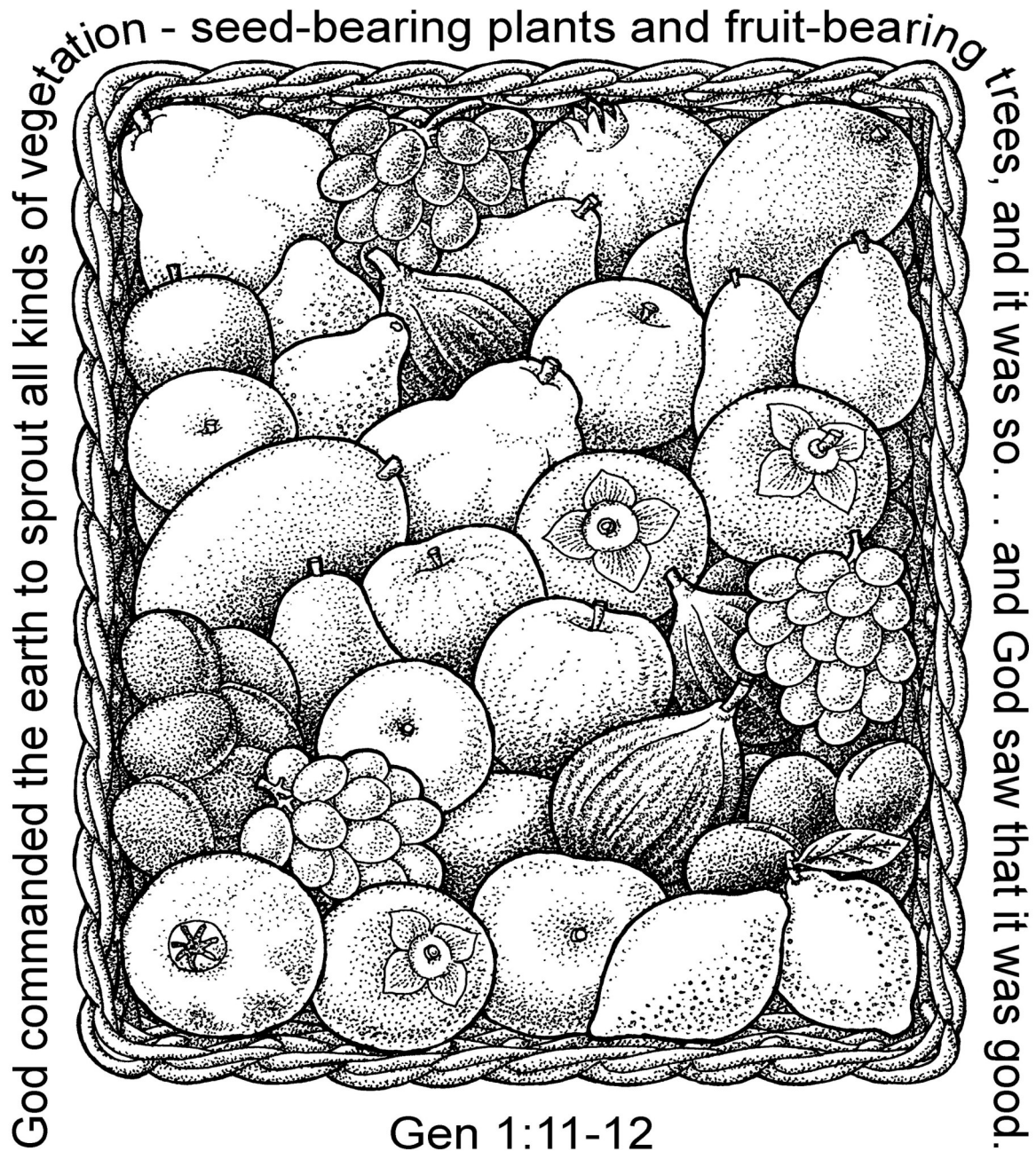


THE

70p

FORUM

October 2026



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Activities in Highley last Month



Left: George Buckley gets the Companions moving!



Out and about on the Canal again



Look! It's a heron!

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 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 an annual subscription to the Highley Forum please contact the Editor to be added to one of our distribution rounds. Cost: £7 per year Advertising If you would like to advertise in the Forum please contact the Editor at highleyforumeditor@gmail.com

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The Severn Valley Group of Churches:

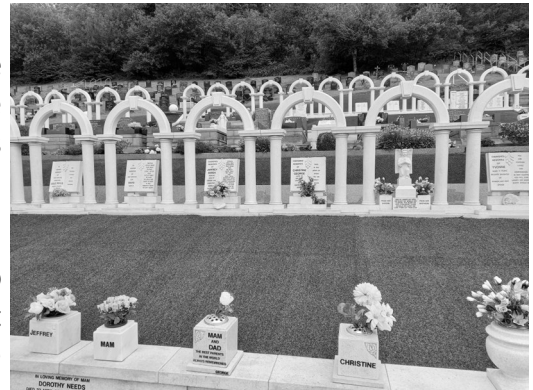
St. Mary, Highley
 St. Mary, Billingsley
 St. Peter, Chelmarsh
 St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Darkest Sorrow, yet the most shining selflessness

A few years ago, having spent a few days in South Wales, Keith and I decided to make a detour on the way home and visit a small Welsh town called Tonypany, in the Rhonda Valley near Merthyr Tydfil. My mother was evacuated to Tonypany during World War 2 and often spoke about her time there.

As we followed the Satnav's directions, we saw a sign to Aberfan and decided to make a detour from the detour. It is 60 years since the tragedy at Aberfan happened. Those of us of a certain age may well recall it. The slag heaps, as they were known, which rose above the small village near to the colliery where the coal was mined, collapsed and 110,000 cubic metres of slurry slid into the village of Aberfan, destroying the school and nearby houses and killing 116 children and 28 adults.

The waste from the mine had been built into a hill on the mountainside above Aberfan, 35 metres high. Concerns had been raised and ignored in previous months and weeks. Nothing had been done. There were seven such heaps and after three weeks of heavy rainfall the slag became destabilised and slid down like a huge lava flow enveloping the school.



The report detailing what followed does not make pleasant reading. Procedures not followed, wilful disregard of warning signs, self-preservation and cover-ups—it's all there, and more. It has often been said that power corrupts and in circumstances like this it doesn't take much digging to find evidence. Common sense and integrity are often crushed under the slag heap of power, image and financial gain. Eventually the National Coal Board was held responsible, but that didn't bring back all those lives.

As we reflect on it today, we are left asking the question, *'Where was God when this happened?'*

This is the question asked whenever something dreadful happens. It's not an easy one to answer. Just as we often pass judgement on the rights and wrongs in situations when we are not directly involved, so it's easy to be angry that God didn't intervene and stop that dreadful loss of life. Anger and blame can be destructive emotions in an already destructive situation. Moreover they can be a block to moving forward with healing. That's not to say that they shouldn't be vented in a safe place. In my experience, the safest person to vent them to is God. He is able to hold us as we hurt and comfort us as we grieve.

I can't tell you why God didn't intervene, but I do know that each one of us bears the responsibility for our choices and actions. What we choose to do has consequences, sometimes far-reaching and affects more people than just ourselves. Sometimes there are consequences that we have not even considered. Sometimes we have ignored possible consequences in order to achieve our main objective.

Tragedy can bring out the worst or the best in people. At Aberfan, the community pulled together. Grief was shared, although many of those who survived experienced guilt that they had lived. There was an outpouring of deep emotion and condolence from ordinary folk across the nation and beyond. The Memorial Garden on the site of the Primary School has several benches and plaques from various groups, even as far away as the miners in South Africa.



On the 50th anniversary in 2016 King Charles III (then Prince of Wales) summed up the community's response: *'it was a time of darkest sorrow, but also the most shining selflessness.'*

People gave their energy to support each another. A local Baptist Minister, Revd Kenneth Hayes, who lost his eldest son at the school, responded in this way: *'For 36 hours he was working non-stop either at the school, or going around comforting bereaved and stricken families and kept open house for many who came seeking news and comfort.'*

The Bible teaches that grief is real, human, and sacred and God responds to it with comfort, nearness, and the promise of future restoration.

Psalm 34:18 *'The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit'*

John 11:35 *'Jesus wept at the news of his friend Lazarus' death'*

Matthew 5:4 *'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted'*

Revelation 21:4 (at the end of time, when Jesus returns) *'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'*

We may not understand now, but we are promised that one day, the world and all of creation will be restored. In the meantime, let's work for peace and integrity in a world that is often sadly lacking in both.

Val Smith



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

St Mary's Highley

Ride and Stride

On Saturday 12th September across the whole Benefice individuals, couples and groups visited our churches on foot, bicycles and cars, taking part in the annual *Ride n Stride* to raise money for local churches and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. SHCT exists to keep our local churches in good repair and have been (and hopefully will be) generous in grants to achieve this purpose. (see photo below of Robert and Pat Whitefoot receiving their certificate last year.)



If you haven't visited **St Mary's Charity Shop** recently, go and have a look. It's bursting with interesting items that you may well need or even things you don't know you want or need until you see them! An extra event is planned to be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 10th October from 10am –12.30pm. Enjoy strolling around the with added bonus of extra space and who knows, there may even be a cuppa on the brew!

Allsorts have now got their Autumn programme ready, so take a look on page 31 for up and coming events. Below (right) you can see Carole Mills receiving a facial from Dawn Jones at last month's meeting. Put the first Tuesday of every month in your diary!



Left:

Pat and Robert
Whitefoot receive
their Ride n Stride
certificates

Right:

Carole Mills
receives a facial



Chelmarsh News

As I write, we are preparing for the harvest festival on Thursday 24th September, with the Harvest Supper the next day. Both events are popular and are well-attended. I do repeat my appeal for more helpers for the harvest supper, to help our team who are enthusiastic but, it is rumoured, may be getting older each year.



The community events we do in Chelmarsh such as this and the plant sale earlier in the year are practical expressions of us being the body of Christ and serving the village. They are well attended and provide much needed glue to help people come together and stay connected. I suspect they will become an even more important part of our ministry in the future. Please also consider volunteering for other groups in the village that run events and venues; I am sure new blood is always appreciated.

100 years of Winnie-the-Pooh



One hundred years ago, on 14th October 1926, the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published. It was set in the Hundred Acre Wood, an innocent world described as "largely Edenic" but based on Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which the Milne family often explored from their home in nearby Hartfield. It came about through the encouragement of E H Shepard, Milne's colleague on the humorous magazine *Punch*, who provided the beguiling illustrations.

Alan Alexander Milne was firstly a playwright and occasional mystery story writer who, again with Shepard, wrote the book of children's verse *When We Were Very Young*, which contained the seeds of *Winnie-the-Pooh* and its sequel, *The House on Pooh Corner*, all of which proved extremely popular.

It was apparently during a family visit to London Zoo, where Christopher Robin encountered a tame bear called Winnipeg, that the book was conceived. Winnie's literary friends, such as Piglet and Eeyore, were originally toys of the real Christopher Robin.

Sadly, the book eventually had an adverse effect on the Milne family. The author said that he felt "amazement and disgust" at the fame his son had had thrust upon him: "I do not want C R Milne to ever wish that his name was Charles Robert." Nevertheless, the son did become estranged from his parents, especially following his marriage to his mother's niece.

The effect of the book on others has been happier. A plaque at Ashdown Forest declares that Milne and Shepard "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world".

Despite creating a kind of Eden, Milne, who was a pacifist, said little about religion. But he did say on joining the Home Guard that "in fighting Hitler we are truly fighting the Devil, the Anti-Christ ... Hitler was a crusader against God."

The four Winnie-the-Pooh books went on to sell more than 50 million copies worldwide. The first book became the first-ever foreign-language book on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

St Mary's Billingsley

We have just had our Harvest Festival, helped by Astley Abbots and Tasley Choir, who celebrated evensong with us. In spite of difficult growing conditions the church was well decorated with produce from gardens and local farms. We are very grateful to everyone who donated to us and for our small team who then laid this out in the church.



The choir were magnificent; there was a wall of sound coming from the chancel and it was also great to hear the organ being played. We are very grateful to the choir, Stephen Lomas their director, Clive Munday for officiating and Hugh for playing the organ. We had around 20 people in the congregation and with the choir as well the church was crowded for the post-service refreshments.

This was the last evening service for the year, but they have been very well supported. We are now planning for next year and also for Christmas, when again we hope to have an organist; it really makes a difference to the music.

Whilst evening services have now concluded, our 8am Holy Communion services run all the year long and are the bedrock of regular prayer and worship in the church. They take place on the 4th Sunday of the month and all are welcome.

St Bartholomew, Glazeley

Last month, I was looking forward to welcoming Rachael Davenhill to play the organ at our August service. Rachael did indeed arrive and started to play but there was no sound from the organ; fortunately we discovered this before the service had started. We ended up singing unaccompanied; there was a particularly splendid rendition of 'Jesu, lover of my soul' to the tune of Aberystwyth. Organ tuner Phil, already booked for a routine visit was summonsed with renewed urgency and with assistant Hugh (known to attenders of Daddy's Hat concerts), he diagnosed the problem. Mice had chewed through the main air pipe. This has been repaired, the organ serviced and we are looking forward to Rachael playing for us when she is next available, in December.



I am pleased to report that the entire drive past the church has now been resurfaced; many thanks to Laura and Andrew for doing this work. The church was able to make a donation to help with the cost. This makes access to the church much easier, especially for the less mobile, where the potholes were a real issue.

Our Harvest Festival occurs too late for this month's news, but I will report on it next time. We will also be having our usual monthly breakfast at the Down on 17th October at 9am; please contact myself (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk) or Marion (marion.corfield@talktalk.net) if you want to come; cost £10. It's well worth putting in your diary!

James the Least of All

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained... by the Revd Dr Gary Bowness.

Parish Pump 2026

On how long a sermon should last

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50-minute exposition on the theology of St Paul concerning women wearing hats in church is, I am sure, of real interest to you. But as your sermon slowly unfolds, I suspect it will prompt quite a different concern among your congregation. Have they set the oven timer to come on too early?

Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological importance may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation. You know the look – you see it on golden Labradors whenever they try and work out what their owners are telling them.

There are certain sure signs that should warn you when you have preached for long enough. One is when members of the congregation reach for their prayer books to try to work out for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say “and finally” is another.

Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon. But when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies, that is absolute proof that it is time to stop.

There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard eight minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard the latch on the vestry door for the second time. That meant he was back, and ready to play the last hymn. Unfortunately, one Sunday, his dog ran away.

While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, discussing the food laws set forth in Deuteronomy, and arguing for a Deutero-Isaiah. I was headed for the Babylonian exile when we all heard the vestry door re-open.

After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck. And at the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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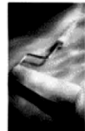
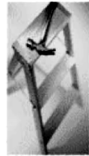
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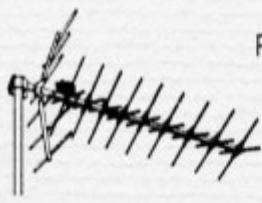


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Letter from Westminster

I am truly excited to launch my latest local campaign. Having already taken views on our high streets, health and social care services and pubs, now I want to celebrate the individuals who quietly make a positive difference in our community. My 'South Shropshire Hero' competition will be running until the end of the year and I want as many constituents as possible to get involved. Categories for nominations include assisting with food banks or community kitchens, charity fundraising, helping neighbours, litter picking, running sports or youth clubs and many more. It has been fantastic to see thousands of residents taking part in my previous surveys, so I look forward to reading all the nominations in the months ahead. Nominate your local hero right now on my website.



One issue which comes up time and time again in conversations with constituents is our local public transport. So, I have written directly to the Prime Minister urging him not to leave rural communities behind in any future public transport reforms. As an area with many elderly residents, buses in particular are essential in South Shropshire. I regularly speak with constituents who are unable to drive and therefore depend on buses to connect with friends and family, do their shopping, and attend appointments. It's not just older people, as many younger residents also rely on buses to get to schools, colleges, apprenticeships, and jobs.

However, the fact of the matter is that existing services are scarce, unreliable, and expensive. Shropshire Council's core funding to support and improve the local bus network has fallen drastically from £3.07 million to £2.86 million – a direct cut of £210,000. Meanwhile, the national conversation (not least from the Prime Minister himself) has been utterly dominated by our urban areas. I firmly believe that buses are more important in rural areas than anywhere else, as there are often no alternative means of getting around. So, going forward, it is my intention to ensure that the new Prime Minister does not leave rural public transport behind.

Finally, it is an absolute honour to have been appointed by Kemi Badenoch as the Shadow Minister of State for Defence. The world is in its most precarious situation since the end of the Second World War, therefore the UK must be ready today to face the wars of tomorrow. Ministers must prepare us for conflict, which requires a whole-of-society approach in partnership with industry and backed by firm spending commitments. I look forward to working closely with Shadow Defence Secretary James Cartlidge and the team in holding the Government to account.

As a Shadow Minister, I will be responsible for holding Labour to account on a whole host of defence matters, raising questions and leading debates in Parliament. I will also be actively reviewing the readiness of our nation's armed forces and helping to shape Conservative Party policy in the area of defence. In this role, I will be applying over three decades of experience working in defence and security around the world, from serving as a rifleman in the Royal Green Jackets to recently completing the Royal College of Defence Studies' Global Strategy Programme.

Stuart Anderson MP

Member of Parliament for South Shropshire Tel: 01746 555025

Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk 75a High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX



It is with a very heavy heart I open this month's article with the incredibly sad news of the death of a serving Parish Councillor. Councillor Chris Stanley had been a member of Highley Parish Council for four years before his untimely passing in September. Chris will be hugely missed by all at HPC and I am very thankful for all he did during his time on the council. Rest In Peace, Chris.

With the temperature (finally!) starting to drop, the leaves on the trees turning brown and some much needed rain starting to fall (I wasn't sure my lawn was every going to be green again!) Autumn is very much upon us. Autumn is my favourite season and whilst it can be sad to realise Summer is over I certainly appreciate the cooler days and the beautiful colours nature displays during this time of year.

Planning for a big autumnal village event has already begun and I am looking forward to the immense sense of pride I feel when walking from the Severn Centre to The Church to remember those who died serving their country. I am of course talking about Remembrance Sunday. This year it will be November 8th and I hope to see many of you on the day.

After Remembrance Sunday we'll be back at The Severn Centre before you know it for our annual Christmas Light Switch On. Again planning is already well underway and I will have more to share next month.

Tom Quinn Chairman – Highley Parish Council

Be nice to your knees

Osteoarthritis is the main cause of knee pain in people over 50. Here are some tips that may help: Be aware of the several major groups of muscles that support your knees. They include the quadriceps at the side and front of your thighs, the hamstrings at the back, and your calf muscles. If you can give these muscles regular exercise that keeps them strong, they will help protect your knees.

Be aware that your knees *like and need* to move. Using them less is one of the worst things you can do, because it only weakens them. If you have bad osteoarthritis, then ask your doctor for alternative ways of exercising them, instead of walking.

Be aware that knees do better when you lose weight. Just losing one kg of body weight will bring down the compressive force on your knees by as much as 4kg with each step. That will help preserve your knee cartilage.

It seems that doctors disagree over the value of taking supplements such as glucosamine or turmeric, but they say that if you find they work for you, then certainly keep taking them.



Crossword Clues

Across

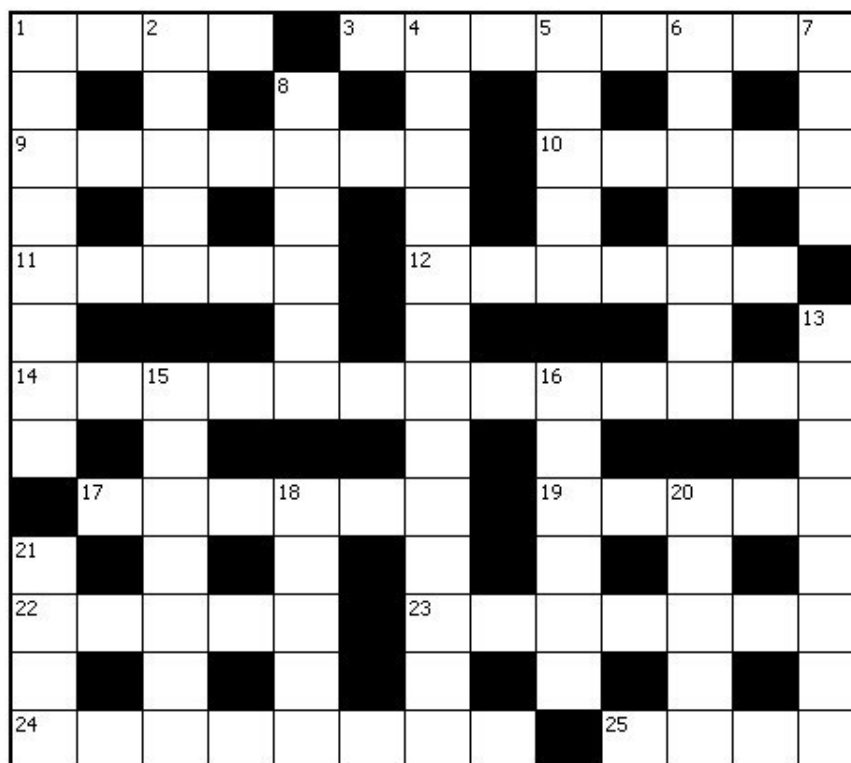
- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Crossword

Answers on page 33



Have a go at Sudoku



Easy

Medium

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

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

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UCB Word for Today

Always do a Good Job

‘The LORD God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.’ Genesis 2:15

The first thing God did when He made Adam was put him to work. That’s because work gives us a sense of purpose, meaning, and dignity. ‘God put the man in the garden...to...work it.’ So Adam was a gardener. But whether you count cash in a bank, trade futures on the Stock Exchange, flip burgers in a beach-side stand, whip up pasta specials at a five-star restaurant, fell giant timber in the forest or split and deliver firewood, coach a team, pastor a congregation, publish best-selling books, deliver newspapers in the early morning hours, star in your own television show, farm a large acreage, mow and edge neighbourhood lawns, go out on the road as a salesperson for computers, drive a lorry loaded with machinery, build homes, clean swimming pools, argue cases before a judge, or settle family disputes as a counsellor, always do a good job.

A wise man once said: ‘Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence.’ The biblical character Daniel did that. And like cream, he rose to the top in Babylon. ‘Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him’ (Daniel 6:3 KJV). There are no small jobs, only people who perceive them as small and become small in doing them. The Bible says: ‘Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper’ (Proverbs 13:4 NLT). So always do a good job.

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- Highley Bowls Club & Indoor Bowling
- Highley Reach Youth Club
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Details correct at time of going to print - January 2025



Working together for the people of Highley



Wordsearch

LUKE was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, and tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.



LUKE

PAGAN

GOOD

SON

PAUL

SAMARITAN

FEAST

GREEK

COMPASSION

WOMEN

POOR

SINNERS

DAY

PHYSICIAN

JERUSALEM

PRODIGAL

PARABLES

ROME

WRITTEN

TRAVELLING

FAITHFUL

EARLY

LEPERS

CHRISTIANS

GOSPEL

Highley Companions

On 20th August we were treated to a lively concert by Ukes on the Edge, a very entertaining ukulele band from Kinver. They performed a varied programme of songs and encouraged the Companions and Volunteers to join in, which we did – with great enthusiasm! Afterwards musicians and audience alike enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs and Gay's cake!

On 3rd September we once again invited George Buckley to challenge the Companions with seated fitness exercises. George's songs and jokes helped everyone to get into the spirit of the session and we were soon throwing and catching balls, with varying degrees of skill and George provided us with a great target! After all that activity, we were more than ready for our baked potato lunch followed by Elaine's delicious cake.

We had a beautiful day cruising along the canal with a number of our Companions. It was a bit chilly when we set off, not boiling hot like last time and so we needed the blankets to start off with. As we travelled along, enjoying the ducks, swans and the beautiful colours of the flowers, Elaine even managed to get a photo of the elusive heron. It was so relaxing and we enjoyed a lunch of fish and chips which were delicious, followed by cake and more tea and coffee. A really enjoyable day!

Please remember that if you or a loved one are struggling with memory issues, whether diagnosed or not, please contact Elaine Moore on 07870262944 for a confidential chat about our friendly group. We are not a drop in group. Leaflets are also available in the Pharmacy, the GP Surgery and the Severn Centre.

Highley Companions

What God won't ask

- ⇒ God won't ask what kind of car you drove; He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transport.
- ⇒ God won't ask how big your house was; He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
- ⇒ God won't ask about the clothes you had in your wardrobe; He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
- ⇒ God won't ask what your highest salary was; He'll ask if what compromises you made to achieve it.
- ⇒ God won't ask what your job title was; He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- ⇒ God won't ask how many friends you had; He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- ⇒ God won't ask where you lived; He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.



All in the month of October

800 years ago, on 3rd October 1226 that St Francis of Assisi, Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, and founder of the Franciscan Order.

300 years ago, on 28th October 1726 that Jonathan Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels* was published.

175 years ago, on 18th October 1851 that Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick* was published.

125 years ago, on 19th October 1901 that Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1* and *March No. 2* were performed for the first time, in Liverpool.

100 years ago, on 14th October 1926 that the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

90 years ago, from 5th to 31st October that The Jarrow March took place. 200 men set off from Jarrow in north-east England to Westminster, to draw attention to the severe unemployment and poverty in their area following the closure of a shipyard.

80 years ago, on 15th October 1946 that Hermann Goering, German Nazi leader, died. He was sentenced to death at the Nuremberg Trials but poisoned himself with cyanide on the eve of his execution.

Also 80 years ago, on 20th October 1946 that the puppet character Muffin the Mule made his first TV appearance on the BBC series *For the Children*.

75 years ago, on 18th October 1951 that Snowdonia National Park was established in Wales. It was Britain's third National Park. Also 75 years ago, on 30th October 1951 that Dartmoor National Park was established in the UK.

75 years ago, on 31st October 1951 that zebra crossings were introduced in Britain. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire.

70 years ago, on 17th October 1956 that Britain's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, was officially opened. It closed in March 2003, nearly 47 years later.

Also 70 years ago, on 23rd October to 10th November 1956 that the Hungarian Revolution began and was crushed by the Soviet Union.

65 years ago, on 6th October 1961 that US President John F Kennedy advised Americans to build bomb shelters to protect themselves from nuclear fallout, in the event of an attack by the Soviet Union.

60 years ago, on 21st October 1966 that the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery spoil tip (slag heap) collapsed and fell onto the village. Worst hit was Pantglas Junior School. In all, 116 children and 28 adults were killed.

50 years ago, on 4th October 1976 that the InterCity 125 High Speed Train service began operating in the UK.

Also 50 years ago, on 25th October 1976 that the National Theatre in London officially opened.

40 years ago, on 9th October 1986 that Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered in London.

Also 40 years ago, on 29th October 1986 that the M25 orbital motorway around Greater London was opened.



Dave, Becky and Anthony Jennings



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Remembering St Francis of Assisi



Eight hundred years ago, on 3rd October 1226, St Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, he founded the Franciscan Order.

He died at the age of about 44 of severe illness, including eye disease, malaria and exhaustion, possibly following a 40-day fast. He was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX two years later.

Francis' father was a wealthy silk merchant, Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, and his mother a noblewoman from Provence. He was one of seven children – called Francesco by his father, who was an enthusiast for France. At first, he behaved as a typical son of a wealthy merchant, but several things changed his attitude – one of which was his capture and imprisonment for nearly a year after fighting in a war against Perugia.

He also had visions and underwent a change in character leading him to a strong commitment to help the poor – which led to estrangement from his father, whom he eventually renounced.

He aligned himself strongly with the poor, on one occasion begging with them at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He also spent times in lonely places, seeking divine illumination, and was said to have received the stigmata during an angelic vision.

Often pictured wearing a plain brown habit tied with a rope of three knots, symbolising poverty, chastity and obedience, St Francis is one of the most honoured people in Christianity. As joint patron saint of Italy with Catherine of Siena, in 2013 Archbishop Bergoglio of Argentina chose the papal name of Francis in his honour, to become Pope Francis.

Many pilgrimage routes lead to the tomb of St Francis in Assisi, and he is honoured by many churches, including Lutherans and Anglicans.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born
to Eternal Life.
Amen.

Parish Pump October 2026

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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.

Answers to Wordsearch (from page 18)



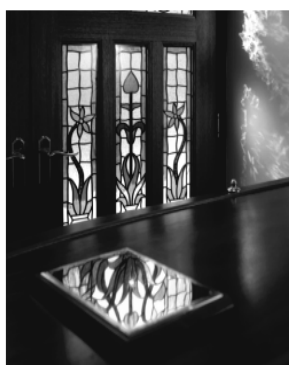
Answers to Sudoku (from page 15)

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

Easy

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

Medium



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Sustainable Highley

Sustainable Highley - We can make Highley sustainable! Please email your ideas to our new email address: sustainablehighley@gmail.com. Any ideas please, that help us save energy, resources and protect the environment that we share.

Plug in solar - Joddy

Plug-in solar panels are now legal to buy and use across the country. The government suggests that you could save up to £150 a year, with panels providing up to 20% of average home electricity use.

The easy-to-install panels can be plugged into a standard 240v outdoor socket, and can produce up to 800W of power, enough to run a typical fridge, television, Wi-Fi router, laptop, phone charger and an Xbox S operating all at once (when the sun is shining). You basically use what you can during the day, and anything that is unused goes back into the grid (the setups don't come with a battery at the moment).

This all comes with no installation cost and without taking any electricity from the grid. You would need to check that your wiring and fuse box are up to date and safe.

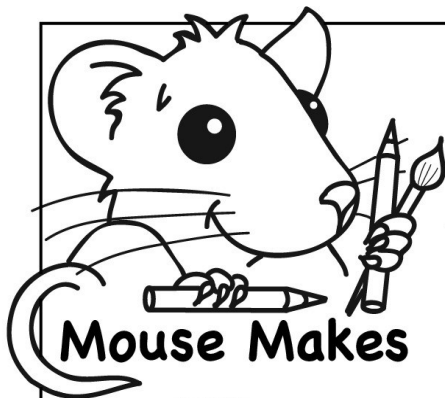
The legal changes follow rigorous, independent safety testing, covering all key electrical elements, which shows that compliant panels are safe and compatible with UK wiring. You will need to notify your Distribution Network Operator, to help them manage the additional input in their network. Make sure to follow the mounting instructions, as they still need to be properly positioned and secure.

Before purchasing or installing plug-in solar devices, people should check whether any permissions are required for the property. This may include permission from a landlord and/or building owner or freeholder permission, planning permission or listed building consent.

Pollinator plants for the Autumn - Tony

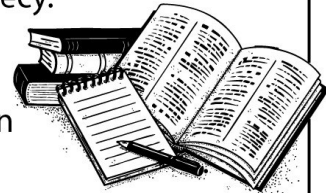
If you want to get some Autumnal colour in your garden and nectar for late flying insects at this time of year, consider the following plants: Stonecrop or sedum, ivy, autumn sage, sneezewort, leadwort or devil's bit scabious.





The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged sword.
Hebrews 4:12

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.

6. God's word is like? A _____ and a _____
Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the _____ of God.
Hebrews 4:12

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

BIBLESUNDAY

Looking Back—on the Jarrow March

Ninety years ago, from 5th to 31st October, the Jarrow March took place. Some 200 men walked from Jarrow in north-east England to Westminster to draw attention to the severe unemployment and poverty in their area.

Because of the huge number of unemployed in the town, on the banks of the Tyne, the marchers felt compelled to do something dramatic to stir the government out of its apparent complacency. Their loss of Palmer's shipyard two years previously had meant that a staggering 70 per cent of the town were jobless.

They called their walk of nearly 300 miles a Crusade, and they received widespread support from local political parties of all kinds on their way to London, and from the population generally.

Before they left, the mayor, Alderman J W Thompson, the town clerk, members of the town council, and their extremely supportive MP, Ellen Wilkinson, attended a service at Christ Church, in which all the clergymen and ministers of the town took part. The Bishop of Jarrow, Dr Geoffrey Gordon, gave a blessing.

But there was little official support from the Church at top level, who seemed to regard the Crusade as political and disruptive. Dr Gordon was in fact rebuked for this reason by his superior, the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Hensley Henson.

However, the men walked for 25 days in a peaceful line, causing no trouble at all. Miss Wilkinson joined them for much of the journey. On reaching London, the 12,000-signature petition calling for the government to build more industries was presented to Parliament, but it was not debated.

Although the men from Jarrow, who returned home by train, undoubtedly regarded their Crusade as a failure, it did in fact effect change, leading up to the creation of the Welfare State after the war.

Parish Pump October 2026

Observations and smiles

Sides

It was my wedding day, and no one was happier than my mother. But as she approached the church doors, an usher asked, "Which side are you on?"

"Oh, no," she said, dismayed. "Are they fighting already?"

Scammer

I got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords."

I said, "Great. What are they? I'll grab a pen."

Pastors

What do they call pastors in Germany?

German Shepherds.



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**For more information, please contact Kath or Sue on 01746 860005 or
Email highleyminors@hotmail.co.uk**

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	01746 861121
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		07709989119
Friday Event	Mrs. Rachel Williams	the-friday-event@hotmail.com	862875
MCMC's Discos	Mark Williams		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 Andrew Powell		07368557716
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			
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.gov.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	Dan Dyson	General Manager	860000
Severn Strollers	Barbara Skilton		862003
Women's Institute	Terry Stanley		07576156110

What's on?

Allsorts

*Allsorts of topics
for Allsorts of
ladies of Allsorts
of ages.*

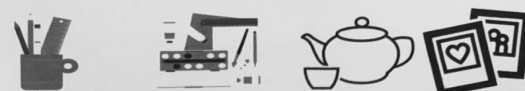


 **FIRST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH**  **AT THE PARISH HALL
2-4PM**

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

	6th October:	Richard Churchly- Talk on Surnames.
	3rd Nov:	Allsorts of Allsorts.
	24th Nov:	Christmas Meal.
	2nd Feb:	Beetle Drive
	2nd March:	David Poyner- God and a scientist

All ladies welcome! ♥



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AT
**HIGHLEY
PARISH HALL
MONDAYS
2PM – 4PM**

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RELAX




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ALL-AGE COMMUNITY DROP-INS

 No
appointment
needed

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- OCTOBER: 23rd
- NOVEMBER: 27th
- DECEMBER: No drop-in

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 If the service provider is not available on the day, the HPC team can signpost you to someone who can help.

 For more information about the services available, scan the QR code or visit our Facebook page. 

A COMMUNITY OFFER RUN BY
HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL AT THE SEVERN CENTRE

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

Timetable as of 16.11.25

125

Kidderminster to Bridgnorth via Habberley, Bewdley, Highley, Chelmarsh

Monday to Friday

(except Public Holidays)

Kidderminster Bus Station	0605	0730	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830
Kidderminster General Hospital	0613	0738	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Habberley, Canterbury Rd Shops	0618	0743	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743	1843
Bewdley, Load Street	0629	0754	0854	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1554	1654	1754	1854
Buttontoak, adj Wyre Cottage	0637	0802	0902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1702	1802	-
Highley, Bache Arms	0656	0821	0921	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	1621	1721	1821	-
Chelmarsh, opp Church	0705	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830	-
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore	0719	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 Rd Shops	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, adj 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, opp Church	-	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830	-
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore	-	0844	0944	1044	1144	1244	1344	1444	1544	1644	1744	1844	-

Monday to Friday

(except Public Holidays)

Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore	-	0655	0755	0855	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1455	1555	1655	1755
Chelmarsh, adj 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, adj Wyre Cottage	-	0738	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Bewdley Load St	0625	0747	0847	0947	1047	1147	1247	1347	1447	1547	1647	1747	1847
Habberley, Canterbury Rd Shops	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, Sainsburys Superstore	-	-	-	0855	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1455	1555	1655	1755
Chelmarsh, adj 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, adj Wyre Cottage	-	-	-	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Bewdley Load St	0647	0747	0847	0947	1047	1147	1247	1347	1447	1547	1647	1747	1847
Habberley, Canterbury Rd Shops	0658	0758	0858	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900
Kidderminster General Hospital	0703	0803	0903	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	1606	1706	1806	1906
Kidderminster Bus Station	0710	0810	0910	1016	1116	1216	1316	1416	1516	1616	1716	1816	1916



Pawz 4 Pampering

Professional Dog Grooming

- Fully Insured
- Based in Highley
- A caring and friendly grooming service for your furry friends

Emmi Pet Teeth Cleaning Available

For appointments and enquiries:
07961 230349

Crossword Solution from page 15

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



Piano tutor

School age & adult,
beginner or advanced.
Based in Kinlet, but I can
come to you. Some day times
available, but limited after-school.

Francis Engleheart
07710 288526 • fengleheart@hotmail.com

Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins: 2026

Thursday 8th & 22nd October

Recycling & green bins:

Thursday 1st, 15th & 29th October

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

Regular Events

Severn Strollers	Mondays (not Bank Holidays) 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

**No transport for essential journeys?
We may be able to help...**



*For further information, or
to book a car, please contact:*



Andrew Powell
07368557716

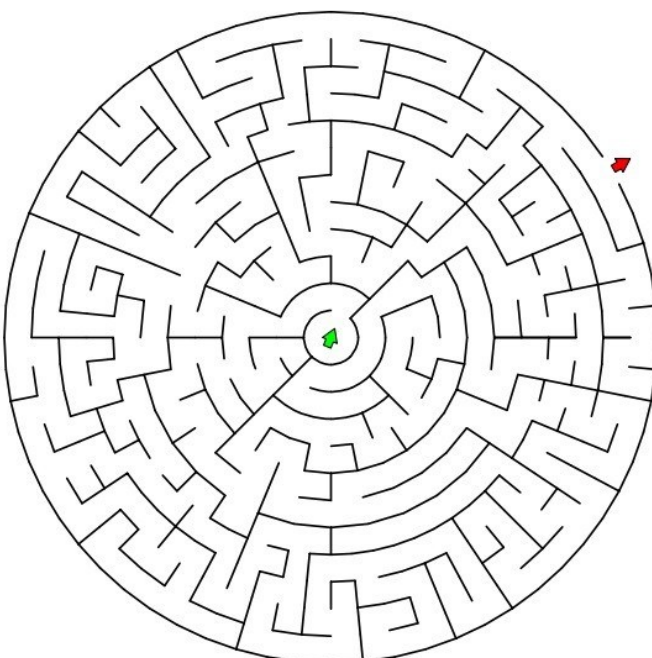
Reasonable charges

The scheme is managed by Shropshire Council's
passenger transport services

All Round Property Maintenance	10	Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25	Severn Edge Vets	10
Cleobury Country Centre	11			Second Sense Hearing	21
Cost Cutter	22	Highley Minors	29	Shropshire Registration Services	25
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	14			That's Nice Creations	35
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16	Irena Foot Clinic	10	Tele - Satt Aerials	11
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals) Ar-	10	Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25	Vivians Mobile Hairdressing	11
Arc Tree Care	16	Kinlet C of E School	24		
	25	Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	16		
	10	Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25		
		Ovenclean	16		
		Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24		
		Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	31		

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Find your way out of the maze



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



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

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

Wed 4th Nov – Craft and chat – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 6th Nov – Christmas shelf sitter – 2 hours - £25

Saturday 7th Nov – Shop closed – At Himley Hall Bon Fire Display

Wed 11th Nov – Craft and chat – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 13th Nov – Christmas drinking glasses workshop – 3 hours - £30

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

Wed 18th Nov – Craft and chat – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 20th Nov – Christmas Gonk workshop – 2.5 hours - £25

Saturday 21st Nov – Shop closed – The Anstice Craft fair

Wed 25th Nov – Craft and chat – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 27th Nov – Christmas bauble – 2 hours - £10

Sat 28th Nov – Shop closed – Bantock House craft fair and Ironbridge Christmas light switch on

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

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

thatsnicecreations@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/thatsnicecreations

07709989119

Looking for a party with a difference, then why not have a Powertex party? Hen nights/stag dos, children's parties, we do them all!

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Church Services in October 2026

Sunday 4th October	9.30am Morning Service	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Wednesday 7th October	10am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 11th October	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 18th October	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 October	8am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Billingsley
	9.30am Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh
	10.30am Informal Service	St Mary's Church, Highley
Sunday 1st November	9.30am Morning Service	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)



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