



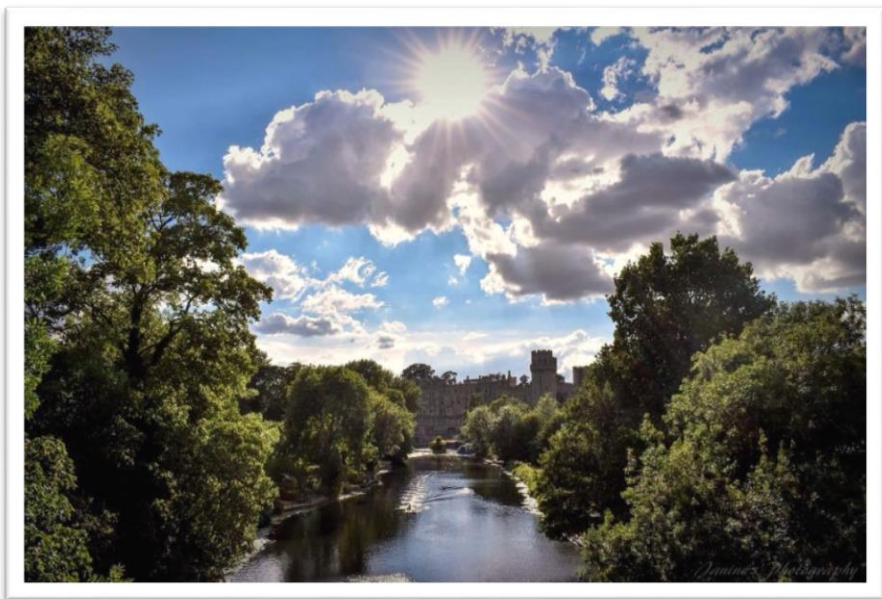
Lillington Parish Church
Knowing • Growing • Going

Crosstalk

**Lillington, St Mary Magdalene,
Parish Magazine**

MARCH 2020





CROSSTALK PHOTO COMPETITION 2020

**In response to popular demand,
Crosstalk is running another photographic
competition this year**

The theme is "God's Beautiful World"

Entry deadline: 14th October

**Winners will be announced in
the December edition**

**Submissions welcomed throughout the year and
may be featured on our colour pages**

**Email your entries, with a brief description of the
subject, to the editor. Good Luck!**

**The photograph above (not a competition entry) is by Janine King of
Kenilworth, whose work we have featured before in these pages.**

FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this Lent will have begun. The forty days will be accompanied this year by forty readings and reflections in a booklet entitled: "Finding thin places". A thin place was a Celtic way of describing an occasion when the gap between heaven and earth was very small. All of us will from time to time have sensed the presence of God. Some places and people seem to have something about them that helps us sense the presence of heaven.

During this year in which we focus on "growth" one of the important issues to address will be our walk with God both as individuals and as a church. Someone recently described his ministry as an

Some places and people seem to have something about them that helps us to sense the presence of Heaven

ordained priest as "helping people move from the shallow end of life's swimming pool into the deep end." There is something exciting about journeying with God into deeper places, about seeing further and discovering new horizons.

Over the course of Lent this year there will be opportunities to deepen our encounter with God through daily personal devotions, through the home groups and through a sermon series based on the theme of 'Encounter'. These themes are as follows:

Sunday 1 st March	"Encountering God in Jesus"
Sunday 8 th March	"Encountering God through the Jesus Prayer"
Sunday 15 th March	"Encountering God on the mountain"
Sunday 22 nd March	"Encounter with God in Mother Church"
Sunday 29 th March	"Encountering God in others"

If you know of someone who might benefit from being given a Lent Booklet this year do please take one from the back of church.

With every blessing for all that we may discover about God during this year's Lenten journey

William

WARDEN'S WORDS

Lent is often marked not so much by what we do as what we don't do: it is seen as the season of giving things up, especially after indulging in pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

I remember taking this aspect very seriously when I was fourteen years old and resolved to give up sugar in tea. I'm not sure that it was a very productive thing to do from a Christian point of view, but it was most certainly effective from a dietary angle as, once Lent was over, I couldn't bear the taste of sugar in my tea and have never had it since!

Lent is not celebrated, but 'kept', though even amongst Christians who 'keep' Lent, there seems to be no agreement on how it should be observed. There are many who, while having no religious beliefs, feel that it is good to give up something for 40 days (not including Sundays) and perhaps it becomes a second opportunity at failed New Year Resolutions or a 'Spring Detox'.

Christians tend to observe Lent as a time for reflection and as preparation for the Easter message when we can truly rejoice at the Resurrection of Christ. William will be helping us by providing Lent booklets with daily readings, looking at 'Places of Encounter with God'. I'm sure that, together with the Lent Sermon Series and work undertaken in Home Groups, we shall feel well supported in the build up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

We live in an age that seems to understand little about restraint and when it is considered a 'right' that if we want (rather than need) something, we should have it immediately. Lent can give us the opportunity to be a bit more thoughtful and reflective in our daily lives.

Strange at it may seem, to resist chocolate, sweets, coffee (or even sugar in tea!) for forty days may help us to focus on the more important aspects of our lives as Christians, namely our thoughts, actions, our relationships with others and with God.

Let us endeavour to keep Lent thoughtfully and prayerfully.

Maureen Reynolds

LILLINGTON PAST AND PRESENT

In the fourth of his series, Richard Taulbut looks at memorial tablets.

Perhaps because Lillington never had a resident Squire, and no other wealthy resident freeholders until the Earl of Warwick sold his estate at Lillington in 1805, the 17th and 18th century fashion for elaborate wall monuments passed Lillington by. Lillington churchgoers have never been edified by such epitaphs as this one at Bishops Tachbrook, in praise of John Wagstaffe who died in 1681 –

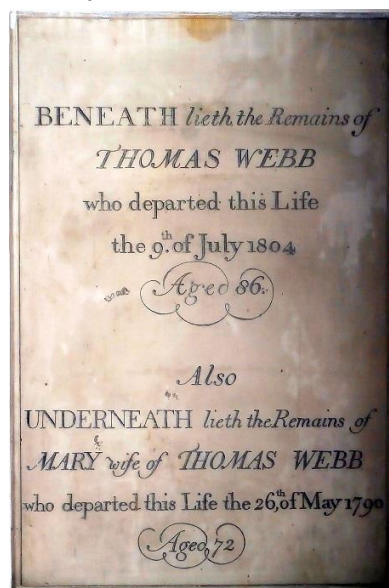
*He was a Person of Exemplary Charity,
approved Integrity and known Loyalty,
a Constant Churchman and a zealous Asserter of Monarchy.
In him the Christian and the Gentleman were united:
His Religion did not make him unsociable
Nor his Mirth irreligious.*

Lillington's most famous epitaph is outside in the churchyard opposite the vestry door, on the tombstone of the Miser, William Treen, expressing very different sentiments –

*I Poorly Liv'd and Poorly Dy'd,
Poorly Bury'd and no one Cry'd.*

The earliest commemoration inside the church is above a pillar in the nave, to John Buckerfield, died 1768, and his father who died in 1772. This stone dates only from 1877 however, and preserves the inscriptions of two ledger slabs previously in the nave floor.

The oldest original memorial is a modest tablet found at the back of the south aisle. Thomas Webb, who died in 1804 aged 86, was the tenant of Manor Farm. In his will, made in 1798, he describes himself as *Thomas Webb of Lillington, Gentleman*. He and his wife Mary had three daughters – Mary, who never married; Sarah, who married John Lynes of Corley; and Elizabeth, who became the wife of



Booth Hodgetts, Iron Merchant of Dudley. Webb's estate was divided equally between his daughters, except for property at Napton and *'the furniture of all kinds of my best lodging room in the house where I now dwell'* which went to Mary, and £20 each to his four grandchildren.

Webb owned a farm and a cottage at Napton on the Hill, and had at one time lived nearby in Northamptonshire. After a general election held in April, 1748, he is listed in a printed poll-book as 'Thomas Webb of Lillington, county Warwick', being entitled to vote as a freeholder of Barby with Onley. There were no secret ballots in those days, and the book records that he voted for the Tory, Valentine Knightley.

One of Thomas Webb's four grandchildren was the Revd. John Lynes (1782 – 1843) who married in 1822 Caroline Sobieski Wynne, granddaughter of the celebrated classical scholar and teacher, Doctor Parr, of Hatton near Warwick. The Revd. Dr Samuel Parr (1747 – 1825) was an untiring correspondent of the rich and famous of his day, but was equally attentive to his parishioners at Hatton. Lynes later also became perpetual curate there, and published a catalogue of Parr's famous library of ten thousand volumes.

Thomas Webb's memorial was previously at the front of the south aisle to the left of the window, along with the memorial to Montgomery John Paterson, and was mounted on a black slab, like



the two Radford memorials in the North aisle. A faculty to move it 'on account of it being unsafe' was granted in 1940. A previous request in 1926 to move both memorials 'to allow altar hangings to be put up' was refused when Paterson's widow objected, so the hangings were just draped across it as seen in this photograph of about 1930.

The south aisle dates from 1868, so the tablet must previously have been elsewhere. James Saunders’ drawing of about 1810 shows a white tablet mounted on a slab in a place of honour on the east wall of the chancel. Could it be the Webb memorial, which is the only tablet now surviving that predates 1810? A window was made in this wall in the 1820’s, so assuming the tablet was preserved, perhaps it was moved inside, and then moved again in 1868 when the south aisle was rebuilt. If so, Thomas and Mary Webb’s memorial is now in its fourth home.

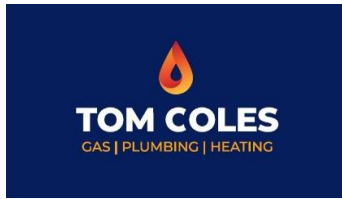


Appeal for donations



Good Quality Bric-a-Brac. For our African Vision Malawi Coffee Morning on **Saturday 14th March**, we would like to include a table sale of bric-a-brac. We would be grateful for donations which can be left at the back of church. Perhaps this is a good place for those unwanted Christmas gifts? (No large items please)

Thank you, Christine Butler



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CHARITY OF THE MONTH

This month, anything donated by the congregation for charity which will go to **African Vision Malawi**. After you have read the following piece by Gaynor Cook, I'm sure you will want to be generous.

Over the last few years you have given amazing support to our charity and this year I am asking you once again for your help, this time for our Disability Project. Julie Ndalama has worked for us for seven years. She regularly does outreach work all over the area in Malawi that we support and takes people back and fro from the rural area into the capital for assessments and treatments. She has had to deal with amputations and arrange operations for a multitude of disabilities.

We work with several groups one being MAP, *Malawian Action for Physical Disabilities*, who provide assessment and devices which we buy from them. We are also partnered with *Motivation Malawi* who provide wheelchairs. Recently we found two children with severe cerebral palsy. Their parents had to carry them everywhere on their backs so their lives and those of the children were

dramatically changed when we provided both children with wheel chairs. Julie came across another child, Jennifer, whose right foot protruded from just under her knee. She was unable to walk to school with her friends or join in their dancing and games and again



her mother had to carry her everywhere on her back. Julie took her to another group we work with called *500 Miles* and they fitted Jennifer with a prosthetic leg. She now walks to school and just recently I saw a film of her dancing with her friends. A recent case was the discovery of a little two year old girl, Promise, who needed some serious bowel surgery. She has thankfully survived three operations and will have one final one as soon as she has recovered from the last operation. She now has a much better future.

I met a wonderful little boy of about six years old whose name is Oswald. The head teacher at his school pointed him out to me and told me that Oswald walked over three kilometres to school and back again and he had Cerebral Palsy. We had him assessed and fitted with special supports but of course when he grew out of the shoes we bought for him he could no longer use the supports. We are trying to make sure he gets new shoes when needed.

Julie often has to take children and their guardians to hospital in Lilongwe, the capital, or to another hospital in Blantyre, a long journey of 350 kilometres. We have to pay for fuel, food and drink for the child and guardian while they are in the hospital and often



some changes of clothing, bowls and soap etc. for washing. All this costs money but Julie's work does change lives and it's important for her to be able to continue. So once again I am asking for your help. If you can, please donate. Thank you so much.

Diana Flower reports on “WildEarth” and an alternative to clingfilm

Since October the 3rd Leamington Guides have finished their soundscape project with WildEarth and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and had a successful launch with Stretton Scouts, who were also involved, at Brandon Marshes in

January. We were able to see the completed dome and hear our compositions. Check out our tunes on our Face Book page @3rdLeamGuides



At the beginning of this term we have made our own beeswax cloths. These can be used as a sustainable alternative to clingfilm. The evening started with a lesson in how to use an iron – although I am not sure any of us would pass the Laundress badge from the 1970's! We enjoyed an outing to the Lillington Bowling Club where we were shown the skills involved in Short Matt indoor bowls. It turns out that we have a few budding bowlers in our midst. Next to try it out on grass in the summer months.

Our numbers are currently low with only 5 Guides, therefore, if you know if any girls aged 10-14 years old who would be interested please contact me on 3rdleamingtonguides@gmail.com

Gary Timlin, Youth & Community Worker, tells us about recording oral history

The Youth Centre is holding audio recording sessions on the afternoon of Monday 6th April, from 12 noon - 3pm and again on Tuesday 7th April, 11am - 3pm.

The project is spearheaded by the Young People at Lillington YC and Crown Routes. The Young People hope to collate local oral history stories and work with Crown Routes and Lillington Local History Society to share them either via an audio file or in a transcript.

The participants can share their stories anonymously if they wish, they do not have to have their photos taken if they do not wish to. The participants have to have a link to Lillington. We are looking to encourage older members of our community to take part. Do you have memories of Lillington gone-by, did you move here as a child or teen, are you born and bred, what were your school days like, where did you play, was life hard?

It would be helpful to arrange a time slot on one of the days above so we do not have a deluge. Participants will be welcomed and looked after, a cuppa guaranteed. If you would like to preserve lived Lillington lives for future generations please get in touch with Gary Timlin at the Youth Centre, 07584218370, or by email on garytimlin@warwickshire.gov.uk



Great Aunt Beatrice

By John Nutt

The poem about the leap year on page 23 of February's Crosstalk brought to mind my Great Aunt Beatrice. She wasn't actually a Great Aunt, she was my Maternal Great Grandmother's niece. I'll leave it to the reader to work out what our relationship really was, but I knew her as Aunt Beat.

She was a jolly little woman, standing about five feet four inches in her Sunday best churchgoing shoes. She was unmarried and worked as an eyeletter in one of the shoe factories near where we lived, so conversation was limited during working hours by the noise of the machines. However, she made up for it outside working hours. She would tell the tale to anyone who would listen of how she didn't have her first birthday until she was eight years old, so I heard the story many times.

Aunt Beat was born on 29th February 1896. The year marking the end of the century is only a leap year if it is divisible by four hundred, so the year 2000 was a leap year, but 1900 was not. Therefore, after her birth, 29th February did not come round again until 1904. I remember her eightieth birthday party when she tried to convince all present that she was only twenty and bent to touch her toes as proof.





Lillington Library

Lillington Library is on the corner of Valley Road by the roundabout and is a Grade II listed building. Historic England named the building as one of eight magnificent libraries in England! It was designed by Henry Fedeski and built by

George Wimpey & Co and opened in July 1960, making it 60 years old this year. Children's book illustrator, Ben Mantle, used his childhood library to illustrate Lucy Rowland's Little Red Reading Hood. All this makes a good reason for you to visit Lillington Library (if you do not already!)

The library has just been redecorated and has some new furniture ready to welcome customers new and old. The friendly staff can help you with information or reading enquiries and concessionary travel passes. You can use a PC for free if you are a library member and to join the library it is FREE!

There are plenty of **free** activities in the library for all ages.

Monday mornings

Babies and children under two years old with their parents and carers enjoy songs and rhymes at **Rhyme Time** 10.30 am – 11 am

Looking for help with employment weekly **Job Club** sessions 10 am – 12 pm

Tuesday mornings

Collect food vouchers 11 am – 12.30 pm

Tuesday afternoons

Come along and join in **Games and Gossip** 2 pm – 3.30 pm

Thursday mornings

Stories and rhymes session for two – four year old children **Story Stomp** and their parents and carers 10.30 am – 11 am

Thursday afternoons

Enjoy knitting, sewing or crafting – come along to **Creative Chatters** 1.30 pm – 3 pm

Saturday mornings

Creative themed sessions for children to build and create at weekly **Lego Club** sessions 10.30 am – 11.30 am

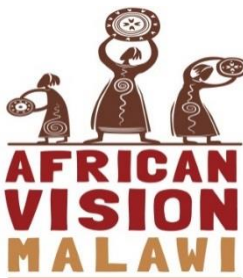
In the school holidays there are craft activities for school age children and a monthly **Chatterbooks** session for children aged 8 – 11 years old on the last Friday of the month 4 pm – 5 pm

For more information about your local library and opening times see <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/596/lillington-library-and-information-centre>



Coffee Morning

supporting



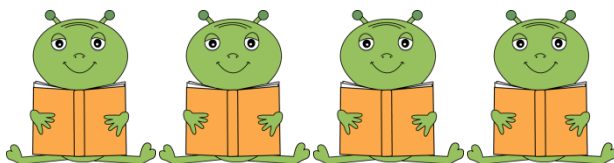
<http://www.africanvision.org.uk>

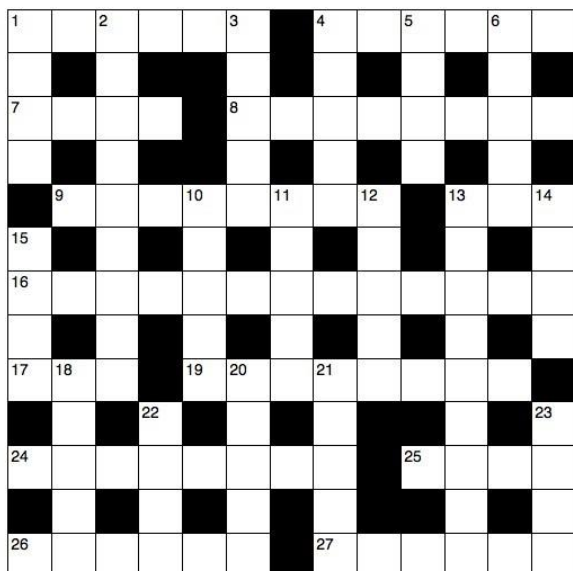
Saturday 14th March 2020

**The Octagon, Lillington Parish Church,
St Mary Magdalene's
9.00am to 12.00noon**

All Welcome!

**There will be information on the amazing work of
this charity: a bric-a-brac stall and some other
goodies for sale**





CROSSWORD

century Jarrow
ecclesiastical scholar (4)
26 8 Across issued a
decree that this should
take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
27 Come into prominence
(Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

1 Where some of the seed
scattered by the sower fell
(Matthew 13:4) (4)
2 Sexually immoral
person whom God will
judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
3 Gospel leaflet (5)
4 Physical state of the boy
brought to Jesus for
healing (Mark 9:18)

Across

1 The earth is one (6)
4 'On a hill far away stood an old
— cross' (6)
7 'I am the — vine and my Father
is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
8 The Caesar who was Roman
Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth
(Luke 2:1) (8)
9 'Your — should be the same as
that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians
2:5) (8)
13 Jesus said that no one would
put a lighted lamp under this (Luke
8:16) (3)
16 Involvement (1 Corinthians
10:16) (13)
17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles
15:19) (3)
19 Where the Gaderene pigs were
feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
24 What jeering youths called
Elisha on the road to Bethel (2
Kings 2:23) (8)
25 The Venerable —, eighth-

5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
6 To put forth (5)
10 Nationality associated with St
Patrick (5)
11 Leader of the descendants of
Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
12 'After this, his brother came
out, with his hand grasping —
heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
13 At Dothan the Lord struck the
Arameans with — at Elisha's
request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
14 'Peter, before the cock crows
today, you will — three times that
you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
18 'When I —, I am still with you'
(Psalm 139:18) (5)
20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
21 Thyatira's dealer in purple
cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
22 Does (anag.) (4)
23 The second set of seven cows
in Pharaoh's dream were this
(Genesis 41:19) (4)

Solution on page 16

SERVICE DETAILS

WORSHIP IN MARCH

Sun 1	Lent 1	8:00 am	Holy Communion
		9:30 am	Holy Communion with Sunday Club
		11:15 am	Star Church
		5:30 pm	Evensong
Wed 4		10:00 am	Midweek Communion Service
Sun 8	Lent 2	8:00 am	Holy Communion
		9:30 am	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing & Sunday Club
		11:15 am	Star Church
		6:30 pm	Youth Group – no service
Wed 11		10:00 am	Midweek Communion Service
Sun 15	Lent 3	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.30 am	Holy Communion & Sunday Club
		11:15 am	Star Church
		5:30 pm	Choral Evensong
Wed 18		10:00 am	Midweek Communion Service
Sun 22	Lent 4 and Mothering Sunday	8:00 am	Holy Communion
		9:30 am	Holy Communion with Sunday Club
		11:15 am	Star Church
		6:30 pm	Youth Group – no service
Wed 25		10.00 am	Midweek Communion Service
Sun 29	Lent 5 / Passiontide	8.00 am	Communion Service
		9.30 am	Holy Communion and Sunday Club
		11.15 am	Star Church
Tue 31		1.30 pm	Holy Communion

The Church Office

The office is open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30 am until 1.00 pm.

A Time for Quiet and Prayer. *The church is open each Wednesday from 9.30 am until noon. If you would like to access the church at other times during office hours, please go to the office.*

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 minute Sunday Club session which has a range of age appropriate activities.

OCTOTOTS

Thursday mornings during term time at 10.30 am in The Octagon.

Mon 2nd	7.30 pm	Homegroup in The Vicarage
	7.30 pm	NT Mid Warks Assoc meets at Kingsley School. "Trinity House".
Wed 4th	10.55 am & 1.55 pm	The Arts Society meets at The Spa Centre. "Charles Dickens".
Wed 4th – Thu 5th	10.00 am – 4.30 pm	Christian Resources Exhibition at NAEC, Stoneleigh.
Fri 6th	2 pm	World Day of Prayer Annual Service at Lillington Free Church
	4.30 pm	Lillington History Soc. meets in The Free Church. "Kenilworth 100 years ago"
Sat 7th	10.00 am - noon	Walkers' Group meets at the church for a walk led by John & Sue Hollins (773919)
Tue 10th	6.30 pm	Knit & Natter meet at The Angel Hotel
Wed 11th	3.00 pm	Poetry Group meets at 17 Lime Avenue
Thu 12th	7.30 pm	WIAS meets at Warwick School
Sat 14th	9.00 am – noon	Coffee Morning in support of Africa Vision Malawi.
	7.30 pm	Warwicks Symphony Orchestra, All Saints'
Mon 16th	7.30 pm	Homegroup in The Vicarage
Sat 21st	10.00 am	Churches Together in Leamington Walking Group meets at Hill Wootton
	10.00 am	Flowers for Mothering Sunday in Octagon
	7.00 pm	Film Night in church
Mon 23rd	7.30 pm	Leamington History Group meets at Dormer Place Conference Centre. "Shops of L/Spa"
Tue 24th	6.30 pm	Knit and Natter in The Octagon
Tue 31st	2.00 pm	Tea & Chat in the Octagon



Lillington Parish Church, St Mary Magdalene's Facebook Page – "Like" us and keep up to date with all the exciting things that are happening via: <https://www.facebook.com/LillingtonParishChurch>

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

FUNERALS

29th January: June Boiles, 87

12 February: Maureen Green, 86



WALKERS' GROUP

Sandra Dear enjoys the snowdrops on a February walk

On a bright but very blustery day nine of us met at church for our monthly walk. We drove to Wolston and set off across the fields, not too muddy, towards

Bretford. Crossing the river bridge we made our way up a very muddy track out on to a bridleway where we stopped for coffee. Views were very clear although the wind made our progress a bit slow. We then made our way to Brandon and walked through a little coppice by the church which the villagers had taken under their wing, cleared and planted lots of snowdrops which were in full bloom. Back to the pub then for a very good meal, enjoyed by everyone.

Crossword solution

ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

DOWN: 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.



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Maureen Green

Thank you all at St Mary Magdalene for your kind messages,
support, thoughts and prayers for my family and me,
in the loss of Maureen.

We have been fortunate and privileged to have worshipped
here for more than fifty years and met a wonderful
congregation, not least the present one,
in that time.

Our grateful thanks, and may God's blessings be on you all.

John Green

Church of England launches energy rating tool for churches - as Synod considers new 'net zero'

The Church of England is launching an energy rating system similar to those used for household appliances. The aim is to help monitor the carbon footprint of its almost 40,000 buildings, as General Synod has recently voted on a major new proposal to reach 'net zero' CO² emissions.

The hope is for all parts of the Church of England, from parishes to national bodies, to aim for ambitious year-on-year reductions in emissions to reach 'net zero' by 2045* at the latest.

In a first step, parishes are being offered a new rating tool, which calculates their energy consumption. It will take into account factors including the type of power they use, whether they are on 'green' tariffs, the size of the building and usage.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop for Environmental Affairs, said: "The Church of England has buildings in every architectural style and material from the past 1,500 years, posing some unique challenges when it comes to energy efficiency.

"However, churches are not museums; they are living buildings which serve their communities every day of the week, and being greener isn't about doing less, it's about equipping parishes to get smarter about energy consumption.

"Christians are called to safeguard God's creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Faced with the reality of catastrophic climate change, which will affect the world's most vulnerable people the soonest, radical and immediate action is our only option."

A paper sent to Synod members before February's General Synod also outlined the potential impacts of climate change directly affecting the Church. It warned parishes that, as impacts start to accelerate, more churches will need to be prepared to play missional roles in their communities, including offering sanctuary in extreme weather events, as was seen at the church of St Cuthbert, Fishlake, following flooding of the River Don last year.

**Editor's note: This magazine's special correspondent at Synod (Revd Charlotte Gale) reports that the date has been brought forward to 2030. That's a lot of gas and oil boilers to be replaced in ten years!*



Eco Church: Caring for God's Creation

Steve Hucklesby has special responsibility for St Mary Magdalene's Green Agenda, and he writes:

The season of Lent gives us an opportunity to step back and reflect on what is

important in life. At St Mary Magdalene we frequently pray for God's creation and our relationship with it. Maybe we could take some time in Lent to see our planet through God's eyes. In Genesis, the creation story takes place over seven days. The seventh day was a day of rest and reflection, a little bit like Lent. And "God saw all that he had created and it was very good". But today our earth has been spoiled by overconsumption and greed. Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect on our own lifestyles and actions and to consider how they relate to that creation story.

We can act individually, or as a church community, or as a local community in Lillington. Warwick District has recently announced an action plan to enable the district to become carbon neutral by 2030. At a much broader level, the UK will host the global Climate Summit in Glasgow in November this year, where world leaders will pledge action by their nations. It will be the most significant gathering of world leaders to tackle climate change since the Paris summit in 2015, involving 30,000 delegates from governments, research institutes and other organisations. Outside of the secure zone of the Summit, tens of thousands of people will gather. They will include thousands of Christians from churches in parts of the world that have already been hit by climate change, and they will come to make their voices heard.

National plans to respond to the climate emergency need the support of their publics with everyone playing a part. The Eco Church programme recognises the many ways that Christians and churches might act, from being careful about our personal energy consumption through to campaigning for global change. (See ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk). At St Mary Magdalene we also want to be

involved. Along with many other churches in the Diocese of Coventry, we are working to become an Eco Church. We have already:

- added food waste composting to our existing recycling efforts
- started a can-crushing scheme that raises money for Love Lillington
- maintained wildlife areas in the churchyard and insect friendly planting
- studied intergenerational justice and climate issues in small group bible studies

More initiatives will follow. We are introducing personal eco-tips to the church service sheet and we would love to get your ideas. There will be further articles in Crosstalk to keep you posted on our efforts to become an Eco Church.

Meanwhile the Church of England is offering a daily Lent reflection via email, along with other helpful resources and suggestions for action. See www.churchofengland.org/livelent

Mothering Sunday: 4th Sunday in Lent

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Fantastic sum raised at Burns' Supper

Sixty people attended the supper on Friday 24th January and formed ten quiz teams. £678 was raised. Most of this will go to The Motor Neuron Disease Association and Myton Hospice, with a small amount donated to the church because no charge was made for the use of The Octagon.

The theme was "Burns' Night" so quiz questions vaguely related to Scotland. A favourite question was "At what sport did Scotland become world champions in 2005?" Answer: "Elephant Polo"!

Supper was included and comprised of Haggis, Neeps & Tatties - with vegetarian Haggis also on the menu. Puds were served at half time with Bread & Butter pudding, Crumble, Cheesecake, Meringues and Cheese & Biscuits all available. And all this came at the bargain price of £8 a head. Donations from people who couldn't come and a raffle contributed to the large amount raised.

Carol Innes remarked "Lots of people said they had a good time ... and they keep coming back each year, so we must be doing something right!"

Carol and Robin, you certainly are doing everything right. Thank you for your hard work from all those who enjoyed the evening.



The Doctor and the Patient



JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS



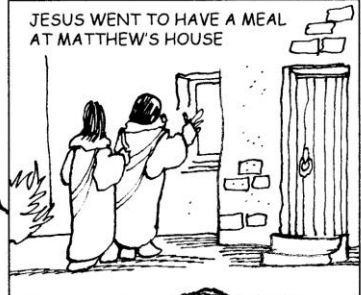
BUT SOME WERE EXTRA SPECIAL. THESE WERE HIS 'DISCIPLES'.



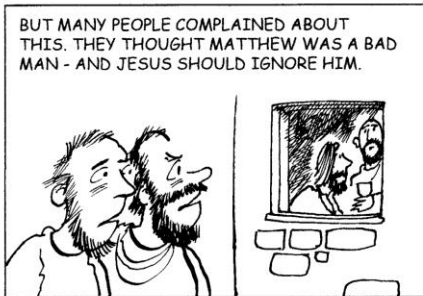
JESUS ONCE ASKED A TAX-COLLECTOR CALLED 'MATTHEW' TO BE ONE OF HIS TEAM



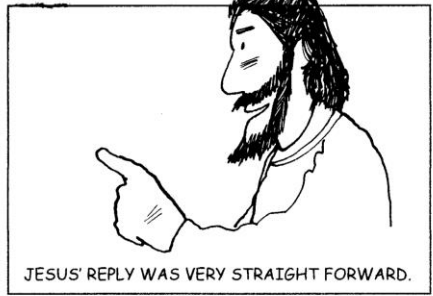
MATTHEW AGREED TO FOLLOW JESUS



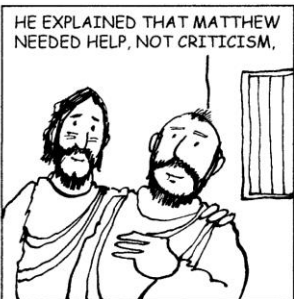
JESUS WENT TO HAVE A MEAL AT MATTHEW'S HOUSE



BUT MANY PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. THEY THOUGHT MATTHEW WAS A BAD MAN - AND JESUS SHOULD IGNORE HIM.



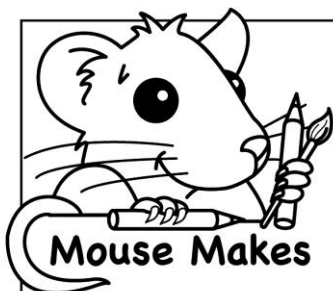
JESUS' REPLY WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD.



HE EXPLAINED THAT MATTHEW NEEDED HELP, NOT CRITICISM.

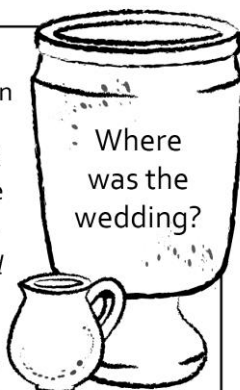
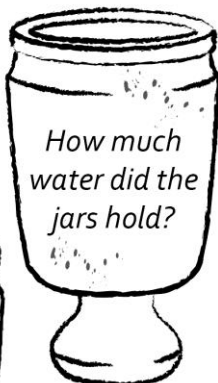
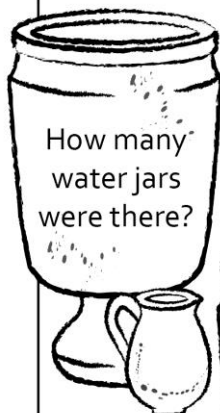


"IT'S NOT THE WELL THAT NEED A DOCTOR - BUT THE SICK!"
see Luke 5:27-32

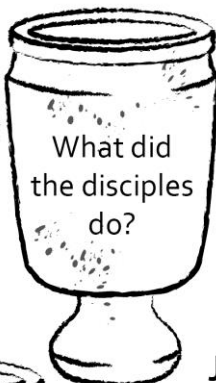


Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary had been invited to a wedding. The wedding was to last a week, but too soon the wine had all been drunk.

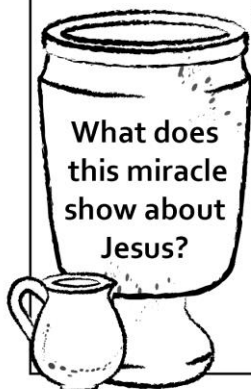
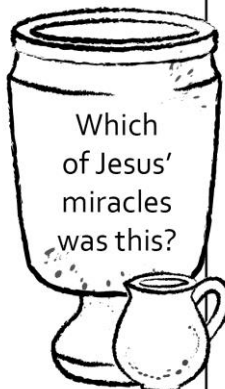
READ *John 2:1-11* to find out what happened.



What did the steward tell the bridegroom?



What had happened to the water when it was taken out?



J G A L I L E E W A W
J A D I S C I P L E S A
W S E R V A N T S O O D T T
I T S S C A N A X U M D O E
M O U I F I R S T T A I N R
E P S X I T A T T U R N E D
F I L L W I N E X T Y G E T

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CLOSURE OF THE CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP IN RADFORD ROAD, LEAMINGTON SPA

Martin and Georgina Lee have made the following announcement:

"It is with great sadness and regret that we have to inform you that the Christian Bookshop in Leamington will be closing down on the 29th February. It has been hard to sustain the shop over the past few years and recent trading has meant we now have no choice other than to close".

Editor's note: Martin and Georgina and the previous owners have served the Christian community since 1954. We owe them a debt of gratitude and are sorry to see them go.



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JEFF'S JOTTINGS



I'm delighted to bring you another in Richard Taulbut's articles on local history. This month, he is looking at memorials in and around the church. Another in the series will follow in June.

The piece on Lillington Library was written by Gill Colbourne, Area Librarian. We are very fortunate to have such a great facility on our doorsteps, and housed in a fine building. And, you know what they say, "Use it or lose it".

"The Green Church" is a bit of a theme this month and I am grateful to Steve Hucklesby for his piece. Here at Crosstalk, the scope for a lower carbon footprint is limited, but we do use recycled paper for the inner pages of the magazine. We are sure that you, dear reader, recycle the whole thing after an avid read!

It is always good to hear about the activities of the Guides and I thank Di Flower for her report. Gary Timlin tells us about an interesting project he is organising with the young people at The Youth Centre - Oral History. If

you can help with reminiscences, please contact him. I think of Gary and the volunteers at *Friends of Midland Oak Park* whenever I see the crocuses pictured on the opposite page. You will amuse by the story of Great Aunt Beatrice on page 10. Thank you to John Nutt for that. And thanks go to Gaynor Cook for news from Malawi and, as always, to our regular contributors.
Jeff Burgess.



Two days of discovery

WEDS 04 MAR THUR 05 MAR

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