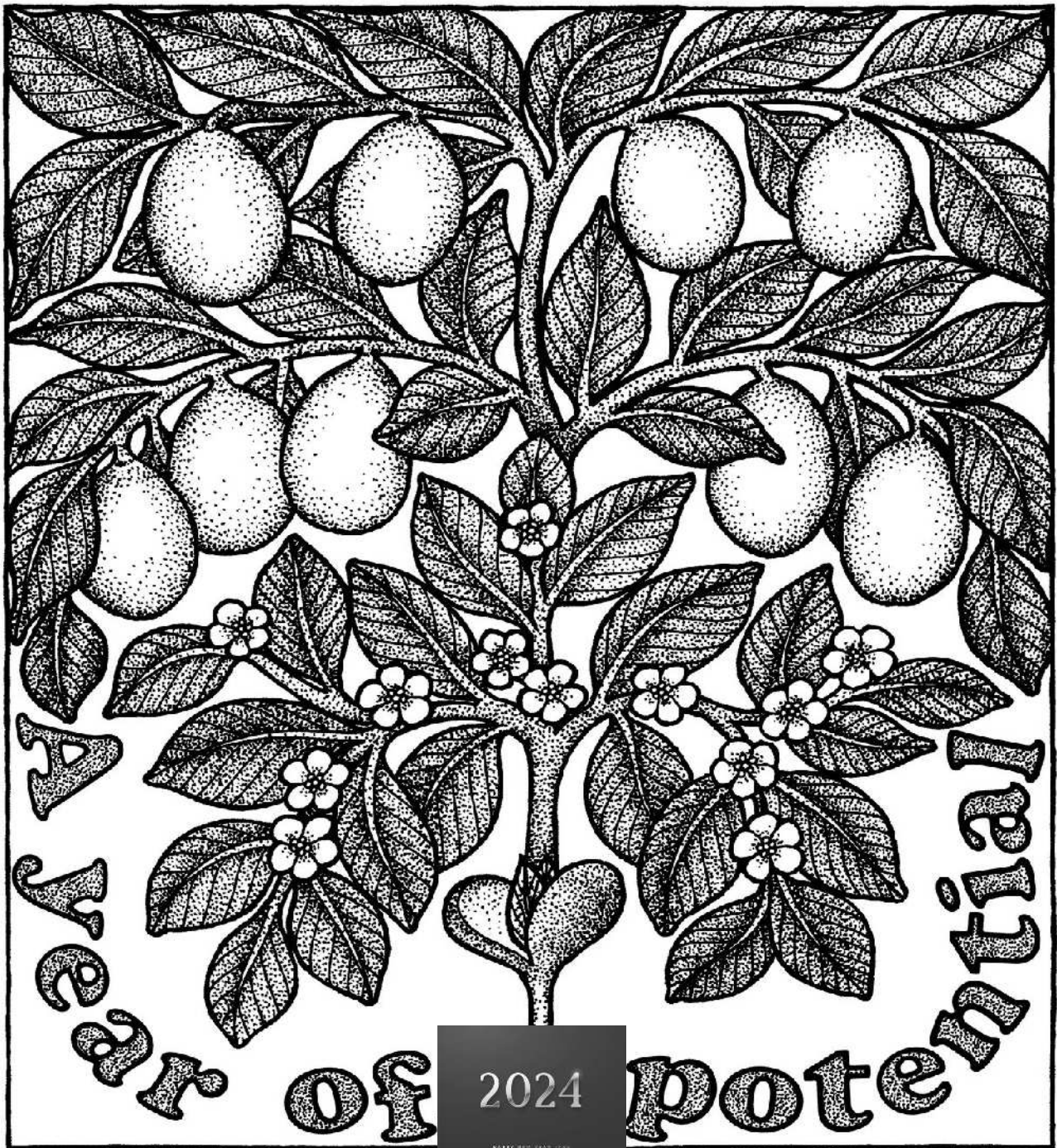


FORUM

January 2024



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Christmas 2023

It was good to see so many people in St Mary's on Sunday evening 10th December. This was a change from our usual mid-week annual Candle-lit Carol Service but was just as well-attended, if not more so!

Our Rector Kina led the service and Keith Smith gave us a message fit for the season. The traditional mulled wine and mince pies were served afterwards, courtesy of Bev Bevan and her team.

Thanks also to Pat Whitefoot, Gay Lilley and all who helped to prepare the church beforehand, not forgetting those wielding their trusty vacuum cleaners to clear up the crumbs afterwards.

It was a fitting start to our Christmas celebrations!



Submission of Articles and photos.

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

St. Mary’s Church Shop	Parish Hall Office	Highley Forum
<p>The shop helps to raise donations to local, national and international causes. Re-saleable items are always welcome and bulky items can be collected</p> <p>Opening Hours</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>.01746 861242</p> <p>Parish Administrator - Maggie Ritchie</p> <p>The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10am—12noon.</p> <p>For information about weddings, Baptisms (Christenings), child’s Dedication or for general enquiries about church service times and parish information contact the Parish Office as above.</p> <p>If there is no answer and at other times, a telephone message service exists and if you leave your name and telephone number someone will get back to you in due course.</p>	<p>Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p> <p>For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.</p> <p>Subscriptions</p> <p>If you would like to take out a subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds. Cost: £6 per year</p> <p>Advertising</p> <p>If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p>

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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

Fulfilling our Potential

As a self-confessed stationery geek, there's nothing I enjoy more than a brand new notebook and pen, highlighters, stick it notes etc; failing that, turning to a fresh page and making a start on something new—maybe thoughts for an article or one of the many books I have in mind to write one day, or jotting down something I've read or heard, or even beginning a new list!



I am proud to say that I have passed this on to our grandchildren, who revel in being allowed free run of the study when they visit. They disappear in there for hours, happily creating messages and handmade books and calendars. Nanny is happy to supply endless paper and card, scissors, pens, pencils, rubbers, and now access to technology! There is nothing so satisfying as laminating a bookmark you've created—just call me the laminating queen!

At this time of year we think about turning a new page in our lives. The New Year seems to herald the opportunity to do something fresh; perhaps to make some changes in our lifestyle or take up a new hobby. Whether or not you make New Year's resolutions, it's a good time to take stock and see if any changes would be good for our health and for our choices in life. There are aspects of life that we can't always change immediately, but it never hurts to step back and look at the bigger picture and dream dreams.

When I was teaching in schools, there was a lot of talk about each child fulfilling their potential. It makes me think, do we ever reach that point? The concept is meant to be stretching and positive, but I wonder if in some ways it can be self-limiting, if we think we've hit our peak early on. As we journey through life, we encounter different situations. Sometimes we can be offered new opportunities. When should we take a risk and when should we be more circumspect?

I like to think that our potential is limitless. It's never too late to change. It's never too late to do something different or differently. More importantly, we are all individuals. We have different gifts and abilities. Some of us are planners and others are blue-sky thinkers. Some of us are creative and others are brilliant at providing a secure structure. We are all important and needed in God's economy.



There is a verse in the Bible in 1 Chronicles 29:14 in a prayer to God:

'All things come from you and of your own we give back to you.'

Let's never fool ourselves into thinking that any success is all down to us. Involved in every success is, yes, our own hard work, but also opportunities which were afforded to us. We didn't create the world, but we benefit from creation every day and we also benefit from the generosity of others, be that through giving us a chance to shine or through a helping hand in some way or other.

If 2023 was a good year for you, then celebrate that. You might even want to find a way of sharing that success. If, on the other hand, 2023 wasn't so bright, then now might be the opportunity to live life a little differently. The seasons in life vary, but eventually spring and summer do come around again.

My prayer for you all is that 2024 will bring you to encounter the limitless love of God and to know this love for yourselves in a deeper way than ever before

Val Smith

A Prayer for 2024

We stand on the threshold of a New Year. Some of us are excited, some of us are fearful. We don't know what 2024 will bring, but we know that there will be ups and downs, joy and sadness mixed in with the months.

As we step into this New Year, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you; to know for certain that, whatever happens, you will be in it with us, not watching from the sidelines, but right in the middle of it with us.

Help us to put our trust in what Jesus did on the cross; maybe for the first time, maybe as a New Year re-commitment, so that we will know that nothing can separate us from you. Let the storm rage, let the sun shine – we are safe! In the name of the risen, living Lord Jesus.

Amen.



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

St Mary's Highley

December is always a busy month in church circles. The Advent wreath was out and lit on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, as well as at the extra services. It was good to see our Rector out and about again, after her illness in the autumn. It was also good to see so many people at our Christmas services, celebrating the greatest gift of Jesus to our world. How much we need him at this present time of war and unrest. Thank you to everyone who came and also to those who worked hard in the background to enable us to do so much. So here's a big 'shout out' to the many unsung heroes and heroines who prefer to stay in the background, but without whom these events just wouldn't happen!

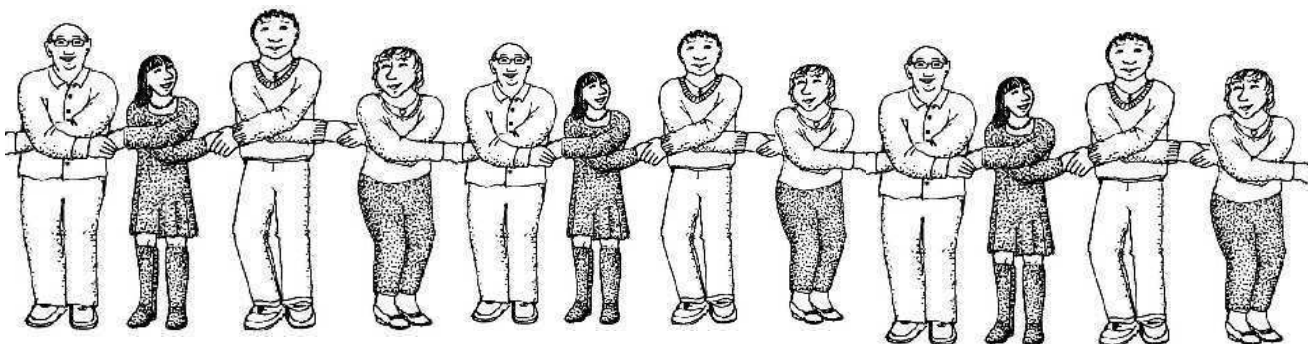


2024 beckons and with it a New Year. People often think that January is a bit of a dull month, but that isn't so. This year Arthur and Kathryn Painting are holding another quiz on Saturday 20th January at the Parish Hall. Please let them know if you would like to come, 7.30 for 8pm start. It's just a bit of fun; you don't need to be at 'Mastermind' level. Cost is £4 per team member. You can have as many in your team as you like (4-6 is a good number but it doesn't matter.) If you are on your own, they'll be someone for you to team up with on the night. Hot dogs and salad provided to feed the brain cells! The proceeds of the evening will be donated to the **Highley Companions**.

From the Registers.

Funerals:

9.12.23 Hazel Smith



St Mary's, Billingsley

The Caring for God's Acre Team visited the church late in November to scythe the grass in the churchyard and cut the hedges. The churchyard is managed to encourage wildlife and a wide range of flowers grow, especially in front of the church. The church itself is home to bats. We try and do what we can to be responsible stewards of creation, God's work in nature.



The PCC will be meeting in the New Year to discuss future projects. We wish to put down some new gravel on the path from the gate to the porch. We also want to repair the light on the porch and replace the gate post that has rotted away at the base. We will also look at the heating in the church, perhaps with a view to purchasing more electric heaters.

I am writing this before our Christmas services, but I would like to thank all those who will be helping, to decorate the church and to provide refreshments at the carol singing in Lincoln Field. Most particularly, I would like to thank all those who will attend these events.

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

We have had a visit from an architect who will advise us on how best to deal with the damp that has rotted the floor by the font/refreshment area, next to the door. We also are contacting an



electrician who can advise us on how to improve the heating system in the church. The whole church is due for its 5-yearly inspection in 2024 and we are working with the architect to arrange a visit.

We are very grateful to John Francis for all the hard work he has done over the years, helping to look after the graveyard. John is now retiring but fortunately our regular helper continues her work. We are also very grateful to Mr Jenks for arranging for the grass to be mowed on a regular basis.

Anita Moreley organised a very enjoyable lunch at her and George's house in Deuxhill in aid of church funds; many thanks to Anita and all those who helped! I would also like to thank all in advance who will help decorate the church for our carol service.

We are experimenting with a new hymn book at Glazeley; "Hymns old and new". This is an updated version of the traditional Ancient and Modern hymn book. It is used at Billingsley and most of the churches in the Stottesdon and Brown Clee benefices. Our current book was printed in 1965 and so does not include the numerous hymns written since then.

The next breakfast in aid of the church will take place at the Down Inn on Saturday 6th January, at 9am. Admission is £8, payable on the door but please let Marion know in advance if you wish to attend; marion.corfield@talktalk.net

St Peter's, Chelmarsh



A New Year is upon us and we are excited to see what it will bring. We are pleased that Kina is feeling much better and we are able to welcome her back to St. Peter's. Services will continue to be held each week at Chelmarsh at 9.30am.

Christmas was a success, the crib and carol service were well attended and we enjoyed the Christmas Eve midnight service. Thank you to our wonderful clergy in the Benefice who ensured all the services had a vicar in attendance.

Thank you to Marie Ellis and the PCC team who organised the 'Create Christmas' event in December. Some lovely Christmas door and table decorations were made by old and young. Thank you to Marla, Pip and Ernie for helping to decorate the Christmas trees. Marie and her helpers raised over £500 for the church from jam and pickle sales, cakes, children's toys, jewellery, Christmas decorations and books. We are very grateful to everyone who came to join us and brought sparkle to our church for Christmas.

Cleaning Rota: Wednesday January 17th 2024

Why Churchwardens love January

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergyman and lay!
But they're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!
The hectic Christmas season is
Of service constantly –
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker –
They don't get that much sleep.

And overworked Churchwardens
And their sides-persons team –
Sure don't get time for boredom,
And only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over,
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over,
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!
They laugh and smile with pleasure,
And sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure –
For soon comes Easter time!

By Nigel Beeton



James the Least of All

On how to run your Diary for 2024.

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

So, you have just attended a course on 'Diary Management', to get you prepared for another year. If you had visited me, I could have told you all you need to know in half the time. Allow me to provide you with useful information which was probably not provided in your conference hand-outs.

First, buy the smallest diary you can find. Large blank pages only encourage you to fill them with too many appointments; the smaller the page, the easier it can be made to appear that your days are fully booked.

Second, make sure that it is of a size that will conveniently fit into any pocket. When dates are being arranged for subsequent meetings, you can theatrically start going through jacket, trouser and overcoat pockets. By the time you discover it was in your briefcase all along, all the dates will have been fixed and no one will notice you never got any of them.

Third, adopt your own private code for bookings. This means that any parishioner looking over your shoulder and seeing '1.30pm PLS' or '7.30pm WTD' will assume you are attending important church meetings. The fact that they mean 'Post Lunch Sleep' and 'Walk The Dog' will be known to you alone – although do have alternative possibilities for your acronyms should you ever be challenged. My congregation know I am assiduous in attending the 'Pauline Letters Seminars' and my membership of the 'World Theology Directorate' is of many years standing.

Fourth, record everything in pencil so that once you return home, you can rub most of it out and can then deny you knew anything about those meetings you were supposed to attend – and to prove it, you can show the blank page in your diary.

Fifth, put someone else's address inside your diary. Should you ever have to resort to the ultimate act and need to lose it, you do not want some Good Samaritan returning it to you from the churchyard compost heap.

So, you see, your day of flip charts and group discussions were quite wasted – and I would gladly have presented my course for half their price.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Letter from Westminster



Happy New Year to everyone across South Shropshire!

This is the last New Year message I shall send as your MP. While that fact is a little hard to write, after almost twenty years as your MP, it does help remind me that this is my final year to achieve as much as possible for the Ludlow Constituency before I step down. I am under no illusion about the challenges the country faces, but I am also aware that the right approach from government can make a huge difference to people's lives.

Continuing to bear down on inflation must be a priority for the government again this year, as it is effectively a stealth tax, making life more difficult for family household budgets. This time last year, at the end of 2022, inflation was at 10.5 per cent, but thanks to the difficult decisions taken last year, inflation has been more than halved to 4.6 per cent in October. In his Autumn Statement in November the Chancellor was able to find some scope for tax cuts.

To support the lowest paid, this year the government is delivering the largest ever cash increase to the National Living Wage, boosting it from April to £11.44 an hour. That is a 9.8 per cent increase, benefiting 2.7 million workers by an average £1,800 a year.

Locally, I am determined to see the Hospital Transformation Programme to improve Shropshire's acute hospitals get underway. Successfully campaigning for £312m for our hospitals was one of my proudest achievements as your MP, and I do not wish to see this project become a political football, with patients missing out on better care. Initial enabling works are due to begin soon this year.

As readers will know, the health of our rivers and waterways is something about which I care deeply. Following my campaigning with Severn Trent Water, 2024 will see multimillion pound upgrade works to improve the quality of the River Teme around Ludlow, to help deliver bathing quality water between Knighton and Tenbury Wells. I look forward to seeing this project delivered, and the lessons learned begin to be applied elsewhere in South Shropshire.

As part of my wider environmental work, I am looking to ensure the Environmental Audit Committee delivers important guidance to government through our inquiries this year. We are focussed on improving the electricity grid to help decarbonise the economy and making natural capital work to improve nature and biodiversity. My time as Chair of the Committee has been a personal highlight of this Parliament, and I wish to deliver impactful reports in this my last year heading the Committee.

If you have an issue, local or national, which you would like to raise with me this year, please do get in touch by email at philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk. I expect 2024 to be very busy, but I stand ready to do whatever I can to help everyone across South Shropshire in my final year as your MP.

Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP



Highley Parish Council



After months of planning and hard work from the Parish Council, the staff at The Severn Centre and lots of support from the wider community it was heartwarming to see the switch on of the Highley Christmas lights go so smoothly. I love seeing so many people in the same place demonstrating what a fantastic village Highley is and I thoroughly enjoyed being able to take to the stage and recognise the contribution made to our village by the winners of the annual Highley Civic Awards. In addition to the fun activities available on the day we were also able to raise almost £1,000 for our chosen charitable cause – the family of Albie-Jon, a local child currently receiving treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

The Parish Council's December meeting was quieter (and shorter!) than usual as we all begin to wind down for Christmas. One area of focus for the Council is our working groups. These groups consist of Parish Councillors but can also include members of the public and their purpose is to allow the full council to delegate responsibilities and to actually 'get things done'. We'll be looking to publicise the work of these groups so keep an eye out for more details!

The big news in December was of course the confirmation that Highley Medical Centre will soon be housed within The Severn Centre. This project has been going on for most of 2023 so it was brilliant to find out the work will indeed be going ahead and actually may have already started by the time you read this!

As I mentioned last month, for the first time in a long time we have no vacancies on The Parish Council and as you'll see from the photo below, our December meeting was lovely and full!

I'd like to wish everyone in Highley a Happy New Year and all the best for 2024.

Tom Quinn

Chair – Highley Parish Council



Warm Spaces

Fridays @ Severn Centre

12-3pm

Come and have a cuppa and cake

We'd love you to join us

Bring a friend if you like!

What We Hope To Tell Our Grandchildren in 2054.

We came close to a world without elephants
With great rain forests denuded of trees,
Found we'd miss the sweet fragrance of flowering plants
If we killed off our good friends the bees;
We imagined a rainbow of just three shades of grey
If life's colours were sold for false gain,
As we guzzled the gas in our mad dash for cash
And ignored the created world's pain.

We awoke to sad fields of storm flattened corn
Fear of no sheaves to rejoice bringing in,
Grew deserts, watched ice melt, had no winter snows,
In our seas found few whales or dolphin;
Saw parched crops in tired rows meant no produce shows
And no food on the table to share,
Gone sweet tucked in dreams painting gathered field scenes
If each day brought a living nightmare.

We saw countless coast slides of crumbling cliffs
Beaches God made for your fun washed away,
In an empty wild world with no fish in the seas
Saw no catch would be landed each day;
Plastic oceans would flow and only stormy winds blow
Gone the caress of a gentle sea breeze,
Woke to how much we loved you so cleaned up our act
To leave the real thing, not dodo memories.

Copyright: Alan Mansell

Smile Lines

Why?

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Puzzles

Crossword Clues

ACROSS

1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)

9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)

11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3)

13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)

16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)

17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)

18 Opposite of evens (4)

20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)

21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)

22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)

23 Beat (anag.) (4)

25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)

28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)

29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)

30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

DOWN

2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)

3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)

4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)

5 Tidy (4)

6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)

7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)

8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)

12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)

14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)

15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)

19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)

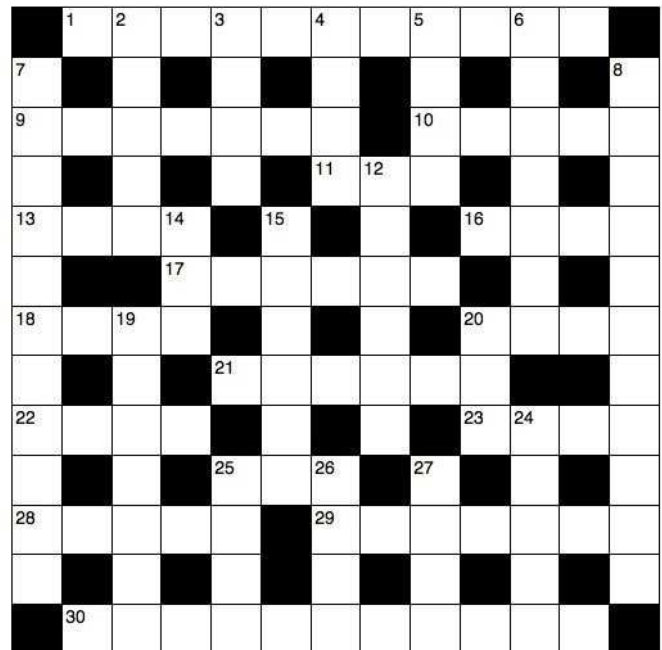
20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)

24 Rarely used musical note (5)

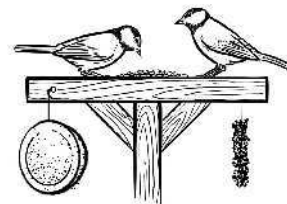
25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)

26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)

27 See 26 Down



Solutions on page 33



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- Highley Community Project
- Highley Medical Practice
- Library
- Dynamic Taekwondo
- Uplifted Pole & Yoga
- Senior Table Tennis & Badminton drop in sessions
- Women's Institute and Knit & Natter
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Details correct at time of going to print - December 2023



Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23



Wise	Jesus	Bethlehem	Gifts	Suffering	Shone
Men	Different	Conversion	Gold	Apostle	Encounter
Trips	Epiphany	Seeking	Proud	Road	Paul
	Star	Kill	Blinded	Baby	

Have a go at Sudoku — answers on page 23



Easy

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

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Medium

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

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UCB Word for Today

Winning the battle over apathy *‘Stir up the gift of God which is in you.’*

Paul told Timothy, ‘Stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.’ That Scripture means, even though you’re gifted, you can become apathetic if you don’t keep doing the right things. *‘Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away’* (Hebrews 2:1 NKJV). The word ‘drift’ is not only slow and subtle, it’s deadly. Let’s look at two of the things that can rob you of your passion, enthusiasm, motivation, and focus.

1) **Lack of goals.** *‘Without a vision the people perish’* (see Proverbs 29:18). What used to enthuse you? What destroyed your interest in it? Is it a desire you could revive? Put it down in writing. Ignore the potential cost or reasons it might not work. Just indulge your mind in the luxury of feeling optimistic and excited about something, even a small thing.

2) **Wrong goals.** Are you pursuing a goal you feel was imposed upon you by someone else? Or like Jonah before he was swallowed by the whale, possibly you’re rowing against the tide of God’s will for your life. Check with Him and see if this is so. Did God really lead you to pamper yourself in that extravagant item that’s now requiring you to work two jobs? Or maybe the time has come to an end for a goal that was part of God’s plan for a specific season of your life. Moving on is sometimes difficult, but oh, the joy and peace of knowing that you are in the centre of God’s perfect will!

Hi from W.I.

Our November meeting was our AGM and along with Minutes of our last meeting we now have a Committee with some existing members and three new ones. Exciting times ahead!

After the "business" part of our meeting we had a very interesting talk on jewellery making by our very own Terri Stanley. Terri is very gifted and we all saw how passionate she is about her craft. She enlightened us on some of the pieces of stone and glass which she had found at different locations.

Terri had very kindly put some glass, stones, wire and a pair of wire cutters on each table for us to have a "go" at weaving the wire around our stones and glass. Some of us got the hang of it more quickly than others but we all helped each other – I think it will take quite a while before we accomplish Terri's standard!. Each of her designs are unique and we were able to purchase some of her jewellery which was lovely.

Our December meeting took us along to The Down for our annual Christmas Dinner where we sat down to a lovely meal enjoying each other's company. The entertainment was listed as a surprise! And it was. Three of our own committee members entertained us and there were plenty of laughs in the room. Who needs professional entertainment?

We are always on the lookout for new members and during the course of the last few months we have seen a steady influx come through our doors which has been lovely but we would like to see more of you. We are here for ladies of all ages. Why not give us a try and come along to one of our meetings. You will be assured of a really warm welcome!

We meet every third Tuesday evening of the month in the Severn Centre Cafe area from 7pm. We have interesting speakers come to demonstrate or talk about their work and we've certainly had some wonderful one's this past year as well as fun and games organised by ourselves with lots of laughter and chit chat and it wouldnt be the WI without cups of tea and cakes and biscuits would it.

WI has certainly moved on in some areas after many years. Remember we've been known as Jam and Jerusalem because of our baking skills and making jams and also singing Jerusalem. Yes we still sing Jerusalem at the beginning of each meeting. After all it is our "anthem" but whether or not you can bake a cake doesn't come into it these days as we have enough who love to bake and this is not all we do. Just come along and join us.

For more information please contact our Secretary Eunice Williams on 861613.

We now have a facebook page so look us up. Pop in to our next meeting on the third Tuesday in January 7.00pm .

Elaine Moore



Highley Companions

Our last adventure out for 2023 was to the Theatre at Telford on 20th November.

We travelled on two Community buses which took our Companions and some of their partners and us volunteers to Oakengates Theatre in Telford to see the "Christmas Memories" show. This was our first visit to a theatre with them and, my oh my, didn't everyone enjoy themselves.

The show was just full of songs which everyone knew, some traditional and some more modern. The singers were so professional and their glitzy costumes, props and falling fake snow just added to the atmosphere. It truly was magical. You should have seen the smiles on our Companions faces and their joining in with the singing of songs and carols. So much joy!!! A really successful afternoon.

Our second and final event of 2023 was our Christmas Meal in the Parish Hall on 14th December where 39 of us sat down for our meal. Our entertainment was the Highley School Choir which are always a joy to listen to and its always an emotional time too. A little child can bring tears to our eyes when they sing.

Thanks go to Gay and her team for again cooking the Christmas Dinner for us. It is so much appreciated. It is no mean feat cooking a meal for such a large number.

Thank you to all those who have supported us with monetary gifts throughout the year.

I would like also to thank my team of volunteers who work so hard in making sure that our Companions enjoy themselves when they are with us so that their carers can have that very valuable time to recharge their batteries.

Elaine Moore



The tale of the Two Sons



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.

THE FATHER WENT TO HIS OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD

'NO I WON'T!' SAID THE OLDER SON...

...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.

'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT...

...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!

'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...

'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?'

Answers to Wordsearch (from page 18)



Answers to Sudoku (from page 19)

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

Easy

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

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Keeping heat in your home - Dale

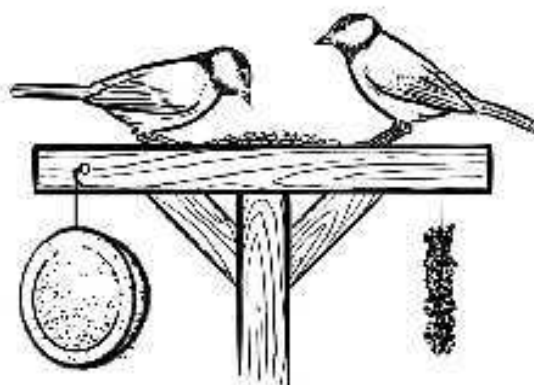
Energy saving tips are always welcome in the winter. It takes a long time to make your home perform as efficiently as possible. Maybe this year, try and write a list of a few achievable and affordable things that you could do to reduce your home's carbon footprint. You might want to consider radiators:

Radiators can play a big part in saving energy throughout your home. One quick way to save energy is to turn down the radiators in the rooms you aren't using. If you've got thermostatic valves on your radiators, set each one to the temperature you need for each space. If you don't have these valves – just turn off the radiators in any rooms you don't often use or areas which will warm up anyway from air coming from the rest of your home.

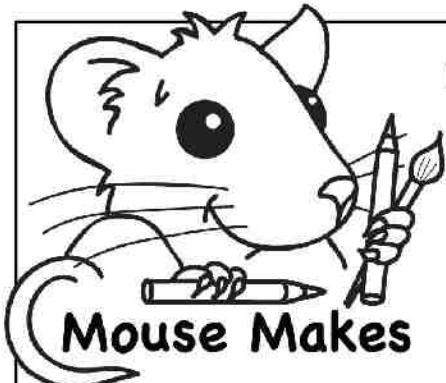
Have you ever thought about bleeding your radiator? It's something that I think we all can forget to do but it can help! When you bleed your radiator, you will allow air to escape which will help your radiator work more efficiently. Check for cold spots near the top of the radiator when the heating is on. Turn the heating off, and turn the bleed valve slowly with a radiator key. As you release the air (have a rag handy), make sure to be prepared for water to spurt out when the air has been expelled. You might need to top up the pressure in the central heating system using the filling loop on the boiler (check the manual to do it correctly).

Get smart with your heating. Think about when you actually need it on and the temperature it is at. You could set your heating timer to turn off an hour before you leave in the morning – your home will still stay warm, and you'll save an hour a day of heating. You could also think about doing this at night. You might even not want to bother with the heating in the morning. Ours wakes us up, and we are not around for long before we have left for work! Another easy tip is to make sure you keep those doors shut. Some people in your house might need reminding, but it's such a simple way to save energy!

If you live off the mains gas grid and are thinking of changing your boiler (maybe it has reached the end of its life), you might be eligible for the **Sustainable Warmth Shropshire** scheme. Check out the council's website for more information. If your home is well insulated, most people will be able to apply for a government grant for an air source heat pump. The grants went up in October 2023, so it may well be worth a visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme/what-you-can-get>



Mousemakes

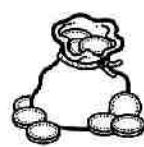


Mouse Makes


EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.

Where was Jesus born?

Luke 2:1




What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?



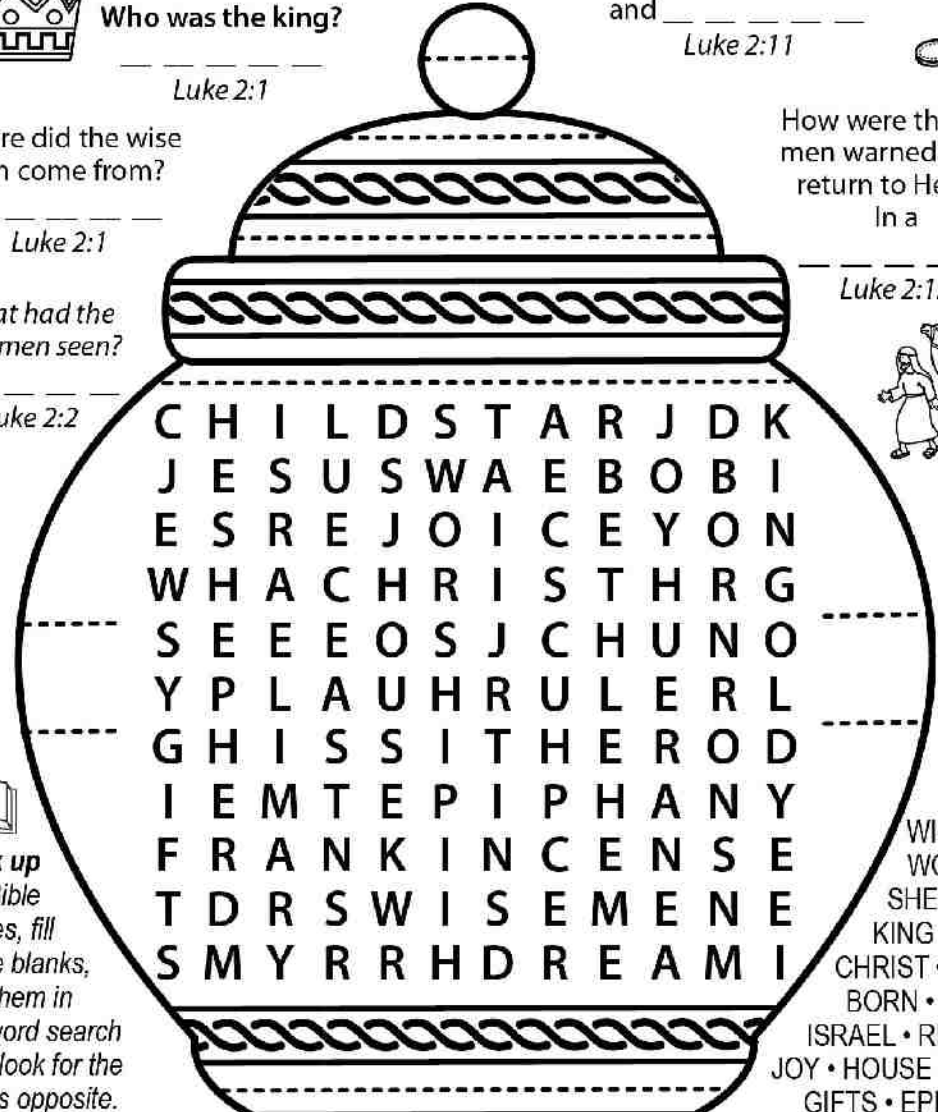
Who was the king?

Luke 2:1

and -----
Luke 2:11




Where did the wise men come from?
the -----
Luke 2:1



How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
In a -----
Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?
a -----
Luke 2:2



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

JESUS
WISEMEN
WORSHIP
SHEPHERD
KING • JEWS
CHRIST • CHILD
BORN • RULER
ISRAEL • REJOICE
JOY • HOUSE • MARY
GIFTS • EPIPHANY

Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

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Fri 26 Jan 2024 Fri 23 Feb 2024
Fri 22 March 2024

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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
Licensed Lay Minister with PTO	Mr Keith Smith		861966
Churchwarden	Roy Adlington Canev Clayton		861666 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



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Allsorts of ages

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Program of events

5th Mar 2024 = Mark Triggs –
 Christians Against
 Poverty

2nd Apr = John Martin -
 Comedian

7th May = Ian Baxter - SVR

4th June = Liz Bird - Foodbank

2nd July = Bluebird Belles

3rd Sept = Sally Bunn

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NOTE: TIMETABLE: Diamond **Buses**

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

Stourbridge Bus Station Stourbridge (Stand A)	---	---	08:05	09:10		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 Kidderminster (Stand 6) <small>Active</small>	---	---	08:33	09:35		35		15:35	16:45	17:45	18:50
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 6) <small>Depart</small>	---	07:27	08:37	09:37		37		15:37	16:47	17:47	---
General Hospital Kidderminster (A1)	---	07:34	08:44	09:44		44		15:44	16:54	17:54	---
Load Street Bawdley (Westbound)	06:30	07:45	08:55	09:55		55		15:55	17:05	18:05	---
Wyre Cottage Bilstonac (NW)	06:36	07:51	09:01	10:01		01		16:01	17:11	18:11	---
Hall Kings (NW)	06:43	07:58	09:08	10:08	then at these mins	08	until	16:08	17:18	18:18	---
Bache Arms Highley (NW)	06:53	08:08	09:18	10:18		18		16:18	17:28	18:28	---
Castle Inn Woodhill (NW)	06:56	08:11	09:21	10:21		21		16:21	17:31	18:31	---
Church Chelmarsh (NW)	07:00	08:16	09:26	10:26		26		16:26	17:36	18:36	---
Post Office Farrington (NW)	07:05	08:21	09:31	10:31		31		16:31	17:41	18:41	---
Sainsbury's High Town (NE)	07:12	08:28	09:38	10:38		38		16:38	17:48	18:48	---
Fosters Arms PH Low Town (NE)	07:15	---	---	---		---		---	---	---	---
Stanmore Industrial Estate Stanmore (NE)	07:22	---	---	---		---		---	---	---	---

* Not including bank holidays

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

Stanmore Industrial Estate Stanmore (NE)	---	07:24	---	---		---		---	---	---	---
Falcon Hotel Low Town (NE)	---	07:32	---	---		---		---	---	---	---
Sainsbury's High Town (NE)	---	---	08:40	---		40		14:40	15:45	16:45	18:05
Post Office Lardington (SE)	---	07:37	08:49	---		49		14:49	15:50	16:50	18:10
Church Chelmarsh (SE)	---	07:47	08:54	---		54		14:54	15:55	16:55	18:15
Castle Inn Woodhill (S)	---	07:57	08:58	---		58		14:58	16:00	17:00	18:20
Bache Arms Highley (SE)	---	07:51	09:01	---		01		15:01	16:04	17:04	18:24
Eagle & Serpent Inn Kidderminster (SW)	---	08:01	09:11	then at these mins		11	until	15:11	16:14	17:14	18:34
Wyre Cottage Bilstonac (SE)	---	08:08	09:19			19		15:19	16:21	17:21	18:41
Load Street Bawdley (Eastbound)	---	08:15	09:25			25		15:25	16:28	17:28	18:48
General Hospital Kidderminster (NE)	---	08:27	09:35			35		15:35	16:40	17:40	19:00
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 6) <small>Active</small>	---	08:35	09:41			41		15:41	16:48	17:48	19:08
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 6) <small>Depart</small>	07:30	08:37	09:43			43		15:43	16:50	17:50	---
Broadwaters Drive Broadwaters (Opp)	07:38	08:45	09:49			49		15:49	16:58	17:58	---
Stourbridge Bus Station Stourbridge (Stand A)	07:58	09:05	10:05			05		16:05	17:18	18:18	---

* Not including bank holidays



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**Crossword Solution from
 page 15**

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) Tuesday 19.00 SC

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

Smile Lines

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."
 Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."
 The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10	Highley Minors	28	Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Cost Cutter	11	Irena Foot Clinic	31	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	33
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25		
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22	Kidderminster Storage & Removals	27		
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	33		
		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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As we consider 2024 stretching ahead:

- Hope means expectancy when things are otherwise hopeless. – G K Chesterton
- When you flee from temptation, be sure not to leave a forwarding address. – Anon
- The quest for excellence is a mark of maturity. The quest for power is childish. – Max Lucado
- Lose an hour in the morning, and you will spend all day looking for it. – Richard Whately
- Peace is to the soul what health is to the body: a sign of balance and order. – Guy Appere
- You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you. – James Allen



...the good news is - I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...

Church Services January 2024

Sunday 7th January	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 14th January	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Informal Worship	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 21st January	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10am Holy Communion	St Bartholomew's Church, Glazeley
	10.30am Informal Worship	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 28th January	8am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Informal Worship	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 Williams

Friday Night Prayer 9pm Zoom 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

Next Copy Date 15th January for February issue