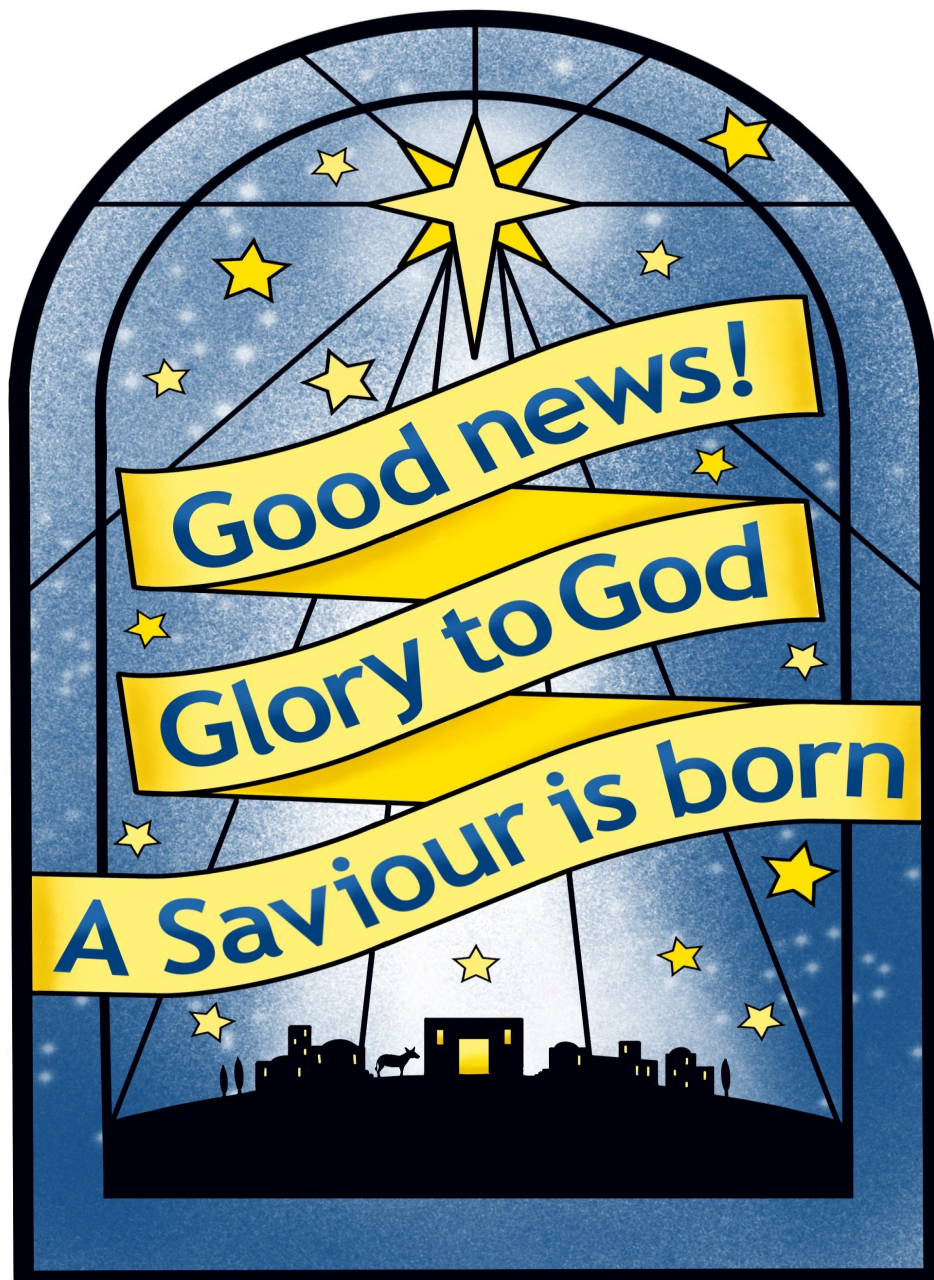


THE

60p

FORUM

December 2025



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Events Round Up

Acts of Remembrance across the Parishes: Highley



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
The shop helps to raise donations to local, national and international causes. Re-saleable items are always welcome and bulky items can be collected Opening Hours Mon 10:00—12:00 Tues 10:00—12:00 Wed 10:00—12:00 Thurs 10:00—12:00 Fri 10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00 Sat 10:00—12:00 Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot take large items of furniture.	.01746 861242 Parish Administrator - Maggie Ritchie The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10am—12noon. 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.	Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome. Subscriptions If you would like to take out a subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds. Cost: £6 per year Advertising If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com

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 Greatest Journey

Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Christmas

**from the Benefice of Highley with Billingsley, Glazeley and Deuxhill, and
Chelmarsh – Family Churches**

Every Christmas, many of us set out on journeys — to visit loved ones, to share meals, to exchange gifts, or simply to be together. The Christmas story too is full of journeys.

We remember Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

We remember the wise men travelling from the East to worship the newborn King.

We remember the shepherds leaving their flocks to hurry to the stable.

But the greatest journey of all — the one that began every other journey — is the journey God made in Jesus Christ, from heaven to earth. A journey born entirely out of love for us. The carol "*Once in Royal David's City*" describes it so beautifully:

*He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all;
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

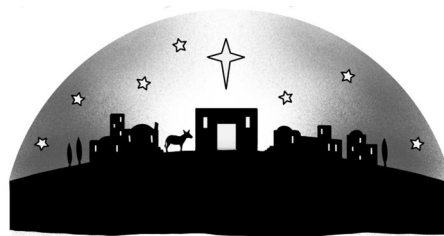


Whether or not you receive visitors this Christmas, remember this: God has already come to you. He came down from heaven for each one of us — because He loves us. The message of Christmas is simple yet profound: God with us. God with me. God with you.

Life's greatest journey begins with one simple step — discovering God's love through Jesus. This Christmas, take that step. Come along to any of our family churches, where you'll find a warm welcome, uplifting worship, and a message that brings peace, joy, and hope to everyday life. Whether you're new to church, returning after some time away, or a familiar face, we'd love to walk this journey of faith with you.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed Christmas,

Rev'd Kina





Christmas Carols and Services 2025

Benefice of Highley with Billingsley, Glazeley, Deuxhill & Chelmarsh

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." — Isaiah 9:2

Sunday 30th November – HOPE

10:30 am – *Benefice Holy Communion Service* – St Mary's, Highley – Bring and Share a Meal

Sunday 7th December – PEACE

9:30 am – *Morning Worship* – St Peter's, Chelmarsh

10:30 am – *Holy Communion Service* – St Mary's, Highley

Sunday 14th December – JOY

10:30 am – *Holy Communion Service* – St Mary's, Highley

5:00 pm – *Nine Lessons & Carols* – St Peter's, Chelmarsh

Wednesday 17th December

6:00 pm – *Carols on the Green*

Friday 19th December

6:30 pm – *Carol Service* – St Mary's, Billingsley

Sunday 21st December – LOVE

9:30 am – *Morning Worship* – St Peter's, Chelmarsh

10:00 am – *Carol Service* – St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

10:30 am – *Holy Communion Service* – St Mary's, Highley

5:00 pm – *Candlelight Community Carol Service* – St Mary's, Highley

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3:30 pm – *Crib Service* – St Peter's, Chelmarsh

4:00 pm – *Crib Service* – St Mary's, Highley

11:00 pm – *Midnight Holy Communion* – St Peter's Chelmarsh

11:00 pm – *Midnight Holy Communion* – St Mary's, Highley

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

10:00 am – *Family Service* – St Mary's, Highley

10:00 am – *Holy Communion* – Billingsley

(No services at Chelmarsh or Glazeley)



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

St Mary's Highley

As always, the Remembrance Day parade and service was a sight to behold. Many people turned out to pay their respects and to join the procession from the Severn Centre to the Church, whilst others gathered in the churchyard around the memorial ready for the Act of Remembrance. (See photos on page 2) Several groups from the village attended, including children. Refreshments were served in the Parish Hall afterwards. Many



thanks to those who provided the refreshments and also those who got the Parish Hall ready and cleared up afterwards.

November is also the time of year when we send Shoeboxes filled with toys and gifts to Operation Christmas Child. This year we sent 51 boxes.

We will hear in the New Year where the boxes were delivered and distributed and receive some photos of the children opening their boxes.

Another major piece of news is that St Mary's Shop has moved from Coronation Street to the High Street, just along from the chemist. We are extremely grateful to Perry & Phillips, who have looked after us so well for so many years at Cowley House. Now a new chapter begins Opening times will remain the same. Keep an eye open for Christmas closures and re-opening in the New Year.



December is always a busy time of year, particularly with all the extra services. (See opposite page) There is something for everyone, whether you prefer a traditional service of readings and carols or the friendly chaos of a 'pop-up' crib service, or the special atmosphere of the midnight service on Christmas Eve.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you over the festive season or the joy and warmth of the Family Service on Christmas Day. Whichever service you choose to attend, we wish you all a blessed and peaceful celebration of God's greatest gift to the world—his son Jesus.

From the registers:

Funeral

6.11.25

Carina Teed



Chelmarsh News

Service of Remembrance

A Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 9th November. As always we are glad to welcome all to pay their respects and honour those who lost their lives in all conflicts and pray for peace all over the world.

Vicar's Table

Come and chat to the vicar on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Bull's Head. The PCC are very grateful to John and Norma for encouraging this new venture. Come and share in Chef's free buffet and have a chat. Everyone welcome. Watch out for dates in the New Year.

Christmas Services

All are welcome to our Christmas services. We shall be holding our usual Carol Service and Crib service as well as Christmas Eve communion. See page 5 & 35 for dates and times.

Trees

The work on the trees around the churchyard boundary was scheduled to start on the 13th October and finish on the 14th. As you read this the work should be completed. The work on the Tower will also begin soon.

100 Club October

£100 David D'Arcy

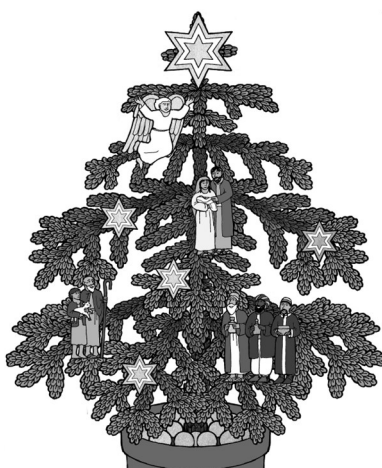
£50 Jan Hethrington

£25 Steve Jackson

£25 Linda Jones



We've got online carol-singers again!



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

St Mary's, Billingsley

Our most recent service has been Remembrance Sunday. Due to a prior commitment (see Glazeley news...), the assistant curate was unable to take this, but the congregation responded magnificently. Before the event, the church had its monthly clean, with the poppy display on the altar and fresh flowers inside. A new development this year were poppies on the gate, which contrasted beautifully with the autumn colours in the hedges and trees. Dave and Amanda who



usually take care of the act of Remembrance were away this time, but arranged with congregation members Bob and Judy to take over. So, the bells were rung just before 11, the names of our local men who died in service in the First World War were read out and the two minute silence was observed and the bells were rung again to honour them. Another of our regulars, Sue, came to support. Best of all, the whole community could hear the bells, to know that we were remembering. Who needs a vicar?

By the time this article comes out, we will be in December and so looking to our Christmas services. We have our carol service at 6pm on Friday 19th December; on Christmas Day we will have carols and a short communion service at 10am. After that, our next service will be the 8am communion on Sunday 25th of January.

St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

We held our usual Remembrance Sunday service on the 9th November, starting in the church at 10.15 and then at the War Memorial at 10.45 for the two minute silence at 11am. We were joined by friends in church from Chetton; there were also people who joined us at the War Memorial just for the Act of Remembrance. The war memorial is now looking very smart thanks to the work of the parish council who have cut the hedge and also



planted new flowers and shrubs in the adjacent garden (with a memorial theme); they also gave a wreath for the memorial. At the service a second wreath on behalf of the church was laid by George Morley. Our normal wreath-layer, Roger Gabb could not be with us this year as he was required at the Cenotaph in London where he had been asked to march with, and lay a wreath on behalf of, the Paratroop section of the Guards that he led. We are delighted that he and his men have been honoured in this way! The font was also decorated with a model of a battle scene, made by Anita Morley.

We are pleased that the trees in the churchyard have been dead-wooded. There are now piles of logs; anyone is welcome to help themselves. If you want to give a donation to the church that would of course be welcome, but our main aim is for the wood to be cleared.

Our Christmas Carol Service will be at 10am on Sunday 21st December. In addition to carols in the service we will celebrate informal Holy Communion. Following that, we will meet again on Sunday 18th January for our usual service of Holy Communion.

James the Least of All

Your First Parish

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



And so, the old year draws to a close, and you are packing to move to your own first parish in January. Let me give you some final words of advice.

Curates, you will have noticed, are forgiven everything. I hope you have appreciated this period of grace, because come 1st January, all that will change. You will then become responsible for everything that goes wrong in your church. You must be able to mend leaking taps, shovel snow, arrange flowers, mow the churchyard and run jumble sales. You will be expected to know the moment someone falls ill – preferably the day before. In addition, they will expect you to preach profound sermons - in seven minutes flat, and to lead a life of prayerful solitude while being the life and soul of the parish. From the day your predecessor left, he will have turned into a saint. *You* will be their new disappointment. Be assured that *whatever* you do, you will *always* disappoint someone.

Be prepared for phone calls at 3am telling you that someone has left a light on in church, and shouldn't you go turn and it off? You will be asked about car parking arrangements for the October Harvest Service by mid-January, while hymns for the 9 Lessons and Carols will be required by early summer. I suggest you buy in extra pullovers, overcoats and scarves for life in your vicarage. A good number of mousetraps may well come in useful too.

Welcome to your new life of an incumbent.

Expect that each Sunday morning, as you prepare for the service, there will be a straggling queue of people who want to tell you an astonishing variety of things: there is a large cobweb 30 feet up over the pulpit, they don't like the second hymn on the board, the flowers look rough this week, there may be a bat in the vestry, some child has left a shoe in the back porch, and the car park has broken glass in it.

You may find this a distraction as you prepare for a worship service. But remember that at least they have bothered to come to church at all. In my experience, congregations are always irritating, but at least they do take up a lot of space, and that looks good in the pews. The church would look empty without them.

Your Loving Uncle,

Eustace

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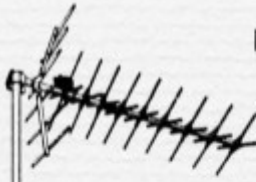
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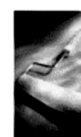


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Letter from Westminster

October has been Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I am inspired by how people have organised events, fundraised, and taken part in a range of activities to throw a spotlight on this vitally important issue. As part of my campaign, I have called for more Community Diagnostic Centres in rural areas and a Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund, after it emerged that local patients must travel 45 miles to access treatment in Birmingham. I was also delighted to meet with I am committed to enhancing public services in South Shropshire, including our community hospitals. Having recently welcomed the news that Shropshire will become home to one of the first neighbourhood health services, I am campaigning to ensure community hospitals are at the heart of plans to make this a reality.



This month I was proud to graduate from the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme's Strategic Command Course. The scheme aims to foster better quality debate around matters of defence by equipping Members of Parliament with first-hand experience of life in the Armed Forces. I will continue to work with colleagues across Parliament to ensure that our military has all the support it needs and will push the Government to up defence spending in line with NATO targets as soon as possible.

I have enjoyed working with Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, which does so much to champion local industry. April's hike in employer's National Insurance contributions has cost the sector £1 billion and resulted in 89,000 job losses. I have written to the Chancellor in support of this sector, which supports 2,040 jobs in South Shropshire.

Despite record investment by the last government in children with complex needs, rising demand has outpaced increases in government funding. In Shropshire alone, the number of children on education, health and care plans has tripled over the last five years. Now, planned reforms in council funding could worsen this problem in rural areas like Shropshire. I have called on Ministers to seize this opportunity to deliver a system that genuinely ensures that every child receives the right support to succeed in education and beyond.

I was delighted to meet with Sanjay Johal from Flooded People UK, a national non-profit initiative led by a team with extensive experience in flood response and more than 40 years of experience in community engagement. They manage an online community which enables flood groups across the country to share advice with each other. They are one of several organisations that feature in my 'Be Winter Ready' Campaign, which aims to equip residents with the information they need as winter approaches.

It was great to meet with representatives from the newly opened McDonalds restaurant in Bridgnorth. The new site will bring much needed business and revenue into the town whilst also creating multiple job opportunities for local residents. It was great to see that the restaurant is already up and running and busy. It was lovely to enjoy my classic go-to McDonald's order of a Big Mac and fries, and I hope to be back soon to sample their newly released "World Menu Heist".

tel: 01746 555025

Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

75a High Street, Bridgnorth WV16 4DX

Stuart Anderson MP

Highley Parish Council



I am writing this month's article immediately after the Remembrance Day Parade and Service. It was heartwarming as always to see so many people and organisations from the village gathering to pay tribute and to remember those who gave their lives in service to their country. We met as usual at The Severn Centre before parading to the church. With local armed forces representatives, Parish Councillors, Brownies, Girl Guides and football clubs to name but a few and followed by a significant number of parishioners it was a fantastic display and a reminder of the sense of community we share. The service was moving as it always is but lightened by singing from the local children (including my daughter!). I was honoured to read a few words and well as laying a wreath on behalf of Highley Parish Council

An item which has taken some focus of mine this month is the Route 45 Cycle Path, specifically the section which is on land owned by The Severn Valley Railway, starting just north of Country Park Halt station and running to Hampton Loade station. We have been in discussion with the railway for some time as the existing maintenance agreement with Shropshire Council and Sustrans has not been renewed causing a risk the path could be closed. We are getting closer to a conclusion and it looks like Highley Parish Council will be able to take on the maintenance, hopefully supported by people from the community. It would be a great shame if the path was to close because it is an accessible way to get close to the river and to enjoy some of the fantastic outdoor spaces we're so lucky to live near.

By the time you read this the Christmas Light Switch On is likely to have been and gone, hopefully very successfully and including the Highley Civic Awards and the grand unveiling of the winner of our Christmas Light Competition's entry made into a real Christmas light! We will be looking forward to welcoming Santa himself to The Severn Centre on December 11th though, accompanied by a fire engine! Look out for details in the run up as it'll be a great event to bring kids to.

Tom Quinn

Chair – Highley Parish Council



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

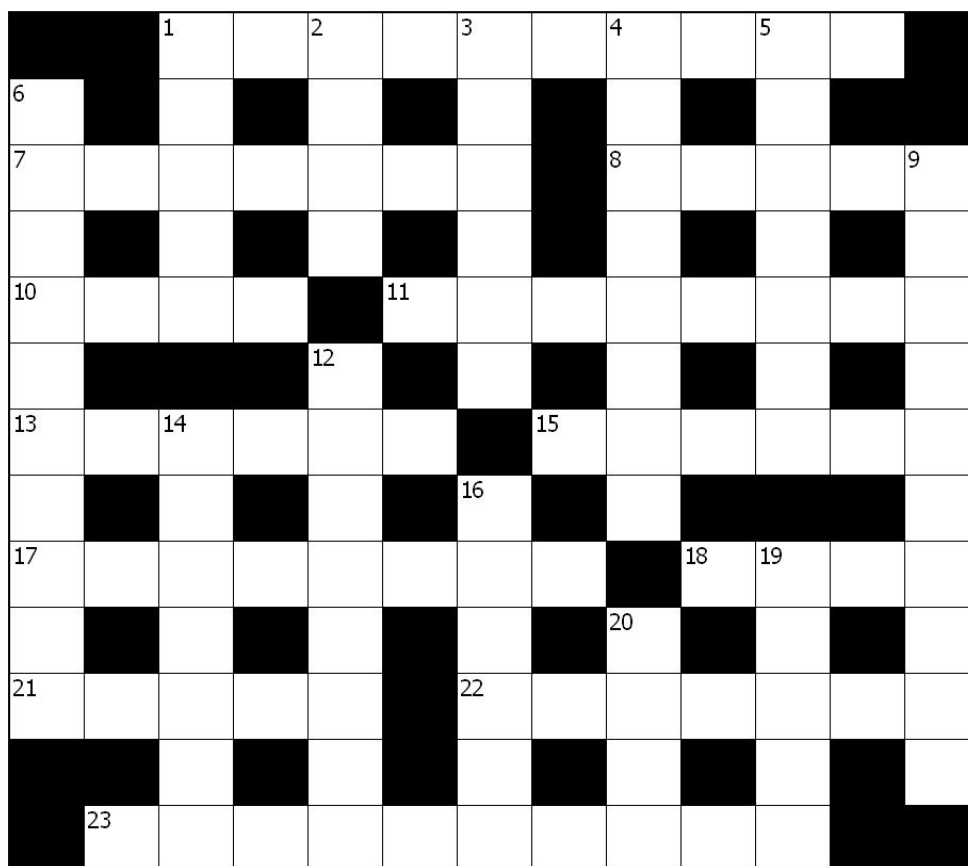
Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)



Crossword

Answers on page 33



Have a go at Sudoku



Easy

Medium

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

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

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- 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
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- Dementia friendly Walking Football
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- Highley Medical Practice
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Details correct at time of going to print - January 2025



Working together for the people of Highley



News from our County Councillor

from Cllr Sharon Ritchie-Simmons

October was another full month working to support residents and raise local issues across Highley. One priority has been the footpath from Hawthorn Drive to the main road, where several people have fallen. I've also been helping a local resident through the Blue Badge application process and have challenged the Council's policy that refuses GP evidence, which makes it much harder for people with genuine mobility issues to qualify.

Following complaints about odours from Kinlet View and Netherton Lane, Severn Trent has now repaired a cracked manhole cover that was causing the problem.

I've also reported the overgrown hedge behind The Castle Pub that was blocking drivers' views – trimming is now scheduled. Hazelwells Road was resurfaced at the end of October, with white lines at Hags Corner to follow soon.

I'm continuing to press Diamond Buses for timetable improvements and recently objected to a planning application on Cockshutt Lane that would change the character of that part of the village. I was also pleased to donate a laptop to a resident who needed help getting online.

If you have any local concerns or need assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch – I'm always happy to help where I can.

You can reach me by email at sharon.ritchie-simmons@shropshire.gov.uk.



UCB Word for Today

Relationships need rules'

If you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says...God will bless you for doing it. James 1:25

Going to heaven is based solely upon having a relationship with Christ; one in which you place your total trust in Him. This relationship also involves rules you live by and guidelines that make you more godly. A tennis player isn't free to play tennis if there is no baseline to let him or her know whether the ball is 'in or out'. A football or rugby player isn't free to play without a touch-line. A netball player is not free to play netball without boundary lines. You cannot be truly free without restraints.

For example, a fish is not free to wander through the jungle, and a lion is not free to dwell in the ocean. Neither was made for that. Freedom is having the benefits accumulate to you that you were created to receive. Freedom doesn't mean no boundaries. Freedom 'in Christ' means that within the right boundaries, you get to experience 'life more abundant' (see John 10:10).

James writes, 'If you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says, God will bless you for doing it.' In 1215, the Magna Carta was signed by King John. It protected individual rights and civil liberties, while at the same time asserting that no one, not even the king, was above the law. Today, it stands as a symbol of justice and freedom within the law, reminding you that when you're in the UK, you can have freedom – as long as you agree to stay within the rules.

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

Wordsearch

Answers on Page 23



RISE

HEALING

REALM

BORN

KING

LAME

ISRAEL

BLIND

DEAF

DEAD

IMMANUEL

CRUCIFIED

ABANDON

DAVID

HANDS

DECAY

VIRGIN

PIERCE

BETHLEHEM

RIGHT

JUST

RULER

GLOAT

MUTE

FEET



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Friday 9th January – Small fairy house statue – 2 hours - £10

Saturday 10th January – Shop closed

Thursday 15th January – Gecko wall hanging workshop – 3.5 hours - £35

Friday 16th January – Nature wood slice wall hanging – 2 hours - £25

Saturday 17th January – Shop closed

Thursday 22nd January - Toadstool statue workshop – 2.5 hours - £40

Friday 23th January – Butterfly wall hanging workshop – 2.5 hours - £25

Saturday 24th January – shop closed

Thursday 29th January - Journal notebook workshop – 2-2.5 hours - £25

Friday 30th January - Green Man/mother nature wall hanging workshop – 3.5 hours - £40

Saturday 31st January – shop closed

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

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

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All in the month of December

250 years ago, on 16th Dec 1775 that Jane Austen, novelist (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*) was born. Over 30 million copies of her books have been sold, 7,000 of them in her lifetime.

175 years ago, on 4th Dec 1850 that William Sturgeon, physicist, electrical engineer and inventor died. He created the first electromagnets and invented the first British electric motor.

80 years ago, on 27th Dec 1945 that The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were founded. They had been created at the Bretton Woods Conference in July 1944.

75 years ago, on 25th Dec 1950 that the Stone of Scone, the coronation stone of British monarchs, was taken from Westminster Abbey in London by four Scottish students. They transported it to Scotland but broke it. It was later returned to London and used in the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Since 1996 it has been kept in Edinburgh Castle, with the agreement that it will be transported to Westminster Abbey when needed for coronations.

70 years ago, on 1st Dec 1955 that African American civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery Alabama. This violated the city's racial segregation laws, and led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott (5th to 20th Dec 1956) and the birth of the modern American civil rights movement.

Also 70 years ago, on 20th Dec 1955 that Cardiff was proclaimed the capital city of Wales.

65 years ago, on 9th Dec 1960 that the first episode of the TV soap Coronation Street was broadcast on ITV.

60 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1965 that Richard Dimbleby, journalist and radio-television broadcaster, died. The BBC's first war correspondent, he was one of the greatest figures in British broadcasting history. Father of the TV presenters David Dimbleby and Jonathan Dimbleby.

40 years ago, on 2nd Dec 1985 that Philip Larkin, poet, librarian and jazz critic died.

Also 40 years ago, on 7th Dec 1985 that Robert Graves, poet novelist, critic, translator and classical scholar died. Best known for *I, Claudius*, and *Goodbye to All That*.

30 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1995 that the British 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was jailed for six and a half years in Singapore for fraudulent financial dealings which had led to the fall of Barings Bank.

Also 30 years ago, on 8th Dec 1995 that Head teacher Philip Lawrence was stabbed to death outside his west London school while trying to protect a student who was being assaulted by a gang of youths.

Also 30 years ago, on 15th Dec that the European Council announced that the new European currency would be called the Euro.

Also 30 years ago, on 21st Dec 1995 that the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control. On 26th Dec Israel also passed dozens of West Bank villages over to the Palestinian authority.

10 years ago, on 19th Dec 2015 that Jimmy Hill, football player, manager and host of the BBC football TV series *Match of the Day* (1973-88) died.



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Highley Companions

As we embrace these Autumn days of cold dark mornings and evenings let us marvel at the different changing colours on our trees and leaves which have fallen. Hopefully we are nice and warm in our homes although some may struggle. One place where we are warm both in our hearts and bodies is at our Highley Companions meetings.

We had a lovely couple of sessions recently one of which was led by two of our friends Bella (who bought along chocolates to share whilst working) and Sharon assisted by us volunteers where everyone decorated glass jars and put battery operated tealights in. Some lovely ones were created and they looked beautiful on the tables when we had lunch. Of course, our Companions were delighted when we said they could take them home!

At our second session we were making Christmas cards and decorating the letters for our Christmas banner. Mandy had been busy again at home making all the letters. Lesley did some chair exercises which are always fun and we tried to make as many words as we could out of those on the white board.

No live music from our resident band as Sian was working, Mick couldn't make it until later and Jack said his guitar was in the "guitar hospital". We had some lovely homemade soup and bread made by Lesley and her husband followed by homemade cake. Our Companions went home happy and smiling and we look forward to seeing them next time.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Hi from the W.I.

Well, what a month we've had! At our last meeting following on after the usual business side of things, we were treated to a talk from two lovely ladies, recommended by Dawn, one of our members. The ladies brought in two rather old suitcases and a couple of shop window dummies. Well, it was a bit of a surprise when the one lady who was assisting our speaker Rhona, appeared with a very old black dress which Rhona explained was in fact stuck together in many places due to its fragility. Who'd have thought our model for the evening was a retired dentist!

When Rhona opened the suit cases, what a surprise! It was full of old handmade clothes collected by her mother May Griffiths who was a local historian and who lived in Wombourne. She gave a wonderful talk about her mother and her collection. A highlight of the evening for me was that I knew Rhona and her sister Cherry and her mum, as we lived in the next village and went to infant school together. What a small world.

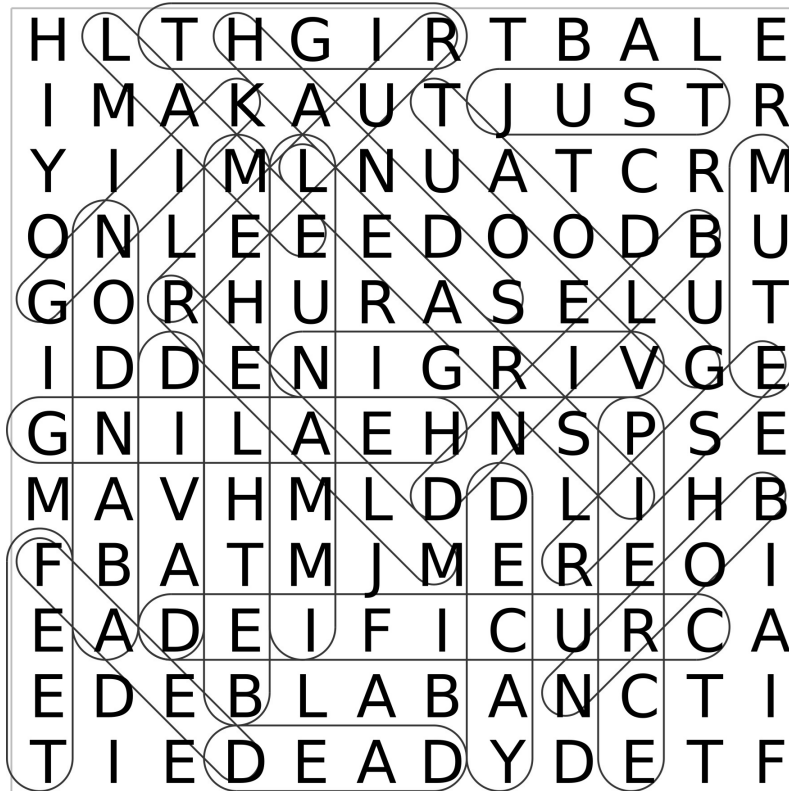
Our special day! After a lot of planning and hardwork by the Committee the day finally arrived on Tuesday 4th November – the actual same day and date on which the W.I. was started on Tuesday 4th November, 1925. We had old documents which were very fragile and lovingly kept which could be looked at together with photographs which could also be looked at and also a silent slide show was running all afternoon. Also our new banner made by some of our members was on display. Approximately 45 of us altogether including our guests from our W.I.s in the surrounding area, and representatives from the Parish Council, the School etc.

A big thank you to everyone who helped in one way or another decorating the Hall with W.I. Banners, laying tables, making cakes etc and to Shirley for making the celebration cake.

What a wonderful afternoon we all had. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year

Elaine

Answers to Wordsearch (from page 18)



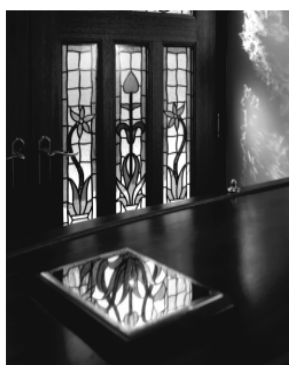
Answers to Sudoku (from page 15)

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

Easy

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

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Insurance and climate change – Lori

We spend a lot of money on insurance each year, including car insurance and home insurance. The insurance companies make massive investments to accrue capital, and it is therefore important to think carefully about the ethos of the company you use. Have a search on the internet to see where their priorities are. You might pay slightly more than other companies, but the planet, and other people (like those who don't even have a home or home insurance) might get a better deal.

Conference Of Parties (COP) 30 update - Alastair

To open the conference this year, the president of Brazil (Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva) stated that "COP30 will be the COP of truth". He said that "Climate change is no longer a threat of the future; it is a tragedy of the present". "We live in an era in which obscurantists reject scientific evidence and attack institutions. It is time to deliver yet another defeat to denialism." He's right. There are too many people denying the science, because it's an easy option. We must confront what is facing us as a species. For the sake of our children and theirs. Don't let ignorance drag us down. Do what you can to reduce your carbon footprint. Speak up for climate justice at every opportunity.

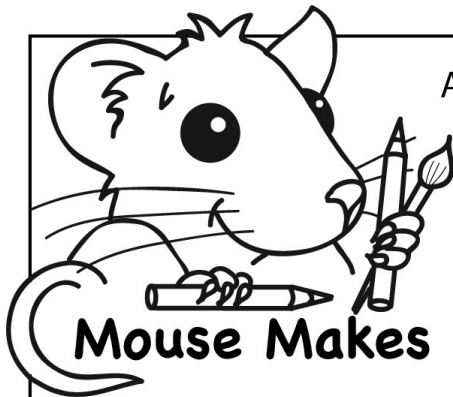
Christmas gifts – Jessie

It's that time of year again, when we celebrate together and gifts are exchanged. This year, I'm trying to reduce what I buy. A lot of people receive gifts they don't want at Christmas. When buying gifts, think less but better. Put time into picking a quality item that will both last and be loved. This reduces the chances of gifts going to waste and will ensure that your gift lasts for many years to come. This could even be better for your wallet by purchasing one quality gift, rather than lots of cheaper, disposable or poor-quality items.

The Holly and the Ivy – Alan

Holly and ivy are not just beautiful, but also crucial for pollinators in the garden. They both provide a late-season food source for many insects. The flowers and berries are great sources of food for animals during the winter months when other food sources are scarce. Also, the dense foliage of both plants shelters birds and invertebrates during the difficult winter conditions. If you are thinking of chopping down the ivy during your winter garden clear up, then think again!





At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read
John 14:3

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snuggly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read
Matthew 1:21-23

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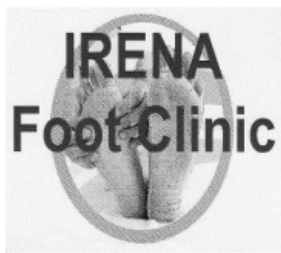
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Contacts for Local Church Groups, Clubs & Organisations

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

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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

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- * Ladies, Gents & Children
- * Reliable Service
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Telephone: 07990 721584

Crossword Solution from page 15

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

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 4th & 18th December

Recycling & green bins:

Thursday 11th December & **Wednesday 24th December**

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.

[illegible]

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

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

Billingsley & Glazeley Remembrance Services



Billingsley Church: Poppies on the gate and the inside of church, decorated for Re-



Glazeley Church : Flowers around the War Memorial and the Battlefield display.

W.I Centenary Celebrations



Sunday 7th December	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 14th December	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
	5pm Nine Lessons and Carols	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
Wednesday 17th December	6pm Carols on the Green	Top End, Highley
Friday 19th December	6pm Carol Service	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
Sunday 21st December	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10am Holy Communion with Carols	St Bartholomew, Glazeley
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
	5pm Candlelit Community Carols	St Mary's Church, Highley
Wednesday 24th December	3.30pm Crib Service	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	4pm Crib Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
	11pm Midnight Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	11pm Midnight Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Thursday 25th December	10am Family Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
Christmas Day	10am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
Sunday 28th December	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's Church, Highley

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

Monday Evening Home Group 7.30-9.00pm contact Stewart & Shirley

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

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