

The Parish Magazine

St Mary's, Alveley ♦ St Andrew's, Quatt



MAY 2025

60p



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The Rector writes

Dear Friends

In our personal yearly planning May can seem a bit of a funny month. We have celebrated spring with all that Easter brings, holidays from school and work, perhaps meeting up with family and friends and the gardens and hedgerows with beautiful green leaves, but we haven't yet reached summer and all that holds for us. In the life of the church, May can feel usually like a month of hidden feasts. There are a number of significant festivals and feast days that we usually celebrate in May that don't get the same publicity and recognition as the bigger ones that attract not just the church's attention but the attention of the general public also. Perhaps this is because of the holidays that accompany them. When I meet people who are occasional attenders of church they might say things like, "I'm a Christmas and Easter person." Both Christmas and Easter are marvellous occasions in the church calendar as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and then reflect on his death and resurrection.

In May we think of how Jesus returned to His father in heaven after His resurrection, the festival we know of as Ascension. As it is usually celebrated on a Thursday, this year it is held on 29th May. Because Easter is so late this year two of the festivals move over into June.

We celebrate the gift of God's Holy Spirit on the feast day of Pentecost which is Sunday 8th June. This is that sense of Jesus' presence in dwelling in our lives and is promised to all who put their trust in Him. As He comes to dwell within us, He begins the process of transforming us from the inside out so that we become more and more like Him.

On 15th June, we celebrate Trinity Sunday when we think of the teaching that reflects on the nature of God. It proclaims the mysterious but glorious truth that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit in His Divine nature. It can be hard to fully understand and grasp this and I always appreciate the sense of mystery and wonder around it. It's not as though we will ever fully understand God and all His ways and His glory, but we marvel at this aspect of His character and His nature and we bow down in worship before His majesty.

Whenever faith becomes an important part of our lives, I always think there is so much to learn. It's like the more we know, the more there is to learn and discover and we can never in that sense plumb the full depths of it all. Each month and season brings fresh opportunities for learning and growth. There are little nuggets that come our way through observing these festivals and special occasions together as a worshipping community but also in our daily devotions and Bible readings, in our participation in Home Groups. We are also having a service to commemorate 80 years of V. E. Day in St Andrews at 7.00pm on Thursday 8th May. 80 years on it is so easy to forget what it was like during those terrible years of war.

Another evening, I would like to draw your attention to is in St Mary's Church
(continues on page 5)

United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

Rector	Rev. Jon Aldwinckle , The Rectory, Alveley (email: revjonaldwinckle@outlook.com)	01746 562159
Reader	Sue Chidwick , 28 Greenway Avenue, Alveley	01746 781786
Lay Pastoral Worker	Wendy Aldwinckle , The Rectory, Alveley	01746 562159
Safeguarding Officer	Jackie Hampson , South View, 23 Daddlebrook Rd	01746 780034

Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists

Deacon Becky Lovatt	01299 826641
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St. Mary The Virgin, Alveley, WV15 6ND

Churchwarden	Penny Jenkins , 34 Birch Grove, Alveley	01746 780660
ChurchWarden	Alison Pearson , Brookfield, Daddlebrook Rd, Alveley	07882 888875
Treasurer	Anne Simms , Willowell House, Quatford	01746 768955

St. Andrew's Quatt

Churchwarden	Ann Lee , 7 Brook Hollow, Bridgnorth	01746 761138
Treasurer	Steve Jones , 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster	01562 753828

From the Parish Registers

Funerals	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life.'</i>	
April 15	Helen Moreton	St. Mary's
April 28	Rosemary Hampson	Wyre Forest Crematorium
Service of Thanksgiving		
April 28	Rosemary Hampson	St. Mary's

COVER PICTURE

Red kite flying above Severn Valley Country Park
Photo by Don Bannister

For all church enquiries please visit our website

<https://www.alveleyandquattchurches>. In an emergency please call
Rev Jon Aldwinckle (01746 562159)
For Alveley burial ground enquiries call Jenny Sirrell 07484806605

Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Rector, PCCs,, Hereford Diocese, the editor or the Church of England.

(continued from page 3)

Tuesday 13th May 7.00pm when Bishop Richard and the Dean of Hereford Cathedral Sarah Brown will be joining us. Bishop Richard and Sarah will be taking questions about faith while we enjoy cheese and wine. It is a free event and I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to join us. You may be new to faith, or your faith may have lapsed, or even if you are a regular attender at church I'm sure there is something you would like to ask. Something you don't understand.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who made our Lent, Holy Week and Easter services so special. The music, the flowers, the level of engagement made me very aware of God's presence during that most holy season.

Every blessing

Rev Jon

MAY SERVICES

Duty rotas for St. Mary's are on page 20.

Sunday May 4

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

Thursday May 8

7.00 p.m. V.E. Day Service St. Andrew's

Sunday May 11

10.30 a.m. Worship For All Ages St. Mary's

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Andrew's

Wednesday May 14

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

Sunday May 18

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

Sunday May 25

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

10.30 a.m. 20-20-20 St. Mary's

4.00 p.m. Teatime Praise St. Andrew's

Wednesday May 28

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

If your magazine is delivered to you each month your annual subscription will be due with the delivery of your **JUNE** magazine. Thanks to our advertisers we are able to hold your subscription at £7. Please support our advertisers, without their support the cover price would increase dramatically. *Editor*

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

This month we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, more commonly known as VE Day . We are holding a **special village event in Quatt Village Hall on Sunday 4th May from 12- 4pm** with entertainment, an exhibition, refreshments and more. All are welcome! **On Thursday 8th May we will hold a special service in St Andrew's at 7pm.** The bells will be rung at 6.30pm and during the service the Peace Lantern will be lit - bringing light out of the dreadful darkness of war. Please come along to pay tribute to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

As I prepared to write this my thoughts turned to those who were actively engaged in the second world war. How did they feel when they heard that Winston Churchill had announced the end of war in Europe at 3pm on May 8th 1945? Elated I'm sure, but so many men did not return home for many weeks or even months. I believe that the first men repatriated were the prisoners of war. All the soldiers must have felt happy to be returning home to families and loved ones, hoping for a life as it was before the war, but sadly this would not always have been the case. Men who had lived and fought alongside their friends for so many years were suddenly home with their memories. Some never spoke of their experiences, and of course we must remember that Victory in the Far East did not happen until August 1945. When I think of my own father who sadly passed away in 2007 I wish that I had asked him more about his time in the war. He was in the RAF, although not in Europe. He wanted to be a Spitfire pilot - one of the Brylcreem boys as they were known - and passed all the exams but sadly at his medical he was told his hearing was impaired in one ear so he could not fly. He said that it had probably saved his life! Instead he was on the Air Sea Rescue launches based in Takoradi on the Gold Coast of Africa (now known as Ghana). I remember when I was young witnessing his annual recurrence of malaria. He said that they were told when on land never to walk on the outer side of the pavement as might have been expected of a gentleman. This he said was to protect them should they suddenly collapse with malaria. I also remember his close friend during the war visiting us for many years after when those days in Takoradi were often discussed and relived.

So, let us celebrate , but also let us never forget those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. *Ann Lee*

ST. ANDREW'S DUTY ROTA—PLEASE CONTACT ANN (01746 761138(IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE. ST. MARY'S ROTA IS ON PAGE 20

Date	1st Reading	2nd reading	Intercessions
May 11	Acts 9.36-43 Paula Tristham	John 10.22-30 Steve Jones	Ann Lee
May 25	John 14.23-29 Carole Hubbard		Wendy Aldwinckle

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on May 6th at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. As usual it will begin with Open Forum, your opportunity to raise any local issues that may be of concern to you. This will be the first meeting after the local elections on May 1st so there will be a number of procedural issues to go through.

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting will be held on the 14th May in the Pavilion. This is an opportunity for the voters of the parish to meet their new councillors informally over tea and coffee. The meeting will start at 6.00pm moving on to the more formal part of the meeting at 7.00pm, during which Some of our local organisations will be giving a brief update on their activities over the last year.

Isley Jakeman, Chairperson, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.

WHITTALL MEADOWS TRUST

The Trust's next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 28th May 2025** when the Trustees will be pleased to consider requests for financial support from village organisations. Applications should be made in writing or by email to:

Jan Higgins

Clerk to the Whittall Meadows Trust

11, Mallards Close, Alveley, Bridgnorth, WV15 6JL

Email: jan.higgins@btinternet.com

Applications should arrive no later than **21st May 2025**.

Applicants should be aware that the Trustees favour grants which support purchases of specific equipment or services rather than general running expenses. Applications should give full details of your project and its costs.

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to all those who took part in this year's Annual Village Quiz. Nine organisations took part in a keenly contested competition with eight rounds of questions, plus a very entertaining picture quiz. Our question master for the evening, David Voysey, also set all the questions which ranged over a wide variety of subjects. Alveley Tennis Club were very worthy winners making this the third win in four years! Second place went to the Bashful Boulders,(Petanque Club), and third place to the Old Chapel Tea Rooms. A cheque for £211, which includes £136 made on the well supported raffle, will be given to Brain Tumour Charity. *Norma Crabtree*

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt. One youngster nodded in a knowing fashion. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he confided, "and she turned into a lamp post."

MESSY CHURCH

With Easter just round the corner, the theme of Messy Church in April was of course Easter! The craft tables included making Easter baskets, beautiful collages of the three crosses on the hill at Calvary, 3D Easter eggs, and foot washing bowls [as seen at the Last Supper].

After listening to Part 1 of the Easter story (second part to follow at the Good Friday Creative morning), everyone tucked into a tasty spread of sandwiches, pizza, sausage rolls and crisps, followed up by Jenny's fabulous carrot cake (also known as donkey cake!), jelly & ice cream and fresh fruit.

The Messy Church afternoons are a time of fun, sticky fingers and great food! Come and join us at the next one on Saturday 3rd May, 3-5pm.

Everyone is welcome; all children under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Alison Pearson

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

V.E. Day event, May 4th. Quatt Parish Council is looking to bring the community together for a VE celebration on Sunday 4th May 2025. As part of that Mathew Purchase of Quatt Village Hall is putting together an exhibition of war time and farming memorabilia of that period. If anyone would like to share their family history contact Mat on 07368800786 or email on spitfire-hangar@email.com

May 10. Attila the Stockbroker and Barnstormer. Attila's current solo performance comprises fiery, satirical, political and personal spoken word, dub poetry, acoustic songs and early music punk on ancient instruments. He really doesn't sound like anything else. 7.30pm start. Tickets £12, available from Quatt Farm Shop. *Steph Hinton*



Our next Film Night will be on Friday May 16th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Entry is £5 to include refreshments.

If you would like further information please phone Carol Hatfield (780576) or Una Coombs (780568). We look forward to seeing you.

Ian Maddock

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

We are pleased to say the Boat Play area has now re-opened. The area is covered by an all-weather matting which is very springy underfoot. The boat has remained but all the surrounding pieces of equipment have been replaced as well as a couple of new pieces being added. The whole area is enclosed by a fence and we have added a number of wheelchair accessible picnic tables. It re-opened at the start of the Easter Holidays and it is lovely to see children using it again. We hope you can come down and see it soon. Next step is to get the basket swing on the sand pit play area reinstated.

We have just booked Rain or Shine Theatre Company for a summer performance. This year they are performing Sherdian's The Rivals. Set in 18th century Bath, it will be an evening of comic confusion, daring duels and romantic entanglements. Tickets are on sale now for the show on 8th August.

During May, the café and visitor centre will be open Wednesday to Sunday. Then, it will be open every day during May Half Term (Sat 24th May to Sun 1st June). Half term sees the start of GeoFest 2025. We'll kick off with a Rock and Fossil Hunt on Wednesday 28th May (11am-12.30pm, £4.50 per child, accompanying adults free) and a Geology themed free craft drop-in on Friday 30th May (11am-12.30pm).

The Severn Valley Country Park calendar competition draws to a close on 31st May. We're looking forward to seeing the summer entries. The winning photos we have at the moment are already making a lovely calendar. On Sunday 1st June, that team behind the competition will be on site taking pet photos again. They will be making use of the park in full bloom during the summer. Any donations for the pet photos will help fund projects around the park. The team will be here from 11am. We will also have a number of craft stalls in the visitor centre.

Susie Comaish, Visitor Centre Manager, Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley

ACOUSTIC EVENING

Back by popular demand! This year, on Saturday May 24th, we are raising money for M.E research. Please join us at Alveley Village Hall for an evening of music and entertainment by local musicians. Tickets are £7, available from Rob 07485426802 or on the door. Please bring your own refreshments. I hope to see you there. 7.30pm.

Rob Howells

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

Don't miss our FREE ADULT TENNIS COACHING on two Friday Evenings!
Fridays 16th and 23rd May for members and non members 6.20pm to 7pm
for coaching and afterwards people can stay and play on all 3 tennis courts.
Book your place now by ringing tennis coach Jack Fletcher on 07496 177385
or email Jack.fletcher.1302@gmail.com

Congratulations to new Chairman of Alveley Tennis Club Ben Spicer of
Bridgnorth. All his family, mum Fran, dad Julian and sister Mary are club
members. Since his appointment at our AGM on March 26th Ben has been
busy representing Alveley Tennis Club in a weekly Friday morning quiz on BBC
Radio Shropshire where he has won two weeks in a row knocking out Clee Hill
Rugby Club and Shrewsbury Town FC. Ben was a Finalist on television's
'Mastermind'.

With the fine weather with us membership is increasing by the week. Don't
forget –join NOW and get the month of May Free !

We have 3 all weather floodlit tennis courts and you can play 7 days/evenings
a week.

Rusty Racquets is available for adults who have never played or need some
practice . There are junior sessions and one to one coaching available .

TENNIS MIXING SESSIONS Mondays (gents 7-9pm, under floodlights).

Tuesdays (afternoons ladies/gents 1-3pm).

Saturdays (mornings ladies /gents) 10-12 noon.

For further info contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488 or Jan Higgins on
01746 780259 or email Jan.higgins@btinternet.com

Brian Davies

*A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was
the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely
was a surgical operation."*

*"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos,
and that was an architectural job."*

*"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos
first!"*

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Amidst the constant stream of negative news on television, it's important to recognise that there are also positive developments taking place around us. European universities are offering "scientific asylum" to US researchers exiting the US due to Donald Trump's restrictions on academia, potentially benefiting institutions like the University of York as they attract talent from renowned organisations such as NASA. In education, a new GCSE in natural history will help young people learn about the climate crisis, sustainability, and the natural environment, empowering them to protect nature both locally and globally.

The Sustainable Markets Initiative, founded by King Charles, has launched the 'Routes to Regen' project, an innovative farm pilot scheme, to assist farmers in adopting regenerative practices, such as no-till farming and planting cover crops to attract pollinators.

The Western Forest, the first national forest in three decades, and supported by £7.5 million from DEFRA, will see 2,500 hectares (just over 6,000 acres) planted with trees. This initiative, led by the Forest of Avon, aims to revitalise existing woodlands and integrate trees into agricultural landscapes to enhance soil health and flood protection.

Over 40% of the world's electricity came from clean energy sources last year, setting a new record, according to a report by the think tank Ember. This is mostly due to the rise in solar generation, which has doubled in just three years. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, ambitious climate action could boost global growth by an amount equivalent to Sweden's GDP by 2040, compared to maintaining current policies.

United Nations International Days celebrate and inform people of different issues. Starting on 2nd May is World Tuna Day, to raise awareness of a fish that is threatened by overwhelming demand. On 10th May World Migratory Bird Day will focus on creating bird-friendly cities and communities. 20th May is designated as World Bee Day; bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies and bats, are increasingly threatened by human actions, despite being essential for thriving ecosystems. The government plans to reduce pesticide use on farms by 10% by 2030 to help safeguard them.

We also rely on healthy environments for essentials like water, food, and energy, so it's crucial to halt and reverse nature loss. The International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May, is urging everyone to take action in protecting biodiversity. Lastly, 30th May celebrates the humble potato, a vital and versatile climate-friendly crop with over 5,000 varieties offering genetic diversity to adapt to environmental changes and enhance food security.

Kath Norgrove

OUR SAXON VILLAGE

When the Romans left Britain in around 410 AD the Anglo-Saxons from regions in Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands gradually started to migrate here. They did not adopt the Roman model of a villa with its industry and organised agriculture. They actually treated Roman buildings as a no cost, self help building materials supply centre. Bring your own transport. Most English villages can trace their origins to the Anglo-Saxons and not the Romans, including Alveley. The Anglo-Saxon preferred to own his land and farmed it in association with his fellow villagers. They would have lived in small wooden rectangular houses with thatched roofs that would be clustered around the church and surrounded by the fields they farmed. Each farmer would have several strips of land scattered around the area so that no one farmer had all the best ground. The Anglo-Saxons were not great recorders of their history or everyday life and as they were mostly builders in wood very little has survived for archaeologists to find. There are the Anglo-Saxon chronicles but they mostly deal with the legitimacy of the king. There is the epic poem 'Beowulf' written in the 10th century which describes Anglo-Saxon Kings of the 5th and 6th century and their culture. If you can, read the translation by the Nobel prize winner Seamus Heaney. And then a little bit of luck, depending on your point of view! The Normans invaded. They sent out their clerks (scriveners) to record everything in the land they had conquered including Alveley which was then in Staffordshire. Apparently in the Domesday book Romsley is mentioned in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire!

As if that wasn't enough they also produced a comic strip of their exploits. This is called the Bayeux Tapestry - although it is not a tapestry, it is actually an embroidery on a linen background and it was not made in Bayeux in France but in Kent, probably by nuns. However, we get lots of pictures, some of which show what Anglo-Saxon life was like. Horses were not big, about the size of a Welsh cob, and were used for riding or pulling a cart. Cattle, also smaller than today's breeds, were used for meat and milk and as draft animals, pulling a plough or harrows. The plough had a wheel, called a Coulter, to stop the blade from going in too deep and allowing the plough share to turn the soil over burying any weeds. The sheep were also smaller than today's and kept for meat and wool. Most houses would have had a loom for weaving cloth.

Pigs were used for meat and also put into the fields where they would eat

weeds and root in the soil to help break it up ready for the plough. In the huge forest surrounding our village pigs would have been allowed in to eat beech mast and acorns, this was called pannage. Wild pigs would have been hunted along with deer. The Normans and Saxon lords loved to hunt and chase quarry (think Cannock Chase) and they liked to keep it for themselves. Think of two towns near Alveley - Oldswinford (old swine ford) and Kingswinford (King's swine ford).

Wheat was grown for bread making and milled locally. (The old mill at Birds Green?) Oats were grown for porridge and barley was for making ale which was drunk by everybody, especially if the water source was doubtful. Children were given a watered down ale. Fruit and nuts were gathered from the forest and fruit trees were planted on the edge of a forest. Peas, beans, leeks, carrots, onions, turnips and cabbages were grown but not potatoes. They were introduced from America in 1589 by Sir Walter Raleigh. So no village potato merchant but the name 'Head' originates from 'Chief' or 'Headman' so all is not lost Tony.

In the decades leading up to the conquest in 1066 our village would have been a small isolated rural community. It was changing from paganism and the following of events closely aligned to the agricultural year, such as the winter and summer solstices and the equinoxes, to a Christian community following the ten commandments and the teachings of Jesus, best explained by the beatitudes and the sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 5-7)

Pagan shrines became churches, magic water became holy water and pagan gods were turned into Christian saints. Our priest was probably trained in the monastery at Much Wenlock and would have visited the sick and provided pastoral care as well as officiating in the church.

So finally, no going to Londis if you run out of milk or to Alan at the Chinese if you didn't fancy cooking. You had to milk the cow every day (no fridges then) and collect sticks for the fire to cook and keep warm. But Anglo Saxons weren't just rustics scraping a living and prey to the weather or poor harvests or marauding Vikings. They produced some of the finest jewellery and metal work known and a visit to Sutton Hoo or the British museum is well worth the effort. *Roy Page*

My inferiority complex is not as good as yours. - Anon

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

Women's Softball Cricket - Starts Thursday 1st May at 6:30pm Our women's softball cricket sessions are back and open to players of all abilities. It's a fantastic way to stay active, socialise, and have fun in a relaxed environment.

Family Fridays - Start Friday 2nd May at 6:30pm Our popular 'Family Fridays' will be back throughout the summer. These evenings will feature cricket and multi-sport activities for children and families, providing a fantastic opportunity to get active, have fun, and meet new friends in a welcoming environment.

Race Night - Friday 16th May Join us for an evening of excitement and entertainment at our Race Night. It's a fantastic social event with plenty of chances to win, and all proceeds go towards supporting the club.

Richard Twigg

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB FIXTURES MAY & JUNE 2025

- Sat May 3 1st XI v Stourbridge 3rd XI (H) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Enville 2nd XI (A) 12.30pm
- Wed** May 7 Midweek XI v Wyre Forest (H) 6.15pm (T 20 Midweek Cup)
- Sat May 10 1st XI v Claverley (A) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Stone (H) 12.30pm
- Wed** May 14 Midweek XI v Stone (H) 6.30pm (T 20)
- Sat May 17 1st XI v Bromsgrove 3rd XI (H) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Halesowen 4th XI (A) 12.30pm
- Wed** May 21 XI v Oldswinford (A) 6.30pm (T 20)
- Sat May 24 1st XI v Belbroughton 2nd XI (A) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Romsley & Hunnington 2nd XI (H) 12.30pm
- Wed** May 28 Midweek XI v West Hagley (H) 6.30pm (T 20)
- Sat May 31 1st XI v Hanley Castle & Upton 1st XI (H) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Netherton 3rd XI (A) 12.30pm
- Wed** June 4 Midweek XI v Kinver (H) 6.30pm (T 20)
- Sat June 7 1st XI v Kidderminster 3rd XI (A) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Lye 3rd XI (H) 12.30pm
- Sat June 14 1st XI v Burghill, Tillington & Weobley 2nd XI (H) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Alvechurch & Hopwood (A) 12.30pm
- Wed** June 18 Midweek XI v Horn & Trumpet (A) 6.30pm
- Sat June 21 1st XI v Cookhill 1st XI (H) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Stourbridge 4th XI (A) 12.30pm
- Wed** June 25 Midweek XI v Stone (A) 6.30pm
- Sat June 28 1st XI v Colwall (A) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Stourport-on-Severn 3rd XI (H) 12.30pm

Dementia 'Drop In' and Older Person's Support Service

Jo Weaver Jackson (Dementia Care Co-ordinator) and Louise Linning (Health and Wellbeing Coach) will be available from
10am until midday on the fourth Wednesday of every month at:



**Number Seven
 West Castle Street
 Bridgnorth
 WV16 4AB**



This is a drop in service to provide help and advice to anyone diagnosed with or caring for someone with Dementia, or for those seeking support or help with activities of daily living due to age.

Jo Weaver-Jackson
 Telephone: 01746 551137
 Email: joanna.weaver-jackson@nhs.net

Louise Linning
 Telephone: 01746 551127
 Email: louise.linning2@nhs.net

Bridgnorth & Highway HF, Broseley PF, Hunt-Watson & Chesley PF, Leighton PF, Oak-Price PF, Moxley HF, (Dorothy) Merton PF, Nessing PF



Be Café

**Bereavement Café
 meets at The Old Chapel
 every 3rd Monday afternoon of the month
 2pm until 4pm**

Our next meeting will be 19th May

This is a safe space for those who need to chat and an opportunity to meet others and share experiences of your loss
 Our aim is to listen over a cup of tea and cake



What we can offer: a safe space, to listen, opportunity to get out of the house for a while, bereavement literature, memory craft ideas to remember your loved ones, prayer if required

The café is run by the ladies of St Mary's Church
 There is no cost or admission

You will be assured of a warm and comforting welcome

St Mary's Church, Alveley

Saturday May 3rd

3pm – 5pm

Crafts

Worship



Games

Food

Family Fun

FREE TO ATTEND

Young people under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult

Old Chapel Community Centre

welcomes the village to an

Open Afternoon on

Sunday 11th May 2025

at 3.00pm

Come and visit the

Old Chapel Community Centre

to sample a cream tea and see what is on offer for the community.





F R E E !

Pet Photography Shoot in the Park



Local Crafts will be on Sale

Sunday 1st June 2025 11am - 3pm

At the Visitor Centre



Images available for a donation towards fundraising
for the 2026 Country Park Four Seasons Calendar

To obtain a digital image of your pet
(or make a donation to the community page of the calendar)
follow the Just Giving link on the Facebook page.



Severn Valley Country Park Calendar Competition

www.svcpcalendarcomp.com



THROUGH THE RECTORY WINDOW

As I write this the sun is shining and the sky is a rich cornflower blue and so big and bold it seems to go on forever with no white fluffy cloud imperfections at all.

Which got me thinking how small we can sometimes feel in the great scheme of things.

As I have shared before in previous missives, I love to read and know that I can journey across continents, up hill and down dale, from countryside to the busiest cities in the world, just in my armchair with a cup of tea, and yes, a slice of cake!

I am always looking therefore for the next good read and whilst at The Old Chapel this week I found on the shelf an autobiography entitled High Hopes by the wonderful comedian Ronnie Corbett, who sadly died in 2016. However just seeing the cover page gave me the inspiration to write this piece.

Finding this book brought back many happy family memories of watching The Two Ronnies television shows, with the news reports and a personal favourite - the song and dance routines usually at the end, where the costumes and the songs were thoroughly enjoyed and brought much laughter and happiness to us all.

Ronnie Corbett was not very tall - approximately 5ft 1inch. He always made me laugh when he did his monologue joke routine sitting in his huge armchair, I am only 5ft 1½ inches so can relate to being insignificant in height, especially when I need to reach the top shelf in the kitchen or even the supermarket.

Some of God's creations may be small but not necessarily insignificant, like the stars in the sky small to the eye unless magnified by a telescope or the finest shoot of a spring bulb as it starts to enter into the world to bring us its magnificence in colour and scent. The tiniest flower like the snowdrop or the Tete-a-tete daffodils have competition from the bigger and blowsier blooms later in the year like the peony or the rose.

Creation brings new life sometimes from the tiniest of seeds which if nurtured and cared for with love will flourish and come to full bloom.

This may be a new-born baby, fledgling plants in the vegetable garden, a new laid egg which becomes a little chick, a new -born lamb, or our faith in Jesus.

Many things seem certain to us and can happen regardless but the growing of our faith needs love, nurture, coaxing and learning and a willingness on our part to find out more .

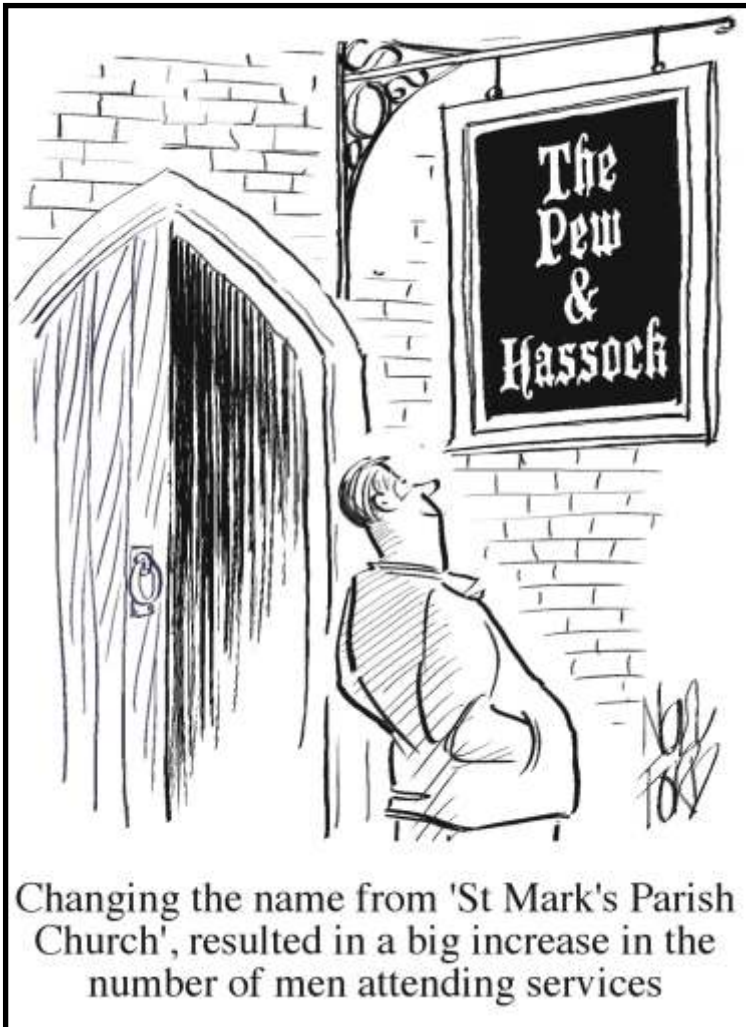
It also gives us something to hold onto in those difficult life altering moments when insignificance can play a huge part in our decision making and emotional wellbeing.

So, as I leave you this time maybe there is a seed of faith in you which may need love and nurture to make it grow into something bigger and more significant.

I never thought Ronnie Corbett, the beauty of tete-a-tete daffodils and seeds of faith would ever appear together in the same article!

May your seed of faith in Jesus grow bigger and stronger, until next time...

Wendy Aldwinckle



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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA MAY 2025

Please ring the churchwarden (see page 4) if you are unable to carry out your duty.

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions	Chalice	Welcomers	Refreshments
May 4	Acts 9: 1-6. Paul Walford	John 21: 1-19. Kirsty Ritzenhaler	Jackie Campbell	Sue Chidwick Alison Pearson	Dale Chidwick Carol Wall	Anne Simms Jenny Sirrell
May 11	John 10: 22-30. Sue Chidwick				Pat Haw Colin Taylor	Alison & Keith Pearson
May 18	Acts 11: 1-18 David Hampson	John 13: 31-35. James Woolley	Keith Pearson	Jenny Sirrell Carol Wall	David & Jackie Hampson	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
May 25	John 14.23-29 Colin Taylor				Alison & Keith Pearson	Sally Page, Pat Haw, Lynn Madden, Jenny Sirrell, David & Jackie Hampson

DIARY 2025

- May 1** Women's Softball Cricket starts, Alveley Cricket Club (p 14)
- 2 Family Fridays at Alveley Cricket Club starts, 6.30pm (p 14)
- 3 Messy Church, St. Mary's, 3pm-5pm (p 8, 15)
- 4 80th anniversary of VE Day tea party, Quatt Village Hall, 2pm-4pm (p 6,8)
- 6 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum , 7.30pm Pavilion (p 7)
- 8 V.E. Day service and Lighting Lantern of Peace, St. Andrew's, 7pm (p 6)
- 9 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel 10.30am-12.30pm
- 10 Attila the Stockbroker band Barnstormer 1649, Quatt V. Hall, 7.30pm(p 9)
- 11 Open Afternoon & cream tea, Old Chapel Community Centre, 3pm (p 16)
- 12 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 10)
- 14 Annual Parish Meeting, coffee 6pm, meeting 7pm, Pavilion (p 7)
- 16 Race Night, Alveley Cricket Club (p 14)
- 16 Alveley Entertainers' Film Night, Village Hall 7.30pm (p 8)
- 16 Free tennis coaching, Alveley Tennis Club (p 10)
- 19 Be Café, Old Chapel, 2pm-4pm (p 15)
- 23 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel 10.30am-12.30pm
- 23 Free tennis coaching, Alveley Tennis Club (p 10)
- 24 Acoustic Evening, Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 9)
- 28 Rock & fossil hunt, S.V.C.P., 11am-12.30pm (p 9)
- 29 Geology themed free drop-in craft, S.V.C.P. 11am-12.30pm (p 9)
- June 1** Pets being photographed, S.V.C.P. from 11am-3pm (p 9,17)

ALL IN THE MONTH OF MAY

1300 years ago, on 26th May 725 the Venerable Bede died. This English Benedictine monk, historian, linguist, translator and teacher is known as ‘the father of English history’. He helped to popularise the idea of dating years from the birth of Christ (*Anno Domini* – AD)

200 years ago, on 7th May 1825, Antonio Salieri died. An Italian composer, he helped to develop operas and taught composers including Liszt, Schubert, Beethoven and Mozart. He was rumoured to have poisoned Mozart, but this was later proven to be false.

150 years ago, on 1st May 1875 Alexandra Palace in London was officially opened. It became the home of BBC television in 1935.

125 years ago, on 17th May 1900 during the Second Boer War, the 217-day Siege of Mafeking was relieved by 2000 British forces and South African volunteers. Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, who led the forces defending Mafeking during the siege, became a national hero, and later founded the Scouting movement.

90 years ago, on 19th May 1935 T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) died in a motorcycle accident, aged 46. A British Army officer, military strategist, archaeologist and writer, he is best known for his activities in the Middle East during WW1.

Also 90 years ago, on 25th May 1935 Sir Frank Watson Dyson, British Astronomer Royal (1910-33) died. He introduced the Greenwich time signal (the ‘pips’) and also, helped to prove Einstein’s theory of general relativity.

80 years ago, on 1st May 1945 German radio announced the death of Adolf Hitler. It was reported he had died a hero’s death fighting, but in fact he had committed suicide.

Also 80 years ago, on 8th May 1945 VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of WW2. It was celebrated as a public holiday.

75 years ago, on 13th May 1950 the first Formula One World Championship race was held, at Silverstone. (Also known as the 1950 British Grand Prix.)

40 years ago, on 29th May 1985 the Heysel Stadium Disaster took place in Brussels. 39 football fans were crushed to death during rioting at the European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus.

30 years ago, on 13th May 1995 British mountaineer Alison Hargreaves became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest unaided (without bottled oxygen or Sherpas.) She died later that year, in August, in a storm, while attempting to climb K2.

10 years ago, on 22nd May 2015, the Republic of Ireland became the first country to hold a referendum on whether same-sex marriage should be legalised. It voted to approve, and same-sex marriage became legal in Ireland from that November.



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Alveley Bellringers	Roy Page		07704 362285
Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper		780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg		780437
Alveley Day Centre	Sue Taylor 07973 343491		
	Angela Lander 07952 172691	Pat Bowyer 07964 377840	
Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock		780936
Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill		780794
Alveley Historical Society	Lorraine Heath		07970 637727
Alveley Ladies' Guild	Barbara Spragg 780200	Kath Bishop	780707
Alveley Mining Heritage	Andrea Edwards		862064
Alveley Old Chapel			07777624664
Alveley Parish Council/Street Lights	Steve Kerry		07711788782
Alveley Patient Group	Chris Noble		780715
Alveley Pétanque Club	David Voysey		780356
Alveley Rec Assn/Pavilion	Margaret Shaw		780459
Alveley School	Mr. P. O'Malley		780284
Alveley Tennis Club	Roger Whitworth		07946 094488
Alveley Village Band	Harry Jones		07747 612318
Alveley Village Hall	Norma Crabtree		780478
Alveley Village Hall bookings	Carol Hatfield		780576
Arden Allotments Association	Debbie Walker		07484 238616
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Chapel Crafters	Angela Lander 07952172691	Jenny Sirrell	07484806605
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Friends of Alveley School	Sarah Carr		780284
Howard Thompson Bequest	Jackie Hampson		780034
Music in St. Mary's	Andrew Crabtree		780478
Quatt Cricket Club	Jim Williamson		07790 033662
Quatt Malvern Parish Council	Bill Griffiths		766941
Quatt Village Hall bookings	Steph Hinton		781214
St. Mary's Choir	Brenda York		780144
St. Mary's Flowers	Wendy Aldwinckle		562159
Severn Park Ranger	Guy Border		781192
Squirrel Bowling Club	Roger Ford		780413
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Whittall Meadows Trust	Jan Higgins		780259

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

I was recently asked if I would agree to be named as a referee on job applications, the gentleman concerned sadly having been made redundant with the closure of a business due to ill-health. I know the potential job applicant quite well, having been a client for about twenty-five years and always getting impeccable products and service. I do hope he is successful before too long.

This reminded me of a my own job applications over the years, one of which sticks in my memory, probably for all the wrong reasons. At the time I was a Head of Department and the the interview in question was for the post of Deputy Headteacher.

The interview was at a Yorkshire Church of England High School and so I stayed over with one of the Head Gardener's aunts in Halifax.

The interview panel consisted largely of gentlemen in dog collars. That interview seemed to be going quite well until one of the reverend gentlemen asked a question I will remember word for word till my dying day: 'If you knew that this time tomorrow you would be dead, what would you be doing now?'

My answer was both spontaneous and truthful: ' I don't know, but I certainly wouldn't be sitting here answering silly questions.'

You won't be surprised to learn that I was not offered that post - it went to a candidate also wearing a clerical collar.

I would love to know how he answered that question!

Ian

Please send items for **June** edition by the morning of **Friday May 16th** to the editor (email ianmaddock@btinternet.com or phone 01746 780936). For advertising please contact David Hampson (telephone 01746 780034 or email david.hampson2025@gmail.com)



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