

# FORUM

July 2021



*Open Gardens at Woodlands Hall. See page 2*

# Open Gardens at Woodlands Hall

*Some of us aspire to having a beautiful garden. Caspar Gabb takes it all into a different league! Thank you, Caspar and all the Gabb family, for allowing us all to stroll around and enjoy the beautiful flowers and peace and serenity of your gardens. It was a wonderful afternoon.*



Beautiful surroundings and an array of refreshments fit for royalty! The sun shone, not a cloud in sight. The car park was full. What more could you ask for?

For more photos see 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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Severn Valley Benefice

**The Severn Valley Churches:**

St. Mary, Highley

and at the Severn Centre

St. Mary, Billingsley

St. Peter, Chelmarsh

St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

## ***We're not in competition***

Summer is finally here and it is the time when generous people with beautiful gardens open them to the public for us all to enjoy too. At the beginning of June, my husband, Keith, and I called in at Woodlands Hall for a relaxing couple of hours spent admiring the vast array of flowers, shrubs and herbs which have been lovingly cultivated (see photos on page 2).

Those of you who know me well are aware that my gardening skills are minimal. Even so, I get excited when something I've planted thrives. This year, on one of my daily strolls around the garden, (casting my eye around to see if anything is showing signs of new life) I have been particularly pleased with my peonies. As I've often remarked, 'pride goes before a fall!' As we strolled through the wonderful kitchen gardens at Woodlands Hall, I couldn't help but be transfixed by the extravagant display of peonies. I quickly realised that mine were but a poor reflection of what could be!

Despite having been born a 'townie' and hating it when my parents moved the family to the outskirts of London when I was 12 years old, I have grown to love the countryside and our beautiful surroundings here. Part of my desolation as a child was that it took 2 or 3 buses to get to school, not to mention getting up at the crack of dawn (or so it seemed) to catch the first bus towards civilisation. The last bus left at midnight to get me home. Well, who wants to be going home from a party that early!

Times change and so do we. What I saw as 'wallpaper' then, I appreciate now; the birds, the flowers and trees, the views and the landscape. I never tire of taking in the view of the Clee Hills as I walk down the bank at the end of Hazelwells Road. I am also reminded of God's creative hand and his presence in the stillness and quiet. Even after 30 years, I still love the sound of silence on a crisp, late winter evening or the sound of the birds in the early morning.

Going back to my peonies, I realise that God smiles with me at them, even though they can't match those of Woodlands Hall. Even though I might feel that my garden is a poor reflection of Caspar's, God doesn't measure us against each other. He doesn't look at us in that way. He doesn't compare us, as I had done with the flowers. He looks lovingly on us all, as individuals, not comparing us with one another, but rejoicing at our individually and our uniqueness.

In Psalm 8 we read

*'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?'*



Continued from page 4 .....

Just as I get excited at the signs of new life in my garden, God gets excited at each person turning to Him and every encounter with Him will bear fruit. So if you've ever convinced yourself that you are past redemption, then think again! I believe that He's just waiting for you to get in touch. It only takes a short prayer like 'Can you hear me God, are you there?' Let me know the answer.

*Val Smith*

<p><b>Highley St. Mary</b></p>	<p><b>Billingsley St. Mary</b></p>	<p><b>Chelmarsh St. Peter</b></p>	<p><b>Glazeley St. Bartholomew</b></p>
<p>Roy Adlington 861666</p>	<p>Vacancy</p>	<p>Derek Arnold 07956 844854</p>	<p>Vacancy</p>

### *St Mary's Highley*

Last month we had hoped that by now we'd be free of restrictions and singing our hearts out in church. The best laid plans of mice and men .....

What we did see was the trialling of a new pattern of services in church, to test the feasibility of gradually increasing the number of services, bearing in mind that from September we shall be one man down, so to speak.

For Highley, the new pattern offers two additional services each month, so that those who wish to attend a more informal style family worship can do so. Parallel to these services we hope to run provision for the young people to worship and learn in their own age-appropriate groups in the Parish Hall. At the moment, all social distancing measures, wearing of masks etc. remain in place. We wait with bated breath to hear whether there will be any change from 19th July.

Our Summer series is build around the experience of a variety of people in their workplace or memories of being a Christian during their employment in the Big Wide World! Even if you don't come to church regularly, you may be interested to hear how God works through individuals outside of a Sunday service.

We have received news of Bill Rosie, who celebrated his 90th birthday this month. Have a look at page 35 for more photos of him enjoying his special day. Bill and Glad were well-known around the village, when they lived in Cherry Bank. After Glad passed away and his health deteriorated, Bill moved to be with family. As you can see, he still knows how to enjoy himself! Happy 90th birthday, Bill.



**Val Smith**

## *St Peter's, Chelmarsh*

We hope you are enjoying a bit more freedom under the lockdown rules, as life gets carefully back to a new "normal". We wish everyone a refreshing lifting of spirits during the summer.

### **Reminder and Request**

#### **Benefice Auction in Chelmarsh Parish Hall    Saturday 24th July    at 12 noon**

The churches of the Severn Valley Benefice are joining together to hold a "Cash in the Attic" type of auction of any items you might be able to part with to help a good cause, namely, to support the 4 churches in the Benefice. Please contact Barbara on **Tel no. 861291** if you have anything you would like to donate, and either deliver it to her at 2, Ingram Lane by Friday 23rd July or to the Parish Hall. Thank you very much. We hope to see you at the Hall on the 24th.

### **New service pattern**

From the end of June, Chelmarsh will, sadly, no longer be able to hold a service every week as we have in the past. The new pattern for Chelmarsh is services on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of the month. This will be less easy to keep track of, but we hope we can still welcome you on those days.

### **Confirmation    Sarah Grantham**

Congratulations and best wishes, Sarah, on your Confirmation. Welcome to the church family of St Peter's. Also we look forward to seeing you married next year, after all the postponements you had to make.

### **Confirmation    Anita Price (from Eardington)**

Congratulations also to you, Anita, on your Confirmation! The congregation of St Peter's church welcome you into our church family and hope you will feel that your faith can flourish here.

### **Saturday's Churchyard Tidy- up    19. 6. 2021**

A thousand 'thank you's to all 30 people who turned out to help with the enormous job of strimming long grass, cutting back brambles and hedges and clearing weeds from around the flower beds near the church. Thanks to all your magnificent efforts. Far more was done than we thought possible when the plan was made and it's amazing how much more space has been uncovered! It shows what can be achieved by working together; we had fun in each others' company and it was a wonderful celebration of Community work. Thank you all very much for your willing support; we are very grateful to you.

### **We hear that.....**

A family in Highley took a pigeon to Barmouth! They only discovered it under the bonnet of the car after they got back. Thankfully it was none the worse for its adventure!

**Glenys Williams**

# GRAND AUCTION

Chelmarsh Parish Hall  
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in aid of our churches in the Severn Valley

Viewing on the morning  
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Ample parking opposite



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We hope to have light refreshments available  
and be free from most restrictions.

Catalogues and further info at  
'stmaryshighley.co.uk' from 22nd July.

If you have items of fair to good quality and/or antiques that you have no further  
need of and can donate to the auction, please contact the following,  
depending on which church you wish to support:

Billingsley: Bonnie on 552567\* or 'yvonnegarvey2015@gmail.com'

Glazeley: Marion on 764585\* or 'marion.corfield@talktalk.net'

Chelmarsh: Barbara on 861291\* or 'theob3103@yahoo.com'

Highley: Bev on 861316\* or 'beverlybevan@aol.com'

Bernadine on 862137\* or 'bernie.1954@hotmail.co.uk'



Dartington Crystal  
Queen's Golden  
Jubilee

## *St Mary's, Billingsley*

I am writing this column after doing one of our regular Sunday 6.00pm evening services. On what has been the hottest day of the year, it was actually a pleasure to be in a cool church! This month was a reflection on water; holy water, holy wells and the importance of clean water. It took the usual form of music, readings and musings from myself. We looked at some local holy wells, which I hope we might be able to visit in the coming months. We also admired photos of the spectacular font in Stottesdon Church, which just happens to be the destination for our next evening walk, on Thursday 24th June, when we meet at Chorley Baptist Chapel, provisionally 7.00pm (but check on our website or Facebook pages for confirmation) <https://www.facebook.com/BillingsleyChurch/>, [www.st-marys-billingsley.org.uk](http://www.st-marys-billingsley.org.uk), <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10415/>).

Over July and August we will be experimenting with a few outdoor services, in an initiative called "Forest Church". The aim is to meet outside, to experience God through the natural world; in vicar-speak, to meet the creator through creation. The services are built around one or two readings and prayers, a little music but largely time for silence and reflection; we hope they may appeal not only to Christians who are concerned for the natural world, but anyone who finds it uplifting to be surrounded by the natural world. The first will be on Wednesday 7th July at 7.00pm in the churchyard at Billingsley and will last no more than an hour. All are welcome.

Mike, our rector, is conducting a grand auction in aid of our churches in the Severn Valley Benefice in Chelmarsh Parish Hall, starting at 12.00 noon, Saturday 24th July. If you have items you wish to give to raise funds for Billingsley or Glazeley, please contact me and I will put you in contact with the appropriate person.

**David Poyner**

## *St Bartholomew's, Glazeley*

A most successful Open Garden was held at The Woodlands Hall, Glazeley by kind permission of Caspar, Toni & Roger Gabb. We were blessed with a wonderful sunny day and lots of visitors from near and far. People enjoyed the lovely sheltered walks in the Woodlands, then joined the queue for a cuppa & piece of cake. There were plenty of plants & shrubs for sale with Caspar and Holly giving advice on care & planting.

Friends of both Glazeley & Chelmarsh churches did a sterling job manning the coffee, tea & cake stall with hardly a minute for a break. Thanks go out to Marion, Lynda, Catherine, Judy, Rita, Shirley, Barbara, Glenys, Michelle, Pam and Sheila and anyone I've missed out.

It was Sunday before it was confirmed how much was donated - a total of **£3117.79**

This was split between KIDNEY Research, in memory of Annie Gabb who sadly passed away earlier this year, and Glazeley & Chelmarsh churches.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Caspar for all the hard work he & his team did to make this possible.

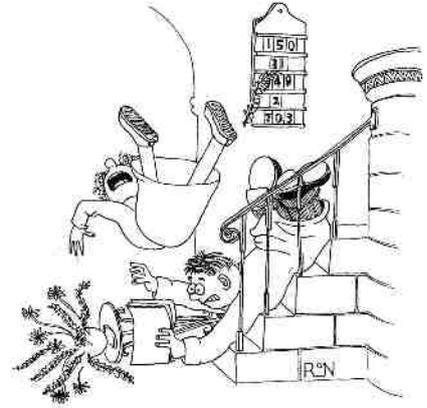
**A reminder that services at St Bartholomew's Glazeley, will be the only church holding a service on the 3rd SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**Marion Corfield**

## Smile lines .....

*Editor: Summer is a time when families spend more time together. With this in mind...*

- \* The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
- If they squeeze olives to get olive oil, how do they get baby oil?
- Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have had to wait for them?
- How long a minute is, depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- Children's wisdom: In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java.



*Sharing the Notices while keeping a social distance was proving tricky.*

---

## Spot the difference .....



*...just humour him - he's hoping it'll help him reach the young people in his diocese...*



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## Letter from Westminster

### Proposed Boundary Changes

Last month, the Boundary Commission released their proposals for changes to the borders of the parliamentary constituencies.

Boundary Reviews happen routinely to address demographic changes over time, to ensure that constituency sizes are broadly equal. The last review was based on the number of electors at the 2000 General Election. But clearly, over twenty years on, as the population of the country has grown and areas have become more or less densely populated, this can lead to big discrepancies in the number of electors in each constituency.

To show how diverse this can be, at the 2019 General Election the Bristol West constituency had 99,253 electors, whereas our neighbour Montgomeryshire had only 48,997. Both return one MP – so clearly, not all votes carry the same weight in electing their MP. So this latest review from the Boundary Commission is long coming, and necessary.

The initial proposals involve some change to the Ludlow Constituency – not least a proposed name change, to ‘Ludlow and Bridgnorth’. The Shropshire Council wards of Burnell and Severn Valley – currently part of the Shrewsbury & Atcham constituency – would be included in the new Ludlow and Bridgnorth constituency. This would increase its geographic area significantly – by over 100 square miles, to some 700 square miles, which would make it the 5th largest constituency in England by area. It would also increase the number of electors by 7,500, over 10% on current levels, to some 77,000 electors.

This is, however, markedly less change than the previous iteration of the proposals from the Boundary Commission, which would have split the Ludlow Constituency in three, part of which would have created a new seat of Ludlow and Leominster in Herefordshire.

The current proposals keep five constituencies in Shropshire and Telford, and do not cross other county boundaries. The rest of Shropshire sees some limited movement of Shropshire Council wards, to ensure all constituencies have between 75,000 and 77,000 electors, with the exception of Telford, which would initially have 70,000, providing some room for this high growth town to increase its electors in years to come.

Across the West Midlands, there are no changes to the number of constituencies in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Coventry, and Birmingham and Solihull. Staffordshire and the Black Country reduces from 25 constituencies to 23. So the West Midlands reduces overall from 57 constituencies to 55.

I stress these are just initial proposals. The Boundary Commission will report with their final recommendations by 1st July 2023, but there will be revisions off the back of feedback from MPs and the public. The public can have their say now through the current consultation, which finishes on 2nd August.

I shall be studying the detail closely, and I would also welcome feedback from constituents on the proposals, in particular the proposed change of name. You can access my survey on my website [www.tellphilip.com](http://www.tellphilip.com) to let me know your views.



**Philip Dunne, MP**

## God in the Sciences



It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, 'Why am I here?'"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. "Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God." Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

## *County Councillor's Report*

Back again, and what has surprised me is the amount of change that has taken place in just the short space of time since my last report. Like all change, it's arguable as to whether those changes are good or bad.

There is a lot less "local representation" than there was in the few months leading up to the election, with more power being devolved not to local communities but to council officers who are now even more remote thanks to a reporting structure that funnels all issues through a centralised reporting system, from where local issues are directed to those departments best able to handle them. So runs the thinking.

In reality, local issues find themselves directed to a department that responds with a generalised explanation of why nothing can be done, all cleverly designed to leave you feeling guilty about bothering them with what you're made to think are petty concerns, highways is a case (or cases) in point.

What's happening is the fine tuning of a process that has become, in council-speak, a series of "Covid opportunities", the most obvious one being the move to remote working, with council officers now working from home without the resources they once had at their fingertips, or rather on the other side of their desk, in the same office, in the form of a fellow officer. The difference, for me, is both quantitative and qualitative. If I ask a question I expect it to go to someone who can give me a full answer because I'll have been asking on behalf of a constituent who expects a full answer from me!

When I first stood for election I resolved always to be 'approachable', using all the means at my disposal, from the landline telephone to social media, all my contact details are readily available to anyone who needs to contact me, that's what being "the local county councillor" means. But it is often necessary to explain to someone who has a particular pet gripe that as the elected representative for HIGHLEY, it's incumbent upon me to act in what I consider to be the best interest of Highley and to do that without fear or favour; in other words, whilst I'm nobody's advocate, I can often find myself advancing an argument I wouldn't otherwise support simply because the constituent "has a point" (I recently passed on an objection to the coaches parked on the Severn Centre, despite having earlier commended Halo for their initiative in bringing in income during the lockdown).

And that's my issue with what Shropshire Council has become: unless your point of view aligns precisely with that of the Executive your point of view has no place, you're either with them or against them. That isn't democratic representative governance, that's "management by default".

Still nice to be back though.

*Dave Tremellen*

# Puzzles for July

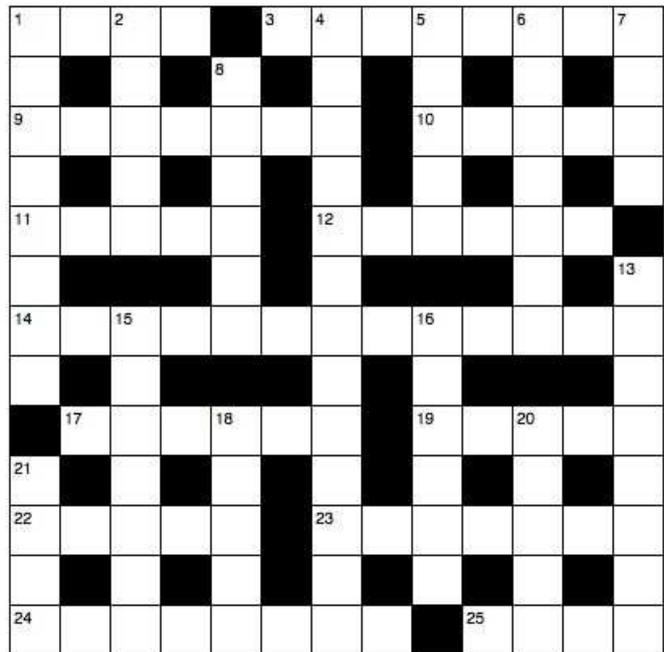
## Crossword Clues

### ACROSS

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8-12) (4)
- 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
- 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
- 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
- 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

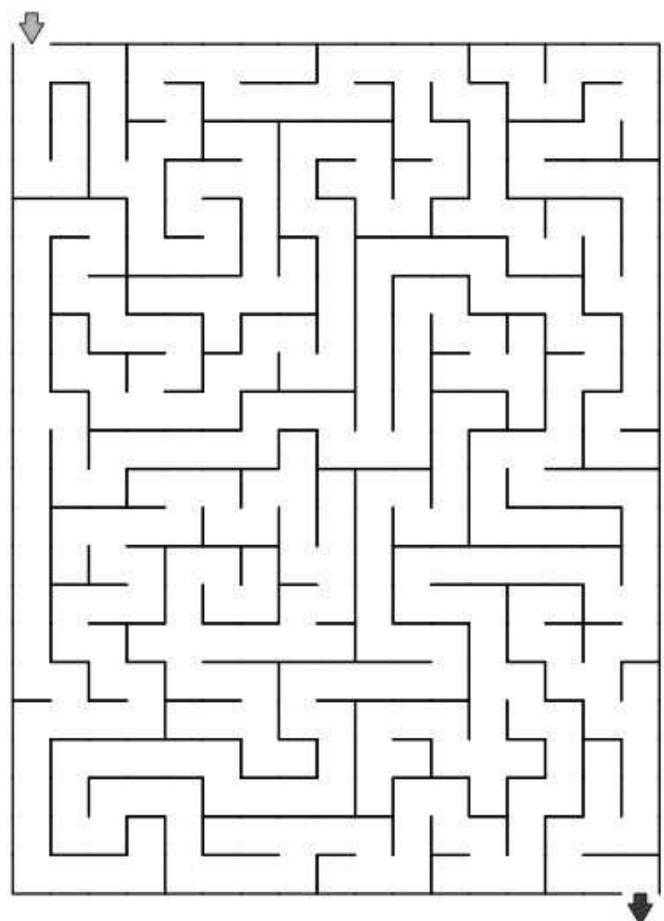
### DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)



Solutions on page 33

## Start here for the Maze



# An update from Highley School Fundraising Group...

## Father's Day Sale

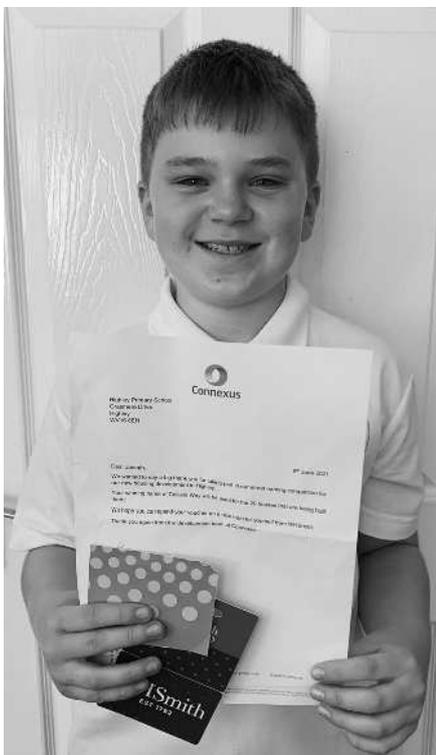
Highley Fundraising Group organised a sale last month, for children to purchase a gift for their Fathers on Father's Day. The children had a wide range of gifts to choose from: mugs, chocolates, socks, keyrings, and bottle openers. The sale raised a total of £408.00 for the school, with only a small number of items left. A big thanks goes out to the Fundraising Group of Highley School, who—whilst facing the challenges of COVID—have still managed to raise funds for the benefit of the school. Hopefully the new academic year will allow more events to be held by the group and school.

## Uniform Sale

The group hope to be able to have a uniform stall at the “Golf Fest – Live on the Range – Family Music Festival”, being held on the **21st August at Highley Golf Centre, 1-10:30 PM**. The event takes place 2 weeks before the new school term—the perfect time to purchase some new school uniform.



## New street name chosen!



Most of you will be aware of the new housing being built behind Vicarage Lane by Connexus, providing 20 affordable houses for the community. A few weeks ago, Joseph Edwards (a pupil at Highley Primary School) was delighted to hear that his suggestion of “Colliers Way” has been accepted by Connexus and Shropshire Council.

Connexus gave students from Highley School the opportunity to suggest names for the development during the recent lockdown and were delighted by the submissions made by pupils from the school. ‘Colliers Way’ provides a link between Highley’s proud history and its current expansion. Connexus awarded Joseph a £20 voucher for WHSmith, and a donation was also made to Highley Primary, to benefit all the pupils and staff. Well done, Joseph!

**Alex Edwards**

## From the Parish of James the Least

*The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

### *On why the clergy should avoid computers*

The Rectory  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for the kind offer of your old computer, but I do not want it. I know you find it a fundamental basic of daily life, but I do not, and I intend to keep things that way.

This is despite the fact that our diocesan office now takes it for granted that all of us clergy have a computer. Indeed, the diocesan secretary and I have had several awkward phone calls upon this very subject. He can't believe that I really don't have one, and suspects that I am simply hiding my email address from him so that he cannot send me the daily diocesan briefings, weekly questionnaires, and constant notification of all sorts of meetings and training days. But I remain firm: I have survived in ministry for nearly 50 years without a computer, and I don't intend to change now. When he gets tetchy with me, I take the high moral ground and remind him that St Paul did not have a computer.

Besides, it would not end with just a computer. Next, I would be obliged to get a printer and then ink cartridges and then maybe some sort of virus would attack me. As I have no idea about any of this, I might have to allow someone into the vicarage to sort it out, and even worse, I might even have to *pay* them. My money can be far more usefully spent on good claret.

Being without a computer also saves me much aggravation. From what I can gather, most computer owners spend significant parts of their lives either trying to get their machine to do something that it refuses to do, or else getting help from someone in a remote part of the world who speaks a jargon only distantly related to English, who assures you that whatever you did, it would have been better if you hadn't.

So I have decided that should I ever REALLY need to use a computer for something, I will visit our local primary school and get a six year-old to do the job for me, which they do with effortless efficiency, speed and accuracy.

Your Loving Uncle,

*Eustace*



## UCB - Word for Today

*(Background - Ed) The story of Rebekah in Genesis 24 tells how Abraham sent his servant Eliezer to find a wife for his son Isaac. Standing by a well and looking for a sign from God as to who that might be, he prays, 'Let the woman who offers to water my camels be the one you have chosen.' Rebekah arrives and kindly offers to draw water for the camels .....*

**The Rewards of Kindness** *'I will draw water for your camels also.'* Genesis 24:19 NKJV

The story of Rebekah teaches us a very important truth about life: *when opportunity knocks, make sure you're ready to answer the door.* Rebekah didn't think about the extra effort and time required to water 10 thirsty camels. She didn't say, 'I don't do that kind of work, it isn't in my job description.' She lived by the principle: 'whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might' (Ecclesiastes 9:10 NKJV). She didn't suddenly develop a work ethic when Eliezer turned up; she practised one every day. And there came a day when it paid off. Faithfulness in small things brings great rewards. God is your boss; He's watching your attitude and actions in small things. Big moments don't come to people who wait for them; they come from faithfulness in small moments, in daily routines and non-glamorous service. And you'll notice something else. Rebekah didn't quote the Torah or ask Eliezer what his religion was. Instead of trying to be 'super-spiritual', she decided to be nice. As a result, she got his attention, earned his respect and ended up in the family of Abraham. It doesn't get any better! When Rebekah took Eliezer home to meet her family, they wanted her to wait 10 days before going to meet Isaac. This was customary. But Rebekah said, 'I will go' (Genesis 24:58 NKJV). When God opens the door, don't delay. And don't say, 'Others are more qualified than me.' If God has called you, then you are the right person, so step over your fears and move in the direction He is leading you.

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Have a go at Sudoku—answers on page 23



Easy

Medium

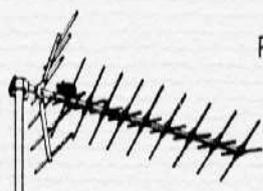
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## Physical Training

My friend, Brum, due to saying the wrong thing when asked by a PT instructor how he rated physical fitness, found himself booked for 2 hours PT.

"What did you say?" I queried.

"Well, I said the Army needs to get up to date. There's no need for all this walking and running about," Brum complained. "In Birmingham there are plenty of firms organising excursions to the countryside and I offered to read the maps so we don't get lost!"

I smiled. "You said that to a sergeant in the physical training corps? No wonder you got landed with 2 hours PT."

"You are coming with me," explained my friend. "I told him you were dead keen on the physical stuff and you were daft enough to win them short races you're so mad about and all that long jump stuff, so you've only yourself to blame."

I groaned. "You know I don't like training. As Oliver Hardy used to say to Stan Laurel, 'A fine mess you've got me in!'"

"Have a fag," suggested Brum.

"You know I don't smoke," I protested. "I usually swap my cigarettes for chocolate."

"Well, this is the plan," continued Brum, leaning back and blowing smoke rings. "I'll ask him to let you perform first and show how it's done in company with him. When you have tired him out he will let up on me."

The next day we both appeared in the gym wearing army boots. The sergeant was similarly attired but wearing plimsolls.

"First, pull-ups to the bar. You first," indicating me.

I did this easily enough pulling myself up about 13 times. The sergeant frowned and demonstrated it himself managing around the same number.

Then Brum tried the bar. "It's too high," he complained. "If you put it nearer the floor I can reach it easily."

The sergeant, after a few choice words, heaved at my friend's bulk. Brum promptly let go of the bar and fell on the man. They both ended in a heap on the floor, Brum uppermost since he weighed 14 stone and the instructor was much lighter. It was 'no contest', as you might say. I restrained my laughter. Brum heaved the PT man to his feet. At the same time he managed to tread heavily on the man's foot. The sergeant screeched. "Sorry, sorry," grinned my big friend. "Let's have a look at it." With that he grabbed the man's foot and raised it for inspection. The poor fellow fell again to the floor. "This other foot seems alright," he bellowed, dragging the poor chap around the floor. I draw a veil over the next few minutes as the PT man described my friend's character in Army terms.

Needless to say there was no more PT that day. Afterwards I remarked, "Lucky you accidentally trod on his foot."

...cont'd...

...cont'd...

My friend gave me a withering look. "That was no accident. I told you I would fix it." With that he lay back on his bed smoking. I was speechless!

I finally received a letter from Brummie while I was in the Middle East. A paragraph caught my attention. It ran something like this.

"You know you used to feel sorry for me, Ginger, always on Jankers and peeling spuds?" I remembered this well as he always brought me roast potatoes, jellies and other items when he finished for the day. I read the rest. "Well, what they didn't know was I told the cooks how to read time tables and what trains to catch if they wanted to avoid ticket inspectors and such like when they wanted to see girl friends and flog the army food stuff. The cooking staff peeled most of my spuds and gave me tins of Spam and that sort of thing to sell in the local pubs. I got me discharge didn't I? Unfit for further service."

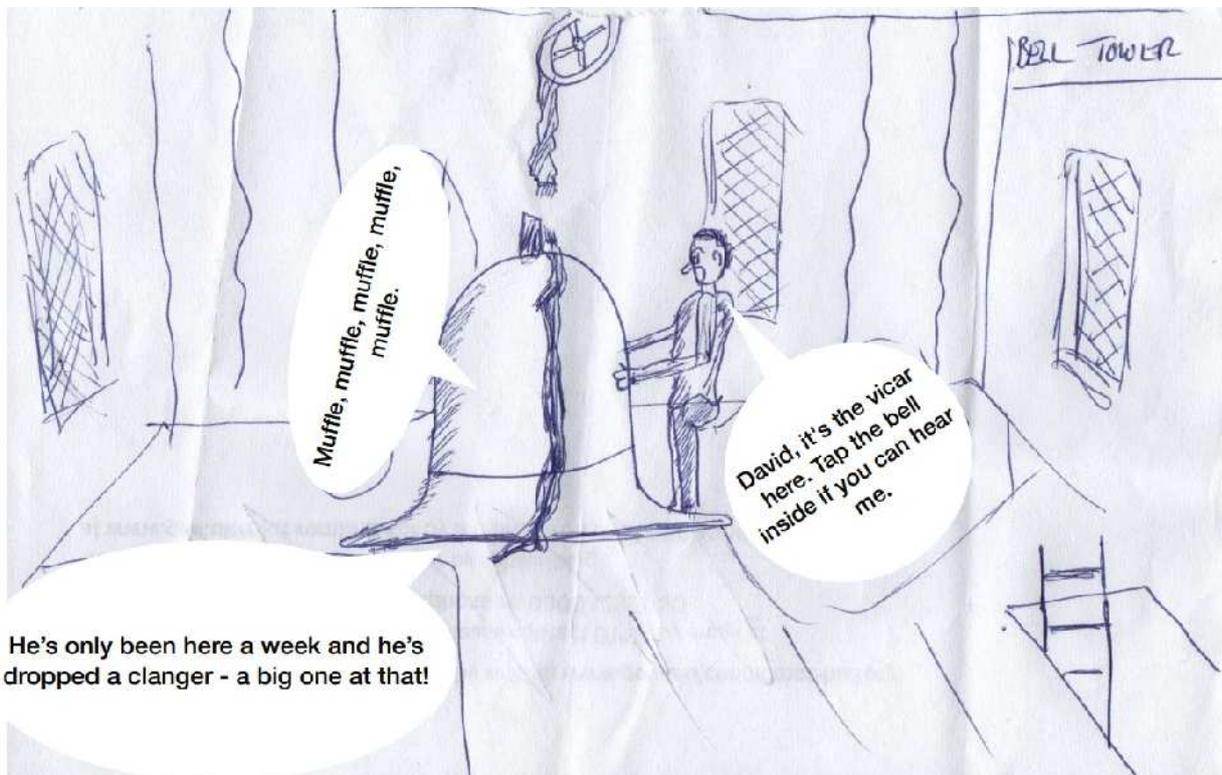
**FOOT NOTE**

Some years after the war there was a firm that produced maps for hikers and bikers. The name of one of the directors was J C Brown. I wonder whether Brummie fooled me as well as the army.

**Alan Honeybourne**

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*Les Hall's musings on the Bell Tower.*





*Answers to Sudoku (from page 18)*

Easy

Medium

6	8	3	2	5	9	7	4	1
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In Highley we are trying to share ideas in order to live a more sustainable existence and reduce our carbon footprint. Anyone is welcome to send them to [highleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:highleyfoe@gmail.com).



### **Deodorant of the month - Livia**

I wanted to recommend a natural deodorant for the summer months. It's made by 'Salt of the Earth', and it literally is made of Potassium Alum (a natural mineral salt). I wondered how a clear "rock" could help keep the smell of sweat away, but decided to give it a go because all the common deodorants (and beauty products in general) are filled with all kinds of chemicals and unnecessary rubbish and I'm trying to use products that are as natural, planet and skin friendly as possible.

I can confirm that it really does work! There have been no signs of bad smells after I used it, in fact, the deodorant itself is completely smell free as well so it won't interfere with any perfume/ aftershaves that you put on and it's such a money saver! The size of the rock hasn't changed since I started using it more than a month ago. Try it - you will be surprised by its simplicity and effectiveness! It comes in a cardboard box too - no plastic!

### **Recipe of the month - Tom**

Seasonal aubergines are such a treat. In this recipe I sliced them in half (lengthways), scored the flesh and brushed them with a chilli paste (or tomato puree if you don't want the spice). Grill them for 15 mins until soft (flesh side up). In another pan, fry some onion in olive oil until soft, add some quorn mince and season with coriander, cumin and cinnamon (1-2 teaspoons of each). When cooked, cover the aubergines with this mixture and serve sprinkled with pomegranate seeds, grilled flake almonds, fresh mint and a tahini (sesame) dressing (mint, tahini, water, lemon juice and a little salt). Bon appetit!

### **Idea of the month - Tony**

Some people used to joke about me carrying around a light bulb in my house to put in the socket of which ever room I was in. I'm not that frugal, but I do try to turn off a light when I leave the room, even if it is for a few minutes. Leaving a lightbulb on when you are not there is a waste of energy, a waste of resources and a waste of money. Even if it doesn't seem to cost you much, the costs build up elsewhere. There are a lot of costs we don't experience or see because of our 'Western lifestyle'. If we think carefully about them, we can reduce them. Show other people how much we care about our planet!

## Craft-y Angie—That's Nice Creations

Angie Forster has always been a bit of a craft-y lady. Some of you may have been to a holiday club as a child, where Angie was in charge of all things Craft-y. Or maybe you attended other activity groups she has run over the years. Perhaps you were fortunate enough to have been taught by her, or know someone who was.

'I've always loved being creative and making things out of nothing,' says Angie. Recently she has developed her passion and 'That's Nice Creations' was born. Angie specialises in making decorative items for both the home and garden from stuff which would usually end up in the bin. She recycles and upcycles cardboard cylinders from paper rolls, jars and pots, margarine tubs, cotton reels, lace, twine, you name it, she's probably used it! Not only does she create beautiful items for sale, but her work is also environmentally friendly, an important point in our current climate (excuse the pun) and emphasis of looking after our world and cutting down on wastage and landfill.



Angie uses a special kind of fabric hardener called 'Powertex' to seal her work. It's completely weatherproof after 3 weeks as well as being.... yes, you've got it ..... environmentally friendly, of course!

Angie can be found at the Maw's Craft Centre in Jackfield or can be contacted in the following ways:

Email [thatsnicecreations@gmail.com](mailto:thatsnicecreations@gmail.com) Mobile 07709989119



Check her out on Facebook and Instagram too!

Can you guess which of Angie's 'creations' is made from a jam jar?

*Answer in next month's Forum*



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Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Ms Emma Carter		07752207828
HWJFC: Mini Kickers (3.5—7 years)	Jo Matthews		862017
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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



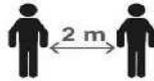
HM Government

NHS

## Bus travel guidance

### Stay safe

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



### Look out for 'bus full' signs

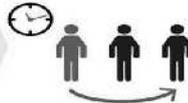
The bus will only stop when people want to get off or if there is enough space onboard



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 Jan Moseley: 01746 862442

#### Services available:

General Drop-in: Friday 9.30am-1.30pm

Coffee Morning: Thursday 11am-12noon

Open Office Hours:

Wednesdays 10.30am-12.30pm

Community Room,  
73 Rhea Hall Estate,  
WV16 6LD

### Crossword Solution from page 15

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

### Waste / Recycling Collections

**Please note change in collection days:**

Black bins: Thursday 8th & 22nd July

Crates & green bins: Thurs 1st, 15th & 29th July

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

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

### Forthcoming Events

- Gardening Club**                      Wednesday  
Severn Centre
- Police Surgery**                      Thursday  
10:00 - 12:00                      Severn Centre
- Severn Strollers**                      Mondays  
10:30 / 11:00                      (not Bank Holidays)  
Severn Centre  
(Contact: Barbara Skilton: 01746 862003)
- Women's Institute**                      Tuesday  
Severn Centre
- Patients' Group**                      see Facebook page
- Computer Support Sessions**  
see opposite

**Currently not taking place**

All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10	Highley Garage	22	Severn Valley Home Care	10
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Highley Minors	28	Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cost Cutter	11	Highley Pharmacy	19	Stark, A, Carpentry	19
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	25
Foot Health Practitioner	29	Kidderminster Storage & Removals	27	Wyre Forest Pest Control	29
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	Kinlet C of E School	24		
		Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	29		
		Millfields Boarding Kennels	10		
		Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25		
		Ovenclean	19		
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24		
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10		
				Bus Information	32
				Events - Church	33
				Events - General / Waste	33
				Library	3
				Registrar's Office	25

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS & mention HIGHLEY FORUM**



Every Tuesday from 10.30 am-midday.  
 Come along and have a chat whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Voluntary donations to St Mary's Church.

**Venue: Yvonne 861723**

Gay & Jim, Church St  
 Moira & Ivor, Church St  
 Gill & Alun Rees,  
 Denise Lobban, 14 Church St  
 Mary & David Rayner, Prestwood House, Netherton Lane  
 Janette Hill, 62 Yew Tree Grove

Please check the notice board at church nearer the time to confirm locations.

**A warm welcome is extended to all**

**Cancelled until further notice**



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

**Programme  
 Cancelled  
 until further notice**

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

# A lot has been happening this month in Chelmarsh Churchyard



Woman at work!



Looks like some serious decision-making is taking place!



Well done to all 30 members of Chelmarsh Community who turned out, worked hard and achieved brilliant results. The churchyard is looking great thanks to your effort and commitment.

Thank you one and all.



Happy 90th birthday to Bill Rosie, formally of Cherry Bank, Highley.

Bill celebrated his birthday surrounded by family and friends.



# July 2021

## July Services

- 4th July 10am St Mary's, Highley  
Holy Communion
- 11th July 10am St Peter's, Chelmarsh  
Holy Communion  
11am St Mary's, Highley  
Informal Service  
(with children's groups)  
6pm Billingsley Evening Service
- 18th July 10am St Bartholomew's Glazeley  
Holy Communion
- 25th July 8am St Mary's, Billingsley  
Holy Communion  
10am St Peter's, Chelmarsh  
Morning Prayer  
11am St Mary's, Highley  
Informal Service  
(with children's groups)



Woodlands Hall in bloom



St Mary's Shop remained open on Saturday afternoon to raise some funds for baby Gunner in the 'Walk-around' sale organised by Clare Hamilton. Thank you to all who took part and to Clare for organising it.

Also bi-weekly St. Mary's Sunday Zoom gatherings at 5pm for 40mins  
Contact: [markandamywilliams@gmail.com](mailto:markandamywilliams@gmail.com)

Wednesday evening Zoom home group  
Contact David Poyner [d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk)

Virtual services available online  
[www.stmaryshighley.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshighley.co.uk)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p><b>HOME GROUPS</b></p> <p>7.30pm The Byre, Woodhill Farm</p>	<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p><b>HOME GROUPS</b></p> <p>Coffee Morning 10:30 - 12 noon (page 34 - venues)</p>	<p>Holy Communion 9:30am</p> <p><b>HOME GROUPS</b></p> <p>10.30am The Rectory, Church St</p>	<p><b>HOME GROUPS</b></p>	<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p>Friday Event 19:30 at the Parish Hall Term time</p>
			<p>Next Copy Date: <u>July 15th</u></p>	

Currently not taking place - hopefully returning soon