

EXTRA

PRE-CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

NOVEMBER 2020



SPAN

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS

HELP US TO GIVE LOCAL FAMILIES A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Are you wondering what sort of a Christmas you and your family might have this year? It's a worry – and even more so if you are desperately short of money. There has been much recent publicity about the need to help families at this difficult time. Communities are working together all over the country to help.

SPAN is very committed to helping local families and individuals who are struggling this Christmas. The giving of food or vouchers has been a feature of our work in the past but is so necessary at the moment. You may be wondering how you can help. We see our role as linking those who have the resources and desire to help and those who are having a hard time at the present.

Last year we raised £3,300 and gave help to over 30 families, including more than 60 children and 27 other adults. The help is in the form of supermarket vouchers and we gave many families £40 or £50, depending on size of family. We got referrals from schools and Children's centres who are aware of the local needs as well as our Church contacts.

So this year please help us to put food on the table for Christmas and make someone smile, relax and enjoy the festive season. THANK YOU!

Jenny Armstrong

YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING DIRECT TO SPAN via your bank to Sort code 40-27-06. Account 21324004 with reference "Vouchers"

Or by putting cash or cheque in the green envelopes available in all 3 Churches from the weekend of 7th/8th November Or dropping a cheque to SPAN to Michael Barker 77, Montrose Avenue, Leamington Spa CV32 7DS

Please write 'donation for Christmas vouchers' on the back of the cheque

Or by using our Justgiving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/spanxmasvouchers>

If you can gift aid your donation please request a form from

michaelbarker77@sky.com or print one from our webpage

<https://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span.html>



Ethical charity gifts for Christmas at: worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

World Gifts are CAFOD's charity gift range of unusual, ethical presents that will delight your friends and family. Perfect for any occasion, gifts start from as little as £4 (Happy Queen Bee - for that special something, all the way up to £4,000 (A Health Clinic)! There's something for everyone, with gifts for gardeners, animal lovers, teachers, entrepreneurs - the list goes on!

CAFOD knows that this year has been particular hard when it comes to seeing our loved ones. Many of us are facing restrictions that limit our movement and our socialising, and we're all wondering what Christmas will bring. To make things a little simpler, CAFOD have created a new way for you to send your World Gifts. Rather than ordering cards to personalise and then give your cards in person, or post on, you can now write a personalised message online, and send the card directly to your loved one. Choose the "Post Direct" option when selecting how you want to send your card. <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>

Ethical charity cards and gifts for Christmas

www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/christmas

Charity Christmas cards are the perfect way to celebrate the festivities while knowing that you're giving back to those less fortunate. Whether you're on the hunt for friends or family, the selection of Christmas charity cards at Traidcraft Shop suit all tastes and are incredibly affordable – you may even catch a sale on some of our products!

When you purchase one of their charity Christmas cards, a donation is made to Traidcraft Exchange, **CAFOD**, SCIAF and Christian Aid in a bid to combat poverty on a global scale and make as much change as possible.

If you're not convinced to buy one of their charity Christmas cards already, know that you'll definitely be changing the world one small step at a time. The charity Christmas cards at Traidcraft Shop are all handmade and have been selected to add sentimental value to every purchase during the holidays.

Although your charity Christmas cards will stand out alone, if you want to make sure that all of your gifts this year have a greater message at heart, why not add some festive **chocolates** or **biscuits** to your order?

P.S. – don't forget the fair trade **Christmas wrap**, too!

CAFOD team

20th December - Leamington Sings

Please join the Workplace Choir and Heartbreak Productions on Sunday December 20th – 6pm for Leamington Sings! A family friendly virtual celebration of carols, Christmas songs, readings and a musical contribution from the Adams Family Trio. An opportunity for individuals and local communities to connect online at this special time of year, in a year like no other ...



We're also inviting singers (no experience needed! To make a recording of "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" which will be rehearsed/recorded and streamed live as part of the concert. If you enjoy singing and would like to join in please visit Leamington Sings! On Facebook, Instagram and Twitter or sign up at <http://bit.ly/LSingForm>

Tickets for the concert are free and we're encouraging donations to Leamington Night Shelter, who offer crucial support to homeless people. Further info available from marketing@heartbreakproductions.co.uk

Please share with your organisation and it would be great if you're happy to like/share on our social media platforms:

Facebook LeamingtonSings | Twitter @leamsings | Instagram @leamingtonsings

<https://www.leamingtonsings.co.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/leamsings/>

<https://twitter.com/leamsings>

<https://www.instagram.com/leamingtonsings/>

Maddy Kerr



From our Pope's new encyclical letter:

Love, then, is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Those actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing and beautiful, apart from their physical or moral appearances. Our love for others, for who they are, moves us to seek the best for their lives. Only by cultivating this way of relating to one another will we make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all. [Fratelli Tutti #94]

- Buy copies £6.95 from cl.jandp@gmail.com and they will be sent to you (free postage) with an invoice

Olives simply parish

*'We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the **conviction** that 'less is more' Laudato Si' - Pope Francis*

Is it an opportunity to stop and think about how we act as consumers?

Maybe 2020 with all its challenges has made us consume more thoughtfully, recycling, reusing and being less wasteful. We may have discovered local shops we used to walk past, bought fewer new clothes, grown our own vegetables or turned our hand to making things. COVID 19 has certainly been an unwelcome addition to our vocabulary but it has given us a lesson in treading more lightly on our planet; less traffic, air pollution down, discovering what is on our doorstep and appreciating our neighbours.

How can we keep up being responsible consumers while still buying gifts and spreading a little joy this Christmas? As a *Livesimply* community we should have a go at thinking through our ethical choices. A few suggestions...

❖ Things to consider

- ❖ **PLASTIC** - you know the problems – so remember 'Refuse, reuse, recycle' (your own bag, choose unpackaged goods, slim your bin!)
- ❖ **SHOP LOCAL** – keep your local shops on the High street in business. We need them!
- ❖ **CHARITY SHOPS** – are a treasure trove. Clothes, books, gifts, Christmas cards etc. They have reopened and need support.
- ❖ **FOOD SOURCES** - think food miles, eat seasonally, support local producers, farm shop or grow your own. **ORGANIC** is a great choice for the planet.
- ❖ **ACTIVELY SEARCH OUT ETHICAL BUSINESSES** – see local resources as well as online.
- ❖ **AVOID WASTE** – use up leftovers, buy what you need, compost the remains if possible.
- ❖ **GIVE an alternative gift** – a CAFOD world gift, support to the local arts and theatres with vouchers.
- ❖ **GIVE YOUR TIME** - phone a friend or relative and reach out to ease loneliness.
- ❖ **USE SOCIAL MEDIA** to good effect – to encourage and cheer your contacts.
- ❖ **SHOP ON LINE THOUGHTFULLY** – to minimise transport and packaging

Local resources;

THE REUSEFUL Centre,(ACTION 21,) Court Street – recycling centre for household items, books, toys.

<http://www.action21.co.uk/re-useful-centre/>

ZERO STORE , 41, Russell Street

<https://www.zerostore.co.uk/>

GAIA Co-op, 7 Regent Place, organic produce, refillable cleaning products. <https://www.gaia.coop/>

OXFAM, 57, Warwick Street for fair trade and second hand goods.

<https://onlineshop.oxfam.org.uk/shop/local-shops/oxfam-shop-learnington-spa>



FAIR TRADE? Look for the Fair trade logo – on many food stuffs, in all supermarkets - to ensure fair wages and conditions for so many people whom we will never see and where life is even harder now, Trade is vital for these producers. **TRAIDCRAFT** are very much in business and have an ethical Christmas gift guide. See www.traidcraftshop.co.uk
Also shop at the King's Table High Street, **Kenilworth**.
www.thekingstable.co.uk

Let's hear your ideas – email cl.jandp@gmail.com

St. Peters Pastimes Reading Group



Back at the start of 2020 the Pastimes Book Group had an email saying they had been chosen to take part in a short story project.

We had been matched with Carolyn Kirby, an Oxford author, and she planned to visit the group at our April meeting to share and discuss ideas.

Then Coronavirus and Lockdown put all our plans on hold!

In September, Angela Hicken, our project coordinator suggested that our author, Carolyn, would like to continue the project. There were five replies to her questionnaire, and from those replies she has now written a short story set in Leamington Spa in the nineteenth century.

Hopefully, by December this story, along with four others also linked to Warwickshire Reading Groups will be printed and distributed. So, St. Peters Pastimes Reading Group members watch out for an early Christmas present!

lynda.gould123@hotmail.com

Virtual Open Event



All prospective students and parents/carers are warmly invited to our

Virtual Open Event

We have produced a series of videos promoting Trinity Catholic School.

- A welcome from our Executive Principal and Head of School
- Meet our students
- Virtually visit our subject departments
- A Catholic School for All

Why not find out more about our school community by visiting:

<http://www.trinity-school.org.uk/virtual-open-event-october-2020/>



Dear all,
In this November news it is with great sadness that I tell you we still have no home in which to meet after half term. Our usual

meeting place at St Joseph's Parish Hall will not be available to us until 2021 at the earliest.

I have very much enjoyed our Zoom meetings, but of course these were never meant to be long term and so after 7 months, I feel it is now time to revisit our options. Rather than make a decision on my own, I would like to ask you, as young people and supporters of our youth ministry, what you would like the future to look like.

I am called by God to serve his Church and so, serve you. However, I cannot do it alone. None of us are asked to follow our calling alone and so I humbly ask for your help moving forward.

In an attempt to discern the path God would like us to take, I have done a short questionnaire. Some of you might like these, others of you might be rolling your eyes right now! There is indeed a section under which you can ask for your email to be removed from our list.

However I would really appreciate you completing it at your earliest convenience so that I can pray about what steps to take in the coming days

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdhcasPIDz1g6jRMNXtcMUBYQZIOiE1avlWdlydnLMSZ9RhPw/viewform>



Trinity is a Catholic learning community devoted to the common good.

Head of School: Mr J Shires

Guy's Cliffe Avenue

Leamington Spa, CV32 6NB

Tel: (01926) 428416

Email: http://trinityschooloffice@welearn365.com

Website: <http://www.trinity-school.org.uk/>

Follow us on Social Media to find out more:

Trinity Catholic School

@CatholicTrinity

Every so often I am reaffirmed in my faith by God's gracious provision for those jobs he wants done in his Kingdom here on earth. As you see from the activities we have planned this half term, he does not disappoint!

Thank you to all of you who completed the questionnaire regarding our youth ministry. That you took the time to respond was wonderful and I am so grateful for your encouragement and suggestions moving forward. Whilst many responses were heartwarming and joyful, I have to admit to stifling a giggle when I read that one of our younger members would like a 'Bigger tuck shop with more sweets.' Do not fear, young one, when this is all over, I shall purchase celebratory lolly pops!

This half term, the youth team have decided to continue our Zoom meetings with the prospect of reconvening in person in the coming months at Our Lady's Church in Lillington. In the meantime we have youth Masses planned, Advent night prayer, a lively faith formation series and a social evening to look forward to. For all the details see below! Click on the images to find out more about our youth ministry opportunities coming up in the new academic year.

Much love as always

Emma x



EXTRA is primarily for information that we do not have room for in the weekly newsletter. But we can only publish what you send in; please send notices (100-200 words) to catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com by the end of November. :
EXTRA team: Sue Sugars, Brian Austin, Caroline Graham