

The Link

COUGHTON with SAMBOURNE PARISH NEWS



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

February 2022

RECTOR of ALCESTER MINSTER The Reverend Katie Cross

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Administrator

Tricia Berry **t: 01789 509278 m: 07840 284294**

(Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 1.30 pm)

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Reader

Mrs P Newbold **t: 01527 458852** the_newbolds@blueyonder.co.uk

COUGHTON WITH SAMBOURNE CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Wardens

Gail Laband **t:01789 764736** gail@laband.uk

Mike Thake **t:07966 314828** mike@thake.biz

PCC Secretary

Vacancy - Please contact Gail Laband if you are interested in helping the PCC

Treasurer

John McTavish **t: 01789 764703** jhmctavish@btinternet.com

Coughton Flowers Co-ordinator

Joy Hawthorne **t:01789 764577** joyandjimhomestall@btinternet.com

Please contact if wishing to make own flower arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Sambourne Church Booking Agent

Debbie Lanz, **t: 07711 834716** debs.doo@gmail.com

GIFT AID

Whenever possible, please gift aid any donations made to our churches. Charitable causes can reclaim an extra 25p in the £1 from the government on donations made under the Gift Aid Scheme. The giver must have paid a tax amount that at least equals the tax being reclaimed on the donation. Please contact the treasurer.

Items of news for **"The Link"** by the **FOURTEENTH** of the month to:
Gail Smith gailsmith@aol.com **t: 07449 930480**

Whilst the Editor welcomes material for publication in **"The Link"**, they do not guarantee that items submitted will be included or will appear in a particular issue. The Editor reserves the right to edit or shorten items used. Publication is in good faith and does not imply accuracy of content or agreement with views expressed

A Message from Rev Katie Cross

Generous Giving

It is never easy writing an article for a Church Magazine in a parish where you have limited contact, especially because of this time of Coronavirus. There is almost the temptation to close eyes and hit the keyboard (at least an excuse for typing errors inserted into the first paragraph). So, what does one write?

A little like the opening to this article there is always a tendency for folk, when thinking about how they use their money in the service of God, to produce at least a couple of reasons to justify why it is not quite as they think that others expect that it should be. You are expecting a wonderful article – but we don't know you so it might not be what you want – translates into 'it is probably all right but I don't really know and I don't really want to discover'. The 'close eyes and hit the keyboard' translates into 'I am giving in many different ways even if some of them are not right for me, or the Church, now'. The challenge is what to do about it and that is why, during February, we are encouraging all who have a link with the Church to review their giving of money.

The review will encourage people to think about **what** they give. We have found the last two years as difficult as you have and our usual fundraising events have not been able to take place. It would be very easy to give a figure that represents how much it costs to keep our churches open, or to divide the sum of money we need between those who attend and leave it at that. However, for those who have been made redundant or are retired or unemployed, there is the reassurance of Biblical teaching which explains that the wealthy should give more than the less wealthy. This can provide an opportunity for further realisation of how generous God is and what our response should be to that generosity. How about yours? If we all responded to a generous God, our Treasurer would have no problems in resourcing mission and ministry in the church at all.

It is always helpful to review **why** we give. As part of our Christian journey, we can give out of thanksgiving – thanking God for all that He has done and given us. But people give for different reasons and these change. Perhaps you started giving because someone passed a plate in front of you; perhaps you enjoyed the sermon; appreciated the architecture or even were welcomed by people when you were lonely and low. All are good reasons and almost all can be a basis on which to start. Giving to God is easier than giving to the Church.

The third element of review is that of **how** we give. If we give by bank standing order. It enables us to put God first in our personal budget, as we can set up the standing order for the day we get paid. Gift Aid is easier to administer and we do not need to find cash. It does not matter if you pass the plate by. Even better, if we all did this, we could offer true hospitality to visitors and pilgrims by expecting nothing from them.

I hope to see you in February where we can encourage one another as we think about our giving, and ready to respond to God's generosity to us.

Katie

Alcester Minster Church Services – February 2022

06 Feb

Readings: *Isaiah 6 v 1 – 8, Luke 5 v 1 – 11*

	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Haselor
4 before Lent	11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Alcester
Green	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Great Alne
	4.00 pm	Holy Communion	Sambourne

13 Feb

Readings: *Jeremiah 17 v 5 – 19, Luke 6 v 17 – 26*

3 before Lent	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Arrow
Green	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Alcester
	3.00 pm	Baptism Preparation	Alcester

20 Feb

Readings: *Genesis 2 v 4b – 9 & 15 – 25*

2 before Lent	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Haselor
	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Weethley
Green	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Alcester
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Coughton
	3.00 pm	Baptism service	Alcester

27 Feb

Readings:

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP	Alcester
before Lent	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Kinwarton
Green	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Alcester
Each	10.00 am	Midweek Holy Communion	Alcester

Wednesday



Church Flowers – February 2022		
Coughton	Joy Hawthorne	Janet Alleley
Sambourne	Pat Rogers	Gail Laband

An On-line service is available every Sunday on the Welcome page of the Alcester Minster website www.alcesterminster.org

MINSTER EVENTS

For the most up-to-date information on Minster Events please see the website calendar on the noticeboard page on the website – www.alcesterminster.org or check out the weekly notice sheets available in the churches

Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on facebook?



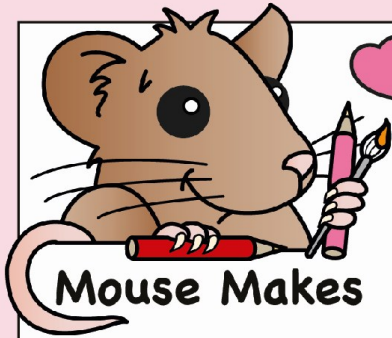
Find details and pictures of events at

www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster



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

Junior Link



Mouse Makes

See what great love the Father
has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

Lord, you are a God who shows
_____ and is _____
...You have great _____ and _____

Psalm 86:1



How did
God show
He **loved** us?
Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your
God with all your

_____ with all your
_____ and with all your

Matthew 22:37

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GODSFAITHFULI
HLUNEIBOL
NLTNNEN
DTG

_____ is love.

Whoever lives
in love lives in
_____, and _____
lives in them.

1 John 4:16



Love is ..
Read
1 Cor 13:4-7

Love your

_____ the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

Love is:

PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:

JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:

LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE

SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on
Tuesday 8th March at the earlier time of 19:00
in the Parish Room.

For all PC matters, please contact our
Parish Clerk, Teresa Murphy: **clerk.sambournepc@aol.com**

Keep up to date with Parish Council news via:

Baptisms

No Baptisms during this period

Weddings

No Weddings during this period

Funerals

24 November 2021 – Ann Harrison

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

from 15 December 2021 to 14 January 2022

in connection with Coughton with Sambourne Parish



Take the hassle out of your weekly shopping by catching the free Thursday bus to Redditch. Each week it picks up from The Green Dragon at 10.00 am. Other pickups are available, inc. Middletown Lane layby next to the noticeboard.



Lateral Flow Antigen Testing If you are taking part in church related activities with regular contact with the public, such as helping with the food bank etc. and do not have any COVID symptoms, you are encouraged to access weekly Lateral Flow Testing. This is a very quick process with quick results. You would need to pre-book a test. Find out more by following the link: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidcommunitytesting> there is a centre in Stratford-upon-Avon.



Keep Fit for over 65s continues at 1.30 pm every Wednesday at Sambourne. We love to see new members. £5 per session. Give Pat Newbold a ring on **01527 458852** to check availability.



COUGHTON & SAMBOURNE 100 CLUB

What a way to start the New Year – a Jackpot win of £450. The lucky person was Marie Symonds from Kings Coughton. We are told she is not being persuaded by Rev. Jim to squander it wisely. Well done Marie.

This month's draw for £100 will again be made at Sambourne Church on Sunday 6th February at 5.00pm

The Organisers would like to be able to increase the prizes and with some new members that would be possible. Please consider joining to help maintain the Church in Sambourne and St Peter's in Coughton and also have a chance of winning a cash prize each month. It only costs £5 per month. Please contact Peter Laband (01527 893879) or John McTavish (01789 764703) for details.



COUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our meetings are held at Coughton CofE Primary School and our next meeting and Parish Assembly on Monday 28th March at 6:30pm.

We would love you to join us!

Our website includes the following information and more:

Councillors Info, Meeting Dates, Agendas, Minutes, Events, News & Information and a Planning Tracker.

Please sign up for email alerts at www.coughtonparishcouncil.co.uk

For PC information, please contact our Clerk:

Kerry Finlayson coughtonclerk@gmail.com

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A COUNCILLOR? WE HAVE A VACANCY.



NOTICES

It was good to see so many of you, despite Covid, at the Carol Service and the Christingle at St Peter's over Christmas. Do let us know if you have any comments to make about the services, times etc, so we can learn lessons for next year.

Despite the reduced numbers of people, we have sent £150 as usual to the Children's Society, who do such good work amongst children in danger or in need.

Our services are still 11am at Coughton on 3rd Sunday of every month and at 4pm at Sambourne on the 1st Sunday. Perhaps this might be the year you decide to come along? You would be most welcome!

Sambourne Village Association

NEEDS YOU!



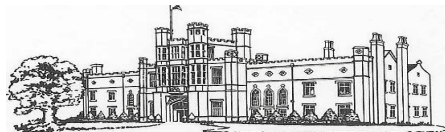
Did you know??? The group organises events from - Burns night, quizzes, the Minifest, with music bands, Shakespeare on the green, skittles competition to the children's Christmas party (to name just a few!)

If you would like to share new ideas, or help with organising events for the village, then please contact Justin on 07970 518953. Or join the Facebook group: Sambourne Village Association.

CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to Julie and John who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (of 60 years) on 24th February.

Julie had a double wedding with her sister Dianne, who married Tony on 24th February 1962 at Alcester. Congratulations Julie & John on your wonderful achievement



Coughton Court opens its doors for an exciting new season on Thursday 3 March. You might think that we close down completely over the winter months, but this couldn't be farther from the truth. Our conservation team have been busy carrying out the deep clean of the house ready for when we re-open in spring. During the closed months every item is closely examined for signs of wear and pest activity, all of the brown wood furniture is dusted and museum wax is used to clean iron, steel, copper and brass which provides a protective seal for the next season.

All of the teams are currently hard at work bringing elements together for a really good start to the season at the beginning of March. This includes training up new staff who have joined our retail, food and beverage and welcome teams, organising rotas, creating a brand new theme for the house and getting the whole site cleaned, spruced up and ready for opening.

Our exhibition in the house this year is focused on the various ways that animals are woven into our collection. Our new theme, 'Creatures of Coughton', will reveal how individuals of the Throckmorton family, and more generally, past society as a whole, perceived and benefitted from the natural world.

Included within this retelling of the collection are stories of animal companionship, heraldry, farming, scientific interest, as well as more difficult topics, like hunting, and the use of animal-derived materials.

Even now, animals play an important part within the Coughton estate, with the historic herd of sheep grazing in the front park and the family's two beloved dogs.

After a hugely successful Jigsaw festival last year we're looking for more jigsaws to replenish our stock. If you've received an unwanted Christmas present or found a pile in a spring clean and you'd like to play a vital part in conserving this beautiful house and its contents for future generations, we'd love to take them off your hands!

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coughtoncourt or call 01789 400777
Follow us on Twitter @NTCoughton or 'Like' us at
www.facebook.com/CoughtonCourt

Nature jottings from Perry Mill Lane

A hard overnight frost last night reminded us that we are in the depths of winter, but there are encouraging signs of the approach of spring in the form of very obvious catkins in the hedgerows and wild arum sprouting in verges and in our garden.



16th Dec. We had a good view of a Muntjac crossing Wike Lane into the woods.

17th Dec. We heard that the Harris Hawk is still being seen around Middletown.

18th Dec. A female Great Spotted Woodpecker showed a preference for sunflower seeds rather than peanuts in our garden feeders. The remains of a Woodpigeon on our lawn suggested that a Sparrowhawk had dined there recently. Around midday a Sparrowhawk flew low over a garden and shortly afterwards we watched a Fox trotting up our drive.

22nd Dec. A Jay spent a short time in our apple tree. We've seen one or two Jays each time we've walked along Wike Lane in recent weeks.

29th Dec. Bob told us that he has been noticing Buzzards and one Red Kite over Middletown Lane.



4th Jan. A variety of strange calls attracted us to a Starling using a drainpipe on our roof as a song post. The calls included a knocking sound which the Collins field guide suggests is used by the male in the vicinity of a proposed nest site. I have a feeling it might have its eye on a gap under a roof tile.

6th Jan. A large flock of Redwings flew into a large oak tree in our neighbour's garden.

9th Jan. As we walked towards the ford at Coughton a Little Egret flew overhead. On our walk back home, we had a fine view of a female kestrel near Station House. Chris mentioned having seen a Heron perplexed by the ice covering the pond in his Middletown Lane garden.

11th Jan. We spotted two Lesser Redpolls feeding in a birch tree in the Booking Office garden. Nearby we had another prolonged view of a female Kestrel – presumably the same one as on the 9th since it was in the same location.

12th Jan. A male Sparrowhawk perched on our fence for a couple of minutes.

Phil J (12th January 2022)



Hello everybody. Happy new year to all of you!

I had the great privilege on the first Sunday of the year to be part of a Plough Service, where we gave thanks to God for last years' crops and blessed the Plough and all its parts, blessed the soil and the seed, and asked God to provide the sunshine and the rain to make the soil fruitful in the year ahead.



It struck me that we can learn a lot from the agricultural year: The plough churns up and folds in all last year's stubble and weeds, leaving the surface soil new and inviting, but under the surface God is working on last year's stubble, with worms and insects and all sorts of microbes, so that it becomes food and fertilizer in the soil to feed the new crops.

Seems to me it's very significant to have a Plough Sunday at the beginning of the year, because we need to put away last year with all its good bits and not so good bits, plough them into the soil of life, and allow God to work on them, remind us of the good things that came out of bad, remind us of the ways we dealt with them and teach us how to deal with the future. Might we be able to 'comfort others with the comfort we have received'? and might what we learnt in 2021, like the transformed stubble in the soil, help us deal better with the problems that occur in 2022?

May God bless you with a fruitful New Year!!

Pat N



Who was St Valentine?



According to history experts, there are several stories about Valentines, but one story states that he was a priest from Rome who lived in the third century AD.

The story goes that Emperor Claudius II had banned marriages, believing married men made bad soldiers.

Saint Valentine is thought to have felt this was an unfair notion and arranged marriages in secret, and when Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and given a death sentence.

In prison, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on February 14 he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine".



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