

PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 1 February 2022 www.bishopstachbrook.com

Your magazine featuring news and views from Bishop's Tachbrook Parish.



What's in this month's magazine

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Thoughts on the need to plan



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Your up to date guide to actions being taken on your behalf by the Parish Council



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It's coming back!



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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 link to see who can provide you with a service:

A word from the vicar

Revd. Jonathan Smith



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29.11

Well, here we are back at Plan A! Like me, perhaps you've been thinking what Plan A means in theory and in practice for us now. How it differs from plan B? how we managed to avoid plan C? (if there was one!) and even wondering how many other plans there were?

So, with plan A we now look forward, reflecting over the past 22 months and with the sense of weariness to it all. The pandemic has highlighted some of the best of human nature against the backdrop of the saddest times for the world.

As we try to imagine turning a brave corner into, what we hope, will be the post lockdown era, every week still seems to bring new and critical moments in the grand plan of human history. Amidst it all, we are patiently getting used to the various changes it has brought and try to live moment by moment.

The thought of living in the moment that has been critical to my ability to cope through the last couple of years. Ask any parent like me how they have found it, and overall, you will almost certainly get an unsurprisingly weary theme.

But survive we do - because that's what we do! It's in the human DNA that we just hang in. Most recently, I've been reading the great book '*4,000 weeks*' by Oliver Berkeman and it has reminded me that humans have some remarkable sets of coping mechanisms. His point is that life is made up of very small segments in an overall very short and finite life. So, with that crucial knowledge he encourages our thinking to make wiser choices, maybe even change thinking to act on the plans we thought were once utterly unchangeable.

Of course, all this is nothing new to Christian teaching as Jesus had much to say about the gift of, and use of, time. All the way back to earlier Old Testament times the kings, judges and prophets were continually given quiet solitary

moments for God's purposes to encourage them with a vision of his future prosperity (and not to failure) but it would often go against their own plans. Jonah's whale and Deborah's story springs to mind.

The thing is, whether it's A, B or C becomes the best plan, it is of secondary issue to faith. We are called to trust God's best plan first. Sometimes following that process is hard, and unclear, but God is always doing something good behind the scenes, always working for good even when we don't see it. This is the comfort we need when everything can feel hopeless and life continues to feel a challenge.

Finally, it's a relief for those procrastinators like me out there, that no matter what time we have left to live, none of it is wasted. Plans may come and go, and they will, but every moment, however small, counts. I leave you with the famous funeral liturgy which, for me, is the sheer definition of the best use of time. And it says:

...give us Lord the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth, to turn to Christ and follow his steps in the way that leads to everlasting life.

May time be yours.

Every blessing, Jonathan



WELCOME

All are welcome to join St Chads Church for Sundays.

Communion 10am every week* with a free Children's Sunday Club. (*Apart from All Age Worship which happens on the 1st Sunday of the month)

Special advance notice - 27th February is special service followed by a walk to commemorate St Chad.



CONTACT DETAILS

For Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals and general enquiries please :

e-mail stchadsbt@gmail.com

Phone: **07999127260**

Our Church Warden: Rod Smith can be reached on 612242

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Annual Revision of the Church Electoral will take place during the period 6th to 27th February.

If you wish your name to be added to the roll, application forms can be obtained from church or from Joan Alderman (Electoral Roll Officer) Tel: 651643).

Those whose names are already on the roll **DO NOT** need to re-apply. Being on the Electoral Roll entitles you to vote at the Parochial Church Council AGM due to take place this year on 20th March. (more details later)

CYCLE OF PRAYER

Praying for our Community

In December we are praying for those living in:

Beale Close
Biffin Way
Bishop's Close
Bolingbroke Drive
Bradford Close
Butler Close

If there is something or someone you would like us to pray for please let a member of the congregation know.

CHURCHYARD NEWS

As the time for gardening arrives once more and especially grass mowing, could we please ask relatives who have placed wreaths on their loved ones grave to either remove them by February 18th. or they will be removed by us and disposed of, recycling as many parts as possible. Thank you all.



St Chad's Community Cafe

We hope to reopen the Café on Thursday 3rd March from 10.15 to 11.45. Eventually we hope to be open every week but we don't have enough volunteers.

Open days in March will be the 3rd, 17th and 31st.

Please bring exact change, £2 for a drink and cake or bring a card to use in the card reader.

If you would like to volunteer for one or two weeks a month please contact Kate Wellsted on:

Chadstreasurer@outlook.com or ring 0771 3113464



Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

With the ending of most of the restrictions we can now hopefully look forward to a spring where we can think about something other than closing ourselves off. I'm looking forward to being able to hold Parish Council meetings with the doors closed - the January one was particularly chilly!

At that meeting we were joined by officers from Warwickshire County Council to update the council (and attending residents) on progress on the Bishop's Tachbrook Secondary School. The Council and residents were disappointed to learn that the school might not be opened in 2023 due to delays in obtaining access to the land (and, if I'm being brutally honest what would appear to have been a lack of focus on this matter before the latter half of 2021).

Critically important for some of our residents, if the opening is delayed until 2024 then this will mean children will either have to attend another secondary school (for their entire school life) or alternatively that arrangements could be made to accommodate them temporarily off-site and transfer them to Bishop's Tachbrook Secondary School when the school is finished in summer 2024.

The parish council have written to the leader of the county council asking her to urgently look at this matters and ideally to intervene in a way that delivers the best results for the affected pupils. The Parish Council presently believes that over-filling existing schools with additional pupils is likely to be sub-optimal for all concerned and therefore favours an option involving temporary facilities.

Cllr. Sean Deely will be representing the Parish Council on a committee for the construction of the school and will be updating the Parish Council on a regular basis. There is also an intention to nominate a parent to sit on that committee as well.

In road news, the Parish Council has asked for several streets to have reduced speeds of 20mph. We are awaiting the results from the County Council working party, of which County Cllr. Jan Matecki is a member, to see whether we have been successful. Jan is also making some progress on drawing attention to the unsafe speeds on Harbury Lane near Heathcote school – hopefully we can see more action here in the near future.

The play area signage has been approved and we are looking forward to it being erected in the not too distant future. Please remember that this is a children's area so please don't smoking or vape in the enclosed area, no dogs are allowed and please remember to put your rubbish in the bins or take it home.

Several allotment plots have become vacant on the Meadow. The clerk has been working with the allotments manager to identify residents who have requested a plot. We have been trying to prioritise people who are not within walking distance of Oakley Meadows allotments as there will be no parking for allotment users of these allotments. Progress with obtaining ownership of these allotments is still very slow due to the developer's solicitor not engaging with our solicitor. We understand the developer is currently investigating this issue and await a response from them.

Allotment holders should also be aware that works to replace the water system in the Meadow allotments will take place later this year; any inconvenience should hopefully be offset by greater amenity at the conclusion of the works.

Annual inspections have taken place on the play area, the adult gym equipment, the Meadow and BMX track. Risks identified are all low. Our monthly play area inspector is looking to see if he is able to assist with any of the minor adjustments required. The clerk is liaising with the play area company to try and resolve the issues with the surfacing.

Our March article will include information about the precept and projects the Parish Council hope to undertake in 2022/23; we are aware of the rising costs of living and this will be taken into account when we set any increases in the precept.

We have applied for £1,500 from the County Councillor's grant fund for 2 picnic tables on the Meadow. These tables are suitable for residents who have dogs and are unable to access the tables in the play area.

Finally a tender document is being drawn up, by our consultants, for the car park at the edge of the Meadow (now we have planning permission). Once published we will let you advertise in the hope that there will be some local companies who wish to tender.

Our next meeting will be on 10th February at 7.30pm at the St. Chad's Centre.

St Chad—who was he

Rev Jenny Lister

Chad was born in the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria, the youngest of four sons, all of whom became priests and monks. They entered the monastery on the isle of Lindisfarne, just off the Northumberland coast, where St. Aidan was abbot. Chad's brother Cedd had founded an abbey at Lastingham in what we now know as Yorkshire and, when Cedd died, Chad was elected abbot in his place. Following the decision by the Synod of Whitby in 664 that the English church would follow the Roman



tradition rather than the Celtic tradition, Chad was appointed as bishop of the Northumbrians. However, this position had already been promised to Wilfrid and a new Archbishop of Canterbury, Theodore, asked Chad to stand down in Wilfrid's favour in 669. Chad's graciousness in acceding to Theodore's judgement impressed the archbishop and, when he was asked later that year by the king of Mercia to appoint a bishop for his kingdom, he had no hesitation in appointing Chad as bishop to the Mercians.

At that time Mercia covered an enormous area, stretching from what we think of as Lancashire and the Wirral in the north-west to Lincolnshire and the Wash in the east and down to the Bristol Chanel in the south-west. Chad moved the base of his

diocese from Repton to establish a new monastery and cathedral at Lichfield. He quickly gained the respect of his people by his wisdom, gentle character and assiduous travelling round the diocese, usually on foot. However, after only three years Chad died of plague at Lichfield on the 2nd March in 672. He was immediately afterwards venerated as a saint and his resting place in his cathedral at Lichfield became a shrine and place of pilgrimage during the Middle Ages. Lichfield cathedral is dedicated to St Chad and St Mary and has contacted all known St Chad foundations to form a St Chad's Network for this 1,350th anniversary of Chad's death.



Having been for many, many centuries in the Lichfield diocese, our church in Bishop's Tachbrook is one of only 30 ancient dedications to St Chad, although the present building is not the original church here but is a 12th century replacement for the wooden one. On this 1,350th anniversary of St Chad's death I hope that as many of you as possible will come along to our Patronal Festival service at 10am on Sunday 27th February to give thanks for the past, celebrate the present and pray for the future life and witness of St Chad's church.

Rev Jenny Lister

Love with a smile

"Just last week I wrote: 'I still love you. See last year's card for full details.'"

-- Michael McIntyre

"Love is a friendship set to music."

-- Joseph Campbell

"In love, one and one are one."

-- Jean Paul Sartre

"The best thing to hold onto in life is each other."

-- Audrey Hepburn

"I think I love you, and eh, I-I just wondered by any chance you wouldn't like to... Eh... Eh... No, no, no of course not... I'm an idiot."

-- Hugh Grant, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

"You know you're in love when you don't want to fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."

-- Dr. Seuss

February Facts

Independence of Sri Lanka: February 4

1917 Constitution of Mexico: February 5

Waitangi Day in New Zealand: February 6

Slovenian Cultural Holiday: February 8

National Foundation Day in Japan:
February 11

International Mother Language Day:
February 21

Independence Day in Saint Lucia:
February 22

World Thinking Day - World Association
of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts:
February 22

Flag Day of Mexico: February 24

People Power Revolution Philippines:
February 25

Liberation Day Kuwait: February 26

Dominican Republic Independence:
February 27

National Day of the Sun: Argentina



WI

By Anne Allen

It seems so long ago since I last wrote a report. What a lot has happened or so it seems to have done.

We held our Christmas party at the beginning of December which this year was a bring your own supper. What an interesting selection of suppers there was too. Some of us just brought a sandwich others got together with friends and enjoyed a full blown buffet. Unfortunately due to a heating malfunction to say the school hall was a little chilly is an understatement, maybe only having 16 bodies didn't generate enough heat but we still managed to enjoy ourselves. We even had a visit from Santa. A big thank you to everyone who braved the evening.

Due to the ongoing situation, weather and general health of members, we decided to abandon our January meal at the Leopard.

In February our speaker will be Nicola Burke known to some of you as one of our school governors. She will be telling us about her life including her work with the Royal Opera House, the Albert Hall, BBC and the Houses of Parliament all leading to her writing a document with legal requirements regarding music for pre-school children. Come along and find out what her next, possibly dangerous, project is !!

In March the speaker is coming to talk about Foundry Wood in Leamington. Somewhere I will admit I've never been to. In April, John Dickson is talking about Tewkesbury hopefully prior to us being able to visit the town. Unfortunately we won't be visiting the subject of June's talk. It would be passport's at the ready when Peggy King tells us about her life in Surabaya, East Java. This is followed by a Tai Chi taster session in July. Lots to look forward to in the coming months. If you would like to come along please either just turn up or give me a call or text for more information.

Our knit and natter group now meets in the Leopard on the second Tuesday of the month 7-9pm. We have been a victim of our own success, having generated new members and are very grateful to the Leopard for making space for us. It's

been lovely to have new people join us, who are not WI members, but just like to knit and natter. We help each other with various knitting problems, exchange ideas and generally have a laugh. Do feel free to turn up with your work or even if you just want to learn how to knit.

The Warwickshire Federation is organising various county events for us. These include Serious Science Lectures, including the Biology of Alzheimer's Disease, Climate Change, is it too late? and Artefacts of Invention: Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace. The ever popular Willow Weaving, a Dresden Plate Appliqué together with a Watercolour Art Workshop have also been organised together with a coach trip entitled Being Brunel which will take us to Bristol to see the Clifton Suspension Bridge, SS Great Britain and the Being Brunel exhibition. We are also able to join the book club and poetry mornings on zoom. Our Federation is being positive about the future giving us lots to look forward to.

Since November we've had lots of interest about joining the WI. You are most welcome to come along and see for yourself what we get up to. I know taking the first step through the door is the

hardest but I'm sure you can be really brave and take it. We are very mixed ages. No one is too young or too old to join and you don't have to wear a hat either. Please give me a call if you want to chat about joining us

Anne Allen 424135 or 07770470165.



Poetry please

Mirror in February—Thomas Kinsella

The day dawns, with scent of must
and rain,
Of opened soil, dark trees, dry
bedroom air.
Under the fading lamp, half
dressed -- my brain
Idling on some compulsive fantasy
I towel my shaven jaw and stop,
and stare,
Riveted by a dark exhausted eye,
A dry downturning mouth.

It seems again that it is time to
learn,
In this untiring, crumbling place of
growth
To which, for the time being, I
return.
Now plainly in the mirror of my soul
I read that I have looked my last
on youth
And little more; for they are not
made whole
That reach the age of Christ.

Below my window the wakening
trees,
Hacked clean for better bearing,
stand defaced
Suffering their brute necessities;
And how should the flesh not quail,
that span for span
Is mutilated more? In slow distaste
I fold my towel with what grace I
can,

Poetry please

January 1939—Dylan Thomas

Because the pleasure-bird whistles
after the hot wires,
Shall the blind horse sing sweeter?
Convenient bird and beast lie lodged
to suffer
The supper and knives of a mood.
In the sniffed and poured snow on
the tip of the tongue of the year
That clouts the spittle like bubbles
with broken rooms,
An enamoured man alone by the
twigs of his eyes, two fires,
Camped in the drug-white shower of
nerves and food,
Savours the lick of the times through
a deadly wood of hair
In a wind that plucked a goose,
Nor ever, as the wild tongue breaks
its tombs,
Rounds to look at the red, wagged
root.
Because there stands, one story out
of the bum city,
That frozen wife whose juices drift like
a fixed sea
Secretly in statuary,
Shall I, struck on the hot and rocking
street,
Not spin to stare at an old year
Toppling and burning in the muddle
of towers and galleries
Like the mauled pictures of boys?
The salt person and blasted place
I furnish with the meat of a fable.
If the dead starve, their stomachs
turn to tumble
An upright man in the antipodes
Or spray-based and rock-chested
sea:
Over the past table I repeat this
present grace.

Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

On a clear frosty night, Orion twinkles as it rises in the south-east, two Tawny Owls call to each other near the cottage. Haven't heard that for a couple of weeks. If they've survived this far the three Owlets should be well able to look after themselves now. Across the field a Fox gives its four bark call. Mating season is well under way. Always like to have them near the cottage.

Now its colder I regularly hear Rats scurrying about after dark. They rarely give me any problems but with Foxes about the numbers will probably be kept down a bit.

Its mid January as I scribble this and around first light we now have a proper dawn chorus. Most people associate it with Spring but its off in January and gradually builds through to May.



Robins just keep singing defending territories now joined by Wood Pigeon, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush (Storm Cock) and a Blackbird, my favourite of all with its velvet tone. As I've said before three singing contract doesn't really start until mid Feb but I heard them in December, probably young males staking their claim. Maybe its because its was a mild start to the Winter. Even heard one singing loudly on a light in Sainsbury's car park. (other supermarkets are available).

The other early bird is the Greater Spotted Woodpecker. I hear them drumming in early Feb as a rule but they were drumming away in December. The drumming, often on a hollow branch especially selected for great acoustics, is their version of a song to stake their claim on territory. I often hear two males having a 'drum off'. Is it another sign of global warming - all this early action?

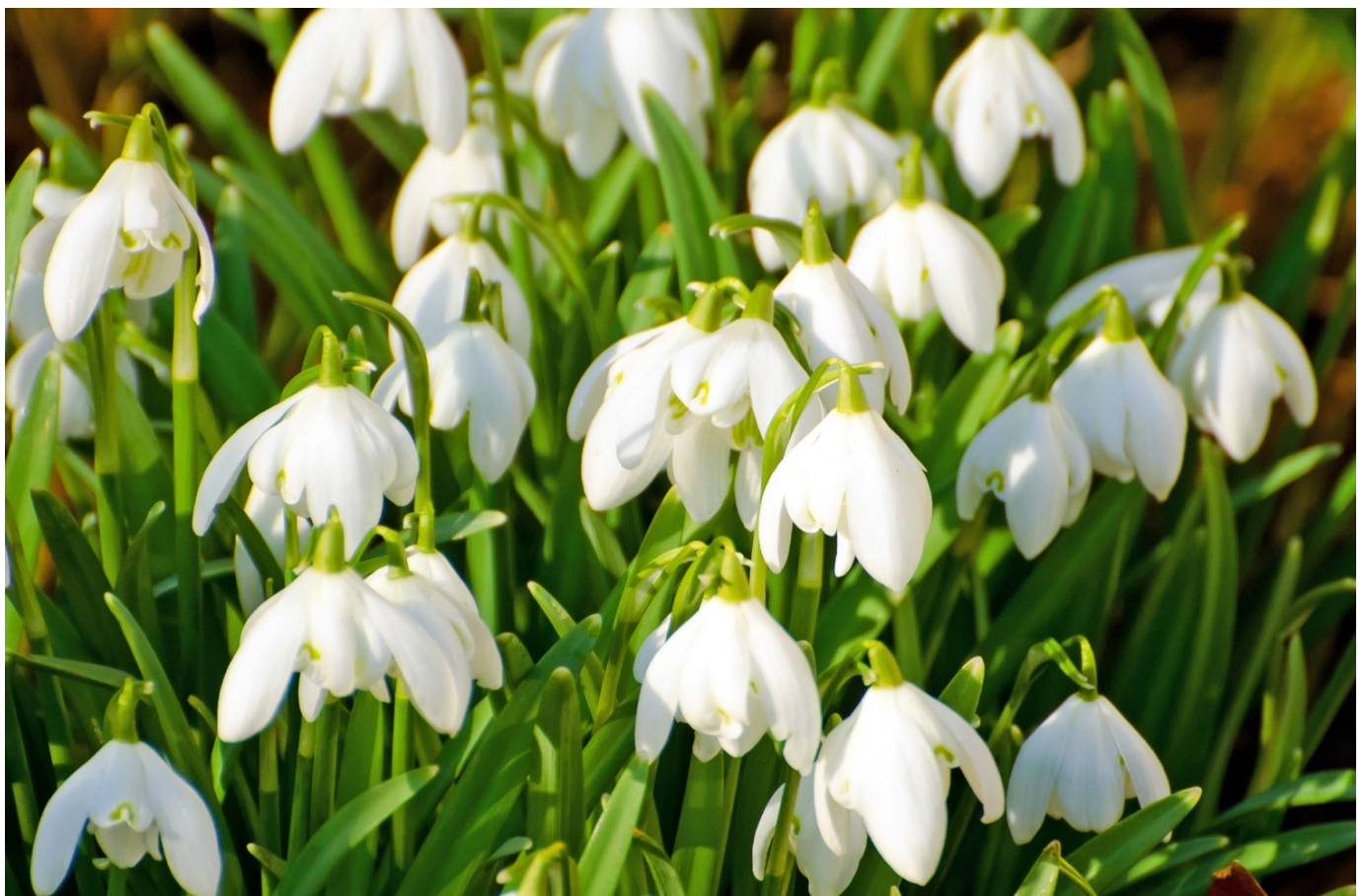
By 7.30am the Jackdaws (my lot) arrive home. They leave here about dusk and I

reckon they head off to a nearby wood to roast. They arrive back with their usual clatter, often zooming around the trees here with a real sense of excitement before settling down. Always nice to see them home. I'm soon out there, often to be met by a couple of them looking down at me from the outhouse roof. They know the drill. I give the usual call and am soon joined by 30 to 40 Jackdaws ready for breakfast. A group of female pheasants emerge from the bushes to join in. I've got 6 of them here at the moment.

Just a thought. In this cold weather the birds need water as much as food. If a bird bath is frozen then an empty tin filled with hot water soon melts the a patch when stood on the ice.

Some Snowdrops, Crocuses and Daffs are starting to push their way through and a pair of Blue Tits are already in and out of the nest box, casing the joint ahead of the game.

It seems to take forever but Spring is only a few weeks away. Well that's what I'm telling myself!



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Bishops Tachbrook Sports & Social Club Entertainments

February

5th February – Members Night with band The Warning.

We have another great member's night for you with free entertainment and money off your favourite tippie (if you're a club member).

Come and join us for a great night out with music provided by one of our premier bands **The Warning**.

The music starts at 9.00pm.

12th February – Skittles Night.

Fancy a game of Skittles come round for a game on our own Skittle Alley challenge your friends or form some teams for an evening of knocking down the pins.

Skittle Alley available from 7.30pm.

19th February – Quiz Night.

Pit your wits against the Judge and his first cracking quiz of 2022

How much diverse knowledge do you have? Prizes for every team.

Quiz starts at 8.30pm.

26th February – Rhythm Street.

Rhythm Street are a covers band fronted by lead singer Helen playing a variety of genres including pop funk and rock.

A new band to the club so don't miss out.

The Band starts at 9.00pm.

Function Room Available To Hire (T's & C's apply)

Bishops Tachbrook Sports & Social Club Function room is available for all sorts of activities :-

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bishopstachbrookclub



St Chad's Centre Schedule

Monday	Activity	Contact
12.30-14.30	<p>Tachbrook Tinies</p> <p>We are a friendly playgroup for children aged 0-4 years and their carers.</p> <p>Hot drinks and snacks, toys, craft activities and singing.</p> <p>All welcome.</p> <p>Term time only.</p>	Contact on facebook
16.30-17.45	<p>Martial Arts Class. Children/Beginners up to age 11</p>	Andy Shaw – andy@linkcube.co.uk
17.45-19.00	<p>Martial Arts Class. Over 12 years and adults</p>	Andy Shaw – andy@linkcube.co.uk

Tuesday	Activity	Contact
9.15-12.30	<p>ADVENTURE BABIES</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 9.15am - 10.00am</p> <p>Diddy Adventurers (0-12 months) 10.30am - 11.15am</p> <p>Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 11.45am - 12.30am</p> <p>Booking essential please visit www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry to secure your place or contact lind-sey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p>	<p>lind-sey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p> <p>or visit:</p> <p>www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</p>

16.45-18.30	<p>ATOMIC DANCE</p> <p>Acrobatic Arts 1</p> <p>4.30pm-5.15pm - Ages 5+</p> <p>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.</p> <p>£18 per month.</p> <p>Acrobatic Arts 2</p> <p>5.20pm-6.20pm - Ages 7+</p> <p>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.</p> <p>£21.50 per month</p>	<p>Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or el-lie@atomicdance.co.uk</p>
19.00-20.00	<p>YOGA</p> <p>Supporting Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Yoga classes with Amanda Specialising in yoga for beginners. Sedentary workers, and mums.</p> <p>£5.00 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>	<p>www.lifewithaman.com</p>

Wednesday	Activity	Contact
18.00-19.00	<p>YOGA CLASS</p> <p>Supporting Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Yoga classes with Amanda</p> <p>Specialising in yoga for beginners. Sedentary workers, and mums.</p> <p>£5.00 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>	<p>www.lifewithamandaj.com</p>
19.30-21.30	<p>Salsa @ St Chads</p> <p>Learn and practice Salsa</p> <p>Cross Body / Cuban / Rueda</p> <p>Every Wednesday, New and experienced dancers welcome.</p> <p>New Dancers Come early. Rueda from 8.30</p>	<p>Enquiries – stchadssalsa@outlook.com</p>

Thursday	Activity	Contact
13.20-14.00	<p>Glo-Babies Glo-Babies will be at St Chad's Centre Bishops Tachbrook from Thursday 30th September 1.20-2pm.</p> <p>Glo-Babies offer weekly musical sessions for 0-3 year olds in low level lighting with illuminated props and instruments.</p> <p>Term time only</p>	<p>For further information visit the website at www.glo-babies.co.uk and to book a space follow the link at Bookwhen.com/glo-babies</p>
16.00-17.45	<p>ATOMIC DANCE Little Stars Ballet and Musical Theatre (combined class) 4pm-4.45pm</p> <p>A 45 minute class exploring IDTA ballet and Musical Theatre for dancers aged 2-5. Dancers skip, gallop and twirl through the foundation's good dance technique alongside developing imagination and confidence</p> <p>£14.50 per month</p> <p>Junior Combo 4.45pm-5.45pm A class exploring a combination of dance styles for students aged 5+ 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.</p> <p>£21.50 per month</p>	<p>Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or el-lie@atomicdance.co.uk</p>

Friday	Activity	Contact
10.00-12.00	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



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If this sounds like you, send your CV to renata.homer@ashornehill.co.uk or contact her on 01926 488000. For more information about Ashorne Hill please visit our website at www.ashornehill.co.uk.

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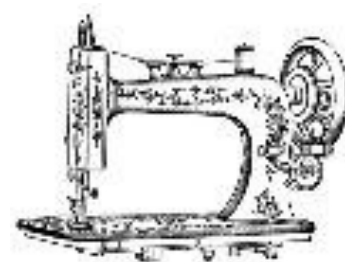
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