

CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 3rd May – **4th Sunday of Easter**

STAYING IN TOUCH

The office Phone is not currently being regularly monitored. The ministry team and others are continuing a ministry by telephone to keep in touch.

Rector, Simon Baker (☎ 01543 253010)

BIBLE STUDY

We will be holding a virtual Bible Study during the Easter season, **every Wednesday at 10.30, the next one is on Wednesday May 6th**. The theme is *Living our Easter Faith*, and the text will be Acts 2:42-47 and John 21:15-17

We will be using "Zoom". This is quite simple to use, and doesn't require you to download any software. All you need is a laptop or other device that has a camera.

If you took part in last week's Bible Study you will automatically receive a code to join the discussion. If you would like to take part starting this week please email Chris Baker on c.j.baker@bham.ac.uk and he will send you a web link to join the study and some simple instructions. The text and questions to think about are on our website.

<https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/easter-season.html>

GIVING AND CHARITIES

CLASSICS FOR CARERS

Around this time of year Diana and I would be taking one or both of our Morris Minors to classic car meetings and rallies. Unfortunately, that is not possible at the moment. But Classics for Carers has come up with the idea of a one day **Stay At Home Motor Show** this Sunday 3rd May. In return for a donation to NHS Charities Together you can join in and put your car on your driveway for other people to look at as they take their daily exercise past your house. We will be doing just that with "Bluebell" Diana's open top Morris Minor. (If it is raining the car will be just within the garage – it has no roof!)

From 9.00am on Sunday you can walk past 10 Mawgan Drive Boley Park WS14 9SD and see the car and also perhaps make your donation via

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/classicsforcarers>

GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S

We are grateful to everyone who gives to St Michael's church and helps us cover our costs. At the moment, we cannot supplement our donations by standing order with collections made in church. If you give through the envelope scheme please consider changing to a bank order, hold on to your envelopes or write out a cheque and put it in the church mailbox. In order to make one off or regular donations easier we now have a **JUST GIVING** page for St Michael's. please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmichaellichfield>

GIVING TO CHARITIES

It is becoming clear that many charities will suffer a significant loss of income due to the changes in our way of life at the moment. For many of them the demands on them will also increase. Please consider making a donation to a charity while you are confined to home so that others can benefit and our charities continue with their work.

LICHFIELD FOODBANK is continuing to function and is dealing with increased numbers of clients. Donations of items can still be made at the collection boxes in our local Co-op, Tesco and Waitrose supermarkets. The particular items needed at the moment are: **Tinned meat, Tinned fruit, Custard, Pasta and Rice pudding**. If you can, please do support this appeal. Many thanks.

Trevor

You can access more information about the Foodbank on our website

<https://lichfield.foodbank.org.uk/>. There is information for those who would like to make a financial donation and a gift aid form.

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

During this time of lockdown it is not going to be possible to produce and distribute the Parish Magazine for May and probably not for June either.

In order to keep people informed, we would like to send out articles that would otherwise have been in the magazine as part of our weekly notices. If you have an article to contribute please send it to Angie at stmichaellichfield@gmail.com

A TIME TO PRAY AND A TIME TO DREAM

No doubt we will all have our own individual ways of coping with the current situation of lockdown and isolation – painting the house from top to bottom, sorting out all those photographs from the past four or five decades that you have never got round to in the past and so on. I understand one member of the ministry team has even created a small pub in their back garden. One of the things that has been occupying my time is learning how to record and edit talks and sermons on my laptop. Some of you may have seen the results, so you can judge whether or not I have been successful. But in preparing these talks some ideas have occurred to me that are I think worth sharing – and may even help us to use our time in isolation positively.

In the preparation I have been reminded over and over again of the “big picture” in the scriptural narrative – that the feast of Easter that we have recently celebrated is the culmination of God’s plan to put right a world that has gone badly wrong; through the establishment of the kingdom of God in the world; making it possible for men and women to become his friends and disciples; and then, through his disciples, to bring restoration to the rest of the world. Almost the final verses of the bible give us a picture of this renewed creation.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

It is the Christian hope that, in the end, “*all will be well, and all manner of things will be well*”. It is also clear from scripture that, as children of God, we all have a part to play in this process of renewal of the world in which we live, in whatever situation we find ourselves.

So my suggestion is that we should spend some of the time we are forced to be in isolation simply thinking and dreaming about what sort of world we want when the current crisis is over. There is a

realization across the political spectrum (from the Financial Times to the Leader of the Opposition) that things will never be the same again. So I would urge us all to think, pray and dream about how things should change, so that our society becomes fairer, our environment becomes cleaner, and our world becomes more peaceful - in Christian terms how the kingdom of God can become more and more a reality in the world in which we live.

But having dreamt, and prayed and thought, we need to tell others about our dreams and ideas – just in normal conversation, in letters to newspapers or MPs if that’s your thing, over social media and so on. Dreams can spread throughout society as easily as viruses. So although we may still have to practice social distancing for some time to come, let’s not do the same with our dreams for the future – if we can infect enough folk with our thoughts and ideas for a better future, then the world after this crisis is over will come to reflect more and more how God wants it to be.

Chris Baker



ST JOHN KNITTING GROUP



The Knitting Group are still working on charity projects. The project that Chris is currently working on is for Age UK. Innocent Smoothies have asked for knitted items to put on top of their Innocent Health drinks. They will contribute 25p per knitted item to Age UK. The patterns and all the instructions on how to join in and the address to post them to are available at <https://www.thebigknit.co.uk/>

Perhaps you could join in too!



[Home - the innocent big knit](https://www.thebigknit.co.uk/)

the innocent big knit. Knitting little hats to raise money to help keep older people warm in winter.

www.thebigknit.co.uk



HISTORY

Chris Baker has posted at <https://profchrisbaker.com/historical-studies/> an article and a couple of blog posts on aspects of his historical research relating to St Michael’s church and the Lichfield area in general. It might be of interest, particularly to Tuesday club attendees – at least it will be something to do in lockdown! He expects disagreement and discussion!”

About now the May edition of our Parish Magazine would normally be available. To respect our agreement with our advertisers we have reproduced our usual advertisements on the pages below

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