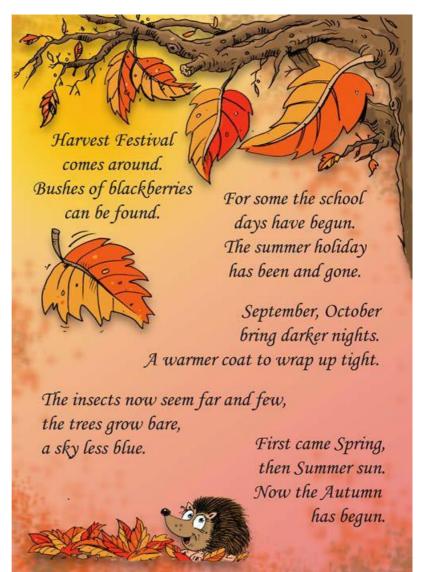
R S S K

Lillington Parish Magazine St Mary Magdalene's Church SEPTEMBER 2017



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References available

FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends

As September arrives and our children get ready to go back to school, the weather is changing and there's an autumnal smell in the air, even though the sun is (hopefully!) still shining. As I look out of my study window, the trees are still lush and green but I know that soon they will change to the glorious golds and reds of autumn before they drop their leaves and become fascinating skeletal forms of infinite variety.

I love trees. There's something timeless and reassuring about them. Most of them will outlive us, they provide food and shelter for a wide range of animals and birds and their variety of shape and colour never ceases to draw my attention. The Bible is full of references to them. We start in the Garden of Eden with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, standing at the middle of the garden. In my imagination it's a mighty tree, old, with great spreading branches laden with fruit. We find references to the Cedars of Lebanon, representing God's people Israel, seen as the pinnacle of God's creation; Isaiah looks forward to the coming time when God will recreate his world, and he says 'like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be'; and right at the end of the Bible in Revelation, we're given a vision of that new creation, when all is made right at the end of time and there stands the tree of life, producing fruit every month of the year and whose leaves are for 'the healing of the nations' – what a lovely image!

It all reminds me of 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree', an anonymous poem from an American collection of 1784, and often sung as a Christmas carol:

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see Is Jesus Christ the apple tree.



For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

I particularly like the last two verses, with the idea of resting in Christ's shadow, protected from the elements, finding rest and nourishment from the fruit he provides. As you go out and about this month, look out for the hints of those glorious autumnal colours, take a moment to thank God for his wonderful creation, and for Jesus Christ, the apple tree, who both nourishes and protects us day by day.

With love, Sue Fairhurst

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

Phyllis Alma WRIGHT, Age 99
Barry TUCKER, Age 61
Roy Nabbs, Age 86
David MASIH and Sonia KLEC
Karl PEMBERTON and Josie POOL
John & Christine BUTLER (25 years)

WARDEN'S WORDS



So what does a Churchwarden do? Glyn and I have been finding that there seems to be a lot more involved when you don't have a Vicar. On searching the internet there were many 'job descriptions' for a Churchwarden,

including the rather long Church of England `Churchwardens Measure 2001', but in summary the main responsibilities are:

- care for and support the Vicar, and be the people to whom the incumbent can turn to for advice and support
- try to ensure that the Vicar is relieved of superfluous administrative, and other, tasks
- provide feedback, as a 'critical friend', for the Vicar
- care for the congregation and encourage people in their Christian faith
- help to resolve disputes or disagreements amongst the congregation or with the Vicar, or with the local community
- When any concerns arise, they should consult the Area Dean and/or Archdeacon.
- Churchwardens should have a set of keys for the church.
- They should attend services regularly, and normally arrive in good time to support the welcome group, be present for any refreshments, and assist in tidying up after services.
- During a vacancy in a parish, the churchwardens, along with the Area Dean, are responsible for ensuring that worship, pastoral care and mission continues in the parish, and for supporting any assistant clergy, lay ministers, staff and volunteers in the parish in their responsibilities.

The thing is that you don't do this on your own, we are well supported by some amazing people who do things without you having to ask, or they suggest ways in which they could help, or they just turn up when you make a request!

There is no typical week for a churchwarden but it will always start with the Sunday services. Glyn and I take it in turns to be the responsible churchwarden on duty at the 9:30 service which includes ensuring that all the people rostered for that day are there ... and if not find someone else to do it. After the service we make sure that everything is put away and then lock up the church. Since July we also have to greet

visiting clergy, show them where to find everything, and make them welcome; we also do the welcome and notices at the beginning of services. You may see us at other services as we are trying to get to know all our congregations. Cover for services is mostly through our Associate Ministers and Reader, with whom we are truly blessed, but for Visiting Clergy we are really grateful to Anne Furze for finding people for the gaps.

During the week there may be a Standing Committee meeting, a sort of administration meeting to check that all is well and respond to any urgent matters – quite a few of which have been about the roof. John Butler is remaining on the Standing Committee for the duration of the roof project which he leads, and this is a huge burden that the churchwardens do not have to worry about.

There are also PCC meetings which the Vicar would normally Chair. During the vacancy a churchwarden does this, so we now have to agree the PCC Agenda and minutes with the PCC Secretary – but Bob Cooke mostly guides us through all the procedures.

Visits to the office are frequent especially as we now have a new Church Administrator, Wendy Driscoll. Wendy is learning the ropes – but so am I – as we learn together where all the handout information is kept, and what the processes are for Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and Interment of Ashes. We have had a few of each of these occasional offices that have kept us very busy.

Bills, fees, payments to the Diocese, Tax back on Gift Aid, Accounts – none of this has to be dealt with by the churchwardens and we are very fortunate to have two very dedicated people – Alan Wright and Mike Hyslop handling this, as well as the banking team who count the money taken during the week.

So if you see me wielding a paint brush (sprucing up the church house), mop in hand (church cleaning), looking confused in the churchyard (looking for a grave), wearing a hard hat (roof inspection), or even with my eyes closed in church (probably praying that the visiting minister does turn up) then it means I'm just being a churchwarden!

Carol Innes

WALKERS GROUP



JUNE WALK

Eleven of us met outside the Church on a bright, sunny morning, and headed to Newbold Comyn where we did approx. 4.5 mile urban walk. We walked down through Jephson Gardens which

were looking splendid, onto the Pump Room Gardens, then alongside the bowling green in Victoria Park. We then headed up towards Morrison's and then dropped down onto the canal towpath where we continued our walk. We then walked up to Willes Road where we found the entrance back onto Newbold Comyn.

Sue Wakem

JULY WALK

From the White Lion in Radford Semele we retraced the car route back towards Leamington before crossing the Grand Union Canal and entering the leafy Whitnash Nature Reserve, which skirts the edge of Sydenham, emerging to climb to Radford Barn, then over fields to the Isle of Wight Barn and by farm track back to Radford and a good lunch. Stan Ireland

AUGUST EVENING WALK

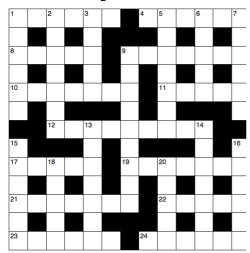
For the evening walk in August, thirteen of us met for a 2.5 mile walk from Leamington Hastings. The walk was through fields and woodlands, and made up for its short length by including a large number of stiles! Some walkers stayed on for refreshment at the Friendly Inn, Frankton. *Godfrev Carr*

SEPTEMBER WALK

The 2nd September walk will be led by Sue and John Hollins, not Stanley and Helen Ireland as in the programme. Meet outside the church at 9.30 as usual; phone 773919 if needing further details. Bob Cooke

CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 8



Across

- 1 'The people were at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
- 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
- 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
- 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
- 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
- 11 ' thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Cor
- righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
- 12 and 15 Down 'All is Godbreathed and is for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
- 17 'No of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)

21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
- 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
- 3 'The wicked man deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
- 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
- 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is ′ (5)
- 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
- 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
- 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
- 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
- 15 See 12 Across
- 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)
- 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
- 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

ST CLARE'S DAY - ST CLARE'S AT THE CATHEDRAL - FRIDAY $\mathbf{11}^{\mathsf{TH}}$ AUGUST $\mathbf{2017}$

A fine afternoon and a good crowd of friends, relatives and supporters gathered in Coventry in the old Cathedral Gift Shop and Visitor Centre, now beautifully transformed by Rev Charlotte Gale and Rev Naomi Nixon. They have achieved a real "Nick Knowles" transformation, with help from friends, taking only three weeks from the day they picked up the keys.

Refreshments were served on arrival, and Rev Charlotte Gale welcomed us all. A talk on St Clare followed, given by Rev Rowan Williams, Chaplain at York University. We learned that St Clare had looked out on the Cathedral in Assisi from her bedroom window - how appropriate now that Rev Charlotte and Rev Naomi look out through large plate glass windows on the Cathedral in Coventry. St Clare was better known to start with than St Francis of Assisi was. St Damiano was the original closed Order in Sicily. (The Poor Clare's came later) St Clare had a strong calling and did not go out to teach and work but people came to seek her and we heard that she was totally comfortable with who she was. Clare worked together with her sisters with poverty being central to her teaching-following Christ in absolute simplicity, creating a power house of prayer with reconciliation-at the heart of what St Clare & St Francis were trying to do. Again this fact is so very appropriately linked with Coventry Cathedral and the work that it does on reconciliation.

The afternoon concluded with the Collect for St Clare and everyone enjoyed ice creams.

O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we through his poverty might be rich: Deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, that we, inspired by the devotion of your servant Clare, may serve you with singleness of heart, and attain to the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Christine Butler

ROOF UPDATE

Early August, two months after the original completion date and the roof work is still not finished. Andrew Brookes (Church Architect) and I met last Thursday (10/8) for a final inspection, we now plan to meet next Wednesday (16/8) for the final "final" inspection. In all fairness to the contractors, Croft Building Conservation, they have carried out a lot of remedial work to take advantage of the scaffolding. This includes two replacement crosses, faithful replicas of the originals, which now adorn the gables at the end of the nave and the chancel - and significant masonry repairs to the west gable on the north aisle.



Of course by the time you read this you will see that the roof is finished and the scaffolding will have been removed - hopefully!! However there is further work to be done internally. Croft will be redecorating the Sacristy, the east and west gables of the lady chapel and the south wall. This work is scheduled to start on Tuesday 29th August and should take about 6 weeks, during which time there will be some disruption in church, particularly as the sacristy will have to be cleared. The work will take this long because the new plaster will have to be left for a couple of weeks to dry before it can be painted.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me with this project, and particularly the team of church cleaners who have faithfully turned up every Saturday morning to prepare the church for Sunday worship, adding extra cleaning sessions, when required, for weddings and funerals. We have all worked together and coped well with the disruption. I would ask that you continue to give your support to our church wardens and our team of willing volunteers as we manage the disruption that will be caused by the additional internal works.

We all look forward to a time when "normal service" will be resumed.

John Butler

RIDE / STRIDE / COFFEE / CAKE!

The annual cycle ride/walk for Coventry & Warwickshire History Churches Trust is on

Saturday 9 September. It would be lovely to have a coffee morning, so people can

come and chat, meet any riders/striders and hopefully enjoy a bit of Mary Mags hospitality.

If you can help with making a cake, serving coffee, or welcoming visitors, please sign up on the sheet on the Welcome table in Church.

If you would like to take part in the sponsored Ride and Stride – you can get more information from $\,$

http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/ridestride.html

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Amazed. 4, Others. 8, Peter. 9, Zebedee. 10, Accuser. 11, Endue. 12, Scripture. 17, Shrub. 19, Abashed. 21, Foolish. 22, Upset. 23, Loathe. 24, Lesser. DOWN: 1, Appeal. 2, Attacks. 3, Earns. 5, Tableau. 6, Ended. 7, Shekel. 9, Zarephath. 13, Rubbish. 14, Ephesus. 15, Useful. 16, Editor. 18, Rhoda. 20, Abuse.

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WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

PETER SUMMERS ORGANIST EMERITUS, HOLY TRINITY STRATFORD ON AVON.

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

PROFESSOR DAVID SAINT

ST. CHADS CATHEDRAL, BIRMINGHAM

WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

DAVID KING LULLINGTON, SOMERSET

ANNIVERSARY RECITAL SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH MICHAEL KING

ST MARY MAGDALENE, LILLINGTON

(INTERVAL WITH CHEESE AND WINE

THE BUTTON WALK



My name is Roberta Button and in December 2016 I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. MS is something which has very personally affected my family. As you may know, my Mum, Delia Button, who is a member of the congregation of St Mary Magdalene also has multiple sclerosis. Whilst the news of my diagnosis was obviously devastating for my family and I, I have taken great inspiration from my Mum who has never let MS get in her way. To me, she is the human equivalent of the saying "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade".

With this in mind my godfather, Gareth, very kindly decided to make lemonade out of the lemons that my family and I have been given. Taking inspiration from our surname, he organised "The Button Walk" which ran from the 26th – 31st May, covering over 60 miles from Bubbenhall in Warwickshire to Tewksbury in Gloucestershire. This 60-mile walk was a chance for family and friends to come together,

challenge themselves, show solidarity, raise awareness of MS and hopefully raise some money along the way. We certainly achieved all of those aims as each day over 45 of us had the chance to chat and catch up over the 10-mile leg and at the various pub stops en route.

This means that over the six days people gave a staggering 280 days of their time, and the collective miles walked amounts to over 81% of the distance from London to New York! We also raised more than £11, 400 for our chosen charity, the MS International Federation. We hope that this incredible amount of money raised will allow the MS International Federation to fulfil their vision of becoming one step closer to a world free of MS.

My family and I are touched by the support and generosity of everyone who was involved with the walk. We would like to thank the congregation of St Mary Magdalene for their incredible support. This includes all of those who generously donated to the charity, but also those of you who attended the walk itself.

Roberta Button





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PRAYER

As Christians, we believe that praying can really make a positive difference to people's



lives and situations, so we have set up a prayer network within the church to pray specifically for people in trouble or need in Lillington. We don't ask for names or very many details – just enough information for us to offer the situation to God and ask for his help.

As Christine has said, over the months since the Love Lillington project was launched we have established good relationships of trust with local professional organisations and local community workers and through them we have been asked to pray for a variety of people and situations in our community where help is really needed. The manager of the local Food Bank and local social workers have brought several families with both personal and financial difficulties to our attention and have told us that our prayers have given valuable support and comfort to people who felt very much alone. At Margaret Moore's request, we have prayed for the work of the Night Shelter and for some of the clients who have faced special problems. Gary Timlin has asked for our prayerful support for the Youth Centre and its work in the local community, and he has asked us to pray for local families who have suffered personal tragedies. Members of our own congregation have also requested prayers for relatives or friends who are ill or in trouble. In all these situations, we feel that a body of people praying together can, with God's help, make a real difference and that this contribution is a very important part of the Love Lillington project.

At present, there are 11 members of the prayer network, including myself as Co-ordinator. Prayer requests are passed to me by e-mail, telephone or word-of-mouth and I then send them on to the other members of the network, usually by e-mail. If anyone would like to join us we would welcome more members – just speak to me or Christine or leave a message in the church office. Don't worry if you are not on e-mail; messages can be passed on by telephone. And if you know of anyone or any situation you would like us to pray for, please let us know. All requests are treated in strictest confidence and as I mentioned earlier, we only need enough detail to enable us to offer the situation to God and ask for His help.

Caroline Carr

SERVICE DETAILS

SUNDAY WORSHIP - SEPTEMBER 2017

	08:00	Holy Communion
3 rd September	09:30	Morning Praise
	18:30	Evensong
	08:00	Holy Communion
10 th September	09:30	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing
		and Sunday Club
	18:30	Youth Club
	08:00	Holy Communion
17 th September	09:30	Holy Communion & Sunday Club
	18:30	Evensong
	08:00	Holy Communion
24 th September	09:30	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing
		and Sunday Club

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	26th	13:30	Holy Communion

THE CHURCH OFFICE

The office is open Monday, Tuesday and to Thursday from 9:30am till 1:00pm. Please note that the office is no longer open on a Wednesday. 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

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sat 2	9:30am	Walkers' Group, meet outside church. Contact:
Wed 6	7:30pm	Organ Concert in church - John Wilderspin
Sat 9	10:00am	Ride & Stride/Coffee Morning
Tue 12	6:30am	Knitters' Group in the Octagon
Thur 14	7:30pm	PCC in the Octagon
Wed 13	3.00 pm	Poetry Group at 17 Lime Avenue. Friendly and informal. Contact 07758857740 for more information
Wed 13	7:30pm	Organ Concert in church - Peter Summers
Wed 20	7:30pm	Organ Concert in church - David Saint
Tue 26	6:30pm	Knitters' Group in the Octagon
Tue 26	2:00pm	Tea & Chat in the Octagon
Wed 27	7:30pm	Organ Concert in church - David King
Sat 30	4.30pm	Harvest celebration - Sounds Like Harvest. See page 16 for more details

OCTOBER 2017

Sat 7	9:30am	Walkers' Group, meet outside church.
Tue 10	6:30pm	Knitters' Group in the Octagon
Wed 11	3.00pm	Poetry Group at 17 Lime Avenue. Friendly and informal. Contact 07758857740 for more information
Tue 31	2:00pm	Tea & Chat in the Octagon
Tue 24	6:30pm	Knitters' 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

ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH, VICARAGE ROAD, LILLINGTON, CV32 7RH INVITES YOU TO....

SOUNDS LIKE HARVEST!

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2017

JOIN US FOR A FUN AND INFORMAL EVENING OF MUSIC, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS, YOUNG AND OLD.

SCRATCH CHOIR WORKSHOP: 4.30-6PM

COME AND BE PART OF OUR SCRATCH CHOIR AND LEARN A HANDFUL OF SONGS TO PERFORM AFTER THE HARVEST SUPPER. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ABLE TO READ MUSIC – JUST TO ENJOY IT AND BE WILLING TO HAVE A GO AT A BIT OF EVERYTHING, SACRED AND SECULAR! OPEN TO ALL AGES AND EVERY KIND OF VOICE!

HARVEST SUPPER: 6-7.30PM

WE WILL COME TO TOGETHER OVER A MEAL TO CELEBRATE HARVEST.

SCRATCH CONCERT: 7.30-8.15PM

IF YOU AREN'T SINGING YOURSELF, THEN STAY AFTER THE SUPPER AND HEAR
WHAT OUR SCRATCH CHOIR HAVE BEEN LEARNING — WITH SOME SPECIAL
PERFORMANCES!

TICKETS FOR ALL OR ANY PART OF THE EVENING COST &5 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM: ABBY RHODES, OR THE CHURCH OFFICE, TEL 01926 470449



ALL PROCEEDS TO OUR HARVEST APPEAL - SEND A COW

COOKING WITH CROSSTALK

September -Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival and commemorates the creation of the world.

Rosh Hashanah is also a judgement day, when Jews believe that God balances a person's good deeds over the last year against their bad deeds. God records the judgement in the Book of Life, where he sets out what kind of year each person will have. According to Jewish tradition, the book is finally sealed at Yom Kippur. One of the synagogue rituals for Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the Shofar, a ram's horn trumpet. A hundred notes are sounded in a special rhythm.

Roast Fish with Chermoula Sauce, serves 6 or more

For the New Year a fish is served with the head left on so that "Jews would be at the head rather than the tail" or, according to some, "so that they may be ahead with good deeds and serve as a model of goodness".

Red snapper is used here but other Mediterranean fish such as sea bream and hake may be used instead. The spicy marinade is the allpurpose Moroccan sauce for fish.

3kg (7lb) red snapper, scaled and cleaned

For the sauce:

1 large bunch fresh
coriander (weighing about
5oz with the stems on),
stems removed
5 garlic cloves, crushed
1.5 tsp cumin
1.5 tsp paprika
¼ tsp chilli powder, or
more to taste

125ml (4 fl oz) groundnut or a mild-tasting extra virgin olive oil juice of 1 lemon



- 1. Preheat the oven to 190°C (Fan 170°C /Gas Mark 5). Place the fish in a large roasting tray and score the skin with 3 slashes on each side.
- 2. Blend all the sauce ingredients together in a food processor and pour half the quantity over and inside the dish. Leave for about half an hour turning the fish over once.
- 3. Bake for about 35 minutes or until the flesh turns opaque and begins to flake away from the bone when you cut into it with a pointed knife. Pour the remaining sauce all over the fish.
- 4. If you like a charred skin, preheat the grill and put the fish under it until it is lightly charred. Serve hot.

Honeyed challah

Traditional Jewish bread, often eaten at holiday times. The bread has a lovely sweetness with the added raisins and honey. Minimum fuss as it uses a bread maker to create the dough!

200ml Water75ml Honey75ml Sunflower oil1 Easy bake yeast sachet400g Very strong white bread150g RaisinsflourFor the egg wash1¼ tsp Sea salt1 Egg(s) (free range) (medium)

- Add ingredients for the dough to the bread maker in the order specified by your machine. Some may have a separate compartment for the raisin addition. Set to a basic dough programme.
- 2. Line a large baking tray with non-stick parchment. Tip out the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently just until all the air is knocked out.
- 3. Divide into three equal pieces before rolling out each piece into a sausage, approximately 23 cm long. Join the ends of each piece at the top and plait down until you reach the end. Tuck the ends under to finish and neaten. Transfer the plate to the baking tray and brush with the beaten egg.
- 4. Loosely cover with oiled clingfilm or a clean tea towel before leaving in a warm place to prove until risen and doubled in size. Preheat your oven to 200°C (180°C fan, gas mark 6).
- 5. Bake the bread for 25-30 minutes or until it sounds hollow when the base is tapped. Leave to cool or tuck into when still slightly warm if you can't wait! Best eaten fresh or within a few days.

The Stratford upon Avon Canal - Sunday 6th August 2017

A two-kingfisher day, with sparrowhawks thrown in and we were bickering at Kingswood Junction.

Water won't be told, she said, you never learn.

We settled to the first of nineteen locks.

It got between us with its own built frame;

its greening beams that spoke an older argument, the slow negotiations of meadowsweet and pondweed.

The ratchet sound of summer winding in;

the bargain between land and man and water

that earns the right to pass. A can'tbe-hurried

spill of rising inches in the filling chamber,

a measured fall through moss and diesel smoke.

We did not speak until the aqueduct where,

running out of land, the navvies simply kept on cutting through the sky.

Carry me, the channel says: the bridegroom engineer must find a way. They never learned to disbelieve.

Water won't be told, but give it bones and it will take the shape you train it to.

That iron rib, grown out across the cavity of air and traffic took us over, laughing. We made our reckoning and moved on slow as marriage, slow as decades

through a day of gentle sweat, a two-kingfisher day.

Jo Bell -Channelled

It was with anticipation and some slight trepidation that I contemplated what I had let myself in for. It was 8:00 am and Christine (bless her) had just dropped me off at the Lifford Road bridge on the outskirts of Birmingham; this being bridge No. 1 on the Stratford canal. My objective to walk along the canal to Stratford a further 68 bridges, 56 locks and 26 miles away.

The day was cool and bright, ideal walking weather, with the trees casting their green shade over the water and all was quiet except for the occasional jogger. First point of interest was the guillotine stop lock with a gate either side of the bridge while the first challenge was the Brandwood tunnel, 350yards long and no towpath, necessitating a detour through the streets above. Having regained the waterway,

despite lack of signage, the walking became easier, although the wide, metalled towpath is an obvious attraction for cyclists. As the canal winds through the suburbs the gardens come down to the water; the houses the gardens and the occasional boat attached to private moorings becoming grander with every mile.



Past Yardley Wood suburbia gives way to open countryside with narrow boats moored at intervals along the bank. The occasional boat shows signs of life with breakfast being partaken (no offers of a cuppa!) but most appear to be unoccupied. Soon I have reached Majors Green aqueduct, time for a drink and a snack. The canal wends its way, past a lift bridge and on to Dickens Heath, once a village but now a major (upmarket) housing development. At one point a grand flight of steps, with water cascading down the centre and flanked by luxury apartments, ascends to the "village" centre, unseen above. But - and here's the thing - there was no one about, no

obvious sign of life, as if this was all some futuristic monument to a vanished community.

It is a measure of how flat the walk has been thus far (I'm not completely stupid) that there are no conventional locks until the canal reaches Lapworth, 11 miles from the start; just the Lapworth Flight to negotiate and I can have lunch. Fortunately it is rather easier and much quicker when walking, than by boat. Now I am not a Narrow Boat man but I estimate that it must take the best part of a day to navigate the locks between Lapworth and the junction with the Grand Union canal at Kingswood.

Having availed myself of the, euphemistically named, welfare services at the Boot Inn, I settle down on a bench by the water to eat sandwiches and various sweetmeats. However, I have arranged to meet up with Bob (Cooke) at Lowsonford at 1:30, so I cannot linger.

The junction with the Grand Union marks the halfway point, so metaphorically and literally it should be all downhill from here, as I descend to Stratford.

Bob is waiting for me at our rendezvous as I arrive, only 10 minutes late, and walks with me beyond Preston Bagot before returning to Lowsonford and his transport home. This is a very interesting stretch of the canal with many "split bridges" (so called because the towing rope could be slipped through the gap while still attached to both boat and horse) and barrel-roofed lock cottages unique to this canal. There are two further aqueducts at Wootton Wawen and Bearley, the latter being the major engineering feature of the canal, an iron trough some 160 yards in length supported on 13 brick piers. There is a tendency to regard this and indeed the canal construction itself as yet another example of Victorian engineering, but the canal was started in 1793 and completed in 1816 and all done by hand - amazing!!

I have to admit that I was very pleased to reach Stratford basin, my destination, shortly after 6 pm. With aching joints and bruised toes, the last 6 miles had been hard work. Did I enjoy the experience? absolutely. Unfortunately I didn't see any Kingfishers, but it was definitely a "two-kingfisher day".

My thanks to Bob for taking the time, trouble and interest to share part of this experience.



Roderick I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint

John Butler

Do you love worshipping God? Would you like to help others worship on Sundays?

Can you read music? Can you hold a tune? Would you like to develop these skills?

Would you like to join a friendly group of all ages?

If the answer to these questions is "yes!" then....

St Mary Magdalene's Choir needs you!

We are looking for singers of all voice types and ages to join the choir and would love to welcome anyone who might be interested in having a go!

We rehearse on Tuesday nights— 6-6.30pm for choir children and 6.30-7.30pm for the full choir.

Please contact Abby Rhodes (07779 499640/ abigail.rhodes75@gmail.com) if you're interested in finding out more or having a go at a Tuesday rehearsal.

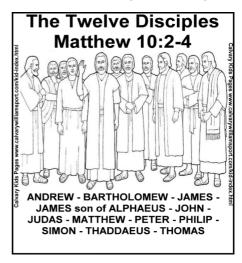
We'd love to sing with you!

Friendship

When we return to school at the end of our summer break, one of the things we look forward to most is seeing our friends again.

Jesus and his disciples were true friends. They were loyal

and forgave each other's faults. They supported and encouraged each other and listened carefully whenever Jesus talked to them. Jesus led by example and he wanted his friends to do the same, so that others would follow his example too. Jesus' disciples were his closest friends. Jesus told his disciples to 'become fishers of men' and that is what they did.



By setting a good example to our friends, we are behaving as Jesus wants us to.



Make a Fishing Game

You will need:

Scissors, 6 metal paper clips, a pencil, and an A4 piece of card

- 2 small magnets
- 2 pieces of string (approximately 12cm each)
- 2 wooden sticks (approximately 15cm each)

Instructions:

Cut out the fish template and draw 6 fishes on the piece of card.

Cut out and decorate each fish and attach a metal paper clip to the end of each one.

For the fishing rods, attach the small magnet to the piece of string and tie the string onto the edge of the wooden stick. Make two of these fishing rods.

Spread the fish out and see how many you and your friend can pick up one minute.





"Love Lillington" have now been up and running since February 2016 and we are pleased to say we are busy! We are having a great summer helping those in our community who need support. The paint brushes, paint pots, ladders and laughter have been much in evidence! Curtain rails are going up and carpets going down. Please do get in touch if we can help you with any aspect of our initiative.

Love Lillington Prayer Support Group continue to pray for the Lillington Community. If any of you know people who would benefit from confidential prayer in their lives right now please do contact Caroline Carr on:-pray4lillington@lillingtonparishchurch.org or via our Church Office: 01926 470449 - email: lillingtonparishchurch@gmail.com

Love Lillington Grants – We continue to support people and families in need through our re-branded fund. Since the beginning of the new initiative we are pleased to report that we are helping an increasing number of individuals and families. Through generous donations received we are able to give much more to those referred who live within the boundary of our Lillington parish. The trustees continue to receive a steady flow of enquiries. We always pay in full for what's needed and as much as we give away, God seems to give us back. Contact us on: grants4lillington@lillingtonparishchurch.org or via our Church Office: 01926 470449 - email: lillingtonparishchurch@gmail.com

Love Lillington Action – our small and enthusiastic team of volunteers are busy doing practical things to help people. Since we started up last year we have helped 14 or more individuals and families and on occasions made return visits to complete work. There has been a strong "pink" theme in the bedrooms we have painted over recent months, so it was great to be able to paint a blue and white room recently. One of the professionals we work with recently commented "Things have definitely improved and sometimes that starts with the physical environment. You have all been great!!"

Christine Butler

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If you want to see something here ... perhaps you would like to edit Crosstalk?

LOOKING AHEAD

Have you been away on holiday this year? Or perhaps you're planning to go away once the schools go back?

While you are away you may come up with an idea for decorating your tree for this year's Christmas Tree Festival, as happened with at least one of last year's trees.

You may think this is much too early to be thinking about Christmas. So do I, but if we are to have anything like the splendid show you put on last year, a little forward thinking would not go amiss.



Further information is on its way, but in the meantime just bear in mind that this will be another fantastic opportunity to demonstrate your faith, your skills and your imagination and to be part of one of Lillington Church's special events.

Wendy and Charlotte

OCTOTOTS

Meets term time from 10.30am - noon.

September terms starts on Thursday 7 September

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



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

We start with tea or coffee at 10.30 am and finish by 12.00 pm. The dates we are meeting are listed overleaf. Just pop along, or contact the church office to find out more.

COULD THIS BE THE LAST EDITION OF CROSSTALK?

Crosstalk needs a new Editor – could this be you?

Perhaps ...

- reduce the responsibility a small team of people would like to take this on - each with their own role, such as Advertising, finding articles, reminding regular contributors, compiling the magazine.
- reduce the frequency every other month
- reduce the workload 2 editors doing alternate months
- reduce the size –
 less articles to find

However it is done, if we do not have a solution by mid-September Crosstalk will cease to exist.

If you would like to keep the magazine going please contact Carol Innes, Churchwarden, on 07758 857740 or email Carol.Innes1@gmail.com

Deadline for October issue is 13th September



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