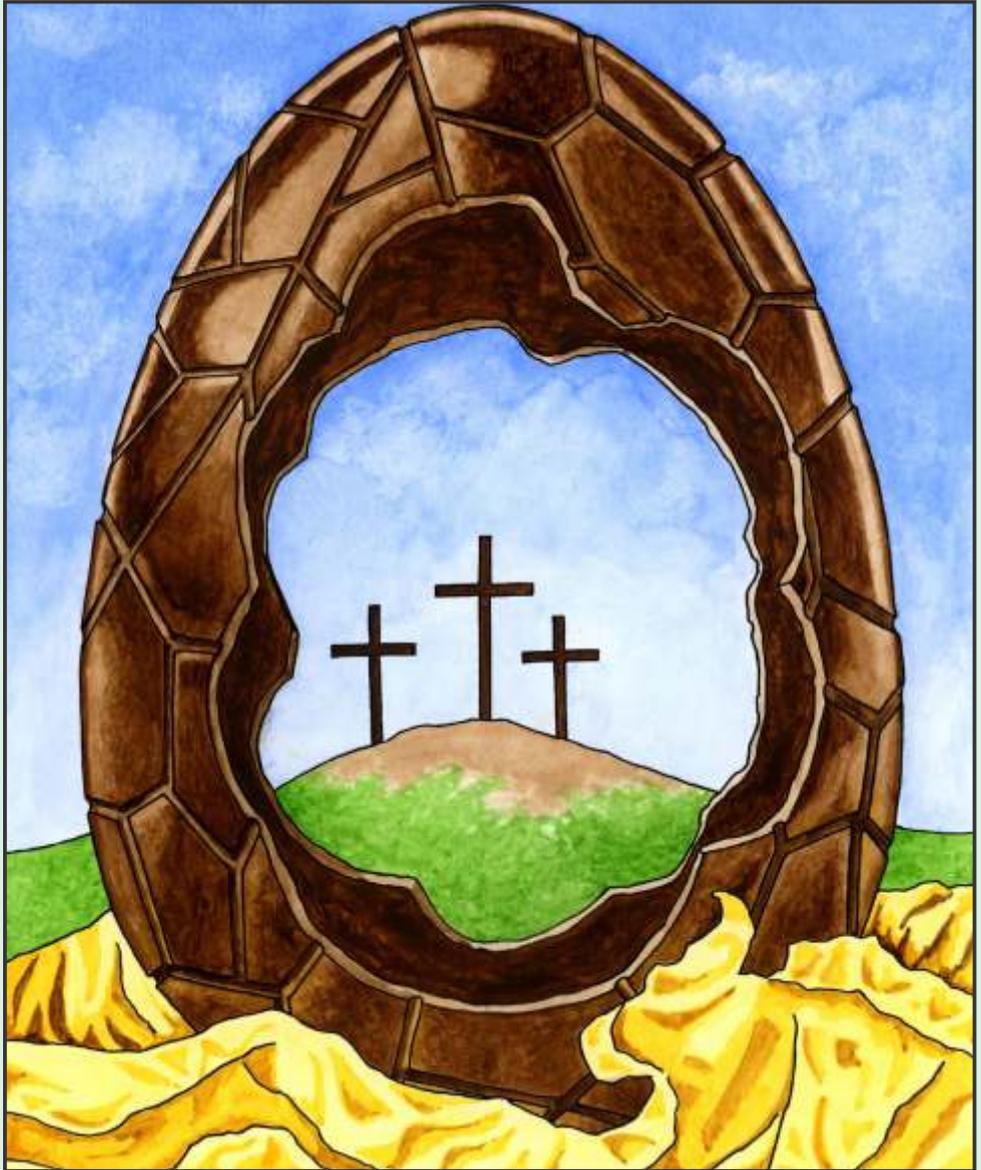


The Parish Magazine

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



APRIL 2026

60p

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The Rector writes

Dear Friends

Easter Sunday falls on April 5th this year. The Easter festival is made-up of several different events: the intimate meal on Maundy Thursday with the sharing of the bread and wine and Jesus washing the feet of his disciples; the trial, the persecution, the crucifixion of Jesus outside the city on the Friday; the quiet of the Saturday, the Sabbath, when the world rested, albeit in a most peculiar way. For most people it was just another Saturday or Sabbath; it was the day that the world was desolate, but like the first Sabbath, the task was “finished” in time.

And then, as the women go to the tomb in the early morning, they discover the tomb is empty, the grave clothes left behind and Jesus is nowhere to be seen, (it seems!). It is our well-known story, yet I hope not well-worn.

For me this Lent has been dominated by the Ash Wednesday phrase – “Remember you are dust”. So far this Lent I have taken 3 funerals. We all have to face mortality, and for some this Lent has been a Lent of real grief and mourning. We are all fragile, mortal, human beings; BUT as we have followed Lent through we have met Nicodemus, who wanted to know about eternal life (He was a bit confused as we often are), and we have met Lazarus, and his sisters Mary and Martha, whose real grief at real mortality is changed to joy. Lazarus died and was buried, in his graveclothes, just as Jesus would be; Lazarus was brought back to life, hence wrapped in grave clothes, but Jesus was raised to new life, the life he tried to explain to Nicodemus, and the truth of his statement to Martha – “I am the Resurrection and the Life”.

Easter for me will be a big celebration of feeling good and fit and joyous; but it will also be a quiet reminder that despite our mortalities and the ills of body, soul, society and the world, new life is offered, new life is there for us – gifted to us at our baptisms – “the sign and seal of new birth” – but requiring us to accept this gift of Jesus and life everlasting.

Easter and new life is a gift for each of us to receive – not an automatic sprinkler system. This Easter do we rejoice to receive this gift of Jesus, and do we nourish and delight in this gift? The cost of this gift is seen on Good Friday – the self-giving of God, in Jesus; it is seen on Maundy Thursday in Jesus washing the feet of his disciples; it is seen in Jesus sharing our earthly life, weeping with Mary and Martha (in their grief) at the sorrow within the world. God is not immune to the suffering and hardship.

The reality of this gift is seen on Easter Morning when Jesus greets a different Mary by name – not some big crowd event, but personal to her and so to each of us. The risen Jesus greets us each by name – because, as Ash Wednesday also reminded us, God is rich in mercy – and in that mercy, God offers me new life, not because I deserve it, but because God made me to find my fullness in him, God desires not the death of a sinner, but that all should find life. *Hallelujah!*

Easter Blessings 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	07596 510020
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	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.'*

March 9	Miriam Patricia Davies	St. Mary's
March 10	Thomas George Prestwood	St. Mary'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

The truth behind the Easter egg

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.

APRIL SERVICES

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

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Simple meal, foot washing & Communion OCCC Alveley

Friday 3rd April Good Friday

2.00pm An Hour at the Cross St Mary's

Sunday April 5th Easter Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's

6.00pm Holy Communion St Andrew's

Wednesday April 8th

10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's

Sunday April 12th

10.30am Worship 4 All Ages St Mary's

10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's

Sunday April 19th

10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's

Wednesday April 22nd

10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's

Sunday April 26th

8.00am Holy Communion St Mary's

10.30am 20-20-20 St Mary's

4.00pm Teatime Praise St Andrew's

ST. MARY'S PANCAKE MORNING

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who came to the Pancake Morning, it was well attended and a warm, inviting, community occasion. To the helpers thank you! without you all we would not be able to provide this joyous event, over £400 was raised for church funds. Many thanks.

Jenny Sirrell

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast will be held on Saturday 18th April 8.30am in the OCCC (Alveley Old Methodist Chapel). In February we had a wonderful talk from Benoit Ritzenthaler who shared with us how being a Christian helps him as a palliative care Doctor, with some very moving stories. 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

Why do people who know the least, know it the loudest? - Anon

ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

The clocks have moved forward an hour now and I hope that you all agree that it's wonderful to enjoy longer daylight hours. The gardens are blooming and hopefully by the time you read this the weather will be warmer. Each change in season gives us something new to celebrate. This month we celebrate Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We will be holding a service of Holy Communion at St Andrew's at **6pm** so please come along and join us on this very special day.

I have planted primroses in the pots in my garden, the cherry tree is in full bloom, the grass needs mowing and the birds are singing- it's lovely to get outside and enjoy the fresh air after the recent long rainy days.

As those close to me know I'm not a great historian - it was never my favourite subject at school - I much preferred French, mathematics, biology, geology and geography. However, this month I decided to do a little research into historical events during the month of April. There are far too many to mention them all so I have chosen just a few.

21st April 1509 Henry VIII became King of England.

23rd April 1516 William Shakespeare died.

3rd April 1721 Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister of Britain.

28th April 1770 English naval explorer James Cook arrived in Botany Bay Australia - the first European explorer to do so.

29th April 1884 Oxford University agreed to admit female students to examinations, however they were not to be awarded degrees!

Finally here is one you may not have heard of before - on 10th April 1663 the first bananas, never seen before in Britain went on sale in a London shop. I eagerly await any corrections by the historians amongst you.

We have some improvements planned for the next few months once funds allow. As we have no proper facilities in the kitchen area we would like to install a sink to save us having to take the washing up home! We are also hoping to erect a handrail along the length of the church path which should make life a little easier for the less mobile amongst us.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter. *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
April 5	Acts 10.34-43 Paula Tristham	John 20.1-18 Ann Lee	Ann Lee
April 12	Acts 2.14.22-32 Carol Hubbard	John 20.19-31 Steve Jones	Ann Lee
April 26		John 10.1-10 Rita Vernon	Wendy Aldwinckle

WHITTALL MEADOWS TRUST

The Trust's next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 27th May 2026** 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 **20th May 2026**.

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.

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

On Saturday 14th March, with thanks to Arts Alive, the Village Hall was able to host the extremely talented musical duo Arthur Coates and Kerran Cotterell. These young men delighted and charmed us with their incredible musical skills on the guitar and violin and with their beautiful, harmonised singing. Their own compositions were refreshing and original and it was all performed with such astounding energy and quirky humour. Thank you to those of you who supported this event

Saturday 18th April is the date for the Annual Village Quiz which will take place in Alveley village hall at 7.30pm. The details and entry forms for the quiz have been sent out to village organisations, but if I have missed out your group or club and you would like to take part, please give me a ring on 780 478. The entry forms need to be returned to me at 12 Bridge Road by the 31st March. *Norma Crabtree*

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

Our next meeting will be a slide show by Andrew Holmes about his wildlife photographs taken at the Country Park. Join us to see Andrew's photos at the Village Hall on Monday 27th April. Tea, coffee and biscuits are included in the £4 entrance fee,
Kath

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be held on the 7th April in the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm with Open Forum. This is your chance to raise village matters of interest or concern to you. **Please note that this is a week later than usual.** We look forward to seeing you.

Isley Jakeman Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council

SAVE THE DATE: Community Event & Annual Parish Meeting – 21st April

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will begin a little differently. Before the formal meeting starts, we are hosting a special community event from 6pm–7pm focused on biodiversity, the environment and nature recovery.

Think of it as a chance to discover what's happening locally to support nature and how you can get involved. The session will take the form of an informal "marketplace", where local organisations and groups will be on hand to share their work and chat with residents. We're delighted that the National Trust, Sustainable Bridgnorth and our new Local Nature Recovery Working Group have already confirmed they will be attending.

You'll be able to drop in, explore local projects, ask questions and take part in some interactive activities designed to get people thinking about how we can all support nature and the environment in our parish.

Whether you're passionate about nature, curious about local projects or just want to find out what's going on around the village, we hope you'll come along.

Free tea, coffee and biscuits will be available, so please do come along and join us.

The formal Annual Parish Meeting will follow at 7pm, where residents can hear about the work the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, listen to updates from local organisations, and ask questions about issues that matter to the community.

Tuesday 21st April 2026 Pre-event: 6–7pm Annual Parish Meeting: 7pm

Venue: Pavilion, Daddlebrook Road, Alveley

More details will be shared nearer the time, keep an eye out for further information. *Christine Brown, Vice Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council*

Parish Council Contact Update

The Parish Council has a new website and email address as part of improving how we communicate with residents, plus a new postal address for correspondence.

Website: www.alveleyandromsley-pc.gov.uk

Email: clerk@alveleyandromsley-pc.gov.uk

Postal Address: c/o Blakeshall Lodge, Blakeshall, DY11 5XW

Our telephone contact number remains unchanged – 07711 788782

Please do take a look at the new website where you can find council news, meeting information and community updates.

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

It looks as though we are not going to get the new Sand Pit play area open for the Easter Holidays. The rain kept coming and made the work difficult. As I write a good number of the new pieces of equipment are in and by the end of this week, the spider's web climbing frame will be installed. It will be well worth the wait when it is open again.

Of course, the Boat play area has continued to be open for everyone to enjoy while visiting the park.

No 92 Coffee Lounge is open daily 8am-5pm and will be over the Easter holidays, including the Easter weekend. They serve delicious breakfasts until 12pm and from then on, a great lunch menu. Throughout the day you can pick up a hot drink and tasty treat, including a wide variety of handmade cakes. We'll look forward to seeing you over the holidays.

We are getting prepared to hand over our educational activities to the Field Studies Council from the start of April. They will be offering half-day and full-day sessions tailored to Early Years, Primary and Key Stage 3. Typical themes include Habitats and living things; Rivers and water investigations; Local history and settlement studies; Plants, trees and seasonal change; Earth materials and rocks; and Teambuilding and orienteering. You can find out more on their website www.field-studies-council.org/severn-valley-country-park

Entries now open for Steaming Down the Valley, held on Saturday 6th June. You can race a steam train over 5K or 10K distance –or even on the river. There will be medal and goody bag for every finisher. Entry starts from £22. Enter online at www.entryhub.co.uk/steaming-down-the-valley

And finally, Rain or Shine Theatre Company are back with us this year on Fri 31 July, 7pm. This summer they will be inviting us into the delightfully chaotic Victorian world of The Pickwick Papers, where misadventure and merriment collide in a whirlwind of Dickensian absurdity! Secure your seat, pack your picnic and prepare for an uproarious adventure with the Pickwick Society—where the only certainty is a thoroughly good time to be had by all! Tickets will be on sale soon.

Susie Comaish, Visitor Centre Manager, Severn Valley Country Park

ARDEN ALLOTMENTS – PLOTS AVAILABLE

Spring is here, and a great time to start growing your own fruit, vegetables and flowers. Arden Allotments, situated next to The Squirrel pub on the A442, currently have a couple of plots available. Please contact Nikki Cheek - either by telephone 07890752201 or email Nikki.Cheek@hotmail.co.uk for further details

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

BURNT CAKES

I am writing this on Sunday 8th March which just happens to be International Women's Day. It seems to me that women have achieved greatness by two means in what has been a male dominated society for thousands of years. Either by force of character or by default. Let me explain. Of the 58 people that have served as prime minister of the UK since the first one in 1721 only three have been women: Margaret Thatcher, Theresa May and Liz Truss. Clearly voted into power by their mostly male colleagues as the best person at the time. Whereas out of approximately 65 monarchs in the last 1200 years we have had just six queens simply because there was no male heir. Fair?

Other prominent women come to mind. Boudicca seized power when her husband King Prasutagus died peacefully in AD61 and initially handed power to his daughters. However the Romans ignored his wishes and after flogging Boudicca they commanded two soldiers to rape the girls in front of their mother. She was understandably incensed and took control of the Iceni tribe and promptly destroyed Colchester and then London, both Roman towns, killing around 70,000 Romans and Britons before being defeated by the Roman General Suetonius somewhere in the West Midlands, but not before the Emperor Nero had considered pulling out of Britain altogether. Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928) campaigned tirelessly for woman to have the vote. I would highly recommend any book on this remarkable woman and her daughters and supporters who suffered terribly for this cause including being force-fed by having a rubber tube rammed down their throat when they went on hunger strike in prison. Florence Nightingale is best known as the founder of modern nursing and rose to fame during the Crimean war 1853 to 1856 when she transformed nursing from a somewhat disreputable profession by improving hygiene and living standards and founded a nursing school at St Thomas's hospital in London. One woman you may not have heard of is Sister Dora of Walsall (my home town). Her full name was Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison and she was an Anglican nun and nurse who worked in a cottage hospital. In 1875 when Walsall was hit by a smallpox epidemic she set up an infirmary treating thousands of patients, she also formed a close relationship with railway workers who often suffered from industrial accidents. The railway workers bought her a horse and carriage and raised £50 from their own wages to enable her to travel to housebound patients more easily. She died at the age of 46 in 1878 from breast cancer and there was a huge crowd for her funeral. Her statue is in the centre of Walsall and was the first full size statue to be made of someone other than a monarch. There is one other woman I would like to mention who had considerable influence in our region. King Alfred the Great was born in 848 AD and is known for his defence of his kingdom against a stronger enemy, for securing peace with the Vikings and for his far sighted reforms. Famously, in 878 when he was hiding in a peasant's hut in the Somerset levels, having evaded the Vikings. He let

some cakes burn that he had been instructed to watch. He received a scolding from the woman unaware of who he was. His eldest daughter Aethelflaed was born in 870 and by 886 after Alfred had taken control of London from the Vikings he gave his daughter in marriage to an Earl Aethelred. When Alfred died in 899 aged 50 he gave a sword worth 100 mancuses to son-in-law Aethelred. A mancus is a gold coin weighing around 4.25 grammes worth in today's money about £220. If one of these very rare coins comes up for auction today they can make up to £200,000. By 901 the royal couple were issuing grants. One of these was for the fortification of Worcester. They raised money by taxing wagon-loads of salt coming from Droitwich. In these times great value was placed on having relics of saints or kings as they were thought to have healing powers. At some point Aethelred and his wife went to Lindsey in Lincolnshire and even though it was under Viking control they grabbed the relics of King Oswald and took them back to the Royal house at Gloucester. Stafford, Chester, Gloucester and Bridgnorth were all fortified by the Royal couple. When Aethelred died in 911 his wife Aethelflaed became ruler. Mercian Royal women were public figures, patrons, entrepreneurs and politicians. There was a Royal township at Atcham near Attingham Park at the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Tern close to the old Roman town of Wroxeter. There is evidence of two huge halls similar to Viking halls. Aethelflaed chose a site close by on a bend in the River Severn to build a burh, which is a fortified settlement, and so founded Shrewsbury. On August 1st 917 she captured Derby and in 918 she occupied Leicester. York, which was under Viking control, submitted to her without a battle such was her reputation. Gloucester, Worcester, Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury are all on the River Severn as of course is Alveley and so she almost certainly passed this way many times with her carriage and wagons and entourage along with servants and possibly her army and it may be no coincidence that Alveley's name derives from a Saxon woman's name Aelfoyd or Aelf and Leah which means a clearing in a wood or forest.

Roy Page.



BUNKERS (Part 3)

The Bunkerisation of Albania from 1960 onwards.

This was the brainchild of the paranoid communist dictator of Albania, from 1940 to 1980, Enver Hoxha. As he had systematically fallen out with all of the neighbouring countries, he embarked on a plan to construct up to 750,000 mushroom shaped pill-box bunkers over the whole of the landscape, from farmers' fields, mountains, town centres and beaches. It was once estimated that there was a bunker for every four people. This was to defend the country from invasion from its perceived foes, N.A.T.O, the Balkans and Russia. Boys as young as 12yrs old, were taught how to fire a gun from one of these bunkers.

These bunkers were constructed at great expense from concrete and iron, which took an enormous amount of revenue from the very poor country in the first place. Having curried favour with China, their only ally at the time, the Chinese built several factories for them, manufacturing the vast quantity of steel needed. This was at the expense of other projects, such as housebuilding and roads, and forced the country to exist in poverty under the communist regime. Hoxha banned religion, forbade travel, or the ownership of property, in order to isolate it from the rest of the world, making it then, and possibly now, the poorest, most repressed country in Europe. Similar to the Drakelow tunnels, Hoxha built a 5 floor deep bunker near to the capital Tirana, to house himself, his deputy Prime minister, secret police and government officials, in over 100 rooms.

This structure was blast proof and radiation proof, in case of a nuclear attack. Elsewhere in the country, 1000s of miles of underground tunnels were excavated, in order to house the military and industrial assets. Albania is said to have become the most tunneled country in the world.

It has been estimated that during Hoxha's dictatorship, up to 10,000 people disappeared and a further 5,500 were executed for their political beliefs, including his deputy Prime Minister, following criticism of Hoxha's regime.

Following Hoxha's death in 1985, and at the end of the cold war and fall of communism in the country, these bunkers were abandoned. Many were broken up for salvage, but 1000s still exist today, being re-purposed for a vast array of enterprises, such as cafés, restaurants, homes, nail bars and tattoo parlours.

The largest, in the capital Tirana, were opened in 2016 as Bunkart 1, and 2, which became museums and art studios, now, Albania's main tourist attractions.

At the time of our visit to Albania a couple of years ago, it was evident that China still has a footing in the country, building huge road tunnels under the mountainous country, as well as other major construction projects, in an attempt to bring Albania into the 21st century as well as getting a foothold in Europe.

Many of the older generation still hold the belief that communism is the right way forward. The younger generation have other ideas and are leaving as fast as they can

Bill Smith

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

I think that I have said before, being a councillor is never dull and quiet.

I blew into Alveley a bit over 50 years ago, November 1975 to be precise, in the previous few years Alveley had gone through the most incredible change with the closure of the coal mine. Huge parts of the original village had been bulldozed, well-loved familiar landmarks had been erased, gardens and orchards had been done away with.

Despite all of this, the original villagers accepted the change and welcomed the newcomers into the Bell, the Three Horseshoes and the Working Men's Club to name but three and ensured that the village still ticked on as a community.

None of us like change, and the older we get, the more we get set in our ways and in our views on life. But more change is coming, and it will come to Alveley and we must accept that. As councillors, we have to find ways of managing that change and try and ensure that it is as acceptable as possible.

We have to balance the requirements for new houses, new places to work, the infrastructure between, the need to provide as much of our own food as we can, and, as we live in one of the most nature depleted countries in the world, do our bit to rectify that, and get nature back into our lives. We also know that one of the biggest factors in the future, that we have absolutely no control over, is climate change. Although we must acknowledge that we have no control over it, it does not mean that we can ignore it. We have to listen to the scientists and look at the future modelling that they carry out and then plan accordingly.

As well as preparing the Shropshire local plan for the next 10 years, officers and councillors are joining in together for the preparation of a Corporate Plan. The Corporate plan is for the next 25 years and is where we take all of the government's statistics and modelling on future population growth, movements and trends and try to ensure that we plan, sensibly for the long-term future of our communities.

Some of the forecast makes very interesting reading and gives lots of food for thought. Population in Shropshire could grow up to 20% in the next 25 years as more and more people discover it is a wonderful place to live.

The age group of 80 to 85 will increase by over 60%! Because we are living longer, age related illnesses like dementia and Alzheimer's will increase by over 140% on today's levels. 63% of the population could be over 65. Loneliness will see a 67% increase and more and more houses will be occupied by only one person.

There is lots more information where that all comes from and councillors and officers have to make sense of it all and bear it all in mind when making decisions. It's not all about potholes and blocked drains!

As I said at the beginning it's never dull.

Colin Taylor

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

Pickleball is going well at Alveley Tennis Club & Sport England have awarded the Club a grant towards repainting courts 1 and 2, to include two more sets of Pickleball lines. That is planned for mid May, also purchasing better pickleball equipment. There's a Pickleball What's App Group that's currently got seventeen members. The 2 pickleball sessions are going well on Friday evenings - pickleball coaching starts at 6.20pm followed by social pickleball at 7pm. You can book your pickleball place now for Fridays April 3, 10, 17 & 24. The sessions are open to ladies & gents. Watch this space for a new pickleball session coming soon in the daytime.

Membership at Alveley Tennis Club is on the way up! In 2023 the club had 25 members, in 2024 - 37 members, 2025 - 84 members and in 2026 - so far 95 members this year.

Special Extended Membership. Sign up for Annual Membership now and don't pay again until June 2027.

Alveley Tennis Club Facebook Page started in June last year with 31 active members and now has 109. It keeps you up to date with its 9 weekly organised events and forthcoming attractions.

Tennis mixing sessions (4 times a week): Monday evenings, 7-9pm, gents. Tuesday afternoons, 1-3pm ladies & gents. Thursday evenings 7-9pm ladies & gents. Saturday mornings 10-12 noon. Rusty Racquets (tennis) Wednesdays at 12 noon.

2 Junior tennis sessions (Fridays) 5 to 10 year olds 4.50 to 5.35pm, 11 to 14 year olds 5.35 to 6.20 pm.

Useful telephone numbers: Jack Fletcher (tennis coach) Tel 07496 177385, Ben Spicer (Chairman) Tel 07443 578810, Roger Whitfield (membership enquires) Tel 07816 322469 or book online via our website. For any other information about Alveley Tennis Club ring Roger Whitworth on 079460 94488 . *Brian Davies*

SUSTAINABILITY

"The climate and nature crisis is more serious and immediate than many realise. It endangers health, food, infrastructure, security and economic stability across Britain. From April, a powerful 45-minute documentary—capturing the experts' National Emergency Briefing (NEB) to 1,200 leaders in Westminster last November—will be screened. For MPs, councils, and residents shared viewing, it presents the stark reality of climate and nature breakdown and the transformative benefits of bold government action. Supported by Alveley & Romsley Parish Council, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Working Group, and our County Councillor, the screening in Alveley, followed by a constructive discussion, will aim to spark informed dialogue. A screening is also planned for Bridgnorth. NEB calls for a Government prime-time, multi-channel televised briefing, a major public engagement campaign cutting through disinformation and a science-led emergency response, whilst we in addition create positive local solutions.

Your presence can turn concern into action. Together, we can confront the challenge and face the crisis to build a safer, greener future for all. More information at <https://www.nebriefing.org/> and watch out for announcements!

The Climate Change Committee's latest analysis confirms that the UK's 2050 Net Zero target will generate around £110 billion annual benefits - including lower fossil fuel bill savings, improved public health, and avoided climate damages. Recent Confederation of British Industry analysis reveals that the green economy expanded by 10.2% in 2025, significantly outdoing the wider UK economy's growth of just 1.3%. The West Midlands, plus Yorkshire & the Humber, and South West England are leading hotspots, collectively contributing £4.7 billion. Critically, transitioning to Net Zero will insulate the UK economy from global energy market instability. The cost of this is less than a single fossil-fuel price shock, making it an economically responsible national priority.

Sustainable Bridgnorth's last meeting featured two inspiring speakers: Stretton Climate Care sharing insights on their Church Stretton home energy surveys and calculating carbon footprints, while Marches Energy Advice discussed retrofit and insulation solutions. Plans are progressing for the upcoming Green Festival, Saturday 30th May, Bridgnorth Castle Grounds. The event will feature local businesses and community groups promoting sustainable living through informative displays, and eco-friendly retail stalls. Food will be available. Local choirs and musicians will be providing live music throughout the day. Organisers are seeking a sponsor - offering branding on marketing materials and the opportunity to host a stall. If you'd like to sponsor, exhibit, or volunteer, contact bridgnorthgreenfestival@outlook.com. *Kath Norgrove*

MESSY CHURCH

The theme for Messy Church in March was the wedding at Cana. This took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and was where he performed his first miracle – turning water into wine. We didn't quite manage to achieve this ourselves but Rev. Jon came close during the singing and praise. The children made some beautiful crafts involving lots of glue, sticking and colouring as well as jewelled goblets, certainly fit for a wedding. Our feast consisted of pizzas and pancakes, with fresh fruit on the side. It was a happy and joyful afternoon.

The next Messy Church will be on Good Friday, 3rd April at 10:30am, in the Old Chapel Community Centre. There will be Easter crafts followed by Hot Cross buns and probably a few Easter Eggs hidden away! All the children of Alveley and Quatt are welcome to join us with their parents or carers; there is no charge but donations are gratefully received.

Alison Pearson



NEWS FROM ALVELEY SCHOOL

We have had a very busy and exciting few weeks in school, with lots of wonderful learning taking place both in and out of the classroom.

Our Nursery children have been learning all about farming. As part of this topic, we were delighted to welcome a farmer to school, who brought along his tractor. The children were fascinated to see it up close and had the opportunity to ask lots of questions about life on the farm. One of the highlights of the visit was climbing up to sit in the tractor cab, which caused great excitement!

In Reception, the children have been exploring Spring and the many celebrations that take place at this time of year. They enjoyed Spring walks around the school grounds and our Forest School area, looking for signs of the changing season. The children also learned about Chinese New Year and took part in a variety of themed activities to understand how the festival is celebrated around the world.

We also had great fun celebrating World Book Day. The children came to school dressed in their pyjamas and brought along a favourite book to share with their friends. Throughout the day, they took part in a range of book-themed activities, and it was lovely to see the older children reading stories to the younger ones. We have also been pleased to welcome parents and family members into school for shared reading sessions in the library, which the children always enjoy.

At Forest School, the children have been developing their practical skills by using a range of tools. Recently, they used a hand drill to carefully make holes in wooden pendants they had created. They have also started planting and are looking forward to watching their plants grow over the coming weeks.

This month, we were delighted to welcome parents and carers into school for a range of exciting workshops. It was lovely to see families learning together and taking part in hands-on activities. Parents joined their children in sessions including making torches, learning about college pathways, and even creating their own stuffed toys. These workshops gave families a chance to experience learning in school and spend quality time together.

Looking ahead, we will soon be holding our Easter competitions. Families and community members are warmly invited to view the entries at our coffee morning, which will take place at the Pavilion on Friday 27th March. Please see the flyer on page 18 for more information about this event. Alveley Primary School looks forward to seeing many of you there!

Mrs. K. Lowe, Assistant Headteacher



St Mary's Church, Alveley
 Good Friday April 3rd at 10.30 a.m.
 in Old Chapel Community Centre

Crafts

Worship



Games

Food

Family Fun

FREE TO ATTEND

Young people under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult



Be Café

Bereavement Café
 meets at The Old Chapel
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 2pm until 4pm

Our next meeting will be Monday 20th April

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 The logo for Alveley Primary School, featuring a yellow bird and the text "Alveley Primary School".

Alveley Primary School invites you
 to an.....

EASTER COFFEE MORNING

When: Friday 27th March
 Time: Between 9.30-11.30am
 Where: The Pavilion, Alveley
 What: Tea, coffee and cake

Pupils at Alveley Primary School would like to invite you for a coffee morning to showcase their Easter competition entries.

All money raised will go towards new playground equipment.

 A photograph of a colorful Easter bonnet decorated with various items like beads, feathers, and small toys.

Easter Bonnet

 A photograph of several colorful Easter eggs arranged on a surface, some in a blue basket.

Easter Egg Scene

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

Family Fridays Are Back at Alveley Cricket Club: We are delighted to announce the return of Family Fridays, starting on Friday 1st May and running for 14 weeks throughout the summer at the Four Oaks Ground. The sessions begin Friday 1st May at 6.30pm and are open to children aged 5 and over. Young players can take part in the ECB All Stars Cricket and Dynamos Cricket programmes, which are designed to introduce children to the game in a fun and engaging way. For older children aged 12 and above, the Alveley Cricket Academy provides the next step in developing cricket skills and confidence.

Family Fridays are about much more than cricket. The club provides a safe, traffic-free space where children can run around and play, while parents and friends relax and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere. The club bar will be open from 6pm, and a street food van will be on site each week serving a variety of food. The pavilion will also be open for the whole community to use and enjoy, making it a great place to meet friends and spend a summer evening. Whether your children want to try cricket for the first time, develop their skills, or you simply want a pleasant place to spend a Friday evening, everyone is welcome at Alveley Cricket Club's Family Fridays.

Women's Softball: Looking for a fun way to keep active, meet new people, and enjoy a relaxed evening out? Women's Softball Cricket at Alveley Cricket Club could be just the thing. Taking place from 7th May and every Thursday evening at Four Oaks, these friendly sessions are designed for women of all abilities. Whether you've never picked up a bat before or simply want to get back into sport, everyone is welcome. The emphasis is very much on fun, fitness, and friendship. All equipment is provided, so there is no need for any previous experience or special kit – just come along and give it a go. It's also perfect for mums, as children are welcome to come along, play outside in the safe open space, or relax in the pavilion while the session takes place. After the cricket, there's time to unwind with a glass of Prosecco or a soft drink, making it a great opportunity to socialise and enjoy the welcoming club atmosphere.

Senior Cricket at Alveley Cricket Club: Offering a welcoming and competitive environment for anyone looking to play senior cricket. Whether you're an experienced player, returning to the game after a break, or simply looking for a great way to stay active and social, there is a team for you. The club currently runs two Saturday league teams, providing competitive cricket throughout the season. For those who prefer a more relaxed game, the club also has a Sunday social side, offering enjoyable cricket in a friendly atmosphere.

In addition, we field a Wednesday evening T20 team, perfect for players who want a shorter, fast-paced format of the game after work. We are always keen to welcome new players of all abilities. You might be:

- Looking to play cricket for the first time
- Returning to the game after a few years away
- Wanting to improve your fitness while enjoying team sport

We pride ourselves on being friendly, inclusive and community focused. With excellent facilities at Four Oaks, a welcoming pavilion, and a great social atmosphere. Outdoor training starts on 8th April 6.30pm and continuing every Tuesday evening throughout the summer.

Coddy 6 a side cricket competition takes place on Sunday 19th July – We are now accepting teams for this year's event, this event is for non cricketers who want a fun day out.

Want to get in contact? Email: info@alveleycc.co.uk, call 01746 541441 or come down to Four Oaks. *Richard Twigg*

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA APRIL 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
April 5	Acts 10.34-43 David Hampson	John 20.1-18 Liz Bullas	Wendy Aldwinckle	Sue Chidwick Keith Pearson	Sue Chidwick Jenny Sirrell	David & Jackie Hampson
April 12	John 20.19-31 Keith Pearsom				Lynn Madden Carol Wall	Anne Simms Carol Wall
April 19	Acts 2.14.36-41 Sue Chidwick	Luke 24. 13-35 Colin Taylor	Keith Pearson	Dale Chidwick Jenny Sirrell	David & Jackie Hampson	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
April 26	John 10.1-10 James Woolley				Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Lynn Madden Sally Page Jenny Sirrell

DIARY 2026

March 27	Alveley Primary School Coffee morning & display, Pavilion 9.30.-11.30am (p 18)
April 3	Messy Church, Old Chapel Community Centre 10.30am (p15)
7	Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 8)
8	Alveley Cricket Club outdoor nets starts 6.30pm
10	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel Community Centre, 1030am-12.30pm
13	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm
14	Alveley CC registration & open evening, Alveley CC
18	Men's breakfast, Old Chapel Community Centre, 8.30am (p 5)
19	Alveley Village Quiz, Village Hall 7.30pm (p 7)
20	Be Café, Old Chapel Community Centre, 2-4pm (p 18)
21	Annual Parish Meeting 7pm & pre-event 6pm, Pavilion (p 8)
24	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel Community Centre, 1030am-12.30pm
27	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm
27	Alveley Ladies' Guild, Village Hall, wildlife photography 2.30pm (p 7)
May 1	Alveley CC junior coaching begins, Alveley CC 6.30pm
7	Women's Softball Cricket starts, Alveley CC 6.30pm
8	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel Community Centre, 1030am-12.30pm
11	Alveley Art Group, Alveley Village Hall 10am-1pm
15	Race Night, Alveley CC (Free entry) 7.30pm
24	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel Community Centre, 1030am-12.30pm
30	Bridgnorth Green Festival, Castle Gardens, Bridgnorth
June 6	Steaming Down The Valley, Severn Valley Country Park 11am (p 9)
13	Greek Evening, Hampsonos Island, 5pm-9pm (p 18)
July 31	The Pickwick Papers, Rain or Shine Theatre Co, S.V.C.P. 7pm (p 9)

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB FIXTURES

1st Team

04/04 Worcester CC (A)
18/04 Barnt Green CC (A)
25/04 Bewdley CC (H)
02/05 Himley CC (H)
09/05 Harborne CC (A)
16/05 Belbroughton CC (H)
23/05 Pedmore CC (A)

2nd Team

18/04 Kidderminster CC (H)
25/04 Romsley & Hunnington CC (A)
02/05 Netherton CC (A)
09/05 Halesowen CC (H)
16/05 Chaddesley Corbett CC (A)
23/05 Himley CC (H)
30/05 Bromsgrove CC (A)

T20 Midweek

22/04 Horn & Trumpet (H)
29/04 Old Halesonians (H)
06/05 Oldswinford CC (A)
13/05 Bewdley (H)
20/05 Black Country Gladiators (H) Cup
27/05 Claverley CC (A)

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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	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
Alveley Tennis Club	Roger Whitworth	07946 094488
Alveley Village Band	Lisa Hadley	07717 456304
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		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
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Severn Park Ranger	Guy Border	781192
Squirrel Bowling Club	Denis Orford	780732
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

We have had a few nice sunny days recently, a pleasant change from the seemingly non-stop rain over recent months. Although we still get the occasional frosty morning, by and large it seems to be getting warmer. As I write it is not long before the clocks go forward.

I rarely cycle in the winter (or on rainy days) because it's difficult to tell the difference between a puddle and a pothole and as I don't bounce so easily as I did when I was younger, I prefer to avoid hazards which might cause me to fall off.

However, with better weather on the horizon I will be getting the bicycle out again and dusting down the lycra. (Don't get too excited, ladies, I am aware that some of you are of a nervous disposition and accordingly the lycra goes under shorts and a top for the sake of modesty).

Talk of lycra reminds me that I was once referred to as a M.A.M.I.L. or Middle Aged Man in Lycra. Sadly, those days are long gone and I am more likely to be referred to as T.O.G.O.B. - That Old Geezer On Bike.

M.A.M.I.L. is of course an acronym - an abbreviation pronounced as if it were a word, such as N.I.M.B.Y. or Not In My Back Yard. The golfers' version is N.I.T.B.Y. - Not In The Bunker - YET!

Well known acronyms include A.W.O.L. (Absent Without Leave), B.O.G.O.F. (Buy One Get One Free) and S.C.U.B.A. (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus).

Texting has been responsible for many crimes against the English language and has added a number of acronyms, such as I.M.H.O. (In my Humble Opinion) though some can be confusing. I used to think that L.O.L. stood for Lots of Love but apparently it is Laugh Out Loud - that could cause some unfortunate misunderstandings.

I thought it might be interesting to play with a few possible acronyms:

For the builder: O.D.T.W.A.T.: Oh Dear That Will Add Thousands

For the churchgoer: V.O.T.S.A.: Vicar's Overrun The Sermon Again

For the older reader: W.H.I.C.H.: Why Have I Come Here?

For the sports fan advising the referee: Y.D.K.W.Y.D.: (pronounced IKWID) You Don't Know What You're Doing.

I'm sure you can do better than that - I'd love to see your suggestions, please send them to ianmaddock@btinternet.com.

Ian

Please send items for the **May edition by 9 am on Tuesday April 14th** 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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