

THE

60th

FORUM

September 2021



*Churches say 'Farewell' to Reverend Mike Harris after 6 years—
see page 4*

Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Photo round-up

Pam and Tony Fall's Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses was a roaring success.



Submission of Articles and photos.

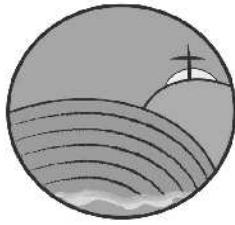
Material must be submitted to ... 'highleyforumeditor@gmail.com' ... Photos submitted must be of the best quality possible. Please give photos titles that relate to any accompanying articles / photos.

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Severn Valley Benefice

Home Sweet Home

Are you old enough to remember Joni Mitchell's protest song, 'Big Yellow Taxi'? There are several catchy phrases in it, but the one I remember best is: 'Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone'. She's talking about replacing green fields with parking lots, but I'm thinking about something else I've always taken for granted.

For nearly all my life I've not had to think about where I would sleep at night; I've had a roof over my head which I haven't had to fight for. During my working life in the Church of England, my home has come with the job. The one time I felt the insecurity of not having a home to go to was in 1981. I was a young curate with my wife, Moira, and four-month old son, Iain. It was Palm Sunday evening and we were all in church for an evening service when a woman burst through the doors shouting, "The curate's house is on fire!" We all rushed out of the building and there, right next door, our ground floor flat was clearly alight! It had been done by someone who had a grudge against a former curate and had recently been let out of prison. The cost of this to us was months on the fourth floor of a block of flats! Fortunately, in the immediate aftermath, friends in the church put us up in their home, and offers of clothing and other essentials, especially for our young son, came in from all over the place.

I never much liked the flat the parish had provided for us in this particular part of SE London, but it was much improved after the fire and so much better than living in a two-bedroom flat with a kitchenette in a block with dodgy lifts! The whole experience shook us up, but also made us more aware than ever how fortunate we were. God's provision had been something we had so easily taken for granted.

The fact is, that there was always the certainty that we'd have somewhere to live, even if the house was not our choice. However, now it is all change and after 43 years with the Church of England, we have to purchase our first home! After months of looking, we still don't know where we'll end up, except, out of deference to my Scottish wife who has managed to live down here with us sassenachs all those years, it is time to head north of the border permanently, until it is time to take the final journey 'home' across another border.

The Severn Valley Churches:

St. Mary, Highley
and at the Severn Centre
St. Mary, Billingsley
St. Peter, Chelmarsh
St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

cont'd...

So many people have been so kind and considerate to us in the various places across the country where we have lived and especially across the Midlands, from Church Stretton where I served my second curacy, to Penkridge and then on to Amington, Tamworth for 23 years and concluding my time here in the Severn Valley – what a beautiful place and what wonderful people we have met here, making up our churches and wider communities.

I am now in a position to appreciate better the constant journeying of vast numbers of people who are travelling and looking for a place to stay and become rooted in. A community to call their own. Pray for them – the displaced, the homeless, the war-torn and give thanks for what you've got, because you don't know when you might lose it.

I recall the mind-blowing words of the first Chapter of John's gospel in which we are invited to meet 'the Word made flesh, living for a while amongst us, full of grace and truth' (John 1:14). The literal translation is who 'made his home amongst us'. What a privilege, that He lives next door.

Thank you all for some great memories as we draw this chapter of our lives to a close on 12th September, after exactly six years!

Mike & Moira Harris

Come and say 'Goodbye' to Mike and Moira

Sunday 12th September 2021

Chelmarsh Sports Club

1 pm—3pm

Everyone Welcome



A light buffet-style lunch will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

For catering purposes, please RSVP to Revd Val Smith—861966

or email valandkeiths@aol.com

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

St Mary's Highley

August used to be known as a relatively quiet month, when many of the congregation were on holiday and the vicar (or the staff team as it is now!) could look forward to a bit of a rest and 'down time'. Oh, the good old days!

Our Service theme for the Summer was 'The Faith of a ...' and we have been blessed by hearing from several different people about how their faith has impacted on their lives in the workplace. We are all called, as Christians, to live out and share our faith 24/7—not just on a Sunday. At St Mary's we heard from Bev Bevan, on how her faith helped her as a midwife and also from Roger Littleover, on his daily walks with his camera, photographing butterflies and all kinds of flora and fauna.

As our Rector, Mike Harris, prepares to pack up his home and move off to pastures new as he retires, life at St Mary's continues. Until a new Rector is appointed, (this process takes many months) the voluntary staff team will be holding the fort. Please bear with us as we endeavour to cover the work that we do voluntarily for the parish anyway, whilst at the same time trying to cover the responsibilities that Mike had. It may not always be possible to do things in the same way and so we ask for your kindness and forbearance!

Mike's last service will be on 12th September at Chelmarsh at 11am. (Note the change in time!) After the service we shall be transferring to Chelmarsh Social Club for a Bring-and-Share lunch to say 'Goodbye' to him and Moira. (*Contact me for more information on food contributions etc.—Val*) We wish Mike and Moira a happy and rewarding retirement in Moira's beloved Scotland.

In September we hope to re-start some of our homegroups, so keep a lookout on the weekly news sheet.

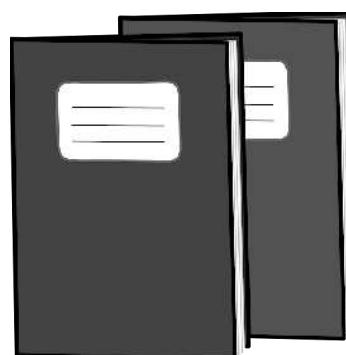
Val Smith

From our registers:

Christenings:	Margot MacNaughton Caleb Oliver Sanders	4.7.21 25.7.21
Funerals	Sheila Marion Walker Elaine Male	11.6.21 23.8.21

Interment of Ashes

Vera Audrey Brookes Kim Elizabeth Taylor	15.8.21 18.8.21
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St Peter's, Chelmarsh

This September is a time of happy endings and new beginnings. Rev. Mike's ministry in the Highley Benefice is coming to an end after 6 years, and he and Moira are moving on to pastures new in a very beautiful part of Scotland where they will have time for their own interests. We are sincerely grateful to Mike for allowing himself to be persuaded by the Bishop to take us on when we needed a Rector. Thank you, Mike and Moira, and best wishes for a well-deserved, long and happy retirement.



Rev. Mike's last service will be on Sunday 12th September at 11am in St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh, followed by a 'Farewell Lunch' at Chelmarsh Club from 1pm. Everyone welcome.

Grand Auction 24th July

A lively and productive afternoon provided approx. **£800** to be shared among the 4 parishes in the Benefice. Congratulations go to Mike who, as Auctioneer, conducted proceedings with wit and good humour, leading to a very successful event, and thanks to the ladies who supplied refreshments.

Harvest Festival Thursday 30th September at 7.30pm.

It is hoped that this service will take place as usual, covid restrictions permitting. We invite anyone who has produce to spare from their garden to bring fruit, vegetables, or flowers to decorate the church between **10.30 and 1pm on Wednesday 29th September**. Thank you in advance!

From the Register

Baptism

8. 8. 2021 Cleo-Rose Humphries

We welcome Cleo-Rose into the church family and look forward to seeing her as she grows up.

CHELMARSH FRIENDS:

A notice will be posted on Chelmarsh Parish Hall Website with details of the date Friends will resume, hopefully once restrictions are lifted.

CHELMARSH WALKING FOR HEALTH:

Chelmarsh Walking for Health meets every Monday from the Village Hall at 10am. Walks are available at two levels – a short walk and a longer walk lasting 1½ to 2 hours.

St Mary's, Billingsley

At the end of July, we had our first celebration of "Forest Church". Despite its name, this is not church held in the middle of a wood or forest, but is an attempt to connect with God by meeting and reflecting outside. It is not simply aimed at those who are comfortable calling themselves Christians; it may appeal to anyone who finds something "spiritual" in nature. In our case, we simply sat in the churchyard and, with the help of some reflections, talked about what was around us; the trees, the flowers, the birds and the stones of the church.

Our next event will be on Wednesday 22nd September, meeting at 6.30pm outside the church, for a (very) short walk to reflect on harvest. All are welcome. We also are continuing our programme of monthly local walks; our most recent was a very enjoyable stroll around the reservoir at Chelmarsh. We have another walk scheduled for Thursday 23rd September; check our website for details.

Our August evening service was sung evening prayer, led by our soon-retiring incumbent, Rev Mike Harris. We were delighted that Gillian Law was able to play the organ for us and singing was lusty and remarkably tuneful... Our next evening prayer will be on Sunday 19th September at 6.00pm. This will mark the 100th anniversary of the closure of Billingsley Colliery in September 1921; my grandfather was one of the men who was (briefly) made redundant by this event. Our harvest festival will take place on Sunday 3rd October at 6.00pm. One of our harvest charities this year is Singakwenza, <https://www.singakwenza.co.za/> This is a charity based in South Africa (Kwa-Zulu Natal) that offers education to young children; Bonnie Garvey from our congregation was instrumental in setting it up. Bonnie will speak about its work at the service.

David Poyner

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley



At our August service, we welcomed Richard Law, who spoke on "The Faith of an Engineer". Richard is no stranger to Glazeley; some 20 years ago he used to take services as a Lay Reader. He is now an ordained priest, albeit one who retired a few months ago and has come back to live in Highley. Like all the best preachers, Richard spoke without a script in front of him!

We also welcomed his wife, Gillian, who, fresh from performing at Billingsley the week before, played the organ for us. We look forward to Richard and Gillian helping us again...

Sadly this was the last service that our retiring rector, Rev Mike Harris, will take. We will miss his leadership and his lusty singing; for his finale, he led us in the singing of the Sanctus during communion.

Our harvest festival will be at our next service at 10.00am on Sunday 19th September. Please do come and join us; it is nice to see that we are now getting good congregations as the services move through the benefice. We are very grateful for the support we get from Chelmarsh and Highley at our services.

It's Shoebox time again!



Each year St Mary's Church invites you to join us in making up shoeboxes full of gifts for children around the world, who have very little and would not receive gifts at Christmas. Leaflets will be in Church from September and hopefully, also available through St Mary's Charity Shop. For more information, leaflets, pre-printed boxes (50p each) or donations, please contact :

Revd Val Smith email valandkeiths@aol.com; mobile 07887245040; tel 861966

Two leaflets from Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child. The left leaflet is titled "HOW TO PACK A SHOEBOX" and features a photo of a child holding a box. The right leaflet is titled "SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS" and lists categories of items to include in the boxes. Both leaflets include the Samaritan's Purse logo.



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Letter from Westminster—Road to COP26



With the upcoming COP26 UN Climate Conference in Glasgow in November, more focus is rightly being placed on what steps we can take beforehand to demonstrate global leadership in the fight against climate change. The Prime Minister laid out his vision of a Green Industrial Revolution last year, and shortly thereafter published an Energy White Paper to set the framework for the next critical phase of renewable energy rollout. But there remain several detailed strategies of how to get there still awaiting publication, now expected in coming weeks, as part of the preparation for COP26.

Last month, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their latest report, making clear the impact of human activity on global temperatures, and the vital need to take action to avoid a climate catastrophe.

As Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee, I have been vocal in saying the government needs to meet rhetoric with action. The private sector, galvanised by a mix of greater awareness of environmental issues by senior management and the realisation customers expect companies to play a role in combating climate change, is ready and willing to invest. But government needs to set a clear direction, to drive investment into net zero technologies.

Unfortunately, industry's confidence has taken several knocks by delayed strategies and some cancellation of policies. The Green Homes Grant voucher scheme for owner occupiers to make energy efficiency improvements for their homes, since cancelled, was overly bureaucratic, and proved difficult to access for both building contractors and homeowners.

Notwithstanding this, to its credit, the government has outlined significant ambition on net zero. But there are deep rooted challenges. There remains a shortage of skills in green engineering disciplines, the green automotive sector and qualified installers for energy efficiency measures like heat pumps or insulation retrofits. The Environmental Audit Committee has undertaken a number of inquiries to help inform debate around achieving Net Zero Britain, and to provide recommendations to government on how to focus policy. Homes account for 20% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions, but there is significant underestimation in government of the cost of addressing this, and we are still awaiting a Heat & Buildings Strategy.

To support the move to electric vehicles, we must invest in Gigafactory capacity for battery production and EV charging capacity, as other countries have. There have been some encouraging announcements on investment in battery plants recently. But grid connection and regulatory issues continue to hold back community energy schemes, as well as tidal power and further progress in our offshore wind sector – which has proven a real UK success story.

Of course, COP26 is an international conference, and fostering international commitments to combat climate change must be the focus. The UK has made admirable progress in cutting our emissions while growing the economy. So we are well placed to demonstrate to developing nations that combating climate change does not mean curtailing growth or improving living standards for their citizens. The UK government must seek to be a benchmark to inspire others.

I have been promoting community engagement in COP26, including presenting the COP26 President, Alok Sharma MP, with a community action plan from South Shropshire Climate Action.

.....cont'd

I have encouraged local schools to give pupils the opportunity to learn more about COP26 and the issues it is seeking to address. Next month I am hoping to arrange local screening of an educational film on the environment for young people.

This is going to be a major topic for coming months, so if you are interested in learning more about COP26, please visit <https://ukcop26.org>.

Philip Dunne MP

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

As with many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they don't work.

So it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was kind of them to want to celebrate Will and Kate's recent 10th wedding anniversary, but it did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. And I feel that a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

However, I do applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings, though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on a proper course when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane with her ancient pony (which then tried to bite me at the church door!)

Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise, not necessarily music, unto the Lord. I am sure that drums and kazoos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other. It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride's mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we would have struggled to complete the wedding.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



County Councillor's Report

Well, to say “so much has happened” since my last report would be something of an understatement. In fact a hell of a lot has happened; it just hasn’t been completed.

The B4555 has been more or less done (with permanent patches – which seems to be the norm now) with the exception of the High Street. Now that’s something you WILL have seen happen because your life will have been thrown into so much chaos by the road closures and diversions. That the High Street would be “put back in the schedule” has always been a fear of mine, so when I was told that the delays on the main job (due to the incredibly hot weather delaying the curing of tarmac) meant that time was lost and the High Street ceased to be an “emergency project” and, in order to get it financed, it had to become a “capital project”, my heart sank because it meant the High Street was now just one amongst others competing for limited resources within a restricted capital budget.

I’m hoping that its relatively high profile (thanks to the media) will give it some protection from the competing, neighbouring areas who felt so put out by seeing Highley’s earlier pleas (all of which fell on deaf ears) finally being heard and, thanks to a Kier highways engineer, acted on. It had been a hard two-year slog against highways officers who were more concerned with insulating themselves from criticism than actually listening and reacting to the genuine concerns of local people.

Adding insult to injury, we, meanwhile, were reading about expensive schemes to make Shrewsbury more attractive to visitors, the rationale being, that by doing that, somehow the rest of the county would benefit. The reality, of course, is a bit different to that claim. Once again South Shropshire misses out to North Shropshire and again the Wenlock Edge becomes a psychological as well as geographic barrier.

Picking up on that argument – and I suppose calling Shirehall’s bluff on its claims - that what is of benefit to one part of Shropshire ultimately benefits the rest of the county, I’ve long argued that “Shropshire is Shropshire”.

Picking up on that argument, for years I’ve tried to promote Highley as a place with much to offer, especially when it comes to tourism, but also because we are ideally placed to pick up on a scheme that was widespread back in the seventies and eighties and which capitalised on a town’s rurality rather than point up that rurality as a disadvantage... ‘CoSIRA’... ‘Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas’. As it said on the tin, CoSIRA promoted small rural industries (not always “craft” industries either); the craft workshops at Jackfield were probably the prime examples of what it meant to invest in an area and promote it for what it could be, rather than for what it fell short of as an “industrial” area. That’s a thought we need to incorporate into our future plans rather than allow the remnants of Shirehall to dictate what they think we really need as a second-rate option to North Shropshire and its multi-million pound business parks.

Dave Tremellen

Puzzles for September

Crossword Clues

Clues Across

1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)

4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)

8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)

9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)

10 Belgium's chief port (7)

11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)

12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)

17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)

19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)

21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)

22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)

23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)

24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Clues Down

1 Popular Christian author and humourist, Plass (6)

2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)

3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (Chronicles 32:1) (5)

5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)

6 Lonny (anag.) (5)

7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)

9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)

13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)

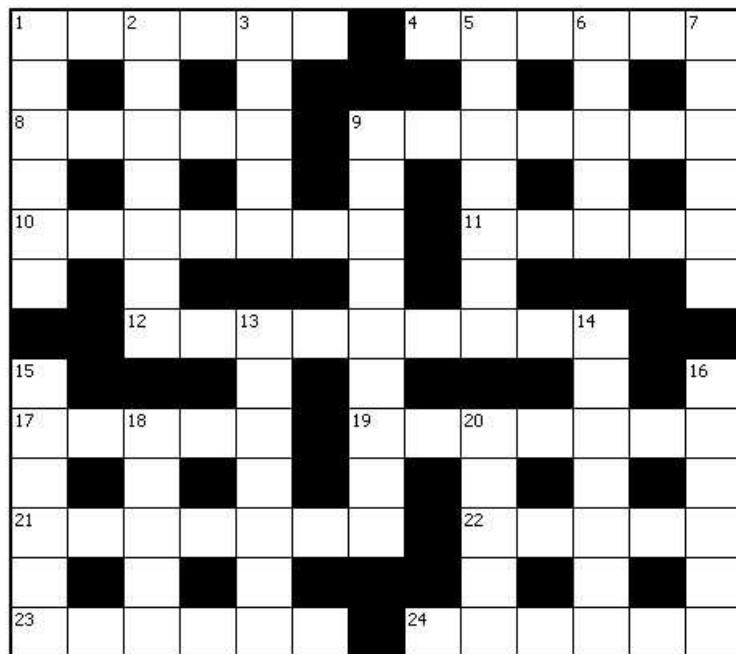
14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)

15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)

16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)

18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)

20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)



Solutions on page 33



(2)



Summer Success at Oldbury Wells

Following what was a very busy and unusual end to the summer term, the holiday has given everyone within the Oldbury Wells School Community an opportunity for a well-deserved rest, alongside a time to reflect on the achievements over the last academic year. No matter what challenges have been put before them, our students have remained calm and resilient in all they do, and most importantly supported each other to make the very best progress.

Over the summer we have welcomed back Year 11 and Year 13 students to collect their results which this year have been derived from Teacher Assessed Grades. The continued commitment by students whether working in school or at home has ensured some fantastic achievements by all students. Many students are returning to Bridgnorth 6th Form which has again had significant success with 95% of students leaving securing their first-choice university placement.

I am extremely proud of everything our students achieved together and am privileged to lead a school where the strong working relationships between staff and students ensure that everyone works towards one common goal..... to achieve their very best. Congratulations to all students who have collected results over the summer.

Everyone at the school is looking forward to welcoming new year 7 students at the start of term following a successful summer school which was attended by many year 6 students. The school offered two programmes to families in the locality, one specifically for those children who will be joining year 7 in September, the other for younger children who took part in the sports/activity programme organised by the TrustEd Schools Partnership; everyone had an amazing time.

cont'd...

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Open Mornings
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Thursday 14th October
Tuesday 19th October
Contact the school to
book an appointment.

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Everyone at the school is very much hoping that the new academic year will bring with it the opportunity to restart some of the opportunities for students to engage with outside the classroom and within the community. I know many of our students have missed the opportunity to be involved with activities outside of the classroom and in the community. I was really pleased to meet with Alan Rodgers from Highley Parish Council to have some discussion about how we can develop a range of project work to promote work linked to protecting our environment and promoting environmental awareness supporting others in the community. This will provide an opportunity for some exciting work in the months ahead.

The school looks forward to welcoming everyone back in September and will be hosting a number of opening events at the start of October and looks forward to meeting prospective new families who are encouraged to take a look at the school website or make direct contact with the school for further information.

Lee Tristham, Headteacher

WI Update

Welcome September!

The time has soon arrived to change the summer duvet for a warmer, thicker cover with expectations of cooler nights. Unpack those cosy cardigans and pixie boots from storage and drag those hot chocolate mugs from the back of cupboards; autumn has crept in showing us that changes can be beautiful.

As the hard work of gathering in the harvest is celebrated across the county, we begin to consider our own glorious bounty and how we can share it. From small garden to extensive farm crops safely gathered in, means food for all. A Shropshire tradition in early 19th century was "gleaning", where Farm women and children would collect any leftover crops from the main harvest, to plump up their own meagre pantry. All this was to be done by 29th September—"Michaelmas day", which was a signifier for the end of harvest.

We too can play our part, share our own garden produce with friends and neighbours, or donate to Food Shares at local centres, visit a local farmers' market, support producers of locally grown produce and reduce our carbon footprint and emissions.

We join in friendship to celebrate our own Highley WI harvest supper, a long held tradition in Highley and a special occasion this year after long separation due to Covid, our theme being "bring and share together". Each member will contribute and all will sit together and share in our bounty; a jolly time for all. The "harvest supper" takes place on 21st September at the Severn Centre at 7.15pm. Any enquiries contact our secretary.



cont'd...

Yellow the bracken, Golden the sheaves

Rosy the apple, Crimson the leaves

Mist on the hillside, Clouds grey and white

Autumn good morning, Summer good night

.....The first Women's Institute met on the 16th September 1915 on the island of Anglesey in North Wales. They were encouraged to grow, store and produce food during WW1. Today we still are making jams and pickles, but there are now 6,000 WIs with over 200,000 members, giving opportunities for education, building new skills, activities and campaigns on issues that matter to women and their communities.

As a community with a mining heritage, Highley WI has played a major part in both the history and continuing success of a traditional village atmosphere. New members are always welcome.

Any enquiries contact our secretary **Mrs Eunice Williams** on **01746 861613**

W.I. Recipe of the Month

Pickled Red Onions

1. Add finely sliced onions to a jar or covered bowl (glass preferably).
 2. In a pan combine vinegar (1/2 cup), salt (1 1/2 tsp), water (1/2 cup) , sugar (1 1/2 tbsp).
 3. Bring to simmer over medium heat, remove immediately and pour over onion, press down with back of spoon to completely immerse, sit jar at room temperature, uncovered, for 30 mins.
 4. Then cover and refrigerate for an hour before serving. They will have a stronger flavour the longer kept in the fridge (keeps for approx. 2 weeks in the fridge).
-

Have a go at Sudoku answers on page 23

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

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Easy

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

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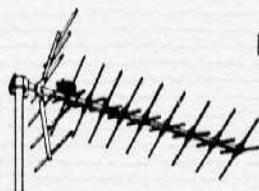
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Stepping it Out

Nipper was rather surprised to see Soapy Sam Sanders approaching him with a rather aggrieved manner. "Can you tell me who manages that new store that's just opened?" asked Sam.

"Why? Mr Hargreave, I believe," responded his friend.

"I am going to write and complain," explained Sam.

"I didn't know you had been there," said Nipper.

"Yes, they made it difficult to get in," replied Soapy.

"Difficult? I understand they have an escalator."

"I know, but it's running the wrong way. They were all coming out and I had to run quite fast and push them all to one side to get in. So I came out by the steps."

By this time, they had reached The Bay Horse and naturally went in for a pint. Nipper explained there were two escalators, one up, one down.

"Couldn't they reverse it now and then?"

As you may have noticed, Sam was not strong on reasoning.

"And are all those trying to get in, in a confused mass on the pavement, and the others in a jumbled heap on the first floor?" retorted Nipper.

"They could broadcast a warning telling them the system would reverse without warning," suggested Soapy.

"I don't think your system would help much," sighed Nipper. "Come along and I'll show you how it works."

"There you are, it's coming down," cried Sam triumphantly.

"Yes, and 10 yards up the street is the one going up."

They then stood outside the upper one.

"Now, Sam, hold tight to the hand rail and it will safely take us up," said Nipper.

Sam did exactly as he was told, gripping with both hands. When they reached the top, the handrail bent round to the floor to descend, Sam still clinging tightly.

"Let go you fool!" roared Nipper.

One old lady tripped over the recumbent Sam. After yelling in a most unladylike fashion, she bellowed, "They shouldn't allow drunks in the store."

"My friend suddenly fainted," said Nipper to the store manager who had magically appeared. He then whispered the true state of affairs to Mr Hargreave.

"Tell him the cafe's open and I have said you can have two free coffees," he suggested.

Sitting in the café, Nipper told the waitress. She smiled. "We have a fixed coffee menu and it is issued as a matter of course. Old Hargreave will never know." Rather to Sam's disgust the menu did not include beer but he munched his way through the free cake.

The next day Nipper visited the store and Hargreave beckoned him over. "Received some complaints about your friend's behaviour," he whispered. As it happened Sam was coming down the escalator, a big smile on his face.

"Seems quite normal," commented Nipper.

cont'd

..... cont'd

"Watch," counselled Hargreave.

Sam immediately left the down and dashed for the up.

"Forgotten something?" called Nipper.

"Forgotten, my foot," bawled the manager. "He has been doing it for 20 minutes."

Apologetically, our old friend grabbed Sam and escorted him to The Bay Horse. "Now just tell me what you thought you were doing?" demanded Nipper.

"Why, practising of course, to build up my confidence. I don't like these new-fangled steps.

Excavators you said they were called?"

"You were grinning all over your face like an ape," snapped Nipper.

"Yes, because I know how to use them. I'll show you how."

Nipper wisely refused this offer. "I'm sure I have enough IQ to manage that."

All Sam said was, "Your round, I think."

"There are times," sighed Nipper, "when I'm sorry we ever met."

Alan Honeybourne

Poet's Corner

Way back in 1959/60 when I started at Highley School in the village where I live, I had to walk about a mile to school and back each day, past so many shops and buildings that are no longer here today, nor are most of the shop keepers who owned them. This poem is dedicated to their memory and is entitled:

Back To School © 2017 Andrew J Jones

Up between the oak trees
And down the old lane
Then onto the ash path
Back to school again.

Back to Highley Infants
The school we went to
Through frost, rain, and snow
Arriving quite often wet through.

Over the main road
Then down past the rec.,
Past the old Welfare Hall
Now lets see, Where next ?

Oh yes! Past Whittles garage
Then past Greasy Glad's chip shop
On past Highley Garage
Then down past Lloyd's bank

Past Roger Davis, the butcher
And Curwin's bike shop
Then past Len Hasbury's
Well-stocked shoe shop.

On past Gordon's sweet shop
Past Broadbent's jewellery shop
On past Price's fruit and veg
Then past the Co-Op—that smell of fresh bread

Past Cordon's haberdashery
And Messenger's sweet shop
Past Blackham's the chemist
And the Old Bird Cage Walk.

Past those big, black railings
And those big, black gates
The entrance to school
Most kids pulled a face!

The Friday Event

We've had a very quiet year at the Friday Event. Our doors sadly had to close last March for 18 months, due to Covid.

Over the lockdown period we reached out to our youngsters with games and challenges (on Instagram) which gave us a chance to interact online and follow up with doorstep 'hellos' and giving out prizes.

We were all so happy to re-open in June. It has been so lovely to see our youngsters back. Roll on September!

The Friday Event is a church run youth club for anyone between the ages of 11-16. We run most Friday nights in term time between 7.30-9.30. Next term we hope to return to enjoying trips out, craft, Nerf wars, cooking and Mocktail nights!

Keep an eye on our Insta page for more details about what's coming up.

The picture on the front page shows Mike (Rector) on his last night helping at the Friday Event before his retirement. Mike has been a massive supporter of the Friday Event in the time he has been in Highley. Thank you, Mike, for all you have given us in the last 5 years, you will be missed!

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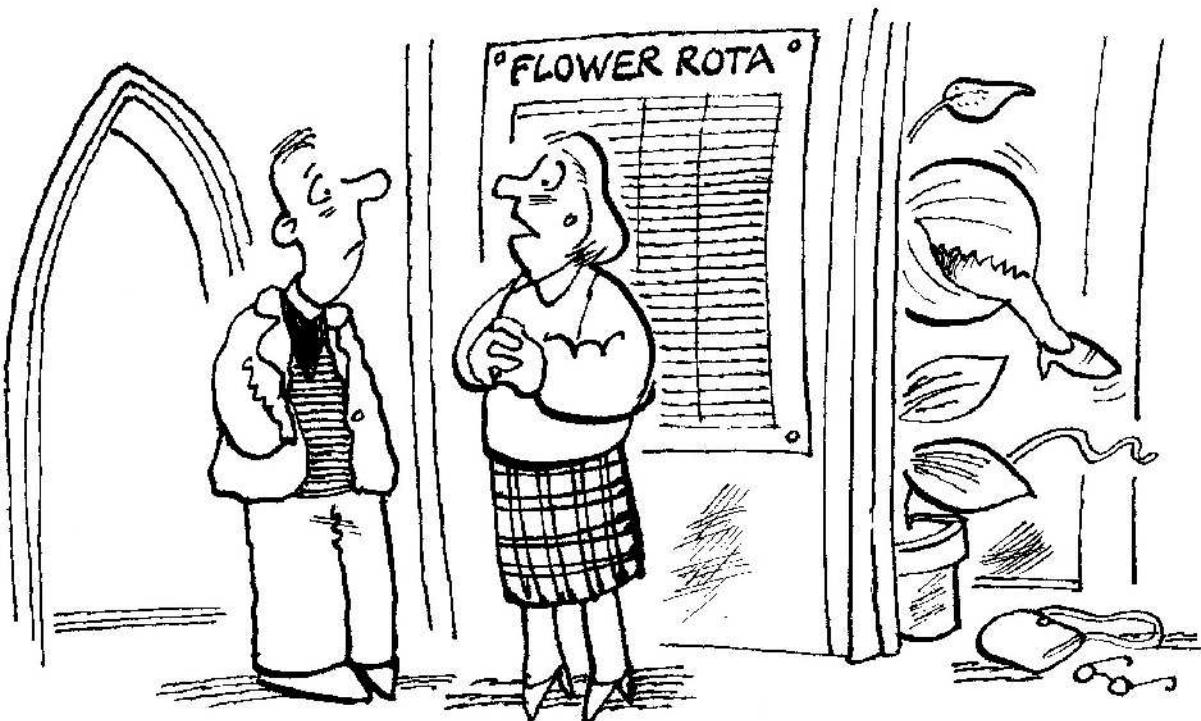
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...er Vicar, it's about that flower Mrs Brindle's brought back from her foreign holiday...

Answers to Sudoku (from page 18)

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

Easy

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

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Keep cool this summer - Emily

Buy some ice lolly moulds! If you have a glut of soft fruit in your garden this summer, you could puree them with a little water and freeze them for a treat! No plastic and no packaging! You could also make some lollies out of left over fruit juices if you have a party and haven't drunk it all.

Get painting and planting - Andy

If you are working from home, and find it's quite hot in the house, consider making some changes to your property. Carefully installed insulation will keep the heat out as well as the heat in, and on hot exterior walls, a coat of white masonry paint will reduce the temperature by a couple of degrees. Shutters reduce the heating effect of windows, and whilst some worry about the damage caused by climbing plants on properties, if they are properly managed they can create wonderful shady places, and really cool down the house. It is true that a forest can have a massive cooling effect, often by several degrees. Trees and plants offer many fantastic solutions to our climate change challenges!

Electric Transport - Frances

I love my electric bike. It makes commuting to work so much easier as I don't have to have a shower when I get to work. Using it makes the car less appealing too, as it is great to get some fresh air and exercise at the same time! I find I feel connected to nature more when I am outside, and appreciate the changes in the seasons. In response to Alastair's article, I think that the more people that cycle, the safer the roads will be!

Holiday activities - Jane

If you are struggling to keep your children occupied during the holiday, get a pair of gloves and pick up some litter. You could buy a litter picker too and pick up more! Make sure you recycle the rubbish if you can. I always take 3 bags; 1 for general rubbish, 1 for cans and plastic and 1 for paper and card.

Word for Today

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THE 'IF ONLY' TRAP

'Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant'

Ecclesiastes 11:4 New Living Translation

Author Betty Mahalik says, "In this day and age we are surrounded by messages that scream, '*My life would be perfect if only I had a different job ... house ... car nose spouse bank account (you fill in the blanks). Or if I could be like some celebrity whose life appears well-ordered and perfect.* Well, this week I stopped playing '*My life would be perfect if ...*' and started playing '*My perfect life.*'" What's the difference? Three things. 1) Being in the present. 2) An Attitude of gratitude. 3)Taking action, with what's available now. When we're caught up in the '*My life would be perfect if ...*' trap, we lose touch with the present and can no longer practise gratitude. Think about it. It's difficult to be grateful for what you don't have And what you don't have is always somewhere in '*future-ville*'.

Look around you.... Do you have a roof over your head and food to eat? A few good friends or close relationships? Then appreciate them. You're probably sitting there thinking '*Yes, but I want more money, a better relationship, more time to travel, to be thinner, happier or whatever.*' Stop focussing on what you don't have and start focussing on what you've already got. The Bible says, '*Farmers who wait for perfect weather, never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.*' If you demand perfection or nothing, you'll keep ending up with nothing. The fact that '*God made us what we are*' (*Ephesians 2:10*) means, while our best is always commendable, none of us will attain perfection this side of heaven. And that's okay, because '*Christ has clothed us in His righteousness and made us complete in Him.*' (*Colossians 2:10*)

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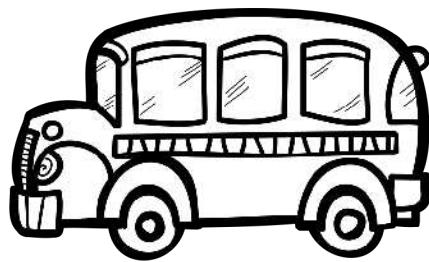
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Broadwaters Heath, Hare and Hounds, Broadwaters	—	—	08:18	—	09:25	25	15:25	16:38	17:38	18:43
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Arrive	—	07:27	08:28	08:37	09:35	35	15:35	16:48	17:48	18:53
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Depart	—	07:27	08:28	08:37	09:37	37	15:37	16:50	17:50	18:53
Kidderminster General Hospital, Kidderminster	—	07:34	—	08:44	09:44	44	15:44	16:57	17:57	
Bewdley Load Street, Bewdley	06:30	07:45	—	08:55	09:55	55	15:55	17:08	18:08	
Button Oak, Buttonoak	06:36	07:51	—	09:01	10:01	then at these mins	01	16:01	17:13	18:13
Kinlet, Kinlet	06:43	07:58	—	09:08	10:08	08	until	16:08	17:20	18:20
Highley, Highley	06:53	08:08	—	09:18	10:18	18		16:18	17:30	18:30
Highley Garden Village, Woodhill	06:56	08:13	—	09:21	10:21	21		16:21	17:33	18:33
Chelmarsh, Chelmarsh	07:00	08:18	—	09:26	10:26	26		16:26	17:38	18:38
Eardington, Eardington	07:05	08:23	—	09:31	10:31	31		16:31	17:43	18:43
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore, High Town	07:12	08:33	—	09:38	10:38	38		16:38	17:50	18:50
Bridgnorth Low Town, Low Town	07:15	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—
Stanmore Industrial Estate, Stanmore	07:22	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—

SATURDAYS with some variations - check Current Timetable from October 2020

Monday to Friday - 125 - Stanmore Industrial Estate - Stourbridge Bus Station

	* (0712)					* RS			
Stanmore Industrial Estate, Stanmore	—	07:24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bridgnorth Low Town, Low Town	—	07:32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore, High Town	—	—	08:40	40	14:40	15:45	16:45	18:05	
Eardington, Eardington	—	07:37	08:49	49	14:49	15:55	16:55	18:14	
Chelmarsh, Chelmarsh	—	07:42	08:54	54	14:54	16:00	17:00	18:18	
Highley Garden Village, Woodhill	—	07:47	08:58	58	14:58	16:05	17:05	18:23	
Highley, Highley	—	07:51	09:01	then at these mins	01	15:01	16:09	17:09	18:26
Kinlet, Kinlet	—	08:01	09:11	11	until	15:11	16:19	17:19	18:35
Button Oak, Buttonoak	—	08:08	09:19	19		15:19	16:27	17:26	18:42
Bewdley Load Street, Bewdley	—	08:15	09:25	25		15:25	16:33	17:32	18:48
Kidderminster General Hospital, Kidderminster	—	08:27	09:35	35		15:35	16:44	17:43	18:57
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Arrive	07:30	08:35	09:41	41		15:41	16:50	17:49	19:03
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Depart	07:30	08:37	09:43	43		15:43	16:52	17:50	19:03
Broadwaters Heath, Hare and Hounds, Broadwaters	07:38	08:45	09:49	49		15:49	17:00	17:58	—
Stourbridge Bus Station, Stourbridge	07:55	09:05	10:05	05		16:05	17:17	18:18	—

* (0712) service serves Sainsbury's Superstore out of normal sequence. RS - Continues to Rail station by request

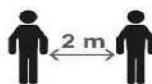
HM Government

NHS

Bus travel guidance

Stay safe

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



Look out for 'bus full' signs

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



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



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



STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES

Parish Hall Office

01746 861242

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

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

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

Star Housing

Housing Support Officer in Rhea Hall.

Contact Jan Moseley: 01746 862442

Services available:

General Drop-in: Friday 9.30am-1.30pm
Coffee Morning: Thursday 11am-12noon

Phone for more information regarding services:

Wednesdays 10.30am-12.30pm

Community Room,
73 Rhea Hall Estate,
WV16 6LD

Crossword Solution from page 15

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

Waste / Recycling Collections

Please note change in collection days:

Black bins: Fri 3rd , Thurs 16th & 30th Sept.

Crates & green bins: Thurs 9th & 23rd Sept.

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

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

Forthcoming Events

Gardening Club

Wednesday

Severn Centre

Police Surgery

Thursday

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 21st Sep

Severn Centre

Patients' Group

see Facebook page

Computer Support Sessions

see opposite

Please check

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

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS & mention HIGHLEY FORUM

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

Venue: St. Mary's Church, Highley. Contact: Yvonne 861723

Gay & Jim, 14 Church St, Highley. Tel: 861723
Moira & Ivor, 16 Church St, Highley. Tel: 861723

Gill & Alun Rees, 2 Church St, Highley. Tel: 861723

Denise Lobban, 14 Church St, Highley. Tel: 861723

Mary & David Rayner, Prestwood House,
Netherton Lane, Highley. Tel: 861723
Janette Hill, 62 Yew Tree Grove, Highley. Tel: 861723

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

A warm welcome is extended to all



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

Programme

Cancelled

until further notice

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

Out and About

John and Chris Adams of Perry and Phillips Funeral Directors held a very successful Open Day in August, inviting the village residents to come and see their new facilities at Cowley House.

Ron Whittle and his wife are pictured outside the Chapel of Rest, which has been named after the Whittle family.

A splendid buffet was offered to visitors, who were able to see 'Front of House' and also 'behind the scenes'.

John and Chris chatted to everyone as they showed them around and distributed their very helpful literature ranging from information on how to organise a funeral, useful contacts, bereavement services and practical steps to take when a loved one passes away.



Billingsley church go-ers ,
trying out their version of
'Forest Church' in the church-
yard at St Mary's.

See page 8 for more details.

Breaking news! Coffee morning at Billingsley on Saturday 9th October, to be held at Ellen McConnell's, Fairfield (bungalow immediately before Lincoln Fields, on the right coming from Bridgnorth).

There will be: Home-made produce - cakes, biscuits, jams, chutneys etc.; Lin's cards; bric-a brac table - we have loads! Also a raffle.

September 2021



Services in September

Sunday 5th September

10am St Mary's Highley Holy Communion (HC)

The Faith of a Dreamer - Revd Mike Harris

Sunday 12th September

11am St Peter's Chelmarsh Family Communion

Mike's final service, followed by lunch at Chelmarsh Club

Sunday 19th September

10am St Bartholomew's Glazeley HC

6pm St Mary's Billingsley Evening Service

Sunday 26th September

8am St Mary's Billingsley Holy Communion

10am St Peter's Chelmarsh Morning Service

11am St Mary's Highley Family Worship

Thursday 30th September

7.30pm St Peter's Chelmarsh

Chelmarsh Farmers' Harvest Service



Symbols of Harvest



Capture the flag! The last meeting of Friday Event Youth Group before finishing for the summer break. Everyone was treated to a well-deserved ice-cream at the end.

Friday Event 19:30 at the Parish Hall Term time

We are hoping to resume some meetings and groups after the Summer Break. At the moment, the following are running.

Wednesday Ladies Prayer Group

St Mary's Church, 11am –1pm weekly Wednesdays

contact Val Smith 861966 or Pat Whitefoot 861155

Wednesday Evening Home Group

contact David Poyner d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk

Bi-weekly Sunday Zoom meeting

contact Mark & Amy Williams

Next Copy Date: September 15th