

The Parish Magazine

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



AUGUST 2024

60p

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The Rector writes

Dear Friends

How many of us sit at our computer. In your mind you are simply going to turn it on and get to work? However, that is not what happens. If you haven't turned it on for even just a day there will be a handful of updates, if not a plateful of updates that need to install. And then it may want to re-start, more than once, to put everything into effect. Which many of us have experienced as deeply maddening and frustrating. We may shout at the computer - I just want to get on with it!!! Restarting isn't easy for the tools we use, nor for us.

If you have been away from a fitness commitment for a while, your body aches and creaks, it is all harder than it used to be. You might be passionate about the goal, however as soon as the necessary demands feel like a drag or a burden we begin to feel overwhelmed and lose our focus. Can you recall a time in your life when you experienced that very response? I can. Every era of humanity has experienced seasons of grief and alienation and incoherence, yet that truth does not make it any easier. It might have been when we came out of the Covid pandemic, the death of a loved one, an illness.

For me it has been the last 5 months suffering an illness which has stopped me driving and being out in the community as much as I would like. As I write this article I am just 2 weeks away from my operation which will put things right. After the surgery I will hopefully be back to full health in a few weeks, but I know getting back to full and active service is going to be a bit like switching on a computer with all the updates and restarts.

It will, I think, take more patience than I have without the help of prayer and community.

After many events in our lives there is restoration and the utter joy of hugs and smiles that are seen of course, thanks be to God.

But we may also be frayed (not seen.) Languishing, anxious, frustrated, depressed. impatient.

So now you, Lord—

don't hold back any of your compassion from me.

Let your loyal love and faithfulness always protect me,

because countless evils surround me.

My wrongdoings have caught up with me—

I can't see a thing!

There's more of them than hairs on my head—

my courage leaves me.

Favour me, Lord, and deliver me!

Lord, come quickly and help me!

Psalm 40.11-13

(continues on page 5)

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
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St. Mary The Virgin, Alveley, WV15 6ND

Churchwarden	Penny Jenkins , 34 Birch Grove, Alveley	01746 780660
ChurchWarden	Alison Pearson , Brookfield, Daddlebrook Rd, Alveley	07882 888875
Treasurer	Anne Simms , Willowell House, Quatford	01746 768955

St. Andrew's Quatt

Churchwarden	Ann Lee , 7 Brook Hollow, Bridgnorth	01746 761138
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

Funerals	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'</i>	
July 2	Eileen Adelia Jean Jones, aged 91	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

Taken and titled by Don Bannister
'God's in His Heaven and all's well.'

Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Rector, PCCs, retired clergy, Hereford Diocese, the editor or the Church of England.

The Rector writes (continued from page 3)

We are not the first persons to encounter the challenges of reorientation. Many of our psalmists tell of the transitions from disorientation to re-orientation. This isn't the happy ending of a movie; it is the next phase of a journey. We need help because there is no amount of this or that which shall take us back to where we were. We must keep going in a new landscape, tired and frayed as we are.

I hope you know that I give thanks and praise for you, each and every one of you, every day. I pray for your patience and generosity of spirit, trust and truthfulness, and whatever the prayer for a new zap of adrenaline is - I pray that in the mystery of contemplation with the Good Shepherd. Will you pray the same for me, Will you pray the same for our churchwardens' lay leadership, both official and unofficial, at St Mary's and St Andrew's? We need your prayers and your presence. I invite you into a space of mysterious contemplation and daring to carry on with the hard things (even when we just want the computer to be 'on' and running again).

In my prayers.

Rev Jon and the congregation of both churches.

AUGUST SERVICES

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

Sunday August 4

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

Sunday August 11

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

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

Wednesday August 14

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

Sunday August 18

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

Sunday August 25

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 August 28

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

N.B. All August services subject to change.

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

We are now more than half way through the year and as I write this on a cool July morning I am hoping that some summer weather will appear soon. No doubt we will soon see Christmas merchandise in the shops and I will let out a very loud groan!

I wonder where you will be spending August? Maybe you will be jetting off to foreign shores or perhaps enjoying time in our own beautiful country or even just in your own garden. I am off to the south coast for a week. I also spent a few days in York last month staying within yards of York Minster. It was a beautiful city and I was certainly not disappointed .

Wherever you choose to go try and take time to pop into the local church. In Cyprus most hotels have a small chapel in their grounds. It's a calm space with just a few seats but it's not the size of the building that is important, just the fact that it is there and offering us a good place to spend time reflecting on all that God gives us - the beauty of our surroundings, the chance and freedom to travel to new places and the joy of spending time with our families and loved ones.

Our services continue with Holy Communion on the second Sunday and Teatime Praise on the 4th Sunday of each month. Come and join us - you will certainly receive a very warm welcome. *Ann Lee*

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

On Friday 9th August local Arley artist Sarah Stokes will be giving a taster art class from 7pm to 8.30pm. Cost is £5, to include all materials. Please book online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/quatt-village-hall>.

Steph Hinton

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council does not hold a monthly meeting during August except in exceptional circumstances. The next monthly meeting will be at the Pavilion on the 3rd of September commencing with open forum at 7.30pm. The full agenda will be on the notice boards nearer the time, but amongst other things we hope to be discussing the viability of having an ANPR camera in the village.

Thank you to those of you who came to our July meeting to hear John Cam-
pion (Police and Crime Commissioner) speak.

We look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Isley Jakeman, Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council

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*

NATIONAL ALLOTMENTS WEEK AUGUST 12th to 18th

As a nation, more than 250,000 people have an allotment - including the members of the Arden Allotments Association in Alveley.

This year the theme of National Allotments Week (NAW) is biodiversity. The NAW will encourage allotment holders with tips of how to increase pollinators and wildlife, how to do ecofriendly pest control, companion planting, soil health and much more!

Allotments stem originally from the General Enclosure Act of 1845. Traditionally, they were popular among older, retired men, but in recent years that profile has changed. Now fewer than half of all plot-holders are retired, and many, many more are being run by women, who share the plot with their partners.

Although the Head Gardener does not have an allotment, she does spend many hours working on the borders of the Old Chapel, as well as looking after our small plot - which is currently a dazzling display of colour. She was delighted to spot an article on a recent study at the University of Edinburgh which concludes that people who spend time gardening may have better brain function in later life than those who do not.

The authors of the study observe that gardening involves: "not only physical exertion but creativity and planning. Engaging in gardening projects, learning about plants, and general garden upkeep, involve complex cognitive processes such as memory and executive function. Consistent with the 'use it or lose it' framework of cognitive function, more engagement in gardening may be directly associated with a lower risk of cognitive decline."

No wonder the Head Gardener is better at quizzes than me!

Editor

MONDAY CLUB - AGE UK

We had a very successful Coffee Morning, thank you to everyone who came. Our members really enjoyed the morning and, as usual, our volunteers excelled themselves with some lovely cakes. In June we managed to book a lovely sunny day for our boat trip on the Staffs and Worcs canal with a fish and chips lunch. We are looking at joining the Community Bus scheme which will make it easier for future outings.

We have got some new members who will be joining in the coming weeks but we still have room for more. If you feel that you would like to join us, get in touch with us and come for a trial session with no obligation. It's not for everyone but you won't know if you don't give it a try.

We have a lovely bunch of volunteers but we would still appreciate some more, especially drivers to pick up our members from their homes and get them to the centre for 10am then collect them at 2pm for the return trip home. If you would like to volunteer please contact us, this would not be every week.

Contact: Angie Landers 07952 172691

Sue Taylor 07973 343491

Pat Bowyer 07964 377840

ALVELEY OLD CHAPEL

The Chapel has been very busy this last month. We had the Alveley Strollers and Striders in for their annual lunch at the beginning of July which was very successful.

Our special of smoked salmon sandwiches are flying out the door and with a constant flow of home made cakes from our amazing cake makers we are having more people visiting.

We can always find room for one more so if you are passing please pop in. You are always guaranteed a warm welcome and great food.

Looking to the future, we have another concert on 11 October when Andrew and I will be doing a 40s night. Tickets will be on sale at the end of August, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Until next month.....

Mo Morgan, Manager, Alveley Old Chapel Tearoom 01746 781277

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

This is just a reminder that there is no Ladies' Guild meeting in August. 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*

JUNIOR COUNTY FIXTURES AT ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

Sunday August 4 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v Herefordshire

Sunday August 11 Worcestershire CCC Under 12 v Shropshire

Tuesday August 20 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v Shropshire

Wednesday August 21 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v Herefordshire

Thursday August 22 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v To be confirmed

Thursday August 29 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v To be confirmed

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 a Sunday morning 9.30 to 10.30am , Mondays 5.15 to 6pm and Wednesdays 12 to 12.45pm. Contact Jack for more information phone (07946) 177385 .

SOCIAL TENNIS SESSIONS - Saturday morning Mix 10am to 12 mid day, Monday Evenings (Gents) 7 to 9pm, Tuesday afternoons Mix 1 to 3pm, Thursday evenings Mix 7 to 9pm .

ALVELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL. We have given free tennis sessions for 28 children from years 1 and 2 and 30 from years 3 and 4. We welcome new members from all over including Alveley, Bridgnorth, Kidderminster and the surrounding areas. Don't delay - come and check us out or call Roger Whitworth on 07946 094488 or Jan Higgins on (01746)780259 or mail jan.higgins@btinternet.com . See our website for full details clubspark.lta.org.U.K./Alveleytennisclub.

Brian Davies

A pessimist sees a dark tunnel. An optimist sees light at the end of the tunnel. A realist sees a train. The train driver sees three idiots standing on the track.

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*

FRIENDS OF ALVELEY SCHOOL

Friends of Alveley School would like to thank the Recreation Association for the use of the rec for our Summer Festival, The Royal Oak and Tony and Brian Head for all of their help organising and advertising the event. It was a huge success and despite the weather everyone had a great day. We would like to extend our thanks to all the local businesses, bands, St Mary's Church and volunteers who helped to make the day so memorable, and of course the wonderful village community who came along to support the event.

Sarah Carr, Chair - Friends of Alveley School



SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

With the school summer holidays upon us, the visitor centre and café will be open 7 days a week from Saturday 20th July to Monday 2nd September. Opening times will be Monday to Friday 11am-4pm, Saturday 9.30am-4pm and Sunday 10.30am-4pm. We have events for the children on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You'll need to call to book for our Monday and Wednesday events. The Friday events are free drop-in craft sessions. So hopefully there will be something for everyone. Full details of events can be found on our webpage at www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/severnvalleycountrypark.

A highlight of the summer is a visit from Rain or Shine Theatre Company. This year they are performing 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Tickets are on sale now for the show on Friday 16th August. Call the visitor centre for more details on 01746 781 192. As usual, tickets will be available to purchase on the night.

In other news, we are excited to launch our four seasons calendar competition.

We are asking visitors to enter photographs they have taken of the park between 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025. We will be selecting 3 photographs from each season to go into a Severn Valley Country Park Calendar for 2026. All monies made from the sales of the calendar will support projects at the park.

Each season visitors will be able to submit 2 photos. Entry forms can be downloaded from our website, you can email svcpcalendarcomp@gmail.com or call into the visitor centre for a copy. Photographers whose photograph/s are selected for the calendar will receive a copy of the calendar.

The dates for submissions are:

Summer: 1st June 2024-31st August 2024

Autumn: 1st September 2024-30th November 2024

Winter: 1st December 2024- 28th February 2025

Spring: 1st March 2025-31st May 2025

It will be a wonderful way to have a record of the changing seasons at Severn Valley.

We are very much looking forward to sharing the final result with you all.

Thank you to regular visitors Jill Bunn, Andy Sibley, Sally Neville and John Chapman for organising the competition.

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).

Susie Comaish, Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre Manager 781192

When I was young I was a poor golfer but after years of play and practice I am no longer young.

ALVELEY W.I.

Unfortunately our July speaker was taken ill on the morning of our meeting. Whilst we tried to spread the word, it wasn't possible to contact everyone so the committee organised a few games and a quiz. Those of us who turned up (despite the England semi-final match!) enjoyed a fun night with plenty of cake and tea/coffee.

I'm sure the fun will continue when we meet on 14th August for our annual picnic. The gates to the recreation ground will be open at 12.00. There is no set start or finish time but please do come and join us and bring your picnic lunch with you. We started the picnic during Covid so that we could still see each other but at a safe distance. We enjoyed it so much that it has now become a stalwart on our yearly programme. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Fingers crossed for good weather - although the pavilion will be available should it be raining.

I hope you all enjoyed your lunch at the Cat at Enville. Our next lunch out will be at the Tap House at Hartlebury on **Wednesday 18th September 12.00 for 12.30**. There will be a board out at the picnic, please put your name down if you want to join us.

Our **11th September** meeting is being organised by members so the Committee is having a rest. Hence I can't really give you much information. Do put the date in your diaries and come along and be surprised!!!! *Pam Worton*

NEW LIFE NEPAL SUPPORT TRUST

Following my report in the July magazine, I have a spelling correction to make. The new hostel is actually named Shikhar. The article also had details of new appeals for funding for further education as well as projects to knit scarves and collect money in Smartie tubes to buy bicycles for hostel residents.

There is more good news this month. Due to the incredible generosity of donors in both Thame and Alveley we now have funding in place for two of the older children who are due to start college courses next May. The third teenager is not starting her chosen course in May 2025 but in May 2026 which gives a bit more time to find the extra funding required of £2000 per year for the three-year course.

I have received several Smartie tubes full of 20p coins. A full one will hold £11.00 which in local Nepali terms will pay for ¼ of a bicycle for a student to ride to and from school.

I have also received two beautiful colourful scarves which will be sent out to Nepal for the children to wear. So do keep collecting small change and knitting scarves and maybe hats to match. It all helps our friends in Nepal to know that they are being supported and cared about by people in Alveley, thousands of miles away.

The final thing to mention is that we are taking orders for home-made traditional Christmas puddings (yes! I know it seems a long time ahead) to be delivered in

September. Some people may remember buying them following Janette and Sarah Dixon's visit last Autumn. The puddings come in a variety of sizes with a suggested donation asked according to size. If you are interested in ordering one, please contact Penny Jenkins on 01746780660 as soon as possible for further details.

Penny Jenkins

ALVELEY STROLLERS AND STRIDERS

On the third Tuesday of every month (except December and January) we have an Away Walk. Driving a short distance in cars takes us to places where we can broaden our horizons and explore new footpaths. For example our "early summer" walk in June started from The Danery at Quatford. After a short climb we crossed a meadow to reach the "forest oak". This tree was a landmark in 1086 and is still standing – although the trunk is now hollow and divides into two or more separate limbs. It's a relic of the ancient Forest of Morfe which spread over a large area to the East of here. We continued our walk through Quatford woods to catch glimpses of Quatford Castle through the trees. This is a large nineteenth century house built in a picturesque mock-gothic style complete with turrets and battlements. We then returned along the riverbank.

In his book "County Rambles around Kidderminster", written in 1912, George Thompson mentions Quatt and Quatford. He suggests that their names derive from the old British word "coed" meaning a wood, but can't give any reason as to why Quatt has over the years picked up an extra T. After the Norman conquest of 1066 this whole area passed into the hands of Roger Belesme, the first Earl of Shrewsbury. His coat of arms bore the image of a red lion, hence the local pubs bearing that name. The demise of Quatford, or to give it its full name Quatford Bridge (due to the existence of a wooden bridge) came in 1101 when the third Earl of Shrewsbury decided to move his seat of power two miles to the north and built a Norman fortress and church there with a new bridge over the river. Hence the name Bruggenorth or Bridgnorth.

George Thompson, writing in 1912, gives one sentence to the A442. He says – "The road from Shatterford to Quatt is a well engineered road, constructed by Thomas Telford when County Surveyor for Shropshire and when coaching was in its zenith, and this is the reason why it passes between the villages instead of through them." I wonder whether Mr Telford has been turning in his grave recently!

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 5 minutes earlier to register). For more information you can speak to Norma or myself on 01746 780478 or 07712389131.

Andrew Crabtree

Friendship is when people know all about you but like you anyway.

SUSTAINABLE BRIDGNORTH

Following the petition, which was started by this group, we have been advised that the Household Recycling Centre is remaining open (but there is going to be a charge on garden waste), so thanks to everyone who signed it.

At the September AGM, after 8 years, I will be stepping down as Chair and from my multiple other roles within the group. We are now open for nominations to take on the following positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Meetings Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Social Media Coordinator, and PR Coordinator. The focus for the next year is likely to be on energy reduction with a circular economy workstream, as a potential joint activity with Our Green Shop.

If you are interested in receiving free training on energy efficiency and reduction measures, or if you would like to provide assistance with circular economy activities, please email secretary@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk.

The AGM will take place on Thursday, September 12th, at 7.30 p.m. at St. John's Roman Catholic Church Hall, Bridgnorth. We are still planning a Repair Café event to follow the AGM, with a view to a potential repair shop activity in Bridgnorth at a future date. Speakers from the Highley Repair Café will unfortunately not be available for the meeting as they are launching their first event on the 14th. If anyone is either interested in initiating one in our parish or supporting something in Bridgnorth, please do join us for the event.

There are also plans to hold an event on energy reduction, probably in either October (10th) or November (14th). More details will follow once this is confirmed.

Kath Norgrove

CHAPEL CRAFTERS

We had a lovely shared lunch at our Craft Day in July, great strides were made in the making of fabric boxes and complicated fabric bags, we hope to continue and finish them in August. A few of us are going to the Festival of Quilts at the NEC on 2nd August, where we will see some beautiful quilts on display and no doubt new designs of Christmas fabric will be available to buy. If you would like to learn a new craft please come and join us, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome.

Jenny and Angie.

MUSIC WITH ANDREW AND MO

Andrew Crabtree and Mo Morgan will present an evening of music from the 40s in the Old Chapel on Friday October 11th. Tickets will be on sale from August.

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

It is twelve years since the village hall put on its first Arts Alive theatrical production, David Copperfield. Arts Alive organize and fund the Rural Touring Scheme in Shropshire and Herefordshire to promote professional live theatre in rural communities. Earlier this year two village hall representatives were delighted to go along to the annual Menu Launch at Clungunford village hall of the 38 shows for the 24/25 season. They were entertained with live extracts and videos of some of the shows on offer. We then drew up a short list of six, any two of which we thought would be well received in Alveley. After waiting eagerly we have been informed by Arts Alive that we have been successful. I am pleased to say that we have provisionally been allocated two of our chosen shows, one in November and the other next February, with the actual dates yet to be confirmed. The first play entitled, The Plot Thickens, is billed as “fun, crazy, tense”, just right for Alveley! The February offering is An Evening of Very Old Radio, a “stand up” History of the BBC’s origins, with Paul Kerensa, the ITV award-winning comedian and British Comedy Award- winning writer (Not Going Out, Miranda.) When we have definite dates I’ll let you know along with more background information.

Norma Crabtree

ALVELEY ART GROUP

This month's theme is Rock. Whether it's rock in any of its forms or ideas linked to it, such as rock music or even sticks of rock bought on a summer holiday! However we interpret it, we continue enjoying making art at the village hall every other Monday (black bin day of course!).

Some of us recently joined the Kidderminster Arts Society for a demonstration evening at Trimpley Village Hall. It was very interesting to see a different approach to creating pastel pictures by one of their members, Wendy Simmons. She has her own website if you are interested in looking at her art: WendySimmonsArt.

For information on our art group, please contact Deb on 01746 780243 or Colin on xalv7973@gmail.com

Deb Parker

A notice outside Chichester Cathedral advertised lunchtime concerts with the encouragement that: "Sandwiches may be eaten." Someone had scribbled underneath: "So if you are a sandwich, don't come!"

MESSY CHURCH



Well, what a wonderful day we all had at Messy Church at the Alveley Primary School Festival on the Recreation Ground in July. We had chosen Noah's Ark for the theme and we certainly had lots of special effects – torrential, rain, gusty winds and finally warm sunshine!!

The festival gave us an opportunity to show the whole community what happens at Messy Church. Centre stage was a large, cardboard Ark which, by the end of the afternoon, was decorated with animals, coloured in by all the children who came to see us. They were also able to make a Noah's Ark mobile (complete with Noah and a dove), and an animal face mask. Rev Jon spent the afternoon handing out bottles of bubbles and decorated fairy cakes, all adding to the fun.

Messy Church will take a short break in August but will be back on Saturday 7th September (3-5pm) with lots of new crafts, stories and praise, all followed by a tasty tea.

It would be wonderful to see again all the families that came along to the summer festival. There is no charge but donations to St. Mary's Church are welcome. *Alison Pearson*





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



LITTLE LONDON

Looking at history is very much like trying to do a jigsaw with half the pieces missing. Take the old farmhouse which is the first building on the left once you have gone past the entrance to the country park. It is named Little London. Why? My three dictionaries of place names said absolutely nothing, yet a cheap map book (aldi £1.99) listed 5 of them. A better one listed 25 and the internet says there are 130 places in England alone with that name. It also suggested some possibilities for its origin. A place where some people from London settled. A place where people from London came to help with the harvest. A place that was expanding rapidly like the houses and population of London or a farm where the owner had once visited London and wished to make his own piece of it here in a quiet back lane in Shropshire. Now all of the above are possible but which one has the ring of truth?

Then, on one of our semi-regular visits to that paradise on earth, the town of books, Hay-on-Wye, whilst browsing in one of the 24 bookshops there (24 eh!) I came across an interesting little book called "Hard Road to London", which is an account of the lives of Welsh cattle drovers. Cattle have been herded from Wales for a thousand years or more towards centres of population. Some famous routes include the Ridgeway in the south of England and the Portway which runs the length of the Long Mynd near Church Stretton.

Many of these drover roads have long been covered in tarmac but there may be the remains of some in our parish. There were certainly pack horse roads, often called hollow ways and could have been drovers routes as well. Before the battle of Bosworth in 1485 Henry Tudor was joined near Welshpool by two of his supporters who bought with them a large herd of Welsh black cattle to help feed his ever expanding army march to victory.

It was the growing industrial revolution that really boosted the cattle trade and by 1810 it was estimated that 14,000 Welsh blacks were coming from Anglesey and the Llyn peninsular every year and being driven to the Midlands and London in herds of up to 300. The herd would cross the dangerous Menai straits at low tide being led by a tame cow which an enterprising farmer would then return with ready for the next drove and no doubt be well rewarded.

The River Severn would not present a problem when it was low and when high they could use the ferries. Interestingly in the belfry at Upper Arley there is an old copy, dated 1963, of the schedule of charges for the ferry. Cattle were charged one shilling and four pence per head (about 7p in today's

money). Also on this schedule is one line that says "for each ass (with or without vehicle) 4 pence". It seems there's plenty of them still on the roads today!

The journey from Anglesey to London at 15 miles a day would take approximately 3 weeks and the herd would be kept overnight in a field where a farmer would charge a half a penny per beast giving rise to the name Half-penny Green of which there is one just a few miles from Alveley. When the drovers became too old or infirm to continue walking the huge distances involved they often bought or settled on a farm which they frequently called Little London. This is the most likely origin of the name. They would then be happy to overnight cattle or provide bed and breakfast for passing drovers. It is suggested that other services may have been available, such as ale or female company. However the head drovers did not have a reputation as drunkards, thieves or womanisers as on the return journey they would be carrying large sums of money from the sale of the cattle that the Welsh farmers would be very much looking forward to. This of course was known to highwaymen and eventually led to the founding of a bank in 1779 that issued notes that would be worthless to a robber but exchanged for hard cash when back in Wales. This bank was in Llandovery and called the Bank of the black ox set up by a drover and eventually taken over by Lloyds in 1909 by which time the railways and then motor lorries had ended the trade forever. *Roy of the drovers.*



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Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions	Chalice	Sidespersons	Refreshments
August 4	Laura Simms 2 Samuel 11.26 and 12.1-13	Michael York John 6.24-35	Jackie Campbell	Dale & Sue Chidwick	Alison & Keith Pearson	Anne & Laura Simms
August 11	David Hampson John 6.35,41-51				Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Pat Haw Lynn Madden Carol Wall
August 18	Sue Chidwick 1 Kings 2.10-12 and 3.3-14	Ian Maddock John 6.51-58	Jackie Hampson	Jackie Hampson Carol Wall	David & Jackie Hampson	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
August 25	Pauline Cooper John 6.56-69				Fred & Pauline Cooper	St. Mary's Team Alison & Keith Pearson
September 1	Kirsty Ritzenhaler Song of Solomon 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

DIARY 2024

- August 5** Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
5 Rock and Fossil Hunt, SVCP
7 Marvellous moths session, SVCP
9 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30a.m-12.30pm
9 Taster art class, Quatt Village Hall, 7pm (p 6)
12 Mini beast hunt, SVCP
14 Pirate Day, SVCP
14 Alveley WI picnic, Recreation Ground (p 12)
16 Rain or Shine Theatre: 'The Importance of Being Earnest', SVCP (p11)
19 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
19 Pond Dip, SVCP
21 Scavenger Hunt and woodland make, SVCP
23 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30a.m-12.30pm
28 Make nettles into string, SVCP
Sept 2 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
3 Tai Chi classes begin, Pavilion, 10am (p 10)
3 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council meeting, Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 6)
7 Messy Church, St Mary's 3pm-5pm (p 16)
11 Alveley W.I. meeting, Pavilion, 7pm (p 12)
12 Sustainable Bridgnorth AGM, St John's R C Church Hall, B'north 7.30pm (p 14)
16 Be Café, Old Chapel, 2pm-4pm (p 17)
18 W.I. lunch at Hartlebury (p 12)
21 Alveley Entertainers' Film night, Village Hall, 7.30pm
23 Ladies' Guild, Alveley Village Hall, 2.30pm (p8)
29 St. Andrew's Harvest service and lunch
Oct 11 Music from the 40s with Andrew Crabtree & Mo Morgan, Old Chapel (p 8)
Nov 29 Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's (till December 2nd)



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Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper		780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg		780437
Alveley Day Centre	Sue Taylor 07973 343491		
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Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock		780936
Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill		780794
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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	Steve Kerry		07711788782
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Alveley Pétanque Club	David Voysey		780356
Alveley Rec Assn/Pavilion	Margaret Shaw		780459
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PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

Just occasionally I catch sight of a television programme called Scam Interceptors and am always amazed at the skill of those involved. As its name implies it aims to stop people in this country losing money to telephone scammers elsewhere. How they manage to pinpoint the exact premises from which scam calls are made then identify recipients of scam calls and, hopefully, manage to warn the victims that they are being scammed, is beyond me, but it makes for fascinating viewing.

It seems that to steal other people's assets you can be thousands of miles away and yet reap big profits.

The scam telephone call is one of the most irritating aspects of modern life. For us the most frequent is the one purporting to be from 'bank security', but fortunately that's an obvious scam call - if it really was from bank security the caller would say from which bank, there must be dozens, if not hundreds of banks nowadays. Even then I would be minded to call the bank using a different phone, just to be sure. Another, less frequent at the moment, is supposed to be from Amazon about your Prime account. In our case we don't have a Prime account so it's easy enough to see immediately that it's a scam, but for those with Prime accounts it might not be immediately evident.

Scammers are getting more and more sophisticated and however good the Scam Interceptors are, they can only intercept a tiny number of these calls - so we all need to be on our toes. I suspect that many can sound quite plausible, but the minute they ask for any personal information is the time to put the phone down.

Some people have interesting ways of dealing with scammers once they've spotted them. One I know actually tries to sell the caller insurance, thus keeping them on the phone for a long time until the scammer gives up and ends the call.

I still have my whistle from my rugby refereeing days, so keeping it by the phone to give a scam caller a long, shrill blast of the whistle in their ear can be a good idea and saves time.

Ian

Please send items for the **September edition by 9 am on Friday August 16th** 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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