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June Thoughts

Rev Elaine Scrivens

June is often a busy month. Today as I drove back to Tachbrook from a Diocesan Board of Education meeting in Alcester I realised that summer had well and truly arrived. It was almost 9pm and it was still light, the lambs in the fields have grown and the trees are in full leaf with so many different shades of green, it was a lovely drive. Of course I had spent most of the day discussing education in our church schools and we prayed for all those who this month are not enjoying the beauty, warmth and gloriousness of creation because they have the pressure of revising for examinations. It made me realise that because of the many issues that life throws at us we are often unable to enjoy the many blessings that surround us.

I am not for a moment suggesting that revision for examinations should stop but even those in the middle of exams need to take time to relax and reflect; and not just those taking exams – there are many of us, overwhelmed by work, who need to step back and reflect, bring things into perspective and appreciate all that we have.

A favourite phrase of mine is that we are human beings not human doings but I don't often take note of my own advice! We are told in the 10 Commandments that a time of rest is important and perhaps instead of spending our lives rushing from place to place, from chore to chore, let us drop the pace a bit in this mid year moment, taking the time to appreciate the mystery of the silent unfurling of buds and leaves around us

and simply to wonder about it all.

Of course as well as creation coming to life, in June we celebrate the birthday of the church. Pentecost Sunday is on June 6th this year. It is the day that something happened to all the apostles and followers of Jesus as they gathered in one place. They described it as being like tongues of fire descending on each one and they began to speak with one another in many different languages. They were then sent to all the parts of the known world and were able to tell all the people about the wonderful works of God. Do come and join us on that day. There will be cake!

June 14th is another important date for your diaries. It is the Church Fete. This year we are returning to the meadow and we hope as many of you as possible will join us. The Koalas will be playing and the children dancing, as well as all the usual stalls and games. Let's hope the weather is good to us.

Do enjoy all this month has to offer but when life seems to become too hectic remember the words of the psalmist:
"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46v10)

With love and prayers Elaine



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Family Fun

Why do you go to church? I'd like to believe it is because we all have a fervent faith but realise that there are many different reasons why people attend a church service and none are more important than another. However, I also realise that Sunday morning isn't always the best time for people, especially those with children, to attend a service and so I have been wondering when it would be good to hold an alternative service that would be mainly aimed at families with young children.

I envision the service to be quite informal with appropriate music; a bible reading and short talk, maybe an opportunity to do some sort of craft and a time of prayer. After the service there would be a time to sit and chat over tea, coffee, juice, cake and biscuits.

My question is, how many people would be interested in attending such a service and when would be a good time to hold it? It has been suggested that 3pm on a Sunday afternoon would be good but I am happy to hear people's thoughts on this.

If you have a child that has been baptised you made a promise to God that your child would be brought up in the Christian faith and attend church. This is an opportunity for you to say when you would like the service to happen and also the form the service would take.

I hope to hold the first service on **September 28th.** The last Sunday in September has been for the last 10 years "Back to Church" Sunday, when people are invited to attend a service. Well, this is my invite to you. If you have any ideas of times and themes for services then please do contact me by email, via the St Chad's page on Facebook or @st chads on Twitter. Elaine elaine.scrivens@gmail.com

Churchyard Ps and Qs

Now we have had our Spring Churchyard tidy we would like to keep it looking good all the year round. We are very grateful to our regular mowing team and The Churchyard Gardening Group that meets regularly on the 2nd Saturday and 4th Wednesday of each month but everyone can help even in very small ways. Below are the Ps and Qs which will help us all work together to keep the churchyard a lovely peaceful place.

Please

Use unbreakable containers only Grass covered grave, no gravel or surround

Spring flowers planted only, no other plants

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Thank You

To all who take their rubbish away.

To those who take away other people's rubbish.

To all who separate compostable and non-compostable rubbish.

To all whose care of a loved ones grave makes our graveyard a pleasure for all To those who have read the Churchvard Rules

Breakable containers that have been removed can be claimed by contacting 334812.

Bishops Tachbrook Sports and Social Club

Spring/Summer Entertainment

June

7th June - The Breaks

Fantastic local band, The Breaks, back by popular demand

14th June - England v Italy

England's third group game live on our big screen. Kick Off at 11pm, family fun games in the build up

21st June - Spen & Dave

A guitar and bass duo who have been together for 35 years, playing classic 60's music

28th June - Side by Side

A professional band playing tunes from the 50's, 60's and

Don't forget we've got all of England's World Cup matches on the hig screen, with discounted drinks during the games

July

5th July - Quiz Night

Come and pit your wits against The Judge, prizes for every team. Rollover eash prize now £150

12th July - Race Night

Come and join us for a family night of fun, sponsor a race or just back a winner, all welcome.

19th July - Steve Ray

Steve has been singing in the UK and Europe for 20 years and is singing us hits from the 50's and 60's

26th July - The Harry Rag Band

A regular club favourite, playing all the hits from the 50's, 60's and 70's

Advance Warning (again)...

On Saturday 2nd August The Sports and Social Club will be commemorating the start of World War 1.

With live music and sing alongs, fancy dress and food too, put this date in your diary and remember to come and join us as we turn back the clock

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING BAR STAFF TO JOIN OUR TEAM.

CONTACT KAREN FOR MORE DETAILS

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We have a newly decorated family room with jukebox, TV, pool and darts, 2 full sized tables in the snooker room plus our spacious members lounge, which also has a big screen for sports.

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Call Karen Capehorn 07855 709051 for details.

Find us on Facebook (BishopsTachbrook SocialClub), Twitter (@BTSSClub) or visit www.bishopstachbrookclub.co.uk

History Group

Anne Kirby

Going for a Drink? Our own Leopard Inn boasts 16th century remains at its core, but like most old pubs across Europe, it has been altered and extended to provide the facilities expected by today's society. At our May meeting Professor Beat Kumin showed us numerous pic-

tures and maps from past centuries and shared with us his extensive experience, or should I say studies, of drinking houses.

References to communal drinking premises can be found in ancient Egyptian writings and an artist's impression of a mural in the exca-

vated ruins of Pompeii illustrates that they were a feature of Roman life, albeit without the patronage of women. Pubs were essentially a social activity where locals met to talk, gossip, hear the news and enjoy a drink. We saw a delightful Dutch 17th century painting which is a wonderful commentary on the period. A group of men are sitting round a table outside the rural pub, laughing and enjoying their beverages, nearby a woman has sat her toddler onto a wooden potty, the cellarman is pushing a barrel across the yard, a young couple are in flirtation mode, and in the background a couple of male patrons are relieving themselves against a neighbour's wall. A familiar picture?

The measurement of beverages was formalised in Magna Carta (1215) but premises were not licensed until 1552. Over the years pubs were extended in villages, built along the main highways and in developing towns; a wide variety of drinks were made available; food was

served and inns
evolved to offer
overnight accommodation and stabling for horses.
Music, pub songs,
games, Morris dancing and even performances by travelling
actors contributed
to the evening's
entertainment. For
centuries pubs have
been the heart of



Patrons playing games in a tavern (German woodcut, early 16th century)

Next Meeting Tuesday, 10th June at 7.30pm in St Chad's Church

Bill Davies will update us on the restoration of Henry VIII's flagship, the 'Mary Rose' and the many treasures it contained.

Visitors Welcome (£2)

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Garden Songs

Keith Wellsted

Do you sing in the garden? I encourage you to, you'll enjoy it and plants are fairly deaf – I think!

Since one of my other interest is singing, I belong to the excellent local Songlines Community Choir, I started to think about what there was to learn from gardening songs. Here are the results:

The song that came easily to mind was the hymn, 'We plough the fields and scatter'. The first verse runs:

We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land;

But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:

He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,

The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Now I'm not a religious man but I love hymns and for me this one has two gardening truths: what happens in your garden is usually determined by metrological fate, so one year can vary markedly in terms of your success. Gardeners are stoic!

There's good seed and bad seed. For me good seed produces plants that I can save seed from. So no F1 varieties and definitely no GM!

A well known favourite based on an English folk tune but penned by the American singer song writer Jimmie Rogers is, 'An English Country Garden'. The second verse reads:

How many insects come here and go
Through our English country garden?
I'll tell you now of some that I know
And those I miss you'll surely pardon
Fireflies, moths and bees
Spiders climbing in the trees
Butterflies that sway on the cool gentle breeze
There are snakes, ants that sting
And creeping things
In an English country garden.

You may notice that there are more helpful insects mentioned than harmful ones. The gardening truth for me is work lovingly with your insects; insecticide sprays tend to slaughter the good and bad. Work organically with what you have.

Guy Clark, one of my all time favourite singer songwriters, penned a song called 'Homegrown Tomatoes'. One verse captures the joy of vegetable gardening for me: Homegrown tomatoes, homegrown tomatoes What'd life be without homegrown tomatoes Only two things that money can't buy That's true love & homegrown tomatoes

The gardening truth is that, what you grow yourself tastes better than anything you can buy.

Lastly, and for no other reason than I like the idea of my vegetables dancing, the Vegetable Song written by Carl Martin.

It was late one night by the pale moonlight/ All the vegetables gave a spree/ They put out a sign that said the dancing's at nine/ And all the admission was free/There was peas and greens and cabbage and beans/ It was the biggest crowd you ever did see/ And when mister cucumber struck up that number you should have heard those vegetables scream/ Little turnip top doing the backwards flop/ The cabbage is doing the shimmy, she couldn't stop/ The little red beet shook its feet/ And the watermelon died of the cockeyed heat/Little tomato, agitator, shook the shimmy with the sweet potato/ And old man garlic dropped dead of the colic/ Down at the barnyard dance/Late this morning/Down at the barnyard dance.

Sing your own song If you don't grow your own already and would to tune into the task please contact Susan Watt or I on: suzwatt@gmail.com or 07711 498047 keithwellsted@btconnect.com or 0771 8196577 All songs viewable on-line

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New Local Plan by Graham Leeke

A group of objectors gathered outside Leamington Town Hall on 23rd April as a full council meeting met to consider the New Local Plan, I'd like to thank everyone in the parish - and not least on Warwick Gates - for their on-going support, especially those who took time out to attend the demo.



James Mackay, who chairs the Warwick Society, said immediately after the meeting: 'The debate was well-conducted, and many councillors criticised especially the transport strategy. But they still voted for the Plan to go to its next stage. During that, new population projections are likely to confirm that the forecast of housing need is much too high; and the ineffective and destructive traffic strategy will make the Plan fail the test of government planning policy. The District still deserves, and will eventually get, a better Plan.

Tonight's decision was just a blip on the way to that. But it also sets the agenda for the District Council elections which will take place in May 2015.'

WW1 Centenary

4th August 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the day Britain entered the First World War – with fighting continuing until 11th November 1918, Armistice Day.

Over the coming months the Parish Magazine would like to feature your family's stories from WW1. If you would like to tell us about your ancestor you can email your photographs and stories to

julie m thomas@hotmail.com or call 01926 420826





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Meet...the St Chad's stonemasons

Jenny Bevan

Have you noticed the scaffolding round the chancel at the east end of St Chad's Church? By the time you read this article it may have come down as the work is due to be completed shortly as the stonemasons have been working there for a number of months.

I Ward and Sons LLP, which consists of father lan, his son Jacob and their colleague Andy, have been tasked with restoring the church to its former glory as part of its quinquennial inspection. Church of England church buildings must be inspected every five years to ensure that church buildings are kept in good repair. This is known as a quinquennial inspection. St Chad's church is in need of a few running repairs to its stones, roof, guttering and downpipes.

Andy and Jacob are onsite most days renewing the inner arch on the east end, along with new coping (wall covering), new ashlar (finely cut masonry) and lots of repointing (the external part of mortar joints in masonry construction). Ian works in the workshop down in Somerset, recarving the detail of the stone. The company is based in Somerset, although Ian and Jacob originate from Northampton. Ian has been a stonemason for 35+ years, Andy for 25+ and Jacob for 5+, since leaving university where he studied History, with a dissertation in architectural history.

Other buildings they have worked on between them include Windsor Castle, Althorp Hall, Stirling Castle (Ian), Bath Abbey, Bristol Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral and Dartmouth Castle (Andy). So what are the reasons why this work needs to be done? All buildings are exposed to the elements and those which have stood for hundreds of years have weathered many a storm. However, one of the key reasons old buildings such as St Chad's need repairing is due to the prior use of modern building materials which may not be compatible with old building materials.

Warwickshire sandstone is a soft building stone and was originally used with lime as the joining material. When concrete was the "new big thing" it was regularly used to replace lime and has been used as such over the last 50 years or so. Concrete is hard but porous so it absorbs water and through the freeze-thaw process over time the hard concrete next to the soft sandstone has meant the sandstone has been eroded.

Andy and Jacob see it in many old buildings and given that lime is no more expensive than concrete to use, they are passionate advocates for its use over concrete when restoring or repairing old buildings. Lime is less environmentally harmful to produce and I'm told you can sweep up lime dust, rehydrate it and put it back in! How about that for being environmentally friendly?

Lime can be mixed with local sand to produce a softer colour which blends well with the different coloured stones used in each part of the country. This helps it keep the character of the old buildings. Also, it doesn't set like concrete; it "breathes" which allows for

Continued on page 15



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Bishops Tachbrook Leamington spa

Stonemasons continued

settling over time as any owner of an old building will appreciate!

Another reason why the church needs to be repaired is the damage caused by masonry bees. These bees have no collective nest and excavate chambers in soft mortar joints in walls to create nesting holes. Although they are solitary, they do excavate their chambers close together which can give the impression of living in a colony.

Whilst it may be nice to imagine bees setting up home in the church, repairs do need to be made. All the stones and detailing have a purpose, as well as being decorative. This means if something is removed or damaged there are knock on effects. For example, the lintels over the windows allow water to run off as well as providing attractive gothic architectural features. These details need to be replaced to avoid windows leaking and the church becoming damp.

Understanding why materials or features have been used or included is a key part of understanding how to restore them. I learnt that you can't just use modern emulsion on the walls of old churches; you should use lime washes and distempers. This enables the whole building to breathe and helps avoid the interminable damp problem in old buildings.

Lime is coming back into fashion now as more people, like Kevin McCloud from Grand Designs, realise that old should be replaced with old. If you are the lucky owner of a lovely old house in the parish which could do with some restoration of the brickwork, roof or guttering then perhaps you could consider getting in touch with I Ward and Sons?

Tach Fest 2014

"Bringing the community together"

The Village Events Group Summer Event 2014 is being held on Saturday 9th August. There will be a whole host of village activities to keep the entire family entertained throughout the day and evening including pony rides, penalty shoot out, bouncy castle, climbing wall, archery, face painting, country dancing, BBQs, local bands and classic cars

Tach Fest will include a stage for local acts to show off their talents. If you think you have something worth showing off, get in touch!

The Royal British Legion are getting involved to commemorate the outbreak of World War I which started on 28th July 1914. The WI will be hosting a cake stall. If you are a local group or fund raising for a charity, the organisers would like to hear from you.

There will be an area set aside for local businesses who would like to sell their products or publicise their activities. There is also going to be an opportunity for villagers to sell their good quality new or used wares via table top sales.

The fun will continue into the evening so make sure you stay around.

Do you have a talent? Are you a member of a local group or band? Do you want to raise funds for a cause close to your heart? Would you like to host an event during Tach Fest? Do you run a local business and want a host a stall? Do you want to "sell your stuff"?

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By Jade Lowe

Last term the Rainbows learnt about Chinese New Year.

We had a visitor called Peggy and she told us all about Chinese New Year and how she celebrates it. They made Chinese lanterns and hung them up. Also the Rainbows tried some Chinese noodles and Prawn crackers. These went down very well and even some Rainbows had tried something new.





We also learnt how to make pancakes and played a pancake game. The Rainbows balanced a pancake on their heads to see how far they could walk around the room without dropping it.

1st Bishop's Tachbrook Rainbows are also looking for a NEW Young Leader. If you are a woman between 14 and 18 years old, free Monday evenings from 6pm till 7pm and love working with young girls then being a young leader could be for you.

Being a Young Leader provides valuable experience in leadership and responsibility and looks great on university or college applications or in CVs.

If you are interested then contact Jade Lowe on jadechoc@aol.co.uk



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Worship at St Chad's

Sunday

10am Holy Communion (Sunday Club is held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month)

First Sunday of the month

8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family Service

Wednesday

11:15am Holy Communion (BCP)

Are these times convenient for you? Would you like a mid-week communion service in the evening or an early morning service? Please let me know, the church is here to serve you and if you find that you cannot come to church on a Sunday but that a Tuesday evening would be great, then I am happy to provide what you need. Elaine

Parish Council News

Sean Deeley

New Local Plan

The Publication Draft Local Plan has been sent out for consultation. This is the final stage in the process before the plan goes before the planning inspector for final approval. Sites for Gypsies and Travellers must be included in the Plan. Therefore the District Council is under great pressure to urgently review submissions made during the recently completed preferred options consultation. The Parish Council submitted evidence running to 200 pages which should have a significant influence on how the District moves towards final site selection. The next round of consultation is expected in the mid to late summer.

Speeding traffic on Oakley Wood Road

Many of you will have read the recent article by resident and Community Speed Watch lead, Leigh Carter, pointing to the need for a Vehicle Activated Speed sign near the Leopard. Well, based on Leigh's evidence the PC submitted a bid for a grant of £3k to the Warwickshire Rural Communities Forum. Leigh attended the Forum on behalf of the PC and had to pitch for the grant. The outcome was success and Leigh walked away with the maximum grant possible. He remarked that is was like being in the Dragons Den, but more friendly!

Neighbourhood Plan

Residents and councillors continue to work on this important project supported by our experts in the field, Urban Vision. Policies are now being drafted in line with what residents have said at public events and at the same time the NP team is checking that we have all of the evidence required to ensure that the NP will be judged sound by the inspector. We have also contacted all surrounding parishes and towns to share our Aims and Issues as required by the Localism Act.

Leamington Hibs

Further to an approach via the Club, the PC is pleased to be able to announce that one of the senior teams from Leamington Hibs will be playing on the top pitch at the meadow next season for their Saturday afternoon home games. We understand that they will be using the Club facilities too, before and after their matches.

Registration of the Village Green

Prompted by an enquiry by a resident, we are investigating the benefits of registering the green as a Village Green, to give it extra protection. A decision on this will be taken once the process has been clarified and legal advice has been received.

Next meeting: Thursday 19th June

Please send enquiries etc to: Mrs. Corinne Hill, Parish Clerk, Gaydon Field's Farm

Gaydon CV35 0HF Tel: 01926 641220

email: parishclerk@bishopstachbrook.com/parishclerk85@btinternet.com

Each year our community generously donates items for the Fete, we are asking again for tombola or raffle prizes, good quality books, CDs, DVDs & toys



Donations will be collected

on

Saturday 7th June



If you live in the village and have items for collection could you please leave them on your doorstep in a clearly marked plastic bag from 9am. If you live outside the main village, or at Warwick Gates, items

may be left at:



32 Holt Avenue
7 Bishop's Close
BT School, Kingsley Road
The Vicarage, 24 Mallory Rd
Church (on Sunday mornings)

1 Launce Grove, Warwick Gates

If you can help at the Fete on 14th June, or have any questions, please get in touch.

Julie Thomas 01926 420826

Julie_m_thomas@hotmail.com

Thank you,

St Chad's PCC

VILLAGE COLLECTION FOR CHURCH FETE



VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE

THE MEADOW BISHOP'S TACHBROOK 1-4PM Lots of fun for all the family

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Maypole Dancing

Games Football Shootout

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BT Brownies

Caroline, Caron, Sally, Steph & Caroline W

As a unit this month we have had our annual Pack Holiday at Borreaton Park's PGL and took 30 Brownies. The girls had a great time and took part in various outdoor activities which encouraged team work, leadership, communication, decision-making and was overall great FUN!

The girls took part in a



very successful raft building exercise where they worked as a team to build a raft out of wood logs, barrels and rope. The aim was to float on the PGL Lake with no one sinking. This was very successful as NO ONE sank!! However the girls got soaked as they found jumping into the lake too irresistible.

The girls were challenged by Jacobs Ladder which is a series of suspended logs that get higher and higher with the gaps in between each log getting wider and wider the higher they go, sound easy? It's not! The girls loved the challenge and really worked well with each other in their teams to get as high as possible. They also had the task of reaching the top of a climbing wall. It didn't look too high from the ground but up there it looked never ending! The girls found this task easier than expected and used all their new found climbing techniques to climb the wall. Many of the girls managed to get to the top!! Go Brownies!!

Courage was certainly needed with the abseiling, as in order to get down they had to lean back horizontally on the wall with only the rope and an instructor supporting them to be able to walk and bounce down the tower. They all came away from the task exhilarated and with a huge sense of achievement as they did it, after learning the risks involved and how to control them.

A favourite with the girls was the Giant Swing. In twos they were raised by the other Brownies who pulled the swing higher and higher by pulling the rope as a team. When the swing could not get any higher the brave Brownies pulled their cords to send them soaring through the air! There were many screams but of enjoyment!

A good team activity for the girls was learning fencing. They had to work together in teams of 2 to attack their opponent and to defend themselves. The girls got to learn all about the fencing attire and tricks during a duel. While each Brownie waited their turn to take part in the event a lot of team spirit was shown with words of encouragement and cheering being heard all around.

During the evenings they took advantage of the spacious outdoor courtyards by playing games with the PGL reps. We also enjoyed a sing-a-long around the camp fire learning some very catchy new songs for our Brownie collection.

The weekend was very successful and all girls behaved very well and were a credit to our unit. They all worked hard individually and to help each other tackle all activities to the best of their ability.



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WI Anne Allen

Our May meeting is always a bit different. It's the month we discuss and vote on the resolution, the result of this is then taken forward to the National AGM where all votes are collated and the resolution is either passed or not. This year the resolution was "The National Federation of WI's notes that 3 people die every day whilst waiting for an organ transplant. We call on every member of the WI to make their wishes regarding organ donation known, and to encourage their families and friends and members of their local communities to do likewise."

We had an interesting and lively discussion and when we voted, the resolution was carried unanimously. We now notify our delegate who attends the meeting and votes on our behalf. If this resolution is passed, we will no doubt get information on how best to put it into action. I thought you might like to know how we go about things.

After a break for a ploughman's supper with cider we carried on with the meeting proper. We are looking forward to a skittles evening at the club, with fish and chips provided by the Leopard. Poor Luke went pale when I said 26 portions please! Pimms and Croquet will be held in early July and again we will have a posh ploughman's, this together with County events that include a crochet workshop, a visit to the M & S company archive, a talk on 'Shakespeare: The Food of Love' with tastings of the recipes from the book and this year's darts tournament, the final of which is held in a

pub (probably the rounds too). So if it includes food or drink the WI is there.

WFWI launched a fund raising appeal for the Central England Rehabilitation Unit so if you see us advertising an event to raise monies for this appeal do come along and support us. Talking of support, a big thank you to all who came and purchased cakes from our recent stall, also many thanks to the bakers, everything looked lovely and this year the weather was kind. You will find us and our cakes at the Village Event in August. Our ladies are giving up the chance of a visit to Shrewsbury Flower show to bake again so if anyone would like to donate a cake or two we would be delighted.

Next month the speaker will be Shelia Woolf who is going to tell us about 'Philip Larkin's Women'. In July Ginny Davis is going 'To the Fringe and Beyond,' me thinks maybe not hair dressing but the Edinburgh Fringe, and in August we will be visited by 'A Medieval Lady Peddler'. In September, Liam D'Arcy-Brown will tell us about 'Chusan - The Opium Wars'. It looks like a very interesting and varied programme to look forward to.

I am still collecting used postage stamps for Marie Curie and old bras for Bravissimo's charity Mind. So as always if any of this is of interest do ring me and if you leave a message please make sure you leave a correct phone number. My apologies to someone who rang recently but your number was unobtainable.

Anne Allen 424135

Jenny Lister

MU Happenings

May turned out to be a very special month for two of us at St Chad's. 1994 was the first year that women were allowed to be ordained as priests in the Church of England and all the women who were ordained priest in 1994 were invited to join in a Celebration in London. Both Christine Pollard and I from Bishop's

Tachbrook were invited as, although we are both retired from fulltime parish ministry. we were both in the first batch of women to be made priests 20 years ago – Christine in Coventry cathedral and I in Newcastle cathedral. As 700 of us from around the country accepted the invitation. we were allowed to take one guest. Christine took Elaine, our vicar, and I took Peter, my hubby.

The celebration started with a gathering in Dean's Yard behind

Westminster Abbey, where hundreds of people picnicked and searched for friends from 20 years ago. Then we set off on a walk to St Paul's cathedral, led by a marching band and kept together by traffic marshals as we held up all the traffic (great!) round Parliament Square, past Big Ben and along the Embankment to Blackfriars then up to Ludgate Hill. As we arrived in Paternoster Square at St Paul's, a brass band welcomed us and a

huge crowd of well-wishers. Christine and I went off to get robed while Elaine ad Peter queued to get in to the cathedral. Of course we all lost each other, but it didn't matter as it was like one huge family party. All 700 of us from the class of '94 assembled on the steps of St Paul's and we were joined by Justin Wel-

by, the Archbishop of Canterbury (and one-time vicar of Southam), for photos. As the huge west doors of the cathedral opened we processed in and all the congregation stood and applauded us for at least 10 minutes until the last woman had entered. Then it suddenly hit me how much we, as pioneers, had been appreciated and had laid the foundations for all the women priests

following us – I must admit, my hanky was put to good use! The service really was a Celebration, full of symbolism reflecting the past 20 years, led by a woman Archdeacon who was assisted by the Archbishop, and it was relayed to the crowds outside in Paternoster Square.

The funny thing is that both Christine and I had been rather reluctant when we were 'called' to ministry. Christine was



very happily working as a radiographer at 'Jimmy's' in Leeds and had been among the first six people in the country to qualify with a Diploma in Nuclear Medicine (MRI, CAT and CT scans), until 'God rattled my cage'. I had told God to 'leave me alone, I can't do it' when I first had my 'call' in 1975 but, bit by bit, he got me there! It's a long story, and members heard about all the ups and downs at our May meeting.

Our next meeting in on Tuesday 3rd June at 7.30pm in church when we will be painting and decorating wooden spoons – yes, really! We gave the first one to Martin and Sarah when they married at St Chad's in May and perhaps in the July article we'll have a photo of our efforts. The spoons are a memento of their special day for wedding couples, painted with their names and date of their wedding. Jenny Lister Tel. 427922



Warwickshire Young Voices – Calling all Young Singers!

Warwickshire Young Voices are looking for young singers to join our County Community Choirs - due to further expansion of our activities by popular demand.

WYV offer places for all boys and girls from the school term in which they turn seven, until sixteen - with no audition or previous experience necessary.

As an established choir, WYV has over 7 years of providing a high quality music, vocal and choral education to more than 2000 local youngsters. We offer a fun, challenging and dynamic musical environment as well as high profile performance opportunities throughout Warwickshire and beyond. WYV is run by a team of highly trained and experienced singing teachers, under the direction of award winning Composer and Music Educator David Iles.

We offer all new members 2 free trial sessions to come along and try it out – usual subscription fees are £45 per 10 week term, with a 50% sibling discount available. Sessions are held on Monday evenings 6.30-7.30pm at Dale Street Methodist Hall, Leamington or Thursday evenings 6.30-7.30pm at Harbury Primary School.

For more information about the WYV County Community Choirs, to register your interest for a place, or for information about our other activities including Make Me Musical piano lessons, activities for younger children or individual singing lessons please visit our website at www.warwickshireyoungvoices.org.uk or phone 01926 810 179.



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Notice Board

Barn Dance

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Barn Dance on 14th June is cancelled.

This year July's magazine will be a double issue for July and August (deadline 15th June). There will be no magazine in August but there will be a September issue. Please send items to catherine.keen@btinternet.com

Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to everybody for their good wishes, cards and gifts on our recent "special" wedding anniversary. Anne and Ray Allen

Country Dancing Club

2nd Thursday of every month 8pm at Sports and Social Club Contact Julie Jaggard 314286 All welcome!

Bishops Tachbrook Junior Youth Club

Monday 6.30-8pm in the School Hall
During Term Time Only
£1.50 per session and yearly
membership of £2 payable
in September.

For more information contact Anoushka on 311538 or anoushka76@hotmail.com or come along on a Monday. We desperately need more adult volunteers to come and help at our club, if you can spare a couple of hours on an odd Monday then please let me know.

Volunteers wanted

The British Red Cross Fire Emergency Support Service Warwickshire are currently looking for volunteers to join the team based at Kenilworth Fire Station. The Fire Emergency Support Service support the fire service in assisting victims of domestic fire or flooding, providing practical and emotional support to victims. For further information visit the Fire Emergency Support Service website below.

http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Emergency-response/Support-in-UK-emergencies/Fire-and-emergency-support

Anyone who is interested in volunteering for FESS Warwickshire should contact SWWMvolunteering@redcross.org.uk or they can call Jennifer Healy for further information on 07793515189.



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Bishops Tachbrook Cycle of Prayer

Praying for our Community

I have agreed to write the Prayer Calendar each month. If there are any particular concerns you would like us to include, or you feel I have left out something important, please let me know. I am John Pratt and can be contacted at

j.a.pratt@btinternet.com

June is the month when we have the longest day of the year -and it seems so unfair that many children have to spend the time that they could be enjoying outside, preparing for examinations. However let us all thank God for the good things we do have.

Dates in June

Sunday 8th Pentecost or

Whitsunday

Wednesday 11th St Barnabas

the Apostle

Sunday 15th Trinity Sunday

Thursday 19th Corpus Christi
Tuesday 24th Birth of John

the Baptist

Sunday 29th SS Peter & Paul, Apostles



June Rotas

Cleaning

7th Jenny & Peter Lister

14th Jo Shaw

21st Liz Sheehan

28th Fiona Meades & Jo Jordan

Assistant Stewards

1st Huw Davies

8th Graham Leeke 15th John & Ros Pratt

22nd Kevin Pantling

29th Debra Cokayne

Sidespersons

1st Sheila Hayward & Kath Reason

8th Mervyn & Desnee Fletcher

15th Ray & Anne Allen

22nd Vera Vale & Joan Alderman

29th Rod Smith & Mac McGarrick

Coffee

1st Gill Yarwood & Rod Smith

8th Ros Pratt & Jane Everett

15th Jean Coope & Mac McGarrick

22nd Maralyn & Roy Brown

29th Fiona Meades & Joan Alderman

The Christian Family

Baptisms

Alfie Joseph Hartley We welcome him into the Christian Family.

Marriage

Martin Fuller & Sarah Wigington We offer our congratulations and best wishes for the future.





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Nature Page

Linda Stevens

A recent walk along the canal reminded me of my childhood. All around I could see Keck, the hedges were full of Sweetheart and peeping through the grass was Bird's Eye. I even spotted a little Bacon and Eggs and the Lady's Smock that also grows in my garden. Now, if you are a Warwickshire person you probably know what I am talking about as these are Warwickshire country names for some of the common wild flowers and plants. Keck is called Cow Parsley in my book, Cleavers is the name it gives to Sweetheart. Bird's eye is Speedwell and Bacon and Egg is Bird's foot Trefoil. I couldn't find Lady's Smock in the book at first then found it under Cuckooflower, not such a pretty name for such a delicate plant. I learnt the country names from other older children I'm sure as my parents came from London. I wonder if children still pass on this knowledge or is it now left to us adults and the Internet? We ban these plants from our gardens but they play an important part in the natural world providing food sources for insects and animals.

The Oak came into leaf before the Ash this Spring. The oaks were well ahead by at least two weeks, so, if the old rhyme is right we shouldn't have a wet Summer. The Ash trees began to wake up at the beginning of May with some more exposed trees just opening during the second week.

The swallows arrived early during April and Swifts and House Martins were seen over Tachbrook in the first week of May. We had a surprise at about 9.30am one morning as we were driving into Coppice

Road in Whitnash. A rather mangy looking Fox crossed the road in front of us.

We were sad to hear from a neighbour that a cat had climbed into our hedge and caught the baby blackbirds that were still in the nest. It was the distress calls of the adult birds that attracted his attention. It is sad but cats are only responsible for about 20% of fledgling deaths. I know cat owners get upset when their cat kills birds but they are only obeying a natural instinct. Owners and bird lovers can help. A bell on a cat collar is effective and now a sonic device for a collar has been developed which will alert the victim to the cat's presence. Another effective tactic is keeping the pet cat indoors an hour before sunset and an hour after dawn as this when birds are most vulnerable. The bird lover can deter cats by having a sonic cat device in the garden. These deter the cat but don't affect the birds. Tricks with high feeding tables and where they are placed help protect the birds. The RSPB have some handy hints at www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening/ unwantedvisitors/cats.

Some tiny toadstools appeared at the end of our garden and disappeared completely after a few days. We haven't as yet been able to confidently identify them but are working on it. Toadstools and mushrooms are fascinating. Have you seen any? If you have and can take a photo please send it to the magazine editor who will pass it on.

Do let us know what else you have seen.

Find Steve's report on page 35



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Steve Harvey's Nature Report

The white blossom of the Hawthorn bend down to touch the creamy mist of Cow Parsley. The darling buds of May dally with the keck, our hedgerows are stunning.

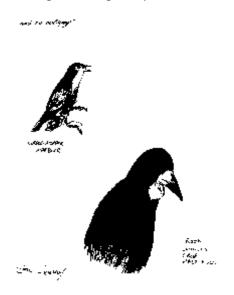
It must be two years since I started this scribble. It all began with the arrival of the Grasshopper Warbler in the scrubland just beyond the garden. Well, it's back and not just one, we had two for a while. They are small brown birds a little smaller than a Robin. I managed to see one of them, as they sing with beaks wide open they turn their heads from side to side, so it is hard to pin down exactly where they are. They sound like a continental cricket, churning for minutes at a time into the night long after all the other singers have long since nodded off.

The other evening I heard familiar snuffling and, sure enough, round the corner was the hedgehog, next to it was another. They were soon joined by a third. Then from my right, scuttled a fourth hedgehog who briefly stopped to inspect my shoe. We have ourselves a colony "Hedgehogs are Us"! The next night I almost walked into a mating ceremony, well not quite. The male slowly circled the female, who was not impressed and continuously snorted at him and turned to face him at all times so he was always faced with the wrong end. Someone had to give in . . . Yes it was me. Two hours later I listened out of the window and they were still there.

The Rook is still visiting, for a bit longer. It's brilliant each morning watching it fly in making the bird table wobble as it lands. It's usually with us by 6.30am. If I haven't put the wet bread out it waits, sitting on the fence, watching me through the patio door. As

I move to the sink to wet the bread it moves to the garage roof to keep me in view. When I go out to the table it waits for me to put the food down then lands on the bird table before I'm back in the house. It fills its crop, which must be like having your own "bag for life" under your beak. Big pieces are held in its foot and delicately broken into smaller ones. All the time it keeps its eye open for the Carrion Crow who will attack the Rook if it gets the chance. The Carrion Crow flies round like Darth Vader in a strop.

It was lovely the other day to be up the ladder close to a pair of House Martins rebuilding a nest. They flew back and forth adding mud and then resting, nuzzling each other and singing. All that and no mortgage.





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Fun and Facts

Jenny Bevan

Did you know ...?

CAR FACTS

The first set of electric traffic lights were installed in Wolverhampton in 1927.

Your chance of being killed in a car accident in a given year is one in 7,000; flying is more than 6,000 times safer.

It's compulsory to carry a breathalyser kit in France (even for UK drivers so beware this summer!)

The Lamborghini Veneno (Italian for "venom") has a top speed of 220.5 mph and goes from 0-62 mph in 2.9 secs.
Only 9 are being made, selling at \$4.5million each.

The largest speeding fine in the world was \$1million, handed out in Switzerland where fines are proportionate to income.

19 people can fit into a Smart car.

Toyota produces 13,000 cars every day; Ferrari produces 14.

In the course of their lifetime, the average British driver spends 99 days in traffic jams.

Car manufacturers are predicting that driverless cars could be available as early as 2020.



Test yourself...

How well do you know your Highway Code...?

TRUE OR FALSE

- In a built up area you must not use your horn between 11.30pm and 7am.
- 2. It's illegal to eat whilst driving.
- You must not leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running.
- 4. It's illegal to drive barefoot.
- When you turn into a side road, pedestrians who are already crossing have priority so you must give way.
- 6. Warning signs are triangular.
- 7. You must not use your horn whilst stationary.



•	
True	٦.
True	.9
True	.č
True False. Although you are expected to wear 'appropriate footwear'.	.£
you could potentially be stopped for careless driving.	τ
False. It's actually not illegal, but	.2
True	Τ.

Ist Bishop's Tachbrook Rainbows

Is your daughter aged 5,
does she like having fun, playing games,
making things and
being part of a group?
Then Rainbows could be for you.
Rainbows are part of the
Girl Guiding group.

If your daughter is interested email Jade at jadechoc@aol.com



Are you interested in being a Brownie?

Bishop's Tachbrook Brownies meet on a Wednesday at 6pm till 7.30pm. We have fun, make, work on badges, go on outings, sing, play games and meet new friends. If you are interested in being a Brownie when you are 7, please contact Caroline Loveday on 429082 or 07796 034371 or carolineloveday@sky.com to find out more.



Warwickshire Young Voices

We rehearse Thursday Evenings during term time at Harbury Village Hall from 6.30-7.30pm. We take all children age 7-16 and offer a free trial session (normal subs £30 per term), We already have children from Bishop's Tachbrook who attend regularly and we would welcome more. Please go to www.warwickshireyoungvoices.org for more information.

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