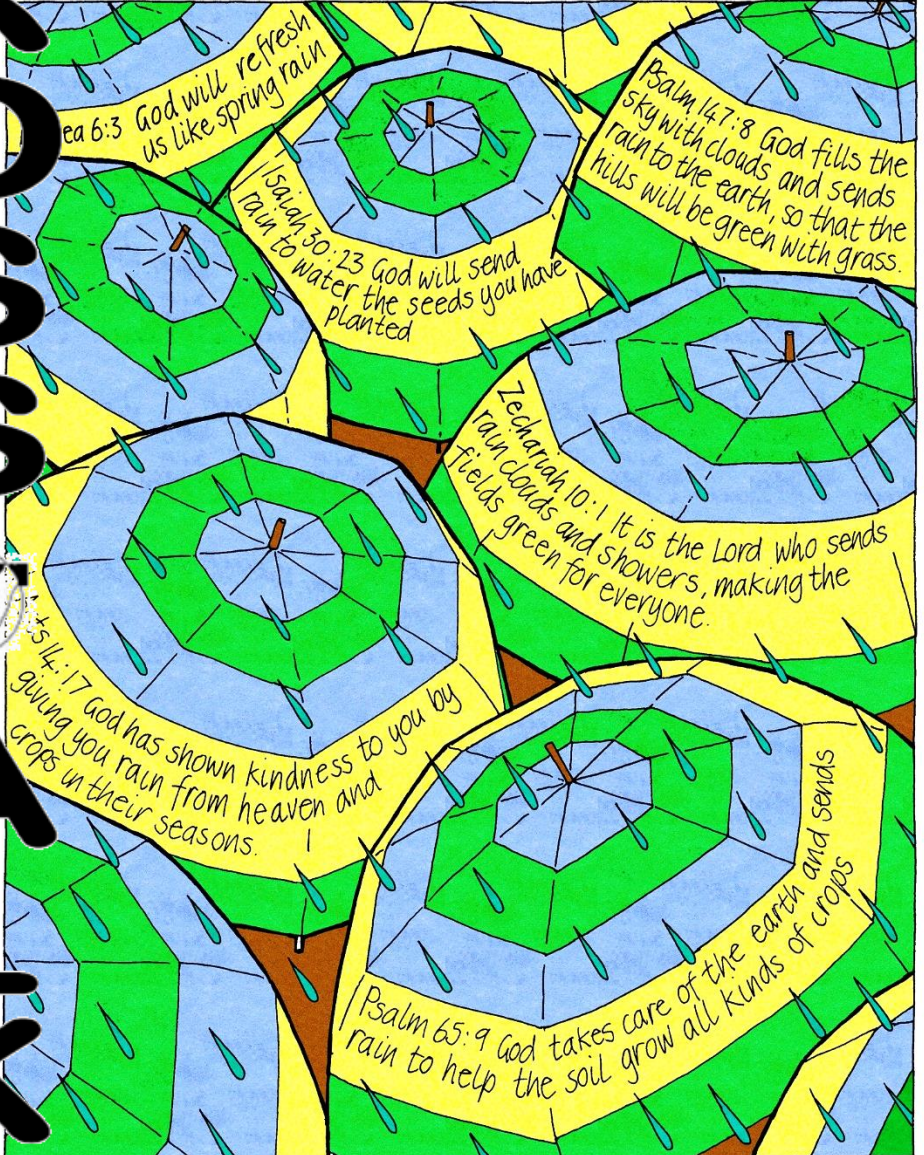


# Lillington Parish Magazine

## St Mary Magdalene's Church

Autumn 2017

CRUCIFIX



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*References available*

## FROM THE VICARAGE

By the time you are reading this, I will be off on a three month sabbatical. Lots of people have been asking why a sabbatical and what I'll be doing, so I thought this was a good place to fill you in.

A sabbatical, at its most basic, is a rest. The word of course comes from 'Sabbath' meaning day of rest, and the understanding is that clergy need a longer break from time to time to recharge their batteries, to reflect on their ministry, to pray and maybe to do some reading or study. A sabbatical is usually three months, and parish clergy can request a sabbatical every eight years. Many don't and this will be my first after nearly 16 years of ministry.

In some dioceses they have become 'study leave' with an expectation that you'll be doing lots of reading, or writing an important paper, but here in Coventry Diocese, they are definitely sabbaticals. In fact, you are strongly encouraged not to try and do too much.

So what will I be doing? Well hopefully this gives you a bit of a flavour...

**Visiting Churches:** As most of you will know by now, not long after getting back from sabbatical, Naomi and I will be leaving Lillington



and heading off on a new adventure, starting up a pioneer church community based at Coventry Cathedral. So part of what I want to do on sabbatical is take the opportunity to go and visit some other churches doing similar things. As part of that we will be travelling to New York in May,

where there are several churches that we really want to go and have a look at, and talk to the people there about how it works. It will also be a bit of a holiday! I also want to go and some visit other churches, just because I can. For example, I have never been to a Quaker Meeting and so I hope to do that at some point in the three months. When we have been a member of a church for a long time, we can get so used to our own way of doing things, that we find it hard to imagine anything different. I think maybe all of us should take ourselves off somewhere completely different on a Sunday a couple of times a year, to help us reflect on our own church.

**Storytelling:** In the middle of March I am taking myself off on a weekend storytelling course in north Wales, to learn the art of telling ancient stories in a new and fresh way. Much of what we do in church

is retelling those wonderful stories of Jesus and the bible, so I thought it would be a really fun and useful thing to do. I also hope to have some time to write some stories of my own. Creative writing is one of those things which I love doing, but never seem to have the time for.

**Resting:** And maybe most importantly, I will be resting. That doesn't mean sitting around doing nothing. I am really looking forward to taking Dolly for some long walks in the Welsh Valleys where we will be spending some of our time. We also plan to catch up with friends and family, giving them a bit more time than we can usually manage.

The fourth of the ten commandments says:

*Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me. On that day no one is to work - neither you, your children, your slaves, your animals, nor the foreigners who live in your country. In six days I, the LORD, made the earth, the sky, the seas, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That is why I, the LORD, blessed the Sabbath and made it holy. Exod 20: 8-11.*

It is very clear that for humans to really flourish and grow, they need to have time to rest. We all need regular physical, spiritual and emotional rest. Time to think, to reflect, to pray. Clergy are maybe some of the worst people at keeping this commandment and that's why sabbaticals are so important. But all of us need to make sure that we are giving ourselves the time to rest, to put aside all the busyness of the world, and maybe then, we'll find that we can really open our hearts and minds to God and hear what he has to say to us.

*Rev Charlotte, March 2017*

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## GENERAL SYNOD REPORT

In the middle of February, I spent a very busy and challenging four days in London at General Synod. Many of you will have seen press coverage of the meeting, especially about the Bishop's report on Marriage and Same Sex Relationships. I have written a personal diary of the Synod, but it's a bit too long to publish in Crosstalk this time, as it was a longer meeting than usual. However, if you'd like to read it it's on my blog.

Just go to [www.charlotteatsynod.wordpress.com](http://www.charlotteatsynod.wordpress.com) and you will find it.

*Rev Charlotte*



## WARDEN'S WORDS

**I am just going outside and may be some time -**  
Captain Lawrence Oates

**et tu Brute -** Julius Caesar (according to Shakespeare)

**Die, my dear? Why that's the last thing I'll do! -** Groucho Marx

They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance. - General John Sedgwick, Union Commander in the U.S. Civil War, who was hit by sniper fire a few minutes after saying it.

My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go.- Oscar Wilde

During my time as churchwarden I have enjoyed sharing my musings on life, the universe and everything (well perhaps not everything as I don't seem to have written many words on Church Warden's "stuff") and in this, my 20<sup>th</sup> (and last) Warden's Words, I see no reason for deviating from this approach.

Christine and I have just returned from a couple of days break at the Raven Hall hotel in North Yorkshire. While there we walked from the hotel to Robin Hood's Bay, a round trip of some 7.5 miles, during which we; passed an alum quarry; walked through the remains an old alum works (now looked after by the NT); fossicked on the beach; enjoyed a "pie and a pint" in the Bay Hotel at the eastern end of Wainwright's Coast to Coast walk; returned to Ravenscar along the old Scarborough to Whitby railway line, built in 1885 and closed in 1965. The ruggedness of the coastline, the grandeur of the North Yorkshire moors rising inland and the history of the area brought to mind the words of Bill Bryson from his book "The Road to Little Dribbling".

*Nothing - and I mean, really, absolutely nothing - is more extraordinary in Britain than the beauty of the countryside. Nowhere in the world is there a landscape that has been more intensively utilised - more mined, farmed, quarried covered with cities and clanging factories, threaded with motorways and railway lines - and yet remains so comprehensively and reliably lovely over most of its extent. It is the happiest accident in history.*

Ravenscar, sited on the Peak Fault some 600 feet above sea level, is an interesting place. In 1885 a group of Yorkshire business men had the bright idea of building a seaside resort to rival Scarborough and Whitby. They spent a small fortune laying out a road system, some of which can still be seen today, putting in water mains and digging sewers. Unfortunately they hadn't taken into account that

holidaymakers would not want to walk 600 feet down (and more importantly back up) to a beach that was predominantly bedrock and boulders. Consequently they only managed to sell eight of the 1500 building plots and went bankrupt!

Of far greater import than my term as churchwarden coming to an end is the news that Reverend Charlotte will be leaving us in June. To say that we will miss her is an understatement. She is the smiling face of Mary Mags and it has been a pleasure to work with her both as a member of the PCC and as churchwarden. I am sure that many of you will feel as I do, that we are not just losing a vicar, but a great friend. I know you will join with me in wishing Charlotte and Naomi well with their move to Coventry and send them blessings as they start to plan and put together the new church "St Clare's at the Cathedral". However, all things change and it is only through change that we develop (WW April 2014).

On a brighter note - work on the church roof is due to start on Monday 6th March and is (currently) scheduled to complete in 14 weeks.

*JB - 15th February 2017*

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## **LIFT UP YOUR EYES**

My springer spaniel Jack died last May and, up until the last couple of years, was the one who got me out of bed and walking. Anyone who has a springer as a pet will know what I mean - bags of life and energy. I still miss him and that vitality.

Since his death I've been trying to get myself a bit fitter with walking and cycling. Most weeks I manage 30 or more miles, mainly walking but with the odd cycle ride thrown in. Sometimes the ride is odd because I've taken to wearing cleats - they attach my shoes to the pedals - and I don't always remember that when I come to a junction and have to stop. The technique for releasing the shoes is forgotten and I end up in a heap on the road! Not very dignified!



Many of my walks are along the canal and, especially during winter, I need to see where I'm putting my feet. There are lots of puddles and

muddy sections and falling into the canal is not recommended, especially when I'm walking Rev Charlotte's dog Dolly. So I find I'm looking down more than up or around.

A few weeks ago our home group met for its usual monthly get together. We generally look at the bible readings for the following Sunday and have a lively discussion around them. Recently, we looked at the first few verses of Isaiah chapter 60 and I was particularly struck by the words in verse 4 - "Lift up your eyes and look around."

We talked about the habits of many people who pass you in the street and look down rather than meet your eyes and greet you; or people you meet on a country walk listening to something on their smart-phone rather than the birds with their variety of songs and calls. It's the tendency of most of us, probably, to live in our own bubble and "not see" what's around us in our neighbourhood.

The suggestion in the Isaiah reading is made in the context of the first verse - "Arise, shine, for your light has come" - which foretells the redemption of Jerusalem, and ultimately speaks to us of Jesus.

More recently, I've combined the canal walks with walking through Warwick or Leamington on the paths or in the parks and, a bit surer of where I'm putting my feet, I *have* looked up and seen things I barely noticed before. And said hello to a few people I haven't met for years.

*"Lift up your eyes and look around"* - you might be in for an unexpected delight.

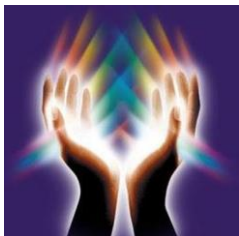
*Alan Wright*



## **WALKERS GROUP**



**4<sup>th</sup> March 2017** The March walk will be at the village of Wilmcote, approximately 4 miles. Any queries please contact John and Sue Hollins,  
**Tel: 773919**



## WAYS OF PRAYER

As a member of the 8EQ team, it's now my turn to follow John Butler and Rev Charlotte in our series about prayer: how we do it, and what works for us, and what the benefits are.

As a child, prayer for me meant those words learned at Sunday School: the Lord's Prayer, the Grace, the prayer of St Ignatius Loyola (Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest...), the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi (Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace...) etc. I learned them by heart, but I'm pretty sure I never put anything of myself into praying those words, just recited them, eyes closed, hands together. When I was 16 and my father was very ill, I prayed hard and often that God would hear my prayers and let him live. But God didn't do what I wanted: my father died and, for some years, I gave up on God and prayer.

But God didn't give up on me, and I learned that, far from being a personal wish-list, prayer was something which helped me cope with whatever life brought, and made me think about others and their needs.

A few years ago, I used to settle down in a quiet place at home, usually towards the end of the day, close my eyes and bring my thanks and cares to God. Nowadays, if I sit quietly and settle down to prayer at home, I'm usually fast asleep within a couple of minutes, waking up some time later feeling guilty at my inability to stay awake and concentrate. Since retiring, the pattern of my day has changed, and trying to pray 'little and often' throughout the day works best now, with a longer reflective time when I'm out walking in the evenings.

I try to make opportunities for prayer from everyday situations: looking out at the fields opposite our house every morning reminds me to give thanks for the gift of the new day and the beauty I see around me. During the day, a quick 'arrow' prayer offered up to God in a particular situation is something useful I can do, maybe in response to an emergency services siren, a news item, a phone conversation or newspaper report, or seeing a homeless person in need in the town.

I often go for a longish walk late in the evening, when it's quiet, and this is the best time for me to mull over my day; the rhythm of walking helps me focus as I bring to God the day that's ending, the



different concerns on my mind and those people and situations I try to pray for regularly.

So what are the benefits of praying? However we choose to pray, prayer always deepens our relationship with God. As regards the benefits to others, knowing that a hundred people at Lillington church were praying every Sunday for a year for my brother following his accident was a source of immense comfort and strength to all our family, and I attribute his remarkable progress equally to the hospital staff, to God, and to the power of prayer.

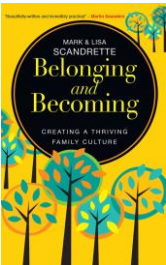
One quotation I love is from Wordsworth’s ‘Lines composed above Tintern Abbey’. To me, this short line sums up what prayer is all about

*"... those little, nameless, unremembered, acts  
of kindness and of love."*

Anne Furze

## FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

FUNERALS	
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Florence Elizabeth Ames, Age 96
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Philip Sanders Pargeter, Age 93



## REVIEW

### **Belonging and Becoming - Creating a Thriving Family**

Mark Scandrette and Lisa Scandrette, LionHudson, £9.99

Many of us feel overwhelmed about the prospect of raising children, especially if we’re in demanding jobs or having to deal with the pressures and stresses from everyday lives. Reflecting on difficulties from our own families of origin can increase our doubt and insecurity about being a good

parent. And positive examples of family life can seem few and far between.

This book offers a compelling vision of what the family can be. The authors share wisdom from the joys and struggles of their own life, and practical guidance for creating a healthy and deeply rooted family culture. Whether you’ve been a parent for some time, you’re just starting out, or you’re only starting to think about it, this book will inspire you to take new steps towards a thriving family.

# OOPS!

**NESSIE'S NOTE:** *My apologies to Margaret Moore and all at the Night Shelter. This lovely letter should have been printed in the January edition of Crosstalk. The scanned image wouldn't play ball (grrr!) so here it is reproduced.*

## LEAMINGTON NIGHT SHELTER

Dear Charlotte, The Love Lillington Team and All the Congregation

Thank you so much for the wonderful generous donations through the Reverse Advent Calendar. All the boxes were put out and our clients were able to choose what they needed before Christmas. This really was a very generous gift that was very much appreciated by all of our clients. It gives much encouragement to our volunteers and ourselves to receive such support for what we all do.

We serve a wide variety of needy and vulnerable adults, who all come for different reasons, whether it be for a meal, company, a safe environment, or a bed for the night. We have noticed how, over the last twelve months, the request for Food Bank forms have risen. With your support we do the best we can to give our clients whatever help they need, including food and toiletry parcels.

We were open over the Christmas period and on Christmas Day/Boxing Day morning, the 28<sup>th</sup> December and New Year's Day overnight as well.

Thank you again for your kind support.

Best wishes

Margaret Moore and Chris Johnson

You can read more about the work of Leamington Night Shelter by visiting their website: <http://www.leamingtonnightshester.org.uk/>

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH – AFRICAN VISION MALAWI

So much has happened since I last wrote to you all last year. In May 2016 three of us travelled out to Malawi taking with us 15 cases of jumpers, blankets and hats together with supplies for 20 of the schools in our area such as pens, pencils etc. and some teaching materials for the staff. We distributed warm clothing to over 700 children. I am often asked why children in Malawi need warm jumpers, blankets etc. The answer is that the Malawian Winter which starts in May has warm days but very chilly nights and early mornings and if you sleep on a mud floor an extra layer of clothing or a blanket is very welcome. Often too, there are not enough classrooms at the schools so children are taught outside and jumpers are very useful on those cool mornings. We also distributed warm clothing to the babies at the two maternity units in our area and the mothers were so thrilled and rewarded us by beautiful singing which I love to hear.



As well as donating so generously to us last year, some of you bought pens and pencils for me to take out. I just wish you could have seen the children's reactions as we presented them to each school. There was much singing and dancing and the sheer joy of being given these small gifts was unbelievable, it always reduces me to tears.



As I have mentioned before we have 14 locally based committees who report back to us regularly of any particular needs or difficulties in their areas. Their work is invaluable and they are unpaid, except for a small

gift now and then of soap, tea etc. While I was there we had a gathering together of all the members of each committee, over 100 members in all where they discussed many things. We have been very concerned at the number of people who are accidentally burnt in our area. This may be through having an epileptic fit ( there seems to be a lot of epilepsy in our area) while cooking on an open fire or children just knocking over pans of boiling water while playing. We are continually encouraging people to build fuel saving ovens which are easy to make, using easily available local materials, use far less firewood, are more efficient and most importantly, much safer. We have been so concerned that a drama workshop about

prevention of burns was held for the committee members and a local school. It was very well done and although it was obviously all done in Chichewa it was easy for me to understand what was being taught and was very successful.

Just a few days later when doing a school link presentation and a clothing distribution one of those committee members came to tell us that a child had been burnt and we were needed. He led us to the house where a little girl of just over two, years was being carried around by her older sister. Both her legs and feet had been badly burnt when she had knocked over a pan of boiling water while playing. One of our bicycle ambulances had taken her to the local clinic but unfortunately they had nothing but pain killers in stock and no transport to get her to hospital in the capital, Lilongwe for the treatment she needed. Mother had done what she thought was best and applied herbs and goat dung to the burns and both legs were badly infected when we found her a couple of days after the accident. We took her and her mother to hospital where she was treated and after a fairly lengthy stay, during which time she had some necessary skin grafts, she made a full recovery. If we hadn't been there it is likely that she would have lost at least a foot. One funny side to this story is that the doctors insisted that I help them by holding the child's legs still while they removed the goat dung and dressed the wounds. In Malawi I am a Gogo, a polite name for an older person or a Grandparent. The little girl did not take kindly to me holding her legs still and kept shouting Gogo go Gogo go!! The staff found this very amusing.

One thing that concerned us greatly during our time there last year was the poor harvest of maize which was due to the lack of rain for the second consecutive year. We knew that this would lead to starvation in a large part of the area that we support. We are a small charity, not an emergency NGO and while we can help the orphans and the most vulnerable we do not have the means to feed people on this scale. Fortunately prayers were answered and the World Food Programme recognized that this was of famine proportions and they have been making regular distributions during the last few months. As I write this article we are planning to distribute food during the next few days to some orphans and vulnerable people in our area who have not been helped.

This problem made us realize more than ever how important it was to complete our training village where people can learn new skills, such as tailoring, carpentry, simple electronics, soap, making etc. to enable them to earn a living that will mean that they are not totally reliant on farming, can educate their children and have a better future. Sams Village was started 5 years ago and we had hoped to have it finished by now but this is Africa and things don't always go to plan added to which costs have gone up during this time and we were short of money to complete the project. We needed another £35,000 to complete the village and it was decided to make an all out appeal last Christmas. Some wonderful people offered to match

fund any money we raised and then someone else came along and offered to



double that amount! We raised over £9,000 which when doubled and then doubled again meant we had the money needed. Answered prayer again. Later this month Tools for Self Reliance are supplying and sending out some really good quality tools and also taking couple of hand sewing machines that we have been given out to Malawi. While we know that we will have to pay clearance charges on arrival

this will be better than buying the cheap tools that are available in Malawi but are of a poor quality. Some people who have been helping to build the village have already learnt new skills, I met women who are now master plasterers and a former security guard who is now a master thatcher. They are now able to pay for their children to go on to senior education. Every year we find sponsors for 10 Primary school leavers to go on to secondary education which is fee paying. Last year 5 young people sponsored by people in the UK who had completed their secondary education won places at University and after a lot of hard work by our wonderful unpaid administrator in the UK sponsors were found for them. At that time secondary education costs were £18 a month and University fees were £40 a month. Then came the announcement that the Malawian government had decided to increase the fees. Senior school fees went up by only a small amount to £20 a month but University Fees went from £40 to £100 a month which gave us enormous problems. Our concern is that we won't be able to sponsor University Students in the future unless we find a lot more people who are willing to help. We are happy to have several people sponsor one student.

I will be going out to Malawi again in June and already have started packing all the many jumpers, blankets, and hats which have been knitted by some amazing ladies in this country. We will once again be visiting the 20 schools who are linked with schools in the UK and exchanging work on the subject of Food. The children in Malawi love to hear about their link schools and receive sample of their work which helps them and their teachers. We will also be taking them some gifts of pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners and lightweight rulers. If anybody would like to help us by buying a pack of pencils or any of the other items I mentioned next time they visit the supermarket it would be a great help to us and you would help to make a child in Malawi very happy. There is always room to tuck packets of pencils etc in between the layers of jumpers and blankets in my cases.

We went through a very difficult time last Autumn when we were desperately short of funds. I talked to Nigel Palmer one of the Trustees and the husband of the head of the charity, Heather, both of whom work full time unpaid for the Charity and asked him how worrying the situation was. His reply was something I won't forget, saying ' God led us to do this work and he won't let us down now.' How right he was, we did recover but it's thanks to people like you who support us. You are helping to change people's lives in Malawi. As they would say, zikomo kwamberi, thank you very much.

If you want to know more about our work please look at our web site: [www.africanvision.org.uk](http://www.africanvision.org.uk). There is also a table in the church with more information on our projects. Please help yourselves to any of the newsletters or information.

*Gaynor Cook.*

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## "SPOTLIGHT ON..." LILLINGTON BROWNIES

2016 has been a busy year for the Brownies with nearly all our girls being new to the unit and 2017 looks even busier going from 11 to 24 girls between New Year and February half term. The year started with us coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the swimming gala, despite many of the Brownies competing way above their age categories. Camping in the summer was fortunately not as wet,



with a joint camp at Girl Guiding's Warwickshire campsite, Hardiman Fields, with around 100 other girls from Leamington. The older Brownies and Guides got to go to a Guiding festival in the new forest with live music, activities including high ropes, crate stacking and archery and the ultimate in festival luxury, hot tubs. The summer term concluded with a trip to Frisbee golf. In between these bigger activities we've had campfires, hosted parties and completed

the artist, agility and science investigator badges. In the Autumn term we had a sleepover, where dens were built out of cardboard and decorated with paint and glitter. The Brownies and Guides cooked Bolognese for tea and cakes

for pudding, before loading up again with campfire smores, ending with popcorn, a film and sleeping in their dens (once they'd passed their fire drill of course). Whilst this was another opportunity for the Brownies to have fun and develop their skills, it more importantly



meant we had a great turnout for Remembrance Parade where they carried the flag with pride. Brownies and Girl Guiding (and Scouting) offers young people a fantastic opportunity to make friends, challenge themselves in a safe environment and grow as individuals.

This wouldn't be possible without volunteers so if anyone is interested, either as a helper for a one off evening, run an activity (do you dance, craft or have some other skill to share?) or on a regular basis please do contact us. Finally, I'd like to thank Charlotte, Vanessa and the Church for their support.



**NESSIE'S NOTE:** *This article also serves as the Brownies yearly Church Group Annual Report. Next month we will 'Spotlight...' the Guides.*

## SERVICE DETAILS

### SUNDAY WORSHIP - MARCH 2017

1 <sup>st</sup> Mar		07:30	Holy Communion with ashing
5 <sup>th</sup> Mar		08:00	Holy Communion
		09:30	Morning Praise
		18:30	Evensong
12 <sup>th</sup> Mar		08:00	Holy Communion
		09:30	Holy Communion with prayers for healing
		18:30	Youth Group
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar		08:00	Holy Communion
		09:30	Holy Communion
		18:20	Evensong
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar		08:00	Holy Communion
		09:30	All Age Holy Communion

**A Time for Quiet and Prayer**  
**Monday – Thursday, 12.00 – 1.00 pm**  
**(Please use main entrance)**

*“In the stillness of life, we find our higher self.  
 Be still and God is with you.  
 Be still, and you are never alone.”*

**Donald L. Hicks**

### SUNDAY CLUB

For children of all ages up to 10 years during School Term time. Children join the main 09:30 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	28 <sup>th</sup> March	13:30	Holy Communion
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### THE CHURCH OFFICE

The office is open Monday to Thursday 9.00am till 1.00pm.

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 (01926 470449). Outside of office hours please leave a message on the answer phone and we will get back to you.



# WHAT'S ON

## MARCH 2017

<b>Sat 4</b>	9:30	Walkers Group meets outside Church. Contact John & Sue Hollins tel 773919
<b>Mon 6</b>	07:00	BCD Module- <i>Intro to Christian Ethics</i> Octagon
<b>Thu 9</b>		Parish Lent Course in the Octagon
<b>Sun 12</b>	18:15	Youth Group
<b>Mon 13</b>	07:00	BCD Module- <i>Intro to Christian Ethics</i> Octagon
<b>Tue 14</b>	18:30	Knitting Group in the Octagon
<b>Thu 16</b>		Parish Lent Course in the Octagon
<b>Mon 20</b>	07:00	BCD Module- <i>Intro to Christian Ethics</i> Octagon
<b>Tue 21</b>	18:45	Lillington and Cubbington Churches 2Gether Prayer @ Lillington Free Church
<b>Thu 23</b>		Parish Lent Course in the Octagon
<b>Mon 27</b>	07:00	BCD Module- <i>Intro to Christian Ethics</i> Octagon
<b>Tue 28</b>	18:30	Knitting Group in the Octagon
<b>Tue 28</b>	14:00	Tea & Chat in the Octagon
<b>Thu 30</b>		Parish Lent Course in the Octagon

## APRIL 2017

<b>Sat 1</b>	9:30	Walkers Group meets outside Church. Contact Bob Cokke. Tel: 315890
<b>Thu 6</b>		Parish Lent Couse in the Octagon
<b>Tue 11</b>	18:30	Knitting Group in the Octagon
<b>Tue 18</b>	18:45	Lillington & Cubbington churches, praying together @ Lillington Free Church.
<b>Tue 25</b>	14:00	Tea & Chat in the Octagon
<b>Tue 25</b>	18:30	Knitting Group in the Octagon

**A reminder:** Please make Cheques payable to Lillington PCC

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

*"If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later!"*

**Sir Richard Branson**



## **Volunteer Vacancies - Love Lillington**

### **1 Estimating Volunteer : Love Lillington Action**

We need someone who is willing to go out to view the job requests that we receive from our Love Lillington referrals, and assess them for "do-ability" - materials required - tools needed - number of volunteers to do the work, access etc etc. This will involve contacting the client and arranging to meet them to talk through the request, then reporting back to Christine Butler, as Administrator for Love Lillington "Action". If you think you can help please speak to Christine Butler (07963 229756) [j.butler1christine@gmail.com](mailto:j.butler1christine@gmail.com) (Will require a Coventry Diocese DBS check)

### **2 General Volunteer : Love Lillington Action**

More volunteers are needed to join our existing team of 16. If you have a few hours to spare occasionally and would like to help others living in your community, who are not able to cope with all the aspects of caring for their own home, or may need transport assistance, help to dispose of items to the tip etc etc then this opportunity is for you! If you think you would like to join the volunteer team please speak to Christine Butler (07963 229756) [j.butler1christine@gmail.com](mailto:j.butler1christine@gmail.com) (Will require a Coventry Diocese DBS check)

*"Love your neighbour as yourself"*

**Mark 12: 31**

## LOVE LILLINGTON GRANTS – A SPECIAL STORY

On Friday I went to Sainsburys.

Before doing this mundane trip I went to Mothercare on 'Love Lillington' business. I had received a request from a Health Visitor for a baby's car seat to give to a young mother in her care. I know nothing about baby seats but was rather shocked by the prices in Mothercare. I therefore visited Halfords and found a selection of seats which looked more promising.



A young woman was talking to a most obliging member of staff, who then went off to consult his stock list. I therefore explained to this young woman that I was 'earwiggling' in the hope of understanding what the requirements were. She had several children of her own and therefore

knew about car seats. We fell into conversation so I explained that I was buying on behalf of a small charity which helps local people in need.

Then she said " I have a car seat you could have" ! She was buying for a larger child and therefore had a surplus seat. I jumped at the offer, and we exchanged phone numbers. "I have some baby clothes as well if you'd like them ". Would I just ?

I told her that I believed that God had a hand in this with which she happily agreed.

On Monday after a phone call I drove to Kenilworth to collect a big bag of clothing and the nearly-new seat. We had a short conversation in her driveway when she told me that she had also been to Mothercare that morning before moving on to Halfords, and expressed delight at the co-incidence. We agreed that it was indeed wonderful. She will ring me again when she has more clothing as her children grow. This may or may not happen but the contact and the enthusiasm were wonderful. I delivered my load to the Children's Centre where the items were received with gratitude. My own joy over this more than matched theirs.

I believe that God had more than an incidental hand in this and I praise Him for it. I told the story to Christine and to Caroline, who head up the Action and Prayer strands of 'Love Lillington', and we all rejoiced at the goodness of God.

The trustees had agreed to buy this seat, but now we have more in the fund to make a difference to the lives of others in need.

*Halleluiah!*

*Charlotte Sanders*

## BIG QUESTIONS FOR LENT

Five stimulating Thursday evenings, a wealth of professional and academic experience, three visitors - we will have all these in our 2017 parish Lent Course as we look at some major issues in today's world. As you'd expect, we will hear a Christian view (or views) - but we can agree or disagree as we choose.

9 <sup>th</sup> March	World faiths – is Christianity special?	<b>Roderick Clark</b> [Reader and ex-Religious Education teacher]
16 <sup>th</sup> March	How should Christians treat wild, farm and pet animals?	<b>The Revd Professor Martin Henig</b> [of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics and the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals]
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Should Christians avoid or take advantage of social media?	<b>The Revd Claire McArthur</b> [ <a href="#">Curate at Walsgrave, Coventry, after a long career in digital communications</a> ]
30 <sup>th</sup> March	How should Christians approach modern embryo research and genetic engineering?	<b>The Revd Dr Mark Bratton</b> [Rector of Berkswell, who has long specialised in medical ethics]
6 <sup>th</sup> April	What should Christians think about the UK's nuclear weapons systems and arms sales?	<b>Steve Hucklesby</b> [of the Joint Public Issues Team, a national ecumenical Christian thinktank – and a Lillington Church member]

Meeting in the Octagon, we begin with refreshments from 7.15 p.m., ready for a 7.30 start. The speakers will speak, of course, but there will also be chances for discussion and debate. We will finish with a brief late-evening Celtic-style service, ending no later than 9.15 p.m. Please contact me with any points or queries [in person; tel: 422994; [recclark@btinternet.com](mailto:recclark@btinternet.com)].

**Roderick Clark**

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## COOKING WITH CROSSTALK

### March – International Women’s Day (Russia)

One might compare March 8th in Russia with Mother's Day in the West, although the Russian holiday celebrates all women, including mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and girlfriends. This day is a public holiday and is most often celebrated in the family circle with a festive meal and champagne.

#### **Bortsch Soup**

6 small raw beetroot (beet) (about 1 kg, 2¼ lb) peeled  
2 medium sized onions, skinned and chopped  
2.2 litre (4 pt) seasoned beef stock  
2 tbsp (30 ml) lemon juice  
1/3 cup (3 fl oz) 90 ml dry sherry  
soured cream, chives for seasoning

1. Grate the beetroot coarsely and put it together with the onion in a pan with the stock.
2. Bring to the boil and simmer without a lid for 45 minutes.
3. Strain and add the lemon juice and sherry. Adjust seasoning.

Serve either chilled well or hot with a whirl of soured cream and chopped chives .



#### **Buckwheat Dumplings (Pampushki) serves 10**

800 g buckwheat flour  
25g yeast  
225ml warm water

salt  
sunflower oil  
crushed clove of garlic

1. Make a yeast dough using 800 g buckwheat flour, 25 g yeast, 275 ml warm water and salt.
2. Mould into 20 balls, poach in simmering salted water, then drain and lightly golden fry in sunflower oil with a crushed clove of garlic.
3. A smaller version of these may be served to accompany Bortsch Soup

#### 4. **Beef Stroganoff (Bef Stroganoff)**

serves 10

1.5 kg tail end of fillet of beef  
 100 g butter  
 50 g shallots, chopped  
 300 ml soured cream

1 juice of lemon  
 tarragon, chopped  
 seasoning

1. Cut the meat into 5 cm x 1 cm strips.
2. Heat the butter in a sauté pan.
3. Season and add the beef, quickly shallow fry, tossing continuously, keeping it underdone. Remove and retain in a warm place.
4. Add the shallots to the pan and cook without colouring. Drain off any excess fat.
5. Add the cream, boil and reduce by half. Add the drained meat and incorporate by gently tossing. Do not boil.
6. Add the lemon juice, season and serve in dishes, sprinkled with chopped tarragon. and seasoning.
7. Serve with Rice or herby pasta.



*Carol Innes*

Recipe Source: <http://www.cookitsimply.com>

Next month: Easter in Greece

## FRIENDS OF BLACK LANE

Did you know that more than 30 million tonnes of litter are collected from our streets every year? That costs council tax payers nearly £1billion every year to clean up. That is the equivalent of more than 29,000 nurses, nearly 3,900 new libraries or 885,000,000 free school dinners – or enough for more than a year’s education for every primary school child in England.

Instead it is money spent needlessly picking up rubbish people have been too lazy to put in a bin.

This litter also has an immense environmental impact and causes thousands of wildlife injuries and fatalities. Not just locally, but nationally and globally. Not just on land but in our seas and waterways. People have become immune to the sight of litter – it should not be normalised. We just shouldn’t have litter.



Many people do the right thing and dispose of their waste legally and

responsibly – many people don’t.

Friends of Black Lane is a group of local residents who meet up every month to clear away the waste that people have dropped on Black Lane, Campion Hills and Newbold Beeches (when we have enough people!). We send a clear signal that we all want to live in a cleaner country, free from litter.

We collect on average 16 bags of mixed litter each month – much of it beer cans, take out drinks cups, snack wrappers, and fly tips and plastic bottles. We’ve also found soiled nappies, clothing, children’s toys, building and gardening materials, mattresses, sofas – you name it, it gets dumped. We really are on the frontline of seeing the reality of littering in our local area and it’s an eye opener.

Black Lane is cleansed by Warwick District Council on a 40 day cycle, but people are dropping more litter than this schedule can address. Black Lane is not the only area that has a litter problem. Warwick District Council has no litter prevention strategy and no enforcement teams to carry out investigations or to take action on littering and fly tipping. This is also an issue that needs to be addressed.

However, as a result of our work, Black Lane is looking a lot healthier now. We have spent 2 years removing the built up waste from the area and continue to scour the area of new litter. The incidences of fly tipping have reduced due to the focus on the area. We have had a bin installed on Black Lane. This is being used and we've seen a reduction in 'dog bag' littering on the lane. We also litter pick Newbold Beeches and Campion Hills – also hotspots for litter. An important dictum for living is – "leave the planet in a better state than you found it."



We welcome new volunteers so do get in touch! Litter picking is an opportunity to get out into the fresh air, mingle with fellow residents or use the time for some quiet reflection whilst you pick. It has a direct positive impact on the local environment. So come along and have a go! Help us improve where we live. A litter free Lillington? It's possible!

We meet every third Saturday of the month on Black Lane @ 10am – 12pm (except December/ and this year only there is no litter pick in April). Stay for as long as you like. Up to you! If you would like more details please contact, Ange Owen: [friendsofblacklane@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblacklane@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lillingtoncv32/>

For more about litter in Leamington visit:

[www.leamingtonlitterproject.weebly.com](http://www.leamingtonlitterproject.weebly.com)





Last month we featured an article on the WSO, unfortunately we had to print before we received their photos. Here is a short reminder about them, with images.

Guy Woolfenden (right), much loved international musician and acclaimed conductor of the Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra, will be remembered at a special memorial concert on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at St Mary's Church in Warwick.



The orchestra has worked with many illustrious soloists such as Janet Baker, Julian Bream, Peter Donohoe, Leon Goossens and Tasmin Little. Guy Woolfenden, permanent conductor from 1972-2012, succeeded a line of distinguished past conductors, and enhanced the WSO tradition of achieving the very highest musical

standard. The orchestra appointed Roger Coull as permanent principal conductor in 2015. The WSO is proud of its association with Saint Michael's Singers of Coventry Cathedral, the Royal Leamington Spa Bach Choir, Collegium Warwick and The Choirs of St. Mary's Church, Warwick. For concert tickets/more info [www.wso.org.uk](http://www.wso.org.uk)



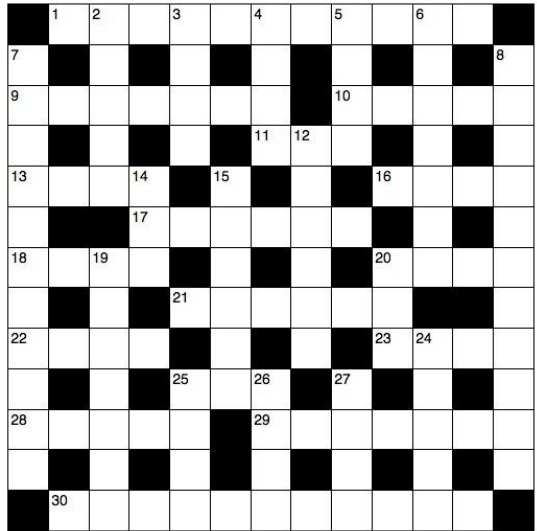
# CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1** These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)  
**9** 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)  
**10** King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)  
**11** Town possessing mineral spring (3)  
**13** Mede (anag.) (4)  
**16** High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)  
**17** He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)  
**18** A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)  
**20** Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)  
**21** 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)  
**22** 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)  
**23** Edit (anag.) (4)  
**25** 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)  
**28** Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)  
**29** 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been —, he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)  
**30** Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

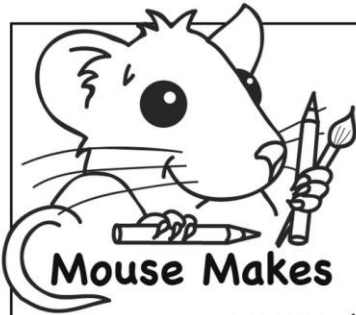
## DOWN

- 2** 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)  
**3** Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4  
**4** 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)



- 5** Concept (John 8:14) (4)  
**6** 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)  
**7** Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)  
**8** 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)  
**12** 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)  
**14** This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)  
**15** Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)  
**19** He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)  
**20** 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)  
**24** 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — —' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)  
**25** Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)  
**26** 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)  
**27** Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

# JUNIOR CROSSTALK



## Mouse Makes

### SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did. Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.



### ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said** or **thought** or **done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance.

In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



## WHAT IS LENT?

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone. For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.



Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.

This time is called **LENT**



While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil **three** times.

**Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.**



**1** The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."

**Read** Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**

**2** The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

**Read** Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**

**3** The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."

**Read** Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,  
Please forgive me for

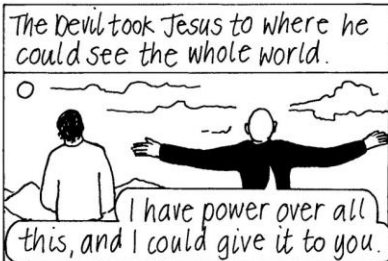
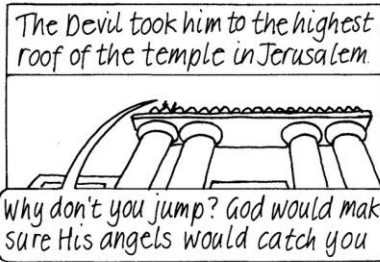
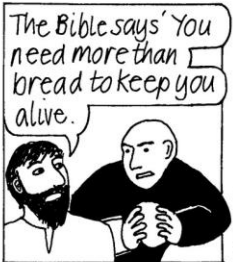
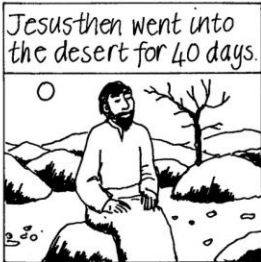
.....  
**Amen**

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Jn 1:29-34, Mt 3:13-17, Lk 3:21-4:13, Mk 1:9-12

People came to John to be baptised - washed in the river Jordan - to say sorry for what they had done wrong. Then Jesus came...





## MAD MARCH GALES

The month of March has a reputation for a wild and blustery start but usually changes to much milder weather before it ends ... as the old saying goes 'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'.

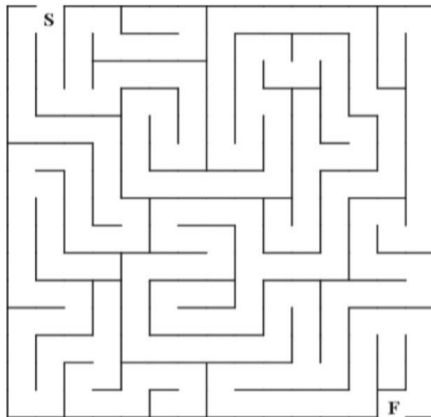
People's homes are flooded or big trees uprooted in high winds. Even if it doesn't happen to us we see the pictures of other people's suffering in the media.

There was a time when Jesus' friends were frightened because a fierce storm blew up while they were fishing. The disciples thought their boat was going to sink and they were very frightened. You can read about it in St Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 35-39.

I get frightened when the wind blows so hard that the trees bend and the lights flicker but then I remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Just as He was with the disciples in the boat, He is with us when we are afraid. Jesus gives us hope, courage and strength.

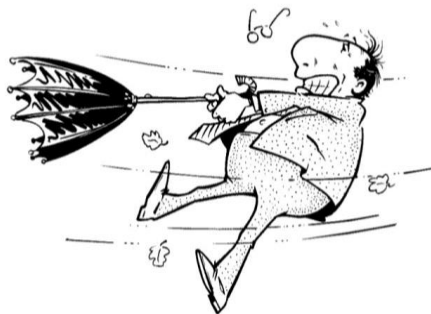
## SAFELY HOME

Can you find your way home through the maze of streets?



**What did the north wind say to the east wind?**

Let's play draughts



**How easy is it for wind gusts to talk to each other?**

It is a breeze.

**What does a cloud wear under her raincoat?**

Thunderwear!



## NOTES FROM NESSIE

Phew! I thought I'd struggle to fill our magazine this month, but I had no need to worry. I hope you've enjoyed the great articles people have taken the time to provide? It was great to hear from the Bryony, the Brownie leader about what the girls had been doing last year, and we look forward to keeping in touch with their activities this year. In our April issue we will 'spotlight' the Guides and feature a 'Poetry Page', starting with a great poem by Jane Rummey. Space was tight this month but I can't leave you without at least one funny.

For the elderly minister's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. He was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, and said: 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'



*Nessie, Editor*

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### FOR SALE

3-wheel Rollator – as new cost £50.00 -  
Single mattress topper – used one season only – cost £30. 00  
Reasonable offers considered. **Contact Jan Bennett:** 01926 339965

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### DEADLINE

Copy for the April 2017 edition is required by  
**15<sup>th</sup> Mar 2017** to Vanessa at  
[magazine@lillingtonparishchurch.org](mailto:magazine@lillingtonparishchurch.org)

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### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**CROSS:** 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

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