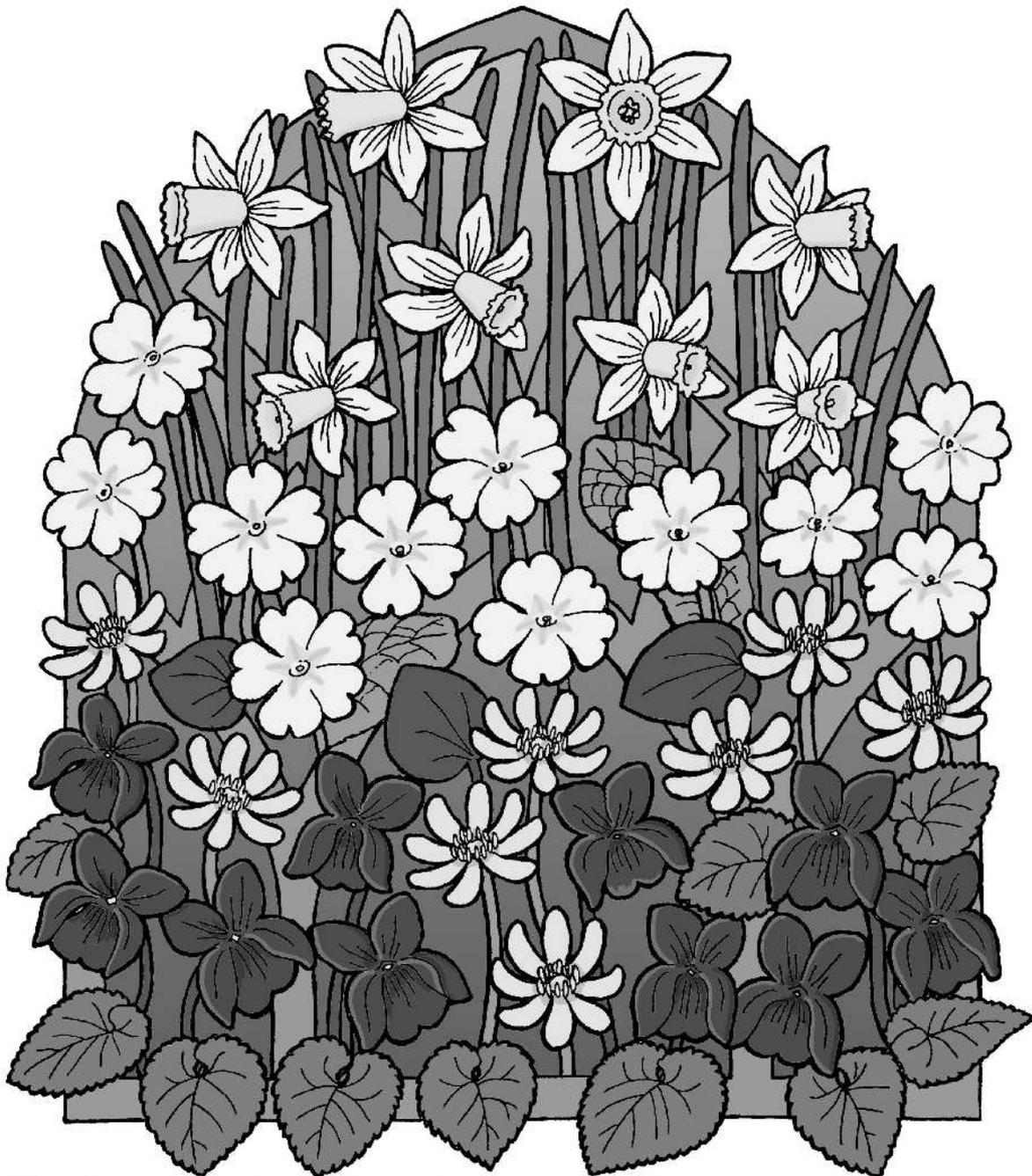


FORUM

March 2022



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come!

Song of
Songs 2:12

Breakfast at the Down Inn



Come and join the Breakfast Club!

Contact Marion Corfield for details of the next event.

01746 764585

The breakfast held last month raised over £200 for Glazeley Church.

Thanks to all who helped.



Marion says,

‘It’s not just about eating a jolly good breakfast, or even about raising much-needed funds for Glazeley Church; it’s also about spending time together, meeting up with old friends and making new ones.’

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.

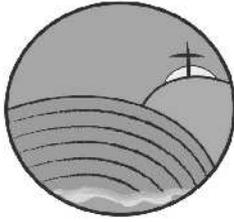
Main Contents:

Photo Gallery	2	Friends of the Earth	26
Contents	3	Puzzles	15
Reaching Out	4	Wordsearch	16
A Prayer for Friendship	5	Highley Companions	17
Village Church News	6-8	Sudoku	18
		Exchange is no Robbery	20
		Coffee Morning Venues	34
Letter from Westminster	12	Church Bookings	21
James the Least	13	UCB Word for Today	22
County Councillor	14	Answers to Wordsearch & Sudoku	23
		Church Services	36
		Allsorts	34
		Photo Gallery	35
		Les Hall says ' Thank You'	27
		Local Organisations	30
		Bus Timetable	32
		General Information	33
		List of Advertisers	34

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 collected</p> <p>Donations may be left at the shop during opening hours.</p> <p>Please don’t leave bags outside the shop when it is closed as it contravenes our rental agreement.</p> <p>Opening Hours</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mon</td> <td>10-00—12.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tues</td> <td>14.00—16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed</td> <td>10:00—12:00</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	14.00—16.00	Wed	10:00—12:00	Fri	10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00	Sat	10:00—12:00	<p>Opening Hours</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Monday —Thursday</td> <td>9:00—21:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>9:00—19:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday and Sunday</td> <td>9:00—16:00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Normally closed</p> <p>Check at Severn Centre</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>	Monday —Thursday	9:00—21:00	Friday	9:00—19:00	Saturday and Sunday	9:00—16:00	<p>Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p> <p>For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.</p> <p>Subscriptions</p> <p>If you would like to take out a subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds.</p> <p>Cost: £6 per year</p> <p>Advertising</p> <p>If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p> <p>Advertising fees due now for January—December 2022</p>
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Saturday and Sunday	9:00—16:00																	

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.



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

Reaching out

As I write this we've just experienced terrific storms and flooding. The news is full of the situation in the Ukraine. On both counts, one local and one international, there is fear, suffering and loss of life.

And yet I look out of my window and the sun is shining, there is evidence of Spring all around us, and I'm wondering when it will be warm enough and dry enough for me to get out into my garden and start to prepare for the summer. (I admit to being a fair-weather gardener!)

All that may seem trivial, compared to the devastation that some are suffering. It reminds me that whilst I am looking forward to the future, many people in this country and around the world are finding hope very difficult to hold onto. Different circumstances, different outlooks.

I also know that many in our village have suffered personal loss in the past few months. At St Mary's we seem to have had an increased number of funerals since Christmas and I know that there are others, which don't necessarily come to the attention of the Church, which have taken place elsewhere.

So how do we make sense of it all? What do we do with the pain?

There is no universal answer. We are all different. For some, the answer is to throw themselves into a particular project, perhaps a big clear-out and 'spring clean'; others might feel that by getting involved with a charity or some voluntary work, they can help someone else and so find a fresh purpose in their lives. But, as each journey through grief is unique, some of us find it hard to move on, because the sense of loss is all-consuming.

..... /cont'd



Let's keep our eyes and ears open, so that if we know someone who is find life difficult just now, we might be able to be a friend to them. Friends are there not necessarily to provide answers or even give advice. Friends are there to walk with us, regardless of whether we are happy or sad. Friends comfort us and stay the course, even when we ourselves can't respond or offer much into the friendship. It's often the small things that are of the greatest significance — a smile of encouragement; a phone call or text message, just to see how we are; a small bunch of flowers from our garden; an invitation to meet for a cup of tea, and understanding that at the moment, we can't accept, but appreciate the thought.

We can't solve all the problems of our world, but there are lots of small things that we can do to show that we care.

Val Smith

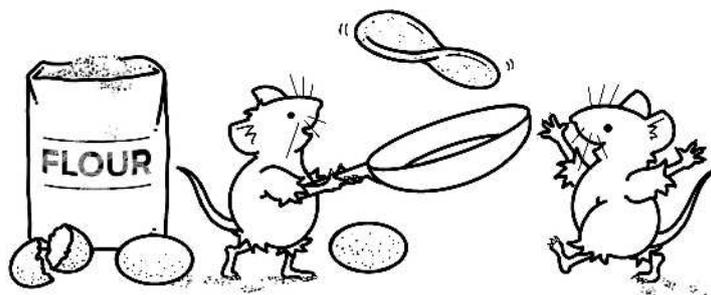
A Prayer for Friendship

Lord Jesus, Thank you for giving me such a vibrant community of friends to do life with. I thank you for the people you have blessed me with, the ones who have come alongside me to love, encourage, support, and uplift me through all the twists and turns of life. I'm so glad that I don't have to go through life alone, but that you have shown me examples of your love through my friends.

I pray that you would be present in my friendships, that you would be drawing us together in deeper community with one another toward greater unity with you. I pray that you would help heal any places of brokenness or discord in my friendships, and that you would restore any friendships that have fallen apart.

Like your Word says in Colossians 3:12-13, may I clothe myself in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. May I be patient with my friends and may I forgive freely like you have forgiven me. Thank you for my friends, Jesus. Thank you for the ways they build me up and remind me of your goodness and faithfulness.

Amen



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

St Mary's Church, Highley

We have now started in earnest in the search for a new Rector for the Severn Valley Group of Parishes. Mike and Moira moved out of the Rectory at the beginning of the month and are now happily settled in Scotland.

We are in the process of putting together the Parish profile and statement of needs. This is really a thumbnail picture of our parishes—who we are, what we do and the direction we would like to travel in the future. When that is all finalised in late March, it will be released and an advert will go out inviting applications for the post of Rector. Following that, there will be the usual shortlisting, interviews and hopefully an appointment in the late summer. Our Archdeacon hopes that there will be a new person in post around November-time.



If you are part of a church or community group and would like to contribute to the Parish Profile, please contact Mark Williams, who is putting everything together.

Email: beardwilliamz@gmail.com Mark is particularly happy to receive high resolution photos (preferably of people engaging in activities, but *please* with the permission of anyone in the photo).

Do check the church services for March and April for any updates. Ash Wednesday is on 2nd March—there will be a joint service at Chelmarsh with Ash-ing. Mothering Sunday sneaks into March on 27th. We have an Informal Service at St Mary's at 11am.

From the Registers:

Funerals:

4.2.22 Jean Ruth Goodall
 10.2.22 Carole Ann Skan
 14.2.22 Daisy Joan Walford
 24.2.22 Dennis (Mick) John George
 25.2.22 Hazel Marion Frake

Rest in peace

Interment of Ashes

25.2.22 Theresa Griffiths

Wedding

22.2.22 Andrew Thomas Jones & Holly Marie Lewis



St Peter's, Chelmarsh

Apologies for the lack of Chelmarsh info last month.

Special Services

2 of these took place at the end of January. Rev. David Poyner was licensed by Bishop Richard of Hereford as Associate Minister in our Benefice. On the last Sunday, the Rural Dean, Mark Daborn, led our service. Thank you to all involved and congratulations to David.



Saturday 26th February 10am: Interregnum meeting

This is open to the whole community, and will be chaired by the Archdeacon to start the process of finding a new Rector for our Benefice. All welcome.

28th February: Shrove Tuesday enjoy pancakes!

1st March: Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion 10am with ashing.

27th March: Mothering Sunday 10am. This service is an opportunity for families to meet in church to celebrate the love that parents give to their children. There will be activities for the children. Also at this service, bunches of spring flowers are distributed to mothers and grandmothers. Any extra ones will be given to our friends in The Yeomans and anyone else who is on their own.

From the Register -Burials

12. 1. 2022 Geraldine Margaret Davies ("Gee")

Our sincerest sympathies go to Colin and all the many family and friends of Geraldine at this difficult time.

Geraldine grew up in Chelmarsh, attending the village school, and, in her late teens managed the village shop when Mr and Mrs Sreaton went on holiday. Later on, she worked with others from the village at St Peters School for children with learning difficulties, where her caring nature was much appreciated. When it came to village and church activities, she could always be relied on to support and contribute to the events and will be sadly missed by the whole community.

15. 1. 2022 Joan Detton

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Mrs Joan Detton on 17th December 2021. She was born in Chelmarsh and lived here all her long life. Joan was a loyal and practical member of the congregation of St Peter's, she had been a member of the church choir from a young girl, and subsequently helped with every activity taking place at church until ill health forced her to go into a care home in Broseley near her daughter. Joan was the valued Secretary, cleaner and carer of the children of Chelmarsh School for many years until it closed in 2001. Many of the children still have fond memories of her kindness. She was also a most active and dependable member of Chelmarsh WI, serving on the committee and supporting all its activities with enthusiasm and expertise. Joan's was a long life lived in devoted support of all aspects of Chelmarsh community life. Thank you, Joan, for all you meant to us and all you did for us.

5. 2. 2022 Angela Mildred Jane Glover

Our sincere sympathies go to all these families at this difficult time.

St Mary's, Billingsley

Billingsley has just taken delivery of a pillar drill that was once in the workshops of Billingsley Colliery, which closed just over a century ago in September 1921. This is now in the chancel of the church and we will shortly be putting together a display of photographs around it to mark the closure of the colliery. Later in the year (once the frost has lifted from the pews inside the building...) we will have a talk on the history of the mine. Many thanks to Andrea from the Alveley Colliery Memories Group for loaning the drill, Alan for donating it and Derek Matthews for moving it for us.

At the moment we have a monthly 8am communion on the 4th Sunday of the Month at Billingsley (except for April, which will be an Easter Day service on 17th April). Our first 6pm evening service will also be in April, on Palm Sunday.

We will hold another "Forest Church" on Tuesday March 22nd at 6pm. Forest Church is a rather misleading name for an open air service for anyone who finds God from being outside in the natural world. We have previously held them in Billingsley, but this month we will move up the road to hold it in the churchyard at Glazeley. We will take our theme from the official start of Spring, the day before. If the weather is dreadful, we will move into Glazeley church and use our imaginations... All are welcome; it is not just restricted to Billingsley and Glazeley regulars, or indeed to regular church-attenders anywhere.

Please look at the website for details of when this will be or contact me (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk)

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley



Another very successful breakfast was held at the Down to raise funds for Glazeley Church. It was attended by over 50 guests from surrounding parishes. We raised over £200 for the church. Amongst the highlights of the raffle were choice offerings from the drinks cabinet of our recently retired rector... These events are wonderful opportunities to meet together; the next breakfast at the Down is to support our neighbours in Chetton and then, on Saturday 26th March, we are back with the next Glazeley event. Please contact Marion if you would like to come (marion.corfield@talktalk.net).

We continue with our regular services at 10am on the third Sunday of the month. As I write, the next one is a few days away and Rachael Davenhill hopes to be over to play the organ for us. Please join us if you can and also support our sister congregations at Highley (1st Sunday) and Chelmarsh (2nd and 4th Sundays). We also have all-age worship at Highley on the 2nd and 4th Sundays; these services are particularly suitable for families.

We have been asked to carry out a bat survey at Glazeley. We are very grateful to Helen who was at the breakfast for responding to the call to help with this.

THE SEVERN CENTRE

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- Highley Reach Youth Club
- Highley Minors Child Care
- Highley Community Project
- Mini Minors Toddler Group
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Details correct at time of going to print - December 2021



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Letter from Westminster

Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Last month marked 70 years since the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the throne, following the death of her father, King George VI.

As Britain's longest serving monarch, the Queen's remarkable 7 decades of public service are a source of pride and inspiration to people not just in the UK, but across the Commonwealth and the wider world.

The official celebrations will take place in early June over a four-day Bank Holiday weekend, with an extra Bank Holiday to mark this unique occasion. There will be an extensive programme of national events, including the Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour), a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, and a Platinum Party at Buckingham Palace.

Locally, I know that many towns and villages have already begun to plan street parties and celebrations, as I am already receiving kind invitations to join communities to celebrate. I shall try to join as many as I can, so if you are having an event locally over the Jubilee weekend, please do let me know at philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk. I shall be lighting a beacon on Thursday 2nd June as part of a national chain of light.

Like many, I recall fondly the post-Golden Jubilee visit of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to Shropshire in 2003. Having arrived by train at Telford, the royal couple visited Much Wenlock to take in the Wenlock Olympian Games, the inspiration for the modern Olympic Games as we know them today, before moving to the Discovery Centre in Craven Arms for lunch. They then arrived at Ludlow, where Her Majesty formally opened the new Library and Museum Resource Centre before doing a walkabout among thousands of people in Market Square.

This Jubilee is the first where Her Majesty has not had the steadfast presence of Prince Philip at her side. But she remains just as committed to continuing her service now as when she took her pledge in 1947. It was telling that Her Majesty signed off her official Jubilee message with "Your Servant".

I am pleased that, in keeping with tradition, a Platinum Jubilee medal will be awarded to people who work in public service including representatives of the Armed Forces, the emergency services and the prison services. This tradition stretches back to the reign of Queen Victoria when an official medal was designed to mark her 50th anniversary on the throne.

I am also encouraging people across South Shropshire to get involved with the Queen's Green Canopy – where individuals and communities 'plant a tree for the Jubilee'. This offers a chance to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will also benefit future generations.

I look forward to joining celebrations in towns and villages across South Shropshire in June, and encourage everyone to come together and celebrate the Queen's remarkable reign.

Philip Dunne MP

St. James the Least of All

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias from Donizetti operas being sung *al fresco* in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties, with drinks labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped serving coffee after Mattins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.

It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral Evensong on Friday night, to help set the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to reassure him. "Heavy metal? We're doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bellringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing." The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: "On Sunday we'll do a Songs of Praise, and not to worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from 'Ancient and Modern'."

I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

County Councillor's Report

I'm pushing my luck talking about the roads being finished at last because I'm writing this in order to meet this edition's deadline of the 15th February (actually today) and the work actually started yesterday, but ever hopeful I won't be proved a liar when I say that we can, at long last, drive over roads that we should have had eight years ago, if only everyone who made me promises at that time had kept those promises.

In a regular furtle through old stuff, I often read over exchanges of emails from those early years and feel so sad that it hadn't been a case of people "getting on with their job", but rather that politics and egos got in the way. The only thing that saved my sanity back then, and over time since, was my stand as an Independent. I was answerable to no one except the people of Highley. But it's time to stand down and let someone else take it all on.

They won't do it the same as me because I can't find anyone prepared to do the job without the support of a political group, because that's the way they believe it has to be done. Well, so be it. There won't be much of a council to work with anyway, in fact there isn't much left of it now, so all that's left to do is talk, not do.

I've always believed that no one should stand for more than two terms in office anyway and I only stood again in May 2021 because I could see no one out there who would represent Highley's interests and not follow the agenda of some national Party. When you see people who have worked at this job for more than two terms (which, remember, is actually EIGHT years) you're looking at someone who has – consciously or unconsciously – "got their feet under the table" and as a consequence become part of the Establishment and part of the problem.

At the last election I saw some really good people leave the county council, one of them with substantial time as a local councillor but de-selected by a constituency association who wanted a more compliant advocate for their Party's national core values, and another who, totally disillusioned with a Party he no longer recognised as the principled one he had joined, relinquished the Party Whip and stood (and won) as an Independent, the two of them exiting with words that showed how betrayed they felt.

The point is that both those distinguished but bitterly disillusioned councillors had supported all the changes that have reduced what used to be an honourable institution to the rump estate it is now by saying nothing. Remember this?

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". [Attribution questionable, apparently.]

Dave Tremellen

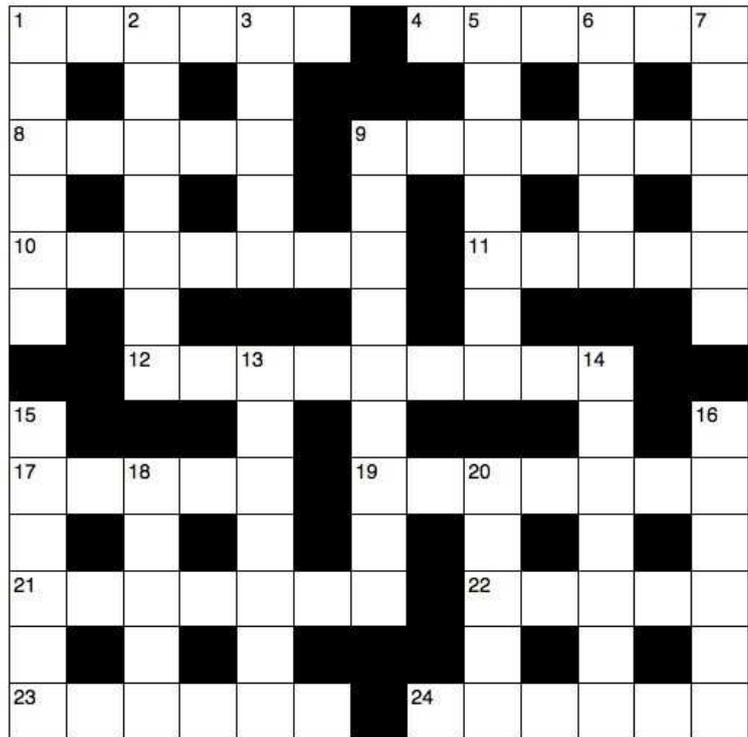
Member for Highley Division of Shropshire Council

Puzzles for March

Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)



Solutions on page 33

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Wordsearch

Answers on page 23



March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of the Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

Lent	spiritual	easter	preparation	fasting	prayer	desert	Selfdenial
repentance	seeking	finding	growing	mothers	Love care	nurture	learning
teaching	disciples	worldwide	Flowers	thankyou	nursing	family	

Highley Companions

I'm afraid I missed the deadline last month and almost missed this one. Time seems to go by so quickly when you're enjoying yourself

We welcomed our lovely Companions back the first week in January, after our Christmas break, for our first session of 2022 and oh, weren't they pleased to see one another (and us)! It was so lovely to welcome them and it was like having our family back together. Smiles all around.

We spent quite a bit of time sharing what everyone had been up to while we had our teas and coffees with some lovely biscuits and chocolates, which we had been bought for us to share. Lots of chatting, and laughter and it was hard to get a word in. Luckily we've now got a microphone and speaker which we are very grateful to have so I didn't have to shout at the top of my voice!

Our theme, once everyone had had a good catchup, was "Growing up in the Winter" talking what we wore, ate and drank and other things. Bearing in mind we have three of our members in their 90's it was interesting!. I started off talking about my own childhood experiences of the winter in the little village of Swindon where I was born and how I remembered ice on the inside of our windows, although we were cosy inside with our hot water bottles, blankets, eiderdowns and a fire.

Times were hard and cold , with compact snow and snowdrifts walking to school. As I was talking, I put on gloves, woolley hat, coat with my gloves on a ribbon threaded through the sleeves (do you remember your mum did this to stop you losing them?), some wellies, a pair of ear-muffs from Mandy and a big scarf. It raised a few laughs, seeing me in all my gear and it brought back many memories for our Companions, but my, was I hot by the end of it!

We've also had fun playing some old games such as tiddlywinks, noughts and crosses, snap and Old Maid, recall games, and after playing a game with some polystyrene snowballs we even had a go at snowballing! We were back in our childhood days! How everyone enjoyed themselves. Our word searches , quizzes and therapeutic art always goes down well as did our cardmaking for one of our members, who had been in hospital. We find some of our Companions can be really creative with a little help from us volunteers.

For some reason one of our Companions decided that I should be called "Bubbles" at our last session. I don't know why but I went along with it and all through the session "Bubbles" it was. I think I am going to go to our next session in a short curly wig! There is such a lovely rapport between us all.

Talking about having a microphone—its been a success already ,especially for one of our founder members who loves to sing to us; his particular favourites are Cliff Richard, Elvis Presley and Billy Fury songs and believe it or not, even with his dementia he remembers all the words. Its great that we can hear him better now.

Last, but not least, we have enjoyed some lovely meals together in our sessions so far with tasty sandwiches, jacket potatoes , fish and chips and home made cake on our menu. We've missed our homemade soups made by our volunteer Lesley.

We love to let you know what's going on in our lovely group and look forward to sharing more of our adventures with you next month.

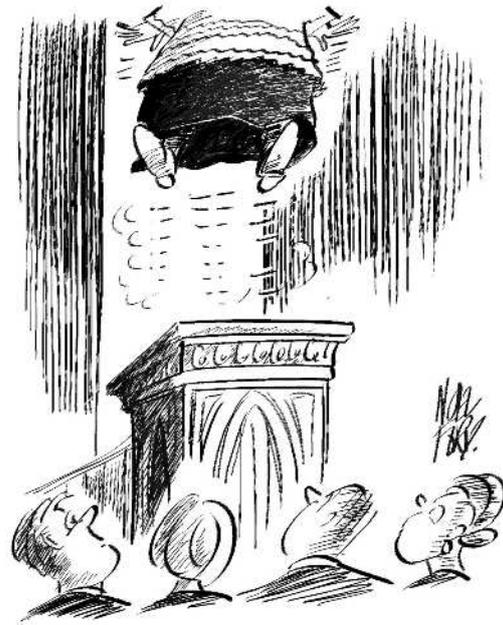
Elaine Moore

News from W.I.

Highley WI will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday 15th March at 7.15 pm at the Severn Centre

We will be celebrating St Patrick's Day with fun and games, raffle, music, tea and cake and a prize for best fancy dress and the talking point will be anything connected to Ireland.

Any enquiries to our secretary Mrs Eunice Williams 01746 861613



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one

Have a go at Sudoku — answers on page 23



Easy

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

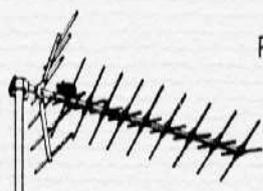
Medium

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

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Alan Honeybourne writes

EXCHANGE IS NO ROBBERY

Sam and Nipper were walking along briskly to the pub after cutting the Vicar's hedge. Nipper looked at his pocket watch. "I think we are too late Sam. He will be closed". Sure enough, when they tried the front door it was locked.

"We could shoulder it open " suggested Sam hopefully.

"Making ourselves unpopular with the landlord and damaging the door? I think not, let's try the back".

Round they went and the back door was open. "I can't serve you gentlemen. It's after hours", explained the landlord. "But if you could do a little service for me, I could just put two pints on the table outside as payment and you can sit and drink in peace. Might earn another pint".

"What service?" asked Nipper suspiciously.

"Well my wife has lost her tom cat. Mind you the neighbours are quite happy as their female cat keeps producing kittens".

"Somebody has drowned it?", suggested Sam.

Nipper shot him a quick look. "Shut up you fool", he whispered. "Do you want to lose the chance of a free pint?"

When they were sitting comfortably drinking their first pint they could hear the landlord's wife shouting repeatedly, "Horatio, Horatio, where are you? You will miss your tea".

"Horatio, that's a funny name for a cat", mused Nipper. "Now, first we'll do a Sherlock Holmes and ask all the neighbours if they have seen it. I do know one thing about cats, they are very fond of home. I read about one in the paper the other day that walked 50 miles to return home when it's owner moved".

"I can't walk 50 miles bawling "Horatio", muttered Sam dolefully.

"No", agreed his friend, "What we will do is find out which neighbour's cat has recently produced kittens".

"I like kittens . They could be quite pleasant", announced Sam.

"Not if you have a batch pretty often", said Nipper.

All four neighbours initially said they had not seen the cat, but Nipper heard a plaintive miaow from a shed which was owned by a crusty old bachelor. "Mind if we look in there?" asked Nipper politely. "After all, even cats count as stolen property".

Reluctantly he agreed, but whispered to Nipper. "I'll tell you what I intended to do later".

"Get ready to grab him as he comes through the door. He will head for home. There is a cat basket our friend uses for his own cat", instructed Nipper.

Turning to the crusty neighbour he asked, "How much will you pay to get rid of him permanently? I'll not harm the cat".

"A pound or two", grinned the gentleman. "My sister wanted me to lose him in the countryside. Tried that before, but he finds his way back. This time I thought I would take him to the vet for a little operation to quell his romantic urges".

"I have a better idea responded Nipper. "We will visit the vet".

...cont'd on next page....

...cont'd

After the pint the landlord had given them Nipper explained to Sam. "The vet has an identical cat twin to this one but he has been neutered. A chap on the Clee Hill desperately needs a tomcat as he is overrun with mice. We will simply hand over his brother to the wife and he will settle in fine".

This was done and the duplicate cats swapped and soon settled in their new homes, though the landlord's wife was mystified. Horatio kept returning to his old home at the vet's. "He does not answer to his name", she told our old friend.

"He's getting on a bit", declared Nipper unblushingly. "Perhaps he's going a bit deaf. Try calling him Caesar, it's easier to hear". Since this was the cat's original name it worked well.

Munching the free pork pies Sam took another sip of beer and remarked, "I hope Horatio won't take it into his head to walk home from Clee Hill, it could cause complications".

"Not him. Not with all those female cats available", grinned Nipper.

Alan Honeybourne

Looking to book a Wedding or Christening?

At present, whilst we have no full-time (employed) Rector in our Group of Churches, we are sharing out the work amongst the voluntary Clergy. This means that we won't always be able to get back to you immediately, but we will respond as soon as possible. Please bear with us as we do our best to keep everything going as smoothly as possible during this time of vacancy.

Please see below for who to contact:

Weddings

In the first instance, please contact Rev'd Val Smith, (tel 01746 861966 or email revval14@gmail.com) who will take some details and pass you on to the clergy available on the requested date. You will also be asked to fill in an application form, but the date will not be confirmed until a deposit of £60 has been paid.



Christenings

At present we are encouraging parents to have their children baptised during a Sunday morning service. The service pattern is on the back page of this magazine. We also encourage you to come to a service first, and speak to the service leader. After that we can pass the information to whoever will be taking the service on the chosen date.



Please contact Rev'd Rose Lawley

tel. 01746 862301

email rosemarylawley@gmail.com

UCB Word for Today

Forgiving Others

“I will pay them back,” says the LORD.’

Romans 12:19

Long after you think you have forgiven someone, you can still be harbouring hard feelings. Some indicators that you still have work to do are these: you keep thinking about the person who hurt you and become resentful. You avoid them. You rehearse the incident mentally and in conversation. You take every opportunity to remind them of what they did. Do you know what you’re doing? Justifying an unforgiving attitude! There are two things God won’t share. 1) *The praise that’s due Him*. ‘I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise’ (Isaiah 42:8 NLT). 2) *The right to ‘settle the score’*. Paul writes: ‘Never take revenge...The Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord. Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.” Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good’ (Romans 12:19-21 NLT). So forgive, hand the situation over to God, and trust Him to work it out! When ‘people insulted Christ...he did not insult them in return...He let God...who judges rightly, take care of him’ (1 Peter 2:23 NCV). Resentment chains you to the offender, and you end up as a hostage. Dwelling on something your parents or spouse did, or how a colleague took credit for your work, or what someone may or may not have said about you, makes you – not them – miserable. You walk around stewing, and they don’t even know you’re upset. Don’t give anyone that kind of control over your life. Forgive – and move on!

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Thought of the month - Ryan

I was always taught to look after my property so that it lasted longer. I find this especially true when it comes to shoes, and I regularly receive comments about how new they look! If you clean and regular polish/wax your shoes, they will last longer, you will spend less money, and less shoes will go in the bin. You could even have them resoled at your local cobbler, and keep them going for another few years (certainly cheaper than a new pair of quality shoes!).



Actions in our community - Alastair

With kind permission from the Severn Centre, our group has recently managed to plant a wide variety of trees on the bank overlooking the recreation ground in Highley. It is a great location for saplings to grow, as they have protection from the other trees on the bank, but plenty of light. The mixture of saplings should encourage wildlife in the area, and includes hazel, pedunculate oak, silver birch, grey willow, and rowan. Hopefully they should provide shelter, food for our wildlife, and start absorbing some carbon soon!

Carbon offset schemes - Amelia

There are lots of 'carbon offset' schemes out there, but to help reduce the severity of climate change we need to reduce our emissions, not offset them. Don't get fooled by companies with vested interests in fossil fuels. For example, a flight pumps lots of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Planting a tree doesn't change that. Choosing not to fly does. It's very simple.

Disposable vapes - Ryan

The vaping revolution has certainly changed what some of us inhale into our lungs. However, as with every consumable product in the world, vaping equipment has made its way into our streets, parks and countryside, and they're also entering landfill (which they should never do). Many of these devices can leak heavy metals, battery acid and nicotine into the environment, posing a big risk to plants and animals. They can also dangerously combust. Rechargeable vapes have interchangeable components and therefore last longer and are less damaging to the environment than their single-use, disposable cousins. However, recycling vaping equipment is possible; easy in fact. Make sure you recycle your used batteries (there's a bin collection point in the Severn Centre) or if they are not spent, then return them to the store that you bought them from. Alternatively, you could give up vaping, and spend your savings on a project to help stop climate change!

In Memory of Janet Hall

Thank you to the Church family for all the help that I received from you in Janet's recent passing, including the provision of food for the wake, also the sympathy cards, flowers and kind remarks made to me about Janet.

I would also like to thank Jim and Gay Lilley for their continual help, which has been invaluable to keep me going.

Janet was a wonderful wife. She was caring and very thoughtful. She did her best for me, although she was plagued with continual illnesses, from MS to major surgery and cancer. She never murmured about her suffering; she kept it from me, knowing that I would worry about her.

I can only think of one person I can compare her with and that is the astronomer, Stephen Hawkins. Although they were worlds apart, they shared one thing in common—the will to carry on, despite the odds being against them.

I have been asked how I put up with it for so long. My reply is, when we got married we made a contract with God and in that contract there was a set of rules and one of those rules is to be there for each other 'in sickness and in health'. I obeyed the rules.

I also want to thank Perry & Phillips for undertaking to bury Janet.

Donations at the funeral came to £426, which has been sent to the MS Society.

Les Hall

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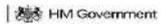
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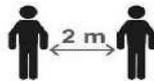
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01746 861242

For information about weddings, Baptisms (Christenings), child's Dedication or for general enquiries about church service times and parish information, please contact the Parish Office.

The office will be open on Thursdays (generally) from 10:00 - 12:00pm.

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

Currently not open

Star Housing

Housing Support Officer
in Rhea Hall.

Contact Helen Turner 01746 862442

Phone for more information regarding services

Community Room,
73 Rhea Hall Estate,
WV16 6LD

Crossword Solution from page 15

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

Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins: March 3rd & 17th

Crates & green bins: March 10th & 24th
Garden Village and Highley Park Homes:
please check your new collection day.

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

Forthcoming Events

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

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
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	29	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	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 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**

More from breakfast at the Down Inn



Magazine Subscriptions due now

If you have your Forum magazine delivered, your subscription for 2022 is now due. The cost for 12 copies remains at £6 for the year. Please give this to the person who delivers your magazine, when they next visit. Thank you for continuing to support this valuable resource in our village.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Forum (as a new subscriber), please fill in the form below and contact Pat Whitefoot (tel 01746 861155)

I would like to receive The Forum Magazine monthly at a cost of £6 per annum (for 12 copies January—December).

Name Contact phone number

Address

Signature date

Please view our privacy notice on the website www.stmaryshighley.co.uk or contact Pat Whitefoot as above.

Church Services March 2022

Ash Wednesday

2nd March	10am Service of Ash –ing	St Peter’s, Chelmarsh
Sunday 6th March	10am Holy Communion	St Mary’s Church, Highley
Sunday 13th March	10am Holy Communion 11am Informal Worship	St Peter’s Church, Chelmarsh St Mary’s Church, Highley
Sunday 20th March	10am Holy Communion	St Bartholomew’s Church Glazeley
Sunday 27th March	8am Holy Communion	St Mary’s Church, Billingsley
Mothering Sunday	10am Morning Service 11am Informal Service	St Peter’s Church, Chelmarsh St Mary’s Church, Highley

For enquiries about Christenings, Weddings, Funerals etc., please contact the following:

Christenings	Canon Rose Lawley	tel. 01746 862301 rosemarylawley@gmail.com
Weddings	Rev’d Val Smith	tel. 01746 861966 revval14@gmail.com
Funerals	Please contact your funeral director in the first instance. They will contact the clergy.	
Headstones and memorials	Please make an application to the Rural Dean, Rev’d Mark Daborn tel 01746 718127	

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Prayer/Study Groups Ladies Prayer 11am –1pm Contact Val Smith 861966 valandkeiths@aol.com Or Pat Whitefoot tel. 861155 For weekly venue	Zoom 7pm onwards Contact David Poyner d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	Friday Event 7.30pm Parish Hall During term-time 9pm Night Prayer Contact David Poyner