

eNEWS

from Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP

May 2026

**Birchills Leamore - Blakenall - Bloxwich East - Bloxwich West
Paddock (Part of Ward) - Palfrey - Pleck - St. Matthew's**



The first Parliamentary session commenced on 17 July 2024 and ended on 29 April 2026 with the Prorogation of Parliament (Session 24-26). 60 Bills were given Royal Assent. The State opening of Parliament and the King's Speech setting out our Government's new legislative programme took place on 13 May 2026.

The King's Speech 13 May 2026



There were 5 days of debate and I spoke on Thursday 14 May 2026. In my speech I mention the new school on Reedswood Park: I said I can tell the Chancellor how to find money down the back of the sofa: "£50 million pounds has been allocated for a free school in my constituency that, on the evidence, is not needed...I was told that the decision about the school was made in 2017...A review was undertaken, but Ministers are pressing ahead with the decision...Despite what the evidence shows, there will be building on Reedswood Park, which is not what local people want."

On the Leather Museum: "It is the same with the Walsall Leather Museum, a beloved local cultural and heritage icon; the deal with the then Conservative-controlled council was a novel and contentious transaction, made against the wishes of visitors, constituents and Government policy on promoting arts and culture. The museum must be retained in its current position."

"Equality, opportunity, skills, justice and tolerance take time, patience and perseverance. We need to explain to people that our Government are standing up against vested interests and for all our citizens, and that is why I support the measures in our sovereign's Gracious Speech."

Votes were held on 19 and 20 May 2026 and the motion on the new legislative programme were agreed on 20 May 2026 Ayes 307, Noes 171.🌀

St Mary's the Mount Catholic Church 200 Anniversary Inauguration Mass



I was pleased to attend the Inauguration Mass at St Mary's the Mount Catholic Church on Sunday 10 May 2026. The 200-year-old church was the first post-reformation Catholic Church built in 1827 and is the oldest in the West Midlands. The Mass was presided over by His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham. Fr Jobin is the residing priest at St Mary's and organised this special event. His Grace blessed the Marian Shrine and the community shared lunch.🌀

Quick Reads 20th Anniversary – The Reading Agency Roundtable



This is the Year of Reading and I was pleased to take part in a Roundtable hosted by The Reading Agency on 19 May 2026. The CEO Karen Napier reminded us it is 20 years since Quick Reads were established. Gail Rebuck chaired a discussion which included Nick Serota (Arts Council) William Sieghart, Baroness Twycross, the Minister at DCMS, and the author Dreda Say Mitchell of a Quick Read, "One False Move" (pictured)🌀

Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Bill: Second Reading



On 21 May 2026 we had the second reading of this Bill which enables the Government to transfer the shares or property of a steel company into public ownership where doing so is in the public interest. The Bill does not immediately nationalise any steel company but gives the government powers to act in certain circumstances. The Bill was read a second time and passed without division. The Bill will be committed to a Committee of the whole House.🌀

Adjournment debate on Craig and Lindsay Foreman 21 May 2026



Tony Vaughan KC MP the MP of the Foreman's son held a debate: I asked the Minister: "This House has heard, sadly, the comments that the Minister has made about the Government pressing this case. He will know that it was pressure from this House, and from the families, that caused the release of the other hostages in Iran. Will he undertake, to contact his counterpart at the end of this debate and ensure that the family get proper access to Craig and Lindsay Foreman? We will repeat their names in this House until they are released."🌀