

The Link

COUGHTON with SAMBOURNE PARISH NEWS



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

APRIL 2020

RECTOR of ALCESTER MINSTER: Vacancy. Please contact the Administrator
(wef: 19th April 2020)

Administrator

Tricia Berry **t: 01789 509278 m: 07840 284 294**

(Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 1.30 pm)

Alcester Minster Office, Church House, 17 Butter Street, Alcester, B49 5AL (opening hours 10.30 - 12.30 Monday - Friday)

administrator@alcesterminster.org

Reader

Mrs P Newbold **t: 01527 458852** the_newbolds@blueyonder.co.uk

COUGHTON WITH SAMBOURNE CHURCH OFFICERS

PCC Secretary

Mrs Sue Swinbourne **t: 01527 457357** sueswinbourne@virginmedia.com

Treasurer

John McTavish, Knockmore, Sambourne Lane, Coughton, Warks B49 5HS

t: 01789 764703

Coughton Flowers Co-ordinator

Mrs P Sreeves, 41 Coughton Hill, Coughton, Warks. B49 5HX

t: 01789 762378 pmsreeves@aol.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.

A Letter from Rev. Adrian Guthrie

Dear Friends,

This is the second letter I have written for the April magazine as the first one didn't seem relevant any longer following the government and Church of England instructions in relation to the Coronavirus.

We find ourselves in a very difficult and unprecedented situation in much of the world, but with the possibility that it could bring us all closer together at a time when we are required to keep our distance from one another. We may not be able to meet together either in churches or in other places for a period of time, but through prayer and serving one another in new ways, we can draw closer to God and one another.

The Alcester Minster Church website will include links to helpful material to help our prayer life and other information, and so will our Facebook page and Twitter account. However, we plan to also provide communications in a paper form for those who are not internet users. This extended period of isolation might cause some people to feel lonely, so please ring one of the Ministry Leadership Team if you are anxious about anything or simply want to have a chat, or would like one of them to pray with you. The numbers are included on page 4 under Church Services

We also aware that there will be some people in our community who will not be able to earn a living during this period of shut-down and may find themselves without food for themselves or their family. The Arden Food Bank aims to be open as normal on Tuesdays and Fridays – please consult the website for details - arden.foodbank.org.uk.

Even though public worship is suspended for the time being, most of the churches of the minster will be open during the day for individual prayer, and I plan to circulate around the churches during this period to pray for world, country, parish and individual needs so that a rhythm of prayer is maintained in our churches and communities. We aim to leave some aids for prayer and other helpful resources and activities to help us continue to engage with God, and keep our faith and hope in him alive during these testing times.

Although we won't be able to remember Jesus' death or celebrate his resurrection in public worship this year, they remain the basis of our faith. Receiving Jesus' death on the cross personally as the only way our self-centredness can be forgiven, our consciences cleansed and a relationship with God redeemed, turns a very dark day into 'Good Friday'. And when Jesus rose again, he gave us the opportunity to turn the only certainty in our life (our death) from a negative to a positive – death can be transformed into eternal life as a result of Jesus' victory over the grave. 'Thine be the glory, risen conquering son!'

With every blessing,

Adrian

Alcester Minster Church Services – April 2020

Covid-19 Coronavirus

As requested by Health England and on recommendations by the UK Government, all our Church Services are cancelled until further notice. if you are anxious about anything or simply want to have a chat, or would like one of our Ministry Leadership team to pray with you please do not hesitate to call anyone on the following list:

Adrian Guthrie – 01789 764261

Sue Henwood – 01789 488344

Julian Davey – 01789 764640

Pat Newbold – 01527 458852

Gill Laughlin – 01789 778539

The BBC has announced it is launching a virtual church service on Sundays amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The virtual church service will take place on Sunday mornings across local radio in England, initially led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

The BBC will also aim to broadcast a weekly Sunday morning church service on BBC One, but this will be subject to outside broadcast capacity.

MINSTER EVENTS

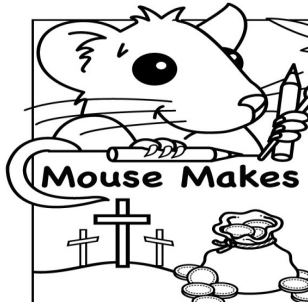
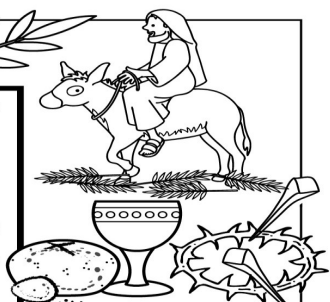
For the most up-to-date information on Minster Events please see the website calendar on the noticeboard page on the website – www.alcesterminster.org or check out the weekly notice sheets available in the churches


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



Find details and pictures of events at
www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Junior Link



Mouse Makes

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D O N K E Y S B
F S C I A S C O A
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A N S E G E T A
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GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL
BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

Announcements

Baptisms

There were no baptisms in the parish in this period

Weddings

There were no weddings in the parish in this period

Funerals

St Peter's, Coughton on 04 March Malcolm Butler

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals from 15 January to 14 February 2019

Here are 2 posters that may be of use, during the Coronavirus if you know anyone locally who needs support. Please act with kindness and sensitivity during this time.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

☐ Picking up shopping

☐ Posting mail

☐ A friendly phone call

☐ Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

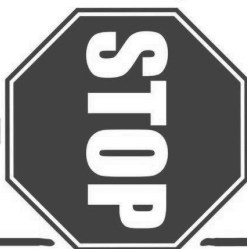
Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

#ViralKindness

SOMEONE IN THIS HOUSE HAS A WEAK IMMUNE SYSTEM

People with weak immune systems are more likely to catch Coronavirus (COVID-19), and more likely to suffer life-threatening complications if they become ill with it.

Because of this, we are self-isolating and/or practicing social distancing as a preventative measure.



IF WE DO NOT
ANSWER THE DOOR
PLEASE LEAVE
DELIVERIES



Nature jottings from Perrymill Lane

The frequent and heavy rain this month have made the field footpaths so muddy that we've limited our walks to the lanes. However, wildlife continues to be active in the garden and hedgerows and the following sightings were recorded.

14th Feb. My attention was attracted by feathers floating down from an oak tree in our neighbours' garden. When viewed through binoculars the source seemed to be a Carrion Crow plucking and eating a Wood Pigeon in the tree.

21st Feb. We had a prolonged view of a Sparrowhawk sitting on our garden fence and were able to appreciate its lovely markings. Later, on a walk along Wike Lane, we saw a large mixed flock of Siskins and Lesser Redpolls feeding in the beech and larch trees.

26th Feb. A Little Owl could be heard calling across the field behind our house. Today I learned that the first Avocets of the year have arrived at Upton Warren.

29th Feb. As we drove just south of the Bidford Gliding Club we were please to see two kestrels hovering.

1st March. Phil was please to report sightings from his early morning run along Middletown Lane. These included long-tailed Tits, Buzzards and deer.

2nd March. We noticed a large flock of Fieldfares, Redwings and Starlings in Wike Lane. A Little Owl was again calling close to the house.

2nd March. Peter reported several sightings in and around his Middletown Lane garden including a Bullfinch, Muntjacs, Tawny Owls and a Fox.

3rd March. I was surprised to see a pair of Mallards waddling past the end of our rear garden – an indication of the amount of surface water around.

7th March. In a rare spell of pleasant weather, we took a 9:30am walk along Wike Lane and were entertained by bird song delivered by Song Thrushes, Chaffinches, Robins, Blackbirds and Great Tits. Wild garlic was growing well in the verges.

On a drive to Hampshire we saw more Red Kites than we've ever seen before on this journey, the first ones noted soon after Stow on the Wold with more in Oxfordshire. I'm used to seeing large numbers where the M40 crosses the Chilterns, but they seem to be spreading their range.

9th March. A flock of 100+ Fieldfares, Redwings and Starlings was moving between the grass and the trees, performing a "mini murmuration" in the Phil J 01527 892043 (12th March)

SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Volunteers are needed to help with Community Speedwatch. This will involve occasional sessions lasting about an hour. Anyone interested should contact any member of the Parish Council or the Parish Clerk

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 11th May at 7:15 p.m. in Sambourne Church Hall. Please note the earlier start time as we have three separate meetings including the Annual Meeting on this occasion

SAMBOURNE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Dates for your diary:

April 24th – Coughton V Sambourne Skittles Night. **CANCELLED**

June 7th - Shakespeare on the Green. This is the best free event in the entire county!

June 26th to 28th Sambourne Festival

September (date to be determined) Teddy Bear's Picnic

September (date to be determined) Tug of War & sports etc.

Kindly note—Due to Covid-19 Coronavirus, events are likely to change at short notice. We apologise for any inconvenience

For any other information please telephone 01527 893816

COUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING: applications from organisations or individuals welcome: see the website or contact Clerk for details.

For details of Parish Council meetings please see the Parish Council Website or contact the Clerk:

Kerry Finlayson 07970 842763 or clerk@coughtonpc.org.uk

For Parish information, CPC meeting agendas & minutes, please visit: www.coughtonpc.org.uk

Spring has arrived at Coughton Court... National Trust

There's lots to see and do at Coughton this spring whether you're visiting for the first time or pop in often, whether you're here for a short visit or to spend the whole day. Here are a few suggestions to help you make the most of your visit.

Whether it's 600 years of history in the house, tales of the infamous Gunpowder Plot, beautiful displays of spring flowers in the award-winning gardens or countryside walks around the ancient bluebell wood, there's plenty to explore and fill your day with. Coughton is very much a family home with an intimate feel and the Throckmorton family still live here today. Our 2020 exhibition, *Secret & Sacred*, highlights the Throckmorton's Catholic faith and helps us to understand the experiences of those persecuted for their religion.

The Throckmorton family created and continues to manage the spectacular award-winning gardens here at Coughton Court. There is something for everyone to enjoy throughout the seasons and highlights include the roses in the walled garden, daffodils around the lake and the plentiful vegetable garden, orchard and bog garden. Travel a little further over to Timms Grove and you'll find our beautiful bluebell wood, covered in a thick carpet of bluebells from late April.

Spring has arrived and there are lots of things in the house and garden for families to enjoy, as well as family fun events in the school holidays. The Throckmorton family spent long days relaxing by the river, playing garden games and spending quality time together and we'd love you and your family to follow in their footsteps.

Don't miss a fantastic opportunity to create your own piece of embroidery inspired by the beautiful cope, stitched by Catherine of Aragon on our first Embroidery Workshop, Thursday 23 April. Previous experience would be helpful, and tea & coffee is included. £25 per person, for more details and to book please visit our website.

We hope to see you and whole family this spring, don't forget we're

Abi

For full opening days & more information please visit:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coughtoncourt or call 01789 400777

Follow us on Twitter @NTCoughton or 'Like' us at [www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/NTCoughton)

***Please note—Due to Covid-19 Coronavirus, this information may be out of date. For updates and opening times, please see the contact details above**

CHURCH CLEANING & FLOWERS – APRIL 2020

DATE

COUGHTON

SAMBOURNE

April 4th & 11th

Mrs Sreeves, Margaret & Sue

Mrs Shaw

April 18th & 25th

Mrs Feast



Will all flower arrangers please liaise with flower coordinators.

****Due to Covid-19 Coronavirus, details may change—please check with Ministry Leadership Team****

THANK YOU!



Volunteers have come forward to take over the round from Pat and Geoff Sreeves .

Both Pat and Geoff would like to thank them for their kindness at taking on this role



Coughton & Sambourne 100 Club

The March winner of £100 was Jo Gladstone now living in Stratford. Jo, a previous winner in 2011, is a former resident of Coughton who has continued supporting us from when we started in 2010. Congratulations Jo!!

As promised, the prize money is being increased and the April Jackpot draw will be for £450. This draw will be made at Coughton on Sunday 5th at 10.30am.

The Organisers would welcome new members and by joining you would not only be helping to maintain the churches in both Sambourne and Coughton but also have every chance of winning a cash prize each month. You should contact Peter Laband (01527 893879) or John McTavish (01789 764703) to be included in the monthly bit of fun.



Well, our beefburger lunch at Sambourne went very well and raised £72 for Church funds.

There will not be another **lunch until May 12th**, when it will be Home made **Pizzas and fruity meringues** – donations to the Farming Community Network. The FCN do so much to support our farmers financially and emotionally, with the damage and financial insecurity caused by floods and climate change, the uncertainty of Brexit, and the mental strain that they constantly face.

We are very sorry but everything has been cancelled due to the Corona virus, please do not hesitate contact myself
Pat N



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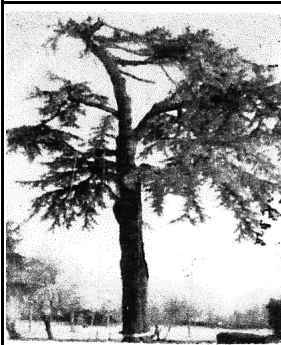
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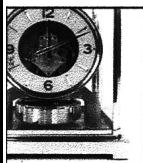
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