

The Parish Magazine

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



MAY 2022

50p

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The Reader writes

I am looking forward to the month of May bursting forth in the hedgerows and lanes, also that we will have more warmth, more sunshine and more compassion in our world. As I write (in early April) there is sunshine but it is cold in my study eyrie and I wait for the mercy to unfold... The nightly news from Ukraine (my father's land) is increasingly sad and shocking, almost to the point that I cannot watch and yet I do because the images fuel my prayers with love for this persecuted nation. From these prayers I hope that my angry heart will soften and allow me to trust in the 'powers that be' (God inspired negotiations of course) to bring about an agreeable solution in this war-torn land. When you read this, I fervently hope that the foundations of peace have been laid.

As we the Ministry Team navigate our way through the Interregnum or Vacancy, I can only emphasise that life in St. Mary's and St. Andrew's goes on even without a man (or woman) at the helm as Rector. The main man, God, is always in residence in the Churches and in the villages. I'm not going to get in to a discussion on whether God is a woman here in this article, however I did say in my Mothering Sunday talk that God mothers us all, caring and loving us faithfully whatever our situation. I believe He is doing that regardless of an absence of an incumbent in the Rectory. Nevertheless, we do look forward to a new Rector to teach us, encourage us and lead us in the way of the Spirit. Thus, there are still services being arranged, indeed I hope you enjoyed the ones that were held for Holy Week in both churches. The Ministry Team is doing its best to keep the Gospel alive in both parishes and you are all welcome to join the congregation in either church setting. Covid was and still is a consideration for many, I know, however you can still wear a mask and keep your own space if it makes you feel safer but we would love to see you.

Wishing you all a wonderful May time with abundant good health and contentment.

I leave you with Psalm 117:

*Praise the Lord, all the nations!
Praise Him, all peoples!
His love for us is strong
And His faithfulness is eternal.
Praise the Lord!*

Sue

United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

Retired Clergy	Rev. Dr. Wendy Rylance, Roughton Farmhouse	01746 716399
Retired Clergy	Rev. Dr. Ruth Sims, Church Farm House, Alveley	01746 780469
Reader	Sue Chidwick, 28 Greenway Avenue, Alveley	01746 781786

Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists

Rev. Sue Levitt	01299 826641
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St. Mary The Virgin, Alveley, WV15 6ND

Churchwardens	Jenny Sirrell, 24 Golden Acres, Alveley	01746 780369
	Peter Fry, 2 Peacock Hill, Alveley	01746 781228
Deputy Wardens	Carol Wall, 2 Mallards Close, Alveley	01746 780185
	Dale Chidwick, 28 Greenway Avenue, Alveley	01746 781786
Treasurer	Anne Simms, Willowell House, Quatford	01746 768955

St. Andrew's Quatt

Churchwarden	Ann Lee, Huntington Lodge, Huntington, Little Wenlock Telford TF6 5BW	01952 503517
Deputy Warden	Sara Douglas, 1 The Dower House, Quatt	01746 781825
Treasurer	Steve Jones, 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster	01562 753828

For all church enquiries please see page 20

From the Benefice Registers

Baptism	<i>We welcome you.</i>	
April 4	Faleena Marie Finney	St. Mary's
Funerals	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'</i>	
March 22	Marjorie Joan Urry, aged 96	St. Mary's
March 26	Margaret Helen Richards, aged 80	St. Mary's
April 4	Margaret Ann Morgan, aged 75 years	St. Mary's
April 5	Kathleen Jean Link, aged 95 years (Thanksgiving service after cremation)	St. Mary's

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

COVER PICTURE

Harry (on the left) and Toby visit St. Mary's -
Perhaps hoping for some Bach on the organ!
Photo by Eric Bickley

MAY SERVICES

Duty rotas for St. Mary's are on page 19.

Sunday May 1st	3rd Sunday of Easter	
9.30am	Morning Prayer	St. Andrew's
10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
Sunday May 8th	4th Sunday of Easter	
10.30am	Family Service	St. Mary's
Sunday May 15th	5th Sunday of Easter	
10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
3.30pm	Jubilee Songs of Praise	St. Andrew's
Sunday May 22nd	6th Sunday of Easter	
10.30am	20/20/20	St. Mary's
Sunday May 29th	7th Sunday of Easter	
10.30am	Joint Holy Communion	St. Andrew's

ALVELEY OLD CHAPEL

Please accept my apologies for closing the Chapel at such short notice on 13 April but Covid cases were increasing rapidly and our volunteers were being affected. I am not sure how long we will be closed for but we have a responsibility to our customers and volunteers to provide a safe environment.

On the assumption that we will be open for the Jubilee celebrations, the following event will take place on Wednesday 8th June 2022, 2.00pm to 4.00pm: Andrew and Brian will be leading a trip down memory lane with popular songs over the past 70 years. We hope you will come along and enjoy a great singalong to celebrate a truly amazing Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. This will be a ticket only event with tickets costing £5.00 per person. The ticket will entitle the holder to a drink and a cake or slice of cake from our selection of delicious home-made cakes. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to The Old Chapel. Tickets will be limited to a maximum of 30 tickets. If the demand exceeds 30 tickets, Andrew and Brian have offered to repeat the event on Thursday 9th June 2022 if there is sufficient demand. A huge thank you to Andrew and Brian for this event.

Finally, I wish to express our sadness in losing the memory café for the time being, I am sure Covid had a hand in the lack of take up for this wonderful service. Please follow "Alveley Village, Chat and Events" on Facebook for bulletins affecting the Old Chapel.

John Lowe 07484 274211

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

Hopefully we can now look forward to some warmer weather. Sadly, the recent sharp frosts prevented my beautiful magnolia tree from coming fully into flower and brown singed buds were all we were able to enjoy. I think it reminds us that we can never take things for granted. Our long wait for a new Rector continues but we move a little closer with an important meeting this month. Thank you for your patience.

We are very much looking forward to our Songs Of Praise service at 3.30pm on May 15th celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will be followed by a Jubilee tea. Please come along and enjoy some beautiful well known hymns. We are very lucky to have Andrew Crabtree to play the keyboard for us that day. Let us fill the church with joy and thankfulness.

We are continuing with our Morning Prayer service on the first Sunday of the month.

Our churchyard continues to look wonderful and provides a peaceful place to sit on a bench during the warmer weather.

Several of our dear friends have had Covid recently and I wish them a speedy recovery.

Magazine subscriptions are due at the end of this month and I thank those of you who have already paid earlier in the year.

Ann Lee

ALVELEY COMMUNITY MEMORY CAFE

After another extremely poor turnout at the last Memory Cafe at the end of March, I have reluctantly decided not to hold any more. The Cafe has not proved popular since we reopened after COVID. I am hearing anecdotally that other Memory Cafes are also suffering with a lack of numbers as are other organised groups. If the situation changes I will look at trying again, but in the meantime I would like to thank everyone that has helped and supported me to run Memory Cafe.

Huge thanks go The Old Chapel for allowing me to use their facilities free of charge; it's been a perfect venue. I would also like to thank Dawn Catton for her crafting sessions and Sue Holland for her gentle exercise sessions. Pauline Cutler is owed thanks for her baking skills; we've all really enjoyed her homemade cakes. I must also thank all my friends who have come along to help me on the day; I couldn't have done it without them. Finally I must thank Alveley Medical Practice for their moral and administrative support as

well as the 100 club for their financial support.

I've met some great people running the cafe and I wish you all the best in the future. *Isley Jakeman*

BEN MALE (a.k.a. Ben in the Med)

We heard recently of the death of Ben Male, who passed away in Cyprus just short of his 87th birthday. Many readers will remember Ben - once met, never forgotten. Ben played a large part in village life, his activities encompassing for example the church choir, Alveley Entertainers and Alveley Village Band, where he featured in an article about the band in a Daily Telegraph weekend magazine. Ben was also a skilled carpenter.

In 2002 Ben and his wife Joyce emigrated to Dubbo in Australia to be nearer family. As you would expect he threw himself into community activities including music and even served time at Dubbo Gaol - as a guide, I should add, for it had become a museum.

The Head Gardener and I had the pleasure of meeting Ben and Joyce when we were in Sydney in 2005, spending a day largely on the ferries visiting spots around Sydney Harbour, hopping off for lunch at a lovely restaurant in one of the coves.

Joyce passed away and then, in 2013, Ben moved to Cyprus and settled in Paphos. Having written a column for the Parish Magazine under the heading 'From Our Correspondent Down Under' he carried on, but this time as 'Ben in the Med.' He will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Ben's son, Tony, hopes to hold a memorial service in St. Mary's later.

Editor

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to all subscribers. If your magazine is delivered, please note that the annual subscription of £6 is due at the end of this month. Distributors will hope to collect this when delivering your June magazine. Despite considerably increased paper costs we are able to hold the price thanks to our advertisers. Please support them. *Editor*

Adam bit the apple and, feeling great shame, covered himself with a fig leaf. Eve, too, felt shame and covered herself with a fig leaf. Then she went behind the bush to try on a maple leaf, a sycamore leaf, and an oak leaf.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON THE HUNT FOR A NEW PARISH CLERK

The search is on for a new Parish Clerk to replace David Rawlinson, who is retiring during the summer.

David has been with the Parish Council for four and a half years and has recently had to operate in difficult circumstances because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. He has become proficient at managing Zoom meetings, but has also worked hard to ensure that the Parish Council can now hold face-to-face meetings which protect the wellbeing of all Councillors, especially those that are vulnerable.

As the Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council, one of David's priorities has been to minimise the burden of the Parish precept on local residents. As a result, the precept has remained the same since 2020/21 and will not be increased this April.

David lives in Kinver, but uses a bicycle to commute whenever possible. Even if you have not met him, you may have seen him cycling around the area, delivering agenda papers and attending to noticeboards.

The post will become vacant at the end of August and it is hoped to appoint a new Clerk at the end of July. If you are interested and would like further information about the post in the meantime, please contact David (clerk@alveleyandromsleypc.org.uk) or email Parish Councillor Isley Jakeman (jakemanisley@gmail.com).

ALVELEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Alveley Recreation Committee continues with the preparation of red, white and blue flowers for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Thank you to the lady who supplied the polystyrene and to her husband who delivered it, unfortunately I did not get their names!

Everyone is invited onto the recreation ground with their picnic on Sunday 5th June. The bar will be open and light refreshments available in the Village Hall. The Bradney Bunch band will provide entertainment from 12.30pm onwards. We plan to have a tombola and raffle on the recreation ground that day. Thank you for the donations already received. If anyone wants to contribute to the tombola or raffle please contact me. Items can be collected.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Diane Knowles, Chairman. 01746 780495

CONGRATULATIONS TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

“SAYING IT IN FLOWERS” - AN UPDATE

The deadline for ordering flowers from our partners Morfe Valley Nursery has now passed and all the emphasis now goes on to the nursery with the tending, nurturing and general maintenance of the plants to ensure that they reach their maximum bloom to coincide with the Jubilee Weekend of June 2nd-Jun 5th. There is also the logistics of delivery to be done, liaising with customers in terms of time and date.

There has been a positive response from residents and organisations from Alveley and Romsley. We look forward to a memorable weekend to commemorate what is a unique occasion in the history of the United Kingdom.

Events planned for the weekend:

Please note that A BEACON will be lit in Romsley at 9.45pm on Thursday 2nd June. This is part of a national chain of illuminations and is sited in Romsley in order that it will be visible from all points of the parishes. There have also been preliminary discussions relating to a fireworks display to take place on Thursday evening 2nd June, details of which have yet to be finalised.

On Sunday 5th June the Recreation Ground will be open from late morning until the evening. You are welcome to bring along a picnic and drinks should you so wish.

There will be a host of entertainment: music, stalls, tombola and raffles for example. Most of these have been finalised but the full details will be published in the June issue of The Parish Magazine and on social media, giving times of specific events, refreshments, and a general overview of what is planned for the day.

Our sincere thanks to Morfe Valley Nursery for the work they have already done and, more to the point, for the work they are about to undertake!

Malcolm Love

**ALVELEY VILLAGE BAND - PROMS IN THE PUB
THE THREE HORSESHOES
TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE
Saturday June 4th, 2 p.m.**

**A fantastic afternoon with all the ‘proms’ classics
FREE EVENT - PLEASE WEAR RED, WHITE and BLUE**

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

It was lovely to see so many village organisations taking part in the Alveley Village Quiz on Saturday 2nd April. Fourteen teams pitched their wits against one another in a closely contested competition with a series of questions covering a very varied range of subjects. The eventual worthy winners were Alveley Tennis Club, with the Alveley Bell ringers second and The Alveley Village Band third. The oak shield will be inscribed with the name of the winners and be displayed in the village hall. A big thank you to everyone who supported the event. Just over £100 was raised from the Quiz and an amazing £400 was raised by the Alveley WI from their raffle. All the money will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Saturday 21st May at 7.30pm. “A Brief History of Music” performed by GreenMatthews. www.greenmatthews.co.uk Beginning at the Middle Ages, ending up in the Twentieth Century, this fun and fast-moving show is a whistle-stop tour of western musical history. Sophie and Chris are a musically accomplished duo who combine to play a variety of instruments and to sing their way through time, with the addition of the wit of Blackadder and 1066 And All That. This show is being subsidised by Arts Alive making it possible for us to put on such high quality professional entertainment. Tickets cost Adult £12, Child £6 and a family ticket £30 and will be available from me, 780 478 or online from artsalive.co.uk. There will be either a glass of wine or fruit juice to welcome you on arrival and tea and coffee during the interval.

Sunday 5th June from 1.00pm. As part of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations on the recreation field the village hall will be open serving tea, coffee and cake. From 3.30pm onwards Andrew and Brian will be providing “a trip down memory lane” with music from the last seventy years while you chat and enjoy the refreshments. Alveley Art Group will be putting on a display of some of their more recent work for you to view.

Saturday 9th July at 7.30pm. ‘Jabs’ (The Booster Tour). We are very lucky to have been able to book this extremely popular home-grown hit play written by Chris Eldon Lee. The sell-out show has been performed at many venues including twice at Shrewsbury’s Theatre Severn and is based on the true life stories of vaccinator Sally Tongue. “I quickly realised that my Covid-19 vaccination pod was the smallest theatre in the world and there was comedy gold happening there every day”. Tickets will be £10 and available from me on 780478 or from the Londis Foodstore. *Norma Crabtree*

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

On May 1st we host a May Day afternoon in the company of Shropshire's three women folklorists, Georgina Jackson, Charlotte Burne and Mary Webb. This is a free event, starting at 2.30pm. For more details see our website (quatt.info)

We are currently awaiting confirmation of the date for an exciting performance from the Stillhouse Junkies who are travelling to Quatt from America. This talented American trio combines a wide range of influences including bluegrass, Western Swing, blues and more, to create an attractive groove-filled blend of American roots music. Born out of a longstanding residency at a distillery in Durango, Colorado, Stillhouse Junkies quickly became a fixture on the music scene of that state, establishing a solid fan base in recent years. They've met with increasing success over the last year, touring more widely across the USA and embarking on their first international tour in 2020.

Fred Kosak (guitar/mandolin/vocals), Alissa Wolf (fiddle/vocals), and Cody Tinnin (double bass/banjo/vocals) have built up an eclectic catalogue of fine original music alongside some fun and creative covers. Their songs pay tribute to the remarkable diversity of the Southwestern USA, with evocative numbers that run the gamut of human experience - confronting adversity in its many forms and story songs that imagine reality from the perspective of a small-town bartender or a lonely cattle driver. This fun and fiery American roots trio is sure to win many new fans on this debut visit to the UK.

Watch this space and Quatt Village Hall website for the date, hopefully in June.

Steph Hinton

'I cannot understand you,' said the young man to his unmarried aunt. 'You seem so happy and contented. I've always thought that unmarried women are lonely and miserable and just longing for the presence of a man about the place.'

'Well,' his aunt responded, smiling, 'I've got a fireplace that smokes, a parrot that swears, a cat that stays out half the night with no explanation, and a dog that leaves muddy footprints all over the house and lies on the couch in front of the telly for hours. What more do I want?'

PARISH PROFILE - OPEN FORUM, SATURDAY 14th MAY

If you would like to contribute to the process of appointing a new vicar for Alveley and Quatt parishes, then you are warmly invited to come along to the Open Meeting at Alveley Old Chapel on Saturday 14th May at 10.00 a.m. The Archdeacon, Fiona Gibson, will be in attendance. The meeting is a statutory requirement.

Fiona will ensure that everyone who wishes to has a chance to speak. You don't have to be a church member. This will be our opportunity to describe the sort of person we feel will best serve the interests of the community here.

All your thoughts prayerfully considered will help us to shape the advertisement for the post that has still to be written. We are led to believe that interviews will be conducted in September, but we cannot say when an appointment will be made nor when the new person will arrive.

It may still be advisable to wear a face mask by that time as the Chapel is a rather small space, so please bear that in mind. Thank you. *The Churchwardens*

ALVELEY PATIENT GROUP 100 CLUB

March 2022 draw results: Drawn 26th March 2022 by Will Lloyd (Event director, S.V.C.Parkrun) and witnessed by Mrs. Parkrun!

First Prize: £75.00 Heather Barr – Ball No. 15

Second Prize: £50.00 Isabel Faithful – Ball No. 12

Third Prize £30.00 Chris Raybould – Ball No. 24

Fourth Prize: £10.00 Bryan Cutler– Ball No. 57

Fifth Prize £10.00 Mr. & Mrs. T.J. Roberts – Ball No. 51

Congratulations to the winners. *Sam Potter*

THE SQUIRREL BOWLING CLUB

By the time you read this, hopefully we will be looking forward to warmer weather! What better way to enjoy the 'balmy summer' evenings, than playing crown green bowls? The Squirrel Bowling Club meet every Thursday evening at 7pm, (April to September) at the 'green' behind the Squirrel Pub. We are an all year round club, (indoors from October to March) in the Village Hall. Thursday evenings are for social bowling and we offer taster sessions for new visitors. We have a selection of bowls for you to try, all you need are flat soled shoes, (trainers or similar). As well as social bowling, we can offer league bowling for the more competitive. We welcome any age, from 10 years upwards. So what's stopping you, why not give it a go? Come along and bring all the family. If you would like more information, please call Bill on: 01746 780841 and come along

and have a go at 'Target Bowls', a game you can play on Sunday June 5th on the Recreation Ground as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. We look forward to seeing you.

Ann Smith

ALVELEY W.I.

I must start my report this month with a huge thank you to members, their families and friends for the fantastic job they did in selling raffle tickets recently. The raffle was for a scrumptious fruit cake and all proceeds were sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. The amount raised was a fantastic £400 which amounted to £500 donated when gift aid was added; a fantastic effort by everyone.

Our speaker in April was John Swift of Swifts Bakery. His story of participation in the BBCs Victorian Baker series was fascinating. His love of baking shone through in his talk and I for one am glad that I can eat the bread he produces today rather than the bread produced in the mid-Victorian era (which included chalk, alum, sweat as well as flour).

The speaker for 11th May is John Butterworth, who will be taking us on a journey 'Overland to Nepal'. Do come and join us for an evening of travel.

The next luncheon is on Wednesday 18th May at the Red Lion in Bobbington. Please contact Pauline Cook if you would like to join us and you have not put your name on the list. *Pam Worton*



Our mystery evening was very well supported thank you to everyone who filled the hall. The fish and chip supper from Tony's and the puds from sources that cannot be revealed (yet another mystery!) were enjoyed, along with the world premiere of David Bird's *Where The Brass Band Plays*. Thanks to David for his script and hard work - and for stepping in at the last moment to cover for Shaun Denny. Shaun had rehearsed the part of Detective Sergeant Spotem-Early since we started rehearsals way back pre-Covid, but sadly managed to test positive for Covid during the week of the performance! Top sleuths were The Lady detectives from the W.I.

Film night change of date. In order not to clash too closely with *A Brief History of Music* on May 21st in the Village Hall, our next film night will be on Friday May 13th at 7.30pm. *Pat Moreton*

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

There's no better time to join Alveley, we are a friendly and welcoming club that provides opportunities for everyone giving you a better experience, fun and enjoyment. Our junior programme provides quality not quantity and we have a comfortable family environment.

The first session for our junior training and women's softball is free.

Junior Coaching This year our junior coaching programme will run throughout the whole summer, starting on Friday 6th May through to Friday 2nd September. It's a 6.30pm start with loads of fun activities for children aged 5 and over. If your child isn't sure bring them along. The first session is FREE.

After coaching we have lots of fun activities planned from slip and slide, discos, BBQ and the very popular Exotic Zoo. The bar will be open for parents and family members to come down and socialise.

Juniors joining the club will also benefit from: FREE cap and water bottle; introduction of private 1-2-1 sessions by a qualified coach; welcome pack for new members with a discounted drinks voucher.

Everyone who joins also gets access to our new fantastic all-weather training facilities outside of the coaching sessions for you to use and enjoy.

Children aged 5 to 7 can sign up to All Stars Cricket now.

Children aged 8 to 11 can sign up to Dynamos Cricket now.

Those aged 11 and over can join the cricket club through our junior membership. Details of how to access All Stars, Dynamos and our junior memberships can be found on our website.

Women's Softball Cricket This starts on Tuesday 3rd May, running until Tuesday 19 July, from 6.30pm to 8pm. All equipment is provided, no experience is necessary. It's a great way to meet new friends, get fit and have lots of fun plus everyone who joins receives a FREE cap and water bottle.

Exotic Zoo We are pleased to confirm that the Exotic Zoo is coming to Alveley on 20th May, tickets are on sale now from Four Oaks Pavilion, they are priced £2.50 for members and £5 for non-members. Tickets are limited.

Alveley Primary School The club will be delivering school coaching for all pupils at the school, this will include a primary school festival taking place at Four Oaks on Wednesday 25th May.

Senior Nets Outside training continues every Thursday night from 6pm, new players are very welcome to come along.

For further information please email the club at info@alveleycc.co.uk or visit our website www.alveleycc.co.uk

Richard Twigg

ALVELEY STROLLERS & STRIDERS

Our programme of walks for May takes us on some lovely and diverse walks, both locally and a little further afield.

Up until now we have been catching the bus from Alveley to our destination almost once a month, then walking over some beautiful countryside and back home.

Unfortunately, we have now stopped doing these bus walks, which we all looked forward to, owing to the bus company putting on much smaller buses, so restricting the passenger space, not just for ourselves, but for other passengers as well. We do however still have on our calendar other away walks for you to enjoy. One of these is a canal walk, (yes a strange anomaly!), travelling by car and completing an easy circular walk back to the start, taking in some lovely bluebell woods and a canal, returning by car.

If this whets your your appetite, (hopefully not your feet!), then why not join us at any time during the month and explore these lovely walks. All you need is a little curiosity, and a pair of walking shoes or boots.

We meet every Tues at 10.00am outside the Three Horseshoes PH, where you you can receive our programme of walks for the year, informing you as to where we venture locally and a little further afield, on our Canal, and away walks by car.

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact either Andrew: 01746 780 478, or me: 01746 780841.

We look forward to seeing you.

Bill Smith

Do please 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 Andrew on 01746 780478.

We accompanied our son and his fiancée when they met with the priest to sign some pre-wedding ceremony papers. While filling out the form, our son read aloud a few questions. When he got to the last one, which read 'Are you entering this marriage at your own will?' he looked over at his fiancée.' 'Put down "yes,"' she said.

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

We have been recruiting staff over the last month so you will see some new faces at the park when you visit next. Not everyone is in post yet, but we hope that by the end of May, we will have a full team again.

We are happy to say that we have been able to stay in the café and visitor centre and not move back into the kiosk. We have had to change our menu to achieve this and currently all our items are being sold as 'takeaway' with visitors still being able to stay inside and use the café space.

Looking ahead, we will be able to make plans to celebrate 30 years of Severn Valley Country Park. On the 8th June 1992, the centre was officially opened by the Duke of Gloucester. He arrived by helicopter and many local school children were here to welcome him. Over the last 30 years, the park has developed greatly under the care of our rangers and volunteers.

In June, we are planning a family wildlife and heritage day. We will have lots of different activities happening which will celebrate all that we do at the park. We'll look forward to sharing more details of the day with you soon.

We are also excited to say that we are working with the Alveley Chapel Crafters, members of the Highley WI and the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark to commemorate the story of the park in textile art. Each group is working on a textile wall hanging looking at one aspect of our history. From the carboniferous period to coal mining to the park as it is today. The project is well under way and we are really looking forward to sharing the finished wall hangings with our visitors.

The time and enthusiasm of all involved is very much appreciated as without it, the project would not be happening. We thank everyone taking part in bringing this project to life.

Susie Comaish, Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre Manager 01746 781192

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

It is that time again. Ladies' Guild has something new again with exercise on a chair! Don't dismiss till you have tried it. You will find that it really is very good fun and we have an experienced lady to take us through her routine. Why not come one and all and enjoy yourselves at Alveley Village Hall on Monday 23rd May at 2.30 pm.

Kath and Barbara.

ALVELEY VILLAGE BAND LIVE MUSIC RETURNS TO CASTLE GARDENS!

Alveley Village Band is to play a free concert of popular music at Bridgnorth's Castle Garden Bandstand on Saturday 2nd July at 2pm. The thirty strong band, founded by the late Colin Jones MBE, will perform works from Queen through to James Bond.

Like most other groups the band has struggled to keep its existence because of lockdown but is now thriving under the directorship of Garry Bailey. Since the band's full-time return last January, it has grown considerably. To quote Garry: 'We have someone new coming through the doors at each rehearsal. I'm very fortunate to be able to work with some very good musicians, the band is a great leveller. The more experienced players help along those who are either just starting their musical journey or are perhaps picking up an instrument after many years of not playing. This is still the same ethos of the band that Mr Jones formed thirty-one years ago.'

Alveley Village Band has a very full schedule this summer and playing at The Castle Gardens is one of its highlights. The concert is free but there is the opportunity to raise much needed funds for a local charity and they will be raising money for Alveley First Responders.

Jenny Jarvis



ROCK WALKS

Free guided walks along our footpaths and bridleways taking 2-3 hours, off the roads and into the countryside. Everyone welcome but sorry no dogs allowed.

Thursday 05.05.22 starting at 10am:

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Thursday 19.05.22 starting at 10am:

The Cat Inn, Bridgnorth Road, Enville, Stourbridge, DY7 5HA

For further details and any other announcements or changes please visit website www.rockpathfinders.uk, email:mdsskev@rockpathfinders.uk or ring Alan on 01299 400304.

Sue Humphries

HEALTHWATCH SHROPSHIRE - END OF LIFE CARE

It is often said that as a person nears end of life, whether they are in hospital or being supported at home, there is only one chance to get it right. Healthwatch Shropshire will be bringing together local experts in the field of end of life care to highlight some of the work being done in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin to support those dying and their families and to discuss the measures everybody can take to make death and dying as good as it can be.

People can come along to find out what support is available and what we can all do to prepare ourselves and our loved ones. This will be a safe space to ask your questions and hear from people who specialise in caring for people at the end of their life

The event is being held on Tuesday 10th May at Shrewsbury Town Football Club, Oteley Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 6ST. People can book online at www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/events or ring 01743 237884.

Lynn Cawley

Church members were discussing the vicar's and the curate's sermons. The church warden said: "The vicar, now, when she says 'in conclusion', she concludes. But the curate, when he says 'lastly' - my! How he do last!"

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA MAY 2022

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

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions	Sidespersons	Refreshments
1 May	Jean Marshall Acts 9.1-6(7-20)	Ian Maddock John 21.1-19	Paul Rylance	Steve Kerry	Anne Simms Laura Simms
8 May	Jackie Hampson Acts 9.36-end			Dale Chidwick	Jackie & David Hampson
15 May	Paul Rylance Acts 11.1-18	Laura Simms John 13.31-35	Sue Chidwick	Pat Haw Hazel Leach	Pauline & Fred Cooper
22 May	Kirsty Ritzenthaler Acts 16.9-15			Lynn Madden Carol Wall	St. Mary's Team
29 May	St. Andrew's reader Acts 16.16-34	St. Andrew's reader John 17.20-end	Benoit Ritzenthaler	St. Andrew's team	St. Andrew's team

DIARY

May

- 1 May Day with Shropshire Folklorists, Quatt Village Hall, 2.30pm (p11)
- 3 Women's Softball season starts, 6.30pm, Alveley Cricket Club (p14)
- 11 W.I. John Butterworth on 'Overland to Nepal', Pavilion, 7pm (p 13)
- 13 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
- 13 Alveley Entertainers' Film Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 13)
- 14 Parish Profile Open Meeting, Old Chapel 10am (p 12)
- 15 Songs of Praise and Jubilee Tea, St. Andrew's 3.30pm (p 6)
- 20 Exotic Zoo visits Alveley Cricket Club (p 14)
- 21 "*A Brief History of Music*", Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 10)
- 23 Alveley Ladies' Guild, Alveley Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 16)
- 25 Primary School Cricket Festival, Alveley Cricket Club (p 14)
- 27 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm

June

- 2 Jubilee Beacon lit, Romsley 9.45pm (p 9)
- 4 Proms in the Pub with Alveley Village Band, 3 Horseshoes 2pm (p 9)
- 5 Recreation Ground open all day for Jubilee celebrations (pp 8,9,10)
- 8 Jubilee sing-song with Andrew & Brian, Old Chapel, 2pm (p 5)

July

- 2 Alveley Village Band at Castle Gardens, Bridgnorth 2pm (p 17)
- 9 'Jabs' (The Booster Tour), Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 10)

For all church enquiries please visit our website

<https://www.alveleyandquattchurches> or email
stmary01church@outlook.com leaving your name, contact details, reason for enquiry and we will get back to you.

In an emergency please call Jenny Sirrell, Churchwarden (780369).

For Alveley burial ground enquiries call Jenny Sirrell.

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Alveley Day Centre	Pauline Bird	780796
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PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

We were due to have a new electricity meter recently and although the engineer arrived on time he left without doing the job because a. it was raining (!) and b. there was a technical problem that wasn't within his remit. Fair enough, but after a week of hearing nothing it was time to ring the supplier. After three phone calls totalling 2 hours 52 minutes and 6 seconds, during which we were twice directed, incorrectly, to ring a third party, eventually a senior manager seemed to know what had to be done and promised to get the ball rolling. We are still waiting, however, to see if and when the issue may be fixed.

Of course, part of those nearly three hours on the phone was spent navigating the automated responses with robotic questions. Imagine if the only way to speak to God was through a phone call.

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Please key in your name using the letters under the numbers on your telephone key pad. Thank you.

Now key in your date of birth. For example, if your birth date is 10th June 1976, please key in 10061976. Thank you.

Now key in the numbers from your post code followed by your house number. Thank you.

Now, to prove you are not a robot, please add up the digits of your phone number, then key in the total. Thank you.

Now, for an angel press 1, for an archangel press 2, for St Peter press 3, for Mary press 4 and for God press 5. To hear this message again, press 9.'

Thank goodness we don't need a phone to talk to God!

Ian

Please send items for the **June edition by 9 am on May 14th** to the editor (email ianmaddock@btinternet.com or phone 01746 780936). For advertising please contact David Hampson: (email david.hampson2025@gmail.com or phone 780034)



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