.ucb.co.uk)

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.

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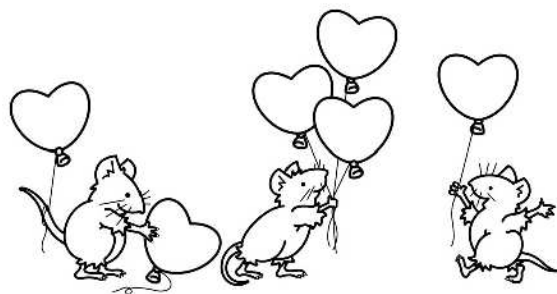
# Love is .....



## ***With Valentine's Day in mind...how do you define love?***

*A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?'  
The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight...*

- “When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.” Rebecca - age 8
- “When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.” Billy - age 4
- “Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on aftershave and they go out and smell each other.” Karl - age 5
- “Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs.” Chrissy - age 6
- “Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.” Terri - age 4
- “Love is when mum makes coffee for my dad and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.” Danny - age 7
- “Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mum and Dad are like that. They look gross when they kiss.” Emily - age 8
- “If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.” Nikka - age 6 (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)
- “My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.” – Clare, aged 6



## *Update regarding Highley Medical Centre*

Following the news that Highley Medical Centre has formally given notice to end their General Practice contract (announced Tuesday 15 November 2022), NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin has been leading urgent and extensive work with a range of partners.

The following update has been shared to outline progress to date and to reassure patients and residents of Highley that the continuation of a GP service in the area is of utmost importance and that every effort is being made to ensure a smooth transition of services.

As we have previously said, the primary focus of this work is to secure an option that sustains GP provision in the village and since November a scoping exercise to identify appropriate opportunities has been carried out.

Although we are not able to share details of this presently, we will share the outcome of the scoping exercise when we are able and will provide clear guidance to patients on what, if anything, they need to do before 31 March 2023 when the current contract ends.

Please be assured that no patient will be left without access to GP services and if patients wish to register elsewhere, they are free to do so. However, we are committed to ensuring the continuation of GP services in the village and at this point are optimistic a suitable solution will be found.

As we have stated before, the support of the local community and our partners is very important and we hope that people feel assured that this work is a priority and that NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin sees this, despite the short-term disruption, as an opportunity for the area.

In the meantime, patient care will not be affected until the GP contract ends on 31 March 2023 and NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin will co-ordinate regular updates, working with partners, to ensure people are kept fully informed.

If you have any questions, help is available through the Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS) by emailing: [stw.patientservices@nhs.net](mailto:stw.patientservices@nhs.net) or calling 01952 580407. Staff members at Highley Medical Centre are also available to answer any questions.

Yours sincerely,

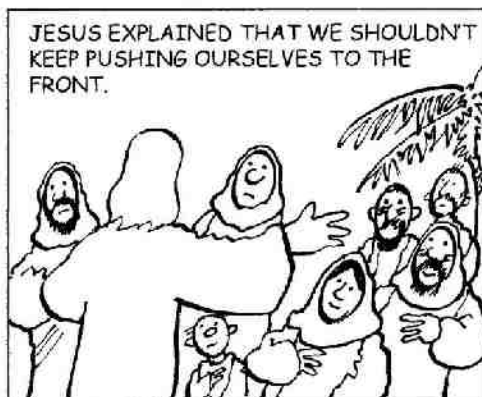
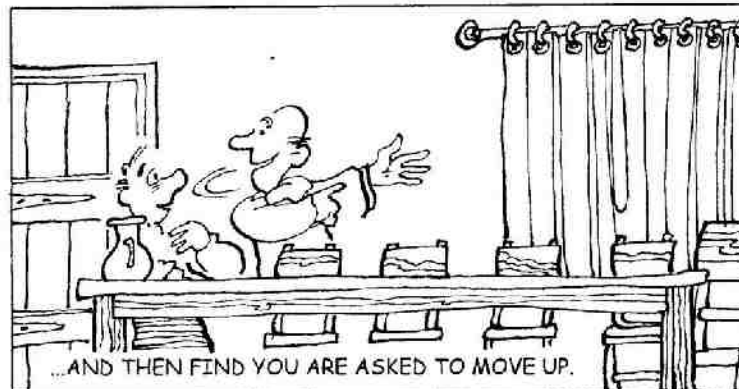
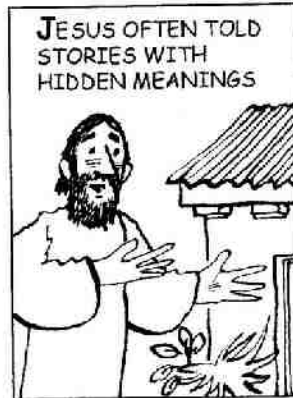
Claire Parker

Director of Partnerships and Place at NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

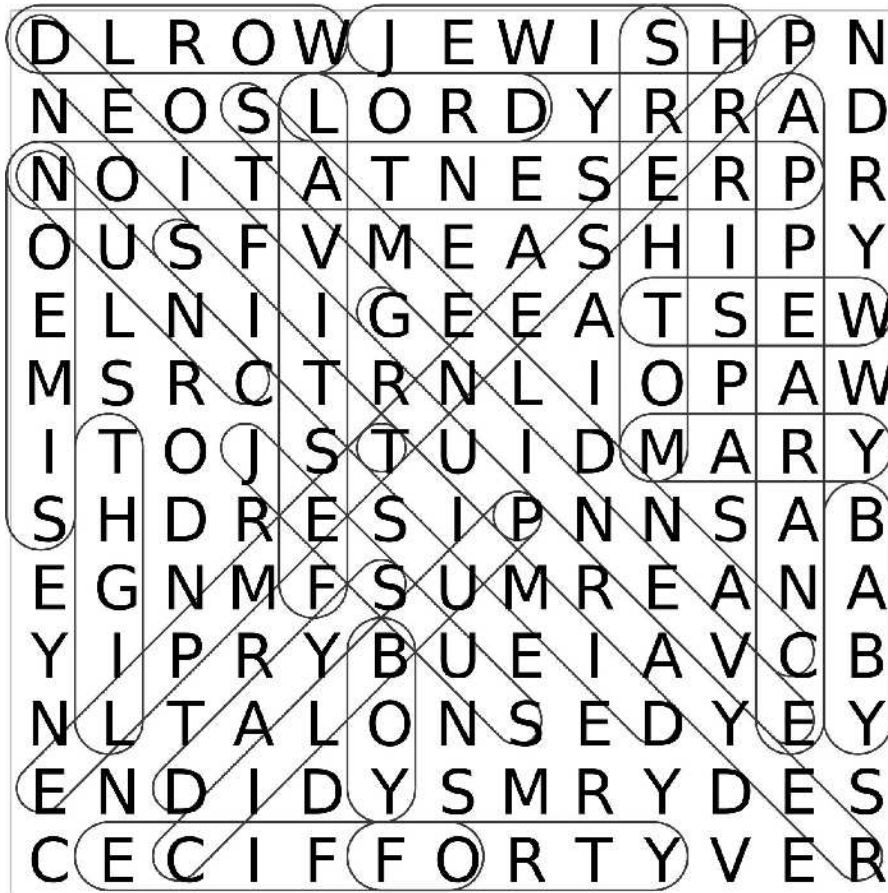




# The Parable of the Wedding Feast Luke 14:8-14



*Answers to Wordsearch (from page 17)*



*Answers to Sudoku (from page 18)*

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

Easy

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

Medium



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## Sustainable Highley

### **We can make Highley more sustainable!**

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 [mrmacnaughton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mrmacnaughton@hotmail.co.uk) and I will get them published!

### **Recipe of the month - Alastair**

We enjoyed a quick and easy plant based supper the other day, perfect for when you get home and want to eat promptly!

You will need:

- Tin of chickpeas (already cooked)
- A leafy green vegetable (purple sprouting broccoli or cauliflower work well)
- Some form of cream (oat cream, creme fraiche or even double cream)
- Naan bread
- Curry powder and garam masala

Either roast or steam the green veg (roasted cauliflower tastes great, but you may want to do it when you are using the oven for something else).

Whilst this is cooking, fry the chickpeas in a little oil and then add a tsp of the curry powder and a tsp of garam masala.

Add the green veg and mix together. Stir in the oat cream or creme fraiche and heat through.

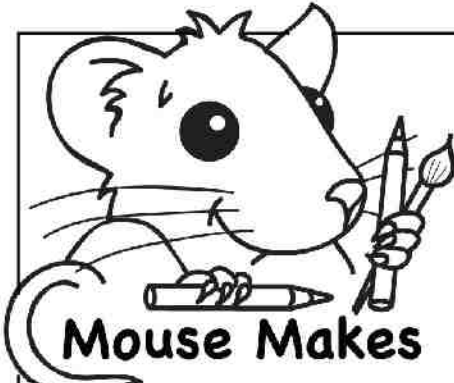
When hot, pour over a freshly grilled naan and tuck in!

### **Cleaning products in our homes - Zoe**

Cleaning is essential to maintaining our health and the overall presentation of our homes, but it's easy to find ourselves gravitating towards products that promise a cheap, fast and easy clean without ever stopping to consider exactly what it is we're bringing into our homes. Unfortunately many of the off the shelf cleaning products are loaded with harsh chemicals that can be damaging for your family and the environment.

### **What are the benefits of going plant based to clean your home?**

- The risks to your health are lower: Plant based ingredients are gentler on your skin and don't tend to require any protective gear.
- They are cost effective, especially if you buy in bulk. Plant based ingredients are cheaper to source, as there is less to process and manufacture.
- Most sources claim that plant based ingredients are often more effective than their harsher, more toxic counterparts. Give them a go!
- They are safer around children and pets, and don't contaminate the atmosphere in your home. Great!




**Mouse Makes**

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

-----

*Matthew 26:18*



What did Jesus give thanks for and share?


-----

*Matthew 26:27*

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----

*Matthew 26:27-28*



What did Jesus take, bless and break?


-----

*Matthew 26:26*

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----

*Matthew 26:26*




Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in -----

-----

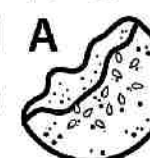
of me."

*1 Corinthians 11:24-25*



SUPPER  
LAMB • LORD  
DISCIPLES  
TOGETHER  
EVENING  
ROOM • JAR  
WATER • TWELVE  
JESUS • CHRIST  
NIGHT • TOOK  
THANKS  
BLESSING  
BROKE • GIVEN  
COVENANT  
DRINK • EAT  
FORGIVENESS  
SINS • HOLY  
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EUCHARIST

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



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Associate Minister	Rev. Val Smith	valandkeiths@aol.com	861966
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
Licensed Lay Minister	Mr Keith Smith		861966
<hr/>			
PCC Secretary	Margaret Ritchie	margaret_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
Highley Rugby Club	Mr Rob Parr		862094
Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Lisa Bill	Club secretary	07983245480
HWJFC: Mini Kickers (3.5—7 years)	Jo Matthews		862017
Housing Support Officer	Contact Star Housing		
Highley Venturers	Mrs Chris Corfield		861477
Parish Hall Bookings	Pat Whitefoot		861155
Pop-in-club	Janis Rowe		860270
Severn Centre			860000
Severn Strollers	Barbara Skilton		862003
Women's Institute	Mrs Eunice Williams		861613





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 Verrucas • Athlete's foot • Ingrowing toenails  
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 IRENA s.a.c. dip. (Distinction), f.h.p.p. n.c.f.e.  
 r.f.h.p



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

**Next meeting  
 7th February**



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

## Community Cars

### **Voluntary Driver(s) wanted**

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

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

**Community Cars needs extra help!**

**Hours of work – flexible!**

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

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

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

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

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



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

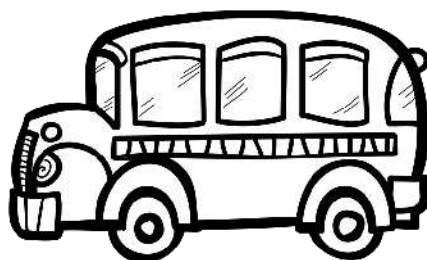
**Richard Dudson  
 (co-ordinator)  
 (01746) 861817**

**Andrew Powell  
 (01746) 861716**

**Daniel Humpage  
 (01746) 862794**

**Reasonable charges**

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



**NOTE: TIMETABLE: Diamond Buses**

**Monday to Friday - 125 - Stourbridge Bus Station - Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore**

\* Not including Bank Holidays

Stourbridge Bus Station, Stourbridge	--	--	08:00	--	09:10	<b>10</b>		15:10	16:20	17:20	18:25
Broadwaters Heath, Hare and Hounds, Broadwaters	--	--	08:18	--	09:25	<b>25</b>		15:25	16:38	17:38	18:43
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Arrive	--	07:27	08:28	08:37	09:35	<b>35</b>		15:35	16:48	17:48	18:53
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Depart	--	07:27	08:28	08:37	09:37	<b>37</b>		15:37	16:50	17:50	18:53
Kidderminster General Hospital, Kidderminster	--	07:34	--	08:44	09:44	<b>44</b>		15:44	16:57	17:57	
Bewdley Load Street, Bewdley	06:30	07:45	--	08:55	09:55	<b>55</b>		15:55	17:08	18:08	
Button Oak, Buttonoak	06:36	07:51	--	09:01	10:01	<b>01</b>	then	16:01	17:13	18:13	
Kinlet, Kinlet	06:43	07:58	--	09:08	10:08	<b>08</b>	at	16:08	17:20	18:20	
Highley, Highley	06:53	08:08	--	09:18	10:18	<b>18</b>	these	16:18	17:30	18:30	
Highley Garden Village, Woodhill	06:56	08:13	--	09:21	10:21	<b>21</b>	mins	16:21	17:33	18:33	
Chelmarsh, Chelmarsh	07:00	08:18	--	09:26	10:26	<b>26</b>		16:26	17:38	18:38	
Eardington, Eardington	07:05	08:23	--	09:31	10:31	<b>31</b>		16:31	17:43	18:43	
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore, High Town	07:12	08:33	--	09:38	10:38	<b>38</b>		16:38	17:50	18:50	
Bridgnorth Low Town, Low Town	07:15	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	
Stanmore Industrial Estate, Stanmore	07:22	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	

Current Timetable from October 2020  
SATURDAYS with some variations - check.

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

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

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



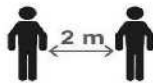
HM Government

NHS

## Bus travel guidance

### Stay safe

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



### Look out for 'bus full' signs

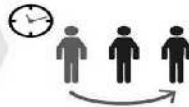
The bus will only stop when people want to get off or if there is enough space onboard



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



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



STAY ALERT - CONTROL THE VIRUS - SAVE LIVES

### Parish Hall Office

01746 861242

For information about weddings, Baptisms (Christenings), child's Dedication or for general enquiries about church service times and parish information, please contact the Parish Office. The office will be open on Thursdays (generally) from 10:00 - 12:00pm.

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

Currently not open

### Star Housing

**Housing Support Officer  
in Rhea Hall.**

Contact Helen Turner 01746 862442

**Phone for more information  
regarding services**

Community Room,  
73 Rhea Hall Estate,  
WV16 6LD

### Crossword Solution from page 15

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

### Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins: **Thursday 2nd & 16th February,**  
Crates & green bins:  
**Thursday 9th & 23rd February**

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

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-)

### Forthcoming Events

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

All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10	Highley Minors		Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Highley Pharmacy	19	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Clive Powell Gardening Service	10	Holford, CE (Electrical)	19	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	25
Cost Cutter	11	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	11	Wyre Forest Pest Control	29
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Kidderminster Storage & Removals	34		
Edwards A J Decorating Services	19	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Foot Health Practitioner	31	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	24		
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16	Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	29		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	Ovenclean	19		
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24		
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	19		
			24		
			10		

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Registrar's Office	25

# KIDDERMINSTER

## SELF STORAGE AND REMOVALS



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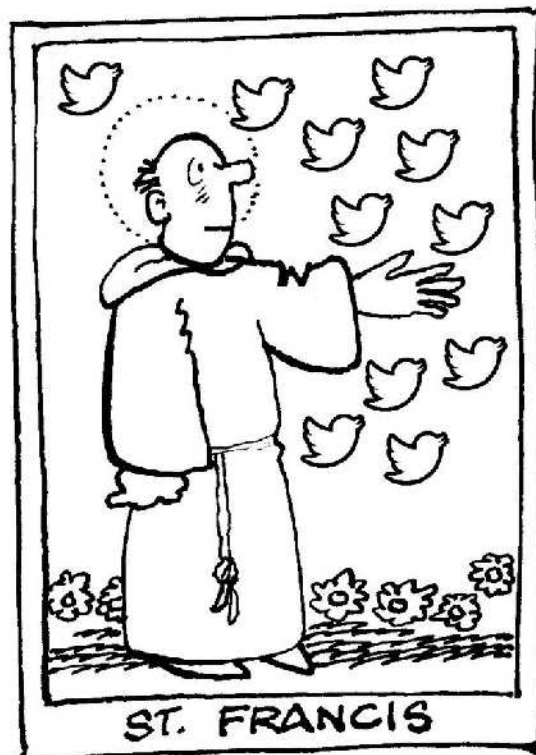
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[www.kidderminsterselfstorage.co.uk](http://www.kidderminsterselfstorage.co.uk)  
 Unit 11 Finepoint Way, Stourport Road, Kidderminster DY11 7FB  
[info@kidderminsterselfstorage.co.uk](mailto:info@kidderminsterselfstorage.co.uk)

St Francis lived in Italy in 13th century. Born into a fairly wealthy family, he gave it all up to encourage his followers to live a simple life and to follow more closely the teaching of Jesus. He is often called the patron saint of ecology and animals.

The prayer (and hymn) 'Make me a channel of your peace' is often attributed to him, although in actual fact it first appeared in an Italian publication in 1912 and was translated into English in 1927. However, it certainly reflects his attitude to life.



*He's been updated. He's now the  
patron saint of tweeting!*

*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 2023

<b>Sunday 5th February</b>	<b>10am Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Mary's Church, Highley</b>
<b>Sunday 12th February</b>	<b>10am Holy Communion</b> <b>11am Informal Worship</b>	<b>St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh</b> <b>St Mary's Church, Highley</b>
<b>Sunday 19th February</b>	<b>10 am Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Bartholomew's Church, Glazeley</b>
<b>Sunday 26th February</b>	<b>8am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Morning Service</b> <b>11am Informal Service</b>	<b>St Mary's Church, Billingsley</b> <b>St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh</b> <b>St Mary's Church, Highley</b>

### Mid-week Groups

#### **Wednesday Prayer and Study Group 11am—1pm**

Contact Val Smith 861966 or Pat Whitefoot 861155 for venue

#### **Wednesday Zoom 7pm**

Contact David Poyner email [d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:revval14@gmail.com)

**Christenings/baptisms:** Rev'd Canon Rosemary Lawley: email [rosemarylawley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mark.daborn@hotmail.co.uk)