

The Parish Magazine

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



JANUARY 2026

60p



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The Rector writes

Dear Friends,

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation Ch.21 v.5)

I wonder how you feel about January.

Do you feel buoyed up, excited about the start of a New Year? Have you been able to put last year behind you, and look forward with confidence to the year ahead? Or is January really bad news? Horrible weather – horrible bills to meet after Christmas – perhaps just the natural sense of a bit of a slump after a time of great celebration.

As someone who loves Advent and Christmas – and someone whose favourite season is Autumn – I sometimes have to work hard in January to remind myself that there is much still to celebrate, and to look forward to. So, what does January bring?

That partly depends on how conscientiously we mark the variety in this season, especially in church terms. New Year's Day is a time for celebration of the new, but at that point, right at the beginning of the calendar year, we are still celebrating the Christmas season and will be till Epiphany on 6th January. That is the feast when we remember particularly the visit of the three Wise Men.

For some of us, 2026 brings the promise of special anniversaries to mark, special birthdays, or the anticipated fruition of special events; the year of our wedding, the birth of an expected child, the year we go to secondary school, or University. The year we graduate; the year we hope to start our first job; the year we retire from work. At a time of change, perhaps of uncertainty about the future, it is good to allow ourselves time to reflect on the unchanging things in our life – the things we can always rely on. If we are so blessed, that can include loving families and friends and sharing our life with a loved one.

But whether we are so blessed, or not, we can all rely on the unchanging love of God for all his people. The Biblical quotation at the top of this letter for me serves as a quick, silent prayer in all sorts of circumstances. Focussing on God's love and message for us is helped by selecting a theme or direction each year.

After Easter this year we will be running an Alpha course, where you can explore the Christian faith. More details will follow over the next couple of months.

Wishing you and your families a Happy and Blessed 2026.

Rev Jon

United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

Rector	Rev. Jon Aldwinckle , The Rectory, Alveley (email: revjonaldwinckle@outlook.com)	01746 562159
Reader	Sue Chidwick , 28 Greenway Avenue, Alveley	01746 781786
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Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists

Deacon Becky Lovatt	01299 826641
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St. Mary The Virgin, Alveley, WV15 6ND

Churchwarden	Penny Jenkins , 34 Birch Grove, Alveley	07929 327164
Churchwarden	Alison Pearson , Brookfield, Daddlebrook Rd, Alveley	07882 888875
Treasurer	Anne Simms , Willowell House, Quatford	01746 768955

St. Andrew's Quatt

Churchwarden	Ann Lee , 7 Brook Hollow, Bridgnorth	01746 761138
Treasurer	Steve Jones , 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster	01562 753828

From the Parish Register

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

10 th December	George Rodenhurst	St Mary's
16 th December	Gladys Arnold	St Andrew's

For all church enquiries please visit our website

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

COVER PICTURE

A frozen rose in December
Photo by Chris Raybould

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.

JANUARY SERVICES

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

Sunday January 4th

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Sunday January 11th

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

Wednesday January 14th

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Sunday January 18th

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Sunday January 25th

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

Wednesday January 28th

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast will be held on Saturday 17th January 8.30am in the OCCC (Alveley Old Methodist Chapel). We look forward to seeing you and sharing good conversation and a hearty breakfast. If you haven't been before why not give it a try?

Rev Jon

ST MARY'S CHURCH PANCAKE MORNING

You are all invited to our Pancake Morning on Tuesday 17th February from 10am to 12 noon. There will be pancakes, small cakes, stalls and a raffle. All proceeds in aid of the running of St Mary's Church.

We look forward to seeing you there, you will receive a very warm welcome.

Jenny Sirrell

A vicar who had just undergone a very complicated operation kept complaining about a bump on his head and a terrible headache. Since his operation had been an intestinal one, the nurse was concerned. Finally, she spoke to the doctor about it. The doctor reassured her, saying: "Don't worry, he really does have a bump on his head. About halfway through the operation, we ran out of anaesthetic."

ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

I will begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year. I hope that it is going to be a happy and healthy one for us all. Do you ever wonder what it would be like if we were able to take a peep into the future? Would we be better prepared for whatever might happen? I think it's probably a good thing that we can't. Maybe the element of surprise is a better thing. Sometimes we may look back and reflect upon our past decisions and actions. We cannot change the past but we can certainly shape our future.

Last year was a busy one for St Andrew's. The new automatic clock winding system was installed and sadly we have had a lot of problems which have all now hopefully been rectified. I thank all of you who live in the village for your understanding and patience. In early December our new sign and notice board were installed and I hope that you will agree that both look very smart. The long hot summer took its toll on the grass in the churchyard and I thank Simon for mowing when it was needed. We held a summer fete which helped with much needed funds. Sadly we cannot rent out our building to raise funds so we rely entirely on activities and donations. Many thanks to all of you who have supported us throughout the year. Just as many of you have found, our day to day church running expenses have risen. We look forward to welcoming you to our events and services in 2026. Our services remain the same with Holy Communion on the second Sunday of each month and Teatime Praise on the fourth Sunday, a United service is held when there is a fifth Sunday when we welcome our friends from Alveley..

My grateful thanks also go to Mike who supplies our music on a regular basis and unlocks the church at the weekend, and to Jane for unlocking during the week. It's good to see the comments in our visitors book thanking us for having our church open. Our Parochial Church council is a small but dedicated team but if you would like to help us in any way please feel free to contact me.

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
11 January	Isaiah 42.1-9 Paula Tristham	Matthew 3.13-17 Steve Jones	Ann Lee
25 January	Matthew 4.12-23 Carole Hubbard		Wendy Aldwinckle

6th JANUARY - EPIPHANY:

GOLD, FRANKINCENSE & MYRRH FOR THE BABY JESUS

Epiphany is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

Epiphany is the occasion on which we remember the Magi from the East following a star to find the baby Jesus: *'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews?'* (Matthew 2:1). At the start of a New Year, in an uncertain world, we can be asking the same question. The gifts the Magi offered point us to how Jesus can answer our concerns and worries: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this coming year?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and it was a spice used in His tomb. As we face challenges in the future, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him in everything?

'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.' ('We Three Kings').

A psychiatrist was training some young clergy who were interested in doing counselling. Deciding to test them, she asked: "How would you diagnose someone who visits your church, walks back and forth, screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, and then collapsing in a pew to weep uncontrollably the next?" A young man at the back of the room raised his hand and ventured: "A football coach?"

ALVELEY & ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 6th January in the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm with open forum. Open forum is your chance to raise any issues of concern you may have about matters in the village. We welcome all contributions.

At the January meeting, as well as discussing other matters, we will be finalising the budget for the 2026 - 2027 year.

I would also like to thank all those who braved the weather for the Christmas tree light switch on. Hopefully this will become an annual event and the weather will be kinder to us in the future.

Isley Jakeman, Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

This year's Christmas Market was a real community event with a lot of beautiful stalls and seasonal music creating a very warm, festive atmosphere. Thank you to all those who took part in either running stalls, helping in the kitchen or tidying away so brilliantly at the end. The Alveley First Responders were delighted to raise just under £500 and are very grateful to everyone who gave so generously. The Air Ambulance cake stall also did extremely well, (the amount raised is in this copy of the magazine). The total raised for the village hall was £661 which will greatly help in the everyday running costs of the building.

Looking ahead now to **Saturday 14th March when Canadian folk singers Arthur Coates and Kerran Cotterell** will be performing their unique blend of styles and genres of music at the hall. "Their showmanship, drenched in tall tales and comic touches is sure to keep all audiences entertained. They excite, enchant, inspire, comfort and spread love and joy to all those that hear them". You can see and hear them by visiting their website, www.arthurandkerran.com or check out 'Arthur and Kerran' on Facebook. Certainly, something to look forward to thanks to the very worthy Arts Alive who subsidise and bring professional entertainment to rural communities like ours. **Take advantage of the Early Bird Discount by booking your tickets online directly through www.artsalive.co.uk and receive them for £10, saving yourself £2 per ticket. The offer lasts till 29th January.**

Norma Crabtree

The gyms have a special name for people who sign up in early January and then don't go: 'profit'.

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

PICKLEBALL arrives in Alveley for 2026!

Our Pickleball launch dates start this month on Fridays January 9th & 16th at 6.20pm .

It's open to members & non-members. If you are interested in either or both of these dates please confirm on the Alveley Tennis Facebook Page. The cost will be £2 per person to cover the cost of the floodlights.

Both nights are going to be very busy so for people waiting to get onto the Pickleball Courts, 2 tennis courts will be available for tennis mixing & games plus the Tennis Wall .

Jean Jones has very kindly volunteered to supply tea and coffee on the nights. (Any members wishing to give her a hand would be most welcome).

Our professional tennis coach Jack Fletcher will be on site on these nights so it's an ideal opportunity to meet him. Jack also runs Rusty Racquets on Wednesday afternoons (12-12.45pm) and Junior sessions on Fridays (4.50 to 5.35pm for 5 to 10 year olds & 5.35 to 6.20pm for 11 to 14 year olds).

Jack is also available for one to one coaching.

At the time of writing we already have 32 People confirmed for Pickleball, 17 ladies and 15 gents. This includes 9 non-members.

There are lots of requests at the moment asking if Pickleball will be on every Friday. We have a committee meeting on Tuesday January 6th & we will discuss it then. Please check our Facebook Page.

OUR 4 WEEKLY TENNIS MIXING SESSIONS!

MONDAYS: (Evenings for gents, 7-9pm) under floodlights.

TUESDAYS: (Afternoons 1-3pm, ladies & gents).

THURSDAYS: (Evenings 7-9pm, ladies & gents) under floodlights.

SATURDAYS: (Mornings 10-12, ladies & gents).

Enquiries for new members (tennis & pickleball): contact Ron Whitfield on 07816 322469 .

Jack Fletcher (tennis coach) Contact Jack on 07496 177385 for rusty racquets, junior sessions, one to one coaching.

For any further info on Alveley Tennis Club please contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488 .

On behalf of Alveley Tennis Club I would like to wish you a Happy New Year & look forward to meeting lots of you on the tennis & pickleball courts in 2026.

Remember we play all year round mornings, afternoons, evenings, 7 days a week . *Brian Davies*

CHAPEL CRAFTERS

At the time of writing we are all working to finish projects for Christmas, Advent Calendars and Christmas Table Runners. Others are make patch-work bags or knitting baby clothes.

We have also started a project for Pam Stanton and the Parish Council to knit and crochet poppies for Remembrance Day next year, for the display at the top of Daddlebrook Road.

We wish everyone a Peaceful New Year.

Happy Crafting

Jenny and Angie.



Our next film night will be on Friday January 16th, in Alveley Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. For more information please contact Carol Hatfield (780576) or Una Coombs (780568).

£5 to include tea/coffee and cake. We hope to see you.

Ian Maddock



ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB DIARY DATES FOR 2026

Following the club's promotion and record breaking year we can't wait until 2026. New players of all ages are very welcome to join us, junior cricket for kids aged 5+, women's softball and senior cricket through our T20 side, 2 Saturday sides and a newly formed Sunday team. We offer something for all the family, the best facilities around (Voted number 1 out of x70+ clubs last year) low cost and great fun.

As we look ahead to an exciting year of cricket and community events, we are delighted to share a packed programme for 2026. Whether you're a player, parent, supporter, or someone who simply enjoys spending time at Four Oaks, there's something for everyone in the year ahead.

We begin the year with our **AGM on 9th January**, a great opportunity for members and supporters to hear about our progress, plans for the future, and how the club continues to grow both on and off the pitch.

Indoor **pre-season preparation starts on 3rd February at Winterfold School** continuing until the end of March, before we welcome everyone back to the club for our **Registration and Open Evening on 14th April**. This is always a lovely community occasion and the perfect time for new families to get involved.

Outdoor cricket takes full swing from **8th April**, with **junior coaching beginning on 1st May** and **Women's Softball Cricket returning on 7th May**. These sessions continue to grow year after year, making cricket more accessible and enjoyable for all ages and abilities.

Our popular **Race Night is back on 15th May**, promising a fun evening for the whole village, followed by the excitement of the Cricket Sixes Tournament on 5th July.

We round off the summer with our **Junior Presentation Evening on 4th September**, before celebrating our seniors at the **Adult Presentation on 26th September**.

And of course, the year finishes with our spectacular **Fireworks Display on 31st October**, one of the highlights of the village calendar.

Looking for the perfect venue?

Did you know you can hire the Alveley Cricket Club pavilion at Four Oaks for your next event or special occasion? It's an ideal space for birthdays, family gatherings, community meetings, and celebrations. Even better—there's no hire charge when you book the bar. It's our way of supporting local people and helping bring the community together

Please contact us: info@alveleycc.co.uk or visit our website

Richard Twigg

OH THOSE VICTORIANS

Two of our Bell ringers are keen historians and a few months ago they told me that there are just 4 pubs in the country that have brewed their own beer since the second world war. They have visited 3 of them. The Blue Anchor Inn at Helston in Cornwall has been brewing for at least 5 centuries. The Three Tuns in Bishops Castle since 1643 and the All Nations in Madeley, Telford since 1789. The fourth, which they had not visited, is the Old Swan in Netherton in the Black Country, brewing their own beer since at least 1863. This seemed like the perfect excuse to organise a bellringing outing. After a little thought and a lot of phone calls, on Saturday 15th November we set off for what used to be called the 'Workshop of the World'. The first church was St Peter's Cradley. Formerly in a chain making district this building was originally a methodist chapel. Built in 1791 they soon ran into financial difficulties and converted to C of E in 1798 to get funds. The bell tower was added in 1874 but because it was firstly a methodist chapel the tower is at the 'wrong' end. Most churches are built to face east and the rising sun. It has other issues. The tower has suffered from either poor foundations or mining subsidence and is now 16 inches out of plumb from top to bottom. The spire was removed in 1933 to relieve stress and it was underpinned with concrete but it still has an alarming crack that has monitoring devices fitted to keep an eye on it. I fear if it gets worse bellringing there will have to stop. The next church was St Giles at Rowley Regis. St Giles is the patron saint of lepers and in medieval times there were hundreds of leper colonies known as the 'homes of St Giles'. There is still a modern one in London. Rowley means rough pasture or woodland clearing and the 'Regis' was added in 1140 when it became part of the king's hunting ground. The first church was built in 1200 but due to its poor condition was demolished and rebuilt in 1840. Due to mining subsidence this one had to be closed in 1894 and was demolished in 1900. A new church was built in 1907 but was destroyed by fire in 1913. At this time there was a steel workers' strike and the suffragettes were agitating for votes for women. Both parties were blamed although it could have been caused by the paraffin lamps in use at the time. On the way out of the church we met James Brookes who used to be a ranger at the Severn Valley Country Park. He was preparing the church for an entertainment evening which was to be a black and white silent movie starring Buster Keaton but accompanied by a live organist as used to happen in the early days of Hollywood. The tower at St Giles has two problems. The builders of the current church (1923) did not use adequate rain water fittings and during heavy rain the fountain head or hopper on the tower cannot cope and water streams through the ringing room. The other problem is a good one. They were short of ringers recently and an appeal was put out on Facebook. 20 people applied! Three have dropped out and the tower captain is now holding 3 sessions a week to teach a new band. His best pupil is a 7 year old boy. And so onto the Old Swan in Netherton for lunch. It is also known as 'Ma Pardoes' although apparently you would only have called her that once. A black and white photo in the bar

shows a formidable looking Landlady! The previous week Sally and I had a dummy run to check out routes and parking. On arriving at the Old Swan she said "I'm not going in there". It looks nothing from the outside but once inside it is a Victorian gem. A spacious lounge is clean and welcoming. We were put in the equally stylish smoking room because the greyhound was with us. (Sally did come in). The menu was cob and chips or chips and cob, but very tasty and although I'm no connoisseur of beer their own brew tasted okay to me. The following week when we were all there the landlord opened the bar to show us the tiled ceiling, the huge polished mahogany counter with mirrors behind and all the evocative black and white photos. Just a few yards from the pub is a replica of the anchor that was cast by Noah Hingley's foundry for the Titanic in 1911. The anchor weighed 15.5 tons and it must have been quite a sight when it was on a cart pulled by 20 shire horses being taken from Netherton to Dudley station before its journey to Harland and Wolff in Belfast. Hingley's lorries can still be seen around the Black Country delivering steel. And so onto St Mark's at Pensnett. This huge church is known as the cathedral of the Black Country due to its impressive size, and hides up a leafy lane just below Russell's Hall Hospital. It was built 1844 to 1849 and would have had a spire had they not run out of money. The bells here were very easy going and we rang on all eight. We had stuck to 6 in the other churches because that is what we are used to. At one point we were able to get an all female band ringing. This is not unusual these days, there is a women's bellringing guild, but if you read the old peal boards of 100 years ago it was very much a male activity. The original bells at Pensnett were unusual in that they were a 'maiden ring'. This is bells that were cast and then not tuned. They were cast by Charles Carr, a bell founder in Smethwick, then displayed at a fair or fairs before being hung at St Mark's still un-tuned. They would not necessarily have sounded discordant but in 1972 they were removed by Taylors of Loughborough (the last remaining Bell foundry in the country) tuned and rehung in a modern frame. Our last church was St Benedict Biscop in Wombourne. Following what seems to be a theme in church buildings in 1840 they demolished the medieval building and erected a poorly built new one. Just 27 years later they demolished this one and put up the current very fresh looking Victorian church. The ringing room is entered by a trap door at the top of some stairs. It is then closed and has to be stood on to ring one of the bells. Not everybody is happy to do this! Finally, there was something in this church I thought was interesting and unusual. On either side of the nave are 3 stone pillars supporting the arches. Where these arches intersect a roundel is formed and within these on a royal blue background are six most attractive paintings done in gold. In order these are: the 3 bags of silver money that Judas received for betraying Jesus. A crown of thorns. A flail used to beat him. The pincers, hammer and nails used to fix him to the cross. The spear that pierced his side along with the wine soaked sponge used to quench his thirst. And lastly the dice thrown by the soldiers to determine who got his clothes. Then onto the Three Horseshoes for a meal. All in all a grand day out. *Roy Page*

MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

On behalf of Jean, Bill and myself I would like to thank all the people who made the delicious cakes and tarts, or gave cash donations to our Cake Stall at the Village Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December. We raised the fantastic amount of £275.00 which will go to the above charity. Again, thank you.

Ann Smith

ALVELEY ART GROUP

We start off the new year with Monday January 5th then every alternate Monday morning.

Come and have a look at what we do, you'll see that we're quietly getting on with something we would not have the time to do at home. A couple of hours to yourself maybe. It doesn't cost much, just £3 a session, this pays for the village hall rental, heating and refreshments.

Jane Hunt 01746 780280



SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

We are looking forward to an exciting start to 2026. At the start of last year, we were able to completely upgrade our Boat Play Area. This year we have secured the funding to upgrade the Sand Pit Play Area. The work started at the end of December to improve the paths around the area. From 12th January, work to the play area itself will begin. A number of new pieces of equipment will be added – sand pit play, jumper square (ground level trampoline), as sit in truck, sensory panels and an embankment slide. The aim of the additional is to create space for more inclusive play.

The whole play area will be fenced off and the space around the new equipment will have wet pour matting put down to encourage play for all.

Elsewhere on the park, our wooden eel basket climbing frame (close to the Boat Play Area) is being replaced with a rope climbing frame. This will also be surrounded wet pour matting. If all goes to plan, the improvements will be completed before the start of February Half term.

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.

The Café continues to be open 7 days a week, 8am-5pm. **Shropshire Council does have road surfacing work planned in January (19th Jan- 23rd Jan and 16th Feb-20th Feb).** The work does include resurfacing Chapel Lane, so keep a look at our Facebook and webpage to check opening times as it is possible the visitor centre may have to close at some points.

Susie Comaish, Visitor Centre Manager, Severn Valley Country Park

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, surrounding a small puppy. Concerned lest the boys were hurting it, he went to investigate. One boy explained, "We just found this puppy, and we all want him. So, we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to take him home."

The minister was taken aback. "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie? Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for a moment. The minister thought he had got through to them.

Then the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church set the ball rolling for Christmas parties on Saturday 6th December with craft, games, worship, story and, of course, a party tea complete with crackers!

We started off as usual with craft activities, decorating glittering stars and making a stand-up stable scene. You can see some of the stars decorating St. Mary's Church fastened to the ancient pillars. We also decorated the Messy Church Christmas tree. (*Photos on page 17*).

After the craft came the traditional games: musical chairs and pass the parcel. The music was loud and Christmassy and there was much excitement.

It was lovely to be reminded of the events of 2000 years ago when a young woman was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus our Saviour and to join in a catchy modern carol during the worship time.

Tea was, as expected at a party, with jelly and ice-cream. But that was not all. One of our helpers was celebrating his birthday and not one but two cakes with candles (thank you Jenny) were cut and shared after the birthday song had been sung.

So party over, we now look forward to our first Messy Church of 2026 which will take place on Saturday 3rd January from 3.00pm to 5pm. You can be sure that there will be more lovely craft activities and a great time of story and worship topped off by another delicious tea. All local children and their parents/carers will once again be welcomed at St. Mary's and it is free unless you feel you want to make a donation towards costs on the day.

Start a new family experience in the New Year and come and join in the fun. We would love to see you.

Penny Jenkins

FROM CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO PASTORS

I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. – Loreen, age 9, Tacoma

My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house. – Joshua, age 10, South Pasadena

Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class. – Carla, age 10, Salina



Stars (left) and decorated tree (right) from December Messy Church



Quatt Village Hall Burns Night Supper

Saturday 24th January 2026

Help us celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns

7.30pm – 10.30pm

£28 per person

**Includes the traditional Haggis, Neeps and Tatties;
Wee drams o' Whiskey for the Toasts.
(Other dietary requirements catered for)
Poems and Merriment also included.
Accompanied by Live Bagpipes and singing.**

**To book your place visit our local Box Office at
Quatt Farm Shop, or, purchase via the
Ticketsource button below.**



AS TIME GOES BY.....

As a New Year begins, do you suspect it is time to tone down your lifestyle?
Remember...

King David and King Solomon
Led merry, merry lives,
With many, many lady friends
And many, many wives;
But when old age crept over them,
With many, many qualms,
King Solomon wrote the Proverbs
And King David wrote the Psalms.

By James Ball Naylor

SUSTAINABILITY

As we begin another New Year, we may be reflecting on ways to improve our life. This year, why not consider resolutions that support your well-being as well as caring for the planet - a powerful way to create personal growth while generating ripples of positive change that extend beyond individual lives.

Small, thoughtful actions can make a significant difference. Where possible, consider cycling or walking instead of driving, which reduces your carbon footprint, and boosts your health. Embracing a more plant-based diet and/or one that supports sustainable, ethical farming practices can help sequester carbon, reduce emissions, support British farmers, and promote biodiversity. Grow your own veggies – even herbs in a window box - to enjoy homegrown goodness. Connect with nature; spending time outdoors gives us mental health benefits.

The average UK person produces around 400kg of waste annually and according to The Big Plastic Count findings, only 12% of plastic waste is recycled. So, another impactful resolution is to adopt zero-waste habits, such as using reusable coffee cups and water bottles, shopping at a local Refill Shop (Pantry Severn in Bridgnorth) and reducing use of disposable single-use items.

Mindful consumption—buying less, choosing quality over quantity, and repairing rather than discarding—can reduce landfill waste and energy use. Supporting local businesses also strengthens community resilience. Despite the failures of COP30, the Netherlands and Colombia will co-host the First International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in April, backed by twenty-two countries, highlighting global efforts to end reliance on oil, gas, and coal.

Closer to home, the 8.5-hectare ‘Old River Bed’ nature reserve in Shrewsbury has welcomed its first beaver kit signifying a major achievement for the Shropshire Beaver Project. Since their introduction in February 2025, the ‘ecosystem engineers’ Beryl and Bertie have been building small dams and rebuilding riverbanks, improving water flow, water quality, wetland vegetation and reducing flood risks. There is already more insect activity, and amphibian presence.

As we set resolutions for the year ahead, combining eco-friendly goals can empower us to live more harmoniously with the Earth. Whatever you choose - every resolution plants a seed for a healthier planet and a happier New Year. *Kath Norgrove*

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA JANUARY 2026

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
January 4	Isaiah 60.1-6 Wendy Aldwinckle	Matthew 2.1-12 Ian Maddock	Benoit Ritzenthaler	Dale Chidwick Carol Wall	Dale & Sue Chidwick	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
January 11	Matthew 2.13-17 Sue Chidwick				Pat Haw Lynn Madden	Anne & Laura Simms
January 18	Isaiah 49.1-7 Jackie Hampson	John 1.29-42 Penny Jenkins	Wendy Aldwinckle	Jackie Hampson Jenny Sirrell	Jenny Sirrell Carol Wall	David & Jackie Hampson
January 25	Matthew 4.12-23 David Hampson				Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Lynn Madden Sally Page Jenny Sirrell AFTER: Barbara Twigg Joyce Roberts

DIARY 2026

January 3	Messy Church, St. Mary's 3pm-5pm (p16,18)
5	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 14)
6	Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum, Pavilion 7.30pm (p8)
9	Alveley Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
9	Alveley Cricket Club AGM at Alveley CC (p 11)
9	Pickleball introductory session, Alveley Tennis Club 6.20pm (p 9)
16	Pickleball introductory session, Alveley Tennis Club 6.20pm (p 9)
16	Alveley Entertainers' film night, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 10)
17	Men's breakfast, Alveley Old Chapel 8.30am (p 5)
19	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall, 10am-1pm
19	Be Café, Alveley Old Chapel, 2pm-4pm
23	Alveley Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
24	Burns Night, Quatt Village Hall 7.30pm (p 17)
February 2	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall, 10am-1pm
3	Alveley CC Indoor nets start, Winterfold School (p 11)
13	Alveley Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
16	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall, 10am-1pm
17	St. Mary's Pancake morning, 10am-12 noon (p 5)
27	Alveley Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
March 13	Alveley Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
14	Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell, Folk music, Alveley Village Hall (p 8)
27	Alveley Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
April 14	Alveley CC registration & open evening, Alveley CC (p 11)



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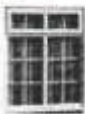
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Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper	780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg	780437
Alveley Day Centre	Sue Taylor 07973 343491	
Angela Lander 07952 172691 Pat Bowyer 07964 377840		
Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock	780936
Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill	780794
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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
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PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

Not long before the Christmas period my laptop literally fell apart, leaving me with two parts linked only by a few wires. Given that it was several years old and with a deadline to produce a magazine I decided that the quickest, and, given the cost of repairs, probably cheapest, option was to purchase a new laptop. A simple task, you may think.

Off I went to a large retailer of electrical goods and asked for some advice. An 'expert' was called for and a young man - quite possibly a Saturday lad - came across. I made it clear that I didn't do online gaming, stream films or anything requiring the latest hi-tech, simply something on which I could use the internet, and publish magazines and newsletters. The young man in question had other ideas and tried to convince me that I needed something highly sophisticated. When I suggested a much cheaper model, he said it would be out of date in about two years, to which I responded that, given my advancing years, two years might be more than enough for my needs! Not even a glimpse of a smile - no, I needed something much better. He put together a package coming to over £800 which included a new Microsoft Office. A further £80 was required to transfer data from old laptop to new. I was never going to buy that package and pointed out that as I already had a licence for Office I could transfer it and didn't need a new one. He was adamant that I did.

On leaving the store I called my son who, knowing the specification I would need, located within minutes - at another supplier - a laptop that would do the job. Cost? Just £268. I transferred my existing Office package to the new machine and grandson transferred data from old laptop to new at no cost. We got the bonus of a cuddle with great-granddaughter while he did it! I realised then that I could easily have done the transfer myself, so if there is ever a next time it will be easy to do it.

By purchasing what I needed and not what someone else thought I needed the saving was well over £500. There's a moral in there somewhere, maybe even the makings of a New Year's Resolution! Happy New Year.
Ian

Please send items for the **February edition by 9 am on Saturday January 17th** to the editor (email ianmaddock@btinternet.com or phone 01746 780936). For advertising please contact David Hampson (telephone 01746 780034 or emaildavid.hampson2025@gmail.com)



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