# The Parish Magazine

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



MARCH 2025



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### The Rector writes

Dear Friends

March already! Where is the year going?

March the  $5^{\text{th}}$  is Ash Wednesday when we start our observance of Lent. I wonder how your Lent journey will go this year. Will you be giving something up or taking something extra on, or indeed both. I had

ing something up or taking something extra on, or indeed both. I had a conversation with someone recently who shared that they find Lent really tricky. Just as the world seems to spring to life, reaching towards Spring after the quietude of winter, the discipline of Lent seems to bid us to continue to wait. I had never thought about it like that before, but I find I can empathise. Perhaps you can too. March is often a little bit of a fickle month, with the first flush of spring followed quickly by mid wintery weather. I saw my first "wild" daffodil bloom of the season this week, alongside a footpath, but also had to scrape the car after a hard frost at the weekend. Life is a bit like this I suppose - we sometimes live through seasons where more than one thing is true at the same time!

Lent is a bit like this too. The Good News of the resurrection of Jesus is no less true in Lent than in any other season - thank goodness! I think Lent needs to invite us to dwell on reality, offering a reminder that God is no less present in our lives in times of darkness and difficulty than in times of celebration and joy.

The purpose of Lent is not to lead us into a place of self-flagellation, but rather to help us to notice what really matters most in life, and to realise again how very good God is, and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Lent is a season of preparation for a celebration. Like spring cleaning before a big party, it's worth it in the end!

So, as we continue the journey towards the cross, keep going! Do not be discouraged, for God is good, and Easter is coming!

Rev Jon

### **United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt**

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

### **Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists**

Deacon Becky Lovatt	01299 826641

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

### From the Parish Registers

<b>Funerals</b> Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Lif	e.'
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February 17 Colin Ellis Stourbridge Crematorium

Interment of Ashes

February 15 Alan Oxlade St. Mary's

### **COVER PICTURE**

Spring is in the air at Severn Valley Country Park
Photo by Don Bannister

### For all church enquiries please visit our website

https://www.alveleyandquattchurches. In an emergency please call Rev Jon Aldwinckle (01746 562159) For Alveley burial ground enquiries call Jenny Sirrell 07484806605

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

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### MARCH SERVICES

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

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10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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**Sunday March 9** 

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

Worship 4 All Ages 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday March 12

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

**Sunday March 16** 

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

**Sunday March 23** 

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's 20-20-20 St. Marv's 10.30 a.m. **Teatime Praise** St. Andrew's 4.00 p.m.

**Wednesday March 26** 

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

**Sunday March 30 Mothering Sunday** 

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

### ST MARY'S CHURCH PANCAKE MORNING

You are all invited to our Pancake Morning at the Pavilion on Tuesday 4th March from 10am to 12 noon. Hopefully Alveley School children will be joining us. There will be stalls, raffle and, of course, pancakes!!

All proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you there, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome.

### **THANK YOU**

I wish to thank everyone for their kindness, prayers, gifts and get well messages. I really felt the love of Jesus through all the outpouring of love and kindness shown towards me and Henry during my recovery from my recent operation. I am making good progress and am nearly back to normal.

Thanks again and God bless you all.

Margaret Childs

### **NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT**

It's always a bonus to be able to report some really positive news and I can now tell you that the Clock Autowinding system was installed in mid February. Over the years many people have climbed the steep ladder to wind the clock each week - during my time worshipping at St Andrew's (50 years would you believe this year!). I can remember Cyril Link, Bill Faithful, Jane Deighton and most recently Dave Link all taking on this vital role. The young clockmaker who installed the system told me that he had been to one church where the only way to access the clock was by climbing up horseshoes set into the wall. That makes our steep ladder seem easy which I know it is not!

Sadly, in February we said farewell to Chris and Sara Douglas. They have only moved to Much Wenlock which is not too far away but we will miss them greatly. Chris has kindly used his own mower and equipment over the years to keep the front churchyard looking tidy and has been a willing pair of hands for a variety of jobs. Sara has been my Deputy Churchwarden and "right hand woman", supporting me with the many behind the scenes tasks needed to keep the church going. I would like to thank them and wish them much happiness in their new home.

We are busy planning a Summer Fete and I will give you the date next month. Unfortunately our PCC meeting is being held just after the magazine deadline so I cannot give you any further news at this time. Several of you have already offered help with various jobs in and around the church and I really appreciate this but if anyone else feels able to read lessons, help with Intercessions, make the odd cake for Teatime Praise, serve refreshments or help in the churchyard that would be just wonderful!

Ann Lee

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

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

Date	1st Reading	2nd reading	Intercessions
March 9	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Ann Lee	Luke 4 : 1-13 Paula Tristham	Ann Lee
March 23	Luke 13: 1-9 Yvonne Miles		Wendy Aldwinckle
March 30	Exodus 2: 1-10 Ann Lee	John 19: 25-27 Alison Pearson	Keith Pearson

### **ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on the Tuesday 4th March in the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm with Open Forum. Open Forum is your opportunity to raise any matters of interest or concern you may have about the village whether on the agenda or not. The full agenda will be posted on the notice boards in the week preceding the meeting. *Isley Jakeman, Chairperson, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.* 

### **ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL**

Annual Village Quiz, Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm. I have recently been sending out invitations to village organisations inviting them to take part in the fourth Annual Village Quiz. Last year Alveley Tennis Club were the proud winners. As in previous years teams of four are invited to take part in this light-hearted Quiz for a fee of £10, with all profits being donated to charity. If your organisation would like to take part and you haven't received an invitation yet, please contact me on 780 478 or n.crabtree@yahoo.co.uk and I would be happy to send you an entry form.

**Annual General Meeting, Thursday 17th April at 8.pm.** This is an open meeting so we would be very pleased to welcome you. Cheese and wine will be available at the end with an opportunity to chat with the newly elected committee. *Norma Crabtree* 

### **QUATT VILLAGE HALL**

### Saturday 15th March at 2.30 p.m. Honest Lies

When April calls round to see Mom with an ulterior motive, it forces Marion to visit her painful past, and when fall-out from her previous life crashes into the present day, it threatens to ruin their already shaky relationship. Set in Birmingham in the 1970s and present day, and with a soundtrack to match, Honest Lies is a domestic story full of warmth and humour which charts the emotional cost of parenthood and celebrates the strength and resilience of women everywhere.

Refreshments available for purchase. Raffle.

Price of tickets are varied to be inclusive. Please pay what you can afford as this supports new theatre productions:

10 FREE Tickets, 10 available for £3, 15 available for £5, 25 available for £10. Purchase your tickets and book your places at our Box Office at Quatt Farm Shop. *Steph Hinton* 

### CHAPEL CRAFTERS

Chapel Crafters this month will be in the Old Chapel on March 7th and 21st. Jenny and Angie

### **ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD**

Hello everyone. Our late Christmas lunch held at the Royal Oak in January was most enjoyable. Everyone enjoyed the event.

Our February meeting with Barbara Branch will have been held by the time you read this.

On 24th March Alan Peace will come to tell us about a challenge between a senior citizen travelling on a bus against fit young cyclists to see who could complete the journey of John O'Groats to Lands End first. It should be an interesting evening.

Once again we will welcome everyone. The meeting will be at 2:30 pm in the Village Hall.

We hope to see you there.

Kath Bishop

### STREET LIGHTS

The Parish Council is responsible for supplying and maintaining the street lights within the village.

If you notice any faulty ones please make a note of the number on the post and report them to the Parish Council clerk, Steve Kerry at clerk@alveleyandromsleypc.org.uk

He will then report them to EON who will come out and repair them.

Isley Jakeman, Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council



Our next Film Night will be on Friday March 21st in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Entry is £5 to include refreshments.

If you would like further information please phone Carol Hatfield (780576) or Una Coombs (780568).

We look forward to seeing you.

Ian Maddock

### **MESSY CHURCH**

February's Messy Church was one of our busiest meetings yet, with nearly 20 children from the village and surrounding area joining us. The theme this month was the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders. Jesus told this story to help us understand we shouldn't just listen to His words but we should put them into action too; just like the builder who built his house on rock, He will help us weather the storms of life. If we don't, we will be like houses built on sand – and get washed away!

During the craft time, the children made small houses and placed one in each tray of rocks and sand. When the storms came [large jugs of water], those on sand ended up in a very soggy mess!!

On the other craft tables, the children made sand and stick pictures, painted messages on large pebbles and coloured in some beautiful pictures [as you can see in the photo on page 17). After storytelling, songs and a prayer, we all enjoyed one of our favourite teas – fish finger sandwiches, with beans and cheese, finished off with cakes and ice lollies.

We had a lovely afternoon together and it was especially good to hear the church filled with noise and chatter of lots of children.

If you would like to join us next month, Messy Church is from 3-5pm at St. Mary's Church on Saturday 1st March, all are welcome.

Alison Pearson



### **ALVELEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

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

### **ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB**

Alveley Tennis Club AGM will take place on Wednesday March 26th at The Clubhouse commencing at 7pm. The Committee and all members are welcome to attend.

Our Membership is still growing with lots of interest in our facilities. We welcome all ages .

FREE Adult Tennis Coaching on Fridays May 16th and May 23rd for members and non-members 6.20 to 7pm for coaching and afterwards people can stay and play. Contact Jack Fletcher (Tennis Coach) on 07496 177385 or email Jack.fletcher.1302@gmail.com

We have 3 all weather floodlit tennis courts throughout the winter (day or evening).

Reduced Membership for the Winter Season.

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

### **TENNIS SESSIONS**

Mondays (Gents) 7-9pm (Under Floodlights).

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

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

For further Information contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488 or Jan

Higgins 01746780259 or email Jan.higgins@btinternet.com.

**Brian Davies** 

Diane Knowles

At Sunday School the children were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Little Josh was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down and looking scared. "Josh, what is the matter?"

Josh whispered "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

### SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

In March, several important days highlight sustainability and wildlife and remind us of our responsibility to the planet and each other. The month begins with World Seagrass Day on March 1st, which raises awareness about the significance of seagrasses in marine biodiversity and their role in sustainable development. Following this, World Wildlife Day on the 3rd celebrates the diverse forms of wildlife on the planet and emphasises the importance of conservation. Unfortunately, human activities such as habitat destruction and pollution are putting many species at risk. International Women's Day (8th) focuses on the vital role women play in addressing global challenges, including environmental issues. Empowering women can lead to positive changes and contribute to a healthier, more equitable world. World Water Day (22nd) draws attention to the critical need for clean water. The theme for this year is 'Glacier Preservation,' highlighting the urgent need to address the impacts of rapidly melting glaciers due to climate change, which are essential for drinking water, agriculture, and healthy ecosystems. The month wraps up with the International Day of Zero Waste on the 30th, which promotes sustainable consumption and production practices. This year, the focus is on the fashion and textile industry, where reducing waste and adopting circular solutions can significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. For instance, emissions could be reduced by 44% if a garment is worn twice as often. Overall, these events underscore the interconnectedness of sustainability, biodiversity, and social issues, emphasising the need for systemic change to address these global challenges. We can also rethink our consumption habits and choices: supporting sustainable brands or reducing waste can help protect endangered species and their habitats. Whether it's exploring local sustainable businesses, trying out a new plant-based recipe, or planning an eco-friendly trip, every small action counts.

Kath Norgrove

The young clergyman was walking through the village when he met one of his elderly parishioners. "How's your cold?" he asked.

"Very obstinate," came the bleak reply.

<sup>&</sup>quot;I'm'sorry." The clergyman decide'd'to try again. "Well, how is your arthritis?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Very obstinate," came the reply.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Oh dear, I am sorry," soothed the clergyman. He tried a third time:

<sup>&</sup>quot;And how is your wife?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;About the same."

### KNOWING YOUR PLACE

When Brian Head asked me "Do bellringers have music in front of them when ringing?" he was perhaps hoping for a short answer. The honest answer is "no" but it's not quite that simple. A bell swings like a giant pendulum. Right up one way until it is completely inverted and then through 360 degrees until it is upside-down again from the other way. The bell ringer therefore has two strokes, the first called the handstroke when the woolly part called the Sally is pulled (no jokes please) and then the backstroke when the end of the rope is pulled. So if you have six bells as at Alveley and Quatt and, assuming everyone is pulling at the same pace and following the bell in front closely, you should get six handstrokes followed by six backstrokes all evenly spaced. 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6, a slight pause and then repeat. We call this 'rounds'. Bells are always rung in rounds at the start of a sequence and they are in descending order, the lightest bell with the highest note first, the heaviest bell and lowest note last. No written music is required for this, just the ability to pull the rope at the same pace as everyone else and listen carefully to the striking, i.e. every blow of the bells should be evenly spaced. This requires some skill. The next stage is known as 'call changes' . You could have these written out and placed on the floor in front of you or perhaps on a music stand, but mostly they are committed to memory and remembered parrot fashion by the caller. The rule is you can only swap adjacent bells. This is done by the first bell pausing slightly and the second bell doing a slightly quicker stroke. Thus they change places in the order. This is the skill in accurately ringing a bell. A change can be called 'up' or 'down' but not both on the same sequence. For example, you could call 2 to 3 or 3 to 1. The result is the same. 1 3 2 4 5 6. You will notice that number 1 merely keeps ringing unaffected. Number 4 is told that 2 is replacing 3 immediately in front of him but number 3 has to know who number 2 was following in order to move forward to number 1. This is obvious in rounds but gets more difficult as the sequence progresses. Then the caller gives these instructions. 4 to 5 then 2 to 5. This gives 1 3 5 2 4 6 which is musical and called Queens. Then 1 to 3 then 1 to 5 then 3 to 5 is called. This gives 5 3 1 2 4 6 which is reverse Queens or King's. Then 3 to 1 is called, then 3 to 2 then 5 to 1 and then 5 to 2. This gives 1 2 5 3 4 6 which is Whittingtons. Then finally 3 to 4 then 5 to 4 then 2 to 4 is called this gives 1 4 2 5 3 6 which is tittums. ( hum it : ti tum, ti tum, ti tum ) Then 5 to 3 then 4 to 2 then 4 to 3 is called and you're back to rounds. Easy eh? Try it with some playing cards.

Now we come to what bellringers call 'methods' This is where the bells change place almost every blow but only one place at a time. (as above in call changes). So if you draw 4 lines down a page and write the bell numbers between you get this 1/2/3/4/5. The Tenor (number 6) is not involved. It rings at the end of every row and provides the rhythm. When the conductor says "go plain hunting" the bells change place in pairs so the next row would read 2/1/4/3/5 the next would be 2/4/1/5/3 the next 4/2/5/1/3 and the next 4/5/2/3/1 and so on. If you carried on writing out rows in this fashion you will notice that each bell in turn gets to 5th place for two blows and then back down to 1st place for two blows.

This is called plain hunting, it is done without anyone speaking and it is the basis for almost all method ringing from three bells as at Quatford or twelve bells as at Westminster Abbey.

And now we come to some difficulty.. The maximum possible number of different rows or orders of bells on five bells before the order repeats is 1×2×3×4×5 which is 120. This is called the 'extent'. But the plain hunting described above is only 10 rows before it repeats. Each bell does just 10 blows before returning to its starting place. Back in the 17th century as bells were becoming available that could ring full circle a Robert Roan invented the first method in 1650 which he called 'grandsire'. Then a Fabian Stedman and a Richard Duckworth wrote ' Tintinnalogia' in 1668 and Stedman on his own wrote 'Campanologia ' in 1677. We still practise their compositions at Alveley every week. They have glorious names such as Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire, Plain Bob Doubles, Stedman, and on higher numbers of bells, Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Double Norwich etc.

But back to the unrepeated 120 blows. Fabian Stedman (probably) devised this: The number 1 bell (the treble) plain hunts. The Tenor (number 6) rings in 6th place every stroke. The other bells (called working bells ) hunt to the back (5th place) but on their way back down to the front they dodge 4-3. So instead of 5 4 3 2 1 places they do 5 4 3 4 3 2 1 places. The next time round they do 4 blows in 5th place. The next time they dodge up 1 2 3 4 3 4 5. (PLACES remember, not bell numbers) and the next time they do 2 blows in 2nds place and then lead again. (2 blows in 1st place). Keep in mind that all the bells are in different places when they start so they are all doing the same thing just at different times. This now gives us 40 rows before it starts repeating. So how do you remember who you are following as you hunt up and down and dodge? You don't! By a combination of rhythm and watching who is following who, you do the work. This we call ropesight and is perhaps the hardest part of method ringing to learn. You simply remember the order of the work, i.e. 4-3 down, long 5ths, 3-4 up, make 2nds. Repeat. All this is written down as described above and a blue line drawn through the work of each bell. This line is memorised by each ringer before they start. And now the clever bit. How do we get from 40 blows to the magic 120? Just as the treble is leading (the number 1 is in first place) the conductor calls BOB. The number 2 bell takes on the work of the number 3. The 3 takes on the work of the 4th and the 4th takes on the work of 2nd. The 5th place bell does 4 blows in 5th place. The next time he's in that place another BOB is called. 2 becomes 4, 3 becomes 2 and 4 becomes 3. The final time the 5th is in 5ths place a last BOB is called and the bells return to their original work. If everyone has behaved the bells will come onto rounds within a few blows and the 120 is a achieved. This method is called 'Plain Bob Doubles' In the method called 'grandsire' more trickery is employed to get to 240 rows. Although after 120 blows the method repeats it does so at backstroke and not at handstroke as normal. I have tried to explain this as straightforwardly as I can. On 8 or 10 or 12 bells it gets more complicated still. However, if you have had to read this several times to grasp it, I suspect you are not alone. If you understood it at the first reading there may be a place for you in the belfry at Worcester Cathedral, Hereford ca-Roy (all over the place ) Page. thedral or even Westminster Abbey.

### SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Work to improve the play area should be well underway when this edition of the parish magazine is published. Work started on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February focusing on the roundabout and swing set. These pieces of equipment were fenced off throughout half term with the rest of the play area remaining open. From Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February the whole of the area will be closed until the work is completed in March. The improvements include the installation of fencing to provide an enclosed space for children to enjoy. Equipment is being replaced with very similar pieces made from more durable and longer lasting materials. (And the roundabout should spin more smoothly!) The area will then be covered in durable matting which will help combat how muddy the ground gets during winter. Don't worry, the boat is staying! The funding for this work has come from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This is part of the UK Government's Levelling Up scheme which is providing funding around the country to support improvements in community and place, local businesses and, people and skills.

We had a lovely session in the visitor centre with our textile art group. We are just getting started on creating pieces for our summer exhibition. The theme this year is 'My Map'. The group is using maps of the local area for inspiration. This could be the map of the park; the route of the railway; village maps of Alveley and Highley or even the meander of the river. It's always lovely to see the original idea grow and develop over the months. The exhibition will be happening in the centre over the summer holidays.

After February half term, the visitor centre and café will return to opening Wednesday to Sunday. Opening times will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11am-3pm, Saturday 9.30am-3.30pm and Sunday 10.30am-3.30pm. In March, Wild Toddlers returns on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March and will run for the next 5 weeks until Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. We are currently planning and prepping for the sessions and are looking forward to welcoming the spring. If you want to join us, it's £5.50 per child so please call us on 01746 781 192 to book your place. We'd love to see you.

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

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?" "Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

### FROM ALVELEY PARISH MAGAZINE JULY 1903

### THE CLUB DAYS

The annual Festivals of Good and Odd-fellowship took place on Monday and Tuesday in Whitsun week. Each Festival began with Service at the Parish Church at 11.15 a.m. and was followed by the wonted dinners at the Squirrel and Bell Club rooms respectively. Colonel Wakeman presided at the former with his usual cheery good nature and success; the Vicar being in the chair on Tuesday. The usual toasts were duly honoured and statements as to the finances and other matters connected with the two branches of the Club made by the Secretaries, Messrs C. Massey and W. Elcock. The fine, bright weather, which again favoured the proceedings, added to the enjoyment of everyone.

### WEDDING OF A CHURCH WORKER

The marriage of Miss Charlotte Lloyd to Mr T. Davies, of Sherrifhales, took place in the Parish Church on May 20th, just too late, however, for insertion in the Magazine for last month.\* The happy occasion created considerable interest, owing to the bride's long connection with the parish, and more especially for the valuable services rendered to God and His Church in Alveley, both as Sunday School Teacher and as District Visitor. The Vicar performed the ceremony in the presence of a good number of friends. As the newly wedded couple left the Church porch, the girls of the bride's class in Sunday School, suitably attired, scattered flowers from prettily garlanded baskets before their former teacher, emblems of that happiness and brightness which it is hoped will mark her married life. The newly wedded pair drove away amidst the cheers of the inhabitants assembled. A number of Church workers united also to present the bride with a small united mark of their esteem and affection for her. This was in the shape of a marble clock, and which it is hoped will be useful to Mrs. Davies in her new home. It will also form a visible token of the loving respect which her good qualities had won amongst those with whom her earlier years were lived.

### NOTICE

The Vicar expects to be away from home from July 21st to August 14th. During his absence The Rev. R.H. Streeten, Rural Dean of Himley and Vicar of St. Mary's, Kingswinford, will be in residence at the Vicarage to perform the ministerial duties of the parish.

\*(It is interesting to note that some editorial issues never change! Editor)

# **QUATT VILLAGE HALL**

WALOCK FORESTER FRUST

20 Quatt, Bridgnorth WV15 6QW

# Carer Connect

Meeting at Quatt Village Hall on the last Thursday of the month from midday until 2pm

Carer Connect is a support group dedicated to our unpaid carers. It provides an opportunity to meet other carers and to connect with support services within the community.

Please contact Steph Hinton on 01746 781214











Photo from February Messy Church by Alison Pearson. Report on page 9





### 30th MARCH - MOTHERING SUNDAY - 4th SUNDAY IN LENT

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.* 

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the  $16^{\rm th}$  century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families — which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

### The Goldfinch

A flash of yellow, gold, and red Dancing in our flower bed Flocked together, bringing charm Their joyful song restoring calm.

Through centuries since times of old We've always loved their plumage bold; As they gathered round to feed Seeking grubs, and thistle seed.

So, go ahead, and plant some thistles You will see, among the bristles. Golden birds who dance and dart Bringing joy to warm your heart.

Nigel Beeton

### THOSE PARISH NOTICES THAT WEREN'T QUITE RIGHT!

The Senior Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

Maundy Thursday service: The ladies of the altar guild will be stripping on the altar.

The associate minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.

This evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

A song fest was hell at the Methodist church Wednesday.

A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favourite recipe, also a short antidote for it.

The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a great chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The Rector is on holiday. Massages may be given to the Church Secretary.

It's Drug Awareness Week: Get involved in drugs before your children do.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

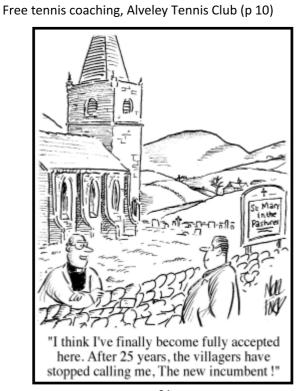
I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England. John Wesley.

Please ring the churchwarden (see page 4) if you are unable to carry out your duty. ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA MARCH 2025

Refreshments	Anne & Laura Simms	Alison & Keith Pearson	David & Jackie Hampson	Sally Page Pat Haw Lynn Madden, Jenny Sirrell
Welcomers	Jenny Sirrell Carol Wall	Pat Haw Lynn Madden'	Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Keith Pearson
Chalice	Jackie Hampson Jenny Sirrell		Carol Wall Alison Pearson	
Intercessions	Wndy Aldwinckle		Jackie Campbell	
2nd Reading	Luke 9.28-43 Penny Jenkins		Luke 13.31-35 David Hampson	
1st Reading	Exodus 34.29-35 Kirsty Ritzenthaler	Luke 4.1-13 Alison Pearson	Genesis 15 1-12 17-18 Sue Chidwick	Luke 13.1-9 Colin Taylor
Date	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23

### **DIARY 2025**

March 1	Messy Church, St. Mary's, 3pm-5pm (p 9,17)
3	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
4	St. Mary's Pancake morning, Pavilion, 10am-12 noon (p 5)
5	Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum, Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 7)
7	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
15	'Honest Lies', 2.30pm, Quatt Village Hall (p 7)
17	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
17	Be Café, Old Chapel, 2pm-4pm (p 17)
19	Alveley Recreation Association AGM, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 10)
21	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
21	Alveley Entertainers Film Night, Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 8)
24	Alveley Ladies' Guild, Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 8)
28	Alveley CC Open Evening at Cricket Club from 6.30pm
31	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
April 5	Alveley CC Get Set weekend, Cricket Club from 10am
5	Alveley Village Quiz, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 7)
17	Alveley Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm (p 7)
<b>May</b> 16	Race Night, Alveley Cricket Club
16	Free tennis coaching, Alveley Tennis Club (p 10)



### ALL IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

175 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1850 the Britannia Bridge linking Anglesey and mainland Wales across the Menai Strait was officially opened. Designed and built by railway engineer Robert Stephenson, it had to be replaced after a disastrous fire in 1970.

125 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1900 the British archaeologist Arthur Evans began excavating the ancient city of Knossos, capital of the Minoan civilisation, in Heraklion, Crete. Knossos is regarded as the oldest city in Europe. It was abandoned (unknown reasons) more than 3,000 years ago.

100 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1925 Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh was officially opened.

90 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1935 driving tests were first introduced in Britain. Three days later, on 19<sup>th</sup> March, a speed limit of 30 mph in built-up areas was also introduced, under the Road Traffic Act of 1934.

70 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1955 Sir Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist died. Joint winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering penicillin

60 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1965 the first US troops arrived in Vietnam. This marked the beginning of the USA's main involvement in the war.

Also 60 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1965 Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov became the first person ever to make a spacewalk.

50 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1975 the Biological Weapons Convention came into effect. This multilateral disarmament treaty banned the development, production and stockpiling of all biological and toxin weapons.

40 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1985 British miners voted to return to work after a year-long strike over pit closures and job losses.

30 years ago, on  $2^{nd}$  March 1995 the 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank. Four days later, on  $6^{th}$  March, the Dutch bank ING purchased Barings, for the nominal price of £1.

Also 30 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1995 the Schengen Treaty came into effect in the European Union. Seven nations (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) eliminated their internal border controls and tightened their external borders.

20 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005 Dave Allen, Irish comedian, died.

10 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Terry Pratchett, British fantasy novelist best known for his Discworld series, died of Alzheimer's, aged 66.



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

Alveley Art Group	Jane Hunt	780280
Alveley Bellringers	Roy Page	07704 362285
Alveley Charies	Daryl Cooper	780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg	780437
Alveley Day Centre	Sue Taylor 07973 343491	
Angela Lander	07952 172691 Pat Bowyer 07964 377	'840
Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock	780936
Alveley First Responders	Marn Hill	780794
Alveley Historical Society	Lorraine Heath	07970 637727
Alveley Ladies' Guild	Barbara Spragg 780200 Kath Bisho	p 780707
Alveley Mining Heritage	Andrea Edwards	862064
Alveley Old Chapel	Mo Morgan	07777624664
Alveley Parish Council/Street Light	s Steve Kerry	07711788782
Alveley Paent 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	Harry Jones	07747 612318
Alveley Village Hall	Norma Crabtree	780478
Alveley Village Hall bookings	Carol Haield	780576
Alveley W.I.	Sue Taylor	07973 343491
Arden Allotments Associaon	Debbie Walker	07484 238616
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County Councillor	Colin Taylor	07581 066956
Friends of Alveley School	Sarah Carr	780284
Howard Thompson Bequest	Jackie Hampson	780034
Music in St. Mary's	Andrew Crabtree	780478
Qua Cricket Club	Jim Williamson	07790 033662
Qua Malvern Parish Council	Bill Griffiths	766941
Qua 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	Hilary Smith	780609
Strollers & Striders Walking Group	Andrew Crabtree	780478
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Whiall Meadows Trust	Jan Higgins	780259

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

### THE BACK PAGE

As a rugby fan I always look forward to this time of year and the Six Nations Tournament and have fond memories of the matches I have attended over the years. Some of the best memories are of trips to England's away matches, making for a good weekend whatever the result. Many of the memories are not necessarily connected with the actual rugby, though.

I have only vague memories of my first visit to Cardiff for Wales v England, but you may be surprised to learn that when I was living in France I went to the old Stade Colombes in Paris to watch France v Wales in 1965, simply paying at the gate, which is unbelievable today. France won that match 22-13, but Wales won the Five (as it was then) Nations Championship that year, winning their remaining matches, with England winning only one and Scotland propping up the table with one draw and three defeats. How things have changed.

Dublin has provided some of the more memorable trips with Irish hospitality second to none, win or lose. An Irish friend had a brother who was bagman to the Irish team and arranged tickets. He wouldn't let us buy a round of drinks (and there were a few of those on match day) as, in his words, 'You are my brother's friend so you are my friend too.' (He must have had a drop too much Guinness and he was too big a fellow to disagree with). Work issues meant that friend Jeff and I left late for a Calcutta Cup match

Work issues meant that friend Jeff and I left late for a Calcutta Cup match in Edinburgh and we broke the journey, staying overnight in Gretna Green. Meeting up with the rest of the group in Edinburgh next day, we suffered much ribaldry amongst suggestions that as we had spent the night together we really should get married.

Paris was always a good weekend, too. One year I had just two tickets and our son couldn't come so, in order not to offend any of my friends by not inviting them, I took the Head Gardener - offending all my rugby friends, in the process. We stayed with old friends from my time in Paris and visited some of my old haunts. The Head Gardener was a fan of Dean Richards, who came on as a substitute. She duly joined in the chanting of 'Dean - o! Dean - o!' but her pleasure was short-lived as there was a bit of a brawl and Dean was sent to the sin-bin!

There were many trips to Twickenham, of course both for Five/Six nations games, and others. Our son and I were at Twickenham for the 1991 World Cup final (England 6 Australia 12) and I am often asked if I was at the England v Australia game in 1982 when Erica Roe gained some notoriety by streaking topless across the pitch. I was there, but of course being a gentleman I averted my eyes!

Ian

Please send items for **April** edition by **9 am on Monday March 17th** 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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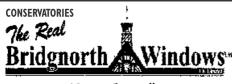
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