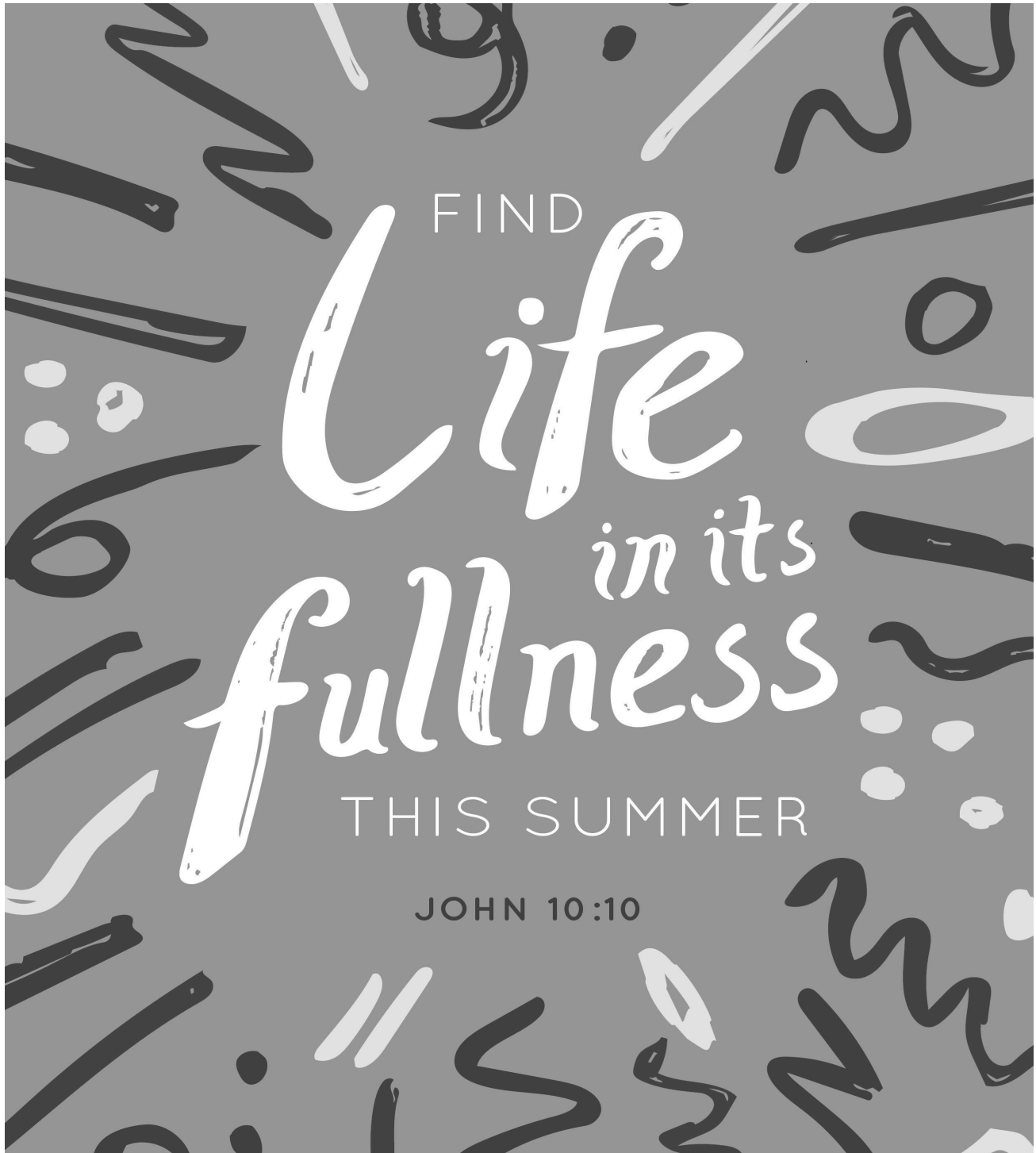


THE

60p

FORUM

July 2025



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Events Round Up



On Saturday 14th June Toni and Roger Gabb opened their beautiful gardens at Woodlands Hall in aid of Chelmarsh and Glazeley Churches and Kidney Research charity. As always, in addition to the wonderful setting, there were plenty of topnotch refreshments provided by the ladies from both churches.

St Batholomew's, Glazeley celebrates 150th Anniversary



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.

Send to highleyforumeditor@gmail.com

Regular Contributions:

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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).

St. Mary's Church Shop	Parish Hall Office	Highley Forum
<p>The shop helps to raise donations to local, national and international causes. Re-saleable items are always welcome and bulky items can be collected</p> <p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Mon 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Tues 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Wed 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Thurs 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Fri 10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00</p> <p>Sat 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot take large items of furniture.</p>	<p>.01746 861242</p> <p>Parish Administrator - Maggie Ritchie</p> <p>The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10am—12noon.</p> <p>For information about weddings, Baptisms (Christenings), child's Dedication, funerals or for general enquiries about church service times and parish information contact the Parish Office as above.</p>	<p>Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Advertising If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p>

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**The Severn Valley Group of Churches:**

St. Mary, Highley

St. Mary, Billingsley

St. Peter, Chelmarsh

St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

To believe or not to believe.

Do you ever doubt yourself? Do you have doubts over advice you are given or the veracity of information you hear? When change is proposed, do you ever doubt the optimism of the outcome? There is so much fake news around and spam and malicious mis-leadings, particularly it would seem using the media, social or otherwise, that sometimes it's hard to know what to believe; hard to separate truth from fiction and downright un-truth.

Genuine doubt or hesitancy is often no bad thing. Asking questions is a positive approach. It prevents us from rushing into situations where we have not sufficiently thought through potential consequences. It enables us to gather information which can itself be sifted and clarified. But in most situations there comes a point when we have to risk believing what we are being told, unless we have evidence to the contrary. Moderation in most things is a great leveller.

It's no different with faith. Faith believes with certainty in things we cannot see or prove. Every year after Easter, churches read about the disciple Thomas (often known as Doubting Thomas). Thomas was the only disciple not present when Jesus made his first appearance to ten of his followers after the resurrection. When they tell him that they have seen Jesus, he is reluctant to believe them. Those of you who have heard me preach on that text will know that my own take on this is that it was something so important to him, that he had to be absolutely sure that they had seen Jesus alive—that it wasn't a hallucination or something similar. So, because it was so important to him, Thomas wanted to see and touch the wounds in Jesus' body himself as proof that it was true.

I don't blame Thomas for this. I would probably have felt the same. Jesus also understood Thomas and gave him the proof he needed. The consequence was that Thomas was the first of the disciples to articulate what this meant. He joins the dots and realises that he is in the company of not just his friend and teacher, but the resurrected Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. His response is total and unequivocal. He looks at Jesus and declares, '*My Lord and my God.*'

We also have a choice of when to set aside our doubts and fears and choose to believe, even if the proof is not tangible. Questioning is part of the process to finding out as much as we can and weighing the answers. Then we have a choice: to believe or to reject. That's our choice and ours alone. This applies to questions of faith and many other situations in life. The results of these choices form our value system.

Looking around the world at the moment, value systems seem to be quite diverse. What are yours and do you manage to live by them? It's worth a thought.

Val Smith

May the words of my mouth and meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer.
(Psalm 19:14)

The Gift of Poetry and Prayer

Lord, we remember Thomas.

Thomas, who asked questions and doubted when he didn't see You with his own eyes. And Lord, You walked through those locked doors of his questions and doubts specifically to meet his needs.

Help us to come to you, honestly, with our questions and doubts, knowing that You understand and will meet our needs too.

Help us to recognize You with eyes of faith - the only One who can help us.

May we declare, with Thomas, in humility, devotion and thankfulness, 'My Lord and my God!'. We pray in your powerful name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



It's that Wimbledon time of the year

The 'pop' of a ball on a racket
The voice of the Umpire so clear
There is nothing in quite the same bracket
As that Wimbledon time of the year!

'Fault!' cries the line judge, eyes beady,
The ball boys and girls on their toes;
For more of these matches we're greedy:
The bug for this game grows and grows!

The weather may shine, or be raining
The temperature warm, mild or chill;
Our appetites won't be restraining
For strawberries on Henman Hill.

The queues may be long, but endure them
You'll get to the court – have no fear
Just settle and watch, and be sure then –
It's that Wimbledon time of the year!

By Nigel Beeton

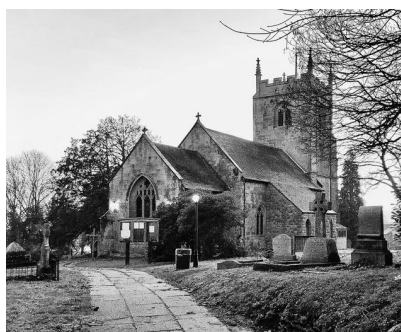


Highley St. Mary	Billingsley St. Mary	Chelmarsh St. Peter	Glazeley St. Bartholomew
	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacant

St Mary's Highley

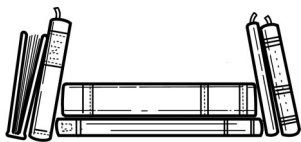
As we've basked in the beautiful sunshine—some of us enjoying the increased temperatures more than others—church life continues.

At the beginning of June Janis Rowe opened the doors at the Parish Hall on a Monday afternoon for those who might like to get together with others for a chat and cup of tea or coffee, whilst allowing their artistic side to have a go at painting or drawing or just colouring-in. It's surprising how calming and therapeutic that can be! You don't need specific skills or talents and all materials are provided. This is an outreach for all—you don't need to be a church member to come and join in. Thank you Janis for spear-heading this initiative. We hope it will go from strength to strength.



Gay Lilley is hoping to have a bric-a-brac stall at the Carnival on 5th July with goods from St Mary's Charity Shop. If you are able to help in any way, please let her know.

Home Groups will be winding down mid-to-late July, ready for the summer break. Please speak to the leaders of each group for details. At present the post Alpha group meets at Stewart and Shirley's home on a Monday evening, a group meets at Liz and Mervyn's new home in Billingsley on Tuesday evenings and David Poyner holds a meeting via Zoom on Wednesdays, as well as Compline by Zoom on Friday evenings.

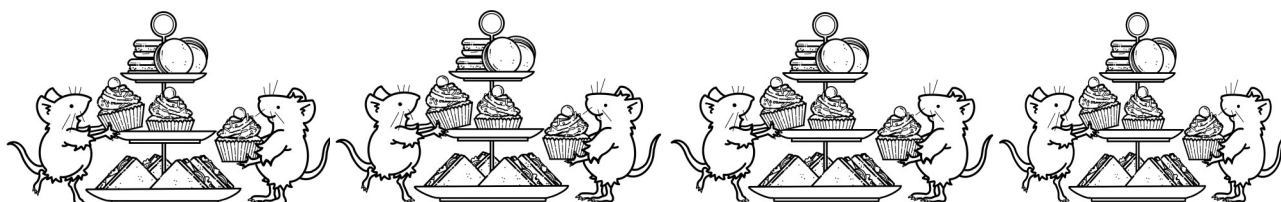


Children in Year 6 at Highley School have been to Arthog for a week and appear to have had a wonderful time. We wish them every success as they prepare to move on to secondary schools throughout the area.

From the Registers

Funerals:

19.04.25	Albert Walker	Wyre Forest Crematorium
23.05.25	James Lloyd	Wyre Forest Crematorium
14.06.25	Roger Powell	St Mary's Church



Chelmarsh News

The Chelmarsh Annual Parochial Committee Meeting (APCM) was held on Sunday 1st June after the service. It was attended by the PCC and the congregation present on the day. This was pleasing, as the PCC has tried various ways in the past to encourage the public to come to the meeting without much success. Unfortunately, there were no nominations or volunteers for Churchwardens, so Chelmarsh will again have to manage without these important posts.

The Plant Sale took place on **Saturday 28th June**. Many thanks to all who continually support this annual event. As well as the plants and stalls of cakes there were refreshments and a Bric a Brac stall. The money raised will go towards the work on the tower.

The draw for the 100 Club was also drawn. Winners in next month's report.

Advance Notice for the annual Ride and Stride fund-raising event is planned for **13th September** for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust which provides grants to churches needing help for substantial repairs. This year, Chelmarsh has been awarded a grant of £932.00 for repairs to the louvres in the tower, so it would show our appreciation if some people could spare a couple of hours and get themselves sponsored to visit any of the churches in Shropshire. More details in next month's magazine.

Chelmarsh Fete is arranged by the Parish Hall Committee for **Saturday 12th July from 2pm until 5pm**. We wish the organisers a successful day and visitors an enjoyable afternoon.

Church cleaning **Wednesday July 16th at 2.30pm** approx. Anyone welcome to join in with a duster and some elbow grease!

Smile Lines and Quotes

Open wide

A lady was very nervous about her appointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible. The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: 'Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.'

Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."

With our world leaders in mind....

- Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. - *Abraham Lincoln*
- Self-praise is no recommendation. - *Anon*
- Being a character and having a character are NOT the same thing. - *Anon*

St Mary's, Billingsley

The churchyard at Billingsley has recently undergone a make-over. The old gravel had become full of soil and consequently always sprouting weeds. We have now laid down a membrane to stop the weeds and have covered it with fresh gravel. The colour of this matches the stone of the church. This should make maintenance much easier in the future. Many thanks to Di Stepney for devising the scheme and to Di and Sue Russel who shovelled and raked all the gravel in place after it had been delivered to the church gate. The assistant curate smiled benignly as the work was going on and left smartly in case he was asked to help...



At our latest evening service on Sunday, we welcomed our rector, Kina, who spoke about her 10 day pilgrimage along the Camino, the classic pilgrim route in Spain leading to Santiago del Compostela, said to be the burial place of St James the Apostle. Kina spoke eloquently about the lessons she had learnt of her journey, especially finding God in strangers and in strange places. Our next evening service on Sunday July 13th will be "A trip to Peru" and is based on a journey made by the late Bob McConnel, wife of Ellen. Bob took many photos which Ellen has recently been sorting; these will be complemented by an account of a much more recent journey to Peru. Come to learn about the Incas, the Andes, some dramatic railways and how God fits into this.

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

June was a busy month at Glazeley, as we celebrated 150 years since the church was rebuilt. There has been a church on the present site for around 1000 years, but it has been knocked and rebuilt on a number of occasions. The present church was begun in 1873 and was reopened by the Bishop of Hereford in August 1875. We have moved the anniversary celebrations forward by two months as many people are likely to be away in August. But, at our regular Sunday service on 15th June, we welcomed the present Bishop of Hereford, Richard Jackson and his wife. Richard took the service and preached. We had a full church; it was very good to see supporters from Chetton, Chelmarsh, Billingsley and Highley. We were especially grateful for Richard for staying after the service to chat with people. I am also very grateful for everyone who helped at the service; for Rachael for playing the organ, Anita welcoming people and all those who worked behind the scenes to clean the church, to make cakes and other refreshments. We are now anticipating a Daddy's Hat concert next Saturday and an exhibition on the history of the church over that weekend, organised by Lyn Parnaby.



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The day before we were at the Woodlands, where Toni and Roger Gabb once again opened up their gardens. The weather was sunny, the gardens were stunning and the refreshments were splendid. A significant sum of money for Glazeley and Chelmarsh churches, but the real value is the event itself and how it brings people together. It was almost exactly a year since the mastermind behind the gardens, Caspar Gabb, died; I am sure he would have thought that Roger and Toni did an excellent job. We are very grateful to them. On the Friday the week before, the Gabb family held a very moving celebration of Caspar's life; it made me wish I had known this talented and warm-hearted man better than I did. I am so grateful they organised this.

James the Least of All

On Why People Complain to the Vicar

From The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

So, you have received your first letter of complaint. I am not wholly unsympathetic with your complainant, as attempting to marry the bride to the best man would have created havoc with the seating arrangements at the reception. However, you must learn that receiving letters of complaint is an integral part of the ordained ministry. After 50 years of parish life, the number of such letters I have received are now held in bound volumes.

The anonymous ones you will receive, invariably written in green ink on lined notepaper, can be safely consigned to your wastepaper basket, along with all mail, from whatever source, labelled 'Urgent'. You will receive letters complaining that you did not pray for someone who was in hospital, regardless of the fact that you knew nothing of it. Probably by the next post, you will receive a letter complaining that you did pray for someone in hospital – when they had wanted to keep their cosmetic surgery secret.

Those who regard themselves as guardians of doctrinal purity will write complaining of the heresies contained in the previous Sunday's sermon. These can be filed with those letters that complain that your sermons are too short, along with those who complain that they are too long.

The hourly striking of the church clock is a perennial favourite for complaints. I usually reply by saying that we are currently exploring the possibility of getting it to strike the quarters too.

Letters of complaint will arrive in November, complaining that the church is too cold, so making prayer impossible. Others will drop on the doormat in April saying that it is too hot, so making prayer impossible. In Spring, some will write that the churchyard should be mown more often, while others will complain that it is mown too often and ruins it as a habitat for wildlife. The annual Summer 'Procession of Witness' generates complaints that the brass band ruined the slumbers of parishioners having a Sunday lie-in. Then come Harvest, there will be the letters complaining that they did not receive a Harvest gift, which was particularly unforgivable, as their grandmother had once sung in the choir. Thus, the annual round is accompanied by reams of notepaper.

The only letter of complaint I have really treasured came from the bishop, rebuking me for never having attended any meeting when he was present. I have had it framed and hung on the study wall.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Our 2025 Dates & Times:-

12th July 2025	10am - 1pm
13th September 2025	10am - 1pm
8th November 2025	10am - 1pm

Highley Community Primary School
(Grasmere Drive, WV16 6EH)

Then 2nd Saturday of every other month from January 2026

Contact us via email:- Repaircafehighley@gmail.com
or visit our website:- Repaircafehighley.org.uk

Our volunteer service is free, however you will need to cover the cost of any parts needed. A financial donation for items that are successfully repaired will help ensure the Repair Café can continue.
Highley Parish Council and Enfinium LTD both provided financial support which helped us start our "Repair Café Highley"

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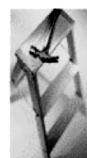


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*Not long to go before the Highley Carnival
Saturday July 5th 2025 12 noon onwards
Get the date in your diary!*

Letter from Westminster



It is a great honour to have been re-adopted as the Conservative parliamentary candidate for South Shropshire. I have spent over forty years of my life in the Marches, having grown up in Herefordshire and spent much of my childhood in Shropshire. These are vital times for Shropshire, and my plan sets out how I will champion the needs and aspirations of our whole community to ensure that it can flourish.

I was delighted to host my first 'Meet the MP' event in Much Wenlock. It was a pleasure to speak with residents who do not have specific casework enquiries but enjoy discussing topics of local interest. Please check my website for up-to-date information on future events and contact me to book a place. In Shropshire, I was also pleased to meet with the Shropshire Association of Local Councils. Local government is responsible for more than 800 different functions. So, it was insightful to learn about the challenges they face in serving rural areas like ours. I also held a round table event with Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, which does so much to help our local businesses. By meeting with some of our largest employers in the area I can understand how we can unleash rural prosperity.

My Pothole Patrol has demonstrated the importance of improving the condition and quality of our roads across South Shropshire. The new government has decided against the last government's long-term approach to investing in our highways - publishing allocations for the next year alone. A quarter of funding has also been held back until councils can prove that they are meeting stringent criteria. I have contacted Ministers with my findings and submitted a list of every road residents have raised with me to Shropshire Council to ensure these roads are repaired as soon as possible.

To support the revival of our high streets, I am seeking the views of local residents and businesses in my new survey. So, I am asking everyone to spend five minutes to fill in my survey and support our local towns (*see on website stuart@stuartanderson.org.uk*). The findings will shape my plan, as I work with key stakeholders to ensure that our other market towns can thrive. I have started with Bridgnorth and then will roll it out to other market towns across South Shropshire. With over 1000 contributions already, this is clearly a campaign that people care deeply about.

I have raised several key concerns from high street businesses in Parliament recently. At Oral Questions to the Ministry of Justice, I asked how removing short-term prison sentences would help deter and punish retail crime. In a Westminster Hall debate I raised plans to change business rates for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses. Having visited and spoken with many fantastic local publicans, shop owners and restaurants, I want to see these businesses supported now. I called for a return to the previous 75% rate relief and a cut to food and drink VAT.

I was thrilled to receive news that the Post Office in Cleobury will reopen after being closed since April 2023. This was an issue that was brought to me by local residents such as Ruth, who collected hundreds of signatures from residents on a paper survey. After a concerted local campaign and raising this with the Post Office I am delighted that we have secured the future of this service. The Post Office will open on June 27th. On another win for the high street, I welcomed Dudley Building Society opening in Bridgnorth, reversing the trend of banking services leaving our local towns. I will continue to help our local communities retain the shops and services we need.

Stuart Anderson MP

Highley Parish Council

The June meeting of Highley Parish Council was another busy one with lots to discuss but more importantly with two vacant Councillor positions to fill. We had three applications for the slots so unfortunately one of the applicants was unsuccessful but it gives me great pleasure to welcome Megan Roberts and Matt Green to Highley Parish Council. I am sure they will both be a great addition to the council and I'm looking forward to working with them.

Hopefully you will have noticed the hanging baskets which have recently gone up through out the village. This year the colour scheme was chosen to match the favourite colours of long time Parish Clerk Ella Preston who we sadly lost last year. I'm sure you will all agree the baskets are looking great this year. We did have a slight panic shortly after the baskets were hung when the pump on our bowser which is used to water the hanging baskets stopped working. Fortunately local business owner James Green of Specialist Pumping Services Ltd offered to have a look and when he discovered the pump was irreparable he sourced and fitted a new one, free of charge! Our thanks go out to James for his kindness and for saving the day.

There has been a bit of a change to the street furniture in the centre of the village after the bus shelter was damaged and had to be removed. We are in the process of exploring all options and have decided this would be a good opportunity to explore bus stop provision throughout the village before coming up with a plan. We didn't think we were going to be able to find out who it was that caused the damage but in the last few days we have been passed CCTV footage of a supermarket lorry hitting the structure so we are hopeful we will be able to get any costs covered.

As we enter summer there is lots to look forward to including Highley Carnival. I hope to see many of you there (and hopefully the weather is good!).

Tom Quinn
Chair – Highley Parish Council



Don't Step on a Bee Day – 10th July

The eye-catching name of this annual event aims to remind people of how important bees are in our ecosystem, and of the need to promote their protection. If you want to help the bees, here is what you can do:

- * *Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers:* Grow a variety of flowers in your garden that attract and support bees, such as lavender, sunflowers, and marigolds.
- * *Avoid Using Pesticides:* Reduce or eliminate these in your garden, to create a safer environment for bees.
- * *Support Local Beekeepers:* Purchase honey from local beekeepers, to help support sustainable beekeeping practices.
- * *Create a Bee Bath:* Place a shallow dish of water with stones in your garden to provide bees with a safe place to drink.

Crossword Clues

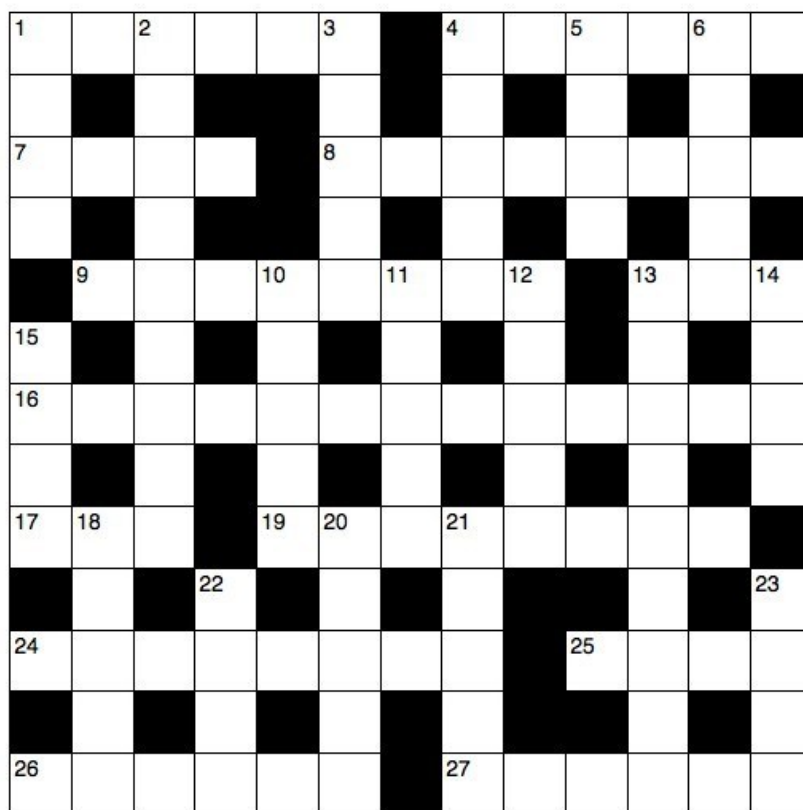
Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'The king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he said, "one who — bread into the bowl with me"" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

Crossword



Answers on page 33



HIGHLEY CARNIVAL 2025

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JULY 5TH / 12PM

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Shropshire County Councillor

Local Activity and Support

It's been a busy start to my time as your County Councillor, and I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few updates on what I've been doing since stepping into the role.

I attended my first Full Council meeting at the Guildhall in Shrewsbury on 22nd May — a formal but important introduction to Shropshire Council. During the meeting, I was appointed as a member of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which oversees key areas including highways, the environment, climate change, economic growth, flooding, housing, and community.

One of my first local actions was helping to arrange for barriers and cones to cordon off the Parish Council-owned bus shelter after it was damaged. I worked with Shropshire Council's Highways team to put these in place while the Parish Council organised the removal. A large part of my time so far has been spent listening to concerns from residents about traffic and road safety — especially around speeding, pavement parking and double parking on narrow streets. I've now started a full review of traffic issues in the village and am preparing a report to submit to Shropshire Council with a set of practical recommendations. I've also been in contact with Diamond Buses to ensure residents were kept informed when the usual bus route was diverted during recent roadworks. Good communication in situations like this makes a real difference.

Environmental Concerns – Severn Trent Odour

Several residents living near Kinlet View have contacted me about persistent odours from the Severn Trent waste site. I visited the area and spoke directly with four property owners to understand the extent of the issue. I've since contacted the Environmental Protection Officer at Shropshire Council and am chasing to arrange a site meeting so that the issue can be properly assessed. Unfortunately, on a previous visit before I took office, no odour was detected. To avoid this happening again, I've asked the residents to keep a log of when the smell is most noticeable, so that the officer's next visit can be timed to coincide with it. I'll continue to follow this closely.

Direct Support for Residents

Beyond these broader issues, I've also been supporting residents directly, helping two households remove bulky waste by personally taking items to Bridgnorth tip; I've also been assisting a resident with housing-related queries — ensuring they know what support is available and who to contact.

Looking Ahead

There's a lot to learn and plenty to do, but my early focus has been on getting visible, getting involved, and getting things moving. I'll continue to work closely with the Parish Council and local residents to raise concerns, share updates, and do what I can to represent Highley effectively at county level.

If you need support or would like to raise something with me, I can be reached on:

✉ sharon.ritchie-simmons@shropshire.gov.uk

☎ I'm still waiting for my council-issued phone number, but in the meantime, please email me and I'll respond as quickly as I can.

Thank you again for your warm welcome and continued support.

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halo



Wordsearch



If you ever struggle with doubt, take heart: so did one of the apostles, whose Feast Day is this month. St Thomas just could NOT believe that the Jesus he had seen crucified and dead on the cross could ever come back to life. But Thomas was an honest sceptic, because he really wanted to know the truth. Jesus could help such a man. And so He appeared to him and the other disciples. Instead of scolding him, Jesus simply showed him the wounds. Thomas's response was immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

THOMAS	CROSS	TRUTH	MARTYRED	DEAD
MISSIONARY	SCEPTIC	DOUBT	PATRON	WOUNDS
APPEARED	LORD	SHOWED	INDIA	SPEAR
MADRAS	SAINT	GOD	APOSTLE	MYLAPORE

Have a go at Sudoku — answers on page 23



Easy

Medium

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

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

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UCB Word for Today

Understanding the word 'imputed'

Righteousness...shall be imputed [transferred] to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus.'

Romans 4:22,24

Picture a transfer of funds from one account to another. Banks do it every day. Now imagine yourself destitute and unable to pay your debts. Then in an astounding act of grace, someone assumes all your debts and then transfers to your account such abundance that you never have to work or worry for the rest of your life. That's what happened at the cross when God imputed to Jesus all your sins from the cradle to the grave and imputed all His righteousness to you. Mind-blowing, isn't it?

Would you say, 'No thanks, I believe in paying my own way'? Would you say, 'I can't allow you to do everything while I do nothing, so I'll work for the rest of my life to prove myself worthy of your love and grace'? Salvation is like health food that's labelled 'no man-made additives'. Understand this: the righteousness required for getting into heaven is not about behaving the right way, but believing the right way. You say, 'But I feel such guilt when I sin.' You're supposed to! Your new nature is reacting to sin just as your body does to food poisoning. Your boundaries have been violated and your regenerate spirit is saying that you can't indulge in that anymore; it's not who you are!

Why did God arrange the plan of salvation in this way? Because any righteousness we could achieve falls far short of His standards. He actually calls it 'filthy rags'. Understand this: your rewards in heaven are based upon your behaviour, but your getting into heaven is based on trusting in Christ alone.

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If you would like a free booklet of these daily meditations, they are available from St Mary's Church



All activities start at 1pm

1st – 16th August – Holiday – shop closed

Monday 18th August – Children's activities – 2 hour - £10

Tuesday 19th August - Children's activities – 2 hour - £10

Wednesday 20th August - Craft and Natter

Thursday 21st August - Children's activities – 2 hour - £10

Friday 22nd August - Children's activities – 2 hour - £10

Monday 25th August – Bank holiday shop closed

Tuesday 26th August - Children's activities – 2 hour - £10

Wednesday 27th August – Craft and Natter

Thursday 28th August - Children's activities – 2 hour - £10

Friday 29th August - Children's activities – 2 hour - £10

All children under 8 years old must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Booking in advance is advisable.

Why not join us on a Wednesday at 1pm for our Craft and Natter sessions – bring your craft project or join in with mine (for a small fee)

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Highley Companions

What a busy month it has been for our Companions. We had a visit from George with his ball sports and exercises. Always a fun session with everyone joining in. Lots of smiles and laughs. We had really earned our lunch of homemade soup and bread and cake.

Our next session we bought the garden indoors. Lesley set up a table with compost, plant pots, and some lovely plants. Firstly though everyone had great fun in creating their own designer pots. How pretty they looked! Then it was off to the potting table and armed with some protective gloves they set out filling the pots with compost and planting the lovely plants. (see our photographs of them planting and then their finished pots.) Mick, one of our members, as well as creating his own pots became the chief composter filling the pots ready for planting. Everyone was really pleased with their efforts.

Our first outing of the summer was a boat trip on the Ernest Thomas when we set off on a bit of rainy morning but it didn't spoil our enjoyment as we tootled along at 4mph watching the world go by and seeing the wild life on the banks of the canal and on the water. We were blessed with some sunshine whilst we were on the boat which was lovely and as well as welcome cups of tea, coffee and water we had the most delicious fish and chips whilst on board followed by cake.

A lovely day, enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Emma from Highley Community Project for their donation towards this trip for which we are very grateful.

Elaine.

Please contact me in complete confidence if you would like details of our group. My mobile no. is 07870262944 or you can pick up one from our leaflets from the Pharmacy, Surgery or Severn Centre.

Hi from the W.I.

Our last meeting began with the singing of "Jerusalem" followed by the "business". The highlight of our evening was a "Pamper Night" by Dawn Jones one of our members.

Well some of our members bought along towels, bowls, headbands as Dawn worked her magic with the products which she sells and it is obvious from the photos that everyone so enjoyed the pampering and their skin felt better afterwards. Unfortunately, I missed a really good evening but I'll make sure I'm there next time.

Don't forget we meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.15 in the Library at the Centre and you would be made most welcome.

Elaine



Answers to Wordsearch (from page 18)



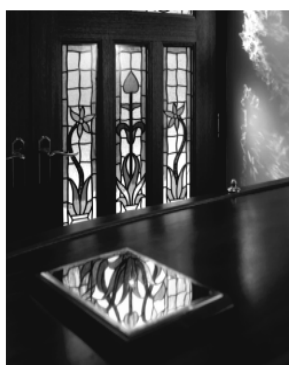
Answers to Sudoku (from page 19)

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

Easy

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

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Planning and nature - Craig

The Government's Planning and Infrastructure Bill, in its current form, fundamentally undermines its commitment to protect nature. The bill replaces vital nature protections with a weaker substitute in an attempt to allow more planning projects to proceed. However, nature does not block growth. If our leading politicians understood this, they might be able to explain the actual reasons for a failing planning system, not just blame nature.

In fact, in 2024, bats and great crested newts were a factor in just 3% of planning appeal decisions (see wildlife trust website). Natural England also recently stated that "out of the tens of thousands of planning applications that we are consulted on each year, 99% result in Natural England and developers finding ways for development to proceed whilst protecting nature. A mere 1% result in an objection.

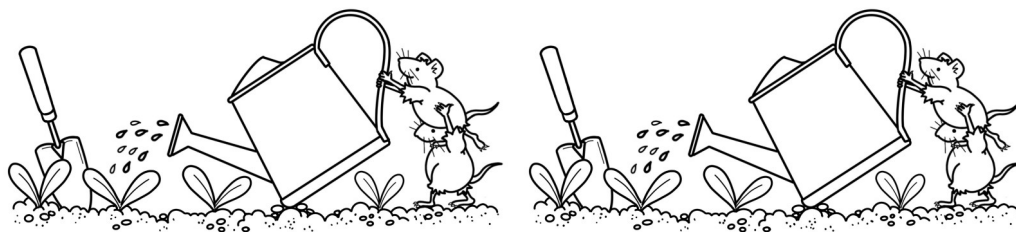
The Labour manifesto is full of promises about restoring our beautiful countryside and the wildlife that resides in it. They need to provide proper guidance, ensuring those seeking planning permission provide all the necessary environmental information alongside their planning application, ultimately helping to speed up planning decisions. Working with nature is the only way forward. Working against it is to the detriment of humanity.

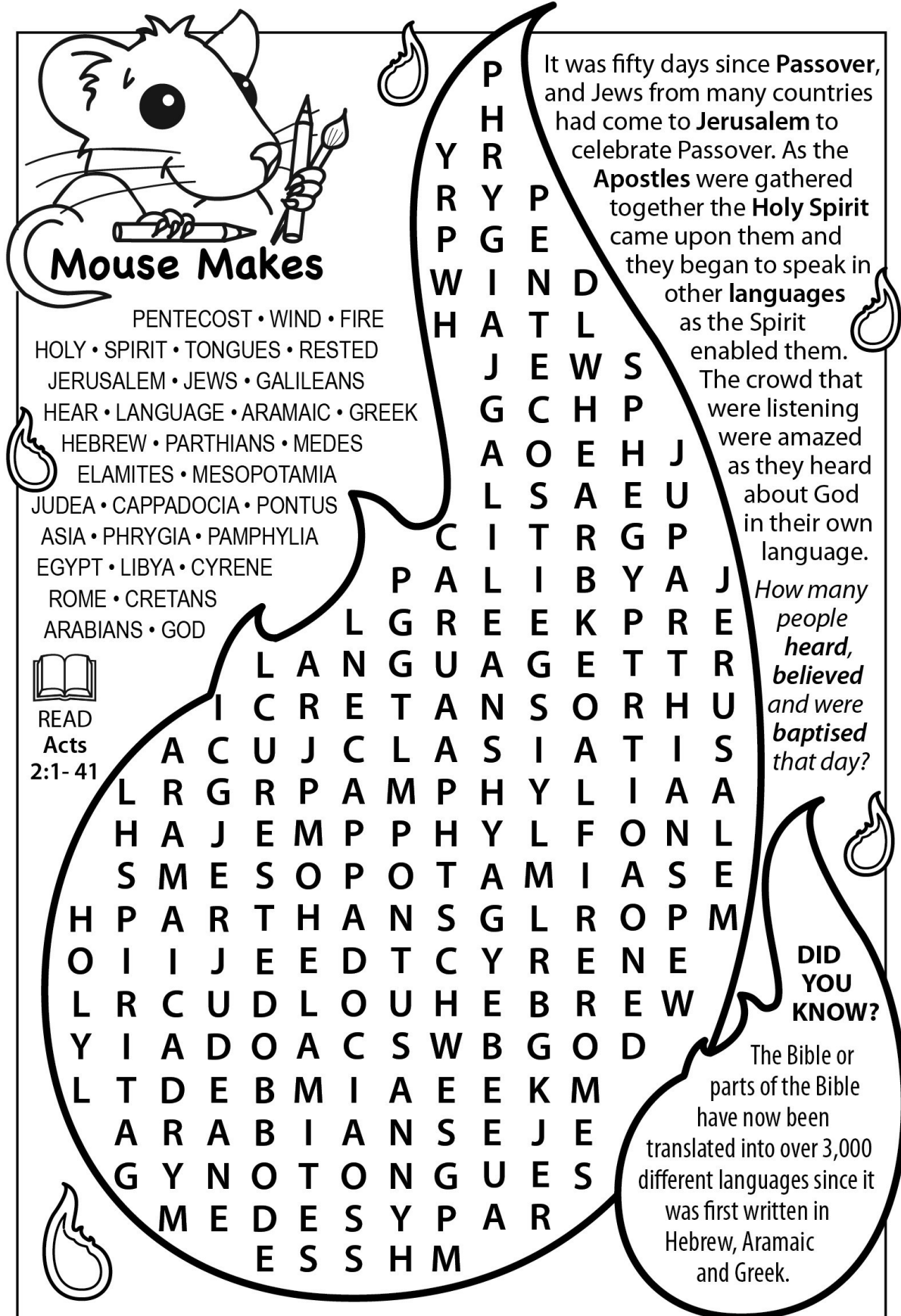
Prepare to stop using plastic - Alastair

Plastic is very useful. You can wash it, use it over and over again and it can be made into pretty much anything. Is that a reason to embrace it? Unfortunately plastic is choking our seas and natural world. It poses a huge threat to wildlife because it doesn't just disappear; it simply breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Aside from the dangers of becoming trapped or injured, animals often ingest plastic fragments, with the potential to build up in the bodies of animals right up the food chain - from microscopic animals right up to large predators, including humans! In fact, 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption contain microplastics (SAS 2025).

It's scary to think, but there could be **more plastic than fish** in the sea by 2050 (Ellen Macarthur Foundation, 2016). More than **100,000** marine mammals and **1 million** sea birds are killed by marine plastic pollution every year (UK Government, 2018). Plastic is not only terrible for our environment, it's also bad news for the climate. It's made of oil, and to make about 1kg of plastic, you end up generating about 2.5kg of carbon dioxide. Check out the Surfers Against Sewage (SASO) website to find out lots more, and how to help.

Wildlife Trusts - *Planning & Development: Nature isn't the problem. An analysis of bats and newts in planning & development appeals May 2025*





Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
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 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD

READ
 Acts
 2:1-41

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them. The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language. How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Word search puzzle words (found in the flame shape):
 PENTECOST, WIND, FIRE, HOLY, SPIRIT, TONGUES, RESTED, JERUSALEM, JEWS, GALILEANS, HEAR, LANGUAGE, ARAMAIC, GREEK, HEBREW, PARTHIANS, MEDES, ELAMITES, MESOPOTAMIA, JUDEA, CAPPADOCIA, PONTUS, ASIA, PHRYGIA, PAMPHYLIA, EGYPT, LIBYA, CYRENE, ROME, CRETANS, ARABIANS, GOD, L, G, R, E, E, K, P, R, E, T, A, N, S, O, R, H, U, A, C, U, J, C, L, A, S, I, A, T, I, S, L, R, G, R, P, A, M, P, H, Y, L, F, O, N, L, S, M, E, S, O, P, O, T, A, M, I, A, S, E, H, P, A, R, T, H, A, N, S, G, L, R, O, P, M, O, I, I, J, E, E, D, T, C, Y, R, E, N, E, L, R, C, U, D, L, O, U, H, E, B, R, E, W, Y, I, A, D, O, A, C, S, W, B, G, O, D, L, T, D, E, B, M, I, A, E, E, K, M, A, R, A, B, I, A, N, S, E, J, E, G, Y, N, O, T, O, N, G, U, E, S, M, E, D, E, S, Y, P, A, R, E, S, S, H, M

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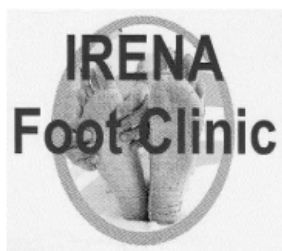
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Contacts for Local Church Groups, Clubs & Organisations

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Associate Minister	Rev'd. David Poyner	d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk	01562 68638
Licensed Lay Minister with PTO	Mr Keith Smith		861966
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Angela Forster		07709989119
Churchwardens			
<hr/>			
Retired Clergy with PTO	Rev'd Richard Law		
PCC Secretary & Church Administrator	Margaret Ritchie	secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com	861242
Allsorts (Ladies' Group)	Mrs Pat Whitefoot		861155
Children's Sunday Groups	Revd Angie Forster		860230
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
<hr/>			
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		Severn Centre	860005
Highley Parish Council	Alison Palmer, Parish Clerk	clerk@highleyparish.co.uk	07496821159
Shropshire County Councillor	Cllr. Sharon Ritchie-Simmons	Sharon.ritchie-simmons@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
Highley Miners Welfare Football Club	Alex Edwards. Club Secretary	secretary.hmwfc@outlook.com	
HMWFC: Mini Kickers (ages 4-6)	Alex Edwards. Club Secretary	secretary.hmwfc@outlook.com	
Housing Support Officer	Contact Star Housing		
Parish Hall Bookings	Margaret Ritchie	secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com	861242
Pop In Club	Dale Schnelting		
Severn Centre	Jack Noakes	General Manager	860000
Severn Strollers	Barbara Skilton		862003
Women's Institute	Mrs Eunice Williams		861613



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NOTE: TIMETABLE: If you know of a more up to date version of this timetable, please email the Editor.

125

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Monday to Friday

(except Public Holidays)

Kidderminster Bus Station	0615	0730	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830
Kidderminster General Hospital	0623	0738	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Habberley, Canterbury Road	0628	0743	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743	1843
Bewdley, Load Street	0639	0754	0854	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1554	1654	1754	1854
Buttontoak, Wyre Cottage	0647	0802	0902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1702	1802	-
Highley, Bache Arms	0706	0821	0921	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	1621	1721	1821	-
Chelmarsh, Church	0715	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830	-
Bridgnorth, Sainsbury's	0729	0844	0944	1044	1144	1244	1344	1444	1544	1644	1744	1844	-

Saturday

(except Public Holidays)

Kidderminster Bus Station	0615	0730	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830
Kidderminster General Hospital	0623	0738	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Habberley, Canterbury Road	0628	0743	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743	1843
Bewdley, Load Street	0639	0754	0854	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1554	1654	1754	1854
Buttontoak, Wyre Cottage	-	0802	0902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1702	1802	-
Highley, Bache Arms	-	0821	0921	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	1621	1721	1821	-
Chelmarsh, Church	-	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830	-
Bridgnorth, Sainsbury's	-	0844	0944	1044	1144	1244	1344	1444	1544	1644	1744	1844	-

Monday to Friday

(except Public Holidays)

Bridgnorth, Sainsbury's	-	0655	0755	0855	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1455	1555	1655	1755
Chelmarsh, Church	-	0709	0809	0909	1009	1109	1209	1309	1409	1509	1609	1709	1809
Highley, Bache Arms	-	0718	0818	0918	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1518	1618	1718	1818
Buttontoak, Wyre Cottage	-	0738	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Bewdley, Load Street	0625	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bark Hill, Merricks Lane	0626	0745	0845	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1645	1745	1845
Habberley, Canterbury Road	0638	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900
Kidderminster General Hospital	0644	0806	0906	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	1606	1706	1806	1906
Kidderminster Bus Station	0654	0816	0916	1016	1116	1216	1316	1416	1516	1616	1716	1816	1916

Saturday

(except Public Holidays)

Bridgnorth, Sainsbury's	-	-	-	0855	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1455	1555	1655	1755
Chelmarsh, Church	-	-	-	0909	1009	1109	1209	1309	1409	1509	1609	1709	1809
Highley, Bache Arms	-	-	-	0918	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1518	1618	1718	1818
Buttontoak, Wyre Cottage	-	-	-	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Bewdley, Load Street	0647	0747	0847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bark Hill, Merricks Lane	0648	0748	0848	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1645	1745	1845
Habberley, Canterbury Road	0700	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900
Kidderminster General Hospital	0706	0806	0906	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	1606	1706	1806	1906
Kidderminster Bus Station	0716	0816	0916	1016	1116	1216	1316	1416	1516	1616	1716	1816	1916

Information valid from 20th April 2025. Information correct at time of print but may be subject to change.

DIAMOND

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Crossword Solution from page 15

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

Regular Events

Severn Strollers	Mondays (not Bank Holidays) Severn Centre 10:30 / 11:00 (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
Highley Bowling Club	Richard Green 01746 861052

Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins:
Thursday 3rd, 17th & 31st July
Crates & green bins:
Thursday 10th & 24th July

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

The Paper Shop
 High St., Highley

Costcutter

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All Round Property Maintenance	11	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	28
Boden & Son (Milk Delivery)	28			Second Sense Hearing	21
Cleobury Country Centre	11	Highley Minors	29	Shropshire Registration Services	25
Cost Cutter	13	Holford, CE (Electrical)	11	That's Nice Creations	20
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10	Irena Foot Clinic	31	Tele - Satt Aerials	10
Edwards A J Decorating Services	28	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	33
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	17	Kinlet C of E School	24		
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals) Ar-	25	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	31		
Arc Tree Care	31	Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25		
		Ovenclean	28		
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24		
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10		
		Powell Clive - Gardening Services	10		
				Bus Information	32
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				Events - General / Waste	33
				Library	33
				Registrar's Office	25

St. Mary's Parish Hall Highley

Kids parties
Wedding Receptions
Baptism Celebrations
Funeral wakes
£20.00 for the first hour
£12.50 per hour from then on

A multi-purpose main hall, comfortable lounge area and a professional kitchen giving you all of the facilities that you might need.

Chairs, tables and kitchen equipment are all available for your use and there is good disabled access and toilets

Contact: Maggie Ritchie
Email— secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com
Please make booking payments to
St Marys PCC



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 2025

1st April....Revd Suzan Williams, surprised by hope

6th May....Eating for energy & vitality, with Paula

3rd June ..Cream tea & entertainment

1st July....Surprise!

5th Sept...Revd Val Smith, Shoe boxes, Samaritans

Purse



Highley Companions enjoy entertainment with George and his ball skills and exercises. Lesley brought the garden indoors.



Afternoon Tea with the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire



On the 4th June Elaine Moore was invited, along with her husband as her guest, to attend the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire's Garden Party at Orleton Hall in recognition of her work with Highley Companions, for those with memory issues and their carers, which she started in October 2017.

'What a wonderful surprise to be nominated by the people of Highley and to represent our village along with Dale, Claire, Tracey and Alex. Such an honour and privilege to be there sharing the afternoon with other volunteers from around Shropshire,' said Elaine.

Church Services in July 2025

Sunday 6th July	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 13th July	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's Church, Highley
	6pm Evening Service	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
Sunday 20th July	10.00am Holy Communion	St Bartholomew, Glazeley
	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 27th July	8am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am All Age Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 3rd August	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley

COFFEE MORNINGS

There will be a coffee morning on the second Tuesday of every month, alternating between the homes of Gill and Alun Rees and Sue and Clive Williams. Do join us for a drink and a chat between 10 am and 12 pm. Please see the Weekly Sheet for venue.



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

Mid-week Groups: **Monday Evening Post-Alpha Group** contact Stewart and Shirley Page

Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7.30pm contact Liz and Mervyn

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 Contact Canev Clayton for details

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

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