

PARISH MAGAZINE

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



Tree planting on Oakley Meadow—see Page 14



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What's in this month's magazine

Hello and welcome to the first Parish Magazine of 2024, Happy New Year. Read on for interesting ideas, essential local knowledge and ideas on what's going on in the parish

Here's the list of content.

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A message from the vicar

Rev. Jonathan Smith



Vicarage Snowdrops 2024

‘Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around, and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.’ The Message Translation of Romans 12. 1-2

As I write this morning I’m feeling a bit January! Then, I look out the window and there is a beautiful white carpet covering the bank in the garden. We get these random snowdrop clumps this time of year heralding the promise of something more exciting around the corner, brightening the days which are frankly just dreich and drizzly!

Snowdrops on the first look, are small and ordinary flowers. But when you look up close at the detail there is an astonishing beauty about them. Grouped together, they shine and dazzle even more brightly.

In Church the feast of Candlemas happens around the beginning of February (often associated with the snowdrop flower), and it's a helpful moment when we awaken and celebrate the presentation of Christ in the temple. The small, ordinary, insignificant child who was discovered by prophetic temple priests who raised Jesus above their heads in amazement and joy.

I was rather taken aback recently when reading one church communication labelling some rural and local churches as 'ordinary'. On reflection, I think the intention may not have been to discourage, but it did start me reflecting the word 'ordinary'. In snow drop context how we can judge 'ordinary' positively.

'The ordinary becomes a canvas for unbelievable masterpieces.'

In a world of grandeur and spectacle, it's easy to overlook the profound beauty found in the ordinary, but part of being a Christian is seeing the extraordinary in everyday things. Recognizing that from seemingly mundane moments, great things can emerge which is a perspective echoed the teachings of Jesus. He often used simple, everyday examples to convey profound truth.

The Bible is filled with stories of individuals who emerged from humble beginnings to play pivotal roles in God's plan. David the shepherd boy who became a mighty king. Peter and Andrew, the fishermen that the Son of God chose to be disciples. Mary, herself young and vulnerable. God often selects the ordinary to accomplish extraordinary purposes.

In the parables come lessons of transformative power from small acts of '*ordinary*' faith. Remember the iconic and miraculous event which changed a small meal of loaf and fish to satisfy the hunger of thousands.

For me, God's wisdom is embedded in the simplicity of offering our daily lives, whether kind word or loving action which can be multiplied beyond our wildest dreams.

The lesson is clear: never underestimate the potential for greatness in the ordinary aspects of life. Through prayer and reflection attuned to the whispers of the Holy Spirit in the ordinary moments – from the routine of life, great things can emerge. Embrace the beauty of ordinary, and let it lead to the extraordinary grace and love of God in profound and transformative ways.

May you be blessed with the ordinary this February!

Reverend Jonathan Smith



1ST SUNDAY - ALL AGE SERVICE 10AM
NO COMMUNION

2ND SUNDAY - HOLY COMMUNION* 10AM

3RD SUNDAY - FAMILY COMMUNION 10AM
WITH A SHORTER TALK FOR FAMILIES

4TH SUNDAY - HOLY COMMUNION* 10AM

YOUTH CLUB - 21ST JAN, BASE CAMP 26-28TH JAN,
4TH FEB, 3RD MARCH.

***Sunday Club during Communion Services of the**
2nd and 4th Sundays



St Chads Tinies for Parents and
Tots 10-11.30 **Mondays** during
term time

St Chads Community Café
10.15-11.30 Every **Thursday**

Celebrate your local church -
St Chad's doing extraordinary
things!

As last year, a gentle reminder that all
wreaths will be removed from the
graves of loved ones in the churchyard
during the week beginning February
12th.

If you would prefer to remove your
own wreath please do, but all the
wreaths will be recycled where
possible.

This will help towards the spring
maintenance keeping our churchyard a
beautiful, peaceful place to visit.

Thank you all so much for all your
help. St. Chads Church.

Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

The financial health of local councils is very much a topic of the present times. As someone who very much believes in local democracy, community based services and looking after your neighbours, I'm always sad to read about local councils getting into difficulties; however, where income doesn't match (or ideally exceed) expenditure, this is likely to happen. The solution (which I personally think should not involve cutting services to "the bone") is not going to be easy but hopefully sensible leadership will fix this now national problem.

As a Parish Council, we are mainly reliant on the taxes we collect as well as the community infrastructure levy to fund the work we do; our financial position remains strong and I have no concerns (short or long term). If you ever want to see the accounts, they are available online.

That being said, as we come to set our precept for next year, the Clerk and I have been challenging WDC as to whether Bishop's Tachbrook is receiving all of the taxes collected on its behalf. Notably, on our examination we discovered that the (WDC prepared) calculations, tax bases and forecasts for FY24/25 contained some errors - which would have resulted in a loss of revenue for Bishop's Tachbrook. Therefore, through challenging WDC, we were able to ensure that more taxpayers' money will be correctly allocated. I hope to receive further information from WDC to confirm that all is as it should be in the next week or so and I will report back to the Parish Council at our February meeting (where we hopefully will thus be able to set the Precept).

We would like to inform residents that the issue around the privately allocated parking spaces on Millway Drive is between residents and the County Council. If you have concerns please write to County Cllr. Jan Matecki, email: janmatecki@warwickshire.gov.uk

The Parish Council has been made aware of the parking issues on Kingsley Road. We have liaised with Bishop's Tachbrook Primary School to ask them to make parents, who drive to the school, aware that there is ample parking at the back entrance to the school on Underhill Way. We have also asked the Police if they

could visit the Kingsley Road entrance to the school at dropping off and picking up times to ensure that the zig zags lines are not being parked on, car engines are not being left running, residents' driveways are left clear, cars are not parking on junctions and there is no issue with parents parking on residents' driveways without the owner's permission. We ask parents driving to the school to please use Underhill Way. If they insist on using Kingsley Road please park with respect and consideration for the local residents.

We have several options for the parking issues on Kingsley Road but need County Highways to advise. Our County Councillor is the Highways Portfolio Holder and we will be asking for support in this area. We understand there is a pilot system currently taking place in the north of the County around a school whereby streets are closed to traffic during picking up and dropping off times. Residents living on the street are allowed access. This is a scheme that, if approved, we are told might also be rolled out at Heathcote Primary School.

The Parish Council has asked our County Councillor to follow up on a proposed plan for additional parking bays on Millway Drive to alleviate the parking issues.

District Cllr. Day has told the Parish Council that County Cllr. Matecki will be updating the February meeting on the issues around parking and road safety at Heathcote Primary School and Vickers Way.

The Parish Council has requested that an officer from the County Council road safety team attends a Parish Council meeting to update residents and councillors on the reasoning behind the refusal of the vehicle activated signage system on the Banbury Road/Mallory Road junction. The Parish Council also offered the County Council £100,000 for improvements to road safety on Harbury Lane near Heathcote Primary School to include a reduced speed limit. Sadly, this offer was not accepted. We also want to understand why a reduction in speed on Oakley Wood Road by Oakley School is not being considered.

The safer route to Oakley School is also of grave concern to the Parish Council. Whilst we do not want Oakley Wood Road to be urbanised we do want children to be able to walk to and from school safely. There is no lighting, which will become an issue next winter unless the County Council installs sensitive, temporary lighting

whether through the Country Park or along the road. Please note that children from the village might also be walking through raw sewage if this issue isn't resolved before September. As a Parish Council we are trying to get these matters sorted. If the issues are not resolved then more traffic will be created on Oakley Wood Road as parents drive their children to and from school, park on Oakley Wood Road, which has a 50mph speed limit, with children climbing in and out of cars.

The District Council is liaising with the developers of The Asps for a community centre and for the maintenance areas not to be passed to a maintenance company. The Parish Council is receiving complaints regarding this practice from residents who have a management company maintaining the local green spaces on their development.

The Seven Acre Close play area should finally be installed at the beginning of February.

All allotment plots have now been rented. If you haven't been offered a plot you will be on the waiting list and will be notified when a plot becomes available. There are currently five residents on the list. We also have a waiting list for plots in the country park. These will not be available for at least eighteen months.

A social media account has been set up for The Asps development.

Please look out for the recycling scheme drop off dates.

Cllr. Carter has been keeping his eye on the County Council roadworks on-line system and noted that Oakley Wood Road will be closed. We have followed up on this and found out that Oakley Wood road will be closed to traffic from 9pm to 6am between 19th February to 27th February. Outside these times the traffic will be controlled by temporary traffic lights. The works are to install a sewer connection to the new school. There is a manhole in the middle of the road, which is why the road is required to be closed overnight.

The tree stumps on the Village Green might have been removed before this magazine has been produced. If not, they will be removed shortly.

The Parish Council with the Sports and Social Club is looking at the cost of replacing the wooden posts around the Club car park with large wooden logs to stop vehicles accessing the Meadow.

Following concerns the Parish Council has asked the District Council to inspect Jakeman Way play area. We will be requesting an update before our February meeting.

Tree work will be taking place in the Meadow allotments on Friday, 8th March.

Contractors are progressing the car park on the Meadow, commencing 29th January, the driveway will be removed and a new surface laid. This may cause disruption to users of the Meadow, the Club and allotments. It will also impact Kingsley Road residents with additional lorry movements. We expect there to be no more than five lorries accessing the site daily (a traffic management plan has been set up to involve Oakley Wood Road, Church Hill and the lower end of Kingsley Road). The Sports and Social Club will remain open; access for vehicles to both the Club and the allotments will be provided. The BMX Car Park will be closed for the duration of this period.

Next meeting on Thursday 8 February at 7.30pm at St. Chad's Centre. Please come along.

District Council Update

By Andrew Day

The new year opens with a busy start and a growing list of action items we're covering. Once again, we're pleased to bring you the latest local updates.

New play equipment

Works have started at Anchitel Green and are scheduled to be completed by the end of February. This adds a welcome new play area in the Parish, ready in time for the spring, hooray!



*Your Warwick District Councillors
Matt Collins (left) and Andrew Day (right)*

Tachbrook Country Park

No news to report, *yet*. Ongoing efforts are being made to complete the protracted legal process involved in assembling the various parcels of land that will eventually make-up this long planned public open space. We hope to be able to give a more positive update soon.

Lower Heathcote

Progress is being made getting the litter that has been blowing around the Community Centre cleared and actions put in place to prevent a reoccurrence. The issue not only relates to recent construction activity, but also the on-going maintenance of this popular, new, local facility.

School traffic management

Heathcote School: WCC Highways have completed site visits to agree measures to improve traffic management and safety. While these roads have not been

'adopted', developers have been engaged to deliver improvements. *Bishop's*

Tachbrook School: Options are being considered to ease the traffic management issues on Kingsley Road, including encouraging better use of the school entrance

on Underhill Way.

The Asps

Engagement with the developers is helping secure higher building standards and also an improved management plan for the public open spaces. In addition, efforts are being made to provide land for a new Community Hall, as well as the planned local retail centre and primary school.

Oakley School

The construction programme continues on schedule. We are seeking further information on the planned works to the Harbury Lane /Oakley Wood Road junction. A key part of this new school will be the provision of community sports facilities, which we're keen to better understand, particularly how the local community can access and use the sports hall and all-weather pitches.

We're here to help!

If you've any issues or perhaps you would just like to chat, please do reach out to us. We hope your new year has got off to a good start and that you're looking forward to a brilliant 2024.

Cllr Matt Collins

matt.collins@warwickdc.gov.uk

Cllr Andrew Day

andrew.day@warwickdc.gov.uk



Oakley Meadow News

Paul Gilman

Residents of the Oakley Meadow development organised a tree planting morning this month to replace some of the trees that have died since the site was adopted by a Management Company 4 years ago; 34 trees were sourced from Hinton's Nursery in Warwick and are to be planted in two batches before the end of the tree planting season which ends in March.

An enthusiastic group of residents (infants & dogs included) collaborated to remove the dead trees and replace them with a variety of healthy specimens specially selected to be more suited to the soil type & location in which they are situated. Not only was this a good example of how direct action can improve the environment they live in and provide the most cost effective means of improvement the site, it was also a great community activity, bringing residents together on a sunny winters morning.



Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

It was on Christmas Night that I heard the Fox barking; short, sharp barks with a wild urgency about them, different to that of a Dog. A male calling for a female under the twinkle of stars on a cold night. December, January - it's breeding time again, old year ending, new year beginning with Foxes preparing to set up a family for cubs in the Spring.

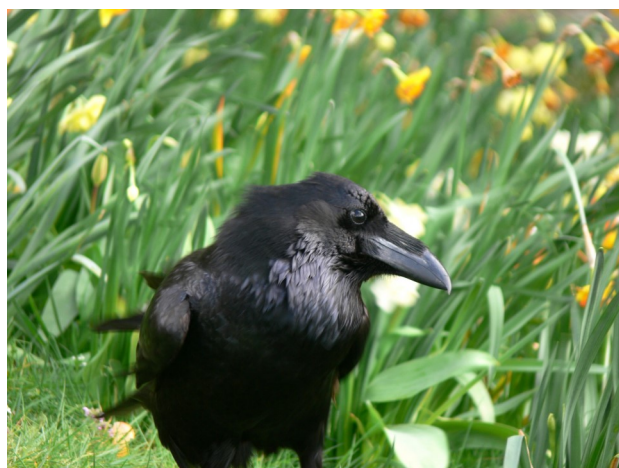


At the same time our Tawny Owl called as it headed across the fields, thankfully with an answer from its companion. It was all going on with a busy night ahead. As first light arrived it was a different scene with a shroud of mist draped over the fields and the Jackdaws gathering around the cottages. There's a couple of them with white wing feathers and one of these has a foot with its toes curled up almost into a ball. Now, probably due to necessity, this bright bird has become more brave and will fly down ahead of the other Jackdaws and land near me at feeding time. Landing is

awkward and possibly painful. If its near me it gets more food so I'll wait until it seems to have had enough. Once I step back the more timid ones quickly push in. I reckon its got enough to cope with in life without being hungry.

Meanwhile, down amongst the leaves the Snowdrops that first showed their green tips in November are beginning to reveal their buds. Can't beat a simple Snowdrop with just that hint, something better is on its way. Up above them Hazel Catkins that began to bud in October are now showing signs of pollen as they hang down. Crocuses are pushing through. Wild Garlic won't be long.

Outside the bedroom Window a Blue tit has been checking out the nest box, peeping inside, possibly looking for a safe place to roost on these cold nights, but I reckon its already looking for this Spring's nest site; probably one of last year's very successful pair. The Ravens have been very active since November. They seem to relish windy weather, riding the air currents and calling. We have the pair fly over most days, the male flipping over in flight, showing off and displaying - always love seeing that. Recently we've had a mini squadron of five Ravens flying together. I'm guessing last year's youngsters flying on. The Victorians called them an «unkindness of Ravens» be cause they wrongly thought they were neglectful parents. Well the



youngsters take a couple of years to be breeding adults and often hang around with their parents so I think they should be called a «tolerance of Ravens.



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WI

By Anne Allen

What an exciting couple of months the WI has had.

We had a stall at the craft fair at the end of December. Our tombola raised £100 for the Aylesford Unit at Warwick hospital and the Christmas dachshund was won by our own Jenifer much to my granddaughter's dismay.

This was followed by the Group Carols, this is where 5 institutes get together and have a bit of fun. We organised the event which was a selection of readings and carols. Many thanks to the team who coordinated this event, Breda and Donna our readers, Tom for playing the organ and Jonathan for allowing us to use the church.



Later that week was our Christmas party. This was extremely interesting this year. Sam our president and myself had both gone down with COVID. Husband was duly dispatched to the school with all the trappings of a Christmas party. As fish and chips were being served he was going to wait for our supper and waited and waited. We found out at 8:00 pm that the wagon had had a problem with their gas and couldn't move from Barford. Our worst nightmare had happened. Fortunately the rest of the



committee kept the evening going with a good selection of puddings, entertainment and quizzes and a good time was had by all.

This brought us round to January when we don't have a meeting but enjoy a meal together at the Leopard. We were about 20 this year which was

lovely. Four husbands sat at another table complaining about the noise!! We also FaceTimed Elaine Scrivens passing the phone from member to member so everyone could wish her Happy New Year. The only problem was that we have so many new members she was quite overwhelmed.

We were hoping to hold a pancake race along the service road and onto the Leopard car park but the highways department have scuppered that with the cost of closing the service road for a couple of hours. Keep an eye on Facebook in case we can come up with a different venue.

As you can see WI is definitely not all "Jam and Jerusalem". We get up to all sorts of different things usually involving food and drinks.

Our federation organises loads of events and activities for us to enjoy. At the moment I could be going to watch Coventry Rugby play the Cornish Pirates, taking part in both a darts or scrabble tournament, discussing poetry, learning Free Motion Machine Embroidery, attending a cookery demonstration, and also a chutney making one, hearing John Scott (a costume designer and tv presenter) and Lesley Smith as Peggy Knight speak or attending the Serious Science Lecture 1 -Space : The Fuel Cell Frontier. I'm exhausted just thinking about it all.

Here our February speakers are Erica and Pam who are from Hats and Co based in Leamington Spa, who will be telling us about how they became involved with hats

and advising us on what to wear. This is followed by The Secrets of Our Gut in March and The Life of a Smallholder in April.

Our knitting group were responsible for the post box topper again do hope you enjoyed seeing it. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Leopard at 7-9:00pm our thanks must go to them for making it possible to have a knitting group. If you're a crafter and would like to join us, bring your work and just turn up one month ,



As you know WI meet on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:45 in the school hall . We would love to meet you. You also don't have to live in the village we welcome everyone. Be brave and come along one month. If you want to know

more about the WI please give me a ring.

Anne Allen 07929356701 or 424135



St Chad's Centre Schedule

| Monday | Activity | Contact |
|-------------|--|---|
| 10-11.30am | <p>ST CHAD'S' 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 |
| 17.00-19.00 | <p>MARTIAL ARTS</p> <p>Class. Over 12 years and adults</p> | <p>Andy Shaw – andy@linkcube.co.uk</p> |


| 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 lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p> | <p>lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p> <p>or visit:</p> <p>www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</p> |
| A new programme will start in 2024 | <p>HISTORY GROUP</p> | <p>John Fletcher on 01926 426001 or johnfletcher@sky.com</p> |

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| 16.30-19.00 | <p>ATOMIC DANCE</p> <p>Mini Freestyle and Acrobatic Arts</p> <p>4.30pm-5.15pm – Ages 4-7</p> <p>A combination of Freestyle Dance and Acrobatic Arts</p> <p>Junior Freestyle & Acrobatic Arts 2</p> <p>5.15pm-6.15pm - Ages 7-12</p> <p>A combination of Freestyle Dance and Acrobatic Arts</p> <p>Junior – Lyrical/Street/Jazz</p> <p>6.15pm-7.00pm Ages 7-12</p> <p>A combination of Street and Jazz Techniques</p> <p>Please see website for more details</p> | <p>Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or ellie@atomicdance.co.uk</p> <p>www.atomicdance.co.uk</p> |
| 19.00-20.00 | <p>YOGA</p> <p>Supporting Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Yoga classes with Amanda</p> <p>Specialising in yoga for beginners. Sedentary workers, and mums.</p> <p>Please bring your own mat / block</p> | |

| Wednesday | Activity | Contact |
|-------------|--|--|
| 9.15-12.30 | <p>ADVENTURE BABIES</p> <p>Take your little ones on a Sensory Story-telling Adventure every Wednesday 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 lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p> | <p>lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p> <p>or visit:</p> <p>www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</p> |
| 18.00-19.00 | <p>YOGA</p> <p>Supporting Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Yoga classes with Amanda</p> <p>Specialising in yoga for beginners. Sedentary workers, and mums.</p> <p>Please bring your own mat / block</p> | <p>www.lifewithaman.com</p> |

| Thursday | Activity | Contact |
|-------------|--|--|
| 10.15-11.45 | ST CHAD'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ Serving Drinks and Cake for you to enjoy | kateatkaribu22@outlook.com 07713113464 |
| 12.15-13.15 | YOGA/MINDFULNESS A gentle and relaxing yoga/ mindfulness class to increase physical flexibility, mobility and improve mental wellbeing and awareness. To book please contact Amanda | www.lifewithaman.com Message or WhatsApp 07795498759 |

| Friday | Activity | Contact |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 10.00-12.00 | TAI CHI - All Classes are for beginners but are suitable for anyone. First class is free, so no reason not to find if Tai Chi is right for you. | Peter Fletcher 07487 685679 |
| Sundays 18.15-20.00 | ST CHAD'S YOUTH CLUB | www.stChad'sbt.org |



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