

# The Parish Magazine

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

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MARCH 2022

50p

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## The Archdeacon writes

Dear Friends,

No sooner are the Christmas decorations down on Twelfth Night (or Candlemas, depending on your practice) than the Easter Eggs start appearing in the shops – one of our modern signs of spring!

But we know that we don't just jump straight from Christmas to Easter. We shall begin to mark the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. In some traditions, last year's palm crosses will be burned, and the ash used to mark the forehead with a cross as a sign of penitence, focusing the heart on repentance and prayer, as well as on our own mortality –

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you will return.”

For most people, modern Lent doesn't involve the full Lenten Fast. Instead, you'll often hear people talk about giving up chocolate, cake, alcohol, or social media. One year, in my teens, I gave up television for Lent. It was amazing to see what else I got done instead! The 'giving up' symbolises, of course, a period of self-denial: saying 'no' to some of the things we crave, to help us focus more on God. And in my book that's always a good thing. But just giving up things for the sake of it may not help us with that aim of focusing more on God and his character. Each year many Lent books are published to help us spend extra time reflecting on God and his character. This year's Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book, written by the Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, focuses on justice as we recall the words of Isaiah, “Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice?” (Isaiah 58:6). There's a 40-day Live Lent challenge we can all follow, based on the book, which you can order online here: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781402603/live-lent-embracing-justice-adult-pack-of-10> (I've given the link for packs of 10 in case you want to follow the challenge as a congregation; you can order them individually or in packs of 50 as well.) There's also a children's version <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781402665/live-lent-embracing-justice-kids-pack-of-10>

And in case you find the giving-up all too much, remember that the Sundays in Lent don't count as fast days: all Sundays are always a remembrance of the resurrection, and Christians can't fast on such a joyful day. You heard it here first...

With my best wishes,

*Fiona Gibson*

*Archdeacon of Ludlow*

## United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

Retired Clergy	Rev. Dr. Wendy Rylance, Roughton Farmhouse	01746 716399
Retired Clergy	Rev. Dr. Ruth Sims, Church Farm House, Alveley	01746 780469
Reader Emeritus	Barrie Jenkins, 34 Birch Grove, Alveley	01746 780660
Reader	Sue Chidwick, 28 Greenway Avenue, Alveley	01746 781786

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### Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists

Rev. Sue Levitt	01299 826641
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### St. Mary The Virgin, Alveley, WV15 6ND

Churchwardens	Jenny Sirrell, 24 Golden Acres, Alveley	01746 780369
	Peter Fry, 2 Peacock Hill, Alveley	01746 781228
Deputy Wardens	Carol Wall, 2 Mallards Close, Alveley	01746 780185
	Dale Chidwick, 28 Greenway Avenue, Alveley	01746 781786
Treasurer	Anne Simms, Willowell House, Quatford	01746 768955

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### St. Andrew's Quatt

Churchwarden	Ann Lee, Huntington Lodge, Huntington, Little Wenlock	
	Telford TF6 5BW	01952 503517
Deputy Warden	Sara Douglas, 1 The Dower House, Quatt	01746 781825
Treasurer	Steve Jones, 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster	01562 753828

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### From The Benefice Registers

Funerals	<i>Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life'.</i>	
February 11	John Southcombe, aged 95	St. Mary's

### For all church enquiries please visit our website

<https://www.alveleyandquattchurches> or email

stmary01church@outlook.com leaving your name, contact details, reason for enquiry and we will get back to you.

In an emergency please call Jenny Sirrell, Churchwarden (780369).

For Alveley burial ground enquiries call Michael York (780144) or Jenny Sirrell

Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the PCCs, retired clergy, Hereford Diocese, the editor or the Church of England.

#### COVER PICTURE

Signs of spring.

Mothering Sunday is March 27th!

Photo by Don Bannister

## JOHN SOUTHCOMBE

Alan and Julie, Paul and Pam would like to thank everyone who sent cards or attended Dad's funeral on Friday, February 11th. We are grateful for your expressions of sympathy and for sharing your memories of him.

Thank you also to Dr. Abbotts and all the team at Alveley Medical Practice for their care and support over the years.

Last, but not least, we express our sincere thanks to Jo, June, Holly and all the staff at Danesford Grange for their patience and care during the last ten weeks of Dad's life. *Alan, Julie, Paul and Pam*

John was a well respected member of St. Mary's. He served the church in many roles, including treasurer. He had a wise head on his shoulders and paid great attention to detail. This made him an excellent and eagle-eyed member of the magazine proof reading team. His advice was often sought and appreciated, not least in the church heating system and the replacement of the St. Mary's roof. Another tangible memory is in the beautiful chalice John presented to St. Mary's in memory of his wife Margaret. The chalice is in regular use during communion services in non-covid times. *Editor*

### MARCH SERVICES

#### **Sunday 6th March**

#### **1st Sunday of Lent**

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Andrew's

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

#### **Sunday 13th March**

#### **2nd Sunday of Lent**

10.30 a.m. Family Service St. Mary's

#### **Sunday 20th March**

#### **3rd Sunday of Lent**

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

4.00 p.m. Teatime Praise St. Andrew's

#### **Sunday 27th March**

#### **4th Sunday of Lent**

10.30 a.m. 20/20/20 St. Mary's

#### **Sunday 3rd April**

#### **5th Sunday of Lent**

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Andrew's

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

**Duty rotas for St. Mary's are on page 19.**

## WHITTALL MEADOWS TRUST

The Trust's next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 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 **18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**.

***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.***

## ROMSLEY PARISH

I have arranged our Annual Parish Meeting for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 8.00 p.m. in the Pavilion, Alveley Recreation Ground. *Maureen Norgrove*

## ALVELEY OLD CHAPEL

Alveley Old Chapel has been closed since 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 due to the increase in CoVid in the village following the Christmas break. We are happy to announce that the Chapel will open its doors at 11.00am on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The revised opening times will be from 11.00am to 4.00pm on Tuesday and Wednesday for the first 2 weeks. With effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March, we will be extending our opening to include Thursdays and therefore will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11.00am until 4.00pm every week.

We thank you for your patience and hope to see you all returning to support us and enjoy our homemade cakes as well as our expanded lunch menu.

*John Lowe*

## MAGAZINE DELIVERY

Many thanks to all our distributors, without whom our magazine could not survive. Many have been delivering for years and some are 'retiring' after years of service and we are delighted to welcome some new members to the team. Some subscribers will notice that they have a new distributor.

*Editor*

## NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

Spring is here at last officially starting on the 20th of this month. It is lovely to see the daffodils emerging, giving us a splendid carpet of sunny yellow. Longer, brighter days will make us all feel better I am sure after the long, cold winter months.

On Sunday 6th March we are very much looking forward to welcoming our Archdeacon Fiona Gibson to St Andrew's to take our Holy Communion service at 9.30am, so please come along and join us.

Preparations continue in our search for a new Incumbent . Please bear with us as this is never a quick process. Our services will continue as normal during the Interregnum.

We are planning a service to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and I will give you more details in next month's magazine.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that we will hold Holy Communion on Easter Sunday - more details next month. Also, if you would like to purchase a lily in memory of a loved one please fill in your details on the form in the porch.

If you have any concerns during the Interregnum please do not hesitate to contact me. *Ann Lee*

## EASTER LILIES AT ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's will again be decorated with lilies this Easter. If you wish to dedicate a lily or lilies in memory of someone very special to you, please complete this form (print clearly please) and make your donation of £2 per lily to one of the people below. Names will be entered into the Book of Remembrance and placed on the altar on Easter Day. Thank you.

Julie Fry 781228

Hazel Leach 780320

Jean Marshall 780500

2 Peacock Hill

3 Greenleys Crescent

1 Daddlebrook Road

DONOR	PHONE NUMBER	LOVED ONE'S NAME

## CONGRATULATIONS TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Shropshire villages of Alveley and Romsley are celebrating your Platinum Jubilee by

### “ SAYING IT IN FLOWERS”

To celebrate this unique occasion the villages of Alveley and Romsley will be decorated throughout with displays of flowers in the national colours of RED, WHITE and BLUE.

This project will be undertaken and supported by three sections of the community:

1. Alveley and Romsley Parish Council, who will help to coordinate the scheme and in some cases offer practical support.
2. Village organisations, e.g Alveley School, St Mary's Church, The Recreation Association, The Village Hall, The Old Chapel, Alveley Medical Practice, Severn Valley Country Park, The Community Hall, local public houses. Others listed in the Parish Magazine may be interested.
3. Residents: With individual displays within the visible areas of their property, including pots and hanging baskets - or any other ideas they may have.

To achieve this aim we have as partners MORFE VALLEY NURSERIES (details below).

The nursery will supply all plants. These will be delivered to appropriate sites, including private houses.

All participants will be responsible for their own costs

**ALL FLOWERS WILL BE CHARGED AT WHOLESALE PRICES IRRESPECTIVE OF ORDER SIZE.**

Needless to say order sizes and therefore costs will vary between display areas, but contact with the nursery should resolve this situation.

In the case of larger displays from organisations which may require a visit from the nursery to establish needs and therefore prices, Morfe Valley Nursery is happy to undertake this should the need arise. A quote will then be given.

**PAYMENT...**Payment will be by invoice on delivery, then a statutory 28 days given for settlement.

**THE RED ,WHITE and BLUE flowers....**

Morfe Valley Nursery have stressed that the logistics in this process have to be very carefully managed, from seeding, growing, calculating blooming etc. In order that the plants reach their destination so that their blooming is at its

optimum for the Bank Holiday Weekend 2nd-5<sup>th</sup> June.

The Nursery has stated **the deadline for ordering** from them is **MARCH 31ST**

During the weekend the Recreation Field will be open all day on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be entertainment in various forms. Details of this will follow in the Parish Magazine. You will be able to bring food and drink as suits your needs, however a bar will be open should the need arise.

Morfe Valley Nursery

Stourbridge Road, Bridgnorth. WV15 5QB

Contact: GAIL (Proprietor)

07743 488745 EMAIL ..... [gailandtalos@outlook.com](mailto:gailandtalos@outlook.com)

Malcolm Love

01746 780547 [malcolmlove@outlook.com](mailto:malcolmlove@outlook.com)

## ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm. The Annual Village Quiz.** There has been a good response from many village organisations at the time of writing this article so the stage is set for a very enjoyable evening. If you have been overlooked or know of three other people who would like to make up a team please get in touch and we can probably squeeze you in. There will be a trophy, which will bear the name and date of the winning team, and a donation will be sent to a suitable charity from the money raised on the evening.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm. "A Brief History of Music" performed by GreenMatthews. [www.greenmatthews.co.uk](http://www.greenmatthews.co.uk)**

Beginning at the Middle Ages, ending up in the Twentieth Century, this fun and fast-moving show is a whistle-stop tour of western music. This musically accomplished duo combine to play and sing their way through time, apparently with the addition of the wit of Blackadder and 1066 And All That. This show is being subsidised by Arts Alive. Tickets cost Adult £12, Child £6 and a family ticket £30 and will be available from me, 780 478 or online from [artsalive.co.uk](http://artsalive.co.uk)

Norma Crabtree

*In Swansea there used to be a well-known firm of solicitors called W G Christian and Sons. A letter sent to them from overseas was addressed simply: W. G. Christian, South Wales. It eventually arrived at their office with a note from the Post Office attached. It read: "No Christians in Cardiff - try Swansea."*

## **ALVELEY ST OLLE S AND ST IDE S WALKING G O P**

Can you spot what's missing from the above? Well its **U** and **R**, which is a convenient way of asking if you've ever considered joining your local walking group?.

Our programme of weekly walks are available from several outlets in the village, listed below:

Alveley Country Park Visitor Centre    Alveley Medical Practice

Alveley Old Chapel Tea room                      The Pavilion

Alveley Village Hall                                  Mobile Library van

Arden Day Centre                                      The Three Horseshoes

This will give you an insight into when and where we walk. Now that the weather's picking up, (well it was at time of writing !!), why not give it a go on any Tuesday morning, meeting at the Three Horseshoes pub car park at 10.00am.

You could start on one of our shorter less energetic walks, and build up to the longer walks, make new friends, enjoy a good natter, get the benefit of fresh air and exercise. What have you got to lose, apart from a few extra pound that may have crept on over the winter!! It's got to be a win win situation.

You can also contact either Andrew: 01746 780478, or myself: 01746 780841, for more information.

Please do join us for our AGM on Monday 14th March at 11.00 am in the village hall. (Tea/coffee and biccies provided). Thank you

Hope to see you soon.                      *Bill Smith*

## **ST. MARY'S CHURCH FLOWERS**

As many of you will know as of the 1st December I finished my flower arrangement duties in church. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me with their kind donations and given their time to help me over the years.

Julie Fry (781228) is now the lead person for St. Mary's flowers.

Many thanks to all for your support.

Information about Easter lilies at St. Mary's is on page 7.

*Jayne Yarrington*

*The reporter was interviewing the town's oldest woman. "And what do you find is the best thing about being 104?" he asked. "That's easy," she said. "No peer pressure."*

## ALVELEY COMMUNITY MEMORY CAFÉ

After a long shut down mainly due to the high rates of Covid in the area we are reopening on Monday March 28th at 2.00pm. As previously, the session will be held in The Old Chapel and we would like to thank the committee for their continued support; it's much appreciated. The cafe is also strongly supported by Alveley Medical Practice and by the 100 club.

The cafe runs from 2.00pm until 4pm with a lightly structured afternoon of activities starting with the serving of refreshments and usually including gentle sitting exercises with Sue Holland and crafting with Dawn Catton, but we are always open to suggestions and offers for other activities. We are also looking at the possibility of a few local outings.

The cafe is an opportunity to meet other people with similar experiences, to exchange views and to have fun. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Isley Jakeman*

## ALVELEY PATIENT GROUP 100 CLUB

**January 2021 draw results:** Congratulations to January prize winners, who were drawn on January 29th by Paula Stott and James Chapman (Alveley born and bred school friends ahead of our mini school reunion Saturday night).

First Prize: £75.00 Mr. Roger Dodd - Ball no. 28

Second Prize: £50.00 Mrs. Penny Jenkins - Ball no. 42

Third Prize £30.00 Mrs. W. J. Scott—Ball no. 44

Fourth Prize: £10.00 Mrs. Alwyn Potter—Ball no. 67

Fifth Prize £10.00 Mrs. Christine Brown - Ball no. 17 *Sam Potter*

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday this year is on March 27th. These are seven year olds' answers to questions about mothers!

*Why did God make mothers?*

She's the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.

*How did God make mothers?*

I've heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.

*What ingredients are mothers made of?*

God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and one part of mean.

*What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?*

.She had to know his background, like has he put anything too disgusting on Facebook?

She needed to check out his bank account, to make sure he could buy her clothes.

*Why did your mum marry your dad?*

My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mum eats a lot.

*Who's the boss at your house?*

Dad was, until Mum found what he had written on Facebook about Granny.

## THE REAL EASTER EGG CELEBRATES ITS TWELFTH YEAR

For the first time since the pandemic began, churches and communities across the UK will be coming together to celebrate Easter as restrictions are relaxed. So, no wonder that the theme for the Real Easter Egg this year is 'Let's Celebrate'!

The Real Easter Egg was created in 2010 as a way for churches, groups and individuals to share the Easter story while supporting Fairtrade. Twelve years on, it has a network of thousands of churches and supports. More than three million people have read the Easter Stories it produces, and it has raised more than £320,000 for good causes.

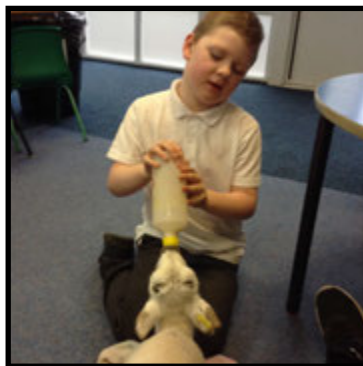
This year, you can also reach out to UK families facing hardship by donating to food banks through the Real Easter Egg's new foodbank scheme.

All Real Easter Eggs are made of Fairtrade chocolate and come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions with a prize competition worth £200. They are Palm oil free and plastic free.

Because of the continued effects of the pandemic, it is more important than ever that we find ways to share the Easter story in 2022 and support producers. The Real Easter Egg is a proven way to do this. More details at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

## ALVELEY SCHOOL

The children have enjoyed a wide variety of experiences so far this term! As well as their learning in class the children have engaged with a selection of wider opportunities, including Sports events with other Trust schools, an 'Alveley's got Talent' talent show, cooking workshops from Caterlink (our catering company) and even a visit from Dolly the lamb! In the second part of the Spring term all classes are looking forward to trips and visits out of school, linking to their class topics. As a school, we are looking forward to further wider opportunities for the pupils, including the local celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and coaching and a cricket festival at the Alveley Cricket Club. *Catherine Coleman, Assistant Headteacher*



## **ALVELEY ART GROUP**

After a discussion on new plans for the year, we have decided that longer sessions would give us more time to create our art (and talk about art) so we now run from 10am to 1pm.

We are also making plans to get out and about, firstly with a trip to Jackfield, Ironbridge for a glass fusion workshop and then later in spring an art gallery trip.

If you would like any information on the art group, please get in touch with me (780243) or Martin (780794).

*Deb Parker*

## **ALVELEY LADIES' GUILD**

In January John Carter entertained us with his knowledge of antiques. It was a very interesting meeting.

Our March meeting will bring Barbara back to share her expertise in crafting. We had such a good afternoon with Barbara in November. What will she teach us this time? The meeting will be at 2.30 pm on Monday 28th March in Alveley Village Hall.

All will be welcome.

*Kath and Barbara*



The next Entertainers' events are a film night and the much postponed mystery night. Our next film night will be on Friday, March 18th and the mystery, 'Where The Brass Band Plays' by local author Eva Dribb will be on Friday, April 8th. Both events are in Alveley Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets for the mystery night are now available from Una Coombs (780568) at a cost of £10, to include a fish and chip supper. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. (If you have a dietary request re fish and chips, please inform us when you buy your ticket).

The film night will be £5, payable on the door, to include tea/coffee and cake. For more information please contact Ian Maddock (780936).

*Pat Moreton*

*Laughter is like changing a baby's nappy: it doesn't permanently solve any problems, but it makes things more acceptable for a while.*

## **ALVELEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

Hopefully 2022 will be a better year for everyone. Let us hope restrictions continue to change for the better.

It is lovely to see people of various ages enjoying the recreation ground. The pavilion is open for use. There will be restrictions and guidance in place as advised regarding the covid situation. Please contact us to discuss if required.

Booking secretary is Margaret Shaw 01746 780459.

We have not arranged a fund raising event for this year, but will join in the village celebration for the Queen's platinum anniversary.

There are a few wooden blocks available to complete the board in the pavilion. They are sold for £10 each. Your name is put on the wooden block and put onto the board. It would be nice to complete the board with people's names that continue to support the recreation ground.

The annual general meeting is at the pavilion on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Please come along and support the recreation ground. To continue maintaining this area for everyone we need people to join the committee to promote their ideas and provide support.

Thankyou for your ongoing support.

*Diane Knowles, Chairman*

## **THE ALVELEY SINGERS**

Just a quick update on the article from February's magazine. Sadly, the Alveley Singers were not able to restart meetings in Alveley Old Chapel on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The Chapel was still closed on that date, so a decision was made to plan to resume on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm. Our singers are all eager to get back to singing together again, so we hope that there will be no further delay. Please contact Penny Jenkins on 01746780660 for further information on the choir and what is planned for the near future.

*Penny Jenkins*

## **ST. MARY'S LOWER CHURCHYARD GRASS**

We are currently looking for someone to take on the cutting of the lower churchyard grass. For more information please ring me on 01746 780144.

*Michael York*

*In the 1980s I fell off my bike and hurt my knee. I'm telling you this now because we didn't have social media then.*

## SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

The work and support of Severn Valley Country Park Supporters Group is vital to the management of the park. The practical tasks they complete are invaluable. They also raise money through activities such as selling honey, making reindeer, their Christmas fayre and direct donations from visitors. The money raised is always used on different projects at the park and this month we have two examples of how the funds have been spent.

For over a decade we have had great success with kestrels nesting in a box which can be seen from the bridge. Recently, the box has been taken over by squirrels meaning the kestrels have not settled. This is unfortunate, as for at least five years in a row, the kestrels using the box raised numerous chicks. We would like the success with the kestrels to continue so our volunteers are using some funding to locate two new nesting boxes. One will be in a similar location by the bridge and the other will be close to our wildflower meadow. We hope this will encourage the kestrels to return. A local firm will be used to safely climb the chosen trees and fix the boxes.

Another way the funding has been spent recently has been to purchase a defibrillator which has been installed at the visitor centre. The defibrillator can be found on the outside of the centre, near to the Ranger's Office. It has been registered and is available for use.

We would like to thank our visitors for their kind donations, and we would also like to thank our volunteers who are always so generous with their expertise and time.

During March, the visitor centre and café will be open Wednesday to Sunday. Wednesday to Friday 11am-3pm, Saturday 9.30am-3.30pm and Sunday 10.30am-3.30pm.

Parkrun continues each Saturday morning, our Nordic Walking sessions continue on Wednesdays and we are in the process of organising a series of Woodland Mindfulness Workshops. Look out for more details on our Facebook page and webpage.

*Susie Comaish, Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre Manager 01746 781192*

*I cannot recall, in any of my reading, a single instance of a prophet who applied for the job. - AW Tozer*

## ALVELEY VILLAGE BAND

We have a new conductor! Alveley Village Band is delighted to welcome its new musical director, Garry Bailey. This very talented Shropshire musician has arranged music for many orchestras, bands and singers and is currently writing a musical! He is artistic and musical director to Whitchurch Operatic Society and the Little Theatre Donnington, based in Telford. Along with all this Garry has also conducted three 'Last night of the Proms' style concerts and co-conducted a marathon Gilbert and Sullivan sing-along at Birmingham Town Hall.

We are highly honoured that Garry has taken us on and given us a promising start to the new year with plans for some exciting concerts. New musicians are always welcome. We are on the look out especially for string players and a kit drummer.

**Advance notice:** Proms in the pub, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, will be on Saturday 4th June at 2pm at The Three Horseshoes. Wear red, white and blue for all the 'proms' favourites.

*Jenny Jarvis*

## ALVELEY W.I.

I hope that you all enjoyed the talk on the History of Dudley Castle by Max Keen. He was such an inspirational and entertaining speaker who gave us a vivid picture of what life was like in and around the castle from Norman times until the mid 1800s. I heard a few members say that they would have enjoyed history at school more had their teacher been like Max. I was born and spent all my educational years in Dudley and his talk made me realise that it was such a shame that our history curriculum never utilised such an amazing facility as the castle.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm. We are having a chat, quiz and suggestion evening. So, please put your thinking caps on and if there is anywhere at all that you think we should visit, any speaker that you would like to hear or anything that you would like us to be involved in, then please let us know on the evening.

It was unfortunate that we had to cancel our lunch in January but we are rebooking it at the Cat at Enville on 16<sup>th</sup> March 12.00 for 12.30. Please make sure that you have put your name on the list if you would like to join us.

*Pam Worton*

## NEW LIFE NEPAL SUPPORT TRUST

Just a short update on what is happening out at Dhangedi in the far west of Nepal.

New Life House orphanage now has 14 children in its care as well as 3 children of the families who are responsible for running the orphanage. The schools are now open and the children are continuing their education along with other children who are on sponsorship with New Life but still living with their own parents. Because of recent building upgrades there is room for more children to be accommodated both boys and girls but for the present time no more are expected.

You may remember that during lock down some extra building had taken place including a block of four commercial units close to a road. Two of these units have now been let providing a small amount of income to help with the costs of looking after and educating the children.

In recent weeks several young adults who have now become self supporting in employment have returned to New Life House to celebrate their birthdays. It is wonderful to see that the New Life orphanage family is still supported by their Christian friends as they become working members of the wider Nepali society.

If you would like to receive news updates as they become available, or are interested in becoming a financial or fundraising supporter, please contact Penny Jenkins on 01746780660 who serves on the support committee but is not a trustee.

(Charity registration Number 1158988) Alternatively contact the treasurer Janette Dixon via [janettedixon@yahoo.com](mailto:janettedixon@yahoo.com).

*Penny Jenkins*



## ALVELEY CRICKET CLUB

It's all systems go at Alveley Cricket Club, from women's softball cricket to junior coaching we have something for the whole family. This year we are going to have family activities taking place on Friday evenings once the coaching has finished.

We are also hosting lots of county and district games ranging from under 10s through to over 70s, a full list of fixtures will be released soon. There's no better time to join Alveley, we are a friendly and welcoming club that provides opportunities for everyone giving you a better experience, fun and enjoyment. Our junior programme provides quality not quantity in a comfortable family environment.

**Exotic Zoo.** We are pleased to confirm that the Exotic Zoo is coming to Alveley on May 20th. More details will be posted on our Facebook page and website shortly.

**Junior Coaching.** This year our junior coaching programme will run throughout the whole summer, starting on Friday 6th May through to Friday 2nd September. 6.30pm start with loads of fun activities for children aged 5 and over. After coaching we have lots of fun activities planned from slip and slide, discos, BBQ and the very popular Exotic Zoo. The bar will be open for parents and family members to come down and socialise.

Our junior coaching sessions will be led by a Worcestershire coach supported by our qualified Level 1 and 2 coaches.

Juniors joining the club will also benefit from private 1-2-1 sessions by qualified coach and a welcome pack for new members with discounted drinks voucher.

Everyone who joins also gets access to our new fantastic all-weather training facilities outside the coaching sessions for you to use and enjoy.

For those children aged 5 to 7 they can sign up to All Stars Cricket now.

Children aged 8-11 can sign up to Dynamos Cricket now. Those aged 11 and over can join the cricket club through our junior membership, details of how to access All Stars, Dynamos and our junior memberships can be found on our website.

**Alveley Primary School.** The club will deliver school coaching for all pupils at the school, including a primary school festival taking place at Four Oaks on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Women's Softball Cricket** This starts on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May running to Tuesday 19 July from 6.30pm to 8pm. All equipment is provided, no experience is necessary. It's a great way to meet new friends, get fit and have lots of fun.

**Senior Nets.** Outside training starts on Thursday 7th April at 6.30pm.

**Information/Registration Night.** If you are interested in joining the club, we would love to welcome you to Four Oaks where our information/Registration evening takes place on **Friday 1 April**, come along and sign up. Our coaches will be on hand to answer any questions and the bar will be open for you to enjoy a drink with family and friends. You can also email the club at [info@alveleycc.co.uk](mailto:info@alveleycc.co.uk) or visit our website [www.alveleycc.co.uk](http://www.alveleycc.co.uk)

*Richard Twigg*

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<b>Date</b>	<b>1st Reading</b>	<b>2nd Reading</b>	<b>Intercessions</b>	<b>Sidespersons</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>
6 March	Peter Fry Deuteronomy 26.1-11	Penny Jenkins Luke 4.1-13	Julie Fry	Julie Fry Dale Chidwick	Pat Bower Anne Simms
13 March	Laura Simms Luke 13.31- end			Lynn Madden	Carol & John Wall
20 March	Jean Marshall Isaiah 55.1-9	Liz Bullas Luke 13.1-9	Jackie Hampson	Pat Haw Hazel Leach	David Hampson Jackie Hampson
27 March	Colin Taylor Exodus 2.1-10			David Hampson Jackie Hampson	St. Mary's Team
3 April	Ian Maddock Isaiah 43.16-21	Kirsty Ritzenthaler John 12.1-8	Peter Fry	Liz Bullas Diana Kennedy	Fred & Pauline Cooper

## DIARY

### March

- 9 Alveley W.I. meeting, Pavilion 7pm (p 16)
- 14 Alveley Strollers & Striders AGM, Village Hall 11am (p 10)
- 16 Alveley W.I. lunch, Cat at Enville, 12 for 12.30pm (p 16)
- 18 Alveley Entertainers' Film Night, Village Hall 7.30pm (p 13)
- 28 Alveley Community Memory Café reopens, Old Chapel, 2pm (p 11)
- 28 Alveley Ladies' Guild, Crafting with Barbara, Village Hall, 2.30pm (p 13)
- 30 Alveley Recreation Association AGM, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 14)

### April

- 1 Alveley Cricket Club registration evening (p 18)
- 2 Alveley Village Quiz, Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 9)
- 8 Alveley Entertainers' Mystery, Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 13)

### May

- 21 *"A Brief History of Music"*, Alveley Village Hall, 7.30pm (p 9)

### June

- 4 Proms in the Pub with Alveley Village Band, 3 Horseshoes 2pm (p 16)

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Alveley Brownies	Diana Griffiths	764914
Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper	780378
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Alveley Historical Society	Pam Stanton	780637
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Alveley Mining Heritage	Andrea Edwards	862064
Alveley Old Chapel		781277
Alveley Parish Council/Street Lights	David Rawlinson	07972 040818
Alveley Patient Group	Chris Noble	780715
Alveley Pétanque Club	David Voysey	780356
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**PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES**

## THE BACK PAGE

Regular readers will know that for the best part of seventy years I have had a love affair. No, it's not what you may be thinking and the Head Gardener knows all about it! It's a love affair with France. It was inspired by a primary school teacher, Mr. Gaze, who would tell us fascinating stories of his visits to France and introduced us to the language. He was unusual for the time as he dressed casually, smoked Gauloises and wore sandals on his sockless feet!

My first trip was as a teenager and the whole experience, the travel, the smells, the sights, the sounds and the language stayed with me. Later I spent a year in the country and made a number of good friends. As my family grew we had many happy holidays around the country, and later our daughter studied French and Spanish, spending time in both countries.

One of the annual visits that the Head Gardener and I have made has been to the Champagne region, staying at a beautiful B&B and with a superb restaurant in the next village. We have got to know a number of the smaller producers over the years - their bubbly is usually far better value for money than many of the more famous names, their welcome is warm and tastings may be in a tasting room, the farmhouse kitchen or even the lounge, complete with snacks appropriate for the champagnes.

It is now nearly three years since we were last in the region and so stocks ran out and we have had to resort to a visit or two to Tanners in Bridgnorth! (Cue the sad violin music). However, we have just booked our visit for this year - and it made us realise how much we have missed it over the intervening years. Our trip will take us to Champagne, through Burgundy and into Provence and the vineyards of the Rhône. Brexit, of course, means that we shall have to limit our purchases. (More sad violin music). On the other hand, we may just have to make another trip....

All this sparked by a primary school teacher - you never know how a teacher may influence your life!

*Ian*

Please send items for the **April edition by 9 am on March 16th** to the editor (email [ianmaddock@btinternet.com](mailto:ianmaddock@btinternet.com) or phone 01746 780936). For advertising please contact David Hampson: (email [david.hampson2025@gmail.com](mailto:david.hampson2025@gmail.com) or phone 780034)



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