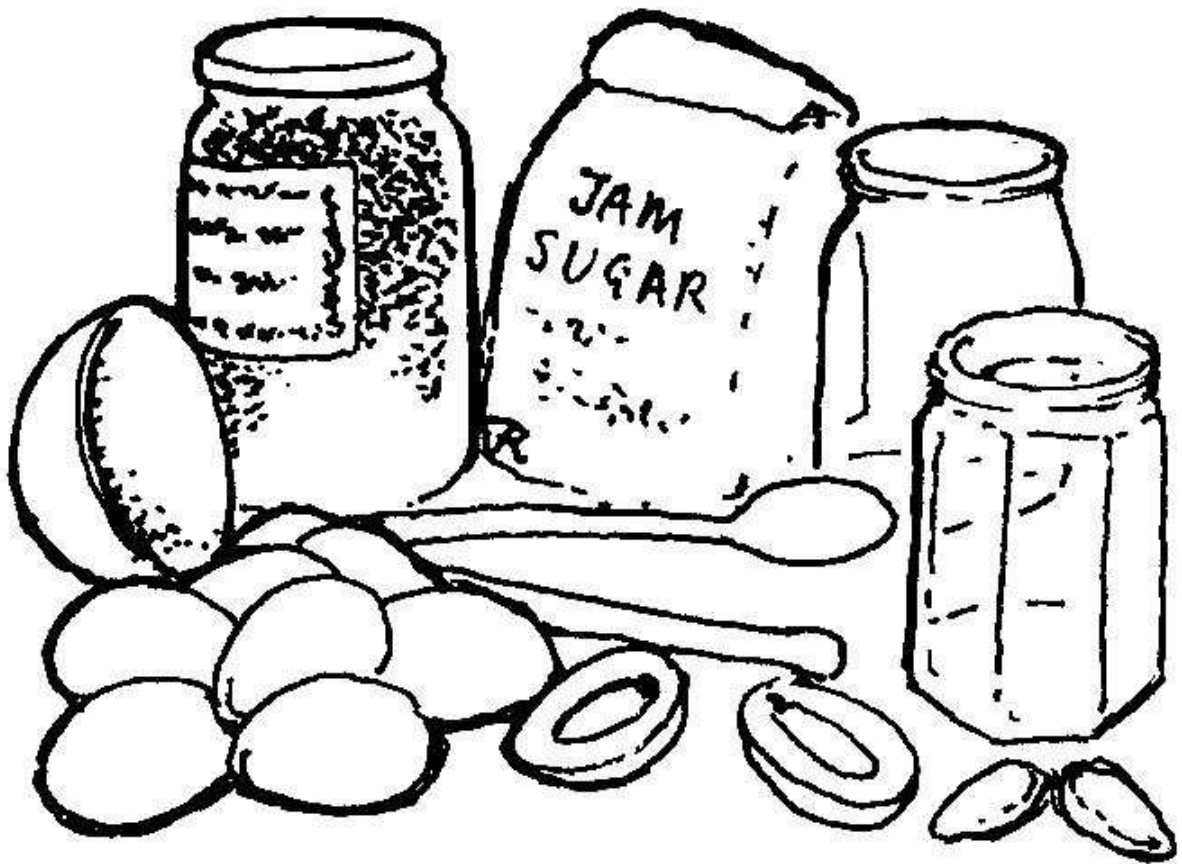


FORUM

September 2023



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Ripe for the County Shows



"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

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.

Regular Contributions:

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

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<p>The shop helps to raise donations to local, national and international causes. Re-saleable items are always welcome and bulky items can be collected</p> <p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Mon 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Tues 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Wed 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Thurs 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Fri 10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00</p> <p>Sat 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot take large items of furniture.</p>	<p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Monday —Thursday 9:00—21:00</p> <p>Friday 9:00—19:00</p> <p>Saturday and Sunday 9:00—16:00</p> <p>Normally closed</p> <p><i>Check at Severn Centre</i></p> <p>Tel: 01746 860000</p> <p>The Customer First Point is available at the library, please speak to a member of the reception staff.</p>	<p>Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p> <p>For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.</p> <p>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>

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Severn Valley Benefice

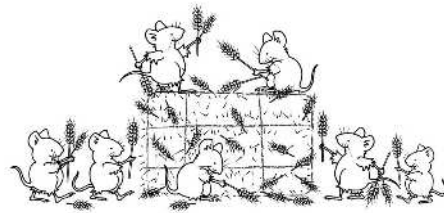
The Severn Valley Churches:

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

All is safely gathered in

Do you remember the words of that old harvest hymn?

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
 raise the song of harvest home;
 all is safely gathered in,
 ere the winter storms begin.
 God our Maker doth provide
 for our wants to be supplied;
 come to God's own temple, come,
 raise the song of harvest home.**



September is the time when we begin our Harvest services in Church. There is often debate about whether we should celebrate in September or October, but I don't think it matters *when* we schedule the actual service; what matters is that we find a time and place to give thanks for all that we gather in from the natural world. We can celebrate in a building, such as school or church, or outside in the open. I find myself closest to God when I'm in the garden or driving along in the car through the countryside.

This summer has given me some good crops. It began with the strawberries, then the raspberries, a few beans and peas, tomatoes (of course!) and now I am harvesting blackberries—and all from my little garden with little knowledge or expertise on my part. As I was picking the blackberries many thoughts popped into my head. I like to think it was God reminding me that He has planned everything in creation, to teach us all we need to know.

I started off spotting a few nice ripe fruits near to the front of a blackberry bush that has grown of its own accord out of another bush. I didn't even plant it! As I worked, I spotted more and more clumps. The more I looked the more I found. Some were hidden behind a leaf. Some just out of my initial line of view. The more I looked, the more I saw. It struck me how this is the same with life and people. We can go through life seeing but not **seeing**. Our eyes are to a large extent often unfocussed on what is under our noses. When we focus properly and look with intent, a whole new vision is revealed. We see the small things that are so important. We notice those who are in the background. We see the small and beautiful rather than the large and brash.

Another 'pearl' that dropped into my thoughts was that some of the fruit was just beyond my reach. If I stretched too far, I could lose balance and get badly scratched and drop my bowl and lose everything

(It *has* happened! I'll tell you the sad tale of the gorse bush on the Clee Hill another time!)

In other aspects of life as well, we can be too greedy and grasp for what is out of reach, with dire consequences—we can overstretch financially, emotionally, in expectations and time etc., etc. As I returned to the kitchen with my bowl full of blackberries, I remembered to thank God for the makings of a very tasty crumble pie that I could share with family and friends.

September is also a time of change; a change of season, changes in many areas of our lives as a new term begins and new opportunities present themselves. It can be a time of challenge and uncertainty for many of us, as well as excitement.

What do we do when life presents us with challenges? Do we fight them and worry and end up not being able to enjoy everything we do have? Often our natural instinct is to try and 'fix' things, so that in the short term our problem either disappears or is hidden from view, but is still there, bubbling underneath the surface.

Jesus understood all of life's difficulties and challenges. And yet his solution was to lay them all down before God, '*who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine*'. (Ephesians 3:20)

He said, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*" (Matthew 11:28-30)

Whatever the harvest has been in your life this year, be assured that God is in it with you and will lead you through to better things.

Val Smith

A Box of Toys—by Les Hall

Only a box full of worn out toys
Tumbled and broken by naughty boys
Hopelessly damaged, yet very dear
To a mother who keeps them near.

Often she went when the day was done
And handled them gently, one by one
For around the box of worn out toys
Cling memories of her little boys.

Matchbox dinkies, Corgi and Triang
Cars, lorries, buses and trains
All bashed and broken
Teddy has lost his limbs—so has Noddy.

Where are these naughty boys
Whose toys have been unearthed today?
They have all left home and gone
Married, with their own little ones.



<p>Highley St. Mary</p>	<p>Billingsley St. Mary</p>	<p>Chelmarsh St. Peter</p>	<p>Glazeley St. Bartholomew</p>
<p>Roy Adlington 861666 Canev Clayton</p>	<p>Vacancy</p>	<p>Vacancy</p>	<p>Laura Jones</p>

St Mary's Highley

It's easy to think that not a lot has happened through the summer months, but during this time it's good to remember (and thank) those who work away in the background to enable St Mary's to run smoothly. I won't name individual roles or people, because undoubtedly I'd accidentally miss something or someone out, but we are so very grateful to everyone who offers their time voluntarily, as an act of service to God and His work here in Highley.



September heralds in the autumn months when it seems like a non-stop race to Christmas—sorry to use that word so soon, with still 4 months to go! We look forward to the beginning of Harvest services across the Benefice. Open the Book will resume assemblies in Highley School every Tuesday morning. Home Groups, which paused over the summer months to give the leaders a well-earned rest, will be recommencing. Make sure that you read the weekly sheet, available in Church, to see what is happening and when.

Two advance notices:

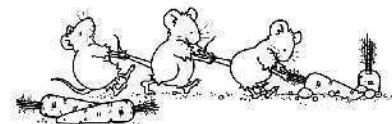
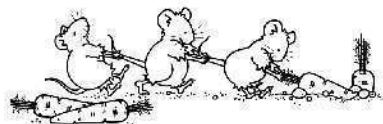
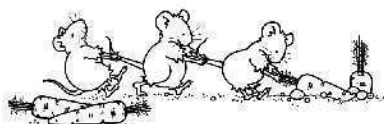
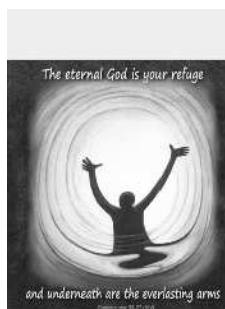
Saturday 30th September, Arthur Painting will be hosting one of his memorable quizzes at the Parish Hall. (see page 13 for more details). Don't forget to book your place.

Operation Christmas Child. Start collecting items for the Shoebox Appeal. Last year we sent over 30 boxes. Let's try and double that this year! (see page 22 for details or contact me, Val Smith).

From the Registers

Funeral :

4.08.23 Daniel Ward



Ways of keeping your home smelling fresh!

Diffusing essential oils into our homes is nothing new – the ancient Greeks used reeds dipped in essential oils in both their homes and temples. And diffusing essential oils like lavender, eucalyptus or rose is still popular today, helping us to relax and feel tranquil.

If you would like to 'have a go', there are three basic types of diffusers to choose from.

Reed diffusers, often rattan or bamboo, sit in a small well of fragrance, which works its way up and evaporates at the top, dispersing fragrance into the air.

Electric diffusers heat a blend of the oil and water, which then evaporates into the room.

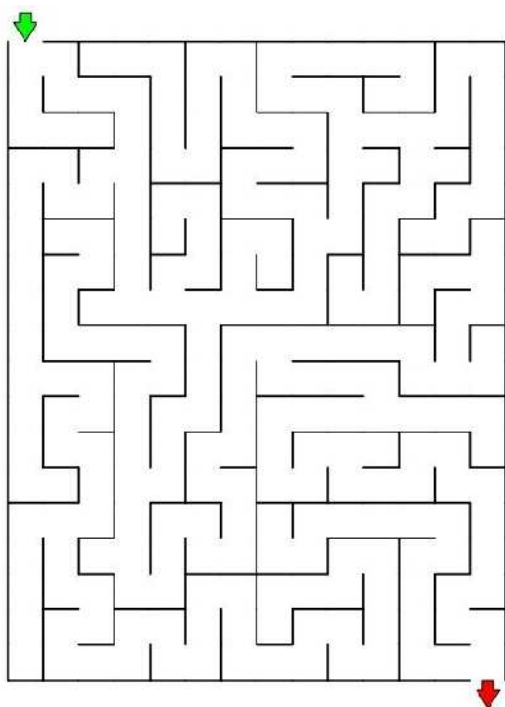
Nebulising diffusers, which use high pressure to force a stream of air through the essential oil, in order to create a mist.

Whichever you choose, be very careful if you have pets in your house. Many essential oils are highly toxic for them. You might wish to 'google' whatever scent you have in mind, to make sure that it won't badly affect your dog or cat.

And don't forget the natural ways. Citrus fruits such as oranges and lemons always smell fresh and clean! The smell of baking bread is so inviting. Freshly ground coffee Fresh flowers, particularly sweet peas or freesias and scented roses.



Have you ever felt like life was like a maze?



Find your way out of this one

St Mary's, Billingsley



At our evening service on 13th August we said farewell to Sue, our treasurer and Phil, who has effectively been our resident engineer for the last years. The whole community of Billingsley owes much to Phil and Sue; Sue has also chaired the parish council. They are moving to Audlem to be nearer their grandchildren but we are so grateful for the time they have spent with us. Our loss is most certainly Audlem's gain! But we are delighted to welcome Diane Stepney who has stepped in to take over as treasurer and also as organiser of the 100 Club. Diane and Mark live next to the church and already do a lot to help keep the church and the churchyard tidy.

One of Diane's tasks is to send reminders about the 100 Club. For those who do not know, for £48 a year, you purchase a number that is entered into a monthly draw. Half the money goes in prizes (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and the rest is used for the upkeep of the church and also to support community events. The money paid for the Jubilee party we organised for the village last year and has also allowed us to repair the church roof and repoint the gable end of the building. The money from the 100 Club is really valuable to us; if you are not a member, please consider joining. Forms are available at [100 Club - St Mary's Church Billingsley \(stmarys-billingsley.org.uk\)](http://100Club-StMarysChurchBillingsley.stmarys-billingsley.org.uk)

We have a coffee morning at Fairfield (Ellen McConnell's house on the main road) on Saturday 2nd September from 10am. This is always an excellent event; all welcome! In September we have Harvest Festival on Sunday 10th September at 6pm and Holy Communion at 8am on Sunday 24th September, both to be taken by myself.

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley



I am pleased to report that the ceiling in the church has finally been repaired! For the last few years your assistant curate has bravely entered the pulpit just beneath where lumps of plaster have fallen down, praying that his words may indeed be acceptable to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, the defective boards have now been replaced, thanks to the efforts of Richard and Martin, our contractors. They have also cleaned the gutters and downspouts for us and will check the tiles on the roof. Our next jobs are to fix the heating and also to investigate some damp next to the porch, which has caused a joist under the floor to rot. Maintaining a church is a long game...

Our next service will be harvest, on the 17th September at 10am, which I will take. Rachael Davenhill will play the organ and the church will be decorated specially for the service. Please do join us if you can for this. We are also planning future events and we are keen to see the church used more for community events. These might include periodic coffee mornings or exhibitions. Please contact myself, Laura (laura@laj.me.uk) or Marion (marion.corfield@talktalk.net) if you have any ideas! We also open to suggestions for services; a pet service?

David Poyner

James the Least of All

On the absurdity of a vicar ever retiring.

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren,

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answerphones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone - ever? My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend -preferably on another planet - on the day he suggested.

I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting, while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts – although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to drift somewhere above his head.

He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for *my* Queen Anne rectory to be sold and *my* five acres of garden be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as if they were told that Buckingham Palace was to be converted into a sports centre.

The matter, I was told, was confidential – which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counter attack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we've had in years. Retirement indeed! I'm sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Letter from Westminster

Net Zero and Energy Security

In August, I visited Kerry Taste and Nutrition in Burford. As well as being one of the largest employers in South Shropshire, they are also taking real strides in reducing their carbon footprint.



While there, I was able to see installation of the last row of 750 solar panels on their food processing plant's roof, which has the power to generate over 300kW - equivalent to over 1 million miles driven in an Electric Vehicle per year. This will help Kerry T&N reduce their operating costs, ensuring they continue to contribute to the local economy.

The capital cost was funded by a Community energy scheme, Big Solar Co-op, one of the first such schemes in the country, through an innovative funding arranged by Sharenergy in Shrewsbury. Community Energy schemes received a real boost last month when the government announced a new £10m Community Energy Fund. This new fund will help to tackle barriers to entry to the market by providing grants to the community energy sector to help them develop projects for commercial investment.

Alongside the new Community Energy Fund, the government has announced a consultation on the barriers the community energy sector faces, and an annual report on the community energy sector.

I have been convinced of the value of community energy schemes to promote renewable energy sources locally for some time. I must declare an interest, as I have been a member of Ludlow Hydro Cooperative for a number of years, also put together by Sharenergy, which generates clean electricity via an Archimedes screw turbine alongside the Horseshoe Weir in Ludlow. I hope we will see more projects in South Shropshire as this funding comes onstream.

Important as the contribution these schemes can be towards net zero, and as keen as I am to support them, I do acknowledge, as does the Committee on Climate Change, that we will continue to need carbon based fuel sources for decades to come, not least as it will take years for the 29 million petrol and diesel vehicles to be replaced from our roads – which is why I did not leap to the barricades when the government announced last month it was issuing new North Sea oil and gas licences.

I have called for the Government to set a date to end further exploration and development of fossil fuels in the North Sea, and still believe that is right. But it is worth considering the context that oil and gas production from the UK side of the North Sea is declining at around 8% a year. So the logic behind granting new licences during the transition to wholly renewable energy, is to enable the production profile to decline more gradually so that we can balance our energy security by enabling our reliance on imported additional oil and gas to be reduced. The actions of Putin show how risky it is to rely entirely on imports, or to rely on higher emission fossil fuels from less stable states.

I do remain an optimist on our ability to meet net zero by 2050. After all, the UK has decarbonised faster than any other country in the G7, cutting emissions by 48% between 1990 and 2021, while the economy grew by 65%. But I have made no secret of how I think the government needs to go further and faster in some areas.

I shall continue to bang the drum for net zero, and the economic growth that can accompany it, as this latest renewable energy investment in South Shropshire at Kerry T&N shows.

Philip Dunne MP

UCB Word for Today

'Now give me wisdom' 2 Chronicles 1:10

When King Solomon ascended to the throne, God told him, 'Ask! What shall I give you?'

Imagine: Solomon was given *carte blanche* by the One in whose dictionary the word *impossible* doesn't occur. But there was a catch! God was testing Solomon to find out what was in his heart. An arrogant person would have asked for fame. A worldly person would have asked for wealth. A self-seeking person would have asked for power.

What did Solomon ask God for? 'Now give me wisdom.' So, God granted Solomon's request and gave him something more gratifying than fame, more extravagant than wealth, and more thrilling than power. As it turned out, all the material blessings Solomon enjoyed were by-products of the gift of wisdom.

An anonymous thinker wrote: 'Tell me your dreams, and I will tell you the riddle of your life. Tell me your prayers, and I will write the history of your soul. Tell me your askings, and I will tell you your gettings. Tell me what you seek, and I will tell you what you are...I do not wish to know your possessions...only your wants. I do not care to know what you have, only what you have not and desire to have; not your attainments, but what you have not yet attained and follow after; that which comes to you in your victories by day and your dreams by night, the ideal you set before you, the things you approve as excellent, what you seek after and have given your heart to, these are the measure of a man.' So, pray for wisdom.

Printed by kind permission of UCB. If you would like a copy of the daily UCB Word for Today booklet, they are available, free of charge, in St Mary's Church. Please take one.

Church Quiz

Saturday September 30th @ the Parish Hall

7.30pm for 8pm start.

£12 per team of 4

(£3 each for additional persons)

Refreshments included (Jacket potatoes and fillings)



Contact Arthur Painting to register tel. 861887

Highley Parish Council

August is a quiet month for the Parish Council; we don't have one of our regular meetings this month and with so many people on holiday across Shropshire Council it can be an uneventful month.

August 2023 however did see an extraordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council in order to review and vote on the appointment of our new, temporary Parish Clerk, to provide maternity cover for our regular Clerk, Holly, who will shortly be taking a break due to her impending new arrival. I'd like to welcome Alison Palmer who is taking up the role and will be assisting with the running of the council, liaising with various third parties and being the point of contact for parishioners in Holly's absence. On behalf of Highley Parish Council I would also like to wish Holly all the best with her new baby and to say we look forward to having her back with us mid-2024.

August also saw an exciting development in healthcare for the village with the opening of the new, temporary medical practice located at The Severn Centre. There has been a lot of behind the scenes work from various parties to get us to this point, so it is brilliant to see the service move to the new, more central location while longer term plans are finalised. I haven't personally had any need to visit the surgery since Bridgnorth Medical Practice took over, but I have heard brilliant feedback from those who have, which is really good to hear after the uncertainty surrounding the change of provider.

Last year *Golf Fest* was one of the highlights of the summer in Highley for me. Despite the slightly questionable weather it was fantastic to see so many people out enjoying themselves listening to live music and having fun. I'm writing this article just before *Golf Fest 2023* takes place but I'm sure it'll be even more of a success than last year and by the time you read this you'll all be looking back with fond memories of a good day. Events like this, run by the community, for the community, are so fantastic and really highlight why Highley is such a great place to live!

Tom Quinn

Chair, Highley Parish Council



Smile Lines

Off to school

Mother to young daughter after first day at school: "Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

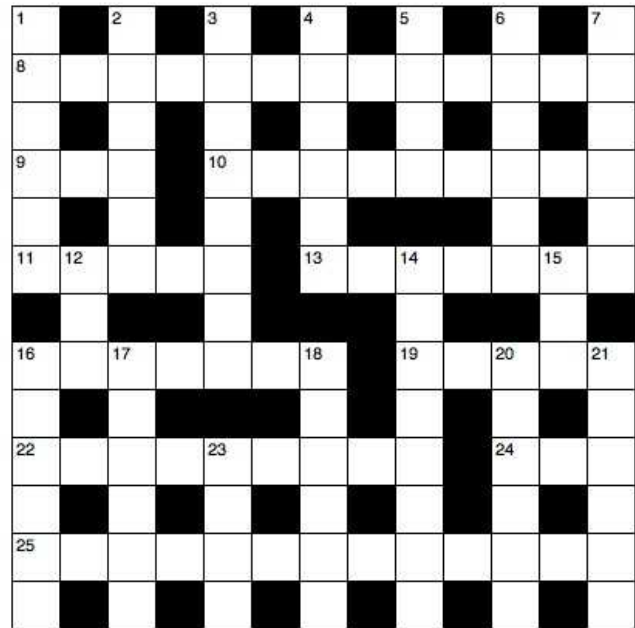
Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."

Puzzles

Crossword Clues

Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the —’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)



Solutions on page 33

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible’s shortest verse: ‘Jesus —’ (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?’ (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 ‘Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem’ (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 ‘Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight’ (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 ‘Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

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- Jodie-Leigh School of Dance
- Highley Parish Council Drop In Sessions
- Highley Reach Youth Club
- Highley Minors Child Care
- Highley Community Project
- Highley Toddler Singing Group
- Mini Minors Toddler Group
- Warm Welcome Space

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People aged 65+ | Young People aged 24 and under |
Carers | People on certain mean tested benefits |
People registered disabled | Full time students

Download the FREE Halo Leisure Severn Centre app to view leisure timetables and book leisure activities



Details correct at time of going to print - December 2022



Working together for the people of Highley



Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23



- | | | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Thanks | All | Intervene | Balaam | Gabriel |
| Angels | Genesis | Garden | Mouths | Mary |
| Church | Messengers | Eden | Lions | Mother |
| Feast | God | Lot | Daniel | Teaming |
| Michael | Sent | Gideon | Archangel | Revelation |

Have a go at Sudoku — answers on page 23



Easy

Medium

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

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

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Don't chase what isn't there

'...those who chase fantasies have no sense.' Proverbs 12.11

Have you ever been attracted to computer gaming? For many people, it has become addictive; and they spend so much time in their fantasy world that their own avatar and those of their fellow players have come to seem more real to them than their own family and friends.

Some people get so drawn into this virtual world that they can resent the time they still have to spend in the real world. Instead, they prefer living in their fantasy world, where they always have the power and control.

Problems come when that person spends so much time in their virtual world that they are too tired and distracted to do anything productive in their real world.

Some people say that Christians live in a fantasy world, that our faith has no basis in reality. But faith in God is not a crutch - nor is it a fantasy. Jesus was an historical person who lived and died - and rose again. Those who follow Him as Lord find that knowing Him, and having His Spirit within them, gives them the strength they need to live the right way in the real world, and to reach out to other real people with God's love.

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Remembering the genius of JRR Tolkien

Fifty years ago, on 2nd September 1973, JRR Tolkien, the fantasy writer, poet, scholar and educator, died. He was best known for his novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Born in Bloemfontein and descended from a family that originated in an area that was then East Prussian and is now Russian, Tolkien – always known as Ronald – thought of himself as unmistakably English. He was brought up in the Birmingham area after the death of his father, who had stayed in South Africa while his wife and children visited England.

Ronald's mother then died when he was 12, and he was raised by aunts, uncles and a guardian who was a Roman Catholic priest, Father Francis. Tolkien later became a devoted Catholic and insisted that his fiancée, Edith Bratt, join him in that faith. She did so, reluctantly, and they had a long and extremely happy marriage. His beliefs were a significant factor in C S Lewis's conversion to Christianity.

Tolkien had a longstanding fascination with language and became an acknowledged expert in both linguistics and mythology, which led to his writing his two most famous works – and several others. Despite assumptions by some, none were intended as children's books, and *The Lord of the Rings* was never a trilogy – it was printed in three volumes for cost reasons.

The huge success of his writing led to unexpected fame. He and his wife eventually moved to Bournemouth and lived there until she died in 1971. He was then given rooms in Merton College, Oxford. He said in an interview shortly before his death: "A pen is to me as a beak is to a hen."

Since 2003, The Tolkien Society has organised Tolkien Reading Day, which takes place on 25th March in schools around the world.

By Tim Lenton

Is Coffee is Good for You?

If you like coffee, then this is good news: it seems that coffee is quite good for you. For one thing, coffee contains chemicals called polyphenols, which protect against inflammation in the body and which repair damage to cells.

One study, known as the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (Epic), found that people who drank more coffee were less vulnerable to a range of chronic illnesses. Another study, at the University of Verona, found that it can help prevent a toxic protein called tau from clumping together – which might help in fighting Alzheimer's.

Coffee drinkers have also been found to have different species of bacteria in their gut microbiomes, compared with non-coffee drinkers. This is believed to be one of the strongest protective factors against colorectal cancers.

Harvard University recommends two to five cups of coffee daily, and the NHS recommends that no more than about two and a half cups of coffee are consumed in one sitting, and no more than five cups per day.



It's that time of year again!



Operation Christmas Child

Each year in November we send shoeboxes filled with small gifts to Operation Christmas Child. This organisation, part of the Samaritan's Purse charity, distributes around the world to children who would not be receiving presents at Christmas for various reasons, such as living in poverty in war-torn and third world countries.

Last Christmas our shoeboxes went to Moldova. You can see how excited the children were to receive them. So it's time to get filling those boxes again, ready for collection in early November. Either cover a medium sized shoe box with wrapping paper or buy a ready made box for 75p. Leaflets and ready made boxes will be available in St Mary's Church or St Mary's Charity shop from mid-September.

See below for a list of potential items to pack. Please make sure that items you pack are new.

When your shoebox is packed, please drop off at St Mary's Church or direct to Val Smith, 20 Yew Tree Grove, Highley. tel. 01746 861966



SPECIAL ITEM: Something to immediately capture the child's attention e.g. a cuddly toy, large toy car or truck, a rag doll, a deflated football and pump, a solar-powered torch.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES: Pencil case; crayons; writing pens and pencils; colouring pens and pencils; highlighters; child friendly pencil sharpener; ruler; eraser; glue stick (not liquid glue); safety scissors; small adhesive tape; notebook; drawing pad; colouring book; solid paint palette and paint brushes set; pre-inked stampers; pavement chalk; whiteboard and dry wipe pens; stencils; mini Spirograph kit; solar calculator; stickers.

ACCESSORIES: Baseball cap; sunglasses; woolly hat, gloves, mittens, scarf; hair ties, bows and dress-up headbands; small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag; purse or wallet; children's jewellery, watch, reusable non-breakable containers e.g. cup, water bottle, plate, bowl; small items of clothing e.g. socks, flip-flops, t-shirt.



GAMES: Card games, small puzzles, puzzle cubes, jacks, mini board games, etc.



TOYS: Skipping rope; tennis ball; building bricks/Lego type kit; click together model; glider kit (non-military); bead kit; play people; animal figures; dinosaurs; foldable play mat e.g. farm, zoo, city or racetrack; transport toys e.g. car, train, plane, truck or boat; plastic doll; hand or finger puppets; play dough (ideally with cookie cutters and play tools); toy tools; slinky; yo-yo; dominoes; spinning top; kaleidoscope; toy binoculars; finger skateboard; wind-up or pull-back toy, bouncy ball; inflatable beach ball; small frisbee, small kite, interactive toys that include push buttons, lights and noise (include extra batteries).



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: Tambourine, shaker, bells, sports whistle, recorder, harmonica, slide whistle, tin whistle, finger drums, maracas, triangle, mini xylophone, kazoo, castanets.



HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, bar of soap, flannel, sponge, washmitt, chapstick, compact mirror (ensure protected).

A NOTE FROM YOU: Christmas card, note of greeting, photo of yourself/your family.



DO NOT INCLUDE: Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

Answers to Wordsearch (from page 17)



Answers to Sudoku (from page 18)

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

Easy

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

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We can make Highley sustainable!

Please email your ideas to mrmacnaughton@hotmail.co.uk and I can share them in the next article. Anyone is welcome, any idea that helps us save energy and resources!

Save time, save energy - Alastair

Rice

All white rice starts out as brown rice. A milling process removes the rice's husk, bran, and germ. This process increases white rice's shelf life but removes much of its nutrition, including fibre, vitamins, and minerals. The down side of brown rice is the cooking time (about 25 minutes compared with 10 minutes for white rice). However, if you soak it overnight in cold water, it needs very little cooking. Sometimes I soak it, then drain it and cook it in coconut milk as a treat.

Oats

If you like your porridge in the morning, soak your oats! Again, let time do the work and not your hob or microwave! If you do it overnight, oats take a fraction of the time to cook. Better still, have cold soaked oats mixed with some nuts and fruit and you have a very easy, delicious, nutritious breakfast.

Conserve our precious resources - David

Over their lifetime, rechargeable batteries consume more than 20 times less natural resources than their disposable cousins, even when the latter are disposed of correctly. Ok, so you have to buy a charger and spend a small amount of time charging them, but weigh this up against the impact of disposable batteries on water pollution, air acidification, and global warming and it is a no brainer.

Compost it! - Alastair

When sent to landfill, food waste decomposes anaerobically (without air) and produces methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. However, when composted these emissions are significantly decreased. Additionally, composting supplies you with free fertiliser that you can use in your garden to help your plants (including any vegetables and fruits) prosper and grow. By using this homemade fertiliser you are then reducing or ending your reliance on chemical fertilisers which can damage the environment, particularly by polluting water supplies and water habitats. Home grown compost can therefore be used to improve your soils structure and nutrient content whilst also helping you to get rid of your own food waste and saving you money and carbon. Add some fibrous cardboard if your heap is getting too slimy!

Mouse Makes



Mouse Makes

THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow amongst the wheat?

Matthew 13:25

At harvest time the weeds are gathered, bundled then

but the wheat is stored in the -----

Matthew 13:30

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

What does the field represent? the -----
and who is the good seed? The people of the -----

Matthew 13:38

Who sows the weeds? The -----

Who are the harvesters? The -----

Matthew 13:39

"He who has ears, let him -----"
Matthew 13:43

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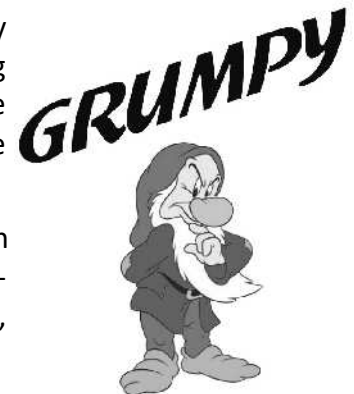
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How not to be a Grumpy Old Man (or Woman)

- ◇ Marvel. Marvel every time you see a child learning to walk and speak at the same time. Share in their delight. Wonder at the dawn of each new season: sunshine and shadows, falling leaves, frost, sudden new growth. You are still alive to take it all in. That's an unexpected bonus.
- ◇ Appreciate. Have a look around your living room and concentrate on items designed for your comfort and entertainment, which your forbears never had. Think of someone you don't like; now ponder a couple of their good points. Try to desire their welfare more than their downfall.
- ◇ Forgive. (That's a condition for being forgiven). You may have to do it over and over again for the same person. Unearth grudges which have been lying under the surface. Are they worth preserving that much? Think of the damage they are doing you.
- ◇ Married or Single? Don't envy. The grass on the other side of the street isn't greener, it's just different. Count your blessings - some will be uniquely yours. Be concerned for the welfare of someone whose circumstances are unlike yours.
- ◇ Deal with disappointment. If you have become grumpy it's probably caused by a deep-down dissatisfaction with yourself. Stop raking over past failures. Each morning when you wake up, say with the Psalmist, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
- ◇ Change. No, it isn't too late. It will only be too late to change when you are in a coffin. In the meantime, there's still room for manoeuvre. Remember John Henry Newman's words, "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."



Are you always a bit late - for everything?

Is this you? - late for work, late for friends, nearly missing trains and flights, late for lunch dates, late for dinner dates, and late for just about everything else.

If you are habitually late for almost everything, is it an actual mental condition? When a recent Tik-Tok video called it 'time blindness', that struck a chord – the video has been viewed nearly five million times.

But some psychologists doubt you can just claim being late 'a mental condition'. Instead, they say that a major factor is our childhood experiences of lateness - whether we have since tried to mimic our parent's behaviour about punctuality, or rebel against it. Certainly, once we have got into the habit of acting in a certain way, we tend to do it long-term, unless we make a really conscious effort to change ourselves.

One common reason for lateness is over-optimism. If we are a bit too positive about our abilities, we may assume that we can leave at the last minute and still get somewhere else in time. We don't factor in any possible problems along the way. Whereas pessimists always imagine there will be problems with the journey, and so give themselves more time. *(from Parish Pump)*

Contacts for Local Church Groups, Clubs & Organisations

Severn Valley Benefice –Rector	Rev'd Kina Robertshaw	revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com	862837
Associate Minister (retired)	Rev.'d Val Smith	valandkeiths@aol.com	861966
Associate Minister	Rev'd. David Poyner	d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	01562 68638
Retired clergy - Permission to Officiate	Canon Rose Lawley	rosemarylawley@gmail.com	862301
Licensed Lay Minister with PTO	Mr Keith Smith		861966
Churchwarden	Roy Adlington		861666
PCC Secretary & Church Administrator	Margaret Ritchie	secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com	861242
Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Lin Evans		861087
Children's Sunday Groups	Amy Williams		860230
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
The Shed	Lisa Delmar-Shaw		07376752633
Age UK		enquiries@ageconcernshrops.org.uk	01743 233123
Bowls Club	Richard Green		861052
Guide and Scout Hut Enquiries	Gay Lilley		861722
Carers Trust 4 All			03333 231990
Community Car Scheme	Mr Richard Dudson		861817
Cricket Club	Mrs Denise Goulden		861031
Rainbows, Brownies and Guides		www.girlguiding.org.uk	
Highley Community Project	Emma Aspin	hcprojectshrops@gmail.com	
Highley Colliery Band	Dave & Lisa Burge		862018
Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
Highley County Primary School	School Office	(Tanya Mathers)	861541
Highley First Responders	Claire van Aswegen	claire.vanaswegen@gmail.com	861580
Highley Medical Centre	Dr J Tatton	Highley Medical Practice, Bridgnorth Road	767121 (option 0)
Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Emma Aspin		07752207828
Highley Minors Childcare Centre	Kath Davies	Severn Centre	860005
Highley Parish Council Parish Clerk	Holly Bowkett	clerk@highleyparish.co.uk	07496821159
Co. Cllr. & Highley Patients Group	Mr Mark Williams	mark.williams@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Lisa Bill	Club Secretary	07983245480
HWJFC: Mini Kickers (3.5—7 years)	Dean Boden		
Housing Support Officer	Contact Star Housing		
Parish Hall Bookings	Margaret Ritchie	margaret_ritchie@hotmail.com	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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Andrew Powell
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Daniel Humpage
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Stourbridge Bus Station Stourbridge (Stand A)	---	---	08:05	09:10	10		15:10	16:20	17:20	18:25
Broadwaters Drive Broadwaters (SW)	---	---	08:23	09:25	25		15:25	16:35	17:35	18:40
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 6) <small>Active</small>	---	---	08:33	09:35	35		15:35	16:45	17:45	18:50
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 6) <small>Depart</small>	---	07:27	08:37	09:37	37		15:37	16:47	17:47	---
General Hospital Kidderminster (A1)	---	07:34	08:44	09:44	44		15:44	16:54	17:54	---
Load Street Bawdley (Westbound)	06:30	07:45	08:55	09:55	55		15:55	17:05	18:05	---
Wyre Cottage Bilstonac (NW)	06:36	07:51	09:01	10:01	01		16:01	17:11	18:11	---
Hall Kings (NW)	06:43	07:58	09:08	10:08	08	then at these mins	16:08	17:18	18:18	---
Bache Arms Highley (NW)	06:53	08:08	09:18	10:18	18		16:18	17:28	18:28	---
Castle Inn Woodhill (NW)	06:56	08:11	09:21	10:21	21		16:21	17:31	18:31	---
Church Chelmarsh (NW)	07:00	08:16	09:26	10:26	26		16:26	17:36	18:36	---
Post Office Faulingrove (NW)	07:05	08:21	09:31	10:31	31		16:31	17:41	18:41	---
Sainsbury's High Town (NE)	07:12	08:28	09:38	10:38	38		16:38	17:48	18:48	---
Fosters Arms PH Low Town (NE)	07:15	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---
Stanmore Industrial Estate Stanmore (NE)	07:22	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---

* Not including bank holidays

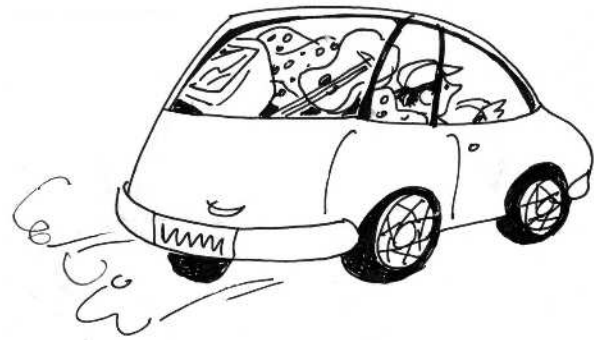
Monday to Friday - 125 - Stanmore Ind Est - Bewdley, Load St

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

* Not including bank holidays

Crossword Solution from page 15

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



Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins:

Friday 1st September

Thursday 14th & 28th

Crates & green bins:

Thursday 7th & 21st September

Don't forget to put out your new purple recycle

Parish Hall Office

01746 861242

Parish Administrator - Maggie Ritchie

The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10am—12noon.

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

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.

Regular Events

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

Badminton Club (Seniors) Tuesday 19.00 SC

Telephone: (01746) 862411 Mobile: 07921 437799

Tony

22 Vicarage Lane
Highley
Bridgnorth

TONY MARTIN

- ◆ Plumbing ◆ Heating
- ◆ Gas engineer ◆ Drainage
- ◆ Installation ◆ Breakdown repairs

Gas Safe number: 503947

Email: tony13jup@gmail.com

Free quotations

All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10	Highley Minors	28	Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Cost Cutter	11	Irena Foot Clinic	31	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	25
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25	Wyre Forest Pest Control	29
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22	Kidderminster Storage & Removals	27		
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	33		
		Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25		
		Ovenclean	19		
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24		
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10		
		Powell Clive - Gardening Services	10		
				Bus Information	32
				Events - Church	33
				Events - General / Waste	33
				Library	3
				Registrar's Office	25

KIDDERMINSTER

SELF STORAGE AND REMOVALS



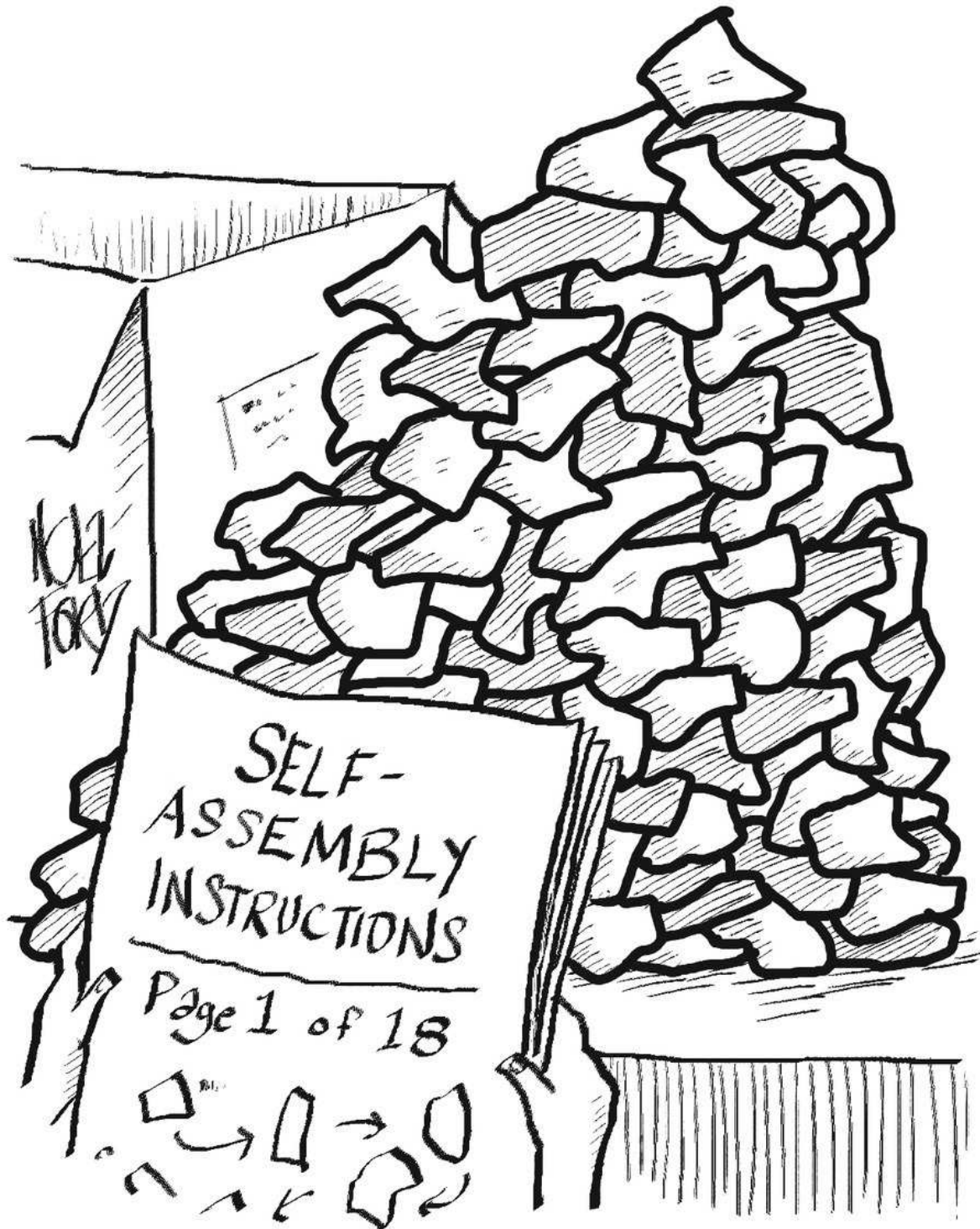
STORAGE
 Free insurance . Flexible Terms
 Fixed Price Guarantee . No hidden costs

REMOVALS
 Professional Removal Service
 Est. over 25 years

PACKAGING MATERIALS
 Boxes, Bubblewrap, Tape Etc. for sale
 Free local deliveries on orders over £20

01562 744088

www.kidderminsterselfstorage.co.uk
 Unit 11 Finepoint Way, Stourport Road, Kidderminster DY11 7FB
info@kidderminsterselfstorage.co.uk



The vicar was already regretting ordering the new stained - glass window from IKEA

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.

Church Services September 2023

Sunday 3rd September	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
Sunday 10th September	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Informal Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
	6pm Evening Service	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
Sunday 17th September	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10am Holy Communion	St Bartholomew's Church, Glazeley
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 24th September	8am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
	9.30am Morning Service	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Informal Service	St Mary's Church, Highley

Mid-week Groups

Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7.30pm @ Liz and Mervyn's tel 862989

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

Thursday evening Prayer Meeting @ St Mary's Church at 7.30pm

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

Friday Night Prayer 9pm Zoom contact David Poyner as above

For enquiries regarding Weddings, Christenings, Funerals or Churchyard memorials

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

Christenings/baptisms: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

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

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

