

The Parish Magazine

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



MARCH 2024

60p

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The Rector Writes

Dear Friends

Death, taxes and the certainties of Easter.

We all know what are said to be the only two certainties in life. Jesus mentioned one of them quite often, the dreaded taxes, and spoke about the other quite a bit, too, before experiencing a painful death himself.

But what about the uncertainties?

It strikes me that at the moment, every time we switch on the news, we are confronted with many huge uncertainties, wars in many parts of the world, climate change, who will be our next government to name but a few. I have absolutely no idea what the situation is going to be in the world or Parliament or Europe this month, or even this week. The uncertainties of life generally have a habit of making us worry: "What if I get passed over for that promotion, what am I going to do?", or "What if I get sick, what am I going to do?"

As human beings we seem to need a healthy balance between certainty in our life - the normal, routine stuff - and a bit of uncertainty to make life interesting and slightly unpredictable, so that we don't get bored by a constant routine. If everything in our lives is predictable, we often feel like we're stuck in a rut; but if everything is uncertain then we are anxious about the future.

So, with this huge political, economic and safety uncertainty hanging over us, how about I try and balance it with a bit of certainty?

Here's three certainties: on Palm Sunday we will be celebrating and remembering once again Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week before he was finally arrested; on Good Friday we will gather and remember his death on the cross; and on Easter Sunday we will be gathering once again, but this time to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

For me - as a Christian, as a priest - the resurrection, though I may not fully understand it, is up there in terms of its certainty along with "death and taxes". It is at the heart of my faith. I hope that you will be able to join us as we celebrate once again this incredible event. You will see from the calendar of events further on in the magazine that there is a lot going on between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If you can't make any other service, please come and join us for the biggest celebration of the Church year: Easter Sunday 10.30am in St Mary's.

This reminds me of another certainty: there will be bacon rolls/cobs/baps - never quite sure what is the correct way of saying it here! - served at our 20-20-20 service on Palm Sunday starting in the Old Chapel before we walk to the church for the rest of the service. Come along and enjoy one.

May I wish you all a peaceful, joy filled Easter.

Rev Jon

United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

Rector	Rev. Jon Aldwinckle , The Rectory, Alveley (email: revjonaldwinckle@outlook.com)	01746 562159
Retired Clergy	Rev. Dr. Wendy Rylance , Roughton Farmhouse	01746 716399
Retired Clergy	Rev. Dr. Ruth Sims , Church Farm House, Alveley	01746 780469
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
Deputy Warden	Alison Pearson , Brookfield, Daddlebrook Rd, Alveley	07882 888875
Treasurer	Anne Simms , Willowell House, Quattford	01746 768955

St. Andrew's Quatt

Churchwarden	Ann Lee , 7 Brook Hollow, Bridgnorth	01746 761138
Deputy Warden	Sara Douglas , 1 The Dower House, Quatt	01746 781825
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	Alan Oxlade	Stourbridge 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 780369

COVER PICTURE

Anglo-Saxon cast iron marker post on the approach to the Miners' Bridge in SVCP

Photo by Bill Smith

(See article page 9)

MARCH SERVICES

Duty rotas for St. Andrew's are on page 6 and for St. Mary's on page 20.

Sunday March 3

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Mothering Sunday March 10

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Andrew's
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10.30 a.m.	Worship 4 All Ages	St. Mary's
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Wednesday March 13

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Sunday March 17

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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2.00 p.m.	Confirmation Service	St. Mary's
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Palm Sunday March 24

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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10.30 a.m.	20/20/20	St. Mary's (starting in Old Chapel)
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4.00 p.m.	Teatime Praise	St. Andrew's
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Wednesday March 27

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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Maundy Thursday March 28

7.00 p.m.	Simple meal & foot washing	St. Mary's
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Good Friday March 29

2.00 p.m.	An hour at the cross	St. Mary's
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Easter Sunday March 31

10.30 a.m.	Joint Holy Communion	St. Mary's
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ST MARY'S CHURCH SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE MORNING

THANK YOU To everyone who came and supported the Pancake Morning held in the Pavilion and to those who helped either by giving their time or donating items for sale. It was a lovely morning enjoyed by all who attended, including the children who very much enjoyed the Pancake Races run by Rev. Jon.

Jenny Sirrell

I hate it when I see an old person, and then realize we went to school together.

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

March has arrived and Spring is here. Depending upon which calendar you choose the first day of Spring is March 19th at 11.06 pm or March 1st by the meteorological calendar. Personally I will opt for the earlier date as I just can't wait for spring to arrive.

As I write this the snowdrops are providing a wonderful carpet of blooms and the daffodils are peeping through.

Our Cluster Ash Wednesday service at St Mary's last month prepared us for Lent and helped us to focus our minds and prayers on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As Easter Sunday falls on the 5th Sunday in the month we will be joining with our good friends at St Mary's, Alveley for this most special service of Holy Communion when we celebrate the resurrection. I know that you will receive a very warm welcome at St Mary's. If you need transport please get in touch with me and we will make sure you can get there but if you are unable to make the service then St Andrew's will be open if you want to pop in for private prayer during the day.

I'm very pleased to report that there were 20 of us at a recent Holy Communion service here at St Andrew's which is an increase in our normal attendance. Every service we have is a joyous event but when there are a few more of us it feels even more special worshipping together and enjoying refreshments and time to chat afterwards.

I would like to thank Quatt Parish Council for their very kind donation towards a new churchyard mower and roadside sign, both of which were in a very poor state. I am very proud of our beautiful church and churchyard and we have many positive comments from visitors.

You will see that this month I am including a rota for readers and refreshments. We will start in a small way and then if any of you feel happy to do the Intercessions please contact me and I will happily include you on the rota. Please do not feel anxious about such things as leading prayer. So if you are interested we can give you guidance.

I will finish by wishing you all a very happy Easter. *Ann Lee*

ST. ANDREW'S ROTA

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Refreshments
Mothering Sunday March 10	Exodus 2.1-10 Carol Hubbard	John 19.25b-27 Ann Lee	Yvonne Miles Ann Lee
March 24	John 12.12-16 Sara Douglas		Sara Douglas Jean Jones

MEMORIAL BENCHES, ST. MARY'S

Many of our readers will know that in St Mary's Alveley lower churchyard there are several seats which have been placed there as a memorial to someone who has passed away and is probably buried in the churchyard.

During a recent inspection some of these seats have been found to have become unsafe mainly due to rotting of the wooden seat bars. Because of safety issues, it is the intention to remove three seats from the churchyard. The three seats which have obviously become unfit for purpose are dedicated to Fred Reeve (1928-2005), Diane Knowles (Wife, Mom, Nan and Great Nan) and Rose Collins (9/9/1921 to 31/1/1989 donated by The Friends of St Mary's).

If you are a relative of the above deceased persons or can make contact with any of their relatives or have any other interest in the seats, we would be grateful if you would get in touch with either Rev Jon Aldwinckle (Rector of St Mary's Alveley) or Penny Jenkins (Church Warden of St Mary's Alveley) before the end of March 2024. Contact details can be found on Page 4 of this magazine.

Rev Jon Aldwinckle & Penny Jenkins

MESSY CHURCH



Unfortunately, Merry Church was cancelled in February as several of the volunteers were unwell.

The next Merry Church will be held on Saturday 2nd March at 3pm. We will be making crafts, singing some songs and having a special tea to celebrate Mothering Sunday which is the following week on 10th March.

It will be an opportunity to make cards for and think about all those special people in our lives that "mother" us.

All the children of Alveley and Quatt are welcome, they must be accompanied by an adult. There is no charge but all donations to St. Mary's Church are welcome.

Alison Pearson



Music in Saint Mary's

Mo & Andrew

present music from

STAGE and SCREEN

3.30pm Sunday 3rd March

admission **FREE** - includes tea and cake

WHITTALL MEADOWS TRUST

The Trust's next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 29th May 2024** 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 **22nd May 2024**.

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.

Jan Higgins

D DAY CELEBRATIONS - GRANTS AVAILABLE

If any voluntary organisations in the village and Romsley are thinking of organising events to honour the 80th anniversary of the 6th June 1944, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council would be happy to receive applications for grants to help fund those events. The grant application form can be found on the website.

Isley Jakeman

Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 5th March in The Pavilion. The meeting starts at 7.30pm with Open Forum during which residents are welcome to raise questions on the matters on the agenda, or to raise anything of concern to you. The agenda will be available on the Parish Notice boards and on the council website.

The April meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd April.

Isley Jakeman

Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council.

Lenora, 95-years-old and in excellent health, confided that she was terribly worried: "Every one of my friends has already died and gone on to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went!"

ALVELEY STROLLERS AND STRIDERS WALKING GROUP

I guess you'll have heard of the famous Route 66 that was constructed nearly a century ago and ran across a huge part of America. Well what about **Route 45**, a little nearer home?

This, or should I say, **The Mercian Way**, is an award winning cycle network some 230 miles long, that runs from Chester to Salisbury, passing through our own Parish and onwards to Arley, via the Severn Valley Country Park.

(By the way, Chester has the oldest racecourse and largest amphitheatre in Britain, and Salisbury, the tallest Cathedral spire). Who knew?

The **Mercian Way** gets its name from the ancient kingdom of Mercia, circa 6th to 7th century, once ruled by Offa, the first man to claim the title, 'True King of England'.

Our walking group often walks some of this route. Although primarily set as a cycle route, it is also ideal for walkers. You will no doubt have seen the Anglo-Saxon cast iron marker post on the approach to the Miners' bridge just before crossing the Severn, depicting a warrior (see front cover), designed by Owen Thorpe. The lower half shield is more of an Iron-Age design. The helmet is a replica of one found at a burial site at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk. These were commissioned at various strategic points along the trail, the soldiers being on duty all year round, to ensure travellers can easily get their bearings. The route is also periodically indicated along the way with blue **Route 45** sign posts.

Walkers can enjoy some of Shropshire's most spectacular scenery by travelling the **Mercian Way**, along quiet rural lanes, including miles of off road tracks, lost worlds of riverside woods and meadows, far from the main roads and energetic pace of modern life.

Locally it gives you the opportunity, to walk alongside the majesty of the Severn Valley, with the steam trains as they pass alongside part of this route to Hampton Loade.

Intrigued to find out more? Why not try a section for yourself, in a safe and family friendly traffic free environment, or join us any Tuesday morning throughout the year, and explore some of this route, or any other wonderful tracks and paths within our area.

We meet just before 10am, for registration purposes, outside the Three Horse-shoes, Alveley.

Please don't hesitate to contact either Andrew; 01746 780478, or myself: 01746 780841, should you wish to know more .

Bill Smith

If it's true that we are here to help others, what are the others doing here?

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

You may have seen a lot of activity happening in Spring Pieces Meadow recently. Our rangers and volunteers have been working to strengthen the hedgerow. The hedge was 17 foot in places and is being thinned down and then manipulated from the vertical to horizontal to form a strong, natural barrier. At certain times of the year the fields will have sheep grazing in them (as part of the traditional hay meadow management practices) so the improved fence will help keep the sheep where they are supposed to be! If the work isn't completed by March, it will need to stop as we enter nesting season.

The brash from the hedge is then being burnt in our biochar kiln. This is a way of reducing carbon emissions in the air which occur during burning as oxygen is limited. The brash becomes biochar which can then be returned to the soil. It has already been used around the park in places where new trees have been planted. Burning in the kiln also protects the meadow itself, as the burning is contained to the kiln and doesn't happen directly on the ground.

During March, the café and visitor centre is open Wednesday to Sunday and from Monday 25th March to Sunday 7th April they will be open every day for the Easter holidays.

During Easter we'll have an Easter Pond Dip on Wednesday 27th March (11am-12.30pm) and a ranger-led Spring Scavenger Hunt on Wednesday 3rd April (11am-12.30pm). It's £4 per child, accompanying adults free. Call 01746 781 192 to book your place. We'll have a free self-led trail from Friday 29th March to Wednesday 3rd April. It will be spring-themed and available to collect when the visitor centre is open.

We look forward to welcoming you at the park as the weather improves.

Susie Comaish, Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre Manager 781192

CHAPEL CRAFTERS

We have had our first two meetings of this year, and the ladies have decided to make a Christmas Wreath made out of different material leaves in variations of the colour green. No experience is necessary. If you would like to learn a new craft, dates of our next meeting are in the diary at the back of the magazine. Coffee, tea and cake is provided, please come and join us. You will be warmly welcomed. For more information please call Jenny or Angie. Our phone numbers are also at the back of the magazine.

Happy Crafting. *Jenny and Angie*

Notice in hardware store: Husbands must have a note from their wives before choosing paint colours.

ALVELEY ART GROUP

After seeing the images on the news showing Storm Isha and Jocelyn in January, we were inspired by the idea of Waves so this became our theme for February. Breaking waves depicted in acrylic and watercolour have been painted by several art group members, and we're working on experimenting with different effects to recreate the dramatic movement with spattering and flicking white paint - it's good fun!

Many artists are inspired by the power of waves, JMW Turner was apparently tied to the mast of a steam-ship and experienced the full force of a storm so he could recreate it in paint. Contemporary artists are creating amazing images, such as the oil painter Maggi Hambling and the watercolourist Felicity Flutter. If you get chance to look at their work online, I'm sure you'll be impressed.

The art group members are also thinking of other ideas on the Wave theme, not necessarily the ones in our oceans! We'll see what comes up.

For information on the art group, please contact Deb on 01746 780243 or Colin by email on xalv7973@gmail.com *Deb Parker*

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

At our last committee meeting it was agreed to make a donation of £100 to Our Green Shop in Bridgnorth to help the move, towards the end of March, from its present location in Mill Street up to Platform 10 on Waterloo Terrace. Our Green Shop is a non- profit making store run as a Community Benefit Scheme. The shop assistants are all volunteers. On offer are refills, just take your own containers, of environmentally friendly detergents as well as herbs, spices, rice and pasta to help cut down on the enormous amount of plastic that we use. Also available are other dried foods and locally produced honey, lovely craft items and greeting cards produced by local artists. The village hall has shown its support of environmental issues for a number of years by buying cleaning products and cloths from Our Green Shop using the refill system. (That's why it's always the same washing up liquid container on the windowsill in the kitchen.)

Annual Village Quiz, Saturday 6th April at 7.30pm. The replies to the invitations are starting to return from organizations and club secretaries. Please return them all to 12 Bridge Road by Saturday 9th March. One very keen organization has already entered 3 teams! If you belong to a group or organization here in the village and haven't received an invitation and would like to take part please give me a call on 780 478. *Norma Crabtree*

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember: amateurs built the Ark, professionals built the Titanic.



MUSIC IN ST. MARY'S

It's a pleasure for me to perform and present music in such a wide variety of different styles in the beautiful setting of our village church. So the forthcoming concert of music from stage and screen will take us down another avenue. I'm particularly delighted to welcome Mo Morgan to sing for us, and to give her own slant on a number of well-loved songs. I can promise deep emotion and high drama!

The concert will start at 3.30pm on Sunday, 3rd March, and admission will be free. About 40 minutes of music will be followed by tea/coffee and homemade cakes. (Donations to the church will of course be welcome).

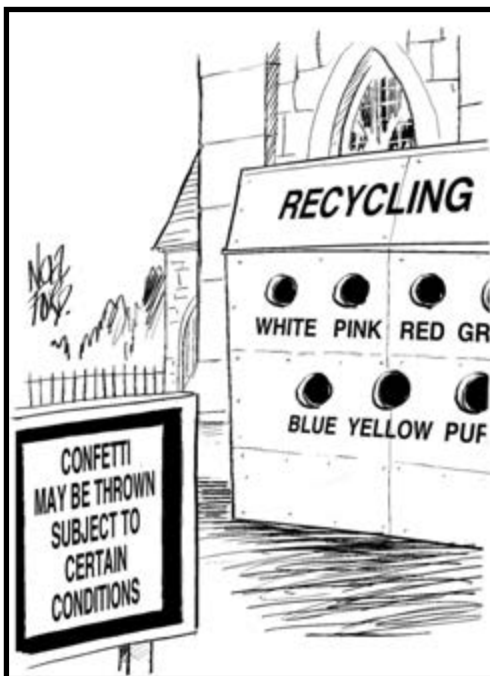
We can guarantee that the music will be both moving and uplifting, so do please join us for the very best of "Music in Saint Mary's".

Andrew Crabtree

ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD

Our March meeting will be a talk by Mr, John Butterworth. John will be telling us about his journey across many countries to go to a leprosy hospital in Nepal - an 8500 mile trip.

The meeting is on Monday 25th March at 2.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome. *Kath Bishop*



ALVELEY W.I.

What an inspiring talk we had from Megan Morris Jones about CUAN Wildlife Rescue Charity in February. She told us of their small start many years ago, expanding to the amazing facility in 15 acres just outside Much Wenlock, where they received 6,000 rescue requests last year. She showed us some wonderful animal photographs - my favourite was the one of the newly born hedgehogs, where one still hadn't developed spines. We must thank Diane Waldram who rounded the evening off for us by giving us all a valentine present - a shortbread biscuit decorated with a beautiful red rose.

Please note that the speaker for our March meeting has changed. Mr Barry Picken will now be joining us to talk to us about the Tettenhall Wood House.

On 10th April We are looking forward to our open meeting when Reg Moule, a well known horticulturalist will be joining us to give us some gardening tips. As Reg delights in answering gardening questions we are opening the meeting to all would be gardeners. We have 20 tickets available for anyone who wishes to join us. Tickets will cost £3 for visiting WI members and £5 for non WI visitors. They will be available from Sue Taylor (07973 343491). Any money raised at the evening will be donated to charity - Alveley First Responders. Light refreshments will be provided.

On Saturday 6th April We are entering a team (of which I am a member!) for the Village Quiz so please keep everything crossed on the day, as we will need all the help we can muster.

9th April will see us enjoying our bi-monthly breakfast at Quatt Farm Shop. They really do look after us with some wonderful food to set us up for the day.

Lastly, but not least, the Committee has asked me to say that there is a possibility that Alveley WI may be on the verge of closing later this year. Our Officers are finding it difficult to cope for various reasons so we will be looking for a President, Treasurer, Secretary and Programme Coordinator at our AGM in November. Without officers we regret that we will be unable to continue. We were formed in 1945 and have had a wonderful relationship with many village organisations and events over the years leaving our members with some great memories. *Pam Worton*



Our next Film Night will be on Friday March 15th at 7.30pm in Alveley Village Hall. The film will be a comedy. £5 to include tea/coffee and cake.

We hope to see you.

For more information please contact Carol Hatfield (780576) or Una Coombs (780568).

Ian Maddock

A HORSE LOAD (THE BUTTERCROSS, PART 3)

In 1155 Henry 11 granted land to three brothers, John, Hamo and Guy l'Estrange. Guy received the manor of Alveley by service of a half knight's fee. A knight's fee was a measure of land deemed sufficient to provide for a knight, his family and servants, but also to furnish himself and his retinue with horses and armour to fight for his overlord in battle. A knight's fee was between 1000 and 5000 acres, depending on location, the richness of the soil and any quarries or mills etc, but it could also include wasteland and woods. Henry 11 visited Bridgnorth in 1175 or 1176, possibly both. Guy l'Estrange was in attendance and he provided the castle with 92 horse cart loads of corn worth £9 0s 6d. (pre-decimal!), 120 hogs at a cost of £10 4shillings, 120 cheeses costing £2 6s 8d and 20 loads of salt worth 10 shillings. This must have been some barbeque! All this probably came from Guy's Alveley estate. Guy died in 1179 but not before founding St Marys.

Last year the pop star Rod Stewart offered to pay for 30 to 40 MRI scans. Bill and Melinda Gates have given millions to help medical science. This tradition (a little diminished of late) of a wealthy person wanting to help those less fortunate than themselves is not new. Guy's son and heir Ralph l'Estrange (born 1163) now took over the running of the manor and he decided to found a hospital in Bridgnorth for the relief of travellers skirting the great forestry of Morfe, which stretched from Alveley to Worfield and from the river Severn to near Claverley in the east. It was called the Hospital of Holy Trinity and St. John the Baptist and was located on the corner of St John Street and Mill Street, about where the car park of the Co-op and Marks and Spencer is today To help fund the hospital Ralph endowed it with three and a half virgates of land. A virgate was approximately 30 acres.

Does the Butter Cross mark this land? He also gave the hospital permission to take a daily horse cart load of dead wood from the Morfe forest which extended right down to where the Tesco petrol station is now. At the other end of Hospital Street in Bridgnorth was the leper hospital of St James, which was on the right immediately as you turn up the old Stourbridge road towards Aldi. It is first recorded in 1224 when the king granted the inmates a horse load of dead wood daily from the Morfe forest which adjoined it. This hospital was in existence until at least 1574.

And if you really want to live your history, on the outskirts of Codsall is a place called Colony Farm. Situated near to a sulphurous well believed to have curative properties, the farmhouse is called the leper house and one of the barns is for sale. (Rightmove). As you leave Wolverhampton from junction 2 of the M54 towards Telford, after you pass over the canal and then pass the house on the hill to your left glance quickly to your left and the leper house can be seen with it's many windows. The house was divided into many individual rooms each with a window for the privacy of the inmates.

Roy 'Deadwood' Page.

SUSTAINABLE BRIDGNORTH

Our February meeting was a presentation from My Low Carbon on 'How to get discounted solar panels for your roof and help your community go green at the same time with a Community Donation Scheme'. The session was very informative covering the details behind solar PV including what determines the output (this can range from the orientation and tilt angle of your roof to its size, shading and the electrical capacity of panels), component parts, optional extras, planning and the economics. This was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube via <https://bit.ly/BridgnorthReplay> (or contact us and we'll send you the link). If you'd like to get a quotation, you simply need to send an email to info@mylowcarbon.co.uk with your full address.

Are you passionate about our planet? Ready to roll up your sleeves and make a difference? Want to create an even greener, more sustainable community? Look no further! With your help, the Bridgnorth Green Festival could be gearing up for its third year, but we need YOU to help us make it happen. The proposed date is Saturday, September 7th at the Castle Gardens in Bridgnorth.

Why Volunteer?

- 1.Impact: Be part of a thriving community committed to sustainability.
- 2.Learn: Discover eco-friendly practices and connect with like-minded individuals.
- 3.Fun: Enjoy live music, activities, and a buzzing atmosphere!

How Can You Contribute?

1. Join the Committee: Be the change-maker and shape the festival's success from the ground up.
2. Volunteer on the Day: Assist with stalls, activities, and more.

Ready to make a difference? Email me at chair@sustainablebridgnorth.org.uk, visit our Facebook page or join our next monthly meeting on Thursday 14th March 7.30pm to sign up.

Spread the word - do you have a friend who's up for the challenge and ready to don the green cape! Let's make this year's festival the best one yet! Thank you for being an eco-hero!

Kath Norgrove

A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son. "I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed," she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help. "Easy. My son sleeps with the dog."

FROM THE RECTORY WINDOW - 2

The season of Lent is here, a time to stop and reflect on the path our lives are taking and looking out of the window seeing all the glory and splendour of God's creation can sometimes put things into perspective.

If we take a moment of stillness in all the busyness life brings, it seems time slows, and everything comes into sharper focus bringing us colour and hope and emphasising the glory of the world around us. Have you ever noticed how the blue sky and sunshine seems to lighten our step and bring us so much joy? The rain too of course. Rain drops on a leaf or petal can be beautiful, although not necessarily so when you are drenched just getting out of the car!

The hedges are filling with new leaf. The one surrounding our garden is a very pale rust colour at present, but I know will change to green once the new growth pokes through. The birds are singing, and the bulbs are peeking out of the soil and I'm excited to see them in their full glory, it will also be a reminder of what was planted in which pot!

The camelia on the path to the front door is heavy with bud and is quietly waiting to burst forth with colour when mother nature says go, go, go.

The greenhouse has not fared so well and will need some attention before it is ready for this year's endeavours.

Having succumbed to the viral cough and cold which I know many have also suffered, I was unable to take part in this year's Big Garden bird watch but I'm sure from the recent morning bird song there would have been many to observe. They are a joy to watch while I am doing the washing up, pecking and devouring the seed in our feeders. I love to see the blackbird and the robin, they are such a comfort.

We do however have some blue tits nesting in a bird box at the end of the drive so hopefully nothing will frighten them away before fledging time.

A new pheasant has also taken up residence and was happily pecking at the base of the bird feeder earlier this week. He was dressed in his smartest clothes, his colours very bright and prominent in the sunshine. We also have three naughty squirrels who although comical when upside down on the bird feeder have been and sadly continue to be quite destructive.

Well, it is time to get my seed box out, have a cuppa and decide on what to grow this year.

Don't forget to take a moment and look out of the window, God's glory is abundant for us all to see and the words of this hymn came to mind:

Jesus is Lord, creation's voice proclaims it

For by his power each tree and flower, was planned and made

Jesus is Lord, the universe declares it.

Sun, moon and stars in heaven cry, Jesus is Lord!

Until next time

Wendy

ALL IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

750 years ago, on 7th March 1274 St Thomas Aquinas, Italian Dominican friar, Catholic priest, philosopher, and theologian, died.

250 years ago, on 16th March 1774 Matthew Flinders, British navigator and cartographer, was born. He led the first inshore navigation of Australia, and was the first person to call the country by that name.

150 years ago, on 30th March 1874 Charles Lightoller, British naval officer, was born. He was Second Officer on the RMS Titanic, and the most senior member of the crew to survive the sinking in 1912. He was also a commanding officer in the Royal Navy during WW1, and took part (as a retired volunteer) in the Dunkirk evacuation in WW2.

125 years ago, on 6th March 1899 the German pharmaceutical company Bayer patented aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid).

100 years ago, on 25th March 1924 Greece became a republic. The monarchy was abolished, and the Second Hellenic Republic was proclaimed.

90 years ago, on 9th March 1934 Yuri Gagarin, Soviet cosmonaut, was born. He was the first man in space. (Died 1968)

80 years ago, from 24th to 25th March 1944, the Great Escape took place. 76 Allied prisoners of war broke out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging three tunnels. Three of the prisoners escaped, 73 were recaptured, and 50 were executed. The event was dramatized in the film *The Great Escape*.

75 years ago, on 10th March 1949 the 1948 Arab-Israeli War ended. Israeli victory.

70 years ago, on 1st March 1954 the USA tested the most powerful nuclear device it has ever detonated – a thermonuclear hydrogen bomb codename Castle Bravo, at Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands. Due to a design error, the 15-megaton blast was 2.5 times greater than expected, and caused extensive contamination, deaths, burns and birth defects.

65 years ago, on 9th March 1959 the Barbie doll was launched at the International Toy Fair in New York City. 9th March is Barbie's official birthday.

50 years ago, on 29th March 1974 the Terracotta Army was discovered in Shaanxi, China by a group of farmers who were digging a well. The 8,000 life-sized warriors, plus chariots and horses were buried with the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang (247 BC to 212 BC) to protect him in the afterlife.

30 years ago, on 12th March 1994 the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.

25 years ago, 21st March 1999 Ernie Wise, British comedian and actor (Morecambe and Wise) died.

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Alveley Cricket Club is proud of its sporting prowess and heritage. Here at Alveley Cricket Club, we put our money where our mouth is. We believe sports clubs should be a force for good, there's so much more to sport and Alveley has something for everyone.

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We believe that sport is an essential part of a well-rounded individual, and we are committed to providing children and adults with the best possible opportunities to excel. Our sports coaches are highly experienced and passionate, and they are dedicated to helping our junior member reach their full potential whether your goal is participation or all the way through to Elite Performance Pathways and University Scholarships.

Our **Open evening is on Friday 15 March 6.30pm to 8pm** I, the perfect opportunity for parents, kids and those adults looking to learn more about our opportunities to play cricket. We will also have **Calabria Street Food serving food from 6pm**. We look forward to seeing you there.

About our junior coaching: ALL children treated the same. Open to all children aged 5+. 12 sessions for £40.

All junior games are LOCAL in the best junior league there is: Worcestershire Junior League. Our children represent Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Central Sparks. BBQ every Friday throughout the summer Fantastic facilities including new Pavilion, practice nets and social area.

Open evening Friday 15 March Coaching starts Friday 26 April

Ladies Softball: Did you enjoy playing rounders at school? Our ladies softball is for you! We have been successfully running ladies' softball sessions for a number of years now. They are a great way to be active, get fit and meet new friends. You don't need any experience of playing cricket and all kit is provided. If you are interested please come along to our open evening to find out more.

Upcoming events: Race Night - 3 May – Free entry.

Live music The Follicles - 31 May – Free entry

Live music James Baker - 28 June – Free entry

Worcestershire County Cricket Club: Want to see the best up and coming start of the future? We are excited to announce that Four Oaks Ground has been

selected as a hub site for Worcestershire, we will be hosting 15 matches from Under 12s through to U18s. The ground will also host their sub academy training and matches against other first class counties.

Get Set Weekend Saturday 23rd March 10am Spend the morning getting the ground ready for the new season. Lots of jobs to do for all ages and abilities. Please save the date and volunteer a few hours of your time. FREE Tea, Coffee and bacon baps for all helpers, followed in the afternoon with a few beers with friends.

We have a number of paid and volunteer roles available at the club:

Cook. We are looking for someone to prepare food for after matches on a Saturday and Wednesday evening. Food can be pre-prepared at home or at the club.

Bar staff. We have vacancies for bar staff throughout the summer, if you are interested please get in contact.

Voluntary roles: Gardener – An hour or so per week to look after hanging baskets, planters and wildlife garden.

Groundsman – To help with hedge trimming, strimming, rolling and grass cutting.

General handy man – General jobs around the Pavilion from painting, installing new fence and other maintenance jobs.

For more information about the club and how you can get involved can be found on our website and through social media or email: info@alveleycc.co.uk

Richard Twigg

Alveley and Claverley

County Councillor:

Colin Taylor.

Phone 07581 066956

Email:

colin.taylor@shropshire.gov.uk

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA MARCH 2024

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

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions	Chalice	Sidespersons	Refreshments
March 3	Exodus 20.1-17 Liz Bullas	John 2.13-22 Alison Pearson	Benoit Ritzenthaler	Dale & Sue Chidwick	Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Jenny Sirrell Carol Wall
March 10	John 19.25b-27 Laura Simms				Diana Kennedy Jenny Sirrell	Anne & Laura Simms
March 17	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Wendy Aldwinckle	John 12.20-33 Ian Maddock	Penny Jenkins	Alison Pearson Carol Wall	Pat Haw Hazel Leach	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
March 24	John 12.12-16 Fred Cooper				Fred & Pauline Cooper	Keith & Alison Pearson Jenny Sirrell
March 31	Acts 10.34-43 Keith Pearson	John 20.1-18 Sue Chidwick	Wendy Aldwinckle	Ann Lee Jenny Sirrell	Colin Taylor Carol Wall	Keith & Alison Pearson Jenny Sirrell

DIARY 2024

March	2	Messy Church, St. Mary's, 3pm-5pm (p 7)
	3	Music in St. Mary's with Andrew & Mo, 3.30pm (p 12)
	4	Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
	5	Alveley & Romsley Parish Council meeting, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 8)
	8	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
	13	Alveley WI meeting, Pavilion 7pm
	15	Alveley Entertainers' Film Night, Village Hall 7.30pm (p 13)
	15	Alveley Cricket Club Open evenong, Four Oaks 6.30pm-8pm (p 18)
	20	Alveley WI meeting, Pavilion 7pm
	22	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
	23	Alveley Cricket Club 'Get Set' weekend, Four Oaks 10am (p 19)
	25	Alveley Ladies' Guild, John Butterworth. Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 12)
	27	Easter Pond Dip, SVCP 11am-12.30pm (p 10)
	27	Alveley Recreation Association AGM, Pavilion, 7.30pm
April	3	Spring Scavenger Hunt, SVCP, 11am- 12.30pm (p 10)
	5	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
	6	Alveley Village Quiz, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 11)
	9	Alveley W.I. breakfast, Quatt Farm Shop (p 13)
	10	Alveley WI OPEN meeting, Pavilion 7pm (p 13)
	19	Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
May	3	Alveley Cricket Club Race Night (p 18)
	6	Fun football event, Recreation Ground
	9	Sustainable Bridgnorth meeting

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Alveley Art Group	Deb Parker	780243
Alveley Bellringers	Roy Page	07704 362285
Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper	780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg	780437
Alveley Day Centre	Pauline Bird	780796
Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock	780936
Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill	780794
Alveley Flower Classes	Barbara Twigg	780016
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	Mo Morgan	781277
Alveley Parish Council/Street Lights	Chloe Martin	07355 092770
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 Singers	Penny Jenkins	780660
Alveley Tennis Club	Bob Higgins	780259
Alveley Village Band	Eleanor Andrews	761238
Alveley Village Hall	Norma Crabtree	780478
Alveley Village Hall bookings	Carol Hatfield	780576
Alveley W.I.	Sue Taylor	780652
Arden Allotments Association	Sally Neville	780931
Chapel Crafters	Angela Lander 780041/Jenny Sirrell	780369
Community Oil Scheme	Dave Dugmore	780058
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 Valley Park Ranger	Ed Andrews	781192
Squirrel Bowling Club	Hilary Smith	780609
Strollers & Striders Walking Group	Andrew Crabtree	780478
Sunshine Corner	Bekki Vowles	07877 882048
Voluntary Car Scheme	Community Transport (Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 only)	768539
Whittall Meadows Trust	Jan Higgins	780259

THE BACK PAGE

The Head Gardener and I have just returned from a family funeral in the West Country. As these occasions usually are, it was very much a matter of mixed emotions. Ron was the eldest of my cousins and had moved a few years ago from his home in Devon to Wiltshire, to be nearer his daughter. It was not long after their move that his wife passed away and so it was comforting for him to be near family after that.

It was only a year or so ago that we had read his memoirs. They weren't published but were typed and in an A4 loose leaf file. They made a fascinating read because although I knew him for 80 years, there were, of course, things that I hadn't known. He started with his childhood in a South Devon village on the edge of Dartmoor and took us through his schooling, interests, working life and travels right up to the move to Wiltshire. It was full of insights into his life, humour and personality.

He had been an engineer in the Royal Navy and not long before his move to Wiltshire had built in his garage, from scratch, a working model of a submarine. It was quite a thing to behold, being at least three feet in length, possibly more. That he was able to sail it on a local reservoir, to submerge it and bring it back to the surface as well as various other manoeuvres shows how skilful he had been.

His memoirs made it easy for the family to prepare their funeral tribute. Perhaps it's something we should consider doing ourselves!

A happier side of funerals is that you meet up with friends and family you haven't seen since the last funeral! We reminisced about our childhood haunts on Dartmoor and the fact that the Head Gardener and I revisited many of them last year. Cousin Jean, several years younger than me, kindly reminded everyone that when she was a girl I had held her dangling from a bridge over a canal - I was clearly a delightful youngster. I pointed out that I couldn't do that nowadays, adding quickly that it was more due to my increased age and decreased strength than her increased size!

Happy Easter.

Ian

Please send items for the **April edition by 9 am on Monday March 18th** 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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