



If you would like to receive a personal copy of this Newsletter, please ensure you send your email address to the Clerk with your permission for us to send you each quarterly edition.



### Traffic speeding in Lanes

With help from County Cllr. Jenny Shaw, we have had speed roundels painted on the road in Trimpley. We hope that these will be a timely reminder for those who speed in our lanes.



We have also asked the local policing team to give attention to speeding traffic particularly near to Trimpley crossroads. We hope that this along with the VA sign in Hoarstone lane will help bring about some improvement.

### A few birdy notes—(p.s. just seen first swallows!)

April is a lovely time of year, full of hope of warmer days to come. We are delighted that we still have curlews returning to the area (see photo above) to nest in surrounding fields. Their plaintive cry is one I grew up recognising, as a herald of spring. It is lovely to sit in the churchyard and listen, with the hope of seeing one or a pair. Their numbers are getting less, with chicks from their ground nests being vulnerable to badgers and intensive farming methods. Another ground nester—the lapwing (or peewit as I call them) has also seen a massive drop in numbers. It is lovely to hear them, and see their swooping flight. Please do all you can to avoid disturbing these lovely birds, and their nests and chicks.

A success story but maybe a culprit against chicks of the two mentioned above is the red kite. Another distinctive call, and easy to spot with its forked tail. Never seen in my youth, but now they are quite common again, along with the ever present buzzards. Another smaller bird which seems to be in danger is the skylark. A lovely song to hear, and I spend many happy hours trying to spot one so high up—the song heard long before the bird is spotted. Let's do all we can to protect the great birdlife and habitats for them in our parish.

### Trimpley Village Hall and Club events

An enjoyable and successful Fish n Chips quiz night was held on 10th April, and the usual Pub nights continue on the last Friday of every month: -

24th April

29th May

26th June

31st July.

Please support your local Village Hall.

Congratulations to "Team Effort" on winning the Quiz.!



### Police Matters for the Parish

**Policing Priorities** we have cited for police attention in the next 3 months:

- speeding traffic in our lanes;
- illegal use and trespass by off-road trail bikers

#### Consultation on Policing Areas

A massive re-organisation is taking place in England and Wales, reducing the current 43 policing areas to 12. This is the biggest change in more than 60 years, and we are being asked to give our view on this. West Mercia's geography already spans three largely rural counties, and its identity makes it culturally different from potential merger partners like West Midlands Police.

West Mercia also already has four upper tier authorities (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire). Most police forces in England and Wales only cover single counties. Would we therefore see a reduction in policing in our own locality? If you have any thoughts on this, you may like to discuss them with a local parish councillor, so that we may draw up a considered response on the consultation by **15th June 2026**.

Alternatively lodge your own response to the consultation on <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/consultations-and-surveys/public-consultation---police-force-mergers>

#### Keep Dogs on Leads

We would ask everyone walking dogs to keep them on leads particularly during the next few months. This is very important around livestock, where there may be in-lamb ewes, and newly borns. Also our ground nesting birds and other wildlife will have young in long grass and cover, and your consideration in not disturbing these would be most appreciated.

Also, please ensure that you **clean up after your dog**, and take home and/or dispose of full poo bags carefully, and please not leave these in the countryside.

### Annual Audit

Your Parish Council will shortly be submitting documents and accounts for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2025/26. In accordance with legal requirements, and providing approvals are given at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, along with completion of the Internal Audit, all documents will be made available for any member of the public to view on our website, address as below. Members of the public have the right to view all documents between 8th June and 20th July, and a notice to this effect will also be posted on our noticeboards, as well as on the website.

### Parish Council - Please visit our website : [www.kidderminsterforeign-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kidderminsterforeign-pc.gov.uk)

The public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. Verbal contributions later in the meeting are at the discretion of the Chair.

Opposite are the dates of the next meetings, which are usually on the **3rd Monday of each calendar month**, (unless altered for special reasons) and are held in Trimpley Village Hall.

**Please see agenda, posted before each meeting on the website or noticeboards, for details.**

**Next Meetings (starting at 7.30pm) are: 20th April (Annual Parish Meeting); 18th May, and 15th June**

**Your Current Parish Councillors are :**

**Mr. B. Phillips : Tel: 07760450567 (Chair)**

**Mr. C. Grainger : Tel: 01299 212174**

**Mr. C. Holford: Tel: 07836 333030**

**Mr. R. Roberts: Tel: 01299 401048**

**Mr. S. Leigh: Tel: 07305328817**

**Mrs. S. Thompson : Tel: 01562 752389**

**Mrs. E. Nolan-Thompson : 01299 211094**

Please feel free to contact them—or the Clerk (see overleaf)) on any matters of concern re life in the Parish, or come along to the **Public Open Forum** at the start of every meeting.

## Parish Financial Matters

Parish/ Town Council	Precept (Parish levy) 2025/26	Precept (Parish levy) 2026/27	2026/27 Parish Rate for Band D property
Kidderminster Town	£1,224,286.00	£1,521,980.00	£85.91
Bewdley Town	£318,144.00	£347,200.00	£91.78
Stourport on Severn	£527,511.00	£631,092.00	£85.71
Broome	£6,930.00	£7,000.00	£38.33
Chaddesley Corbett	£38,249.40	£38,249.40	£50.06
Churchill/Blakedown	£52,750.00	£52,750.00	£65.04
<b>Kidderminster Foreign</b>	<b>£6,263.40</b>	<b>£12,500.00</b>	<b>£27.59</b>
Rock	£61,700.00	£61,700.00	£45.84
Stone	£17,570.00	£20,342.00	£71.38
Upper Arley	£19,547.55	£21,502.31	£58.43
Wolverley & Cookley	£107,639.37	£115,902.42	£52.44

As can be seen from the table above, **our Parish** continues to be the best value for Wyre Forest residents in which to live. For many years now, since the Covid epidemic, we have pitched our precept much lower than our actual expenditure—in effect losing money each year in an attempt to help parishioners through difficult times. We were able to do this by frugal budgeting in previous years. We can no longer sustain keeping the precept artificially low, and hence have had to increase it this year. Our precept still falls short of our expenditure, but this is a stepped response to bring about a more realistic figure in the future. Indeed, the **UK National average Parish Rate for 2026/27 is £99.79, Wyre Forest average is £79.87, and our parish is £27.59.** In addition each year we also apply for any financial grant aid that may be appropriate and available. As can be seen from the end column, our parish rate is still significantly lower than any other parish/town in Wyre Forest, but we feel that the parish offers residents very good value for money in services, and attempting to make the parish a good place to live. The increase will also help towards future-proofing the parish against possible increased expenditures we may have to face to maintain services following the imminent Local Government Review. Financial documents for this parish relating to our Audit will soon be available for all to view on the Parish website—[www.kidderminsterforeign-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kidderminsterforeign-pc.gov.uk)

### Fly Tipping

We are still being targeted as an area for illicit flytipping. We spend several hours each month dealing with this, so we would like to ask for your help in catching perpetrators. Actual footage of the offence taking place would be very helpful, but please do this carefully, and do not put yourselves in danger by doing this. Capturing a Vehicle Registration Number would be useful too.

### District “Switch Together” Scheme

Local residents are being asked to sign up if they have an interest in installing Solar Panels and Battery Storage at their property. They are hoping that the “Switch Together” scheme will help to get advantageous prices for this if sufficient people join the scheme to get a bulk purchase price. Wyre Forest recently sent around leaflets in respect of this. For more information about the scheme and to register, visit the County Council's dedicated Switch Together webpage.

### And finally—TREES

We cannot stress enough the importance of checking **roadside and railside** trees which are on your property for safety. If trees or even branches fall on road/rail links, and damage is caused, you may be held responsible.

## Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley

It has been a busy quarter at Holy Trinity, beginning in January with the annual Bulb Sale. A wonderful community morning where folk from the village and further afield gathered to chat over coffee and give bulbs a new home.

Warm Spaces Coffee Mornings continue on the first Monday in the month in the Village Hall...everyone welcome, there is no charge.

Lent began in February, during which, as part of the wider group of churches, extra services were held at Holy Trinity.

A Sunday evening Service with music and liturgy from the Celtic tradition was held on the 1st March. And, a Monday evening Service had the theme of 'Exploring the Christian Way - Share the Good News'.

On Mothering Sunday posies of woodland flowers were shared amongst the congregation. While on Palm Sunday, palm crosses were distributed.

During Holy Week Holy Trinity was open every day for personal prayer with suggested Bible readings available to help guide those prayers.

Easter Day was celebrated with a service of Holy Communion which began outside at the Easter Garden and saw the bare cross transformed with flowers followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard.



With the clocks changing, Rake and Cake has resumed and the churchyard is looking beautiful with daffodils and primroses in abundance, and the annual cake sale will be on Sat. 25th April between 10.15 and 12noon in Trimpley Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

### Parish Lengthsman

We are extremely fortunate to have Chris Bunn who you may see around the parish lanes, working as our lengthsman. Most of his time is taken with keeping the road free of water, keeping drains flowing and cutting grips to take water away. He also ensures the VA Speed signs are working, changing batteries, cleaning fixed roadsigns and keeping visibility splays clear of vegetation. Chris also helps when extra work is required to keep our footpaths clear and walkable, if clearance by County proves insufficient, and keeps his eye open to report illegal flytipping.



He will often keep the Chairman and Clerk informed if there are any extra problems needing more radical attention. Without Chris's diligence and watchful eye, the parish lanes would soon show signs of neglect and disrepair, something which local people are often unaware of. Thank you, Chris!