

## PARISH DIARY

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August Trinity 9**

8:00am BCP Holy Communion St Michael's  
10am Holy Communion St Michael's  
10am Holy Communion St John's  
12:30pm Baptism: Nela Franczak St Michael's

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

10.30am Sewing Bee St Michael's

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal St Michael's

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **OFFICE CLOSED**

10:00am Knitting Group St John's  
7:00pm Bellringing Practice St Michael's

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

5:30pm Wedding St Michael's  
Rehearsal: Callum Roxburgh & Jessica Strike

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

1:00pm Wedding: Callum Roxburgh & Jessica Strike St Michael's

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August Trinity 10**

8:00am BCP Holy Communion St Michael's  
10am Holy Communion St Michael's  
10am Holy Communion St John's

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>** – MU Strawberry Tea @ St Michael's

**AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>** – CAMAS Trip

**NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>** Tuesday Club - **The Korean War**, speaker Ted Green

#### **FESTIVAL THANKS**

**The Churchwardens and I** would like to thank everyone who has helped with this year's Lichfield Festival. First of all Brenda Liptrot and her cleaning team of Anne, Barbara, Elizabeth, June, Kay, Marjorie, Maureen, Ruth and Veronica. Without their commitment to cleaning the pews and back of church between concerts it wouldn't have been possible to go ahead with our Festival activities this year. Also thanks to Frazer, Mike, Ray and Ron for stage building and piano pushing. And last but not least, Angie, for putting up with all the disruption.

We have received this message from **Damian Thantrey, the Lichfield Festival Director**, who had a very difficult job this year and produced a

wonderful Festival against all the odds: "A message of huge thanks to everyone at St Michael's for the typically warm (in every sense this year!), generous and efficient/organised welcome to the Festival audiences, volunteers and artists, and indeed our own team. I'm extremely grateful and delighted that so many supported us and came into the beautiful space that is St Michael's – and I hope they will be back! - to hear such wonderful music (and it is a superb setting for chamber musicians, without doubt!).

**Donations.** Although Brenda and her team couldn't produce their famous cream teas this year we still received £98 in cash and gift aided donations from the Festival audiences, plus a similar sum on the Donations terminal at the back of church. *Ted Green*

#### **THE FOODBANK URGENTLY NEEDS**

- Tinned Meats
- Long-life Milk
- Tinned Tuna

Must be **3 months, or more, in date.**

**CHURCH FUND-RAISING:** Trevor James has donated ten copies of his book, *Come Wind, Come Weather: Storm, Tempest and Other Natural Phenomena within local sources* for church-fund-raising. Copies can be obtained from the Churchwardens.

## CHURCH NOTICES

**1<sup>st</sup> August  
Trinity 9**

### **SERVICES IN STEP 4, EASING OF**

**LOCKDOWN** As Churchwardens we have a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that everyone in our worshipping community feels safe and confident when they enter our church.

We have received many positive comments during the pandemic about our procedures with people saying how safe they feel when they come along to our services.

We want this to carry on and therefore will be encouraging the continued use of face coverings.

The system that we have in place to use alternate pews will remain, together with the one way system, at St Michael's, to receive Holy Communion which will be the receiving of bread.

Thank you to those who completed the survey telling us your views.

We have listened to your comments to help us move forward in step 4 and **from 1st August 2021** we will begin congregational singing of one hymn at the end of the service wearing face coverings. St Michael's have decided not to serve tea or coffee but we look forward to doing so in the future.

Thank you for your support over the last 18 months and as we move forward in our Interregnum, let us be kind to one another and pray that we won't be waiting too long for our next Rector.

*Sue and Lyn*  
Churchwardens  
St Michael's

*Christine and John*  
Churchwardens  
St John's

**ST MICHAEL'S FLOWER ROTA** I have put a new flower rota on the cupboard at the back of church. I would be grateful if you could sign up to a duty. Thank you, *Brenda*

**MESSY CHURCH - CAN YOU HELP?** We plan to re-start Messy Church in September and could do with some more helpers, particularly to help with the preparation and serving of food. An important part of Messy Church is having tea together at the end of the session. Also, if you would like to donate cakes, crisps or other food for the teas, that would be greatly appreciated. If you might be able to help in any way, please get in touch with Ruth Bull.

**COVID-19 - HOW RISKY ARE CHURCH SERVICES?** The threat of Covid infection quite naturally worries us all at the moment, but it is sometimes difficult to know what the actual risks are of any particular activity, including church services, and it can be difficult to make a judgement as to whether risks are acceptable or not. Recently, to help with the decisions that need to be made as we move to Step 4 of the government's roadmap, I have been using a simple calculation technique developed by researchers in the USA to work out the risk of Covid infection in a service at St. Michael's, with our current restrictions in place, and with some of the restrictions eased. The outcome can be found in a blog post on my website at <https://profchrisbaker.com/2021/07/21/covid-19-how-risky-are-church-services/>. The numbers are quite reassuring and suggest that the infection

risk at our services is very low. Do have a look if you are interested. *Chris Baker*

**NEW WEBSITE PAGE** A new page has been added to the web site, illustrating the Altar Hangings and Banners that we use at St. Michael's throughout the church year. Thanks to Anne Lingwood and Ron Plimmer for the photographs. It can be found at

<https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/hangings-and-banners.html>

### **THE ANGELS KEEP THEIR ANCIENT PLACES**

Between our Patronal festival on September 26th and our Harvest on October 3rd, we will be holding a series of events that should appeal to a wide variety of different groups - and to let everyone know that St. Michael's is open for business. The overall title will be "The angels keep their ancient places" from the Francis Thompson poem "In no strange land" and most of the events will be angel themed. There will of course be services of worship (including a Harvest Family Praise with the usual tin collection); an "angel trail" in church for children and families; a series of evening talks, each with some sort of angelic connection, and tours of the church and churchyard. A provisional programme can be found on the church web site at <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/the-angels-keep-their-ancient-places.html>. Do look and put those events that interest you in the diary. More details will be available over the coming weeks.