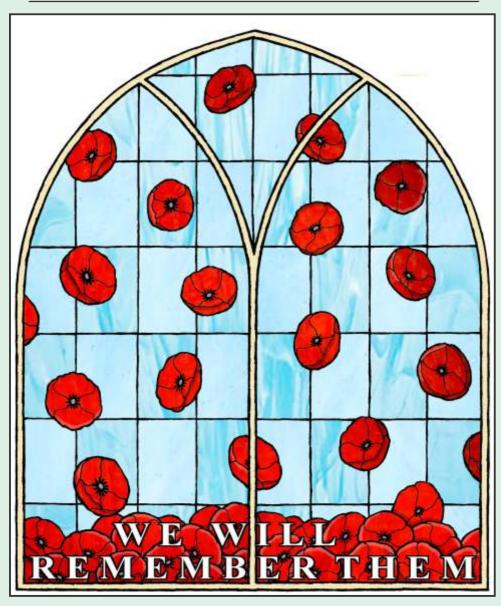
The Parish Magazine

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



NOVEMBER 2025

60p



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The Rector writes

Dear Friends,

November is the month of Remembrance. All Saints. All Souls. Remembrance Sunday. But our age has forgotten what it means truly to remember.

"Memory" is a quantity measured in Gigabytes on a computer, a smartphone or in a cloud. It has become a commodity, an "instant recall" of phone numbers and addresses that we no longer go to the effort of keeping in our mind.

We have lost the sense of "Memory" as a quality – a valuable part of who we are that we learn to appreciate all the more effectively through time, action and reflection.

To remember is to piece something back together again in our minds and our spirits and to do so in such a way that it leads to action, the making of a positive difference. When God "remembered" Noah and the animals afloat in the Ark, he did not lie back and smile. He did something. He drained the floodwaters! So when we "remember" the heroes of faith, or our own dear ones whom we see no more, or those who have fallen in armed conflict, we put into practice the qualities they demonstrated which continue to inspire us.

Many people when facing their final few weeks of life, may summon family to plan their funeral. A person I once spoke with about their funeral asked me to make sure "That we didn't shout so loud that God couldn't be heard!" At their funeral I spoke of how God spoke to the prophet Elijah not in the earthquake, wind or fire, but in the still, small voice. I spoke of how Jesus oversaw the resurrection of his friend Lazarus from the dead through the tenderness of the tears that he had first wept. And this decisive, world-changing gentleness was what this person wanted us to remember of God when we prayed.

Remembrance is, of course, at the heart of our Christian life – as, physically and spiritually, we remember Christ in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. God remembers us, too! As we make a positive act in offering our own memories before God at this time of year, we are invited to look with hope towards the future. The remembrance of Christ's death on the Cross is from the perspective of his resurrection – the opening of Heaven's gates – and a reminder that nothing and nobody is beyond the redeeming power of his vision, his love, mercy, forgiveness and reconciling hope.

To remember is not simply a passive moment of recollection – but to go forward inspired by a fresh sense of possibility, hope and new horizons.

Blessing

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	
Lay Pastoral Worker Wendy Aldwinckle, The Rectory, Alveley		01746 562159	
Safeguarding Officer	Jackie Hampson, South View, 23 Daddlebrook Rd	01746 780034	
	Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists		
Deacon Becky Lovat	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	Ann Lee , 7 Brook Hollow, Bridgnorth	01746 761138	
Treasurer	Steve Jones , 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster	01562 753828	
	From the Parish Register		

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

October 6 Gerald Scriven Wyre Forest Crematorium

For all church enquiries please visit our website

https://www.alveleyandquattchurches. In an emergency please call Rev Jon Aldwinckle (01746 562159)

For Alveley burial ground enquiries call Jenny Sirrell 07484806605

COVER PICTURE

November is the month of Remembrance, There will be services at St. Andrew's and at St. Mary's at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday November 9th.

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.

NOVEMBER SERVICES

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

Sunday November 2nd

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

Sunday November 9th

10.30 a.m. Remembrance Service St. Andrew's 10.30 a.m. Remembrance Service St. Marv's

Wednesday November 12th

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

Sunday November 16th

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

Sunday November 23rd

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 November 26th

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

Sunday November 30th

No services - St. Andrew's and St. Mary's will be open for prayer.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH HEATING

We just wanted to give you a quick update on the heating. As many of you will know the boiler in St Mary's broke down last winter and was unrepairable. We have now received an independent report. As the Church of England is trying to get to Carbon Neutral by 2030, we have had to take this into consideration. This means that the process will take longer and be expensive. The figure that we are looking at is between £105,000 and £150,000. This will ensure that your church is as near Carbon Neutral as we can make a Grade 2 listed building. As we have many guidelines to follow both within and outside the church this is not going to be a quick project. We need to make the correct decisions both for this generation and generations to come. We also need to spend time in trying to attract grants to cover the cost of the works. In the meantime, be assured that we are trying to make the church as comfortable as possible. We have purchased some electrical heaters and will be providing rugs and hot water bottles to those who attend our lovely church. We will keep you updated but be assured we have a group of people working extremely hard behind the scenes to move this project along as quickly and carefully as possible. We will update you when we have more information. Rev Jon & PCC.

ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

Have you ever wondered why the 11th month of the year is called November? Those of you who may have studied Latin will know that "Novem" means nine, so why isn't it the ninth month? Well, the Roman calendar consisted of 10 months beginning in March. Now of course we are used to a 12 month calendar but we still keep the 11th month as November.

Last month we held our annual Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall which raised £269. We managed to keep the cost down and the profit resulted from some things being donated and the raffle. I'm sure we are all aware that everything has risen in price recently. I thank all of you who donated, made desserts and gave raffle prizes.

Our Christmas lunch will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 17th December and tickets will be £15 to allow for the increased cost of buying the turkey. Please book your tickets by Monday 15th December at the latest.

We will be holding our Remembrance Service in church on Sunday 9th November at 10.30am prompt, followed by refreshments. The falling leaves make this a very poignant time of year. Let us never forget all those who have given their lives for the freedom we enjoy today and I hope that you will be able to join us to mark this very special commemorative occasion. I will give you a full list of our Christmas events in next month's magazine.

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
Nov 9	Job 19.23-27 Rita Vernon	Luke 20.27-38 Paula Tristham	Remembrance
Nov 23	Luke 23.33-43 Carole Hubbard		Wendy Aldwinckle
Nov 30	No service but church	open for prayer	

War is not an act of God but a crime of man. - Cordell Hull, former US Secretary of State

WHITTALL MEADOWS TRUST

The Trust's next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 26**th **November 2025** when the Trustees will be pleased to consider requests for financial support from village organisations.

Applications should be made in writing or by email to:

Jan Higgins, Clerk to the Whittall Meadows Trust

11 Mallards Close, Alveley, Bridgnorth, WV15 6JL

Email: jan.higgins@btinternet.com

Applications should arrive no later than 19th November 2025.

Applicants should be aware that the Trustees favour grants which support purchases of specific equipment or services rather than general running expenses. Applications should give full details of your project and its costs.

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Paula, Pat and Lynn would like to say a huge thank you to Harry for raffle donation and Stuart for organising it. As always, the people of Alveley supported us and £2168.41p was raised for Macmillan Cancer.

(A remarkable effort. Thanks to Paula, Pat and Lynn for making it possible. Editor)

ALVELEY CHARITY

Our remit is to provide relief for members of Alveley & Romsley Parishes, by making grants to reduce either need, hardship or distress.

Having absorbed an educational charity in the past, we also consider Educational assistance grants which are typically considered in our autumnal meeting.

For grant applications, you can contact me, Daryl Cooper by phone (01746-780378) or by email: alveleycharities@gmail.com, and I can advise on next steps. Daryl Cooper

ALVELEY VILLAGE BAND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Alveley Village Band will be putting on a Christmas concert at Alveley Village Hall on the afternoon of Saturday 20th December. This will also be a celebration of the Band's 35th anniversary. Performing Christmas classics, traditional carols and festive favourites there will be something for everyone.

Save the date! More details to follow.

Lisa Hadley, AVB Chair

ALVELEY & ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 4th November, starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. If you have any issues you would like to raise please come along for Open Forum at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing you, and you are welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting.

The following week on Tuesday 11th November at 11.00am we will be laying a wreath at the Memorial Planter at the top of Daddlebrook Road. We would love to see as many of you there as possible.

Isley Jakeman Chair Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.

LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils are leading the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), part of a national initiative to protect and restore nature, strengthen biodiversity and connect green spaces across England. The strategy aims to bring people, landowners and organisations together to make nature recovery part of everyday decision-making. You can find out more at https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/shropshire-and-telford-wrekin-local-nature-recovery-strategy/

What can we do at a parish level? The parish council wants to help bring together interested people and organisations by facilitating a Local Nature Recovery Working Group, working with neighbouring parishes and supporting the community to undertake practical projects. This might include habitat improvements, planting for pollinators or small community rewilding initiatives that make a real difference to local wildlife.

More information will follow about a date and venue for the first meeting and if you'd like to express an interest in getting involved with the group, please contact the parish clerk on clerk@alveleyandromsley-pc.gov.uk.

CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Join us on Monday 1st December 2025 at 6pm at Cooks Cross for our official Christmas Tree lights switch-on. We'll be marking the occasion with carols round the tree, led by a group of local singers, festive cheer and community spirit to start the season in style.

We'd love you to come along and be part of this special village celebration! Christine Brown, Vice Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council

Thanks for teaching me the meaning of 'Plethora'. It means a lot.

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

The Christmas Market this year will be held on Saturday 6th December, starting at 12 noon. There will be a wonderful variety of stalls this year, including tombola, local produce, handmade Christmas cards, small pocket money gifts, Country Park calendars, teddys and beautifully crafted items ideal for those special Christmas gifts. Refreshments will include delicious homemade soup and crusty bread, mince pies and hot drinks. In addition to the raffle Andrew and Brian will add to the festive mood with some live seasonal music and Christmas Carols. Entry is free and the money raised goes to local organisations and a variety of charities. Support your village hall and please come along to enjoy this popular traditional village event.

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

Sunday November 2nd. 'Quatt, The Puppet Musical'. Let's make the show right here in Quatt! A hands-on, hilarious, creative get-together where everyone can help create a new hit Musical.

In this event you'll get to make a puppet character to appear in a unique musical show that celebrates where you live. Please bring your own drinks. Food refreshments will be available to purchase.

Tickets Adults £12 children £6 Starts at 3pm

Sunday November 16th Quatt Christmas Craft and Present Fayre

Christmas isn't Christmas without a trip to a craft fayre ..So come to Quatt and browse some special treats, artisan gifts , woodwork, jewellery, handmade gifts, decorations and lots of delicious cakes.

Free entry. 10am - 4pm

Saturday 6th December Christmas Skittles Night.

Skittles, buffet and games. Please bring your own drinks. Starts 7pm. Adults £6, children 14 and under £4.

You can buy your tickets for the Puppet Musical and the Skittles Night from our Community Box Office at the Quatt Farm Shop.

Steph Hinton

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing the old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments."

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Christmas is coming early to Severn Valley Country Park. Severn Valley Country Park Supporter's Group Christmas Fair is happening on Sat 15th and Sunday 16th November (10am-3pm each day). Our volunteers are busy making wooden reindeers and snowmen. They will also have a Christmas cake to raffle and, of course, our Four Seasons 2026 Calendar will be available for sale. The calendar is also available at the village hall Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December as well as in the visitor centre (Monday to Friday). At our fair, there will be other stallholders selling beautiful felt mice (I bought 3 last year!), Christmas gifts, wood turned gifts, textile crafts, wooden walking sticks and more.

From the 15th November, the café will be getting in the Christmas spirit as well as they will start serving their festive afternoon teas. Give them a call on 01746 866734 for more details.

Our Wild Toddler sessions continue each Wednesday in November and in December we will be holding wreath making sessions (natural wreaths on Wed 3rd Dec and fabric/textile wreaths on Wed 10th Dec.)

The Severn Valley Country Park Wildlife Group have been sharing some phenomenal pictures on Facebook of the kingfishers. It's delightful to see them in such close detail. A recent one even showed the look of surprise on a fish's face as it was being eaten for lunch. Elsewhere our night-time cameras are showing sightings of an otter and also a roe deer buck.

The visitor centre, café and toilets are now open 7 days a week, 8am-5pm. We'd love to see you.

Susie Comaish, Visitor Centre Manager, Severn Valley Country Park Tel: 01746 781192 Visit <u>www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk</u>



Our next film night will be on Friday November 21st, 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 TENNIS CLUB

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY is being held at The Three Horse Shoes, Alveley on Wednesday December 17th, 7 for 7.30pm. The 2 course Christmas Meal is £29.95 per person. (The Menu can be viewed on our Facebook page).

The event has been arranged by our young player Abi Lawley. Can we all send her a £10 deposit asap plus your menu choice. Abi is always available at Alveley Tennis Club on Thursday evenings 7 to 9pm. At the time of writing 21 players have confirmed they are going to the party.

* Open Day for our 2 PICKLEBALL COURTS Coming Soon (Check our Face Book Page).

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

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

WEDNESDAYS: Rusty Racquets. Afternoons 12 till 12.45pm.

THURSDAYS: Tennis mixing, ladies & gents. Evenings, 7 to 9pm under flood-lights.

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

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

TENNIS LADDER - Contact Mark Skidmore on 07901 105163.

For Rusty Racquets, Junior Tennis Sessions or One To One Coaching contact Jack Fletcher 07496 177385.

For NEW MEMBERSHIP contact Ron Whitfield on 07816 322469.

For any other Information contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488.

Brian Davies

At our church, it was common for the minister to invite the children to the front of the church and have a small lesson before beginning the sermon. He would often bring in a household item, and then relate it to a teaching from the Bible. One morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector. My young son immediately raised his hand. "It means Daddy's cooking dinner.

LIVING HISTORY

Some months ago I was looking into stone crosses in churchyards. The one at St Mary's between the lych gate and the main entrance is now rather battered and not particularly unusual but there are others around the country that are very interesting. On another occasion when I was looking into ancient gravestones I came across some very rare Viking burials and noted that St Mary's in Gosforth in West Cumbria has examples of both the gravestones and a fascinating stone cross. The Vikings did come very near to Alveley and Quatt when in 895AD they settled for one winter near to Quatford. They were soon chased off by the Anglo Saxons and the only signs of their presence are the names Danesford and the pub called the Danery. The vikings did manage to settle in West Cumbria where it seems the Anglo-Saxons couldn't be bothered to scramble across the lake district to fight them. Christianity arrived in Cumbria by about 670AD and as the Vikings settled in the late 800s there developed a mix of pagan and Christian beliefs and this is reflected in the stone carvings and in the local language. Beck (stream) Fell (hill) Dale (valley) Tarn (small lake) and Thorpe (hamlet) are all Norse names. Now it just so happens that my daughter-in-law Heather originates from Cumbria and she said she'd be glad to show me the church at Gosforth. (The name comes from goose ford) We had a family holiday this year in the Lake district and after a particularly enjoyable day on the Ravenglass and Eskdale narrow gauge steam railway Heather led us to St Mary's Church Gosforth and this is where the revelations began. She first took us to her grandparents grave. Her grandmother ran the village post office for many years and apparently could easily have been the inspiration for Hyacinth Bucket (bouquet!) from the TV series 'Keeping up appearances'. She would answer the telephone with a loud "DOREEEEN" We were next shown the imposing 14 foot high stone cross which is unique in that it has Viking legends AND Christian teachings carved on its sides. It was carved around 940AD and although now rather worn a replica has been made so that the carving of the ash tree 'yggdrasil' which the Norse men believed supported the universe and the symbolic carvings of the Trinity can be seen clearly. There were originally 4 of these crosses but 2 were knocked down and a third was cut in half to be used as a sundial. Then onto the inside of the church where the two viking graves are displayed. These are called Hogback graves as they resemble the arch of a wild boar's back. They are the length of a man and just over 2 feet high and carved to look like a Viking long house. One grave is believed to be

that of a warrior and the other a saint. On the saint's stone is a carving of the last great battle in the Norse sagas between the Gods of good and evil and at each end is a crossless crucification. This symbolises God the son overcoming evil. On leaving the church I picked up a copy of 'A guide to St Mary's Church Gosforth' and read it when I got home and it is this rather plain and factual booklet that tells a salutory tale.

The original Saxon church built around 700AD was probably a wooden building with wattle and daub panels. However when the Normans arrived around 1100AD they knocked it down, stuffing the hogback stones into the foundations of a nice solid stone built church. The Normans were good builders and this church would have lasted. (They built Ludlow and Dudley castles among many others). But around 200 years later the good people of Gosforth wanted something better so they knocked it down and put up a grander affair. Then around 1789 they were not happy again so they knocked THAT ONE down but this time their ambitions outstripped their assets and although this church was bigger it was built with inferior materials. And so finally just over a hundred years later in 1896 they knocked THAT one down (well, most of it) and built the current rather unremarkable church. However! During this demolition they used dynamite to remove the foundations and it was at this point that the two Viking gravestones were discovered. Quite astonishingly the warriors stone is in very good condition, the carving being quite crisp and clear. The saint's stone has a chunk out of the top but is still readable and both historically significant stones are displayed in a prominent and well lit position. Fortunately you cannot ignore or erase history even if you try and as if to remind me of this my daughter-in-law's maiden name is Rudd which is from old English and possible norse meaning red or ruddy, her husband (my son Joseph) has ginger hair and their daughter Petra has blond hair and blue eyes, another sign of Norse heritage. As long as she doesn't turn into a berserker (a very violent Viking warrior) I'm happy although there's time yet, she's only 14 months old. Yours watchfully.

Roy Page

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God. The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

TALKING POINT

Being a councillor is never dull and quiet and the topics we are expected to respond to are extremely varied to say the least.

We can only be effective as councillors and get things done on your behalf if you engage with us. Tell us what your ideas are and what you think can improve your lives and communities, after all we are elected to serve you, not to tell you how to live your lives.

There are always items up for discussion and consultation, one currently that affects Bridgnorth is the future of the Innage Lane centre. At present it is closed. It has served as a meeting place for various groups and especially youth groups for many years. It does require some modernisation to bring it up to modern standards. However, we do not want to lose it altogether. Please talk to your local councillor if you know of any groups or society that are looking for a venue to use in the town and let us see collectively what we can provide.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is a very difficult area to manage and the councils portfolio holder Ruth Houghton does a sterling job in keeping everyone informed as to the latest developments. It is usually a topic that people (unless affected) do not spend any time thinking about and are somewhat surprised when they discover that it is a council responsibility. Along with looked after children it is a huge responsibility and indeed every councillor is a corporate parent and we have to take that responsibility very seriously.

Finally a plug for Foster Parenting. Shropshire Councill is looking for more Foster Carers in all areas of the county. If you have ever thought that you would like to consider it and not done anything about it, now is the time to do something. Just ring the council and ask to have an informal chat. It can be very rewarding.

Colin Taylor, Shropshire County Councillor for Bridgnorth South & Alveley

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

In September Hannah Chapman told us to 'love our weeds' as an alternative medicine.

Our November meeting will be a week earlier than usual and will be held on Monday 17th at 2.30pm in Alveley Village Hall. It will be a musical afternoon with Andrew Crabtree and Brian Nicholls. The theme will be Christmas. Do come and join us, anyone can come.

See you there on November 17th. Kath

MEN'S BREAKFAST

As I write this I am very much looking forward to our first Men's Breakfast on Saturday 18th October 8.30am and running every 3rd Saturday of the month in the Old Chapel Community Centre (opposite the turning to the Country Park)

"We men are not very good at talking to each other. That's something the women do much better".

So, what is Men's Breakfast?

On the face of it, it will hopefully be men from our community meeting up monthly for a hearty cooked breakfast.

We will enjoy a full English breakfast. Hopefully we will talk, share thoughts and opinions, share news and what is going on in our lives. We may even laugh and smile. We will have a guest speaker who will share their own lives and even stories of faith. The breakfast is intended to be a very pleasant vehicle that allows us to share and to get to know each other better. Why? Because some men, me included, find it difficult to talk, to share and to form new friendships.

Come along give it a try, cost is donations only.

Our November Men's Breakfast will be on 15th, if you didn't make it in October you are more than welcome to join us in November.

Rev Jon

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man with no family or friends. The service was to be at a cemetery some distance away. As I was not familiar with the area, I got lost and finally arrived an hour late. The funeral director and hearse were long gone. There were only the diggers left and they were eating lunch. I went to the side of the grave and looked down. The lid was partially covered with soil. The diggers stared at me over their sandwiches, and I sensed their reproach that I had deserted this dead man in his final hour of need. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The diggers looked quite startled at this, and put down their lunches. But they stood quietly enough while I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to

weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost....

ALVELEY ART GROUP

Thanks to everyone who came along to see our Artwork at the weekend. We had a reasonable turnout considering the horrible weather! We are able to send donations to four charities which are Cancer Research UK, Diabetes UK, Brain Diseases and Animals Asia, thanks for making this possible.

Don't forget you can join us every other Monday (Black bin day) from 10am-1pm in the Village Hall at a small cost of £3 which pays the rent for the Hall and refreshments. Jane Hunt





ALVELEY CHRISTMAS MARKET



In the Village Hall

12.00 onwards SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER

Tombola, crafts, produce, gifts, cards, raffle

Homemade soup, mince pies, hot drinks

Live Christmas music

MESSY CHURCH

The theme for Messy Church in October was Harvest – a time when we give thanks for all those who help produce our food & tend the land, and for all God's blessings on us.

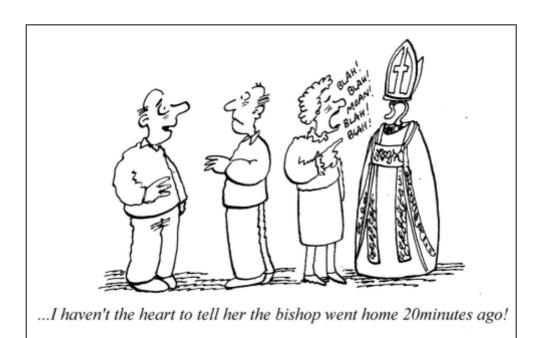
The autumn season, with its beautiful colours was reflected in the crafts. The children made light-catcher leaves which they hung on a display of falling leaves over the pulpit. This also formed the back drop for the food collected at Messy Church and the Sunday Harvest Festival service; this was all donated to Bridgnorth food bank.

After listening to the story of Creation, the children and parents tucked into pizzas which they had made earlier, and cakes which they had decorated. The next Messy Church is on Saturday 1st November at 3pm; all the children of Alveley and Quatt are welcome with their parents or carers. We will be remembering that Jesus is the Light of the World. *Alison Pearson*









SUSTAINABILITY

A recent archaeological tour of ancient Greek sites highlighted structures dating back as early as the late Bronze Age Mycenaean Greece (2000-1200 BC) to the more recent Classical period (500-336 BC) when Athens and Sparta became the dominant city-states. Even the oldest sites featured rich palatial citadels, built with massive 'Cyclopean' fortification walls, architectural design, urban organisation, works of art, and writing systems.

The Greeks gave us many things: their political system influenced today's democratic societies worldwide; the Olympic Games, initiated in Ancient Greece (with the modern Olympic Games revitalised by the Dr William Penny Brookes' local Wenlock Games) remain a global celebration of sportsmanship and competitive spirit; there were cultural contributions with drama, comedy and tragedy acted out on those early amphitheatres; education and philosophical thinking, shaping modern perspectives. As I write this, a ceasefire has been announced in Gaza, echoing the territorial disputes of ancient times. Power was concentrated in the hands of a few wealthy elites, sidelining the majority, while corruption plagued ancient politicians, just as it does today. Some things never change!

One lesson from the Ancient Greeks is the importance of environmental stewardship. They implemented sustainable methods, like crop rotation and the use of olive oil, and demonstrated an awareness of soil health in their farming methods. Their philosophical concepts often emphasised balance and harmony with nature. Additionally, they worshipped various deities linked to natural elements, which may have encouraged a sense of stewardship. Aristotle was also the first to propose that living organisms develop gradually, an idea that foreshadowed later evolutionary theories. He categorised animals based on shared characteristics and meticulously categorised over 500 animal species, establishing a systematic approach to observation that underpins the scientific method today.

In modern news, renewable energy has made history by surpassing coal as the world's leading electricity source. The UK government plans to introduce a law to permanently ban fracking, a controversial method for extracting gas from underground shale rock. A groundbreaking rewilding project in Lincolnshire is ready to rejuvenate around 1500 acres of exagricultural land, using beavers, pigs, cattle, and ponies to restore the natural habitat and air pollution levels in the capital have fallen within legal limits for the first time, showcasing improvements in urban air quality.

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2nd Reading	Luke 19.1-10 Penny Jenkins	Luke 20.27-38 Ian Maddock	Luke 21.5-19 Alison Pearson	
1st Reading	Isaiah 1.10-18 Colin Taylor	Job 19.23-27 Steve Kerry	Malachi 4.1-2 Sue Chidwick	Luke 23.33-43 Laura Simms
Date	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23

DIARY 2025

Nov. 1	Messy Church, St Mary's, 3pm-5pm (p 17,18)
2	'Quatt, The Puppet Musical', Quatt Village Hall 3pm (p 9)
4	Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum, Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 8)
10	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 16)
11	Wreath laying at Memorial Planter, top Daddlebrook Road 11am (p 8)
14	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
15	Quatt Craft & Present Fayre, Quatt Village Hall 10am-4pm (p 9)
15 & 16	S.V.C.P. Supporters' Group Christmas Fair, SVCP 10am - 3pm (p 10)
15	Men's breakfast, Old Chapel 8.30am. (p 15)
17	Be Café, Old Chapel 2pm-4pm (p 17)
21	Alveley Entertainers Film Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 10)
24	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 16)
28	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
December 1	Carols & Lighting of Christmas Tree, cooks Cross 6pm (p 8)
3	Wreath making, SVCP (p 10)
5	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
6	Christmas Market, Alveley Village Hall, 12 noon start (p 9,16)
6	Christmas Skittles, Quatt Village Hall 7pm (p 9)
8	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm (p 16)
10	Wreath making, SVCP (p 10)
17	Ladies' Guild, Alveley Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 14)
17	Alveley Tennis Club Christmas Party, Three Horseshoes 7 for 7.30 (p 11)
19	Chapel Crafters, Alveley Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
20	Alveley Village Band Christmas concert, Alveley Village Hall (p 7)



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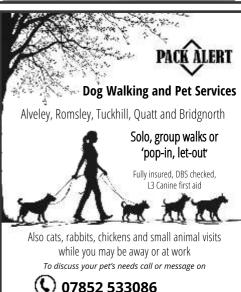
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PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

First the good news: on October 3rd it was announced that Sarah Mullally would be the new Archbishop of Canterbury elect. Bear in mind, though, that Justin Welby had resigned on November 12th 2024, though his last day as Archbishop was about eight weeks later, January 6th. Whether you calculate from November 12 or January 6, it still seems an inordinately long period. Compare that with the death of Pope Francis on April 21st and the installation of Pope Leo on May 18th - one day short of four weeks later.

Now the bad news: Sarah Mullally will not legally become Archbishop until January 28th and will be enthroned only in March. Depending whether you count from November 12th 2025 or January 6th that will be a process of between 14 and 16 months. The mind boggles at the speed of the process!

I wish her well in her new rôle, she has an impressive C.V. but she will certainly have her work cut out - and that's before you even think about the fact that the Church of England allows some churches and clergy to not recognise women's ordination, let alone bishops. There are what are known as 'flying bishops' who provide pastoral oversight for clergy who do not accept the ordination of women.

Perhaps the new Archbishop will be able to spare a thought for parishes, giving support to their clergy and communities, something that sadly seems to have gone missing over recent years from the C of E's leadership. Instead of jumping onto all sorts of dubious bandwagons perhaps we can get back to basics: ministering to its flock in parishes throughout the land and further afield.

Good luck, Sarah - I wish you well. I think you will need our prayers. Ian

Please send items for the **December edition by 9 am on Monday November 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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