THE

70p

FORUM

November 2026



Serving Highley, Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Were you there?





Pop-Up Shop – A Wonderful Community Morning!

What a lovely morning we had at our Pop-Up Shop, held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 10th October! There was a wonderful array of bargains to be found, along with plenty of delicious refreshments to enjoy. It was wonderful to see such fantastic support from our local community, and the warm, welcoming atmosphere made the morning extra special.

We are delighted to share that **we raised a fantastic £250 towards our Community Shop funds!** This is a wonderful achievement!

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along and supported us and especially to our wonderful volunteers, who gave their time and energy to make the event such a great success. We really couldn't do it without you!

Watch out for our next Pop-Up Shop in the spring! We can't wait to welcome you all back for more bargains, refreshments and, of course, wonderful company!



Marion Corfield (from St Bartholomew's Church. Glazeley) has encouraged Rev'd David Poyner to pass on this intriguing photo which seems to indicate some sort of divine recognition of his ministry!

Marion suggested the caption "Not created by AI" - which is true; it was created by David's colleague at Aston University, Professor Ros Bill, who is on the left in the picture. David seems to think that it is of some significance that this edition of the Forum coincides with All Saint's Day, although some have aired concerns about the lack of liturgical apparel for such an occasion!

Please send your caption suggestions to :
highleyforumeditor@gmail.com

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

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.

Parish Hall Office

.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.

Highley Forum

Please send correspondence to:

highleyforumeditor@gmail.com

For the attention of The Editor

Reports and event details from groups or societies are welcome.

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Cost: £7 per year

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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

Lest We Forget

I am reminded this year more than ever before that there are so many countries at war with each other. My generation (the so-called Baby-boomers) and those following have not known what it is like to live under the threat of bombardment and invasion. Yet, when we listen to the news, it sounds too close for comfort. It makes this time of year seem even more poignant and relevant.

War inevitably means untold horrors and injury and death. The poppy has become a symbol of this waste of human life.

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

How can we learn from past mistakes? After all, the First World War in the 20th Century was meant to be the war that ended all wars. Yet 20 years later the world erupted again—all in the name of '*Lebensraum*' - literally '*space to live'*, but in reality meaning extension of borders to occupy territory beyond established borders.

Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

***'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Micah 4:3).**

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours.

'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.' (Micah 4:5).

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

This year the National Service for Remembrance will be held on 8th November at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and include the annual march past involving up to 10,000 veterans and eligible participants. It will be followed by formal two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November.

This year Remembrance marks several significant milestones:

The 110th anniversary of the 1916 Battles of the Somme and Jutland, as well as the introduction of wartime conscription; the 70th anniversary since the Suez Crisis of 1956; the 25th anniversary since UK armed forces first entered Afghanistan, following the 2001 deployments. There will be people in our villages who served during these times.

Here in South Shropshire, as always on Remembrance Sunday, there will be services and Acts of Remembrance in all our village churches. For some it will be simply gathering around a memorial to keep the silence and quietly remember those who were known to us or our families. In other places there will be a short service in the church first.

Whether you are joining the walk from the Severn Centre to St Mary's Churchyard or attending the service beforehand, or attending one or other of the Acts of Remembrance in the villages, or watching the national event on the television, let us ask God's Spirit to make us all people of peace, justice and compassion in today's troubled world.

Val Smith

Remembrance



In November we come to remember
How war tore our country apart,
From village and town and all around
Men and boys left home and hearth.

Mothers and wives and sisters all
Saw their brave young men go away,
For some it meant the ultimate price
As they gave their tomorrows for our today.

Another Man left His home above
To rescue this world from sin,
It cost Him His life which He freely gave
So new life could enter in.

In this world there will always be war,
But the time will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.



by Megan Carter

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

St Mary's Highley

Friday Event Weekend Away
Cleobury Mortimer Pioneer Centre- You Matter!



What a fantastic weekend we had on our Friday Event Youth Club weekend away from 2nd–4th October! It was a wonderful few days filled with sun, fun, friendship, adventure, laughter and, most importantly, time to reflect explore the topic of *'You Matter',* and how much we all matter to God.

Throughout the weekend, we followed the **'You Matter'** series from Youth for Christ, a collection of short, thought-provoking videos that encouraged some really meaningful discussions. Together we explored what it means to know that we are all valued, loved and important, not just to those around us, but to God too.

Of course, there was plenty of adventure too! We enjoyed caving, abseiling and the zip line, with everyone showing great courage, enthusiasm and determination. It was wonderful to see the young people supporting and cheering each other on.

One of the highlights was our wonderful campfire evening, complete with toasting marshmallows, singing and being taught the now-famous **'We're Making the Purple Soup'** song! We're sure that one will be remembered for a long time to come! We were also treated to some absolutely fantastic food throughout the weekend, which was very much appreciated after all our activities!

The young people were an absolute credit to themselves and to Friday Event. Their kindness, enthusiasm, willingness to join in and the way they looked out for one another made us incredibly proud. In fact, we must have worn them out with all the excitement, because by 11pm on Saturday night they were all tucked up in bed and fast asleep – something we certainly hadn't expected!

A special thanks to Rev Kina, who kindly came along to spend time with us, share some encouraging words and bring some lovely gifts. It was wonderful to have her join us.

What a brilliant weekend – we can't wait for the next one!

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this wonderful weekend possible. We would especially like to thank the amazing congregation of Highley Church, whose generosity meant that every single one of our young people was sponsored to attend. Your support, not only through your kind financial contributions, which helped make the trip more affordable, but also through your prayers and encouragement, has meant so much to us.

We all came home tired after a brilliant weekend, with lots of great memories and, hopefully, a better understanding of the important message that **we all matter, both to each other and to God!**

The Friday Event Team

Chelmarsh News

This month, we lead with a letter from Kina, our Rector, about the parish hall.

"Our Harvest Supper is a lovely reminder of what makes Chelmarsh special people coming together, sharing food, friendship and a sense of belonging. From meetings to the Summer Fete and Harvest Supper, our parish hall plays a much-loved part in the life of our beautiful village.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to Susan Jackman, Jane Harding and the whole hall management committee for their dedication and generous service. Their gifts of time, commitment and skills have kept the hall welcoming and sustained so much of our community life. We are tremendously grateful to them, and to everyone who has supported their work over the years.

After several years of loyal service, the chair and treasurer now wish to stand down. We need new volunteers to carry their work forward.

A meeting will be held in the village hall on 9 November at 7.30pm and we warmly encourage anyone interested in helping to come along. Responsibilities can be shared, and you do not need to have served on a committee before to make a valuable contribution.

The need is urgent. If successors cannot be found, there is a real possibility the current trustees who run the hall would have to disband. In law, neither the local church nor the parish could take over and there is a strong possibility that the hall would have to close.

Yet we have faith in the people of Chelmarsh and what we can achieve together. The hall has served the village since it was first given in 1937. In 1980, a new committee took over from the church and almost completely rebuilt it a wonderful example of community commitment.

Now we have an opportunity to continue that legacy. Whether you can offer organisational skills, practical help or some time, your contribution could make a real difference.

As a church, we are praying for the hall's future and for people to come forward. Scripture encourages us to "serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13)—something we have seen so generously expressed by our committee and volunteers.

Let us work together to keep our parish hall open, welcoming and at the heart of Chelmarsh for generations to come.

Kina"

Harvest festival on Thursday 24th September was well attended; it was good to see so many of our farmers at the church was beautifully decorated. The next evening was the Harvest Supper, followed by the auction of produce conducted by Keith and Marie in their usual, unique style. This alone raised over £1000. We also had offers to help for next year's harvest supper, for which we are very grateful.

St Mary's Billingsley



The coffee afternoon put on by Ellen McConnell was well attended both by people from Billingsley and also her fellow members of Chetton and Glazeley WI. Many thanks to Ellen, her helpers and all who came. We raised over £350; more importantly, everyone had an excellent time.

Di Stepney, our treasurer, will be stepping down at our next Annual Parish Meeting in April/May. First of all, we would like to thank Di for all her work. We are starting to look for someone to take over from her. What we really want is someone who is community-minded, to help us with the work we do locally. There is no need for the person to live in Billingsley. If you might be interested, please contact myself (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk). There are plenty of people who can help the new treasurer.

The church has been cleaned and decluttered; please note we no longer are collecting bric-a-brac so do not leave donations as we cannot use them. Please instead take them to a charity shop or otherwise dispose of them.

A second polite notice; please do not scatter the ashes of loved ones in the church. This is against churchyard regulations imposed by the Church of England. Instead, contact myself or the Rev Kina to arrange for us to inter them respectfully.

An advance notice; our Christmas Carol Service will be on Monday 21st December at 7pm, in the church

St Bartholomew, Glazeley



We had a good harvest festival. I was unable to secure a full-sized tractor to bless but instead had a "Polaris" off-road vehicle, used by Andrew and Laura in their wood and a model tractor (David Brown, in tribute to our late churchwarden, Graham Tranter). Ian and Gerry's ducks in the paddock next to the church kindly allowed themselves to be blessed and quaked so melodiously I hope to have them in choir for the next harvest.

Our next event will be the service of Remembrance at the war memorial at 10.45am, for the silence at 11.00, with refreshments in church afterwards.

We will also be having or usual monthly breakfast at the Down on 21st November at 9am; please contact myself (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk) or Marion (marion.corfield@talktalk.net) if you want to come; cost: £10

Our next Service of Holy Communion will be at 10am on Sunday 15th November.

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.

On working with young people

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

It is quite natural for you curates to enjoy working with young people in your parishes; church youth clubs were created in order to keep the newly ordained off the streets in the evenings. But be assured you will grow out of it. I consent to baptise babies and prepare teenagers for confirmation, but beyond that my contact with this alien life form is kept to an absolute minimum.

Dear Miss Thrush runs our weekly Pram Service - whose sole purpose seems to be to give young mothers an opportunity to discuss the ever-changing liaisons within the village, while their offspring shred hymn books and destroy the flower arrangements. I drop in from time to time in order to check that the more mobile haven't found where we hide the matches. An infant equipped with that knowledge can so easily become a teenage pyromaniac.

I can give you little advice on your youth group. When I was a curate, the major activity seemed to be to teach them how to wear gas masks, although today I imagine there is more concern about protecting them from other sorts of exotic chemicals. Also, I suspect you are kept busy keeping the young out of the darker corners of the churchyard as they develop their anatomical knowledge – a past-time still enthusiastically pursued by each new generation.

You clearly find your monthly Youth Service a deeply enriching experience. As far as I am concerned, if such a liturgy had been necessary, then Cranmer would have provided us with one. Endlessly repeated choruses accompanied by a guitar would make me warm to the Quakers. I am sure St Paul's services would have been much enriched with Hymns Ancient and Modern. The disciples in hiding in Jerusalem were not even able to sing accompanied by an organ, which must have greatly dispirited them. I also feel that our Verger would be unable to cope with organising the strobe lighting and dry ice effects. It takes him all his time to remember to light the candles on the altar.

On this matter we must differ. You must worship God in your way, and I in His.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Letter from Westminster



In my role as the MP for South Shropshire, I receive emails, phone calls, letters, and messages relating to local health and social care every day. So, I wanted to get a clearer picture of the situation across South Shropshire to enable me to target my work where it matters most. In January, I launched my 'Health and Social Care Survey' which received 1423 responses.

These responses varied hugely, but one clear trend emerged. Even though many residents were happy with the quality of our local health and social care services, an inability to access these services in the first place absolutely dominated the responses. For example, 61.3% of respondents selected hospital waiting times as a top priority for improvement. This was followed by ambulance response times on 42.7% and GP access on 42.2%. Now that my team and I have had time to analyse the results, we can work on addressing the issues raised.

First, I will ensure local health bodies are made aware of my constituents' views as well as sharing the key concerns directly with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. Then, I will continue working locally and in Parliament to try and fix the problems which are having the biggest impact on South Shropshire residents. From reducing hospital waiting times to improving rural transport, I am committed to listening, supporting, and delivering for my constituents on these issues.

In another local campaign, I was glad to join forces with the DWP and Bridgnorth Jobcentre to host the South Shropshire Youth Opportunities Fair at Bridgnorth Rugby Club. I want young people in South Shropshire to have access to the highest quality of education and employment opportunities in the world. However, youth unemployment in the UK is at its highest level in a decade with around a million young people across the country not in education, employment, or training. This event was held to look at how we can turn our concerns into action.

It was a pleasure to speak with local business owners alongside colleges, apprenticeship providers, and careers advisors who offer one-to-one support for young people in the constituency. In South Shropshire alone, 1,215 people were claiming unemployment-related benefits in August 2026, which is 2.3% of the population aged 16 to 64. I will continue fighting to open up the education, employment, and training opportunities that my constituents need in this area.

If you have any national or local concerns, I would love to hear from you. You can get in touch by emailing me or phoning my team.

stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk
01746 555025.



Highley Parish Council



We opened the October meeting of Highley Parish Council with a minute's silence in memory of serving Councillor Chris Stanley, who sadly passed away in September.

We were joined in the library by many parishioners, all of whom were concerned with planning matters and the over-development of our village. Highley Parish Council review all planning applications relating to the village and will always act in the best interests of the people we represent – the residents of Highley. Unfortunately we are constrained by planning law relating to the reasons we can raise an objection. All councillors who sit on our Planning Committee have undertaken training in this area and are able to respond in a legally compliant manner whilst getting our view across. Sadly with government house building targets so high and no Local Plan currently in place for Shropshire the planning department at Shropshire Council is much more likely to say yes to new developments than no. I share the concerns of so many people in Highley, the village is as big as it should be already — arguably already a little too big, given the constraints on access via the B4555 and lack of public transport. We will continue to do everything we can to protect the village from over development and we will fight every application we object to with all our might.

In brighter news we have just heard the results of this year's Shropshire's Best Kept Village awards. We were defending our 'Best Village – South' title and were over the moon to hear we had been successful and retained the title. The organisers of the awards, The Community Foundation for Shropshire, visited the village to give us our award and brought with them the little surprise that we had won 'Best in County'! I am so proud of this village and to get this recognition from outside is really something. There are too many people to thank here, but I would like to specifically call out the hard work of our Clerk Alison Palmer who collated the entry and did so much to give us the best chance of winning – it clearly paid off!

Tom Quinn Chairman – Highley Parish Council



Crosssword Clues

Across

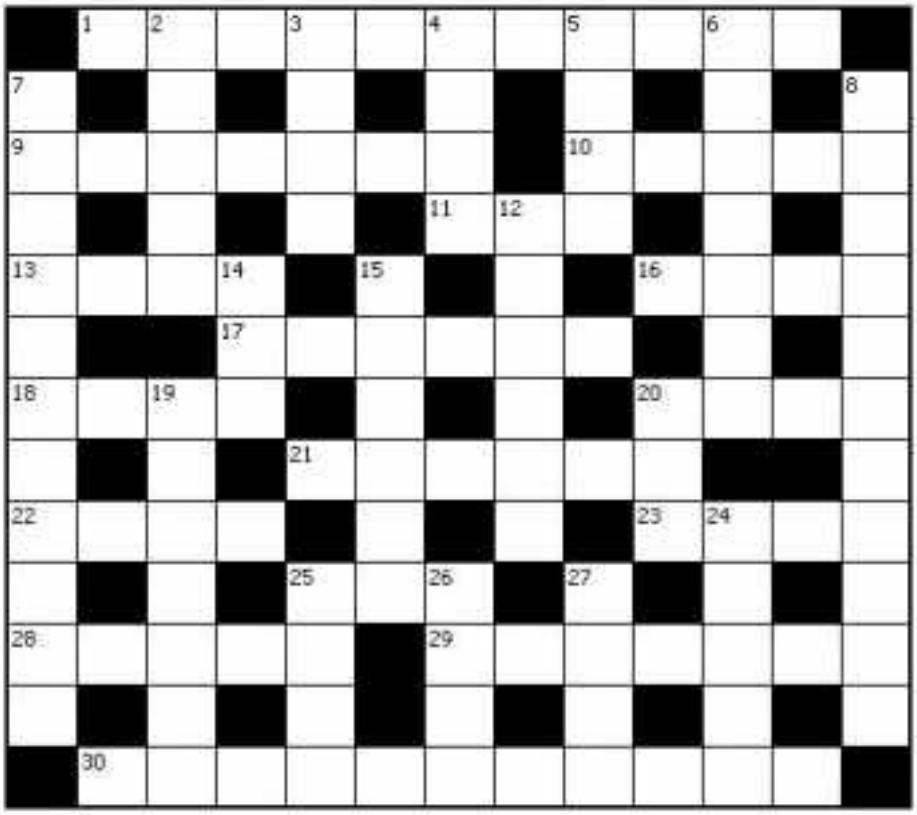
1 and 20 Down (Hymn) 'Lord of all …., Lord of all ….., whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline - (2,3)
11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
25 Tree (3)
28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
3 Way out (4)
4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
5 Done (anag.) (4)
6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
7 Concerning the study of God (11)
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
14 Frozen (3)
15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
20 See 1 Across
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
25 Time (anag.) (4)
26 Lists choice of meals (4)
27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

Crossword

Answers on page 33



Have a go at Sudoku



Easy

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

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Medium

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

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UCB Word for Today

The paths to your destiny Isaiah 48:17

'I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow'

You'll probably travel several different paths on your way to your destiny. When Luciano Pavarotti was a boy, his grandmother often put him on her lap and said, 'You're going to be great – you'll see.' But his grandmother had dreams of him becoming a banker! Instead, he became a schoolteacher. He taught primary school for a while, occasionally singing at special events. His father was the one who challenged him to develop his voice, telling him he was settling far short of his potential. Finally, at age twenty-two, Pavarotti stopped teaching to sell insurance. He continued to look for something stable on which he could rely financially in case he could not make it in the music world. The insurance business allowed him time to take voice lessons, and, as they say, 'The rest is history.'

In an interview, the opera star said, 'Studying voice was the turning point of my life.' Then he added, 'It's a mistake to settle for the safe path in life.' It takes courage to leave a position you consider safe and launch out in a new direction, but without risk, you can never realise your potential or know all God created you to be. The greatest risk of all is to take no risk because the person who risks nothing accomplishes nothing, has nothing, feels nothing, and, in the end, becomes nothing. God may lead you along several different paths on your way to your destiny, but if you submit to His will and follow His guidance, you will surely succeed.

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- Highley Reach Youth Club
- Highley Minors Childcare
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Details correct at time of going to print - January 2025

Working together for the people of Highley

halo

Answers on Page 23

Wordsearch

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

Those endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such horror, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.



WORLD	**WAR**	**BARREN**	**RED**	**SOIL**
FIELDS	**FRANCE**	**BLEAK**	**POPPIES**	**GROWING**
SPRING	**FLANDERS**	**DESTROYED**	**CHAOS**	**HORROR**
MUD	**GREEN**	**DESTRUCTION**	**SEEDS**	**DOCTOR**
CHEERFUL	**BOMBED**	**BRIGHT**	**GROW**	**POEM**

Highley Companions

On 17th September Highley Companions celebrated Harvest. Gay taught everyone the song Cauliflowers Fluffy and our band also accompanied the singing of more traditional harvest songs. The highlight of the session was a discussion started by Elaine, who spoke of her memories of harvest. The Companions were shown some evocative photos of harvest time through the ages, sourced by Mandy. Bryan remembered, as a boy, helping his father with the harvest near their home in Cannock and many of us, Companions and Volunteers, contributed our memories too.

The 9th birthday celebration of Highley Companions took place on 1st October. The room was beautifully decorated for the occasion by Mandy, assisted by the other Volunteers who all arrived even earlier than usual, to make sure that everything was ready for the Companions.

The singer Tom Wenlock was our special guest. He sang for an hour and serenaded many of the Companions and Volunteers, including Pat who nearly jumped out of her skin when he sang very loudly in her ear! Afterwards we enjoyed a lovely buffet and the occasion was rounded off by the cutting of Veronica's amazing cake, which was beautifully decorated with the Highley Companions' emblem against a blue background. Everyone was given a slice to take home, as we were too full after our huge lunch to eat it there! We are already planning for our 10th birthday next October.

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









All in the month of November

400 years ago, on 18th November 1626 that St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City was completed. It is the largest church in the world (measured by its interior).

175 years ago, on 13th November 1851 that the first telegraph service between London and Paris began operating.

150 years ago, on 1st November 1876 that the North Sea Canal in the Netherlands was officially opened. It links Amsterdam to the North Sea.

125 years ago, on 12th November 1901 that German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics, for discovering X-rays.

100 years ago, on 15th November 1926 that the Balfour Declaration was approved by the delegates to the Imperial Conference of 1926. It declared that the UK and its Dominions in the British Empire were equal in status.

90 years ago, on 30th November 1936 that the Crystal Palace in London was destroyed by a fire.

75 years ago, on 2nd November 1951 that the Suez Crisis began. 6,000 British troops arrived in Fayid, Egypt, to quell unrest in the Canal Zone. It was the biggest airlift of troops since WW2.

70 years ago, on 11th November 1956 that the Hungarian Revolution ended after its uprising was brutally supressed by the Soviet Union.

60 years ago, on 22nd November 1966 that the first chess match between two computers took place, between the USA and Russia. The Soviet Union's computer won.

40 years ago, on 22nd November 1986 that the American boxer Mike Tyson became the youngest-ever WBC world heavy-weight champion, at the age of 20.

30 years ago, on 18th November 1996 that the Channel Tunnel fire took place when a truck caught fire while on board a Heavy Goods Vehicle shuttle travelling through the tunnel. It caused considerable damage and the tunnel was closed for six months for repairs. There was another serious fire in September 2008.

Also 30 years ago, that on 30th November England officially returned the Stone of Scone to Scotland after 700 years. It was the coronation stone of the Scottish and later English and British monarchs. It is now on permanent display in Perth Museum.

25 years ago, from 22nd November to 9th December 2001 that the Fall of Kandahar took place when coalition forces ousted the Taliban from the last major city under their control. This marked the end of the Taliban regime's control of Afghanistan. Then in August 2021, NATO withdrew and the Taliban moved back in.

20 years ago, on 23rd November 2006 that Alexander Litvinenko, Russian-born British intelligence agent, journalist and writer, died. He had been poisoned by radioactive polonium. His death is believed to have been ordered by President Putin.

10 years ago, on 4th November 2016 that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change came into effect.

Also 10 years ago, on 7th November 2016 that Leonard Cohen, Canadian folk/soft rock singer, songwriter and poet died.









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Are you lighting fireworks on Bonfire Night?

If you are planning to set off fireworks at home on Bonfire Night, you may wish to review the Fireworks Code, to help keep you and your family and guests safe….

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if you are the one setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five. They burn incredibly hot, and can cause severe burns.
- Keep pets indoors

and then there's the cost of a Bonfire Night party …

Burning your money is one way to describe a fireworks party. But they can also be a fun way of socialising. Here are some of the recent trends:



In the UK, we spend an average of £100 to £300 on fireworks alone, if we hold a private garden party. If we increase that to a fully hosted or catered events, expect to spend from. £500 to £700.

For your standard DIY back-garden display (Category F2 fireworks, requiring an 8-metre safety distance) can cost anywhere from £50 to £250, depending on the variety of single-ignition 'cakes' (barrages), rockets and what you do about the finale.

According to confused.com, we spend on average more than a £100 on hot dogs, jacket potatoes and burgers. Then it is about £67 on decorations and lights, £64 on party bags and novelties, and maybe £64 for a cake.

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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)

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

Easy

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

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.

Climate disinformation - Alastair

Climate misinformation (where people unintentionally spread inaccurate or misleading information about climate change) is on the rise. So is climate disinformation (knowingly spreading falsehoods to disrupt the climate action that we all need.

If you need to challenge false information, there are plenty of useful websites for accurate info. The Met Office, the IPCC and Carbon Brief are all very useful. The British Library has also just run a campaign promoting facts around climate change; https://www.bl.uk/stories/blogs/posts/climate-facts-for-a-greener-future

If you want to find out more, come along to our next People's Emergency Briefing at the Severn Centre. Keep an eye out on social media for our next screening in November.

Lime green plastering workshop - Frederick

I'm going to a practical workshop where you get to learn about wood-fibre internal wall insulation systems, how to install insulation boards and apply lime plaster. It's hosted and delivered by local materials supplier Lime Green, in Much Wenlock. If you in an older property, want to insulate your walls and would like to know how to do it yourself, then this could be for you! Find out more online through the MEA.

Soft plastic incineration - David

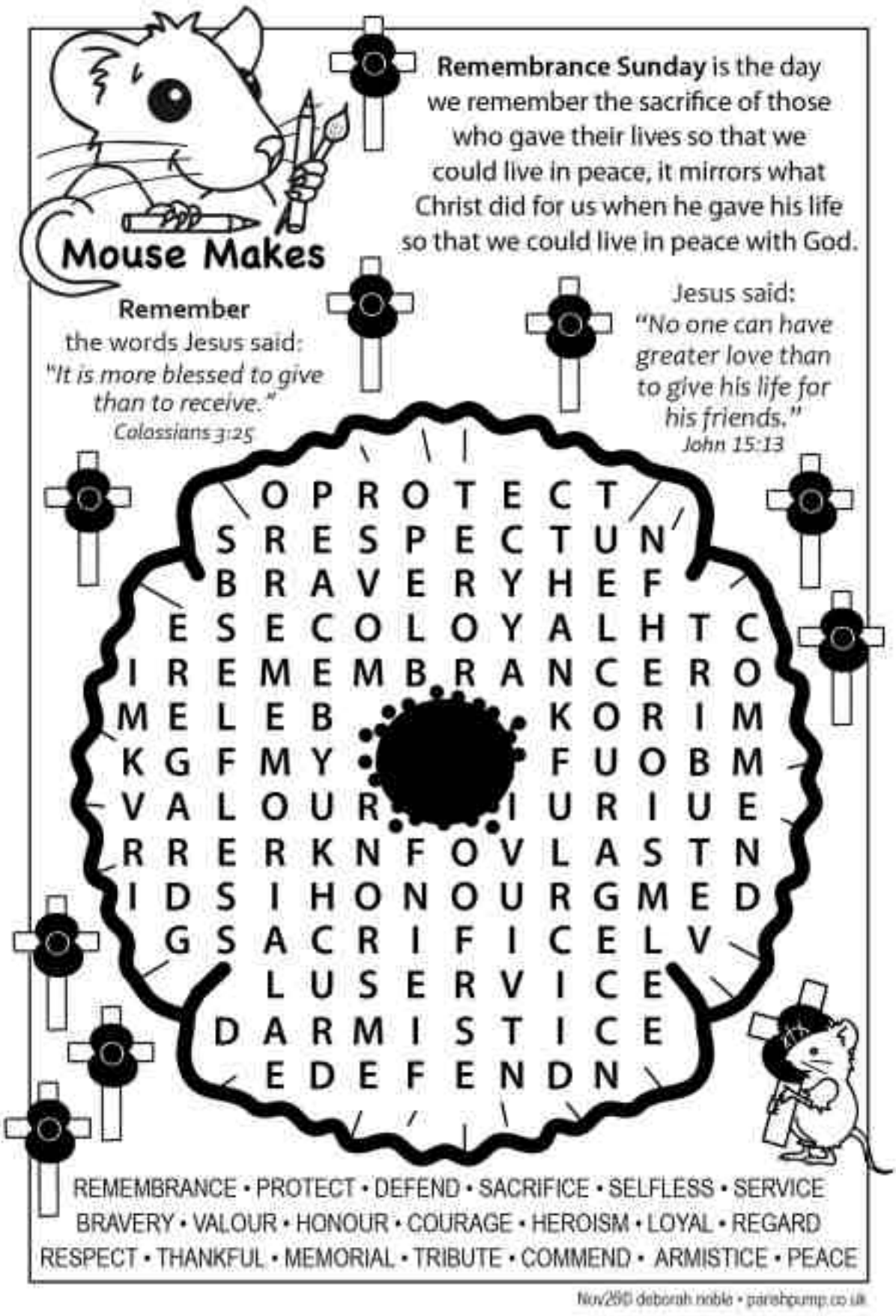
I signed up to The Big Plastic Count this year, after watching '*The Hard Truth About Soft Plastic*' which tracked the soft plastic collected for recycling by supermarkets like Tesco and Sainsbury's. It revealed that, instead of being recycled, much of it ended up being burned or turned into fuel. Considering that a lot of this plastic is on fruit and veg (which comes in its own natural wrapper), this is ludicrous!

Check out https://thebigplasticcount.com/media/TBPC-2026-Results-Report-2026.pdf
This shows the results of the 2026 count. Of our UK plastic waste, 16% is recycled, 16% is shipped abroad, 59% is incinerated and 9% is landfilled.

If you want to challenge a supermarket on their plastic commitments and recycling claims, then send them an email. Use the link to help! https://everydayplastic.eaction.org.uk/sainsburyssaga

Tree planting event - Alastair

We are having a tree planting event at the Severn Centre on 21/11/2026. Meet at 10.00 outside the entrance. Bring a spade. This is to replace the trees that were vandalised a few years ago. It would be great to get lots of the community involved to help create a nature corridor around the recreation field.


Mouse Makes
Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25
Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.
Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13
O P R O T E C T
S R E S P E C T U N
B R A V E R Y H E F
E S E C O L O Y A L H T C
I R E M E M B R A N C E R O
M E L E B K O R I M
K G F M Y F U O B M
V A L O U R I U R I U E
R R E R K N F O V L A S T N
I D S I H O N O U R G M E D
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Why you should not squeeze your teabag



More than eight million of us drink at least two cups of tea a day. Many of us drink five cups or more. As a nation, we love tea.

George Orwell loved tea. Back in 1946 he even wrote an essay, 'A Nice Cup of Tea' to set out his 11 rules for making the perfect brew. But nowadays, we turn to chemistry professors on the Tea Advisory Panel for their tea-making tips. Why chemistry professors? Because there are almost 2,000 chemicals in tea, which is a "wildly rich molecular mix". And everything you do to your tea changes its chemical makeup.

So – some tips:

- First of all, use *boiling* water on the tea leaves.
- Secondly, warm your mug or teapot. That ensures the water is HOT when it hits your tea leaves.
- Thirdly, swirl the bag or pot – swirling releases more of those subtle flavours.
- Fourthly, let it mash, steep or brew for three to five minutes, to get the best flavour.
- Fifthly, *never* squeeze your teabag! That releases bitter tannic acids.
- Sixth – add the milk last, or the water won't be hot enough to brew your tea. Apparently, adding milk first is a historical relic from when boiling tea could break fragile china cups.
- Seventh – take a moment to enjoy your tea. Chemists stress that medium to strong tea is really good for you. It increases your hydration, your cognitive function, and your bone health. It even helps cut the risk of type-2 diabetes and heart disease.
- Finally, beware tea in America. They do odd things with it there. They use lukewarm water over indifferent tea bags. Even worse, they sometimes put a teabag in a mug of cold water and then boil it in a microwave. This is sacrilege!



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!

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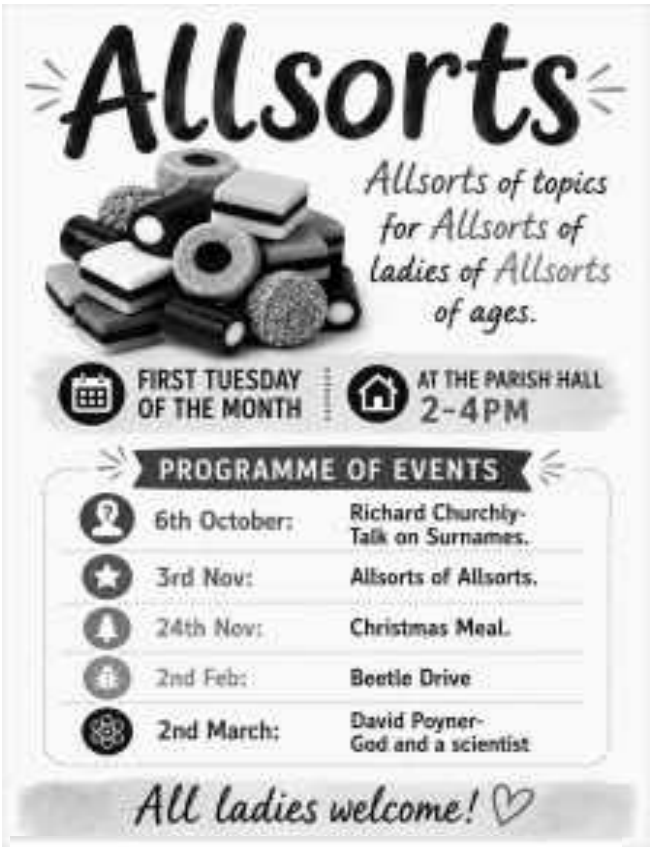
Highley Minors is situated in a large purpose-built area of the Severn Centre.

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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OCTOBER: 23rd
NOVEMBER: 27th
DECEMBER:
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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	0805	0730	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830
Kidderminster General Hospital	0813	0738	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Habberley, Canterbury Rd Shops	0818	0743	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743	1843
Bewdley, Load Street	0828	0754	0854	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1554	1654	1754	1854
Buttonoak, adj Wyre Cottage	0837	0802	0902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1702	1802	-
Highley, Bache Arms	0850	0821	0921	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	1621	1721	1821	-
Chelmarsh, opp Church	0705	0839	0939	1039	1139	1239	1339	1439	1539	1639	1739	1839	-
Bridgnorth, Sainsburys Superstore	0719	0844	0944	1044	1144	1244	1344	1444	1544	1644	1744	1844	-

Saturday
(except Public Holidays)

Kidderminster Bus Station	0815	0730	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	1830
Kidderminster General Hospital	0823	0738	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Habberley, Canterbury Rd Shops	0828	0743	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743	1843
Bewdley, Load Street	0839	0754	0854	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1554	1654	1754	1854
Buttonoak, 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
Buttonoak, adj Wyre Cottage	-	0738	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Bewdley Load St	0825	0747	0847	0947	1047	1147	1247	1347	1447	1547	1647	1747	1847
Habberley, Canterbury Rd Shops	0838	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900
Kidderminster General Hospital	0844	0806	0906	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	1606	1706	1806	1906
Kidderminster Bus Station	0854	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
Buttonoak, adj Wyre Cottage	-	-	-	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1738	1838
Bewdley Load St	0847	0747	0847	0947	1047	1147	1247	1347	1447	1547	1647	1747	1847
Habberley, Canterbury Rd Shops	0858	0758	0858	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900
Kidderminster General Hospital	0903	0803	0903	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	1606	1706	1806	1906
Kidderminster Bus Station	0910	0810	0910	1016	1116	1216	1316	1416	1516	1616	1716	1816	1916



Waste / Recycling Collections

Black bins: 2026
Thursday 12th & 26th November

Recycling & green bins:
Thursday 5th & 19th November

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

Regular Events

Severn Strollers	Mondays (not Bank Holidays)
10:30 / 11:00	Severn Centre
(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

Crossword Solution from page 15

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





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Cost Cutter	22
David Dexter (Motor Repairs)	14
Halo Leisure (Severn Centre)	16
Harris, Edwin & Sons (Funerals)	10
Ar-Arc Tree Care	16
	25
	10

Haycox, P & Son (Funerals)	25
Highley Minors	29
Irena Foot Clinic	10
Ince, B (Funeral Directors)	25
Kinlet C of E School	24
Martin, Tony (Plumbing etc.)	16
Northwood & Sons (Funerals)	25
Ovenclean	16
Perry & Phillips (Funerals)	24
Piano Tutor - Francis Engelheart	31

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Remembering Leonard Cohen – poet and singer

Ten years ago, on 7th November 2016, Leonard Cohen, Canadian folk/soft rock singer, songwriter and poet died.

He was born into a well-off Jewish family in Montreal that was said to claim direct descent from Aaron – the name Cohen meaning priest. Bob Dylan once observed that Cohen wrote songs that were really prayers.

He had already moved to the Greek island of Hydra in 1960, where he met the Norwegian Marianne Ihlen, who became his muse. Later he was the long-time companion – though not husband – of Suzanne Elrod, who he met in a lift in Manhattan in 1968. They had two children: Adam, also a singer-songwriter, and Lorca, a photographer.

Somewhat confusingly, Cohen's early song *Suzanne*, on his 1967 debut album, *The Songs of Leonard Cohen*, referred to a different woman, the wife of a friend.

Though some people mysteriously described his distinctive baritone voice as "depressing", many others found his performances and his songs magical, compelling and full of spiritual and physical depth. Songs like *Hallelujah* and *You Want it Darker*, with its use of the Hebrew word *hineni* (here I am), implying total availability to God, meant much to practising Jews and Christians.

Cohen spent seven years in a Buddhist monastery in the 1990s and afterwards lost much of his life savings through financial betrayal by his former manager. Following that, at the age of 71 he embarked on a global tour that was a massive success. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2008, and two years later was honoured with a lifetime achievement Grammy.

Parish Pump November 2026



That's Nice Creations



All workshops start at 1pm

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

Wed 2nd Dec – Craft and chat session – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 4th Dec – Christmas Robin tree decoration– 2.5 hours – £25

Sat 5th Dec – Shop closed – At the Wulfrun Centre, Wolverhampton

Wed 9th Dec – Craft and chat session – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 11th Dec – Weatherproof gonk or table top Christmas tree – 3 hours – £30

Sat 12th Dec – Shop closed – At Plum Tree Market, Wem

Wed 16th Dec – Craft and chat session – Bring your project/join in with mine (for a fee)

Friday 18th Dec – Robin wall hanging workshop – 3 hours - £30

Saturday 19th December – Traditional Christmas wreath making workshop – 3.5 hours - £35

Mon 21st Dec – Paint your own suncatcher Christmas tree ornament – 1 hours - £10

Tues 22nd Dec – Christmas clay painting canvas – 1 hours - £10

Wed 23rd Dec – Lollipop Father Christmas/snowman – 1 hour – £6

Thursday 24th Dec – Shop closed for Christmas holidays

Re-opens Tuesday 5th January 2027

All workshops are suitable for adults and children (children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.)
Payment is required before the session to secure your place as these are limited.
Feel free to contact us via any of our platforms www.thatsnicecreations.co.uk
thatsnicecreations@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/thatsnicecreations
07709989119

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!



Powertex



Church Services in November 2026

Sunday 1st November	**9.30am Morning Service**	**St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh**
	10.30am Holy Communion	**St Mary's Church, Highley**
Wednesday 4th November	**10am Holy Communion**	**St Mary's Church, Highley**
Sunday 8th November	**10am Remembrance Service**	**St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh**
Remembrance Sunday	**10.35am Remembrance Service**	**St Mary's Church, Highley**
	10.45am Remembrance Service	**St Bartholomew's Glazeley**
	10.55am Act of Remembrance	**St Mary's Church, Billingsley**
Sunday 15th November	**9.30am Morning Service**	**St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh**
	10am Holy Communion	**St Bartholomew's, Glazeley**
	10.30am Holy Communion	**St Mary's Church, Highley**
Sunday 22nd November	**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 29th November	**10.30am Benefice Service**	**St Mary's Church, Highley**
Sunday 6th December	**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