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**Lillington Parish Magazine
St Mary Magdalene's Church
FEBRUARY 2018**



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References available

Rejoicing Together

St Valentine's Day has become a popular celebration in recent times. Perhaps it helps that the date falls in a relatively quiet month, when the weather is usually grey and uncertain and we all want a bit of cheering up. Valentine may be a Christian saint but it is the greetings card industry rather than the church which has really encouraged us to make more of it than we used to, though I still remember my first Valentine card received in my teens with its enigmatic inscription inside - I suspected my best friend had sent it as a joke, but have always wondered...

It is of course a difficult festival for those for whom circumstances make this particular celebration a poignant time. It's not just lovelorn teenagers who regret the absence of a card or message of love.



At St Mary Magdalene's we have our own way of marking the feast of St Valentine. We often find that we get enquiries about weddings at this time of year. So it has become a custom at St Mary Magdalene to use the evening service on the Sunday nearest February 14th to hold our *Rejoicing Together* service.

We have marriage as our theme, sing the best of the wedding hymns and we invite all the couples who have so far booked weddings with us. We also hope anyone thinking of marriage, or anyone celebrating a special wedding anniversary this year, or indeed anyone else at all, to come and celebrate with us this very special gift of marriage.

Marriage as an institution has evolved over time. It was in times past far more of a business transaction, joining dynasties to get greater power, handing over a woman (and possibly financial assets) from one family to another, from one man to another.

We can rejoice indeed that in modern times men and women are free to choose, free to make the partnership of marriage work for them in their own way.

The Christian faith has always understood marriage to be a gift from God to give each human a family to which to belong. One of the two creation stories at the start of Genesis has the first human seeking a companion amongst the animals. But none of them are suitable and so then God makes another human. He gives the first man and woman to each other to be such close companions that they are described as becoming "one flesh" - joined together in marriage in such a close bond that they become part of each other. So it is that we are given the ideal to strive towards, to be lifelong faithful partners.

It is that we celebrate at the *Rejoicing Together* service, this year on Sunday February 18th at 6.30. And if you are just thinking about marriage, intending to marry this year, or have been married for very many years, we invite you to come and celebrate God's gift to us of loving companionship in matrimony.

Revd Rosemary Pantling

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

***Welcome Here* is our chosen charity for February**

Gaynor Cook writes:

I am a member of Songlines Community Choir in Leamington and in November last year we sang outside the Town Hall in an event called 'Songs for Unity'.



At that event we heard a short talk given by Penny Halpin who is the coordinator for *Welcome Here*. This is the information she has given me about the work they are doing.

Welcome Here is a small group in Leamington recently formed to welcome and support the Syrian Refugees who have arrived in the town this year. Since the beginning of the war in Syria almost a quarter of the population, around 5 million people, have fled. The majority of them still being in the Middle East and in surrounding countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Lebanon for example, has registered one million refugees, a quarter of their entire population.

In response to the public outcry in the UK to the pictures we all saw on our TV screens of the little boy Alan Kurdi washed up on the beach, the British Government agreed to take 20,000 refugees direct from the Middle East. Local authorities were asked to say how many families they would accept, and Warwick District agreed to take five. The families in Leamington have come from Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt.

They are living in privately rented accommodation, two of them in premises owned by churches. The adults come with refugee status and five years humanitarian protection. Although they are allowed to work, they are concentrating initially on learning English, as that is the most important thing they can do to speed their integration. Two of the youngest children are at Nursery, six are at school and the older ones at different Colleges in the area.

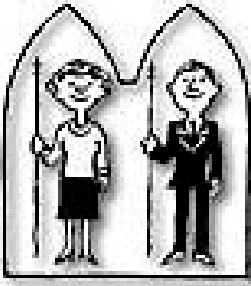
Welcome Here believes that there is a role for volunteers to work alongside the contracted services, to enhance the wellbeing of the families in our community and we do this in a variety of ways. Learning English is fundamental to successful settlement here, for the families to become independent and to earn their own living. Volunteer ESOL teachers are providing one-to-one English tuition for the adults which supplement the classes that have been provided by the Council. We have arranged voluntary placements for the adults, one in gardening, two in community centre cafes and one in a small film company. This helps them use English, meet local people, build up their CVs and bring a sense of normality to their lives.

Supporters have raised funds providing bicycles for the adults and children and suitable work clothes for volunteer roles. We have introduced them to the town and the area, the library and buses. Also we have provided transport to hospitals, outings and, last but by no means least, friendship and fun. Syrians are enormously generous, wonderful cooks and there have been some marvellous shared meals, much enjoyed by all of us! In return we hosted them, along with Syrian families from Stratford, to a grand Christmas party.

We are always grateful for donations to increase the support we can offer. This year we are planning to take on an allotment, as several of the men are excellent vegetable growers. One of them would like to keep chickens. Any ideas as to where he could do this would be welcome! The families are very grateful to have come to a place of safety and say how friendly and welcoming everyone has been.

Editor's note: The photo illustrates the Syrian refugee crisis generally and is not specifically related to the people referred to in Gaynor's article.

WARDEN'S WORDS



The last time I wrote Warden's Words was for the November edition and at that time we were waiting for dates for advertising for our Vicar. Well, by the time you read this article the advert will have appeared twice in the Church Times and we anticipate that interviews will be held in mid-March. This is good news indeed but it is a long process and there is still much to do, however we

will keep you informed as soon as we hear anything.

It's not been long since all the Christmas festivities (in fact because of the Editor's holiday I am writing this before the schools return!) so with Christmas still in mind I would like to thank all who worked hard to make it such a lovely season. We had angel voices in the choir, some quite dazzling Christmas trees, another 'sell out' Christingle and a Bishop at the Midnight Communion, not to mention all the wonderful services during Advent – we are

so very fortunate to have such faithful, active and joyful people.

I noticed this week that Easter Eggs are already in the shops - but we have a while to wait as we have the more sombre season of Lent first which gives us an opportunity to take a step back and reflect. There are rumours that our Ministry team have come up with a thought provoking series of Lenten addresses which I look forward to.



In January's Crosstalk there was an article from Gary Timlin who was looking after the Interment of Ashes plot in the lower churchyard. Gary has done a wonderful job for the last 10 years, and it is no reflection on him that changes are being proposed for this area. A small team are looking at making this area much easier to maintain and therefore a nicer place for relatives to visit. It's not easy to look after this part of the churchyard as many folk find solace in remembering their loved ones by placing items on or around the plot, but this makes it difficult to keep tidy and so we run the risk of upsetting people if we don't keep it in good order. Letters are going out to all those who we know are

next of kin, but if you don't hear anything and would like to know about this speak to Glyn Wright, John Butler, Godfrey Carr or Pat Poulson. There have been a few physical changes around the church recently – perhaps you have noticed the handrail at the front door, or the noticeboard outside the Octagon? Maybe you think there are other improvements that could be made but don't know how to get involved? Well you could consider joining the PCC – this is the decision making body of our church! The Electoral Roll will be updated this month in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). It's at this meeting that we appoint the new PCC members but you need to be on the Electoral Roll to be considered. Look out for notices in the handouts over the next few weeks, or have a word with a churchwarden if you want more information about what's involved.

*Carol Innes
Churchwarden*

A reminder of the needs of The Warwick District Food Bank

Yes please!

Supplies of the following
are currently the most
wanted:

Instant noodles
Sponge puddings
Long-life fruit juice
Long-life milk
Washing up liquid
Cleaning products
Deodorants
Shaving foam

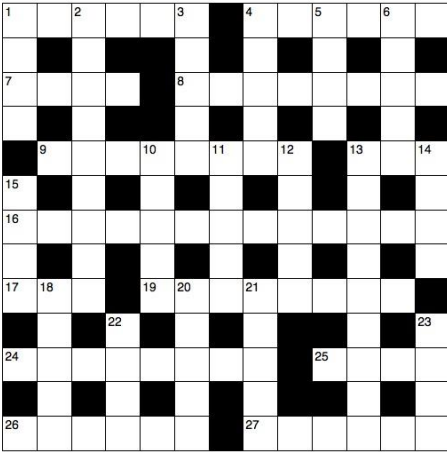
No thank you!!

Whilst we are extremely
thankful for all the donations
we receive, it's important to
say that we have ample
supplies of:

Baked beans
Soup
Rice
Pasta
Tea
**Feminine hygiene
products**

CROSSWORD

Solution on page 12



ACROSS

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

DOWN

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
 4 Belief (5)
 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT.....

In our regular series, Diana Taulbut writes about her passion.

My "secret" love is fishing. It started when I was 12 when I had some decent fishing tackle for my birthday so I could go fishing with my friends. We all had BAA (Birmingham Anglers Association) membership which gave us access to various waters on the River Stour near Stratford. Parents would drop us off and armed with our equipment, a box of maggots and cheese & pickle sandwiches we'd walk across the fields to spend a day at the river.

Being novices we spent some of the time trying to retrieve tackle which had got entangled in trees, bushes and reeds, but we did catch fish – minnows, gudgeon, perch, daddy ruff, even the odd chub. We learnt to read the different parts of the river and know which fish lurked where. Although we were used to being outdoors in countryside, it was still exciting to see all sorts of creatures including dragonflies and the very occasional water vole.

From then on I bought and made tackle. Usually lacking pocket money, I used to save my school bus fares and walk through town instead, and visit the friendly fishing tackle shop and treat myself to a new float or line, or some fishing gadget. As I got older I'd get all my equipment onto my bike to cycle down to Lucy's Mill in Stratford, where lazy chub idled in the old mill race and there were dace in the weir.

I fished on holidays in Ireland, catching rainbow trout at a lake and mackerel and pollack at sea. Then a new home, work, new friends and life in general got in the way and I stopped fishing. However, I only had to be near a river with its sights and smells - the urge to fish was never far away! I kept all my tackle, some of which seems quite ancient now.

As the children have got bigger, not only have I had the opportunity to return to fishing, but also to teach the two older ones to fish. They've had tackle as birthday presents and borrowed some of mine. Ellen is very keen, partly because she is so interested in wildlife. We are very fortunate to have Kingfisher Pool at Warwick which is a stocked lake beside the Avon, for use by children, disabled adults and senior



citizens. It's designed for beginners – no trees or overhanging bushes to get snagged on! There one can see moorhens, a heron, frogs, rabbits, dragonflies and various water insects as well as beautiful perch, roach and bleak. (Ellen is pictured below holding a roach at Kingfisher Pool).

I still get the same excitement going fishing as I did when I first started, and I prefer to use minimal tackle. For me it certainly isn't the sleepy pastime it's sometimes painted. One is constantly alert to signs of fish activity, to the slight dip of a float or twitch of the line, ready to 'strike' when the bait is taken. Watching a float against the ripples of a breeze is harder than you might think. Then there's changing tactics if the fish aren't biting – fishing a bit deeper, or a bit further over, or changing the way the bait drops through the water.

Fishing is only relaxing in the sense that the concentration required displaces other thoughts and concerns. It can be quite frustrating if one



doesn't get so much as a bite! But it's an optimistic pastime. This summer we tried rock fishing in Ireland and caught nothing at the first few attempts, but on the last occasion, having changed tactics again, I caught some mackerel, three of which we kept and ate for breakfast. It was a fitting end to a wonderful holiday.

Windows

*She texted her husband from home on a cold winter's morning:
'Windows frozen, won't open.'*

He texted back: 'Pour lukewarm water over it.'

She replied five minutes later: 'Computer really screwed up now.'

Reverse Advent Calendar gifts for The Leamington Night Shelter

Margaret Moore and Chris Johnson write:

We would like to say a very big thank you to the *Love Lillington Project* for organising the Reverse Advent Calendars and also to all of the congregation who gave so generously the items for the Leamington Night Shelter. We were overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and quantity of so many presents and it was all that they needed. Thank you so much.

On the evening on Wednesday 20th December 2017 Nigel Dixon brought all the presents down to the Shelter. Fortunately, that evening, we had a lot of volunteers, and all of the boxes were sorted out and the presents were displayed in groups. This meant it was easier for our clients to choose the items they needed.

This year it was particularly helpful to do this, as on Thursday morning 21st December 2017, we could sort out what was left and take these to the other Night Shelter for Christmas Eve. They were then displayed, and our clients there were able to choose them over the Christmas period.

Although we were not open ourselves over Christmas, our clients were able to have a continuous place to stay overnight from Friday 22nd December to 1st January 2018, closing on Tuesday morning 2nd January 2018. Quite a few of our volunteers went to the other Night Shelter to help too, which showed solidarity with the two night shelters to our clients.

On Wednesday 3rd January 2018 we were open again as usual and will continue to open each Wednesday and Sunday onwards.

Again, a very big thank you to Christine Butler, the Love Lillington Project and all the congregation.

Gathering to Give Thanks

On **Sunday 4th February at the 9.30am Service** – we will be Giving thanks for our *Love*

Lillington project and all that we have achieved together, for our community, since Love Lillington was officially launched on Sunday 28th February 2016. All are welcome!



Afro-Caribbean Valentine's Day Lunch



Tuesday 13th February at 12 for
12.30 pm

Community Café, Mason
Avenue, Lillington

Soup and a roll £1 Main course £2
Pudding 50p

Donations to Africa Vision, Malawi



Crossword results

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.



Review of a successful Christmas Tree Festival 2017

Of the 32 trees, 23 were regulars or returners and 9 were completely new. (Nine trees had been saved and grown on from previous years, being an ecological and financial benefit). A good balance. We have been approached by three groups wanting to do a tree next year!

Costs were covered by the income from those preparing trees, and generous donations from visitors meant that we finished up with a surplus to be divided equally between General Church Funds and 'Love Lillington'.

The number of visitors (335) was 17 lower than last year's, but we lost four days' visitors because of the snow and ice though we opened each day and were rewarded by a few stalwarts. This year's visitors were even more generous in their donations than in previous years.

The number of church members involved in this year's Festival was also up. The Musicians, the Home-group catering team, the men of the Churchyard Team, helpers advertising the event, the Eight O'clock Team who turned on the very many fairy lights on Sunday mornings, the relay of stewards who came to host each afternoon's opening, the Banking Team who counted all the incoming cash and as each tree was backed by at least six people the total numbers of people involved were huge.

This is the whole church inviting and welcoming into our beautiful building many, many people who would otherwise not set foot in anything as scary/boring/irrelevant as a church. Nothing is asked of them, they come in and out on their own terms and enjoy what they find here. We are ministering to an ever increasing area and in so doing, I believe, moving a little closer to the Kingdom of God.

The festival cannot take place without involvement of the whole church congregation. This is our festival and we do it really well. Thank you Lord.

Wendy Shear and Charlotte Sanders.

Women's World Day of Prayer.

Ellie Hucklesby writes:

Before I married I worked in Thailand for 14 months with CORD. On a Sunday morning we would join with members of other international agencies for worship. As I walked the short distance back to Chequers, our house on stilts, I thought about how people from different nationalities and Christian traditions had just joined together and I thought of my family at home, in a time zone seven hours behind. They had yet to wake, but I knew that my mum would probably go to morning service, others to an evening service and the words of John Ellerton's hymn used to spring to mind:



As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day.
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

This is the premise behind the *Women's World Day of Prayer*. Each year on the first Friday in March, from the rising of the sun in Samoa, until it sets off the coast of American Samoa, Christians from different denominations, women and men, gather before God to participate in a service of worship devised each year by women from a different country. The service will be translated into over 95 languages and 1000 dialects. Around 3 million people worldwide will take part. How amazing to be part of that wave of prayer and praise!!

It also offers an opportunity to brush up on our geography. This year's service has been prepared by the women of Suriname. I wonder how many of us will be turning to Google to find out just where that country is situated! During the service we find out about the country and the issues that arise there, particularly for women. It helps us to see our faith as truly worldwide, the same God known to all his people, whatever their nationality or situation.

Many countries refer to this day as the World Day of Prayer and in our inclusive age it may seem old fashioned that the movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland retains the word "Women's". This is voted on regularly and so far the decision has been to keep the title as

Women's World Day of Prayer as it enables women to have a voice in countries or denominations where they are not considered to be on an equal footing with men.

Christine Hind has served faithfully as St Mary Mag's representative, on the Leamington WWDP committee, but is stepping down this year. I represented my previous church and am happy to become Christine's successor. This year St Mary Magdalene will host the service on the afternoon of March 2nd (look out for notices). The title of the service is *All God's Creation is Very Good*. I hope some of you, men and women, will be able to join us for the service. I hope, too, that as we sing our final hymn, *The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended*, these words will give you, as they always give me, the sense that the baton of prayer and praise is being handed on to others.



The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.



WALKERS' GROUP

The Church Walkers' Group will meet at the church at 9.30 am on Saturday 3rd February for a 4.5 mile walk. All are welcome. Ring John and Sue Hollins on 01926 773919 if you would like further details.

School play

A little boy got a part in the school play and went home to tell his father. 'I'm going to play a man who has been married for 25 years.'
'Well done, that's great,' replied his father. 'And maybe next time, you'll get a speaking role!'

SERVICE DETAILS

SUNDAY WORSHIP - February 2018

4 th February	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Morning Praise & <i>Love Lillington Thanksgiving</i> with Sunday Club
	6:30 pm	Evensong
11 th February	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing & Sunday Club
	6.30 pm	Service led by Youth Group
14 st February Ash Wednesday	7:30 am	Holy Communion with Ashing
18 th February	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	<i>Rejoicing Together</i> . A service for those about to be married & anyone else wanting to celebrate marriage.
25 th February	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 27 th February	1.30 pm	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).

Deadline for copy for the March edition of Crosstalk is Wednesday 14th February

February 2018

Fri 2	4.30 pm	Lillington History Group meet in The Free Church Hall – British Restaurants
Sat 3	9.30 am	Church Walkers' Group meets at church
Sun 4	3.00 pm	Leamington Chamber Orchestra in The Town Hall
Sat 10	10.00	Youth Group Pop up Board Game Café in the Octagon
Tue 13		Shrove Tuesday
Tue 13	Noon	Afro Caribbean lunch at Community Cafe
Tue 13	6.30pm	Knitting group in the Octagon
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
Tue 27	6.30 pm	Knitting group in the Octagon

March 2018

Fri 2	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer in the church
Fri 2	4.30 pm	Lillington History Group meet in The Free Church Hall – A Walk Down Lillington Lane by Nigel Briggs
Sat 3	9.00 am	Coffee Morning in The Octagon in aid of African Vision Malawi
Thu 8	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Sat 10	7.30 pm	Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra at Warwick Hall, Myton Road
Tue 13	6.30 pm	Knitting group in the Octagon
Tue 27	6.30 pm	Knitting group in the Octagon
Fri 30		Good Friday

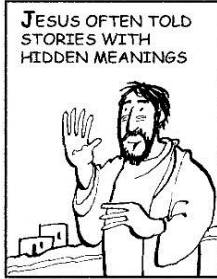
FROM THE RECORDS

WEDDING	
23 December	Joseph Woodfield & Claire Samuels
FUNERALS	
5 December	Dennis Compton

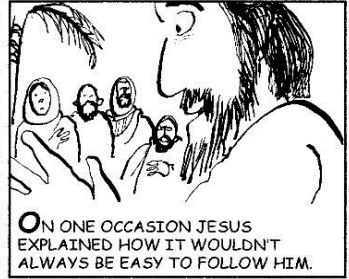
For any events you wish to publicise please contact the Editor or email events@lillingtonparishchurch.org

JUNIOR CROSSTALK

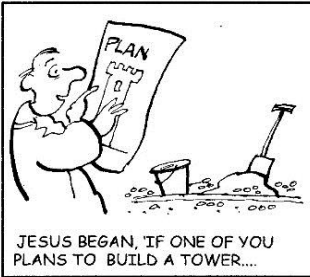
The tale of the Tower Builder



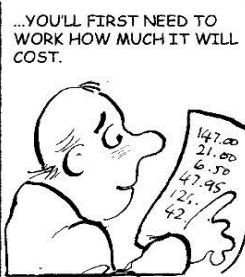
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....



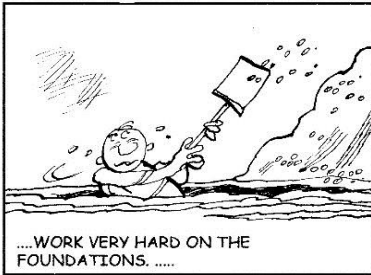
...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



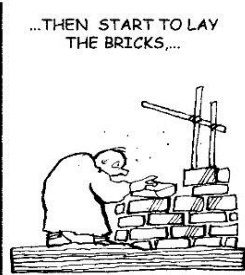
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....



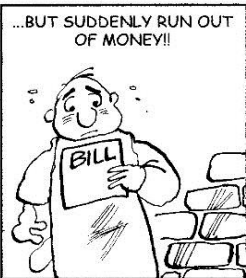
...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,



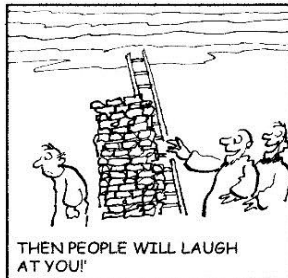
....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.



...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,....



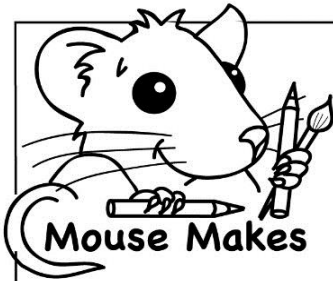
...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



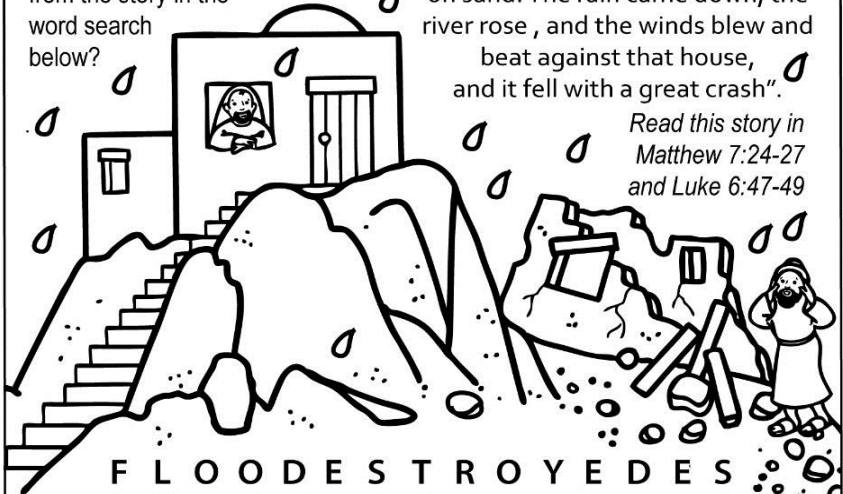
WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO; IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



Jesus taught his disciples...
 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain came down, the river rose and the winds blew and beat against the house it did not fall. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

*Read this story in
 Matthew 7:24-27
 and Luke 6:47-49*

Can you find the words from the story in the word search below?



F L O O D E S T R O Y E D E S
 O W J H W A R B I F E L L F A
 B O P O I F O U N D A T I O N
 G R O U N D C I J E S U S O D
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L I S T E N • H E A R • J E S U S • W O R D S • W I S E • M A N • B U I L T • H O U S E • S O L I D
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In his occasional series profiling members of our congregation, Roderick Clark writes about Maureen Reynolds

A little girl who started off by checking her younger brothers' homework moved on to forty-five years in primary education, including twenty-six as head of two tough schools in the East End of London. Maureen Reynolds has now retired to Lillington to be near her son, a married chartered surveyor. It was this son who, at the age of seven, once asked: "Mum, when we go out shopping, why do we always have to buy something for school?"

A lifelong churchgoer, she is now using her experience to serve as the parish's Deputy Safeguarding Officer – as well as belonging to the parochial church council, a home group and the refreshments and flower rotas.

She was born in Bungay in Suffolk – just near the castle, which served as a playground in days when children were freer to explore by themselves. Her parents ran a fish-and-chip shop – and Maureen says she was influenced by their hardworking attitude. Life was very happy – full and well organised. All three children had domestic jobs to do, but there were also plenty of friends, dancing lessons, day trips to the coast (although not proper holidays). Sundays consisted largely of church in the morning and Sunday School in the afternoon.

Maureen, a responsible and quite serious-minded girl, won a scholarship to a mixed grammar school in nearby Beccles (she is still in contact with several friends and attends reunions). She preferred the arts side, English and modern languages, and left with her “A” levels at eighteen. With teaching in mind, she first battled through six months’ hard experience in charge of a mixed-age class of a school’s neediest pupils. With that under her belt, she qualified at Goldsmiths’ College, part of the University of London’s teacher-training set-up.



With teaching practice in Camberwell and Deptford (then very deprived areas), she knew she had made the right career decision. With the watchword “to be firm and kind and to do what is right for the children and their future”, Maureen was all set for her career in education.

It started with a decade of class teacher posts in either London or East Anglia, with her parents now living in Norwich, with which she still has strong connections. It was here that she met her future husband. A spell as a senior supply teacher gave her the chance to ‘act up’ as high as deputy head – and then she was encouraged to apply for headships. At the impressive age of 32, she took charge of a modern, open-plan infants’ school in Dagenham. With some advanced part-time training in nursery education, she opened a nursery school there as well. Her staff forged links with the parents before the youngsters came in; one point was that they needed to

be advised not to smoke with their children around. It was at this stage in her career that she needed maternity leave to care for her new son – and later her parents stayed during the week to look after him until he joined the nursery. Around this time she gained a Bachelor of Education degree through external study.

After thirteen years, it was suggested that the headship of a full primary school (juniors as well) would suit her – and she was appointed to one, also at Dagenham, which included a special unit for hearing-impaired pupils. In this area with its many social problems, including much unemployment as the famous Ford's car plant reduced its staff, she ran a popular school, expanding it from 250 to 400 pupils. She was in the vanguard in setting up a School Council (pupils representing each class meeting to discuss issues such as school uniform, which they favoured for smartness). With OFSTED inspections to cope with now (the 1990s), the job was even more stressful – but the school got through.

A new millennium.... and Maureen retired as a head but took on two new rôles – as an adviser on headteacher performance and a trainer in child protection, using her long experience of liaising with the police and social services over her own pupils. She visited about a hundred schools in Essex, all at their invitation, during the following eight years. This ended with the need to look after her widowed mother.

As well as her church commitments, Maureen follows a wide range of interests: she belongs to U3A groups studying Italian art and language and local art and architecture as well as a walking group; and she pursues her love of travel, which has taken her during her life to Canada and Leningrad (on study visits), to South America and the Galapagos Islands.

Looking back on her career, despite the stresses and strains, Maureen says she found working in difficult areas very rewarding and stimulating, especially helping to encourage higher aspirations for children and parents. She believes the arrival of the National Curriculum and OFSTED inspections have checked and challenged schools and, on the whole, helped to improve standards. However, the new era of sophisticated technology, increased scrutiny and accountability and the existence of social media has added pressure on all sides. Yet the basic principles still apply: teachers, parents and pupils/students must work closely together in the best interests of all – with mutual respect paramount.

COOKING WITH CROSSTALK

EAT YOUR WAY ACROSS EXMOOR DURING FEBRUARY

Participating restaurants across the region will offer special deals between 1 and 28 February 2018. A wide range of events will be celebrating local food and drinks at various locations across Exmoor. So to whet your appetites here are some recipes from this area. The first two are over 100 years old and you may need to adapt for modern tastes!

Somerset Brown Bread Pudding

A stale Brown Loaf	One gill of Cream
One pound of fresh cherries	One gill of Milk
Three ounces of Castor Sugar	Half a teaspoonful of essence of Vanilla
Four Eggs	Two ounces of Loaf Sugar
One Lemon	A gill and a half of Water

Put five ounces of brown bread-crumbs into a basin with the sugar, and three quarters of a pound of cherries, stoned, the vanilla, add grated lemon-rind. Boil the milk and pour it over the bread crumbs and fruit. Whip the cream to a stiff froth and add it to the bread crumbs; add the four yolks of eggs one at a time, and the whites of two eggs whisked to a stiff froth. Butter a pint mould and pour in this mixture, cover it over with buttered paper, and steam or bake for one hour and a quarter. Turn it out on to a hot dish, and serve with sauce made with two ounces of loaf sugar, a gill and a half of water, and a quarter pound of cherries.

Stewed Pigeon In Cider

Choose small, plump birds, sprinkle them with pepper, salt and flour, and fry in hot butter for a few minutes before adding 1 breakfastcupful of stock and some chopped onion. Parboil 2 ounces of macaroni, drain it, and add to the pigeons with a gill of cider, and a tablespoonful of finely-chopped parsley and lemon thyme. Simmer for around 40 minutes, which will be ample time to make the pigeons deliciously tender.

Exmoor In & Out Pudding

Based on the National Trust's Complete Traditional Recipe Book by Sarah Edington

500g Bramleys, or other cooking apples
50g demerara sugar
5g cinnamon
60g apple juice, or water
110g unsalted butter, softened
110g demerara sugar
2 eggs
1/2 tsp almond essence
110g self-raising flour (or 105g plain flour and 5g baking powder)
50g ground almonds
Flaked almonds



1. Heat the oven to 180C.
2. Peel and slice the apples.
3. Combine the apple slices, cinnamon, demerara and apple juice or water then put into an overproof dish. Cover with a damp cloth so the apple doesn't brown while you prepare the topping.
4. Cream together the butter and other portion of demerara sugar.
5. Lightly beat the eggs, with the almond essence, and slowly beat into the mixture. If it starts to curdle, add some of the ground almonds.
6. Add the ground almonds and sieve in the flour. Fold to combine.
7. Put the topping on the apple mix.
8. Sprinkle with ground almonds.
9. Bake until the top is nicely browned and the cake is firm to the touch, about 40 minutes.
10. Serve warm with cream, ice cream or even custard.

Editor's note: With the help of Google, I was able to remind myself that a gill is not a young lady but a quarter of a pint.

Prophecy after Pentecost

The conclusion of Dr Diana Taulbut's article on prophecy

Did prophecy continue after Jesus' earthly ministry? Yes! Whilst Jesus fulfilled many predictive prophecies of the Old Testament, and was heralded by prophetic contemporaries, that fulfilment did not negate the existence of prophecy. With the New Covenant there was a new beginning. At Pentecost, Peter identified the astonishing events with the fulfilment of the words of Joel:

"...I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit and they shall prophesy."

The inspiration of the Spirit was no longer the preserve of the few. Prophets and teachers would guide the earliest churches and prophecy would be open to all. Acts mentions prophets, for example Agabus, Judas, Silas and the daughters of Philip. Agabus came to St Paul to warn him of the consequences of going to Jerusalem. When the Council at Jerusalem sent a delegation to the church at Antioch with a letter, they included Judas and Silas (Acts 15);

"Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers."

Groups of prophets existed within New Testament churches. They had a role in preparing and selecting people for ministry. For example, it was the prophets and teachers of the church in Antioch who, guided by the Holy Spirit sent Barnabas and Saul on a major missionary journey. Paul counselled Timothy *"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders"*. Members of the church in Thessalonica were exhorted not to despise the words of prophets, but to test everything. Other instructions about prophecy occur in St Paul's letters. By inference, anyone might prophecy on occasion but some exercised the gift more formally. In Ephesians, Paul is clear that prophecy is an important ministry within the church, and why:

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ..."

In 1 Corinthians 14 he writes to the church members, providing more insight into the role of prophecy:

"Pursue love and strive for [eagerly desire] the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy ... those who prophesy speak to other people for their building up and encouragement and consolation ...those who prophesy build up the church."*



Recognised prophets eventually declined in the early church: increasing formalisation and institutionalisation may have pushed them aside. 'Informal prophecy' has continued over the centuries, visible in saints, martyrs, founders of monastic communities, reformers and no doubt the anonymous faithful. There are people who speak and write prophetically today. Unfortunately there are also those who adopt the title of prophet and create a caricature of OT predictions and judgements. Stories of Christian endeavour and ministry usually have a genuine prophetic word, vision or insight at their root. We can probably point to Christians who encourage and build, give insight and have a vision for how things could and should be. Maybe we ourselves have said something of God's truth which has made a big difference to someone. A prophet *"prepares the ways of the Lord"* (Luke 1v76) and encourages ministry. That seems just as necessary today. Fruitful Christian service necessitates taking discipleship seriously – holiness, prayer and fasting seem to be common attributes of prophets! But if the success of the early church was due in part to the ministry of prophets, perhaps we should be exploring further what this means for each of us and our church today.

* "Strive" is a translation of a verb whose root is ζηλόω, to boil, to bubble over, eagerly desire.

***Music to your Ears* is a pamphlet published every four months with news of musical events around Leamington Spa and Warwick.**

The January edition is out now and available at the back of church.

It contains details of our own Organ Recital series which celebrates its 20th year when it commences in September.

Amici Concert in December, Godfrey Carr writes:



Caroline and I would like to thank all of you who supported the visit of the Amici choir from Coventry Cathedral on Saturday December 9th. They gave us a splendid concert of music from the 16th century to the present day, including a beautiful carol composed by their own conductor, Kerry

Beaumont, interspersed with some moving and thought-provoking readings.

It was good to see the main body of the church full and we were delighted that, apart from providing some wonderful singing from the choir, it was also a very friendly social occasion. It seemed really a shame to break up the lively conversations over wine and mince pies for the second half!

Members of the choir commented on how lovely the church looked with all those splendid Christmas trees which luckily had just been commissioned on the afternoon of the concert. Certainly, on a very cold and frosty evening our church looked even more warm and welcoming than usual and, writing to us afterwards, Kerry thanked everyone at St Mary Magdalene for once more making them feel so much at home.

The evening produced just over £400 which was divided between our church and the Cathedral's fund for supporting music in the cathedral.

LOOKING AT LYRICS IN LENT - FOCUSING ON THE PSALMS

When Bob Dylan was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 2016 it was for "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition". Many song lyrics are indeed wonderful poetry in their own right. In the Bible we have treasured poetry in the Jewish song tradition - in the book of Psalms, a book of hymns worthy enough to be collected into our sacred scriptures and used for thousands of years.

Psalms are still sung in church worship today, but also used as prayers and poems which speak to our deepest needs whether as cries of despair and longing or as shouts of praise and thanksgiving. This Lent at St Mary Magdalene we invite a focus on the Psalms in four ways:

- **As individuals**, we invite you to read one psalm a day for each of the 40 days of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. Pick up a leaflet from church for a suggestion as to which 40 psalms to read and how to read them.
- **On Sundays**, the preacher will focus on one particular psalm.
- **Lent group meeting** on four Thursdays at 7.30 in the Octagon will study one Psalm each session, meeting on Feb 22, March 1, March 15, and March 22.
- **Bible Book Club** on Monday 19 March will look at the Psalms as a whole collection, based on the 40 psalms suggested for the individual reading, though the enthusiastic amongst you may want to tackle the whole 150!

So join us in any or all of these ways and let the Psalms be part of your journey through Lent this year.

Alternatively you are welcome to join St James at their **Quiet Day for Lent, on Saturday 17th March**. This is an opportunity to step out from the hustle and bustle of life just for a little while to take some space and quiet time to connect individually with God. The day will be broken in to 3 sessions and is designed in such a way that you can come and join in for one or two sessions or for the whole day. Speak to Rev Sue Fairhurst if you want to know a little more.

JEFF'S JOTTINGS

I am grateful to Roderick Clarke for reviving a series many of you will remember fondly. In this edition he profiles a relatively new member of our congregation, Maureen Reynolds.

Diana Taulbut shows her lighter side in a delightful piece about her passion, fishing. And we can learn something from the second and last episode of her article on Prophecy. Thank you, Diana.

I knew little about the refugees who have recently settled in the area or the efforts of the local charity "Welcome Here". So thank you Gaynor Cook for providing that information.

Rounding off a packed edition, we have Ellie Hucklesby telling us about the Women's World Day of Prayer and the service which will be held in our church on the 2nd March.

Jeff Burgess, Editor.



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Saturday 3rd March 2018

Place: 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 small second-hand-book stall and some other goodies for sale

A poster for a pop-up board game café. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern of various shapes and colors. The text is centered and reads: "The Youth Group at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Lillington invites you to their Pop-up Board Game Café In the Octagon, 10.30am—1.30pm Saturday 10th February, 2018 Come and play games to suit all ages and all levels of competitive streak! Admission is free but donations will be welcome and there will be drinks and cakes on sale. All proceeds will go towards youth group activities."/>

The Youth Group at St Mary Magdalene's
Church, Lillington
invites you to their

Pop-up Board Game Café

In the Octagon, 10.30am—1.30pm
Saturday 10th February, 2018

Come and play games to suit all ages and all levels
of competitive streak!

Admission is free but donations will be welcome
and there will be drinks and cakes on sale. All
proceeds will go towards youth group activities.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 2nd March at 2.00 pm

St Mary Magdalene Church, Lillington

All welcome, women and men

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