

The Link

COUGHTON with SAMBOURNE PARISH NEWS



**Alcester Minster Churches at Alcester,
Arrow, Coughton, Great Alne, Haselor,
Kinwarton, Sambourne and Weethley**

SEPTEMBER 2021

RECTOR of ALCESTER MINSTER The Reverend Katie Cross

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COUGHTON WITH SAMBOURNE CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Wardens Gail Laband **t:01789 764736** gail@laband.uk

Mike Thake **t:07966 314828** mike@thake.biz

PCC Secretary

Vacancy - Please contact Gail Laband to apply if you are interested in working for the PCC

Treasurer

John McTavish **t: 01789 764703** jhmctavish@btinternet.com

Coughton Flowers Co-ordinator

Joy Hawthorne **t:01789 764577** joyandjimhomestall@btinternet.com

Please contact if wishing to make own flower arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Sambourne Church Booking Agent

Debbie Lanz, **t: 07711 834716** debs.doo@gmail.com

Family and Children Worker

Beth Clarke **t: 07494 329638** beth.clarke@covLEC.org

GIFT AID

Whenever possible, please gift aid any donations made to our churches. Charitable causes can reclaim an extra 25p in the £1 from the government on donations made under the Gift Aid Scheme. The giver must have paid a tax amount that at least equals the tax being reclaimed on the donation. Please contact the treasurer.

Items of news for **"The Link"** by the **FOURTEENTH** of the month to:

Gail Smith gailsmith@aol.com **t: 07449 930480**

Whilst the Editor welcomes material for publication in **"The Link"**, they do not guarantee that items submitted will be included or will appear in a particular issue. The Editor reserves the right to edit or shorten items used. Publication is in good faith and does not imply accuracy of content or agreement with views expressed

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CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE COST OF PRODUCTION ARE VERY WELCOME.*

I HATE gardening!

So, moving to Alcester with our small walled garden has been a delight compared to the giant jungle we had at the previous Rectory. However, the previous occupants were gifted gardeners and I have actually enjoyed discovering what is going to emerge next out of the borders so lovingly prepared and manicured over numerous years. However, I feel completely inadequate and unprepared to take over the care and husbandry of the garden, compared to our predecessors. It doesn't help that as I remember growing up, my parents had amazing, manicured borders, full of colour and vitality. In comparison to all these people, I feel a failure. Why should I even bother?



Being a follower of The Way, a disciple of Jesus, has always been this way. How can you possibly compare yourself to someone who turned enormous vats of water into the finest wine, fed thousands with a packed lunch and walked on big waves to get to his friends? Who can measure up to The human who had compassion for all the irreligious, broken, hurting people that society walked past or actively hurt? Who has the self-control and discipline to spend so much time without food and communing with God, or to stand up to the authorities who are abusing their power over the people?

Well, thank goodness as a Christian I don't have to. I don't need to compare myself with the more gifted, the more experienced, the more Holy, the more faithful. If you find that hard to believe just read about the first followers of Jesus in the accounts of his life. They were a rag tag bunch of all social classes and temperament. Hot tempered, vain, argumentative, and excitable are the immediate words that spring to mind thinking about Peter and his brother Andrew, James and John. We all know people like that and can probably identify with some of those characteristics. Yet these were the people Jesus sought out to learn from him and to share the faith they developed. He asked them to do what they could, starting with baby steps, and to trust that Jesus would help them do more.

So, just like me and my journey starting to become a gardener, Jesus asks those who follow him and his teachings to do what they can, starting with baby steps, and to trust He will help them do more. Like learning to sow seeds or to plant cuttings, we are instructed "And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way." (1 Peter 3: 15-16). Sowing the seeds of faith by sharing our own experience of following Jesus.



So, wish me luck as I am learning what is a weed, a plant, a bush or a poisonous growth from seeds dropped by birds! And I will pray for you to have an opportunity to tell someone who Jesus is to you.

Paul Cross

A Message from Pat Newbold

Hello everybody.



I am writing this two days after the Taliban has finally taken over the whole of Afghanistan, and watching all the scenes of the distress and fear of the ordinary people of that war weary land.

It seems wherever we look in the world there are not only natural disasters, but turmoil and fear, and the hatred, physical and verbal violence and killing, of man's inhumanity to man. It seems we cannot disagree without wanting to destroy each other. Yet Jesus said that to feel hatred or to harbour vengeful thoughts is tantamount to murder, and as we judge others, so we shall be judged. Wow, that sounds a bit drastic - but how many of us can say we have never done it! But as a fully paid up and much sinful follower of Jesus Christ, I thank God that as we admit it and turn away from it, He forgives us and restores our peace.

As in most wars, many innocent people can become injured in the crossfire. As I was praying for all the hurting people, I had a picture of broken stones, some crushed quite badly, and Jesus scrabbling around on his knees, picking up the stones one by one, finding the pieces and glueing each one together with his gentle love, so that they shone with the beautiful light of hope. He wept for those who gloried so much in their wounds that they refused his gift of peace. They need our special prayers.

I do pray that in God's good time - soon, please Lord! - we shall be able to move on together, with a new integrity and care, and as we do so, to shine a light of peace and love - and joy, that amazes and inspires us all! I think there are signs of it already!

By the time you read this, restoration may be well under way, but If you are still hurting and would like to talk about it or pray about it in confidence, do give me a ring, but meanwhile perhaps we could all pray with St Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope

Where there is darkness, light,

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,

not so much to be understood as to understand,

not so much to be loved, as to love,

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we wake to eternal life.

Pat N



Alcester Minster Church Services – September 2021

Wednesday 01 Sept 05 Sept	10.00 am	Midweek Holy Communion	Alcester
	Readings: James 2 v 1 – 10 [11-13] & 14 – 17; Mark 7 v 24 – 37		
Trinity 14 Green	9.00 am	Family Service	Haselor
	11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Alcester
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Alne
	4.00 pm	Holy Communion	Sambourne
Wednesday 08 Sept 12 Sept	10.00 am	Midweek Holy Communion	Alcester
	Readings: James 3 v 1 – 12; Mark 8 v 27 – 38		
Trinity 15 Green	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Arrow
	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Alcester
	3.00 pm	Baptism Preparation	Alcester
Wednesday 15 Sept 19 Sept	10.00 am	Midweek Holy Communion	Alcester
	Readings: James 3 v 13 – 4 v 3 & 7 – 8a; Mark 9 v 30 – 37		
Trinity 16 Green	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Haselor
	9.00 am	Harvest Service	Weethley
	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Alcester
	11.00 am	Harvest Service	Coughton
	3.00 pm	Baptism service	Alcester
Wednesday 22 Sept Saturday 25 Sept	10.00 am	Midweek Holy Communion	Alcester
	10.30 am – 1.00pm	Fun and Chat	Great Alne & Kinwarton Memorial Hall
26 Sept	Readings: James 5 v 13 – 20; Mark 9 v 38 – 50		
Trinity 17 Green	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP	Alcester
	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Kinwarton
	11.00 am	Civic Service	Alcester
Wednesday 29 Sept <i>*Please note:</i>	10.00 am	Midweek Holy Communion	Alcester
Each Wednesday	10.00 am	Midweek Holy Communion	Alcester

An On-line service is available every Sunday on the Welcome page

MINSTER EVENTS

**For the most up-to-date information on Minster Events
please see the website calendar on the noticeboard page on
the website – www.alcesterminster.org or check out the
weekly notice sheets available in the churches**

Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester
Minster on facebook?



Find details and pictures of events at

www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster



Alcester Minster Churches at Alcester,
Arrow, Coughton, Great Alne, Haselor,
Kinwarton, Sambourne and Weethley

Passion for Pilates'

Passion for Pilates' was born out of a love, and 12 years of practicing Pilates! Classes (suitable for all levels) are taught by qualified Pilates Instructor Leigh Walton, and are held at: Astwood Bank Club, Dark Lane, B96 6AS, on Tuesday evenings at 6pm and 7pm Studley Parish Centre, Old Vicarage Gardens, B80 7SG, on Wednesday mornings at 11am Limited places are available, so please call, email or text for more information - or to book. £26 per month gives you access to as many classes as you wish to attend! 07968 111248 email: leigh@leighwalton.com



Prayer

Please pray
for the following topics:



1. *Father God, we pray that your abiding love will overcome all differences and that you will send peacemakers to reconcile people caught in the midst of hatred and conflict who are suffering today.*
2. *Lord, help us to live peacefully with others and bring love and reconciliation into our communities. May we emulate the example of Jesus who brings forgiveness and hope to broken and hurting people.*



Lateral Flow Antigen Testing If you are taking part in church related activities with regular contact with the public, such as helping with the food bank etc. and do not have any COVID symptoms, you are encouraged to access weekly Lateral Flow Testing. This is a very quick process with quick results. You would need to pre-book a test. Find out more by following the link:
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidcommunitytesting>
there is a centre in Stratford-upon-Avon.





Sambourne Village Association Present....

Sambourne Freedom Festival. Saturday September 11th. In the Green Dragon Pub Garden. 4.15pm Carolina Reapers 6pm Fishheads 7.45pm Completely Covered Many of Sambourne's own musicians and singers (Carolina Reapers and Completely Covered) and the fabulous 2019 Minifest support band (Fishheads) A free event (but ticket controlled) to get people together again after a long drought of entertainment Leaflets will be coming through your doors soon with details of how to book you free ticket. More information on the food situation to follow.

Justin Kerridge

Sambourne Village Association Events Dates for diaries

2021

11 September - Freedom Festival

12 September - Picnic on the Green

23 October - Music Quiz

November - Quiz Night

5 December - kids party and Christmas lights switch on
(Provisional)

2022

January Burns Night

Contact Wayne Bates or Justin Kerridge on Facebook S&MM for more information

Keep Fit Adele has been very gentle and it's such fun (honest!) If you would like to join us it's £5 per session and is at 1.30 pm on Wednesdays do give Pat Newbold a ring on **01527 458852** to check availability.



Nature jottings from Perrymill Lane

The weather has continued to be rather mixed, but there have been enough sunny days to ensure that plenty of butterflies have been on the wing.

19th July. A pristine Comma butterfly visited our garden.

23rd July. A sunny day with many butterflies in the garden. These included Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks, Meadow Browns. Gatekeepers and freshly emerged Brimstone.

25th July. I read that Greenfinch numbers have fallen significantly in recent years, so it was pleasing to see at least eight queueing for access to sunflower seeds early in the day.

27th July. Our neighbour witnessed a confrontation between a Magpie and a Green Woodpecker in his garden. He has also seen the first Hedgehog in the garden for several years.



1st Aug. Buzzards were very noisy in the field behind us. I gather that at this time of year parents are trying to persuade juveniles to move on, so that could be the cause.

4th Aug. Three Wrens spent a long time exploring the pot plants on our patio. One seemed to be begging for food, so presumably it was a family party.

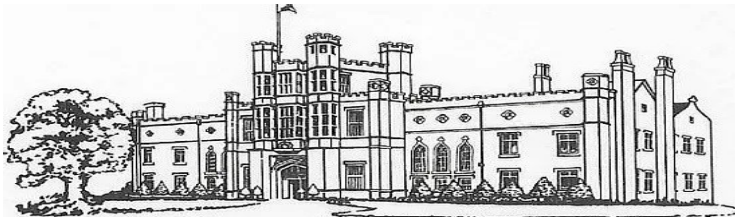
Buddleia bushes are now well in flower and today have attracted good numbers of Peacocks and Red Admirals. Several Gatekeepers were feeding on marjoram and solidago flowers.

7th Aug. A large party of Greenfinches were back to feed on sunflower seeds, and bird numbers were augmented by Blue & Great Tits, Chaffinches and Goldfinches. Unfortunately, the number of small birds attracted the attention of a Sparrowhawk, although we didn't see which species it caught. At least it flew off with its meal so that we were spared the sight of it plucking and consuming its prey.

9th Aug. We had our first walk through the woods for a couple of weeks and noticed a few Silver-washed Fritillaries and some rather worn looking Speckled Woods. The warblers have at last fallen silent as the breeding season has ended.

Phil J (12th August)





Enjoy the autumn months at Coughton

As the cooler months start to take hold the incredible sight of trees and foliage ripening into the rich colours of autumn is one of the joys of the season. Come and enjoy the radiant reds and breath-taking bronzes sweeping across Warwickshire and enjoy the peace and quiet in our gardens and parkland, there's lots to discover at Coughton Court this autumn.

September is the perfect time to come and see the bountiful apple trees in the orchard and autumn colour starting to spread throughout the gardens.

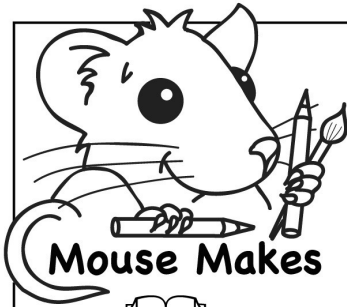
There are two orchards here at Coughton on either side of the vegetable garden which are comparatively young but contain lots of old varieties. The hedge on one side of the vegetable garden consists of apple trees being trained into a diamond formation. This is not a quick process as the trees have to be trained as they grow and then the major branches fuse together where they cross to maintain the formation when the training canes are removed.

While you meander through the orchard see if you can identify the pear, quince, plum, gage, medlar, damson, cherry, nut and of course apples trees. There are 78 apple trees, 17 plum trees and a smaller number of the other types.

There are also lots of flowers out in the garden during the autumn months. We are well known for our roses but there are also dahlias, phlox and many more. Enjoy them before the frosts take them away. One of our gardeners' favourite roses is 'Little White Pet' which you can see in the borders as you approach the courtyard. It has a second flowering period during the autumn which sometimes lasts well into October.

For more details call Coughton Court on 01789 400777
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coughton-court

Junior Link



Read this story in
1 Kings 17:7-16

The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months,
there was a drought in the land.

God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the
town of Zarephath. At the town gate he
saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water
and some bread." he asked her.

She answered "All I have is a handful of
flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."

"Do not worry." Elijah said,
"Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never
ran out of oil until it rained again!

.....

E	M	P	T	Y	Z	B	A	K	E	D
M	I	W	C	H	A	N	D	F	U	L
F	L	A	I	L	R	B	R	E	A	D
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.....

Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY



COUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our meetings are held at Coughton Primary School and our next meeting is on Monday 27th September at 6.30pm.

We would love you to join us!

Our website includes the following information and more:

Councillors Info, Meeting Dates, Agendas, Minutes, Events, News & Information and a Planning Tracker.

Please sign up for email alerts at www.coughtonparishcouncil.co.uk

For PC information, please contact our Clerk:

Sarah Whittaker coughtonclerk@gmail.com

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A COUNCILLOR? WE HAVE A VACANCY.

Coughton & Sambourne 100 Club

The August draw for £100 produced a new name to be added to the list of winners – Marie Symonds from Kings Coughton. Marie is the wife of Rev. Jim who we know will ensure that she squanders the winnings wisely.

This month's draw for £100 will again be made at Sambourne Church on Sunday 5th September at 5.00pm.

As the 100 Club has just entered its 12th year the organisers wish to thank all our members for their continued support in assisting in the maintenance of the churches in both villages and especially during this covid pandemic. The Club now has 82 members and the organisers would love to see a full complement if possible. Please contact Peter Laband (01527 893879) or John McTavish (01789 764703) if you would like to join the fun each month. Its only £5 per month.

Sambourne Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 19:45 on Monday

September 20th in the Parish Room.

Parish Clerk, Teresa Murphy: clerk.sambournepc@aol.com

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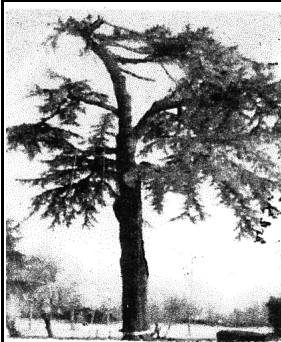
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