

PARISH MAGAZINE ONLINE

St Chad's



Issue 9 November 2020

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Your magazine featuring news and views from within Bishop's Tachbrook Parish. A gentle mix of the chatty and Church.

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What's in this month's magazine

Start here Precise of what you'll find in the magazine are shown on this page. Click on the title (underlined) to go to the article.



Remembering Revd. Elaine contemplates on the joys and pains of remembering. There's also an update on what's happening at St Chad's.

Tachbrook Residents Action on Climate Change—TRACC Catch up on what's been happening in local efforts to have a positive impact on our climate.



Parish Council News

Work on the village green, new waste bins, a defibrillator in the phone box, bonfires, litter and bird feeding all features in this month's report..



BT Primary School A double page spread covering harvest and a love of nature.

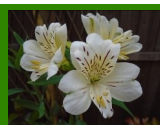


Nature Page Squirrels, Red Admirals, caterpillars and wasps all feature in Steve's gentle piece.



Christmas refuse details of collections over Christmas and the New Year.

WI Flowers, bags and functioning online, the monthly exploits



Domesday and the power of the church Peter Lister's excellent series covering events around Domesday this month covers the relationships between church and state, and between Norman and Anglo Saxon.



Parish Working Party this hard working community group has been working on your behalf at various projects in the parish, view their work here.



Adverts Many of our loyal advertisers will be going through a hard time at present, please use them in preference to those who don't advertise with us. Click on the links below to see who can provide you with a service: [List of all advertisers](#); [St Chad's Centre Events](#); [Sports and Social Club](#); [Food & Drink](#); [Financial Services](#); [Funeral Services](#); [Garden Services](#); [Health & Beauty](#); [Home Improvements](#); [Trades](#); [Miscellaneous](#)

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Photo by Kim Flavell



Remembering

By Revd. Elaine Scrivens

November has always felt like the remembering month, hasn't it? We begin the month by celebrating All Saints and All Souls'. Then, of course, there are our Acts of Remembrance around Remembrance Sunday and Armistice day

We have experienced a number of deaths of some special people in our village of late and as I've been there trying to support the families in their grief I have reflected on how remembering can be such a bittersweet thing. When we remember, it is often with the joy of a cherished time being brought back to our minds, but, of course, with the sadness that the time we are remembering is now past, that it can only be revisited in our memories. Personally, I thank God for that, as I often say, no one can take our memories away. Of course, the memories themselves (perhaps triggered by a certain sight or smell or sound or date) bring a smile to our faces, but they often come tied up with a ribbon of grief because some of the people at the heart of that memory have died. It is not always easy to do so, but it is important that we know it's ok to hold that joy and pain together – to find moments of light and laughter in the darkness - because both the joy and the pain come from the same source: love. I know it can sound like a platitude but it is true, if we didn't love,

we wouldn't grieve.

Whilst there is nothing as painful as the death of someone we love, we may find ourselves grieving other things too. We might be struggling with all sorts of other losses at the moment – loss of a relationship, perhaps, or of our working life, or - for many of our younger people at the moment – the loss of both our present and our imagined future. It might be the loss of who we 'used to be' before age, injury or chronic illness changed things. It might be the loss of the family we were unable to have, the children who were never born.

There are other things too - and it might be that we feel guilty for grieving these things because they don't seem as serious but they still have an impact on us. It might be the loss of our own childhood – that more carefree life before work and bills and responsibility. It might be loss of a place, a beloved location that has changed out of all recognition because of environmental degradation, a new housing development or simply because the people who were important in that place aren't there any more. Of course, at the moment, many of us are mourning our pre-Covid world; we don't want a 'new normal', we want our old normal back, however much we complained about it! I believe that at the heart of any

grief isn't just the person who has died or thing we have lost and the almost physical hole that leaves in us, but the loss of our 'normal' life and the coming to terms with a new way of being, a way we didn't plan for and a way we don't really want. Yet, this is something we must do, however slowly we do it, however long it takes, because life can't stay the same for ever. When we remember, we must be careful not to get stuck in our longing for the past. I think that our remembering must be part of our re-forming, our re-grouping, our re-emerging.

It would be so easy for me to simply acknowledge the importance of faith in this, to remind you that God is with us in all of it, yet I know that however strong a person's faith is, when tragedy strikes, that faith can be really knocked. That said, for me, whilst I might shout at God (and believe me I do!); whilst I might demand that God acts NOW to heal the pain; whilst I might question "but why God?" I am in absolutely no doubt that I will find God there in the mess with me, holding me. is there when it feels darkest and, because God is there, then there is light. It is why Christians call Jesus the Light of the World, why we light candles to remember loved ones. The light might be just a flicker at first, but, even a flicker of light can make a huge difference when life is at its darkest. That light can grow, and it beckons me forward. It doesn't deny my grief, rather it illuminates it and helps me to

find new ways to be, new ways to live with and despite what ever loss I am grieving. The light of God helps me to find new ways to find the balance between joy and pain.

It is no accident, I think, that our season of remembering moves into our Advent season of waiting for the light – and ultimately the explosion of the light into the world at Christmas, the light that is Jesus. My prayer is that you will trust that His light is there for you, today and always.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5)

Blessings, Elaine x

CYCLE OF PRAYER

Praying for our Community

In October we are praying for those
living in
Seven Acre Close
Shylock Grove
St Chad's Road
Tandy Gardens
Taylor Way
The Lees
If there is something or someone you
would like us to pray for please let
Elaine, our Vicar, or a member of the
congregation know.



What's happening at St Chads

By Revd. Elaine Scrivens

Many of you will have noticed that the scaffolding at the front of the church has been removed. I'm pleased to say that the work on the main have roof is now complete. However, the work on the North Aisle continues and is going to cost us a great deal more money. When some of the old lead was removed it was discovered that the coping stones had crumbled. To replace these will cost us £15,000. More problems have also been uncovered which again will cost thousands to repair. If anyone knows of grants we can apply to, or have any great ideas for fundraising, please get in touch. We are going to really struggle to find this money.

Remembrance Sunday.

The service on Remembrance Sunday will start at 10:30. There will be a limit of 25 people allowed in church. We will gather at 10:55 outside at the War Memorial. Again, people will need to be socially distanced for the service to go ahead.

On November 11th there will be a short service of remembrance beginning at 10:50 at the War Memorial. Again people will need to be socially distanced and masks should be worn.

Christingle

We won't be able to celebrate our normal Christingle service in church this year and so I thought we could have a Zoom service where we could all make our own Christingles. The service will be held at 4pm on Sunday December 13th and last no more than 30 minutes. On Saturday December 12th from 10am there will be Christingle bags to collect from church. These bags will have been put together using gloves, masks etc. and will have been left for at least 72 hours before collection. The bag will contain an orange, red ribbon, a candle, cocktail sticks and sweets. We hope to put together 50 bags and they will be available on a first come, first served basis. It would be good if when picking up the bag you could make a donation which will be sent to the Children's Society but this is not obligatory. Please do join in this fun service. If you want more details then drop me an email.



Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

My 3 year old daughter has a musical picture book that plays the most recognised excerpts from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" when a button is pressed on each of the pages. She regularly pushes the Autumn button and then reminds me that "Daddy doesn't like Autumn". This is very true, although I'm not sure why she feels the need to bring it up (with such delight)! For many, Autumn can be a depressing time of year, the low levels of daylight, the changing of the clocks, the colder, wetter weather and a feeling that things are only going to get worse - time to get my super-bright "happy lamp" back out!!

The low feelings of many will obviously be further exacerbated this year by the restrictions that the Government's response to COVID-19 are having on the way we live our lives and interact with each other. Some of the cosier things that we do in the winter (I think the Danes call it "Hygge") are less possible this year as we are increasingly kept apart from our friends and families; it doesn't feel like the run up to Christmas is going to be like those we have known in recent years!

There will be those in our community who suffer throughout this period, be it through loneliness, challenges to their mental wellbeing or the impact on how they cope with the day to day

practicalities of life. Being a community, we must be vigilant to symptoms of such hardships in those around us and support them where we can; if you are concerned about someone's wellbeing please do reach out to them (or to someone else) to ensure that they can get the help they need. This is a fantastic, caring community; let's make sure everyone feels part of it!!

We have finally received sufficient quotes for the refurbishment of the paved area on the village green. This work was originally agreed eighteen months ago but the contractor who was appointed has been unable to undertake the work so more quotes were sought. The paving will be removed and the area will either be seeded or turfed. The small area closest to the road will be laid with small block paving up to the first tree. There will be an extension to the original path and an additional path from the parked cars to the houses. This work should take place in April 2021. We would like to thank the working party for tidying up the area recently.

District Cllr. Norris is organising litter bins for the new developments; these should be installed shortly but might be on the edge of new developments if the roads haven't been adopted yet by the County Council. Additionally, two

bins have been purchased for the Meadow; one will be placed in the play area and the other will replace one of the round bins which, as residents will be aware, are rotting.

The PC has purchased the telephone box in the village area for £1, this will be used to house a defibrillator.

Cllr. Carter is working hard with our County and District Councillors to try and get a speed reduction from 50mph to 40mph on Oakley Wood Road. He is also asking for the chevrons to be upgraded as a number of the recent accidents have been on the bends.

We are aware of a number of complaints regarding bonfires in the parish and ask all residents to please consider their neighbours before lighting a fire. The Parish Council is working with the allotment holders regarding a restriction of permitted times of the year for lighting fires from the allotments.

The new play area is great and very well used. We have, however, received a few complaints and would ask that you please help to take care of it by putting any litter in the bin just outside the area, not kicking balls against the equipment, not taking dogs into the area and not leaving chewing gum on the equipment. As mentioned above, a bin will be placed in the play area shortly (courtesy of our Parish working party). Please do not push litter

through the holes in the trampoline. The working party is going to try and remove the litter but, if they are unable to, or it happens again we will have to pay from the parish precept (taxes) for it to be removed. The play area is designated by Warwick District Council as a 'dog free zone' - therefore if you are caught with a dog you could be fined.

Could we please ask that residents do not throw bread on the Meadow for the birds. Warwick District Council's environment health department tell us that rats are an issue at the moment and this practice will encourage them. Mouldy bread can cause problems for dogs and it is a littering offence. If you wish to feed the birds may we suggest a feeder outside one of your windows or in your garden.

Our next virtual meeting is on Thursday, 12th November at 7pm. If you wish to join please contact the clerk.

Tachbrook Residents' Action on Climate Change - TRACC

By Martin Drew

It's has been a long time in the making – nearly a year since the idea of setting up a Bishop's Tachbrook Residents' Climate Change Action Group was launched. Understandably the life-threatening Pandemic took centre stage, disrupting life as we new it. Yet when considering the calamities that have faced us, man-made climate change is the biggest threat of all. It will wipe out life, as we know it, unless we act now to reverse the effects of rising temperature by 2050. It's not just the responsibility of governments around the world. Local climate change action groups, like BT's, throughout the country and the globe play a major role in helping decarbonize our lives.

As is the new normal, the inaugural meeting of the BT Climate Change Action Group held in August, had to be by Zoom. At that meeting, the four founding members of the group decided on ways to raise residents' awareness about measures to reduce carbon consumption. Again, owing to the constraints caused by Covid, communicating with residents using face-to-face Parish meetings are out for the foreseeable future. We have to rely on social media, the Parish magazine and a section on the BT website.

However there is one group we could

contact directly at BT Primary School. We could help set up activities to teach children about ways to create a sustainable future. Action Group member, Kay Haycock arranged a meeting with Head Teacher, Mrs. C Kilbey, who said it was a great idea as the children are very enthusiastic about wildlife, the environment and caring for our planet. Kay proposed a competition to think up a name and design a logo for a children's version of the BT Climate action Group (see Save the Planet and win a prize). It was agreed that this is a terrific way to get youngsters involved and to convince their parents to adopt a greener lifestyle.

A whole range of ideas for future activities was discussed such as fundraising for environmental protection charities to recycling, looking after endangered species to encouraging pollinators to visit the peace garden. Kay agreed to develop a programme of structured projects and provide support for class teachers. This academic year, owing to Covid-19, there is more emphasis than ever on the children spending time outdoors so there is plenty of scope to shape learning around outdoor activities. Many of the projects could be done in conjunction with Heathcote Primary School and Kay will contact Head Teacher Mrs. Humphriss to outline the

scheme.

On a wider scale, some of the school projects could take place in the Country Park where there could be a centre for wildlife protection (flora and fauna) open to all residents. The action Group will contact BT Parish Councillor, Sean Deely as he is member of the Country Park Committee, to discuss activities that could be based in the Country Park. In addition a Facebook campaign is being launched to lobby WDC Councillors to extend the Park to the South of the Tach Brook.

To say Kay has been busy is an understatement; she has been appointed to a new job of Environmental Officer on the Parent Teachers Association at BT School. In addition, Kay has volunteered to become the Climate Ambassador for BT Women's Institute. It will include training from the WI with a view to participating in local and national events.

Learning from others

The steering group from now on will be called **TRACC**, standing for **Tachbrook Residents Action on Climate Change**. Bob Sherman, a founding member of Harbury Energy Initiative (HEI) suggested the catchy name. I had contacted him while researching Electric Vehicle Charging points as they may be fitted to the proposed car park extension on the

Meadow. Talking to Bob was very enlightening as Harbury has long experience in reducing their carbon footprint as HEI was started back in 2010. Projects have included developing energy generation: fitting solar panels and LED lights in Harbury Primary School, providing two community use electric vehicles and the latest project to install community electric vehicle charge points with power generation (solar & wind turbine) plus battery power storage. HEI has also worked with year 5 at Harbury Primary School to devise a questionnaire on energy efficiency at home. It's an ideal project for the children at our Primary Schools.

Thanks to Bob, Bishop's Tachbrook is now a member of the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN). This comprises local Climate Action groups around Warwickshire sharing ideas and support on a range of initiatives to reduce carbon footprints. LCWN is in the process of widening the group with a consortium bringing together Harbury Energy Initiative, Act on Energy, RSA and Community Energy Warwickshire and WCC Energy Management department. The aim is to provide an expert resource that will advise/implement green community and school projects such as videos showing career opportunities in green technology. Unfortunately live LCWN meetings have been postponed because of the Pandemic but will continue to communicate digitally.

TRACC will benefit greatly from the advice and support HEI and LCWN can provide in helping BT achieve net zero carbon. Warwick County Council is launching a Climate Change Fund, early mid November, to support local groups and TRACC will apply for a grant in due course. Last but by no means least, don't forget to apply for the Government Green Homes Grant. Vouchers will cover two-thirds of the cost of eligible energy efficient improvements, up to a maximum government contribution of £5,000. If you, or someone in your household, receive certain benefits you may be

eligible for a voucher covering 100% of the cost of the improvements. The maximum value of the voucher is £10,000. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>

If you are interested in joining TRACC, especially if you have expert knowledge, or simply want to do your bit to help in any way, you can contact Martin Drew, martin@bishopstachbrook.com

BT Boys & Girls

Help Save the Planet & Win a Prize

We need your help children

Do you know what's happening to our climate? Do you care about local wildlife and countryside? Do you like to reuse and recycle things? Do you have ideas on how we can look after our wonderful parish of Bishop's Tachbrook ...and the planet? There is a small, enthusiastic group of grown-ups who have joined forces to help everyone in BT tackle the effects of climate change. It's called the Tachbrook Residents' Action on Climate Change - TRACC for short. Wouldn't it be a great idea if you could have your very own children's team like TRACC to beat climate change?

So let's start with a competition. Think up a name for your team and design a logo. It can be done on computer or tablet, drawn or painted. There are 3 fabulous planet friendly prizes to be won and the overall winner's design will be seen by lots of people in Bishop's Tachbrook and all the winners will have their names and winning designs published in the Parish Magazine.

Competition entry

Send your digital entry to BishopsTRACC@outlook.com. Or email us to arrange delivery/collection of non-digital entries. All entries must in by 24th December 2020. Bob Sherman from Harbury Energy Initiative will be the judge. The winner and finalists will be announced in the January 2021 BT Parish Magazine. Good luck



Your refuse and recycling collections will change over Christmas

There will be no refuse or recycling collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. All collections will be affected by the following changes:

Normal collection date	New collection date over Christmas
Mon 21 Dec 2020	Sat 19 Dec 2020
Tue 22 Dec 2020	Mon 21 Dec 2020
Wed 23 Dec 2020	Tue 22 Dec 2020
Thurs 24 Dec 2020	Wed 23 Dec 2020
Fri 25 Dec 2020	Thurs 24 Dec 2020
Mon 28 Dec 2020	No change
Tue 29 Dec 2020	No change
Wed 30 Dec 2020	No change
Thurs 31 Dec 2020	No change
Fri 1 Jan 2021	Sat 2 Jan 2021

Please ensure your bins, boxes and bags are presented at the edge of your property by 7am on your amended collection day.

Normal collections will resume on Monday 4th January 2020.

Recycling wrapping paper and Christmas cards

Recycle wrapping paper and Christmas cards with your cardboard. We cannot recycle foil wrapping paper, glittery wrapping paper, glittery cards, ribbons, bows and tape.

What to do with extra recycling over Christmas?

Put extra recycling in a sturdy bag or small box (please keep each material separate) and place beside your red boxes and bags. Please flatten or cut large cardboard into pieces no larger than 1m x 1m.

Christmas tree recycling

Please cut your real Christmas tree into pieces and put it in your green bin for collection throughout January 2020. Make sure all decorations, tree stands, pots and netting are removed.

If you don't have a green bin please take your tree to Princes Drive Recycling Centre in Leamington Spa or Cherry Orchard Recycling Centre in Kenilworth.

Check your collection changes online

warwickdc.gov.uk/christmasrecycling



Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

On many a morning a soft grey mist drapes around the trees in the park land near the cottage. As the sun breaks through it sheds light on the sheep eating the wet grass. Autumn sights, smells and dampness are all around us. Each species of tree has its own signature colour as the leaves change before falling.

getting ready for acorns. Time is against them so they are busy all day.

I was working the other day when I noticed what looked like a small brown leaf under a window sill. It was a newly emerged Red Admiral. It seemed small until it slowly pumped up its wings and the colours became

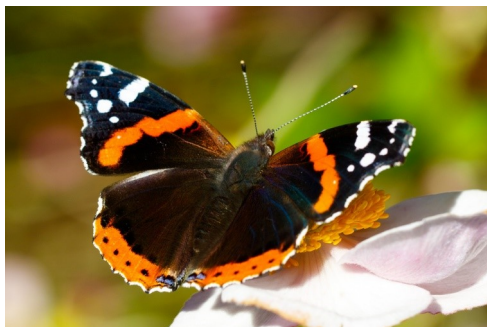
There is now a Fungi fest going on. Just inside the spinney is the stump of a Chestnut tree. As you approach it's like a scene from a fairy tale with what must be thousands of Toadstools growing all over it and spreading along its roots. Nature is doing a clear up' not much is wasted.

The Squirrels have had their annual holiday, not needing handouts from me, they have the old Walnut tree to visit. There's been many a screeching, chattering battle to take and keep control of a prized branch of walnuts, for the last few weeks. Now the harvest is eaten or stashed for Winter so now they are



visible. Down the white painted wall were half a dozen red splashes, a little paler than blood. I've never noticed that before. I looked it up and the red liquid is called meconium. It's made up of the leftover parts of the caterpillar

not needed to make a butterfly. It's stored in the intestine of the butterfly, then ejected after it emerges from the chrysalis. Well! I never knew that! If it hadn't happened on a white wall I may never have noticed it. These late developers will live for about 10 months if they survive the Winter.



Has your garden furniture or fences got little pale stripes on them about an inch long? Ours have. This is where Wasps have used their jaws to nibble the wood surface and make possibly the first papier-mache way before we thought of it. With this they build their elaborate nests.

All very grizzly but effective. In return the grub secrets a sweet liquid that feeds the workers - sort of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours".

Lots of people have said, "Why did God create Wasps?". I once heard an extremely lovely Vicar say that. Well, yes, they can sting and get annoying but they do a fair bit of pollinating just like Bees. Also they are nifty predators,

This Summer my broccoli were plagued by caterpillars. Every day the Wasps flew under the leaves in search of them. So, yes, God did have a plan. Fancy a Vicar doubting that!



many a fly and other insect has been carried off by a Wasp. I've seen them checking Spider webs and even picking up dead insects. Now these are carried (flown) back to the nest where they are fed to the wasp grubs.



Harvest, Worship and Reaching Out



The children at Bishop's Tachbrook CE Primary have celebrated harvest in a 'virtual' way this year. We were really pleased that Reverend Elaine was able to visit us to celebrate, and we thought about all of the local farmers and shop workers who help to bring us food to eat. The children and their families donated lots of food that was taken to the Food Bank. They also made 'Thank You' cards for the local farmers, which Reverend Elaine kindly delivered.



We have also been very busy exploring different ways to worship, despite not being able to spend time together collectively in the hall. Last week the children chose a 'wonderful' way to worship and their ideas were so beautifully creative.



Year 2 used thread to sew autumn leaves together to create mobiles, and added their prayers of thanks.

Year 3 made bubble wands and blew bubble prayers. They watched them dance in the breeze and drift up to God.



Year 1 created a class 'Thank you' flower by drawing round their hands and collating their thank you messages.



Year 4 also used their hands to learn about The Beatitudes and think of the different ways they were blessed—discovering that being blessed is more than being happy! They created some beautiful wreaths.



RESPONSIBILITY

Take care of every living thing that moves on the earth.

Genesis 1:21



Year 6 worshipped through drama, bringing to life The Parable of the Sower.

**Some seed fell on the path
and was eaten by the birds.**

**Some seed fell among thorny
weeds and couldn't grow.**

**Some seed fell on good soil
and grew tall and strong**



Reception enjoyed worshipping through the story of Noah's Ark. As a class, they have a real curiosity and interest in animals and were excited to learn about the responsibility God gave to Noah to look after the animals while there was such a huge flood.



Year 5 created a paper chain with so many prayers of thanks that it stretched across the school hall!



**FOR
YOUR
WORLD**

The children have also decided to reach out and support a charity this year. As a school, we are extremely passionate about animals and conservation of the planet, so it came as no surprise that the charity they voted to support this year was WWF.

They are already beginning to plan fundraising ideas!

RESPONSIBILITY
"Take care of every living thing that moves on the earth."

© 2011 WWF



Thank heavens for Zoom meetings. October is our annual meeting month, we had hoped to defer this until February until a directive from the federation asking us to hold this meeting as normal, to comply with the WI constitution, so a few phone calls later and all was arranged. A big thank you to those who made a supreme effort to join in whether with help from family or buddying with someone in your bubble. I was very lucky that apart from Elaine, who is leaving us in the New Year, everyone agreed to remain on the committee. Reports were read, by-laws agreed and the financial report was presented and approved. The only real thing we had to do was elect a president. This is where Ray took over, acting as teller. Everyone wrote their nomination on a piece of paper and held it up for him to count. Much to his dismay it's me again. Thank you everyone for your support. The evening finished off with a selection of quizzes courtesy of Emma.

Unfortunately most county events have been cancelled until next year. Two Serious Science lectures have been arranged already. These are Neptune - A Calculated Guess and From Dig to Lab about the setting up and running an excavation. Otherwise it's Zoom talks. I've seen the author Claire Pooley, John Johnson, actress Jennifer Rigby, she was brilliant, so full of life and animated. I could have learnt Indian Block Printing or visited Cambridge. I'm now looking forward to a talk with Charles Hanson,

auctioneer and antiques expert and a pantomime dame. Nothing stops the WI enjoying themselves

Each month members are still getting their what I called goodie bags but now have to be referred to as meeting bags. Somehow we manage to come up with different contents. These include a recipe, craft, quiz, tea bags, sweets, biscuits of some description and anything else I can think of. For two days my dining table is completely covered by 33 bags.



Why not put them on the floor you are thinking. Answer - 2 stupid cats plus we do a zoom Pilates on the day they are due to be delivered so not enough space.

Christmas is coming. No party this year but I am hoping some of the ladies are dusting off their party pieces so when we have our zoom meeting we will have in house entertainment . Fingers crossed it works out.

Some of the book club is meeting at the Leopard this month others elsewhere. It's unfortunately to cold to sit in a field anymore . I'm still practicing for wine club and I'm sure the others are too, or maybe like me it's more of a gin club at the moment. Knitting group is another that is unable to meet. My garden is big enough to distance in but knitting whilst wrapped up in coats and blankets proves difficult.

We are still running our monthly flower competition. Entries have dwindled off but here are this months. When you start to looking at your late flowers it's amazing what you find.



Although we are not holding actual meetings we are still welcoming new members with open arms. Special rates have been organised by the National Federation to allow new members to give us a try. The WI still has so much to offer. I as a new recruit to the federation county committee was asked to give a vote of thanks to the Lord Lieutenant. On standing to do this promptly forgot his name, WI had given me the confidence to be able to get myself out of the mess without him realising. I've spoken regularly on local radio and travelled the county representing the federation . These are things I never dreamt I would be able to do prior to joining. The same could apply to you. Please think about giving us a try.



Domesday and the power of the church

By Peter Lister

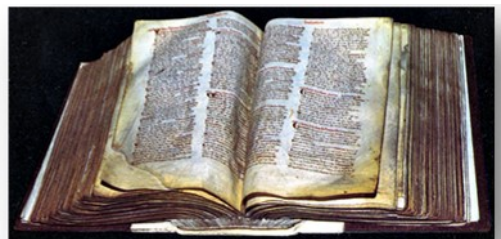
One of the things that the Domesday survey of 1086 gives us is a picture of the power and significance of the Church in England in the middle ages. The list of land holders in the index at the beginning of each shire's entry works in hierarchical order: the king first, then come the bishops, followed by the abbeyes. Only after the church tenants-in-chief have been dealt with do we get to the list of lay people, starting with the heads of powerful families, and so on down the ranks. The church had an immense spiritual hold on all levels of society, especially as it promised to provide an assured way to salvation in the life beyond death. The medieval mind clung to this hope and the church promised to show the way, but only to those who believed in the faith it proclaimed and the practices of religion that it laid down. To those who did not hold to the true faith, the church claimed to have the power to consign souls after death to eternal damnation.

As well as this spiritual power, the church also had great secular or temporal power. It played a very significant role in what we might think of as the Civil Service. This was as true in the new Norman society, as it had been before in Anglo-Saxon times. Training in reading, writing and the chronicling of history and information was in the main provided by the church. It was something that clergy and members of the religious orders



were trained in and this expertise was made use of throughout many aspects of society.

The teams that set out around the country in 1086 to gather the information for King William's great survey had at their core clerics and monks able to record the information provided within each shire, tabulate the results and send them to Winchester where they were written up into the Domesday books.



In the case of the Great Domesday Book (in which appears the information for Warwickshire) the

immense chore of writing up was done by one unnamed monk. It is hardly surprising that he used a very heavily abbreviated version of the Latin to record all the detail.

The results contained in Domesday give a clear picture of the importance of the Church within what was still a largely Anglo-Saxon structured society, with a new ruling Norman elite shoehorned into it and calling the tune by right of conquest. Before the Conquest, the country was divided into a number of ecclesiastical dioceses, each with its bishop, senior clergy and parish clergy.

In general the northern part of Warwickshire was in the diocese of Lichfield, the southern part in the diocese of Worcester. Ten years after the Conquest, the opportunity was taken to replace the Bishop of Lichfield with a Norman, Bishop Peter. It would appear that he considered Lichfield something of a backwater and decided to move his base to the more prestigious and historic Chester. The move seems to defy logic, as the diocese was immense in size and spread considerably further to the east than it does today. Chester was situated in the far north west corner. So it remained for twenty years until the next bishop exercised some common sense and moved back to the Midlands, though not to Lichfield but to the more prestigious Coventry.

The Anglo-Saxon Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester (who was born at Long Itchington) sought to help bridge the



gap between the old and the new regimes and for this was considered good value by the new Norman regime and allowed to remain in his post.. He was a social reformer and, together with Archbishop Langfranc of Canterbury, worked for the abolition of the slave trade from Bristol. (Rather tongue in cheek, perhaps their statues should replace that of the fallen Edward Colston in Bristol?). King William formally abolished slave trading but it was some time into the 12th century before it effectively disappeared in England. When he died in 1095, Wulfstan was the last of the Anglo-Saxon bishops appointed before the Conquest. He was buried in his cathedral and, as he was regarded as a saint, a shrine to him was established there.

There were two bishops of dioceses in Normandy who were allocated manors in the shire. Odo, a half-brother of King William, was bishop of Bayeux (where the famous tapestry of that name is now housed). He had provided ships towards William's invasion and took part in the Battle of

Hastings itself. He is shown in the tapestry in full armour in the midst of the battle wielding a club. As a reward for his support, Odo was granted a great number of manors throughout England, with six of them being in Warwickshire. He was appointed Earl of Kent and acted as regent for King William on a number of occasions. One other Norman bishop, Geoffrey de Montbray, bishop of Coutances, was granted a manor,. Like Bishop Odo, he was a strong supporter of William and also seems to have taken part in the Battle of Hastings. He was rewarded with many manors spread over 12 counties, though only one of them, Fillongley, was in Warwickshire. As well as carrying out much needed reforms in his diocese in Normandy, he played a significant role assisting King William in the governance of England and the suppression of various rebellions that broke out. It was said of him that, "he took pride in his noble birth and was better known for his military rather than his clerical ability; he knew more about marshalling soldiers in battle than teaching psalm-singing clerks."



A previous article on life in the 1080s showed that, as far as the parish

clergy were concerned, the spiritual needs of those living in the 368 manors outside Warwick town were served by 68 priests based in 63 churches. One of these churches was in the village of Bishop's Tachbrook, though at that time the church would have been a timber building. It was linked then to the cathedral church at Lichfield, providing some of its income. As a memory of that, one of the prebendary stalls in the choir of the cathedral proudly displays the name "Tachbrook".

The other significant church institutions were the abbeys, both for men and for women. The monastic life was well established, and the abbeys generally played a significant role in the economy of the country, and were consequently often rich. Not only did their commercial enterprises raise money but they encouraged land holders to grant them manors, often in return for some guarantee of a shorter time in Purgatory (a testing time after death) and a better chance of gaining paradise thereafter. Coventry Abbey certainly benefitted in this way. It had begun life as a simple Saxon nunnery about the year 700, but was destroyed by King Cnut and his invading Danish forces in 1016. It was re-founded and endowed as a Benedictine abbey dedicated to St. Mary in 1046 by Lady Godiva and her husband, Earl Leofric of Mercia. Because they had provided the wherewithal to establish the abbey, after their deaths both were allowed to be buried in the abbey church itself.

A measure of its wealth and importance in the area can be seen in the significant number of 21 manors in the shire that it was granted by 1086. Other abbeys had also benefitted: Evesham Abbey had five, while there were one each for the abbeys at Abingdon, Burton, Malmesbury, and Winchcombe.

Inevitably, as with any land holdings, there were disputes in the 11th century as much as there might be today. The Domesday survey was the opportunity to get these resolved. Certainly the church was not slow to take advantage of this. There was a dispute about Alveston, which was divided into two manors. There was uncertainty as to whether Earl Leofric, or Aeldred, the Archbishop of York, or the local Anglo-Saxon family, headed by Leofwin, had the claim to them. The matter was resolved when Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester, stepped in and testified that it had been granted to him by writ from King William. The commissioners, of course, had no option but to accept that claim - they could not gainsay the king.

There was certainly some high handed action by one of the new Norman lords in the case of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore. Coventry Abbey claimed that it had been given to them in earlier days by Alwin the Sheriff for "his soul's sake" but then Earl Aubrey had seized it from them. The commissioners agreed with the abbey and it was so recorded in Domesday.

In the case of the manor of Flecknow, Leofwin (presumably the same Leofwin as above) had claimed that he held it from the bishop of Worcester. However, Wulfstan, the said bishop, stated that this was not true. As a result, Leofwin lost his claim to the manor and was in trouble - "in the king's mercy".

Domesday was intended as the definitive judgement about land holdings, indeed that was the likely meaning of "dome" in this context. And so it remained for some time, in fact it had to be consulted as late as the 1960s in a land dispute.

My analysis of Domesday for the county shows that in 1086 the church, through its holdings by the various bishops and abbeys, had 61 manors in Warwickshire (17% of the total). By area in the county, this amounted to 15% of the land, with 14% of the population living in those church manors. The system meant that the church in its various manifestations had a very substantial income, though it also had a potential tax liability to the Exchequer that came to 17% of the total for the shire.

In matters spiritual as well as temporal the Church certainly had a key place in the fabric of English society at all levels in the 11th century. The information in Domesday sets this out in great detail. 934 years have passed since then and have certainly brought great changes to the Church's role within our society today.



Parish Working Party

Keith Wellsted

The Parish Working Party was out, hard at work, on Saturday 24th October. They did a great job clearing the paths to the Meadow from Holt Avenue and Oakley Wood Road, cutting round the BMX track, picking litter from the playground and helping clear round the St Chad's Centre. A big thanks to all.

If you'd like to join us please e-mail me on keith@bishopstachbrook.com





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Important Information.

Due to recent changes to the government guidelines effective from Thursday 24th September 2020 and until further notice, unless you are seated at a table a face covering must always be worn inside the BTSSC.

This includes:

When entering and exiting the premises.

When traveling through the premises to the outside spaces

When traveling to, from and using the clubs toilet facilities

When using all other facilities that require you to stand, i.e. gaming machines, snooker tables, pool table, darts etc.

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What's on at the St Chad's Centre

Monday	Activity	Contact
10.00-11.00	Tai Chi – All Classes are for beginners but are suitable for anyone. Classes have a maximum of 10 Students to ensure social distancing and are COVID Compliant. First class is free, so no reason not to find if Tai Chi is right for “you”	Peter Fletcher 07487 685679
17.00-19.00	Martial Arts Class. Children/Beginners up to age 11	Andy Shaw – andy@linkcube.co.uk
17.45-19.00	Martial Arts Class. Over 12 years and adults	Andy Shaw – andy@linkcube.co.uk
19.30-20.30	Tai Chi details as above.	Peter Fletcher 07487 685679
Tuesday	Activity	Contact
9.15-12.30	Adventure Babies Take your little ones on a Sensory Story-telling Adventure every Tuesday at St Chad's Centre, as we bring brilliant books to life with puppets, props, bubbles and sensory activities. Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 9.15am - 10.00am Diddy Adventurers (0-12 months) 10.30am - 11.15am Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 11.45am - 12.30am Booking essential please visit www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry to secure your place or contact lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk	lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk or visit: www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry
16.30-18.20	Acrobatic Arts 1 4.30pm-5.15pm - Ages 5+ Learn the foundations of dance technique and acro movement. In this beginner class, students will develop skills such as forwards and backward rolls, cartwheels and bridges in a fun, friendly environment. £18 per month. Acrobatic Arts 2 5.20pm-6.20pm - Ages 7+ A more challenging acro class for children who have previous acro or dance experience. Learn how to safely execute skills such as handstands, backbends and walkovers alongside improving dance technique. £21.50 per month	Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or el-lie@atomicdance.co.uk
19.00-20.00	Cookery Class – classes available to children over 8 and adults	Ann-Marie Lambert 07956 955951 or getcooking@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday	Activity	Contact
10.00-11.00	Tai Chi - as Monday	Peter Fletcher 07487 685679
11.30-12.30 And 18.00-19.00	<p>Coming soon 4th November</p> <p>Supporting Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Yoga classes with Amanda</p> <p>Specialising in yoga for beginners. Sedentary workers, and mums.</p> <p>Term time only(small children welcome)</p> <p>£7.00 per person</p> <p>Classes are limited to 11 people</p> <p>Please bring your own mat / block</p> <p>I ask that attendees wear masks when not on their mat.</p>	www.lifewithamandaj.com
19.30-20.30	Tai Chi as Monday	Peter Fletcher 07487 685679
Thursday	Activity	Contact
11.15-12.15	<p>Little Stars Mini Mix</p> <p>11.15am-12.15pm - Ages 2-4</p> <p>1 hour of dance and gymnastics fun for your little one! Using props, music and equipment, watch your child discover their love for dance whilst improving in coordination, strength and confidence.</p> <p>£6 per week paid termly - Fully booked, join our waiting list for possible additional classes...</p>	<p>Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or el-lie@atomicdance.co.uk</p>
4pm-16.30	<p>Coming soon Starting 12th November</p> <p>Little Stars Ballet Ages 2-5</p> <p>Fall in love with the beauty of ballet right from the start of your child's dance journey...Skip, gallop and twirl your way through the basics with our IDTA qualified teachers.</p>	<p>Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or el-lie@atomicdance.co.uk</p>

Thursday	Activity	Contact
16.35 –17.05	Little Stars Musical Theatre Ages 2-5 A 30 minute class exploring the art of singing, dancing and acting, specifically tailored for our Little Stars! Watch them develop their imagination and confidence. £14.50 per month	Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or ellie@atomicdance.co.uk
17.10-18.10	Junior Combo 5.10pm-6.10pm - Ages 5+ A class exploring a combination of dance styles for students that want to do it all! Ballet, Jazz, Street, Lyrical, Acro-gymnastics and Musical Theatre to name a few... Students will get to try a variety of styles whilst improving their dance technique, strength and flexibility. £21.50 per month	Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or ellie@atomicdance.co.uk
Friday	Activity	Contact
10.00-11.00	Tai Chi - As Monday	Peter Fletcher 07487 685679





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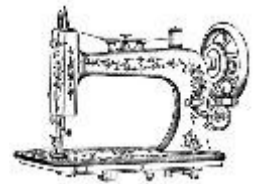
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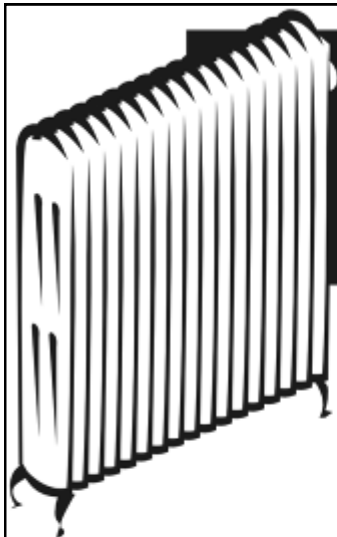
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