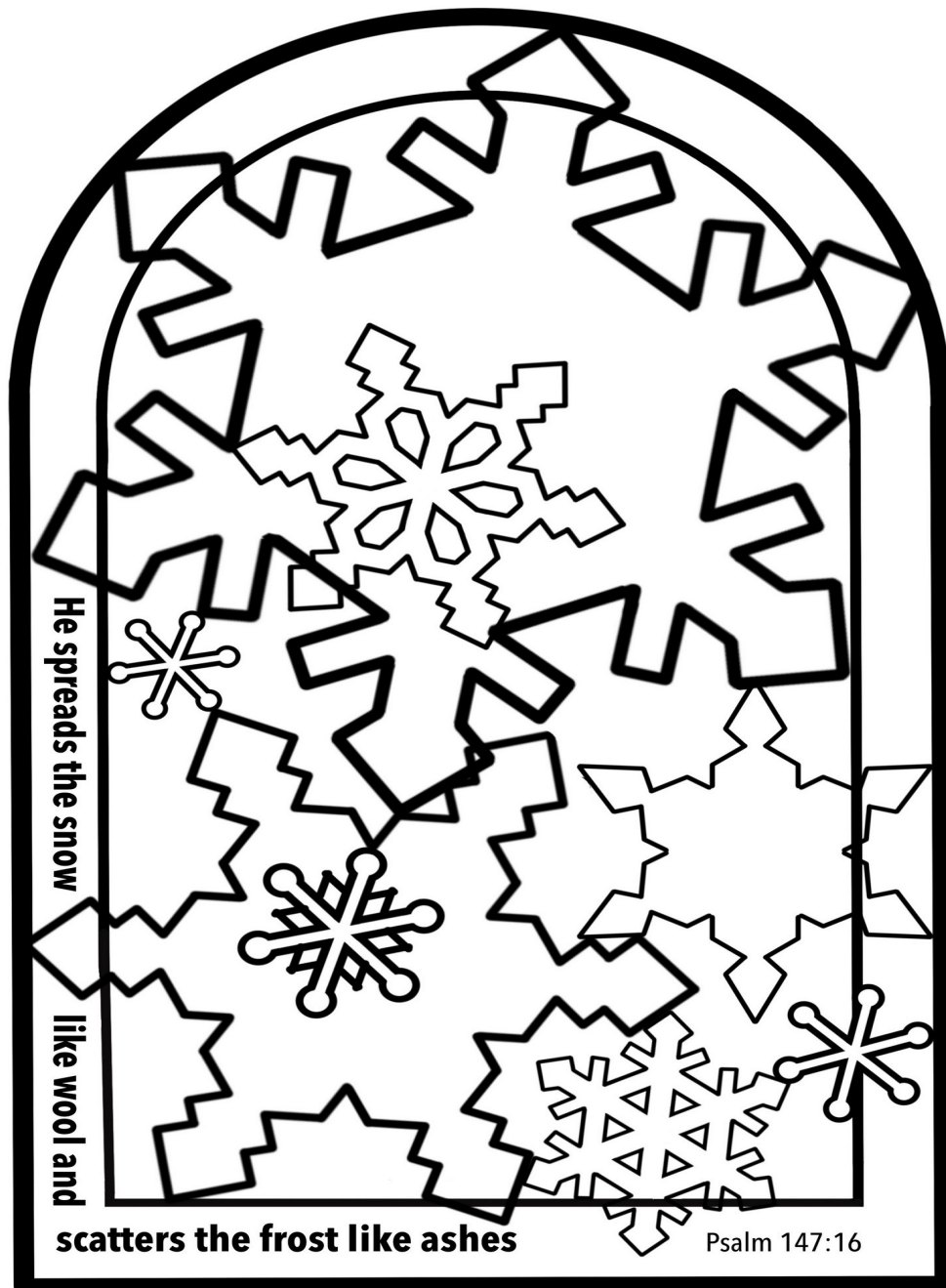


THE

70p

FORUM

January 2026



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

St Mary's Church—Events Round-Up

Over 30 people gathered at Garden Village for the annual 'Carols on the Green'. Led by Rev'd Angie Forster, our curate, everyone joined in with a rousing telling of the Christmas story through song. Their valiant efforts were rewarded with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Thanks to Kath and Arthur Painting for preparing the mulled wine.

Allsorts celebrated Christmas at Astbury Hall with a tasty Christmas lunch. The food was declared delicious and the staff looked after everyone very well.



Don't forget to send your photos of any events which have taken place in and around the villages. Please make sure that you have permission from anyone in them and their agreement for the pictures to be published. - Ed.

Send to highleyforumeditor@gmail.com

Regular Contributions:

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

St. Mary's Church Shop	Parish Hall Office	Highley Forum
<p>The shop helps to raise donations to local, national and international causes. Re-saleable items are always welcome and bulky items can be collected</p> <p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Mon 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Tues 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Wed 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Thurs 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Fri 10:00—12:00, 14:00 - 16:00</p> <p>Sat 10:00—12:00</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot take large items of furniture.</p>	<p>.01746 861242</p> <p>Parish Administrator - Maggie Ritchie</p> <p>The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10am—12noon.</p> <p>For information about weddings, Baptisms (Christenings), child's Dedication, funerals or for general enquiries about church service times and parish information contact the Parish Office as above.</p>	<p>Please send correspondence to: highleyforumeditor@gmail.com</p> <p>For the attention of The Editor Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.</p> <p>Subscriptions</p> <p>If you would like to take out an annual subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds.</p> <p>Cost: £7 per year</p> <p>Advertising</p> <p>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

Light-bulb Moments

Do you ever experience 'light-bulb' moments? Something which hasn't made sense suddenly becomes so clear and obvious. Or maybe a revelation—'Well, I never knew that before!' That's why we call this season at the beginning of January '*Epiphany*'. Epiphany means a sudden realisation or understanding; a revelation. January 6th is the date when we focus on the Wise Men visiting Jesus with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Jesus was probably a toddler by the time they arrived, which was why King Herod ordered all the children under 2 years old to be killed. They'd travelled several hundred miles, probably from Persia. They were astrologers, astronomers and seers (literally wise men who advised at the King's court), learned men who had studied the science and philosophies of the time. They noticed an unusually bright star in the sky and believed it indicated something important. It must have been extraordinary for them to make such a journey into the unknown. They were so sure that this indicated a new King, such as had never been seen before, that they brought expensive gifts to present to him. When they found him they '*bowed down and worshipped him*'.

For those of us who call ourselves Christians there has been an 'epiphany' moment, when we have acknowledged God as our creator and literally or metaphorically bowed down before Jesus, the Saviour of the world. It might have been a gradual realisation that everything we'd grown up with is true; it might have been a journey of enquiry and discovery; it might even have been a 'light-bulb' moment. We are all different. But one thing is the same. We have acknowledged God's sovereignty. We have to bow down and worship him for who he is.



Our eternal life begins at that point, but there is plenty to get in the way of life, despite our good intentions. You only have to look around at what is happening in the world to see that bad things can happen to anyone. Life is not a bed of roses. How do we react when things don't go our way? What do we do when we are tempted to go along with everyone else, because we are afraid of what may happen if we stand up for what is right? It's so easy to start off with good ideals and intentions and for them to be eroded, bit by bit, until it's hard to tell the difference between life before that epiphany and life after it.

It's about choice. The Wise Men met Herod. They asked directions from him (which was possibly an unwise thing to do, considering that he was a very jealous, unstable personality) and he asked them to come back and let him know when they had discovered the exact location of this new king. He said he wanted to pay homage himself, but his intentions were far from that. Thankfully, they sensed this and decided not to comply with that particular request and slipped off home quietly. They were risking their lives doing that. Herod could have easily sent his soldiers off to find them. But they knew it would have been wrong.

We too have the gift of choice and January is a perfect time to choose to take a different route in life. In fact, every day, every moment, we can do that.

I came across this prayer, which I think encompasses a lot of what some of us might like to say to God. It was written by Karl Barth (1886 – 1968), a prominent Protestant theologian of his time. He spent much of his life resisting the Nazi movement, and so knew a thing or two about entering a New Year undaunted by troubles all around him.

O Lord, our Father!...at the turn of the year... our hearts are filled with sombre thoughts... our ears are deafened by the voices of the radio and the newspapers, with their numerous predictions for the coming year. Instead we want to hear your word, your voice, your assurance, your guidance. We know that you are in our midst, and are eager to give us all that we need, whether we ask or not.

We ask for one thing only: that you collect our scattered thoughts, getting rid of the confused and defiant thoughts that may distract us, and thus enable us to concentrate on your limitless generosity to us. You were abundantly generous to us last year, and will be no less generous to us next year, and in every year to come. Fill us with gratitude to you. Amen.

That's my prayer and I hope you can make it yours.

Val Smith



Smile lines

Are you taking a mid-winter break?

If you are preparing to take off for foreign climes, do keep an eye out for signs that have English words... but perhaps not an English meaning! In hotels and train stations and airports all over the world there are polite little signs that will bring a smile to the lips of even an exhausted traveller. For instance, how about these*:

Switzerland: We have nice bath and are very good in bed.

Romania: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret you will be unbearable.

Russia: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

Italy: If service is required, give two strokes to the maid and three to the waiter.

Spain: Our wine list leaves you with nothing to hope for.

Denmark: In the event of fire, open a window and announce your presence in a seemly manner.

Canary Islands: If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve.

**With thanks to 'Lost in Translation: Misadventures in English Abroad' by Charlie Croker (Michael O'Mara Books, £9.99)*

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

St Mary's Highley

There's nothing quite like Church at Christmas. The Christmas story retold in a variety of ways. We've listened to the Bible verses, we've sung the carols and on Christmas Eve there was the famous 'pop-up' nativity; not to mention that very special sense of awe and wonder at the midnight service on Christmas Eve and then all the joy and excitement of the Family Service on Christmas morning. Thank you to everyone who was involved in any of the events. Your dedication and involvement is much appreciated.



It's easy to feel flat when all the decorations are down, but January begins with New Year's Day—a time to start afresh and put in place plans and changes for the coming 12 months. January 6th is the day when we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus, There is much to be gained from quietly dwelling on that 'post script' to the Christmas story. Epiphany means 'a moment of sudden and great revelation or realisation'. Take time out on that day to allow God to speak to you.

Perhaps now is the time to begin attending a mid-week group (details on page 36) or taking up a new hobby or interest. We are blessed with a congregation with many gifts and talents—how could you serve God and his people through that? Now is the time to start some forward planning.



From the records:

Funerals



Anthony Pugh	14 Nov 2025
Carina Louise Teed	06 Nov 2025
Margaret Hudson	01 Nov 2025
Janet Matthews	29 Oct 2025
Mary Margaret Brown	22 Oct 2025
Audrey Lilian Crosbie	03 Oct 2025



How to keep those New Year Resolutions

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. Why do we usually fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have several goals, don't attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money that you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So, break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again and to keep going. Only if you stop are you *really* defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.

What, oh what, is that person's name?!

Do your New Year Resolutions include the forlorn hope that you will be better at remembering people's names in 2026? Many of us – and not only those of the older generation – have difficulty remembering names. It's not just TV personalities and so on, but people we meet in the street. We know exactly who they are, we see them every week in church or the supermarket, we know what job they do and which school their children go to. But as for their name – it's a blank.

Help is at hand, however. Not to solve the problem, but at least to name it. 'Anomic aphasia' is the clinical name for the inability to remember a name, even when we can remember everything else about someone.

There is also the strange truth that the cure for anomic aphasia comes spontaneously, often in the middle of the night, when that elusive identity pops unbidden into our memory. We must be sure, of course, to put the light on and write it down, because for sure it will be gone again with the morning light!

St Mary's, Billingsley

As I write, we are preparing for our Christmas services - a carol service on 19th December and communion on Christmas Day. Thereafter we have the normal 8am communion service on the 4th Sunday of the month.

These services are now much more comfortable after the installation of under-pew heating in November! As at Glazeley, this really makes a difference. We are very grateful to the Laslett Charities and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust for grants; we have also been able to reclaim the VAT through the Historic Places of Worship VAT Relief scheme from the Government.

A speaker from the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust will be visiting us at our June evening service on Sunday 14th June 2026 at 6pm, to speak about their work. The trust has also supported work at Glazeley and Chelmarsh.

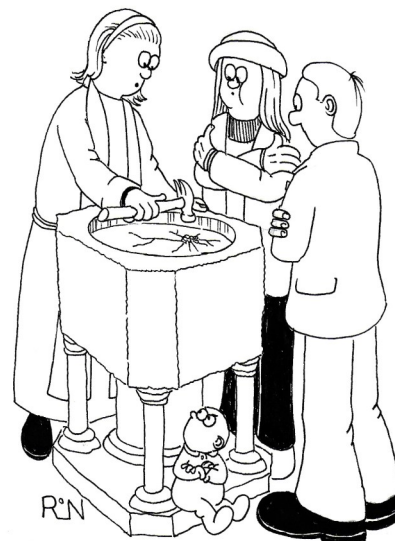


St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

As with Billingsley, we are waiting for our Christmas service; Sunday 21st December at 10am, followed by refreshments at the Old Rectory, kindly provided by Andrew and Laura Jones. All our services this year have been well attended and we hope that will continue into 2026, with the regular 10am communions on the 3rd Sunday of every month. We will also have another Saturday morning breakfast at the Down Inn in January. We do not yet have a date, but please check the church website, [Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew - A Church Near You](#), for details. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact myself (0780 100 9693) or Marion Corfield (marion.corfield@talktalk.net) for details.



"The vicar's hoping providing a really strong mobile signal will attract more young folk to the church."



The boiler only worked if the
Verger switched it on

James the Least of All

The Rectory
St James the Least



On the perils of leading prayer in church

My dear Darren

I do hope you have now settled down in your first parish - although it is such a pity that you did not choose a more distinguished one. I know you feel your vocation lies in inner city work – whereas mine, fortunately, has always been to the better sort of rural village. I have always felt that the Almighty understands me well in that regard.

We had a little flurry of activity in church on Sunday. At the signal “let us pray”, as the congregation dutifully flopped to their knees, sounding like a flock of geese settling in for the night, Major Hastings lost his glass eye. Yes, *again!* That man is so careless at times. Anyway, released from captivity, the eye rolled under the pews like a fugitive marble, ricocheting from hassock to handbag over the stone flags.

My sonorous entreaties to the Almighty were completely lost as the entire congregation scuttled under pews, trying to retrieve it. It finally appeared on the collection plate - along with £4.17, 100 pesetas and Miss Simpson’s front door key. I was unsure whether the last item represented a fit of absent-mindedness or an improper suggestion. I returned it to her very firmly at the end of the Service.

The eye stared at me mournfully as I blessed it, along with the money. But it left a small social dilemma. What is the etiquette of returning a lost glass eye to its owner?

To have processed down the aisle with it, accompanied by crucifer and vergers seemed a little too public. To sneak it to him as we shook hands at the door seemed a little too furtive. I finally decided to send a server to deliver it during the last hymn. I still wonder if it was the right decision. Perhaps you could look through that new Common Worship book and see if they have included an appropriate rite for returning lost glass eyes. We here at St James-the-Least-of-All haven’t yet got round to Common Worship. The days are difficult enough as it is.

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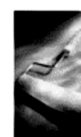


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Letter from Westminster

December has come around, and South Shropshire's beautiful scenery looks better than ever in the morning frost. As Christmas approaches, I am continuing my work in Parliament and across the constituency, and also reflecting on the past year. I have been privileged to meet with hundreds of constituents at surgeries and Meet the MP events (recently in Craven Arms, Bridgnorth, and Bishop's Castle). My team and I have responded to more than 8,500 individual enquiries so far in 2025. I look forward to continuing this work in the month ahead, with two upcoming surgeries in Ludlow.



November marked the season of Remembrance. As a veteran, this is always an emotional time, but one which I was glad to share with many of South Shropshire's 4,000 veterans. To honour the 75th anniversary of the official re-opening of the House of Commons after it was engulfed by the Blitz during World War Two, I was delighted to join my colleagues in a moment of reflection. I also visited the House of Commons Books of Remembrance, which commemorate Members of Parliament, their staff, and families who died in both World Wars. I was honoured to join the service in Ludlow on Remembrance Sunday.

I have also been busy campaigning to save South Shropshire's post offices. Post office branches provide vital services across the constituency, including in Acton Burnell, Alveley, Aston on Clun, Broseley, and Bishop's Castle. What's more, with access to cash and everyday banking services becoming more difficult, it is more important than ever to protect rural post offices. As such, I have renewed my campaign against the Government's proposals to close up to half of our post offices, reduce the three-mile radius, and cut the availability of outreach services.

Especially at this time of year, our churches also play a central role in our communities. Religious or non-religious, I know that residents treasure these time-honoured buildings which are dotted all over South Shropshire. As such, I was concerned to learn that Historic England's latest Heritage at Risk Register reveals that almost a thousand churches are in need of urgent repair and conservation work. So, I have urged the Chancellor to scrap the cap on the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme which, since 2010, has funded conservation projects that keep our historic churches open.

Finally, we all know someone who has battled cancer. Thankfully, Lingen Davies have been helping Shropshire residents through this battle since 1979. They provide invaluable support across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Mid-Wales, and have recently announced the launch of their Sunflower Fundraising Appeal. The £5 million appeal has the potential to double the provision of chemotherapy in our local area, with a new state-of-the-art Chemotherapy Centre in Telford's Princess Royal Hospital. I would encourage all my constituents to consider donating generously to this fantastic cause.

I hope everyone in South Shropshire has a very merry Christmas and enjoys the many festivities which the constituency offers over the Christmas period.

Stuart Anderson MP

Highley Parish Council



What a fantastic year 2025 was! It's not quite the end of the year as I write this before Christmas but by the time you read it the festivities will be over with and we'll be in to a new year. December was a very exciting month for the Parish Council. The Christmas Light Switch On event went really well, the new time seemed to suit more people and turnout was possibly the highest it has ever been. I was honoured as always to be able to take to the stage to introduce the Highley Civic Awards and this year, for the first time, I gave out some Special Recognition awards to people who contribute to village life but aren't eligible for a Civic Award – Jodie Greenfield of Jodie Leigh School of Dance, former Severn Centre Manager and youth leader Jack Noakes and Cal and Sunny from the Costcutter were the lucky recipients. Following the Special Recognition Awards I was joined on stage by my fellow councillors Vice Chair Tracy Pinches, Councillor Sally Bunn and Councillor John Marshall to give awards to Chris Sandy, Sylvia Link and to award the Dennis Bache Shield to Adam Cadwallader. It's so nice to be able to recognise those who contribute to our community and I enjoy it more and more every year.

The Christmas Light Switch On event always raises money for a charity selected by Highley Parish Council. This year we chose Highley Minors Childcare and I was very pleased to be able to inform them we had raised (with a significant donation from Highley Community Project) £1,200! I was joined by Vice Chair Tracy Pinches and Councillor Emma Aspen to present Manager of Highley Minors Childcare Melissa Hodgson with a cheque for the amount whilst at our second Christmas event of the season 'Santa at The Centre'. We arranged this event to ensure every child in the village could get a chance to see Santa rather than just those who live on the streets he usually visits at this time of year. It was a great success with lots for the little ones to do and mulled wine available for the adults. The atmosphere was great and it was really nice to see so many of the community enjoying themselves.

As we enter the new year we have lots of exciting plans at Highley Parish Council but we couldn't do it without our fantastic councillors so I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Vice Chair Tracy Pinches and to Councillors Emma Aspen, Sally Bunn, Pete Vinall, Matt Green, Chris Stanley, Megan Roberts, Dillip Thakrar, Louise Hodnett, Andrew Hancox, Helen Hancox and John Marshall.

Tom Quinn



Crossword Clues

Across

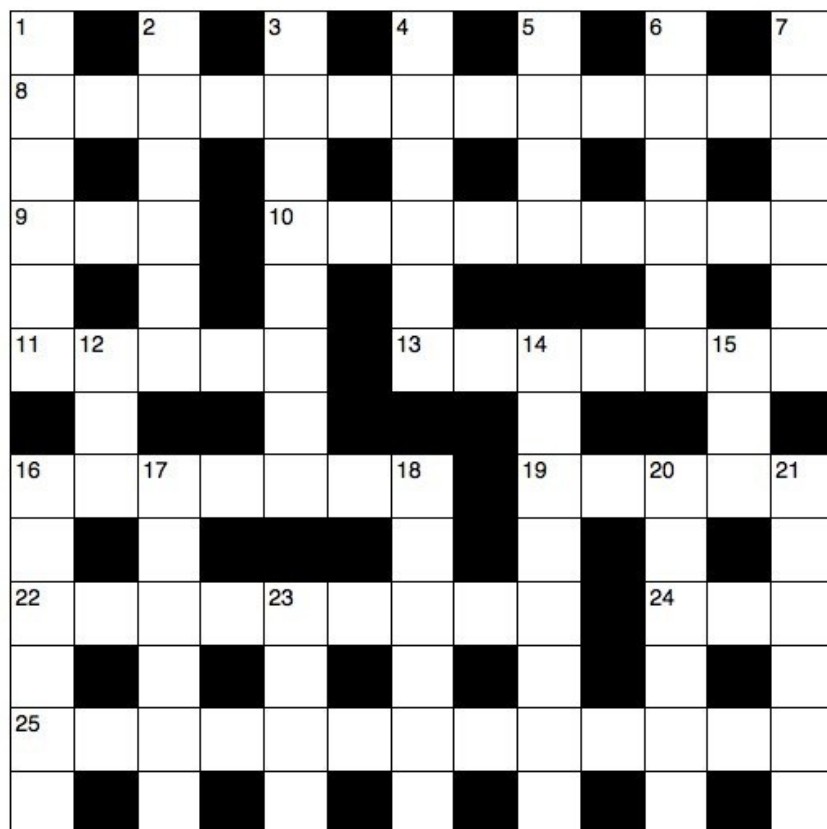
- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
- 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
- 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
- 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)

Crossword

Answers on page 33



Have a go at Sudoku



Easy

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

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Medium

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

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- 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
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Details correct at time of going to print - January 2025



Working together for the people of Highley



Mindfulness

There is a lot of talk about 'mindfulness' these days, and how to find calm moments in our daily lives. Both the BBC and Classic FM have even got radio stations devoted to 'mindful' and 'calm' music. But as Christians, we have an extra, divine resource, to call on. Here are three verses to help reassure readers that they are not alone in their tough times. (Luke 8:22-25)

Peaceful mind

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His disciples in a boat. The wind blows, the waves rise, and the disciples are stressed. Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. Like them, we can't control what comes our way. But like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us.

Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

- ◇ In peace I will lie down and sleep, for You alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (*Psalms 4:8*)
- ◇ The Lord gives strength to His people, the Lord blesses His people with peace. (*Psalms 29:11*)
- ◇ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace (*1 Corinthians 14:33*)

(Parish Pump January 2026)

UCB Word for Today

Character is what counts

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.' 1 Samuel 16:7

Here is a description of Saul, Israel's first king: 'There was not a more handsome person...among the children of Israel' (1 Samuel 9:2 NKJV). But his looks couldn't compensate for his lack of character, and he died prematurely in shame and defeat. When Samuel the prophet went to the house of Jesse to anoint one of his sons as Israel's next king, God said, 'Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'

Many years ago a boy was born in Russia who thought himself to be so ugly, he was certain there would be no happiness for him in life. He bemoaned the fact that he had a wide nose, thick lips, small grey eyes, and big hands and feet. He was so distraught about his appearance that he asked God to work a miracle and turn him into a handsome man. He vowed that if God would do this, he would give Him all he possessed.

That boy was Count Tolstoy, who became one of the world's foremost authors, best known for his epic *War and Peace*. In his books he admits that through the years, he discovered that the beauty of physical appearance he had once sought was not the only beauty in life – and it was not the best beauty. Instead, Tolstoy came to regard *the beauty of a strong character* as having the greatest good in God's sight. Character is not a matter of money or looks, but of doing what is right apart from money and standing up for what's right apart from appearances.

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Wordsearch



6th January brings Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. Matthew calls them 'Magi', the name of an ancient priestly caste from Persia. Early church tradition says there were three: Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior. As for their gifts? Gold is a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense is a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh is a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things.

EPIPHANY

VISIT

MEN

WORLD

WISE

WISDOM

WORSHIP

PERSIA

GOLD

CASPAR

EMBALMING

ANCIENT

INCENSE

BALTHASAR

WEALTH

SACRIFICE

MELCHIOR

MYRRH

SYMBOL

HEALING

CHALLENGED

GIFTS

TRADITION

PRIESTLY

MAGI



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Wednesday 11th February – Craft and chat. Bring your project and join us for a chat.

Friday 13th February – Rabbit workshop – 3 hours - £30

Saturday 14th February – Shop closed. Contact me to arrange a workshop

Monday 16th February – Paint your own moneybox – 1 hour - £6

Tuesday 17th February – Mirror workshop – 2 hours - £15

Wednesday 18th February – Paper quilling picture – 2 hours - £7

Thursday 19th February – fairy house workshop – 2 hours £7

Friday 20st February – door hanger workshop – 2 hours - £10

Saturday 21st February – shop closed. Contact me to arrange a workshop.

Wednesday 25th February – Craft and chat. Bring your project and join us for a chat.

Friday 27th February – Glass workshop – 2 hours - £15

Saturday 28th February – Shop closed. Contact me to arrange a workshop.

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All in the month of January

250 years ago, on 1st Jan 1776 that, according to tradition, George Washington raised the first American flag, the Grand Union Flag, at Prospect Hill in Charleston, Somerville, Massachusetts.

125 years ago, on 1st Jan 1901 that the Commonwealth of Australia was established when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.

Also 125 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1901 that Queen Victoria died, and was succeeded by her son, Edward VII.

100 years ago, on 13th Jan 1926 that Michael Bond, children's writer, was born. He created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Also 100 years ago, on 14th Jan 1926 that Warren Mitchell, radio TV stage and film actor was born. Best known for his role as Alf Garnett in the TV sitcoms *Till Death Us Do Part* and *In Sickness and in Health*.

Also 100 years ago, on 26th Jan 1926 that Scottish engineer and inventor John Logie Baird gave the first demonstration of his TV system to members of the Royal Institution.

90 years ago, on 20th Jan 1936 that King George V died and was succeeded by his son Edward VIII, who abdicated that December.

80 years ago, on 8th Jan 1946 that Elvis Presley received his first guitar on his 11th birthday. (Apparently, he would have preferred a bicycle.)

Also 80 years ago, on 10th Jan 1946 that the United Nations General Assembly convened for the first time, in Westminster Central Hall, London.

75 years ago, on 9th Jan 1951 that the UN headquarters in New York City was officially opened.

Also 75 years ago, on 30th Jan 1951 that Ferdinand Porsche, Austrian automotive engineer died. He designed the Volkswagen Beetle, the Tiger tank and founded the Porsche sport car company.

Also 70 years ago, on 31st Jan 1956 that AA Milne, writer, poet, humourist and playwright died. Best known for his stories about Winnie the Pooh.

65 years ago, on 20th Jan 1961 that John F Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the USA.

60 years ago, on 17th Jan 1966 that the album *Sounds of Silence* by Simon and Garfunkel, was released.

50 years ago, on 12th Jan 1976 that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright died. Best known for creating the character Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

40 years ago, on 28th Jan 1986 that the US space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after lift-off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. All seven astronauts were killed, including the first teacher in space, Christa McAuliffe.

10 years ago, on 31st Jan 2016 that Terry Wogan, Irish radio and TV broadcaster, died. Known for his long-running BBC Radio 2 show, and for presenting TV's *Wogan*, *Blankety Blank*, *Come Dancing*, *the Children in Need*, and for his commentaries on the Eurovision Song Contest.



Dave, Becky and Anthony Jennings



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Highley Companions

Hope you had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Just a short article this month as Forum has to go to printers early.

Our last Companions meeting for the year was our Christmas Dinner cooked by Chris Griffiths assisted by her sous chef for the day Janet Brown, one of our volunteers. - A great team and a big thank you to you and Ashley from Highley Butchers who cooked and sliced the turkey for us at very reasonable cost.

How magical it must have been when our Companions walked in – a real wonderland with a beautifully decorated room with their own banner they had made, sparkly lights and more created by our Mandy. After settling in with a tea and coffee everyone sang carols and other Christmas songs heartily before sitting down to a lovely meal. Plenty of clean plates!

To end their day our Companions had their photo taken by Mandy in our little Christmas grotto before leaving with their goodie bag containing homemade mince-pies, a calendar with their photos on taken during our sessions, and a Highley Companions mug with their photo on, all made possible by the generosity and skills of our volunteers.

A wonderful day all round. It wouldn't be right to not thank our wonderful team of volunteers who can turn their hands to anything from baking the mince-pies, making our crackers, preparing all the vegetables, writing cards, decorating the room, playing our songs and transporting some of our Companions. Lots of work goes on behind the scenes throughout the year too so a big thank you to you all.

Elaine



Hi from the W.I.

A Happy New Year to you all!

Firstly I would like to thank all our retiring Committee for the many years of service they have given. You deserve to sit back and enjoy now,

We have exciting times ahead in 2026! A new Committee, a full and varied programme already planned and we can't wait to welcome new members along.

Our first meeting of 2026 is on Tuesday 20th January in the Library at The Severn Centre at 7.15 p.m. We look forward to seeing you

Elaine

Answers to Wordsearch (from page 18)



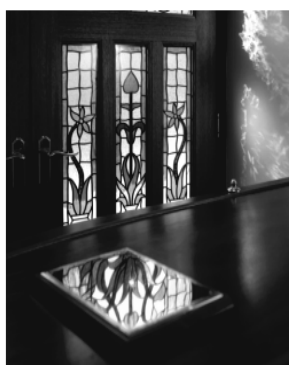
Answers to Sudoku (from page 15)

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

Easy

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

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Sustainable Highley

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Why nature matters workshop - Alastair

On the 22nd November, Sustainable Highley hosted a 'Why nature matters' workshop in the Severn Centre. There was plenty of discussion about nature in Highley, and because of the enthusiasm of the group, we now have an official 'Local nature recovery working group'!

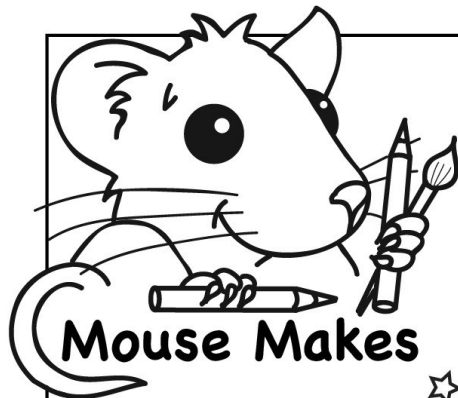
Our first job is to identify the existing or potential nature corridors for flora and fauna within the village. They can vary from a river to an uncut verge, but they need to link isolated, wildlife rich habitats together. If you have seen wildlife in your garden, or have an idea of how to connect it with another local habitat, then please let us know, and we can map it.

Lots of other ideas came out of the workshop. How many have you tried?

- In the garden, chop and drop (let nature take its course), do 'no mow' May, make a bug hotel, put out water for the birds, grow native plants with fruit and nectar for native wildlife, or put a pile of logs in a shady corner.
- Read Joanna Macey's book; Active Hope, for how to cope with anxiety around the nature and climate crises.
- Join Shropshire Wildlife Trust or other nature or climate charity like the Woodland Trust, or Shropshire Climate Action.
- Take a permaculture course or other form of free online training.
- Reduce pollution and plastic waste.
- Make a dead hedge or a wildlife pond.
- Become a Biodiversity collage or climate fresk facilitator and run your own workshops.
- Buy fruit and veg and meat produced locally, and if possible, farmed regeneratively.
- Tell other people about what you are doing!
- Attend the next local nature recovery meeting on 28th January 2026 in the Parish Clerk's Office in the Severn Centre at 1830.

It's Veganuary! - Alice

If a vegan diet is new to you, then start out this January by veganising your staple dishes. I swapped mince for puy lentils in my bolognaise, chicken curry for red lentil dahl, and beef for butter beans in my goulash. Simple, healthier, cheaper and all with a lower carbon footprint!



Mouse Makes

DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine **blueish-white**, then **yellowish-white**, **yellow**, **orange** and the coolest stars shine **red**.

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets fortold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



Read the story of the Wise Men in **Matthew 2:1-12**

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

Can you find these words in the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI
STAR • SIGN
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • KING
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH
FRANKINCENSE
WORSHIP • JOY
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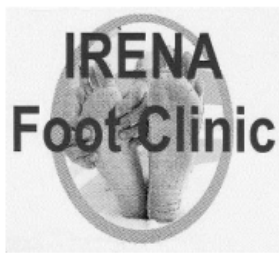
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Contacts for Local Church Groups, Clubs & Organisations

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
<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		07709989119
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams & Chris Smith		860230
Highley Repair Cafe	www.repaircafehighley.org.uk	repaircafehighley@gmail.com	
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	hcprojectshops@gmail.com	
Highley Colliery Band	Dave & Lisa Burge		862018
Highley Companions	Elaine Moore		861431
Highley County Primary School	School Office	(Tanya Mathers)	861541
Highley First Responders	Claire van Aswegen	claire.vanaswegen@gmail.com	861580
Highley Medical Centre	Dr J Tatton	Highley Medical Practice, Bridgnorth Road	767121 (option 0)
Highley Mini Minors Toddler Group	Emma Aspin		07752207828
Highley Minors Childcare Centre		Severn Centre	860005
Highley Parish Council	Alison Palmer, Parish Clerk	clerk@highleyparish.co.uk	07496821159
Shropshire County Councillor	Cllr. Sharon Ritchie-Simmons	Sharon.ritchie-simmons@shropshire.gov.uk	07979295387
Highley Miners Welfare Football Club	Alex Edwards. Club Secretary	secretary.hmwfc@outlook.com	
HMWFC: Mini Kickers (ages 4-6)	Alex Edwards. Club Secretary	secretary.hmwfc@outlook.com	
Housing Support Officer	Contact Star Housing		
Parish Hall Bookings	Margaret Ritchie	secretaryhighleypcc@gmail.com	861242
Pop In Club	Dale Schnelting		
Severn Centre	Jack Noakes	General Manager	860000
Severn Strollers	Barbara Skilton		862003
Women's Institute	Mrs Eunice Williams		861613



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

125

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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.

DIAMOND

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Crossword Solution from page 15

A		S		W		F		U		A		A
B	O	T	T	O	M	L	E	S	S	P	I	T
D		R		N		O		C		A		H
I	C	E		D	E	C	A	L	O	G	U	E
E		A		R		K				A		N
L	I	M	B	O		S	E	C	O	N	D	S
	O			U				R				Y
C	R	I	M	S	O	N		E	A	G	E	R
R		N				E		A		A		E
A	B	H	O	R	R	E	N	T		L	A	P
V		O		E		D		I		L		E
A	L	P	H	A	A	N	D	O	M	E	G	A
T		E		D		O		N		Y		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: Friday 2nd ,
Thursday 15th & 29th January 2026

Recycling & green bins:
Thursday 8th & 22nd January 2026

The Paper Shop
High St., Highley

Costcutter

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



Come along to our first Repair Café of 2026 have a drink and see what we do, or bring an item for repair.

Saturday 10th January 2026 10.00-13.00
Highley Community Primary School,
Grasmere Drive, Highley WV16 6EH

We are also looking for more volunteers and repairers to do repairs to keep stuff out of landfill and help the environment

Any questions email us at:
repaircafehighley@gmail.com

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

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Registrar's Office	25



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

Severn Centre Light Switch-On and Christmas Fayre

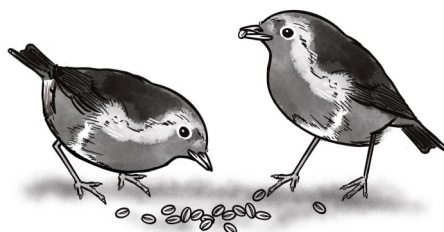


**The Dinosaur
illumination was
designed by Thomas
Gould, who is a pupil
at Highley School.**



**Christmas Entertainment for
Highley Companions**

Sunday 4th January	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 11th January	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 18th January	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10am Holy Communion	St Bartholomew, Glazeley
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 25th January	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
Sunday 1st February	9.30am Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	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