

The Parish Magazine

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



SEPTEMBER 2024

60p

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The Rector writes

Dear Friends

On Facebook recently, I spotted one of those posts about what it was like back in the, in this case, fifties; specifically, food. Amongst its witticisms were statements like "...a Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining," and, "...a takeaway was something to do in arithmetic." What made me think, however, was, "...healthy foods were anything edible." I thought about the piece of fish Jesus had after his resurrection - which was highly unlikely to have passed any hygiene standards today. His nourishment was provided by a piece of broiled leftovers. It's not just that technically his body needed the protein, it's that no lesser a person than the Messiah was perfectly content with what was available.

There are estimates that a third of the world's produced food never gets eaten. (Are you aware of the Bridgnorth Foodbank, you can drop items off at St Mary's church) So, it would seem that despite the constant stream of "perfectly" shaped and sized (and out of season) food, it's not appreciated by a significant number of consumers anyway. Shameful that the millions of people in the world who would appreciate it, the starving or malnourished? - have to go without, while we don't even give a second thought to what we're throwing away.

At least at harvest festival there is a moment to consider and give thanks for what we have and the successful farming of land, sea and waterway which supplies it. We are holding our Harvest Festivals this year on September 29th at 10.30am in St Andrew's Quatt followed by lunch in the village hall and on October 20th at 10.30am in St Mary's, Alveley followed by lunch in the church.

Every culture in every age seems to have regularly given time to be thankful and respectful of what we have to sustain us. In our society now, though, the absence of saying grace by those sharing a meal at dinner tables - indeed, the absence of tables! - means that a harvest festival once a year might be the only time we stop to think how blessed we are to have been born into a society that rarely sees starvation by lack of provisions. My personal overview of history is that decadence becomes the terminal cancer of society when we lose sight of gratitude. Perhaps at this year's harvest thanksgiving we can start turning that around. Naturally, I'm going to suggest that we thank God for what we have; even if you can't bring yourself to do that, at least be thankful. It will be a start.

Every blessing

Rev Jon.

United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

Rector	Rev. Jon Aldwinckle , The Rectory, Alveley (email: revjonaldwinckle@outlook.com)	01746 562159
Retired Clergy	Rev. Dr. Wendy Rylance , Roughton Farmhouse	01746 716399
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**

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
Deputy Warden	Sara Douglas , 1 The Dower House, Quatt	01746 781825
Treasurer	Steve Jones , 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster	01562 753828

From the Parish Registers

Weddings	<i>Those whom God Has joined together</i>	
August 2	James Drew and Danielle Carswell	St.Mary's
Funerals	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'</i>	
July 24	Pauline Ellingham	St. Andrew's

COVER PICTURE

Taken and titled by Don Bannister
'September Solstice at Arley'

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 780369

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.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

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

Sunday September 1

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

Sunday September 8

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

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

Wednesday September 11

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

Sunday September 15

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

Sunday September 22

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 September 25

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

Sunday September 29

10.30 a.m. Combined Holy Communion (Harvest) St. Andrew's

N.B. All September services subject to change.

ST. ANDREW'S SEPTEMBER DUTIES

(ST. MARY'S DUTIES ON PAGE 20)

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions
September 8	Steve Jones Proverbs 22.1-2,8-9,22-23	Christopher Douglas Mark 7.24-37	Ann Lee
September 22	Carole Hubbard Mark9.30-37		Ann Lee
September 29	Alison Pearson Joel 2.21-27	Paul Tristham Matthew 6.25-33	Keith Pearson

Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back. -Anon

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

It has been another busy month at St Andrew's. Our Quinquennial inspection (a five year building and churchyard inspection by an architect) took place in July. We worked hard to get the church and churchyard looking it's best. Thank you to those who helped.

As I write this I have just returned from meeting a team of bellringers from Hemel Hempstead who rang a full peal. What a wonderful sound it was! It was a hot morning and they were very glad to partake of tea and chocolate biscuits afterwards.

Alex D'Auriol has decided to step down as Tower captain and we thank him and wish him well for the future.

Rev Jon has at long last had his long awaited surgery. We hope that he will soon be feeling much better and return to us fully healed and refreshed.

Our **Harvest Service** and **hot roast lunch** will take place on Sunday 29th September. The service will be in the church followed by the meal in the Village Hall. Car parking is available at the Village Hall for both. Please let us know if you wish to stay for the meal by Thursday 26th at the latest to allow for catering. Please also let us know of any dietary requirements and bring along any alcoholic or soft drinks as we are only able to provide water. To book your tickets please call me on 01746 760038 or Sara on 01746 781825.

Let us hope that September will bring us more warm weather as we approach autumn and the beautiful colours that our countryside provides.

Ann Lee

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 3rd September in The Pavilion starting at 7.30 with open forum. Everyone is welcome and Open forum is your opportunity to raise any issues you may have, or to comment on agenda items. You are welcome to stay for the entire meeting but may only comment during open forum.

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

Isley Jakeman, Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council

A bishop visited a primary school in his full episcopal attire - with his mitre, robes and bishop's crook or crozier. A little lad's mother asked him later what he had thought of the bishop's visit to his school. The little boy replied: "It was great - now I know what a real crook looks like!"

THE 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.

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 Monday 14 October 2024 when they will be considered by the Trustees. *Jackie Hampson*

ALVELEY CHARITY GRANTS

Our objective is to provide relief for members of Alveley & Romsley Parishes, by way of making grants or providing services to reduce either need, hardship or distress. Having absorbed an educational charity in the past, we also consider Educational assistance grants from July onwards, which are considered in the Autumnal meeting. A specific Educational application form is available on request. For any other assistance grant applications, you can contact me, Daryl Cooper (780378) email: alveleycharities@gmail.com

Daryl Cooper



ALVELEY OLD CHAPEL

With the warmer weather the Chapel has been very busy serving delicious food to our lovely customers. We can still seat more people so why not come along on a Tuesday or Wednesday. You will be welcomed with a warm smile from our amazing volunteers.

The garden lawn is now cut and you are welcome to wander around the orchard or just sit in the garden with a book or a friend.

The Tearoom is entering the 21st century. We now have a mobile phone and the other number will be finishing at the end of September. The new number is 07777 624664.

I am afraid I had an elderly moment last month (it does happen) and gave the wrong date for the music evening at the Chapel. It is Friday 18 October at 7.30pm. Tickets will be in sale in September but get your tickets quickly as there are only 40 tickets to sell. Please see poster for more details.

See you next month

Mo Morgan, Manager, Alveley Old Chapel Tearoom 01746 781277

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

We will return in September on Monday 23rd at 2.30pm in Alveley Village Hall and our speaker will be Barbara Price.

Happy summer. *Kath*

ENGLAND'S LARGEST FESTIVAL OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

SEPTEMBER 6th to 15th

Heritage Open Days is England's largest community-led festival of history and culture, involving thousands of local volunteers and organisations.

Every year in September (6th to 15th) it brings people together to celebrate their heritage, community and history. Stories are told, traditions explored, and histories brought to life. It's your chance to see unexpected places and try out new experiences – and it's all FREE!

For more details on what's on offer this year, go to: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>

Extract from an official letter notifying residents of a new boundary road: "It is hoped to take the new by-pass through the old cemetery, provided we can get permission from the various bodies concerned."

ALVELEY ART GROUP

During the month of August we have been focussing on Gardens as our theme, whether the whole garden with a shed and a line full of washing or a mini version - a jam jar full of cut flowers from our own back garden. Claude Monet, the French Impressionist painter, spent many years in his later life recreating his own garden in Giverny - his paintings becoming more abstract (and wonderful!) as his eyesight faded. Monet offered these paintings, 'Water Lilies', to the French State on the day following the Armistice on 11th November 1918, as a symbol of peace. They have been on display in Paris at l'Orangerie in the Jardin des Tuileries since 1927. Throughout the summer in Paris the Olympic flame cauldron can be seen in the Jardin des Tuileries so visiting Monet's painted panels in the elliptical gallery rooms will have to wait until the autumn.

From September, Jane Hunt will be taking over the reins of Alveley Art Group (thank you so much Jane), and with the help of Bill, Norma and Keith and our other regular artists, the art group continues in Alveley Village Hall every alternate Monday. Please contact Jane on 01746 780280 or by email on ma_hunt2002@yahoo.co.uk if you would like any information.

Deb Parker

THE ALVELEY SINGERS

The Alveley Singers would like to thank all those who came to support them at their recent and final concert on 31st July in Alveley Old Chapel. It was lovely to welcome some past members and in fact, to be joined by two of them to sing in the second half of the evening.

We extend our grateful thanks to Pat and Lynn who volunteered to make and serve drinks during the interval.

As the final musical director, I would like to thank all those who have been part of the choir over the years, our accompanists and previous musical directors. All have worked together to bring musical enjoyment to many audiences both in the village and further afield. I would also like to thank our choir chairman, secretary, treasurer and librarian who have worked hard to organise the essential business elements of the choir.

I am sure that as evenings draw in and weather is not so kind for travelling it will be good not to have to turn out to rehearsal on a Wednesday evening. But I am also sure that we will all miss the fun, friendship and challenge to be found at each meeting. To our accompanist, Stephen Lomas and all our singers, THANK YOU. *Penny Jenkins*

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Once again our wildflower meadows have been beautiful with a wide range of flowers in bloom. The common spotted orchids were out in their hundreds again and our bee orchids appeared outside the visitor centre this year. We are never sure where they will show up!

Towards the middle of July, after the seeds have dropped the meadows are mowed. We work with Neville Taylor at Little London Farm to help with the traditional hay meadow management. The majority of the hay is baled and used as animal feed during the winter months.

We do keep some of the hay and it is taken to other local sites to help nurture wildflower growth. We have previously taken hay to our site at Stanmore just outside Bridgnorth. This year, the hay has gone further afield as we have worked with both Wyre Forest District Council and National Trust.

We have been a donor site for five of the Wyre Forest locations. These are Blakemarsh Nature Reserve, Spennells Valley Nature Reserve, Stourvale Gateway Nature Reserve, Stourport Riverside Meadows and Britannia Gardens Conservation Area. The Wyre Forest Rangers and their volunteers collected green hay from us as well as Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve to spread on pre-prepared areas of their reserves.

We are working with National Trust Dudmaston in a similar way. They have a number of meadows which border the river and they are working with one of their tenant farmers to restore a species rich floodplain meadow. It's lovely that the park can help with the growth of other wildflower meadows in this way.

September sees the start of a new season for our Four Seasons Calendar Competition. The judges will select the winners of 'Summer' on 8th September and a selection of photographs entered will be on display in the visitor centre. The competition continues with Autumn. Each season visitors will be able to submit 2 photographs. For Autumn we are looking for photographs taken between 1st September and 30th November. Please email svcpcalendarcomp@gmail.com for an entry form which also has the terms and conditions. Photographers whose photograph/s are selected for the calendar will receive a copy of the calendar.

Thank you to regular visitors Jill Bunn, Andy Sibley, Sally Neville and John Chapman for organising the competition and many thanks to our sponsors: PEZ Concrete Pumping; PEZ Development; Berriman Eaton Estate Agents;

W.F. Head & Sons, Alveley; Red Lion, Bobbington; Dominique's Restaurant, Shatterford; The Three Horseshoes, Alveley; Severn Valley Railway; Alveley Village Vets; Nick Goodwin (petsmakeportraits.co.uk)

The visitor centre and cafe return to opening Wednesday to Sunday from week commencing 9th September. Times will be Wednesday to Friday, 11am-3pm, Saturday, 9.30am-4pm and Sunday 10.30am-4pm. The toilets stay open daily from 10am-4pm.

And finally, we have a short annual visitor survey available to complete online. The link to it is here if you have the time to complete it.

www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/severn-valley-country-park-visitor-survey.

Susie Comaish, Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre Manager 781192

TAI CHI AND QIGONG

On Tuesday September 3rd we will be restarting our beginner Tai Chi classes at the Pavilion from 10 till 11am. We have an experienced teacher from Kidderminster, Sarah Weston, teaching us. Payment is £10 per session on a pay as you go basis. First session is free.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese art that co-ordinates breath with slow, graceful movements to enhance energy, health, fitness and wellbeing. It is suitable for all abilities as movements can be done seated as well as standing. You will learn at your own pace in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Please do come along and try out this wonderful art of exercise. Everyone who has attended our initial classes has thoroughly enjoyed this new experience.

For further information please contact Sarah Weston on 07563 073986 or Angie Lander on 07952 272691.

Angie Lander

Miscellaneous observations on daily life...

The secret to a clean kitchen is simple. Don't cook. Ever.

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Microchips: What's left at the bottom of the bag.

The inventor of the doorbell obviously did not own a dog.

ALVELEY W.I.

I was so sorry that I wasn't able to join so many of you at our August meeting picnic. They say that the sun shines on the righteous. Well, all I can say is, you must all have been on your best behaviour for the weather just got better and better as the picnic progressed!! At this meeting it was agreed to send a letter to County informing them that it was highly likely that our WI would be closing after our AGM in November after 79 years of wonderful times. This closure will be inevitable unless we can find four able bodied volunteers to take up the vacant officers appointments (something which has proved elusive so far). We don't want to lose touch with each other so it is hoped that we can start up a luncheon club. Hopefully more information on this venture soon.

Our meeting on 11th September is being organised by a group of members, do come and see what they have in store for us.

I am pleased to say that 23 of us are going to the Tap House at Hartlebury for lunch on 18th September. Hope they are prepared for all the chat and laughter that will descend on their dining room.

On 9th October we welcome the return of one of our favourite speakers - Max Keen - this time his talk is LORD NELSON - BRITAIN'S GREATEST NAVAL HERO. Our tea hostesses will be Penny Inskip, Irene Orford and Sue White. This will be our last organised meeting before the AGM in November.

Pam Worton



Our next film night will be on Friday September 20th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. A film, tea/coffee and cake, all for £5. Do join us for the evening. For more details about the film please contact Una Coombs (780568) or Carol Hatfield (780576).

Ian Maddock

Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks. When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man's job, his wife replied simply: "2 Kings 21:13", and handed him a tea towel. Later he looked it up: 'And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.'

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

We now have a date for our next Arts Alive! Production. This will be a play, 'The Plot Thickens', billed as 'fun, crazy, tense' - just right for Alveley - and will be on Friday 8th November at 7.30pm.

The Christmas Market will be on Saturday 7th December, starting at 12 noon.
Norma Crabtree

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

Come and join us where you can play Tennis every day or night in a social environment where all ages gather to enjoy a game. You needn't be a skilled player as we can teach you the game. Your rewards are being outdoors, a great workout, team building experience and being part of a great little club here in Alveley. When you join our friendly and welcoming club you will have the benefits of all our facilities which include 3 floodlit all weather courts, practice area , ball machine , dedicated club house , racquets and balls available. There is coaching for members and non members so you can decide whether you want to continue with membership. Sessions available at present include Rusty Racquets for Adults who have never played or need practice, Junior Group sessions split by age and ability, one to one coaching .

RUSTY RACQUETS is on MONDAYS 5.15 to 6pm and WEDNESDAYS 12 Mid day to 12.45 pm . Contact Jack for more information on (07946) 177385.

SOCIAL TENNIS SESSIONS - SATURDAY MORNING MIX 10am to 12 Mid Day , MONDAY EVENINGS (Gents) 7 to 9 pm , TUESDAY AFTERNOONS MIX 1pm to 3pm , THURSDAY EVENINGS MIX 7pm to 9pm.

FREE TENNIS SESSION on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21st

10 am to 12 noon. To anyone over 16, this will give you a chance to meet members and play on our courts .

We welcome new members from all over including Alveley, Shatterford, Kinver, Bridgnorth, Kidderminster and surrounding areas - come and check us out or call Roger Whitworth on 07946 094488 or Jan Higgins on (01746) 780259.

Brian Davies

MUSIC WITH ANDREW AND MO - CHANGE OF DATE

Andrew Crabtree and Mo Morgan will present an evening of music from the 40s in the Old Chapel on Friday October 18th, not October 11th as previously advertised.

SUSTAINABLE BRIDGNORTH

Sustainable Bridgnorth's AGM will take place on 12th Sept at 7.30pm. We have had a change of venue and will now be holding the event at the Platform 10 Café, 10 Bank Street, Bridgnorth (rear of Our Green Shop). At the last meeting, we were short of nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair roles and other key roles I'm now standing down from including promotion, social media, correspondence, representative on SAS, Refill etc. We have candidates for Meetings Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. You don't have to be able to attend meetings to support the group, e.g. with social media and promotion. If you are interested in helping out in some way, please contact secretary@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk. On the understanding that we may not get a last-minute stampede of volunteers, we are in discussions with Our Green Shop about the two groups working more closely together, and potentially sharing a committee or officers in the future.

Following the AGM part of the meeting, there will be a set of three speakers that each run/are involved in Repair Cafés presenting to attendees. Repair Cafés are community-based initiatives where people come together to repair various items, such as electronics, clothing, furniture, and appliances, instead of discarding them.

Functions:

1. Repair Assistance: Volunteers with repair skills help attendees fix their broken items.
2. Workshops: Some Repair Cafés offer workshops to teach repair skills and techniques.
3. Community Building: They serve as a gathering place for community members to connect and share knowledge.
4. Resource Sharing: Tools and materials are often provided for use during the repair sessions.

Benefits:

1. Waste Reduction: By repairing items, Repair Cafés help to reduce waste and promote a culture of reuse.
2. Cost Savings: Participants can save by fixing items instead of buying new ones.
3. Skill Development: Attendees can learn valuable repair skills, fostering a sense of empowerment.
4. Environmental Awareness: Repair Cafés raise awareness about sustainability and the importance of reducing consumption.

Everybody is welcome, and it is free entry with a ticket booked via Eventbrite, so we can track numbers (search: Eventbrite Sustainable Bridgnorth Repair Café), or get in touch if you have any problems/queries). The venue will have a limit on attendees due to its size, but if there are sufficient numbers, Platform 10 will sell refreshments.

Kath Norgrove

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

We have lots going on throughout September at Four Oaks. From live music, outdoor cinema and charity fun day. All the events are open to everyone, the bar is open all day too.

6 September Junior Presentation evening 6.30pm

7 September - Last 1st team home game plus Open Day with live music The Swinertones – from 12.30pm

13th September – Outdoor cinema Mamma Mia – 6.30pm

21st September – Charity Fun Day – Bouncy Castle, live music and T20 cricket 12.30pm – all day

27th September – Gin tasting evening – 7pm

Save the date: Friday 25th October – Firework Display and Halloween Party

For further information please email: info@alveleycc.co.uk or go to our website www.alveleycc.co.uk Richard Twigg

NEW LIFE NEPAL SUPPORT TRUST

The Annual General Meeting of the New Life Nepal Support Trust will be held in Thame this year at The Barnes Centre, Church Road, Thame, OX9 3AJ. If you are a current supporter of New Life Nepal or are interested in learning more about the work of the trust, do come along and meet the trustees and committee.

We now have several knitted scarves ready to send out for children in the newly named Shikhar Hostel but would be pleased to receive more before the AGM and donations are still coming in from the Smartie Tube project. If you want to know more about either of these two ways of showing support do contact Penny Jenkins.

We have also begun to receive offers of support for the third young person who is due to leave school and would like to go on to college in May 2026. We are looking to raise £2000 for each year of a three-year course.

Finally, if anyone would like to attend the AGM but needs transport, please let me know as there will be space in my car.

Penny Jenkins

Those Church Notices that didn't quite make it...

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.

The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

FROM THE RECTORY WINDOW....

I am constantly amazed at God's creation and how nature can affect our mood and how we feel when life throws us all sorts of difficulties and problems we were not expecting

Have you ever thought about it before?

For me blue sky, fluffy white clouds and sunshine can definitely bring a smile to my face as does the beauty of a dew drop on a flower petal or the call of the baby birds in the birdbox heard very recently a little like in Charles Dickens' book Oliver Twist, they seemed to be calling, can I have some more!!

I love to read and enjoyed regular trips to the library to find my next adventure, however since Covid my Kindle is constantly charged up ready to use.

Although I have to confess to not being a Charles Dickens fan my imagination can picture God's amazing creation in my books and through them I thoroughly enjoy travelling in my armchair accompanied by a cuppa and sometimes cake - ok, I admit cake more often than not!!

One recent storyline was set in Alaska and the author described the stars and constellations in the clear night sky, the majestic snowcapped mountains and the panoramic views. Wow I thought, as the author's description brought back into focus such happy memories from a trip to Alaska and Canada, we were very lucky to experience in 2009 for our Silver Wedding.

Another storyline transported me to Africa, on safari describing the vastness of the wilderness where the heat of the noonday sun was intense and at dusk the animals gathered at the watering hole, such wonders to behold.

Just a couple of examples of many stories making my virtual world a kaleidoscope of colour with my imagination brought to life on the page.

Another wondrous phenomenon recently was the Aurora Borealis or Northern lights fantastic images kindly shared on the village Facebook page sadly missed by us at the Rectory!!

One of the most important books we will ever read is the Bible.

I know from experience it can be very difficult to read and understand and there are many versions and translations so can be a bit daunting. However why not try one of the Gospels found in the New Testament? John would be a good place to start.

The first book of the Bible is Genesis where we find God's creation is explained, and the beautiful picture of God forming our world with each weekday created

In Genesis Chapter 1 v 31 we read :

"Then God looked down over all he had made and saw that it was very good."

It shows God's power, authority and imagination and his love for all his creation.

With humankind comes the clamour, challenges and busyness of life where it is hard to see through the curtain of expectation, hurt and pain to appreciate the vast beauty that surrounds us and how it was created.

I do hope that you are able to take a moment, feel the gentle breeze and the warm

sunshine on your face and that it makes you smile and lifts your spirits if they are feeling a little jaded

So, whatever your latest book or storyline, kaleidoscope of colour surrounding you, or whatever the weather

May you find God's peace, until next time.....

Wendy Aldwinckle

St Mary's Church, Alveley
Saturday September 7th
3pm – 5pm

Crafts Worship

Messy Church

Games Food

Family Fun

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

 **Be Café**

Bereavement Café
meets at The Old Chapel
every 3rd Monday afternoon of the month
2pm until 4pm
Our next meeting will be 16th September

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



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

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

You will be assured of a warm and comforting welcome

St Mary's Church, Alveley

Invite you to make a note
in your diary

More details
will appear in the next
Parish Magazine



Christmas Tree Festival

29th November
to 2nd December 2024

Theme will be
Christmas Music & Carols



CAN PIGEONS READ?

If the National Gallery in London were to buy an expensive painting and then hide it away in a darkened room with difficult and limited access you might be a little puzzled to put it mildly. Well, something similar has been happening in churches all over England for centuries. When bells were first cast for churches in the early middle ages they were just the basic shape but as casting techniques improved so did the sound and decorations started to be added along with inscriptions. These inscriptions are beautifully cast and are the height of the bell founders' craft but then the bells are hoisted into a dark and dirty belfry to be unseen other than by the steeple keeper or pigeons. As if this wasn't enough many of these inscriptions are in Latin which very few can read. This, however, did not stop Tony Head's grandfather. He was a church warden at St Leonard's in Bridgnorth and took it upon himself to visit and record the inscriptions on all the bells in the Bridgnorth District. His notes have helped with this article. Before installation and being covered in cobwebs and bird droppings bells would often be displayed on the floor of the church and anyone could inspect them. They are normally blessed and occasionally consecrated.

During the 18th century bells made by the Rudhall foundry in Gloucester were considered to be the Rolls-Royce of their day. You will be pleased to note that the bells in St Mary's are Rudhalls and although I may be accused of bias they are one of the best peals in the district. The inscriptions on our bells are as follows. 1. PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD. The lighter and therefore the highest note bell is always called the Treble. 2. FEAR GOD AND HONOUR THE KING. In 1779 this was George the 3rd, the first king of England to use English as his first language. 3. PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH. Obviously! 4. THOS RUDHALL GLOUCESTER FOUNDER. Thomas Rudhall was from a family of bell founders who between 1684 and 1835 cast more than 5000 bells. 5. GEORGE NECHEL MINISTER. It is fairly unusual to have the vicar or rector's name on a bell indicating he was well loved or gave money for the bell or probably both! 6. Wm CROW. STEPHEN CRESSWELL CHURCH WARDENS. This is not unusual. Church wardens were normally wealthy men. William Crow was a farmer and paper mill owner and Stephen Cresswell a farmer. Interestingly his great great great-granddaughter is one of our current bellringers. A similar bell today would cost around £23,000. All the bells are inscribed 1779 which is also the year the Ironbridge in Telford was cast. The heaviest bell which would have the lowest note is always called the Tenor. The Tenor at Upper Arley (cast 1753) is inscribed TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL. AND TO THE GRAVE I SUMMON ALL. It is the Tenor that is tolled at a funeral. One blow for every year of a person's life. Another Tenor says I SOUND TO BID THE SICK REPENT. IN HOPE OF LIFE WHEN BREATH IS SPENT. Yet another tells you to listen to the sermon. I SWEETLY TOLLING MEN DO CALL. TO TASTE OF MEATS TO FEED THE SOUL.

The employed were not ignored. I RING AT SIX TO LET MEN KNOW. WHEN TO AND FROM THEIR WORK TO GO. The bell founders liked to brag. MY SOUND IS GOOD MY

SHAPE IS NEAT. SOMEBODY MADE ME ALL COMPLEAT. Spelling was a little fluid back then! And after a re-casting more bragging. BADGEWORTH RINGERS THEY WERE MAD. BECAUSE RIGBE MADE ME BAD. BUT ABEL RUDHALL AS YOU SEE. HAS MADE ME BETTER THAN RIGBE. In 1701 some bells were re-cast to make a lighter ring. JOHN GILBERD DID CONTRIVE. TO CAST FROM FOUR THIS PEAL OF FIVE. One of the St Leonard's bells says UP SEVERN AND DOWN MORFE. SAY THE BELLS OF BRIDGNORTH. When a bell sounds it is said to "speak" so this inscription means they could be heard both north and south of the town. (The Morfe forest stretched to Alveley). At Ewell in Surrey 1767. OUR VOICES SHALL WITH JOYFUL SOUND. MAKE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECHO ROUND. And generous or not so generous donors get a mention. Two church wardens from Aldbourne in Wiltshire had a bell cast in 1787. MUSIC AND SINGING WE LIKE SO WELL. AND FOR THAT REASON WE GAVE THIS BELL. And in 1700. ALL YOU OF BATH THAT HERE ME SOUND. THANK LADY HOPTONS HUNDRED POUND. (About £21,000 in today's money). In 1827. SQUIRE ARUNDEL THE GREAT MY WHOLE EXPENSE DID RAISE. NOR SHALL OUR TONGUES ABATE TO CELEBRATE HIS PRAISE. In a church in Glastonbury in 1776 the Treble was inscribed PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION GAVE US BIRTH. NOW OUR DEAR TONES SHALL JOIN IN MIRTH. But the second was inscribed OUR TONES WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN MUCH DEEPER. IF CONTRIBUTIONS HAD BEEN GREATER. And finally, a bell in Sherbourne Abbey used exclusively as a fire alarm, cast in 1652 said LORD QUENCH THIS FURIOUS FLAME. ARISE, RUN, HELP, PUT OUT THE SAME. Another fire bell said. WHEN BACKWARDS RUNG WE TELL OF FIRE. THINK HOW THE WORLD SHALL THUS EXPIRE. Bells are normally rung with the lightest bell first unless we change the order to get different combinations. These are "called changes" or where the ringers memorise the changes which are called "methods" but I'll save that for another time.

Roy 'Pigeon' Page

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

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

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!"

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions	Chalice	Sidespersons	Refreshments
September 1	Kirsty Ritzenthaler Song of Slomon 2.8-13	Colin Taylor Mark 7.1-8,14,15, 21-23	Penny Jenkins	Alison & Keith Pearson	Pat Haw Jenny Sirrell	Anne Simms Jenny Sirrell
September 8	Jackie Hampson Mark 7.24-37				Dale Chidwick Carol Wall	Alison & Keith Pearson
September 15	Alison Pearson Proverbs 1.20-33	Penny Jenkins Mark 8.27-38	Keith Pearson	Jackie Hampson Jenny Sirrell	Alison & Keith Pearson	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
September 22	Fred Cooper Mark 9.30-37				Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	St Mary's Team Anne Simms Carol Wall
September 29	Alison Pearson Joel 2.21-27	Paul Tristham Matthew 6.25-33	Keith Pearson	Ann Lee	Quatt Ladies	Quatt Ladies

DIARY 2024

- Sept 2** Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 9)
- 3 Tai Chi classes begin, Pavilion, 10am (p 11)
- 3 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council meeting, Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 6)
- 6 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30
- 6 Alveley C.C. Junior Presentation evening, Four Oaks 6.30pm (p 15)
- 7 Messy Church, St Mary's 3pm-5pm
- 11 Alveley W.I. meeting, Pavilion, 7pm (p 12)
- 12 Sustainable Bridgnorth AGM, B'north 7.30pm (p 14)
- 13 Alveley Cricket Club outdoor cinema, 6.30pm (p 15)
- 16 Be Café, Old Chapel, 2pm-4pm
- 18 W.I. lunch at Hartlebury (p 12)
- 20 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30
- 20 Alveley Entertainers' Film night, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 12)
- 21 Alveley Cricket Club Charity Fun Day from 12.30pm (p 15)
- 23 Ladies' Guild, Alveley Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 8)
- 27 Alveley Cricket Club Gin Tasting 7pm (p 15)
- 29 St. Andrew's Harvest service and lunch (p 6)
- Oct 9** **Alveley W.I.meeting with Max Keen, Pavilion, 7pm (p 12)**
- 18 Music from the 40s, Andrew Crabtree & Mo Morgan, Old Chapel (p 8)
- 25 Alveley Cricket Club Firework Display and Halloween Party (p 15)
- Nov 8** 'The Plot Thickens', Arts Alive presentation, Alveley V. Hall 7.30pm (p 13)
- 29 Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's (till December 2nd)
- December 7** Alveley Village Hall Christmas Market, from 12 noon (p 13)

POST OFFICE COUNTER - TIME CHANGE

The Post Office facility at the Arden Centre has recently changed its opening hours. The Post Office now opens on Tuesdays and Thursdays from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



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	Angela Lander 07952 172691	Pat Bowyer 07964 377840	
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PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

The Harvest Festival will be celebrated in St. Andrew's, Quatt on Sunday, September 29th (see page 6) and on October 20th at St. Mary's, Alveley. Those who look after our land, cultivate it and provide food for our tables are remembered and thanked. We may moan about the price of vegetables, for example, but given weather conditions some years it is a marvel that our farmers and their staff manage to produce anything at all! This year's weather must have been particularly difficult for them with seemingly non-stop rain for weeks on end and odd patches of scorching weather. How do you plan your ground preparation, planting and harvesting under such conditions?

I am reminded of the old story of the man who begged a farmer to let him use a corner of a field that the plough didn't reach. It was covered with brambles and thistles and the old man got to work and turned it into an allotment. His peas and beans were growing in neat rows when the local vicar passed by. The reverend gentleman leaned on the gate, greeted the old man and said: 'Well, George, you and the Almighty have made a good job of that, haven't you?' George looked at the vicar and said: 'You should have seen it when the Almighty had it to himself.'

Ian

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



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