

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

EXTRA

JANUARY 2023

SPAN QUIZ

This year's SPAN Quiz is on Friday 17 February at 7.30 pm in St Peter's Hall. It will be in aid of a local charity 'New Chapters' which will soon be opening its doors to people who need rehabilitation facilities due to drug or alcohol addiction. This will be much needed affordable help for those in Leamington and local areas. One of the reasons for homelessness is often addiction and people need specialist help to recover.

One of the key members of the team starting this is Yvonne MacKinnon, at present the Manager of the Way Ahead Project. Yvonne came to talk to SPAN in December and the meeting was very impressed with the plans and decided to support the new charity on a regular basis. You may have seen a feature on 'Midlands Today' on the BBC a few weeks ago which featured Yvonne. They talked to those who have been through rehab, those who are in recovery and those who need it but who find it very hard to find affordable facilities. Yvonne and the team are passionate about trying to redress this. They also now have a possible venue which should be available in the next few months.

They are very keen to attract more local support and need to raise more funding. Anyone who would like to help please see its website <https://www.newchapters.org.uk/> Come to the Quiz to find out more and have some fun at the same time!

Jenny Armstrong



Kindaid

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and thank you for all your support over the past year. It has been lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves at our fund raising events.

We have recently been able to send money to Helping Hands, Warwick District Food Bank and Sreepur Village charity, which supports single mothers and their children in Bangladesh, affording them livelihoods. We have also put some money aside for the orphanage in Kenya.

Please keep the following provisional dates free:

- ◆ **Bingo:** Friday 10 March
- ◆ **Coronation Celebration:** Saturday 29 April
- ◆ **Afternoon Tea:** Sunday 9 July
- ◆ **Just Desserts:** Saturday 7 October
- ◆ **Quiz:** Friday 10 November
- ◆ **Christmas activity:** Sunday 10 December

Please watch out for further details nearer the time.

Sue Sugars, Kindaid

Pastimes

Pastimes is still open every Tuesday from 11.00 am and offers a warm welcome to all.

We are delighted to have been accepted by the local council as another of Leamington's 'Warm Places', offering a warm environment and welcome to anyone who needs to spend time away from a cold or unheated home space.

In April Pastimes is planning another Jumble sale. The last sale raised over £1,000 towards a heating system in St Peter's Church. Your support was very much appreciated and – whether a generous donor, a customer, or one of the many helpers – you all enabled the huge success of this jumble sale.

Our Christmas Fair raised well over £1,000 – the proceeds were again given towards St Peter's heating fund. Without the great help, handmade items, and donations of wine etc for the tombola and other 'try your luck' stalls, the hard working refreshment staff and all the wonderful cakes given and sold by expert sales personnel, nothing could have been achieved.

Do come along any Tuesday and share a warm drink and a biscuit or two.

Mary Curran, Pastimes

Walking Together – a personal view by Paul Hayden

Over a year ago Pope Francis asked all parishes and dioceses in the world to listen to each other and the Holy Spirit to work out how listening and prayer could embed itself at all levels in the Church. It is an approach which can be seen in the functioning of the early church (see Acts 15 vs 1-21). In later years, church councils continued, but they often held (the largely uneducated) laity at a distance.

Prayer, reflection, openness, listening and dialogue are key to this approach.

Our Catholic Leamington report (*see website reference*) highlighted the love that we have for the person of Christ and the love and mercy that He shows us. A love too of His gift of the Eucharist and for those who are our ministers.

We really wish to be a loving and supportive community able to confidently share our faith.

We recognised that as we 'Walk Together on the same path', we must now be communities working collaboratively with our priests, unlike our initial work which was largely laity driven.

We also acknowledged our failings as a church; not responding appropriately to abuse issues and trying to save the church's face at the expense of victims and ultimately the moral status of the institutional church.

Church regulation has also failed at times to reflect the love and mercy we know that Jesus would show.

There is great hope expressed in the Synod (Walking Together) reports from around the world and much agreement about our joys and concerns. See the documents available at www.catholicleamington/synod Important points were flagged up for the attention of our bishops and await discernment on the way the Holy Spirit is leading our church.

We must ask ourselves what we – as laity working with our priests – can do to improve or enrich our own communities. We can all engage in this in practical ways – more will be said about this after our Masses over the next few weeks.

Dialogue in the Spirit is called for at all levels of the church including our own parishes. We can do more to prepare ourselves to be the church we wish to be part of. We are a people of hope.

If you have any comments or queries, please email paulhayden444@gmail.com

Saturday Friendship Group

The Saturday Friendship Group (SFG) works together with the Salvation Army to support the Way Ahead Project (WAP), located in south Leamington to support the homeless and vulnerable in our community.

The WAP normally opens its doors five mornings a week to anyone needing warmth and shelter, washing facilities, hot drinks and something to eat. Most importantly, it provides a point of contact with support workers, who can offer advice on housing, benefits and other support services. It typically sees around 580 different service users in a year. The project can run most effectively with SFG volunteers who help to free up the professionals to provide the advisory services.

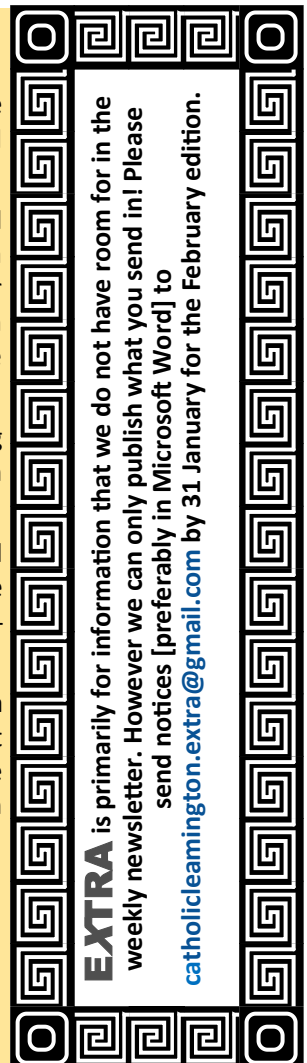
On a Saturday morning, the WAP differs from the normal weekday drop-in service by providing kitchen space, where the service users work as a team to prepare a cooked breakfast which they eat together. There is also a chance for social activities.

Unfortunately, the departure of one of the professional Project Support Workers in August and unsuccessful recruitment to date of a replacement, has meant that we've had to suspend the Saturday service. However, the New Year brings new opportunities! We have plans to reinstate the Saturday provision but instead this will be on a Monday morning from early 2023.

SFG is grateful to financial donors including a number of parishioners' standing orders, a monthly donation from SPAN and a Town Council subsidy last granted in January 2022, that enables the Saturday Friendship Group to continue to support the WAP. It is wonderful to see such support from both volunteers and financial donors within our Parish at a time when services of this type are more in demand than ever. Thank you!

You can learn more about some of the recent work of the Way Ahead Project on their [Facebook page](#) including a Christmas dinner provided to the service users. If you are interested in getting involved or supporting the project, please contact cl.sfg1@gmail.com

Liz Mottram



New Year's Resolutions

Can **you** make a change for climate change?

We are living in a climate emergency which can feel overwhelming but our individual lifestyle choices **CAN** bring about change.

Pope Francis has said *"Each of us — whoever and wherever we may be — can play our own part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and the degradation of our common home"*



Here are some small [and big] changes we can try:

- * Use less plastic—almost all are derived from fossil fuels
- * Home waste recycling
- * Turning lights off
- * Buying energy efficient appliances
- * Consider switching to a green energy supplier if able
- * Reduce food waste—food in landfill produces methane [worse than carbon dioxide]
- * Eat less meat and dairy products—try eating veggie one or two days a week
- * Leave the car at home if possible—bike, train bus or walk

CAFOD

2022 was a tough year for many people throughout the world. CAFOD would like to say a massive thank you to all who contributed either by donating so generously, praying for their brothers and sisters in need or speaking out against injustice through protesting and petitioning.

With your help, CAFOD:

- enabled local experts to deliver vital supplies in dangerous areas
- provided crucial healthcare advice to new mothers through mobile clinics
- got tools and training to farmers adapting to climate change and
- gave emergency cash to families who had lost everything so they could make their own decisions about what they want to buy and rebuild their lives in a way they choose.

I would also like to thank the many of you who participated in the World Gifts campaign. You may have noticed that Fr Stephen has agreed that the money donated for the crib will be used to buy a World Gift. Your continued support is much appreciated by CAFOD for their ongoing projects as well as their emergency response work.

The next **Family Fast Day** is **Friday 3 March**, when there will be a **soup lunch in St Peter's Hall**.

Ann Allison, Catholic Leamington CAFOD Volunteer

What does it mean to be a *LiveSimply* Parish?

The CAFOD *LiveSimply* award is an opportunity for Catholic communities – parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies – to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in *Laudato Si'* to *"work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us"*.

St Peter's became a *LiveSimply* parish in 2015 and the concept has been encouraged among all three churches in Catholic Leamington. The award is given after demonstrating activities that work towards living:

- simply
- in solidarity with people in poverty and
- sustainably with creation

As our world faces a global climate crisis, never has it been more important to try and reduce our impact on the earth by living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

A small committee meets every few months to reflect on how *LiveSimply* is working in the parish, generate ideas and put them into action. In the past the committee has undertaken various activities to keep the parish aware of the objectives of *LiveSimply*, including:

- tree walks in Jephson Gardens with reflections
- *LiveSimply* Masses including a children's liturgy
- a parish cookbook with recipes using less meat (now sold out)
- improved recycling in the Parish Centre
- eco-tips for parishioners in the newsletter and on display boards and
- representation at Warwick District Council's annual Eco-fest in the Pump Room gardens

The committee is always open to more members joining in any capacity that they are able – if you have skills in art, display, writing, publicity, IT, social media or just want to make a difference any way, we would love to hear from you. Contact **Sioned Harper** at sioned_hammondjones@yahoo.co.uk



The St Vincent de Paul Society,

from all three churches in Catholic Leamington, would like to thank parishioners for their generous donations to the Christmas hampers project. We were able to provide up to 75 hampers for

families and individuals this year and all were gratefully received. The hampers were distributed through our five Primary schools and to various housebound people in the parish. *Thank you also to all our wrappers and packers.*

Brian, Peter and Richard