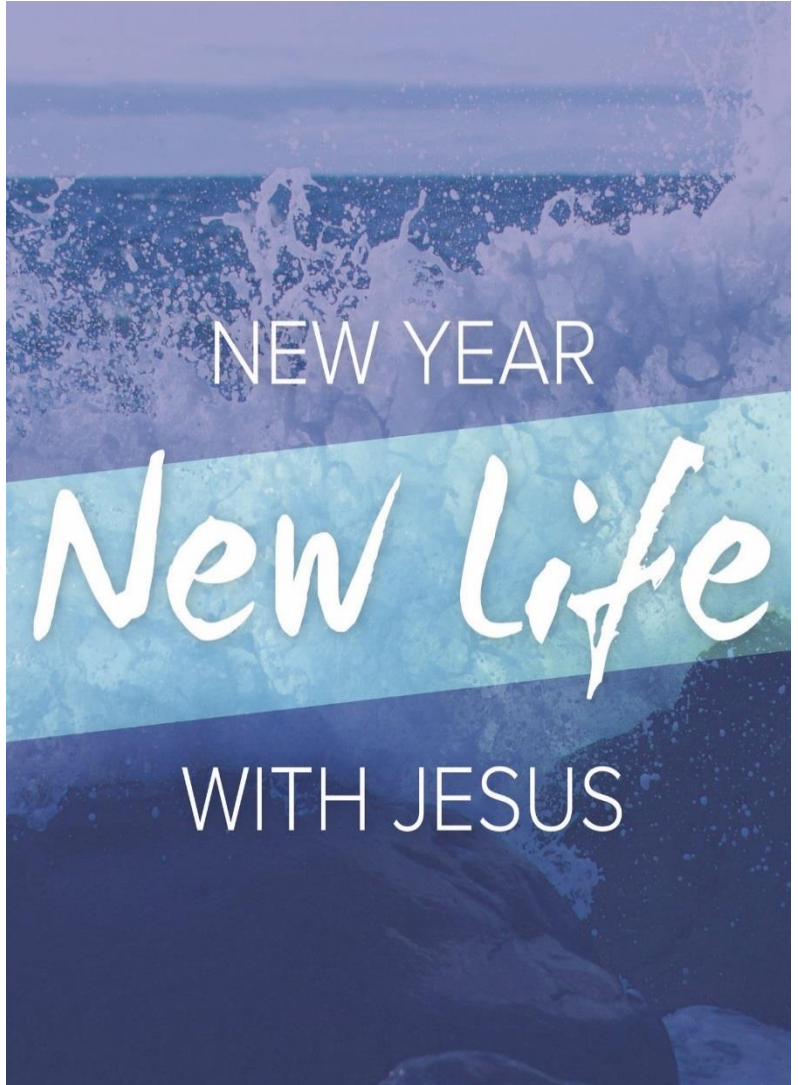


**CROSS**  
  
**KFA**

**Lillington Parish Magazine  
St Mary Magdalene's Church**

**JANUARY 2018**



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*References available*

## FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

At the turn of the year, we all tend to find ourselves looking back at the more significant moments in the past twelve months. It's a chance to remember the good things that have happened, the successes that both we individually and our family and friends have achieved. It can be sad too, as we find ourselves remembering friends lost in the past year. If you're anything like me, it's also a time where you come face to face with your regrets, those 'should have' moments in life that we all experience and perhaps it makes us stop and ask some of the bigger questions of life – the 'why's, what's and 'what if's'.

But it's also a time to look forward. This is a 'gateway' time of year, a time to stand on the threshold of new beginnings and new opportunities, and that can take quite a bit of courage, especially when we have worries about what that new year holds in store, be that financially, physically or emotionally.



I'm sure you all know this well-known quote from M. Louise Haskins' 'The Desert':

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied; 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.*

*That will be better to you than light, and safer than a known way.'*

We can look to the future with confidence because God stands with us on this threshold. Jesus isn't just a baby in a manger, put away with our Christmas decorations as we move on into January. Rather, the enduring hope of the Christmas story is the message that Jesus travels this way with us each and every day of each and every year. As John's gospel says 'the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world'. His light can dispel our fears and worries for the future, help us to put behind us the regrets from the past year, and it invites us to travel on a daily journey with him into the new one.

I encourage you to hold on to the hope and message of Christmas throughout the coming month. If you can, put aside a little time to pick up your bible and read again the first fourteen verses of John's gospel. They are full of hope and promise, words that can help us to put our hand into the hand of God and to step confidently out into the New Year knowing that whatever it brings, Christ is by our side to be our light and to bring us his love and peace in our lives.

With love and prayers to you all for a new year filled with hope and the knowledge of Christ's presence with us as we travel onward.

*Revd Sue Fairhurst*

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

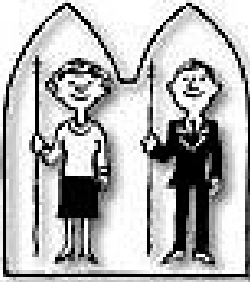
**A**s part of the church's planned giving to charity, this month £400 will go to Thare Machi. We also gave them a donation last year and here is a letter recently received from their director Rachel Butt, writing from her Leamington Spa office:

"The team at Thare Machi Education would like to thank the congregation of St Mary Magdalene's Church for its generous support in 2017. With your help, thousands of life-saving DVDs have been distributed to local partners all over the world.

In Rwanda, our lead partner has been working closely with the Ministry of Health, training and resourcing health workers from right across the country. As a result, reports received just this week show that over 1.2 million people in Rwanda have attended a DVD viewing this year – that's 10% of the whole population! In addition, the health workers report that the lessons really keep people interested and spark new conversations in the community about how they can support each other to stay healthy"

The charity we will be supporting next month is "For Life" which brings life and lasting change to abandoned children in Thailand.





Hello friends and neighbours,  
I consider myself to be among the privileged of the world because, like you, I have had an education, and therefore can read, write and do 'rithmetic. The three R's - and still the cornerstone of thought and action.

But so much of my knowledge was not learnt at school, but has been absorbed over the years of my adult life by listening to the radio. What an uncomplaining companion it is! It's the third being in my marriage, and can make me laugh, cry and be amazed. Music, debate, humour, travelogues, politics and much more besides is mine at the press of a button.

Mostly I listen to Radio 4 and would be surprised if some of you had not heard a short series at 1.45 pm until 2.00 pm which featured Giles Fraser talking about the organs of our body. So far, so good. The latest one I tuned into featured the heart. Are you a head or a heart person? Obviously, none of us is completely one thing or the other, but one will have more sway.



It's interesting that we associate the heart with feelings. It is, after all, only a pump, but so much of our everyday speech imbues it with another more visceral quality. The seat of our emotions and inner being, and which beats more quickly when we are excited or distressed. So many phrases in our language throb around the heart. Heartfelt, heartbroken, wholehearted - and there are dozens more.

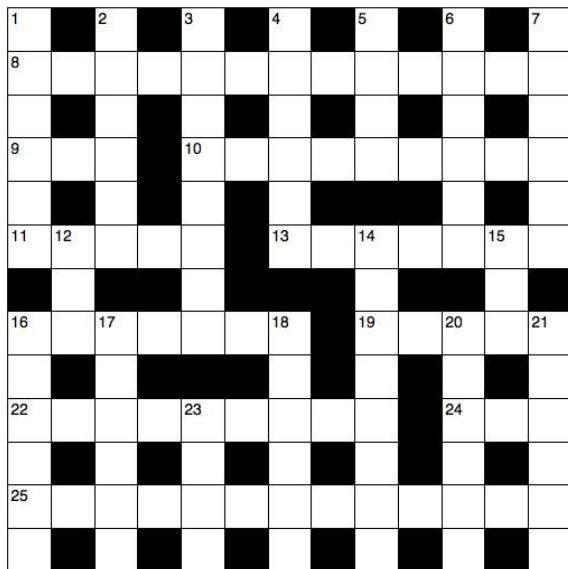
Eagle-eyed readers will have spotted that I have not used the 'r' word yet! Suffice it to say, I will be on the look-out for your hearts proudly displayed on your sleeves as you resolve to be a more heart-led person in 2018. On behalf of Carol Innes and myself, may we wish you a year of good experiences and more than a modicum of happiness.

Happy New Year!

*Glyn Wright*

*Churchwarden*

# CROSSWORD



**3** 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)

**4** 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)

**5** United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)

**6** 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)

**7** Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)

**11** Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)

## Across

**8** How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)

**9** Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)

**10** The Ten Commandments (9)

**11** In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)

**13** Des cons (anag.) (7)

**16** 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)

**19** Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)

**22** Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)

**24** Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)

**25** First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

## Down

**1** Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)

**2** Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)

**14** 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)

**15** Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)

**16** Vat car (anag.) (6)

**17** 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)

**18** 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)

**20** Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)

**21** Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)

**23** What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

**Solution on page 7**



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric

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## **Love Lillington has had a busy year in 2017**

### **We report on the three-pronged approach; Grants, Prayer and Action**

#### **Love Lillington Grants**

(Machen Pershouse Fund)

Love Lillington has provided part or all of the uniform required by secondary schools

for three children who started last September. One child was so thrilled with his new blazer that he wore it to go home from the shop!

We have also provided carpeting for three applicants, two with small children, and another referral is in the pipeline. Additionally, a payment was made to lift one applicant out of debt.

We supplied a fridge for a young mother with a baby, and paid for materials and professional help for several projects undertaken by the Action Team.

We continue to have good relationships with an ever widening range of professionals in the Social Services and related fields.



#### **Love Lillington Prayer Network**

The purpose and scope of the LL Prayer Network were set out Christine Butler's presentation to the AGM in April and reprinted in the September 2017 edition of this magazine.

In last month's Crosstalk, Margaret Moore updated us on the progress of some of the clients at the Leamington Night Shelter who face special problems and need our prayer support, and we continue to pray for the work of the Night Shelter in general. We also continue to pray for particular situations in the local community, such as the work of the Youth Centre, the Children's Centre and the Food Bank, where the need for support is on-going. In addition we have also had one or two requests for prayer from members of our congregation.

As emphasised in her AGM presentation, Christine feels that prayer is an important element of Love Lillington and the Prayer Network remains ready to respond to all requests. Every request is treated in the strictest confidence and we only need enough detail to enable us to offer the situation to God and ask for His help.



## Love Lillington Action

Love Lillington has worked with six clients in 2017 helping with a variety of things - decorating, hanging curtain rails, lining curtains, taking items to the tip, supplying paint to decorate a boy's room, donating baby clothes and a high chair (purchased through In Kind Direct) and providing transport to hospital.

In addition Action volunteers worked well together on the Reverse Advent project launched in church on Advent Sunday and delivered the filled boxes to the Food Bank and the Night Shelter in time for distribution to those in need before Christmas. Love Lillington Volunteers helped with transport to the Community Centre Christmas Lunch and decorated a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival, supported the Love Lillington Soup Stall at the Lillington Primary School Firework evening and four volunteers also organised the refreshments for a pantomime that took place at the Children's Centre in December.

Love Lillington Action requests have come in from a number of new referring professionals, but some of these requests have been for clients outside of our parish boundary so have had to be declined. From a 19 strong team of Action volunteers on the Register - the number who are currently "active" and available is about 8. Since we completed annual training in February 2017 the process of obtaining full DBS checks and two separate references for each volunteer is almost completed.

Love Lillington would love to hear from you if you would like to join the volunteers who work together to help those in our community of Lillington who are less fortunate than ourselves. Please speak to Christine Butler if you are interested in finding out more.

There will be a **Service of Thanksgiving for Love Lillington** at the **Morning Praise Service on Sunday 4th February 2018**, where as a whole congregation, we can give thanks for what God has given to us all so far and pray as a "whole church" for this project.

*Christine Butler (Action) Charlotte Sanders (Grants) Caroline Carr (Prayer)*

### Crossword solution

**ACROSS:** 8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega.

**DOWN:** 1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read.

## **Gary Timlin writes:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> December I finished my ten year association with the church yard at St. Mary Magdalene.

In July 2007 I started supporting young offenders as they worked on the church yard as part of their reparation. Anne Furze was always very welcoming and happy to put the kettle on for

us. Two years later I was mowing the whole lower church yard and then, the last five years, the interment plot area.

Unfortunately a few years ago the churchyard experienced vandalism to headstones. One evening I hid in the bushes waiting for darkness to arrive in hope of catching the culprits. I kept in touch with my family via text messaging, which they found hilarious due my updates, "no sign yet, over..." etc. The most excitement I had was watching an old boy come into the churchyard via the lych gate. He turned his torch on and shone it around for a few seconds before walking off!

Over the years I have had help from my family giving them the opportunity to earn a few shillings. Thank you Jordan, Harvey, Lory, Ellie, Finley & Ruby. I have had to remind them sometimes to focus during hot summers when they were inclined to cool down by having the odd water fight. I did find time to play hide and seek occasionally.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with visitors who tend their loved one's resting places, weekly, yearly and sometimes from afar. I must apologise for the occasional times when we have put back personal effects onto the wrong plot. The lower churchyard is breath-taking on a summer's evening, bathed in sunshine when mowing has finished. From bulb planting to cross repairs I have thoroughly enjoyed my time over ten years, Thank you. Who knows, I may return when I am retired?

*Editor's note: Many readers will know that Gary is the Youth Worker at Lillington Youth Centre. The church sends grateful thanks for his loyal service.*



## **Aileen, Claire, Doreen & Janet write about Beryl Redwood who died in October**

**B**eryl had a unique sense of humour and an infectious giggle. As a member of MENSAs she also had a way with words- she called herself 'the Peril', her memory was her 'forgettory' and a computer was a 'confuser'. She was good with figures too, loved Sudoku, and acted as Church Treasurer for a while, putting her gift to good use sorting out the church finances.



Beryl served for many years as a quiet, but diligent, member of the PCC and Deanery Synod. She was a member of a drama group, starting as a rather reluctant prompter and - to her own and everyone else's surprise - became one of the stars of the show.

She was a brave lady. After an incident in her childhood when she nearly drowned, she was nervous of water, but on a holiday to the Lake District with our Walking Group (arranged by Mike and Ann Hyslop) she was persuaded to overcome her fear and go on a boat trip. She never owned a pet and was uneasy around birds, but on another occasion visited an eagle sanctuary and allowed one of them to land upon her wrist.

Beryl felt at home on Sunday with the service of Matins and, as one of the sides-persons, helped to make it a friendly and caring experience for the regular congregation and baptism parties alike. When Matins finished she joined the eight-o'clock congregation and, after an initial struggle, came to accept the more informal approach to modern worship.

Thank you, Roderick, for such a moving funeral service, which told us about Beryl's early days in Doncaster. Doncaster's loss was Leamington's gain. She was a hard-working and valued member of the church community and a good friend to many. We will miss her.

## 100 years of Guiding in Lillington



On Saturday 27th January 2018 between 10 am and 12 noon, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leamington Guides will be hosting a coffee morning to celebrate 100 years of Guiding in Lillington. The unit has moved around Lillington on several occasions, (but never far away from St Mary Magdalene's), using the Parish Rooms, Lillington School and now the Octagon. In 1989 its links to the church were solidified when it became a sponsored unit and changing its name from 4<sup>th</sup> Leamington Guides to 3<sup>rd</sup> Leamington Guides (St Mary Magdalene's). This term the Guides have started to explore our archive and see what past guides have been up to. In January they will be making displays to show what has been done, and this will be shown at the coffee morning.

If you were a Guide, Brownie or leader of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Leamington Guides in Lillington or 3<sup>rd</sup> Leamington Brownies we would love for you to join us on the day and share your stories and photographs. Please spread the word with friends and colleagues. We are looking for old members to share their experiences of Guiding and would like to receive them in advance please send to: [3rdleamingtonguide@gmail.com](mailto:3rdleamingtonguide@gmail.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> Leamington Brownie's will be 100 years old in 2019 so they will be joining in with our celebrations on the day.

There will be more celebrations as the year goes on so please keep an eye out.

*Yours in Guiding, Di Bull & Michelle Brodie*





## **Christmas Tree Festival 2017**

This year's Festival has been amazing! Wonderful trees, wonderful people! There have been trees decorated by most of the church groups and many more community groups than before. They have all demonstrated ingenuity, creativity, imagination and style and together made a stunning display. There was a total of 32 trees, last year 25! On cold winter days the sparkling lights and brilliant colours have been a joy to behold.

The Launch Party was sensational with wide ranging musical performance all afternoon, led by Cordelia. The delicious and well appreciated afternoon tea was provided by Maureen with Delia's Home Group. The Shifters and Lifters of the Churchyard Team did a great job in setting up, and numerous people have stewarded during the two weeks' opening afternoons. The pillars have glowed with Wendy's garlands and the 8.00 Servers have done a great job in helping with switching on all the (very many) fairy lights.

We have been thrilled by all the enthusiasm and support for this event – it just shows what a great congregation we have here, which spreads the love of Christ throughout the community in the parish.

Despite snow and ice during the first week of afternoon openings, all visitors were welcomed into a warm and sparkling church full of interesting and beautiful trees. Hot drinks and lots of cake were served and visitors were very generous in their financial contributions, which are divided equally between the Church and 'Love Lillington'.

We thank everyone so much for their part in this, helping to bring Lillington Parish Church to the notice of Lillington Parish in many ways.

*Wendy, Fiona and Charlotte*

See photographs of the launch party on pages 16 and 17, more in our web page edition.

## **Miriam Bowen from the Lillington Branch of the Warwick District Food Branch writes:**



Warwick District Foodbank provides emergency food parcels for folk in the Leamington/Warwick and Kenilworth areas. There is a different centre open for two hours every weekday with three open on a Friday to cover the weekend. Although a charity in its own right Warwick District Foodbank, is part of the Trussell Trust which runs a network of over 400 foodbanks nationally. Clients are referred using a voucher system.

The voucher system means staff can see how often clients are accessing the foodbank, which centres they are using and how often. This in turn enables further signposting - and help - and to some extent - reduces any abuse of the system. It also provides facts and figures for those in positions of responsibility so they can lobby for changes in our social justice system.

Each food parcel contains around three days of non-perishable food, basic toiletries and household cleaning items. We have recently joined the local Tesco Fareshare scheme which means we now have a supply of bread and cakes and occasionally fresh veg. During the growing season we are always grateful to local gardeners who drop off excess produce from their allotments.

The main reasons for requiring foodbank vouchers are benefit changes or delays, low income and debt. We have seen an increase in those waiting for Universal Credit payments - and the criteria for claiming other benefits like Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payments (PIP) has been narrowed - thus reducing claimant's monthly income.

Since January Warwick District Foodbank has provided food for 3733 people which includes 1127 children. 369 of these people came to Southorn Court.

We have a small but regular group of locals who call in to Southorn Court not always for food but for a drink and a chat. We listen to their troubles, share their highs and lows and sometimes we can encourage them in the right direction.

Our friend **Tom** (all names changed) has been popping in since we opened. Tom seems to lurch from crisis to crisis - with multiple Mental Health issues he has long periods of instability where his life is chaotic and disorganised. Tom has come close to eviction from his

flat a couple of times. His severe paranoia means an unwillingness to engage with those in authority. He rarely answers his bell, doesn't open his post and cannot afford credit on his phone. Consequently, it is extremely difficult for support workers to help him. We have managed to get to the stage where he trusts foodbank staff and feels comfortable coming to Southorn Court. We make phone calls on his behalf and have liaised with council officials. He is due to have a deep clean of his flat this week and we have been praying that he does open his door to let the cleaners in!

A lack of something to do and boredom contributes greatly to a feeling of worthlessness. Everyone needs to feel valued and most people like to contribute so whenever possible we try to involve our visitors by asking if they can help to unload stock from the car, by dating and sorting food or even doing the washing up.

It's not all doom and gloom during our sessions, laughter is the best medicine and there is often plenty! From a client who was so excited to be given some new trousers to try on that he started to strip off in front of everyone - to the very generous donation of a whole Serrano ham left in the Tesco collection basket - we see much to make us smile! It's always lovely when a client just calls in to say that they have found work, their benefit claim has been successful or to show of their new baby. It is a real privilege when clients chose to share these life moments with us.

We cannot do what we do at Foodbank without the support we receive from the local community – your donations of supplies are invaluable but we also value prayer support as we know that ultimately the only thing that can bring about permanent change for the better is God. He is the ultimate hope and light which can break through into chaotic and stressful lives to bring about peace. Please pray that staff and volunteers get opportunities to share their faith with clients, pray too for God's protection, blessing and favour to be over Lillington.

Finally, a verse from 1 Timothy 6: 17-18 (The Message) which seems particularly appropriate with all that is taking place politically in our country....

*"Tell those rich in this world's wealth to stop being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to follow God....to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous..."*

# SERVICE DETAILS

## SUNDAY WORSHIP - January 2018

7 <sup>th</sup> January	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Morning Worship with Sunday Club
	6:30 pm	Evensong
14 <sup>th</sup> January	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing & Sunday Club
	6.00 pm	Service led by Youth Group
21 <sup>st</sup> January	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Holy Communion with Sunday Club
	6.30 pm	Evensong
28 <sup>th</sup> December	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Holy Communion with Sunday Club

## SUNDAY CLUB

For children of all ages up to 10 years during School Term time. Children join the main 9:30 am service at the beginning and the end, and leave for a 30 minutes Sunday Club session, which has a range of age appropriate activities

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP:

Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	13.30	Holy Communion
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## THE CHURCH OFFICE

The office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am till 1:00pm. Please note that the office is no longer open on a Wednesday. For Baptism, Weddings and general enquiries please contact the church office (01926 470449).





# WHAT'S ON

## January 2018

Fri 5	4.30 pm	Lillington History Group meet in The Free Church Hall – Henry Maudslay DFC
Tue 9	6.30 pm	Knit and Natter in The Octagon
Wed 10	3.00 pm	Poetry Group meets at 17 Lime Avenue
Thu 11	7.30 pm	PCC meeting
Sun 28	3.00 pm	Beauchamp Sinfonietta at The Town Hall
Sat 20	6.30 pm	Pudding & Quiz Night in The Octagon
Sat 27	5.00 pm	"Discover The Classics" with St Michael's Singers at Coventry Cathedral
Sun 28	3.00 pm	Beauchamp Sinfonietta in The Town Hall
Tue 30	2.00 pm	Tea and Chat in The Octagon

## February 2018

Fri 2	4.30 pm	Lillington History Group meet in The Free Church Hall – British Restaurants
Sun 4	3.00 pm	Leamington Chamber Orchestra in The Town Hall
Wed 14	3.00 pm	Poetry Group meets at 17 Lime Avenue
Thu 15	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Tue 27	2.00 pm	Tea and Chat in The Octagon

A reminder: Please make Cheques payable to Lillington PCC

**For any events you wish to publicise please contact the Editor or email [events@lillingtonparishchurch.org](mailto:events@lillingtonparishchurch.org)**



# Christmas Tree Festival Opening Extravaganza

Photos by Peter  
Furze







**Bonus web site photos**



And from the earlier Amici concert

# JUNIOR CROSSWALK

Try your hand at our Moses Wordsearch

o	w	n	m	m	g	r	a	s	s	b	y
r	l	s	i	p	o	x	c	l	z	a	i
d	p	i	r	l	k	t	n	a	o	s	e
e	w	h	i	o	e	p	h	v	s	k	d
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l	d	y	g	r	o	w	n	q	b	s	a
r	i	v	e	r	v	n	b	u	u	a	v

sand

mother

grown

grass

save

princess

Pharaoh

flourished

reeds

Nile

Egyptian

slaves

river

son

Moses

scared

basket

killed

daughter

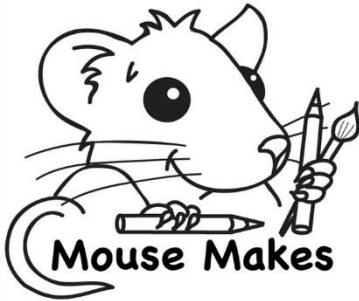
ordered

Miriam

body

baby

Hebrew



# Mouse Makes


Words to live by  
from Proverbs 3

*"My child, never forget  
the things I have  
taught you.  
Store my commands  
in your heart". vs1*



Don't ever forget kindness and truth  
...then you will be respected and  
will please both God and people.  
*from Proverbs 3:3-4 NCV*


**Trust in God from the bottom  
of your heart; don't try to figure out  
everything on your own.**  
*from Proverbs 3:5 MSG*



Don't assume you  
know it all.




**Run to God!**  
*from Proverbs 3:7 MSG*



Seek God's will in all you do and He will  
show you which path to take.  
*from Proverbs 3:6 NLT*

Honour God with everything you own;  
give Him the first and the best.  
*from Proverbs 3:9 MSG*



 Cut out and colour these  
Scripture verse cards  
to remind you this new year  
of God's wise ways to live.



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## **Our Quiz Mistress extraordinaire, Charlotte Sanders, provides the answers to the Christmas Quiz**

*This year's quiz was in a slightly different form. I hope you enjoyed it.*

Shepherds on a hillside lit a fire of **Twiglets**

for warmth, then sat on the ground in the

glow of the **Milky**

**Way**, hoping they

would see **Mars**. Suddenly a **Starburst**

heralded **Minstrels** and they were afraid.

They must go to see an **Imperial** baby,

newly minted, so they put on their **Polos** to





keep warm and set off, finding the snow **Crunchie** beneath their feet and feeling like **Heroes**.

They reached a stable, hardly **Quality Street**, where they found Mary and Joseph and a **KitKat** to control the mice. They felt they should **Wispa** so as not to disturb the **Jelly** Baby. **Roses** were out of season, so they came empty handed. On leaving the **Milky Bar** they said their **Cheerios** and hurried off for breakfast.

One evening, **After Eight** Mary and Joseph were surprised by the arrival of a **Trio** of Wise Men, or **Smarties**, who had followed the brightest star in the **Galaxy**. They expressed their **Turkish Delight** then unpacked **Allsorts** of **Bounty** for the baby Jesus, including a box containing **All Gold**.



They then left the **Celebrations**, causing a **Ripple** amongst the neighbours, and returned home by a **Curly Wurly** route. It was a **Marathon** journey so they ate a **Picnic** to fend off the **Munchies**.

This story is known by **Hundreds and Thousands** across the world.



*From an idea of Revs. Charlotte and Naomi , Christmas 2016.*



# COOKING WITH CROSSTALK

## BURNS NIGHT

Around the world tributes to Robert Burns are held through the ritual of the Burns Supper. Originally started a few years after his death by a group of his friends and acquaintances, to honour his memory, the suppers are now celebrated annually on the date of his birth, 25th January.

Celebrate Burns Night with The Hairy Bikers' recipe of haggis, neeps, tatties and whisky sauce.

### **Haggis, clapshot and whisky sauce**

Serves 4 500g/1lb 2oz haggis

#### **For the clapshot**

500g/1lb 2oz floury potatoes, such as Maris Piper or King Edward, peeled, chopped

500g/1lb 2oz swede (yellow turnip), peeled, chopped

50g/2oz butter

75ml/2¾fl oz double cream

sea salt and freshly ground white pepper

1 tbsp chopped fresh chives

#### **For the whisky sauce**

500ml/17fl oz double cream

2 tsp wholegrain mustard

1 tbsp Dijon mustard

2 tsp whisky

sea salt and freshly ground white pepper

1 tbsp chopped fresh chives  
½ lemon, juice only

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.

1. Wrap the haggis tightly in aluminium foil and place onto a baking tray. Bake in the oven for 45 minutes to one hour, or until cooked through.
2. Meanwhile, for the clapshot, boil the potatoes and swede in separate saucepans of salted water for 15-18 minutes, or until tender. Drain well. Add the drained swede to the drained potatoes and mash thoroughly. Add the butter and cream and mash again until smooth and well combined. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Stir in the tablespoon of chives. Set aside and keep warm.
3. For the whisky sauce, heat the double cream in a pan over a medium heat. Add the wholegrain mustard, Dijon mustard and

whisky and stir to combine. Increase the heat until the mixture is simmering and continue to cook for 1-2 minutes.

4. Remove the pan from the heat and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Stir in the tablespoon of chives, then whisk in the lemon juice.



5. To serve, divide the clapshot equally among four serving plates. Place a spoonful of steamed haggis alongside each. Spoon over the warm whisky sauce.

<b>Address to a Haggis</b>	<b>Translation</b>
<i>Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face, Great chieftain o the puddin'-race! Aboon them a' ye tak your place, Painch, tripe, or thairm: Weel are ye worthy o' a grace As lang's my arm.</i>	<i>Good luck to you and your honest, plump face, Great chieftain of the sausage race! Above them all you take your place, Stomach, tripe, or intestines: Well are you worthy of a grace As long as my arm.</i>

Carol Innes

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE WITH US?

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## Preparing the Way

### In the first of two articles, Dr Diana Taulbut writes about prophecy

It seems a while since we entered the Advent season and arrived at Christmas! Now the season of Epiphany is upon us. Common themes run through these three seasons: prophecy and preparation are two very obvious inter-related ones. Since the start of Advent we have heard the words of the prophets calling through the millennia, pointing to Christ and redemption, and encountered prophets who are Jesus' contemporaries, heralding and preparing the way for his ministry. Thus it seems a good opportunity for some thoughts about Biblical prophets and prophecy.

There are plenty of prophets in the Old Testament, both male and female, some we know well and many whose names and words are not even recorded. Samuel is the first major prophet, coming before Israel divided into two kingdoms. It was Samuel who anointed King David. The early major prophets are recorded in stories of their exploits and miraculous events, whilst we know the later ones from books of their writings which take their names. The earliest prophets were termed 'seers' or visionaries in Hebrew, but later and most usually they were called 'nabi', *one who is called*. In times of confrontation prophetic predictions were written and kept to prove the authenticity of the prophet's words as events unfolded. There were at times recognised groups of prophets who studied together - prophetic communities, and prophets were also attached to the courts of kings and places of worship. For example, in 1Kings,



Obadiah who was in charge of King Ahab's palace, hides & feeds a hundred prophets in a cave to save them from Jezebel's plan to exterminate all God's prophets in the kingdom.

Biblical prophecy is not by definition predictive: although predictive prophecies are made in

both Testaments, some prophets make none at all. Prophecy might be predictive – or it might not. In general terms prophecy is speaking on God's behalf to articulate what has been imparted by the Spirit. The import may be encouragement, confirmation, enablement or enlightenment; something highly pertinent and significant to the hearer. Sometimes prophecy is in the form of a song. Old Testament prophecy often warned of the consequences of failing to live according to the Old Covenant. It could be the answer to a concern, a new course of action, or a call to wider social justice. It might point to something that needs to change.

By the time of Christ there had been no significant prophets for 400-500 years, during which period different Jewish factions had arisen with distinct teachings – Essenes, Scribes, Pharisees, etc., the religious split with Samaria began and grew, and the Romans arrived. It seems unlikely that there were no 'ordinary prophets' in those times: at the start of the New Testament we meet Anna the elderly prophet who is permanently at the temple, and the idea seems current in conversations in the Gospels.

Prophecy abounds in the early New Testament story. When the expectant Elizabeth is visited by the equally-expectant Mary, she is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks prophetically, as does Mary. Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies over him at his birth. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, comes to the Temple and finds Jesus being presented, and prophesies as he holds him in his arms. Anna appears at that moment, then prophesies to all who were seeking the redemption of Jerusalem. These prophecies prepared the way for Christ amongst his family: with the ministry of John the Baptist we see a prophet fully involved in preparing the people. Submission to John's ministry in baptism is a necessary part of Jesus' receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit for his own ministry. Jesus says "A prophet is not without honour except in his own town..." in relation to himself when rejected at Nazareth: he is considered by many to be a prophet. The gospel writers link events in Jesus' life to the predictions of the major prophets. But does prophecy end when Jesus completes his earthly ministry? Find out next month!

## OCTOTOTS

Meets term time from 10.30am – noon.

Octotots is an informal weekly get together for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups in the Octagon at St. Mary Magdalene's.

We meet on Thursday mornings during term time for a mixture of chat, bible stories and songs with plenty of toys to keep the little ones busy.

We start with tea or coffee at 10.30 am and finish by 12.00 pm. Just pop along, or contact the church office to find out more.



## PUDDING & QUIZ NIGHT ???



**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018**  
**Starting at 6:30pm**

The Octagon, St Mary Magdalene's  
**Each team to provide a pudding/dessert to share**  
Bring your own drinks  
£5 per person  
Tickets from Robin & Carol Innes (Tel 831649)



*Proceeds to Church Funds & Thare Machi Education (January 's charity)*

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



### **Where did the Wise Men come from?**

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia. Certainly, in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

## JEFF'S JOTTINGS

Grateful thanks to our own Diana Taulbut for provided a thoughtful article on prophecy. I am serialising it over two editions.

The church had such a busy Christmas with many activities taking us out into our community. The Christmas Tree Festival was a huge success with more trees than ever before, and it attracted interest from far and wide. The opening ceremony was a joyous occasion with much music; its own choir, and contributions from music groups and soloists. I am indebted to Peter Furze for the photos of the event and, to encourage you to look at our website, you can see more in the on-line version of this magazine.

Abby's scratch choir sang joyfully at a number of events both in the church and in the parish, notably the Community Centre Christmas Lunch. The Carol Service featured a notable Nativity Play from The Sunday Club and Youth Group. I've managed to squeeze in a photograph below.

And, as I write this, we still have Christingle and Christmas Services to come. Thank you to everyone who enabled us to celebrate the coming of our Lord in so many different ways.

*Jeff Burgess, editor.*



**Deadline for copy for the February edition is  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**



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