

# The Parish Magazine

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



FEBRUARY 2025

60p

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## **The Rector writes**

Dear Friends

I love looking at the local pictures posted on the Alveley Village, Chat & Events Facebook page. The lovely panoramic views of the fields around our village, the pictures of the country park and the church, of the winter scenes. Thank you to those gifted photographers.

As I sit in my study I can see green shoots appearing in the hedge. The arrival of spring, the emergence of flowers from the ground, the stretch in the evenings are all important signs at this time of year. They remind us of better days ahead, they point to hope and beauty and colour and we welcome these things after the dark days of December and January.

Alongside those visible signs of spring coming, there are hidden things too. Farmers tell me of their preparation for the lambing season. Gardeners are sowing bulbs that will hopefully yield an array of colour as the year progresses. People are cautiously making plans for holidays either at home or further afield.

We have learned in recent years that nothing is guaranteed. Restrictions and regulations can change or be introduced in a very short space of time. All the events we have planned may have to be postponed or held in different ways.

This does not take away from our planning in the church, we are meeting to discuss new incentives, how we can use the Chapel more. As I write this article plans are afoot for the next Messy Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, which is held in St Mary's on the first Saturday of every month.

One of the other little signs of hope and encouragement recently was the good attendance at our Christmas services and events. Please do remember that Jesus is not just for Christmas!

You may not be aware but every Monday 9.00am – 10.00am a group of us meet in the Chapel to pray for our communities here in Alveley, Quatt and surrounding area. We have a prayer box in the church where you can leave prayer requests, please do leave us any people or events you would like to hold in prayer.

Please do keep an eye out for new and different things that will be happening in 2025. Please do come and join us for a Sunday service, a warm welcome awaits. And please keep posting those wonderful pictures on Facebook!

We look forward, as Spring comes, to the dawn of these signs of hope. Every blessing for 2025.

*Rev Jon*

## United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

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

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### Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists

**Deacon Becky Lovatt** **01299 826641**

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### St. Mary The Virgin, Alveley, WV15 6ND

<b>Churchwarden</b>	<b>Penny Jenkins</b> , 34 Birch Grove, Alveley	<b>01746 780660</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>Deputy Warden</b>	<b>Sara Douglas</b> , 1 The Dower House, Quatt	<b>01746 781825</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Steve Jones</b> , 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster	<b>01562 753828</b>

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### From the Parish Registers

<b>Weddings</b>	<i>Those whom God has joined together</i>	
December 20	Daniel Bodley and Kennedy Barrett	St. Mary's
<b>Funerals</b>	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life.'</i>	
January 7	Trevor Jones	Wyre Forest Crematorium
<b>Interment of Ashes</b>		
January 15	Joyce Handy	St. Mary's

#### COVER PICTURE

A robin stands out in the frost at Severn Valley Country Park  
Photo by Don Bannister

#### 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

*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.*

## FEBRUARY SERVICES

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

### Sunday February 2

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

### Sunday February 9

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

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

### Wednesday February 12

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

### Sunday February 16

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

### Sunday February 23

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 February 26

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

## ST MARY'S CHURCH PANCAKE MORNING

You are all invited to our Pancake Morning at the Pavilion on Tuesday 4th March from 10am to 12 noon. We are hoping the school children will be joining us, there will be stalls and a raffle. All proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you there, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome.

## HELP WANTED PLEASE

Our village church is kept clean and tidy inside by a couple of volunteers.

All visitors to our church comment on how beautiful it is.

Now we are looking for any willing volunteers to join a team to help with this task. This could be on a regular basis of maybe once a fortnight or as and when needed for weddings, funerals and other special events.

Please contact either Church Warden or Rev Jon for further details.

*The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?" The vicar hesitated, and then replied: "No, but I'm from the same department."*

## NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

I do hope that when you read this the first signs of spring will be appearing and the weather will be warmer than the very cold spell we experienced last month. I can only say that the extreme frosty weather turned the countryside into a Winter Wonderland. I was very glad to stay inside and keep warm whenever possible. I must admit that I was not best friends with my energy smart meter telling me how much my energy was costing. It made me think that perhaps I would rather not have known!

It was indeed a time of wonder - I wondered how other people were coping with the cold weather - especially those living alone.

Our first church service in January was just as the cold spell was coming to an end but sadly these old churches take a long time to heat up. Nine of us braved the cold that morning - we almost had to defrost poor Rev Jon following communion as there is no adequate heating in the chancel. It made me wonder how congregations survived in years gone by. Did they take blankets along? Were they made of stronger stuff or did they just add more layers of clothing? Did they huddle up together? We will never know.

As this month progresses I hope we will enjoy the emergence of daffodils and snowdrops- new life, new hope and a little something to brighten each day.

Do come and join us for our services at St Andrew's. The temperature may be a little cool during the winter months but you can always be sure of a very warm welcome.

*Ann Lee*

## DUTY ROTA AT ST. ANDREW'S (ST. MARY'S ROTA IS ON PAGE 20)

Please let Ann know if you cannot be there. 01746 761138

Date	1st Reading	2nd reading	Intercessions
February 9	Isaiah 6:1-13 Rita Vernon	Luke 5:1-11 Steve Jones	Ann Lee
February 23	Luke 8: 22-25 Ann Lee		Wendy Aldwinckle

*At the touch of love everyone becomes a poet. Plato*

## ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Council will be held on February 4th in The Pavilion, commencing at 7.30pm with Open Forum. Open forum is your chance to raise village matters of concern to you whether on the agenda or not. The local elections will be happening in May this year, so why not just come along to a meeting and see if being a councillor could be of interest to you.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Isley Jakeman, Chairperson, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.*

## ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

Although there is a lot of debate about the future of the Village Hall at present it is important that the hall **continues to be used** and cared for by us all. I have enjoyed promoting the excellent and varied Arts Alive shows since 2012 and hope to continue doing so either in the present hall or in a proposed new Community building. The people and the events are the important thing not the building.

This month we invite you to a light-hearted Arts Alive supported production, **“An Evening of (Very) Old Radio” on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm**. Comedian, broadcast historian and British Comedy Award-winning writer Paul Kerensa (*Miranda, Not going Out* and radio shows including *The Now Show, Dead Ringers and Pause for Thought*) presents this one-man ‘stand-up history’ show which both informs and entertains. Find out what the first broadcast music was, who the first comedian was, the first children’s programme and the first drama. Hear about forgotten pioneers such as World War 1 DJ Gertrude Donisthorpe. Who? You might ask. Tickets £10 can be obtained from Norma, 780478 or Una 780568 or from the Londis food store. Also available from [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk). Tea, coffee and *sweet snacks* first produced in the 1930s (they might be a bit stale, ha ha) will be available! More clues as to the identity of the snacks – an Antarctic bird and an 18<sup>th</sup> century London Club.

*Norma Crabtree*

## ALVELEY LADIES’ GUILD

Hello to everyone. I hope you had a good Christmas. Happy new year to you all. Our February meeting on the 24th is at the usual time of 2.30 pm. In the Village Hall.

Our very own favourite Barbara Branch will no doubt be showing us how to make something fantastic from nothing. All are very welcome and we hope to see you all then. £4 admission includes tea coffee and yummy biscuits along with good company. *Kath Bishop*

## **MESSY CHURCH**

The January Messy Church afternoon was on a cold and uninviting Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January. The team had prepared craft activities on the theme of The Epiphany when we celebrate the journey and arrival of Three Wise Men or Magi from the East to Bethlehem. They had followed a bright star which eventually led them to a small stable in Bethlehem where they saw baby Jesus with his parents, knelt before Him and presented him with gifts.

The craft activities included making a collage picture of the Bethlehem area, faces and pictures of kings and golden, jewelled crowns. It was encouraging to see so many children with their parents enjoying the activities with such enthusiasm.

The worship and story time also showed the story of the Three Kings and Rev Jon even showed the children artefacts of the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which they carefully carried to add to the crib on the altar steps.

All enjoyed tea of jacket potatoes with beans and cheese followed by jelly and ice-cream and fresh fruit.

If you have a child who might enjoy an hour or two of craft activities, a story and some tea in our beautiful church bring them along to our next Messy Church meeting on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February. You will be made very welcome.

*Penny Jenkins*

## **ALVELEY ART GROUP**

Come along and see us in the Village Hall every other Monday morning (black bin day) from 10am till 1pm. A warm welcome awaits (well, warmish when the radiators kick in). Bring your art materials and sit and relax for a few hours with like-minded folks. The cost is just £3 which pays towards the hall rent and refreshments. The next sessions are on February 3rd and 17th.

*Jane Hunt 01746 780280*

## **CHAPEL CRAFTERS**

We had to cancel our first meeting in January due to the adverse weather and keeping everyone safe.

Some members are going to start making Quilting Blocks which can then be made into a table runner, cushions, placemats or for the adventurous a bed quilt. Others are going to finish off previous projects that have been left in a drawer— that's me!!

Dates for February and March are in the diary at the back of the magazine. Whatever craft you are doing, Happy Crafting.

*Jenny and Angie*



## SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

I have missed the last couple of editions of the magazine so the staff and volunteers at Severn Valley Country Park would like to wish everyone a (belated) Happy New Year!

Through February the visitor centre and cafe are continuing to open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Of course, they will be open everyday of half term – so that's from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Our rangers will be leading an activity on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> February (11am-12.30pm, £4.50 per child, accompanying adults free). It's called Clay Faces, Seed Planting and Scavenger Hunt Fun! It does what it says on the tin but if there is time, we'll be looking for mini beasts in our woodland log piles too. On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February there will be a free craft drop-in session in the visitor centre from 11am-12.30pm. There will be a take-home craft to make that will take around 10-15mins so please drop in any time.

*Parkrun* continues on Saturdays at 9am and Nordic Walking continues on Wednesdays 10am-11am, with the last session of each month at Comer Wood. For the park's monthly newsletter I was looking at the statistics for parkrun here at Severn Valley. Christmas Day saw 269 participants starting the day at *parkrun*. (I was at home opening presents!). This was the largest number for a Severn Valley Country parkrun. Over the 5 years of hosting parkrun there have been 218 runs with 5475 participants who have managed 18,598 race finishes. The *parkrun* at Severn Valley Country Park is made possible by the *parkrun* volunteers. Over the last 5 years there have been 492 of them! They are out in all weathers (it was minus 6 when they were checking the course on one Saturday last month). This Spring some permanent markers for the 5k *parkrun* course will be installed on site. Last year, money was raised through a raffle to provide posts and signage for the route. So you'll be able to pop down any time to run the course – I'll cheer you on from the visitor centre!

Wild Toddlers is returning in March so we'll have some details for you very soon.

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

*A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: 'To Helen, with all my allowance.'*

## **ALVELEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

**A belated Happy New Year to everyone.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.....ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7.30pm.** Everyone welcome. The recreation ground belongs to the people of the Alveley and Romsley parish. It would be nice to encourage new and younger residents in the area to join the committee and help maintain and improve the recreation ground for the future generation. Light refreshments will be available.

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

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

If anyone would like to be involved as a member of the committee, help with fund raising/maintenance or have ideas that could support this facility please contact Diane Knowles 01746 780495. For bookings please contact Margaret Shaw 01746 780459..

*Diane Knowles*

## **ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB**

With the start of the New Year we would like to encourage new members to join our sociable and friendly Tennis Club which has recently doubled its membership since 2022. We have members of all ages across three counties including locally from Alveley, Shatterford, Bridgnorth, Kidderminster, Arley and surrounding districts.

Here's a chance to lose weight, get fit and healthy and enjoy a competitive sport in a friendly atmosphere.

We have 3 all weather floodlit tennis courts throughout the winter (day or evening). There is reduced membership for the winter season and coaching available for members and non-members .

Rusty Racquets is available for adults who have never played or need some practice. There are junior sessions and one to one coaching .

### **TENNIS SESSIONS**

Mondays (Gents) 7-9 (under floodlights).

Tuesdays (Afternoons Ladies and Gents) 1 to 3pm.

Saturdays (Mornings Ladies and Gents) 10 - 12 midday.

For further information contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488 or Jan Higgins ( 01746 780259 or Email [Jan.higgins@btinternet.com](mailto:Jan.higgins@btinternet.com)

*Brian Davies*

## SUSTAINABILITY

2024 was a rollercoaster year for the planet, with everything from a historic deal to fund conservation to shocking revelations about greenhouse gas emissions. The Met Office reports that it was provisionally the fourth warmest year on record, behind 2022, 2023, and 2014, even though the UK didn't seem to see much of it. In 2025, the triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—still needs urgent action since they continue to have a devastating impact on the well-being of the planet and people.

Sadly, the community-owned 'Our Green Shop' low-waste Refill Shop on Waterloo Terrace will have closed by the time you read this. On a positive note, a new Refill Shop will be opening at Lasyard House, in Low Town, Bridgnorth, as part of a private enterprise collaborating with local suppliers and selling artisanal products made in-house.

Following last September's Sustainable Bridgnorth AGM and the Repair Cafe presentations, progress is being made in discussions about setting up a monthly pop-up version in Bridgnorth. Stay tuned for more information. Potential helpers are being sought to organise logistics or coordinate volunteers. There are also discussions about organising another Green Festival. Sustainable Bridgnorth is on the hunt for volunteers to lead the organisation of the festival. Please contact [secretary@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk) if you can help with either of these.

Want to know how you can keep warm, save energy, and cut carbon? Following training from the Marches Energy Agency, Sustainable Bridgnorth will now be able to offer free home energy surveys and advice on a range of issues, including reducing energy bills, grant funding for home upgrades, reducing carbon emissions, and free low-cost measures.

Contact [energyadvice@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk](mailto:energyadvice@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk).

*Kath Norgrove*

## ALVELEY WI/LUNCHEON CLUB

I'm pleased to be able to tell all of you who were down to go to the WI afternoon tea in December, that we have managed to rearrange the event for Wednesday afternoon 12th February 2025. It will be held in the Village Hall (1.30 for 2.00 start). Please spread the word around. Hopefully everyone will be able to attend but please could you let either myself 07507 230701 or Sue Taylor (07973 343491) know if you cannot make it. Very much looking forward to seeing everyone there.

*Pam Worton*

## A FIELD GUIDE

We are very lucky to live in Alveley or Quatt. Wherever you live in our villages you will be within a five minute walk of open countryside, and these fields and woods have names, some of them very old or unusual. Most field names are self explanatory. The Paddock, Big Hay Field, Bull Pasture, Colts Piece etc. Others need an explanation. STONEY FURLONG. A furlong was the length of ground a pair of oxen could plough before taking a breather, (a furrow long) THE ENCLOSURE. A field on a farm called the Common near Worfield which would have been taken off the commoners (naughty!) and kept for the use of the local bigwig after the act of enclosures 1773. THE CLEM GANDER. on the same farm. Clem is an old English word meaning to starve. So the field was so poor it would not feed a few male geese.

NABOTHS VINEYARD near Alveley in 1770 so named because a neighbour may have coveted it. The following fields are all near Alveley or Quatt: THE POT HOOK. so named for its unusual shape. THE BOWELS which is a corruption of Bowhills and denotes a curved boundary, from the old English word 'boga'. Fields, or farms, called LITTLE LONDON were set aside for cattle drovers on their way to London. SNEYD GROUND is the name for a detached field from the old English word 'snaed' meaning something cut off. NIGHTSLEYS is a field where animals were kept at night. There were still wolves in the UK until around 1760.

A ley is a temporary pasture or clearing in a wood ie AlveLEY, ClaverLEY, HighLEY. There is a DOE BANK in Alveley which of course means deer must have used the field regularly.

Around the Buttercross there is a field called SOW AND PIGS and I guess there is a story to this. When a sow gets very near to giving birth (farrowing) she much prefers to be quiet and on her own. I think at some time a sow broke out of a nearby farm or cottager's sty and found herself a warm spot under a hedge and gave birth. Now a sow on her own can be obstinate (pig-headed) but a sow with her young is not an animal to be trifled with as I know from personal experience. A crocodile with toothache would be easier to drive back home! A wise man would wait until the hungry sow returned on her own with piglets following.

The field called BANNUTS is the old name for walnut trees. The field called SMOCK SHIRT MEADOW refers to the cup shaped flowers of Lady's smock (cardamine protensis). However 'smock' was once a slang name for a woman and the field name may have alluded to certain spring time activities in the meadows.

Many field names are associated with the church, such as STEEPLE FURLONG or BELL MEADOW or CHANTRY LEASOW. (Leasow is an Anglo-Saxon term meaning meadow or rough pasture) but these fields are always near the church. However there are two fields called CHURCH YARD or GREAT CHURCH and LITTLE CHURCH FIELD (1770) that are not near the church of St Mary's and are so called because skeletons were found there. They are very near to the field called BATTLE FIELD where a skirmish took place in 1645 during the English Civil War. Is this where they buried their dead? Or does it refer to a dispute over ownership? The field called COLLEGE FIELD was probably owned by a priest.

As you would expect in a border county we have a field called WELSH CLOSE spelt Welch. There is one field that the experts cannot agree on and that is SCRILL SCROLL. It could be slang for a roll of bank notes. Possibly. Similar to a wad of wonga. Maybe. A field in Quatt is called AMERICAN GROUND because it is remote from the main farm. Also In Quatt a field called DEVILS BIT from an uncommon flower 'devils bit scabious' (*succisa pratensis*) or possibly referring to the poor quality of the soil. Another field with a flowery connection is THUNDERBOLT PIECE from the common red poppy (*papaver rhoeas*) or the bladder campion (*silene cucubalus*) And finally, in the parish of Quatt, which is about as far as you can get from Wales in the county of Shropshire, the Welsh influence shows itself in some unexpected places. In an old tithe document is mentioned COMMER alias CWM MAWR WOOD which surely is COMER WOODS and very popular with dog walkers (*canis lupus familiaris*, + *homo sapiens*). CWM MAWR translates as Big Valley.

*Roy Page (bellum ringus)*

## **THE FIRST VALENTINE'S CARD - A LEGEND**

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage. A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could – until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14<sup>th</sup> February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.' So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

## ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

### Exciting News from Alveley Cricket Club

Join us for our **Open Evening with Live Music** on **Friday 28 March from 6:30pm** and discover all the amazing things we have planned for 2025!

### Big Changes to Our Junior Cricket Programme:

**Family Fridays** are bigger and better with:

Weekly bouncy castle fun

Multi-sports sessions (Nerf War, Archery, Football, and more!)

6 additional weeks of activities

### Why Choose Alveley Cricket Club?

Here, sport is more than just a game – it's a way to grow, connect, and achieve. We cater to all abilities with:

- Kids coaching
- Women's Softball Cricket
- Senior Cricket (T20 and Saturday matches)
- Social events like live music, firework displays, BBQs, holiday camps, and more

### Junior Cricket Program Highlights:

- 12 cricket coaching sessions
- PLUS 6 FREE multi-sport sessions (Nerf War, Archery, Fencing, Football)
- Open to all children aged 5+
- All games played locally in the **Worcestershire Junior League**
- Amazing facilities, including a brand-new pavilion and practice nets

**Live Music Starts at 7:30pm** – the perfect way to kick off a fun-filled evening!

### Key Dates:

**Open Evening:** Friday 28 March, 6:30pm. **Coaching Starts:** Friday 2 May.

Come along and find out why Alveley Cricket Club is the perfect place for children and adults to excel and enjoy sport! Whether you're a parent, junior player, or adult looking to get involved, this is the perfect opportunity to learn more.

### Ladies Softball

Did you love playing **rounders** at school? Then you'll love **Ladies Softball!**

Our fun and friendly **Ladies Softball Cricket sessions** are perfect for:

Getting active; Getting fit ; Meeting new friends

No experience? No problem!

**All abilities welcome**

**All equipment provided.**

**Interested?** Join us at our **Open Evening on Friday 28 March from 6:30pm** to learn more and see what it's all about!

Bring your friends and enjoy the live music starting at 7:30pm!

**Upcoming events:**

Wine Tasting 21 February

Race Night 16 May

Six a side 13 July

Firework display 24 October

**Worcestershire County Cricket Club:**

Want to see the best up and coming stars of the future. We are excited to announce that Four Oaks Ground has been selected as a hub site for Worcestershire, we will be hosting matches from Under 12's through to U18's. The ground will also host their sub academy training and matches against other 1<sup>st</sup> class counties.

**Get Set Weekend at Alveley Cricket Club**

**Saturday 5 April, 10am onwards**

It's time to get the ground ready for an amazing new season! We need **all hands on deck**, and there's a job for everyone – no matter your age or ability.

**What's in it for you?**

- **FREE tea, coffee, and bacon baps** for all our helpers
- A chance to spend the morning giving back to your club
- Wrap up the day with a few beers and laughs with friends in the afternoon

**Save the date and join us for a few hours** to help make a big difference. Let's kick off the 2025 season in style!

More information about the club and how you can get involved can be found on our website and through social media. Alternatively you can email

[info@alveleycc.co.uk](mailto:info@alveleycc.co.uk)

*Richard Twigg*

*If you are unhappy with our vicar, simply have our churchwarden send a copy of this letter to six other churches who are also tired of their vicar. Then bundle up our vicar and send him to the church on the top of the list in the letter. Within a week you will receive 16,435 vicars and one of them should be all right!*

*Have faith in this chain letter for vicars. Do not break the chain. One church did - and got their old vicar back!*

*(From a Salisbury Theological College leaflet)*

## NEWS FROM ALVELEY SCHOOL

As we begin the new year, it's the perfect time to reflect on an exciting and enriching autumn term at Alveley Primary School. From adventurous trips to amazing visitors and festive celebrations, our pupils have experienced a wealth of learning opportunities. This of course culminated in Christmas, held in the beautiful setting of St Mary's Church, which brought a touch of magic with our annual nativity. The children's wonderful performances captivated the audience and showcased their hard work and talent. Another highlight was our "Alveley's Got Talent" contest, where pupils displayed an impressive array of skills, from singing and dancing to magic tricks, bringing joy and entertainment to all who attended.

Elm Class had a memorable visit to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham, where they marvelled at the wonders of the underwater world and deepened their understanding of marine life. Meanwhile, our Reception pupils enjoyed a special trip to St Mary's Church, where they met Rev Jon to learn about the history of the church and its importance in our community.

Our new nursery children have settled in brilliantly, embracing school life with enthusiasm and curiosity and we're thrilled to see next year's nursery places already filling quickly. Please contact the school office for more information about our excellent EYFS offer.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils' sporting achievements this term. We participated in a gymnastics competition for the first time in many years, with pupils impressing judges and getting so close to a podium spot! Our football teams have shown determination and teamwork in local matches, and two classes enjoyed the festive spirit of the Santa Dash.

Our pupils have benefited from visits by a range of inspiring guests. The Imam of the Craven Arms Islamic Centre shared insights into the Islamic faith, and our much-loved 'Open the Book' team continued to bring Bible stories to life. We're also looking forward to a visit from a well-known author who will be working with Oak Class later this month.

Thanks to Alveley First Responders, our pupils have gained essential life-saving skills through compression-only CPR sessions. Additionally, our STEM day was a huge success, offering children the chance to programme robots using professional equipment. These experiences have sparked excitement and curiosity about the world of science and technology.

As we reflect on the many highlights of the autumn term, we're filled with pride in our pupils' accomplishments and gratitude for the support of our community. We're excited about what the new term will bring and look forward to continuing to provide enriching and memorable learning experiences for all.

From everyone at Alveley Primary School, we wish you a happy and healthy new year!

*Mr C Marsh (Head of School)*





St. Andrew's in winter. Photo by Anne Edwards


  
**Be Café**
  
 Bereavement Café
   
 meets at The Old Chapel
   
 every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday afternoon of the month
   
 2pm until 4pm

Our next meeting will be 17<sup>th</sup> February

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



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**Which is your favourite romantic film? Is it one of these?**

It's a Wonderful Life

Gone with the Wind

The Sound of Music

Far from the Madding Crowd

An Officer and a Gentleman

Four Weddings and a Funeral

When Harry met Sally

Sense and Sensibility

The English Patient

Shakespeare in Love

Casablanca

Brief Encounter

African Queen

Dr Zhivago

Wuthering Heights

Titanic

Gladiator

Sleepless in Seattle

**And your favourite romantic song? Could it be one of these?**

As Times Goes By (Casablanca)

Everything I do (Bryan Adams)

I just called to say.... (Stevie Wonder)

Killing me Softly (Roberta Flack)

Lady in Red (Chris de Burgh)

Love is all Around (Four Weddings)

My Heart Goes On (Celine Dion)

One Fine Day (Puccini)

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (Cole Porter)

Some Enchanted Evening (South Pacific)

The Power of Love (Jennifer Rush)

When a Man Loves a Woman (Percy Sledge)

Without You (Nilsson)

Wonderful Tonight (Eric Clapton)

You'll Never Walk Alone (Carousel)

*You may have others in mind - suggestions to the editor!*

## NATIONAL NEST BOX WEEK - FEBRUARY 14 - 21

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing

No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.

This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden>



## ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA FEBRUARY 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
February 2	Malachi 3.1-5 Penny Jenkins	Luke 2.22-40 Colin Taylor	Keith Pearson	Alison & Keith Pearson	Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Jenny Sirrell Carol Wall
February 9	Luke 5.1-11 Laura Simms				Pat Haw Jenny Sirrell	Alison & Keith Pearson
February 16	Jeremiah 17.5-10 Jackie Hampson	Luke 6.17-26 Paul Walford	Jackie Hampson	Dale & Sue Chidwick	David & Jackie Hampson	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
February 23	Luke 8.22-25 James Woolley				Diana Kennedy Carol Wall	David & Jackie Hampson, Sally Page, Pat Haw, Lynn Madden

## DIARY 2025

- February 1** Messy Church, St Mary's, 3pm-5pm (p 8,17)  
3 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall 10am-1pm  
4 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council & Open Forum, Pavilion 7.30pm (p7)  
7 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 8)  
12 Alveley WI/Luncheon Club afternoon tea, Village Hall, 2 pm (p 11)  
17 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall 10am-1pm  
17 Be Café, Old Chapel, 2pm-4pm (p 17)  
19 Clay Faces, Seed Planting & Scavenger Fun, SVCP 11am (p 9)  
21 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (p 8)  
21 Free drop in craft session, SVCP 11am-12.30pm (p 9)  
21 'An Evening of Very Old Radio', Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 7)  
21 Alveley CC wine tasting, Cricket Club (p 15)  
24 Alveley Ladies' Guild, Village Hall 2.30pm (p 7)  
**March 4** St. Mary's Pancake morning, Pavilion, 10am-12 (p 5)  
19 Alveley Recreation Association AGM, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 10)  
28 Alveley CC Open Evening at Cricket Club from 6.30pm (p 14)  
**April 5** Alveley CC Get Set weekend, Cricket Club from 10am ( 15)  
**May 16** Race Night< Alveley Cricket Club (p 15)





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

Alveley Art Group	Jane Hunt		780280
Alveley Bellringers	Roy Page		07704 362285
Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper		780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg		780437
Alveley Day Centre	Sue Taylor 07973 343491		
	Angela Lander 07952 172691	Pat Bowyer 07964 377840	
Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock		780936
Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill		780794
Alveley Historical Society	Lorraine Heath		07970 637727
Alveley Ladies' Guild	Barbara Spragg 780200	Kath Bishop	780707
Alveley Mining Heritage	Andrea Edwards		862064
Alveley Old Chapel	Mo Morgan		07777624664
Alveley Parish Council/Street Lights	Steve Kerry		07711788782
Alveley Patient Group	Chris Noble		780715
Alveley Pétanque Club	David Voysey		780356
Alveley Rec Assn/Pavilion	Margaret Shaw		780459
Alveley School	Mr. P. O'Malley		780284
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Alveley Village Hall bookings	Carol Hatfield		780576
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Quatt Malvern Parish Council	Bill Griffiths		766941
Quatt Village Hall bookings	Steph Hinton		781214
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Whittall Meadows Trust	Jan Higgins		780259

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES**

## THE BACK PAGE

February brings us Valentine's Day and so our thoughts may turn to love and marriage. It's a subject that takes up many column inches in our newspapers and magazines - not least in the agony columns, of course.

Children's thoughts on love and marriage may be of interest, and amusement, so here are some offerings, some of which I will have reported in years gone by, but they still raise a smile.

**WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?**

*"Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough." Jeanette, age 8*

*"On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date." -Mark, age 10*

**WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?**

*"When they're rich." -Chelsea, age 7*

*"The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that." -Carl, age 7*

*"The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do." -Jimmy, age 8*

**HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHOM TO MARRY?**

*"You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming." -Andrew, age 10*

*"No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with." -Selina, age 10*

**HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?**

*"You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids." -Dean, age 8*

**HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?**

*"Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like the back of a bus" -Ricky, age 11*

**IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?**

*"It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them." -Anita, age 9*

**HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?**

*"There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?" -Roman, age 8*

May your life be filled with love.

Ian

Please send items for **March** edition by **9 am on Nonday February 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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