

The Parish Magazine

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



JULY 2024

60p

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The Rector writes

Dear Friends

The schools will be breaking up for their Summer holidays this month. What a variety of things people do for their holidays! It seems that nowadays practically everybody has a holiday, in fact some people seem to have several holidays a year.

When you go on your holiday, at home or abroad, you will always find a church, or many churches, nearby. If you are going abroad, go in and have a look at whatever church you can find. In the heat of the day it may be closed, but in the morning and in the evening you will find it open and services taking place. Find out what you can about it, and sit peacefully and quietly reflecting on why the Church is there.

If you are spending your holiday in England - why not do the same? Walk round the church, read and examine the gravestones if you are visiting a country or village church and churchyard. The stones are very interesting, they tell us much history, and many of them are most wonderfully carved.

Whichever church you visit, compare it with our churches in Alveley and Quatt. Look at the altar and its ornaments, and the colouring. Look at the pulpit and the lectern and the font.

These are the four essential pieces of furniture in our churches.

The font is near the door, where we are baptised, and so become members of God's family, starting our journey of faith. Then into the body of the church where we celebrate and worship God, onto the lectern, where we have the Bible read to us, and then to the pulpit where we have the Bible and our faith explained to us.

The chancel step is the next phase in our Christian journey, because it is there we are confirmed. So we are on our way to full membership of the church as we approach the altar (the Lord's Table), and kneeling at the altar rail we receive Holy Communion, the Lord's supper, as celebrated by Jesus and his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion.

Such is the common ground we find in all our churches. If you haven't visited your local church, either St Mary's Alveley or St Andrew's Quatt, I invite you to. Both churches are open daily.

I invite you, therefore, on your holidays be a church explorer, and see what you can learn, but always remember it is God's house you are visiting.

Never leave it without saying a prayer.

Happy exploring

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
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
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

There are no entries this month

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

Summer in Severn Valley Country Park
Photo by Don Bannister

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.

JULY SERVICES

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

Sunday July 7

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

Wednesday July 10

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

Sunday July 14

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Andrew's
(N.B. No service at St. Mary's)

Sunday July 21

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

Wednesday July 24

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

Sunday July 28

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

N.B. All July services subject to change.

MESSY CHURCH



On the first Saturday in June Messy Church met to celebrate Pentecost – the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples, after his Ascension into Heaven.

Headbands of flames, windsocks with rainbow colours and an illuminated tree with the symbols of Pentecost were made during craft time. The children also helped with a colourful collage based on the beautiful, hand stitched banner that stands by the altar of St. Mary's Church.

After worship and praise with Rev Jon, everyone enjoyed a tea of hot dogs, cake and fruit.

Next month, on Saturday July 6th, Messy Church will be joining in with the Friends of Alveley School, Summer Festival on the Alveley Recreational Ground from 12pm. This will be an opportunity for everyone to see what happens at Messy Church.

The theme will be the story of Noah – his ark will be there, we will be making crafts to take home and Rev Jon will be telling the story [and probably singing a few songs], several times throughout the afternoon. A cake, drink and small gift will be given to all the children who join us for story time.

Everyone is welcome, anytime during the afternoon, but let's just pray we don't re enact The Flood as well!!

Alison Pearson

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

July at last - my favourite month of the year. I am a bit late getting this to the Editor so am asking him to forgive me which thankfully he usually does.

“ Must try harder” would be an appropriate comment I think!

My excuse, such as it is, is that I have not been feeling very well for the past week or so. I have had horrendous toothache and was given antibiotics and told to take painkillers. Sadly I took the maximum dose permitted which, in retrospect, was not a sensible thing to do as I stopped taking them suddenly . However, at last I am beginning to feel human again thankfully.

As I write this I have just returned from a lovely lunch with the Bishop in the Palace gardens. We were blessed with good food, good company and a beautiful sunny day. If you haven't managed to visit Hereford Cathedral then I can strongly recommend it.

This month we have our Quinquennial inspection and once again can I please ask if anyone would be able to help with tidying the church and churchyard areas as the architect will inspect everything very closely. I am very proud of our beautiful church and want it to look as good as it possibly can. Please call me on 01746 761138 if you can help in any way and we will arrange a date to get together.

Ann Lee

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

On Friday 5th July, 7.30pm at Quatt Village Hall we welcome Tim Chu and Ian Bailey performing 'A Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel'. Tickets from Quatt Farm Shop or see our website.

Steph Hinton

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on the 2nd July at The Pavilion. It will start at 7.30pm with open forum which will be extended to half an hour to allow John Campion, The Police and Crime Commissioner, to address the meeting.

The full agenda will appear on the various notice boards in due course.

As ever everyone is welcome so why not come along.

Isley Jakeman

Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council

ALVELEY ART GROUP

We enjoyed our visit to the International Watercolour Masters event in May. It was truly international with Eudes Correia of Brazil showing his large scale portraits that he paints in Portugal and Stephen Yoa, a Toronto based artist, whose large woodland scenes were stunning. However, it was David Poxon, from Norfolk, with his vibrant and detailed paintings that has inspired us with June's theme of 'Locks'. Two of our members have already studied, drawn and painted the complex mechanisms of mortice locks, and two holidaying members have shared photographs of a variety of locks, with rusty ironwork and grainy, gnarled wood. If you're interested in joining our friendly, informal art group, please email Colin on xalv7973@gmail.com or call Deb on 01746 780243. *Deb Parker*

CHAPEL CRAFTERS

We had a lovely day at the Malvern Spring Quilting Show. The weather was kind to us and we were able to eat lunch outside with a view of the hills. There were lovely stalls tempting us to buy from a wonderful array of materials, kits, sewing gadgets, materials and kits. We are all looking forward to our Craft Day in July. Happy Crafting
Jenny and Angie.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE PUBLIC MEETING

The task force committee apologises for postponing the scheduled village meeting on June 19th.

At present we are gathering additional information and a new meeting date will be arranged for the near future.

Doug Portsmouth



The next film night will be on Friday, July 19th at 7.30pm. The usual charge of £5 applies, to include tea/coffee and cake. This month's film will take us back a few years. For more information, please contact Una Coombs (780568) or Carol Hatfield (780576).

We look forward to seeing you.

Ian Maddock

Forbidden fruit creates many jams..

ALVELEY OLD CHAPEL

Our new menu is proving very popular, especially the ploughman's lunches. We have a choice of ham, cheese or pork pie. We have two new cake makers making amazing homemade cakes.

We had a volunteers' lunch at Dominique's recently which was a great way for everyone to relax and meet volunteers they do not usually work with.

We are pleased to welcome Alveley Strollers and Striders for their anniversary lunch on 2 July.

Please note that the Chapel will be CLOSED on TUESDAY 2nd JULY and REOPEN on WEDNESDAY 3rd JULY.

We look forward to meeting you all soon for lunch or just a cuppa and a chat.

Mo Morgan, Manager, Alveley Old Chapel Tearoom 01746 781277

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

An exciting new night at Alveley Tennis Club!

We are starting a New Tennis Session on Thursday 11th July and Every Thursday 7-9pm . This night is available to all Ladies and Gents (All Levels) . Members and Non Members are welcome . We are keen to extend our Club to New Players and hope you will come to our friendly Club which has 3 fabulous Floodlit Courts . If you want to join us on this New Night please put your name down. For further information call Jan Higgins on 01746 780259 . *Brian Davies*

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

Given the weather the clubs had a great start to the season, Friday nights are very busy with junior training, events and hot food proving a big success. Thursday we continue to have women's softball and outdoor senior nets. If you are interested in playing cricket just come down, you will be made very welcome. We would like to thank all of our volunteers who continue to put in hundreds of hours of their time running the club and maintaining our fabulous ground and facilities.

Pavilion - Is open to everyone, you don't need to be a member to come down and enjoy our wonderful facilities. During July we will be having lots of work taking place within the club, this includes new carpet and chairs and tables. We have also invested in a new outdoor seating area which is open to all.

Friday 5th July - We are having a race night, free entry races start at 7.30pm

Live music Daysleeper will be performing on Friday 12th July. Free entry and the music starts at 7.30pm.

For upcoming fixtures please see page 9.

Richard Twigg

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB FIXTURES

Sat July 6 1st XI v Colwall CC 2nd XI (away); 2nd XI v Droitwich Spa 3rd XI (home)

Sat July 13 1st XI v Harvington CC 1st XI (home); 2nd XI v Hagley CC 3rd XI (away)

Sat July 20 1st XI v Himley CC 3rd XI (away) ; 2nd XI v Cookley CC 2nd XI (home)

Sat July 27 1st XI v Cutnall Green 1st XI (away); 2nd XI v Tenbury W. 2nd XI ((home)

Wednesday T20 matches

Wed July 10 Alveley v Cookley (away)

Wed July 17 Alveley v Oldswinford (away)

Wed July 24 Alveley v Gas (home)

Wed July 31 Alveley v Watermill (home)

Junior County Fixtures at Alveley CC

Sunday August 4 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v Herefordshire

Sunday August 11 Worcestershire CCC Under 12 v Shropshire

Tuesday August 20 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v Shropshire

Wednesday August 21 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v Herefordshire

Thursday August 22 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v To be confirmed

Thursday August 29 Worcestershire CCC Under 13 v To be confirmed

Alveley and Claverley

County Councillor:

Colin Taylor.

Phone 07581 066956

Email:

colin.taylor@shropshire.gov.uk

Recreation Ground, Alveley
Saturday July 6th
12noon – 4pm

Crafts

Worship

Messy Church

Games

Food

Family Fun

FREE TO ATTEND

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

MONDAY CLUB - AGE UK ALVELEY

COFFEE MORNING MONDAY 1ST JULY

10.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon

COMMUNITY CENTRE, ARDEN WAY

COFFEE

TEA

HOMEMADE CAKES

EVERYONE WELCOME

COME AND JOIN US FOR LIVELY CHATTER, LOTS OF LAUGHTER,

A NICE HOT DRINK AND HOME-MADE CAKE

THE ALVELEY SINGERS

The choir has been working hard to prepare for a concert in Alveley Old Chapel on Wednesday 31st July at 7.30pm. This could be their final concert as numbers have once again declined and the future of the choir is in serious doubt.

The choir was formed in 1975 and has had a long and varied career including a studio recording and several successes at local music festivals. Over the years they have performed many concerts mainly around the local area including venues in Telford, Wolverhampton, Bridgnorth and Kidderminster. Our current choir chairman was a founder member and several other singers are long standing members.

For the majority of the choir rehearsals over the years, Alveley Old Chapel has been a warm and welcoming home and the choir would like to thank the management for their continuing hospitality.

At the concert, the choir will include choral sections from Faure Requiem as well as other mixed repertoire. We would be delighted if you could join us for what could be our last ever concert.

Penny Jenkins

A golfing priest, after having been beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse somewhat depressed.

"Cheer up," said the layman. Remember, you'll eventually be burying me some day."

"Yes," said the priest. "But even then, it will be your hole!"

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

With the summer holidays approaching we have a number of events happening at the park, so now seems the perfect time to let you know about them.

Severn Valley Country parkrun continues every Saturday. It's a free, fun, and friendly weekly 5km community event. You can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate and perhaps, pop into the café for a drink and/or breakfast bap!

Our Nordic Walking Group meets each Wednesday at 10am. The group mostly walks here at the park, but the last Wednesday of each month they meet at Comer Woods. It's £3.50 per person (if you have your own Nordic Walking poles) or £4 (if you borrow our poles.) It's a lovely way to explore the park, meet other people and get fit!

During the school holidays we'll be holding events on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays.

On Mondays there will either be a rock and fossil hunt (22 July & 5 August), pond dip (29 July & 19 August) or mini beast hunt (12 August). The pond dips and mini beast hunt are £4.50 per child and the rock and fossil hunt is £6 per child, The rock and fossil hunt is a bit different this year as you will be building a rock collection to take home with you.

On Wednesday we have a different, fun activity! On Wednesday 24th July we will be joined by members of Bridgnorth Camera Club. They will be leading a walk providing help to take fantastic photos of the park. You'll need to bring a camera or your phone and they will help you set up a super snap. This session is free, but we will need you to book a place.

On Wed 31 July, we'll be holding the Woodland Olympics. Make it a summer of sport with a twig replay. The pinecone shotput, woodland obstacle course and more. Everyone gets a medal for taking part. £4.50 per child, please call to book.

Wed 7 August, our ranger is leading a marvellous moths session. Meet some moths which have been collected in our harm-free moth trap. Search for caterpillars by looking for signs of munched leaves and learn about the life cycle of a moth. There will also be time for some moth crafts. £4.50 per child, please call to book.

On Wed 14 August, it's pirate day! We'll be having a morning of pirate fun and games!

On Wed 21 August there'll be a scavenger hunt and woodland make. Then for the final Wednesday of the school holidays (28th), you can learn how to make nettle into string. £4.50 per child, please call to book.

Each Friday there will be a free drop-in craft session. It will be a different theme each week (we're still bouncing around ideas). Drop in any time between 11am and 12.30pm to make something arty to take home.

The wonderful Rain or Shine Theatre Company are with us on Friday 16th August, with 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Tickets are on sale now via ticketsource.co.uk. Its £16 for adults, £8 for children.

Hopefully you'll be able to join us at some point during the summer! We'd love to see you!

Susie Comaish, Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre Manager 781192

ALVELEY W.I.

I was sent a photograph of the afternoon tea in June. What a spread! All the food looked fabulous. Many thanks to Vintage Chef in Bridgnorth for everything **including the washing up!!!** I hope all who went had a wonderful time. There were a few members who had other commitments of which I was one. I was quite jealous when I saw the photo so it was a good job that I was soon otherwise distracted by my beautiful surroundings in Sandringham.

Wednesday 10th July is our next evening meeting when David Rushforth, a former crew member of Britannia, is coming to tell us all about 'Life on Board the Royal Yacht'.

And finally, **Wednesday 17th July** sees the ladies that lunch group heading out to the Cat at Enville.

Change of venue. Our get together on 14th August is our annual picnic. We were hoping to go down to the Country Park this year to take advantage of the magnificent views there. However, with the way the weather has been so far the committee has decided to hold the picnic on the Rec so that the facilities of the pavilion will be available to us should we get wet weather and the trees will provide shade should there be brilliant sunshine (fingers crossed). Looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. *Pam Worton*



LOOKING THROUGH THE RECTORY WINDOW

It has been a time of much celebration and reminiscing as we recently celebrated our Ruby Wedding anniversary. Yes forty years married, where has the time gone?

Which made us think and realise that we are now “the older generation” in the family. That was truly brought to mind when we watched our great niece Lilly, who was 2 years old in April, playing on the garden swing when they visited for our special day.

The words ‘we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree’ (from the hymn Immortal, Invisible) are never more apt as we watch our families grow and flourish but also as we see our surrounding gardens and hedgerows bursting forth

There is something quite comforting about the cushion of all the leaves and blossom surrounding us and bringing memories of the times we used to take my parents to the airport at this time of year.

Mother nature’s order of things brings the blossom to our trees and at present the blossom on our Rhododendron is making a subtle splash of pink. Before that it was the turn of the Peony but sadly mine did not have any flowers this year.

Is climate change responsible I ask myself or is the reason, as Monty Don would say, ‘it needs repotting - another job for the weekend’. Or it could have been those pesky sheep last springtime eating the plant whilst it was in bloom. I’m sure with mother natures help and some fresh compost it will recover.

Have you noticed the abundance of “leaves on the trees” surrounding us are a sea of multiple shades of green, my Mum’s favourite colour, it had to be green!

It is as if the shrubs and hedges have put on their Sunday best green suits with splashes of colour mixed in. Eventually they all die back, the ‘Sunday clothes’ are put away for another year and the cycle starts all over again.

As I write this there is much cheeping from our birdbox on the house, I think they may be blue tits and I’m sure they will fledge and flourish soon.

There are fluffy white clouds in a beautiful blue sky, the hedges are waving in the breeze, Gods creation never fails to amaze. Don’t forget to look around you. We are truly blessed if only we take a moment out of our busy lives to see it.

I don’t know about you but feeling the breeze on my face, enjoying the warmth of the sun, albeit a little elusive at present, and the changing scenes around us, it all gives me comfort and helps to put life’s challenges into perspective.

Until next time

Wendy Aldwinckle

As a sergeant in a parachute regiment, I took part in several night-time exercises. Once, I was seated next to a lieutenant fresh from jump school. He was quiet and looked a bit pale, so I struck up a conversation. “Scared, lieutenant?” I asked.

He replied, ‘No, just a bit apprehensive.’

I asked, ‘What’s the difference?’

He sheepishly replied, ‘That means I’m scared, but with a university education.’

NEW LIFE NEPAL SUPPORT TRUST

The last report I wrote for the Parish Magazine shared the disappointing news from our friends at New Life House in the far west of Nepal that the annual application to renew the licence for the orphanage had been refused by local officials. The result of this was that all the children had to leave the orphanage and be returned to impoverished family members, if they could be located.

Early continuing contact with the children revealed some disturbing stories of lack of suitable clothing and footwear and in one case a child being housed in a small shed with holes in the roof. The family of the late Gyanu Pradhan who founded and ran the orphanage continued to support the children as best they could but some had been placed long and difficult journeys away from the orphanage.

In March 2024, the Dixon family, James, Janette and Sarah their daughter flew out to Nepal. On 9th June 2024, Janette, who is the Support Trust treasurer, and Sarah, also a trustee, visited St Mary's Alveley to give an update.

The orphanage has been reopened and rebranded as a hostel for young people in need providing food, safe accommodation and help with education costs. The hostel is called Sitkar Hostel and the first child has been enrolled. She is a seven-year-old whose parents cannot afford her education and food.

In addition to continuing support for Sitkar Hostel, the support trust is hoping to raise extra money to pay the fees for some of the older children who used to be at the orphanage and are now wanting to move on to further education. There is also a project to provide hostel residents with bicycles to use for the journey to and from school.

If you feel you could help with either of these two projects either by regular donations or by a one-off gift, please contact the support trust by emailing new-lifenepalst@yahoo.co.uk.

St Mary's parishioners are also busy knitting colourful scarves to send out to Nepal and collecting small change in Smartie tubes. If you would like further details about these two challenges, please contact Penny Jenkins on 01746780660.

Penny Jenkins

SUSTAINABLE BRIDGNORTH

Sustainable Bridgnorth are hoping to host a (hybrid) presentation on local Repair Cafés, to coincide with the AGM on 12th September at 7.30 p.m at St. John's Roman Catholic Church Hall, Bridgnorth. Our aim is to have representatives from Broseley (intending to run their first on Saturday 27th July), Ludlow (where a well-established Café operates), Highley (with upcoming information days on 15th June 11.30-13.00 Parish Hall and 6th July at the Carnival, Severn Centre, and aiming to start in September), and possibly a couple of others to talk about their experiences, successes, and challenges. These Repair Cafés play a crucial role in reducing landfill

and saving people money. If anyone is interested in initiating one in Alveley, we encourage you to join us at this event.

One of the problems we face on land, in our rivers and oceans is plastic pollution. When it comes to cutting down on plastic waste, studies indicate that individuals are interested in reducing single-use packaging, but often struggle to find access to reusable options, with exceptions such as the affordable community refill stores like 'Our Green Shop'. Two possibilities are Deposit Return Schemes and Extended Producer Responsibility, which were promised by the Government back in 2019 but have continued to be postponed year after year. The implementation of a comprehensive 'all-in' Deposit Return Scheme could prevent at least 55% of plastic packaging on beaches and generally reduce overall littering. Extended Producer Responsibility should encourage producers to prioritise the production of reusable and refillable packaging.

It is crucial that the new government will take action and prioritise reuse and refill initiatives to stop unnecessary plastic usage and prevent pointless plastic. In this time of purdah, consider urging local parliamentary candidates to endorse mandatory 5% reuse targets by 2026 and 30% reusable packaging by 2030, as well as the adoption of Deposit Return Schemes and Extended Producer Responsibility to promote a circular economy. Will they support the right to repair legislation, and incentivise reuse and resource-efficient production?

A final ask. Keep supporting or start visiting 'Our Green Shop', now located at Waterloo Terrace in Bridgnorth High Town, and help to increase its customer base. It offers low-cost items as well as various zero waste alternatives, reducing packaging waste and serving the community, and we want to help ensure its survival.

Kath Norgrove



NEWS FROM ALVELEY SCHOOL

April to June is always the busiest time of year at Alveley Primary School, and this year has been no exception. May and June are when we complete our statutory assessments in Years 6, 4, 1 and Reception. The whole of school have been working hard to ensure the year ends well, with all pupils reaching their potential in academic subjects. However, this is only one part of life at school and with the weather (in theory) improving and as the chance to use our outdoor spaces increases, Alveley really comes alive.

We have again been investing in our forest school area, developing an outdoor reading area complete with outdoor book cupboard, a water feature with solar power and new potting shed. The crops are all in for this season and the classes have enjoyed watering them each day while beginning to see them grow.

Pupils have had the opportunity to partake in several sporting competitions and we are proud to be entering our first team into the Oakengates athletics competition for the first time in many years.

Our oldest pupils have just returned from a 3-day residential trip to Blackwell Adventure, near Bromsgrove. They took part in kayaking, raft building, the zip wire, tree climbing, orienteering and many, many other activities. Despite the variable weather, the class had a wonderful time, and all came back very tired but very happy.

Elsewhere across school, our Year 1/2 class had the chance to visit the Craven Arms Mosque to learn more about the faith of Islam and how the Mosque meets the needs of those in the community. The class have also had a special visitor in from Severn Trent Water, who has helped them to understand the importance of conserving water. Year 3 and 4 will be going to visit a Hindu Mandir later in the term, and as part of their topic on 'Inventors and Inventions', spent a day at Ingenuity in Telford, learning about famous local inventors and building buggies that they could then race!

Thanks to the generous support from Whittall Meadows Trust, we have been able to begin revamping reading areas in classes, building on the 'reading for pleasure' provision that we have tried so hard to embed more firmly across school. Thanks to support from The Howard Thompson Bequest, we have had a large, 5 metre-long timeline commissioned and fitted to our corridor. Not only does this timeline show key events chronologically sequenced across all of the areas of History that we study, it also has several local events, including the opening of Alveley Colliery and construction of St. Mary's Church placed on it.

We are excited about the Summer Fayre on July 6th, with our school playing a large part in both the preparations and events of the day.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming our newest Nursery pupils into school for their final taster sessions before starting in September, and begin seeing our Year 6 pupils disappear to secondary school for their 'move-up' days, a bittersweet experience for all of the staff who have worked so hard with these pupils over the years.

Mr C Marsh

Head of School



NAMES

Names can be fascinating things and the hunt I had a month or so ago for the origin of Quatt and Quatford set me looking at other names around our parish. However, it did not turn out to be as simple as I had hoped. The more sources I looked at the more confusing it became. They frequently don't agree with one another and spelling was very fluid years ago, much like it is becoming now on social media. Some recent howlers I have seen include 'are' and 'our' being used for each other, 'accept' and 'except' getting confused and it seems that 'there' 'their' and 'they're' are interchangeable. Let's hope I don't have any typos in this article.



So back to names. The first book I looked at had some straightforward examples. Harley between Much Wenlock and Cressage is from hares ley or field of hares. Tupsley, where our former vicar Nick Armstrong is minister, is tups ley or field of tups. Entire male sheep are rams but many farmers still call them tups. And so to our own parish. I thought Romsley would be Rams ley or field of Rams but not so. Romsley was Hrammeslege in Saxon times, which was possibly a man's name but most likely from the old English word hramsa which is wild garlic, so ley or field of wild garlic. Onto the three 'greens' Birds Green, Fenn Green and Turley Green. In Saxon times a Green was a clearing or pasture in a forest. So Birds Green is simply a field with many birds. Fenn Green, a place with a boggy or wet field. (think Cambridge or Norfolk fenns) but the books could not agree on Turley Green. It maybe from the old English 'pyrre' meaning dry field, possibly from Pori or Puri, a man's name but I think most likely from turf, which would mean a place with good grass.

And the name of our village? The Romans were big recorders and a lot of our very early history comes from Julius Caesar. He mentions Jesus and the Druids of Anglesea among many things. The Saxons that came after the Romans were not writers and we have just a few sources. Bede wrote 'a history of the English church and people' in 731. Gildas in the 6th century wrote 'on the ruin of Britain' and in the early 890s King Alfred of Wessex compiled his Anglo Saxon chronicle, but it is considered unreliable. Then at long last the Domesday book ordered by William the Conqueror to see what was in the land he had just won. In 1086 it records our village as Alvidelege. In 1195 it is written as Aluithelg and in a pipe roll in 1196 as Alfithelga. A pipe roll was a medieval government financial record kept so that they knew how much to tax people and farms. The village was also recorded as the Leah of AElfgyf at this time. (See what I mean about spellings?) All of the above are considered to be the name of a Saxon woman which is unusual. Why not a man's name? They were the powerful ones. The Lords. The nobles.

This brings us to one other possibility. The eldest daughter of King Alfred the Great (he that burnt the cakes) was named Aethelflaed and was born around 870. At the age of 16 she married one Aethelred and after King Alfred died in 899 they seem to have become one of the most successful King and Queen partnerships. When her husband died in 911 the Anglo-Saxon nobles agreed that Aethelflaed could become ruler in her own right. History records her as the Lady of the Mercians. She never

remarried, thus retaining all the power for herself. These powerful Anglo-Saxon women were sometimes used as mediators between warring factions where men could be considered too aggressive.

In 917 Aethelflaed and her army pushed eastward capturing Derby from the Vikings who then surrendered Leicester without a fight. Even York, the stronghold of the Vikings, promised to obey her. During her reign towns such as Stafford, Tamworth and our own Bridgnorth were fortified to secure roads and rivers. She died in 918 and was buried in Gloucester and would certainly have travelled through the lands bordering the river Severn many times. But was her name misspelt and corrupted until it eventually became Alveley? Your guess is as good as mine. *Roy Page.*



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Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions	Chalice	Sidespersons	Refreshments
July 7	Liz Bullas 2 Samuel 5.1-5,9-10	Jean Marshall Mark 6.1-13	Penny Jenkins	Jackie Hamp- son Jenny Sirrell	Dale Chidwick Colin Taylor	Alison & Keith Pearson
July 14	TBA 2 Samuel 6.1-5	TBA Mark 6.14-29	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
St Andrew's						
July 21	David Hampson 2 Samuel 7.1-14a	Paul Walford Mark 6.30-34,53-56	Wendy Aldwinkle	Alison and Keith Pearson	Pat Haw Jenny Sirrell	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
July 28	Wendy Aldwinkle John 6.1-21				Diana Kennedy Carol Wall	St Mary's Team + David & Jackie Hampson

DIARY 2024

July 1

- 2 Age UK Coffee morning, 13.30am-12, Arden Way Centre (p 10)
 2 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council meeting, , Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 6)
 5 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm (Craft day) (p 7)
 5 Alveley Cricket Club Race Night (p 8)
 5 A celebration of Simon and Garfunkel, 7.30pm Quatt Village Hall (p 6)
 6 Messy Church, Recreation Ground, noon-4pm (pp 5 & 9)
 6 Alveley School Summer Fayre (p 16)
 8 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
 10 Alveley W.I. Pavilion, 7.30pm (p 12)
 11 Alveley Tennis Club new evening session starts 7-9pm (p 8)
 12 Alveley Cricket Club, live music 'Daysleeper' 7.30pm (p 8)
 17 Alveley W.I. lunch, Cat at Enville (p 12)
 19 Chapel Crafters, Old Chapel, 10.30am-12.30pm
 19 Alveley Entertainers' Film Night, Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 7)
 20 Alveley Village Band Musical Coffee Morning, 10am-12, Village Hall (p 12)
 22 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
 23 Rock and Fossil Hunt, SVCP (p 11)
 24 Photography walk, SVCP (p 11)
 29 Pond Dip, SVCP (p 11)
 31 Woodland Olympics, SVCP (p 11)
 31 Alveley Singers concert, Old Chapel, 7.30pm (p 10)

August 5

- 5 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
 5 Rock and Fossil Hunt, SVCP (p 11)
 7 Marvellous moths session, SVCP (p 11)
 12 Mini beast hunt, SVCP (p 11)
 14 Pirate Day, SVCP (p 11)
 14 Alveley WI picnic, Recreation Ground (p 12)
 19 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
 19 Pond Dip, SVCP (p 11)
 21 Scavenger Hunt and woodland make, SVCP (p 11)
 28 Make nettles into string, SVCP (p 11)

Sept 2

- 12 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
 12 Sustainable Bridgnorth AGM, St John's R C Church Hall, Bridgnorth 7.30pm (p 14)
 29 St. Andrew's Harvest service and lunch

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THE BACK PAGE

The Head Gardener and I have just returned from our annual pilgrimage to France. We stayed in Champagne, Burgundy and the Loiret and it was in the last week that we had the pleasure of visiting Antoinette, a friend of nearly fifty years. We had not seen her since 2017.

Her daughter, Isabelle, dropped in while we were there and, although I resisted, the Head Gardener used the well worn greeting: 'Isabelle necessary on a bicycle?', with Isabelle joining in.

I was reminded of a time that Isabelle and her brother David came to stay in Alveley without their parents. They would have been about twelve and thirteen and I asked them if there was anything they would really like to do while they were here. I was somewhat dismayed when they responded that they would like to see a First Division (as it was in those far off days) football match, for most people know that I am not a football fan and never watch it, even on television. However, I had asked the question and felt I had to respond. It was towards the end of the season and Aston Villa was playing at home. Neither they nor their opposition were in danger of relegation (or finishing high in the table), so it seemed a good choice.

Unfortunately I hadn't talked to anybody to get advice, so on arrival at the turnstile I said 'It's me and four youngsters. We are all neutrals so where's the best place to go?'

With a wry smile on his face the turnstile operator suggested that the best place to go would be 'back home.'

Being a rugby fan, where home and away fans mingle happily and with lots of good banter, it hadn't really crossed my mind that Aston Villa v Birmingham City was not a good place to be with children!

On reflection the turnstile operator was right, for we did go in and the first thing we saw was a fight! It was difficult to tell whether a steward was trying to intervene or whether he actually started it.

The result of the game? I haven't a clue.

Ian

Please send items for the **August edition by 9 am on Wednesday July 17th** 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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