

Footprints

Issue No. CCLXXXVI

June 2026.

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Copy by 15th of month, please..

Cotheridge

Open Gardens



Sunday 7th June 2026

SEVEN DELIGHTFUL GARDENS • open 11am - 4pm

Tea, Coffee, Home-made Cakes • Plant Sales

Adults
£7
Under 16s
FREE

Cotheridge, A44 Bromyard Road WR6 5LZ

Free car parking by the Church

Proceeds support St Leonard's Church & St Richard's Hospice



Monthly musings from Rev Anne (Team Rector)

As I sat down to write this month's contribution to our Parish Magazine my mind was blank. The sun was shining though it was still a bit cold for the time of year. Like so many British folk here I am talking about the weather. When I had Offenham Post Office and Stores, which I sold 12 years ago in readiness to take up a full-time role as an Incumbent, the weather was the main topic of conversation. So...what about June? Got thinking about birthstones and how every month has a particular birthstone associated with it. My research though revealed that June (along with August and December) has three birthstones: Pearl, Moonstone and Alexandrite, each one offering unique beauty symbolism and colour variations.

The first one Pearl is unique because they are organic, formed inside the tissue of living saltwater or freshwater molluscs such as oysters or mussels. Pearls have always fascinated people. Ancients from the Middle East believed pearls were teardrops fallen from heaven and the Chinese that pearls came from the brain of a dragon. Christopher Columbus and his contemporaries thought pearls were formed from dew drops. Pearls have long been associated with purity, humility and innocence. Traditionally given as a wedding gift reflected the June birthstone meaning of 'sweet simplicity'. Thousands of years of pearl fishing has decimated the natural pearl beds with technicians now cultivating, on pearl farms, cultured pearls which come in an array of sizes, colours and shapes. Historically, pearls have been associated with the Moon, protection and prosperity.

The moonstone is renowned for its adularescence, the soft, glimmering light that seems to move across the stone giving this gemstone a special glow. Moonstone is found in a variety of places around the world with the two main locations being India and Sri Lanka. Moonstone is the most spiritual of the three associated with love, passion and fertility. Historically, this birthstone has been associated with the Roman and Greek lunar deities associating moonstone with the moon and its links to divine feminine energy and serenity.

Alexandrite is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl known for its colour-changing ability in different lights, from green in daylight or fluorescent light to red in incandescent light. Originally discovered more

recently in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains this gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent because the red and green mirrored the national colours of imperial Russia. Alexandrite, as a birthstone, symbolizes duality, transformation, intuition and creativity.

Each of these birthstones has biblical links to our Christian bible. In one of Jesus' many parables he likens the Kingdom of God to a pearl of great value. Remember in Jesus time pearls were not cultured but young boys, mostly, would dive to collect this precious jewel. In the parable Jesus tells of a merchant who, upon finding a precious pearl, sells all he has to buy it, illustrating the immense worth of the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom that is worth sacrificing everything to obtain as it is a treasure that should be sought with dedication and commitment. The moonstone's historical association with love reflects the light that shines in the darkness. The light that came into the world to reveal God's sacrificial love for all. Alexandrite with its transformational attribute reflects how God works in our world, from the beginning when God began to create the heavens and earth. On day one God created light, separating the light from the darkness which God called day and night, and it was good, to the current times. In all the darkness created by humanity light shines through in the goodness of human actions. I am sure you can all think of situations where acts of kindness and compassion cut through acts of evil and destruction revealing God's amazing love in action. Unfortunately, not something we hear about very often in our daily news bulletins but together, even in our little ways, we can work to bring God's priceless Kingdom here on earth, letting the light dominate the darkness and hence allow God to bring about transformation in the hearts of all humanity.

All the fun of the Nora Parson's' Summer Fair!

Raffle with wonderful prizes. Tombola. Cakes, Quiches, Pastries, Pickles and Plants.

The great value "Everything's a Pound" stall - ideal for finding a bargain.

Refreshments available all afternoon. And more!!

Proceeds to support The Nora Parsons' Centre which brings joy to many elderly, lonely people and a welcome short break for Carers.

When? June 6th, 12noon until 3pm

Where? At the Centre in Venn Lane Wichensford

Events Diary - June 2026

- 1st Mon 11.00am Royal British Legion meeting at Talbot Hotel
- 4th Thurs 12-2.00pm Lunch in Company - Martley Memorial Hall
- 6th Sat 12-3.00pm Nora Parsons Summer Fair. - Wichenford
- 7th Sun 9.00am Communion at Cotheridge Church
10.30am Worship for All - Broadwas Church
11.00-4.00pm Open Gardens in Cotheridge
- 10th Wed 10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House
7.00pm B & C. Parish Council at Cotheridge Church
- 14th Sun 3.00pm Evening Worship - Knightwick Chapel
- 21st Sun 10.00am Café Church - St Peters, Martley
10.30am Holy Communion at Broadwas Church
- 24th Wed 10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House
3.30pm Crafty Café Church - Broadwas Church
- 25th Thurs 2.00 - 4.00pm "Cuppa & Chat" - Cotheridge Church
- 28th Sun 10.30am Morning Worship - Broadwas Church

A little Broome-lore

As the weather warms, doors and windows are left open, and traces of the outdoors find their way more easily into the home. The humble broom provides a simple solution. This housekeeping staple can trace its history back to circa 4000 BC, when it comprised only branches tied with herbs. The broom as we know it — the one as often pictured being ridden by witches as it is sweeping floors - is the birch besom. A bundle of twigs fastened around a long handle, it was the broom of choice in Britain until the 19th century, when the bass-broom, made from various plant fibres imported from the British Empire, became more popular. There are many superstitions around brooms. An old broom should be left behind when moving house, as it carries dirt and negativity. To bring good fortune, a new broom should be brought into the new house before any other item. It is seen as bad luck to buy a broom in May, or to sweep on New Year's Day. Newly-weds jumping over a broomstick is said to guarantee a good marriage, while sweeping over someone's feet is said to prevent them from getting married. A broom should be stored with its bristles upwards to protect the home and never be lent to anyone; it is considered bad luck to borrow a broom or to take one from someone else's house.



John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

Get involved

Have your say on the Government's plans to merge police forces across England and Wales.

This is your chance to share your views - whether you support the proposals or not.

The PCC will share your views with the Government to form part of their review.



www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk

The consultation closes on Monday 15 June.

Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on the 6th May for the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting was well attended and representatives from Broadwas School, Broadwas Village Hall, The Croquet Club and the Police all shared their reflections on the past year. Other reports were also received, including ones from our MP and County Councillor. Our District Councillor also spoke to her annual report.

It was good to be reminded of and learn about the success and variety of the ways in which people contribute to life in the Parish.

The Parish Council annual report provided a wide range of information demonstrating what had been undertaken, the standards reached and thoughts about how to maintain its work in the future.

There was a brief presentation about the revised Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which is ready to be submitted for the next stages of review and modification. All being well this will result in a referendum where all parishioners will be asked to vote on its acceptance sometime in the first half of next year. The updated plan will maintain continuity in how it represents what's important to parishioners, will be up to date and complement the recently adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan. It will provide guidance to all concerned and has to be considered when decisions are made.

Copies of all reports are available on the website :

<https://broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/agendas-minutes>

At the meeting of the Parish Council that followed Magda Cullen and Richard Burrows were appointed as vice chair and chair for the coming year.

The meeting also heard that the accounts for 2025/26 had received a positive audit, and that in accordance with procedures these would be available for all parishioners to examine (from 3rd June to 14th July, contact PC Clerk), before these are finally submitted.

The meeting adopted the draft NDP subject to final agreed minor amendments. The collated document will shortly be sent to MHDC for them to review and undertake a number of statutory consultations. Once these are completed the Parish Council will respond to any matters raised and continue

with the next required steps until the referendum is held.

Dates are being finalised for the next phases of the work at Berryfields, and the first cut of the year has taken place.

As a result of a recent meeting convened by Mel Fordington with Councillor Nik Price acting as the interim portfolio holder for Highways and Transport cabinet portfolio, requests have been made for more information about the speeding and road safety issues. Parishoners are reminded that it is helpful for all involved to make their views known.

The meeting closed with a discussion about gardens! In particular the planned open gardens day in Cotheridge on the 7th June and a call out to those with horticultural talents to contribute to the design and instillation of the new seating area at Berryfields.

The next meeting will on the Wednesday 10th June 7 pm at St Leonards

BERRYFIELDS RECREATION GROUND

Gardeners of the parish, we need your help!

Our new seating area needs a lovely low maintenance planting scheme.

We would love to hear from you, if you have any ideas for plants we could include or, even better, can take a lead in this project.

GET IN TOUCH VIA THE CONTACT FORM ON THE
WESITE OR EMAIL :

clerk @broadwascotheridge.pc.gov.uk

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 & Bumblebees Pre-School/Wrap
Care tel: 01886 821347
office@broadwas.worcs.sch.uk / broadwasbumblebees@msn.com

Community Website - www.broadwas-cotheridge.com

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