CROSS+TALK

Lillington Parish Magazine
St Mary Magdalene's Church



DECEMBER 2011

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THE CHURCH OFFICE

The office is open Monday to Thursday 9.00 am till 1.00 pm
During these hours the church may be used for private prayer - please use the office entrance.

For Baptism, Weddings and general enquiries please contact the church office.
Outside of office hours please leave a message on the answer phone and we will get back to you.

FROM THE VICARAGE

One of the real joys for me this year, has been the After School Bible Club that we run (along with support from other churches in Lillington) at Lillington Primary School. Week by week, anything up to twelve children come running from their classrooms to enthusiastically, energetically and noisily take part in the club. They have a drink and a snack as they arrive and do a word puzzle or some colouring , then they burn off some energy playing games for a few minutes, before settling down to listen to this week's story. After the story they have a related craft activity to do, before closing with a prayer.

Over the last few weeks, we have been telling the Christmas story. Knowledge of this story, so completely familiar in every detail to us, is sketchy at best for some of the children, and completely unknown to others. It has been wonderful teaching it to them, and it has enabled me to think again about just what an amazing story it is.

Think of Gabriel, an Archangel, turning up to tell Mary that she would be having a baby, who would be the Son of God. In a world obsessed with celebrity, status and fame, we tell the story of a very ordinary young woman, but who God chose for an extraordinary role.



Think of the shepherds, out watching their sheep, working for minimum wage or less, sleeping out on the hills, on the fringes of their society in every way. And yet they were treated to the best concert ever to take place – a host of angels singing, and absolutely for free.

Think of the wise men, trekking across deserts in search of a King, discovering that the Kingdom of God wasn't to be found in palaces, but in the bustling, busy streets of Bethlehem. As many people face yet another Christmas with tightened belts, and struggling to make ends meet, it is good to remember that God's gifts are freely given. Freely given to anyone and anywhere. So this Christmas, why not ask God for the best present of all, his love, his peace, his grace. Ask for yourself, for all those you love, for those we see around us who are finding life really tough right now, for all the world.

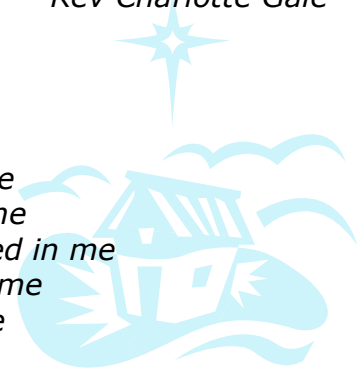
And you never know, we too might be treated to a glimpse of angels.

Wishing you a peaceful, graceful Christmas,

Rev Charlotte Gale

Christ born in a stable

Christ born in a stable is born in me
Christ accepted by shepherds accepts me
Christ receiving the wise men receives me
Christ revealed to the nations be revealed in me
Christ dwelling in Nazareth You dwell in me
Christ, grant that people may look at me
and see Your Presence. Amen



The name of God....

A little boy died and arrived at the gate of heaven. There he met an angel. "Before you come in, can you tell me God's name?" said the angel. "Oh, that's easy," the little boy replied, "His name is Harold." "What makes you think his name is Harold?" the angel asked incredulously. The little boy explained: "Because at Christmas we sing 'Hark while Harold's angels sing..." and also, when we pray, we say: 'Our Father in Heaven, Harold be Thy Name...'

BAPTISMS	
23 October	Ezra Daniel Grove
30 October	Huw Geraint Williams
	Owen John Williams
WEDDINGS	
15 October	Mark Alan Cleaver and Rebecca Naomi Charlton
FUNERALS	
11 October	Nellie Rosina Bennett (90), Newstead Lodge Nursing Home, Southam
17 October	Valerie Ann Butler (74), Imperial Place, Leamington Spa

Church Walkers' Group

Walkers please remember that we meet in December on the 10th so as not to clash with the Christmas Fair. Ruth and Jeff Burgess have devised a walk of 3 miles with glorious views starting from the Friendly Inn at Frankton. There are four stiles, one of them a two-stepper, and easy gradients. Firm and dry when reconnoitred on the 17th November, but there could be mud if it rains. Meet as usual at the church at 9.30 am. More details on 335129.



Where is the baby?

For weeks, a six-year old lad kept telling his nursery teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event. The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?" Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mummy ate it!"



LILLINGTON PARISH CHURCH
St. Mary Magdalene's



Christmas Services

Sunday 4th December, 9.30 am

All Age Worship

with gifts for Leamington Christian Mission

Sunday 4th December, 6.30 pm

Darkness to Light

Sunday 18th December, 9.30 am

Holy Communion with the

Sunday Club Nativity

Sunday 18th December, 6.30 pm

Carol Service

Christmas Eve, 4 pm

Christingle

Christmas Eve, 11.30 pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, 8.00 am

Holy Communion

Christmas Day, 10.00 am

Family Communion

PARISH PROFILE

BY RODERICK CLARK (THE ROVING REPORTER)

Clare Daniels



Clare Daniels had the traditional kind of English upbringing - rarer in these "touchy-feely" days - which left her self-reliant and with feelings well under control. She remembers school "crocodiles" to church and learning the Prayer Book collects, Confirmation at school but never wondering "What is God doing?" Her father, as a First World War padre, won the Military Cross for rescuing soldiers on the Somme, and part of Clare's childhood was spent in tough areas of South London - where another minister's daughter died of diphtheria. She went to boarding school for many of her young years from the age of seven; one period was spent with her mother in Devon where they were evacuated in the Second World War. She remembers singing patriotic songs - not to glorify war but just to get through it.

Middling academically and not specially sporty, Clare was keen on the sciences and English, drama and musicals, especially the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Believe it or not, she says she was "quite naughty" - she once incurred the double punishment of knitting floorcloths with thick needles. However, she survived to become Head Girl and moved on to study speech and drama with a view to schoolteaching. She taught in St Andrew's, Scotland, producing school plays, then returned to her old school in Kent. Her next move was to Johannesburg as a primary class teacher in an all-white English-speaking school. Despite the apartheid policy at the time, there were mutually caring relationships with the blacks who did the physical jobs there. Needing to return because of her father's death, Clare worked a brief spell in Northern Ireland and then settled with her mother in Kent, teaching English and drama at Beckenham Grammar School for Girls, and enjoying the high-quality drama tradition there.

Clare then moved into the sphere of helping other teachers, first as an adviser in Leicester and then - the climax of her career - as a lecturer at the City of Birmingham College of Education. She specialised in helping trainee teachers with classroom presentation, communication and work with new pupils. While she lived there as warden of a student hostel, her mother and sister had moved to Meadow Close in Lillington.

Her early retirement some thirty years ago (now enjoyed in a house in Manor Road) brought her a new "career" as a Citizens' Advice Bureau volunteer - work she chose because she wanted use her brain to tackle the demands of a wide range of situations (including people's housing, benefits, debt, employment and relationship problems, as it turned out!). The very worst are disputes between neighbours, apparently. She values the organisation's non-judgmental, non-prejudiced approach, where the volunteers simply suggest options to clients. She says she tried not to take people's problems home with her - but occasionally failed. Her C.A.B. work continues - but now in a more advisory and administrative capacity. She also gained a B.A. (Hons.) - partly in the less familiar subjects of science and the environment. She likes growing things (and particularly picking and eating them) and shares an allotment with her sister. Her genealogical research has unearthed one upwardly mobile branch of her family, moving from farmworker via tinsmith and tailor to her ordained father in four generations. Her three siblings have been in travel finance, social work and African archaeology.

When Clare moved to Lillington and met the then Vicar, the Revd Joe Humble, her brother prophesied "You're not going to get away from him!" He was right. Later, in her retirement, she acted as sidesman and server, spent some time on the church council and twice as churchwarden (with Graham Cooper and John Ransom). She joined a drama group which then operated. Claire says the church has changed over the decades in the direction of informality; she can cope with the gentle, thoughtful progress at St Mary Magdalene's but might not manage fiercer changes seen at some other churches.

MEETING THE NEED

LEAMINGTON CHRISTIAN MISSION

Tel: 01926 314158

Gift Service

will be held on

Sunday 4th December

at 9.30 a.m.



Gifts will go to Steph & Geoff to distribute to those who may have very little this year.

Suggestions for gifts include
Gift Tokens (Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Boots, Marks & Spencer), Children's Presents, Toiletries, Socks, Underclothes, Tins of Biscuits, Selection Boxes, Chocolates.
Also welcome - wrapping paper - string - sellotape, etc,

Can you help? If so bring a gift **(new & unwrapped)** to any service on Sunday 4th December.



HO! HO! HO!

A couple knocked on Mr Smith's door and introduced themselves as Jehovah's Witnesses. "Come in" said Mr Smith, and showed then into the lounge. "Would you both like a cup of tea." to which there was an immediate "yes please" reply. A minute or two later Mr Smith returned with the teas and a lovely plate of shortcake biscuits. They all settled down to the tea and biscuits. " Well, what would you like to discuss with me today" asked Mr Smith. " We really don't know" answered a somewhat bemused Jehovah, "We have never got this far before".



Wardens' Words

Hello friends and neighbours, and in light of a few weeks ago on Hallowe'en, 'fiends' and neighbours!

The year moves on apace, and the season to be jolly is almost with us. When I was considering the word 'jolly', my mind started going through the alphabet for rhyming sounds - and there are quite a few. Perhaps one of your Christmas daft games could be to invent a little poem or song using 'holly, dolly, polly' etc , and not forgetting the 'sounds similar' -'cauli'!

Christmas is epitomised for me by the singing of carols and church services, family parties and lovingly prepared festive food. Winter hath its charms indeed. Goodwill is in such short supply in some quarters, so it must be our duty and our joy at all times .... to engender plenty.

Do you listen to 'The Archers'? If so you will know that one of the story lines is about the Christmas entertainment in the village of Ambridge. This year they are thinking about 'Christmas around the world'. If only we could be a fly on the wall and watch some other countries' customs, what fun that would be. I happened to be sitting on the bus recently next to a friendly young woman from the Philippines. She was a Christian (that's another story) and was happy to tell me about traditions in Manila for the Christmas holidays. It's truly impossible to imagine 40c temps. on Christmas Day! They eat barbequed pork mainly, and serve exotic salads and drinks to accompany the crackling. I'll think of this lovely person as I tuck into my traditional roast and thank the Lord for her and all her fellow Christians.

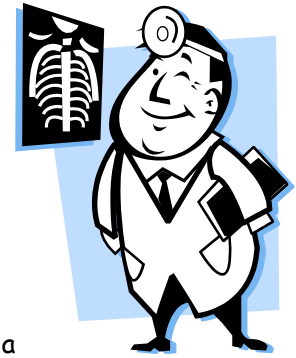
Before I wish you season's greetings, there is one thing I feel I should draw to your attention regarding the Churchyard here at St Mary Magdalene's. Many of you will already know that there are no new burial plots left, and only existing graves with

space in them can be used in future. There is still room for interment of ashes at the moment. The County Council will therefore upkeep the Churchyard as from April 2012. It would be most helpful if all grave tenders kept their plot free of extraneous objects, as these may be accidentally damaged with grass mowing equipment and suchlike. I'll update you all on this topic nearer the time. Wonderful volunteers are still tending the 'top' churchyard!

It just remains for me to wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and to invite you all to our Christmas celebration services, details of which can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

So - from Godfrey and me -enjoy the peace of the Christmas message, the sound of angels, the wonder of THAT Baby and the love which binds us all together.

Glyn Wright



Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same Complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.

The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The FIRST is a Golden Retriever. The SECOND is a Senior Citizen.

Next time take me to a vet!!!

LILLINGTON COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM

Can I now introduce you to Lillington Community Centre, Mason Avenue, Lilllington, Leamington Spa – another fantastic community venue that already offers activities to this lively community.



Our success on 12th November was the first North Leamington's Got Talent night which really went with a swing. We had acts singing Adele songs, we had an Elvis impersonator who was really fab and the winner sang a haunting solo from Madame Butterfly – which was note perfect and brought a tear to most people. The audience of 123 people had a wonderful evening of entertainment and Lillington residents showcased their skills and abilities to the wider community. All in all a really fantastic night!

The Centre is run by a volunteer management committee and they have this year undertaken a research project to find out what the local community wants in its centre. Information came back that we need activities for children aged between 5 and 12 years, a community café or meeting space, Zumba classes and lots of events that capture community spirit – hence the first Talent Show.

There is currently a good timetable of activities including on Monday lunchtimes a Children's Centre baby clinic with Leamington & Warwick Academy of dance in the afternoon. On Tuesday evening we have GKR Karate classes. On Wednesday mornings Nicole Freeman takes a Nifty Fifty exercise class and in the afternoon the Dance Academy return for more dance classes. On Thursdays we have Nicole again from 6 – 7 pm running an energetic Zumba Class and then Karate for the rest of the evening. Fridays we have a Children's Centre lunch club then GKR Karate in the evening.

There are more dance classes on Saturday mornings and then the hall is available for private parties. The USP (unique selling point for non-sales readers) for this hall is its wonderful stage, its size (it can seat up to 180 people) and its sprung dance floor – so followers of Strictly Come Dancing might be interested ---mmmmm what about a Lillington Strictly talent competition next year to ring the changes???? Watch this space



The hall is available to hire and anyone wanting more information on activities or hirings should ring Gladys Gibbs 07815 565370.

Linda Price, Community Development Worker
The Library, Valley Road, Lillington
0777 616 4599

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Blow Dry & straightening - £15
Just a Blow Dry - £10
Add to any of the above a conditioning treatment for an extra £7

LATE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Ring Emma : 07511 992250



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think the Angel of the Lord texting the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

Slice of cake, anyone?
If you are stuck for Christmas present ideas this year, why not try a cake stand? The cake stand is making a big return. Also popular are cake tins, cookie cutters and all sorts of baking equipment. It is thought that the recession is to blame. Apparently in times of hardship, we crave sweet foods. Perhaps that is why the BBC Two programme 'The Great British Bake Off' is such a current success. In any case, afternoon tea and cake are back on the menu.

Many families have a favourite Christmas Cake recipe, perhaps handed down from Grandma; the Editor confesses that his recipe is adapted from (Saint) Delia Smith. Here are a couple of alternative Christmas Cake recipes - why don't you start a new tradition and make them your family recipe to hand down to future generations.

Chestnut and chocolate truffle cake (Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall)

This is a wonderfully soft and gooey chocolate cake, which can be served warm or cold as a pudding. It makes a great alternative to traditional Christmas pudding – and it's also an absolute doddle to make.

250g dark chocolate
250g unsalted butter
250g chestnuts (peeled and cooked)
250ml milk
4 eggs - separated
125g caster sugar

You will need a springform cake tin measuring approximately 23cm in diameter, lined on the bottom with baking or greaseproof paper.

Preheat the oven to 170°C/325°F/gas 3. Melt the chocolate and butter in a pan over a very gentle heat. In another pan, heat the chestnuts (tinned are fine) with the milk until just boiling, then mash thoroughly with a potato masher (or process to a rough purée in a machine).

Mix the egg yolks with the caster sugar. Stir in the chocolate mixture and the chestnut purée until you have a smooth, blended batter. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold them carefully into the batter. Transfer the mixture to the cake tin and bake for 25–30 minutes, until it is just set but still has a slight wobble.

If you want to serve the cake warm, leave it to cool a little, then release the tin and slice carefully – it will be very soft and moussey. Or alternatively leave it to go cold and it will set firm. I like to serve this with a trickle of double cream.

Honey Saffron Christmas Cake
This cake has all the flavours of Christmas without being too heavy and can be made at the last minute too. It also freezes well.

225 gm butter, softened
2 tbsp brandy
pinch saffron
225 gm golden caster sugar
4 eggs
225 gm plain flour
50 gm ground almonds
1 tsp baking powder
300 gm raisins
300 gm sultanas
100 gm glacé cherries, halved
85 gm mixed peel
50 gm almonds, roughly chopped
50 gm hazelnuts, roughly chopped
50 gm walnuts pieces

TO SOAK - 3 tbsp brandy and 2 tbsp honey

Heat oven to 160C/fan 140C/gas 3. Butter and line a round, deep 20cm cake tin with two layers of baking parchment. Tie a few sheets of newspaper around the outside of the tin, level with the top of the baking parchment.

Heat the brandy in a small pan, then add the saffron and leave to infuse off the heat for a few mins. Put the butter, sugar, eggs, flour, ground almonds, baking powder and a pinch of salt into a bowl, then beat together until creamy and smooth. Mix the fruit, nuts and brandy saffron mix into the batter and stir well.

Spoon into the prepared tin, smooth the top and make a slight dip in the middle. Bake for 1½ hrs, then cover loosely with foil to stop the top over-browning. Turn oven down to 140C/fan 120C/gas 1 and cook for 1 hr more until a skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin then, while it's still warm, prod the cake all over with a skewer.

Mix the brandy and honey together and spoon over the cake. Wrap up well in foil and keep in an airtight container until Christmas, feeding with more honeyed brandy every so often.

JUNIOR CROSSTALK



Are Angels just for Christmas?

Angels appear *many* times in the Bible. The word "**angel**" actually comes from a Greek word, which means "**messenger**." Angels are mentioned about 273 times in the Bible! We hear of many stories where angels have a variety of 'special' tasks to carry out. These tasks all relate to serving God in different ways. Here are just some of them:

- **Worship** – Angels worship God and praise him in heaven.
- **Revealing** - They serve as messengers to tell us what God wants, like in the story of Abraham.
- **Guiding** - Angels give instructions. They did this for Mary, Joseph and the shepherds to prepare them for Jesus' birth.
- **Providing** - God has used angels to provide things such as food for his people in the wilderness.
- **Protecting** – Angels in the Bible have kept God's people out of danger, like Daniel when he was in the lions' den.
- **Delivering** – There are stories of angels getting God's people out of danger; Angels released the apostles from prison.

- **Strengthening and encouraging** - Angels strengthened Jesus during his time in the wilderness.
- **Answering prayer** - God often uses angels as His means of answering the prayers of His people.
- **Caring for believers** – There are many stories where God makes sure that his believers are cared for by angels.

By reading stories in the Bible, we remind ourselves just how important angels are! Below is an angel craft activity to remind us of the angels we often hear about in the Christmas story.







Make a traditional paper cone angel.

The paper angel is formed in two pieces. The body is made from a paper cone and the head and wings are created separately. You can decorate your angel using materials like glitter and tin foil.

'Happy Christmas' to all Junior Crosstalk Readers!

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NEW TRADITION - QUIZ NIGHT

Castel Froma Specialist Care Centre at 93 Lillington Road, Leamington, is getting ready for the festive season, and the first event will be a Quiz Evening on Friday December 2nd at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. organised by its League of Friends. This will be the fifth time the quiz has been held and it is therefore fast becoming a welcome tradition.

Questions will be based on general knowledge, so all will be welcome, especially as it is a "fun event" at which people will be able to enjoy themselves, besides picking up one or two gems of knowledge. People form teams, so individual guests do not need to worry about not knowing the answers!

Tickets are available from the Centre or from Graham Cooper (tel. 426942) at £7.50 each, which will include provision of a mince pie and a drink.



MISSING THE GUEST OF HONOUR

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2)

There's a story that runs like this: there was a mayor of a small town who had brought in so many improvements to local life that over several years he had transformed the town. And so the community decided it was high time to pay him tribute.

The party was held at the local town hall, and all agreed it was a great celebration. The decorations were superb, the music was loud, the room crowded and noisy. The food was delicious, and the wine flowed. It was the best party the town had ever had.

Over coffee the next morning in the local cafe, someone wondered aloud if the mayor had enjoyed it. No one knew. In fact, as the day wore on, people began to realise that actually, no one had even seen the mayor there that night. Later they discovered that the mayor had been waiting at home all evening, waiting for the lift that he had been promised into town. But people were so busy preparing for the party, that no one had remembered him. And so he had missed the party in his honour. Apparently no one had even noticed his absence.

It sounds a lot like Christmas. People get together to celebrate, the food is great, the music warms the heart - but has anyone seen the guest of honour? We sing about him, we act out nativity plays about him, but in reality, the season has become about US. Our menus, our travel plans, our presents, our decorations. At what point in the proceedings do we give ourselves time to notice whether he is among us, or not?

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Lillington Parish Church

Come and have fun and do some
Christmas Shopping at our

Christmas Fair

Saturday 3rd December 2011

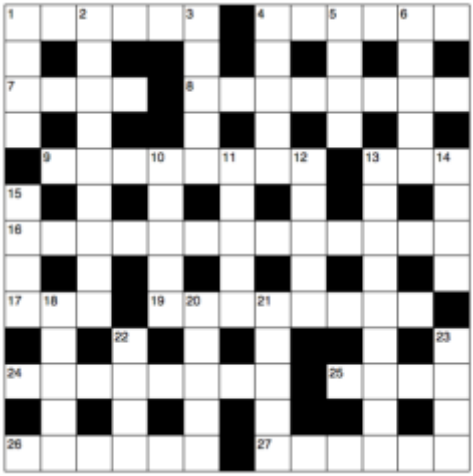
1.00pm until 3.30pm
at the church

Food, fun, lots of Christmas Stall and of course Father Christmas

Free Admission



The Bible version used in this crossword is the NIV



Across

1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
18 Narnia's Lion (5)
20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

NOVEMBER ANSWERS: ACROSS: 8, Indescribable. 9, Two. 10, Lying lips. 11, Ennui. 13, Greater. 16, Wrestle. 19, Image. 22, Loincloth. 24, Ebb. 25, Intentionally. DOWN: 1, Little. 2, Adjoin. 3, Psalmist. 4, Crying. 5, A big. 6, Oboist. 7, Censer. 12, Nor. 14, Epiphany. 15, Egg. 16, Welkin. 17, Exists. 18, Euodia. 20, Age-old. 21, Embryo. 23, Cana.

From the Eight O' Clock Pew....a personal view.



Pass notes: Communion books.

Age: 349 or 10 years – depending.

Appearance: Smart and glossy to well thumbed.

What do they have in common then? The script; sometimes it's from the Common Worship Book and sometimes it's from Archbishop Cranmer Book of Common Prayer.

Didn't he come to a sticky end? You could say that, He was very influential under Henry VIIIth, helped him to get a divorce. This caused a separation from the Church of Rome so he wrote a new set of rules, guidelines and services for the Church of England and also secretly got married.

So why was he no longer cool? Queen Mary was a catholic and didn't like married archbishops so had him banged up. He said that he would be a good Catholic after all if they let him out, but he changed his mind at the last minute and they burnt him at the stake.

That was Nasty! Yes, but they believed they were doing him a favour, a quick bonfire now rather than the Everlasting Flames.
So what's this Common Worship Book? During the seventies there were handy little booklets for communion: the little blue book, followed by the little red book, followed by the little green book. After a while they all started to fall to pieces and everyone got fed up so they made a proper book with a strong cover called The Alternative Service Book 1980.

What was that like? People quite liked it because they could understand more of the words compared to the Book of Common Prayer - and it had a strong cover.

Did that matter? A lot of people said 'yes', others said no - they said all you need to do is listen to the words of the Book of Common Prayer - it's like poetry you don't need to understand it.

So what happened to the ASB 1980? It only lasted twenty years before Common Worship came along. (You can find ASB's in good nick, gathering dust in most Church vestries.)

ASB Didn't last long compared with the BCP then! I'll ignore that.

Do say: 'Let us offer one another a sign of peace.'
Don't say: 'We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness…'

Eric Johnson

LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM



I thought Crosstalk Readers may be interested to know the church yard received a 'Highly commended' mention at the Leamington in Bloom awards this year. It seems a while off now with the darker colder evenings. Cubbington church won the cup again, but they are fortunate to have a small dedicated army of helpers.

A reliable source tells me the judges make their rounds in June, so if we want to have a chance at toppling our neighbours and enjoying the gardens we need extra bodies.

Gary Timlin

If you think you can lend a hand in looking after the churchyard contact the church office

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Five members of St Mary Magdalene's received Confirmation at a splendid service in Coventry Cathedral (Saturday 19th November), conducted by the Bishops of Coventry and Warwick. The service included one Baptism, Confirmation for young people and adults from fifteen churches round the diocese, and a celebration of Holy Communion.



From left to right are: Clair Reading, Jessica Rushton, Joan Perry, Silvia McKowen and Claire Boad.

The candidates from Lillington and our sister church, Old Milverton, were trained by the Revd Charlotte Gale and Mrs Sue Fairhurst, the Reader at Old Milverton.

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THANK YOU Lord

Thank you so much for the many cards and kind messages when I had my recent operation. At times like this I am very blessed to have a lovely husband, marvellous daughters, and a caring church family. It gave me strength to have every confidence in all the hospital team, particularly my surgeon. With keyhole surgery, and a fast recovery programme, I was home in 4 days. Each day I am getting stronger and glad to be back with you all at the 9.30 service.
Best wishes, Doreen Vallis

John and Christine Butler give thanks for the Baptism of Ethan James Butler on 6th November 2011 at St Michael the Archangel Church, Trusham, Devon.

offa house

Coventry Diocesan Retreat House
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Details of all the courses being offered during 2012 can be found on the Offa House website

www.offahouseretreat.co.uk
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Tim and Julie Cartwright

The 1 Corinthians 13 0f Christmas



If I decorate my house with beautiful bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

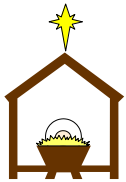
If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, roasting a perfect turkey, and lay a magnificent table, but have no love for my guests, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not have compassion in my heart for those in need, I am just another social service; it profits me nothing.

If I decorate the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes and attend a myriad of holiday parties but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to help one's wife with boring housework. Love puts the Christmas present shopping on hold in order to run the elderly neighbour to the doctor. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has more expensive presents, or even coordinated Christmas china and table linen. Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way; love is glad that they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, even irritating relatives. It believes all things, and encourages teenagers to aim high for their future. It hopes all things, endures all things, even a spouse who is depressed about their job prospects. Love never fails other people. Computer games will crash, even cashmere jumpers will wear out, and golf clubs will get lost. But the gift of love will endure forever. Happy Christmas!



CHRISTMAS SONGS - QUIZ

Here's a quiz all the family can join in over the Christmas period. Answers will be printed in January's Crosstalk.

1. Quadruped with crimson proboscis
2. 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. without noise
3. Miniscule hamlet in the far east
4. Ancient benevolent despot
5. Adorn the vestibule
6. Exuberance directed to the planet
7. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing
8. Monarchial trio
9. Yonder in the haystack
10. Assemble, everyone who believes
11. Parasitic plant and fermented grape juice
12. Fantasies of a colourless December 25th
13. A dozen 24-hour Yule periods
14. Befell during the transparent bewitching hour
15. Homo sapiens of crystallized vapour
16. I merely desire a pair of incisors
17. I spied my maternal parent osculating a fat man in red
18. Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy
19. O sacred darkness, the asterisks are brilliantly shimmering.
20. Boppin' while circling the tannenbaum...
21. Ah! The atmospheric condition beyond is terrific...
22. Percussion instruments jingle, are you harking...
23. A local city's Christmas song
24. As ovine minders laundered their footwear during the dark period
25. Ourselves bid yourselves a joyous Noel and a cheerful neoteric 365 days



The highlight of Christmas at the vicarage was always 'name the Christmas song' played on comb and paper

Robin's Round Up



Thank you to all the people who make this magazine possible - for those who contribute articles to the magazine, proof read it, print it, assemble it, deliver it, upload it to the website … and most of all those of you who read it!

It's been a busy year and I'm looking forward to collating the magazine in 2012. Just a little plea, I quite often use an online resource called Parish Pump, but I would much prefer to have your news about local events; what's happening at your service; and things you have read, seen or heard about and would like to share. There must be lots going on, I often pass the church of an evening, and there are lights in church or the octagon - who's there? So this is your opportunity to promote your group (even if it's not church based).

And if you would like to contribute financially towards the running costs of this magazine, please remember that you should mark any donations as 'Crosstalk' and don't forget to Gift Aid.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas

Sir Startled Cook

Advertising Rates
from January 2011

Annual (11 months):	
¼ page	£50
½ page	£90
Single month:	
¼ page	£6
½ page	£10
Full page	£17

Contact the Editor for more information

Maggie the Mouse

Is back again this month, after a short holiday during November! Apologies to those eagle eyed readers who spent a few hours looking for her!

This month the Crosstalk pen has gone to Roy Nabbs for spotting the deliberate error in Robin's Round up

Keep looking for Maggie for your chance to win a Crosstalk pen. She's very shy this month!

DECEMBER 2011	
Thursday 1st	7.30 pm Lillington PCC meeting
Saturday 3rd	1.00 until 3.30pm, Christmas Fair, held in Church and grounds
Thursday 8th	1.00 pm Lillington Evening Townswomen's Guild, (Lime Avenue Bowling Club) - *Christmas Meal (Members only)*
Sunday 4th	9.30 am All Age Advent Morning Praise bringing gifts for Leamington Christian Mission 6.30 pm Advent Carol Service
Saturday 10th	9.30 am Walkers group - meet at church (*Jeff & Ruth Burgess 335129)*
Monday 12th	7.45 pm Lillington Evening WI (Octagon) - *Christmas Party (Telephone 421693)*

Advertisements in this magazine are taken in good faith, and no specific recommendation is implied or intended.

A reminder: Please make Cheques payable to Lillington PCC

DEADLINE

Copy for the January 2012 Edition is required **by 14th December 2011** to Robin Innes (Editor) or to Anne Furze in the Church Office

www.lillingtonparishchurch.org



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Dec 4	Advent 2	8.00am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	All-age Worship with Gifts for Leamington Christian Mission
		6.30pm	'From Darkness to Light' Evensong
Dec 11	Advent 3	8.00am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	Holy Communion with Sunday Club*
Dec 18	Advent 4	8.00am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	Holy Communion with Sunday Club Nativity and Prayers for Healing
		6.30pm	Carol Service
Dec 25	Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Family Communion

***SUNDAY CLUB**
For children from ages up to 10 years during School Term time. Children join the main 9.30 a.m. service at the beginning and the end, and leave for a 30 minutes Sunday School session which has a range of age appropriate activities

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

All Tuesday services commence at 9.30 am except the last Tuesday of the month when Communion will be at 1.30 p.m. Tea and chat will then follow at 2.00 p.m. in the Octagon for those who wish to go along.

Tuesday	Dec 6th	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Tuesday	Dec 13th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	Dec 20th	9.30am	Holy Communion

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