

The Parish Magazine

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



SEPTEMBER 2025

60p



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The Rector writes

Dear Friends,

However good the holiday is ... however good the time away ... it is always lovely to unlock your front door and go into your home after a holiday. You are welcomed by the musty smell of the closed and waiting home ... the silence of familiarity ... the thankful feeling of having arrived at long last. You can throw yourself onto the settee and let out a big sigh as you think, "It's lovely to be back home!"

We all feel most comfortable in our homes. There is a natural ease, a sense of belonging, a distinct sense of freedom that being in our home brings. We live there with an awareness of acceptance which is different from being in other places where we know instinctively we don't belong.

And what we experience in our physical life we also know in our spirituality. This life, this earth is not our permanent home. It is a place where we can experience great joy ... but also the petty tendencies and desires of mind and body. It is a place of wonders and adventure ... but also one of challenge and difficulty. And we humans, from an early age, instinctively want to look beyond, to delve deeper and to search. We know deep within there is something more, something missing. St Augustine of Hippo says, *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."*

Yes, God is our home. God is our eternal home both now and in the future. It is only in and through a relationship with God that we can find that space where we can kick off our shoes, drop all pretensions and wallow in the feeling and freedom of being unconditionally loved and completely accepted for who we are. We are made for God and we come from God. And we will return to God.

So, wherever we have travelled this summer, whatever sights we may have seen, it is good to be back in our earthly homes and with each other as the year journeys on. We are very blessed to have this community and it is good to know we don't walk alone.

September always feels like the beginning of the year for me – new term, new initiatives, and the start of a season where we look to what's coming up in the Autumn; a change of gear as we look forward to Harvest, Remembrance, our weekend retreat and Christmas!

Harvest this year will be held on October 5th in St Mary's and October 12th in St Andrew's.

In October we are going to start Men's Breakfast again. It will be a

Continued 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 Register

Baptism	<i>We welcome you</i>	
August 10	Darcie Brown	St. Mary's
August 24	Noah Williams	St. Mary's

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

COVER PICTURE

Hare in stubble.

Photo by Sally Neville

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

The Rector writes Continued

place where the men of the villages can come together, to eat a hearty breakfast, to build relationships and to learn a little from speakers about the lives they have led. It will be held on the third Saturday of the month starting on October 18th at 8.30am in the Old Chapel Community Centre (formally Alveley Old Chapel). If you are interested please put the date in your diary. If you would like to know more please contact me.

Our lives are governed by the seasons, perhaps not in the way they once were, but we still have personal seasons of intense busyness with young families, work, rest and play with times of great joy, sadness and change.

Whatever season you find yourself in, know that you do not walk it alone. We have a loving Father who, as the quote reminds us, *'How cool is it that the same God who created mountains and oceans and galaxies, looked at you and thought the world needed one of you too'*. You are loved and valued beyond measure whatever season you find yourself in.

Every blessing,

Rev Jon

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

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

Sunday September 7

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Wednesday September 10

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Sunday September 14

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Andrew's
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10.30 a.m.	Worship 4 All Ages	St. Mary's
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Sunday September 21

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Wednesday September 24

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Sunday September 28

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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10.30 a.m.	20/20/20	St. Mary's
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4.00 p.m.	Teatime Praise	St. Andrew's
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HOWARD THOMPSON BEQUEST

The Howard Thompson Bequest donates funds to local organisations (not individuals) for promoting Christian faith, education and training. The Trustees are pleased to have been able to support a number of local groups over the last year. **The trustees favourably consider grant requests for one-off projects rather than general running costs of clubs and groups.**

This is a benevolent fund dedicated to supporting local organisations and voluntary groups. The trustees are happy to receive applications for grants from eligible groups.

Please put your application in writing to Jackie Hampson at:

howardthompsonbf@gmail.com

Applications need to be received by Wednesday 1st October 2025 when they will be considered by the Trustees.

Jackie Hampson

ALVELEY CHARITY

Our remit is to provide relief for members of Alveley & Romsley Parishes, by making grants to reduce either need, hardship or distress.

Having absorbed an educational charity in the past, we also consider Educational assistance grants which are typically considered in our autumnal meeting.

For grant applications, you can contact me, Daryl Cooper by phone (01746-780378) or by email: alveleycharities@gmail.com, and I can advise on next steps.

Daryl Cooper

NEW LIFE NEPAL SUPPORT TRUST

Please join us at our AGM on 6 September 2025 at 12.00

Venue: Community Centre St Paul's Church
Hereford HR1 1RT

Coffee and cake will be served at the beginning
and we'll finish at 1pm.

New Life Nepal Trustees

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

At the risk of stating the obvious, what a wonderfully warm August it has been. Not so many years ago I would have been out sunning myself as much as I could but now I have come to my senses and limit the time I sit out in the garden. It has also brought back many happy memories of spending hot summers in France. I soon realised that if I wanted to grow pretty flowers on the terrace over there it had to be geraniums as they tolerate the heat far better. I used to take runner bean plants over much to the amusement of our French neighbour. Sadly they never thrived. It was either the heat or the French soil that they didn't like so eventually I succumbed to the French beans!

This morning my lawn is covered in birds who sadly look somewhat malnourished and they are eagerly trying to find insects. The farmer in the field behind my house was feeding the sheep last night, something which is unheard of normally at this time of year. The grass is virtually non-existent and the stream at the end of my garden has almost dried up. I have not been using a hosepipe to water my plants - instead, when I run the tap to get hot water I save the cold and pop it into a container, likewise when I refill the kettle or have water left in a glass - it all goes into a watering can so that I do not waste this precious commodity! It has been great not needing to have the heating on and my smart meter tells me that my bill will be much lower this month.

We will be planning our winter activities this month and an advance date for your diary is our Harvest Festival and meal on Sunday 12th October. We look forward to seeing you and please let me know if you wish to stay for the hot lunch and any dietary requirements.

Enjoy the final weeks of summer.

Ann Lee

ST. ANDREW'S DUTY ROTA

Please let Ann know if you are not available on these dates.

Date	1st Reading	2nd reading	Intercessions
September 14	Jeremiah 18.1-11 Carole Hubbard	Luke 14.25-33 Steve Jones	Ann Lee
September 28	Luke 16.19-31 Yvonne Miles		Wendy Aldwinckle

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 20th September:

"Mettle" is a new play which celebrates and commemorates the true story of a man and those who served with him on one of the most infamous Atlantic convoys of World War Two.

November 1942

HMS Vanessa is detached from Convoy HX213 to join Convoy SC107. The convoy is attacked by a wolfpack of U-boats - over 4 days they sink 15 ships. It is the heaviest loss of ships from any trans-Atlantic convoy through the winter of 1942-43.

Gordon Collett is 19, from Sheffield - the city of steel. Determined to join the fight against the advancing forces of fascism, he volunteers for the Royal Navy in February 1940. He serves on HMS Vanessa and in November 1942 they are sent to escort Convoy SC107.

£12 per person Starts at 7.30pm

Refreshments to purchase. Please bring your own drinks

Saturday 27th September

Joe Bayliss with Mike Seal.

21st century folk -inspired music from Joe Bayliss.

Influenced by John Martyn, Damien Rice and Nick Drake, Joe is really at home interacting with his audience.

By his own words...

"the oldest – 'new kid on the block' in the folk world in the last 12 years", he brings a life's experience, portrayed in a contemporary way, weaving humorous back-stories with sensitive, thought provoking songs, soothing melodies and imaginative metaphors that intersperse, carefully crafted lyrical pictures. He can have you laughing at the introduction and crying three minutes later from the beauty of an emotional experience.

A singer songwriter who absolutely writes and performs from the soul.

£12 per person Starts at 8pm.

Refreshments to purchase. Please bring your own drinks.

Tickets for both events available online or at Quatt Farm Shop.

Steph Hinton

A clergyman bought a new car that sported an on-board computer. On Sunday morning he got into the car to drive to church, and the digital display lit up. Glancing at the readout, he chuckled at the announcement: "Time for service."

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

We are delighted to welcome **Ropetackle Storytellers to the Village Hall on Saturday 25th October with their stage adaptation of 'Jekyll & Hyde.'** This classic horror story, originally written by Robert Louis Stevenson, explores the hidden dark side within us all through the character of Doctor Jekyll, a scientist on a dangerous quest to separate the good and evil sides of his nature.

"Utterson, the lawyer, has a strange case on his hands. One involving blackmail, murder and his close friend Doctor Henry Jekyll. Through interviews, overheard conversations and confessions, Utterson uncovers the grisly facts that link the celebrated doctor to the monstrous Mr Hyde. But in this unbelievable story, what can possibly be the truth?"

The performance will start at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12 adult and £6 child. Please ring Norma on 01746 780478 or call in at the Londis where they will be on sale. Please bring your own interval drinks.

Looking ahead to Saturday 14th March 2026 when **Canadian folk singers Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell** will be performing their unique blend of styles and genres of music at the village hall. 'Their showmanship, drenched in tall tales and comic touches is sure to keep all audiences entertained. They excite, enchant, inspire, comfort, and spread love and joy to all those that hear them'. Wow, certainly something to look forward to thanks to the very worthy Arts Alive who subsidise and bring professional entertainment to rural communities like ours.



Our next film night will be on Friday 19th September in Alveley Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Entry is £5 to include refreshments. For more information please contact Carol Hatfield (780576) or Una Coombs (780568).

We hope to see you.

Ian Maddock

While shopping at the mall, my husband and I became separated. I went out to the car, but realised I didn't have the keys. So, I went back into the store to look for him.

The woman in charge of the carts smiled knowingly. "Finished before your husband I see," she said. "Well, I have three men waiting over there on the bench... take one of them. It should all work out even at the end of the day."

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

We have completed the refurbishment of the floodlights to all 3 tennis courts and fixed a minor problem with the control gear. Alveley Tennis Club can look forward to playing all year round using our excellent floodlights on our brilliant courts. You can play tennis any day, morning, afternoon, evening and on our 2 new Pickleball courts that should be up and running by the end of September.

Again you will be able to play Pickleball under floodlights all year round. PICKLEBALL has taken off all over the world. It's a mixture of tennis, badminton and table tennis and is easy to learn, less stressful and is an alternative to these traditional sports like the other Racquet Sports. It can be played as singles where one person plays against another or doubles where 2 players play against 2 players.

WEEKLY EVENTS AT THE CLUB

MONDAYS - Tennis Mixing (Evenings Gents 7pm to 9pm).

TUESDAYS - Tennis Mixing (Afternoons 1 till 3pm) Ladies & Gents.

WEDNESDAYS - Rusty Racquets with tennis coach Jack Fletcher 12 noon to 12.45.

THURSDAYS - Tennis Mixing - Evenings Ladies & Gents 7 to 9pm.

FRIDAYS - Tennis Coaching for Juniors with coach Jack Fletcher. Ages 5 to 10 5.35pm to 6.20pm; Ages 11 to 14 6.20pm-7.05pm..

SATURDAYS - Tennis Mixing Mornings, Ladies & Gents 10am to 12 noon.

* To get on the TENNIS LADDER Ring Mark Skidmore 07901 105163.

* For RUSTY RACQUETS , JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING or ONE TO ONE TENNIS COACHING Contact Our Tennis Coach Jack Fletcher on 07496 177385.

* Why not follow ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB on their New FACEBOOK PAGE with Day to Day Posts, Photos past & present, features and upcoming events.

* New members are coming in weekly with ladies, gents and family memberships all joining from a 20 mile radius. For new members enquiring contact Ron Whitfield on 07816 322469.

* For more information on Alveley Tennis Club Contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488 .

Brian Davies

Don't give up on yourself. God doesn't. Even Moses was once a basket case. - Anon

AN HISTORIC STEP FORWARD: GRIEF EDUCATION SECURED IN SCHOOLS

On 15th July 2025, after more than three years of tireless campaigning, it was officially announced that grief education will now be included in the national curriculum for schools in England.

This landmark decision marks the first time that learning about death, dying and bereavement will be recognised as an essential part of a child's education. By the end of primary school children will learn that change and loss – including bereavement – can provoke a range of feelings, that grief is a natural response to loss, and that everyone grieves differently. By the end of secondary school this understanding will be deepened, exploring how families and relationships change over time, including through birth, death, separation and new relationships.

The campaign was spearheaded by John Adams of Perry & Phillips Funeral Directors, and past President of the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD). Inspired by the loss of his Mum, Maria, when he was 12 years old; the experiences supporting grieving families, and motivated by the belief that no child should face bereavement without understanding and support, John launched a parliamentary petition in 2022 whilst National President of the NAFD. The petition to add content on death, dying and bereavement into the national curriculum was debated in Parliament in December 2024, resulting in this historic change to statutory guidance for schools.

This is not just a change in policy – it's a change in the way our society approaches one of life's most difficult but universal experiences. Death touches every family. By teaching children from a young age about grief, we can create a generation that is more compassionate, understanding, and equipped to support one another in times of loss. This has been a long journey, but it's only the beginning of what I hope will be a lasting cultural shift.

For churches, this development offers new opportunities to connect with and support local schools. Grief education aligns closely with the Christian call to "mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15), helping young people understand the value of care, compassion, and hope. It also encourages communities to break the silence that often surrounds death, creating spaces for open and honest conversations.

The campaign has already inspired conversations beyond the UK, with interest from Australia and New Zealand, where I will be speaking at later this year. The hope is that this initiative will one day become a global movement, ensuring that wherever a child grows up, they will have the knowledge, language and confidence to face grief with support around them.

The inclusion of grief education in our schools is a victory for compassion – and a reminder that, even in the face of life's hardest realities, we can choose to respond with kindness, understanding, and love.

John Adams

A VILLAGE WEDDING

As you read this the silly season, when MP's are on holiday and the papers have to conjure up stories, will be almost over. In this spirit I give you the following tale.

Modern day bellropes have the bottom part made from hemp and the woolly part called the Sally (no jokes please) is woven into this. Hemp is a natural fibre and is kind on hands that have to repeatedly grasp and pull on it. The top part of the rope that goes through the ceiling and then around the wheel that works the bell is now made from pre-stretched polyester which is much more hard wearing making the ropes last a lot longer. Years ago before synthetic fibres the whole rope was made from hemp and apart from wearing out more quickly it had one other problem. When first installed as a new rope it was very springy. Like trying to ring the bell with a bungy cord. The ancient tower captains (no jokes please) used to get around this by hanging a heavy weight on the end of the rope for some days. In the belfry at Upper Arley is an old walking stick with a distinct bow. The new bellrope would be tied to the middle of this stick and a heavy weight hung on either end and it is this weight that is of great interest. It consists of a large piece of oak or elm about two and a half feet long, six inches deep and perhaps a foot wide. Firmly fixed to this by two iron straps is a small cannon. It appears to be blacksmith made and has stamped on it 'MAFEKING 1900' I cannot think that it was used in this famous battle when the British forces in South Africa held out for 217 days against the besieging Boers. The Boers were Dutch settlers who objected to the British abolition of slavery and there was also a dispute over the ownership of a gold mine and a diamond mine thus starting the Boer war (1899-1902). The siege recieved a lot of attention in Britain. The leader of our forces was Robert Baden-Powell who became a national hero and went on to found the boy scout movement. I suspect the cannon was made locally and fired on the anniversary of this great victory. We do know that it was let off at midnight on new year's eve and probably on other occasions when the locals wanted to make a lot of noise and smoke and then go to the pub to talk about it. Well, many years ago the belfry at Upper Arley gained two new recruits. Let's call them Matthew and Laura. Matthew was an estate worker and Laura a teacher at the village school. They both picked up bellringing quickly but as is the way a romance developed as well and in due course a wedding was announced. Local gardens and hedgerows were raided for flowers to decorate the church. Women made cakes and trifles and triangular sandwiches for the reception at the village hall and there was much bellringing before and after the service. Later that day the happy couple crossed the river by ferry (no footbridge in those days) and caught the train, eventually getting to Wales for a week's honeymoon. On the practice night following the wedding the ringers were in the Harbour pub as normal and after a pint or two one of them suggested that it would be nice for Matthew and Laura to be welcomed back to the village to the sound of the bells ringing as they stepped off the train. Unfortunately they did not know exactly which train they would be on and from the church

you cannot quite see the station. After a few more pints a plan was hatched. One man would be on the platform and would wave his handkerchief as the couple alighted from the train. A second man would be on the road bridge that crosses the line at the end of the station. He would have the cannon primed and ready and would fire it as soon as he saw the waved handkerchief. The bellringers would hear this up in the tower and would start ringing. All decided it was a good plan and looked forward to Saturday afternoon. So, on the Saturday afternoon the man with the handkerchief waited patiently on the platform as train after train pulled in but no Matthew and Laura. The man on the bridge with the cannon (shall we call him Boris ?) was taking his duties seriously. As he had not fired the cannon before, the bellringers had given him careful instructions on exactly how much gunpowder and shot to load the weapon with. However on the day he became concerned that above the noise of the train and the people on the platform the cannon would not be heard across the river and up the hill in the belfry so he added a little extra gunpowder, rammed it down the barrel with a stick, then some wadding, then a handful of fine river gravel and a final piece of wadding to keep it all in place. As he was doing this a small crowd gathered wondering what was going on. As they were chatting a train pulled into the station. Many pairs of eyes were looking for the handkerchief and someone shouted "There! There it is!" Through the smoke and steam something white was fluttering. The cries of "there" and "I see it" got louder. Boris took three quick draws on his cigarette and then stabbed the glowing tip firmly into the touch hole at the rear of the cannon. There was a terrific BANG. The cannon leapt back off the parapet knocking Boris flat on his back with his legs in the air. The charge of gravel flew straight over the river and into the back garden of a resident shattering every pane of glass in the greenhouse. An elderly dog sleeping on the lawn took off through the garden gate at a speed the owner said was remarkable for such a creature and was found some hours later in the woods near Shatterford by a gamekeeper checking his pheasants in a distressed condition - the dog not the gamekeeper. And the bells started to peal out from the tower. At about the same time the smoke and steam cleared from the station as the train departed for Bridgnorth. An agitated man was seen waving his hands vigorously above his head and a tall aristocratic lady with a white scarf tied around a floppy straw hat was seen leaving the station. Boris waddled down the road passing some jeering men sat on the pub wall. He waited impatiently for the ferry to reach him and, by then in a poor temper, to deposit him on the village side of the river. He wheezed and grunted his way up the hill towards the church at a rate the locals said was astonishing for a man of his girth and work ethic eventually entering the belfry to stop the ringing. The disgruntled ringers headed down the hill suggesting that Boris's pocket would be a good deal lighter when he left the pub than when he entered it. As they arrived at The Harbour they saw Matthew and Laura walking out of the station hand in hand. I may or may not have embellished this story a little but next month back to school with Henry the Eighth's connection to Alveley. (Please ignore Wikipedia. Computers don't know everything). *Roy Page*

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

September home fixtures

Saturday 6 Sept 2nd XI home to Stourbridge 12.30pm

Saturday 13 Sept 1st XI home to Colwall 12.30pm

Junior presentation evening

Friday 5th September 6.30pm followed by disco. There will be a street van, bar open from 6pm. Medals and certificates for the children.

Alveley Firework Display

Friday 24th October. Gates open 6pm.

Bar, street food vendors and live music.

Tickets are on sale now, please see cricket club website for details. Advance discounted tickets close once a certain number have sold, so get yours today to avoid disappointment.

Richard Twigg

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

Hello everyone. I hope you are having a good summer. Our September meeting will be on the 29th which is later than usual because of holidays, namely mine and Barbara's. A lady is coming to talk to us about 'loving your weeds'. The meeting is at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall with tea, coffee and biscuits. We look forward to seeing you all.

Kath

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS IN ALVELEY

Just a few lines to say that the planters around the village are looking very beautiful this year adding colour and life to our streets.

If you know someone who has been responsible for the planting and care of these lovely flower displays do remember to say thank you to them. During the very hot weather daily watering has been needed and dead-heading to keep the blooms in prime condition.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FLORAL VOLUNTEERS.

An Appreciative Alveley Resident

This is a true story: My parents had been invited to a wedding, when I was about four. So beforehand, they went shopping for a wedding present, a silver teapot, in a very posh shop.

When the assistant asked if he could help them, my father said they needed a wedding present. At this, in a totally shocked child's voice, I demanded "Are you and Mummy getting married, Daddy?" - A Holland.

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Well, here we are. The summer holidays have come to an end and September is upon us. And this is the month No 92 Coffee Lounge will be taking over the café at the park. We'll be here until 7th September and then from Monday 8th September, the café and visitor centre will be closed as No 92 put their stamp on things. They will be making some changes to the kitchen to help them deliver the wonderful menu they have planned.

We'll be able to give you an opening date nearer the time. Keep a lookout on Facebook and our webpage. I'm sure you'll give No 92 a big welcome to the park. We're looking forward to good times ahead.

The toilets will remain open daily as the refurbishment happens and events, such as parkrun will continue as normal.

As I mentioned in the last edition of the magazine, our current staff will continue to work in the café when No 92 take over. We'd like to thank Karen, Emma and Tracey for all their hard work over the years and wish them well in their new job roles. A regular face in the café, Jan Crampton, has decided to use No 92 taking over as the chance to hang up her apron. Jan has been working in the cafe since 2005. Back then, staff would boil up the kettle to make visitors teas and coffees and they would set out 4 cups and saucers if they thought it was going to be a busy day. We tried to figure out once how many different people Jan had worked with in the café but we lost count! We wish Jan well and thank her for all her support and hard work over the years and for all the Werther's Originals!

Susie Comaish, Visitor Centre Manager, Severn Valley Country Park

Tel: 01746 781192

Visit www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"

ALVELEY & ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council is on 2nd September, starting at 7.30pm with Open Forum. As usual the meeting will be held in the Pavilion. The agenda will be on the notice boards nearer the date.

The next Events and Communications Committee will be on Thursday 4th September starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. Everyone is welcome to attend.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who joined us for the VJ Day Picnic - what a fantastic afternoon of music, sunshine and community spirit!

Special thanks to Andrew Crabtree and Brian Nichols for getting us singing with wartime classics; Van Life for bringing us right up to date with brilliant acoustic covers; The Three Horseshoes for keeping everyone refreshed with the mobile bar; all the volunteers who helped set up, steward and pack down; the Rec and Pavilion team for their practical support and help; our First Responders who kindly joined us - your presence was hugely appreciated.

It was wonderful to see families, friends and neighbours enjoying the afternoon together, keeping the spirit of VJ Day alive with music, nostalgia and togetherness.

Isley Jakeman

Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council



One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."



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meets at The Old Chapel
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2pm until 4pm
Our next meeting will be 15th September**

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 September 6th
3pm – 5pm**



FREE TO ATTEND

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



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



Wasp at work (see The Back Page)

SUSTAINABILITY

This September, Bridgnorth will be celebrating the grand opening of the Pantry Severn Refill Shop & Café, with expanded parking and outdoor seating for a delightful community experience. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for further details.

On September 6, from 10:00am to 1:00pm, is the Repair Café at St. James Hall Church on Lodge Lane. Locals are encouraged to bring broken items for skilled volunteers to mend, while enjoying tea and biscuits and learning repair skills—transforming waste into opportunity.

Looking ahead, Sustainable Bridgnorth is preparing to host a Green Festival next spring and is seeking volunteers to join the organising committee. Monthly meetings will be held, with increased frequency as the event approaches. If time is pressing, then volunteers for the day will be required too. Organisations focused on environmental, ethical, or circular economy practices are also invited to apply for stalls at the festival. If you're passionate about sustainability, consider getting involved! For more information, contact secretary@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk.

Alarmingly, July 24 marked Earth Overshoot Day, the date we exhausted the Earth's annual supply of renewable resources and 2024 has been recorded as the hottest year on record, with global temperatures 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels. Action is essential to reverse these trends. Optimistically, research from Oxford University indicates that 89% of people desire stronger government action on climate change, although many hesitate to voice their support, believing they are in the minority. To challenge this misconception and show that the public is more supportive of reducing our environmental impact to combat the climate and nature crises than many policymakers realise, the global initiative Covering Climate Now has launched The 89 Percent Project to showcase this widespread demand for action.

On a global scale, negotiations are underway in Geneva among 184 countries to create an international treaty to reduce plastic pollution. With a staggering 460 million tonnes of plastic produced annually, this treaty could be crucial for a sustainable future. Additionally, the 'Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging' scheme, finally launching in this country in November, will charge producers fees based on packaging reusability, aiding local recycling efforts.

Following in the pawprints of beavers and water voles, white storks may soon return to the UK after a 600-year absence, thanks to a new rewilding project which hopes to reintroduce this iconic bird. The birds are known to thrive in urban settings on the continent, and urban rewilding organisation Citizen Zoo is conducting an appraisal on making London a "white stork-friendly city". They act as an umbrella species and their reintroduction could support many other birds and insects.

Kath Norgrove

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA SEPTEMBER 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
September 7	Jeremiah 18.1-11 Kirsty Ritzenhaler	Luke 14.25-33 David Hampson	Jackie Hampson	Jackie Hampson Carol Wall	David & Jackie Hampson	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
September 14	Luke 15.1-10 Penny Jenkins				Pat Haw Lynn Madden	David Hampson Carol Wall
September 21	Jeremiah 8.18 -19.1 Ian Maddock	Luke 16.1-13 Sue Chidwick	James Woolley	Alison Pearson Jenny Sirrell	Dale Chidwick Jenny Sirrell	Anne & Laura Simms
September 28	Luke 16.19-31 Colin Taylor				Colin Taylor	Lynn Madden, Jenny Sirrell, Sally Page AFTER SERVICE Anne Simms Alison Pearson

DIARY 2025

- September** 1 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall 10am-1pm
 2 Alveley & Romsley P. Council meeting/Open Forum, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 16)
 4 Alv/Rom P Council Events & Communications Cttee Pavilion 7.30pm (p 16)
 6 Repair Café, St James's Halln Ch, Lodge Lane, Bridgnorth, 10am-1pm (p19)
 6 New Life Support Trust AGM, 12 noon, Hereford (p 6)
 6 Messy Church, St. Mary's, 3pm-5pm (p 17)
 15 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall 10am-1pm
 15 Be Café, Old Chapel 2pm-4pm (p 17)
 19 Alveley Entertainers' Film Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 9)
 20 'Mettle', Quatt Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 8)
 22 MacMillan Nurses Afternoon, 3 Horseshoes from 4pm (p 17)
 27 Joe Bayliss with Mike Seal, Quatt Village Hall, 8pm (p 8)
 29 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall 10am-1pm
October 5 St. Mary's Harvest Festival (p 3)
 11 Alveley Art Group exhibition, Alveley Village Hall. (and Oct 12)
 12 St. Andrew's Harvest Festival and meal (p 7)
 18 Men's breakfast, 8.30am Old Chape Community Centre (p 3/5)
 25 'Jekyll & Hyde', Ropetackle Storytellers, Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 9)

2026

- March** 14 Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell, Folk music, Alveley Village Hall (p 9)

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

1,100 years ago, on 4th Sept 925 England gained her first ever king. He was Aethelstan, King of the Anglo-Saxons (924-927) and then King of England (927-939). Aethelstan was grandson of Alfred the Great, and 30th great-grand uncle to Queen Elizabeth II.

200 years ago, on 27th Sept 1825 the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

175 years ago, on 9th Sept 1850 California was admitted as the 31st state of the USA.

150 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1875 Ferdinand Porsche, Austrian-born German automotive engineer was born. He designed the Volkswagen Beetle and Tiger tank, and founded the Porsche sports car company.

100 years ago, on 7th Sept 1925 Laura Ashley was born. The Welsh designer and businesswoman was known for her traditional printed fabrics, soft furnishing and women's clothing. Co-founder (along with her husband) of the Laura Ashley textile company and chain of shops. (Died in 1985 when she fell downstairs, aged 60.)

Also 100 years ago, on 8th Sept Peter Sellers, actor and comedian was born. Best known for the Goon Show, and as Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther film series. (Died 1980.)

90 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1935 British driver Malcolm Campbell set a new world land speed record of 301.13 mph in *Bluebird* at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. First person to break the 300mph barrier.

Also 90 years ago, on 15th Sept 1935 the Nuremberg Laws were passed in Germany. Jews were no longer classed as German citizens, and the Nazi flag was adopted as the national flag of Germany.

70 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1955 Britain's first independent TV channel was launched. ITV ended the BBC's monopoly.

Also 70 years ago, 26th Sept 1955 Bird's Eye frozen fish fingers went on sale in the UK.

60 years ago, on 4th Sept 1965 Ibert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. Winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

50 years ago, on 24th Sept 1975 Dougal Haston and Doug Scott became the first Britons to reach the summit of Mount Everest. They were also the first climbers from any nation to conquer the south-west face.

30 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1995 the online auction site eBay was founded (as AuctionWeb). The first item sold was a broken laser pointer.



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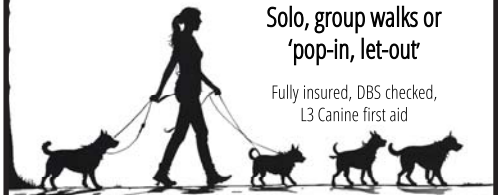


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WHO'S WHO - A GUIDE TO ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Alveley Art Group	Jane Hunt	780280
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	Lisa Hadley	07717 456304
Alveley Village Hall	Norma Crabtree	780478
Alveley Village Hall bookings	Carol Hatfield	780576
Arden Allotments Association	Debbie Walker	07484 238616
B'north Community Transport - Alveley Minibus Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 only)		768539
Chapel Crafters	Angela Lander 07952172691 Jenny Sirrell	07484806605
County Councillor	Colin Taylor	07581 066956
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
Strollers & Striders Walking Group	Andrew Crabtree	780478
Voluntary Car Scheme Community Transport (Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 only)		768539
Whittall Meadows Trust	Jan Higgins	780259

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

As many readers will know, I am a member of Kinver Rotary Club and have been a Rotarian for nigh on forty-five years. For those who don't know what Rotary International is, it's a worldwide organisation started by one Paul Harris in Chicago in 1905. At that time there were a handful of members - there are now in excess of 1.2 million worldwide. Its motto is 'Service Above Self' and its core mission is to provide service to others.

One of the delights of Rotary membership is to visit other clubs, whether locally or worldwide. At our weekly meeting recently we were joined by two Rotarians visiting from the Rotary Club of Angers du Bellay, in the Loire Valley region of France. Conversation ranged over the fund-raising activities of both clubs, the current club projects...and food.

Interestingly our guests were firmly of the opinion that in England we have a far greater variety of eating establishments than you will find in the average French town. Initially I found this surprising, but on reflection it's probably true. There are, of course, the ubiquitous McDonalds all over France and you can find other cuisines, but perhaps not in the same numbers as here.

As for the Head Gardener and I, we love French cuisine and enjoy sampling the local food wherever we may be - though we did draw a line at guinea pig in Bolivia.

Talking of unusual food tastes, when we barbecued recently a wasp surprised us with a penchant for corn on the cob, showing amazing strength as it levered a kernel from the cob then flew off clutching the kernel - an exercise it repeated several times. (See photo page 18). Nature never fails to amaze!

Ian

P.S. Kinver Rotary Club's next event is a MacMillan Coffee Morning at The White Harte on Kinver High Street on Saturday September 28th from 10am to 1pm.

On Monday November 17 we are holding a Children in Need Quiz at The Fox Inn at Stourton, 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 4. For details call me on 07751030036.

Please send items for the **October edition by 9 am on Wednesday September 17th** 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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