

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

WOLVERTON, NORTON LINDSEY AND LANGLEY



May 2021

Price 50p

Rector	Rev. Richard Mutter 01789 731475 (day off Friday)	
Churchwardens	Mr Adrian Hopkinson	01926 842422
	Mrs Dorothy Mann	01789 731635
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr John Cohen	01926 842751
Treasurer	Mr Jonathan Toulmin	01789 731332
PCC Secretary	Mrs Marion Austin	01926 842661
Editor	Karin Elmhirst	07923 094513

If you need to speak to anyone about baptisms, weddings and funerals, please contact one of the Churchwardens above.

CHURCHES NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Holy Trinity, **Norton Lindsey** will open on **Sundays** from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

St. Mary the Virgin, **Wolverton**, will open on **Sundays** from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

St. Mary's, **Langley** will not be opening.

**Please observe the custom of sanitising with the gel provided
both going in and coming out.**

CHURCH ZOOM SERVICES - Common Worship Morning Prayer Service at 11.00 am on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month with BCP Evensong at 6.00 pm on the 4th Sunday of the month.

To 'attend' these services contact **Celia Spiers 07710 198009**.

LIVE SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, NORTON LINDSEY

13 May – ASCENSION DAY

7.00 pm Holy Communion Service, also broadcast on zoom.

30 May – TRINITY SUNDAY

11.00 am Holy Communion Service, also broadcast on zoom.

For both services, please would you let Marion know (01926 842661) if you wish to attend. We will be observing Covid-19 restrictions – face masks, distancing and sanitising.

..from Rev. Stig Graham, who is standing in for our Rector Richard Mutter.

Christians, rather naturally, are much concerned about the 'Kingdom', its coming, and what it might be like. Over the centuries there has been much debate, not always elegant and sometimes violent, with many changes of heart and thinking. Being human we ask questions like, so who is the kingdom for?, how do we get in?, which can lead in turn to conclusions about right thinking, right practice and being part of the group that does find a place in the kingdom. Sadly, being human, this can morph into a small-minded vision which focuses on wrong thinking, wrong actions and the people who clearly won't have a place; which in turn becomes: clearly not people like us.

With a focus on exclusion, it is one of those times when we can ask ourselves, 'Well, what would Jesus say?'. In the Gospel stories he works tirelessly to talk with, heal and include those who are otherwise excluded. His central messages are love God, love one another, and forgive. Equally, I frequently wonder about how he feels about being addressed as King, especially considering that on the day he died the title 'King of the Jews' was nailed above his head on the cross as a joke. He seemed much happier identifying those with him as friends and family.

The Diocese of Coventry has recently appointed Emma Crick de Boom (pronounced Bome as in Home) to lead on a new course 'Difference' which explores less making people more like us but instead opening ourselves to understanding who and how they are, enabling acceptance and reconciliation. Though rooted in the Christian tradition it is a course which is open and helpful for all individuals and communities.

Warmth, empathy, and, above all, kindness go a long way in making harmonious communities and happier lives. If not a king-dom perhaps we could aspire to build a **kind**-dom. It might be first step in a human approximation to the kingdom of God.

The Rev. Stig Graham

MONTHLY READINGS AND COLLECTS

2nd May The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Ps 22: 25 - end; Gen 22 : 1 - 18; Acts 8 : 26 - end; John 15 : 1 - 8

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

9th May The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Ps 98; Isa 55 : 1 - 11; Acts 10 : 44 - end ; John 15 : 9 - 17

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

16th May The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings: Ps 1; Ezek 36 : 24 - 28; Acts 1 : 15 - 17, 21 - end ; John 17 : 6 - 19

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

23rd May Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Readings: Ps 104: 26-35; Ezek 37: 1 - 14; Acts 2: 1 - 21; John 15 : 26 - 27; 16 : 4b - 15

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

30th May Trinity Sunday

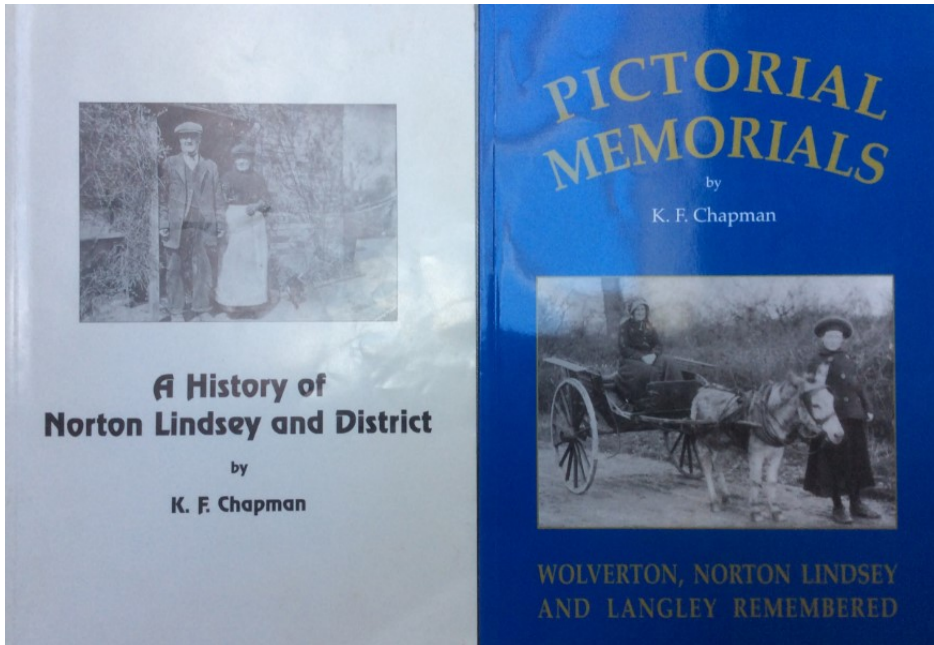
Readings: Ps 29; Isa 6: 1 - 8; Rom 8 : 12 - 17; John 3 : 1 - 17

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

NORTON LINDSEY AND DISTRICT

There are still some of Ken Chapman's local history books available.
A History of Norton Lindsey and District, £9.50.
Pictorial Memorials, £12.00.

Please phone Joy Chapman on 01926 842694.
Proceeds are for the general church funds.



NORTON LINDSEY PARISH COUNCIL (NLPC)

Please note that NLPC Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 May on Zoom. Further details will be published nearer the time on our Notice Boards and website.

THE CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note the change of date

The churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting on 19 May at 7.00 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Norton Lindsey or on Zoom.

Please would you let Marion know (01926 842661) if you wish to attend.

Please note this may be subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions.

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'Grab & Go' and stay safe in libraries from Monday 12 April.

Mobile Library Service - Select and collect

To arrange a collection of books, please contact the Mobile Library Team on 01926 851031 or mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Norton Lindsey Gannaway Stables	28 May	12:10 to 12:20
Norton Lindsey The New Inn	28 May	12:25 to 12:40
Langley Spring Lane	7 May	12:00 to 12:15

- It is not possible for customers to enter the vehicle.
- Only items that have been preselected by staff can be collected on the day.
- Customers can safely return items to the van.
- Requests for specific titles can be made by contacting the mobile library team directly.
- In line with government guidelines this is a contactless service.

VILLAGE RAMBLE

Walk No. 77 and our first Village Ramble since September 2020 took place on Saturday 17 April 2021 in lovely sunshine. Our group of 15 walkers started from Newbold Comyn Park in Leamington Spa. We walked over part of the disused golf course which now offers good recreational space and over the fields and paths, through Offchurch Bury Park and onto the picturesque village of Offchurch. Here we crossed the Offchurch/Birdingbury Road and we joined the disused railway known as the Greenway. Soon after this we stopped to have a coffee break and enjoy the lovely views.

The Greenway then meets the Grand Union canal where we walked until we reached the centre of Leamington close to the railway station where we then entered Jephson Gardens. After leaving here we continued west along the Leam River and back onto Newbold Comyn. A lovely walk of 6.9 miles.



We had arranged to bring a picnic and we all sat down to enjoy this and the sun, all at a safe social distance. A very sociable and enjoyable return to our monthly rambles.

The dates of the rambles until the end of the year are as follows

- Saturday 15th May 2021
- Saturday 12th June 2021

- Saturday 10th July 2021
- Saturday 7th August 2021
- September - no walk
- Saturday 9th October 2021
- Saturday 13th November 2021
- Tuesday 28th December 2021

If anyone is interested in joining the walking group then please mail me and I will include you on the list. I will send full details of each walk approximately 10 days beforehand. We are a dog friendly group too.

Graham Lewis

Home 01789 731810, Mobile 07850 847662

Email graham-lewis1@hotmail.co.uk

Majestic Dance Club

The long established Majestic Dance Club, Warwick, will be running some Ballroom and Latin Dance classes at Norton Lindsey Village Hall from May onwards (Lockdown restrictions allowing). We would like to welcome anyone who is keen to start dancing, or who already has some experience, to join us and experience the joy of dance with professional tuition amongst new friends.

The following classes will be taking place at the Village Hall:

Bronze Level Classes on Tuesday evenings from Tuesday 18 May (7.30pm - 8.15pm)

Silver Level Classes on Tuesday evenings Tuesday 18 May (8.15pm – 9pm)

Beginners Social Dance Classes on Sunday evenings from 23 May (7.30pm - 8.15pm)

The following link to our website contains full details.

<http://majesticdance.co.uk>

All our dance exercise classes will be run in line with all government regulations and IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association) Covid-19 free requirements and guidelines. Please call Greta Needham on 07718139983 or email on agneedham50@gmail.com if you would like to find out more.

‘Moving On’

Langley Parish Council was recently sent an unusual diary book (because one section referred to Langley). It is memoirs of a country childhood between the first and second World Wars, spent in Warwickshire and Gloucestershire by Margaret Butler whose father was a farm labourer.

The inter war years saw a great agricultural depression, the grand country houses were in decline, wages were low and job opportunities few and far between, frequently short term, often allocated on a seasonal basis every Michaelmas. There are many examples of farms having to be sold and the new owners bringing in their own workmen. This meant that Margaret’s parents had to move home frequently usually from one tied cottage to another and she had to change schools on an almost annual basis and make new friends.

May 1935 mentions Alscot Park (just south of Stratford) as the site for happy Village celebrations of the silver jubilee of George V and Queen Mary. It did not last long as Mr Clift the elderly farmer/employer died and once again the new owners brought in their own labour, which required a move to a farm at Bearley and a new tied cottage called Langley Green Cottage at the corner of Langley Road and Ford Lane (now called Beckfield). It had no electricity or running water (just a well in the garden) and they made their own ‘ragrug’ mats to cover the red brick floor. Even then the railway and the ford were mentioned as well as Langley celebrations of the Coronation, flower shows and Village fetes (Langley Village Amenities just continues a long association).

Margaret’s mother and father were convinced in 1938/39 that there would be war and that Langley would be dangerous being so close to the potential bombing of Birmingham and Coventry. When the farmer at Bearley brought in ‘progressive ideas’ like tractors, Margaret’s father could not cope being used to horses, and hedge laying and harvesting in the traditional ways, so for once they moved voluntarily to Ampney Crucis in the Cotswolds.

RECIPE – GLUTEN FREE TIRAMISU

Ingredients

½ pt freshly made strong black coffee
2 tbs coffee liquer or brandy
8 fl oz double cream
2½ oz caster sugar
1 tbs vanilla extract
9 oz full fat mascarpone cheese
12 gluten free lady fingers or gluten free sponge cakes
1 ¾ dark chocolate, grated
3 tbs cocoa powder

You will need a 13” x 9” dish.

Method

- Pour the coffee into a small bowl and add your liquer, leave to cool.
- Whip together the cream, sugar and vanilla into soft peaks. Add the mascarpone cheese until slightly stiffer.
- Once the coffee has cooled dip the fingers or sponge into the coffee. Place a layer of soaked fingers in the base of the dish. Try to fill the gaps by breaking some up into smaller pieces if necessary.
- Spread half of the cream mixture over the lady fingers layer, then sprinkle the grated chocolate on top of the cream.
- Repeat with another layer finishing with cream. Sift over the cocoa powder.
- Place in the fridge to chill for 3 hours.
- Before serving grate chocolate on the top.



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NORTON LINDSEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Whilst the Hall remains closed for indoor activity, outdoor classes have recommenced.

It's also good to see Cricket being played and junior football.

We had the Easter Egg hunt, winners being the Boyces, the Manns, the Bull family and Anne and Richard Cooke's grandchildren. Everyone seemed to have fun and thank you to Katie Landreth for setting the clues and organising this.

The Trustees continue to meet monthly on Zoom. As Chair, I receive very regular updates from Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), informing me of the details of the Covid-19 road map and we are obviously hoping that indoor classes can recommence on 17 May. Numbers will still be restricted to allow for the 2 metre social distancing. Meetings, cinema style can also take place from then, with numbers of up to 30.

Still no parties or social events, I know lots of you are keen to book. We have to wait a bit longer.

The Hall however will be open as an exception for the Local Election on 6 May. I believe you will have to bring your own pencil to make your cross. I was approached by Jack the Pizza man asking if he can use the car park to trade from and this has seemed successful so far, every Wednesday. For those of you not on Social Media, details of how to contact him and menu are in the bus shelter. Pre booking is required to prevent people clustering.

I hope you are all planting up your garden containers for judging on July 11th.

Josie is kindly organising the Scarecrow competition again later this year. Watch out for the date for this.

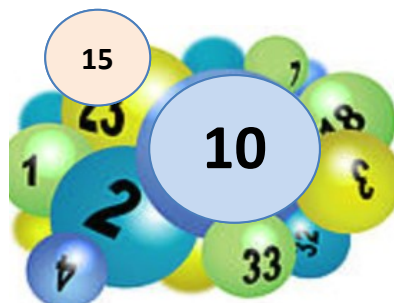
Anna Mace-Leska, Chair of Trustees and Playing Fields CIO

NORTON LINDSEY VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

April Winners

First prize Number **10** – Karin Elmhirst £75

Second prize Number **15** – Jane Cryer £25



All numbers are now taken, fantastic! Thank you.

Contact Carole Briggs on 01926 843355

ac

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Despite the fears that the weather forecast for early April would lead to the first friendly matches being called off, the Club managed to complete all four matches on the first two weekends. Reports of frozen limbs and digits were common, but nobody froze to death!

The first weekend resulted in two very narrow defeats in high scoring games, but the following weekend produced two good victories - the dry weather enabling Jerry Ashley and Simon Hathaway to produce true, flat wickets favouring the batsmen (or should I call them “batters” as the ECB would have us believe!).

We are still prevented from providing teas or opening the bar. The requirement to provide seated table service and payment outside does not fit easily with a club dependent on volunteers. We seem to lack sufficient waiters to make it viable!

The Cotswold Hills League fixtures begin on Saturday 1st May when the opening games see the 1st XI away at Premier Division champions Exhall & Wixford CC, the 2nd XI at home to Woodbourne CC and the 3rd XI away to Bearley CC.

An update on the plans for the Junior cricket section for 2021.

As we begin to emerge gradually from the COVID 19 restrictions, provisional planning is continuing for our junior cricket programme for 2021.

At this time, it is likely that we will be running a youth coaching session for previously registered juniors aged 12 years old and above. These sessions will take place on a Wednesday evening, times and dates yet to be decided but likely to be early June to mid July. Invitations will be sent to parents of this group sometime after the 17th May.

We are still hoping to run sessions on a Friday evening for other age groups, and matches/ festivals on Sundays. However, this will very much depend on available resources. The cricket club would still like to hear from parents who would be willing to help and assist with the running and administration of the Junior section, and will be available Friday evenings and Sunday mornings.

To quote from a recent letter in the Daily Telegraph - "Without recreational cricket there is no future for the game; without the parents there are no volunteers; without volunteers there is no recreational cricket."

If you can find the time to contribute, please contact the Interim Junior Organiser Andy Dewar on 07979 514969.

Martin Neale

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PARISH MAGAZINE IS:

THURSDAY 15 MAY

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Circular walk from Clifford Chambers to Preston on Stour

.....with a stop for tea/coffee and cake at the Preston on Stour village shop and cafe.

As Karin was asking for magazine articles, I thought I would put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard!) and write about one of my favourite local short walks which is from Clifford Chambers to Preston on Stour and back.

This is a delightful and very easy walk with a huge variety of interest to view on the 4.2 mile circular route. The walk can be done in either direction but if the suggested route is followed, the shorter leg will be after the tea/coffee and cake! The walk is on footpaths and country lanes.

After parking close to Clifford Chambers Church, turn right just before the dead end in front of Clifford Manor.



Clifford Manor can be seen through the wrought iron gates. This was originally a timber-framed house built in the 15th or 16th century on the site but was re-modelled in 1903–9. The house was badly damaged in a fire in 1918 and the renowned Arts and Crafts architect Edwin Lutyens was commissioned to repair it. Lutyens and the horticulturalist Gertrude Jekyll are also said to be responsible for the design of the gardens.

Follow this path as it rapidly “dog legs” left then right onto a wider track.

Keep going straight until a footpath leaves the track bearing very slightly to the right (just before a farm gate where the track turns left). Follow the hedge line upwards - not a steep climb - keeping the woods to your right with lovely views over South Warwickshire. The path turns to the right at the top of the hill and views unfold of the Cotswold Hills, Meon Hill, Bredon Hill and the Malverns.



Just keep following the very obvious path through a couple of field boundaries (there is a very obvious switch to the other side of the hedge just before the descent starts) with a sharp left turn at the bottom of the hill. Follow the path until you cross a stile and cross a field leading to another stile, turning left onto a track. At the end of the track turn left then almost immediately right and follow this very little used lane into Preston on Stour whilst admiring the distant views. Just as you enter Preston, immediately after a kink in the road, turn right walking along a grassy path towards the church. Continue straight

between some houses until you see the Old School shop and cafe at the bottom of a grassy bank with a bench. The cafe has a gorgeous garden for a relaxed cup of coffee. Do check opening hours if you decide to go.

<https://www.alscot.co.uk/news/2020/1/16/the-village-shop-amp-cafe-now-open>

The first views of the Church are stunning as it nestles, almost camouflaged, in the landscape. The church tower was built in the fifteenth century but the rest of the church was rebuilt in the 1750s and was built in the style of the Gothic revival. It is beautifully simple inside and well worth going in to admire - there may even be sheep in the churchyard!

To return to Clifford Chambers simply turn right out of the cafe and go straight on keeping right at the war memorial. The path is clearly visible and well-trodden and all the way back to Clifford Chambers is clearly signed as part of the long distance walk The Shakespeare Way.

After leaving Preston there are fabulous views of Alscot Park. Alscot Park and Estate is privately owned and has been in the ownership of the West family since 1747 when it was purchased by James West, MP for St Albans who was the Secretary to the Treasury and who rebuilt most of the house into its current form. Emma Holman West is the 9th member of the family to own the estate. The gardens are beautifully landscaped and the fountain can be clearly seen as the River Stour winds through the grounds.

The path joins the road at Atherstone on Stour. Turn left and then simply walk straight on, leaving the road as the road turns left just after the old church (which is now a private residence). The route crosses fields before walking along the boundary of the garden of Clifford Manor with an opportunity to snatch views of the magnificent garden. Turn right and you are back where you started!

I hope you enjoy the walk.

Julie Howard

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

The County Council election and the Police and Crime Commissioner elections are to be held on 6 May.

In *Arden Division* there are four candidates for election as the County Councillor. These are: John HORNER, Conservative; Karyl REES, Liberal Democrat; Penny STOTT, Green; and Bryn TURNER, Labour.

For *Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner* there are four candidates. These are: Louis ADAM, Liberal Democrat; Henry LU, Reform UK; Philip SECCOMBE, Conservative; Ben TWOMEY, Labour.

I hope everyone will vote on May 6 as it is our democratic right. Many people have given their lives over the years ensuring we can vote and there are many people across the word today who are fighting to achieve what we often take for granted.

The death of HRH Prince Philip has overshadowed events this month and until I read and watched the tributes to him I was unaware of just how gifted and remarkable he was. He was so modest of his many achievements. His work behind the scenes for many charitable organisations will be missed.

Although we suffered some frustrations at the start over the lumpy rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination programme the Health Minister placed Warwickshire as running the most successful inoculation programme in the country. GPs and other NHS workers administering the vaccinations should be congratulated. Although progress is good on inoculation the Government wants anyone who regularly mixes with other people socially or at work to take two rapid Covid-19 tests each week. I have asked the Public Health team to find out where the nearest testing centre would be for each of our parishes and I will advise each Parish Council when I get the information.

Congratulations should also be extended to Henley in Arden Fire and Rescue as the station achieved 100% availability for emergency response for the last two years. This achievement makes the team one of the highest, if not the highest, performing fire station in the country. There have been some changes to personnel in the Alcester North Police area serving Arden Division.

Ben Hembry is the new Inspector who has taken over Stratford District, the new Arden SNT Sergeant is David Ebbs and our new Police Constable is Caz Wright. Aadila Hussain, Sanjay Singh and Brooke Taylor remain in post as our PCSOs. The new officers gave the Police briefing at the April Arden Division Clerks and Chairs and we were able to welcome them. I have also written, at the request of Arden Clerks and Chairs, to the Chief Constable asking him to note our appreciation of the excellent job Sgt Eagles did during his time as our SNT Sergeant.

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Email: walkdog-feedcat@outlook.com



Wild Flowers of the Dolomites

WI online Zoom Meeting

on Wednesday, 12 May 2021 at 7.30 pm



Local Leamington Artist, John Simpson, captured our interest at our April meeting by showing us the fabulous lamps, stools, vases and other artifacts he creates from recycled materials that many of us throw out on a daily basis. He explained the process and we will no longer look at the inner tube of kitchen foil, an amazon box or the carton that coke cans come in without thinking of John and his amazing lamp bases.

Why not check out John's website for more information: www.johnsimpsonart.co.uk and help save the planet.



At our Zoom Coffee and Chat on 27th April, we compared our sunflower seedlings and discussed the virtues of nurturing plants at home. It's quite a therapeutic pastime to watch your seeds spring into life and flourish and it will be interesting to see who wins our sunflower competitions this year. Ready, steady, GROW.

Did you know that the WI campaign tirelessly for many different worthy causes such as Fighting Climate Change; Making Time for Mental Health; Alleviating Loneliness; No More Violence Against Women and Stop Modern Slavery to name a few. WI members are encouraged to put forward resolutions each year that may be adopted by the WI and members then vote for or against these proposals.



At our May meeting we shall be discussing this year's proposed resolution '**A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer**' and deciding whether this is a campaign we should champion and support. Early signs of ovarian cancer are similar to conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), and pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS) and it is often not diagnosed until it has spread and a cure is impossible. Ensuring women can spot a symptom of ovarian cancer is really critical and common symptoms include feeling constantly bloated; a swollen tummy; discomfort in your tummy or pelvic area; feeling full quickly when eating and needing to pee more often than normal. If this applies to you then maybe it's wise to seek a medical opinion.



Following our resolution vote, our member Karen Baxter will be enlightening us about the wild flowers that can be found in the Dolomites in Northern Italy.

Then at our virtual 'Coffee and Chat' on 20th May we shall be celebrating **World Bee Day** and Rosemarie Perry will be treating us to a short presentation about bees, along with plenty of opportunity to socialise.



Ladies, you are welcome to try a meeting with us. The Women's Institute provides new friendships and ideas. It is particularly easy to take part on Zoom at present, so why not give it a go? If you would like further information about Norton Lindsey WI, please contact us: secretary@nlwi.org.uk and we'll send you the link.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Sue Steel, President, Norton Lindsey WI

The Norton Lindsey **Stilton Sniffers**

Summer is on its way, fingers crossed May is as sunny as last year and gradually we get back to some sense of normality - thankfully The New Inn is back open!

Our May fundraiser for Helping Hands starts on 1 May and runs through the month, please check our Facebook page for information on how to get involved and make donations.

Helping Hands are refurbishing their kitchen and we hope to raise enough funds to support the purchase of catering equipment.

Don't forget to keep a record of all your miles run, walked, cycled, rowed etc during May, we want to add them all up to gain as much support for Helping Hands as we can!

If you have any queries please contact Tim!

The much awaited live event on 4 September is being worked on with the organising subcommittee having regular meetings, if you would like to offer your support in any way please contact Tim.

The format will be Norton Lindsey's Got Talent, we have the financial support of the Sniffers and the Village Hall and hope to make it a real celebration of coming out of Covid-19.

Best wishes

Tim Landreth
Chairman

Get the BUZZ about Wolverton's Roadside Verges!

We would like to enhance the biodiversity of our roadside verges and are working with our neighbouring villages to persuade Warwickshire County Council to adopt the recommendations of the Plantlife Good Verge Guide for their seasonal grass verge cutting: www.plantlife.org.uk. Seven in ten councils in the UK are already helping to conserve wildflowers on roadside verges using these management guidelines. Where wildflowers grow, wildlife follows.

Rather than making several cuts throughout the summer, the recommendations are that the council mow verges just twice a year, where road safety and visibility permit, ideally in February-March and again in September-October. This one-off late summer cut would give wildflowers an extended flowering season to further attract insect pollinators and allow time to set seed.

We have identified three wide verge areas that would be suitable for biodiversity management, and these are situated on the Langley Road between Wolverton crossroads and the Wolverton / Langley parish boundary. Raking up the mowings in these key areas will also help reduce the build-up of organic material and encourage wildflower germination the following year. The verges will start to look less tidy than maybe people are used to, but the benefits to our local wildlife will be significantly increased- think a bit more Gertrude Jekyll than Capability Brown! Long term, we can look forward to seeing beautiful swathes of wildflowers along the lanes linking our partner villages.

This year, we need to start recording the plants and insects currently found in these areas so we have a baseline to monitor the effect of our biodiversity management over the next few years. Please contact rosemary.stone@hotmail.co.uk if you have a reasonable knowledge of identifying wildflowers, butterflies etc and are interested to take part.

💡 ***Continuing the theme.....this May, why not give the mower a rest and leave part of your lawn or even all of it(!) to do its own thing and participate in 'No mow May'? See what wildflowers, butterflies, bees and other insects appear.***

Important Message for Dog owners!

Our litter picking team continue to trawl the roadside verges and village footpaths to make Wolverton a cleaner and greener place to live. However, one of the more unpleasant aspects of this is dealing with numerous discarded doggie poo bags- yuk!! Leaving bagged poo (even temporarily) on footpaths, hanging on hedges or abandoned in a field is not only unpleasant for others but poses a serious risk to wild animals and livestock if they ingest the bag and contents. Please take away your used bags, even if the bags are biodegradable, and dispose of them in an eco-friendly manner at home. There is a fixed penalty of £100 (min) or £1000 (max) for failing to clean up after your dog in public places. You can report dog fouling by phone to 01789 260835 or online to Stratford District Council.

If you venture further afield into woodland areas, the National Trust, Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission support use of 'stick and flick' into the undergrowth where micro-organisms can get to work on decomposition but please do not do this on or near farmland where livestock might graze. Dog poo can carry Neospora which may cause miscarriage or severe disease in sheep, cattle and calves, a great worry for our local farmers.

Good news this month

Not only are Covid-19 restrictions easing but we have been able to start preparing a new bed at Wolverton Church Hall ready to plant some pollinator friendly plants. Thanks to June and Peter Mathias, David Bryan and Rosie Stone who have been helping with the hard work. The **GROW*** team has put in at least 16 hours hard labour on this project so far and is looking forward to the planting stage when we will be asking for donations of suitable plants.

GROW* GRen Our Wolverton

If you would like to join the **GROW** Team please contact barbaraharland@gmail.com new members welcome!

We Need You!

We need volunteers to help get local patients to receive the Coronavirus vaccination.



Have you got some spare time during the day? We expect to be very busy in January, February and March once the vaccination programme begins to roll out. We are going to need many more:

Volunteer drivers: If you have a clean driving license and would like to **help people in your community who would otherwise struggle to get to their vaccination appointment and home again**, please get in touch. **45p mileage costs paid.**

Telephone operators: Have you got your **own computer, decent admin skills and like talking on the telephone?** We need plenty of people to help take transport bookings to vaccination appointments. If you could spare one or two mornings or afternoons a week we would love to hear from you? **Volunteering from home with training & support.**

**To help, please call 01789 262889
or email recruitment@vasa.org.uk**

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whiles, £25



Bench grinder £25

After a quiet start, it has been a busy few weeks. The cows were due to start calving from the 17 March, but the first one did not calve until 26 March. We never know the exact date other than working out the time from when the bull was put in with the cows last summer. However, once started, the calves have been born at a steady rate to average just over one calf a day. We have to identify and put ear tags in the calves. With them all being the same ruby-red colour we must keep up to date with the tags, whilst trying not to upset some very protective mums. So far, we are just over halfway through, with 20 calves running around with the cows.

Normally, the cattle would be out in the fields grazing by now, but due to the cold weather, the grass growth has virtually stopped, so we are keeping them confined to the small paddock by the house and feeding them silage. They do not seem to mind the cold weather, especially with it being very dry, and where they have a choice in the cattle-yard they spend most of the time out in the open air.

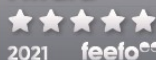
After being patient whilst the land has been drying out, we have planted all the spring cereals (barley and triticale) into good seedbeds, but being typical farmers, we now need some warm rain to help germinate the seeds. We still have some fields to plant with linseed, but these need to go into some nice warm soil and can be planted any-time before the first week in May, so we will wait a little longer.

David, Dorothy and Chris Mann



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CONTACTING THE UNITED BENEFICE ORGANISATIONS

- Open to all Parishioners



POLICE CONTACT	Norton Lindsey Wolverton Langley	01926 410111 01789 444600 01789 414111
Subscription to the Parish Magazine	Marion Austin	01926 842661
WOLVERTON		
Brownies and Guides	Rachel Livingston	wolvertonguiding@gmail.com
Campion Trust	Rev R Livingston	Wolverton
Parish Council Clerk	Jennifer Bendall	clerk@wolvertonpc.org.uk
Rainbow Guides	Janet Livingston	wolvertonguiding@gmail.com
Wolverton History Group	Dorothy Mann	01789 731635
Church Hall Bookings	David Stone	01789 731488
NORTON LINDSEY		
Church Room	Marion Austin	01926 842661
Claverdon & District Nursing Fund	Anna Mace-Leska	07816 283973
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Village Hall Treasurer	Ashley Hollinshead	07980 811192
Women's Institute	Sue Steel	01926 258016
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Amenities Association	Brian Keefe	01926 843812
Claverdon & District Nursing Fund	Linda Hammond Brian Keefe	01926 843415 01926 843812
Parish Council Clerk	Nigel Hewin	01926 842200

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