

# FORU//\

## May 2023



#### Easter Celebrations



Waiting. The sombre time of reflection, focussing on the Cross and Crucifixion at St Mary' Church, Billingsley.



Hot Cross buns in the High Street, Highley on Good Friday. A sad day before the breakthrough of Easter morning.



Bev Bevan and Jackie Crowther decorate St Mary's Church, Highley for the Easter morning service

## Ascension Day—forgotten festival?

40 days after Easter, following his death and resurrection, Jesus returned to Heaven. It must have been the most moving 'goodbye' in history. Jesus led his disciples away from the bustle of Jerusalem and turned to them and blessed them.

These people, many of them rough ordinary folk, had lived alongside him for three busy years. They'd listened to his teaching, witnessed the signs, wonders and miracles which were part of his ministry and they had seen him break the power of death.

Now he sending them far and wide to tell all those they encountered the amazing things they'd seen and heard. He was returning to Heaven, to live with God; going ahead of them to the place where one day they'd join him.

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and to have Him look on you with love. No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

See page 22 for the explosive sequel and the birth of the Church in history—Ed

#### Submission of Articles and photos.

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

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Opening Hours  Mon 10-00—12.00  Tues 10.00—12.00  Wed 10:00—12:00	Normally c  Check at Severn  Centre  Tel: 01746 860000	Subscriptions  If you would like to take out a subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds.  Cost: £6 per year			
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#### The Severn Valley Churches:

St. Mary, Highley
St. Mary, Billingsley
St. Peter, Chelmarsh
St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

#### Who wears the Crown?

The word 'Coronation' is on many lips at the moment. Whether or not you are a monarchist, you can't get away from this significant event.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II caused an outpouring of national grief. She was a well-respected figure for most of our life-time. We have heard many stories and have seen a plethora of documentaries about her life. She wasn't immune to family struggles and difficulties. She will be forever connected to the phrase 'annus horribilis', referring to 1992 when her family seemed to be falling apart and her beloved home caught fire. But most of all, she will probably be remembered for much more ordinary qualities like kindness, respect, duty, sacrifice and dignity. When asked how she managed, particularly through difficult times, she pointed to her Christian faith. That was what kept her going, kept her grounded and enabled her to live with grace and peace.

Now the Queen is dead. Long live the King. He has great boots to fill. At his Coronation he will be invested with power and authority (although much of that has been curtailed over the centuries). It will be his responsibility as to how he exercises it.

As we journey through life, our tastes and habits often change. As I move towards my later years (what a delicate turn of phrase for getting older!) I seem to watch far more programmes about antiques and auctions. Maybe this is because I want to spend the summer sorting through all the stuff which has accumulated in our home over the past 30 years or more. (I think things have reached near crisis level and we are no longer talking about 'a bit of a turn-out'; more a clearance sale!)

The other day I was watching an episode of *Bargain Hunt*, which comes on just before the lunchtime news. As I munched my sandwich, I was struck by something I heard.

'Who's the boss?' asked the presenter, as he met one of the couples taking part. Tactfully they both pointed to the other.



As often happens, this set me thinking about our understanding of power and authority. Depending on our experiences or even our generation, we might see things differently to others. Throughout history, from creation onwards, there have always been power struggles. One human being or group wishes to dominate another. We see it on the world's political landscape at this very moment in time.

There is no doubt that if we didn't have those who are prepared to lead, we'd end up in a purposeless mess! But responsibility is a heavy mantle to wear and not everyone can bear it or handle it well. In order for things to work well, respect has to be the glue which holds everything together.

St Paul wrote to the fledgling church in Ephesus. He had introduced them to a completely new way of living—according to the teaching of Jesus—and he wrote to encourage them in living out their new-found faith. Part of his letter is headed, 'Instructions for Christian Households'. He talks about the relationship between members of the household. Wives, and husbands, children and parents and even the slaves and their masters. The family structure reflected in many ways a microcosm of society and Christ's Church.

Wives are told to 'submit to their husbands, as you do to the Lord.' Husbands are told to 'Love your wives sacrificially, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her'.

Children are told to 'obey your parents in the Lord, honour your father and mother, so it may go well with you'. Conversely, fathers are told not to 'exasperate their children, but bring them up to know the Lord.'

Even slaves, who had no rights and were the property of the head of the household (a very different, patriarchal culture to modern society) were called to obey and serve their earthly masters with respect and their masters were called to treat their slaves in the same way with respect.

This passage is often mis-quoted and taken out of context. If we read it properly, it shows us how relationships work best. Good authority is exercised through mutual respect, shared values and working together for the common good, regardless of where you are in the hierarchy. Respect cannot be the result of a demand, neither can unity. We have to choose to *have and show respect*, just as we have to choose *to be unified and thus show unity*.

And never under-estimate the positive power of unity, nor the destructive power of dis-unity.

Thankfully, those took part in 'Bargain Hunt' allowed each other to have their views on what to buy. Their compromises didn't result in one or other feeling they'd given in or not been given choice. They stuck to the things they could both agree on and let the other stuff go.

Perhaps that's a lesson in life?

ValSmith

P.S. I can't for the life of me remember if they made a profit or even if they won!



St Paul says: 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

We pray for:

**For God's presence** to guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles.

**For God's wisdom** as he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society.

**For God's love** to strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

**For God's purpose** to be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen Consort and their family in the years to come.

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

## St Mary's Highley

April was a busy month! We started with Palm Sunday celebrations and moved through Holy Week, Maundy Thursday preparations, Good Friday Hot Cross Buns, Good Friday Meditation and onto to the celebration of Easter morning!

Thank you to all who gave up their time to prepare the church and lead the services. Thanks also to all involved in the distribution of Hot Cross buns in the High Street on Good Friday. These events take



a lot of organising and we are very grateful to everyone who helps in any way.



There was no rest after Easter as we prepared for the induction and licensing of our new Rector, the Reverend Kina Robertshaw. You will no doubt have already seen her out and about in the village. Do stop and say 'hello.' She is looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible. We had a wonderful service on 18th April, with refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards. It was good to meet together to welcome Kina and meet her friends and supporters from her previous church in Bromyard. Kina led her first Sunday service on 23rd April at St Mary's.

May looks to be just as busy. Sunday 7th May sees the retirement of Rev'd Val Smith, after over 30 years of lay and ordained ministry. Having reached a significant birthday (involving three score years and ten - shhh!) she will step back from leading services etc for at least six months, before deciding whether to apply for what is known as 'Permission to Officiate.' So it may not be *adeui*, just *au revoir!* 

Later in the month is Ascension Day (May 18th) and Pentecost (May 28th). See page 22 for more about this important festival.

From the Registers:

Funerals: 8.4.23 Lynda Rose Fisher

12.4.23 Brian Turner

Interment of Ashes 22.4.23 Christina Sannwald

Baptism 23.4.23 Christopher John Charles OWEN

### St Peter's, Chelmarsh

Our hopes for April were delivered, with gorgeous weather to celebrate Easter. We had a lovely Easter service taken by the Reverend Canon Rose Lawley and we hope those who regularly attend, as well as those visiting Chelmarsh for the Easter weekend, enjoyed our celebration.

April has seen our new Rector Reverend Kina Robertshaw taking the helm within the Benefice. We hope the members of both our congregation and village will draw together to welcome her.

During the month of April Revd Rose Lawley christened Alex Joseph Richardson in the church. His older brother also attended and brought his own baptism candle, so it could be relit alongside his little brother's. A lovely thought to include everyone in the celebration.

We held our AGM in April and officers were elected to serve on the PCC. We are still looking for a Churchwarden, so if you feel you'd like to know more about this, please contact Elizabeth Bebb, who will be delighted to fill you in on what this entails.

elizabeth bebb@hotmail.com (07971 465811)

We drew the 100 club winners after the Easter Service, congratulations to the following:

£100 - 103 Sue Jackman

£50 - 52 Paul Denning

£25 - 10 Phillip Thomas

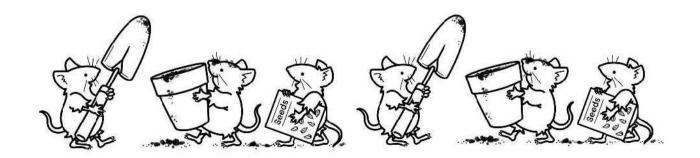
£25 - 68 Les Stacey

In May we are holding a table top sale on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Chelmarsh Village Hall. For more details or to book a table please speak to Anita Manley, Michelle Russon or Liz Bebb.

There will be a Coronation service held at 4pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at Billingsley Church.

Advance notice for June: A *Daddy's Hat* concert will be held in the church at 3pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Attendance is free, however all donations into the hat will be gratefully received. These go towards the hosting church costs and future events.

Church cleaning: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm.



#### St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

At our March service, we said (temporarily) farewell to the Rev Val Smith, who has to retire at the start of May, having reached a significant age. Val has done an immense amount of work at both Glazeley and Billingsley churches and so we were pleased to be able to present her with a gift for her garden. It was good that the service was well-attended.



We also had a good crowd on Easter Sunday and it was pleasing that people were able to stay behind afterwards for refreshments. On Good Friday we served tea and hot cross buns to those decorating the church and also to visitors; I suspect this is a first for Glazeley!

The monthly breakfasts at the Down, shared between Chetton and Glazeley, continue to thrive. It is especially pleasing to see how people from the two communities support each other's services; Val has regularly supported Chetton and the Brown Clee Group of Churches over the last few years and I hope we may continue to be able to support each other.

As I write, we have just held our Annual Parish Meeting, when we review the year and set the direction of travel for the next twelve months. Laura Jones has very bravely volunteered to be our churchwarden. We are very grateful to her, as we have been without a warden for some years. We are now looking to find a volunteer to be treasurer, as Andy Johnson wishes to step down. Andy has given loyal service to us for some years and we are very grateful to him. The treasurer does not need to live in Glazeley; all it needs is someone who can keep track of our bank account. Please let us know if you know anyone who might be able to help.

## St Mary's, Billingsley

Spring marks the point when we resume evening services at Billingsley and we started the new season on Palm Sunday where the theme was "The very stones will cry out", taking Jesus's words to the Pharisees, who were telling him to quieten his followers and applying them to the church building; how the stones of the building proclaim the glory of God even when there is no



service. This is particularly apt for Billingsley; services are few, but the church is always open and the visitor book shows how much this is appreciated. So far this year we have had visitors from the USA and Canada!

Our next evening service will be at 4pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, to celebrate the Coronation. This will be lead jointly by Kina, our new rector and David. All are welcome. There will be refreshments afterwards. Kina will also be taking the 8am Holy Communion service in April and we were pleased to welcome her to our Palm Sunday service and, a few days before, to the Annual Parish Meeting where she was able to meet the PCC and church officers.

The church has acquired a new altar frontal (the cloth the covers the altar table). We are very grateful to those who have donated this! We have also been given a Bible and a plate showing Madonna and Child (Mary with the baby Jesus). This fits perfectly into the niche by the altar. We will be dedicating all of these at the Coronation service.

Our programme of monthly Sunday afternoon walks, "soulful strolls", continues; check our website and/or Facebook for the programme

## James the Least of All Beware those modern choruses

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we shall have to agree to disagree on yet another topic – although I suspect the list of items that we agree to agree on would be considerably shorter. I like to think my appreciation of hymns resembles a connoisseur of fine wines savouring a Grand Cru claret, yours seems to resemble a Russian female tractor driver who is a Hero of the Nation.

We at St James the Least are more than happy with *Hymns Ancient & Modern* – the original 1861 edition, naturally - the later editions display a dangerous tendency towards modernism. Sadly, St. Paul was not able to sing *Onward*, *Christian soldiers*, but I am sure he regretted the fact that it had yet to be written. The hymns our grandparents pretended to sing when they were in church are quite good enough for the ones we pretend to sing when we sit in the same pews.

At least when we come to the last verse, we know that we can then sit down, mission accomplished. The last time I attended your church, just as I saw the last words and therefore the finishing line of one of your choruses coming into sight, we were told it would be splendid to sing the thing another three times. At least it gave me another analogy to use when I next preached on eternity in hell.

And your method of singing would plunge our congregation into an existential crisis. What do they do with their hands when they don't have books to hold and are obliged to look at a screen? To be deprived of being able to hold a book in church is like a smoker who is trying to give up, being unable to grasp a cigarette when in the pub.

The ladies do not know whether to clasp their handbags, which then makes it look as if they suspect the rest of the congregation of theft, or to hold some flowers, which looks a little too matrimonial. The men experiment with putting hands in pockets, which they then realise looks scruffy, so they try to hold on to the pew in front, which is inevitably too low, so they have to adopt some form of half crouch, which makes them look as if they have recently had hernia operations.

Your choral tradition – if I can flatter it with such a description – also seems to require half an hour before the Service spent singing for our congregation, that time is more usefully spent discussing Government incompetence, livestock prices and why Miss Threlfall always wears a red felt hat with her tangerine coat.

Should we ever have a joint Service, I can't imagine how we'll all get through the first hymn together.

Your loving uncle,

#### Eustace

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## Letter from Westminster

#### Welcome Plan for Water

As you know, I have focussed my campaigning efforts in Westminster to make a real difference in improving the water quality of our rivers.

So last month I welcomed a significant set of measures announced in a comprehensive Plan for Water, which pulled together a wide range of policy initiatives across Government to create a fresh strategy to improve water quality of our rivers and sustainability of water supply.



The new Secretary of State for DEFRA is determined to tackle the long-term challenges posed by under-investment in our drainage and supply networks underground, which have not kept pace with development above ground for 60 years.

The need to do so was graphically illustrated again at the end of March by publication of the latest sewage discharge stats for 2022. While these showed a 19% reduction in the frequency of discharges from treatment works and combined storm overflows across England and a 34% reduction in duration compared with 2021, this was primarily due to reduced rainfall during the year. So the pressure remains on water companies to get to grips with preventing these wholly unacceptable routine sewage discharges.

I believe these new measures will make a material difference and have given this Plan a broad welcome - not least since these proposals accept many of the recommendations from the Environmental Audit Committee in our seminal report last year into Water Quality of our Rivers. The Plan also reflects several campaign themes of the Conservative Environment Network contained in their Water Manifesto which I endorsed late last year.

These include giving greater power to regulators, the Environment Agency and Ofwat, to issue unlimited fines on water companies for breaching their permits; and for those fines to be ringfenced in new Water Restoration Funds to improve water quality. There are currently over 2,000 cases of such breaches by six water companies being investigated by regulators which could lead to fines or criminal prosecution.

Regulators will also have the power, which we had also called for, to link senior executives' remuneration and shareholder dividends to environmental performance.

It is not all about water companies either, farmers have a role to play, both reducing nutrient leakage and managing supply of water. So, I welcome further funding for slurry storage and encouragement for buffer zones for pollinators and tree planting along waterways, as well as the consultation on reducing planning barriers for on-farm reservoirs and creating wetlands to help integrate flood planning.

Locally I am encouraged by Severn Trent's engagement with local communities, businesses, and farmers to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and improving the ecosystem of our rivers. It's vital that we work together to ensure the sustainability of our natural resources for future generations. By partnering with local groups, Severn Trent is seeking to work with local community groups in improving the health of our rivers.

Advice and some financial support is becoming available for farmers to help them reduce their impact on waterways. Farmers have a vital role to play in managing pesticide and fertilizer use and improving soil management practices. STWs "Get River Positive" campaign aims to fix its own discharges and encourage sustainable agriculture practice in its catchment.

STW plans to invest £1.2 billion over the next five years to improve water quality, reduce leakage, and increase resilience to climate change. Locally £4.5 million of this is being invested in the next two years in improving treatment works and Combined Sewer Overflows along 12 miles of the River Teme between Leintwardine and Tenbury Wells to get the river to high water quality standard.

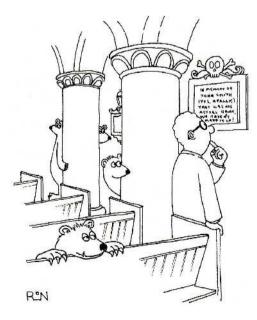
We as consumers can also play our part by stopping flushing wet wipes down the loo and putting filters in washing machines to stop microfibres from our clothes being flushed out. There will be a consultation on banning plastic in wet wipes to reduce the risk of blocking sewers.

There is still much more to do to clean up our rivers and coastlines, including reducing surface water runoff from roads and developments, designating more bathing waters, and tackling nutrient pollution. But the measures set out in the Plan for Water represent a credible and wide-ranging strategy to tackle the scourges of pollution and underinvestment that have blighted England's waterways for too long.



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

#### Rt. Hon. Philip Dunne MP



Dennis spent a long time in church looking for his forbears

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## Highley Parish Council

The Parish Council is the 1<sup>st</sup> tier of Government (not affiliated to any political party) and is aimed at representing the local community. All of us are volunteers with the exception of the clerk. We are responsible for many things in our village, such as benches, bus shelters, Public Rights of Way / Footpaths, some street lighting, flower displays and much more. We also have dialogue with various members at Shropshire Council especially involving Highways, Footpaths and legal matters.

We are still short of two councillors and have advertised these positions as this shortage puts more pressure on the existing volunteers. It would be nice to have some applicants out of the 3500 plus people living in Highley. If you are interested in the future of Highley and wish to be involved, please contact either myself or our Clerk on <a href="mailto:clerk@highleyparish.co.uk">clerk@highleyparish.co.uk</a> where we will be more than happy to have a chat regarding what it involves. Come and make a difference!

By the time you read this the 'Meet and Greet our new Doctors' would have taken place and we hope that everyone who attended felt that it was worthwhile and that the NHS are committed to keeping the new surgery in Highley.

Finally, this is my last note as Chair of Highley Parish Council, as I will stand down this month, after 2 yeas as Vice Chair and Chair. It's time for someone else to hold the post. I have been privileged to hold this position and despite the challenging times I feel that we, as a Parish Council, are being more pro-active than in previous years and have a better structure to the way we work. We will elect our new Chair at May's meeting. I will, however, remain as a Parish Councillor.

My best wishes go to the incoming Chair.

Clr Peter Vinall
Chair - Highley Parish Council

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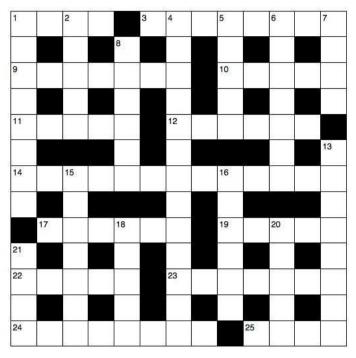
### Puzzles

#### **Across**

- 1 'Therefore let us passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist,

Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)

- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)

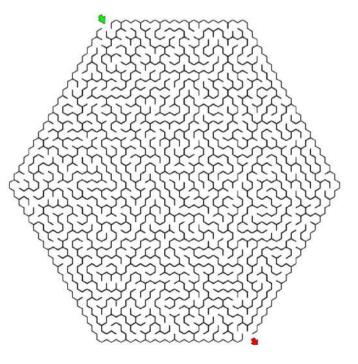


**Solutions on page 33** 

#### Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 'Greater love has no one than this, that he —his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

#### The Maze



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## THE SEVERN CENTRE

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of Highley



## Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23

R	T		C	R	1	Н	U	R	H	Н	T	E	T
0	0	0	U	E	R	В	E	0	L	T	Α	C	T
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Author	Commonwealth	Watercolour	Cambridge	November
Pilot	Palace	University	Oldest	Diver
Cello	Welsh	Throne	Monarch	King
Balmoral	Charles	Buckingham	Charities	heir

## Have a go at Sudoku—answers on page 23



Easy

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## UCB Word for Today

#### Today, choose the right attitude.

'Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.' Romans 12:2

Long before William James, the Father of American psychology, was attributed with saying, 'The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes,' God said, 'As [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he' (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV). Often it's our thoughts, not our circumstances, that determine our happiness. We keep thinking we will be happy when certain things happen. For example, a parent might say, 'When little Tommy starts primary school, I will be happy.' And they are, for a while. Next, 'When Tommy's graduation from university brings the same promise; so does his marriage, and the birth of the first grandchild. But the problem is, the parent hasn't learned how to be happy between 'happenings'.

When your happiness is controlled by something outside yourself, you will always be hostage to people, places, and things. That's not how God wants you to live – a victim of circumstances beyond your control. The psalmist said, 'I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth' (Psalm 34:1 KJV). David chose the right attitude, and you have to do the same! You also must maintain it. That's the hard part. It's like the old farmer who said, 'The hardest thing about milking cows is – they don't stay milked!' And it's the same with attitudes; they don't stay changed. You have to work on them every day; it's called 'renewing...your mind'. And the way you do it is by getting into God's Word and getting His Word into you. Are you doing that regularly?

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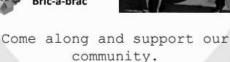


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Page 20 The Forum

## And finally...

**30**<sup>th</sup> **November, 2022.** The day I retired completely from Highley Medical Centre. Having worked there for almost 20 years I decided that the time had come for me, at 73 years of age, to call it a day. Both myself and my husband were getting older (young at heart and in the head though) and felt that we needed to enjoy some years together doing the things we wanted to do while we could.

It wasn't an easy decision for me as it had been part of my life for so long and I absolutely loved every minute of working there and meeting some wonderful people.

You may recall seeing an article from me in the Forum in 2015 when I first retired from my full time role on the frontline reception, but still keeping my hand in by working one day a week as Community Care Co-ordinator. So this is my second and final retirement.

I have worked with some lovely colleagues who have become friends and seen many changes over the years. I started when Dr. Patel and his wife were there and saw the Practice go through lots of changes to where it is today with Dr. Selva and Sharon being the only long term staff still there and with more changes to come as we enter a new phase, which I am sure will be of benefit to us all.

I would like to thank all the patients who came to me and trusted me to help them with advice, filling out forms, obtaining equipment or just lending a listening ear especially when someone was upset, over the years as care co-ordinator and also in reception. Its not an easy job being a receptionist as we are dealing with poorly patients but I know I did my best at all times.

My retirement day was emotional, with a few tears, but also full of laughs as my colleagues and myself had lunch together with each of them saying why they had enjoyed (or not!!) working with me. We did have a bit of a laugh though as one recalled that I couldn't hear and he always said "Have you got your hearing aids in Elaine?" Some lovely things were said which were really touching and I was presented with some wonderful gifts of perfume, wine, chocolates, flowers and a beautiful pandora charm to go with my pandora bracelet which I received for my FIRST retirement. I now wear it on a silver chain necklace. On the back of the charm it said "The best is yet to come" and I'm sure it is but working at the surgery will take some beating!!.

I also received gifts from a number of patients and for these I thank you so much and its nice to know that my work was appreciated.

Over the years I have met so many lovely people and I thank you for allowing me to help you and look forward to having a chat when I am out and about in the village. I will still be running the Highley Companions group for those with dementia and other memory problems every fortnight though.

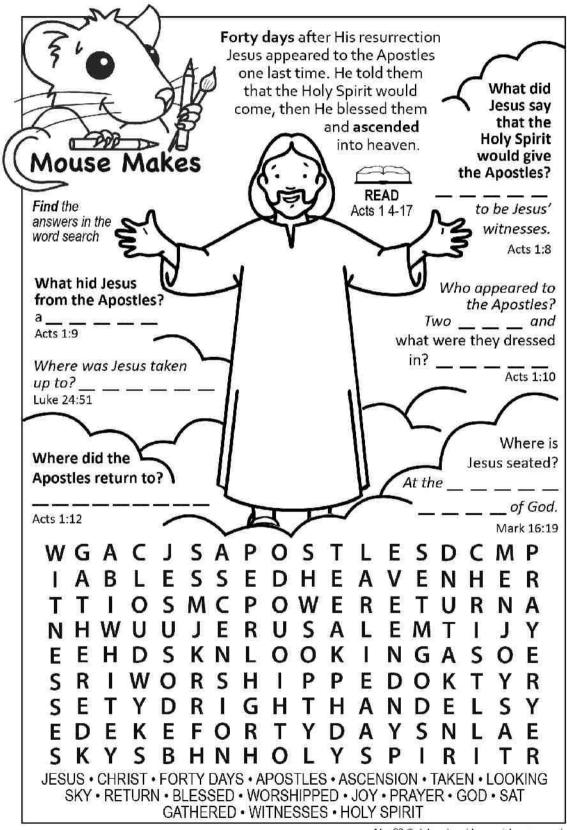
Unfortunately, we didn't have a chance to take a photo for the "album" on the day but here is one of our Christmas Party instead with lots of smiley faces.

Finally, thank you all again

**Elaine Moore** 



### Mouse Makes



Page 22 The Forum

### Fire of Pentecost

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

We all get tired, and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father.

Today, many of us have been emotionally drained by the uncertainties of Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the uncertainty of what will happen in Russia's war in Ukraine. Jesus' followers were experiencing fear and uncertainty.

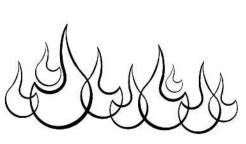
Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

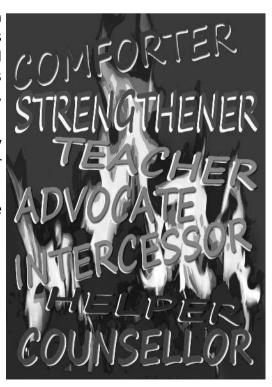
And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together, for many days. Suddenly there was a loud commotion. They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. No longer afraid, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival and led by Peter, they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own language. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

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!

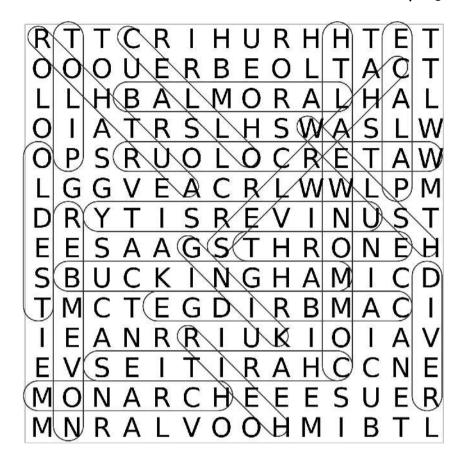
God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.

That's why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Church.





## Answers to Wordsearch (from page 17)



## Answers to Sudoku (from page 18)

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

Easy Medium

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#### Page 26 The Forum

## Sustainable Highley

## We can make Highley sustainable!

Please email your ideas to <a href="mmacnaughton@hotmail.co.uk">mmacnaughton@hotmail.co.uk</a> and I can share them in the next article. Anyone is welcome, any idea that helps us save energy and resources!

#### The long commute - Alastair

This month I have taken a big step and decided to swap my 20 mile commute for a 7 mile one. I have always tried to cycle to work, but with my latest job I found a 40 mile round trip unsustainable by pedal power, even when I was only cycling 2 days. I even tried an electric bike, but I was still tired!

Luckily I have managed to find similar work closer to home, so for me it is a no brainer, even though I am comfortable in my current job and enjoy it. I'm not leaving for more money, I'm leaving because I can't justify polluting the atmosphere in my car when I know that a more climate friendly option is available.

Following the release of the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated that 'our world needs climate action on all fronts — everything, everywhere, all at once. Every country must be part of the solution. Demanding others move first only ensures humanity comes last.'

Guterres is right. Every country and every person needs to step up. I'm not saying everyone should quit their jobs if they have to travel in a car, rather every person in the world needs to take a closer look at their lives and decide what is really important. For me, food security and the air that we breathe seem pretty essential. These are the things that my children will really need in the future. Our carbon heavy way of life is affecting both of these, so I will try to do everything I can to reduce my carbon footprint.

Of course as imperfect human beings, there are some things that we can't completely sacrifice (cheese is a problem for me), but I am sure that we will all surprise ourselves in what we are able to relinquish. We may find our lives improve as a result! Good luck with what you try to change!

#### No mow May - Tanya

Gardeners, councils and landowners across the UK are gearing up for No Mow May, letting their lawns, verges and grasslands grow freely to give nature a boost. It's not too late to take part this year – any break from your routine mowing will enable bees, butterflies and other wildlife to get a much-needed boost this spring. All you have to do is resist the urge to cut the lawn during the month of May.











## Celebrating those big birthdays

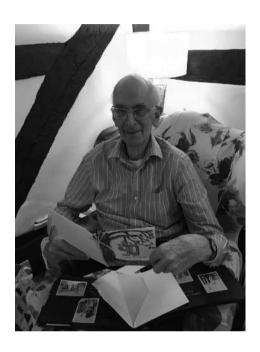
In April two of our longstanding members of St Mary's Church reached significant birthdays.—David Crossley reached the ripe old age of 90 and Mrs Marjorie Hasbury was 100 years old!

Both David and Mrs Hasbury have been members for more years than they care to remember. They are both much loved and we wished them all a very special day.



Marjorie Hasbury celebrating with her great granddaughter





David Crossley opening his cards.

Some attribute this prayer to Sir Francis Drake. It is actually much more recent, but it is in his spirit and challenges us as we enter Passiontide to go deeper in our faith.

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves, When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little, When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess

We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;

Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity

And in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wilder seas Where losing sight of land we shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; And to push back the future in strength, courage, hope, and love. Page 28 The Forum



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## Contacts for Local Church Groups, Clubs & Organisations

Severn Valley Benefice - Rector:	Rev'd Kina Robertshaw	revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com	862837
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Val Smith	valandkeiths@aol.com	861966
Assiociate Minister	Rev'd David Poyner	d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	01562 68638
Retired with Permission to Officiate	Canon Rose Lawley	rosemarylawley@gmail.com	862301
Churchwarden	Roy Adlington		861666
Licensed Lay Minister	Mr Keith Smith		861966
PCC Secretary	Margaret Ritchie	margaret_ritchie@hotmail.com	_
Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Lin Evans		861087
Children's Sunday Groups	Amy Williams		860230
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
The Shed	Lisa Delmar-Shaw		07376752633
Age UK		enquiries@ageconcernshrops.org.uk	01743 233123
Bowls Club	Richard Green		861052
Brownies		(Rainbows - Jessica Lloyd - 861090)	
Carers Trust 4 All			03333 231990
Community Car Scheme	Mr Richard Dudson		861817
Cricket Club	Mrs Denise Goulden		861031
Gardening Club	Mrs Morag Ross		862450
Guides	Mrs Gay Lilley		861722
Highley Colliery Band	Dave & Lisa Burge		862018
Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
Highley County Primary School	School Office	(Tanya Mathers)	861541
Highley First Responders	Dave Fulton	Coordinator	861580
Highley Medical Centre	Dr Alan	Bridgnorth Road	861572
Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Mrs Sharon Dalziel		862087
Highley Minors Childcare Centre	Dawn Bethel / Kath Davies	Severn Centre	860005
Highley Parish Council Parish Clerk	Holly Bowkett	clerk@highleyparish.co.uk	07496821159
Co. Cllr. & Highley Patients Group	Mr Mark Williams	mark.williams@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
Highley Rugby Club	Mr Rob Parr		862094
Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Lisa Bill	Club secretary	07983245480
HWJFC: Mini Kickers (3.5—7 years)	Jo Matthews		862017
Housing Support Officer	Contact Star Housing		
Highley Venturers	Mrs Chris Corfield		861477
Parish Hall Bookings	Pat Whitefoot		861155
Pop-in-club	Janis Rowe		860270
Severn Centre			860000
Severn Strollers	Barbara Skilton		862003
Women's Institute	Mrs Eunice Williams		861613



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Stourbridge Bus Station Sourbridge (Stand A)	- 14	-	08:05	09:10		10		15;10	16:20	17.20	18:2
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Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 6) Depart	-	07.27	08.37	09.57		37		15.37	16.47	17.47	
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Church Chelmarsh (NAV)	07:00	00:16	09:26	10:26		26		16:26	17:36	18.36	8.000
Post Office Factogram (NW)	07:06	08:21	09:31	10:31		31		16:31	17:41	18:41	122
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<sup>\*</sup> Not including bank holidays

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

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Stourbridge Bus Station Sourbridge (Stand A)	07:58	09:05	10.05		05		16:05	17:18	18:18	

<sup>\*</sup> Not including bank holidays

HM Government

NHS

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



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

STAYALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES

#### Parish Hall Office 01746 861242

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

The office will be open on Thursdays (generally) om 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

#### Star Housing

Housing Support Officer in Rhea Hall.

Phone for more information regarding services

Community Room,

#### **Crossword Solution from page 15**



#### Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins: 11th May & 25th May

Crates & green bins: Friday 5th May &

Thursday 18th May

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

www.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-andrubbish/

#### Forthcoming Events

Gardening Club Wednesday

Severn Centre

Police Surgery Thursdays

10:00 - 12:00 Severn Centre

Severn Strollers Mondays

(not Bank Holidays)

10:30 / 11:00 Severn Centre (Contact: Barbara Skilton: 01746 862003)

Women's Institute Tuesday

Severn Centre

Patients' Group see Facebook page

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All Round Property Maintenance	11
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10
Cleobury Country Centre	11
Cost Cutter	11
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22
Clive Powell Gardening Services	10
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25

Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25
Highley Minors	28
Holford, CE (Electrical)	19
Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	11
Kidderminster Storage & Removals	25
Kinlet C of E School	24
Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	24
	21
Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	0
Ovenclean	25
Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24
Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	24
	10

Severn Edge Vets	29
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## Highley Companions Easter Bonnet Parade



Congratulations to Highley Under 12s for their win on 16th April against Allscott Heath FC
United in the U12 Minton Cup!



Send your photos

Don't forget to send your photos of any events which have taken place in and around the villages. Please make sure that you have permission from anyone in them and their agreement for the pictures to be published. - Ed.

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## Church Services May 2023

Sunday 7th May	10am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
	4pm Coronation Service	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
Sunday 14th May	10am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	11am Informal Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
	6pm Evening Service	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
Sunday 21st May	10am Holy Communion	St Bartholomew's Church, Glazeley
Sunday 28th May	8am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
Pentecost	10am Morning Service	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh



#### **Mid-week Groups**

Wednesday Prayer and Study Group 11am-1pm

Contact Pat Whitefoot 861155 for venue

Wednesday Zoom 7pm

Contact David Poyner email d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk

Friday Event Youth Club 7.30pm @ Parish Hall (term-time only) contact Rachel Williams

Friday Night Prayer 9pm Zoom contact David Poyner as above

For enquiries regarding Weddings, Christenings, Funerals or Churchyard memorials

Weddings: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw: email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

Christenings/baptisms: Rev'd Canon Rosemary Lawley: email rosemarylawley@gmail.com

Funerals: Contact your funeral director, who will liaise with clergy

Churchyard Memorials: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw: email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

Next Copy Date 15th May for June issue