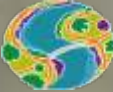


The Parish Magazine

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

A photograph of two kingfishers perched on a bare, gnarled branch. The bird on the left is facing left, with its wings spread, showing vibrant blue, orange, and white plumage. The bird on the right is facing right, also with its wings spread, displaying similar colors. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue.

 **Severn Valley
Country Park**

**Four Seasons
Calendar
2026**

**Now available from the
Visitor's Centre**

Kingfisher in Flight © John Devries

OCTOBER 2025

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The Rector writes

Dear Friends,

'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land; But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand'

As a child, growing up in a large market town environment, I had little idea of how our food was produced. I always loved Harvest Festival, and sang with gusto about ploughing the fields etc, but the produce with which we decorated the church came from the local weekly market or the supermarket and my idea of scattering seed was derived from a picture in the Children's Bible of the sower going out to sow, taking seed from a shoulder bag and flinging it in all directions.

I realise, too, how little I was aware of the gradual changing of the seasons. The year was divided into school terms, plus the highlights of Easter (eggs!), Christmas (stockings!) and birthdays (presents! cake!) How different, now, living in this beautiful place, as I sit in my study looking out over the Clee Hills, intensely conscious of the sheer bounty of nature and the work of those who labour to produce our food, and the gradual changes from spring to summer, autumn to winter.

But I have also come to see another meaning in the well-loved lines of the harvest hymn. As those who care about the wellbeing of our world and our fellow beings, we are all called to work the ground and scatter good seed wherever we are, and though we may not see for ourselves the harvest we have prepared, we trust that our work and commitment have not been in vain. We might reflect that each one of us is somebody's 'harvest', the harvest of all the love, teaching and examples we have received throughout our lives. When we mourn the death of a loved one, we reflect on the rich harvest they have left us.

St Paul describes 'the fruit of the Spirit': love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We all know or have known people who have shown the characteristics Paul describes. At this season of harvest let us give thanks for all those whose love and wisdom have inspired, guided and encouraged us. And let us, in our turn, till the ground and sow the seed for harvests still to come, praying that our efforts may be 'fed and watered', blessed, 'by God's almighty hand'.

Blessing

Rev Jon

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

Wedding	<i>'Those whom God has joined together.'</i>	
August 22	Daniel Griffin and Vanessa Townsend	St. Mary's

Funeral	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'</i>	
September 11	Raymond Lloyd	St. Mary's

Interment of Ashes

August 28	Edith Parchment	St. Andrew's
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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

The Severn Valley Country Park Four Seasons Calendar 2026

Is now available. See page 16

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.

OCTOBER SERVICES

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

Sunday October 5

10.30 a.m.	Harvest Holy Communion	St. Mary's
	(followed by lunch in church)	

Wednesday October 8

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Sunday October 12

10.30 a.m.	Harvest Holy Communion	St. Andrew's
	(followed by lunch in Quatt Village Hall)	

10.30 a.m.	Worship 4 All Ages	St. Mary's
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Sunday October 19

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Wednesday October 22

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

Sunday October 26

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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10.30 a.m.	20/20/20	St. Mary's
------------	----------	------------

4.00 p.m.	Teatime Praise	St. Andrew's
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MEN'S BREAKFAST

Starting on Saturday 18th October 8.30am and running every 3rd Saturday of the month in the Old Chapel Community Centre (opposite the turning to the Country Park).

"We men are not very good at talking to each other. That's something the women do much better".

So, what is Men's Breakfast?

On the face of it, it will hopefully be men from our community meeting up monthly for a hearty cooked breakfast.

We will enjoy a full English breakfast. Hopefully we will talk, share thoughts and opinions, share news and what is going on in our lives. We may even laugh and smile. We will have a guest speaker who will share their own lives and even stories of faith. The breakfast is intended to be a very pleasant vehicle that allows us to share and to get to know each other better. Why? Because some men, me included, find it difficult to talk, to share and to form new friendships.

Come along, give it a try, cost - donations only.

Rev Jon

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 5th October Orchard Day at **Dudmaston Hall**. We are joining in with the fun on Orchard Day.

Our stall will have artisan crafts and homemade goodies, plus fun for children. Help the garden team press the apples grown in the orchard. There's nothing like the taste of freshly squeezed juice. Pressing demonstrations will take place between 11.30 am and 2pm.

Entry to this event is free for National Trust members and under 5s. Admission applies for non members.

Saturday 18th October Two classic tales of terror from W.W. Jacobs: 'The Ghost of Jerry Bundler' and 'The Monkey's Paw'. Starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are £12 and available by calling 01746 78121 or call at Quatt Farm Shop.

Please bring your own drinks. Food refreshments will be available to purchase.

Sunday November 2nd. 'Quatt, The Puppet Musical'. Let's make the show right here in Quatt! A hands-on, hilarious, creative get-together where everyone can help create a new hit Musical.

In this event you'll get to make a puppet character to appear in a unique musical show that celebrates where you live. Our creative team take you on a fast, fun-filled journey to create the puppets and story and we add the hit songs. Who knows - it could be the West End hit of tomorrow!

Previous puppet characters have included an acrobatic Super-Hero dog, a tiny ghost and a Grandma with a romantic secret!

Please bring your own drinks. Food refreshments will be available to purchase.

Tickets Adults £12 children £6 Starts at 3pm

You can buy your tickets from our Community Box Office at the Quatt Farm Shop.

Steph Hinton

ST. MARY'S HARVEST LUNCH

There will be a harvest lunch of cold plates after the harvest communion service at St. Mary's on October 5th.

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, Una on 01746 780568 or call in at the Londis where they will be on sale. Please bring your own interval drinks and glasses.

This year's **Christmas Market will be held on Saturday 6th December**, starting at 12 noon. There will be a variety of stalls with beautifully crafted items ideal for those special Christmas gifts. Refreshments will include delicious homemade soup with crusty bread, mince pies and tea and coffee. In addition to the seasonal raffle Andrew and Brian will add to the festive mood with some live seasonal music and Christmas Carols. Entry is free and raises funds for local organisations and a variety of charities, so please do come along and support this popular event.

Saturday 14th March 2026 Canadian folk singers Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell will be performing in the village hall. More information about this exciting show will be given nearer the time,

Norma Crabtree

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

It's nice to be back This will be our second meeting since the break. Peter Dunhill will be telling us about Percy Thrower's life. So come and join us : this talk could be very interesting. The meeting is on 27th October at 2,30pm in the Village Hall .

We have tea, coffee and biscuits plus an interesting talk and good company
Kath

Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to. - Mark Twain

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

ALVELEY & ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on the 7th October starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. The meeting starts with 15 minutes of Open Forum which is your opportunity to raise any issues regarding the village that are of concern to you.

The agenda will be on the notice boards nearer the time.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret Shaw for all her hard work again this year looking after our beautiful planters, and to thank those who have supported her. Margaret has looked after these planters for years now and we really need some other people to come forward to take over the job. Perhaps businesses could sponsor individual planters. The parish council pays all costs so it's a matter of giving a little time regularly, especially during the hot summer months.

If you are interested you can contact our clerk, Steve Kerry, on 07711 788782 or me on 07902016425. *Isley Jakeman Chair Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.*

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

This month we will celebrate the harvest, holding a service in church and enjoying a hot meal together afterwards in the Village Hall. If you wish to join us for the meal please book your place as soon as possible.

This year harvesting took place much earlier due to the extremely hot weather but that hasn't always been the case. I can remember many years ago, having had such terrible weather during the summer months, my late husband was still trying to gather in the last field of barley in early November. Needless to say it wasn't a good crop! In ancient times the moons phases were used to guide farming practices. Harvesting took place according to the waxing and waning of the moon as it would affect the fullness of the ears of corn. They also believed that the dark of the moon would prevent decomposition and pest infection in stored crops. Harvesting fruit-bearing crops at the full moon was thought to maximise their energy and properties and I'm sure that these beliefs are probably still significant today.

I wonder what October means to you? For me it's a month of family birthdays and anniversaries, wearing warm winter woollies and a time to settle down in the evening by a warm fire as the nights grow colder and darker. Watching the leaves turn into amazing colours leaving a splendid carpet of gold, red and brown on the grass reminds us that winter is almost upon us.

Next month our Remembrance service will be held on Sunday November 9th at 10.30am prompt followed by refreshments after the service .

Looking ahead to December our Carol Service will be on December 14th at 6pm. Do come along and join us - it's a wonderful start to the Christmas season.

Further service details will be in next month's magazine.

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
October 12	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Paula Tristham	John 6: 25-35 Rita Vernon	Ann Lee
October 26	Luke 18: 9-14 Yvonne Miles		Wendy Aldwinckle

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

NEW MEMBERS - We are gaining lots of new members to the club including numerous young players and lots of ladies, family memberships and juniors joining too. We now have members from a 20 mile radius and some even farther away. For all membership enquires telephone Ron Whitfield on 07816 322469 .

PICKLEBALL! Week commencing September 22nd work starts on our 2 Pickleball Courts (weather permitting) and we will announce the opening day for Pickleball at Alveley Tennis Club on our new Face Book page (Please follow it for all up and coming events).

RECORD TURNOUTS FOR OUR 4 TENNIS MIXING SESSIONS! Recently we have had over 40 players joining in our tennis sessions in one week. Monday evenings 10, Tuesday afternoons often 12, our new Thursday night 13 and Saturday mornings 11. .

When we get more than 12 we will play on our 3rd court. Lots of new young players, ladies and gents are joining in with tennis mixing sessions .

RUSTY RACQUETS! This takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 12 to 12.45 .

We have had lots of new members saying they can only do evenings . Our coach Jack Fletcher is willing to do a Rusty Racquets evening if enough people are interested .

He also does one-to-one coaching . Telephone Jack on 07496 177385 .

JUNIOR SESSIONS! These are on Fridays: ages 5 to 10, 5.35 to 6.20pm and ages 11 to 14 , 6.20 to 7.05pm.

TENNIS LADDER! There are currently 12 players on the ladder. If you want to join ring Mark Skidmore on 07901 105163 .

TENNIS MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY! This is being organised by Abi Lawley on Wednesday December 17th. (Go to our Facebook Page for full details).

* Don't forget at Alveley Tennis Club we play all through winter. In the evening we play under our floodlights . We play in the morning, afternoon and evening. It will be the same soon on our 2 Pickleball Courts .

* So come and keep fit , enjoy the fresh air, lose weight and enjoy the company of a lovely bunch of people that will make you feel welcome .

For any other Information contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488..

Brian Davies

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

Alveley Firework Display

Friday 24th October at Alveley Cricket Club.

Small fair, street food, Crepe Van, Two Bars and Hot Drinks Stall.

Great family fun. Gates open 6pm. Fireworks at 7.15pm.

Tickets on Sale at www.alveleycc.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **no parking** at the Cricket Club. Please walk to the ground.

Rich Twigg

CHAPEL CRAFTERS

We had a successful Craft Day in September, a group made Macrame Angels for Christmas and another group started a Christmas Table Runner, lunch was a bring and share, we all went home with an extra inch on our waistlines!

We are thinking of having another Craft Day before Christmas where we will make a Patchwork Bag.

If you would like to join our sessions please call Jenny or Angie, our numbers are in the back pages of this magazine.

Happy Crafting.

Jenny and Angie

ALVELEY ART GROUP

Our exhibition of our latest pieces will be held on Saturday October 11th and Sunday October 12th in the Village Hall, from 1pm to 4pm each day. There is no admission charge and refreshments will be available.

Why not come and take a look at what we've been doing and talk to the artists, we'd love to see you! Any profits made will be donated to charities chosen by members.

Jane Hunt

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

ROYAL CONNECTIONS

If you walk from the Old Chapel café down towards the Country Park, the road turns sharp left and on that corner is a gateway that has a splendid view. Below you is the Country Park, in the distance is Highley and on the horizon is the Titterstone Clee Hill. To the left of Highley is a large building covered in a white sheet. This is Kinlet Hall. Now a private residence, it was once a Moffat School, before that the seat of the Lacon Childe family and before that the seat of the Blount family. The Blounts were wealthy land owners and connected to royalty. There is a pub dedicated to them, The Blount Arms, between Far Forest and Cleobury Mortimer, and they owned land around Alveley. Between 1544 and 1551 Sir George Blount (1513-1581) was involved in a dispute with a John Howell of Alveley regarding land near Old Hall. It seems Farmer Howell had been grazing his livestock on fields belonging to Sir George and then claimed that he owned them. Sir George, who was also a member of parliament, succeeded to the title on the death of his father Sir John Blount (1471-1531) who was so well connected that his daughter Elizabeth (1500-1539), always known as 'Bessie', was appointed as a Lady-in-waiting to Queen Catherine of Aragon (1485-1536) the first wife of King Henry the 8th. Bessie then became Henry's mistress from around 1514 for about 8 years or so until the affair came to light. She gave birth to Henry's only recognised illegitimate son who became Henry Fitzroy Duke of Richmond and Somerset.

The church of Saint John the Baptist at Kinlet stands alone next to the main house which is grade one listed. The village was moved almost a mile away so that it didn't ruin the view. (The same thing happened at Morville). In the chancel are two magnificent effigies, one of Sir Humphrey Blount (died 1477) and the other of Sir John. Both are accompanied by their wives, swords, daggers, dogs and an assortment of weeping mourners. Sir George's gigantic monument is in a side chapel and is one of the finest in the country. He and his wife are both kneeling as a sign of piety but in front of Sir George is his armoured helmet just in case you assumed he was a push over. So, apart from owning a lot of land in our village, what has all this got to do with Alveley?

In medieval times there was a cult of saints. People believed that saints were closer to God and could intercede on your behalf bringing help, blessings and protection in times of trouble. One of these saints was Saint Armel. He was a 6th century holy man born in Glamorgan, South Wales, celebrated for taming

a dragon and being the patron saint of hospitals. He was a warrior monk and founded two monasteries in Brittany. Some historians believe he may have been a Breton Prince and also may have actually been King Arthur.

The first Tudor King was Henry the 7th. He became King after defeating Richard the 3rd at the battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. Richard was found buried in a car park in Leicester in 2012. Henry went on to marry Elizabeth of York the daughter of Edward the 4th which ended the war of the roses (1455-1487). On a particularly stormy sea crossing Henry prayed to Saint Armel and credited him with his safe arrival. As a result of this Sir John Blount commissioned and paid for a stained glass window dedicated to Saint Armel. If you stand with your back to the pulpit in Saint Mary's and look up to the opposite side, the bottom left stained glass window is of Saint Armel. His image is partially eclipsing three suns which were the symbols of the dynasty of York. The three suns represent the Holy Trinity blessing the three Yorkist brothers Edward, George and Richard. Three suns had appeared in the sky at the Battle of Mortimers Cross in 1641 and they were convinced it was a sign from God and led them to victory. Henry was a Lancastrian and this window is clear political propaganda and shows conspicuous loyalty to the Tudor dynasty.

With thanks to Robert Walker, retired building conservation officer and author for prompting this article. (6 wives AND a mistress? One is plenty thank you!). Roy Page



TALKING POINT

After years of Government financial cutbacks, especially on the local government front, we have now reached the point of no return on Shropshire Council.

When we took over the administration in May we knew that there was a possibility of having to take really really tough action

On Wednesday 10th of September, the Liberal Democrat administration cabinet formally declared that the county was in a state of financial emergency.

If we had not taken this action, the reality is that the council will literally run out of money early in the new calendar year.

That would mean a section 114 would be called and the government would send in faceless bureaucrats to slash services even more than they are at the present.

No one wants that scenario.

We have the next few months to save between £6 million and up to £15 million that will prevent a section 114 being set.

Every employee from the Chief Executive down through all the ranks, has to question every single penny that is being spent and has to ask themselves: "Is this expenditure really necessary and can I do it better and possibly cheaper?"

I really feel for all of the extremely hard working staff who have gone through years of cutbacks and worries about losing their livelihoods and still they soldier on giving their best to the general public.

It's good to see the Chartwell site on Stourbridge Road being developed, with the new retail food outlets due to open in the next month or so. It all looks good for local employment in the town as they will require staff. ALDI and the Aluminium factory are also displaying banners advertising vacancies. It all helps top up the coffers as they start paying more into the system.

Money coming in is always good, however some anti-social elements are willing to throw it away out of pure selfishness. There was a fly-tipping incident at Six Ashes a few days ago where a load of timber and felt, full of nails, was discarded in a field gateway, preventing a hard working farmer from accessing his animals.

Your money had to be spent removing it.

I am sure every reader could be spending that money on better causes.

Colin Taylor

Shropshire County Councillor for Bridgnorth South and Alveley

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

I am writing this in the middle of September and the café has been closed for 1 week (so far) for the refurbishment. The team at No 92 have rolled their sleeves up and really got stuck in. It's lovely to see the bigger changes – walls being painted and new equipment being installed – as well as the little touches – flowers being put above the counter. It's going to be so exciting to see the final result. I have finally seen the answer to the question how to remove the cobwebs in the roof space of the café – it's to get a duster with the longest handle you have ever seen! No 92 are aiming to re-open on Saturday 20th September – bar any unforeseen issues – so by the time you read this everything should be up and running. The café and visitor centre will then be open from 8am each day, 7 days a week. Do come down for a visit, we'd all love to see you.

The other exciting news is that our 2026 calendar is now on sale. You'll be able to grab a copy from the visitor centre from 29th Sept for £10 each. They will also be on sale at Londis and the Competition team will be at various Christmas Fairs with the calendar – including ours in November. More details on that soon. Congratulations to all the winners. The calendar is a wonderful record of the park and we thank them for entering. Special thanks to Jill Bunn, Sally Neville and Andy Sibley for coming up with the idea, organising things, finding sponsors, putting on pet photo shoots, arranging a presentation evening for the winners and all the other behind the scenes tasks they have undertaken to make this all possible.

Thanks to our sponsors for covering production costs, all the money from the sales of the calendars will be going towards a project at the park. We'll look forward to sharing more news about that when we have it. Our sponsors are Severn Valley Railway, PEZ Concrete Pumping, PEZ Development, Berriman Eaton Estate Agent, W F Head & Sons Potato Merchants, Alveley, The Red Lion, Bobbington, Dominique's Restaurant, Shatterford, The Three Horseshoes, Alveley, Alveley Village Vets and Nick Goodwin (petsmakeportraits.co.uk).

And finally, Wild Toddlers is back! Sessions started on Wed 24th September. We'll go through to Wed 22nd October. It's £4.50 per child and is suitable for little ones from 18 months to 4 years. Call for more details or to book your place. After October half term we will continue with Wild Toddlers through to the end of November. We have 2 children's events during half term – Wed 29th October, Spooky Potion Scavenger Hunt (£4.50 per child) and a free craft drop in session on Fri 31st October where we'll be making some spooky crafts.

Susie Comaish, Visitor Centre Manager, Severn Valley Country Park

Tel: 01746 781192

Visit www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk

Four Seasons Fund Raising Calendar 2026 Now available



18 months on from the first ideas to final production, the Severn Valley Country Park Four Seasons Calendar is finally here!

Many visitors to the Park enjoy photography and it was considered that those skills could be put to good use by creating a competition to produce a calendar featuring images from the four seasons, showcasing the variety of flora and fauna to be found throughout the year.

The resulting calendar is a fitting testament to all the hard work that has gone into it, from the organisers to the judges, sponsors and, most importantly, the participants who entered their wonderful photographs.

Funds from sales of the calendar will be used to enhance the Park in various ways, in particular for the enjoyment of the many photographers who visit.

Calendars can be purchased from the Visitor's Centre and Londis Stores at a cost of £10.

Thank you

SVCP Calendar Organisers

MESSY CHURCH

Following a month's break in August, Messy Church met in St. Mary's on Saturday 6th September.

Although several key team members were missing, we had prepared a variety of activities, a lively worship and story time and a delicious indoor picnic tea to tuck into. We welcomed back many who had been to Messy Church before as well as some fresh faces.

The topic was Moses from his time as a hidden baby to his leadership of the people of God out of slavery in Egypt and into the land God had promised to them. The video story gave an outline of the whole story and we learned a new song about Baby Moses being carried down the river in a basket. It was great to celebrate OUR GREAT BIG GOD in song as usual.

The activities included making a paper plate picture of Moses in the bullrushes, a picture of the burning bush and a burning bush lamp in a plastic cup. There were even some real bullrushes for the children to look at and touch.

The next Messy Church will be on Saturday October 4th at St. Mary's from 3.00pm until 5.00pm. If you have a young person up to the age of 18 and want to try a new way of spending Saturday afternoon, do bring them along at 3.00pm, meet the team and enjoy some craft, worship and tea. We look forward to welcoming you. *Penny Jenkins*



SUSTAINABILITY

Locally, the September Bridgnorth Repair Café was a great success, with the next event planned for the New Year, to avoid any conflicts with Christmas activities. The new Pantry Severn Refill Shop Café has officially opened its doors, so swing by and support local, eco-friendly options that make a difference and help Prevent Pointless Plastic! Sustainable Bridgnorth is starting to gear up for next spring's Green Festival, and would love you to join the organising committee! Monthly meetings are kicking off soon, and volunteers for the festival day will also be required. Interested? Contact secretary@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk for more details!

In UK news, the House of Lords has proposed amendments to the government's planning and infrastructure bill that could require all new buildings in England to include bird-safe glass, swift bricks for nesting, and hedgehog corridors—making our urban developments more welcoming for wildlife! In Scotland destructive bottom trawling in marine sites has been banned, and there has been a conservation success with the recent birth of a golden eagle chick while three white-tailed eagle chicks have successfully fledged from wild nests. Plus, the UK government is banning the burning of deep peat—essential for carbon capture, supporting wildlife, and flood prevention.

Further afield, Finland and Poland are working to restore their wetlands and ailing peat bogs to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability, while also forming defence barriers to hinder potential military threats along their borders with Russia. A new census by the National Alliance for Jaguar Conservation has revealed a 30% increase in Mexico's jaguar population since 2010. In Western Australia, the Exmouth Gulf's rich biodiversity has been recognised and is set to become a marine reserve, safeguarding habitats for dugongs and migrating humpback whales. Meanwhile, South Australia is tackling plastic waste by banning those pesky fish-shaped soy sauce containers!

And on the green energy front, a record \$386 billion (£286bn) was invested globally in the first half of this year—up 10% from last year! The UK is also leading the charge with a record number of renewable energy planning permissions granted between April and June. Global solar installations have already jumped by a whopping 64% this year, with China producing 60% of the world's wind turbines and 80% of solar panels. Plus, scientists are exploring the potential of solar arrays in space for decarbonising Europe's energy grid! Researchers from King's College London have assessed a design by NASA for solar generation and discovered it could slash energy battery storage by over two-thirds plus reduce reliance on land-based renewable energy by a whopping 80% as well as saving money - up to 35.7 billion euros per annum! One small glow in the great unknown, one giant leap for a greener home!!

Kath Norgrove

ALL IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

750 years ago, on 27th Oct 1275 the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is traditionally considered to have been founded.

200 years ago, on 25th Oct 1825 Johann Strauss II, was born. This Austrian composer is best known for his waltzes, including *The Blue Danube*.

125 years ago, on 20th Oct 1900 the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills, in North Carolina.

100 years ago, on 13th Oct 1925 Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). (Died 2013.)

90 years ago, on 12th Oct 1935 Luciano Pavarotti, Italian operatic tenor, was born. Considered one of the finest tenors of the 20th century, and one of the most commercially successful of all time. (Died 2007.)

70 years ago, on 20th Oct 1955 *The Return of the King*, the third and final part of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, was published.

65 years ago, on 12th Oct 1960 at a meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is reported to have removed his shoe and pounded his table, in protest at a speech by another delegate.

Also 65 years ago, on 30th Oct 1965 Diego Maradona was born. The Argentine football player, manager and coach is regarded as one of the greatest football players in history. (Died 2020.)

60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1965 the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened. It was the tallest building in the UK until 1980.

40 years ago, on 1st Oct 1985 riots broke out in Toxteth in Liverpool and Peckham in London. Five days later (6th Oct) Met Police Constable Keith Blacklock was killed in the Broadwater Farm housing estate riot in Tottenham. He was the first British constable to be killed in a riot since 1833.

Also 40 years, on 26th Oct 1985 the Australian government returned the ownership of Uluru / Ayers Rock to the local Pitjantjatjara people, on condition that they lease it to the National Parks and Wildlife Agency for 99 years.

25 years ago, on 26th Oct 2000 the BSE Inquiry Report was published in the UK. It concluded that the BSE (Mad Cow Disease) epidemic was caused by the use of infected meat and bone meal in cattle feed.

15 years ago, on 13th Oct 2010 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days following the collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine were rescued. Around one billion TV viewers around the world watched them being pulled to the surface one-by-one, in a specially designed capsule.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA OCTOBER 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
October 5	Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Wendy Aldwinckle	John 6.25-35 Alison Pearson	Benoit Ritzenthaler	Dale & Sue Chidwick	Diana Kennedy Carol Wall	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
October 12	Luke 17.11-19 Laura Simms				Pat Haw Lynn Madden	Anne & Laura Simms
October 19	Jeremiah 31.27-34 Keith Pearson	Luke 18.1-8 Liz Bullas	Wendy Aldwinckle	Keith Pearson Carol Wall	Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Alison & Keith Pearson
October 26	Luke 18.9-14 Sue Chidwick				Carol Wall	Lynn Madden Sally Page AFTER SERVICE: Barbara Twigg Joyce Phillips

DIARY 2025

October	1	Wild Toddlers, SVCP (p 15)
	3	Chapels Crafter, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 11)
	4	Messy Church, St. Mary's 3pm-5pm (p17)
	5	St. Mary's Harvest Festival and lunch (p 3,6)
	8	Wild Toddlers, SVCP (p 15)
	11	Alveley Art Group exhibition, Alveley Village Hall. (and Oct 12) (p 11)
	12	St. Andrew's Harvest Festival and meal (p 9)
	13	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 11)
	15	Wild Toddlers, SVCP (p 15)
	18	Men's breakfast, 8.30am Old Chapel Community Centre (p 5)
	20	Be Café, Old Chapel Community Centre, 2pm-4pm (p 17)
	22	Wild Toddlers, SVCP (p 15)
	24	Firework Display, Alveley Cricket Club. Gate opens 6pm (p11)
	25	'Jekyll & Hyde', Ropetackle Storytellers, Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 9)
	27	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 11)
	27	Alveley Ladies' Guild, 2.30pm Alveley Village Hall (p 7)
	29	Spooky Potion Scavenger Hunt, SVCP (p15)
	31	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 11)
	31	Spooky crafts, SVCP (p 15)
Nov.	10	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 11)
	14	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 11)
	24	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 11)
	28	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 11)
December	5	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 11)
	6	Christmas Market, Alveley Village Hall, 12 noon start (p 9)
	19	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 11)

2026

March	14	Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell, Folk music, Alveley Village Hall (p 9)
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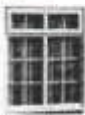
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Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper	780378
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Angela Lander 07952 172691 Pat Bowyer 07964 377840		
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Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill	780794
Alveley Historical Society	Lorraine Heath	07970 637727
Alveley Ladies' Guild	Barbara Spragg 780200 Kath Bishop	780707
Alveley Mining Heritage	Andrea Edwards	86206
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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
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Quatt Village Hall bookings	Steph Hinton	781214
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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'm not much of a shopper, but I did venture out with the Head Gardener recently into her supermarket of choice. The first thing I noted was the array of 'smart shop' scanners. I think for me they would be anything but smart - I would almost certainly have a disaster and end up scanning some items twice or scanning an item then changing my mind. It doesn't take a lot to confuse me these days, but I'm with The Head Gardener: shop, then take your trolley to a manned till where you can speak to a human being who will scan your goods accurately and charge you the correct amount. It also helps keep someone in a job, of course.

Having negotiated the rack of smart scanners, the next thing I noticed was a stack of mince pies, with a 'use by' date of mid-September. I do enjoy a mince pie at Christmas and I suppose there's no reason why they shouldn't be sold all year round, but I admit to being surprised.

Walking around the store I was reminded that you can buy virtually any fruit or vegetables at any time of the year, irrespective of whether it is in season. How times have changed. When I was a boy - more decades ago than I care to remember - we ate seasonally, largely what my father grew in the garden or on his allotment. In those far-off days we had no fridge or freezer, just a larder. For younger readers, a larder was designed to keep cold in the hottest weather. They had slate or marble shelves two or three inches thick. These shelves were wedged into thick stone walls. Fish, meat or vegetables were laid directly onto the shelves and covered with muslin to retain some freshness.

These days fruit and vegetables accrue more air-miles than the well-travelled businessman - is that really such a good thing, or am I just a grumpy, nostalgic old man?

Ian

Please send items for the **November edition by 9 am on Friday October 17th** to the editor (email ianmaddock@btinternet.com or phone 01746 780936). For advertising please contact David Hampson (telephone 01746 780034 or emaildavid.hampson2025@gmail.com)



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