

THE

60p

FORUM

October 2025



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Events Round Up



Ellen McConnell, Diana Marsh and Rev'd David Poyner visited our neighbours in the Stottesdon Benefice on Friday 12th September. We walked from Middleton Scriven to Stottesdon via Sidbury, then drove to Cleeton St Mary to walk to Silvington via Farlow. Stottesdon, Farlow and Silvington provided excellent shelter from the rain. In the photo, Ellen is admiring Silvington. There is a link with Billingsley and the same family, the de Beysin's, owned both manors in the 13th and 14th centuries.



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 2025/26

7th Oct...Councillor Quinn, Chairman Highley Parish Council

4th Nov...Make Christmas cards/Social & cake

2nd Dec...Christmas meal

3rd Feb....Quiz with Arthur Painting

3rd Mar....Easter craft with Joan

Highley Fun Dog Show

Severn Centre, Highley, WV16 6JG
 Saturday 25th October, 2025
 Opens for the First Class at 10:30am
 Pay in the ring- £1 a class
 Plenty of parking- please keep dogs on a lead

bring a picnic

Tea & Coffee Served Here

1. Puppy Class (Under 18 mths)	2. Prettiest Lady	3. Handsome Chappie	4. Best Crossbreed
5. Best Pedigree (Any Variety)	6. Waggiest Tail	7. Best Veteran (Over 7 Years)	8. Best Local Dog (within 4 miles of Highley)
9. Best Eyes	10. Best Sausage Catcher	11. Best Trick Dog	12. Best Rescue
13. Lucky Cards ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠	14. Questa Award -Most loyal dog	15. Naughtiest Dog	16. Fancy Dress
17. Best Overall & Reserve Best in Show -Chosen from all 1st place winners of the day	<p>All money raised will be donated to Canine Partners</p> <p>Spot prizes to be awarded for dogs that make us smile during the show.</p>		

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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:

Contents	3	Sustainable Highley	26
Editorial	4	Crossword	15
		Mousemakes	27
Village Church News	6-8	Wordsearch	18
		Local Organisations	30
		Bus Timetable	32
From the Diary of James the Least	9	Sudoku	19
		General Information	33
Letter from Westminster	12	Word for Today	19
		List of Advertisers	34
Highley Parish Council	13	Highley Companions / WI	22
		Church Services	36
Shropshire Councillor	17	Answers - Wordsearch and Sudoku	23

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>

Every effort has been made to acknowledge sources of material in this publication. Sometimes this is not possible, because sources may be untraceable, or material may have been used unknowingly. If you recognise any unacknowledged material please notify the Editor and we will do our best to rectify this.

**The Severn Valley Group of Churches:**

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

The Rag-Bag of our Life

Recently, I had the great delight of worshipping at St Lawrence's in Church Stretton, a beautiful 13th century church, where my fellow curates and I spent the day learning together and listening to what we felt God was saying. We took time to reflect on the service and how the sermon, (which was amazing!) had challenged us.

However, it was during the intercessions that I felt God had spoken to me directly. The lady leading the prayers mentioned how God uses 'the ragbag' of our lives and how nothing is wasted with Him. Recycling at its best! But what did she mean by the word 'ragbag'? Well, these are the areas in our lives that cause us hurt or pain, where things don't go the way we think they should, or takes us away from God. However, she went on to pray how He can use these areas of challenge or stress to reshape and recreate us. For if we did not have challenges in our lives, then where is our need for God?

As a crafter and the daughter of a dressmaker, this really spoke to me as my mum always had a bag full of off cuts of material that she would use to patch knees on jeans or create beautiful applique and I, myself, love to create things out of items that would normally end up in landfill. Nothing goes to waste!

It made me wonder how many of us think that those 'rags' in our life are where we are meant to dwell and because of them, we are destined for the dustbin. It made me reflect on how, when things don't go right in our lives or we hit troubled times, we may feel we are not worth anything and God wouldn't want to know us because we are not perfect or useful. But we would be wrong!

For as I said earlier, God can use these times for his greater good. When I lost my mum nearly ten years ago, I went through a bout of depression. Each day was a battle just to get out of bed, and I felt nothing would ever be right again in the world. I truly believed life was not worth the effort and everything was a fight. But as I went through the grieving process and with the support of my wonderful family, little by little life became bearable again.

I look back on this very dark and difficult time as a time of personal formation and truly believe I went through this so I could have some understanding of what others maybe experiencing and hopefully be able to help them on their journey through those hard times, encouraging them that life is hard but it is worth the effort. We must remember that we can't always do things in our own strength and to call on our loving God.

I read a prayer whilst writing this and would like to share it with you now. It's called Grace for a New Day.

Heavenly Father, thank you for waking me up to a new day. I trust in Your word, just as Numbers 6: 24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance on you and give you peace." Today, I come before You, laying down my worries, my challenges, and all the uncertainty about the future. I trust in Your perfect plan and timing for my life. Even when I don't understand, I know You've already made a way for me. Lord, fill my heart and mind with Your peace. Let this day be a blessed one, - refreshing my body, soul, and spirit – because I know my life is in Your hands. In Jesus' name, I ask for wisdom, strength, and joy to move forward in Your grace. Amen!

Jesus protects us daily. Let us all give thanks!

Revd. Angie Forster

The 2025 Poppy Appeal

Could you help by giving some time this autumn?

The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month.

The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today.

The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser - also a volunteer - who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.

The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.



Highley St. Mary	Billingsley St. Mary	Chelmarsh St. Peter	Glazeley St. Bartholomew
Carl Hinkinson 07722 031585	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacant

St Mary's Highley

September started off well with a week of prayer. St Mary's Church was open and available for anyone to sit and spend some time praying for our world and the community here in Highley.

Also at the beginning of the month, Allsorts Ladies Group invited Rev'd Val Smith to talk about Operation Christmas Child's Shoe Box Appeal. (see page 17 for more details).



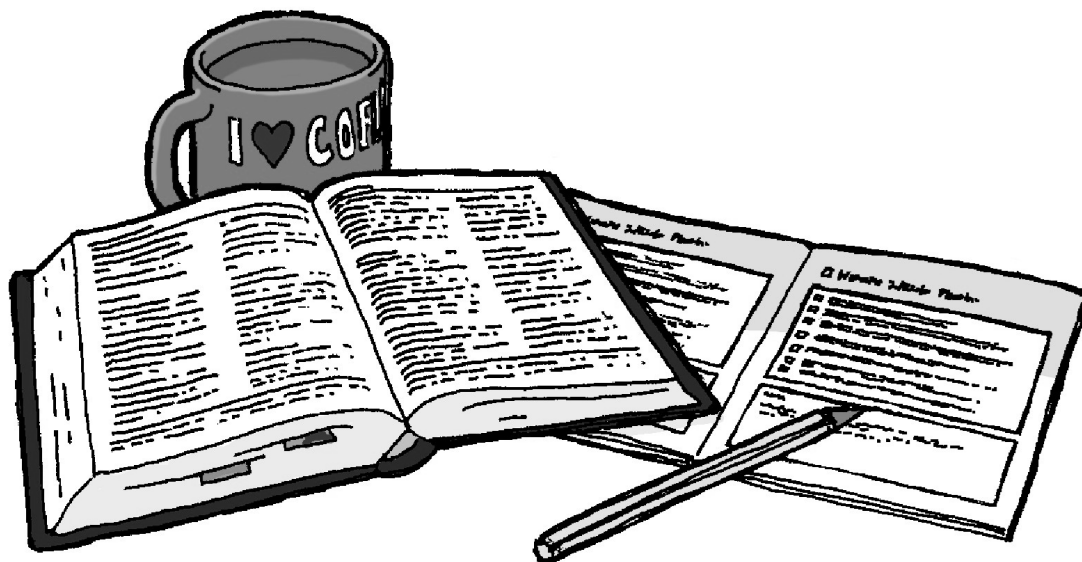
Harvest Festival also took place and items brought were donated to Bridgnorth Food Bank.

Looking forward, on Saturday 18th October, Arthur Painting will be hosting one of his famous quiz evenings. Arrive 7.30pm for 8pm start. £5 per person which includes hotdogs and nibbles. Please bring your own drinks. Please let Arthur know if you'd like to come, as numbers are limited due to space in the Parish Hall. Proceeds to the Shoe Box Appeal.

As Autumn draws on, we look towards the clocks changing on 25th/26th October. We gain an hours sleep as the clocks go back. Don't get caught out!



Schools break for half term on 27th October so do pray for children and families as they change routine and hopefully have some relaxation. Only 8 weeks to Christmas!



Chelmarsh News

After the most glorious settle summer for many years, September's most important event was the Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving and the Songs of Praise on Thursday 25th, with the Harvest Supper held the following evening. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped, gifting their time and produce to make the occasion a success.

If you noticed activity on the Tower in September, we have had the steeplejacks in attendance installing a new lightning conductor in line with regulations. The tower work on the louvres will be commencing in due course. On the same day the Steeplejacks were working a band of visiting bellringers announced their presence by ringing a quarter peal, it was a pleasure to welcome them.

We now look forward to October with anticipation.

From the register

13.9.2025

A large number of people attended the service to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Barbara Howells, a regular member of the congregation of St Peter's Church for many years. Our sincere sympathies are with her family at this sad time

As you tidy your garden for winter...

Gardens are preparing to go to sleep, but next Spring will soon be here. So why not consider some changes now:

- ~ Install a water butt now, to store up the winter rain for the Spring.
- ~ Reduce the hard standing in your garden. Instead, let rain soak into the soil, rather than go down a drain.
- ~ Plant something tall to create shade in your garden next year – the soil will remain wetter.
- ~ Put in more plants – the more you have, the more protection they give the ground. Try to use native species, as your local wildlife depends on them.
- ~ Consider adding a pond – it will be a great boost to your local wildlife!



St Mary's, Billingsley

We had our final evening service of the year on September 14th, our harvest festival. Despite torrential rain all afternoon, nine of us turned out to celebrate the somewhat difficult harvest this year. The decorations in the church relied a lot on local apples; the fruit trees have coped with the drought much better than the cereals and the grass crop.



Refreshments after the service included scones served with damson jam made with local fruit. We now move to a single service a month the 8am communion on the 4th Sunday of the month, until next April when the lighter evenings allow the 6pm service to resume.

Amanda and Dave Prescott held a brief service in the church August to mark VJ Day, when the bells were rung. We hope to have a similar, lay-led service in November for Remembrance Sunday.

Unfortunately we have had to remove the large fir tree to the east of the church. A number of large pieces had fallen from this and the tree surgeon thought the only option was to cut it down. It is always sad to remove trees, but we had little option as it was potentially dangerous.

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

Glazeley now has a new heating system. The old, wall-mounted heaters were becoming increasingly problematic, with around half the elements not working and issues with them tripping the power supply. They have now been replaced by under-pew heaters, which are the recommended option for small churches. My initial impression is that these are much more effective than the wall heaters. We are very grateful to the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust for a grant to allow this work.



We were also supported with a grant administered by the diocese specifically for new heating. Work has also been completed at the back of the church, where we had to replace the floor; where the plaster had to be replaced has now been painted. We are grateful to the diocese for a grant they administered to allow us to do this work. We will now think how best to organise the new space, with suitable cupboards and a table.

As I write, we are looking forward to our harvest festival on 21st September. Lyn Parnaby left her local history exhibition up for much of August and this attracted a lot of interest. It provided a fitting back-drop for our Patronal festival in August (ie St Bartholomew's Day). St Bartholomew's Day is often associated with the massacre of French protestants in 1572; we marked the day with a cake and sherry.

The monthly breakfasts at the Down have resumed, organised by ourselves and Chetton, Please contact Marion Corfield (marion.corfield@talktalk.net) or myself (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk) for details.



James the Least of All

What those vacancy adverts for clergy really mean

From The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are being encouraged to look at adverts for parishes for that happy day when you will have charge of your own church. You wonder if you should look to moving to another part of the country; I suspect it may be better if you look to moving to another planet, as your reputation may not yet have travelled that far.

Reading the specifications that parishes provide, giving a picture of life in their community, need to be read in the same way as estate agents' specifications for houses for sale. Both demonstrate a triumph of optimism over reality. Let me help you decode some of the statements you will find:

"We look to grow our Sunday School" – We do not have a Sunday School.

"We have an enthusiastic choir" – We have a choir totally out of control.

"Our youth group is always eager to learn" - Our youth group experiments with some strange substances.

"The new incumbent should be sympathetic to our musical tradition"- The new incumbent must be able to play the organ as well as lead the Services.

"While cherishing our traditions, we see the need for change" – We always see the need for change, but alter anything at your peril.

"Plans for church renovations are in hand" – The building is in imminent danger of collapse.

"We have a large range of church groups" – You will have to run a large range of church groups singlehandedly.

"The vicarage is being refurbished" – The vicarage is a death trap. Its rising damp and dangerous electrics will not be fixed for many months yet.

"There is opportunity for developing ecumenical relations" – No one in living memory has ever spoken to clergy of other denominations in our town.

"The new incumbent should have a sense of humour" – He or she will need it when reading this specification.

My dear nephew, *caveat emptor*. Let the buyer beware!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Do you have something that is broken, torn, blunt, wobbly, stopped working, almost end of life? Well bring it along and we will try and fix it for you or give repair advice. On average repairs take about 40 minutes. If it needs longer, we can discuss the options available.

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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Smile lines

Dear Lord,

So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! Amen.

Letter from Westminster



August began with the sad news that more than a hundred jobs could be lost after food producer Kerry Group Plc launched a consultation on plans to close its factory in Burford. Kerry Group has been a significant employer in the area for many years. I know that this situation will be worrying for many local families with relatives that work there. My team and I will support anyone affected by this decision.

On 14th August 2025, 250,000 young people in England collected their A-Level results. Many students also collected results for their T-Level qualifications. More young people collected their GCSE results on 21st August 2025. As such, I would like to open by celebrating the achievements of young people across South Shropshire and further afield.

I want to ensure every young person in South Shropshire has access to high-quality education, training, and employment opportunities that will enable them to excel in life. So, on 19th August 2025, I was delighted to welcome Employment Minister Alison McGovern MP to discuss these issues with me and key local partners at the JobCentre Plus in Bridgnorth. By working together, I believe that we can unleash rural prosperity and boost employment prospects for our residents.

15th August 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ Day 80). This is the date that finally brought the Second World War to an end after six years of bitter conflict across the globe, including in the Far East. To mark this special occasion, I visited Bridgnorth Cemetery, which is the final resting place for 15 First World War and 18 Second World War casualties. It was a humbling experience to pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

As a veteran, I will always support those who serve our country in the Armed Forces and their families. In Parliament, I called on Veterans Minister Al Carns to ensure support for veterans benefits residents in rural areas like South Shropshire. Al Carns MP confirmed that existing organisations in South Shropshire will be apply to able for the funding.

I am committed to supporting our local communities in South Shropshire. As part of this, I want to ensure that older and disabled people can live with the dignity and respect that they deserve. It was excellent to recently visit Arden Grange Care Home in Ditton Priors and Care of Excellence, a home-care service based in Ludlow. The staff who make up the paid social care workforce provide an invaluable service to our community. I am committed to supporting them as they help elderly and disabled people.

I am very concerned about crime in rural areas like South Shropshire. I was delighted to catch up with representatives from West Mercia Police, who are bucking the national trend when it comes to tackling crimes like shoplifting.

Nationally, police numbers have dropped by 1,316 officers over the past year and the number of new recruits has plummeted by 17 per cent. At the same time, a further 1,800 police jobs are at risk due to funding constraints and shoplifting has gone up by 20%. More investment in rural areas could make real inroads into these issues. I will keep pushing for a fair share of police funding in rural areas like South Shropshire.

Stuart Anderson MP



Back from my holidays and with the temperature outside having significantly dropped it was great to get back to The Severn Centre to preside over the September meeting of Highley Parish Council. We had lots to cover and as always we used the full evening to discuss various matters affecting the village and it's residents.

Following the unfortunate destruction of the bus stop in the centre of the village at the hands of a supermarket delivery lorry we have taken the decision to hold a public consultation covering bus stops across the village before deciding on whether a replacement is better where it is or whether there is a more suitable location elsewhere. The consultation is set to begin at the relaunch of the Community Drop In which is being held at The Severn Centre on September 26th. We saw so much benefit from previous Community Drop In sessions and I'm really glad we've managed to keep them going. I'll be at the relaunch officially opening the first one and I hope to see many of you there!

This month I was pleased to be able to get some time to talk to Councillor Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council, about their plans to revitalise partnerships with Town and Parish Councils as well as how they would like to devolve certain powers from the Unitary Council to more local control in the future. I'm keen to ensure Highley remains visible to those in Shrewsbury and they don't forget we're here, being involved in these sort of initiatives will make sure we're at the forefront of any changes and able to have a say rather than having things done to us.

We've had to reschedule our October Parish Council meeting which is not something we do lightly but, as Highley has been shortlisted for Shropshire's Best Kept Village and the awards ceremony clashed with the Parish Council meeting, simply had to make a change! I will be attending the awards along with my Vice Chair Councillor Pinches and our Clerk Alison Palmer. Keep your fingers crossed because I would absolutely love for us to win it!

Tom Quinn
Chair – Highley Parish Council

Community Drop-ins

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Correction: Last month a report from Highley Table Tennis Club referred to Alison Palmer as a Councillor. Alison wishes to make it clear that she is employed as the Parish Clerk and not, nor ever will be, an elected Parish Councillor.

Editor

Crossword Clues

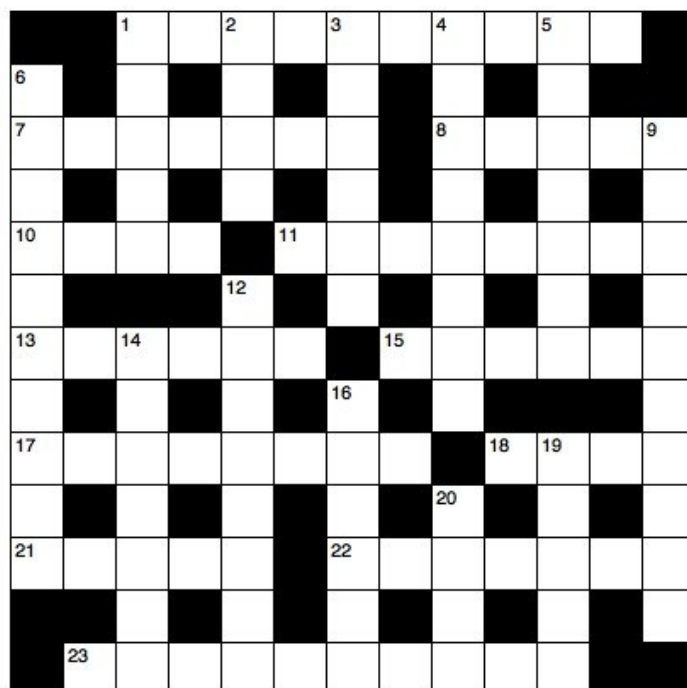
Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across

Crossword



Answers on page 33

Say it with flowers

Send your love with these flowers

A flower used by Victorians when they wanted to send a 'hidden message' of love is making a big comeback.

It is the aster. It's popularity in bouquets has quadrupled in two years. Sales at Tesco alone have soared by nearly 350 per cent.

And no wonder: asters are vivid, fast-growing British flowers with a good vase life. They come in blue, purple, pink, dark pink, red and white – all with a bright yellow centre. They originally came from Japan and are related to dahlias and chrysanthemums.

The Victorians believed that asters symbolised love, patience, wisdom, elegance and grace. That made asters a sure winner for bearing discreet messages of affection.

More than five million were grown in the UK this year, so there must be a lot of love about!



THE SEVERN CENTRE

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

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- Women's Institute
- Knit & Natter
- Jodie-Leigh School of Dance
- Highley Parish Council
- Highley Miners Welfare FC
- Highley Cricket Club
- Highley Table Tennis Club
- Highley Senior Pop-In Club
- Highley Police Station
- Highley Bowls Club & Indoor Bowling
- Highley Reach Youth Club
- Highley Minors Childcare
- Highley Community Project
- Highley Badminton Club
- Mini Minors Toddler Group
- Warm Welcome Space
- Dementia friendly Walking Football
- Kate Styche Podiatrist
- Highley Medical Practice
- Bridgnorth U3A Sessions

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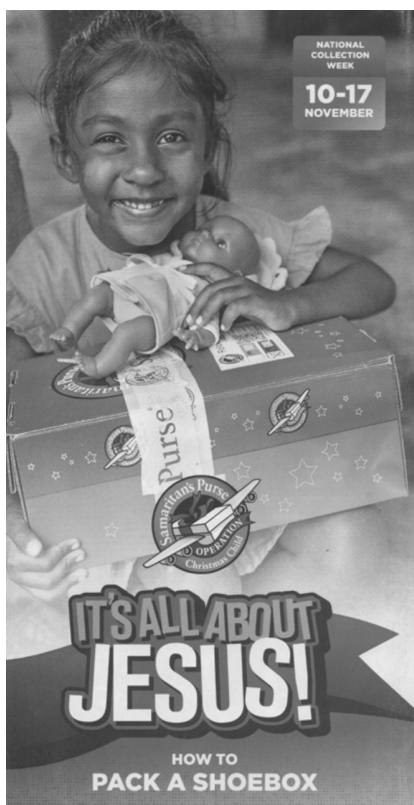
Details correct at time of going to print - January 2025



Working together for the people of Highley



Operation Christmas Child



Each year St Mary's Church co-ordinates sending as many shoeboxes as we can, crammed with small gifts, to Operation Christmas Child, run by the charity *Samaritan's Purse*. It is a hands-on way to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, personal care items, school supplies, and fun gifts as a way of showing that people care about them.

These shoeboxes are distributed across second and third world countries such as Eastern Europe (eg Ukraine, Moldova), South America and Africa as a demonstration of God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world.

Last year St Mary's Church delivered over 40 boxes to the collection point in Bridgnorth. They are then taken to a central checking point, sealed and sent on their way to bring some smiles and happiness to children in far-flung countries.

Samaritan's Purse is also involved with delivering medical assistance, helping to lift families out of poverty, working with vulnerable girls and women at risk, introducing clean water enterprises and international crisis response across the world.

If you would like to join us in putting a smile on a child's face this Christmas, leaflets are available in St Mary's Church and St Mary's

Shop. Just cover a shoebox with bright wrapping paper (or buy a pre-printed box for 75p) and fill with small gifts. There are 3 age groups; 2-4 years, 5-9 years and 10-14 years. Please let us have the filled shoeboxes by Sunday 9th November 2025 - deliver to 20, Yew Tree Grove, Highley.

Rev'd Val Smith tel 01746 861966



Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23



St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews. Andrew was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother.

Like many fervent Jews at the time, Andrew and his companion had been drawn to the prophet John the Baptist. When one day John pointed Jesus out to Andrew, describing Him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men realised that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So, as Jesus made off, they followed Him.

FIFE

SEE

FIRST

BAND

BAPTIST

FOLLOWED

ANDREW

GOD

APOSTOLIC

MESSAGE

LAMB

PETER

WORLD

PATRON

COME

JOHN

JESUS

SAINT

SCOTLAND

DISCIPLE

Have a go at Sudoku — answers on page 23



Easy

Medium

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

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

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UCB Word for Today

Reasons to be thankful

Give thanks in all circumstances 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Breathing is a complicated process. It requires physiological precision, and the average person takes about twenty-three thousand breaths a day. And while we're inclined to thank God for everything that takes our breath away, maybe we should also thank Him for all of our other breaths.

In 2000, Pastor Ed Dobson was diagnosed with motor neurone disease, a degenerative disease with no known cause or cure. Sharing his ongoing struggle to be thankful while living with an incurable condition, Dobson writes:

'There are many things for which I am not grateful! I can no longer button...my shirt. I can no longer put on a heavy jacket...[or] raise my right hand above my head. I can no longer write...[or] eat with my right hand. I eat with my left hand, and now even that is becoming a challenge. And over time...these challenges will get worse...So what in the world do I have to be grateful for? So much. Lord, thank you for waking me up this morning...that I can still turn over in bed...that I can still get out of bed...that I can walk to the bathroom...that I can still brush my teeth...that I can still eat breakfast...that I can still dress myself...that I can still drive my car...that I can still walk... The list goes on...I have learned...to focus on what I *can* do, not on what I can't do. I have learned to be grateful for the small things in life and for the many things I can still do.'

What do you have to be thankful for? 'Give thanks in all circumstances.'

Printed by kind permission of UCB. If you would like a free booklet of these daily meditations, they are available from St Mary's Church

All in the month of October

It was:

750 years ago, on 27th Oct 1275 that the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is traditionally considered to have been founded.

200 years ago, on 25th Oct 1825 that Johann Strauss II, was born. This Austrian composer is best known for his waltzes, including *The Blue Danube*.

125 years ago, on 20th Oct 1900 that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills, in North Carolina.

100 years ago, on 13th Oct 1925 that Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). (Died 2013.)

90 years ago, on 12th Oct 1935 that Luciano Pavarotti, Italian operatic tenor, was born. Considered one of the finest tenors of the 20th century and one of the most commercially successful of all time. (Died 2007.)

80 years ago, on 12th Oct 1945 that US Army combat medic Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector in US history to receive a Medal of Honour for heroic actions. He saved the lives of 75 men during the Battle of Okinawa. The film *Hacksaw Ridge* told his story.

70 years ago, on 20th Oct 1955 that *The Return of the King*, the third and final part of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, was published.

65 years ago, on 12th Oct 1960 that, at a meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is reported to have removed his shoe and pounded his table, in protest at a speech by another delegate.

60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1965 that the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened. It was the tallest building in the UK until 1980.

50 years ago, on 9th Oct 1975 that the IRA detonated a bomb near the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly. One person was killed and at least 20 injured.

40 years ago, on 1st Oct 1985 that riots broke out in Toxteth in Liverpool and Peckham in London. Five days later (6th Oct) Met Police Constable Keith Blacklock was killed in the Broadwater Farm housing estate riot in Tottenham. He was the first British constable to be killed in a riot since 1833.

Also 40 years, on 26th Oct 1985 that the Australian government returned the ownership of Uluru / Ayers Rock to the local Pitjantjatjara people, on condition that they lease it to the National Parks and Wildlife Agency for 99 years and allow it to be jointly managed.

25 years ago, on 26th Oct 2000 that the BSE Inquiry Report was published in the UK. It concluded that the BSE (Mad Cow Disease) epidemic was caused by the use of infected meat and bone meal in cattle feed.

20 years ago, on 3rd Oct 2005 that Ronnie Barker, TV comedian, actor and writer, died. Known for *The Frost Report*, *The Two Ronnies*, *Porridge*, *Going Straight* and *Open All Hours*.

15 years ago, on 13th Oct 2010 that 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days following the collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine were rescued. Around one billion TV viewers around the world watched them being pulled to the surface one-by-one, in a specially designed capsule.



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Highley Companions

Well, its nice to see some sunshine bursting through after all the rain last week. Fortunately, we were away down in Great Yarmouth and only saw rain one evening from our caravan window. At least we didnt have to get someone to water our garden.

Talking about sunshine, our meetings are always full of sunshine with lots of laughter, smiles and just pure joy; even when we are trying to be serious a smile is never far away!

I can tell you we had so much fun last time with the fantastic George coming to put us all through our paces with his "ball games" and exercises. My oh my he did work us hard but we all had smiles on our faces and I'm sure we all felt the benefit. He always puts us through voice exercises as a bit of fun and some of us make a right screech, whereas some can hold a good note. Each of our Companions have different abilities and George has a certain way of encouragement.

After a lunch of homemade soup and bread and cakes we concluded our session with a game of bingo with our usual chocolate prizes.

Looking forward to sharing our final trip on the canal boat for this year and our 8th birthday celebrations with you next month.

Elaine

(Please remember to contact me on 07870262944 if you want to know more about us. We are not a drop in group so if you or you know of someone who has a diagnosis of memory problems or think your memory is not as good as it was due to age please give me a ring in complete confidence. Our leaflets are in the doctors surgery, library at the Severn Centre and Highley Pharmacy, so why not pick up one and contact me? Our group is to give carers a break while we look after their loved ones in a safe and happy environment.)

Hi from Highley W.I.

Following our summer break, which I hope you all enjoyed, our September meeting took a different format and it was decided not to have our usual September Harvest Meeting in the evening but instead to have a pre-booked and paid-for Afternoon Tea at The Ship on Tuesday 16th September.

Our October meeting on Tuesday 21st is at the normal time of 7.15 p.m at the Severn Centre and on this evening we will be collecting packets and tins of food for the Bridgnorth Food Bank.

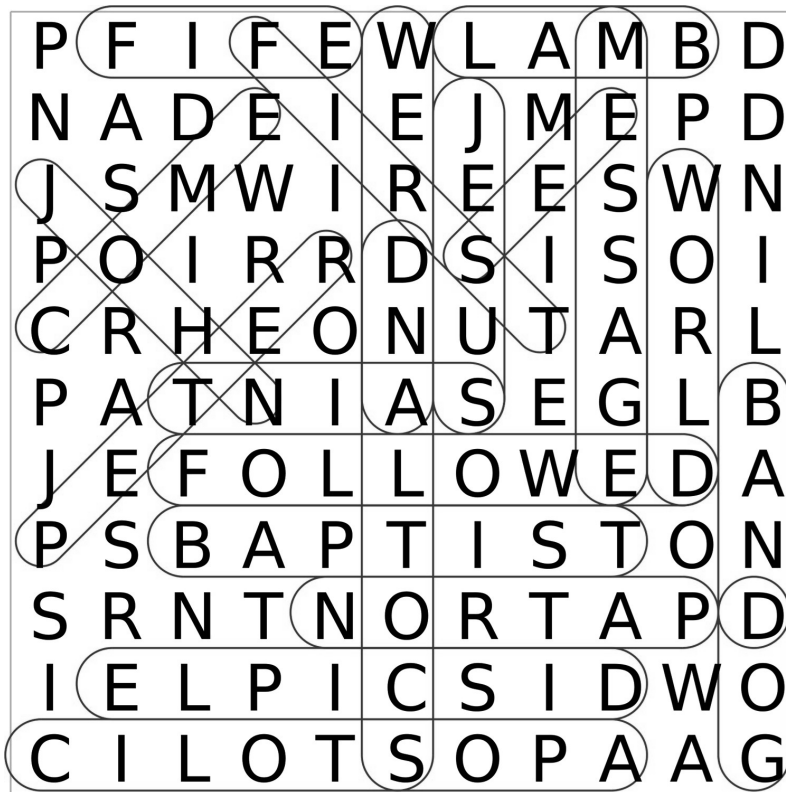
JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 11th October - Look out for our posters round the village! We will as usual have homemade cakes, raffle and hopefully, if you are having a sort out, lots of jumble.

Looking forward to our 100th Anniversary celebrations in November when our efforts come to fruition and everyone has a wonderful time celebrating such a milestone!

Elaine



Answers to Wordsearch (from page 18)



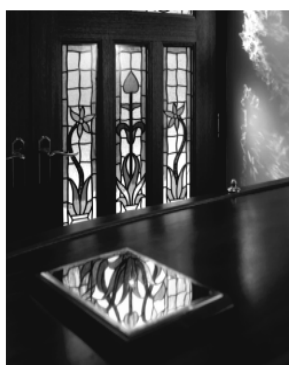
Answers to Sudoku (from page 19)

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

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

Easy

Medium



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The true cost of AI - Tom

I was interested to read Karen's article last week, about saving water by deleting old emails. Data storage does use a massive amount of energy and water to cool the hot servers that store the information. It is also true of AI. Many older data centres are incredibly inefficient, and companies can be spending more money keeping servers cool than the cost of powering the equipment in the first place. For each question that you ask Chat GTP, it takes about a pint of water to cool the server to provide an answer (*BBC Rare Earth website*).

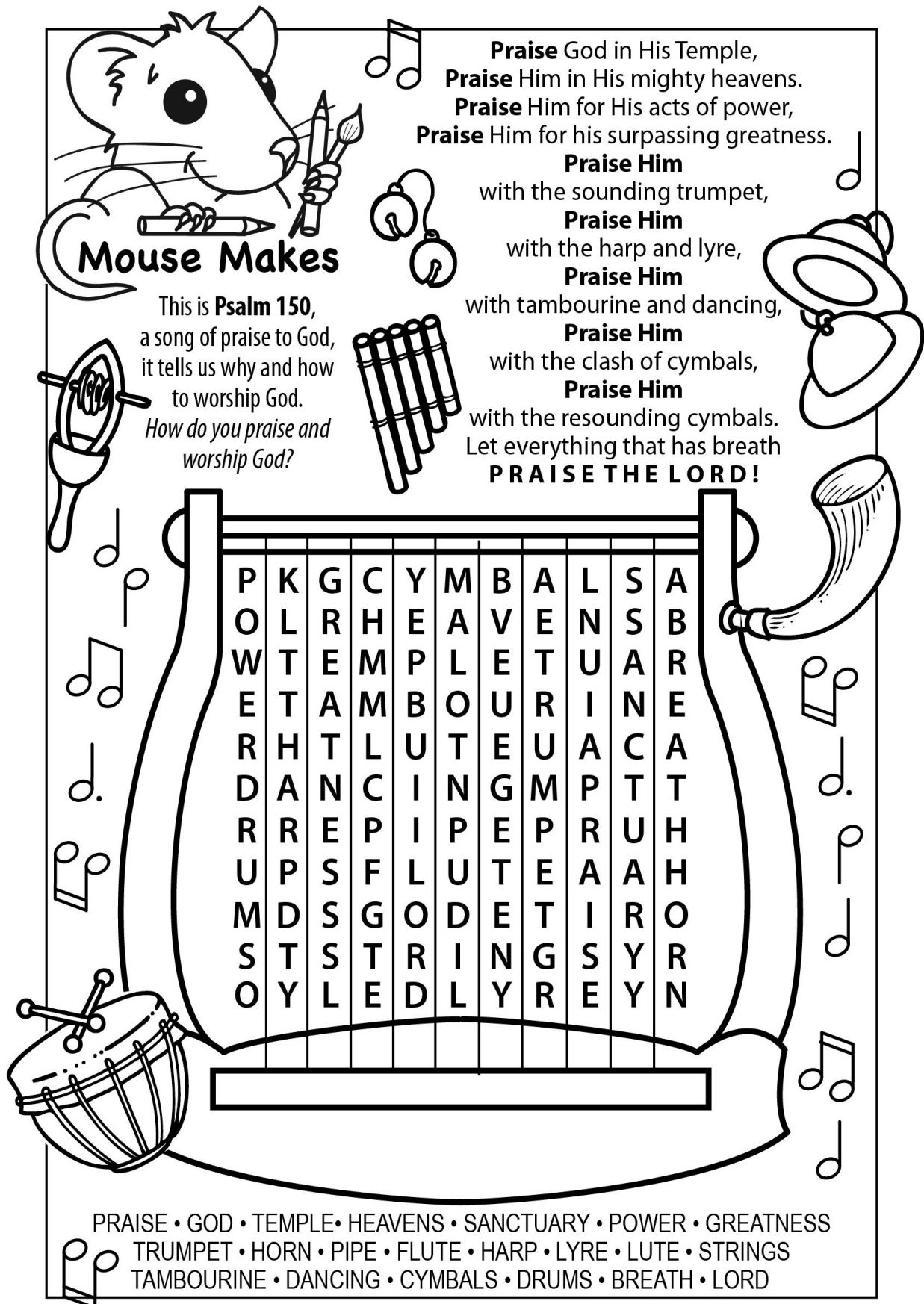
Data centres that store all your photos and old emails have been shown to generate about 3.7% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Aviation stands at about 2.4%. In fact, data centres' energy consumption is estimated to double over the next 5 years. It is undoubted that the benefits of AI will become an essential part of the next stage of human development, but it doesn't mean that we can't make an impact on the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere.

Have a digital clear out. Store your photos on an external hard drive. When buying equipment, look for those without the unnecessary sensors, that send unseen and unused data into the cloud. We bought a new washing machine the other day, and went for the most energy efficient, but chose the most basic there was. I don't need my washing machine connected to wifi. It has a delay timer, and I can workout when I need to put it on. I could even look out the window and try to read the clouds to work out whether it will be a good idea to hang it on the line!

Similarly, I don't need to ask Chat GTP questions, if the answers to those questions are already sitting on my bookshelf, or in a recipe book in the kitchen.

Toothbrushing - manual or electric? Damian

If you want a wealth of discussion about the latest gadgets and the nitty gritty behind their eco credentials, then take a listen to the 'Sliced Bread' podcast on BBC sounds. They recently dissected whether using an electric toothbrush is better for your teeth than a manual one. It turns out that there is very little difference in the quality of the clean between the 2 and it can depend on how you use them. Again, there is little difference between the circular brushes and the side to side models. So if your electric one has come to the end of its life, then recycle the battery unit, and consider getting a manual brush with a removable head (like Yaweco or similar). You could even brush with your left hand and stand on one leg to improve your balance!



Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.
Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!

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

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Contacts for Local Church Groups, Clubs & Organisations

Severn Valley Benefice –Rector	Rev'd Kina Robertshaw	revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com	861242
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 Highley	Carl Hinkinson	chinkinson4@gmail.com	07722 031585
<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	Bridget O'Meara		07974931181
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
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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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New Route and Timetable from 20th April 2025.

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.

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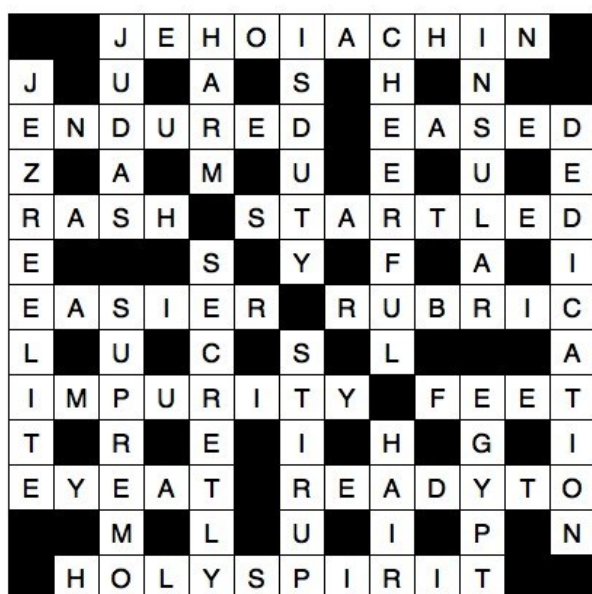
Vivians

Mobile Hairdressing

- * Ladies, Gents & Children
- * Reliable Service
- * Competitive Rates
- * Established over 20 Years

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Crossword Solution from page 15



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 9th & 23rd October

Recycling & green bins:

Thursday 2nd, 16th & 30th October

The Paper Shop
High St., Highley

Costcutter

- ♦ Newsagents
- ♦ Confectionery
- ♦ Tobacconists
- ♦ Food Hall
- ♦ Off Licence
- ♦ Videos
- ♦ Pay Point
- ♦ **Free** cash machine

We are your local, friendly newsagents. We deliver daily and Sunday newspapers right to your door.

Come and browse through our extensive range of books, magazines and greeting cards

We have an excellent selection of beers wines and spirits, also convenience grocery and frozen food.

All Round Property Maintenance	11
Boden & Son (Milk Delivery)	28
Cleobury Country Centre	11
Cost Cutter	13
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	10
Edwards A J Decorating Services	28
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	17
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals) Ar-	25
Arc Tree Care	31

Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25
Highley Minors	29
Holford, CE (Electrical)	11
Irena Foot Clinic	31
Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25
Kinlet C of E School	24
Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	31
Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25
Ovenclean	28
Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24
Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	10
Powell Clive - Gardening Services	10

Severn Edge Vets	28
Second Sense Hearing	21
Shropshire Registration Services	25
That's Nice Creations	20
Tele - Satt Aerials	10
Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	33

Bus Information	32
Events - Church	36
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



Art Therapy Group
Mondays 2pm-4pm
Starting 2nd June 2025
Highley Parish Hall
No artistic ability required
£2 per session
A chance to relax and focus





All workshops start at 1pm (quest tutor times vary)

Come and have a go at our shop on Highley High Street, (Next to the Co Op car park)

Sat 1st Nov – Shop closed – At the NEC Creative Craft Show

Wed 5th Nov – Craft and chat session – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Thurs 6th Nov – Christmas wreath with a difference workshop – 3 hours - £35

Saturday 8th Nov – Shop closed in day – At Little Lakes Craft Fair - Bewdley

Saturday 8th Nov – Guest tutor Silver bangle workshop 7pm - £70

Wed 12th Nov – Craft and chat session – Bring your project

Friday 14th Nov – Christmas drinking glasses workshop – 3 hours - £30

Saturday 15th Nov – shop closed – At Himley Hall craft fair

Wed 19th Nov – Craft and chat session – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 21st Nov – Christmas Gonk workshop – 2 hours - £25

Saturday 22nd Nov – Reindeer statue workshop – 3 hours - £35

Wed 26th Nov – Craft and chat session – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 28th Nov – Christmas bauble – 2 hours - £10

Sat 29th Nov – Guest tutor Santa felting workshop – 10am – 3 hours - £40

All workshops are suitable for adults and children (children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.)

Payment is required before the session to secure your place as these are limited.

Feel free to contact us via any of our platforms www.thatsnicecreations.co.uk

thatsnicecreations@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/thatsnicecreations

07709989119

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Church Services in October 2025

Sunday 5th October	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 12th October	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Informal Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 19th October	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.00am Holy Communion	St Bartholomew, Glazeley
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 26th October	8am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Informal Service	St Mary's Church, Highley



Please check times on weekly sheet for when Home Groups resume for the Autumn

There will be a coffee morning on the second Tuesday of every month. Do join us for a drink and a chat between 10 am and 12 pm. Please see the Weekly Sheet for venue or ring Gill (862077 for venue.



Mid-week Groups

Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7.30pm contact Liz and Mervyn Re-starting in November

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

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