

The Parish Magazine

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



APRIL 2025

60p



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The Rector writes

Dear Friends

I wonder if you have ever waited anxiously for something to arrive. Maybe it's a gift you have ordered for someone for a special occasion? Maybe it's a significant day in your calendar like a holiday or a birthday or a concert for which you have tickets? Maybe it's a wedding or the birth of a child and there's a sense that when this day arrives things will never be the same again.

As Christians journey through the season of Lent it can seem like a long season. Although the days are getting brighter, the weather is often cold and wet. You perhaps miss those little creature comforts you may have given up for Lent. You long for the day you believe to be significant, the dawn of Easter and all that the day means and symbolises in human experience. As we look forward to that day, I wonder what it means for you or to you? Is it about an opportunity to get together with family and friends? Is it about hope breaking through after a season in the wilderness? Is it about light breaking through the darkness or about Jesus rising from the dead? What difference does this make to our ordinary everyday lives in 2025? What impact might it have on our children or grandchildren?

If you've never thought much about it before or attempted to explain it to someone else, it can be a bit tricky to unpack. When I talk to other people who know what I do, they are conscious in many cases that Easter is a busy time in the life of a church. When I try to describe it, I usually talk about it as an experience. If you have always lived your life without any reference to God or Jesus it doesn't necessarily make a great deal of sense to you. It's only when you come along and try to understand it and why it might be significant, that things start to happen that might be hard to explain.

In the life of our church, Easter is quite an immersive experience. We can't force anyone to come on the journey but if people engage with the events of the last week of Jesus' life (what we usually call Holy Week) they rarely remain unmoved and often they are changed.

Why not come to something during Holy Week (13th – 20th April)? Please see our list of services and events on page 5. These will not only reflect on some of the key moments in that week for Jesus of Nazareth and their significance, but they will also offer an opportunity to think about our own lives.

We will be welcoming guests to come and share something of their journey from Psalm Sunday to Easter Day. They might describe the difference it has made to have a sense of God's presence or what their life looks like as a result of that decision to follow Jesus.

On Good Friday we have a special creative morning starting at 10.30am for people of all ages (see page 17) and in the afternoon a special quiet meditative service starting at 2.00pm.

On Easter Day there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30am.
(Continued on page 5)

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 Lovatt	01299 826641
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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 Registers

Funerals	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life.'</i>	
February 27	James Gustavus Hamilton-Russell	Emstrey Crematorium
March 6	Ann Hill	Gornal Wood Crematorium
March 11	Mabel Anne Fox	Wyre Forest Crematorium
Interment of Ashes		
March 7	James Gustavus Hamilton-Russell	St. Andrew's, Quatt
Service of Thanksgiving		
March 7	James Gustavus Hamilton-Russell	St. Mary's

COVER PICTURE

St. Andrew's at dawn.
Photo by Anne Edwards

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.

It would be very special to invite people along to some of these services. If you have family members or friends who are curious about spiritual things, church during Holy Week and Easter is reflective, thought-provoking and brings up all sorts of things for us.

I know many people who don't consider themselves to be churchgoers but who make a point of popping in for a while on Good Friday to have some quiet and thinking time.

Please spread the word and let people know they are welcome.

May you all have a blessed peaceful Easter.

Rev Jon

APRIL SERVICES

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

Sunday April 6

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

Wednesday April 9

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

Sunday April 13 Palm Sunday

10.30 a.m. Procession from Old Chapel for Communion at St. Mary's

Monday April 14

6.30 p.m. The way of the Cross St. Mary's

Thursday April 17 Maundy Thursday

7.00 p.m. Simple supper and washing of feet St. Mary's

Friday April 18 Good Friday

10.30 a.m. Activity morning (see page 17) St. Mary's

2.00 p.m. Hour at the cross St. Mary's

Sunday April 20 Easter Day

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

Wednesday April 23

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

Sunday April 27

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

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

When I write my piece for the magazine I look back to see what I wrote last year. It seems that my cherry tree was in blossom in early April but at the moment there is no sign of the beautiful pink flowers. I have really enjoyed the warm sunny days in early March but the recent cold spell has been less inviting and maybe by the time you read this it will indeed be a bit warmer. The recent rugby Six Nations has kept us on tenterhooks though and England versus Wales was a most satisfying game to watch (apologies to any Welsh people reading this!).

If you have visited the churchyard recently you will have noticed that the moles have invaded! We will try and discourage them and if you have any suggestions please let me know what works.

Next month we will be marking the 80th anniversary of V E Day. We have a small combined village committee in the process of arranging a tea party in the village hall with a lovely buffet (you may be relieved to know that we are not making spam sandwiches!). We are hoping to have entertainment for the adults and children so do come along to this special event on Sunday 4th May from 2pm - 4.30pm. More details will be in next month's magazine. On Thursday 8th May we will hold a ceremony in St Andrew's church during which we will be lighting the Lantern of Peace. We are hoping to ring the bells and I will let you know the time of the service in next month's magazine. As we continue our journey through Lent our minds turn to Holy Week, Good Friday and ultimately Easter Sunday.

We normally have holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month but this year we will be joining our friends at St Mary's for their Palm Sunday Holy Communion service which will begin at the Old Chapel. The time is in St Mary's service list.

We will also be joining St Mary's for our Easter Day service. Please come along. I know that you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter. *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
April 13 Palm Sunday	United service at	St Mary's	
April 20 Easter Day	United service at	St. Mary's	
April 27	John 20: 19-31 Carol Hubbard		Ann Lee

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council is on Tuesday 1st April in The Pavilion. The meeting starts at 7.30pm with Open Forum, your opportunity to raise village issues of concern to you. The agenda will be on the notice boards prior to the meeting.

Isley Jakeman, Chairperson, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.

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

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

Annual Village Quiz, Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm. There is still time for last minute entries so if your group or organisation would like to take part please contact me on the number below. 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. Please bring your own drinks and brain boosting nibbles and tea and coffee will be provided in the interval. For further information, or an entry form, please contact me on 780 478 or n.crabtree@yahoo.co.uk

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 17th April at 8pm. 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

WHITTALL MEADOWS TRUST

The Trust's next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 28th May 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 **21st May 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.

MESSY CHURCH

On the first Saturday in March, Messy Church focussed on the Temptation of Jesus. Before he started his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying. The devil came to Him with three temptations, all of which he resisted. God's angels then tended to all his needs.

During the craft making time, the children made a collage of the story. In the praise and story time, they retold what had happened using picture cards they had decorated, creating a large story board. Both of these are on display in St. Mary's Church.

We finished the afternoon with a special tea of hot pork rolls with stuffing and apple sauce, followed by pancakes. No one went home hungry!

On Saturday, April 5th, Messy Church will be looking ahead to Easter. We meet at 3pm, all are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Alison Pearson

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Over the winter, our volunteers have been working on an artificial Kingfisher nesting bank as an addition to our wetlands. Chairman Dave Hack and volunteer Paul Wright have kindly told us more about the project.

"The Kingfisher nesting bank has been dedicated to the memory of volunteer Colin Jevons who sadly passed away in December 2024. Colin played a key role in the project and will be sadly missed by all at the Country Park.

Some years ago there were discussions between volunteers and rangers about creating an artificial kingfisher nesting bank at the back of the wetland pool. Unfortunately the pandemic came and other projects took precedence. The idea was shelved until early 2024 when it was revisited, mainly due to the fact that kingfishers were continually present in the wetlands.

An initial investigation was conducted by volunteer Colin Jevons who presented his findings to the volunteer committee in April and it was agreed the volunteers would fund the project if it was determined to be feasible. Colin was tasked with further research, and aided by Mal Groombridge, a detailed design and associated costs were presented to the committee. The go-ahead for the project was given in September 2024. Building started the following month with Colin as the project lead, and it was completed at the end of February 2025, just in time for kingfisher mating season. The build was the most difficult the volunteers have undertaken at the Park and it was not helped by the very wet weather conditions, especially to the deteriorating track used to transport the materials into the wetlands. The build consisted of 15 tons of sand, some of which was mixed

(continues on page 9)

with 375kg of cement to fill over 250 sandbags. Three cement boards (1200mm x 800mm) were fitted to the front of the nesting bank with 2 access holes connected by man made tunnels to 2 terracotta nest chambers. These were all supported by aluminium and recycled plastic frameworks. The top was completed with hardwood chippings, topsoil and a scattering of grass seed.

The total manual effort was in excess of 600 volunteer hours, plus significant time and effort from Guy Border, the ranger who moved the 15 tons of sand from delivery point to the build area. It is now a case of fingers crossed and hope that all the volunteers and rangers efforts result in kingfishers nesting in the man-made nesting bank."

During April, the cafe and visitor centre will be open Wednesday to Sunday and the toilets will be open daily. The boat play area should reopen in April. All the new equipment is in the ground and the fencing has started to be installed with the new all-weather surface going in at the end of March.

During April, our car park costs will be changing. It will be £2.50 to park, however long you are staying. Parking is still free before 10am and after 4pm as our charging hours will remain 10am-4pm. In addition, the annual car parking permit will be increasing from £35 to £45. The permit lasts 12 months from the day of purchase and covers parking for 2 vehicles at our Alveley and Highley car parks. If you buy an annual permit, and visit us at least once a week, your parking cost will be the equivalent of 87p per visit. All income generated from car parking costs does help maintain the high standards at the Country Park

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

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday 8th April, International Women's Day, 2pm - 4pm. There will be a free taster class on personal safety. This is a 2 hour free trial with qualified female trainers and women only spaces. It is aimed at increasing fitness, raising self-esteem and building self confidence and self awareness.

For more information please contact Amanda Kenny on 07585604925 or email Wellbeingtogether@gmail.com.

V.E. Day event, May 4th. Quatt Parish Council is looking to bring the community together for a VE celebration on Sunday 4th May 2025. As part of that Mathew Purchase of Quatt Village Hall is putting together an exhibition of war time and farming memorabilia of that period. If anyone would like to share their family history contact Mat on 07368800786 or email on spitfirehangar@email.com

Steph Hinton

People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing. - Will Rogers

ALVELEY ART GROUP

Don't forget....the Art Group meets every other Monday (black bin day), in the Village Hall from 10am to 1pm. Our April dates are 14th and 28th, and in May it will be 12th.

We'd love to see you at our friendly sessions which cost just £3. Our exhibition this year will be on October 11th and 12th where we hope to raise funds for chosen charities.

Jane Hunt 01746 780280

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

SPECIAL OFFER - to NEW MEMBERS JOINING NOW! It's been agreed by the Committee that if new members join between now and the end of May you will be offered the chance to pay up to May 2026 and you will be given the rest of the season free of charge. (Play free until June when you sign up for the next membership season) .

Due to the huge increase of new members it's also been agreed that membership fees will stay the same for the second year running.

We welcome ladies, gentlemen, juniors and family memberships of all ages and from beginners and improvers to experienced tennis players.

At present we have an increase in lady members of all ages .

* Don't Miss FREE ADULT TENNIS COACHING on Fridays May 16th and May 23rd. Open to members and non members 6.20 pm to 7pm for coaching and afterwards people can stay and play tennis. These are going to be 2 busy evenings. Book your place now by ringing our professional tennis coach Jack Fletcher on 07496 177385 or email Jack.fletcher.1302@gmail.com

* We have 3 all-weather floodlit tennis courts and we play all through the winter (day or evening).

* 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) 10am to 12 mid day .

For further information contact Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488 or Jan Higgins 01746 780259 or Email Jan.higgins@btinternet.com.

Brian Davies

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Bridgnorth held its first Repair Café on 1st March (10am - 1pm) at St James's Church Hall, focusing on fixing small electrical items and textiles. 29 items were successfully repaired on the day. Attendees had the option to enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit while their item was being fixed, or to learn how to repair it from the volunteer. Repair Cafés help reduce landfill waste, save money, and share skills. The plan is to hold these events quarterly at first, with the possibility of increasing their frequency if there is enough demand. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact: bridgnorthrepaircafe@gmail.com.

'Pantry Severn' at Lasyard House is a new low-waste refill shop in Bridgnorth, taking over from 'Our Green Shop'. They will be offering a range of products (including organic and locally supplied) to refill your pantry without extra packaging. They will be open weekdays from 10am to 6pm (5.30pm on Mondays), with a convenient car park outside. Furthermore, they will soon be opening an in-house deli, offering lunches made with locally sourced ingredients.

For their March meeting, Sustainable Bridgnorth held a film showing of 'The Economics of Happiness'. This award-winning and inspiring documentary explains the social, spiritual, and environmental costs of globalisation, while also showing the many advantages of focusing on local economies. The hour-long full or 20 minute abridged versions can be watched for free on YouTube. April 22nd is Mother Earth Day. Countries that are part of the Paris Agreement will soon share their updated climate plans, known as Nationally Determined Contributions. Experts believe these plans could lead to significant green growth and attract trillions of dollars in investment. They could also help reduce poverty, improve health, boost food security, and increase access to energy. Additionally, the 196 countries that agreed to the Convention on Biological Diversity (including Russia but not the US) have pledged to raise at least \$200 billion (£155 billion) annually by 2030. This funding will support developing nations in their efforts to protect biodiversity.

Kath Norgrove

Germany is now advising its citizens to stock up on sausage and cheese. This is called the Wurst Käse scenario.

HUMANS IN SHROPSHIRE

The earliest prehistoric evidence of humans in Shropshire are some scrapers and other implements made of local pebble flint. They are found chiefly in the Worfield, Claverley and Alveley parishes. They probably date from around 4000 BC and would have been used by semi-nomadic tribes of hunter-gatherers. By about 2000 BC there were settled communities in most parts of Shropshire and there is plenty of evidence of these bronze age people. Stone circles, burial mounds called barrows and dug-out canoes have been found. The most visible evidence in Shropshire are the county's 25 or so hill forts. These were really more hill towns and became prominent in the Iron age around 600 BC. There is one on the Wrekin which would have held around a 1000 people and another on the Brown Clee. Shropshire would have been ruled by the Wrekin tribe called the Cornovii. However in AD 43 the Romans arrived and by about AD 50 they were in the West Midlands and by AD 57 were establishing their base at Wroxeter. The indigenous Britons were gradually pushed westwards and it is believed that the ancient Cornish and Welsh languages along with that of the Bretons in Brittany and the now extinct Cumbrian language are all derived from the original Celtic language. The Romans were writers so we have a good idea where they lived and what they did. Julius Caesar mentions Jesus and the Druids on Anglesey but not Alveley, although we know they were in the region with a small base at Chesterton near Worfield and a river crossing near Quatford.

When the Romans went back to Italy in 460 AD to sort out their own problems the vacuum was filled by the Anglo-Saxons and we enter the Dark ages so called because they didn't write anything down so we're in the dark about what they got up to. We do know that around 690 AD Christianity had reached Shropshire and the monastery at Much Wenlock was established. Then in 1066 the Normans invaded and at last we got some good records. In 1086 William the conquerer sent out his clerks (scriveners) to document the lands and the people and their possessions. Our village is called Alvidelege, there were 13 households consisting of 8 villagers (with wives and children presumably 4 smallholders with the same and one priest. There were 9 ploughlands. A ploughland is the area of land ploughed for sowing crops such as wheat and would be about 15 acres. There was 6 acres of meadows and some woodland. 6 Men's plough teams and 2 Lords plough teams. A plough team was normally about 8 oxen tied together in pairs.

Oxen are simply male cattle castrated to calm them down to become workable. The Lord at the time was one Earl Algar, a saxon, and he is recorded as having 155 places before the conquest and 0 afterwards. His father was Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his mother was Lady Godiva. She who rode through the streets of Coventry naked after her husband said if she did so he would not raise taxes on the locals. The other person mentioned is Earl Roger of Shrewsbury. He had 0 properties before the conquest and 281 afterwards. He was given these for helping William. His son was Robert de Belleme who built Bridgnorth castle without the King's permission and had it taken off him and given to Guy LeStrange, another of the Kings favourites. It was he who founded St Mary's in 1140. There are 3 more pieces of evidence. Alveley derives from Alvidelege which comes from Aelfythes ley a saxon woman's name. (a ley is a field or clearing). The layout of buildings at the top of the village suggests that it started as a small saxon settlement. The Saxons were builders in wood and there was probably a church, the head man's house with farm attached and a few of his followers living close by all inside a small enclosure or stockade roughly the size of the upper churchyard and the car park in front of the church. Livestock would have to be brought in at night as there were still wolves and bears in the huge forest that surrounded the village. The buildings would have been single story and about the size of a large garage but as local squabbles settled down a village would start to expand and I suspect if we could dig underneath the nearby farms we would find evidence of original saxon settlements. And finally, the landscape around Lowe Lane and the farm there show signs of being the most ancient in the parish. Many of the fields have banked boundaries and there is evidence of old ridges and furrows in these fields. The name 'Lowe' derives from the Anglo-Saxon 'Hlaw' which means a burial mounds, tumulus or barrow. This place is therefore associated with the earliest Anglo-Saxon occupation of the area.

Roy (no Anglo-Saxon please) Page

The passenger tapped the taxi driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the car, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!"

The passenger apologised and said he hadn't realised that a little tap would scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a taxi driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

As we head into the new season, Alveley Cricket Club is excited to announce a range of upcoming events and activities for the whole community to enjoy. Whether you're a seasoned cricketer, a social member, or just looking for a fun day out, there's something for everyone at Four Oaks Ground.

Cricket Season Starts - Saturday 12th April Our cricket season kicks off on Saturday 12th April, and we're looking forward to an exciting summer of matches and community involvement.

Women's Softball Cricket - Starts Thursday 1st May at 6:30pm Our women's softball cricket sessions are back and open to players of all abilities. It's a fantastic way to stay active, socialise, and have fun in a relaxed environment.

Family Fridays - Start Friday 2nd May at 6:30pm Our popular 'Family Fridays' will be back throughout the summer. These evenings will feature cricket and multi-sport activities for children and families, providing a fantastic opportunity to get active, have fun, and meet new friends in a welcoming environment.

Race Night - Friday 16th May Join us for an evening of excitement and entertainment at our Race Night. It's a fantastic social event with plenty of chances to win, and all proceeds go towards supporting the club.

Facility Hire Our facilities are available to hire for parties, christenings, and events. If you choose to have the bar open, the venue is free to hire — making it the perfect choice for your next celebration.

Get Involved Whether you want to play cricket, support from the sidelines, or volunteer, we'd love to hear from you. Alveley Cricket Club is a proud part of our community, and your involvement helps us continue to thrive.

For more information, visit our website or follow us on social media. We look forward to welcoming you to Four Oaks!

Sustainability at Four Oaks: Investing in Our Environment

At Alveley Cricket Club, we're committed to making a positive impact on our community and the environment. We're excited to announce that solar panels are being installed at our Four Oaks Ground as part of our ongoing efforts to improve sustainability and reduce our carbon footprint.

Why solar panels? By harnessing renewable energy from the sun, these panels will help power our facilities more efficiently, reducing our reliance on traditional energy sources. This investment will not only cut our energy bills but also contribute to a cleaner, greener future for the club and our community.

Environmental benefits:

- Lower carbon emissions
- Reduced energy consumption
- Sustainable energy generation for years to come

Supporting our community: This project aligns with our commitment to improving our facilities while caring for the environment. By lowering our running costs, we can reinvest those savings back into club activities, ensuring we continue to provide accessible sports and social opportunities for all.

Exclusive member offer: What's more, the company installing the solar panels is offering a 20% discount for Alveley Cricket Club members. This is a fantastic opportunity to embrace renewable energy at home while supporting a business that's investing in our community.

We're proud to be taking steps towards a more sustainable future and thank our members, supporters, and partners for helping us make this happen.

Get involved: Volunteer opportunities We're always looking for volunteers to help maintain our beautiful Four Oaks Ground. Opportunities include assisting with ground maintenance, caring for flower beds, and general upkeep. It's a fantastic way to put something back into the community, meet new people, and support your local cricket club. *Richard Twigg*

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB FIXTURES APRIL & MAY 2025

Sat April 19 1st XI v Old Elizabethans 3rd XI (H) 12 noon
2nd XI v Harborne 3rd XI (A) 12 noon

Sat April 26 1st XI v Himley 3rd XI (A) 12 noon
2nd XI v Himley 4th XI (H) 12 noon

Sat May 3 1st XI v Stourbridge 3rd XI (H) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Enville 2nd XI (A) 12.30pm

Wed May 7 Midweek XI v Wyre Forest (H) 6.15pm (T 20 Midweek Cup)

Sat May 10 1st XI v Claverley (A) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Stone (H) 12.30pm

Wed May 14 Midweek XI v Stone (H) 6.30pm (T 20)

Sat May 17 1st XI v Bromsgrove 3rd XI (H) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Halesowen 4th XI (A) 12.30pm

Wed May 21 Midweek XI v Oldswinford (A) 6.30pm (T 20)

Sat May 24 1st XI v Belbroughton 2nd XI (A) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Romsley & Hunnington 2nd XI (H) 12.30pm

Wed May 28 Midweek XI v West Hagley (H) 6.30pm (T 20)

Sat May 31 1st XI v Hanley Castle & Upton 1st XI (H) 12.30pm
2nd XI v Netherton 3rd XI (A) 12.30pm



ST. MARY'S PANCAKE MORNING

A very big thanks to everyone who came to support us at the Pavilion, especially to the Head of School, teachers and children of Alveley School. It was wonderful to see and hear the excitement of the children as they enjoyed their pancakes!

Thank you to everyone who helped, provided cakes, raffle prizes, books and bric a brac, it was very much appreciated. The photo shows a few of the volunteers in the kitchen who made the event possible. *Jenny Sirrell*





Friday 18th
April
At 10:30am

**CREATIVE MORNING at
ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
ALVELEY**



Make an Easter Garden

Hear the Easter Story



Hot Cross Buns, refreshments

*All are welcome, children under 18 years
must be accompanied by an adult*

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

Our February meeting was a craft afternoon with Barbara Branch, a very entertaining and popular lady who had visited us several times before. A fun afternoon was had by all and it was so nice to see several ex WI members present. The March meeting has not taken place at the time of writing, so there is no information on that yet.

Emma Spencer will tell us all about the Women's Land Army at our April meeting which I'm sure will be very interesting and informative.

We meet on the 28th April at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome.

Come and enjoy the company of like minded ladies with no commitment.

Kath Bishop

SHARING THE EASTER STORY WITH THE HELP OF AN EGG

There are 80 million Easter eggs being sold in the UK this year, but The Real Easter Egg is unique.

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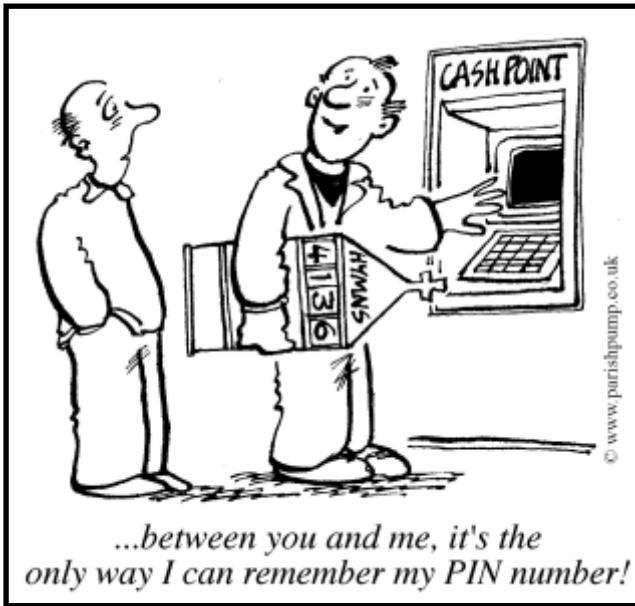
THIS WEEK'S CHART TOPPERS

No.1 *Some day my prints will come. The photographer's song.*

No.2 *There'll never be another ewe. The shepherd's song.*

Don Bannister

(Please let me have your suggestions. Editor)



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Nikki.Cheek@hotmail.co.uk for further details.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA APRIL 2025

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

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions	Chalice	Welcomers	Refreshments
April 6	Isaiah 43.16-21 Keith Pearson	John 12.1-8 Wendy Aldwinckle	Benoit Ritzenthaler	Dale & Sue Chidwick	David & Jackie Hampson	Anne & Laura Simms
April 13 Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9 Colin Taylor	Luke 23.1-49 Alison Pearson	Wendy Aldwinckle	Alison Pearson Carol Wall	Diana Kennedy Carol Wall	Alison & Keith Pearson
April 20 Easter Day	Acts 10.34-43 Liz Bullas	Luke 24.1-12 Jackie Hampson	Penny Jenkins	Jackie Hampson Keith Pearson	Pat Haw Lynn Madden	Irene Orford Pat Bowyer
April 27	John 20.19-31 Laura Simms				Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Sally Page Pat Haw Lynn Madden Jenny Sirrell

DIARY 2025

- April 1** Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 7)
5 Alveley CC Get Set weekend, Cricket Club from 10am
5 Messy Church, St Mary's, 3pm-5pm (p 16)
5 Alveley Village Quiz, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 7)
8 Personal safety class for International Women's Day, Quatt V.H. (p 9)
11 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
12 Alveley Cricket Club season starts (see fixture list on p 15)
14 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 10)
17 Alveley Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm (p 7)
18 Creative morning, St Mary's 10.30am (p 17)
21 Be Café, Alveley Old Chapel 2pm-4pm (p 16)
25 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
28 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 10)
28 Alveley Ladies' Guild, Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 18)
- May 1** Women's Softball Cricket starts, Alveley Cricket Club (p 14)
2 Family Fridays at Alveley Cricket Club starts, 6.30pm (p 14)
4 80th anniversary of VE Day tea party, Quatt Village Hall, 2pm-4pm (p 6,9)
8 Lighting Lantern of Peace, St. Andrew's (p 6)
10 Attila the Stockbroker band Barnstormer 1649, Quatt Vill. Hall, 7.30pm
12 Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm (p 10)
16 Race Night, Alveley Cricket Club (p 14)
16 Free tennis coaching, Alveley Tennis Club (p 10)
23 Free tennis coaching, Alveley Tennis Club (p 10)

ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

250 years ago, on 18th April 1775 American silversmith and folk hero Paul Revere made his famous midnight ride on horseback from Charleston to Lexington to warn residents that the British were about to attack.

Also 250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775 J M W Turner, the British artist was born. Known for his landscapes and turbulent marine paintings.

175 years ago, on 23rd April 1850 William Wordsworth died. A Romantic poet, he was Poet Laureate from 1843-50.

150 years ago, on 1st April 1875 Edgar Wallace was born. This British writer, playwright and journalist was best known for creating King Kong.

Also 150 years ago, on 17th April 1875 the game of snooker was invented by Neville Chamberlain, a British army officer stationed in India.

100 years ago, on 10th April 1925 F Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, was published.

80 years ago, on 30th April 1945 Adolf Hitler, Austrian-born German Nazi Party Leader, Chancellor of Germany (1933-45) and dictator (1934-45) committed suicide along with his wife, Eva Braun.

70 years ago, on 5th April 1955 Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced his retirement because of failing health. He was succeeded by Anthony Eden on 7th April.

65 years ago, on 1st April 1960 Dr Martens boots went on sale in the UK.

50 years ago, on 4th April 1975 Microsoft, the computer software/hardware company, was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque New Mexico.

Also 50 years ago, on 23rd April 1975 US President Gerald Ford gave a televised speech in which he announced that the USA's involvement in the Vietnam war was over, and all US aid to South Vietnam had ended. The war itself ended on 30th April, when North Vietnamese forces captured the South Vietnamese capital Saigon.

40 years ago, on 23rd April 1985 the Coca-Cola Company changed the formula of Coca-Cola and launched it on the market as New Coke. The public were out-raged, and the original formula was restored within three months.

25 years ago, on 12th April 2000 that Queen Elizabeth II awarded the Royal Ulster Constabulary the George Cross in recognition of its collective and sustained bravery during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Also 25 years ago, on 22nd April 2000 the 'The Big Number' change took place on the UK's telephone system. Many area codes were updated or replaced, and new ones created for mobile, freephone, local rate, national rate, and premium rate services.



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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 Charities	Daryl Cooper		780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg		780437
Alveley Day Centre	Sue Taylor 07973 343491		
	Angela Lander 07952 172691	Pat Bowyer 07964 377840	
Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock		780936
Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill		780794
Alveley Historical Society	Lorraine Heath		07970 637727
Alveley Ladies' Guild	Barbara Spragg 780200	Kath Bishop	780707
Alveley Mining Heritage	Andrea Edwards		862064
Alveley Old Chapel			07777624664
Alveley Parish Council/Street Lights	Steve Kerry		07711788782
Alveley Patient Group	Chris Noble		780715
Alveley Pétanque Club	David Voysey		780356
Alveley Rec Assn/Pavilion	Margaret Shaw		780459
Alveley School	Mr. P. O'Malley		780284
Alveley Tennis Club	Roger Whitworth		07946 094488
Alveley Village Band	Harry Jones		07747 612318
Alveley Village Hall	Norma Crabtree		780478
Alveley Village Hall bookings	Carol Hatfield		780576
Arden Allotments Association	Debbie Walker		07484 238616
B'north Community Transport - Alveley Minibus (Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 only)			768539
Chapel Crafters	Angela Lander 07952172691	Jenny Sirrell	07484806605
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
Quatt Cricket Club	Jim Williamson		07790 033662
Quatt Malvern Parish Council	Bill Griffiths		766941
Quatt Village Hall bookings	Steph Hinton		781214
St. Mary's Choir	Brenda York		780144
St. Mary's Flowers	Wendy Aldwinckle		562159
Severn Park Ranger	Guy Border		781192
Squirrel Bowling Club	Roger Ford		780413
Strollers & Striders Walking Group	Andrew Crabtree		780478
Voluntary Car Scheme Community Transport (Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 only)			768539
Whittall Meadows Trust	Jan Higgins		780259

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

There are now abundant signs of spring all around us. There is more colour in the gardens, with daffodils and crocus, for example, joining the remains of the snowdrops. Birds are singing, trees are awakening from the winter, the previously bare branches showing signs of green as the leaves appear once more - some trees are already in blossom. We have had some beautiful days of blue skies and sunshine - our solar panels are generating more power - and hopefully St. Mary's will soon be a little less cold!

The Head Gardener has a new lease of life as she potters in the garden and greenhouse once more, turning the soil, weeding, and planting and tending the seedlings. After several months of being unable to work in the Old Chapel garden she has already put in quite a few hours there as well - it's just as well the Chapel has a green bin!

For my part in the garden the mower has had its first outing of the year. The grass had grown quite long and at last it has been warm and dry enough to cut it. What with that and the bits from the Head Gardener's tidying activities the green bin is full for the first time since the clearance of autumn leaves.

Having taken a break from golf during the freezing weather, my clubs are getting some exercise again, as am I.

One sure sign of spring is the fact that I have dusted down my bicycle and lycra and had my first few rides of the year. A delightful sign of spring spotted from my bicycle has been the first lambs of the year in our fields.

Apart from the cold weather I never cycle when it's been raining, because it can be difficult to tell the difference between a puddle and a water filled pothole and in my advancing years I have found that if I do fall off the bike, I neither bounce as well as I used to nor recover quite as quickly.

You will have noticed that the lycra has come out and you may have winced at the thought, but you can relax. In deference to the ladies of the village I keep my lycra well covered, for I don't want to create work for our wonderful First Responders in having to deal with ladies reacting to the sight of your editor in his lycra! (The Head Gardener will confirm that it's not a pretty sight).

Happy Easter. Enjoy the spring.

Ian

Please send items for **May** edition by **9 am on Sunday April 13th** 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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