

# The Parish Magazine

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



FEBRUARY 2024

60p

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## The Rector Writes

Dear Friends

As we enter a new month, one of the features of the month of February is the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent starts on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. We have a simple Communion service in church at 10.30am and a Communion service at 7.00pm in St Mary's to which you are all invited. Lent is a season in which Christians try to draw nearer to God, sometimes by engaging in different practices. Often people use this 40-day period as a time of resetting or trying to engage in disciplines like Bible reading, silence, prayer and fasting. Both in the secular and spiritual world, people use the opportunity to maybe give up some treats, perhaps to embark on a programme of exercise or pursuing a healthier diet.

Like any season of the year, we can sometimes make the mistake of trying to do too much. We try to make huge changes all at once and if circumstances go against us and we fail to complete our targets we can be consumed with guilt and shame.

The church does not want to add to the weight of those burdens so this year I would encourage you to use the period of Lent to look and reflect on your lives with the following question.

How do you go about making difficult decisions?

You know the sort: those situations where there isn't an obvious solution, or where none of the available options is without some cost or upset for someone. Perhaps most difficult of all are those occasions when, if we're honest, we know the right decision from the start but just don't like it!

Making good, Godly decisions is one of the biggest challenges in my role. But I find there are three things that help me to do it better:

1) Don't make big decisions in a hurry. The value of pausing, reflecting and praying is often underestimated but it can reveal the sort of creative solutions we would otherwise have missed.

2) Talk to others. I've lost count of the times I've worried about something for days (or longer) but found the weight lifted once shared with one or more others. There still may not be an easy answer but at least the question doesn't weigh so heavily when you can say 'we 'not 'I'.

3) Take some expert advice. We all have our own gifts and skills but we're none of us experts in everything. It takes some magnanimity to admit that. But reading about people who've done it before, or involving those who know what they're talking about, can avoid countless pitfalls.

The Christian tradition has a lot to say about this sort of decision-making. In spiritual language, we call it 'discernment'- that thoughtful, prayerful, patient process of really listening to God and others to discover the right path. It certainly doesn't always lead us straight to a 'correct' answer but can give us confidence we 're on the right track, even if it's a surprising one.

As the PCC continues to discern how best to manage and steward our resources for the future, we're going through exactly this sort of process. The decisions are far from easy but as we continue to pray, talk and research, we're trusting that solutions will emerge which are more fruitful than any of us might have come up with on our own.

Every blessing

Rev Jon

## United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

<b>Rector</b>	<b>Rev. Jon Aldwinckle</b> , The Rectory, Alveley (email: revjonaldwinckle@outlook.com)	<b>01746 562159</b>
<b>Retired Clergy</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Wendy Rylance</b> , Roughton Farmhouse	<b>01746 716399</b>
<b>Retired Clergy</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Ruth Sims</b> , Church Farm House, Alveley	<b>01746 780469</b>
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sue Chidwick</b> , 28 Greenway Avenue, Alveley	<b>01746 781786</b>
<b>Lay Pastoral Worker</b>	<b>Wendy Aldwinckle</b> , The Rectory, Alveley	<b>01746 562159</b>
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	<b>Jackie Hampson</b> , South View, 23 Daddlebrook Rd	<b>01746 780034</b>

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## Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists

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

<b>Churchwarden</b>	<b>Penny Jenkins</b> , 34 Birch Grove, Alveley	<b>01746 780660</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>Funerals</b>	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'.</i>	
January 11	Christine James	St. Mary's
January 18	Beryl Hughes	St. Mary's

### 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

### COVER PICTURE

Snowdrop at St. Mary' Church

Photo by Don Bannister

*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 4**

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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### **Sunday February 11**

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Andrew's
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10.30 a.m.	Worship 4 All Ages	St. Mary's
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### **Ash Wednesday February 14**

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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7.30 p.m.	Cluster Communion Service	St. Mary's
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### **Sunday February 18**

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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### **Sunday February 25**

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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10.30 a.m.	20/20/20	St. Mary's
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4.00 p.m.	Teatime Praise	St. Andrew's
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### **Wednesday February 28**

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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## **ST. MARY'S CHURCH PANCAKE MORNING**

After a four year break you are all invited to our Pancake Morning at the Pavilion on Tuesday 13th February from 10am to 12pm. There will be stalls and a raffle and Rev Jon will organise pancake races for children. All proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you there, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome.

*Jenny Sirrell*

## **ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Alveley and Romsley Parish Council next meets on the 6th February in the Pavilion. The meeting begins with Open Forum at 7.30. This is the chance for the public to comment on any matter on the agenda or bring any concerns to the councils attention. The agenda will be on the parish notice boards prior to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

*Isley Jakeman, Chair, ARPC*

## NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

I am looking forward to Spring arriving. I personally didn't enjoy the cold spell last month. I'm much happier when the sun shines and the temperature rises! On February 14th we begin our period of Lent. We may choose different ways to mark this special period leading up to Easter. It's a time for reflection of Jesus when we remember his life, his suffering, his death and resurrection. Some of us may consider fasting, self denial, reflection and spiritual discipline. We often consider giving something up during this period but if that's not for you then why not take up something positive instead? An act of kindness can mean so so much to another person.

On Ash Wednesday, February 14th, there will be a service at St Mary's, Alveley at 7pm. Please come along to this very special service.

Next month I am hoping to get a small team together to spring clean the church before Easter. If you are able to come along and help please let me know. If a few of us get together it shouldn't take too long.

There is a large selection of books in the church porch and we would be grateful for a small donation should you like to take one.

I am going to produce a rota in next month's magazine. If you would like to help with the following please let me know - readers, refreshments, sidespersons (meeting and greeting and taking the collection).

*Ann Lee*

## MESSY CHURCH



The first Saturday of January was also the day to celebrate Epiphany and so appropriately this was the theme of January's Merry Church.

The arrival of the Kings after the birth of Jesus provided a good excuse to make bejewelled gold crowns, handsome bearded faces of the Kings, finger puppets and even scenes of the Kings crossing the desert. The children helped to place the Kings, their gifts of frankincense, myrrh and gold, and their camels, in the Church's nativity scene, finally completing the Christmas story.

In February we will start looking ahead to Easter [which will soon be with us!]. The theme will be The Temptation of Jesus in the desert during the 40 days of Lent.

**Merry Church will be at 3pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.** All the children and families of Alveley and Quatt are welcome; there is no charge but donations to St Mary's Church are gratefully received.

*Alison Pearson*

## ALVELEY OLD CHAPEL

We are a family friendly tearoom and welcome everyone with a smile.

We are open Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 11 and 3pm serving hot and cold drinks, home made cakes, sandwiches and hot food including jacket potatoes, toasted sandwiches, soup and assorted quiche.

We have second hand books and jigsaw puzzles to buy.

The chapel is available to hire for your own party or event.

For more information please phone me on 01746 781277 during opening hours.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Mo Morgan, Manager, Alveley Old Chapel Tearoom Tel. No. 01746 780277*

## ALVELEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION

A belated Happy New Year to everyone.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.....ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7.30pm.**

Everyone welcome. The recreation ground belongs to the people of the Alveley and Romsley parish. It would be nice to encourage new and younger residents in the area to join the committee and help maintain and improve the recreation ground for the future generations. Light refreshments will be available.

You will find the history of the Recreation Association on pages 18 and 19.

*Diane Knowles*



### Alveley Village Hall

*Spilt Milk Dance presents*

## DESERT ISLAND FLICKS

**7.30 THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Tickets £12 / £6**

**Norma (01746) 780478, Una 780568**

**or the Londis foodstore**

***(Please bring your own drinks and glasses)***

*Last night our wifi stopped working, so I had to spend a few hours with my family. They seem like nice people.*

## SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

We have suffered a bit of damage as a result of the recent high river levels. A wooden footbridge has been washed away. The bridge is located on the Alveley side of the river at the pedestrian exit to the park between Hall Close Coppice and Little London Coppice. The path is part of the public Right of Way network and the Rights of Way team have been informed. A replacement bridge is being organised. We do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding.

In February the visitor centre and café opening days will be increasing. From Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, they will be open daily for half term. The following week (w/c 19<sup>th</sup> February), they will return to opening Wednesday to Sunday for the season. Weekday opening hours will be 11am-3pm, Saturday 9.30am-3.30pm and Sunday 10.30am-3.30pm.

Parkrun continues each Saturday. The run starts at 9am. It's free to join. If it is your first parkrun, you need to register online. You only need to register once regardless of how many different venues you visit or whether you intend to run, jog, walk or volunteer. Visit [www.parkrun.org.uk](http://www.parkrun.org.uk) for more details.

Our Nordic Walking sessions continue on Wednesdays. The group meets outside the visitor centre before 10am and the sessions usually end with a coffee and a piece of cake baked by one of the group. There's always something to celebrate. It costs £3.50 or £4 per session depending on if we provide Nordic Walking poles. The sessions are run by qualified instructor Sally Orton and her team of volunteers, Jo, Jackie and Mike.

During half term we have a ranger led activity for the children on Tuesday 13th February, 11am – 12.30pm. Join us to make a bird feeder; find out what tasty treats native birds enjoy to eat; explore our wetlands and bird hides; see if you can recognise native birds from their bird song. It's £4 per child (accompanying adults free). Call 01746 781 192 to book and pay for your place for the Severn Valley Bird Bonanza.

Wild Toddlers returns on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. We're in the process of finalising the themes for each session. Join us to discover, play, connect and learn. Your little ones will get hands-on with the outdoors or get crafty indoors (depending on the weather). It's £5 per session and the price includes toast and squash. Please call 01746 781 192 to book and pay for your place in advance. Suitable for ages 18 months-4 years (toddling toddlers). Younger siblings are very welcome (no charge for under 18 months). Activities may not be buggy friendly.

Towards the end of February, we'll be running our 'Chat About Books' session again. On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February we'll be having an informal get-together to talk



about books, magazines or articles you have enjoyed. If you want to have a chat over a coffee in a relaxed, warm and beautiful setting join us in the café from 11.30am to 12.30pm. Just bring yourself and something you are happy to share and chat about! It's free to join.

*Susie Comaish, Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre Manager 781192*

## **ALVELEY STROLLERS AND STRIDERS WALKING GROUP**

The last time I was in the Londis shop I picked up a copy of the "parkrun" magazine. They were on the counter, were free, and as an **ex**-runner (most definitely **ex** I'm afraid) I thought it might be interesting to have a look through. I was surprised at what an excellent little magazine it is with some very good articles, most of which are about running of course, but then I thought some could equally apply to walking.

One article is entitled "better together" which tells us how one GP, a Dr Simon Tobin, has become increasingly aware of the link between social isolation and mental health conditions such as dementia, stress, anxiety, low mood and depression. There is also a wealth of medical evidence of an increased risk of heart disease. The article admits that taking that first step into a new social situation can be difficult, but being outdoors can make it easier.

Natalie McCandless, a psychotherapist, says that when we engage in a physical activity such as walking or running it releases chemicals (endorphins) into the body which make us feel happier and more likely to engage with other people, including strangers.

Our walking group is a very welcoming group of people. All the walks are led by caring walk leaders who will make sure everyone is walking safely, on public rights of way, and at an appropriate pace for the group. There's no pressure to talk to anyone, but conversations just start up naturally as we walk. Our Tuesday morning walk can definitely leave us feeling as though we've had a session of therapy, and it doesn't cost a penny!

*Do feel welcome to join us at any time throughout the year. We meet for a 10.00am start every Tuesday morning in The Three Horse Shoes car park (arriving a little earlier to register). For more information you can ring Bill Smith on 01746 780841 or Norma and myself on 01746 780478.*

*Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."*

*"Thank you," she said. "But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen..."*

## **LADIES' GUILD**

Just a reminder, ladies, about our trip to the Rose Theatre:

Monday February 26th. We are meeting at the Alveley shops at 6.30 pm. Our transport is the community bus from Bridgnorth.

See you there.

*Kath*

## **ALVELEY ART GROUP**

We started the new year with the decision to have a monthly theme - something to focus the mind and get us started with our art (it's not always easy coming up with ideas for new artworks - maybe it's called artist's block). Anyway, our theme for January is feathers! At our first session we had many different types of feathers and a wide selection of photographs of birds to inspire us. There was a lot going on: some observational drawing, some different painting techniques, paper cutting and even mono-printing using an ink roller on glass; we also had new pictures being made: birds in a fruit tree and another of an owl hunting mice. I can't wait for our next session!

This time of year birds are much more visible - our own garden seems full of blue tits, not surprising as these were the second most spotted bird in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch in 2023. This year's Birdwatch is taking place between the 26th and 28th of January - I hope you are/were able to take part in the world's largest garden wildlife survey.

If you'd like to take part in some art, you're very welcome to pop down to Alveley Village Hall between 10am and 1pm on Monday 5th February or any fortnight after that. For further information, please contact Deb on 01746 780243 or Colin by email on [xalv7973@gmail.com](mailto:xalv7973@gmail.com).

*Deb Parker*

## **SEVERN TRENT PIPELINE WORK**

Work has started on our project to install a brand-new pipeline from Hampton Loade to Trimpeley Works. This project is to bring another water supply to Trimpeley to make the water network more resilient in South-Shropshire and North-West Worcestershire. We currently have two compounds: one off Sham Lane and one near Alveley off the A442. If you have any questions about our works please visit [www.stw.works](http://www.stw.works) or contact me on 07977 592495.

For other queries on water and wastewater, contact 0800 7834444.

*Paul Hughes*

## ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

**Spilt Milk Dance will be performing 'Desert Island Flicks' in the hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm.** What better way to cheer up a long winter evening than to watch this fast moving show. A blockbuster, adventure film and a rom com rolled into one, Desert Island Flicks sees two leading ladies reimagine, remake and spoof 90 of the most memorable movie moments of all time in just 90 minutes, taking on all the lead rolls, stunts and special effects! Films ranging from timeless classics to modern day marvels and all set to a 'sensational' sound track. Tickets are £12/£6 children 8+, £30 family and are available from Norma 780478, Una 780568, the Londis Food store or from [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk) (Please bring your own drinks and glasses)

**Annual Village Quiz, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.** As in previous years teams of four from village organisations are invited to take part in a light hearted, fun quiz to find the 2024 village champions. The invitations are now on their way to club/organisation secretaries and need to be returned to me by the 9<sup>th</sup> March.

*Norma Crabtree*



## THE BUTTER CROSS - PART TWO

The butter cross is obviously very old and very worn, but the markings on it appear to be a cross with equal length arms and flared ends contained within two circles. This is remarkably similar to the symbol used by the Knights Templar and their supporters. The Knights Templar were an order of warrior monks originally formed to protect pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem where they were frequently robbed and murdered by bandits. They were formed in 1118AD and eventually became a well trained and highly disciplined force that took part in the crusades, built castles and fought many battles in the Holy Land. They also established the first international banking system. They existed on donations from kings down to commoners and became very wealthy. They were eventually disbanded by the Pope who wrongly accused them of heresy and King Philip the Fair of France, who owed them a great deal of money. Many were horribly tortured and then burnt at the stake. But some, particularly in the UK, escaped and disappeared which has given rise to endless conspiracy theories regarding buried treasure, the holy grail, the ark of the covenant and the blood line of Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

So is there evidence of the Knights Templar around Alveley? Claverley church is associated with them, probably because of its wall murals depicting knights on horseback engaged in warfare. Enville church apparently has eight templar graves, three of which are easily found just inside the entrance from the car park. And then I found a closer connection.

William Marshall (1146-1219) is described as England's greatest knight. His tomb and effigy are in the Temple Church just off Fleet Street in London. He was the only knight to ever unhorse King Richard the Lionheart and was advisor and mentor to no less than four kings. (Henry 11, Richard 1, John and Henry 111). He is believed to be the architect of the Magna Carta, the document issued in 1215 that said the King and his government were not above the law. William was related by marriage to Roger de Morfe, son of Henry de Morfe. Their family seat is near Enville and there may have been a Templar preceptory - a sort of local headquarters - nearby. Roger's known Templar grave is at Enville Church. He was related to a William de Harcourt who was lost on a crusade in 1223 and to his cousin John de Harcourt who died in 1219 in Egypt when the crusaders captured Damietta. William's wife was Alice de Harcourt, the daughter of Margaret l'Estrange. Her brother was Ralph l'Estrange and his father or possibly brother (I wish people wouldn't name sons after their fathers!) was Guy l'Estrange, the founder of Alveley Church. His grave is the stone sarcophagus immediately to the right of the main door. In 1172 Guy sent 400 hogs and 60 axes to help with Henry 11's invasion of Ireland led by the templars. William l'Estrange, a cousin of Guy's, became the first incumbent of St Mary's in 1223 and another relation, a Hamo l'Estrange, died on crusade in 1270.

Then we find another connection: Henry de Morfe, mentioned above, sold part of the huge Morfe forest to the Knights Templar. The forest stretched from the River

Severn in the west to the river Worfe in the north across to Abbots Castle Hill in the east and, intriguingly, to King's Nordley in the south. On O.S. maps there is a lane and bridle way that leads from King's Nordley right past the butter cross through Moor farm down to the river. So does the butter cross mark the boundary of the Knights Templar property or the way to it ? Or am I making the facts fit the story? And then I found some more possible connections. Next month eh!

*Roy de Page*

## **ALVELEY W.I.**

In January SFWI ladies Heather Dulson and Annie Owens came to visit us to talk about this year's resolutions. There is still time for those of you who were unable to attend the meeting to cast their vote for the resolution of choice by completing the form in Decembers WI Life magazine and sending it to County office by 11 February. After discussing the resolutions, the ladies took questions from members on how the WI can help small clubs, such as ours, to survive in the modern technological world. There was a very lively debate and Heather and Annie said that they would take our comments back to the SFWI to see if any help can be offered.

We hope you all enjoyed the meal at Dominiques and are looking forward to joining us for events booked over the next few weeks.

**13th February** - breakfast at Quatt Farm Shop (9.30 a.m.)

**13th February** - Burwarton WI has invited us to join them at their meeting which starts at 2.30pm. The speaker is a local novelist (detective stories) named Rob McNeil. If you haven't already put your name on the list would you please let Sue Taylor have your name by 31st January.

**14th February** - We welcome Megan Morris Jones to our own meeting to tell us all about CUAN Wildlife Rescue which is dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals and birds. I think you may need to bring some tissues!! Tea hostesses are Pat Bowyer, Judith Lees and Diane Waldram.

Here are some March dates for you:

**13th March** - Martin Jones will be joining us in the guise of Thomas, second Lord Berwick of Attingham to entertain us with his and his family's 'tales and travails'.

**20th March** - Our luncheon outing this month is to the Riverside Cottage (on the Cressage Straight). We are meeting there 12.00 for 12.30pm. Hopefully we will be able to see a green fields view unlike the huge expanse of water that was there a few weeks ago.

**Please make an entry into your diaries for our meeting on 10th April. This will be an open meeting and visitors (male and female) will be welcome.** Reg Moule the local horticulturalist and award winning broadcaster will be visiting us. Visitor tickets will be available shortly.

Stay safe and healthy throughout the cold weather. We look forward to seeing you at some or all of the above events.

*Pam Worton*

## SUSTAINABLE BRIDGNORTH

January's meeting was a Zoom call organising future meetings and events. Our next meeting will be on February 8th at 7.30pm (online) - My LOW Carbon Community Solar Scheme Offer Launch. This will be a virtual presentation about the features of Community Solar systems, the economics and how people get a quotation. Since they last came to speak to us, MyLOW Carbon now have the capability to install Solar PV, Battery Storage and EV Charging Points and hope to have at least the first two systems installed by February. The presentation should take around 20-30 minutes followed by Q&A. The Community Solar Scheme is also being launched in Kinver and Wellington. For more information about the group, visit: <https://thegreengroupuk.com/communitysolar>.

At the time of writing, we are finalising details, so keep an eye on our Facebook page or contact [meetings@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk](mailto:meetings@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk) to get joining instructions. We are planning the following future (in person) meetings, which everyone is welcome to attend: May 9th - Energy Reduction and July 11th - Everyday Consumption (& how to reduce yours). More information will be given nearer the time. Additionally, we're looking at either September 7th or 14th for the next Bridgnorth Green Festival, but this is subject to us getting enough volunteers to sign up and a sponsor; we aim to confirm whether we can go ahead and which date it will be at the next meeting. If you could help with volunteering or sponsorship, please contact us at [www.facebook.com/sustainablebridgnorth/](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablebridgnorth/) or you can contact me directly at [chair@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk](mailto:chair@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk).

2nd February is World Wetlands Day, to mark the anniversary of The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This year's theme is 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing' recognising wetlands as critical to people and nature.

It is also Plastic Free February, reminding people to help prevent pointless (avoidable, throwaway) plastic and join others in eliminating single-use plastic one day at a time for one month. Why not support a community-owned, local not-for-profit organic, fair-trade shop, like Our Green Shop in Bridgnorth, that offers refills to reduce waste and make sustainable living affordable to all?

*Kath Norgrove*

*When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged.*

*"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.*

*"Counting your ribs," said Eve.*

## ALVELEY PETANQUE CLUB

Pétanque, commonly known as boules, is played with small steel boules on a dirt, gravel or stony surface, usually on a playing area called a piste. Alveley Pétanque Club has a quality six-lane piste behind the tennis courts on Alveley's recreation ground. Boules is a simple game that can be played by anyone of any age. Anybody is welcome to have a go playing on the Club's piste and boules can be made available.

For over 30 years the Club has entered teams in the Severn Valley Pétanque League with the season running from April to October. Currently the Club has two teams in the League called "The Royals" and "The Oaks". We also have informal playing sessions from time to time.

We are always on the look-out for new members who will be most welcome to join our friendly band of boulers. Much about boules can be found on the Alveley Pétanque Club and Severn Valley Pétanque League web sites so why not take a look. Also, to find out more, don't hesitate to get in touch with Chairman, David Voysey (Tel: 01746-780356) or team captains Adrian Voysey for the Royals ( Tel: 01299-822494) and Brian Jones for the Oaks (Tel: 01746-781218). They look forward to hearing from you and will tell you all about boules.

So, don't miss the fun and entertainment in playing boules and join us now!

*David Voysey*



*Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly, "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!"*

*Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."*

*The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"*

*Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."*

## NEWS FROM ALVELEY SCHOOL

We have had a very settled and productive start to the new year here at Alveley Primary School. The classes are all getting stuck into their new topics after a lovely break and despite the cold weather, the school is as warm and friendly as it always is.

Our youngest pupils are boldly going where no one has been before, looking at space and the planets. Their practical learning area has been transformed into a spaceship and they have been learning the names of the planets. Our Nursery has welcomed in their second cohort of pupils this year, with our new children settling straight in to life at Little Squirrels Nursery.

Our Cedar Class are investigating different toys throughout time in their history learning, as well as sorting different animals according to whether they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.

In Elm Class, pupils have begun their topic on the ruthless Romans! They have loved the start of their class novel "Queen of Darkness", based on the Celtic Queen Boudicca, as well as the reasons for the Roman invasion of Britain and their eventual withdrawal from the country.

Oak Class have begun their topic on the terrible Tudors. They are focusing specifically on the rule of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, identifying how the country changed during their reigns and what lasting effect it has had on the country. They will later be studying Henry VIII's wives and making inferences about Anne Boleyn using both primary and secondary sources of information.

*Mr. C. Marsh, Head of School*





## END OF AN ERA

A much-loved husband and wife team of volunteer organisers is stepping down after many years of helping to run a popular day centre for older people. Pauline and David Bird – Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin stalwarts of the Alveley Day Centre – have decided it's time for them to retire.

The couple have been in charge of the day centre for seven years but have been volunteering there a lot longer than that, Pauline and David are much loved by the regulars at Alveley, they've done a fantastic job, and they will be sorely missed. They've done a superb job enabling members to enjoy their weekly meetings by organising transport, hot meals, quizzes, raffles, entertainment, and the occasional trip out.

They've decided it's time to retire, but not before making sure they leave the day centre in some very capable hands. Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin volunteers Angela Lander, Pat Bowyer and Sue Taylor are going to be the new organisers of the day centre and they will ensure the centre continues successfully for many years to come.

Pauline will be stepping down in February. David will continue as Chairman and help with member transport and meals until later in the year.

Alveley Day Centre – one of many supported by the charity across the county - relies on the kindness of volunteers, and the centre is currently looking for new volunteers to help them get members to and from the club, serve the refreshments and help the members to have the best day possible.

The Day Centre is always filled with lots of laughter and chatter. The volunteers ensure the members are welcomed warmly and have a wonderful day. Everyone leaves with a smile on their face.

If you have time and are interested in finding out more about how you could help this fantastic Day Centre, please contact the Volunteer Recruitment Team at Age UK STW on 01743 233 123. *Phil Gillam*



## THE HISTORY OF ALVELEY RECREATION GROUND

It is thought the idea of the recreation ground was suggested by Mr Leslie Pitt. He noted over the years how the football and cricket pitches were never situated at one site for very long. His vision was to see an area where various sports could be played and belong to the people of the village.

Minutes show the first meeting was held 15<sup>th</sup> April 1944. The chairman, Mr Howard Thompson reported negotiations had taken place with the owners, Mr and Mrs Sylvester, of Church Farm and the 6 acres could be purchased for £100 per acre. The deeds verify this.

22<sup>nd</sup> April 1944, 3 trustees were appointed, Mr Howard Thompson, Mr Simpson Williamson and Mr Leslie Pitt (these 3 families contributed at least £350 towards the purchase of the land). Colonel Marsh was also involved at this time and the founder group also included local residents, D Link, T Childs, C Knowles, R Bache, J Harris, J Honeybourne, S Humphries, A Milson, S Tomkins, S Surrell, A Bint and J V Morgans.

Their aim was to promote and assist amateur sports in the parish, through the formation of a sports club. A letter was drafted and appeals for funds commenced, a dance arranged for the Whit Monday at the village hall, 2/6 admission fee, many more of these and fetes were organised in the future. It is documented on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1944 a house to house collection was to commence to help raise funds. We have one of the small note books with names of local people and how much they donated. On 19<sup>th</sup> December 1944 the deeds were signed and the official opening was the first football match played on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1947. A team brought to the village by Joe Knowles from West Bromwich Albion met Bridgnorth and surrounding village players. In 1948 the Amateur Athletic Association was formed, 1949 the cricket pitch was laid and 1951 saw fencing erected around the area for tennis courts. Colonel Marsh paid for the first changing facility, an ex-army unit, in 1951. In June 1956 the sports club was disbanded, the committee was to be a management committee on behalf of the village people and the sporting clubs were to sort own events and maintenance. All sporting clubs have had financial difficulty at times and the recreation committee has helped where they can. There has been progress over the years with replacements to the changing facility on several occasions. There have been numerous local people holding the caretaker and groundsman positions. Many fund raising events have been held over the years, some of us will remember the carnivals, fun days, half marathons and donkey derbys just to name a few. The minutes show how much work and time previous committee members and Trustees gave to the recreation ground to maintain and improve the environment.

There was devastation when the pavilion was destroyed by fire in December 1977. The committee worked very hard to raise funds and Mr Ray Twyford launched the President's fund, local people donated funds, this followed a difficult time after

money had gone missing. The new pavilion was opened 25<sup>th</sup> September 1982. We now have a wall cabinet in the pavilion to display and share the history with everyone.

#### RECENT YEARS AND THE FUTURE

Grants have been obtained over the years to help support projects. The Parish Council recognise this is a green area belonging to the village and have generously given regular grants, they also maintain the children's play area. The last few years they have paid for the general maintenance of the grass area on the recreation ground. The sporting clubs pay an annual fee for use of the recreation ground and changing rooms. The pavilion is rented out to help maintain it. We are fortunate that keep fit and pilates groups use it on a regular basis. W.I and the parish council use the room for meetings.

Prior to covid the present committee did several big fund raising events including a scarecrow fun day and donkey derbys. In 2017 we celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first football match was played on the recreation ground. Local footballers played a team brought from Wolves All-Stars. The Queens Platinum Jubilee and King Charles III Coronation were celebrated with a picnic on the recreation ground.

Again we say the residents of Alveley are in a privileged position to own the fantastic facility and the people living in this community need to maintain it for future generations. 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 or see the web site. *Diane Knowles*

**Alveley and Claverley**

**County Councillor:**

**Colin Taylor.**

**Phone 07581 066956**

**Email:**

[colin.taylor@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:colin.taylor@shropshire.gov.uk)

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA FEBRUARY 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
February 4	Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Hilary Fleming	John 1.1-14 Kirsty Ritzenthaler	Jackie Campbell	Jenny Sirrell Michael York	Alison & Keith Pearson	Alison & Keith Pearson
February 11	Mark 9.2-9 Jean marshall				Diana Kennedy Jenny Sirrell	Anne & Laura Simms
February 18	Genesis 9.8-17 Colin Taylor	Mark 1.9-15 Diana Kennedy	Penny Jenkins	Alison & Keith Pearson	Pat Haw Hazel Leach	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
February 25	Mark 8.31-38 James Woolley				Fred & Pauline Cooper	St. Mary's Team Carol Wall Jenny Sirrell

## DIARY 2024

- February 3** Messy Church, St. Mary's Church, 3pm (p 6/21)  
 5 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 10)  
 6 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council & Open Forum, Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 5)  
 8 Sustainable Bridgnorth online meeting 7.30pm (p 14)  
 9 Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel 10.30am-12.30pm  
 13 WI breakfast, Quatt Farm Shop 9.30am (p 13)  
 13 Make a Bird Feeder, S.V.C.P., 11am (p 8)  
 13 St. Mary's Pancake morning, Pavilion 10am-12noon (p 5)  
 14 Alveley WI meeting, Pavilion 7pm (p 13)  
 19 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 10)  
 21 Wild Toddlers restarts, S.V.C.P. (p 8)  
 22 Spilt Milk perform Desert Island Flicks, Alveley Village Hall 7.30pm (p 7/11)  
 23 Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel 10.30am-12.30pm  
 23 Chat about books, S.V.C.P., 11.30am (p 8)  
 26 Alveley Ladies' Guild trip to Rose Theatre (p 10)  
**March 4** Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 10)  
 13 Alveley WI meeting, Pavilion 7pm (p 13)  
 20 Alveley WI meeting, Pavilion 7pm (p 13)  
 27 Alveley Recreation Association AGM, Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 7)  
**April 6** Alveley Village Quiz, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 11)  
 10 Alveley WI OPEN meeting, Pavilion 7pm (p 13)  
**May 6** Fun football event, Recreation Ground  
 9 Sustainable Bridgnorth meeting (p 14)

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

Alveley Art Group	Deb Parker	780243
Alveley Bellringers	Roy Page	07704 362285
Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper	780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg	780437
Alveley Day Centre	Pauline Bird	780796
Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock	780936
Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill	780794
Alveley Flower Classes	Barbara Twigg	780016
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	781277
Alveley Parish Council/Street Lights	Chloe Martin	07355 092770
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 Singers	Penny Jenkins	780660
Alveley Tennis Club	Bob Higgins	780259
Alveley Village Band	Eleanor Andrews	761238
Alveley Village Hall	Norma Crabtree	780478
Alveley Village Hall bookings	Carol Hatfield	780576
Alveley W.I.	Sue Taylor	780652
Arden Allotments Association	Sally Neville	780931
Chapel Crafters	Angela Lander 780041/Jenny Sirrell	780369
Community Oil Scheme	Dave Dugmore	780058
County Councillor	Colin Taylor	07581 066956
Friends of Alveley School	Sarah Carr	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 Valley Park Ranger	Ed Andrews	781192
Squirrel Bowling Club	Hilary Smith	780609
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**PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES**  
(01746 780936 or email [ianmaddock@btinternet.com](mailto:ianmaddock@btinternet.com))

## THE BACK PAGE

*'If music be the food of love, play on.'*

Thus starts Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, an appropriate quotation perhaps for February, the month of Valentine's Day.

Recently I came across some children's responses to questions about love and marriage, which you may find of interest.

### ***How do you decide who 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 crisps and dip coming. - Alan, 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. - Kirsten, 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. - Derrick, age 8

### ***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. - Lynnette, 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. - Martin, age 10

### ***How would the world be different if people did not get married?***

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

### ***How would you make a marriage work?***

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry. - Ricky, age 10

### ***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

Ian

Please send items for the **March edition by 9 am on Saturday 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 [emaildavid.hampson2025@gmail.com](mailto:emaildavid.hampson2025@gmail.com))



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