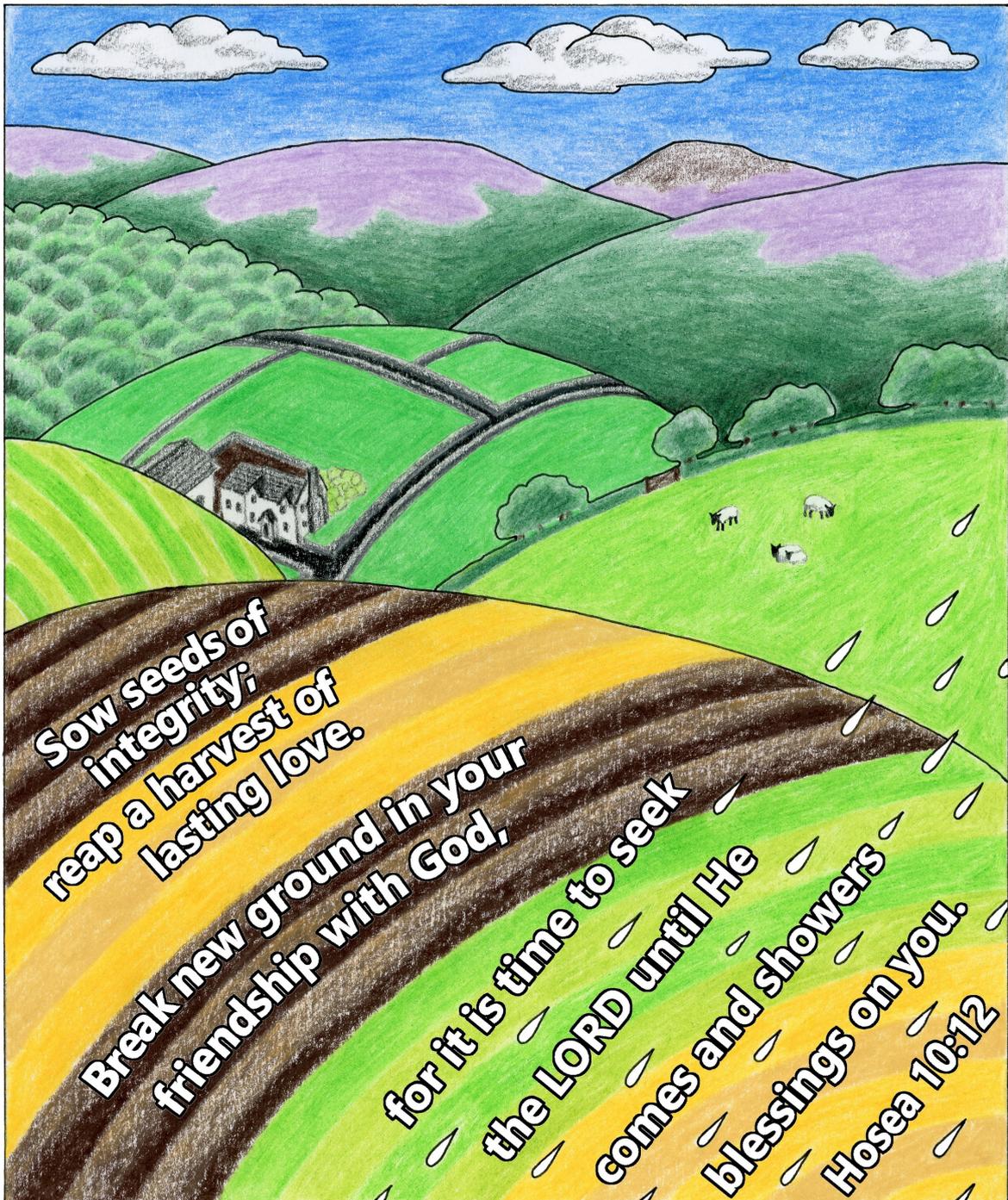


FORUM

October 2021



'Goodbye' to Mike and Moira



Submission of Articles and photos.

Material must be submitted to ... 'highlyforumeditor@gmail.com' ... Photos submitted must be of the best quality possible. Please give photos titles that relate to any accompanying articles / photos.

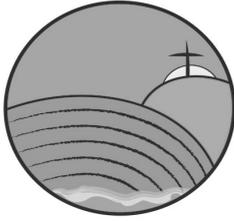
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Severn Valley Benefice

The Severn Valley Churches:

St. Mary, Highley

and at the Severn Centre

St. Mary, Billingsley

St. Peter, Chelmarsh

St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Normal? What's that?

So, things seem to be getting back to whatever normal is going to look like, but how much of our new normal is anything like our old one, and does it matter?

We've been pondering the future for some time now and trying to see where God is leading us as a church and as individuals, because it would be easy for us to simply slip back into all of the programmes and situations that we were involved in before Covid; but is that the right thing to do? Obviously, there are things that we have missed and are really excited to be able to do again like actually meeting in person, singing in church, weddings, baptisms, family and community gatherings with unrestricted numbers. The music and fundraising event at the golf club last month shows just how much people want to get together and enjoy each other's company- whatever the weather!

Over the past 18 months though, we have found new ways to interact, new ways to spend time together virtually, new ways to be community, some of which have enabled people to take part when they would otherwise have been left out and others that have simply been filling the gap until we could return to whatever normal is.

So do we really just want to jump back in? Or should we be looking at the best bits of the past months and seeing if there is some way to incorporate them into our new normal? Are there things that we simply shouldn't pick back up, that we should leave behind while directing our attention and energies in different directions?

Well obviously, it's a bit of both. So don't be disappointed if something that you loved before doesn't reappear, or if it comes back altered. Hopefully, if we're listening carefully for God's guidance, those things will be better, will be more fruitful and we will all be able to grow more from them. We already know that our Sunday services need to be different, partly because our vicar Mike has now retired and we are between ministers at the moment. This is a perfect opportunity for us, as we begin again, to look at what works and what doesn't, to keep our eyes and ears focussed on God's leading and provision as He guides us into our future here in Highley and the surrounding villages.

Personally, I'm excited to see where God is leading us; after all if it's His plan then it's bound to be good. I'm looking forward to the new things, whatever they are, and I'm also longing for the return of some of the things that we have all missed so much. I'm going to be keeping a blank page ready for God to fill up and try very hard not to fill it myself with "stuff".

Let's be ready to move on with the new and keep hold of the things of the past that are coming with us so that we can make the very best of the time that we have. But most of all, let us keep looking for God's guidance because I haven't got a clue about what's coming, but I know someone who does!

Mark Williams

From the Rectory of James the Least

When the Filmmakers came to Church

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be permanently gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.

Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble of going round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not have been there in the nineteenth century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmount was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary patience that they needed a nineteenth century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting them from rural life. The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Highley St. Mary	Billingsley St. Mary	Chelmarsh St. Peter	Glazeley St. Bartholomew
Roy Adlington 861666	Vacancy	Derek Arnold 07956 844854	Vacancy

St Mary's Highley

No sooner had we turned the calendar over into September than everything buzzed into overdrive! So many last minute things to think about as Mike handed over the reins to the staff team after 6 years of ministry here.

We officially said 'Goodbye' to Mike and Moira at a service in Chelmarsh Church on 12th September, followed by a lunch at Chelmarsh Club. (see page 2 for photos) A big 'thank you' to Tom Knowles and club members for accommodating us, despite having their own auction planned. We really appreciated their offer to move the time of that to allow us to hold our function.

Mike and Moira were presented with a cheque and a wall-hanging of photos of each of the churches in the group. We wish them every happiness in their future life in Scotland.



The new Sunday service pattern is 'bedding in'. Have a look on the back page for dates and times during October. Harvest festivals are happening throughout the Group and this year we are holding our annual **Memorial Service at 3pm on 31st October at St Mary's Highley**. If someone in your family has passed away over the last 12 months and you would like to attend this service, please contact me (Rev'd Val Smith tel. 861966). Invitations will be going out in the next week to the relatives of those who had a service conducted by the team at St Mary's, but if you don't receive one and would like to come, you will be very welcome.

We also celebrated Ruth Honeybourne's 80th birthday with a surprise party in the Parish Hall, organised by her sister Zoe. It really was a surprise and Ruth was stunned to see everyone there. Thank you to Zoe for all her hard work, ably assisted by our own Pat Whitefoot and Bev Bevan, who volunteered to make some table decorations of fresh posies, which looked beautiful.

From our registers

Wedding: 25th September St Mary's Highley Ryan Tony Walford and Ellis Jonquil Pope

Funerals: 3rd September St Mary's, Highley Mary Oborny

Interment of Ashes 6th September St Mary's Churchyard Brenda Richardson and Nicholas Richardson

St Peter's, Chelmarsh

First of all, sincere apologies from the usual organisers of the Harvest Supper for the cancellation of this great community event for the 2nd year running. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions have made hosting the event unworkable. We are very sorry.



Rev. Mike Harris' Retirement

Sunday 12th September

We send Mike and Moira our very best wishes as they move on to the next phase of their lives in retirement. We thank you both for your support and guidance over the past 6 years, and for your dedication and friendship. We hope your retirement will be long and happy.

Mike held his last service in the Benefice at Chelmarsh on Sunday, and this was followed by a sumptuous Bring and Share lunch at Chelmarsh Sports and Social Club, where a presentation of gifts from the parishes was made.

Visit by the new Archdeacon of Ludlow

Wednesday 8th September

Fiona Gibson was appointed earlier in the year, and, to familiarise herself with her "patch", she attended a Benefice PCC meeting of all 4 parishes in Chelmarsh Parish Hall. She said she would voice concerns expressed about the increase in admin and responsibilities carried by volunteer workers in dealing with Safeguarding, at the next Diocesan meeting. She also said that the current financial position would mean a reorganisation of Clergy, with an impact on every parish, going forward. She also expressed a wish to take a normal service of Sunday worship in the parishes in the future.

Advance Notice: Remembrance Service, Sunday 14th November

From the Register

Holy Matrimony

28. 8. 2021 Christine Fagan and Hedley Morris Roberts

We send this couple our very best wishes for their happiness in their future together.

Funeral

3. 9. 2021 Pamela Joan Hughes

Our sincere condolences go to Pam's family and friends at this sad time.

Church Cleaning **Wednesday 27th October at 2.30 pm approx.**

We would welcome any new volunteer cleaners; many hands make light work! Just turn up at the approximate time and the jobs can be shared out.

CHELMARSH FRIENDS:

A notice will be posted on Chelmarsh Parish Hall Website with details of the date Friends will resume, hopefully once restrictions are lifted.

CHELMARSH WALKING FOR HEALTH:

Chelmarsh Walking for Health meets every Monday from the Village Hall at 10am. Walks are available at two levels – a short walk and a longer walk lasting 1½ to 2 hours.

Glazeley News

The sun shone & the birds were singing for our Harvest Festival Service held on Sunday 19th September. It was nice to be able to sing once again.

The next service is on 17th OCTOBER 2021 at 10.00am

MARGARET ANNE GABB (ANNIE) 15th February 1943 - 18th January 2021

It was a beautiful day for the Remembrance service of Mrs Margaret Annie Gabb from Woodlands Hall, Glazeley, on Friday 17th September, which was actually held in a Marquee in the grounds of Woodlands Hall. Annie, as she was known as, sadly passed away last January. She was a valued member of Glazeley Church and was always ready to help at the different events – especially the Carol Service. Donations collected at the Memorial Service were divided between Kidney Research, St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh, and St Bartholomew's Church, Glazeley.



*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy individual,
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways
Of happy times and laughing times and sunny days
I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.*

Joyce Grenfell

JUNE DAVENHILL

It is with sadness that we have heard June Davenhill passed away on Saturday 18th September 2021.



Although June lived in Pelsall, West Midlands she still loved her little cottage at Glazeley and supported our church for many, many years. She played the organ at our services, but was also well known for organising and leading The Carol Services held at Christmas. She will be sadly missed & our thoughts go out to Rachael, Jill and Neil and their families.

St Mary's, Billingsley

Celebrating Billingsley Colliery

Billingsley Colliery closed in September 1921 and our monthly evening service marked this event, with a brief talk about its history and also the memories of George Poyner, who started work for the Highley Mining Company in 1942 and knew many who worked at Billingsley. George is one of the very few who can remember the coal industry before the mines were nationalised in 1947.

It was also nice again to be able to have refreshments after the service. Our final evening service for this year will be on Sunday 10th October. This is our harvest festival and Bonnie Garvey will be speaking about our international charity this year, Singakwenza. Bonnie helped to register the charity. It works with the disadvantaged communities in KwaZulu Natal (South Africa) to train black women who run informal creches for the children of agricultural workers; to teach, enable and empower them to provide early years education in a fun way. They also run waste workshops to teach the women how to make toys and materials for learning from waste, e.g. to make skipping ropes out of bread bags and counters out of bottle tops. Due to the very difficult circumstances in KwaZulu Natal, the charity is currently providing fortified porridge for the children in their programme, and to take home.

It is for this specific initiative that any funds raised from Harvest Festival will be used for. We hope that you will join us for our Harvest Festival in Billingsley if you can to celebrate the achievements of a remarkable charity and support their current initiative.

Also on Saturday 9th October, Ellen McConnell will be holding a Coffee Morning and bric-a-brac sale in aid of church funds at her house, Fairview, in Billingsley. All are welcome.

David Poyner

Did you know

Seventy years ago, on 31st October 1951, zebra crossings were introduced officially in the UK. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire. The crossings had been trialled over two years at 1000 experimental sites, but in 1951 the black and white striped pedestrian crossings were approved, with their flashing Belisha beacons, and all drivers were required by law to stop as soon as a pedestrian set foot on them.

The crossings were the brainchild of Yorkshireman and traffic engineer George 'Dr Zebra' Charlesworth, a physicist who had worked on the Barnes Wallis-designed bouncing bomb during the war. His zebra crossings were certainly responsible for saving many lives. The Belisha beacons, an integral part of the crossing, but used since 1934, were introduced by Leslie Hore-Belisha, who served as Minister of Transport at the time.

Zebra crossings were adopted throughout the world, from continental Europe to North America, Singapore and Australia. They have now been superseded to some extent in the UK by pelican crossings, which are controlled by lights. These were introduced in 1969. While zebras were named because of their appearance, a pelican crossing (originally pelicon) is so named as a contraction of the phrase 'pedestrian light controlled'.



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Letter from Westminster



Winter, with receding daylight hours, always tends to put more pressure on bandwidth in a family household – whether that’s due to online shopping, streaming services for films and TV, or connecting online with family and friends.

Fortunately, the government is determined to get to grips with delivering improved broadband, especially to rural and hard to reach areas, which is set out in the National Infrastructure Strategy.

More than a third of UK premises now have access to gigabit-capable connections, up from 9% in July 2019 (when Boris Johnson became Prime Minister). But here in South Shropshire, a mere 5.5% of us can access such speeds.

While gigabit broadband, with download speeds of up to 1,000Mbps, is not necessarily needed by every household, it does show we have a long way to go to meet the government’s target of a minimum of 85% gigabit capable coverage across the UK by 2025, with a rollout of as close to 100% as soon as possible after that.

That is not to say broadband in South Shropshire has not improved. Superfast broadband is now available to 80% of households and businesses here, and the average download speed for the constituency is 38.6mbps. But we lag behind the UK average, thanks to faster commercial rollout and gigabit speeds in urban areas. So we need to see a step change improvement.

The good news is that the government committed to target rural areas for better broadband, when announcing earlier this year that Shropshire and Telford would be within the first phase of the national Gigabit Programme. This is being delivered by BDUK, who are consulting regularly with Connecting Shropshire on what needs to be done to start the roll-out to ensure this upgrade work progresses as quickly as possible.

For some users, their experience of broadband at home does not match the speeds they were led to believe they would receive when purchasing their contract. Ofcom recognised this as a problem, and have taken steps to ensure broadband providers advertise realistic speeds. If your service doesn’t deliver the speeds you were promised by your provider, get in touch with them. If the problem is on their network and they can’t fix it within 30 days, they must let you leave your contract without having to pay an early exit fee. Ofcom’s guidance for switching can be found here: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/switching/switching-broadband-provider>.

I am also aware of some persistent issues of poor mobile signal in South Shropshire, which prove doubly frustrating, given it is now possible to access home broadband via a 4G or 5G hub, if your signal is good enough – potentially eliminating the need for a fibre broadband contract altogether, depending on your usage and speed requirements.

The government has signed a £1bn deal with Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to deliver a Shared Rural Network – sharing investment costs to increase 4G mobile coverage throughout the UK to 95 per cent by the end of 2025, irrespective of what network provider people use. Operators have already announced the first 333 upgrades and 54 new sites in England – with 8 more masts in South Shropshire from EE. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will shortly be announcing the next stage of the programme.

The pandemic has proved the need for good mobile and broadband coverage, irrespective of whether we live in rural or urban areas. So this investment in South Shropshire’s digital infrastructure is extremely welcome. It will transform the ability for many of us to work where we live. I shall continue to press our case for rural roll-out

Philip Dunne MP

'Parting is such sweet sorrow'

So said William Shakespeare in *Romeo & Juliet*.

I'm pouring over files on my computer hard drive to pass on to the staff team and my successor (whoever that may be) much of which brings back memories of these past six years. It's a bit like a bereavement: I need to pass things on, yet am not yet ready to delete them from my computer memory. That time will come.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our farewell, from a smile and "We'll miss you", to gifts and cards and a very healthy cheque! This will help make the transition more manageable given that our removal costs will be significant, going over the border into another country. We'll certainly find something to remember our time here by, to add to the framed church photos, bulbs and seeds for our future garden.

I also want to take this opportunity to celebrate the generosity of those at the heart of what keeps our churches here going; the staff team: Val, Keith, Rose, David and Roy and those who support them on our PCCs. These are the true heroes in our churches; they stick around, giving of themselves. That sort of service is summed up in the prayer of St. Ignatius:

"To give, and not to count the cost; to fight, and not to heed the wounds; to toil, and not to seek for rest; to labour, and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will."

Please continue to support them by your presence, your gifts and your love, during this vacancy in our parishes.

We haven't left yet, we're still house-hunting; so do continue to smile and say 'Hello' when you see us around.

God bless you all,

Mike & Moira

Smile Lines

- ⇒ *'Harvest Supper Friday at 6pm. Prayer and medication to follow. '*
- ⇒ *'At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice. '*
- ⇒ *'When dog food is new and improved tasting, who tests it?'*
- ⇒ *'They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.'*



County Councillor's Report

Is it over? Can we come out now?

Well, a tentative toe in the water perhaps? Certainly, the Council is still taking it seriously enough to announce that the next Full Council will once again be held at Theatre Severn.

And there was I, at last coming to terms with what has become the new way of working which, whatever anyone says, is not "the same, just different". I'm one of the lucky ones having spent six years (pre-lockdown) working face-to-face with officers, some of whom I have become personally friendly with and comfortable on first name terms, but new councillors will know officers only as a name under a face on a monitor screen.

I don't know about you but outcomes are unquestionably better if either party feels comfortable enough to raise a laugh to relieve the tensions generated by not only having to work with limited resources, but having to find a way to work with those limited resources over a remote connection.

Despite having had to use the remote meeting systems for the past couple of years, I still feel uncomfortable when I've just spent 30 or 40 minutes talking shop over a remote connection with a person who gives the impression that they're working from "a desk in an office", only to suddenly see a child of no more than 8 or 10 years old appear behind them and exit what is obviously a bedroom!

But then, out of the blue, yesterday (16th September) I'm presented with a headline in the Shropshire Star telling me that Shropshire Council is abandoning its plans to close Shirehall and move its "civic centre" into the Pride Hill shopping centre. Just like that.

I've opposed that move since the original decision to retain Shirehall, based on the £380,000 consultant's report presented to us councillors by ex-Leader of the Council Peter Nutting and ex-Chief Executive Clive Wright, a decision they later reversed under pressure from service directors. Unhappy (in fact distinctly uneasy) with the service director's reversal, I asked the service directors driving the plans for closure for the data on which their decision to close Shirehall had been based. I was sent the data on which the original decision to RETAIN Shirehall had been based!

These people are paid six figure salaries. Triples all round.

Dave Tremellen

Puzzles for October

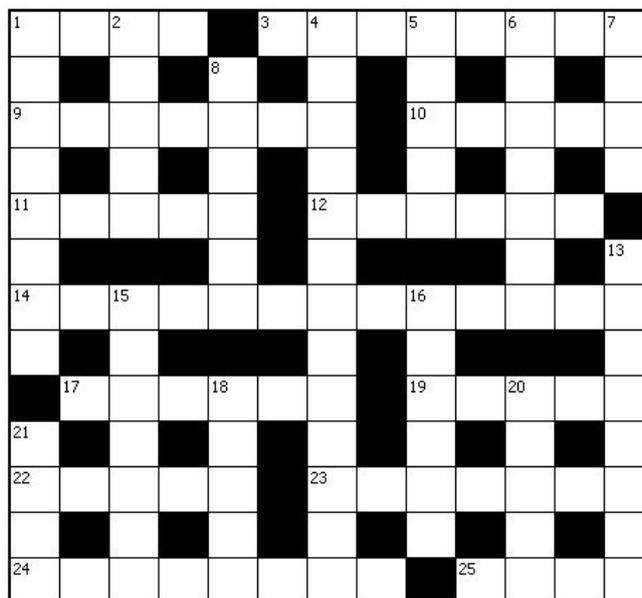
Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

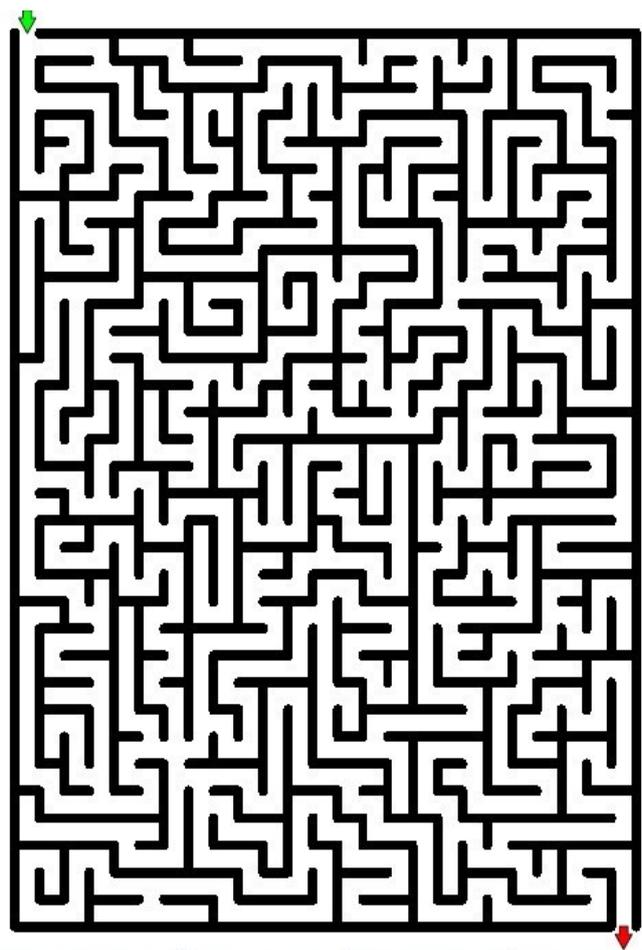
Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)



Solutions on page 33

Start here for the Maze



Wordsearch



WI Update

Summer has poked its head back under its sandy cover for another year. It's time to plan for tartan plaids, woolly hats and wearing a favourite sweater, but it's not too late for a last ditch attempt at a garden BBQ. The solar lights will still have enough daylight charge to twinkle, and - before the summer paraphernalia is stored away in the garage - wrap up warm, enjoy hot soup, baked potatoes and gather together, thankful for another wonderful summer.

We turn our thoughts now to future planning: planting bright spring bulbs; hunting down cake tins, ready to make an early start feeding that special Christmas cake and gathering late autumn's gifts of fir cones, leaves and acorns to make winter decorations— not forgetting the apples and berries to store! Nature has also provided for our wildlife, so leave the fallen bounty of apples and luscious fruits to the birds and small animals to make their winter preparations too.

At Highley WI we continue to endorse local charities. Our August High Street Cake Stall held in aid of "Highley First Responders" was successful, despite the damp weather. Much appreciation to the bakers of cakes, to the buyers, and to the members who stood in the rain manning the stall - you were all wonderful. Also, a big shout out to our member Sandra Hill, who donated £50 from the proceeds of the sale of her short stories during lockdown. In the end, we raised £225.

A look back at our August speaker, Jo Gobie - what an entertaining evening! Her insights into the life of a ladies maid; while informative, were also hilarious. It was a very special start to our WI year after lockdown restrictions.

Our speaker for October will be Lindsey Bucknor OBE, a Shropshire lad, with a passion for photography. He will be sharing his knowledge through wildlife images.

Our meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. This month, we will meet on 19th October at the Severn Centre. Guests and new members are always welcome!

Our WI committee meets on the 1st Thursday of the month. If any members wish to raise any subjects or ideas they would like to be considered, and if there are any other general enquiries, please contact our secretary: **Mrs Eunice Williams on 01746 861613.**

Recipe of the Month:

Potato and Broccoli Soup

Ingredients:

- 50g cheddar cheese (grated)
- 25g butter
- 1 chopped potato
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 heads of broccoli
- 1 garlic clove (crushed)
- 2 pints vegetable or chicken stock
- 1/4 pint milk (or cream)

Method:

1. Melt butter in large pan before adding the garlic and onions. Cook until soft, not brown.
2. Add the chopped potato and broccoli and stir. Sweat for a few minutes and add stock (top up with milk to cover vegetables)
3. Bring to boil, and then simmer until the vegetables are tender. Blend or leave chunky, add cheese before stirring and serve with fresh crusty bread.

UCB Word for Today

Recognise when it's wise to compromise 'That I might by all means save some' 1 Corinthians 9:22

Paul wouldn't yield an inch on Bible truth, but when it came to customs, traditions, and people's preferences, he refused to fight about them. For example, some of the Corinthian Christians thought because certain meats were offered in worship to idols it was sinful to eat them. So did Paul handle it by standing up and declaring, 'I'm not going to allow you to impose your unscriptural convictions on me'? No. He wrote: 'Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as...real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do. But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble' (1 Corinthians 8:7-9 NLT). Then he bottom-lines it by saying, 'I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some' (1 Corinthians 9:22 NLT). God didn't call us to win theological arguments; He called us to win people to Christ. So be gracious towards those who don't think like you, dress like you, or care about some of the things you care about. Be gracious towards those whose worship style and fine points of theology differ from yours. 'Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace' (Ephesians 4:2-3 NLT).

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Have a go at Sudoku —

answers on page 23

Easy

3			9			7	
7	1	6	8			9	3
	4				3	6	
	2		1	3		4	6
6	7			5	9		3
		3	6				1
4		2			7	8	9
	8				5		
							2

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Medium

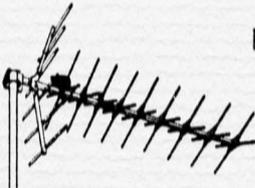
			1			8		
		8		2		5		
	2				7		9	
		9					8	5
	4	6				9	3	
5	3					1		
	1		3				4	
		4		9		6		
		7			8			

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Trap or Tractor

Some time ago I was asked about ghost stories I once wrote. Here is a tale from Eardington. It is based on a true incident, so this is the story as I know it

In the early 1800s, or perhaps even earlier, a farmer was returning from market to his house down the lane opposite Eardington station (the full story is in the library under *Shropshire Murders*), but you do not need all the details here. He was driving a pony and trap and local people knew he was carrying a large sum of money. As he turned in to the entrance of the lane a figure hiding in the hedge shot him dead and stole the money. Neither the money or the murderer was ever found.

Now to the ghost story.

On that day every year he enters the lane and, a figure hiding in the hedge steps out and shoots him. In the manner of ghosts, they then both vanish including, I suppose, both horse and trap. I first heard this tale in The Crown Inn at Eardington. I never met anyone who claimed to see the ghosts until a year or so later. One of Whittle's bus drivers told me that he had had a strange experience one night. He was tired, driving a coach returning from a trip. As he slowed to go over Eardington bridge and then started to pick up speed opposite the lane, he saw a man driving a pony and trap down the lane and another man who stepped from behind a bush and pointed something at the trap driver. He saw no more for the bus was travelling fairly fast, so he asked his passengers if they had seen anything and at the same time risked a glance backwards. The lane was empty! Naturally none of the passengers had. He thought nothing of it, putting it down to fatigue and an overworked imagination.

Some months later I was riding my motor bike past the lane late at night and casually looked down the length of it. To my surprise I thought I saw a man driving a pony and trap. I braked, put the bike in the hedge and walked back to look more closely. Nothing! The lane was completely empty! Nearby however, I could hear a noise I recognised - a tractor engine. Walking back to the bridge, a better vantage point, I looked into the field to the left. There was a small Ferguson tractor towing a light trailer. He showed no lights and the only mystery to me was what on earth was he doing in the field at that hour!

What I had seen was the back of the trailer down the lane and the small tractor not visible. The whole thing looked vaguely like a pony and trap in the poor light. The driver had simply turned into the field leaving the lane completely clear.. As for the man pointing an object at the trap driver I have no idea since he certainly did not appear when I saw the tractor. Perhaps some of my readers have a better theory!

FOOTNOTE

Incidentally there would have been no bridge at the time of the original murder as it was built to allow the passage of trains under the road.

Alan Honeybourne

Have you packed your Shoebox yet?



Only 6 weeks left to get your shoebox covered and packed!

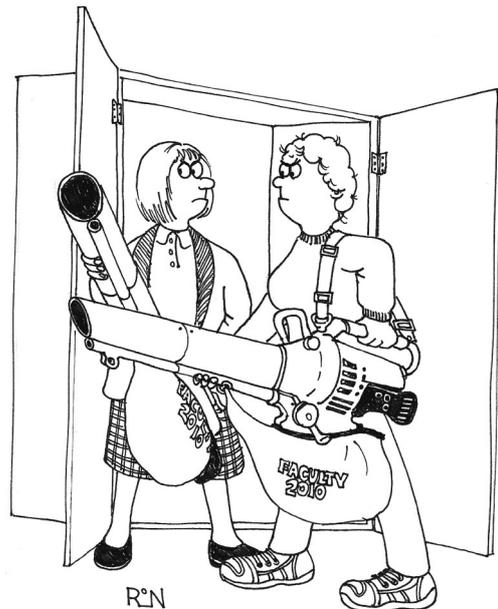
- Step 1** Find a shoebox and cover it with bright wrapping paper. NB The lid and box must be covered separately! ***Don't just wrap up a shoebox after it's been filled.***
- Step 2** Stick the appropriate label on the top. Cut the label out of the leaflet, indicating whether the box is for a girl or boy and which age range it is intended for.
- Step 3** Buy lots of small gifts to fill the box. See leaflet for what to put in.
- Step 4** Fill up your box, if you are able, please include a donation of £5 to cover transport costs and put an elastic band around the box to keep it closed and intact. You can also do this online.
- Step 5** Deliver your box to St Mary's Church (Sunday or Wednesday) or phone 861966 to arrange depositing at the Parish Hall.

Shoeboxes need to be dropped off by November 7th so that they can be taken to a collection point.

Filled boxes can be left at St Mary's Church (open Wednesday and Sunday) or the Parish Hall. Please contact Val Smith 861966.



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."



Shifting the cobwebs in the North aisle required a faculty

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Answers to Wordsearch



Answers to Sudoku (from page 18)

3	5	8	9	6	1	2	7	4
7	1	6	8	2	4	9	5	3
2	4	9	5	7	3	6	8	1
9	2	5	1	3	8	7	4	6
8	3	1	7	4	6	5	2	9
6	7	4	2	5	9	1	3	8
5	9	3	6	8	2	4	1	7
4	6	2	3	1	7	8	9	5
1	8	7	4	9	5	3	6	2

Easy

7	5	3	1	4	9	8	2	6
4	9	8	6	2	3	5	7	1
6	2	1	8	5	7	3	9	4
1	7	9	2	3	6	4	8	5
8	4	6	5	7	1	9	3	2
5	3	2	9	8	4	1	6	7
9	1	5	3	6	2	7	4	8
2	8	4	7	9	5	6	1	3
3	6	7	4	1	8	2	5	9

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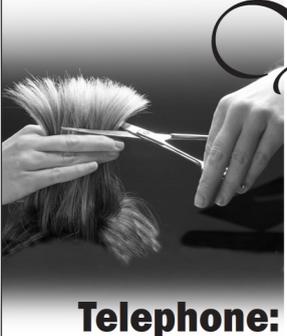
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Tip of the month - Izzy

As we approach the colder months, getting out your woollen articles may delay turning your gas heating on; saving you money and carbon. Get hold of a darning needle and repair those holey woollen jumpers. Check out Youtube for a quick video tutorial, and your clothes will be looking great in no time!

Insulate, insulate, insulate - Peter

If you were thinking of improving the insulation in your home then do some research before you buy a product. There are plenty of sustainable alternatives to rock wool or glass fibre insulation, that can perform better and are nicer to handle. Recycled polyester could be an option, or a natural material like sheeps wool, wood fibres, hemp or recycled newspapers. The natural alternatives allow for water vapour to pass through, so could be a good option for an older house with no ventilation system installed. Insulation retrofit is what Britain needs to reach its net zero goal, but it needs to be done properly to avoid damp becoming a problem.

Kitchen tip of the month - Alastair

A pasta bake is often something I look forward to at the end of the day when the nights are drawing in. To reduce my use of dairy, I have been making a béchamel sauce with 3 tbsp of plain flour and 3 tbsp of olive oil. Heat the oil and whisk in the flour, then add 400ml of an alternative milk (like oat or soya), and you have a sauce with a great consistency for a pasta bake. Sometimes I add some English mustard and some nutritional yeast for a more cheesy flavour. For a different taste, you could add an onion, garlic granules and some cloves into the milk and simmer it before you add it to your roux.

Biodegradable bags - Jackie

We use biodegradable bin liners in our normal kitchen bin. You can get them from the pharmacy in the village. I like the fact that I haven't put all my non recyclable plastic in another plastic bag! Although I do need to try to reduce the amount of disposable plastic in my black bin. Maybe I'll write to my supermarket, as they need to know that the ball is in their court!

Poetry Corner

'Alf'

I wrote this little ditty for Alf, a lovely little man and an ex-miner, who always made me a cup of tea when I cleaned his windows.—sadly now passed away.

I remember 60 years ago, going down to Highley with Alf to visit my Aunty Flo.
We went there by steam train—it was the quickest way to go.
Alf said that by going by motor coach was too blooming slow!

As we travelled along the track, Alf pointed things out to me;
Like the fishermen on the river bank and some kids playing on a tree.

We stopped at all the stations and some of the halts for a spell.
Alf said it was so folks could get on—and off, as well,

As we later alighted at Highley station and watched the train go on its way,
We made straight for Aunty Flo's bungalow, for a nice cup of tea.



Les Hall

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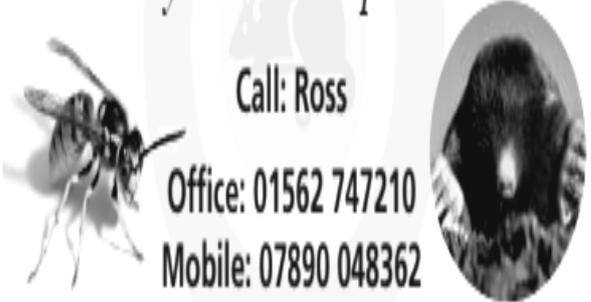
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Retired with Permission to Officiate	Canon Rose Lawley	rosemarylawley@gmail.com	862301
Churchwarden	Roy Adlington		861666
Readers	Mr Keith Smith (PTO)		861966
<hr/>			
PCC Secretary	Mrs Rose Lawley	rosemarylawley@gmail.com	862301
Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Lin Evans		861087
Coffee Morning (Tuesdays)	Mrs Yvonne Shaw		861723
Children's Sunday Groups			
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
Age UK		enquiries@ageconcernshrops.org.uk	01743 233123
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Brownies		(Rainbows - Jessica Lloyd - 861090)	
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Community Car Scheme	Mr Richard Dudson		861817
Cricket Club	Mrs Denise Goulden		861031
Gardening Club	Mrs Morag Ross		862450
Guides	Mrs Gay Lilley		861722
Highley Colliery Band	Dave & Lisa Burge		862018
Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
Highley County Primary School	School Office	(Tanya Mathers)	861541
Highley First Responders	Dave Fulton	Coordinator	861580
Highley Medical Centre	Dr Alan	Bridgnorth Road	861572
Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Mrs Sharon Dalziel		862087
Highley Minors Childcare Centre	Dawn Bethel / Kath Davies	Severn Centre	860005
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Co. Cllr. & Highley Patients Group	Mr Dave Tremellen	dave.tremellen@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
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Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Ms Emma Carter		07752207828
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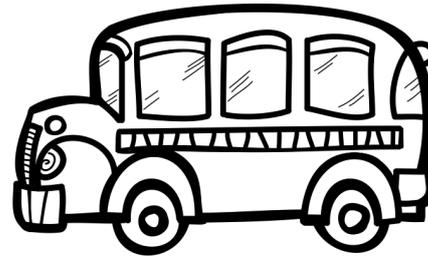
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Stourbridge Bus Station, Stourbridge	--	--	08:00	--	09:10	10	15:10	16:20	17:20	18:25
Broadwaters Heath, Hare and Hounds, Broadwaters	--	--	08:18	--	09:25	25	15:25	16:38	17:38	18:43
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Arrive	--	07:27	08:28	08:37	09:35	35	15:35	16:48	17:48	18:53
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Depart	--	07:27	08:28	08:37	09:37	37	15:37	16:50	17:50	18:53
Kidderminster General Hospital, Kidderminster	--	07:34	--	08:44	09:44	44	15:44	16:57	17:57	
Bewdley Load Street, Bewdley	06:30	07:45	--	08:55	09:55	55	15:55	17:08	18:08	
Button Oak, Buttonoak	06:36	07:51	--	09:01	10:01	01	16:01	17:13	18:13	
Kinlet, Kinlet	06:43	07:58	--	09:08	10:08	08	16:08	17:20	18:20	
Highley, Highley	06:53	08:08	--	09:18	10:18	18	16:18	17:30	18:30	
Highley Garden Village, Woodhill	06:56	08:13	--	09:21	10:21	21	16:21	17:33	18:33	
Chelmarsh, Chelmarsh	07:00	08:18	--	09:26	10:26	26	16:26	17:38	18:38	
Eardington, Eardington	07:05	08:23	--	09:31	10:31	31	16:31	17:43	18:43	
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore, High Town	07:12	08:33	--	09:38	10:38	38	16:38	17:50	18:50	
Bridgnorth Low Town, Low Town	07:15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Stanmore Industrial Estate, Stanmore	07:22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

Current Timetable from October 2020
SATURDAYS with some variations - check.

Monday to Friday - 125 - Stanmore Industrial Estate - Stourbridge Bus Station

			*(0712)							* RS
Stanmore Industrial Estate, Stanmore	--	07:24	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bridgnorth Low Town, Low Town	--	07:32	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore, High Town	--	--	08:40		40	14:40	15:45	16:45	18:05	
Eardington, Eardington	--	07:37	08:49		49	14:49	15:55	16:55	18:14	
Chelmarsh, Chelmarsh	--	07:42	08:54		54	14:54	16:00	17:00	18:18	
Highley Garden Village, Woodhill	--	07:47	08:58		58	14:58	16:05	17:05	18:23	
Highley, Highley	--	07:51	09:01	then	01	15:01	16:09	17:09	18:26	
Kinlet, Kinlet	--	08:01	09:11	at	11	15:11	16:19	17:19	18:35	
Button Oak, Buttonoak	--	08:08	09:19	these	19	15:19	16:27	17:26	18:42	
Bewdley Load Street, Bewdley	--	08:15	09:25	mins	25	15:25	16:33	17:32	18:48	
Kidderminster General Hospital, Kidderminster	--	08:27	09:35		35	15:35	16:44	17:43	18:57	
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Arrive	07:30	08:35	09:41		41	15:41	16:50	17:49	19:03	
Kidderminster Bus Station, Kidderminster Depart	07:30	08:37	09:43		43	15:43	16:52	17:50	19:03	
Broadwaters Heath, Hare and Hounds, Broadwaters	07:38	08:45	09:49		49	15:49	17:00	17:58	--	
Stourbridge Bus Station, Stourbridge	07:55	09:05	10:05		05	16:05	17:17	18:18	--	

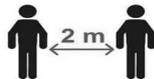
* (0712) service serves Sainsbury's Superstore out of normal sequence. RS - Continues to Rail station by request



Bus travel guidance

Stay safe

Keep 2m apart from people not in your own household while waiting



Look out for 'bus full' signs

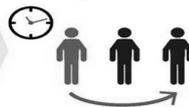
The bus will only stop when people want to get off or if there is enough space onboard



If they do stop, they will normally only be able to let one passenger on for each one that gets off.



Be prepared to wait and please help others by prioritising those who need to travel more urgently than you



STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES

Crossword Solution from page 15

D	A	R	E		C	H	E	R	U	B	I	M
E		U		J		O		O		L		I
S	O	N	T	O	H	U		Y	I	E	L	D
C		I		S		S		A		S		I
R	A	N	C	H		E	N	L	I	S	T	
I				U		H				E		C
B	A	A	L	A	H	O	F	J	U	D	A	H
E		D				L		A				I
	E	D	W	A	R	D		S	H	E	O	L
Y		E		W		G		P		X		D
M	E	D	I	A		O	P	E	N	A	I	R
C		T		I		D		R		L		E
A	P	O	S	T	A	S	Y		E	T	O	N

Parish Hall Office

01746 861242

For information about weddings, Baptisms (Christenings), child's Dedication or for general enquiries about church service times and parish information, please contact the Parish Office. The office will be open on Thursdays (generally) from 10:00 - 12:00pm.

If there is no answer and at other times, there is a telephone message service and if you leave your name and telephone number someone will get back to you in due course or phone: 01746 862837

Currently not open

Waste / Recycling Collections

Please note change in collection days:

Black bins: **Thursday 14th & 28th October**

Crates & green bins: **Thursday 7th & 21st October**

Garden Village and Highley Park Homes: please check your new collection day.

www.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-

Forthcoming Events

- Gardening Club** Wednesday
Severn Centre
- Police Surgery** Thursday
10:00 - 12:00 Severn Centre
- Severn Strollers** Mondays
10:30 / 11:00 (not Bank Holidays)
Severn Centre
(Contact: Barbara Skilton: 01746 862003)
- Women's Institute** Tuesday
Severn Centre
- Patients' Group** see Facebook page
- Computer Support Sessions**
see opposite

Please check local groups

Star Housing

**Housing Support Officer
in Rhea Hall.**

Contact Jan Moseley: 01746 862442

Services available:

General Drop-in: Friday 9.30am-1.30pm

Coffee Morning: Thursday 11am-12noon

regarding services:

Wednesdays 10.30am-12.30pm

Community Room,
73 Rhea Hall Estate,
WV16 6LD

All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	29
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10	Highley Garage	22	Severn Valley Home Care	10
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Highley Minors	28	Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cost Cutter	11	Highley Pharmacy	19	Stark, A, Carpentry	19
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11	Tele - Satt Aerials	19
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	25
Foot Health Practitioner	29	Kidderminster Storage & Removals	27	Wyre Forest Pest Control	29
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	29	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	29		
		Millfields Boarding Kennels	10		
		Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25		
		Ovenclean	19		
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24		
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10		
				Bus Information	32
				Events - Church	33
				Events - General / Waste	33
				Library	3
				Registrar's Office	25

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS & mention HIGHLEY FORUM



Every Tuesday from 10.30 am-midday.
 Come along and have a chat whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Voluntary donations to Mary's Church.

Venue: Yvonne 861723

Gay & Jim, Church St
 Moira & Ivor, Church St
 Gill & Alun Rees,
 Denise Lobban, 14 Church St
 Mary & David Rayner, Prestwood House, Netherton Lane
 Janette Hill, 62 Yew Tree Grove

Please check the notice board at church nearer the time to confirm locations.

A warm welcome is extended to all

Cancelled until further notice



First Tuesday in the month
2-4pm. (note time change)

Programme
Cancelled
until further notice

Allsorts of topics for
Allsorts of ladies of
Allsorts of ages

Happy Birthday Ruth!

Ruth Honeybourne reached a significant birthday this year! She is well-known to many people in the village, having been born and raised here. Many will have been taught by her, either in the school (now the Parish Hall) or in Sunday School. What is not so well known is that in her young days, when she went to work for the Church Army, Ruth had a spot of public speaking at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, London. Perhaps that was what later led her to stand for election to the Shropshire Council and the Parish Council, not to mention St Mary's Church PCC.

Ruth has given most of her life to working tirelessly for the local community. She and her husband Alan have only just retired from years of service on the Parish Council. We wish you well, Ruth and look forward to the next 'Big Birthday' bash!



Ruth (left) and her sister Zoe



October 2021

Sunday Services

3rd October	10am	Holy Communion and baptism	St Mary's, Highley
10th October	10am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Chelmarsh
	11am	Family Worship HARVEST	St Mary's, Highley
	6pm	Evening Service HARVEST	St Mary's, Billingsley
17th October	10am	Holy Communion	St Bartholomew's, Glazeley
24th October	8am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Billingsley
	10am	Morning Service	St Peter's, Chelmarsh
	11am	Family Worship	St Mary's, Highley
31st October	10am	Benefice Service	St Mary's, Highley
	3pm	Memorial Service	St Mary's, Highley

Online services—stmaryshighley.co.uk

For Sunday afternoon Zoom meetings, please contact : markandamywilliams@gmail.com

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		11am—1pm St Mary's Church Ladies Prayer Group For Wednesday evening home group contact David Poyner d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk		Friday Event 19:30 at the Parish Hall during term time
			Next Copy Date: <u>October 15th</u>	