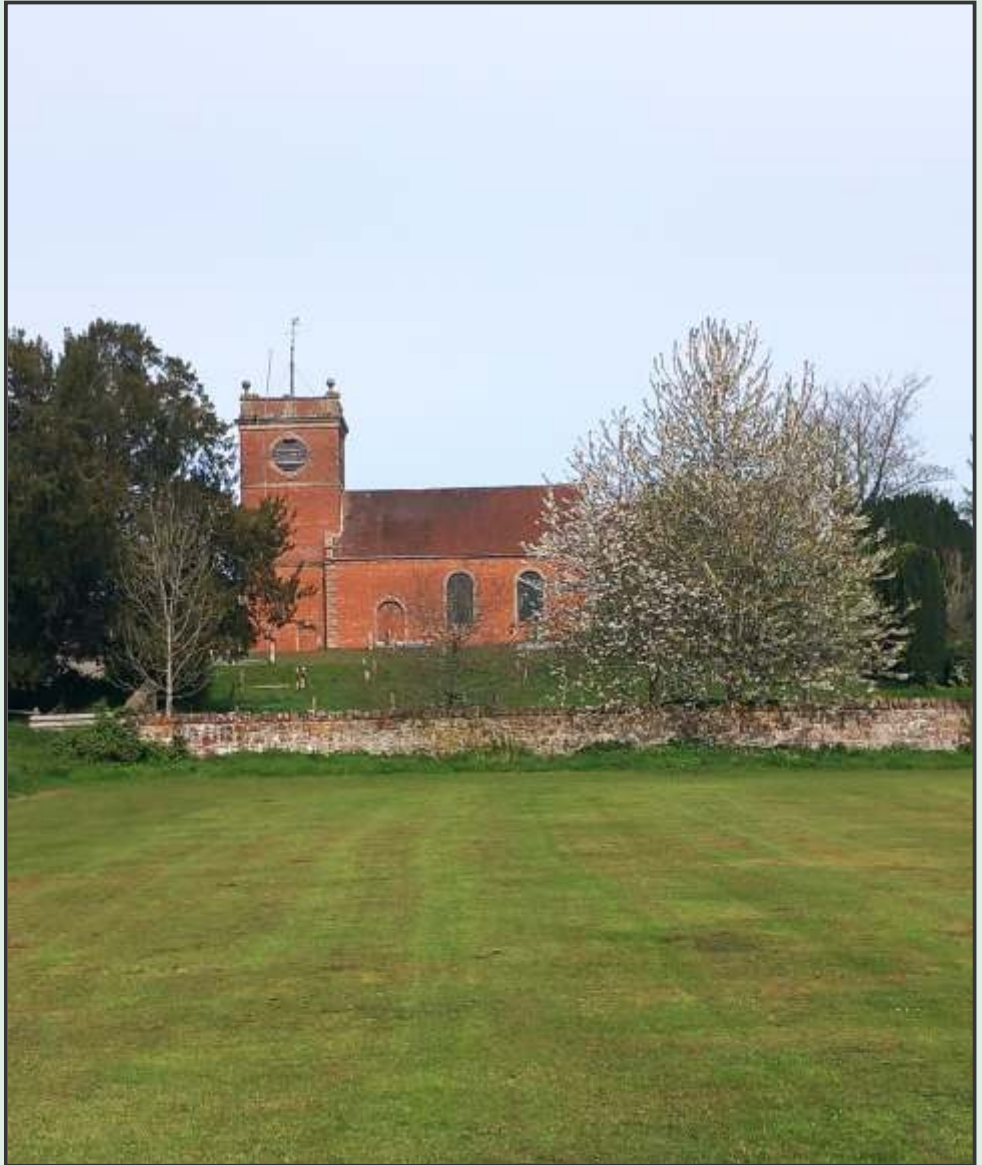


# The Parish Magazine

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



**MAY 2026**


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60p

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## The Rector writes

Dear Friends

As the Easter season comes to a close, the Church celebrates Rogation Sunday, Ascensiontide, and Pentecost all in May.

Rogation Days are traditionally observed on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday following the Sixth Sunday of Easter or Rogation Sunday. This year that is May 11-13. Rogation is a word meaning prayer, but over time the Rogation Days have come to be associated with prayer specifically for agriculture and a good harvest. In the Church of England, where parishes have geographic boundaries, there is a custom of walking around the boundaries in procession, praying for the parish and “beating the bounds”. In some churches they do this on Rogation Sunday.

The major feast of Ascension Day, always a Thursday, comes on the day after the Rogation Days, forty days after Easter. This year it is 14<sup>th</sup> May: it commemorates the final departure and ascension of Jesus to his Father after appearing to his disciples several times after his resurrection. The evangelist Luke uses the Ascension story to tie together his Gospel and the Gospel's sequel, the Acts of the Apostles (Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:9-12).

Then, on May 24<sup>th</sup> fifty days after Easter, we will celebrate Pentecost. It's a big deal: we think of Pentecost as the birthday of the Church (the entire Christian church); it's one of the five occasions in the year recommended for baptism; and it marks the end of the Easter season and the beginning of summer. But what does Pentecost mean?

The Greek word actually means a celebration of 50. On the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Passover – after a “week of weeks”, the Jewish people celebrate the festival of Shavuot. The celebration was adopted by Christians in recognition of the story in the second chapter of Acts (Acts 2:1-11) which tells us that the disciples gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover when Jesus was crucified, along with thousands of other visitors and pilgrims. Tongues of fire appeared over their heads in the midst of a mighty wind, and each of the disciples began to speak in a different language. Scripture interprets this event as a visitation of the Holy Spirit, the advocate or comforter that Jesus had promised his friends before his ascension, ten days earlier.

From this moment, the disciples were given the ability to communicate the good news of the resurrection to people from every nation under heaven, and so the missionary Church was born. In recognition of this dramatic event, we customarily wear flame-red on Pentecost.

The Church of England also calls Pentecost Whitsunday, and a tradition of Whitsun fairs and celebrations goes back to medieval times. Whitsun was one of three times in the year when serfs had a break from working their lord's land; it became the occasion for regional hiring fairs and opportunities to change jobs. The tradition of a Whitsun public holiday continued until the 1970's, when it was officially replaced by the Spring Bank Holiday on the last Monday of May. *(continues on page 5)*

## 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>07596 510020</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> , 10 Greenleys Crescent, 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

#### Interment of Ashes

21 <sup>st</sup> March	Gerald Scriven	St Mary's Alveley
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Kenneth Rhodes	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 PHOTO**

St. Andrew's in early spring

Photo by Anne Edwards

*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 word Whitsun is derived from White Sunday, referring to the white robes worn by those who are baptized on this day. It was back in 1963 on Whit Sunday that I was baptised.

So, there is much to celebrate on Pentecost Sunday: a birthday; a baptism opportunity; an ancient festival that connects us with both our Jewish ancestors and our Anglican forebears; and above all the gift of God's Holy Spirit, who remains with us today, inspiring, encouraging, and firing us up to share the good news of Jesus.

Fun fact: the term Comforter was used in the King James Bible to refer to the Holy Spirit. At that time, a Comforter was the word used for a cattle prod (from a Latin word meaning to strengthen or push). So, the Holy Spirit's function is not only to comfort us with the continuing presence of God, but also to encourage and urge us on in our spiritual journeys.

*Every blessing. Rev Jon*

## MAY SERVICES

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

### **Sunday May 3rd**

10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's

### **Sunday May 10th**

10.30am Worship 4 All Ages St Mary's

10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's

### **Wednesday May 13th**

10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's

### **Sunday May 17th**

10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's

### **Sunday May 24th**

8.00am Holy Communion St Mary's

10.30am 20-20 St Mary's

4.00pm Teatime Praise St Andrew's

### **Wednesday May 27th**

10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's

### **Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>**

10.30am Holy Communion (Joint service) St Andrew's

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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***Editor***

## ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

May is here at last with the promise of warmer days and a garden in bloom. When I was thinking about what to write this month I suddenly remembered an old saying "Ne'er cast a clout till May is out." This made me think back to my childhood when my parents and grandparents would use this as a reminder not to get your summer clothes out just because it was a warm sunny day. I was never sure if it meant the month of May or before the hawthorn (may) blooms, typically at the end of May. How our language has changed! I'm sure if you asked today's young people the meaning of the word clout they may look somewhat perplexed. It was of course a word meaning cloth or clothing, specifically heavy winter garments. I'm afraid I am more than keen to wear summer clothes on a hot day in May as we can never be sure that our summer will be hot.

I think that we all feel better when the sun is shining. The benches in our churchyard are a wonderful place to sit on a sunny day especially when there is a cricket match to watch.

Wherever you may be in May, enjoy the beauty and wonder of God's creation.

*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
May 3	Acts 17 22-31 Steve Jones	John 14 15-21 Ann Lee	Ann Lee
May 24	John 20 19-23 Carole Hubbard		Wendy Aldwinckle
May 31	Isaiah 40 12-17; 27-31 Paula Tristham	Matthew 28 16-20 Alison Pearson	Keith Pearson

## QUATT VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm. **Diyet & The Love Soldiers** is an alternative country, folk, roots and traditional trio with catchy melodies and stories deeply rooted in Diyet's Indigenous world view and northern life. Raised on the shores of a glacial lake in Canada's Yukon Territory, Diyet embodies her Southern Tutchone, Japanese, Tlingit and Scottish roots with a diverse musical presence. Backed by Love Soldiers, husband and collaborator, Robert van Lieshout acoustic (guitar, drums & percussion) and Bob Hamilton (electric guitar, pedal steel & mandolin), this trio has a sound that can fill a big stage or capture an intimate room. Tickets available online or at Quatt Farm Shop. *Steph Hinton.*

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast will be held on Saturday 16th May at 8.30am in the OCCC (Alveley Old Methodist Chapel). In February we had a wonderful talk from Benoit Ritzen-thaler who shared with us how being a Christian helps him as a palliative care Doctor, with some very moving stories. 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*

## WHITTALL MEADOWS TRUST

The Trust's next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026** when the Trustees will be pleased to consider requests for financial support from village organisations. Applications should be made in writing or by email to:

Jan Higgins

Clerk to the Whittall Meadows Trust

11, Mallards Close,

Alveley,

Bridgnorth, WV15 6JL

Email: [jan.higgins@btinternet.com](mailto:jan.higgins@btinternet.com)

Applications should arrive no later than **20<sup>th</sup> May 2026**.

***Applicants should be aware that the Trustees favour grants which support purchases of specific equipment or services rather than general running expenses.***

***Applications should give full details of your project and its costs.***

## ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be held at The Pavilion on Tuesday May 12th, starting at 7.30pm with Open Forum. This is your opportunity to raise any local issues which may be of concern to you. After Open Forum we will go into formal session around 7.45pm.

Please note that this is the second Tuesday of the month and not the usual first Tuesday of the month.

*Isley Jakeman, Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council*

## ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD,

At our last meeting we enjoyed an interesting talk by Ian Templeton on the years he worked for M & S. Come and join us on May 18th at the Village hall at 2.30pm for another interesting afternoon. All are welcome.

Something to think about. Do you know that courgettes are male and female. That was a complete surprise to me!

*Kath*

## SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

We're hoping the new play area will open in May. As I write, most of the equipment is in. The new embankment slide still needs to be assembled. The main task after that is adding more sand and then the safety flooring. It will be wonderful when it opens up again. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and webpage.

The reflection pool is bedding in at the Woodland bird hide. We're waiting for the area to settle before the water is added. (Hopefully that will have happened by the time you are reading this). It's a great effort from the team behind the Calendar Competition and we thank them for all their efforts.

Elsewhere on the park, our volunteers are starting the regular butterfly surveys, the wildlife cameras are spotting very active otters and the waterfowl on the wetlands continue to be a draw for photographers.

May sees the start of GeoFest 2026. This is organised by Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark and is a three-month summer programme of events and activities. It includes talks, guided walks, exhibitions, rock and fossil hunts, crafts days, heritage events and history tours across the whole of the Geopark. Full details available on [www.geopark.org.uk](http://www.geopark.org.uk).

Wild Toddlers has started again. It is happening every Wednesday until 20<sup>th</sup> May, then taking a break for half term before retuning on 10<sup>th</sup> June. It's £4.50 per child and runs from 11am to 12pm. Each session follows a different theme which allows the little ones to get hands-on with nature.

Entries are now open for Steaming Down the Valley, held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. You can race a steam train over 5K or 10K distance – or even on the river. Enter online at [www.entryhub.co.uk/steaming-down-the-valley](http://www.entryhub.co.uk/steaming-down-the-valley). Rain or Shine Theatre Company are back with us this year on Fri 31 July, 7pm with Charles Dickens' 'The Pickwick Papers'. Tickets will be on sale soon.

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



Our next film night will be on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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*

## CHAPEL CRAFTERS

We are continuing to knit and crochet poppies for November, we have quite a few!  
We are now turning our thoughts to the Christmas Tree Festival in November. We have decided to repeat our very successful Teddy Bear Tombola event of a few years ago.

We are sourcing second hand teddy bears to dress. If you have any teddy bears that you now longer require please drop them off at the Old Chapel Community Centre during the tea shop opening times. We would be very grateful for any donations. Funds raised will be donated to the church for the heating and church funds.

Happy Crafting. *Jenny and Angie*

## THE SQUIRREL BOWLING CLUB, ALVELEY

Well, hopefully summer is on the way (??) and our outdoor bowling season is up and running, so why not come and join us for a 'roll up' on a Thursday evening around 7pm? The bowling green is situated at the rear of the 'Squirrel Pub' on the A442.

Everyone is welcome, men and women of all ages, so why not try your hand at outdoor bowling (hopefully on a warm summer's evening). A very friendly welcome awaits you. Woods available for your first practice sessions, just come in flat soled shoes/trainers, (no heels).

For membership enquiries, or for more information, please don't hesitate to contact our club Secretary, Denis Orford on: 01746 780732. *Ann Smith*

## ALVELEY ART GROUP

Why not come along and see what we do. We are a friendly group of folks who like some me/we time to do a bit of art. There's no pressure, just sit and read the magazines if you wish or can't figure out what to start on next. We meet in the Village Hall from 10am to 1pm every other Monday (black bin day). The fee is £3 per session which helps pay for the hall rental and refreshments, *Jane Hunt 01746 780280*

*Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.*

*An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"*

*The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."*

## YOUR LOCAL PHARMACY?

What possible connection could there be between the Island of Madagascar off the coast of Africa and the village of Alveley in rural Shropshire? Please read on. Youngest son Mark is currently doing his Master's degree in Plant and Fungal taxonomy, diversity and conservation at Queen Mary's University in London. This is basically the classification of plants and fungi and the University works closely with Kew Gardens, also in London, who have trees and flowers from around the world in their gardens. Their herbarium and fungarium, which is one of the largest in the world, has over 8.5 million preserved plant and fungal specimens. As part of Mark's course the students spend two weeks in Madagascar. Kew Gardens have a permanent facility in the capital Antananarivo, but the students stayed in a hotel near a rainforest about four hours away in the Andasibe National park.

Although they get the opportunity to see lemurs, ghekos, chameleons and spiders as big as your hand, the real purpose is to look for previously undiscovered plants or fungi and collect samples to be returned to Kew for classification and storage and to research their genetic make up. It helps with identification if these specimens are in flower or have fruit. At one point they found an orchid in flower that had never been seen flowering in the wild.

The purpose of all this is so that medical researchers do not have to travel around the world searching for plants or fungi - they simply come to Kew and go through the herbarium or fungarium to try to find compounds for new drugs which would eventually find their way to your local doctor or pharmacy. Some examples of medicines that come from plants include willow bark which contains salacin the basis for aspirin. Foxgloves contain digoxin which stimulates the heart. The opium poppy is the source of morphine and codeine both powerful painkillers. Snowdrops contain galantamine used to slow Alzheimers disease progression. Chilli peppers contain capsaicin used in creams for arthritis and neuralgia. Echinacea is used to strengthen the immune system and fight infections. Garlic is used for lowering cholesterol and high blood pressure and the Madagascan periwinkle is a source of vinchristine and vinblastine which are used in chemotherapy.

*Roy Page*

*Seen in a church notice:*

*Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.*

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Care about flooding, food, health, or the future?

If you're worried about local flooding, soaring living costs, food security, extreme weather, pollution, or your health — and want to feel uplifted, inspired, empowered, and hopeful — then this is for you!

Join us on 1<sup>st</sup> May 7pm at St. Mary's Church for a dynamic, eye-opening fire cracker of a 50-minute film packed with facts and insights from top UK experts in food security, health, economics, and national security. They'll speak honestly about where we're headed and, most importantly, what we *can* do to make a difference.

This initiative is explicitly non-partisan and backed by a broad range of organisations including the National Trust, RSPB, Newcastle University, WWT, University of Reading, A Plastic Planet, the Church of England, and many, many more. The film is suitable for ages 16+ and open to all — no matter your views on the UK's current challenges.

Our local Parish and County Councillors, along with our MP, have been invited to join residents for the screening and a structured discussion afterward. This is your chance to learn, share, and connect with your neighbours.

Together, we can turn urgent challenges into exciting opportunities — boosting our economy, resilience, and quality of life.

Make a pledge to yourself today: come along, be part of the conversation, and help shape a brighter future.

FREE entry but booking is required for numbers/refreshments. <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/alveleyromsleyneb/2137462> Need a hand? Just get in touch! 07792 487929 or 07791 157037 and leave a message with your name (email address if you have one) and number required. Donations to the Church Heating Fund.

**Bridgnorth Green Festival** is back on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May in the Castle Gardens from 11am to 4pm for an exciting celebration of sustainable living! Local charities and eco-friendly businesses will come together with fun stalls, family activities, and live music to inspire greener choices. Shop recycled, upcycled and eco-friendly products and connect with community groups championing a healthier planet. This free, relaxed festival welcomes everyone—residents and visitors alike—to learn and enjoy. Donations are warmly appreciated. If you're an ethical maker, trader, or community group passionate about sustainability and you'd like a stall, email [bridgnorthgreenfestival@outlook.com](mailto:bridgnorthgreenfestival@outlook.com) to join the fun!

*Kath Norgrove*

## BUNKERS (Part 4)

Only those of a certain age, will have heard of and no doubt seen when they were young, '**Anderson Shelters**', the invention of the then Home Secretary and Lord Privy Seal, Sir John Anderson.

Just before the start of World War 2, he came up with the idea of covering the entire country, especially cities that were likely to be bombed by the Germans, with convex shaped corrugated steel shelters, with steel plated ends, capable of sleeping up to 6 people. These were half buried in gardens and yards, up to 3ft in the ground, then covered with a few feet of soil, thus protecting the inhabitants from bomb blasts and shrapnel. The soil disguised the shelters, as well as enabling gardeners to plant flowers or veg on top as an added bonus.

Unfortunately these were very cold and damp owing to lack of suitable drainage, and quickly became known as 'Tin Tombs', if they received a direct hit. These shelters were free to those households on incomes below £14,700 (at today's prices), but were available to buy, should you wish, for £7, (£500 today) .

The constructional information sent out for the owners to install themselves, was not the best, (before TV and the internet), and many were put in wrongly, some upside down, others being ripped off by unscrupulous black marketers!! .

After the end of the war, many were repurposed as sheds, workshops or even chicken coops. It's still possible to buy one today on various sales sites, such as Ebay, for anything up to £1000. If you still have one in your back garden, you may be on to a winner !!

For those of you not old enough to have seen one, then why not pop along to the Cosford Aero Museum, not far away, and see what life would have been like for families during the blitz.

Moving right up to the present, Switzerland have over 370,000 underground shelters, which the government have made mandatory to construct, alternatively householders have to pay extra taxes to help with the projects.

With these, the Swiss are also renovating old military war bunkers with vast tunnel systems under the Alps, hoping, should the need ever arise, to safely house the entire population of 9 million inhabitants, in case of nuclear attack, costing so far, in excess of 10 billion pounds.

Living in Switzerland must be wonderful with such a proactive government, even their national flag is a big plus !! and on that note.....

*Bill Smith*

## ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

### **Alveley Cricket Club – May Update**

As we head into the summer season, there's plenty happening at Alveley Cricket Club and we'd love to see as many familiar and new faces as possible getting involved.

### **Junior Cricket Coaching – Starts 1st May**

Our junior coaching sessions return from **1st May**, offering a fun, safe and supportive environment for young people to learn new skills, build confidence and make friends. Whether your child is new to cricket or already loves the game, everyone is welcome to come along and get involved. Every Friday evening for 14 weeks, for children aged 5 upwards. We have a street food van and bar open all evening, its a great family environment where everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Women's Softball Cricket – Starts 7th May**

We're delighted to be continuing our **women's softball cricket sessions from Thursday 7th May 6.30pm**. These sessions are ideal for beginners or those returning to cricket, with a relaxed and sociable atmosphere. It's a great way to stay active, meet new people and enjoy being part of a growing and supportive group.

### **Race Night – Friday 15th May**

Join us for a **thrilling Race Night** that promises great fun for all ages! This is a **FREE ENTRY event**, so bring the whole family along to enjoy:

- **Live Racing** – Experience the excitement of the races on big screens, with plenty of chances to place your bets and cheer on your favourites.
- **Family Fun** – Activities and entertainment for all ages – the perfect way to spend an evening together.
- **Food & Drinks** – Refreshments available throughout the night to keep you going.

Whether you're a racing enthusiast or just looking for a fun night out with family and friends, this is set to be a fantastic evening full of laughs and friendly competition.

**Everyone is welcome**, and we're always keen to see new members join our community club.

For more information on any of the above, please get in touch or pop down to the club We'd love to see you!

*Alveley Cricket Club – at the heart of the community*

## **ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB**

Alveley Tennis Club welcomes a new membership secretary, Jennifer White. Jennifer moved to Alveley last year and lives in the village with her 2 little dogs. Her career took her to the USA for 17 years. She is now semi-retired and has returned to the area to reconnect with friends & family. Jen joined Alveley Tennis Club in November 2025. As well as tennis & pickleball Jen is a good all-round sportswoman who plays badminton & is a keen golfer.

2026 has been a great start at Alveley Tennis Club with now a Record 98 tennis & pickleball members. The club now runs 9 organised tennis & pickleball sessions Monday to Saturday. A new pickleball daytime session is coming soon.

**PICKLEBALL FRIDAY.** The 2 Pickleball Sessions are going well on Friday nights. Pickleball coaching starts at 6.20pm. Social pickleball starts at 7pm. We are now taking pickleball bookings for Fridays May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Book now with Club Chairman Ben Spicer on 07443 578810.

**SPECIAL EXTENDED MEMBERSHIP!** Sign up today for ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & don't pay again until June 2027. Tel JENNIFER WHITE (Membership Secretary) 07918 280220 or book online via Alveley Tennis Club website.

**NON MEMBERS** are allowed 2 FREE VISITS to our organised tennis or pickleball events to try out our facilities .

Enquires for Rusty Racquets, Junior Tennis Sessions (5 to 14 year olds), pickleball or tennis coaching or one-to-one tennis coaching telephone professional coach Jack Fletcher on 07496 177385. For any other info on the club ring Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488. *Brian Davies*

## **ALVELEY PETANQUE CLUB**

**THE GAME:** Pétanque, commonly known as boules, is played with small steel balls on a dirt, gravel, or stoney surface. Usually for matches and competitions it is played on a confined flat surface called a piste. Players can be of any age, but children under13 must be supervised by an adult.

**CLUB HISTORY:** There has been an Alveley Pétanque Club since the late 1980's, originally playing on a piste at The Royal Oak. In 2008 the Club had enough players to enter two teams in the Severn Valley Pétanque League ( for more information about the League visit its web site). Since 2017, the Club has played on a magnificent piste behind the tennis courts on Alveley Recreation Association's ground.

**WHY NOT JOIN US?** The Club is always on the lookout for new members whatever age, who will be very welcome to have ago at playing boules and join our happy band of boulers. Please do get in touch with Brian Jones, captain of our Oaks team (Tel No. 01746-781218) or David Voysey of our Royals Team (Tel No. 01746-780356) and find out more about us. (Photo on p 18}

*David Voysey*

## .MESSY CHURCH

A special Easter Messy Church was held on Good Friday in April, with lots of children and their families in attendance; it was a lively and quite “messy” morning! There were several crafts on offer – hand-made Easter biscuits with sticky icing and mini eggs, Easter baskets [more eggs!] and a beautiful Easter mobile. The children also made their own Easter gardens, building a tomb with it’s stone boulder, surrounded by plants and moss and a small gravel path. Hopefully the plants will keep growing long into the summer. At the end of the craft session, all the children went out into the Old Chapel garden for an Easter Egg Hunt, which proved to be very popular.



Once everyone had washed their hands [!], we all sat down to watch a short video of the Easter story and sing some well-known songs of praise. The morning ended with hot cross buns and Easter cakes.

The next Messy Church will be back in St. Mary’s Church on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, at 3pm. All the children of Alveley & Quatt are welcome as always.

*Alison Pearson*



## NEWS FROM ALVELEY SCHOOL

We were delighted to end the spring term with a highly successful Easter Coffee Morning. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for our children to showcase their fantastic entries in this year's Easter competitions. Pupils took part in both an Easter bonnet competition and an Easter egg scene competition, and the standard of entries was incredibly high. It was lovely to see so many children getting involved and demonstrating such creativity.

Both the Easter bonnets and egg scenes were particularly imaginative. The bonnets were beautifully decorated with bright colours, spring flowers, and a variety of unique designs, showcasing the children's creativity and flair. The Easter egg scenes were equally impressive, featuring designs such as an ice cream parlour, a garden, and even a football match. Each creation reflected the time, effort, and enthusiasm the children had invested in their work.

The coffee morning also gave us a valuable opportunity to welcome parents, carers, families, and members of the wider community into school. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to enjoy tea, cake, and conversation in such a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Thanks to the generous support, we raised nearly £100. This money will go towards purchasing new breaktime and lunchtime equipment for the playground and school field. Our School Council will be involved in selecting the new equipment, ensuring it benefits all pupils.

We were also pleased to host a parent workshop this last term, where families were invited into school to support pupils with their Design and Technology learning. During the workshop, parents worked alongside the children to bring their designs to life by creating stuffed toys. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their practical skills while collaborating with their families, and the finished creations were something everyone could be proud of.

As we begin the new term, our classes are excited to explore a range of topics, including Dinosaurs, Flying High, Jungle and Rainforests, and Inventors and Inventions. Children will be learning about dinosaur life and the early days of flight, and will also enjoy a trip to Enginuity Science Museum, as well as a visit from a local animal expert.

We look forward to another busy and exciting term ahead.

*Mrs. K. Lowe, Assistant Headteacher*





St Mary's Church, Alveley  
Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 3pm-5pm  
in St.Mary's Church

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Worship

**Messy**  
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Alveley Pétanque Club. See page 14

## ALL IN THE MONTH OF MAY

300 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1726 the world's first Circulating Library (lending library) was launched by Scottish poet and bookseller Allan Ramsay at his bookshop in Edinburgh.

250 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1776 Rhode Island became the first of the Thirteen Colonies to renounce allegiance to the British Crown and instead, to declare independence.

200 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1826 Ebenezer Butterick, American tailor was born. He and his wife invented tissue paper dress patterns in multiple sizes, and thereby revolutionised home dressmaking.

175 years ago, from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> October 1851 the Great Exhibition was held in The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park. More than 10,000 exhibitors attended what is regarded as the first World's Fair.

100 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 1926 the UK's General Strike was held. The Trade Union Congress (TUC) called a General Strike in support of 1.2 million coal miners. The strike lasted nine days, and had little effect.

90 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1936 British aviator Amy Johnson made the fastest-ever (at that time) solo flight from England to Cape Town.

Also 90 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1936 the RMS Queen Mary began her maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton to New York.

75 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1951 the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London were opened

Also 75 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1951 the Lake District National Park was established as Britain's second national park.

Also 75 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1951 British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring.

70 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1956 the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

60 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1966 British racing driver Graham Hill won the 1966 Indianapolis 500. He was the only driver in history to win the 'triple crown of motor racing': the Formula One World Championship, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the Indianapolis 500.

15 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 Osama bin Laden, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist, was shot dead by US forces in Pakistan. He was the founder of Al-Qaeda and is thought to have masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA.

10 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 Carla Lane, TV screenwriter, died. Best remembered for creating the sitcoms *The Liver Birds*, *Butterflies*, and *Bread*

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA MAY 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
May 3	Acts 7.55-60 Jackie Hampson	John 14.1-14 Allison Pearson	Jackie Hampson	Jackie Hampson Jenny Sirrell	David & Jackie Hampson	Pat Bowyer Carol Wall
May 10	John 14.15-21 Keith Pearson				Lynn Madden Carol Wall	Anne Simms Irene Orford
May 17	Acts 1.6-14 Penny Jenkins	Matthew 25.14-30 Ian Maddock	Benoit Ritzenthaler	Alison Pearson Carol Wall	Alison Pearson Jenny Sirrell	David & Jackie Hampson
May 24	John 20.19-23 Sue Chidwick				Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Lynn Madden Sally Page Jenny Sirrell

## DIARY 2026

<b>May 1</b>	Alveley CC junior coaching begins, Alveley CC 6.30pm (p 13)
1	People's Emergency Briefing, St. Mary's Church, 7pm. (p 11)
2	Messy Church, St. Mary's Church, 3pm-5pm (p15,18)
7	Women's Softball Cricket starts, Alveley CC 6.30pm (p 13)
8	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel Community Centre, 1030am-12.30pm
11	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
12	Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum, Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 7)
14	Diyet & The Love Soldiers, Quatt Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 6)
15	Race Night, Alveley CC (Free entry) 7.30pm (p 13)
15	Alveley Entertainers' Film Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 8)
15	Men's breakfast, Old chapel Community centre, 8.30am (p7)
18	Alveley Ladies' Guild, Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 7)
18	Be Café, Alveley Old Chapel Community Centre, 2pm-4pm (p 18)
22	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel Community Centre, 1030am-12.30pm
30	Bridgnorth Green Festival, Castle Gardens, Bridgnorth, 11am-4pm (p 11)
<b>June 6</b>	Steaming Down The Valley, Severn Valley Country Park 11am (p 8)
8	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
13	Greek Evening, Southview, 24 Daddlebrook Rd, 5pm-9pm (p 18)
22	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
<b>July 6</b>	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
20	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 9)
31	The Pickwick Papers, Rain or Shine Theatre Co, S.V.C.P. 7pm (p 8)

## ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB MAY FIXTURES

### 1<sup>st</sup> Team

02/05 Himley CC (H)  
09/05 Harborne CC (A)  
16/05 Belbroughton CC (H)  
23/05 Pedmore CC (A)  
30/05 Coombs Wood CC (H)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Team

02/05 Netherton CC (A)  
09/05 Halesowen CC (H)  
16/05 Chaddesley Corbett CC (A)  
23/05 Himley CC (H)  
30/05 Bromsgrove CC (A)

### T20 Midweek

06/05 Oldswinford CC (A)  
13/05 Bewdley (H)  
20/05 Black Country Gladiators (H) Cup  
27/05 Claverley CC (A)

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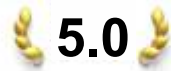
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## WHO'S WHO - A GUIDE TO ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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	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
Chapel Crafters	Angela Lander 07952172691 Jenny Sirrell	07484806605
County Councillor	Colin Taylor	07581 066956
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
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

Our daughter moved back to mid-Wales in the autumn and the Head Gardener and I stayed there over Easter. On the Sunday morning, daughter and I went to church and as we approached I realised how lucky we are in Alveley to have a team of bell ringers. It's lovely to hear the bells ring out. Approaching the church on Easter Sunday I gradually became aware of a tinny noise which vaguely resembled bells - it was clearly a not very successful recording being played over an inadequate speaker and to hear St. Mary's bellringers practising on the following Thursday was a delight.

The organ music, however, was excellent, and it turned out that the organist was a retired Archbishop of Wales no less. We too are lucky in that we have regular accomplished organists. Long may it continue.

Another thing both churches have in common, unlike most businesses these days, is that you aren't asked to fill in a questionnaire after the service: how did we do?

If I receive good service I am thankful and will say so and if I am unhappy the Head Gardener will tell you that it's pretty obvious. If a meal is not to my satisfaction I will say so, but don't need someone asking every five minutes if everything is ok.

In Ireland some years ago we were served an almost inedible meal - unfortunately the warning signs of a virtually empty room didn't help as we were miles from anywhere else - the service was appalling and the owner had the gall to ask why I wasn't leaving a tip. She was left with a suitable response! I must add that that was the only occasion I have ever been upset with service in Ireland, where I have had very happy times, with some great hospitality.

With tongue in cheek I'll end by saying if you don't like the magazine or have suggestions of how it can be improved, don't wait for a questionnaire, there isn't one - just tell me!

*Ian*

Please send items for the **June edition by 9 am on Sunday May 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 email [david.hampson2025@gmail.com](mailto:david.hampson2025@gmail.com))



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