Issue No: 223 Driving the wheel of fellowship

September '23 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

September

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

Monday	4th	Joint Lunchtime m with Wycliff	Ted Wilson	
Monday	11th	Normal Meeting		Derick Berridge
Thursday	14th	Council Meeting	7 p.m.	
Monday	18th	Business Meeting		
Monday	25th	Normal Meeting	Anne Baker	Philip Duncan

October

Monday	2nd	Normal Meeting	Martin Iliffe	Jenny Taylor
Monday	9th	Normal Meeting	Sally Parkinson	Willy Bach
Thursday	12th	Council Meeting	7 p.m.	
Monday	16th	Business Meeting		Martin Iliffe
Monday	23rd	Normal Meeting	Mark Thompson	Sally Hollis
Monday	30th	Normal Meeting Su	ie Postlethwaite I) Wooliscroft

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell **Anne Baker** Tel: 01455 285674 **email** christinabaker304@btinternet.com

St Marys Church Lutterworth





Tony Hirons was our speaker who gave the club a highly detailed talk on the history of St Mary's Church. Unable to print the full report these are the highlights in a shortened precis below:-

St Mary's Church is the Church of England parish church of Lutterworth. It is listed as a grade 1 building, founded when Norman de Verdon was Lord of the Manor with construction believed to have begun in 1170. Major rebuilding work took place in 1444 including a new spire but on Christmas day 1701 the spire collapsed onto the roof of the nave causing great damage. Locally during the Great Storm 26th-27th November in 1703 the spires of Gilmorton-Frolesworth, Monks Kirby and (possibly) Bitteswell churches were all brought down on this night. The present tower was erected in 1761.

By 1840 the church was in a ruinous state and renovation was undertaken by Joseph Hansom but not to the satisfaction of the church elders. So in 1867—1869 Sir George Gilbert Scott supervised major restoration work at a cost of £7,500 while services were held in the Town Hall. Work included restoring windows and opening up two ancient windows, moving the organ to left of the altar, all pillars placed on more solid foundations, renewing the roof reusing the ancient roof bosses and cleaning the paintings.

Among interesting wall paintings is a large "Judgement" painting over the chancel arch. It shows figures rising out of tombs and

Christ above seated on what appears to be a rainbow surrounded by angels, dating from late 14th century or the early 15th century, it would be used as a teaching aid for the congregation. Above the north door a painting from the 14th century known as "The Three Living and the Three Dead".

Lastly below the tower at the West end is "The Millennium Tapestry" worked by local people telling the story of Lutterworth and including a panel from our 'twin' Chambourcy, a suburb of Paris and stitched by the ladies of Chambourcy.

Some of the more notable Rectors of St Mary's Lutterworth.

The first rector was appointed in 1221 then in 1318 Robert le Poer became Parish Priest, he also had a living in Carlow Ireland. Robert was appointed Chief Baron of Ireland and with a break remained in that office until 1344, a rather absent Rector in Lutterworth.

John Wycliffe was granted the royal living of Lutterworth by the King in 1373 for speaking out against the Pope's influence. It was here that he and his followers worked on translating the bible into English from Vulgate Latin. In 1383 the translation was completed and Wycliffe died the following year from a 2nd stroke. In 1415 the Council of Constance condemned Wycliffe for 267 heresies and his body was dug up, the bones burnt and scattered in the river Swift.

Robert Sutton was ordained Rector in 1571. However he was converted to the Catholic faith by his brother and in 1575 he declared from the pulpit "the only true religion was the Catholic religion" and renounced his living. Ordained as a Catholic priest in Douai he returned to practice in England then in 1585 was arrested and banished. Returning again to England but in 1588 he was martyred and burnt, miraculously his thumb and forefinger survived. Confirmed as a holy relic by the Pope they were returned in 1987 and are housed in a niche in the Catholic church in Lutterworth.

Henrry Meriton was appointed Rector in 1683. He had disputes over money with his parishioners made worse when the collapse of the spire in 1701 meant raising money for the repair. Disputes over the use of this money went before the local magistrates and he was awarded costs but died a broken man in 1711.

August 100 Club Draw

1st Prize Elaine Derrick £25—00 2nd Prize Elaine Turner £15—00 3rd Prize David Ayres £10—00

Future Events

Wednesday 6th September Concordia (Shaw Shank Redempion)
Thursday 14th September The Drifters Concert at DeMontfort Hall
Thursday 7th December Stratford Christmas Market—coach is
being planned

Friday 12th January 2024 Puss in Boots

Other items being considered for 2024—Coton Manor - House of Lords - and Middleton Hall.

Have you seen these?

I went to the job centre.... I said have you got any furniture removal jobs?

They said "take a seat ...'

A New Christian restaurant just opened called "The Lord Giveth"...

Also does takeaway.

Sheepy Facts

Sheep are mentioned more than 500 times in the Bible Often the youngest son was sent out to be a shepherd. Because shepherds couldn't wash themselves very often, they were not welcomed in the town by ordinary people. They suffered from strong odour! Their job was to look after the sheep day and night fighting off any wild animals that came to attack the flock. Sheep provided meat, wool and milk for the villagers. Sheep recognise humans and learn to follow them. Bleats from the sheep are distinctive enabling the ewe and her lambs to recognize each others call. Sheep provided excellent and sense of smell and can see colours. Sheep have excellent hearing and sense of smell and can see colours. Sheep have a field of vision around 300 degrees allowing them to see behind themselves without turning their head! There are over 1,000 breeds of sheep

Recorded at the 'Shaun The Sheep' exhibit at Cosby Yarn Bomb Event

Big Bike Ride 20th August

THE BIG BIKE RIDE For the Lionesses in Australia of course, sadly... disappointment.

But Sunday 20th.August was a day of triumph and satisfaction for those who took part in The Big Bike Ride. The annual event, organised by the Rotary Club of Lutterworth, was once again, centred in the grounds of Misterton Hall, and by the kind permission of Mrs.Heather Craven.

It was a perfect sunny day, the lawns manicured, the lake sparkling in the sunlight, as the cyclists returned in waves, many of whom had chosen the 67 mile route, taking in the quintessential english villages of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, and welcomed home by the ringing of the Town Criers Bell.

The band played, hog roast sizzled, crepes and ice cream ready... and all washed down with a glass of cider or Pims!

The end of a perfect day





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