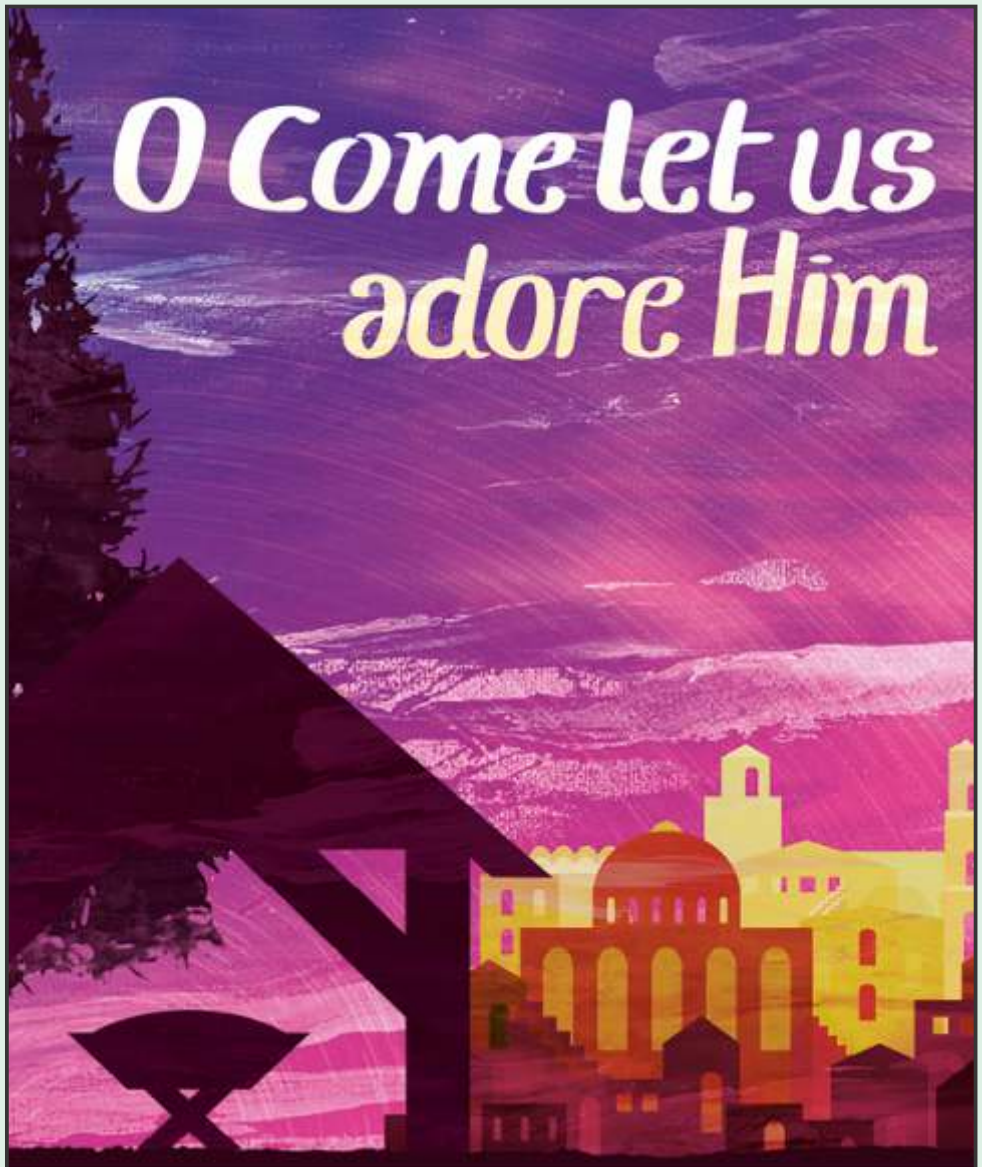


# The Parish Magazine

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



DECEMBER 2025

60p

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## The Rector writes

Dear Friends,

Advent Calendars. I hope you have yours if you are an Advent Calendar person. There is something rather special about opening those doors, seeing what images appear. As a child we had a calendar which invited us to read about examples of Christian witness and gave us a short prayer to say. We did this as a family and when we did this it was rather special and more to do with God and less to do with chocolate.

Advent is the gift of waiting on God. We generally are poor at waiting. And waiting for Christmas is particularly difficult. Just as children find it difficult to wait for Christmas, so adults in church want those carols now and get grumpy when we roll up to Church and are offered Advent hymns/carols instead. If you can't wait to sing carols join us on Monday 1 December at 6.00pm at the Alveley village light switch-on and join us in singing some favourite carols. Before rushing on to what we might think of as the 'main event', come along and enter this season with its own richness of music.

Please see our service page for what we have to offer at St Mary's and St Andrew's this Advent and Christmas.

For the last 2 years we have held a Christmas tree festival in St Mary's. This year the church family is going on a weekend retreat to help us focus on what Advent means to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. "Fear not" - in the words of the angel Gabriel, we are pleased to announce that the Christmas tree festival will be back in 2026, so get your thinking caps on!

For many people outside the worshipping community, the Christmas Carol Service is one of those occasions when stepping inside Church is seen as safe. Our Christmas Carol Services are on Sunday 14 December at 6.00pm in St Andrew's Quatt and Friday 19 December at 7.00pm in St Mary's Alveley, both followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

We have little invitations that we can give you to pass onto friends with the highlight services across the season. Do take and do give to those in your circle of friends. Your invitation might be just the gift that they need this Christmas.

This time of the year there is so much going on. And sometimes, in all that, we can forget God, forget the reason why we gather, why we do all we do at Church. I'd like to give you this simple idea. As Christmas Cards arrive, take one or two to that place where you say your prayers. Hold them. Remember who sent them. Give thanks for that friendship over the years. And ask for the grace that you, like Mary, may carry Jesus into the world. No need to be sophisticated or complicated. Be a channel of love and hope, as Mary is for us. If you want more, then read Matthew's Gospel. That will be the main source of our Gospel Readings this year from Advent to Christ the King. It's long. So perhaps start at Matthew Chapter 5, which is the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. Read that. Slowly. There will be plenty for the most spiritually hungry person to chew on for many weeks.

Wishing you all a peaceful blessed Christmas,

Rev Jon

## United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

|                             |                                                                                            |                     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rector</b>               | <b>Rev. Jon Aldwinckle</b> , The Rectory, Alveley<br>(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

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <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>Churchwarden</b> | <b>Alison Pearson</b> , Brookfield, Daddlebrook Rd, Alveley | <b>07882 888875</b> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>    | <b>Anne Simms</b> , Willowell House, Quatford               | <b>01746 768955</b> |

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### St. Andrew's Quatt

|                     |                                                         |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Churchwarden</b> | <b>Ann Lee</b> , 7 Brook Hollow, Bridgnorth             | <b>01746 761138</b> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>    | <b>Steve Jones</b> , 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster | <b>01562 753828</b> |

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### From the Parish Register

#### Funerals

*Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'*

|                           |                        |                         |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> November | Thomas Roberts         | Wyre Forest Crematorium |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> November | Giovanni (John) Farina | Stourbridge Crematorium |

**For all church enquiries please visit our website**

<https://www.alveleyandquattchurches>. In an emergency please call

Rev Jon Aldwinckle (01746 562159)

For Alveley burial ground enquiries call Jenny Sirrell 07484806605

**COVER PICTURE**

Christmas in Bethlehem

*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.*



## DECEMBER SERVICES

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

### Monday December 1st

6.00 p.m. Carol singing at Alveley Christmas tree lights switch on

### Sunday December 7th

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

### Wednesday December 10th

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

### Sunday December 14th

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

3.00 p.m. Christingle Service St. Mary's

6.00 p.m. Carol Service St. Andrew's

### Friday December 19th

7.00 p.m. Carol Service St. Mary's

### Sunday December 21st

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

### Wednesday December 24th Christmas Eve

3.00 p.m. Crib Service St. Mary's

9.00 p.m. Christmas Communion St. Andrew's

### Thursday December 25th Christmas Day

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

### Sunday December 28th

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

## THE LATE TOM ROBERTS

I would like to thank all those who sent cards and offered support and good wishes following the passing of my husband Tom.

*Joyce Roberts*

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Please note there will be no Men's Breakfast in December. We look forward to welcoming you back on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2026.

*Rev Jon*

## ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

Another year is almost over. It's a time to reflect upon what has happened over the past year but also a time to look forward to a new year and new challenges. Are you a traditionalist, a creature of habit especially when it comes to celebrating Christmas? Someone told me the other day that they were putting up their Christmas tree in late October! I tend to wait until the first week of December at the earliest. For me the real feeling of Christmas starts with our Carol Service at St Andrew's and this will be held at 6pm on Sunday 14th December by candlelight. Please come along and join us for this special occasion of 9 lessons and carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Our Christmas Eve Communion service will be held at 9pm on 24th December.

Our traditional annual Christmas meal is on 17th December in Quatt Village Hall. Please arrive at 12.30pm ready for lunch at 1pm. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are able to join us so that we can cater accordingly.

As the year ends I would like to thank all of you who help to keep St Andrew's going throughout the year. There are many unseen activities that take place on a regular basis. Do come along and join us - I can assure you of a very warm welcome.

However you choose to spend Christmas let us all remember it's real meaning - the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ.

I will finish by wishing you and whoever you may be celebrating with, a very Happy Christmas wherever you may be.

*Ann Lee*

## ST. ANDREW'S DUTY ROTA

**Please let Ann know if you are not available on these dates.**

| Date   | 1st Reading                       | 2nd reading                       | Intercessions  |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Dec 14 | Isaiah 35.1-10<br>Yvonne Miles    | Matthew 11.2-11<br>Ann Lee        | Ann Lee        |
| Dec 24 | Isaiah 9.2-7<br>Ann Lee           | Luke 2.1-20<br>Alison Pearson     | Keith Pearson  |
| Dec 28 | Jeremiah 31.15-17<br>Colin Taylor | Matthew 2.13-18<br>Paula Tristham | Jackie Hampson |

## **ALVELEY & ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be Tuesday 2nd December in the Pavilion. The meeting will start as usual at 7.30pm with Open Forum, your opportunity to raise any concerns you may have about the village. The agenda will be available shortly before the meeting, on the notice boards in the village and Romsley. We look forward to seeing you there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Twigg and his team for putting up the poppies in the village. I would also like to thank those of you who attended our short service at the Memorial Planter on Armistice day. It was lovely to see such a good turnout.

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

## **ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL**

**It's not long to wait now until this year's Christmas Market which is being held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 12 noon.** There will be a wonderful variety of stalls this year, including delicious cakes, tombola, hand-made Christmas cards, small pocket money gifts, Country Park calendars, teddies and beautifully crafted items ideal for those 'special' Christmas gifts. Refreshments will include warming homemade soup and crusty bread, mince pies and hot drinks. In addition to the Christmas raffle Andrew and Brian will add to the festive mood with some live seasonal music and Christmas Carols. Entry is free and the money raised goes to local organisations and a variety of charities including Alveley First Responders and The Air Ambulance. Please support your village hall and come along to enjoy this popular traditional village event. We would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Norma Crabtree*

## **QUATT VILLAGE HALL**

**Saturday 6th December. Christmas Skittles Night.**

Ho, ho, ho, it's that time of year again. Christmas fun at Quatt Village Hall. Skittles, buffet and games. Please bring your own drinks. Starts at 7pm. Adults £6, children aged 14 and under £4.

Tickets are available at Quatt Farm Shop.

*Steph Hinton*



## **ALVELEY VILLAGE BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT**



**2pm Saturday 20th December**

**Alveley Village Hall**

Come and join us for an afternoon of festive music and to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Alveley Village Band. From traditional carols to Michael Buble, we will be spreading the Christmas magic.

Tickets are £5 (under 12s free) and include a glass of fizz upon entry and interval refreshments.

Tickets can be booked in advance by phoning 07798 713155. Also available on the door (cash only).

*Lisa Hadley*

### **ALVELEY OLD CHAPEL COMMUNITY TEA-ROOM**

The last day that the Old Chapel Community Tea Room will open before Christmas is Wednesday December 17th. It will re-open on Tuesday January 6th. We wish all our users and volunteers a very happy Christmas.

### **THANK YOU**

As the year draws to a close I would like to thank all those who help make it possible to have a magazine printed and delivered each month. Thank you to the many contributors without whom it would be a very sparse publication. Thanks also to readers and to advertisers. It is the advertising income that enables us to hold the price so low! Please support them. Thanks to distributors who deliver to your door and collect your subscriptions, to proof readers who spot my mistakes - let's call them typos! - and David Hampson, who manages advertising and finance. Thanks also to Masart Design and Print for an excellent and speedy print. Happy Christmas to you all. *Ian Maddock, Editor*

*Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer and pulled up in front of the toy factory. "At last!" he shouted, "No-el plates!"*

## ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

**NEW for 2026 PICKLEBALL** Introductory sessions for members and non-members on Friday January 9th and Friday January 16th, at 6.20pm. PICKLEBALL is a mixture of tennis, badminton & table tennis and is easy to learn. It can be less stressful and is an alternative to these traditional sports like the other racquet sports. It can be played as singles or doubles. Ladies and gents who want to attend either of these nights, please confirm on Alveley Tennis Facebook Page. Cost will be £2 per person to cover the cost of the floodlights.

At the time of writing we have 12 people confirmed on Friday January 9 and 14 confirmed on Friday January 16. Both nights are going to be very busy.

Alveley Tennis Club welcomes the latest member who has just moved to the village. Jennifer White is a keen sportswoman who plays badminton, squash, and tennis and also plays golf off a handicap of 10. She said "I'm excited about the facilities in Alveley and everyone has been super friendly and welcoming. Thankyou."

Alveley Tennis Club Christmas Party is being held at The Three Horseshoes on Wednesday December 17th, at 7 for 7.30pm.

### WEEKLY SESSIONS:

MONDAYS : Tennis mixing, gents. Evenings, 7 to 9pm.

TUESDAYS : Tennis mixing, ladies & gents. Afternoons, 1-3pm

WEDNESDAYS : Rusty Racquets. Afternoons, 12 till 12.45 pm.

THURSDAYS : Tennis mixing, ladies & gents. Evenings 7-9pm.

FRIDAYS : Junior Sessions. Evenings : Ages 5-10 (5.35 to 6.20pm). Ages 11 to 14 (6.20 to 7.05pm).

SATURDAYS: Mornings Tennis mixing, ladies & gents. 10 to 12 noon.

\* Ring JACK FLETCHER on 07496 177385 if you want to sign up for Rusty Racquets, Junior Tennis Sessions or One To One coaching. For NEW MEMBERS contact Ron Whitfield on 07816 322468 or any further information contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488.

*Brian Davies*

*As we were putting out biscuits for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve, one fell on the floor. When I picked it up and placed it back on the plate, my four-year-old was horrified. "You can't do that!" "Don't worry," I assured him. "Father Christmas will never know." He shot me a suspicious look. "So, he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the biscuit fell on the floor?"*

## SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

All the staff and volunteers at Severn Valley Country Park would like to wish our visitors a very merry Christmas and happy new year!

The café and visitor centre will be open every day except for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. We'll be able to confirm opening times nearer to Christmas, so keep an eye on our Facebook page and webpage.

No. 92 Coffee Severn Valley are continuing with their delicious breakfast and lunch menu as well as adding some lovely seasonal treats. They are taking bookings for festive afternoon teas so give them a call on 01746 866734 for a Christmas celebration.

We are holding our wreath making days on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December. They have proved popular again and they are now fully booked. We're looking forward to seeing the beautiful wreaths which are created.

Severn Valley Country parkrun continues each Saturday, and they will be running on Christmas Day again this year. It's always a lovely atmosphere and a great way to blow out the cobwebs at the start of Christmas. Nordic Walking continues through December, with the final walk of the year on 17<sup>th</sup> December, with a stop off in the café for lunch. And our last Chat About Books of the year is on 12<sup>th</sup> December and they will be rounding off the year with lunch in the café too!

If you are still looking for a stocking filler, our four season 2026 calendar is still available. They will be on sale at the Alveley Christmas Fair in the village hall on 6<sup>th</sup> December, and also from the visitor centre, Monday to Friday when the rangers are in the office.

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

*Tel: 01746 781192      Visit [www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk)*

## ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

If you were a Percy Thrower fan then I'm sure you will have enjoyed our talk by Peter Dunhill. We learnt everything we didn't know about Percy.

Our December meeting will be early again this month, due to two certain people swanning off on a weekend away! We will meet on Monday 15th December in Alveley Village Hall at 2.30pm.

We will have a Christmas buffet - don't eat too much! We may have a quiz or just a good old chat. There will also be a bring and buy table in aid of the First Responders. Please bring and buy. We hope to see you all there.

*Kath*

## TEN FUN FACTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS TREES

Even before the time of Christ, evergreen trees were seen in winter as a symbol of fertility.

It was the 16<sup>th</sup> century monk, Martin Luther, who is credited with the idea of having lights on Christmas trees. He added candles to his tree, to look like stars in a forest.

Windsor Castle got its first Christmas tree in 1800, brought by Charlotte, wife of George III.

It was in 1835 that the term 'Christmas tree' was first used in English.

It was in the 1840s, when Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, began bringing trees inside, that led to their popularity throughout the UK.

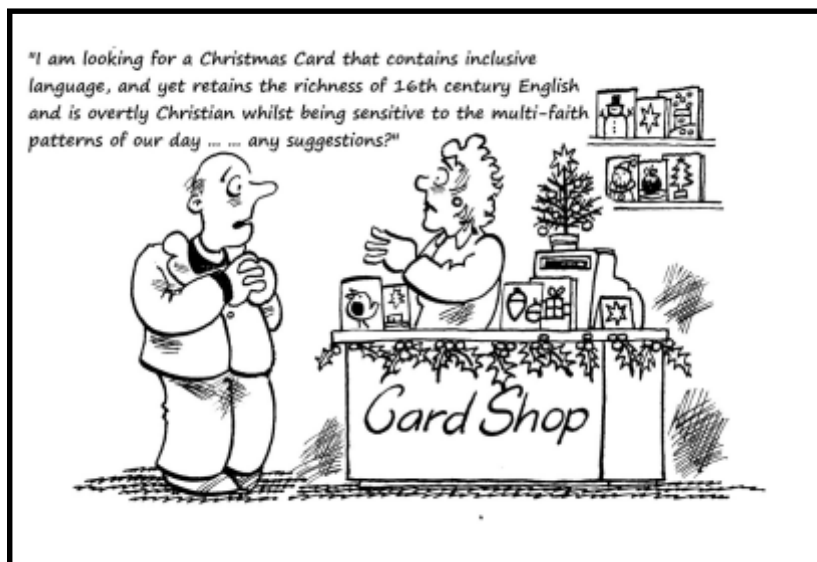
It was Woolworths who first sold manufactured Christmas tree ornaments – back in 1880.

The tree in London's Trafalgar Square has been a gift from the city of Oslo, Norway since 1947.

The world's tallest Xmas tree, at 221ft high, was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.

In a survey of the nation's favourite smells, real Christmas trees came eighth, just behind the sea, but ahead of perfume.

About five million real Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year.





## LIFE ILLUSTRATED

Just over a month ago the BBC online news featured the church at Cound and the efforts being made there to save a fairly rare medieval wall painting. Many months before that another Alveley bell ringer and I had been to a cheese and wine evening at Cound Village Hall to help raise money for the restoration of this painting. It seems a leaking roof, damp and age are deteriorating this 15th century doom painting and £50,000 is needed to restore it. St Mary's Alveley also has a doom or judgement painting on the wall in the side chapel. There is a very good framed explanation hung beneath it to which I can add very little. Doom paintings were popular in many churches when they were Roman Catholic before 1534. At this time churches were richly decorated with paintings, statues and gold ornaments. Our tower was plastered and painted white on the outside (you can still see the evidence). It was shorter and had a spire. In medieval times most people could not read or write and doom paintings showed in graphic form the fight between good and evil. Ours, which is probably about 14th century which was when the chapel was built, shows the Virgin Mary seated in the middle with the devil on the left representing death and evil and on the right a trumpeter who is heralding the arrival of good, a better life and a better afterlife. It also shows a man holding what appear to be bagpipes (!) or possibly about to draw his sword to fight on the Virgin Mary's behalf. Beneath Mary's feet are dragons or perhaps demons representing, of course, the triumph of good over evil. The message of this powerful image would have been unmistakable to illiterate parishioners. Unfortunately when Henry the 8th rejected the Roman Catholic faith in 1534 these images along with other adornments popular at the time were considered too pope-ish and were removed, destroyed or painted over. His successor, Edward the 6th, continued his destruction and the Victorians finished it, not just whitewashing over the paintings but even chipping the plaster off the walls in many cases. About 600 or so survive up and down the country, some in very good order as at Pickering in Yorkshire or like ours and the one at Cound. There is a rather unusual one at Claverley church. The historians cannot make up their minds about this one. First they thought it was a rather elaborate doom painting depicting vice and virtue, then they thought it was similar to the Bayeux tapestry showing the battle of Hastings in 1066 and now they think it may show the Knights Templar and the Crusades (1095 to 1291). This painting is in remarkably good condition and quite lively. Three of the knights are shown falling from their horses!

Children's books almost exclusively have illustrations to help with learning the text and comics such as the Beano and Dandy have always been popular but recently Anime, which is a Japanese style of animation, and in their comic books called Manga, has become hugely popular, selling millions of books. Many of the bigger bookshops have shelves or even whole sections devoted to manga books. Their stories tend to explore themes such as romance, adventure, social issues, sport, fantasy and, of course, good and evil.

*Roy Page*

## **I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth', I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

*By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1863)*

## MESSY CHURCH

November's Messy Church meeting was on the day after Halloween so it seemed appropriate that we should be carving pumpkins. However, instead of a dark and ghoulish theme we celebrated Jesus as the Light of the World, and let His light shine through our pumpkins and other crafts. The children followed this Pumpkin Prayer as they carved, cut away and scooped out their pumpkins:

Dear Jesus,

As I carve my pumpkin, help me pray this prayer:

Open my mind so that I can learn about You

*(cut off the top of the pumpkin)*

Take all my sin and forgive all the wrong that I do

*(clean out the inside)*

Open my eyes so Your love I will see

*(cut eyes shaped like hearts)*

I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at what

You've given to me

*(cut a nose shaped like a cross)*

Open my ears so Your words I will hear

*(cut ears shaped like a Bible)*

Open my mouth to tell others You're near

*(cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)*

Let Your light shine in all I say and do!

*(place candle inside and light it)*

We had a beautiful array of illuminated pumpkins at the end, and there was still time for a delicious tea of hot dogs [with onions of course], with cake and fruit to follow.

The next Messy Church on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm, will be the Christmas Party with games, Christmas crafts and a special party tea! All the children of Alveley and Quatt are invited, with a parent or carer. There is no charge but all donations are welcome.

*Alison Pearson*

*(Photos on page 17)*



## **Four Seasons Fund Raising Calendar 2026 It's a Great Gift**



### **It's a great Christmas Gift at Just £10**

**18 months on from the first ideas to final production, the Severn Valley Country Park Four Seasons Calendar is finally here!**

Many visitors to the Park enjoy photography and it was considered that those skills could be put to good use by creating a competition to produce a calendar featuring images from the four seasons, showcasing the variety of flora and fauna to be found throughout the year.

The resulting calendar is a fitting testament to all the hard work that has gone into it, from the organisers to the judges, sponsors and, most importantly, the participants who entered their wonderful photographs.

All of the funds from sales of the calendar will be used to enhance the Park on various projects, in particular for the enjoyment of the many photographers who visit.

Calendars can be purchased from the Visitor's Centre, Londs Store and the Old Chapel at a cost of £10.



*Heath Cottage in Comer Woods was featured in the recent television adaptation of 'Murder Before Evensong' by Rev. Richard Coles.  
Photo by Anne Edwards.*



## **ALVELEY CHRISTMAS MARKET**



**In the Village Hall**

**12.00 onwards SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER**

***Tombola, crafts, produce, gifts, cards, raffle***

**Homemade soup, mince pies, hot drinks**

**Live Christmas music**

## MESSY CHURCH PHOTOS

(see report on page 14)





St Mary's Church, Alveley  
Saturday December 6th  
3pm – 5pm

Crafts

Worship

**Messy  
Church**

Games

Food

Family Fun

FREE TO ATTEND

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



## Be Café

Bereavement Café  
meets at The Old Chapel  
every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday afternoon of the month  
2pm until 4pm  
There will be no December meeting

Our next meeting will be January 19th

This is a safe space for those who need to chat  
and an opportunity to meet others and share experiences  
of your loss.

Our aim is to listen over a cup of tea and cake.



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

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

You will be assured of a warm and comforting welcome



© www.parishpump.co.uk

*...no I don't think you're the real Father Christmas!  
I think you're up there pinching lead off my roof!!*

## SUSTAINABILITY

Plans for Sustainable Bridgnorth's Green Festival are coming together, and the organising committee is hard at work to bring this event to life. Set to take place in late May 2026 at the Castle Gardens again, the festival will once more showcase local eco and conservation groups to raise awareness about climate and environmental issues. Next year, the group also aims to promote sustainability through quarterly themes that tackle pressing environmental challenges with engaging speakers and events designed to spark community action! One current initiative is with the Bridgnorth Litter Pickers, who are tracking litter from McDonald's to gauge the impact of the new store opening. Although Bridgnorth based, everyone is encouraged to report litter sightings in the village by messaging their Facebook page, to give a picture of the wider impact.

As I type this, COP30 is happening in Brazil while Storm Claudia hits us. This important gathering is hoping to tackle the urgent need for climate action in the face of rising global challenges like droughts, wildfires, storms and floods. With a focus on innovative climate finance and actionable solutions, COP30 aims to rally businesses, civil society, and governments to effectively combat climate change.

The UK government's commitment to phase out animal testing has been hailed as monumental for animal welfare, while new technologies are being deployed that benefit science humanely. Meanwhile, nature conservation and success stories have sparked optimism. After an absence of more than a century, pine martens are roaming Exmoor national park again. On the Isle of Wight, a tiny, orange-legged critically endangered wolf spider species, last recorded in 1985, was recently rediscovered. Meanwhile, off the Welsh coast, a "living reef" is emerging where 50,000 native oysters have been introduced to restore the seabed.

On a broader scale, the EU's decision to integrate climate education into school curriculums is seen as transformative for future generations. Despite warnings about global emissions, a surge in green technology investment signals a hopeful trend, while a Tropical Forests fund was established to compensate countries for tropical forest preservation. In innovation, a paint has been unveiled by Australian scientists that cools buildings while harvesting dew, so the path toward a sustainable future appears increasingly promising.

*Kath Norgrove*



# ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA DECEMBER 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                |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| December 7                         | Isaiah 11.1-10<br>Kirsty<br>Ritzenthaler | Matthew 3.1-12<br>David Hampson   | Jackie Hampson   | Jackie Hampson<br>Jenny Sirrell | Diana Kennedy<br>Carol Wall    | Irene Orford<br>Carol Wall  |
| December 14                        |                                          |                                   |                  |                                 | David & Jackie<br>Hampson      | Sally Page<br>Jenny Sirrell |
| December 19<br>Carol Service       | T.B.A.                                   | T.B.A.                            | Sue Chidwick     |                                 | Dale Chidwick<br>Colin Taylor  | David & Jackie<br>Hampson   |
| December 21                        | Isaiah 7.10-16<br>Liz Bullas             | Matthew 1.1,18-25<br>Colin Taylor | Keith Pearson    | Dale Chidwick<br>Carol Wall     | Keith Pearson<br>Jenny Sirrell | Anne & Laura<br>Simms       |
| December 24<br>Crib Service<br>3pm |                                          |                                   |                  |                                 | Pat Haw<br>Lynn Madden         | Pat Haw<br>Lynn Madden      |
| Christmas Day                      | Luke 2.1-20<br>Laura Simms               |                                   | Wendy Aldwinckle | Sue Chidwick<br>Keith Pearson   | Dale Chidwick<br>Jenny Sirrell |                             |

## DIARY 2025

- December**
- 1 Carols & Lighting of Christmas Tree, cooks Cross 6pm (p 3)
  - 2 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 7)
  - 3 Wreath making, SVCP (p 10)
  - 5 Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
  - 6 Christmas Market, Alveley Village Hall, 12 noon start (p 7, 16)
  - 6 Messy Church, St Mary's 3pm-5pm (p 14, 18)
  - 6 Christmas Skittles, Quatt Village Hall 7pm (p 7)
  - 8 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
  - 10 Wreath making, SVCP (p 10)
  - 14 Carol Service, St Andrew's, 6pm (p 5,6)
  - 15 Ladies' Guild, Alveley Village Hall, 2.30pm (
  - 17 Alveley Tennis Club Christmas Party, Three Horseshoes 7 for 7.30 pm (p 9)
  - 17 St. Andrew's Christmas meal, Quatt Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm (p 6)
  - 19 Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
  - 19 Carol Service, St.Mary's 7pm (p 3,5)
  - 20 Alveley Village Band Christmas concert, Alveley Village Hall (p 8)

## 2026

- January**
- 9 Pickleball introductory session, Alveley Tennis Club 6.20pm (p 9)
  - 16 Pickleball introductory session, Alveley Tennis Club 6.20pm (p 9)
  - 17 Men's breakfast, Alveley Old Chapel 8.30am (p 5)
  - 19 Be Café, Alveley Old Chapel, 2pm-4pm (p 18)
- March** 14 Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell, Folk music, Alveley Village Hall



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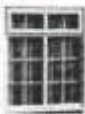
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|                                                                        |                                         |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Alveley Art Group                                                      | Jane Hunt                               | 780280       |
| Alveley Bellringers                                                    | Roy Page                                | 07704 362285 |
| Alveley Charities                                                      | Daryl Cooper                            | 780378       |
| Alveley Cricket Club                                                   | Richard Twigg                           | 780437       |
| Alveley Day Centre                                                     | Sue Taylor 07973 343491                 |              |
| Angela Lander 07952 172691 Pat Bowyer 07964 377840                     |                                         |              |
| Alveley Entertainers                                                   | Ian Maddock                             | 780936       |
| Alveley First Responders                                               | Martin Hill                             | 780794       |
| Alveley Historical Society                                             | Lorraine Heath                          | 07970 637727 |
| Alveley Ladies' Guild                                                  | Barbara Spragg 780200 Kath Bishop       | 780707       |
| Alveley Mining Heritage                                                | Andrea Edwards                          | 86206        |
| Alveley Old Chapel Community Centre                                    |                                         | 07799 465211 |
| Alveley Parish Council/Street Lights                                   | Steve Kerry                             | 07711788782  |
| Alveley Patient Group                                                  | Chris Noble                             | 780715       |
| Alveley Pétanque Club                                                  | David Voysey                            | 780356       |
| Alveley Rec Assn/Pavilion                                              | Margaret Shaw                           | 780459       |
| Alveley School                                                         | Mr. P. O'Malley                         | 780284       |
| Alveley Tennis Club                                                    | Roger Whitworth                         | 07946 094488 |
| Alveley Village Band                                                   | Lisa Hadley                             | 07717 456304 |
| Alveley Village Hall                                                   | Norma Crabtree                          | 780478       |
| Alveley Village Hall bookings                                          | Carol Hatfield                          | 780576       |
| Arden Allotments Association                                           | Debbie Walker                           | 07484 238616 |
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| Chapel Crafters                                                        | Angela Lander 07952172691 Jenny Sirrell | 07484806605  |
| County Councillor                                                      | Colin Taylor                            | 07581 066956 |
| Friends of Alveley School                                              |                                         | 780284       |
| Howard Thompson Bequest                                                | Jackie Hampson                          | 780034       |
| Music in St. Mary's                                                    | Andrew Crabtree                         | 780478       |
| Quatt Cricket Club                                                     | Jim Williamson                          | 07790 033662 |
| Quatt Malvern Parish Council                                           | Bill Griffiths                          | 766941       |
| Quatt Village Hall bookings                                            | Steph Hinton                            | 781214       |
| St. Mary's Choir                                                       | Brenda York                             | 780144       |
| St. Mary's Flowers                                                     | Wendy Aldwinckle                        | 562159       |
| Severn Park Ranger                                                     | Guy Border                              | 781192       |
| Squirrel Bowling Club                                                  | Roger Ford                              | 780413       |
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| Whittall Meadows Trust                                                 | Jan Higgins                             | 780259       |

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

## THE BACK PAGE

In the twenty-two years I spent as headteacher of comprehensive schools I was invited to countless nativity plays by our feeder primary schools. It was always an enjoyable experience and I was usually left wondering if there were any tea-towels left for the washing up! Children had excited (or worried) faces, proud parents and grandparents were waiting for their child's appearance or, better still, speech. There were some wonderful lines. Those I particularly remember were 'Hail Mary for thou art highly flavoured' and the wise man who presented his gift saying: 'Frank sent this.'

Christmas is a time for family traditions and memories and in our house many of the memories come with the tree decorations and our olive wood crib. The latter was bought on a visit to Bethlehem, memorable not just for the awe inspiring time spent in the Church of the Nativity at the place thought to be the birthplace of Jesus, but also for the memories of armed soldiers outside and a palpable feeling of tension. Indeed, some years later on a similar trip the Bethlehem visit had to be cancelled due to skirmishes - it simply wasn't safe.

Our tree decorations also have memories attached to them for they have been collected on our travels around the world. They aren't all really appropriate for Christmas, especially the one bought in a street market in La Paz, Bolivia, that purports to ward off evil spirits - but they all mean something to us, even that one!

We will be spending Christmas at our daughter's in mid-Wales but will make sure that we have supplies in at home in case bad weather makes it impossible. I heard recently that the German government has advised its citizens to stock up for Christmas, too - with sausages and cheese. It's clearly a Wurst Käse scenario!

I wish you have a very happy Christmas.

*Ian*

Please send items for the **January edition by 9 am on Sunday December 14th** 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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