

# The Link

**COUGHTON with SAMBOURNE PARISH NEWS**



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

**AUGUST 2020**

**RECTOR of ALCESTER MINSTER: Vacancy. Please contact the Administrator**  
**(wef: 10th August 2020)**

**t: 01789 764261** rector@alcesterminster.org

**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

I have heard many people (including myself) say: 'It was easier going into lockdown, than coming out!' That said, it's great that Sambourne Church is now open for private prayer for two hours on Saturdays and Wednesdays 10-12 noon. We trust that you will find comfort from spending a few moments in the unchanging presence of God at this time of change and turmoil.

We are also gearing up to hold a service of worship in Coughton Church at 10 am on 2 August as part of Minster Churches coming out of lockdown. Needless to say that opening the churches for either private prayer or for public worship requires doing an extensive risk assessment and thinking through all our procedures to make sure everything is COVID secure. So spaces for worshippers will be quite limited on 2 August in order to observe 2m social distancing, so you will need to register with Tricia Berry, the Alcester Minster Administrator, ([administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org) 01789 763246) by noon on the Friday before the service you would like to attend. 'Book early to avoid disappointment!' We will be continuing to offer an online service each week and resources for children and families which can be accessed from the Welcome page of [alcesterminster.org](http://alcesterminster.org).

The other expression currently used a lot is 'new normal' when referring to how life will be in post-lockdown until a vaccine is found or COVID-19 is eradicated. How you are feeling about the new normal prospect? I am wondering if it is right to expect normal to remain the same anyway? It seems to me that God is always working in the world and in our lives to renew us, and things. Take the natural world for example – God ordained much of it to go through an annual cycle of renewal. God offers human beings new life through faith in Jesus Christ, so that we can be forgiven for our mistakes, and have our relationship with God renewed, and have a fresh start to live in a new way. In one of his letters, the Apostle Paul speaks of Christians being transformed from one degree of glory to another – the Christian life is a journey where God works in our lives to change us to become a little bit more like Jesus each day. And in the last book of the Bible, we read of God saying 'I am making everything new.'

So it seems that the normal life God intends us to live involves change, but often in such small increments that we don't notice that normal is changing! However, the 'new normal' that we face at the moment is a rapid gear change that very obviously is different from what we formerly knew. In these circumstances it is very good to anchor our lives to God who although being about renewal is changeless and unconditional in his love for us. God is rock solid in his love for each of us. Hannah, a women in the Bible who'd been through a difficult time, was able to say, 'There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.' (1 Samuel Chapter 2 verse2)

With my prayers as we ease out of lockdown and get used to the 'new normal'.

*Adrian*

## Alcester Minster Church Services – August 2020

For information regarding Church Services, call Tricia Berry, the Alcester Minster Administrator, ([administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org) 01789 763246) by noon on the Friday before the service you would like to attend. 'Book early to avoid disappointment!' The online service each week will still be offered and resources for children and families can be accessed from the Welcome page of [alcesterminster.org](http://alcesterminster.org).

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Molly Loach. Her funeral service was at Nuneaton Crematorium on 20<sup>th</sup> July, but the numbers of mourners were severely restricted, so her friends from the village were not able to go. If you would like to give a donation in memory of Molly, it will go to Sambourne Church, and Marjorie Feast at White Horses in Whitemoor Lane will be happy to receive it.



## Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to pray for the following topics:

1. *Pray for parents and children at the beginning of the school summer holidays after a very strange term, that they may have patience with each other and find imaginative and joyful ways to use their time together.*
2. *Pray for Beth, our Children and Families worker, as she prepares activity packs to give away during the holiday time. Pray that God may bless this way of sharing his love and joy.*

## 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](http://www.alcesterminster.org) or check out the weekly notice sheets available in the churches**

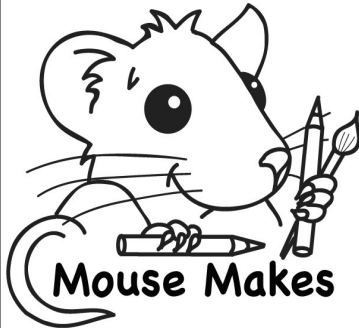
Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on facebook?



Find details and pictures of events at  
**[www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster](http://www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster)**



## Junior Link



The **PSALMS** are hymns of **PRAYER** and **PRAISE** to God.

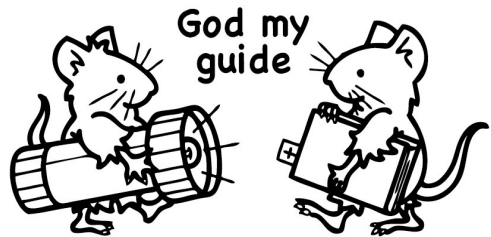
*"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will **thank you**: I will **praise you** for ever and ever."*

Psalm 145:1-2

### Glory to God



Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.



*"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105*

### God's World

*"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His."*

Psalm 24:1



### Praise the Lord!

*"Let everything that has breath, **praise the Lord**."*

Psalm 150:6



### Give thanks!

*"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will **praise** you. I will give You **thanks** as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."*

Psalm 63:3-4





# Studley Isolation Support Group update

May 2020 Edition 2

Now, more than ever, the community in our village are pulling together to support each other. The Studley Isolation Support Group supports all those who are isolated, alone, elderly or vulnerable. With Studley in Business and the Parish Council, we have built a core team of around 50 volunteers who carry out tasks on a daily basis. So far we have supported 165 households and undertaken over 1000 tasks. These range from shopping, prescription collection to dog walking and daily newspaper deliveries.

Nothing is too much trouble for our volunteers, and we actively encourage anyone who is having to isolate, with no close family close by to help them, to give us a call on **07933 093268** from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday.

If you have a neighbour you are concerned about then please ask them to call us. Our aim is for everyone who is vulnerable to stay safely at home. No one who should be isolating needs to do any shopping, our volunteers are shopping ninjas!

We will be here for as long as necessary, and alongside our day to day tasks we can arrange for someone to call you for a chat, drop off some books or jigsaws, post letters etc. We are here for you.

**If you need help the Contact Phone number is: 07933 093268  
Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm**

Please note that we operate a password system to protect you. Please do not open the door to anyone you don't know, unless they can tell you the password that YOU have chosen. There are scammers capitalising on the current situation, and we want everyone to stay safe. Always follow the Government's Social Distancing guidelines

We are still looking for volunteers, please contact us if you are willing to help..

Many volunteers are busy **sewing scrubs, bags, headbands and face-masks**. They are in need of new material (that can be washed at 60 deg), elastic & buttons about the size of a 2p. If you can help then please call the Isolation Support Group on 07933 093268.

**Arden Foodbank** is working hard to supply food parcels to our community. Anyone who is struggling can request a voucher. Parcels can be collected from the Methodist Church on Tuesday afternoons, or one of the Isolation Support Group Volunteers can collect and deliver it for you. To contact the foodbank please call 07733 551926. Food donations can be made via the collection box in the Co-Op, or by calling the Isolation Support Group on 07933 093268.

**Useful Contacts:** Samaritans 116123 24-hour helpline

Your mental health is important. For a listening ear in time of need, call Janet 07852 349361

Mental Health Matters 0800 616171, 24-hr helpline & webchat [www.mhm.org.uk/coven-try-warwickshire-helpline](http://www.mhm.org.uk/coven-try-warwickshire-helpline)

Arden Marches Churches - for help, someone to talk to, or a prayer request: Revd Kate Mier 01527 852830 [rector@ardenmarches.co.uk](mailto:rector@ardenmarches.co.uk)  
or Revd Dan Corlett 07543370637 [curate@ardenmarches.co.uk](mailto:curate@ardenmarches.co.uk)

# Local Businesses & Contacts Offering Services to the Community

The situation changes daily, so for up to date information please visit [www.enjoyablistudley.com](http://www.enjoyablistudley.com) and check out the Studley Isolation Support Group Facebook page for updates.

**Bespoke Butchers** FREE delivery over £25, or if you are over 65 no min. Tuesday-Friday. Ring 01527 852235 in the morning to check availability. Deliveries at the end of the day.

**Bruno's Bakery** min delivery £10, packed lunches also available for delivery. 01527 854652

**Mount Everest** for takeaways 6-8.30pm Sun-Thur & 5.30-9.30pm Fri & Sat 01527 850717

**Caney's Cider** deliveries. Contact: social media, website or email [canescider@gmail.com](mailto:canescider@gmail.com)

**Studley Fish Bar** for collection or delivery. Download their App or call 01527 852448  
Delivery of orders over £10 with a delivery fee of £1.75

The **Cantonese Chef** is open 01527 852021.

**Purity Brewing** free delivery over £40 [www.puritybrewing.com/online-shop](http://www.puritybrewing.com/online-shop)

**Seven Mile** Homemade frozen meals delivered on Weds & Fri. Phone Jake 07891 448749  
[jake@sevenmile.co.uk](mailto:jake@sevenmile.co.uk) See [www.sevenmile.co.uk](http://www.sevenmile.co.uk) & Facebook for menus

**Stephanie Evans** (Virtual MoneyPenny) for coordinating home deliveries if you're struggling  
07908 226633

**Fetch N Stretch** for dog walks for the elderly or key workers. Emily Smith 07713 057028

**Robert Pannifer** from Thomas Guise Solicitors for phone support 01527 912912

**Studley Florist** deliveries of fresh flowers for birthdays, celebrations, memorials or a cheer up gift. 01527 853509 Mon-Fri mornings [www.studleyflorists.co.uk](http://www.studleyflorists.co.uk) & Facebook/Insta

**Botany Bay Garden Centre** FREE delivery over £25 within 5 miles. 01527 893885

**Flutterby Heidi** Handmade cards with local delivery. [www.flutterbyheidi.co.uk](http://www.flutterbyheidi.co.uk) 07791 662348

**Happy Buffalo** personalised gifts, free local delivery [happy-buffalo.myshopify.com](http://happy-buffalo.myshopify.com) & FB

**Helping Hands** homecare services Katie 07792 172 604 [Katie.Woodhall@helpinghands.co.uk](mailto:Katie.Woodhall@helpinghands.co.uk)

**Alcester Home Care** homecare provider 01789 765468 [office@alcesterhomecareagency.co.uk](mailto:office@alcesterhomecareagency.co.uk)

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Ring the Police on 101 for suspicious activity. For a crime ring 999 & then tell Jim Bacon ([jimbacon@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jimbacon@blueyonder.co.uk)) so Jim can alert others.

Please email [info@enjoyablistudley.co.uk](mailto:info@enjoyablistudley.co.uk) if you are a local business & wish to be included online



[www.studleyinbusiness.co.uk](http://www.studleyinbusiness.co.uk)

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has helped to create, print and deliver this leaflet.

When you talk to your neighbours (from a safe distance), ask that they keep this leaflet close at hand, for help in the coming weeks. Not everyone has access to Social Media, and they may feel very isolated, particularly if they are poorly.



[www.enjoyablistudley.com](http://www.enjoyablistudley.com)

All information is correct at time of print.

## Nature jottings from Perrymill Lane July

These past four weeks have been greatly enhanced by the emergence of several species of butterfly to attract our attention and go some way towards making up for the gradual reduction in bird song.

14<sup>th</sup> June. As we walked a section of the Monarch's Way footpath to the south of Botany Bay nursery a Fox crossed the meadow and headed for cover.

15<sup>th</sup> June. We noticed three Skylarks together as we walked the footpath to Astwood Bank. On the Monarch's Way we saw our first Small Skipper butterfly and later, in Coughton Park woods, spotted a White Admiral and a Silver-washed Fritillary.

16<sup>th</sup> June. Chris reported a Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly on his Middletown Lane garden pond.



19<sup>th</sup> June. We spotted our first Ringlet butterfly in the woodland.

20<sup>th</sup> June. A Ringlet and a Red Admiral visited flowers in our garden.

21<sup>st</sup> June. Pete has had a Tawny Owl on his Middletown Lane garden fence each night for the past three weeks.

22<sup>nd</sup> June. Marbled White butterflies have appeared in the meadow beside the Monarch's Way and are particularly attracted to Knapweed flowers.



23<sup>rd</sup> Jun. The meadow now holds large numbers of Meadow Browns and Marbled Whites. The bramble flowers in the woodland were attracting Ringlets, Silver-washed Fritillaries, a Comma, a Red Admiral, and a Small Skipper. At least I think it was a Small Skipper, but the Biodiversity Manager from The Heart of England Forest informed me that she had seen an Essex Skipper and I don't think I can tell the difference! We also spotted a male Banded Demoiselle damselfly. As we walked back up Sambourne Lane away from the Green Dragon, we saw a Red Kite swoop into the paddock beside "Thatchbrook" then emerge to circle low overhead, gradually drifting across the village green and towards Coughton.

25<sup>th</sup> June. I stopped to photograph a couple of Burnet Moths feeding on Knapweed by the Monarch's Way. It was only when I viewed the photographs at home on the computer that I realised they were two different species – a Five-spot Burnet and a Six-spot Burnet.

26<sup>th</sup> June. We saw an Azure Damselfly on the Monarch's Way and a Holly Blue butterfly soon after. Fritillaries and Marbled Whites were in the woodland.

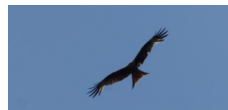
**Contd..**

## Nature jottings Contd..

28<sup>th</sup> June. A couple of Linnets were perched on cables by the path to Astwood Bank.

30<sup>th</sup> June. I found the remains of a deceased Large Emerald moth in Wike Lane.

10<sup>th</sup> July. Phil noticed a Red Kite over Middletown Lane.



11<sup>th</sup> July. More butterfly species are now visiting our garden including Small Tortoiseshells, a Peacock, and a Gatekeeper.

In a previous edition of "Nature Jottings" I mentioned that a pair of Great Tits had chosen a traffic cone in Janet's Wike Lane garden as a nest site. Access was through the small hole in the top. There having been a lot of people activity near the cone, Janet decided to check on their well-being. She gently raised the edge of the cone and five young birds shot out in a simultaneous fledging. Three weeks later young Great Tits are still around the garden so it would seem the story had a happy ending.

Phil J 01527 892043 (12<sup>th</sup> July)

### Coughton & Sambourne 100 Club

As we all emerge slowly from the Lock-down into a "new normal", whatever that will be, the 100 Club moves into its 11<sup>th</sup> year from the 1<sup>st</sup> August. The Organisers wish to thank all our members for their continuing support especially during the lock-down when many of you have not been aware of the monthly winners as the Link was unable to be printed.

To rectify this here are the results;

March £100 Jo Gladstone, a former resident of Coughton

April £450 Shirley Shaw, a resident of Sambourne

May £100 Patricia Rogers, another resident of Sambourne

June £100 Richard Laband, a former resident of Sambourne

July £450 Malcolm Shaw, a resident of Coughton on the other side of the river

With the closure of our churches for lock-down the draws were made live on Facebook by Peter Laband on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month at 12 noon, in the hope that some members were able to see it.

The August draw for £100 will be made at the usual venue of St Peter's Church on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11.30am as services are slowly returning to all churches.

The Organisers would still 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.



## Coughton Court

We're all part of the natural balance of things, living under the same sky as the trees, plants, animals, and birds. But research shows that while many children and adults are deeply concerned about the future of the natural world, they don't always connect to it. We know that if people fall in love with nature, they'll be more likely to look after it. Therefore, we're encouraging everyone to notice the beauty of the world around them.

National Trust is launching a week-by-week guide to help people tune in to the nature around them. The guide encourages bite-size activities, taking from only 20 seconds to 20 minutes, which can be easily squeezed into daily life to help people connect and take action that, collectively, can halt nature's decline.

Tips include simple everyday things, like watching the sunrise, listening to bird-song and watching butterflies and bees, as well as activities that take more time, such as planting something to grow in your garden or on your windowsill, sketching a flower or animal or building a home for animals such as hedgehogs.

Andy Beer, Noticing Nature Project Lead at the National Trust said: "With the current nature crisis, people may feel powerless in the face of the daunting task of helping halt its decline. But evidence shows that small, everyday interventions in peoples' lives can lead to real meaningful change that could add up to make a huge difference.

"Daily 'doses' of nature are vital to making this connection. The fantastic thing about it is that it's not hard for people to do – there are many ways we can all take time to actively experience nature. For instance, watching clouds, watching wildlife, watching a sunrise or staying up to look at the moon or spotting stars, are all part of becoming more connected – and it's great for your wellbeing too."

For more details and to download your weekly guide to noticing nature, take a look on the National Trust website here - [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/get-connected-to-nature](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/get-connected-to-nature)



National Trust

## **Pat's ruminations – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

A very funny thing happened to me this morning.... I was feeling a bit of the

Covid blues, but put on our normal start to Sunday morning, Hereford and Worcester Radio at 8am. The service was from Gas Street Church in Birmingham and was in fact all very inspiring, reminding me of all the GOOD things God is and does, and the blues began to fade....

I was sitting looking out at the garden as I listened, and right in front of me was a pink tree lily in a pot on the patio, which yesterday was 4 very definite buds. I suddenly became aware that as I was watching – and listening – and the sun was getting warmer, the shape was beginning to change. The finale of the service was a sound recording of The UK Churches Blessing (If you haven't come across it on You Tube, millions have, so don't miss it!) and as I listened and let God's blessing flow over me - continuing to look in the garden - 2 side lily buds began to branch out like arms and a bud in the centre opened up into a magnificent flower. Incredible, if I didn't know God!



It was a beautiful, amazing, crazy, almost indescribable gift, an illustration of God's love for me in Jesus! My Covid blues disappeared in a pink haze. I hope to have sent the photo....

Sit awhile and look at the flowers in your garden – are they a big, 'I love you' from God? I shall pray that they are! Let me know!

That reminds me: in these strange times, have you found services on radio or on line? Perhaps it is not something you would normally do, but its all a bit different.

The 8am service on Radio Hereford and Worcester is usually excellent, a great variety of music and informal chat and prayers – it finishes at 8.30. There is also one at 8.10am to 8.50am on BBC4, which is usually good, just a bit more formal.

Of course you can go to the Alcester Minster website or Facebook and watch the screened service any time on Sunday or during the following week ; in fact I think they stay on there for several weeks.

Do pop in to Sambourne Church for quiet prayer, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10am til 12noon, and come if you would like to the first service at St Peter's Coughton at 10am on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. It will be socially distancing and without singing, but be lovely to see you.. (Phone Tricia to book) Any help with cleaning up Coughton Church would be gratefully received!!!

God bless you and keep you safe,

Pat Newbold

PS. Do phone me if you need to chat 01527 458852.

## COUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our meetings are now being held virtually on Zoom & information can be found on our website.

The Parish Assembly will take place as soon as we are able to do so safely.

We have a new website that 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](http://www.coughtonparishcouncil.co.uk)

For PC information, please contact our Clerk:

Kerry Finlayson [coughtonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:coughtonclerk@gmail.com)



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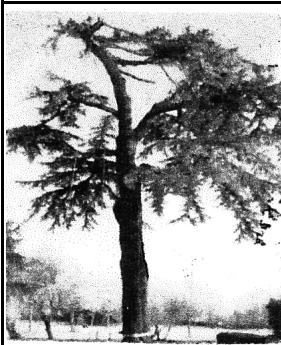
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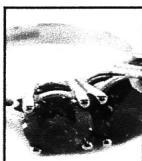
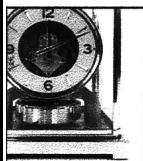
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