



Dear Friends

Parliament will be dissolved on Monday 30 March 2015 and will not sit until after the 2015 General Election on 7 May 2015. My constituency office at 16A Lichfield Street will remain open throughout this time for casework. You can contact the office on 01922 635835. Owing to the prorogation of Parliament, I will be unable to use my Parliamentary email address from Monday 31 March 2015. After this time you can contact me on valerie@valerievaz.com.

This is the last Parliamentary eNews of the current session but you will receive other communications from me.

Regards, Valerie

VALERIE LAUNCHES EXTENDED BUS SERVICES FOR BEACON HEIGHTS



Valerie and the Shadow Transport Secretary, Michael Dugher MP, launched additional evening and new Sunday bus services for residents of Beacon Heights.

Valerie said: "I was delighted to launch the new services on the 25 bus route with the Shadow Transport Secretary, Michael Dugher MP. Centro has listened to my representations and the views of residents and has provided £15,000 to operate the additional services on a trial basis for 4 months. Residents of the Beacon Heights Park Homes site on Pinfold Lane will no longer be cut off from public transport in the evenings and on Sundays."

"Since the 997 bus service was diverted away from Beacon Road in June 2013 I met with residents and in July 2014 I presented a petition calling for additional services. I also arranged a meeting with Centro and representatives of local Bus Operators which took place in November 2014. This gave residents the opportunity to put their views directly to Centro and the bus operators."

WALSALL TO WEMBLEY



Valerie said: "The Saddlers' first trip to Wembley was a proud achievement for the club and for the town. I was delighted to be there to cheer them on."

"The result was disappointing, but getting to the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy has brought national and international attention to the club and to Walsall."

"I hope that the team can now build on the experience of this fantastic cup run to come back stronger next season."

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

"Following the change to the system of Individual Electoral Registration, it is important that everyone ensures that they are registered to vote. It is now possible to register to vote online at <http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>."

"You must register by **20 April 2015** to be able to vote in the General Election."

HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE



"The Health Select Committee has published its last two Reports this month."

"On the impact on the Impact of Physical Activity of Diet and Health the Committee recommended that the next Government prioritises prevention, health promotion and early intervention to tackle health inequalities and avoidable harm resulting from poor diet and physical inactivity. This will require action at all levels including from the Government, the NHS and local authorities."

"On End of Life Care the Committee recommended that social care should be free at the end of life. The Committee found that the care that people receive at the end of their lives has a profound impact not only on them but also on their families and carers."

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

Valerie is calling for a Global Envoy for Religious Freedom to be appointed, reporting directly to the Foreign Secretary.

Valerie said: "Today 76 per cent of the world's population live in countries with high restrictions on religious freedom and the majority of those facing persecution are Christians. The Government should be doing much more to address threats to religious freedom globally."

Surgeries

Valerie holds regular surgeries. To arrange an appointment, please call the Constituency Office on 01922 635835

To Contact Valerie:

Telephone: 01922 635835

Westminster Office: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

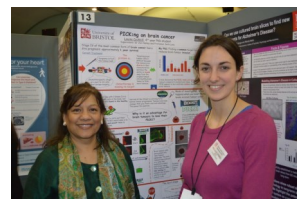
Constituency Office: 16A Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TJ

Telephone: 020 7219 7176

LICENSING OF REV'D GILBERT DAVID


"I was pleased to be in the congregation to welcome the Rev'd David and his family to Darlaston and Moxley. The Clergy provide valuable support to many people, whether or not they are churchgoers. I was pleased that representatives from many groups in the local community were present. In November 2013, I raised the need for more clergy in the parish with the Second Church Estates Commissioner and wrote to the Bishop of Lichfield. "

SET FOR BRITAIN EVENT




"It was a pleasure to welcome Louisa Cockbill to Parliament who was a finalist in the Science, Engineering & Technology (SET) for Britain event. Louisa grew up in Walsall South attending Chuckery Primary School, Aldridge Secondary School and Queen Mary's Grammar School for Sixth Form. Laura is now a PhD student at Bristol University studying the invasion of brain tumours."

UNION OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS




"The General Union of Palestinian students presented me with a commemorative shield made in Bethlehem from olive wood. In October 2014 I voted for the motion to recognise Palestine as a state. I was pleased that the motion passed 274 votes to 12. A number of my constituents contacted me about this issue."

FUTURE OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS



"At the Westminster Hall debate on Thursday 19 March 2015 on the future of local newspapers I said that it is important for young journalists to cut their teeth on local newspapers; writing a blog or writing for the internet are slightly different from the journalism we want to see. When people have time to get the facts right and to get the evidence, we get a proper, balanced article. Local people want to be informed."

RATHBONE TRAINING





Valerie said: "It was a privilege to open Rathbone's new Training Centre at Townend House in Walsall Town Centre. Rathbone is working to offer young people new opportunities through a range of study programmes and apprenticeships."

"I was impressed with the dedication and commitment to public service shown by the teachers and staff at the Training Centre. I spoke about the importance of learning as valuable in itself rather than in pursuit of targets."

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

This month, Valerie has asked:

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- The Secretary of State for International Development to make it a condition of aid that countries eliminate Female Genital Mutilation. The Secretary of State responded that the UK Government is working with communities as well as governments to address it.
 - The Justice Minister whether there had been a rise or fall in the number of litigants in person as a result of the cuts to legal aid. The Minister responded that there had been a rise.
 - The Attorney-General whether in the light of the Eleanor de Freitas case, he would review the guidance to ensure that the provision of support and counselling services to vulnerable people is not removed abruptly. The Minister responded that a sudden cut off of support and help for vulnerable witnesses should be avoided.
 - The BIS Secretary if he agrees that young people will be leaving university with unsecured debt of over £43,000 will place an intolerable strain on middle income families. The Government's policy has seen tuition fees triple and left the tax payer in a position of writing off £20bn of loans a year.
 - the Prime Minister whether he would lead the Yes camp or the No camp in any future referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. The Prime Minister did not say which camp he would be in.
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Statistics from the 2010-15 Parliament

Since May 2010, Valerie has:

- Spoken in the Chamber or in Westminster Hall on **621** occasions.
- Tabled **510** Written Parliamentary Questions.
- Attended **935** votes in Parliament
- Contributed to **43** reports of the Health Select Committee.
- Been a teller on **6** occasions.
- Tabled **2** Private Members Bills.
- Served on **7** Public Bill Committees.
- Tabled **129** Early Day Motions
- Held **118** constituency surgeries.
- Dealt with **16,308** constituency cases.
- Secured an Urgent Question on Burma.