

FORUM

MAY 2020

COMMUNITIES IN LOCKDOWN



SUPPORTING THE NHS

Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Photo Gallery - please send your photos.

Echoes from the past

As mentioned in last month's Forum, the Editor has been trawling through pictures donated on disk by the late Delphine Brown.

The original photo loaned by the now, late Dr. Malcolm Lloyd.
Please let the Editor know of anyone you recognise (see address below).
You will find more of these on pp. 14, 15 and beyond.



This picture, loaned to us by Dr Malcolm Lloyd, was taken at Miss Newey's school in Highley in about 1918. Those lining up include his father Douglas (second from left, back row) and Douglas's twin sisters Cecily (front, third from left) and Margaret (front, extreme left).



An unusual view of St. Mary's Church under restoration taken by drone. For a closer look at the work on the tower (currently suspended) see page 20.

Submission of Articles and photos.

Material must be submitted to ... 'highleyforumeditor@gmail.com' ... Photos submitted must be of the best quality possible but under 5 mpx. Please give photos titles that relate to any accompanying articles / photos.

Main Contents:

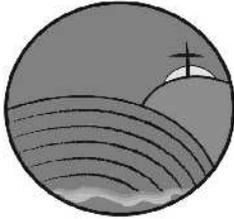
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The Highley Forum prints a wide range of articles (and welcomes your comments – some of which may be printed). The views expressed in these are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Management Board. The Editor(s) 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	Highley Library	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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Currently Closed</p> <p>Opening Hours</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Mon</td><td>10:00—12:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Tues</td><td>10:00—12:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Wed</td><td>10:00—12:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Thurs</td><td>10:00—12:00, 14:00—16:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Fri</td><td>10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat</td><td>10:00—12:00</td></tr> </table>	Mon	10:00—12:00	Tues	10:00—12:00	Wed	10:00—12:00	Thurs	10:00—12:00, 14:00—16:00	Fri	10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00	Sat	10:00—12:00	<p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Monday —Thursday 9:00—21:00</p> <p>Friday 9:00—19:00</p> <p>Saturday and Sunday 9:00—16:00</p> <p>Normally closed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Currently Closed</p> <p>Tel: 01746 860000</p> <p>The Customer First Point is available at the library, please speak to a member of the reception staff.</p>	<p>Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p> <p>For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cost: £6 per year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advertising</p> <p>If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com or phone 862837</p>
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Every effort has been made to acknowledge sources of material in this publication. Sometimes this is not possible, because sources may be untraceable, or material may have been used unknowingly. If you recognise any unacknowledged material please notify the Editor and we will do our best to rectify this.

Deadline for submission - 15th of the month preceding the date of publication; earlier for January issue.
Please send submissions to highleyforumeditor@gmail.com



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

Loosening up in the Lockdown

As I write this letter we are at the peak of the coronavirus pandemic in our country. Hopefully by the time you read this magazine we will be past the worst, but we will still not be 'out of the woods.'

When restrictions eventually start to be relaxed let us not be naïve enough to think we can suddenly return to normal as if nothing had ever happened – in case this awful virus comes back with a 'sting in the tail.'

Meanwhile let us remember the brilliant NHS staff working tirelessly; putting on hold their own and their families' lives to save as many of us as possible.

Let us remember the Government doing the best they can to keep our country safe against all odds, as well as all those working in public service jobs.

Let us remember family, friends and neighbours who may be feeling isolated, lonely and fearful.



And, let us never forget those who have lost loved ones through this dreadful illness.

Even in these dark days it has been great to see that the good side of human nature has risen to the challenge in innovative and inspirational ways caring for the less able and less fortunate, lifting and brightening spirits, even to the point of laughter in some cases, and giving us hope for the future.

It was at this point as I was writing I heard the news that 99 year old Capt. Tom Moore, who initially planned to raise £1,000 for the NHS, has in fact raised no less than £2m by aiming to walk 100 lengths of his back garden before his 100th birthday. My guess it will go even higher.

Such events and stories touch the very heart of our being with love and compassion for others. Where does love and compassion come from? From our creator God who made us in his own image. God did not cause this pandemic, we did, out of the greed and selfishness of our fallen nature.

So let us use this time wisely to repent and ask forgiveness for our foolish ways. To draw closer to the God who created us for He is the only one who can get us out of this.

In the dark days of World War 2, King George V1 called for a national day of prayer (not just the church – but the nation) and against the odds God answered those prayers, with the miracle of Dunkirk.

So let us acknowledge Jesus, as God's only son, our saviour, and draw near to him for we need another miracle, we need a vaccine. May the God of all hope inspire those who are working on it.

Liz Smith

Managing these Times together

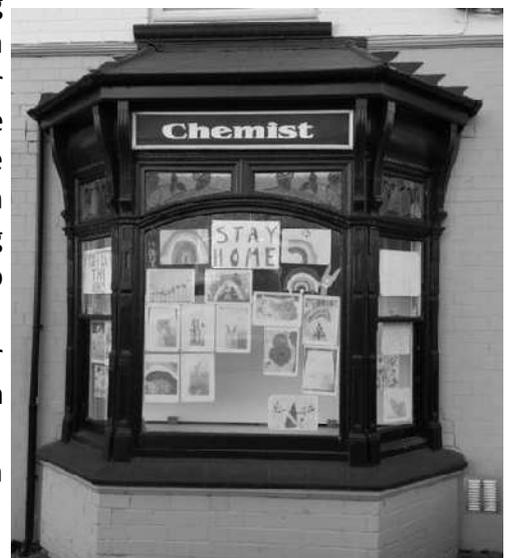
A few days ago, amongst lots of other material about the virus and the impact it is having on many people's lives, I received this moving personal message sent to Canev Clayton by her sister-in-law who works for a major hospital and has been heavily involved in setting up the new Nightingale Hospital in Manchester. Canev asks for prayer for her sister-in-law which, of course, we should extend to all in the NHS, paramedics and doctors who are managing these unprecedented times. I have her permission to put this in print:

I am a little reflective this weekend as we lost a colleague I knew really well on Friday. Set me thinking: 36 days ago we thought walking in a bar and having a meal in a restaurant was normal. 35 days ago we were at our lovely log cabin we can't go to any more. 33 days ago lockdown was announced. 32 days ago I panicked and bought a car that I have driven for over 1,000 miles and no one else has even sat in it. In 30 days I have learnt that the NHS can make swift decisions and move mountains that have previously taken decades, I am humbled by our amazing staff who have stepped up without question. I have learnt that crisis brings out the best in people (and the worst are only a small minority) I have learnt that 'essential workers' are usually the most undervalued and lowest paid. I have learnt to stop scrolling my news feed and worrying about what might be. I have learnt to deal with the 'guilt' of 'going to work' and having a work routine others can't enjoy. I have learnt to appreciate the small things - the beauty of nature unfolding in springtime, small random acts of kindness - the texts from friends not seen in years, the calls from close friends, flowers given and received. But - above all - I have learnt that the most important part of my life is the love of family and friends and that includes you!

How interesting and encouraging it is to see people working together across our communities. I am privileged to be part of the team that set up the Highley Covid-19 Support Group (see page 8) and it has been humbling to see how many people have been assisted with their everyday needs through this group, and others through neighbours, relatives and friends. We are grateful to Giles and his staff at the Chemist in Highley, for managing the growing demands and making deliveries. I was personally touched by a friend amongst our number, who, out of the goodness of their heart, brought a gift of shopping for us. All sorts of phone support and positive social interaction is going on at the moment and who knows when things will change again. In some ways we are learning to do without and are being reminded that we all exist as vulnerable human beings who need each other.

For those of us who share a common faith, we hold out our hands to God and echo the words of Jehoshaphat, who, when in danger of being overwhelmed by foreign armies, said: "Lord, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." 2 Chronicles 20:12

Mike Harris



Highley St. Mary	Billingsley St. Mary	Chelmarsh St. Peter	Glazeley St. Bartholomew
David Rayner 862114 Roy Adlington 861666	Vacancy	Derek Arnold 07956 844854	Vacancy

The Parishes in difficult times

These are certainly puzzling times in all walks of life and for us the steep learning curve to manage virtual services has challenged us. However, people seem to appreciate it, though it is harder to be inclusive of all our churches, especially as not everyone has access to the technology to watch or record and they are often the ones most in need of support and encouragement. You'll see further on in this month's Forum, how we are weathering the Covid storm as well as in Liz's page 4 article. In the meantime, if you can, go to stmaryshighley.co.uk for some spiritual refreshment and we'll meet you there.

Mike Harris (Rector)

Chelmarsh

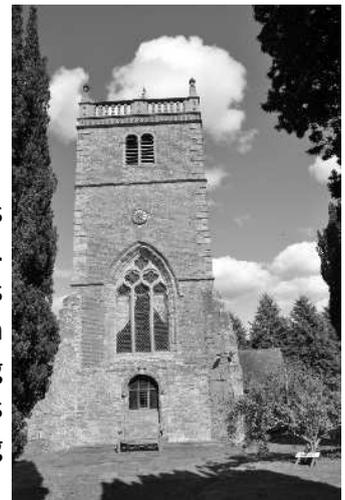
Easter 2020

This year Easter was very different from other years under the instructions to: **Stay home, Protect NHS, Save lives** in the coronavirus pandemic. For the first time churches have been closed, and clergy and congregations have had to find other ways to communicate with parishioners and each other, by the use of technology, more use of the telephone and including media e.g. Zoom to provide services both locally and more widely. It has been a steep learning curve but is bound to open up new ways of working in the future.

Thanks We "oldies" can only do our bit in this crisis by staying home, but we are conscious of the need to thank our wonderful younger neighbours, for checking on us, shopping for us and fetching our medicine—it is greatly appreciated. We are enormously grateful to them for the help and the community spirit they continue to show. **Thank you all very much!**

There will be no events until restrictions are lifted.

We announce the death of Geoffrey Cyril Lloyd (25.02.20) of Yeomans Cottage.



Glazeley With Deuxhill

Marion Corfield writes:

I do hope that all parishioners and Friends of Glazeley & Deuxhill are staying safe and look forward to the day when we can all meet for a good sing song when we are given the green light.

Billingsley News



In response to the flyers, posters and notices on social media and websites, there is now a group of volunteers on stand-by to provide practical support and contact for anyone who is in need across Billingsley and neighbourhood. So far help has been provided in getting shopping, making phone calls to those who are alone, distributing donations and organising deliveries. As we await news on the next steps regarding limits on personal movement and social distancing and isolation we anticipate that more of our neighbours will be in need of help and support. We

therefore encourage anyone who is facing difficulties however small to get in touch together with anyone who is worried or anxious about the current situation we are all dealing with. Contact details can be found at stmarys-billingsley.co.uk. The report below gives a good flavour of how everyone has been coming together:

“About a dozen residents in Bynd Lane have been working together to help each other out with shopping. The group set up in a very simple way via a facebook Messenger group and have organically grown over the past few weeks. Two of the families involved are in complete self-isolation so for them this has been a vital support. The group has been linking in with services offered via the Billingsley Farm and Community facebook page, managed by Helen Leather of Billingsley. One such service is breads, cakes, pies etc home delivered to those in isolation in Billingsley every Wednesday by Catherine's bakery. One resident said 'the deep sense of community is immense. As a family in isolation, without this very local support we would be struggling, but it's not just about the practical help, it's the laughs and jokes we share to keep each other motivated and involved with each other.'”

Some words from Matthew's Gospel (chapter 18, v37-40) spring to my mind:

“Then the righteous will [say], ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Easter is ultimately about the setting loose of God's Kingdom here on earth; in our response to Covid, perhaps we see glimpses of what that looks like.



David Poyner

d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk, 0121 204 3997 (work)/01562 68638

Pulling Together as a Community

The Coronavirus has placed us in new territory and for our own and others' well-being and safety we must abide by Government guidelines on social distancing. The support group is here to help anyone in our community in any way we can. Please use the contact numbers below.



St. Mary's

Highley Covid-19 Support Group



Highley
Parish
Council

Hello neighbours, if you have any concerns or are self-isolating or feeling alone, we are here to help.

This support group has been set up by St. Mary's Highley and Highley Parish Council with the sole aim of offering assistance wherever we can during this outbreak.

If you are self-isolating due to coronavirus we can help with:

- Picking up shopping
- Posting Mail
- A friendly phone call
- Prescription collection

In responding to any of the above, please contact the following numbers relative to the day of the week (01746 or other):

- **Monday** - Thelma on 562005 or Peter on 862553
- **Tuesday** - Mike & Moira on 862837; Jan 07582003972
- **Wednesday** - Pat on 861155 or Elaine on 861431
- **Thursday** - [REDACTED] Dave on 07979295387
- **Friday** - Bernadine on 862137 or Martin 861813
- **Saturday** - Roy on 861666 or Merv & Liz on 862989
- **Sunday** - Try any of the above

Alternatively, make your specific request known through the 'Contact' section of www.stmaryshighley.co.uk.

You will need to give your name, phone number and address. The person answering your call/enquiry will then contact a member of the team who will fulfil your request to the best of their ability and contact you when the order is ready, to arrange drop-off and payment when appropriate. There is no charge for this service. **Note: We cannot manage card transactions.**

This community service is supported by Highley Medical Practice and Highley Pharmacy.

Please note: We will do our very best to help but cannot be held responsible for any shortcomings due to unforeseen circumstances.



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An Unexpected Reception

When I was quite young my father and mother kept a small grocery shop in our front room. Just across the road we also had one of Highley's earliest petrol pumps. It was wound by hand and you had to expend considerable energy to fill up the local haulier's truck. My father fitted a small bell to the shop door which worked by a small spigot which struck the bell when the door was opened.

One day I decided to try and improve the system. Among the assorted junk in our garage was an old bull horn from a bus. It worked by electric power which came from the battery of the vehicle. I tried it with two old car batteries that were lying around and it made a feeble grunt. I rightly thought that this was due to a too low voltage. I then had a brilliant idea!!

Our house had recently connected to the mains and we now had electricity. Derek, my elder brother, had put in an extra power point and we had a spare plug or two. These were simply two wire types: No earth in those days! I connected the plug to the horn and plugged it into the mains. I waited expectantly at the switch.

Peeping out of the door I could see a customer approaching. A rather overweight, elderly lady. I hovered by the switch. Wouldn't she get a surprise when our new fangled electric bell greeted her. She did indeed. We both did!

As she opened the shop door I pressed the switch. There was a roar like a wounded bull elephant. Mrs S made a backward flip and sat on the pavement moaning feebly. At the same time there was an awful smell of burning rubber and varnish. Hastily I switched off and ran to help the old lady. I was much impressed with her unexpected agility! "It's all right Mrs S," I remarked, "just something gone wrong with the bell." "I must go and lie down," she replied, tottering to her feet. I then realised what had happened. The bell was designed for a 24 volt supply and the mains were 240 volt. I quickly disconnected the bell and threw the incriminating evidence into our rainwater tub. I also resolved to learn a little more about electricity before trying other experiments.

Alan Honeybourne

Letter from Westminster

This wretched global Coronavirus pandemic, is affecting every single one of us, given the unprecedented measures governments around the world have had to take, including ours. The virus itself has been slower to reach Shropshire, but is now in our midst and local residents have been responding brilliantly to the advice to stay at home, to prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed and save lives.

I have been deeply heartened by the amazing response of communities across South Shropshire to pull together and help those in need.

With around 30% of South Shropshire's population over retirement age, we clearly have a substantial proportion of those at greater risk, and needing to shield themselves. The number of people aged 90 or above in South Shropshire has more than doubled in my time as your MP, many in residential or receiving domiciliary care locally. .../...

....

So helping those self-isolating or shielding to receive food and medicines safely, has been a key role for the wonderful coronavirus support groups that have sprung up across county. The number of those volunteering to help neighbours in need, has been truly inspirational to see. Having been in self-isolation myself since mid-March with a chronic lung condition, I am very much aware of the difficulties from not being able to go out as usual to get supplies or work as normal.



I have been working to support those community groups of which I am aware, listed on www.philipdunne.com. Local residents can get in touch with Shropshire Council's Covid-19 support line on 0345 678 9028 for emergency help.

While in isolation, I have been doing all I can to support the thousands of local residents who have been in touch by email, many with urgent health issues or concerns about their livelihoods. An initial priority for me and my team was helping local South Shropshire folk who, due to global travel restrictions imposed with little or no notice, became stranded overseas. Some have been in desperate conditions or medically critical situations - for example, a constituent who had been stuck in a hospital in Florida, after suffering a stroke – who I am pleased to say we helped to get a medical evacuation by air to Princess Royal Hospital. With collaboration between government and the airlines, many people have managed to get home, and we continue to work to repatriate any who remain stranded.

I have regular updates with NHS leaders locally, as well as weekly calls with Shropshire Council to discuss responses across the county. I have been in touch with each care home and domiciliary care provider operating in South Shropshire to understand the particular issues they face in keeping their residents and staff safe.

The House of Commons returned from the Easter recess in a partially digital format, though I have been continuously raising issues throughout this crisis with Ministers, who are working flat out. I have chaired the Environmental Audit Committee meeting in virtual sessions to maintain scrutiny of the government.

As I write, it is not yet clear when this lockdown will end. But knowing fit and able people who have only just survived its effects, including of course the Prime Minister, I am well aware of the seriousness of coronavirus. But I am also convinced we will get through this crisis as a country, and I am sure the community spirit and respect for carers shown during this pandemic will last for years to come.

I felt, as usual, Her Majesty, in only her fifth address to the nation as Queen, captured the mood of the nation so well when she said: "I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge. And those who come after us, will say that the Britons of this generation, were as strong as any."

Keep safe and well.
Rt. Hon. Philip Dunne MP

Shropshire NHS responds to the crisis

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), which runs the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) in Telford and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH), said:

“From lovely rainbow coloured cards from children to beautiful handwritten notes to staff with encouraging words, the support and generosity shown to us has been truly heart-warming. I would also like to thank our staff who are doing a fantastic job. I am incredibly proud of the way they have stepped up to meet the demands of running our services during the outbreak.”

Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council both surprised staff with messages of thanks painted on the roads by RSH and PRH, while a balloon artist brightened up everyone’s day with a wonderful air-filled rainbow display at PRH.



Social distancing in Ellesmere

The generosity of the local community has also enabled SaTH to create dedicated staff health and wellbeing hubs at PRH and RSH. These tranquil spaces are open to staff 24-hours-a-day and provide staff with a relaxing place to recharge throughout with complimentary refreshments and toiletries. Food and hot drinks are also being provided free in the hospital’s dining rooms to staff who are working over-night, and again local councils are helping support this.

Doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers at SaTH gather every Thursday evening at 8pm to take part in the national round of applause.

Dr Arne Rose, Medical Director at SaTH, said:

“The recognition we are receiving from our community means so much to us all, while it is also an opportunity for us to say thank you to our fellow emergency service colleagues and other key workers who are keeping the country running during the coronavirus pandemic.

“We are also clapping those in our communities who have shown us such amazing kindness, support and generosity, and for listening to the Government advice and staying home to help protect our vital services.”

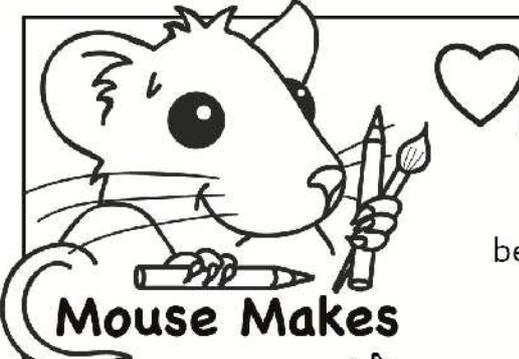
Ben Reid, Trust Chair, said:

“The way people have come forward to show their support for our staff has been phenomenal. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has got in touch over the last few weeks and supported our teams throughout these challenging times.”

If you are interested in supporting our hospitals, please visit our website to find out how you can help www.sath.nhs.uk or email we.supportsath@nhs.net. Keep informed and sign up to the daily coronavirus email updates through the Shropshire Council web site.

This update includes the day’s key Shropshire Council news, and some key news from our partners, relating to coronavirus-linked issues: Please do encourage your family and friends to sign up to the updates too. This will help us keep everyone up to date with the rapidly-evolving crisis.

A Pentecost challenge for kids in lockdown and anyone else who'd like a go!



Mouse Makes

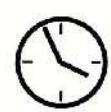
“The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness
gentleness and self control.”

If we live by the Spirit, let us also
behave in accordance with the Spirit”

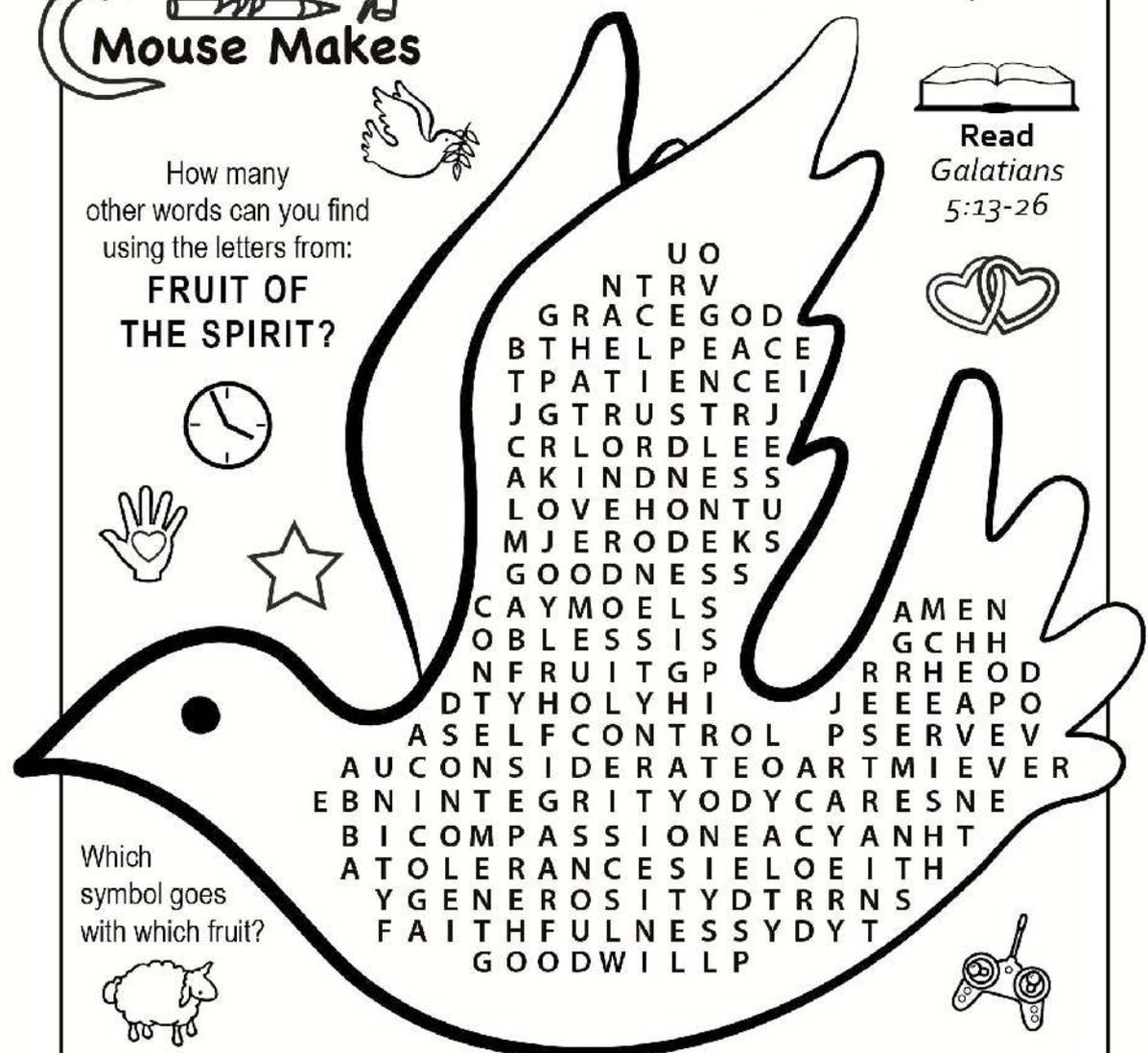


How many other words can you find using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?







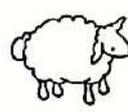
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Y G E N E R O S I T Y D T R R N S
F A I T H F U L N E S S Y D Y T
G O O D W I L L P



Read
Galatians
5:13-26



Which symbol goes with which fruit?




LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

County Councillor's Report

My last report generated quite a bit of comment on the local Facebook pages, but no one appreciated the full significance of the decision to allow those 20 'affordable' houses intended for the site alongside the bridleway behind the telephone exchange. Understandable because there was a lot of smoke and mirrors involved in the process because the underlying sensitivity of this site lies in the impact any decision to refuse would have on Council plans for the larger site to the north.

Another refusal for that smaller site, especially on the grounds of "over-development" outlined by earlier Planning Inspectors, would call into question Shropshire Council's plans for the much larger neighbouring site on the other side of the bridleway for 122 houses, a single housing development equal to every housing development we've seen built since 2013; that's another Hitchens Way, another Staley Grove, another St Peters View and Whittles Close.

As I said in April, I was particularly angry that the application included repeated assertions about the low impact that those 20 affordable houses will have on the traffic situation at what is LOCALLY (Shropshire Council highways have a different take on things) considered to be one of the most dangerous stretches of road in Highley, both for vehicles and, critically, given the "affordable" category of family housing proposed, young children of school age.

That assertion of 'low impact' persisted throughout the officer and consultee comments on the earlier applications for nine bungalows acknowledging the low impact of those nine bungalows BECAUSE they were bungalows!

Earlier officer comments note: *"On the basis that a typical domestic dwelling generates on average 6 vehicle movements per day, the 9 dwellings proposed would generate possibly 54 movements plus any associated with the farm access, although it is noted that the dwellings are bungalows and are likely to be occupied by older people who may not make as many journeys each day."*

But the classification of those 20 houses as "affordable homes" over-rode all other considerations, amongst which I'd have to put 'common sense'. What was also over-ridden and hence this second article on the subject, was the impact on Highley of a proposal for a 122-house development alongside it, using the same access exiting onto the same stretch of road.

On the basis of those official calculations for the amount of traffic generated by one house, "on average 6 vehicle movements per day", 122 houses would generate "on average" 732 movements "plus any associated with the farm access".

But hey, what the heck am I doing forgetting Tremellen's First Law of Fundamental Errors, which has do with the disappointment generated by the lack of joined-up thinking being directly proportional to expectation. The greater the expectation, the greater the disappointment when that expectation isn't met. Silly me.

Back in 2013 I was so naive that I didn't understand the lack of joined-up thinking behind some of the decisions I saw being made at Shirehall. What was there seemed to follow an agenda that had a beginning and an end but nothing in between. Sleight of hand and tongue, the definition of words that took semantics into the higher realms of deniability was the norm, which sums up the report that the case officer on that application for those 20 houses presented to the planning committee. I can't wait to see what he does in his report for those 122 houses, I'm sure it'll be fascinating.

Dave Tremellen,
Independent Member for Highley Ward of Shropshire Council.

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Word for Today

Be willing to listen, consider, yield

'Be kindly, affection to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another.'

Romans 12:10 (NKJV)

In the summer of 1986, two ships collided in the Black Sea off the coast of Russia. Hundreds of passengers died after being hurled into the icy water below. News of the disaster got worse when an investigation revealed the cause of the accident. It wasn't a technical problem like radar malfunction, or even thick fog. The cause was human stubbornness. Each captain was aware of the other ship's presence and both could have steered clear. But according to news reports, neither captain wanted to give way to the other, because each was too proud to yield. By the time they came to their senses, it was too late. If you're a tough-minded, strong-willed, make-it-happen kind of person, think about what you've just read. If by winning the argument you hurt or lose the relationship,

what have you gained? If you save face but lose the relationship, you end up in the loss column. So here's the word for you today: 'Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another...Be of the same mind towards one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men....Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord....Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good'* (vv. 12:10, 16-19, 21 NKJV).

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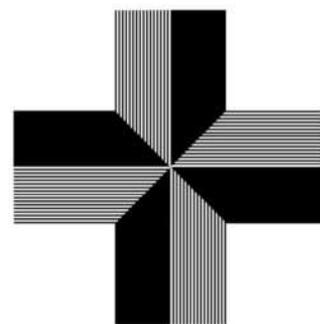
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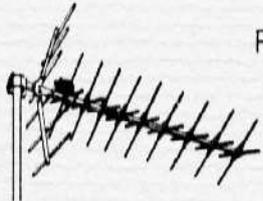
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St. Mary's Highley - Restoration Update



I have been asked to provide an update, but there is, as you may have noticed, no work being done. The builders come from just over the Welsh border. Even if they could travel separately, they could not effectively “social distance” whilst working on the church tower and so have had to stop work.

They have covered the roof and the top of the tower steps with tarpaulins to hopefully keep any rain out, and we have been lucky so far with the weather. At the same time, the weather, since they had to stop, has been perfect for working on the roof, and I would have hoped that it would be nearly watertight again by now with a roof fit for the next 100 years!

I think it is becoming clear that Covid restrictions are going to be with us for many months and so we can only hope and pray that we are able to make the building properly watertight before the rains of autumn and winter!

David Rayner, Churchwarden and Project Lead

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Progress on Funeral Directors' site



Perry and Phillips Funeral Directors continue their progress at Glen Cottage, Garage and Shops.

Funeral Director, John Adams, said "we are really pleased with progress being made and would like to thank builders, Mike Lee and his team, for their continued drive and attention to detail on the site. The 3 bedroom cottage is now ready for plastering and will soon be ready for potential tenants.

The Funeral Directors' premises and Chapels of Rest will also soon be complete and we are looking forward to providing the new home for the Church charity shop which is a priority to get up and running for the local community.

We also have great pleasure in announcing the names of our Chapels, 'The Whittle Chapel' and 'The Hitchens Chapel', named after those who have had such strong connections with the local area.

The Funeral Directors' premises will also be named 'Cowley House', in respect to

the Cowley family who have been involved at the location for such a long time.

There has been unexpected additional structural work at the site, but we hope the work carried out will be there for many years to come and help provide the highest bereavement support to families and individuals who have suffered a loss."

For anyone interested, when the work is complete, Perry and Phillips will hold opening days for the public which will give an opportunity to view the level of work carried out.

John Adams
Perry & Phillips Funeral Directors



An imposing building in Highley

Do you recognise it? This is Hazelwells House, a Georgian home owned for a long time by the Maiden family. Still extant and visible along Woodend Lane.



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More Pictures of the Past



Believe it or not, this is a photograph of what is now The Ship Inn! If you look to the right of the building you can just pick out the River Severn.



Warm message on postcard from Highley

It looks a bit like a scene from Coronation Street, doesn't it? But this is "Highley from church tower." This postcard was franked at Highley on February 14, but unfortunately the franking mark does not include the year. It will have been in the early years of the 20th century. The message was: "Dear Esther, Just a line to let you know I haven't forgotten you."

"How do you like this card? Highley looks different now than when you were here. Remember me to Sereif (this name is difficult to make out). J.B. (again, these initials are difficult to read)."

The postcard was posted to Miss E. Lewis, 21 Lowe Street, Wolverhampton.
Picture: Ray Parlow

Passed on ...

The Easter message is this: death is not the end but the beginning. It is the natural and unavoidable end of human life, but recently I have noticed people increasingly use the phrase 'passed on'. Apparently, no one 'dies' any longer. They just 'pass on'.

It's our latest attempt to avoid the word 'death'. We don't like the idea, so we try to eliminate the word. 'Passed on' or its more negative alternative 'passed away' are the current favourites. Just listen to the radio, or people talking.

'Passed on' sounds vaguely religious. The person hasn't disappeared, they've simply moved – but where? That left an open question. What we are saying, by implication, is that they have not ceased to exist. Heaven, hell, reincarnation or purgatory are all encompassed in the all popular notion of 'up there'!

As a Christian who believes in resurrection and eternal life, I suppose I shouldn't object to 'passing on', but the truth is that before we can 'pass on' we have to die. There is simply no alternative.

So, let me summarise my personal and doubtless prejudiced conclusions. For me, 'passed away' is out because it is simply not true. Anyone who loses a loved one finds that they still exist – in love, in memory, in that photo on the mantelpiece. For many people death is not the end, it is a beginning – a door which Jesus called 'eternal life'.

Died or 'passed on', there is light at the end of the tunnel!

Canon David Winter
From The Parish Pump - May edition



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Puzzles to beat the boredom! Solutions - pg.33

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The Day when the Spirit Came

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – the day the Church was born.



Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

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Working together for the people of Highley

Connecting Shropshire – Broadband update



Over the past weeks, many people have converted to working from home. A large part of having a positive home working experience is whether you have an adequate broadband connection.

In 2013, only 24% of premises in the Shropshire Council area had access to superfast broadband defined as a minimum download speed of 30 Megabits per second (mbps). As of April 2020, over 93% can now access superfast broadband connection. Whilst this is very positive, we have more work to do and remain focused on giving all premises in the Council area access to a superfast broadband connection.

What broadband speed do I need?

The headline speeds quoted in your broadband contract are download speeds, although when working from home, good upload speeds are equally as important.

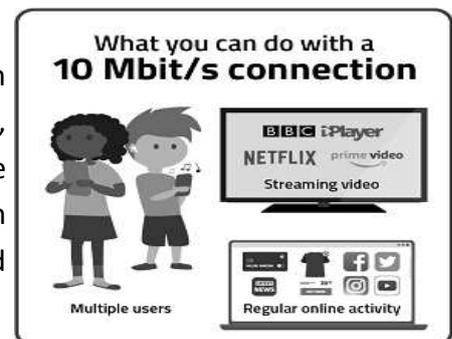
Ofcom's Boost Your Broadband campaign (<https://www.boostyourbroadband.com/>) divides domestic broadband users into three groups:

- **The basic browsers** - download speeds up to 30mbps (standard broadband) "I don't use the internet much, so all I want is a reliable service at a good price."
- **The super streamers** - download speeds from 30-100mbps (superfast broadband) "I get frustrated when my TV streaming service buffers or the connection drops off."
- **The data-hungry household** - download speeds >100mbps (ultrafast broadband) "Our broadband needs to cope with a lot of us being online at the same time - making sure we don't lose the connection."

What speed should I be getting from my broadband provider?

The broadband speed available to your property will depend on the type of infrastructure that your broadband connection uses, which Internet Service Provider (ISP) you have signed up with, the package you have and also the terms & conditions you have in your contract. Steps you can take to increase your broadband speed (bandwidth) in your home include:

- Check your ISP is providing you with the speeds quoted in your contract
- Check whether you can upgrade your contract with your ISP
- Check what other ISPs could offer you
- Upgrade the package you have with your ISP to get more speed
- If you are using WiFi move your laptop closer to your router
- Connect your laptop using a WiFi extender if you are working a distance away from router
- Make sure your router is plugged into the primary phone socket
- Connect your laptop to the WiFi router with a cable
- Dedicate a channel on your router for work purposes



.../...

Broadband update (Cont.)

- Reduce the number of users/devices using the WiFi while you're working
- Move your router away from sources of wireless channel interference (TV, microwave, baby monitor, etc)
- Contact Connecting Shropshire on connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk

Ofcom's Broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) launched:

In March 2020, Ofcom's Broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) came into operation. This provides people with the legal right to request a decent broadband service, defined in law as an affordable service with a download speed of at least 10mbps and an upload speed of at least 1mbps. Ofcom currently define 'affordable' as a service costing no more than £46.10 per month. Ofcom have appointed BT as the Universal Service Provider for most of the UK, including Shropshire.

To use the broadband USO, please contact BT directly at www.bt.com/uso or call: 0800 783 0223

Please note that Shropshire Council has no influence on the USO and does not administer the process.

Any questions?

If you have any broadband-related queries, please contact Connecting Shropshire with your question as well as providing your address and landline number (if you have one).

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St. Mary's Church

Rector:	Rev. Mike Harris	highleyrector@gmail.com	862837
Associate Minister	Rev. Val Smith	valandkeiths@aol.com	861966
Assistant Curate	Rev. David Poyner	d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	01562 68638
	(Rev. Mary Nelson	marylnelson.3@gmail.com	860331)
Churchwardens	Mr David Rayner	862114 Roy Adlington	861666
Licensed Readers	Mrs Mary Rayner		862114
(PTO - Permission to Officiate)	Mr Keith Smith (PTO)		861966
	Mrs Liz Smith (PTO)		862989
PCC Secretary	Mrs Jane MacNaughton		07866 623167
Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Lin Evans		861087
Coffee Morning (Tuesdays)	Mrs Yvonne Shaw		861723
Children's Sunday Groups			
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
Age UK		enquiries@ageconcernshrops.org.uk	01743 233123
Bowls Club	Mr John James		861444
Brownies	?	(Rainbows—Jessica Lloyd—861090)	
Carers Trust 4 All			03333 231990
Community Car Scheme	Mr Richard Dudson		861817
Cricket Club	Mrs Denise Goulden		861031
Gardening Club	Mrs Morag Ross		862450
Guides	Mrs Gay Lilley		861722
Highley Colliery Band	Dave & Lisa Burge		862018
Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
Highley County Primary School	School Office	(Tanya Mathers)	861541
Highley First Responders	Dave Fulton	Coordinator	861580
Highley Medical Centre	Dr Selva	Bridgnorth Road	861572
Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Mrs Sharon Dalziel		862087
Highley Minors Childcare Centre	Dawn Bethel / Kath Davies	Severn Centre	860005
Highley Parish Council Parish Clerk	Mrs Ella Preston	81 Woodhill Road	861979
Co. Cllr. & Highley Patients Group	Mr Dave Tremellen	dave.tremellen@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
Highley Rugby Club	Mr Rob Parr		862094
Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Ms Emma Carter		07752207828
HWJFC: Mini Kickers (3.5—7 years)	Jo Matthews		862017
Housing Support Officer	Jan Moseley	862442	07582 003972
Highley Venturers	Mrs Chris Corfield		861477
Parish Hall Bookings			861242
Pop-in-club	Mrs Pam Stinton		861821
Severn Centre			860000
Severn Strollers	Barbara Skilton		862003
Women's Institute	Mrs Eunice Williams		861613



Do you suffer discomfort from
 Corns • Callus/dry skin • Thickened nails
 Verrucas • Athlete's foot • Ingrowing toenails
 Being unable to cut your own nails
 For professional treatment of foot-related
 problems at my surgery, your workplace or
in the comfort of your own home
 IRENA 01299 841277 • 07795 958186
Twenty years' experience
 Complete foothealth check • Medical pedicure
 Foot massage • Evenings and weekend
 treatment • Free vascular check of the foot



The Old Farmhouse, Button Bridge, Kinlet
 Bewdley DY12 3AW • hessins@gmail.com
 IRENA s.a.c. dip. (Distinction), f.h.p.p. n.c.f.e.
 r.f.h.p



OVER 60?

**In need of help and advice?
 Not sure where to find it?**

Age UK may be able to help.

**They are currently working on
 a fresh approach to the
 support they give locally.**

**In the mean time, please
 contact them direct on:**

01743 233123

email:

enquiries@ageconcernshrops.org.uk

Community Cars

Voluntary Driver(s) wanted

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

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

Community Cars needs extra help!

Hours of work – flexible!

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

**Andrew Powell
 (01746) 861716**

**Daniel Humpage
 (01746) 862794**

Reasonable charges

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

- **Funerals:**

- Fergus Leonard Mole - 20th March 2020 (died 1.03.20) Bridgnorth Cem.
- James Alfred Hickman - 6th April 2020 (died 19.03.20) St. Mary's C'yd.
- Maureen Joyce Hickman - 7th April 2020 (died 26.03.20) St. Mary's C'yd.
- Brian Anthony Butler - 8th April 2020 (died 26.03.20) St. Mary's C'yd.
- Francis Young - 14th April 2020 (died 24.03.20) St. Mary's C'yd.

NOTE: TEMPORARY TIMETABLE: Diamond Buses www.diamondbuses.com 0121 322 2222
 Bridgnorth—Highley—Bewdley—Kidderminster—Stourbridge. 125

Monday to Saturday

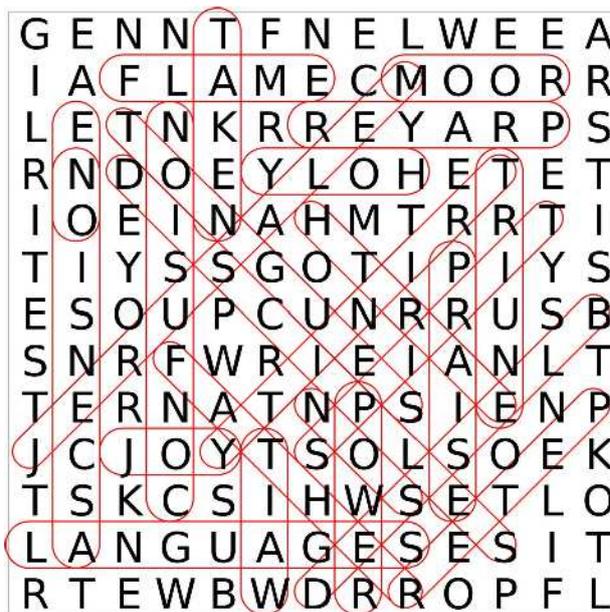
Stourbridge Bus Station		0840	1010	1140	1310	1440	1610	1740
Broadwaters Heath, Hare and Hounds		0855	1025	1155	1325	1455	1625	1755
Kidderminster Bus Station		0905	1035	1205	1335	1505	1635	1805
Kidderminster Bus Station	0727	0907	1037	1207	1337	1507	1637	1807
Kidderminster General Hospital	0734	0914	1044	1214	1344	1514	1644	1814
Bewdley Load Street	0745	0925	1055	1225	1355	1525	1655	1825
Button Oak	0751	0931	1101	1231	1401	1531	1701	1831
Kinlet	0758	0938	1108	1238	1408	1538	1708	1838
Highley	0808	0948	1118	1248	1418	1548	1718	1848
Highley Garden Village	0813	0951	1121	1251	1421	1551	1721	1851
Chelmarsh	0818	0956	1126	1256	1426	1556	1726	1856
Eardington	0823	1001	1131	1301	1431	1601	1731	1901
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys	0833	1008	1138	1308	1438	1608	1738	1908

Bridgnorth - Stourbridge via Bewdley & Highley - Kidderminster

Bridgnorth, Sainsburys	0710	0840	1010	1140	1310	1440	1610	1740
Eardington	0719	0849	1019	1149	1319	1449	1619	1749
Chelmarsh	0724	0854	1024	1154	1324	1454	1624	1754
Highley Garden Village	0728	0858	1028	1158	1328	1458	1628	1758
Highley	0731	0901	1031	1201	1331	1501	1631	1801
Kinlet	0741	0911	1041	1211	1341	1511	1641	1811
Button Oak	0749	0919	1049	1219	1349	1519	1649	1819
Bewdley Load Street	0755	0925	1055	1225	1355	1525	1655	1825
Kidderminster General Hospital	0805	0935	1105	1235	1405	1535	1705	1835
Kidderminster Bus Station	0811	0941	1111	1241	1411	1541	1711	1841
Kidderminster Bus Station	0813	0943	1113	1243	1413	1543	1713	1843
Broadwaters Heath	0819	0949	1119	1249	1419	1549	1719	1849
Stourbridge Bus Station	0835	1005	1135	1305	1435	1605	1735	1905

Puzzles to beat the boredom! (Solutions)

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



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

Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins: Monday 4th & 18th

Crates & green bins: Mon 11th & **Tues 26th**

Apart from the small area of Garden Village and Highley Park Homes which has a collection the following day.

Forthcoming Events

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

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
- Computer Support Sessions:
Wednesdays 10.30am-12.30pm

Community Room,
73 Rhea Hall Estate,
WV16 6LD

All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10	Highley Garage	22	Severn Valley Stoves	10
Cleobury Country Centre	26	Highley Pharmacy	18	Stark, A, Carpentry	19
Clive Powell (General Garden)	26	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	26
Cost Cutter	20	Irena Foot Clinic	31	Village Butcher & Farm Shop	17
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	11	Jenpac Computers	10	Wyre Forest Pest Control	17
Eagle & Serpent	11	JSM Foot Health Care	10		
Edwards AJ Decorating Services	17	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Foot Health Practitioner	29	Kinlet Hall	19		
Garden Services (Clive Powell)	26	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	9		
Halo Leisure	27	Mawley Oak Travel	33		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	Millfields Boarding Kennels	11		
		Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25		
		Ovenclean	19		
		Park House Nursing Home	9	Bus Information	32
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	25	Events - Church	33
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	11	Events - General / Waste	33
		Physic Health Consulting	22	Library	3
				Parish Registers	32
				Registrar's Office	25

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS & mention HIGHLEY FORUM



Every Tuesday from 10.30 am-midday.
 Come along to have a chat whilst enjoying a cup of
 tea or coffee and biscuits. Voluntary donations to
 St. Andrew's Church.
Venues Tel: 01452 861723

Gay & Jim Lilley, 10 Church St
 Moira & Mike Hill, 10 Church St
 Gill & Alun Rees, 21 Ha
 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

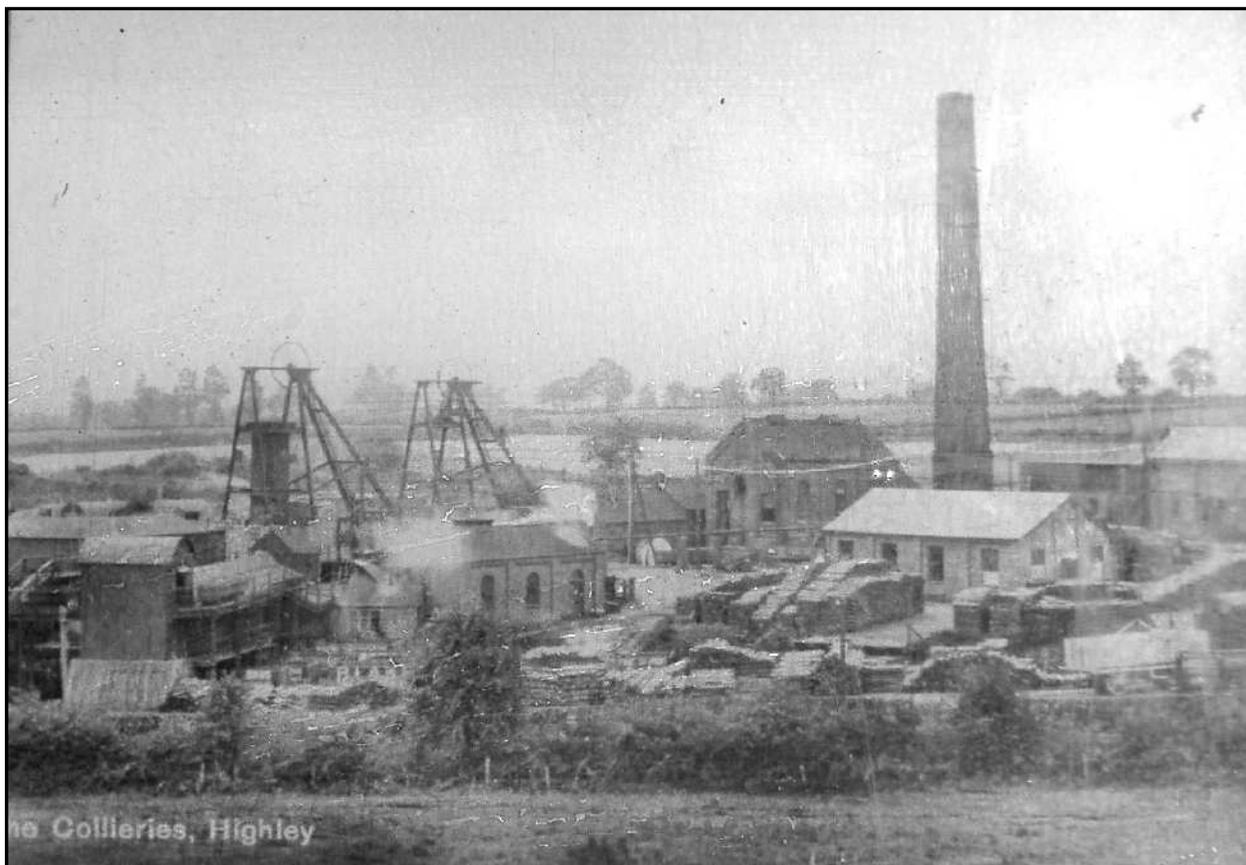


*First Tuesday in the month
 2-4pm. (note time change)*

*Programme
 Cancelled*

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

Photo Gallery



Highley Colliery - early 1900s



Highley Main Road through the village. Much of the right hand side is still recognisable with what is now the Bache Arms visible top right. According to Kelley's Directory of 1913, traders in the village included: 'Francis Cooper, Solicitor; James Broadbent, Watch-maker; Albert Walford, Fried Fish dealer; Thomas Armstrong, Boot and Shoe-maker and Geoff Moss, Hairdresser (info. sent in by Les Hall).

MAY 2020

May Services

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic churches across the country are closed and no services are taking place.

However, you can find us every Sunday at

'stmaryshighley.co.uk'

for a service to stimulate mind and spirit. This will remain available during the week. Please visit us.

Gay Lilley and family produced this evocative Easter Garden and rainbow picture.



Home Groups below refer to the Holy Habits series - all welcome

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p>HOME GROUPS</p> <p>7.30pm The Byre, Woodhill Farm</p>	<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p>Coffee Morning 10:30 - 12 noon (page 34 - venues)</p>	<p>Holy Communion 9:30am</p> <p>HOME GROUPS 10.30am</p> <p>The Rectory, Church St 7.30pm Prestwood House, Netherton Lane</p>		<p>Morning Prayer 9:00am</p> <p>Friday Event 19:30 at the Parish Hall Term time</p>
Currently not taking place				Next Copy Date: <u>May 15th</u>