

Footprints

Issue No. CCLXXXV

May 2026.

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New Bench for Broad Green

After many years of faithful service, the wrought iron bench overlooking Broad Green needed to be replaced. It was installed many years ago by Alan and Joy Lewis in memory of a lost loved one. It has served us well over the years as a quiet place for both local residents and passers-by to rest and enjoy the stunning views across the Green and beyond. It was important to choose a new bench that was in keeping with its location whilst being environmentally friendly. Comfort and minimal maintenance were also important. In the end a

modern bench was chosen. It closely resembles traditional teak, but is made from wood laminate and meets GRS standards. As you can see our own Steve Bourton of Orchard Cottage did an excellent job in levelling the flagstones and securing the bench.

We need to acknowledge with thanks the advice and guidance we received from Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council. It was they who encouraged us to seek help from our local District Councillor, Barbara Williams. As a result, Barbara took a personal interest in the project and provided us with the necessary funds through her MHDC Community Grant Scheme. Thank you to everyone and if we need another bench we know just who to turn to! Hopefully over the Summer you will be able to find time to try out the new bench and relax for a few minutes. After all, it's there for us all to enjoy.

Monthly musings from Rev Anne (Team Rector)

Traditionally the Roman Catholic Church dedicates the month of May to celebrating and honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. During the month devotions include special prayers, floral tributes and communal celebrations focusing on her faith, humility and obedience. One of the most recognizable traditions is the crowning of statues of Mary with a wreath of flowers symbolizing her as the 'Queen of May'. Another tradition is the setting up of a May Altar which is decorated with white or blue cloths, candles and fresh spring flowers or Mary Gardens planted with flowers and herbs associated with Mary such as lilies representing purity or marigolds (Mary's Gold). All traditions and rituals are rooted in history and it is quite likely Marian devotions go back to the 13th century. However, the current practices became widespread in the 18th Century through the efforts of the Jesuit Order which were subsequently 'rubber stamped' by various popes including Pope Paul VI for whom the blooming of spring was a natural symbol for the 'new life' Mary brought into the world in giving birth to the Son of God, Jesus.

In the week after Easter Mike and I visited Notre Dame to view the restoration of the roof following the fire in 2019 which broke out under the eaves of the roof below the wooden spire. (this is where I learnt about the month of May being devoted to Mary which in turn gave me the inspiration for my monthly musing!). Beside the nave altar stands a Late Gothic stone sculpture of Mary holding an infant Jesus. This classic statue is associated with the symbols of piety and protection. When the roof above collapsed into the central area, as a result of the fire, the altar and its surroundings were destroyed but a pile of debris fell around the statue of Mary which is not particularly small. This pile of debris protected the iconic statue from any form of damage and the sculpture survived unscathed. Obviously, there are some who are of a mind that Mary protected herself and her son whilst others give a more pragmatic, even scientific, explanation yet whatever one's take it is still a miracle. Like the miracle of new life that Christians all over the world, whatever denomination, Roman Catholic, Protestant or Orthodox, celebrate during this season of Easter which runs from Easter Day to Pentecost.

Pentecost, which this year is on May 24th, is celebrated 50 days after Easter. Derived from the Greek word 'pentekoste', which means fiftieth, Pentecost Sunday is when Christians celebrate the Holy Spirit filling Jesus' disciples, as he promised, to guide them in sharing the good news of Christ. Many Christians also celebrate Pentecost as the birth-day of Christianity. Since Pentecost is a major feast day in the Christian calendar and always falls on a Sunday the next day Whit Monday (Pentecost Monday) is legally a public holiday in many European, African

and Caribbean countries. However, in the USA and UK it is not a legal holiday as Pentecost does not always fall before the last Monday in May like this year. Next year for example Easter falls very early on March 28th and so Pentecost will be on May 16th and Bank Holiday Monday on May 31st – the latest it can be!!

And so, on that rambling note I wish all our readers a blessed and merry month of May.

Rev. Anne

Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met at St Leonards on the 15th April. The Council expressed its condolences to the family of the recent traffic accident victim.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

Work continues and the final draft is expected to be formally presented to the May meeting. There will also be a presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting. If agreed then it starts a complex journey of consultations, examination and finally a referendum of Parishioners. It is hoped that the revised plan will be formally adopted by early to mid 2027.

The wider planning environment continues to be subject to development and change at a national level, which will eventually have some impact at a local level. The revised South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) has been completed and demonstrates how the 5 year housing supply will be met.

We will be making as much information about the NDP available as possible, and feel free to contact us.

Berryfields Recreation Ground

The Parish Council has now received the funds from the Malvern Hills Legacy Grant Fund, and this means that contractors move ahead. A new piece of children's play equipment will be installed shortly, followed by the resurfacing of the car park and new fencing (including the fencing off of the children's play area.

Some of the grant is allocated to landscaping the area around where the container was located to provide a quiet area with new seating. We would welcome ideas from parishioners on the sort of low maintenance planting schemes they would prefer and any suggestions for designs. Even better, we would love it if a green fingered volunteer or two would come forward to take a lead on this.

Events Diary - May 2026

- 3rd Sun 9.00am Communion at Cotheridge Church
10.30am Worship for All - Broadwas Church
- 5th Tues 11.00am Royal British Legion meeting at Talbot Hotel
- 6th Wed 7.00pm Annual Meetings of Broadwas & Cotheridge Parishes
- 7th Thurs 12-2.00pm Lunch in Company - Martley Memorial Hall
- 9th Sat 9.30-11am Mainly Music—Alfrick Vill Hall
- 10th Sun 11.00am Rogation Service at the Hill Fm., Wichenford
3.00pm Evening Worship - Knightwick Chapel
- 13th Wed 10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House
- 14th Thurs 2.30-4pm Pastoral Tea Party - Martley Memorial Hall
7.00pm Deanery Ascension Service - All Saints Church
- 17th Sun 10.00am Café Church - St Peters, Martley
10.30am Holy Communion at Broadwas Church
- 20th Wed 3.30pm Crafty Café Church - Broadwas Church
- 24th Sun 10.30am Morning Worship - Broadwas Church
- 27th Wed 10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House
- 28th Thurs 2.00 - 4.00pm "Cuppa & Chat" - Cotheridge Church
- 31st Sun 10.30am Benefice Service - Pew Croft Farm, Suckley
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Ros Moffett would like to thank all those kind people who left flowers and cards when she was in hospital recently. Now recovering well!

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The new dog and general waste bin has been installed adjacent to St Leonards church and will be regularly emptied by MHDC.

We have expressed an interest in the new MHDC scheme and fund to support the network of defibrillators, and if successful we hope to replace the one at the Royal Oak. In the meantime we continue to support the efforts at St Lenards to install one, and also with the owners of Laylocks.

A44 Road Safety and speeding

Parishioners will be aware of the recent fatality (the second in under a year). Our County Councillor Mel Fordington continues to take a lead on engaging with the County Council to come forward with more positive, concrete and strategic proposals.

We continue to wait for the County Council to share with us the details of their proposed improvements to signage and road markings. We continue to press them to re look at additional measures in Cotheridge and introduction of buffer or speed reduction zones either side of Broadwas.

Our MP and District Councillor also continue to be supportive, and Cllr Jones Williams continues to press the County Council and the Police to consider further action in relation to the continued problems of horses running wild on the A44.

With the help of a grant from Cllr Fordington we have purchased 3 new Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) 1 is solar powered the other 2 will be fed by existing mains supply. These should provide a stronger incentive to road users to observe the speed limit and drive safely. As these are up to date we will now have easy access to data, which in turn will help all concerned to continue to move towards improvements.

Arrangements are being made for their installation.

The Police continue to be supportive through their enforcement activity and have offered additional sessions from a hand held and therefore mobile device. We have suggested a number of possible locations including Cotheridge and Hill Top.

We understand that people have different perceptions of the issues and therefore of any solutions. We welcome and encourage parishioners to make these known through our respective elected members and ourselves.

The next meeting is on May 6th at Broadwas Village Hall.

In fact there are 2 meetings! - The first starts at 7pm and is the ***Broadwas and Cotheridge Annual Parish Meeting***

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All local organisations and groups have been invited to attend and share their achievements and hopes for the future.

The Parish Council will present its annual report and this year and also a chance to hear about the updated NDP.

Light refreshments will be available

We do understand that people are busy and that Parish Council matters don't always score highly on priority lists! However we would welcome you to attend as this is a good opportunity to hear about activities in the parish.

The 2nd starts after the 1st (usually about 8.15) and is ***The Parish Council Annual meeting*** This has a limited agenda as it focuses on the appointment of roles such as the Chair and Vice Chair, the accounts etc. As well as welcoming and appointing any new parish councillors. As noted this year it is hoped to formally adopt the draft NDP.

Finally this is also a time when we acknowledge the contribution made by parishioners to life in the parish, and hopefully encourage them to continue and for others to step forward.

Richard Burrows - Chair

DO COME FOR TEA, GOOD COMPANY and FUN!

There will be a warm welcome for all from the Pastoral Team of Martley, Wichenford and the Lower Teme Valley
at a

Tea Party

on

Thursday 14th May from 2.30-4pm

at

Martley Memorial Hall

Do come and join us!

Revd. Jennifer Whittaker.

01886 833897

BLUEBELL CROSS COUNTRY FUN RIDE

WICHENFORD, WR6 6YY

Starting from The Hill Farm
*for Midlands Air Ambulance, St Richards Hospice,
and local charities*

16th and 17 May 2026

Also

23, 24, & 25 May

All Dates are Strictly by appointment only
please ring or email for a day and time

First Entries at 10.00am
(last entries 1pm)

11 miles pleasure ride with through bluebell woods and fields,
many optional shortcuts, no roadwork lots of optional jumps of
various heights and sizes
riders must have insurance,
and valid vaccinations and Horse passports
Riders take part entirely at their own risk:
the organizers accept no liability whatsoever for
damage to persons, horses, or property
whilst on the premises, or taking part in the ride
Hard Hats and adequate protection obligatory
Dogs strictly on leads at all times

First Aid * Vet and doctor on call * WCs
DELICIOUS Teas / Refreshments, buns, cakes,
And plants for sale

Entries on the day:

Riders: Adults £24. Children (under 12) £18

Walkers: - £10

Contact Enquiries: gbl@wichenford.net

Village Information

Church Officials:

Team Rector - Rev Anne Potter 01886 832355
Assistant Priest - Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897
Churchwardens – Lower Teme Valley Parish
Rob Pearce 01886 821959
Peter Walker 01886 822137

Parish Councils

Broadwas & Cotheridge : **www.broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk**
Chairman – Richard Burrows
Clerk – Email : clerk@broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk
Knightwick & Doddenham
Clerk – Richard Timney 07515881231
Email : richardtimney@yahoo.com

Village Hall - Broadwas Georgina Tabberer, Chair,
Email : **Broadwasvillagehall@outlook.com**

Clubs and Societies

Broadwas Sports Assoc. Sec. - David Creed-Newton - 01886 880534
davidcreednewton@btinternet.com
Croquet Club – John Guy 01905 748192
Royal British Legion – Sue Ganderton 01905 422711

Schools:

Broadwas C of E Primary School - Secretary 01886 821347
Bumblebees : Pre-school/Out-of-School Care 07817637241

Community Website - www.broadwas-cotheridge.com

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