

JUNE
2026

VOL 67 No 5

The Wenlock Herald

News of events in the Churches, Parishes and Communities
on and around Wenlock Edge.



Corpus Christi is one of the main celebrations of the liturgical year. It is a mobile feast linked to Pentecost. In fact, the Corpus Christi falls on the Thursday of the second week after Pentecost, i.e. the Thursday after the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

Thursday 4th Corpus Christi Holy Eucharist 6.00pm
Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock

CLERGY LETTER



Dear Friends

Many of you will know that our Rector, Matthew, is now very much in the thick of his sabbatical, and we continue to wish him well on his travels. As a result of Matthew's absence, my colleague, Rev Lisa Harper, and I are picking up many more of the Occasional Offices. Many of you will be more familiar with these services under the guise of 'Hatch, Match, and Dispatch' - that is baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Since beginning my ordained ministry among you two years ago this month (which has absolutely flown by!) I have been privileged to officiate at several of these services. This is especially true for me now that wedding season has begun, as I have recently officiated at my first weddings and now have experience of all three of the Occasional Offices. Getting the first wedding ticked off is always a big relief in the career of any clergyperson, as they are the one real situation where, as clergy, we are not only celebrating a rite of the church, but are also responsible for the legal side of things with ensuring the registration of the marriage takes place properly, which can be a little nerve-wracking!

I always find it an enormous privilege to be invited into the lives of others, often people I have never met before, for such important and memorable occasions. It is a privilege that I never take for granted and hope that any of you reading this would feel confident in trusting us here in the Wenlock Team Ministry to guide you through these significant moments of life.

I always like to remind families who come to us for the Occasional Offices that as the Church, we are more than just a service provider. Unlike a civil celebrant or registrar, choosing a church wedding or clergy-led funeral, or bringing a newborn baby for baptism, brings with it so much more than the ceremony itself. The main reason for this is that we believe that these moments matter to God. We believe that God rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep. The Church has always marked the great turning points of human life not simply as private milestones, but as deeply sacred moments. Perhaps one of the greatest privileges of parish ministry is that the Church is able to be present with people at these times regardless of whether they are regular worshippers or have never crossed the church threshold before. It is a reminder that the love of God is never confined only to Sunday mornings, but is present throughout all the seasons of our lives. As clergy, it is always our prayer that these occasions may become opportunities for people to encounter something of God's comfort, grace, and presence for themselves.

So whether you are celebrating a joyful occasion, carrying a burden of grief, or simply curious about what the Church has to offer, please know that our doors and our hearts are always open to you. The ministry of the Church is first and foremost about pointing people towards the faithful presence of God in every stage of life, and it is a great joy for us to share in that calling here in the Wenlock Team.

Please continue to keep Matthew in your prayers during the remainder of his sabbatical, and be assured of mine and Lisa's prayers for you all over the summer months ahead.

With my prayers

Sam

The Reverend Samuel W. Rigby SMMS
Assistant Curate
Wenlock Team Ministry

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND: THE WENLOCK TEAM OF PARISHES

✂ *Berrington with Betton Strange* ✂ *Church Preen* ✂ *Cound* ✂ *Cressage* ✂ *Easthope* ✂ *Harley* ✂
 ✂ *Hughley* ✂ *Kenley* ✂ *Sheinton* ✂ *Shipton* ✂ *Stanton Long* ✂ *Much Wenlock with Bourton* ✂

WENLOCK TEAM MINISTRY

Team Revd Preb Matthew Stafford, The Rectory, New Road, Much Wenlock TF13 6EQ
Rector: Tel: (01952) 727396 e-mail: wenlockrectory@btinternet.com
Team Vicar: Revd Lisa Harper (Rector of Apedale & Team Vicar of The Wenlock Team)
 The Rectory, Hope Bowdler, Church Stretton SY6 7DD Tel: 07808 924223
Team Curate: Revd Sam Rigby, 3 Park Road, Much Wenlock TF13 6JH Tel: 07437 523274
Associate Priests: Revd Canon Robert Bull email: robertdb8083@gmail.com
 Revd David Janes (01952 727393) Fr Charles Lawrence
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Donations payable to PCC Much Wenlock with Bourton or direct to the Bank account 00012460 Sort code 40 52 40
 Please specify the donation is for The Wenlock Herald. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider gift aid—for every
 £1 donated, we, as a charity, can claim an extra 25p from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC)
 or see page 4 for QR code

Web Sites

Team: www.wenlockchurches.co.uk
Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock: www.muchwenlockchurch.co.uk
Berrington: www.friendsofberringtonchurch.weebly.com



THE FLAG OF ENGLAND (CROSS OF ST GEORGE) WITH THE HERALDIC BEARINGS OF THE DIOCESE OF HEREFORD WILL FLY FROM HOLY TRINITY CHURCH TOWER

during on the following days, *except on St David, St Patrick and St Andrew Days when the appropriate flag will fly.



31st May Trinity Sunday (Feast of Much Wenlock Parish Church and Bourton Church) – Patronal Festival

20th June Official birthday His Majesty King Charles III And Trooping the Colour

WENLOCK HERALD DELIVERY

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who deliver the Herald in Wenlock and surrounding areas each month. However, it is always useful if we have helpers available to take up a route as and when required. If you think you may be able to help in the future, please contact Sally Cooper 07854 975829 or sally-cooper@hotmail.co.uk
 Thank you!

	7 th June Trinity 1	14 th June Trinity 2	21 st June Trinity 3	28 th June Trinity 4	5 th July Trinity 5
SUNDAY LECTIONARY—YEAR A	First Reading: Genesis 12.1-9	First Reading: Genesis 18.1-15 [21.1-7]	First Reading: Genesis 21.8-21	First Reading: Genesis 22.1-14	First Reading: Genesis 24.34-38,42-49, 58-67
	Psalm 33.1-12	Psalm 116.1,10-17	Psalm 86.1-10,16-17	Psalm 13	Psalm 45.10-17
	New Testament: Romans 4.13-25	New Testament: Romans 5.1-8	New Testament: Romans 6.1b-11	New Testament: Romans 6.12-23	New Testament: Solomon 2.8-13
	Gospel: Matthew 9.9-13,18-26	Gospel: Matthew 9.35 - 10.8 [9-23]	Gospel: Matthew 10.24-39	Gospel: Matthew 10.40-42	Gospel: Romans 7.15-25a

CLOSING DATE for June edition is 12th May

FROM THE TEAM REGISTERS

BAPTISM:

Through the waters of baptism, may all be guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit

MARRIAGE:

Bless marriages, we pray, and walk beside them, through all their life together

FUNERAL:

Jean Palmer (MW)
James (Jim) Christopher Moore (MW)

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them



RECTORS SABBATICAL

Every 7-10 years clergy can apply for what is known as a Sabbatical. Sabbatical leave is an extended break from parochial duties, allowing clergy to rest, travel, study, volunteer, or pursue personal growth.

With the blessing of The Bishop of Hereford and The Wenlock Team Ministry, the Team Rector, **The Reverend Prebendary Matthew Stafford will be on Sabbatical Leave from Friday 1st May to Friday 14th August 2026.**

During the Team Rectors absence The Revd Lisa Harper, Rector of Apedale and Team Vicar of Wenlock will be pastorally in charge, supported by members of The Wenlock Team Ministry.

LECTIONARY HOUR

Did you hear something in one of the readings in church that surprised you, challenged you, or wasn't quite sure what it meant?

Do you want to dig deeper into something that came up in the sermon, or consider what God might be saying to us through that particular passage?

Join us in the Brookes Room at Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock each Monday afternoon at 2pm to explore the readings from the Sunday service in more detail. We meet for an hour with no agenda, other than sitting with the readings and seeing where the discussion takes us.

Pray and Share for the Climate

Wednesday 3rd June

12.00pm at Holy Trinity Church

A small group of us meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at **12 noon** in Holy Trinity Church, to give thanks for creation and to share our anxieties

and concerns about the climate emergency. We use the very moving and inspirational liturgy and the monthly news items published by Pray and Fast for the Climate. We are a very friendly group and we feel supporting each other is very important in this difficult time. Everyone is welcome.

For anymore information please contact Gill Davis, 01952 727524, gillvdavis@gmail.com.

The Catholic Community in Much Wenlock



Please contact Elizabeth Sutherland 01952 727 548 for Dates of Mass celebrations at the Priory Hall at 3pm when all are welcome,

Tea/coffee afterwards

The Catholic parish priest:

Fr Iain Griffiths, St John's,

13 Northgate, Bridgnorth WV16 4ER

01746 762348 iaingriffiths@hotmail.com

The Methodist Church MUCH WENLOCK



Minister: Rev Nik Wooler 07732 263838

The Prayer Board in Holy Trinity Church



is open to all who want to write their requests or express their gratitude.

The meetings to read these prayers takes place at 10. a m on Monday mornings in the Lady Chapel.

All are welcome.

Beryl Bull 01952 727427

RECTORS SABBATICAL PLANS 2026

JUNE

In June I travel to Malta to visit a very dear friend Fr David Wright (The Former Rector of Wolverhampton) who is now Chancellor of The Cathedral in Veleta. During my time in Malta, I shall be following the footsteps of St Paul and visiting Saint Catherine's Monastery.

Towards the end of June, I shall then be heading to Cysoing, La Charite Sur Loire, Taize and Cluny, with my friend Stu Tabbron to help foster the Much Wenlock link with France.

JULY

In July we have concentrated family time travelling first to London to celebrate our very dear friend Laura Jourgensen's Silver Anniversary of her Priesting. The Preacher at the Service is our former Old Testament Lecturer from Cuddesdon Days, Paula Gooder, who was also my college Tutor.

We then head to our 'Go To' place, namely the Isle of Mull and Iona, where we shall be on the island for a month. I will have the privilege of Celebrating the Eucharist at St Columba's Gruline during that time.

It will be during my time on Mull I intend to do some concentrated writing on what Monasticism has to teach us today in our context here in Much Wenlock, the Diocese of Hereford and in wider society.

Memorial Book for Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock

Holy Trinity Church in Much Wenlock stands as a beacon of faith, community, and remembrance.

A new memorial book is being commissioned and will include all entries from 1982 to ~~2018~~ currently recorded in the existing book. This ensures that cherished memories and tributes remain preserved as part of our church's ongoing history.

Application forms for entry for those regular Holy Trinity Church Much Wenlock parishioners who departed between 2018 to April 2026 can be downloaded from our website or obtained directly from the Churchwardens.

Applications for those who departed during the period of 1982 and 2018 but were not recorded may also be requested for regular HTCMW parishioners.

Applications must be received by 31st May 2026.

This memorial book will be lovingly compiled to pay tribute to those who have been part of our spiritual family, celebrating the lives, memories, and legacies of parishioners, friends, and loved ones since 1982.

Much Wenlock Methodist Church Food Bank collection

Thank you to all who contributed to our Food bank collection every Friday morning. People of Much Wenlock are very generous and we hope to continue seeing you on Friday morning between 9:30am and 11:30 am outside the Town Library.



Holy Trinity Coffee Morning

A warm and friendly venue for both local people and visitors to the town and also providing a much needed financial contribution to our Parish Church.

If you wish to book a coffee morning please contact one of the Churchwardens:

June 6th	Choir team
July 4th	Sidespersons Team
Aug 1st	Flower Guild team
Sept 5th	PCC team
Oct 3rd	Soup lunch team
Nov 7th	Environmental team and other small groups



Any queries or issues please contact
Francine Coulson-Joy 07779 000450
francine.coulsonjoy@btopenworld.com

**HTMW YOUTH
AFTER SCHOOL
DROP-IN**

Everyone aged
11-16 is welcome!

A warm and safe
space to hang out
with your friends

FREE PIZZA
AND HOT
CHOCOLATE
AND MORE!



Every
Thursday
in term time
3.30pm to 5pm
Holy Trinity
Much Wenlock

MW BC

**Every Monday
7pm - 8pm
at the Sports Centre**

**PLAYERS
WANTED**

We are a group of friendly social Badminton players looking for new adult members of reasonable ability for an hour of fun and gentle exercise.

Visitors fee just £5* Over 18's only

*3 visits maximum

Call Rob on 07527 153736 or just turn up on the night



THE MUCH WENLOCK BOWLING CLUB

Club Secretary at
muchwenlockbc@gmail.com

MUCH WENLOCK CRICKET CLUB

The season has started reasonably well with a couple of wins under our belt. As previously stated we are planning a major revamp of the Club this year with the aim of developing wider community involvement and there is a two day unior coaching course planned for August. In the meantime we still need to recruit new players, and volunteers to assist. Our practise nets at the ground are on a Wednesday evening starting around 6 pm. Players of all ages and abilities will be welcomed, come along and try a session or two. Kit and equipment can be provided.



June fixtures:

6 June Column. (H)
13 June Whittington. (A)
20 June Wellington. (H)
27 June. Guilsfield. (A)

All matches start at 1pm

Going somewhere

Older people often go to another room to get something, and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is not a memory problem. It is God's way of helping older people get more exercise.

BIBLE STUDY

Please do not let the word study deter you from thinking about attending to see for yourself. This is not a Bible knowledge competition and there are no tests. Rather we are a friendly supportive fellowship who meet every Thursday morning in Homer, or occasionally in Much Wenlock, to consider parts of the Bible, to share views on what it means to us and, particularly, if it raises questions or confusion for us.

If you would like to try it out or for any further information please contact Alan Gainer on 01952 727879; or John Cumberland on 01952 727386



SOUP LUNCH

RAISING FUNDS FOR CHARITY

WHERE: Holy Trinity Church
Much Wenlock

WHEN: **Friday 12th June 2026**

FROM: Midday till 1.30pm

ON OFFER: 3 soups, bread and cheese

COST: Donations to this month's chosen charity

WHICH IS: Cronakay School

May's Soup Lunch raised £305.00 for The Samaritans.

This is a dementia friendly activity.

Usually 2nd Friday each month apart from August and December



Much Wenlock WI

Usually meet on third Wednesday of the month at The Priory Hall

Wednesday, June 17th is our Annual Bring and Share Garden Party,
hosted by our President.

Our next meeting for visitors will be at 7.00pm, on Wednesday July 15th, at the Priory Hall, when Dorothy Nicholle will be telling the story of English Pub Signs.

Visitors especially welcome.

Non-members £5.

Contact muchwenlockwi@gmail.com
01952 726748.

Stanton Long Church COFFEE MORNING

Join us for a brew on the First Saturday each month from May to September at Stanton Long Church from 10am

Tea, coffee and homemade cakes plus warm lively chat

Pop these dates in the diary

June 6,

July 4,

August and September 5



We really look forward to seeing you

RUSHBURY AND CARDINGTON WI

We meet in Cardington Village Hall for late Autumnal and Winter months and in Rushbury Village Hall for rest of the year, usually on the third Wednesday of every month at 2.00 pm Jan and Feb and at 7.30 pm for the rest of the year.

We welcome all - fellow WIs and those from our local communities. Anyone interesting joining or even road testing us please call or text our President, Carole Martin 07967 715350

HARLEY NEWS!



Coffee, Chat and Carpet Bowls

10.30 am—Wednesdays

3rd and 17th June 2026

HARLEY VILLAGE HALL

All are most welcome for coffee (or tea), biscuits,
game of SIT DOWN carpet bowls and a chat.

For more information please phone 01952 510547

Farmer's Butty Van

will be held on Thursday 18th June

at 1030 to 1200 hrs

At West Farm, Enchmarsh (near Cardington)

SY6 7JX

By kind invitation of Roy and Kay Davies



CRESSAGE & DISTRICT WI

Cressage Village Hall

Details of all meetings from Ruth 01952 510546

The May meeting took place in Cressage Village Hall with 19 members attending. Celia Rawlings, President gave details of the two Resolutions chosen for presentation at the NFWI Annual meeting next month. WI members were asked to discuss, and then vote to inform delegates of their wishes.

After a short list of notices from County Celia introduced the Guest Speaker Mel Latham, owner of Holly Cottage Preserves who gave a free demonstration, cooking her Spicy Date Chutney as she told us of her life and very funny experiences, along with tips on making preserves. She said that she owed it all to her Grandmother. We welcomed the opportunity to buy some of the hand made traditional and unusual preserves.



Josephine Bennett thanked Mel adding that she was very pleased to have been able to experience her talk after missing twice at other WI meetings. It was well worth the wait.

Next month we will have Tullis Matson of Nature's Safe giving us the opportunity to find out about the scientific developments in Shropshire for threatened species of animals.

We will meet in Cressage Village Hall at 7.30 on Thursday **June 11th**.

Contact Ruth on 01952 510546 for details of all meetings.

St Michael & All Angels

Stanton Long

HYMNS + PIMMS

Sunday 14th June at 6pm

Sing your favourite songs and enjoy delicious refreshments/nibbles



CHARITY GARAGE SALE

Garden and household items, tools, pictures,
furniture and more!!

SATURDAY 4th JULY 2026

12 HUNTERS GATE, TF13 6BW

10am to 4pm

all proceeds split between
CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and
MARATHONS FOR MIRACLES
(TOMMY'S - the pregnancy and baby charity)
www.marathonsformiracles.com

Further information: 07854 975829



God in All

He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven.

Annual Plant & Cake Sale

Hughley Church

SY5 6NT

Saturday 27 June 26

1030 – 2 pm



MUCH WENLOCK DOG WALKING GROUP 'UNLEASHED'



Come and take your dog on a Sniffari! Meet likeminded friendly and fun people for a lovely off leash walk and a good sniff around and a good natter about all things dogs. The walk will be approximately 1 to 1.5 hours long. There will be a brief etiquette chat to ensure all dogs are safe and enjoying the walk. Bring your best friend! (don't forget the poo bags). Every Saturday at 8.30am and meeting place varies week to week. Fb group: dog walking group unleashed Bridgnorth Further information from Daniela 07976 411425



MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Tuesdays 7.30pm
at William Brookes School.
New members are always welcome.

The choir enjoyed a very successful evening travelling away to the Regal Theatre in Tenbury Wells in May. The travel theme was maintained in the singing schedule with a sequence of songs in succession; African Prayer, Jamaica Farewell, American Trilogy and World in Union during the second half. The concert was an opportunity to join vocal forces and sing part of the concert together with the relatively newly formed Regal Community Choir of Tenbury Wells, a great experience for both choirs. The Regal Theatre is a pleasure to visit and the evening was much enjoyed by both audience and performers. Depending on your date of reading this, it's not too late to hear us sing in Much Wenlock on Saturday **6th June** when we will be welcoming the Serendipity ladies choir based in Narberth, Pembrokeshire. Tickets are £12 from choir members or Penny Farthing in the square in Much Wenlock.

Our final concert of this season will be at Ticklerton Village Hall, near Church Stretton, on Saturday **11th July**, at 7pm. The village of Ticklerton barely qualifies as such since it possesses no public house, post office, shop or church. However, it does have a thriving village hall and activities centred on it, which makes it an exciting venue in prospect for what will be a full concert from the Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir. The concert is a charity event to raise money for Parkinsons UK, a charity to support every Parkinson's journey, campaigning for better health and care, funding research into groundbreaking new treatments with the overall mission of improving life with Parkinson's. The aim is that together we can help bring hope, support and awareness to those living with Parkinson's. Tickets are £15 each including tea/ coffee and cake. Please contact Gill or Brian Joseph on 07885644291 or email g.joseph17@btinternet.com, or 07885290390 or e mail josephbrian886@gmail.com.

Item contributed by Peter Smith - MWMVC

Contact: Dick Langford	Website www.mwmvchoir.org.uk
Facebook facebook.com/mwmvchoir	
Instagram mwmalevoicechoir	
Email chairmanmwmvc@gmail.com	
Phone 01952 728758 07530 545298	

MOTHERS' UNION

Christian Care for Families
Usually every 3rd Thursday of the month



At our April meeting Valerie Roberts came and told us all about the windows in Holy Trinity which included a potted history of the families that donated them.

On May 21st Father Charles Lawrence came and told us about his journey to the ministry. There will be more details in the next Herald.

June 18th will be our Annual Garden Party which will again be held at 28 Walton Avenue. It will start at our usual time of 2pm and visitors will be very welcome.

We hold our meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month starting at 2pm and visitors are welcome. The venue will be announced in the Herald. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

For further information please contact one of the following.

LEADER:	Gill Reynolds	727620
SECRETARY:	Jean Gladstone	728520



Singing for Fun

Usually held on 2nd Thursday of the month
Except August

Thursday 11th June

2pm at the Methodist Church
and mid session refreshments are planned.

n.warrington993@btinternet.com
This is a dementia friendly activity



3rd Thursday
every month
except August at
Cressage
Village Hall.
7.30pm

Events at the Community Room Pinefields Close & High Causeway

For information about Housing Support, Group Activities or use of the Community Room, please contact
Julie Painting (Housing Support Officer)
on 07582 004047 Julie.Painting@starhousing.org.uk

Mondays:

Extend Exercises weekly	10.15—11.15 (not Bank Holidays)
Ukelele Group	2:00 – 4:00pm

Tuesdays:

Coffee Group—every other week	10.00—12.00
Age UK Friendship Group	10.30—12.30 last Tues each month
U3A Art Group weekly	2.00—4.00
Belly Dancing Class.	5:30 – 7:00pm

Thursdays:

Housing Support Drop In	10.00 – 12.00
U3A Art Group	2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Brockton and District WI

Brocktonanddistrictwi@wi-shropshire.co.uk
*We meet on the first Tuesday of every month
at 7.30 in Shipton Village Hall.*



We met on May 5th at Shipton Village Hall. We had an interesting and thought provoking discussion on this year's WI resolutions. We then heard from members who had attended the Shropshire Federation Annual Meeting where there were 3 speakers: all fascinating and moving. We were very grateful to our own excellent speaker, Hazel, who did our CPR refresher.

We will meet again on **June 2nd** at 7.30pm in Shipton Village Hall. New members are always very welcome and the first two meetings are free.

Boasting

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

TELFORD STAMP and CARD CLUB

Telford Stamp and Card Club meets on the second Monday monthly at the Belmont Hall, off the TN Bank Car park, Wellington, Telford, TF1 1HJ, at 7.30pm until 9.30pm and has a varied programme on stamp or post card related items. We are a friendly club and visitors are welcome. There is no charge for visitors. Any enquiries: Richard Camp. Tele: 01952-405458.



Our Rainbows meet on Wednesdays
5.30pm–6.30pm

Brownies meet on Fridays 6.00pm –
7.30pm

Guides and Rangers meet on Fridays
7.15pm – 8.45pm during term-time.

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-to-volunteer/>

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

For an informal chat, feel free to call Lily (Rainbows) at 07711 111346, or Katie (Brownies and older) at 07503 893532.



The Much Wenlock Probus Club

is an association of retired or semi-retired gentlemen from all walks of life who meet up regularly, network, exchange stories and are entertained by a wide range of fascinating speakers. If you're interested in learning more, contact the Hon. Sec. initially to arrange to join us at the Fox Hotel on the 1st Thursday of every month (except August - 2nd Thurs) for a social lunch and get together.

Stephen Pridmore (Hon. Sec.)

Phone: 01952 727796

www.probusonline.org/much-wenlock/

Jean Palmer RIP

Of Much Wenlock passed away suddenly on Friday April 24, 2026, aged 80 Years.

Beloved wife of the late Bill, much loved mum of Julie, Debbie, Marie and Zoe. Special nan to Kieran, Georgia, Luke, Tommy, Billy.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral service took place at Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock on Friday May 22, 2026 at 1:00pm. Followed by a committal service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury at 2:45pm.

Family flowers only by request but donations if so, desired will be given to Cuan Wildlife Rescue.

All donations will be very much appreciated. All enquiries to Northwood and Sons Funeral Directors. 52 High Street .Much Wenlock

Malcolm Davies RIP

The family of the late Malcolm Davies wish to thank everyone for all the kind messages and cards, support and love after the sad passing of Malc. Also, thanks to everyone for their attendance and generous donations at the funeral.

We would especially like to thank firefighters past and present for escorting Malcolm on his final journey. CJ Williams for their care and professionalism. Claire for the lovely service, and Jasmine for reading the poem so beautifully. Love to all.

Quiet prayers

The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered.

"Wasn't talking to you," said the small one firmly.

COME AND JOIN US AT EXPLORERS SCOUTS



Are you aged 14–18 and ready for something bigger, bolder, and more adventurous?

Join Explorer Scouts and be part of a team that pushes boundaries, builds confidence, and has loads of fun along the way.

Where: Scout Hut, Station Road, Much Wenlock

When: Tuesdays, 7:45 – 9:15 pm

Just turn up or, if you'd like more information email Loren at lor.reeve@gmail.com

BEAVER SCOUTS – PLACES AVAILABLE!

We're excited to announce that Much Wenlock Beaver Scouts currently have vacancies and are welcoming new members! Beaver Scouts is for children aged 6–8 and is all about fun, friendship, and learning through adventure in a safe, supportive environment.

Where: Scout Hut, Station Road, Much Wenlock

When: Mondays, 4:45 – 6:00 pm

To find out more or to register interest, please contact: Loren at lor.reeve@gmail.com

RECTORS SABBATICAL PLANS 2026

JUNE

In June I travel to Malta to visit a very dear friend Fr David Wright (The Former Rector of Wolverhampton) who is now Chancellor of The Cathedral in Veleta. During my time in Malta, I shall be following the footsteps of St Paul and visiting Saint Catherine's Monastery.

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It will be during my time on Mull I intend to do some concentrated writing on what Monasticism has to teach us today in our context here in Much Wenlock, the Diocese of Hereford and in wider society.

MUCH WENLOCK PARISH CHURCH

Saturday Live

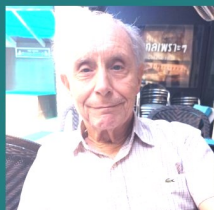
Concerts and Recitals



Saturday 6th June 4.00pm
Joint Concert with Much Wenlock Church Choir and Cantorion Celynnin from Conwy.
Retiring Collection.



Saturday 13th June 7pm
Mass in Blue by Will Todd
The Gallery Singers
£tba
Tickets from Croft Design or Linden Tree



Revd David Price
Saturday 11th July

Saturday Lunchtime Organ Recitals

These are free concerts featuring the new Church Organ. Each event starts at 12 noon and will last around 45 minutes. There will be a retiring collection.

RDA 

Coffee Morning

Saturday 18th July 2026—10.30-12.30

Homer, Much Wenlock TF13 6NQ

Entry: £5 with welcome coffee and cake

Please book online using QR code



Cash Raffle and Stalls. On-street parking

Contact Helen Shipton

Helenjoanne.shipton@gmail.com

Funds will support the creation of a biodiversity hedge to enhance the grazing conditions of RDA horses.

Charity Number 244108

Nigel Beeton writes: The Thursday after Trinity is celebrated as the feast of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ. a celebration of Mass, or Holy Communion. Whatever time of year, we should never take the service for granted.

Miracle at the Table

Thy table is set, but no lavish spread
A simple communion of red wine and bread.
Simple yet holy – where heaven bends low
That those knelt before Thee
Thy true grace may know.

We follow where firstly our Saviour has led
We listen to words that Jesus first said:
'This is My body, it's broken for you
And this is My blood, shed for you too.'

The bread that is broken, the wine seen outpoured
They tell of the sacrifice made of our Lord.
His body was broken that we might be saved
But death was defeated – He rose from the grave!

So, kneel in the stillness of this holy place
Gladly receiving these tokens of Grace.
Then go from here knowing His Spirit in you
Will help you to do what He'd have you do!

By Nigel Beeton





MUCH WENLOCK BOWLING CLUB



Gaskell Recreation Ground

COME AND JOIN US, YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

We run 5 teams in local leagues. Friendly competitions held throughout the year. Social bowling with friends every Thursday.

New to bowling? Free tuition and equipment available

ENQUIRIES TO OUR SECRETARY AT:

muchwenlockbc@gmail.com



COUND AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

Come and join in our fun and social tennis community

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/coundanddistricttennisclub>

or use our Cound and District Tennis Club Homepage QR Code



For membership enquiries please contact us at membershipatcound@btinternet.com

Adult beginners courses, adults drills & cardio, Juniors Saturday coaching and private lessons

Please contact Club Coach Graham Hart on 07960 970 017 or email hartg734@aol.com



Soft Tennis—A gentler form of the full game of Lawn Tennis. Played indoors on a badminton size court. The balls are softer and slower. Good fun and a proper piece of exercise.

All Ages Welcome.

We meet in the Leisure Centre, Much Wenlock – **Wednesdays – 5.00p.m. to 6.00p.m.**
n.warrington993@btinternet.com

Every June the Monarch's 'official' birthday is marked by a military parade in London, Trooping the Colour. It originated as a way of making sure that troops recognised their standard flag – the colour – so that they could rally to it in a battle. This year it takes place on 13th June.

Trooping the Colour

A National occasion in crimson and black
No button misplaced; no harness is slack.
The rhythmic precision of mass marching feet –
The pulse of the nation and heritage meet!
The beat of the drums, the sound of the band
The parade is exquisitely, perfectly planned.
The long months of training, hard effort applied
Build up to this moment of national pride!
The horses and soldiers all form up in ranks
The audience watching can't help but give thanks!
For those standing tall out there on the sand
Prepared to give all for our King and our land.



*Usually every second Wednesday
in the month except August
At The Priory Hall,
Much Wenlock*

Wednesday 10th June - 2pm
'Aggie'

Alison Utting tells the story of
Dame Agnes Hunt

seen as much too young and much too lame for
the nursing profession.

'A fascinating story told in the most dramatic style.'

The talk will be followed by refreshments
We look forward to seeing you

Non-members welcome – for a £2 entrance fee
New members always welcome

Want to know more about the u3a?

Alison Richards email amrichards64@icloud.com
07474040646



Wenlock Olympians Athletics Club

Do you enjoy running, jumping and throwing?
at The Leisure Centre.

9.00-10.30am for ages 8, 9 and 10

10.00-11.30am for ages 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17

If you would like to find out more please see our website
www.wenlockolympians.org

MUCH WENLOCK Sunday 5th July 12-5 pm

Much Wenlock Gardens Open Trail

will be taking place. If you would like to open your garden for the event, we're looking for gardeners who would be willing to open their gardens from 12 midday to 5.00pm. Please share this information with anyone you know who might wish to take part.

**GARDENERS
REGISTER
NOW**



This event is in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. Tickets with eh map will be on sale at the Penny Farthing £7.00 each. The proceeds will be divided equally between the Trust and Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock. Wenlock Abbey House has agreed to be open too.

Please contact either:

Liz Sharman—lizsharman29@gmail.com

Sue Stevens—ssstevens1960@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you

Please check our website and facebook for up to date information
www.shropshirect.org.uk



Practice News

Patients who DID not attend their appointment

The total number of patients who did not attend their appointment in April is 104. Every missed appointment could have been offered to another patient in need.

High DNA rates increase pressure on services and make it harder for patient to get seen quickly. Each DNA means fewer available appointments. If you can't attend your appointment, please cancel as soon as possible by calling the surgery on 01952 726011 and selecting option 1.

Appointments:

Urgent (non-life threatening) Appointments

Contact us by Phone Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.30pm on 01952 726011 (please note that calls between 8.00am to 8.30am and 6.00pm to 6.30pm are triaged by the Out of Hours Provider) Visit the surgery and speak with a receptionist. Much Wenlock site is open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.30pm; Cressage site is open from 8.30am to 1.00pm and re-opens 2.00pm to 6.00 pm

Routine Appointments (new and existing problems)

To request a routine appointment use our Contact Us Online form between 8.00am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Your request will be reviewed by a member of the team, and you will be contacted with details on the next steps. Contact us by Phone Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.30pm on 01952 726011 (please note that calls between 8.00am to 8.30am and 6.00pm to 6.30pm are triaged by the Out of Hours Provider) Visit the surgery and speak with a receptionist. Much Wenlock site is open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.30pm; Cressage site is open from 8.30am to 1.00pm and re-opens 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

Living Well with Dementia, Sight and Hearing Loss Exhibition

will be returning to Shrewsbury on
16th June 2026.

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury - 10am to 3pm
Free shuttle bus operates from Shrewsbury bus and train stations.

The exhibition brings together local and national organisations, professionals and community groups to showcase support, services and practical solutions for people living with dementia, sight loss and hearing loss, as well as their families and carers. It is an opportunity to connect, learn and explore ways to live well and remain independent for longer.

For more information: 01743 245555
shrewsbury@radfieldhomecare.co.uk
Facebook: [tinyurl.com/see-hear-remember](https://www.facebook.com/see-hear-remember)

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Issued by: Trudi Barrett, Town Clerk Tel: 01952 727509
Email: townclerk@muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk
Website: www.muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk

Mayor Making - We are delighted to announce that Councillor Susan Crooke-Williams has been elected to serve as Town Mayor for the civic year 2026 to 2027. The vote was taken at the Mayor Making ceremony held on 7th May, when Councillor Chris Tyler was also elected as Deputy Mayor. The new Mayor is looking forward to attending events within Much Wenlock parish as well as representing the town at functions elsewhere.

Made in Shropshire Market - to be held in the High Street, Much Wenlock on Saturday, 20th June. Come along to browse and buy from a range of independent makers and producers from across our beautiful county. A road closure will be in place for the High Street.

The Cooke Clock in the Square - as installed in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria and is a focal point in the town. The mechanism in the clock is serviced every year by a specialist company but the time has come for a major, mechanical overhaul. The mechanism has therefore been taken to the workshop of the Cumbria Clock Company where their experts will be giving the internal workings of the clock some close attention. The work is expected to take three to four months. Thank you for your patience while this essential work is carried out. Please give the time of day to any confused visitors you may notice!

May Fair – Monday, 4th May - Thank you to everybody who supported the May Fair whether as a performer, stallholder or visitor. It was a wonderful community event, enjoyed by all who attended. Particular thanks are due to members of the Town Council's Tourism and Events Working Group who worked so hard to organise the event and make the day a success. The Council will be considering whether the May Fair could be repeated next year.

Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan - Shropshire Council will be deciding whether to formally adopt the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan. At the time of writing, the meeting has not been held, but we fully expect the Plan to be approved and form part of the statutory decision-making process for planning for Much Wenlock. Confirmation next time!

Alice Glaston - Readers may have seen the letter published in last month's Wenlock Herald from the producer of a forthcoming film entitled 'Dreams of an Eleven-Year-Old Witch (Alice Glaston)'. The source of the name and age is the historic parish register of Sir Thomas Butler, Vicar of Much Wenlock, which dates from the 16th century. Extracts from the register were published in historical society journals in the mid to late 19th century and the entries include a reference to the burial of eleven-year-old Alice Glaston in 1546. Alice was from Little Wenlock and may have been a convict. However, there is no evidence at all in the historical record of Alice Glaston being a witch or of her being hanged. The story will be fiction, not history.

The Guildhall - is open to the public Friday to Monday, 11am to 4pm. The June exhibition is work by Much Wenlock Artists, a gathering together of some of the artists who live in the Much Wenlock area. The work explores a range of subjects and media. Entry to the Guildhall is free, although donations are very welcome.

Town Council Meetings - Forthcoming full Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 4th June and Thursday, 2nd July 2026 at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock. Meeting dates and agendas are available on the Town Council's website and notice board. Meetings are open to the public and a period is set aside for public participation at full Council and Planning & Environment Committee meetings.

Council Surgeries - 13th June between 10.30 am and 12 noon at Much Wenlock Museum. Members of the community will have the opportunity to raise matters of concern with a Town Councillor, Shropshire Councillor and a member of our local policing team. No appointment is necessary.

The Edge Arts Centre

William Brookes School, Much Wenlock

Mon 1 June	Song Sung Blue (12A) 7.30pm £6 (concessions £5)	Cinema
Thu 4 June	Exhibition on Screen: Frida Kahlo (12A) 7.30pm £12 (concessions £10)	Cinema
Fri 5 June	Little Rumba (Jazz and blues) 7.30pm £15	Live Music
Mon 8 June	Eleanor the Great (12) 7.30pm £6 (concessions £5)	Cinema
Thu 11 June	Ballet: Massenet: Manon (2023) (U) 7.30pm £6 (concessions £5)	Cinema
Fri 12 & Sat 13 June	Eddi Reader & John Douglas (Final Tickets!) 7.30pm £20	Live Music
Mon 15 June	Hamnet (12A) 7.30pm £6 (concessions £5)	Cinema
Mon 22 June	Dead of Winter (15) 7.30pm £6 (concessions £5)	Cinema
Thu 25 June	National Theatre Live: Les Liaisons Dangereuses (15) 7pm £12 (concessions £10)	Cinema
Fri 26 June	Kiki Dee & Carmelo Luggeri The Long Ride Home tour 7.30pm £23	Live Music
Mon 29 June	Wuthering Heights (15) 7.30pm £6 (concessions £5)	Cinema

Box Office for live shows at Penny-Farthing, 5 The Square
Buy online at ticketsource.co.uk/edgeartscentre
Ticketline 0333 666 3366 during office hours
Join our mailing list at edgeartscentre.com | 01952 728911



Please note the following additions to last month's report on the Priory Hall AGM:

We have hosted some lovely local weddings, with families decorating the Hall and celebrating in style, using local providers to supply the bar and catering. As a community hall we are proud to host weddings without adding an extra charge at the mention of that magic word.

The Committee has also hosted its own events, with its popular annual craft fair, and there have been other high-profile events like the GAWIE (Get a Word in Edgeways) weekend and the Shropshire Guild of Contemporary Craft weekend. Both attract visitors to the town, and both have booked again for this year.

We are proud to have had another successful year, fulfilling our mission and "bringing our community together". We have received many thank you messages with users praising the warm welcome and the very well-equipped kitchen. They also comment on the cleanliness and general presentation of the Hall and thanks for that go to our regular cleaner, who does such a good and reliable job for us, and to other local tradespeople who undertake maintenance work for us.

Costs are rising for us all, so we will be planning some fundraising events this year, the first of which will be a:

Race Evening on **Friday 2nd October**. Watch this space for more details.

The committee is always happy to receive any feedback via muchwenlockprioryhall@gmail.com and would particularly appreciate any thoughts about fundraising events.



FRIENDS OF THE OLD CEMETERY



Ah, this time of late spring/early summer is my absolute favourite time of year. Everything is full of promise and today up in the Old Cemetery there's plenty of promise to behold. The lilac flowers are out filling the air with their heady scent. Mock orange, rowan and hawthorn blossoms are also on full show. The wild flower meadow circles are already knee high and there's the steady background hum and buzz of insects hovering over the grasses, corn flowers and red campion. The roses in Suzanne's memorial garden are about to open too and just after my visit a large slow worm was spotted in the new poppy foliage growth beneath them. The Friends of the Old Cemetery team have been busy weeding, pruning and tending the grave gardens. Two new dead hedges have been made under the old stone walls, layered clippings from the willow and other shrubs creating another safe space for insect and mammal life to thrive. If we take time to stop and notice the life going on around us in the natural world it can increase our own enjoyment of the seasons and their changes. We're hoping that a poetry trail up here will also encourage people to visit and benefit from the beauty of this small space. Here's another poem offered for the trial, this time from local poet Andy Jukes book 'Pan's Footprints' about a walk on the Linden Fields. Sometimes even a simple dog walk can lead us to stop, look, listen and lose ourselves in nature too.

Jo Jukes

Sometimes

Sometimes the dog will stop me
 at a place in the woods where
 the play of sunlight through the lattice of branches
 married with the lick of the wind,
 the particular green of the moss on the bough,
 its angle against the blue of the sky,
 the high trill and low woof of hidden birds,
 the flit and scurry of the tree creeper,
 the slap of the pigeon's wing,
 the bounce of the robin on the dirt floor
 and a thousand other details of the moment
 push me through a door
 beyond which
 the distinctions
 between Nature's multitude and
 the "I" to which I cling
 break down
 rendering me present
 in a way
 to which I am unaccustomed.
 It is hard to hang on to your head beyond the door.
 Hard to hold that degree of concentration.
 So, the moment passes,
 the door closes
 and the dog is chasing rabbits.

PLASTIC FREE Holy Trinity MUCH WENLOCK Environmental Group SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE muchwenlockplasticfree@gmail.com

In last months article for 'Plastic Free Much Wenlock' I told you about the Much Wenlock cup that we are introducing to the town. It is a reusable cup that can be used, reused and washed (by hand or in a dishwasher). You will be able to buy it and keep to reuse or you can return it and receive your money back (as long as it is undamaged). We need to get in the habit of taking our reusable cup with us like we do when we put a bag in our pocket when we go to the shops. No more buying plastic bags - though we can reuse what we have.

I told you how we were going to trial the cup at the May Fair in Much Wenlock. Unfortunately the cups will not be ready and by the time you read this the May Fair will have come and gone. We will find other places to trial the cups. The cups, though delayed, will be available very soon and we do hope you will start to use them and keep on using them so that they are not single use! Single use plastic is doing immense damage to our world. We need to think about what sort of world it is going to be for our children and grandchildren.

I believe that some of the worst places for single use plastic are our supermarkets and the Government needs to do something about it. Surfers Against Sewage have been looking at who the biggest single use plastic polluters are. Back in March 2026 they launched their return to offenders and call out the biggest single use plastic polluters. They wanted us to spot branded plastic pollution, take a photo of it, in its location and they wanted us to 'capture content of branded plastic pollution in the environment while we were out and about and share the images online, tagging the brands and calling them out for their lack of action.'

We want to expose the brands that are responsible and build pressure calling on the polluters to take action. We want to challenge the polluters. We want to change behaviour and most plastic pollution is caused by a handful of brands flooding our country with single use plastic. They have come up with what they call 'The Dirty Dozen' and the same old brands come up year after year. Through 17,331 pieces of plastic they were able to work out who were responsible starting with:

- 1) Coca Cola. 2) McDonalds. 3) Cadburys. 4) Red Bull.
- 5) Walkers Crisps. 6) Monster Energy. 7) Lucozade.
- 8) Pepsi. 9) Stella Artois. 10) Haribo. 11) Tesco. 12) Mars

Do you drink/eat any of these pollutants? Can you change your habits?

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

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News from Shropshire Cllr Dan Thomas

Wilmore Street and Sheinton Street to be resurfaced

I'm delighted to announce that Wilmore Street and Sheinton Street are included in 90 roads that are being resurfaced in Shropshire for this financial year, as Shropshire Council continues its work to improve the county's roads and tackle potholes. I've raised these roads continuously since being re-elected.

With a further 71 stretches of road across Shropshire set to be surface dressed this spring and summer, this means more than 160 roads are set to be treated in the coming months. Regular readers are aware I had the Head of Highways Repairs in the South of the County join me for a drive around our area as I push for repairs across the whole area.

Shropshire Council appoints Tanya Miles as new Chief Executive

Shropshire Council is delighted to announce the appointment of Tanya Miles as its new Chief Executive, subject to ratification by Full Council on 14 May 2026.

Tanya has served as the Council's Interim Chief Executive since September 2025.

Before taking on the interim role, Tanya held her statutory roles as Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Children's Services, and has held numerous roles in adult and children's services since joining the Council in 1999 as a social worker. During her time as Interim Chief Executive, Tanya has worked with councillors, staff, and partners to maintain momentum on key priorities and continue improving services for residents, communities, and businesses – all while leading the Council towards a financially stable future.

End of Mayorship

May brought to an end my time as Town Mayor. Congratulations to the new Town Mayor, Cllr Susan Crooke-Williams, and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chris Tyler. I am truly grateful to this Council and the last one for the opportunity. It's a wonderful honour to serve this Town, the surrounding villages and hamlets as Mayor, and thank you to my fellow Town Cllrs, Staff and everyone who has supported me.

Neighbourhood Plan

On Thursday, the 14th of May, the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Shropshire Council. I represent the steering group as Chair and, of course, as a member of Shropshire Council. The vote was unanimous, and now it sits alongside statutory documents, ensuring the community has its say.

May Fair

I would like to thank Town Cllr Paula Sivertsen, the committee, and the community for organising a wonderful May Fair on Monday. It was brilliant to see this tradition brought back and an honour to attend as Mayor. Well done, everyone involved and thank you!

Advice Surgery

My next Advice Surgery is on Saturday, **11th June**, between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon at Much Wenlock Museum. No appointment is necessary. I'll be joined by Town Councillor Chris Tyler and a representative from the Police.

Best Regards, Dan Thomas

Working hard for communities in the Much Wenlock Division of Shropshire Council.

M: 077907 81408 (day time)

facebook: com/dan4wenlock

E: dan.thomas@shropshire.gov.uk

Much Wenlock Severn Hospice



The exhibition and auction at Halls of paintings donated by Catherine Downes made almost £900, with more expected through future sales. The proceeds will be shared between the Severn Hospice Support Group and Cuan Wildlife Rescue, and we are grateful to Catherine and Halls for their generosity.

Our next event is

A plant sale organised and hosted by Ann & Peter Wight at Church House, 16 Barrow Street, Much Wenlock TF13 6EN on **Saturday 30th May**, 10.00am-1.00pm.



There will be some lovely plants for sale, including Ann & Peter's wonderful hostas and many other plants donated by green-fingered locals.

Refreshments will not be served at this event, but there's always a chance to visit one of the town cafes who regularly give generously to us. We know they would value your support.

Much Wenlock Severn Hospice Support Group - future dates for your diary:

Saturday July 4th – West End to Wenlock at The Edge Arts Centre, tickets are £25 and available on the TicketSource site and at Penny Farthing, The Square, Much Wenlock.

Saturday 22nd August – Open Garden at Wenlock Abbey – with a historical theme – more details to follow.

Saturday 24th October - Coffee Morning and Christmas Cards sale, Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock

Sunday 29th November 29th, 2.00-5.30pm - Line Dancing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock TF13 6NB (on the William Brookes School site).

Much Wenlock Ecclesiastical Charity

A Grant Making Charity Supporting the Community of Much Wenlock with faith, hope and love.

If you or your organisation would like to discuss to see if you meet the criteria or apply please write to:

The Rectory, New Road, Much Wenlock TF13 6EQ

Or Email: mwec@muchwenlockchurch.co.uk
Application Forms can be downloaded from:
www.muchwenlockchurch.co.uk

Letter from Westminster



Littering in our beautiful constituency is unacceptable. My Shop Local Survey last year received thousands of responses, many of which mentioned the urgent need for this problem to be tackled. As a result, I have committed to working with local groups in the coming months and years to clean up our high streets. However, litter does not only occur in our towns. More than 1.2 million cases of fly-tipping were reported across the UK last year, and South Shropshire has been far from immune to this vile crime. So, in Parliament, I am glad to have secured new measures from the Government to punish fly-tippers by placing penalty points on their driving licence. We must send a clear message that those who fly-tip will face severe consequences.

In Parliament, I have also been pushing for support for those in South Shropshire struggling with heating oil costs which have risen exponentially since the beginning of the Iran War. In a recent Westminster Hall Debate on this issue, I declared that: 'Shropshire council has more than 53,000 off-grid households, of which more than half are in my constituency, yet it has been allocated only £750,000. That equates to £14.29 per house, whereas the average across the country is £35... I want the minimum order level to be addressed, and I want future provision to ensure that my constituents, particularly the hardest hit, can have heating oil without having to choose between that and food.' I will continue pushing for long-term measures and meaningful support for my constituents in light of the deepening energy crisis.

Since I was first elected as the MP for South Shropshire in 2024, I have been constantly fighting to improve connectivity within the constituency. I recently met with Digital Economy Minister Liz Lloyd to demand the acceleration of Broadband delivery in our area. When she previously visited Stottesdon in March, Baroness Lloyd promised that we would not be left behind in the rollout of reliable broadband, yet only 350 connections have been built so far under Project Gigabit. I know how frustrating poor connection can be, particularly in rural areas. Trust that my campaign to improve Broadband provision across the constituency is ongoing and I will keep pushing Ministers to act faster.

I have also been busy in recent weeks meeting residents and businesses across South Shropshire to listen, support, and deliver on the issues that matter most to them. Recently, I visited Border Holdings (Britpart) in Craven Arms to hear directly from the team about ongoing local infrastructure issues that are impacting their day-to-day operations. My team and I are now working alongside the relevant local authorities to secure long-term solutions. This follows the recent debate I led in Parliament on the state of roads in rural areas to again stress the need for urgent action. I also recently enjoyed a truly special visit to Lady Forester Nursing Home and Foresters Court Independent Living Facility in Much Wenlock. I was grateful for the opportunity to speak with residents, tenants, staff, and leadership about their own personal experiences as well as the wider challenges facing the care sector.

I recently held advice surgeries in Ludlow and Bridgnorth where I discussed a wide range of issues with local residents. I would also like to thank everybody who attended my recent MP Coffee Mornings in Much Wenlock and Cleobury Mortimer. These events provide the perfect opportunity for an informal chat about local or national issues over a cup of tea or coffee and a cake. Upcoming dates and locations are advertised on my website or you can phone my constituency office at 01746 555025.

Stuart Anderson MP
Member of Parliament for South Shropshire
Tel: 01746 555025
Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

Father,
Here we are in June – a beautiful month and a month when we remember a beautiful follower of Yours, Barnabas. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith and he encouraged Your people to remain true to You in what must have been dangerous times.



Lord, in these dangerous days, when so much seems alien and out of control, how we all need to be encouraged to be steadfast in our faith and in our lives.

How we need to remember that You are our faithful, sovereign Lord; that You never change; that in Jesus You have won the victory over sin and death. If we put our trust in Jesus, we are secure for all eternity.

Thank You for the example of Barnabas. Help us to be encouraged and to encourage others. May we enjoy June in all its beauty, knowing that nothing can separate us from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



MUCH WENLOCK FRIENDSHIP GROUP

A social group for people aged over 60 to meet up, enjoy some light refreshment and make new friends. The Pinefields Community Centre, 1 Pinefields Close, Much Wenlock TF13 6DA, usually on the **last Tuesday of the month**, 10.30am - 12.30pm, but meeting dates can change, so please check with Wellbeing services for details of the next meeting.

Cost: Free, but we would welcome a donation of £2.00 per session to cover costs

Contact: Wellbeing services 01743 233 123
Email: enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk

5k Your Way Move Against Cancer A support group with a difference for anyone affected by cancer

Parkrun events on the **last Saturday of every month**. Afterwards we go for coffee and chat! Our groups are all very friendly and supportive.

We meet at Shrewsbury parkrun in the Quarry park and one in Telford who meet at Telford parkrun in Telford town park. Both groups meet at 8.45am for a 9am start on the last Saturday of the month.

shrewsburygroup@5kyourway.org
telfordgroup@5kyourway.org



LETTER FROM HEREFORD DIOCESE

One of the things I have not quite got used to since living in Herefordshire is the multi culturalism of a large city. We simply don't have the diversity of faiths and culture our more metropolitan areas take for granted. Difference can bring great benefits and the opportunities to discover cultures and traditions other than our own. Yet if we are not careful the politics of division and hatred can draw attention to cultural diversity in an unhelpful way which creates tension and divides communities. So, the question I want to pose is how do you cope with difference? We all think we are good at dealing with diversity, but the reality is that most of us like and feel most comfortable with people just like us! We all have a certain amount of preference and bias, and it is important that we know how to spot our blind spots and the issues that can trip us up. Yet the bible speaks about difference in a positive way because it recognises all of us are unique expressions of God's love.

In the very beginning of creation God created diversity and difference not just in humanity but in the entire creation. However, uniquely, he created human beings to reflect his divine nature. Whatever preferences we have, at heart we are called to treat others as we ourselves want to be treated. When we reject those who are different, we are in effect rejecting God's love for our world.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31

Paul recognised that difference was a key part of our faith. Christians are called to live counter culturally and that alone marks us as different from those around us. Our values are shaped by the kingdom and in the kingdom the differences that matter in this world are meaningless. Instead, Paul wants us to know that what is important is our trust in Jesus as our Lord because this enables us to be citizens of heaven.

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

Finally when we look elsewhere in the New Testament, we also find a similar message, in fact John goes further in his letters because he says if we love God but hate those we can see then our faith is flawed. John says when we reject difference, we have not let our faith shape who we are.

"We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."

1 John 4:19-21

The Venerable Derek Chedzey - Archdeacon of Hereford

140th Wenlock Olympian Games return June–July 2026

The Wenlock Olympian Society will stage the sports events of its 140th Summer Games across June and July 2026, with 15 events taking place in and around Much Wenlock for both juniors and adults. Following a one-year pause, the Society is pleased to welcome back the athletics event at William Brookes School, made possible by the completion of track refurbishment works with generous support from the 3–18 Education Trust, the Walker Trust and individual donors.

Local residents are warmly invited to take part, volunteer or come along to support competitors as the Games return to venues across the area.

- Pickleball – Saturday 20 June, Much Wenlock Leisure Centre
- Kwik Cricket – Friday 26 June, Cound Cricket Club
- Archery – Saturday 27 June, Bowbrook Archers (near Withington)
- Bowls (singles) – Saturday 27 June, Much Wenlock Bowling Club
- Bowls (doubles) – Saturday 27 June, Much Wenlock Bowling Club
- Rowing – Saturday 27 June, Ironbridge Rowing Club
- Tennis (junior) – Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July, Cound Tennis Club
- Badminton – Saturday 11 July, William Brookes School
- Netball – Saturday 11 July, William Brookes School
- Athletics – Sunday 12 July, William Brookes School
- Fencing – Sunday 12 July, Much Wenlock Leisure Centre
- Road Race (10k) – Sunday 12 July, Gaskell Field, Much Wenlock
- Tennis (senior) – Sunday 12 July, Broseley Tennis Club
- Additional events: Equestrian (date/venue TBC) and Hockey (date/venue TBC).

Where they exist, full details, including entry information, timings and venue directions, are available on the Society's website:

<https://wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk/wenlock-olympian-society-sports/attending-the-sports/>
Please follow the relevant links for event-specific information and how to enter.

Volunteers are also needed in Much Wenlock on Sunday 12 July (the main day of the Games). To help, please email info@wenlock-olympian-Society.org.uk.

Wenlock Mile marked out on Gaskell Field
Two square stone markers have been installed beside the asphalt path around the Gaskell Field to indicate the start and finish of a measured mile. The Start marker is by the cricket pavilion; the Finish marker is approximately 50 yards further along the path. The route begins at the Start marker, goes twice around the perimeter of the field, and ends at the Finish marker.

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



Christ Church C.E. Primary School Preparing, Sowing, Growing Our New Early Years Outdoor Provision

My dear Nephew Darren

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat in. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in an 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

We are delighted to see our long-awaited Early Years outdoor provision come to life this May, following over a year of careful planning and aspiration. The completion of our new outdoor provision marks an exciting milestone for our school community and most importantly, for our youngest learners.

At Christ Church, we are deeply passionate about the role the outdoors plays in children's learning and development. We firmly believe that high-quality outdoor provision is not an 'extra', but an essential part of Early Years education. The new 60m² covered area will enable our children to access outdoor learning opportunities throughout the year, whatever the weather, ensuring consistency, freedom and extended time to explore, discover and grow.

The outdoor environment is a powerful "enabling environment," supporting all seven areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage. It provides rich and varied opportunities for children to develop holistically - physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively. Through outdoor play, children can strengthen their bodies, improve coordination and develop resilience, while also benefiting from the positive impact that fresh air and open space have on mental wellbeing. This environment not only feels calm and inviting but also encourages children to connect with the natural world - an essential part of fostering awe, wonder and respect for their surroundings.

We are incredibly excited about the difference this



new provision will make. It will transform the way our Early Years children learn, giving them greater independence, more meaningful sensory experiences and

the freedom to follow their interests in a stimulating and nurturing environment. This investment reflects our unwavering commitment to giving every child the very best start in life.

We would warmly welcome families to come and look around and see first-hand how this exciting new space is already enriching children's learning and development.



Emma Clarke, Acting Head of School

April 10, 2026 RE: Introduction to Film – Dreams of an Eleven-Year-Old Witch (Alice Glaston)

To the Business Owners and Community of Much Wenlock,

I am writing to you as a producer of the upcoming film, *Dreams of an Eleven-Year-Old Witch*, which tells the story of Alice Glaston. As we prepare for our production, we wanted to reach out to the heart of the Much Wenlock community, its local businesses, to introduce ourselves and our vision for this project.

We are acutely aware that Much Wenlock is a town with a rich, vibrant history that stretches far beyond the tragic story of Alice Glaston. We know how much pride the town takes in its heritage, from its beautiful medieval architecture to its world-renowned status as the birthplace of the modern Olympic movement.



Our film aims to treat the name of Much Wenlock with enormous respect. While the story focuses on the life of a child in the Tudor period, we have made it our mission to avoid the sensationalism that has sometimes

followed Alice's history. Instead, we are creating a visually fantastical yet sensitive exploration of childhood in that era. We even intend to include subtle tributes to the town's Olympic legacy by using the colours of the Olympic rings in sequence within our visual design

Although principal photography (beginning 28th September 2026) will take place in various locations across the country to protect the film's historical sensitivity, Much Wenlock remains the spiritual home of our narrative. We want to celebrate the town's name on a global stage, ensuring it is remembered for its beauty and historical significance rather than just a single dark footnote.

We can confirm that after a major 5 month nationwide search to find an actress to portray Alice Glaston for the first time on screen, we have found our chosen Alice, who despite her years, has shown a huge amount of maturity, sensitivity and care for this remarkable tale. In her first interview recently with the BBC's Sophie Law, she explained that she wants to do it right for Alice, and we are all committed to doing it right for you, the people of Much Wenlock also.



We value the spirit of Much Wenlock and hope that, as this project progresses, we can maintain a positive and respectful relationship with the local community that keeps this history alive.

Yours sincerely,
Justin

Executive Producer
production@vitality-entertainment.com

Who was Alice Glaston?

Alice Glaston (c. 1535(?) – 13 April 1546) was an 11-year-old English girl from Little Wenlock who may have been hanged in Much Wenlock, Shropshire, England, under the reign of Henry VIII.

The evidence surrounding how Alice met her death is however provided from a single source and open to interpretation. The *Cambrian Journal* dated 1861 includes a note made in the parish register by the vicar of Much Wenlock, Sir Thomas Butler in 1545, and states "Here was buried John Dod of the parish of Little Wenlock, who was hanged here, as also Alice Glaston, 11 yrs of age, of the parish of Little Wenlock, and Wm. Harper, a tailor." This note records Alice was buried and does not categorically determine she was hanged. There is also no suggestion that either Dod or Harper were witches, or that the latter (a tailor) was also hung.

The first Witchcraft Act (1541) introduced serious penalties for witchcraft and was the first act to define witchcraft as a felony, punishable by death. Witch trials in England were however not common until the end of the 16th century and early 17th century when James VI and I ascended to the throne. According to historian Joyce Gibson, the first person hanged for witchcraft in England was likely to be Elizabeth Lowy's who was tried in July 1564 for killing a child by occult means.[4] The most commonly identified first person to have been executed as a witch in England is Agnes Waterhouse in 1566, and whose name appears in Judy Chicago's feminist history installation *The Dinner Party*.

It is worth keeping these facts in mind when referencing information provided by Vitality Entertainment who are producing the film '*Dreams of an Eleven Year Old Witch*.' The title not only suggests she was a witch, but that she also identified as one, which is a false narrative around the history of witchcraft trials and suggests the women and girls affected were somehow complicit in their own demise - i.e. they were witches and therefore unlawful. Moreover, Vitality Entertainment make clear on their own website resource AliceGlaston.com that "the specific crime that led an eleven year old to the gallows remains a mystery" and despite claims their mission is to "avoid sensationalism" I cannot help but wonder if this in fact, sensationalism.

If the town council or businesses in our wonderful Much Wenlock feel they can in some way capitalise on this project, then so be it, but do so under no illusion that this is anything other than a work of fiction. I hope that at the very least this will be an entertaining film, but find it hard to see any amusement in what amounts to a story about a girl who died at the age of eleven.

Francesca C Mallen BA MA AMA

THE HEREFORD GOSPELS FOR TODAY

The Hereford Gospels for Today is an exciting project commissioned to accompany the exhibition, **Shaping Early Medieval Faith: The Hereford Gospels** and celebrate the 1350th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Hereford.

With thanks to members of Hereford Cathedral Congregation for supporting this project and to Arthur Green of Green's Books.

Hereford Cathedral
Sunday 24 & Monday 25 May 2026

Leominster Priory
Wednesday 27 May - Monday 22 June 2026

St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye
Saturday 27 June - Monday 6 July 2026

Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock
Saturday 11 - Sunday 19 July 2026

Hereford Cathedral
Sunday 25 July - Sunday 6 September 2026

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow
Thursday 10 - Wednesday 23 September 2026



WENLOCK HERALD

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Calendar of Events

30th May Severn Hospice Support Plant Sale (15)

JUNE 2026

- 1st Mon The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 2nd Tues Brockton & District WI (9)
 3rd Wed Coffee, Chat and Carpet Bowls (7)
 Pray and Share for the Climate (4)
 4th Thurs The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 Town Council Meeting (12)
 5th Fri The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 6th Sat Cricket Club Fixtures (6)
 Holy Trinity's Coffee Morning (5)
 Joint Concert (10)
 Male Voice Choir (8)
 Stanton Long Coffee Morning (6)
 8th Mon The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 10th Wed U3A (11)
 11th Thurs Cressage and District WI (7)
 The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 Singing for Fun (8)
 12th Fri Holy Trinity Soup Lunch (6)
 The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 13th Sat Cllr Dan Thomas's Surgery (15)
 The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 Cricket Club Fixtures (6)
 The Gallery Singers (10)
 Council Surgery (12/15)
 14th Sun Stanton Long Hymns & Pimms (7)
 15th Mon The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 16th Tues Living Well with Dementia, Sight & Hearing Loss Exhibition (12)
 17th Wed Coffee, Chat and Carpet Bowls (7)
 MW Women's Institute (6)
 18th Thurs Butty Van (7)
 Mothers' Union (8)
 20th Sat Cricket Club Fixtures (6)
 Made in Shropshire Market (12)
 22nd Mon The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 25th Thurs The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 26th Fri The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 27th Sat Cricket Club Fixtures (6)
 Hughley Church Annual Plant & Cake Sale (7)
 29th Mon The Edge Arts Centre (13)
 June/July Wenlock Olympian Games (17)

FUTURE DATES

- 4th July Severn Hospice Support (15)
 4th July Charity Garage Sale (7)
 5th July Garden Trail (11)
 5th July MW Open Gardens Trail (10)
 11th July Organ Recitals Revd David Price (10)
 11th July Male Voice Choir (8)
 18th July RDA Coffee Morning (10)
 22nd August Severn Hospice Support (15)
 24th October Severn Hospice Support (15)
 29th November Severn Hospice Support (15)

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For information on accessing appointments, prescription ordering or other services provided at the Practice, please see our website or speak to a member of our team.

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are 'housed' at The Priory Hall; The Fire Station, Smithfield Road; The Leisure Centre, William Brookes School; Pinefields Community Room; High Street (under the Corn Exchange); Cricket Pavillion: Brockton CofE Primary School; Church Preen Village Hall. Easthope (phone box); Kenley School Room; Shipton Village Hall; Stanton Long (phone box); Presthope Grange Residential Park Home Site (Before No1 Red Admiral Way TF13 6FG); former Post Office building in Bourton; Atterley (what3words location ///idealist.ghosts.being).

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The Trust invites applications for grants with its Objectives requiring that these must be for the relief of financial hardship, sickness and poor health amongst elderly people in and around Much Wenlock but also within Shropshire, but not from elsewhere.

Applications for projects that might benefit a number of individuals will be welcomed by the Trustees.

Applications forms can be obtained from the Trust's website at

www.mwfctrust.com or email to mwfctrust@gmail.com or

telephone the Trust's Chairman,
Mark Laws 07703 114823

Much Wenlock and Cressage Compassionate Communities (CoCo)

We always need more Coco volunteers

Coco volunteers provide companionship and a willingness to help people in practical ways. This could be helping with paperwork, collecting prescriptions, shopping together, befriending, walking a dog or feeding a cat; anything that the person and their volunteer agree might be helpful. If you are able to support someone in the community, please contact the surgery for more information on 01952 726011.

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Carer Connect

A community group dedicated to our unpaid carers; providing an opportunity to connect with other carers and local support services. Meet 1st Tuesday of the month at Priory Hall - from 2pm until 4pm. Carers can attend alone or with the person they care for. Refreshments are provided. Please contact the surgery for more information on 01952 726011.

CLOSING DATE for July edition is 12th June

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(Numbers in brackets represent Advert page - not editorial page)

Accommodation, Food and Drink

Eaton Manor (4) Tea on The Square (6) Takeaway (2)

Builders and Decorators

Brian McAvoy(12) Olive Interiors Painting & Decorating (4) Much Wenlock Roofing (3) DP Plastering (9) DWS Property Services (9) James Corfield Contracting Ltd (11) Rex Tittley (2) TBC Building Contractors (7) WMB Building (8)

Care and Education

Brockton Preschool (8) Church Preen Pre-School & Primary School (3) Inspiring Maths Tutor - Bob Stirling (7) Home Instead (7) Maths Tutor (5) New Chapters Fostercare (12)

Carpentry and Joinery

A & M Joinery (1) Select Joinery (5) Wrekin Wood (6)

Cleaning Services

Ann's Household Cleaning Service (10) Oven Valeting Service (10)

Computer Services

Personal Computer Clinic (2)

Electricians

Copeland Electricals (6) E W Humphries (3)

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Brian Merrick Xternal-Designs (4) Cameron Ray Garding & Handyman (10) Gary Pearce (8) GL Landscaping (4) Harley Nursery (11) Joffrey Watson Tree Surgeon (2) Peter Marlow (12) Shropshire Lawn Company (7) Stephen Gregory (7) The Tree Man (10) Tracy Blackband Garden Designs (3)

Hairdressing

Dads & Lads (3) The Salon (12) Vivian's Mobile Hairdressing (9)

Health and Therapy

Clare Darbyshire (Optician) (12) Clare Darbyshire (Hearing Care Service) (7) Karen Hearle Abbey Chiropodist (1) Move it or Lose it (12) Pure Wellness (6) Shropshire Foot Practice (4) The Body Clinic (3) The Creative Nook (9) Wenlock Pharmacy (2) Wenlock Nero Physio (9)

Household Services

Man with a Van (3) Kestrel Homes (5) Local Handyman (8) JCJ Pest Control (6) Logs2Your Door (11) Richard Brassington - Chimney Sweep (2) S L Coldicott Roofing Contractor (3) Smallshaws Ridge Fuels - Coal Merchant (1) Stanton Sweeps (7) Tele-Satt Aerial (12)

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Clemmie Daborn Estate Agent (4) Fodens Solicitors (2) Linguist (3) Independent Speech & Language Therapist (12) Maws Gallery (Picture Framer) (4) NFU Insurance (12) Northwood & Sons (Funeral Directors) (4) nxt gen Wills (1) Starla Services (13) Stephanie James Accountant (4)

Miscellaneous Services

Inspirational Projects (12) Lady Forester Trust (Charitable Trust) (5)

Pets and Veterinary Services

Priory Vets much Wenlock Ltd (12) Severn Edge (10) Southwater Veterinary Group (2) Much Wenlock Dog Walker (5)

Plumbing and Heating

Alan Hall (5) Craig Mackender (3) Gosling Energy Solutions (2) James Elwell-Perfect Plumbing (11) J Morris Plumbing & Heating (4)

Public Halls and Meeting Places

Harley Village Hall (9) Methodist Church Hall (4) Much Wenlock Priory Hall (3)

Retailers

A Ryan and Son (Butchers) (8) Chemist - Wenlock Pharmacy (2) DuBelle Jewellery (5) Farm & Garden Machinery (13) Memories Antiques & Collectables (7) Pig & Pie (6) The Pan Shop (1) Violas Florist (6)

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Drivetime School of Motoring (4) Farm & Garden Machinery (6) John Esp (3) Nick Cooke Car Repairs & Servicing (8) Remap & Service Experts Ltd (6) The Friendly Bus (10) Wenlock Motors (8)

Windows and Doors

Dudley's Glass (9) The Real Bridgnorth Windows (1) Trotfield Windows (6)



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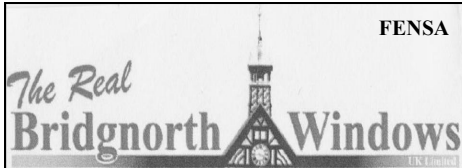
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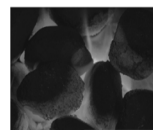
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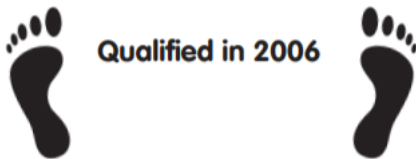


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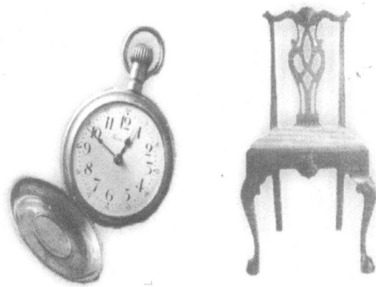
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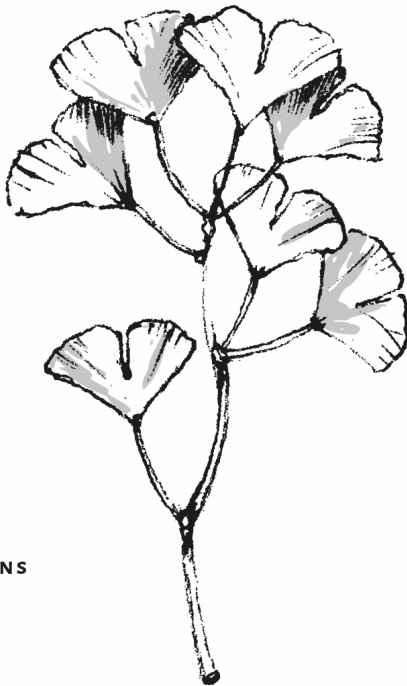
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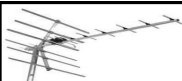
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Cound	11.00 MP (LL)		11.00 E (CS)		11.00 MP (LL)
Cressage	To Cound	To Harley	To Cound	To Harley	To Cound
Sheinton				Patronal Eucharist 11.00 (SR)	
Harley		9.30 HC (CS)		6.00 EP (PT)	
Kenley	9.30 HC (SR)		6.00 BCP Choral Evensong for The Birth of Saint John the Baptist (SR)		9.30 HC (CS)
Church Preen			11.15 E (LH)		
Hughley				9.30 E (TBC)	
Much Wenlock	8.00 HC (SR) 9.30 E (RB) 6.30 BCP EvS (SR)	9.30 HC (SR)	6.30 BCP EvS (LL)	9.30 E (SR)	8.00 BCP HC (SR) 9.30 E (SR) 6.30 BCP EvS (SR)
Bourton			9.30 Joint Benefice Eucharist (SR)		
Easthope				6.00 E (SR)	
Shipton	9.30 MP (LL)		11.00 E (SR)		9.30 MP (LL)
Stanton Long		6.00 Songs of Praise (LL)			

Thursday 4th June Corpus Christi Holy Eucharist 6.00pm—Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock (SR)

MIDWEEK COMMUNION AT MUCH WENLOCK - 10.30AM WEDNESDAY

KEY TO OFFICIANTS:

MCS = Revd Preb M Stafford SR = Revd Sam Rigby LH = Revd Lisa Harper
 RB = Revd Canon Robert Bull DJ = Revd David Janes CL = Fr Charles Lawrence PT = Mr Paul Trenberth
 SC = Sheila Cox CS = Claire Sanders MS = Mark Sanders LL = Locally Led

KEY TO SERVICES:

AAW = All Age Worship BCP = Book of Common Prayer E = Eucharist EvS = Choral Evensong
 EP = Evening Prayer HC = Holy Communion MP = Morning Prayer