

# The Parish Magazine

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

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MARCH 2026

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## The Rector writes

Dear Friends

### Flowers and Worry

*Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith. Luke 12.27*

As we begin to leave winter behind and approach spring, let's do what Jesus commands to remove anxiety: consider the lilies. Perhaps you are beginning to see little shoots appearing in the garden. Perhaps you prefer to buy arrangements of flowers and put them in a vase in the house. Perhaps you are allergic to lilies specifically and they make you sneeze!

Consider them, says Jesus. Stare at them. They just sit there, unstressed, neither toiling nor spinning. The beauty of flowers is unsurpassed – but it's not earned, just given by God. If God dresses them like that even though they are temporary, will he not also clothe you, who have an eternal soul? So why be anxious?

Is it because of our desires? We tend to want more than just enough to eat, enough to wear. We tend to want better food, better clothes, better friends, a better reputation and a better place to live. I want a multitude of things that may or may not be possible. I want, I want, I want. What would Jesus say about all these desires which can lead to worries? Consider the flowers.

Flowers don't try to be something they're not. They soak up the water and nutrients provided by God and grow in obscurity for most of the year. Then when the seasons turn and the sun comes out they rejoice! They fulfil their purpose, given to them by Him.

Flowers don't compete with each other. Roses don't long to be as tall or as bright or as yellow as sunflowers. They have been made by God just as they are – and that doesn't concern them one bit! Flowers are fragile. Petals can be destroyed by the wind and yet the flower can reappear the next year. God resurrects them. *Will he not much more resurrect you, O you of little faith?*

If you get anxious, don't consider Facebook or Instagram; don't consider your bank account, or your work, or your car, or your possessions. Consider the flowers around you and the God who made them. That will help you find peace, calm and contentment. Augustine said, 'You made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.'

Every blessing

Rev Jon

## United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

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

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### Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists

<b>Deacon Becky Lovatt</b>		<b>01299 826641</b>
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### St. Mary The Virgin, Alveley, WV15 6ND

<b>Churchwarden</b>	<b>Penny Jenkins</b> , 34 Birch Grove, Alveley	<b>07929 327164</b>
<b>Churchwarden</b>	<b>Alison Pearson</b> , Brookfield, Daddlebrook Rd, Alveley	<b>07882 888875</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Anne Simms</b> , Willowell House, Quatford	<b>01746 768955</b>

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### St. Andrew's Quatt

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

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### From the Parish Register

<b>Funerals</b>	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'</i>	
30 <sup>th</sup> January	William McClusky	St Mary's Alveley
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Dan Blackhouse	St Mary's Alveley

**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**

Signs of spring near St. Mary's, Alveley  
Photo by Don Bannister B.E.M..

*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.*

## MARCH SERVICES

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

### Sunday March 1st

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

### Sunday March 8th

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

10.30 a.m. Worship 4 All Ages St. Mary's

### Wednesday March 11th

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

### Sunday March 15th

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

### Sunday March 22nd

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 March 25th

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

### Sunday March 29th (Palm Sunday)

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

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 8.30am in the OCC (Alveley Old Methodist Chapel). In January we had a wonderful talk from Brian Nicholls who shared with us his time as a musician. We look forward to seeing you and sharing good conversation and a hearty breakfast. If you haven't been before why not give it a try.

*Rev Jon*

## BLUE SAPPHIRE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON MARCH 4th

My grateful thanks to a wonderful wife, Pat, who has put up with me through our 65 years of marriage. We have children, grand-children and great grand-children. Not a bad life. Thank you Lord.

*Don Bannister*

*I can resist everything except temptation. - Oscar Wilde*

## ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

When I think about what I am going to write in the monthly magazine I usually sit and scratch my head wondering how I can make my contribution more interesting. I often talk about the weather and I sincerely hope that the never-ending rain we have had recently will have stopped by the time you read this. I just long for sunshine and warmth. It makes me feel much better. At least the birds are now singing and that in itself is encouraging. The ground is saturated and I'm glad I'm not a mole!

Every time I listen to the news I hope for something to celebrate rather than the various antics of politicians etc. I could talk about potholes but that becomes even more depressing. If you are a rugby fan (I know that the Editor will approve of my next remark!) then last month gave us the opportunity to watch the start of the Six Nations and as I write this there have already been some very exciting games. The Winter Olympics gave us plenty to celebrate. Our first ever Gold medal on snow with Charlotte Banks and Huw Nightingale winning the mixed team snowboard cross and a double Gold for Matt Weston in the Skeleton races - an individual and a second victory in the mixed team with Tabitha Stoecker. It's hard to believe that he says that he only trains on snow for 2 hours a year and on concrete for the rest of the time. It just proves that anything is possible if we work hard enough. The cricket season will soon begin and I'm looking forward to watching my two grandsons playing in various teams for Quatt. What do you look forward to?

As always, we look forward to welcoming you to St Andrew's church where we can assure you of a warm welcome. We will be holding a United Palm Sunday Holy Communion service on March 29th at 10.30pm .

On Easter Sunday we will have a Holy Communion service at 6pm. Please come along and join us on these very special days.

*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
March 8	Exodus 17.1-7 Ann Lee	John 4.5-42 Paula Tristham	Ann Lee
March 22	John 11.1-45 Carole Hubbard		Wendy Aldwinckle
March 29	Isaiah 50.4-9 Paula Tristham Steve Jones	Matthew 26.14-27.66 Sue Chidwick Alison Pearson	Ann Lee

## QUATT VILLAGE HALL

**Sunday March 8th at 2.30pm. Alan Bennett's Talking Heads**, 'Bed among the lentils' and 'Her Big Chance', presented by local performer Sarah Raymond. £12. Refreshments available to purchase. Tickets available from Quatt Farm Shop.

**Sunday 15th March at 2pm. Bayliss and Seal.** Looking for a special treat for Mothers Day? Join us in Quatt for a wonderful afternoon of live music. Add a cream tea with homemade scones.

To make this day extra special, we are offering the mother figure in your life a free ticket with every 2 tickets purchased, because we love mums too.

Tickets are £16 to include cream tea. Buy 2 tickets and your mother figure gets in free. Available from Quatt Farm Shop. There will be a raffle for Acorns Hospice.

**Monday March 16th at 2pm. A free Healthy Eating Awareness Workshop.**

*Steph Hinton*

## ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

**On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm, folk singers Arthur Coates and Kerran Cotterell** will be performing their unique blend of styles and genres of music at the hall. "Their showmanship, with 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".

You can preview their music by visiting [www.arthurandkerran.com](http://www.arthurandkerran.com) or check out 'Arthur and Kerran' on Facebook. Certainly, something to look forward to thanks to Arts Alive who subsidise and bring professional entertainment to rural communities like ours.

Tickets are Adult £12, Child £6, Family £30 and are available from Norma on 780 478, Una on 780 568, the Londis Food store or online at [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk) There will be a prize draw for one lucky audience member too. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

*Norma Crabtree*



Our next film night will be on Friday March 20th, in Alveley Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. For more information please contact Carol Hatfield (780576) or Una Coombs (780568).

£5 to include tea/coffee and cake. We hope to see you. *Ian Maddock*

## ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

Hello to all. Our meeting in March is about one man's 30 years in Marks and Spencer. We will be welcoming Hilary and Ian Templeton.

Date is 23rd March at 2.30 pm at the Village Hall. All welcome.

*Kath*

## ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be held in the Pavilion on Tuesday 3rd March, starting at 7.30pm with Open Forum. Open Forum is your opportunity to raise any matters of concern in the village. We honestly welcome your input.

*Isley Jakeman*

*Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council*

## CHAPEL CRAFTERS

The first meeting after Christmas was cancelled due to the adverse weather but we made up for this with a lovely meal two weeks later at the Wheel of Worfield.

We are going to start a new project where we turn our hands to paper piecing or also known as foundation patchwork. Next meeting we will be looking at designs and getting our materials together.

We meet twice a month at the Old Chapel Community Centre on a Friday 10.30am to 12.30pm. If you would like to join us please get in touch - our phone numbers are in the back of magazine.

Until then, Happy Crafting

*Jenny and Angie*



## **ALVELEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.....ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. The recreation ground belongs to the people of the Alveley and Romsley parish. It would be nice to encourage new and younger residents in the area to join the committee and help maintain and improve the recreation ground for the future generations. Light refreshments will be available.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the committee and residents of the parishes for their continued support.

Residents of the village have been disappointed there has been no cricket on the recreation ground the last few years. We are pleased to welcome Lye 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cricket club teams who will be commencing in April.

To maintain health and safety we ask that dogs must not go on the ground and there be no bike riding.

In the pavilion there is a board with wooden bricks on it. It is £10 a brick to have your name put on it, this helps with fund raising.

If anyone would like to be involved as a member of the committee, help with fund raising/maintenance or have ideas that could support this facility please contact Diane Knowles 07543804567. For bookings please contact Margaret Shaw 01746 780459. *Diane Knowles*

## **ALVELEY ART GROUP**

The year started off a bit of a damp squib! Snow and icy conditions meant our first session of the year didn't happen! We managed to fit another one in the following week though. Don't forget to come and see us and decide for yourself if it's something you might be interested in, you can have the first week free of charge!

This year some members will be having a try at simple printing techniques, other members will be doing their 'own thing', there is no pressure to join in if it's not your bag. There will be a trip to the International Water Colour exhibition in May which we are looking forward to.

Weekly fees remain the same.... £3 every other Monday which pays for the hall rental and refreshments. We start at 10am and are generally finished by 1pm.

*Jane Hunt 01746 780280*

*We don't call it sin today; we call it self-expression. - Baroness Stocks*

## ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

There's never been a better time to join Alveley Tennis Club.

Sign up today and then don't pay again till June, 2027.

2026 looks a very good year. In the last two years membership has risen from 37 to 90 members. There's been a big increase in lady members, family memberships and juniors plus lots of interest in the two new pickleball courts.

All year round there are 9 organised events each week at the club (Monday to Saturday) covering mornings, afternoons and evenings (under floodlights).

There are four tennis mixing sessions (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday).

Rusty Racquets on Wednesday (midday).

2 junior mixing tennis sessions (5 to 14 year olds) on Fridays.

2 pickleball events (coaching & social) Friday Evenings.

Plus the Pickleball What's App Group which has just started.

The club is now attracting members from 3 counties, Worcestershire, Staffordshire & Shropshire, covering a 20 mile radius.

One member, business man Jon Bird travels from Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds to the Tuesday afternoon tennis mixing session every week & he has been a member now for over 10 Years.

Roger Whitworth has been playing tennis at Alveley for over 30 years. He said "Colin Wells has also been playing for 30 Years while Jeff Gillam, Tracy Edmonds, Jean Jones, Diana Hadley & Sally Neville have been members for over 20 years.

Jan Higgins joined Alveley Tennis Club in 1979, nearly 47 years ago. She said "We had two grass courts then." Her late Husband Bob was Chairman for over 25 years.

Our Facebook Page has now got over 100 people on it .

Jack Fletcher (tennis coach) runs Rusty Racquets, Junior tennis sessions, pickleball coaching on Fridays and he is available for one-to-one coaching. Telephone 07496 177385 .

For new members contact Ron Whitfield on 07816 322468 or you can book online on the website or leave a message on Face Book .

For all other Info about Alveley Tennis Club contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488.

The AGM takes place at Alveley Tennis Club on Tuesday March 24 at 7pm. All members are invited to attend.

*Brian Davies*

*Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.*

## SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Work is still continuing on the Sand Pit play area improvements. There have been a few delays with all the rain we have been having (our sand pit is identifying as a swimming pool at present!), but the plan is to get the area open again for Easter holidays which start at the end of March.

Thank you once again to everyone who purchased our 2026 calendar. We sold out, which is fantastic news. The first part of the project is underway. A reflection pool is going to be added to the woodland bird hide. The liner for the pool has already been made. This is with thanks to EZ Pond Ltd on the industrial estate. The next step is to install it into the area in front of the hide, which we are aiming to do this spring. Thanks also go to all who sponsored a page on the calendar. Severn Valley Railway; PEZ Concrete Pumping; PEZ Development; Berriman Eaton Estate Agent; W F Head & Sons Potato Merchants; The Red Lion, Bobbington; Dominique's Restaurant, Shatterford; The Three Horseshoes; Alveley Village Vets; Nick Goodwin ([petsmakeportraits.co.uk](http://petsmakeportraits.co.uk)) and members of the Alveley community.

Another development is we are happy to be welcoming Field Studies Council, who will be delivering our educational school offer from April onwards. Currently, we offer a small range of educational activities for schools, with River Studies being the most popular. The Field Studies Council, as they have a bigger team behind them, will be able to offer additional activities, covering more of the National Curriculum. We look forward to giving you more information soon.

Exciting news! Steaming Down the Valley is back! It's your chance to race a Severn Valley Railway steam train over a 5K or 10K distance - or even on the river. The runs start at the Country Park Halt and follow the woodland paths and riverside trails beside the railway. The 5K finishes at the Arley station and the 10K turns and heads back upstream, racing the returning train. The paddle sport race starts at the Miner's Bridge and races the train downstream to the footbridge at Arley. Entries are now open for this exciting event happening on Saturday 6th June 2026, 11am. Entries are limited to 200 for the 10K, and 100 for the 5K and paddlesports. There will be a medal and goody bag for every finisher. Entry starts from £22. Enter online at [www.entryhub.co.uk/steaming-down-the-valley](http://www.entryhub.co.uk/steaming-down-the-valley)

No 92 Coffee Lounge is open every day from 8am-5pm. They serve delicious breakfasts until 12 noon and from then on, a great lunch menu. Throughout the day you can pick up a hot drink and tasty treat, including a wide variety of hand-made cakes. The café has indoor play space for the little ones on wet days. Pop down any time, they'd love to see you.

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

## BUNKERS

Constructed in 1941 at an expense of nearly £1m pounds, (almost £70m today !!) a large bunker was built under the sandstone hill in Kingsford Lane, at the back of Kinver, known as the 'Drakelow Tunnels'.

These stretched for some 3.5 miles underground, and were specifically constructed as a shadow factory for the Rover Car Company, Birmingham. Constructional workers were housed in hostels nearby, (now the site of the Kingsford Caravan Park).

The company were tasked with producing, with the aid of Rolls Royce, aircraft engines and parts for the Pegasus and Mercury radial engines, which were used to power Bristol Blenheim aircraft and the Sunderland Flying boats, all critical in the war effort. After the war, Meteor tank engines were produced there, and the site later used as storage for aircraft parts. At its peak, some 700 personnel worked in the tunnels. There were also a number of surface buildings which included a Fire Station, boiler house, coal stores and a sub station.

This location was sought as a safe and secure site, away from the heavy bombing that was taking place every night over Birmingham and Coventry- the Germans trying to take out our manufacturing industries.

These bunkers housed all sorts of comms' equipment; a G.P.O , a B.B.C emergency broadcast centre, stores, dormitories, a doctors surgery and kitchens.

To help alleviate the stress and tedium of working in a windowless and a cold and damp environment for up to 10hrs a day, sports facilities and bars were added, as well as a concert hall.

Some well known stars of the day performed there, including Googie Withers, George Formby, Gracie Fields, Vera Lynn and Dora Bryan.

Piped music was played twice a day in order to lift spirits, as well as weather reports, presumably just to let the workforce know what life was like above ground when they'd finished their shift!

In 1958, after the end of World War II and at the start of the Cold War with Russia, the site was re- purposed as a top secret location, as a cold war nuclear command bunker, ie, a 'Regional Seat of Government, (R.S.G), a fallback government centre. As described in last month's Parish Magazine, early warning nuclear bomb bunker sites all over the country, would report radiation levels to their regional R.S.Gs, (this being one of 16 sites nationally, capable of housing up to 350 personnel). This bunker had only wooden doors at the main entrance to start with, but was then upgraded to steel blast doors, to protect from a nuclear attack.

The site was eventually decommissioned at the end of the cold war, in the early 1990's, and sold by the Home Office to a private buyer, who still owns it till this day, and has turned most of it it into a museum. According to their website, guided tours are available twice a month for a fee, tours lasting up to 1hr.

The site can be hired for private functions and film shoots. Emergency services also use the site for various search and rescue training and other emergency scenarios. It is also a site of Paranormal interest, owing to the spooky/ghostly hauntings, possibly

from several deaths that occurred during its initial construction.

In recent years, some of the site has been leased to a London based wine company, who use it as a bonded warehouse to store up to 10 thousand tonnes of fine wines, employing up to 40 staff.

As recently as 2015, two men were jailed for their part in the cultivation and selling of cannabis plants in the tunnels, (the site still had electricity and lighting, even though it wasn't being used as a museum at the time). One of the men was the caretaker, who pleaded that he was completely unaware as to what the site was being used for. The Jury didn't believe him !!

It's amazing what information comes to light when you start digging, (pardon the pun). More on bunkers in the April issue - much further afield next time!. *Bill Smith.*

## SUSTAINABILITY

Pantry Severn, the Bridgnorth Refill Shop, has announced they are now open on Saturdays! Visit their café selling locally sourced, organic, and in-house-produced goods as well as the Refill Shop for all your pantry and household essentials without unnecessary packaging. Take your own containers. Find them in Lasyard House in Low Town. Parking available.

For 2026, Sustainable Bridgnorth launched with Energy and an informative Marches Energy Advice presentation on using thermal imaging technology to detect failed insulation, draughts, thermal bridging, damp, and defective heating systems. Attendees got a hands on demo with two camera types to identify draughts and cold spots in the building. Subsequent quarters will highlight Natural Spaces and Biodiversity, Water and the River Severn, and Waste, with a lineup of exciting activities and speakers. Meanwhile, there was a well attended Repair Café recently. They desperately need more mechanical and electrical repairers and admin staff. Contact them on [bridgnorthrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:bridgnorthrepaircafe@gmail.com) if you can help.

Mark your calendars for the Bridgnorth Green Festival, happening on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May at the Castle Gardens. This will feature an art competition for schools, music from local bands, eco-friendly businesses and environmental groups celebrating their work towards improving our planet. It is a perfect opportunity to connect, learn about sustainability issues, meet (and join) Sustainable Bridgnorth and contribute to our shared green future.

Nationally, the 3,500-acre Knepp rewilding estate in Sussex has proved what's possible when nature is given the space to recover, recording a 900% increase in breeding birds in just two decades. Intensive habitat restoration has yielded tangible results in butterfly conservation with measurable population increases for endangered species. Globally, amid geopolitical turmoil, green energy – now often the cheapest form of electricity – has come to represent freedom from imported fossil fuels, rogue petro-states and volatile prices. A recent report showed climate finance investments into clean energy technologies and sustainable infrastructure had soared to an unprecedented USD 2.4 trillion. Rapid deployment of wind and solar meant China and India both recorded a decline in coal-fired power in 2025. *Kath Norgrove*

## ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

New junior indoor cricket sessions at Baxter College for ages 7–12, open to new and existing players. Venue: Baxter College Dates: Thursdays until 26th March. Time: 5:30pm – 6:30pm. Cost: £3.50 per session.

These sessions are perfect for children looking to learn, build confidence, and develop core cricket skills in a fun and supportive environment.

If your child would like to take part or you'd like more information just message us. We'd love to see some new faces!

Join us at Four Oaks for our Registration & Open Evening – the perfect chance to get involved with a brilliant, welcoming cricket club.. Friday 20th March from 6.30pm followed by drinks and disco.

Come along to: Meet our coaches and volunteers; see our fantastic facilities. Find the right team for you or your child; sign up on the night.

What we offer:

Juniors (from age 5+) – fun, safe and inclusive cricket.

All Stars & Dynamos receive FREE cricket equipment.

We've got lots going on throughout the summer, and The Pavilion will be open for everyone to enjoy. Members and non-members are welcome!

Grab a Fox Card and enjoy amazing drink offers.

A safe, secure space for children; All set in a beautiful Four Oaks setting.

### **What's On: Training & Cricket**

Junior Indoor Nets – 12 Feb to 26 Mar (5.30pm) - Street food every Friday

Senior Indoor Nets – 3 Feb to 31 Mar (6.30pm)

Registration Evening – 20 Mar (6.30pm)

Senior Outdoor Nets – 8 Apr (6.30pm)

Junior Coaching – from 1 May (6.30pm, 14 weeks)

Women's Softball – from 7 May (6.30pm, 14 weeks)

### **Events**

Race Night – 15 May (7pm); Cricket 6's – TBC

Junior Presentation Evening – 4 Sept (6.30pm)

Adult Presentation Evening – 18 Sept (7pm); • Fireworks Display – 31 Oct

### **Summer Nights at Four Oaks**

Tuesday – Senior Nets; • Wednesday – T20 Matches;

Thursday – Women's Softball; • Friday – Junior Coaching

Saturday – Senior Matches

Sunday – Sunday Friendlies for dads and lads who want to get back into cricket.

Membership packages are affordable and offer amazing value for money

Coming soon...

A brand-new Women's Fitness Class at Four Oaks. Keep your eyes peeled!

*Richard Twigg*

## MESSY CHURCH

In February Messy Church met at the Old Chapel Community Centre and learnt about the Baptism of Jesus. Jesus approaches John the Baptist and asks John to baptise him in the River Jordan. John doesn't think he's worthy to do this but Jesus insists. Afterwards the Heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus in the form of a dove and God's voice is heard, saying how much He loves Jesus. This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

During the craft session the children made folding story books of the baptism that came together to make a heart shape. They also created the story with action figures on sticks diving into the River Jordan in a beaker, and finally made beautiful, white feathered doves (see photo below). After some songs and praise, we all enjoyed a favourite tea of fish finger sandwiches, cake and fruit. It was a warm and fun-filled afternoon.

The next Messy Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March [at 3pm] will also be held in the Old Chapel Community Centre. All the children of Alveley and Quatt are welcome, with their parents or carers. We will be learning about how Jesus turned water into wine – not sure if I'll find that in my craft book!

*Alison Pearson*



## NEWS FROM ALVELEY SCHOOL

Our Early Years children have been enjoying hands-on learning as part of their literacy topic on the traditional tale *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. They recently went on a walk to the local Londis shop to purchase ingredients for porridge, bringing the story to life and practicing real-life skills in a fun and engaging way.

Parents were warmly invited into school to observe a maths lesson and then participate in a range of interactive maths activities, providing a valuable opportunity to see teaching in action and engage with their child's learning. Forest School has continued to be a highlight, with children developing practical skills and confidence outdoors. The older pupils have been learning about fire safety, including how to safely light a fire under supervision, promoting both safety awareness and resilience.

One class recently brought history to life with a Roman Experience Day, where pupils immersed themselves in life as a Roman, deepening their understanding of the topic through practical activities. The older class have been exploring the Tudors and they have produced some superb non-chronological reports, demonstrating both their knowledge and writing skills.

The school has also newly established a whole-school council, giving pupils a voice in areas such as pupil happiness and wellbeing, eco initiatives, and active schools. This initiative is helping to foster a sense of responsibility, community, and engagement across all year groups.

Looking ahead, classes are excited to explore new topics including transport, spring celebrations, and weather experts, to name just a few, continuing their curiosity and love of learning.

*Mrs. K. Lowe, Assistant Headteacher*





St Mary's Church, Alveley  
Saturday March 7th  
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Young people under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult

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**Be Café**

Bereavement Café  
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2pm until 4pm

Our next meeting will be Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

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## UNDER THE WEATHER?

Before 1948 health care in this country was a very fragmented patchwork system. Access depended heavily on your wealth, your location or your employment. Charities, private fees or local councils provided very uneven services which left many unable to afford treatment especially wives, children and the unemployed. Some Charities funded hospitals for the well off and there were poor law infirmaries for the destitute. These were called work houses. The huge building on the right as you enter Cross Houses was the Shrewsbury workhouse now converted into desirable flats or apartments. The Bridgnorth workhouse was situated where the modern Innage Grange care home now stands. There was also one in Claverley and one in Worfield. Some local authorities had hospitals for infectious diseases but most care required payment. GPs charged fees. Some quality services were in wealthy areas but poor towns and rural areas like Alveley often lacked doctors or facilities. A gravestone in Quatford churchyard has the inscription 'Afflictions sore longtime I bore, physicians all were vain. Till God was pleased to give me ease and free me from my pain ' Friendly societies or workers contributory schemes helped cover costs but weren't universal. During the Boer war 1899-1902 upto 60% of volunteers were found to be unhealthy and in Salford, Greater Manchester 8000 out of 12,000 volunteers were rejected as unfit. In World War One only 34% of men conscripted were classified grade one meaning fully fit. In the United States of the 19 million men drafted for WW2 50% were rejected for health, physical fitness or literacy reasons.

It was a similar picture in the UK. Poor diet, childhood poverty, diseases like tuberculosis and general inadequate health care were blamed. Up to 10% of those conscripted

were sent to work in the coal mines which helped to power the war effort including the pit at Alveley. This highlighted the nations health inadequacies and there was widespread support for a universal comprehensive system which eventually led to the creation of the NHS in 1948 under the minister of health Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan. Over the years there have been many attempts to look after people's health in this area. On the eastern bank of the river in Lowtown Bridgnorth there was the Hospital of Holy Trinity and St John which cared for the elderly and infirm and the leper hospital of St James. There was also the Order of Franciscans whose friary and dispensary was on Lowtown's western bank. These were all sequestered by the crown under Henry the Eighth in 1530 and given to individuals for non religious use. All that remains of these places are the street names. St John street leading to Hospital street, St James's drive and The Friars. How the sick survived after that is a good question. However in the 1700s dispensaries appeared funded by subscribers. These charitable institutions provided free advice, leeches and medicines to the sick poor within the town's two parishes of St Mary Magdalene and St Leonard's providing the medical man considered them to be 'proper objects' of charity. Maternity cases and fractured bones were NOT included. This prompted some to consider the need for an infirmary with a dispensary to properly look after the people of the town and surrounding district. This push was led by a local man, James Milman Coley, who lived in Mill street, Lowtown and was a surgeon, physician and author. A committee was formed chaired by Thomas Whitmore esquire of Apley who was a sitting member of parliament and owned huge areas of land and many properties in the Bridgnorth district. As with any committee there was opposition. Some considered that the Shrewsbury hospital built at a cost of £16,000 was adequate. One wonders if they would have been happy to travel on a horse drawn cart over unmade roads all the way to Shrewsbury with a broken leg. Fortunately common sense prevailed and a new infirmary was built just outside Northgate at a cost of £2000. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs W O Foster of Apley park in April 1895. There have been many threats of closure, most recently in 2005, but luckily it is still with us. In the 1950s in Alveley a Bridgnorth doctor would come and do home visits if needed and every Thursday afternoon a Bewdley doctor would hold a surgery in the front room of No 6 Peacock Hill courtesy of Lou Knowles. During the 60s this moved to a front room on the Woodlands and a line of mothers with prams or the elderly could be seen on the front path. Eventually in the 70s the community centre on Arden way was built and surgeries were held there. A house was demolished to make way for this new centre under a compulsory purchase order. The owner received £36 as compensation. Then in 1990 a Doctor Gillie bought a piece of land from the Head family and built the current Medical centre. Planning permission was given for a surgery only - no houses. We have come a long way from the days when surgeons and doctors would wear their blood stained clothes as a symbol of their profession although one of the Alveley doctors (Dr Kelly?) liked a cigarette or two and on occasions upon entering his surgery a patient would have difficulty seeing to the other side of the room!

Thanks to Tony and Jane Head and Betty Painter for help with this article.

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA MARCH 2026

**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
March 1	Genesis 12.1-4 Colin Taylor	John 3.1-17 Penny Jenkins	Wendy Aldwinckle	Sally Page Alison Pearson	Alison Pearson Jenny Sirrell	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
March 8	John 4.5-42 Alison Pearson				Lynn Madden Carol Wall	Anne Simms Jenny Sirrell
March 15	Exodus 2.1-10 Wendy Aldwinckle	John 19.25-27 David Hampson	Jackie Hampson	Jackie Hampson Carol Wall	Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	David & Jackie Hampson
March 22	John 11.1-45 Kirsty Ritzenhaler				Sue Chidwick	Lynn Madden Sally Page Jenny Sirrell <b>After service:</b> Alison Pearson Barbara Twigg

## DIARY 2026

- March**
- 2 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
- 3 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council meeting, Open Forum, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 8)
- 7 Messy Church, St Mary's, 3pm (p 15/18)
- 8 Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads', Quatt Village Hall 2.30pm (p 7)
- 13 Alveley Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 8)
- 14 Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell, Folk music, Alveley Village Hall 7.30pm (p 7)
- 15 Bayliss & Seal and Cream Tea, Quatt Village Hall, 2pm (p 7)
- 16 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
- 16 Be Café, Alveley Old Chapel Community Centre, 2pm-4pm (p 18)
- 16 Healthy eating awareness workshop, 2pm, Quatt Village Hall (p 7)
- 20 Alveley Entertainers' Film Night. Village Hall 7.30pm (p 7)
- 21 Men's breakfast, 8.30am, Alveley Old Chapel Community Centre (p 5)
- 23 Alveley Ladies' Guild, Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 7)
- 25 Alveley Recreation Association AGM, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 9)
- 27 Alveley Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 8)
- 30 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
- April**
- 13 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
- 14 Alveley CC registration & open evening, Alveley CC
- 27 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
- May**
- 1 Alveley CC junior coaching begins, Alveley CC
- 7 Women's Softball Cricket starts, Alveley CC
- 11 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
- 15 Race Night, Alveley CC (p 14)
- 30 Bridgnorth Green Festival, Castle Gardens, Bridgnorth (p 13)
- June**
- 6 Steaming Down The Valley, Severn Valley Country Park 11am
- Sept**
- 4 Alveley CC Junior presentation evening
- 26 Alveley CC Senior presentation evening
- October**
- 31 Fireworks display, Alveley CC

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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
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Alveley Mining Heritage	Andrea Edwards	86206
Alveley Old Chapel Community Centre		07799 465211
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
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Friends of Alveley School		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	Denis Orford	780732
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## THE BACK PAGE

Scams and fraud are regularly in the news these days. I did think that I was pretty savvy in this respect, but a recent experience brought me perilously close to being scammed.

Some scams are easily avoided. A phone call purporting to be from 'Bank security' is clearly a scam. I have accounts with more than one bank and the caller never identifies which bank so I end the call. Another recent regular is the email appearing to be from my internet provider asking me to click on a link to update the account. I click instead on the sender's email address to reveal that it has not been sent by the provider.

My scanner failed recently and as it was a little elderly the cheapest solution was to buy a new printer. They are very cheap - manufacturers make their money from the ink rather than the printer. The new one was easy to set up and worked well at first attempt. The inks supplied with the printer were small cartridges so that you would soon need to buy new ones.

After a few days I noticed warning light B on the printer and a bit later warning light C came on.. I had the same issue with the old one, but it didn't seem to affect performance so I took no notice. However, with a new one I decided to investigate. There was no explanation in the instructions so I checked online for the Canon customer support and called to discuss the issue. My call was taken by a polite operative to whom I explained my problem. He explained that it was an issue which could be sparked by some trojan bugs affecting the printer drivers which he could check if he was given access to my computer. Given that I was talking to Canon it wasn't an issue so I shared my screen. He scrolled the drivers through the screen and sure enough, several were showing as disabled. I was told that Canon could fix that problem remotely at a cost of £150 + VAT. At this point I smelled a rat, so said I would think about it and call them back. Further investigation revealed that I had taken the contact number from a fake web site. On contacting the genuine Canon customer support I was told it was a regular scam and given a case number. I was reassured that there would be no trojans in my computer and a deep scan showed that all was safe.

The warning lights? Just telling me I was running low on ink - B for black, C for colour! (It also lights if you don't use the manufacturer's ink and I use the refills from Stinkyink at a much lower price, hence the warning on the old printer).

Be alert!

Ian

Please send items for the **April edition by 9 am on Tuesday March 17th** to the editor (email [ianmaddock@btinternet.com](mailto:ianmaddock@btinternet.com) or phone 01746 780936). For advertising please contact David Hampson (telephone 01746 780034 or [emailedavid.hampson2025@gmail.com](mailto:emailedavid.hampson2025@gmail.com))

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