

FORU//\

April 2024



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Open the Book tells the Easter Story at Messy Church













Send your photos

Don't forget to send your photos of any events which have taken place in and around the villages.

Please make sure that you have permission from anyone in them and their agreement for the pictures to be published. - Ed.

 $\textbf{Send to} \ highley for umed it or @gmail.com$

Submission of Articles and photos.

Material must be submitted to ... 'highleyforumeditor@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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The Forum

The Highley Forum prints a wide range of articles (and welcomes your comments – some of which may be printed). The views expressed in these are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Management Board. The Editor(s) exercise their right to edit any articles (letters, etc.) submitted. for publication at their discretion without consulting the author. Decisions as to which articles to print remain with the Editor(s).

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causes. Re-saleable items are always welcome and bulky items can be collected The day opening Hours Mon 10-00—12.00 Tues 10.00—12.00 Wed 10:00—12:00 Thurs 10.00—12:00 Fri 10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00 Sat 10:00—12:00 Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot take large items of furniture.	.01746 861242 Parish Administrator - Maggie Ritchie he Parish Office is open Tuesay, Wednesday, Thursday om 10am—12noon. Or information about weddings, aptisms (Christenings), child's edication or for general equiries about church service mes and parish information conact the Parish Office as above. There is no answer and at other mes, a telephone message service exists and if you leave your ame and telephone number of the parish o	Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome. Subscriptions If you would like to take out a subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds. Cost: £6 per year Advertising If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com

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The Severn Valley Churches:

St. Mary, Highley
St. Mary, Billingsley
St. Peter, Chelmarsh
St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Easter is more than a day

We've just celebrated Easter. We've had a welcome extra day's holiday and some chocolate eggs. Spring has sprung and daffodils are everywhere and our gardens are showing signs of life after the barrenness of winter.

It's easy to overlook the point of Easter, which encompasses injustice and suffering, self-sacrifice and inhumanity, culminating in the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. For me, there is something very special about getting up early on Easter morning, some years when it is still dark, and gathering around a fire in the dawn light, as we remember the scene of the women arriving at the tomb that first Easter. They'd gone to carry out the burial rituals on Jesus' body, only to find

his body gone and the grave clothes neatly folded. Then he appears to Mary in the gardens. Shocked and relieved beyond words, she realises that Jesus is alive and with him hope becomes certainty.

Someone once said, 'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof'!

But it doesn't end there. The Easter season is with us right

up until the end of May, when we celebrate Pentecost. Last month we spoke of love. On Easter morning *Love* broke through all human understanding and boundaries in such a powerful way that even his disciples, who had spent 3 years with him, found it hard to take it in.

I hope you found time to contemplate that strange event as you enjoyed the holi-day. If you are looking for a good film to watch, try 'The Passion of the Christ', which takes you on a journey through the events leading up the that first Easter Day.

Sometimes it takes a monumental event for us to recognise the value of something or someone in our lives. The First Easter brought change for the disciples. Their lives would never be the same having encountered Jesus. It's the same for us. Yet we live in the natural world as well as the spiritual. Somehow we have to hold the two in balance. Jesus brought change to those who would risk it. I don't know about you, but I don't always find change easy.

If I'm well-informed and can see some advantages, then I can be very keen for new things to happen. But if I can't, it can take a little longer and, until I'm sure, I'll probably resist it. Sometimes it takes lots of small steps to get me there.



When Spring springs early, when we have unseasonably mild weather, when unwelcome or unexpected storms and floods batter our countryside, we realise the effects of Global Warming and human choices and lifestyles on the world God created.

So often when something goes wrong, we look to blame something or someone else. I must admit

that I tire of hearing 'The Government should do something about it!' I admit I'm not a political animal. I believe effective change often comes from the bottom up rather than top-down. It's quite heartening to hear young school children discussing issues such as Global Warming. Many young people (though sadly not all) are very conscious about the effect of plastics on our wild-life and world. Whilst there are many things which an ideal government could do, and maybe should do, it's usually not quite as simple as that. We have to take responsibility for our own choices and lifestyles. The problem is that when mistakes have been made in the past, we can't go back and start again; we have to start where we are now and look to the future.

But coping with change doesn't come easy to some of us, whether its to do with climate change or other events in our comfortable lifestyles and patterns of daily life. Whether we like it or not, our world is continually evolving and we must look after it, if our children and grandchildren are to have a future.

Val Smith

Smile Lines

Who is he?

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "He looks a tough customer," she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?" The Governor paused and smiled. "Ah, actually, he is the chaplain."

• With the coming General Election in mind...

Common sense isn't. - Anon

There are two sides to every question, and a politician usually takes both. - Anon

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Highley St. Mary	Billingsley St. Mary	Chelmarsh St. Peter	Glazeley St. Bartholomew
Roy Adlington 07865064063	Vacancy	Vacancy	Laura Jones 07714432836
Canev Clayton 862578			laura@laj.me.uk

St Mary's Highley

Lots has been happening over the last month; extra services for Easter, hot cross buns, shared lunches. Worship and hospitality are at the centre of our faith and we are blessed with a strong team who are able to lead a variety of services.

Easter may be over, but for us, as for the first disciples, it is just the beginning of our spiritual growth. The grief of Good Friday gave way to the joy of Easter morning and the encounters with Jesus in the



time leading up to His Ascension and Pentecost.

Many in our church family have also been suffering with various ailments and we pray for restoration of health and healing.

We are sad to report that a long-standing member of our church family, Eric Edwards, has passed away and is now with his Lord and Saviour. Eric took early retirement many years ago and was one of

the stalwarts of the Parish Hall restoration and refurbishment in the early 1990s. He also procured the rental for the first premises of St Mary's Charity Shop, where *The Lamp* now is, and was active in many of the church events of that time. More recently he has been struck with ill health, but has soldiered on regardless. We give thanks for his life and our thoughts and prayers are with his widow, Maureen and the family. *'A good and faithful servant'*. His funeral service will be at Wyre Forest Crematorium on Friday 12th April at 12.30pm.

As we look to the coming month, Arthur Painting and his merry team will be hosting another quiz on **Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm**, with proceeds going to the Pop-In Club. Please let Arthur know if you are coming, as we need to know numbers for the Catering. (tel 861887) Cost is £4 per person, tables of 4-6 persons, Hot Dogs and Salad will be served. Bring your own liquid refreshment. It should be a fun evening!

Easter Home Groups have paused but will resume after the holidays. Check with the leaders for dates (see page 36.) If you are not already part of a home group, do consider joining one. We grow as individuals and disciples when we meet together to talk about our faith.







St Mary's, Billingsley

The more observant may have noticed that this winter the area outside the church has often resembled the Somme battlefield on the day after... There have been changes in the water table and so after heavy rain a spring appears that runs down the lane into the drains at Church Cottage. We are very grateful to Sue from church cottage for clearing the worst of the mud so that cars (including mine) will no



longer get stuck outside the church; once the weather permits, we will work on a long-term solution to this problem.

In April we will start our 6pm evening service again, on the second Sunday of the month. The programme is still to be finalised, but it will include a variety of speakers and topics as in previous years. It looks like I will be doing the first service, when I will speak on "God and the scientist". Some will know that I am a professional scientist who does research as well as teaching; I will explore the relationship between science and religious belief and how hold these together.

We will restart the Sunday afternoon walks in April. Weather permitting, we will meet for the first of these on Sunday 21st April at 2pm outside the Cape for a walk to New England and back. Expect mud... Our annual parish meeting takes place on Friday 19th April at 11am, venue to be announced.

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

We are making progress with the repair and enhancement of the church building. It is now possible to have all the wall heaters on together; the first time this has been possible for quite a few years. We also intend to purchase some extra heating elements; at the moment some of the heaters are only working on half power. Glazeley



will never be a warm building in the middle of the winter, but we hope at that at least we can direct some heat to the (growing!) numbers who attend our services.

We have also removed floor boards to assess the extent of the damage caused by damp at the back of the church. There was only one vent to let air into the space below the floorboard, so it was virtually inevitable that at some point we would have issues with rot. The plan is currently to install extra vents and to restore the floor to the pine planks that must have existed before the current chipboard and carpet were laid. We are awaiting a final report from our architect.

I am writing this well before our Easter service, on 31st March; to accommodate this with other services in the benefice we have had to move it back to 11am. We hope we will get support from our friends in Chetton; a number of our regulars also support Chetton in their services and it would be good if this continued and grew. Amongst the other benefits is that at Chetton you will get a change from myself droning on in the pulpit... In April, we go back to our normal service at 10am, on Sunday 20th.

St. Peter's Chelmarsh 100 Club

Thank you to everyone who has taken a number (or a few numbers) for the 2024 draw. We are grateful for your support. The usual format will apply (£200 for first three draws £100, £50, 2x £25, £250 for final draw £100, £50, 4x £25). We will notify you if you win a prize, winners will be displayed on notice boards around the village. The first draw will be held at Easter – Good Luck!

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Chelmarsh News

It has been a very busy start to the year. Our apologies for the lack of news, but hopefully this review will help to inform you of what has been going on in Chelmarsh in the last few weeks and months. Our clergy team from across the Benefice have been very active, holding services every week in Chelmarsh in 2024 at 9.30am. We are fortunate to have a small but very loyal congregation who are in attendance regularly and we enjoy welcoming any newcomers or those passing through, it is lovely to see you all.

The recent PCC meeting addressed many of the current issues. As you may already be aware we have loose louvres (not something to be said at speed) in the bell tower which may be of danger. We have roped the area below off as best we can to keep everyone safe and are now in the process of engaging a joiner who we hope will be able to secure them as soon as possible so normal service can be resumed. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. We have also introduced a new baptism policy within the Benefice and we are looking to review the Communion booklet in line with the current Church of England requirements.

Lent lunches were held over the last few weeks and have just finished. The 6 people who attended enjoyed delicious homemade soup and bread. Please consider joining us next year.

Funerals

Daisy Tipping – Those who have been resident in the village for a long time may remember Daisy who resided here when she was younger. She and three of her sisters have been described as a bunch of flowers, Lily, Rose and Daisy, the fourth sister was Harriet. Daisy was buried in Chelmarsh at the beginning of March. We extend our sympathies to her family and friends.

April events:

Daddy's Hat Concert – Saturday 20th April 3pm. – This was so good last year we are doing it again! Please join us, we would love to see you there.

Rummage Sale – please look out for posters around the village and on Chelmarsh Folk for dates.

Cleaning rota: Thursday 18th April 2pm.

APCM – Weds 24th April 2024, St Peter's Church Chelmarsh @ 7pm.

This month the annual parochial council meeting will be held. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to volunteer to become a member of the PCC please come along. If this is not for you, please still come and support us. We currently do not have a Churchwarden, if you would like to apply for the position please get in touch with secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com or ask at St Peter's for more details we would be delighted to assist you. The PCC membership and the officer positions in many churches are held by the same people for many years, however it is recommended these positions are cycled at various tenures to offer new opportunities, welcome new faces and to give people a rest from the responsibilities if they need it. Our PCC members, officers and the wider community which is the glue of our church are very dedicated and do a fantastic job, could you consider joining them? Maybe you are a skilful secretary, a property pro, a social media/editorial guru, a star baker or have other skills and expertise you would be keen to share? If so, we would love to welcome you on board either as part of the formal PCC or more informally to join us in our efforts to share the word of God and build connections, so please come along and become involved.

James the Least of All

On why a church should always resist change.

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren,

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favor of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus — omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church — not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Letter from Westminster

With the clocks having changed, and the welcome lighter evenings alongside the beginnings of verdant growth, it feels as though we are finally moving out of winter months and into Spring. There is a certain sense of renewal that many of us feel at this time of year – particularly those of us who are Christians, noting the story of Easter. Parliament is currently in recess over Easter, providing a welcome opportunity for me to spend more time in the constituency. Somewhat less idyllic than the blooming greenery of South Shropshire at this time of year, though no less important, is that we also have the new tax year in April. But this year it comes with significant positive news from the government in terms of tax and benefit changes.

At last month's Budget, the Chancellor announced a cut in the main rate of employee National Insurance Contributions by 2p, from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, from 6th April. Combined with the 2p cut which came into effect in January, this will save the average worker over £900 a year. It also sets a clear direction of travel for lower personal taxation. The main rate of self-employed NICs will also be cut by a further 2p. This means that also from 6th April, the main rate of Class 4 NICs for the self-employed will now be reduced from 9 per cent to 6 per cent. Combined with the abolition of the requirement to pay Class 2, this will save the average self-employed person around £650 a year.

This month also sees the National Living Wage (NLW) increase by 9.8 per cent from £10.42 to £11.44 an hour. This pay boost, worth over £1,800 a year for a full-time worker, is the biggest cash increase in the NLW in more than a decade. Additionally, this month all working-age benefits, including Universal Credit, will be uprated in line with September 2023 Consumer Price Index Inflation – 6.7 per cent. For pensioners, the basic State Pension, new State Pension, and Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee will be uprated in line with average earnings growth of 8.5 per cent.

To support low-income households with increasing rent costs, this month the Government will raise Local Housing Allowance rates to the 30th percentile of local market rents. This will benefit 1.6 million low-income households, who will be around £800 a year better off on average in 2024-25, and give families greater security and peace of mind. The Household Support Fund is being extended for a further six months until September this year, with an additional £500m investment, to provide targeted support for the most vulnerable as inflation continues to fall, including the cost of essentials such as food and utilities.

In a further welcome easing of the pressure on household budgets, the energy regulator Ofgem announced the typical energy bill will fall to £1,690 from 1st April, which is £238 lower than the price cap set between 1st January to 31st March this year, and is at the lowest level since Putin's

invasion of Ukraine two years ago. This should also help us get a further grip on inflation, which takes so much out of household budgets.

As the end of my time as your MP approaches, I am concerned there has been a creeping sense of pessimism about the fate of our country — which I do not share. I hope the measures outlined above, easing the cost of living, alongside the changing of the seasons, might lead to greater optimism and hope for the future.

Report from our County Councillor

I don't know about you, but now that it's starting to look a bit like spring outside, it also feels like other things are starting to change and move too, and for me that includes (at long last) some of the issues that I'm involved with at Shropshire Council.

We have now held the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group assigned to look at the issues surrounding Post-16 travel. This is as a result of my motion at Full Council back in December and it is looking at the unfairness for our (and other) sixth form students who have to purchase at least two bus passes to get to their chosen place of education. The meeting did meander a bit at times but by the end we had agreed to look at the feasibility of a "One Stop Shop" for student travel needs and to arrange a meeting with the bus operators to begin the necessary discussions around this important issue. The preliminary report was presented to Full Council on the 21st March and the plan is to try and have something in place by September.

The construction in the Severn Centre for the new doctors' surgery continues apace and the open day is on the 20th April, so not long to wait now. I'm so glad to have been able to be involved in this project from the very start and will continue to push for the very best service to go with our great new facility.

I met with members of the highways team as well recently and we walked the length of Netherton Lane while also discussing various other areas in the village. Because of this I was able to contact them again about the huge flood which appeared on the road around Hag Corner a few weeks ago which they duly responded to within 12 hours. The weather has caused a great many potholes throughout the village and across the county as a whole (hole?) please continue to report these and any other highways issues, it really does make a difference. www.fixmystreet.co.uk

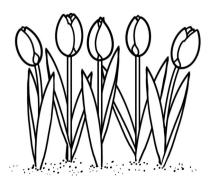
Now that we've eaten our fill of Easter eggs we can start to look forward to the other things that the year holds and I'd like to highlight one in particular: Highley Carnival. I know it's not until the 6th of July but if you'd like to begin getting excited about it then feel free to start early! There are opportunities to help out if you're that way inclined as well. Please contact me with any queries and I'll pass your details on to the other committee members.

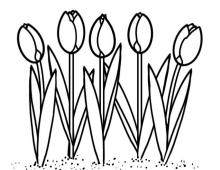
As always, please don't be shy about coming up to me in the street and chatting, dropping me an email or giving me a call. I'm here to serve you and this amazing village that we all call home.

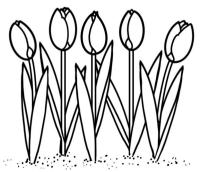
Mark.

mark.williams@shropshire.gov.uk

07725595555







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Highley Parish Council

By the time you read this the clocks will have gone forward and we'll all be enjoying the lighter evenings. I know I for one am particularly looking forward to after work walks and maybe even the odd round of golf if I can fit in nine holes.

As the weather begins to improve our thoughts turn to the opening of our fantastic outdoor swimming pool at The Severn Centre. Last year a number of parishioners raised concerns to me about the opening hours of the pool and the availability of lifeguards to allow swim sessions to take place. I liaised with Halo at the time to request the opening times be looked at and the result was positive. Building on the discussions which took place last year Halo have agreed to investigate the possibility of utilising 'Community Lifeguards' this swim season. The idea was raised by a member of the community at a Parish Council meeting last year and I was keen to do what I could to make it a reality. If you're interested in hearing more about the scheme please contact the Clerk of the Council who will be able to share the details – clerk@highleyparish.co.uk.

Walking round the village recently I had mixed feelings about the dog poo bags which have appeared tied to various items of street furniture. The fact a member of our community would go out of their way to spend their time and money to do something to improve the village is heartwarming but the fact that it is necessary makes me quite angry! There are so many diligent and responsible dog owners in Highley but one or two continue to present a real problem especially for those of us who use the alleyway next to the phone exchange regularly. I hope the kindness of the parishioner who donated the dog poo bags has the desired affect and the culprits begins doing their duty and cleaning up after their pets.

Anyone who has travelled through the village lately will have noticed the new addition outside of The Severn Centre. The vast majority of people will also agree with me that the new pedestrian crossing is situated in entirely the wrong place and would have been much more effective at the bottom of Hazelwells Road where it could have been used by all the school children who walk that way every morning and afternoon. Unfortunately despite doing what we could there was no way the crossing could be repositioned so we are stuck with it where it is. I do live in hope that it may slow down some of the cars which drive through that stretch of road at speed though.

I was incredibly excited to hear about an idea which although in it's very early stages could be a fantastic addition to our village, I am talking about the possibility of having murals painted on the ends of some of our blocks of terraced houses. The initiative is being spearheaded by a villager and I know there is a long way to go until paint hits brick but it'll be brilliant if we can make it happen.

Tom Quinn





Crossword Clues

Puzzles

ACROSS

8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the -' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)

9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)

10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)

11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)

13 Muslim holy month (7)

16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)

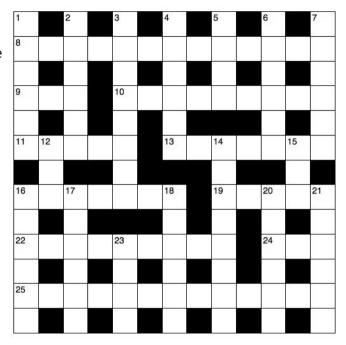
22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)

24 'Go to the - , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)

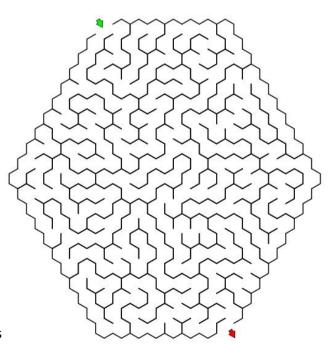
25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity
 him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)



Solutions on page 33



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THE SEVERN CENTRE

Proud to be home to the following community based clubs, groups & businesses:

- · Highley Parish Council
- . Highley Juniors Football Club
- Highley Cricket Club
- . Highley Table Tennis Club
- . Highley Bowls Club & Indoor Bowling
- · Highley Reach Youth Club
- . Highley Minors Childcare
- Highley Community Project
- Highley Medical Practice

- Library
- . Dynamic Taekwondo
- Uplifted Pole & Yoga
- Senior Table Tennis & Badminton drop in sessions
- . Women's Institute and Knit & Natter
- Jodie Leigh School of Dance
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re.org.uk/severncentre

Details correct at time of going to print - December 2023



What's the Big idea?

An Introduction to Deuteronomy and Joshua by Canon Paul Hardingham

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The 'shema' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.' (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says to Joshua: 'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua ('The Lord saves') is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1–11).

Quiz on the Book of Joshua

- 1. Whom did Joshua succeed as leader of Israel? Jacob: Aaron: Moses
- 2. What was the name of Joshua's father? Carmi; Nun; Eleazar
- 3. To what city did Joshua send two men to spy upon? Jericho; Ai; Gilgal
- 4. What was the name of the woman who hid the spies Joshua sent?

Rachel; Rahab; Rebekah

5. How many stones did the Israelites take from the dry river bed of the Jordan?

7; 12; 40

6. Once the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, what happened in the days after they had celebrated the Passover?

God stopped providing manna; Joshua apportioned land to each tribe; The Amorites attacked them

7. What did the captain of the Lord's host command Joshua to do?

Gather his army against Jericho; Build an altar to the Lord; Take off his sandals

8. How many priests were chosen to carry the rams' horns as they marched round Jericho?

3; 7; 70

- 9. What was the name of the man who violated God's command not to plunder anything from Jericho? Phinehas; Zabdi; Achan
- 10. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making a covenant of peace, but as what did he make them serve the Israelites?

Woodcutters and water-carriers; Brick makers and messengers; Stone-carriers and armour-bearers

Answers on page 19



Page 18 The Forum

Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23

E	G	Е	Ν	L	E	G	Е	N	D	S	N	N
R	G	C	Α	Ε	P	L	R	R	Y	Ε	Н	Е
E	O	O		Α		Ε	P	O	M	Ε	Ε	D
	Ε	U	T	V	R	R	M	M	R	S	Ε	L
D	A	R	Ε	C		F	F	0	Α	R		O
L	0	A	L	N	G	D	M	I	Y	X	Ε	G
N	L	G	C	Ε		R	N	T	L	L	E	T
L	C	E	O	D	Ε	Т	R	Ε	V	N	O	C
	S	R	I		Ε	Α	S	X	R	N	E	Е
S	G	D	D	N	M	N	Н	Ε	L	P	Ε	R
E	R	L	Α	D	T	Ε	N	G	L	Α	Ν	D
N	0	G	Α	R	D	Н	R	0	M	A	N	Е
S	R	0	E	L	R	L	I	L	E	D	P	0

George	Roman	Palestine	Soldier	Officer
Patron	Army	Courage	Hero	Martyred
Saint	Diocletian	Example	Golden	Dragon
England	Terror	Helper	Legend	Princess

Have a go at Sudoku—answers on page 23



Easy

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

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

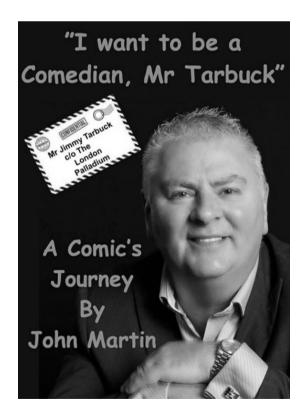
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Answers to Quiz on the book of Joshua:

Moses (1:2); Nun (1:2); Jericho (2:1); Rahab (2:4); 12 (4:9); God stopped providing manna (5:12); Take off his sandals (5:15); 7 (6:6); Achen (7:18); Woodcutters and water-carriers (9:27)

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UCB Word for Today

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. 2 Peter 3:18

When Peter exercised enough faith to get out of the boat and walk on water, he sank and looked worse than any of the other disciples. When he tried to defend Jesus, he cut off a man's ear. When he promised to be loyal, he fell flat on his face. When he tried to advise Jesus, he was the devil's advocate (see Matthew 16:22-23). Eventually he became a leader in the church – but he got worse before he got better. And his behaviour didn't surprise or discourage Jesus one bit.

He will never stop helping a follower of His who is sincerely seeking to grow. He will always lead us forward in growth; but growth requires risk, and risk sometimes means failure. Jesus knows that, but He never gives up on a student just because he or she fails. For example, if you haven't been confronting people when you should, once you start, the odds are that you will do it badly. If you have rarely encouraged people, your initial attempts may be clumsy. If you have never shared your faith, the first time you do, you may stumble all over yourself. Go ahead and stumble! Failure isn't about falling down; it's about refusing to try.

One man told his pastor, 'If I were God, I wouldn't put up with someone like me.' The pastor replied, 'Then be glad you're not God, and I'll be twice as glad – for we would both be sunk.' As long as you hunger for God, He will work with you and in you. Growing in grace means growing spiritually through the stages of childhood, adolescence, and into maturity. So, don't give up on yourself – God won't!

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Cat's eyes

When you drive on a road late at night
And the dark is affecting your sight;
At that time of day
It's easy to stray
Too far with your car to the right!
But we've been protected from tears
For most of the past ninety years,
Since a man who was wise
Invented cat's eyes
So the edge of your lane now appears!
Now drivers, protected from frights
By mirrors reflecting our lights,
May shout 'hip-hooray!'
At all times of day,



Highley Companions

Since my last article we have had two lovely sessions.

Our first one was celebrating Pancake Day. Who doesn't love a pancake? Well before we could have the real thing we thought we would have a competition by TOSSING A PANCAKE

Lesley and I arrived with two frying pans and even we thought it would get a bit messy using real pancakes (we never intended to use REAL ones) so one of our volunteers Victoria crocheted a few for us. Everyone tried so hard, and managed to toss at least one. Our eventual winner was one of our newer members Michael and he was so thrilled. We all enjoyed our lunch and of course the real pancakes. We finished off with a quiz and singing a few songs and everyone went home happy.

Our second session was mainly devoted to making our banners for Easter although we did manage to sing a couple of songs by singing in the round. Mandy had prepared some wonderful pictures of Easter Eggs to decorate using stickers, glitter and colouring pencils. Some beautiful creations made with lots of enthusiasm. Now Mandy has the job of making them into banners which I know she is looking forward to. Lesley made us some lovely homemade soups with homemade bread courtesy of her husband Martin and homemade cake. We rounded the session off with BINGO with everyone hoping to win one of our chocolate prizes! Another lovely time with our Companions.

If you know anyone who is struggling with dementia or memory problems due to age who you think would benefit from coming to our group please do not hesitate to contact me on 07870 262 944 or 861431 in complete confidence.

Elaine Moore

Hi from the W.I.

Our February meeting, got off to a start with the minutes of our last meeting and notification of any forthcoming events.

Our speaker for the evening was our lovely Vicky Steadman, one of our committee members who showed us how to do decoupage.

Vicky had prepared little bags for each of us with everything we needed to make a decoupage heart giving us individual tuition where needed and some of us did! We will each get them back next time when Vicky has completed the final stage.

Vicky is very talented and she brought along a display of items which she had created using her different skills and we could buy if we wanted.

A wonderful evening.

Elaine Moore



Page 22 The Forum

It all happened in April

It was:

300 years ago, on 7th April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

200 years ago, on 19th April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

175 years ago, on 10th April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.

100 years ago, on 17th April 1924 that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios (MGM) was founded when Metro Pictures, Goldwyn Pictures and Louis B Mayer Pictures merged.

90 years ago, on 3rd April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.

Also 75 years ago, on 7th April 1949 that the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific was opened in Broadway.

Also 70 years ago, on 26th April 1954 that the Soviet Union transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine. In 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, but it is not recognised internationally, and a number of sanctions were imposed on Russia as a result.

60 years ago, on 15th April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

40 years ago, on 17th April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London. This led to an 11-day siege by the police.

30 years ago, on 6th April 1994 that the Rwandan genocide began, when a plane carrying Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down by extremists. Civil war broke out the following day, and between 500,000 and one million people were massacred during the next 100 days.

Also 30 years ago, on 26th April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10th May.

25 years ago, on 5th April 1999 that Libya handed over to the United Nations two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. They were taken to the Netherlands to face trial. One was found guilty, and sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be released in 2009 because he was dying of cancer. The other suspect was acquitted.

20 years ago, on 1st April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.

Answers to Wordsearch (from page 18)



Answers to Sudoku (from page 19)

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

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

Easy Medium

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Sustainable Highley

We can make Highley sustainable!

Please email your ideas to mmacnaughton@hotmail.co.uk and I can share them in the next article. Anyone is welcome, and any ideas that help us save energy and resources!

Fix your broken appliances instead of recycling them - Alastair

I have a few 'repair' books that are aimed at assisting the householder to fix their broken appliances or equipment. Whilst they can come in handy, more often than not, I find myself looking on You-tube for a video of someone fixing the same thing as me. It can be a lot more specific and videos can really help you understand what the problem and solution is.

Another website I have come across is www.ifixit.com, and although the company is based in America, it has thousands of repair manuals for appliances and machinery of all makes and models. Have a look; you might find 10 minutes on their website saves you time and money! They have a UK online shop if you want to identify which tools you might want to invest in. A multimeter is a good start, and can show you which parts are working and which are not, even without taking everything apart.

Earth Day on April 22nd - Alastair

It was not a coincidence that The Paris Agreement was signed in 2016 on April 22nd, or as some like to call it; Earth Day. This day in 1970 represents the beginning of a worldwide environmental movement, that, since its inception, encourages people to safeguard our planet and fight for a brighter future.

Earth day this year has a theme of 'Planet vs. Plastics', advocating widespread awareness of the health risks of plastics, pushing the UN for a treaty on plastic pollution, demanding an end to fast fashion and phasing out single use plastics.

Plastics are everywhere; in our oceans, in our food and probably in our blood. Microplastics form as plastics start to degrade, and manage to permeate every niche of life on the planet, from the North pole to the South Pole. Plastics are everywhere!

The Earthday website has lots of information on plastics, and lots of ideas on how to reduce your plastic consumption. Have a look at www.Everydayplastic.org, which has information and campaigns to help you understand your relationship with plastic!

Swap processed for unprocessed - Alastair

Recently I have heard a lot on the radio about the harm that ultra processed foods can have on our health. Eating vegan or even vegetarian dinners can often leave you considering meat alternatives, and some of these (if you take a look at the ingredients) are highly processed. This week I have swapped vegan mince for green, puy lentils. Simple and still delicious!



Mousemakes



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Contacts for Local Church Groups, Clubs & Organisations

Severn Valley Benefice –Rector	Rev'd Kina Robertshaw	revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com	862837
Associate Minister	Rev'd. David Poyner	d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	01562 68638
Retired clergy - Permission to Officiate	Canon Rose Lawley	rosemarylawley@gmail.com	862301
Licensed Lay Minister with PTO	Mr Keith Smith		861966
Churchwardens	Roy Adlington		07865064063
	Canev Clayton		862578
PCC Secretary & Church Administrator	Margaret Ritchie	secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com	861242
Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Lin Evans		861087
Children's Sunday Groups	Amy Williams		860230
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
The Shed	Lisa Delmar-Shaw		07376752633
Bowls Club	Richard Green		861052
Guide and Scout Hut Enquiries	Gay Lilley		861722
Carers Trust 4 All			03333 231990
Community Car Scheme	Mr Richard Dudson		861817
Cricket Club	Mrs Denise Goulden		861031
Rainbows, Brownies and Guides		www.girlguiding.org.uk	
Highley Community Project	Emma Aspin	hcprojectshrops@gmail.com	
Highley Colliery Band	Dave & Lisa Burge		862018
Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
Highley County Primary School	School Office	(Tanya Mathers)	861541
Highley First Responders	Claire van Aswegen	claire.vanaswegen@gmail.com	861580
Highley Medical Centre	Dr J Tatton	Highley Medical Practice, Bridgnorth Road	767121 (option 0)
Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Emma Aspin		07752207828
Highley Minors Childcare Centre	Kath Davies	Severn Centre	860005
Highley Parish Council Parish Clerk	Alison Palmer	clerk@highleyparish.co.uk	07496821159
Co. Cllr. & Highley Patients Group	Mr Mark Williams	mark.williams@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
Highley Welfare Junior Football Club	Lisa Bill	Club Secretary	07983245480
HWJFC: Mini Kickers (3.5—7 years)	Dean Boden		
Housing Support Officer	Contact Star Housing		
Parish Hall Bookings	Margaret Ritchie	secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com	861242
Pop-in-club	Janis Rowe		860270
Severn Centre			860000
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Monday to Friday - 125 - Bewdley, Load St - Stanmore Ind Est

Stourbridge Bus Station Stourbridge (Stand A)			08:05	09:10		10		15:10	16:20	17:20	18:25
Broadwaters Drive Broadwaters (SW)		***	08:23	09:25		25		15:25	16:35	17:35	18:40
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 6) Arrive			08:33	09:35		35		15:35	16:45	17:45	18:50
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 6) Depart		07:27	08:37	09:37		37		15:37	16:47	17:47	
General Hospital Kidderminster (Adj)		07:34	08:44	09:44		44		15:44	16:54	17:54	
Load Street Bewdley (Westbound)	06:30	07:45	08:55	09:55		55		15:55	17:05	18:05	
Wyre Cottage Buttonoak (NW)	06:36	07:51	09:01	10:01	then	01		16:01	17:11	18:11	
Hall Kinlet (NW)	06:43	07:58	09:08	10:08	at these	08	until	16:08	17:18	18:18	
Bache Arms Highley (NW)	06:53	08:08	09:18	10:18	mins	18		16:18	17:28	18:28	
Castle Inn Woodhill (NW)	06:56	08:11	09:21	10:21		21		16:21	17:31	18:31	
Church Chelmarsh (NW)	07:00	08:16	09:26	10:26		26		16:26	17:36	18:36	
Post Office Eardington (NW)	07:05	08:21	09:31	10:31		31		16:31	17:41	18:41	
Sainsbury's High Town (NE)	07:12	08:28	09:38	10:38		38		16:38	17:48	18:48	
Fosters Arms PH Low Town (NE)	07:15					-					
Stanmore Industrial Estate Stanmore (NE)	07:22					_					

^{*} Not including bank holidays

Monday to Friday - 125 - Stanmore Ind Est - Bewdley, Load St

Stanmore Industrial Estate Stanmore (NE)		07:24								
Falcon Hotel Low Town (W)		07:32								
Sainsbury's High Town (NE)			08:40		40		14:40	15:45	16:45	18:05
Post Office Eardington (SE)		07:37	08:49		49		14:49	15:50	16:50	18:10
Church Chelmarsh (SE)		07:42	08:54		54		14:54	15:55	16:55	18:15
Castle Inn Woodhill (S)		07:47	08:58		58		14:58	16:00	17:00	18:20
Bache Arms Highley (SE)		07:51	09:01	then	01		15:01	16:04	17:04	18:24
Eagle & Serpent Inn Kinlet (SW)		08:01	09:11	at these	11	until	15:11	16:14	17:14	18:34
Wyre Cottage Buttonoak (SE)		08:08	09:19	mins	19		15:19	16:21	17:21	18:41
Load Street Bewdley (Eastbound)		08:15	09:25		25		15:25	16:28	17:28	18:48
General Hospital Kidderminster (NE)		08:27	09:35		35		15:35	16:40	17:40	19:00
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 8) Arrive		08:35	09:41		41		15:41	16:48	17:48	19:08
Bus Station Kidderminster (Stand 8) Depart	07:30	08:37	09:43		43		15:43	16:50	17:50	
Broadwaters Drive Broadwaters (Opp)	07:38	08:45	09:49		49		15:49	16:58	17:58	
Stourbridge Bus Station Stourbridge (Stand A)	07:58	09:05	10:05		05		16:05	17:18	18:18	

^{*} Not including bank holidays



Crossword Solution from page 15

U		Е		Α	00 00	Α		1		Т	30 30	Α
Т	R	Α	N	S	G	R	Е	S	S	0	R	S
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Ν	Е	Α	R	E	S	Т		Z	E	Α	Т	Н
U		Р				I		Α		R		Α
С	Н	1	L	D	L	Е	S	S		Α	Ν	Т
L		E		0		D		Т		R		R
Е	X	С	0	М	М	U	N	I	С	Α	Т	Е
I		Е		E		Р		С		Т		D

Regular Events

Severn Strollers Mondays

(not Bank Holidays)

10:30 / 11:00 Severn Centre

(Contact: Barbara Skilton: 01746 862003)

Women's Institute Tuesday

Severn Centre

Badminton Club (Seniors) Tuesday 19.00 SC

Housing Support Community Room,

Rhea Hall, 9-12noon Mon—Friday 862442

Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins:

Thursday 11th April, 25th April

Purple recycling & green bins:

Friday 5th April, Thursday 18th April

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



ALLSORTS

Allsorts of topics for Allsorts of ladies of

Allsorts of ages

First Tuesday of the Month 2pm – 4pm in the Parish Hall

Program of events

5th Mar 2024 = Mark Triggs -

Christians Against

Poverty

 2^{nd} Apr = John Martin -

Comedian

7th May = Ian Baxter - SVR

4th June = Liz Bird - Foodbank

2nd July = Bluebird Belles

3rd Sept = Sally Bunn

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All Round Property Maintenance	11
Bache PR (Carpenter)	10
Cleobury Country Centre	11
Cost Cutter	11
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10
Edwards A J Decorating Services	22
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	25

Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25
Highley Minors	28
Holford, CE (Electrical)	11
Irena Foot Clinic	31
Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25
Kinlet C of E School	24
Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	33
Nicky Fogarty Cleaning Services	31
Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25
Ovenclean	19
Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24
Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10
Powell Clive - Gardening Services	10
1	

Severn Edge Vets		29
Shropshire Registration Services		25
Tele - Satt Aerials		19
Vivians Mobile Hairdressing		
Ç	33	

Bus Information	32
Events - Church	33
Events - General / Waste	33
Library	3
Registrar's Office	25

Strict bedtimes could make children's brains 'bigger and healthier'

A family routine and a strict bedtime could help your child develop a healthier, bigger brain.

On the other hand, a disruptive family life with poor sleep patterns could mean your child has slower brain development, poorer cognitive function, and below average academic achievement.

Those are the findings of a new study from Colorado State University. It found that children thrive when the family has a weekly 'family time' together, when homework is done at the same time every day, the family eats dinner together every night, the child is expected to carry out regular household chores, and when bedtime is at a consistent time, accompanied by a bedtime story or similar calming ritual.

The underlying need is for the child to get enough regular and deep sleep. Children with disrupted families get disrupted sleep, and therefore are more likely to have thinner regions of the brain in the amygdala as well as parts of the left and right frontal cortex. These areas control skills related to language, behaviour, sensory perception, and emotional processing.



Highley Companions Easter Craft Day





St Mary's Sunday School celebrate Mothers' Day







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Church Services April 2024

Sunday 7th April	9.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 14th April	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Informal Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 21st April	9.30am Morning Worship 10am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh St Bartholomew's Church, Glazeley
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 28th April	8am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Informal Worship	St Mary's Church, Highley

Information at the time of going to print. Please check times on weekly sheet for any changes.

Mid-week Groups

Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7.30pm contact Liz and Mervyn tel 862989

Wednesday Prayer and Study Group 11am—1pm held in Parish Hall unless notified otherwise.

Wednesday Zoom 7pm Contact David Poyner email d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk

Thursday evening Prayer Meeting @ St Mary's Church at 7.00pm

Friday Event Youth Club 7.30pm @ Parish Hall (term-time only) contact Rachel Williams

Friday Night Prayer 9pm Zoom contact David Poyner as above

For enquiries regarding Weddings, Christenings, Funerals or Churchyard memorials

Weddings: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw: email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

Christenings/baptisms: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

Funerals: Contact your funeral director, who will liaise with clergy

Churchyard Memorials: Rev'd Kina Robertshaw: email revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

