

# The Link

**COUGHTON with SAMBOURNE PARISH NEWS**



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

**JUNE 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**

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**Coughton Flowers Co-ordinator**

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**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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## A Letter from Rev. Adrian Guthrie

Community without contact and churches without buildings

Dear friends,

We are experiencing first-hand things not known for hundreds of years in the UK – social distancing even within strong-knit communities, and closed church buildings. But we are not experiencing the loss of community or the loss of the Christian faith though. In fact, there have been wonderful examples of kindness, concern and assistance being offered locally that reminds us that community spirit is not dampened by distance or by adversity, but can actually be strengthened as we face a common adversary. Many people have seen the parallel between our current situation and the second world war years.

But what of the church? Can it survive and even flourish without its buildings? I believe it can, and it is. Firstly, we have to remind ourselves that the church came into being before it had buildings to meet in. On 31 May Christians celebrated the day God's Holy Spirit was poured out on all people – Pentecost. Sometimes this event is referred to as the birth of the church. The church is the name given to people who have become God's children through faith in Jesus Christ and in whom the Holy Spirit dwells. God lives in people and not in buildings. Of course, our church buildings are special because they are the places where God's people have met and prayed for many centuries. However, we don't need our church buildings to worship, pray, exercise faith, glorify God or share the good news that anyone can become part of God's family through faith in Jesus and openness to the Holy Spirit.

I wonder if you have discovered the regular on-line worship we have put together each week – it is in the form of a film that you can watch anytime by going to [www.alcesterminster.org](http://www.alcesterminster.org), and it comprises contributions from different people recorded from their homes. Almost 2000 years ago, the church met in homes, so worshipping at home is not new, although worshipping in isolation of other church members is. That bit is not ideal, but the Spirit of the church, God himself, continues to unite us and strengthen us, and help us to re-discover the foundations of our faith – prayer, openness to God's Spirit and walking each day with Jesus Christ. Did you know that more people are taking part in weekly prayer for Coughton and Sambourne during, than before lockdown? Nationally, more people appear to be 'attending' weekly online worship than attended church buildings before lockdown.

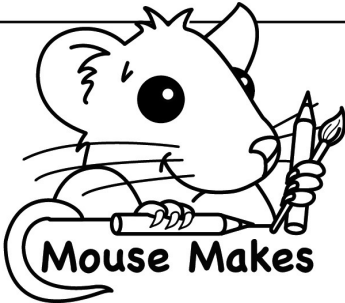
By the time we publish this edition of The Link, lockdown restrictions may have been lifted further, and the re-opening of our buildings might be closer on the horizon, but in the meantime, the Spirit of the church is still active and God's family are flourishing, just as community spirit is active and flourishing during lockdown.

With prayers,

*Adrian*



# Junior Link



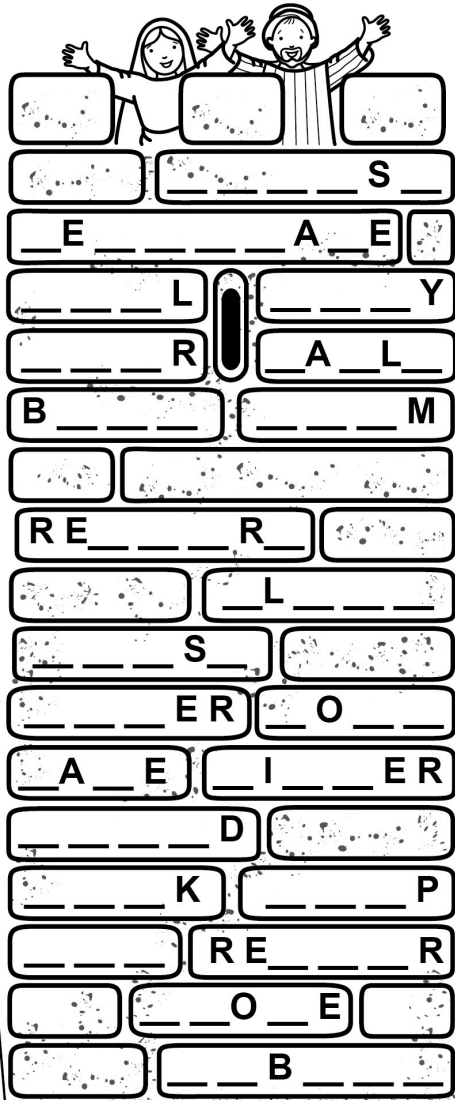
When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

**READ** Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRAY      | <input type="checkbox"/> GATE     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RUBBLE    | <input type="checkbox"/> BEAM     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REPAIR    | <input type="checkbox"/> BOLT     |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> WALLS     | <input type="checkbox"/> FINISH   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> ROOF      | <input type="checkbox"/> DOOR     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATE |                                   |



How many gates were repaired?  
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?



# 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.enjoyablystudley.com](http://www.enjoyablystudley.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

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**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@enjoyablystudley.co.uk](mailto:info@enjoyablystudley.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.enjoyablystudley.com](http://www.enjoyablystudley.com)

All information is correct at time of print.

## Nature jottings from Perrymill Lane March to June

While our lives have changed beyond all recognition during these extraordinary times, the rest of the natural world has continued as normal. Our horizons have been limited by restrictions in movement, but there has been much to see and hear locally with the move into springtime.

12<sup>th</sup> March As we walked along Middletown Lane, we could hear a Skylark singing above an adjacent field.

14<sup>th</sup> March Phil reported having seen 5 Roe Deer off Middletown Lane.

15<sup>th</sup> March Our neighbour Ann saw a Barn Owl in flight and a Little Owl in the road at Hangings Well this evening.

17<sup>th</sup> March On an afternoon walk along Wike Lane we stopped to listen to the song of our first Chiffchaff of the spring, then watched a Treecreeper working its way up a tree trunk. A Fox crossed the lane a little ahead of us and disappeared in the woods.

18<sup>th</sup> March Phil noticed two Red-legged Partridges in his Middletown Lane garden.

19<sup>th</sup> March As we returned home from Hillers Farm Shop we saw a Red Kite overhead at Cookhill. Several Greenfinches visited our garden feeders.

21<sup>st</sup> March A Comma butterfly was visiting flowers in our garden. Many bees were visiting a patch of anemones.

22<sup>nd</sup> March A Heron was looking for food in the field behind us.

23<sup>rd</sup> March We spotted our first Brimstone butterfly in the centre of the village.

24<sup>th</sup> March Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies were in the garden today.

25<sup>th</sup> March A cock Pheasant was peering through the patio doors into the kitchen.

26<sup>th</sup> March There was almost continuous singing of Chiffchaffs the length of Wike Lane to Coughton.

4<sup>th</sup> April Matt and Lizzie saw a Little Egret in a meadow behind Coughton Court.

7<sup>th</sup> April Several Goldfinches were ignoring the seed feeders and exploring the patio walling and the vegetable garden instead. Our neighbour Ann noticed "absolutely loads" of Peacock butterflies in the field behind us.

8<sup>th</sup> April We heard a Whitethroat singing near the village green. The first Orange Tip butterfly was feeding on aubretia in our garden. Subsequently they have become regular visitors.

10<sup>th</sup> April We heard our first Willow Warbler singing in Wike Lane/Sambourne Lane. Friends reported a Red Kite flying over Pebworth. Phil saw four Red-legged Partridges in his Middletown Lane field, and heard Skylarks singing.

11<sup>th</sup> April We've noticed Blackbirds gathering food in our back lawn. We now know that they have young in a nest in our neighbour's hedge.

15<sup>th</sup> April Heather from Middletown Lane heard a Cuckoo call this morning – the first report that I've received.

**Contd...**



## Nature jottings Contd..

I can think of nothing that is such an important symbol of springtime to everyone and acts as such a landmark in the year other than the call of a Cuckoo. On April 15<sup>th</sup> Heather was the first person to report having heard one. She was soon followed by Peter, Nick, Julie, Tracy and Paul. Today Sandra told me she heard one calling on April 16<sup>th</sup> and, soon after, she saw one on the telephone line in front of her Sambourne Lane house. We didn't manage to hear one until May 2<sup>nd</sup>, but have several times heard the call since then.

The recent spells of warm, calm weather have brought out more butterfly species and seems to have stimulated even more bird song.

16<sup>th</sup> April. Our early morning walk to Astwood Bank and back across the fields paid dividends. We paused to listen to a Skylark singing and noticed a different bird on the ground. This proved to be a male Wheatear, which proceeded to give us great views. This is a summer visitor more generally associated with moorland and cliff-tops, so presumably it had stopped off to refuel on its way to its breeding territory. We then saw our first couple of Swallows this spring and watched a Skylark performing its song flight.

We noticed a lot of bee-like insects with furry bodies and long proboscis feeding on flowers in our garden. These have subsequently been identified as Bee-flies.

17<sup>th</sup> April. Wild garlic in flower in Wike Lane and Bluebells in the wood are now a picture.

22<sup>nd</sup> April. We found small, dark droppings in the garden which we suspected of being from a Hedgehog. A few days later our neighbour Ann saw one in our drive around 9:30pm to confirm our suspicions.

23<sup>rd</sup> April. Julie reported having heard a Cuckoo from the bottom of Perrymill Lane and suspects that a Treecreeper is nesting in our neighbour's oak tree.

30<sup>th</sup> April. In Wike Lane near the village green we heard the song then saw a Whitethroat. Since then we've heard and seen them almost daily along with Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs and, less frequently, Garden Warblers.

3<sup>rd</sup> May. A Nuthatch was hunting for insects in the wall around our patio. Phil B. saw foxes and a Barn Owl off Middletown Lane.

4<sup>th</sup> May. I saw a Holly Blue butterfly in our garden. A couple of days later we noticed another settled on pyracantha flowers.

9<sup>th</sup> May. As we walked along the bridleway through the woods off Wike Lane a Red Kite soared overhead. A Willow Warbler added its voice to the chorus of bird song. Speckled Wood butterflies are now commonly seen on this walk.

12<sup>th</sup> May. A flock of Swallows was actively feeding over a field beside Wike Lane.

## 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

## 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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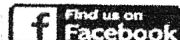
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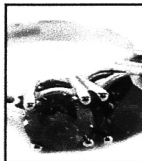
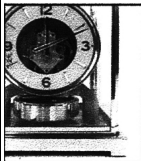
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