

# CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April - **Palm Sunday**

## STAYING IN TOUCH

It is very sad that at such a difficult time we cannot meet together in church for fellowship and worship. **Both our churches are now closed for any visitors and for private prayer.** In every other crisis the church has been there and open for people to come to and be supported by others. We do not know how long this state of affairs will last and we need to make sure that we care for each other and our neighbours as much as we possibly can.

There is a real danger of loneliness and isolation. To help with this we are going to do a number of things including regular mailings and additions to the church website <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/>

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)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

At such a time it is very difficult to know what to do to give life some shape and also keep faith and prayer alive so as well as looking at the resources for prayer we have made available (see above) here are some practical suggestions.

1. Look out for your near neighbours. If you cannot visit them then ring them or put a note through their door asking them how they are and offering to help (if you can). You might also assure them of your prayers.
2. Stay in touch with family and friends using your preferred means of communication
3. It is the season of Lent and soon it will be Easter. There is still time to practice some of the essential Lenten disciplines: Bible reading and reflection, prayer, a bit of self- denial (though, at the moment, you may think enough is being denied!) and giving to charity. That last one is most important. Charities will be hard hit by not being able to collect money and yet the need will not have gone away and may well increase. So why not make a donation to your favourite charity? It could simply be the money you will be saving by not going out.
4. If you can, get out of the house and go for a walk regularly. St Michael's church is surrounded by a large churchyard which, at the moment, is full of daffodils and the bluebells are not far behind. As you walk, pray and reflect and give thanks to God for the gift of life and your blessings.

## **LENT STUDY COURSE FOR ST MICHAEL'S AND ST JOHN'S**

*Caring for God's World*

All resources are still available on the website.

<https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/lent-resources-2020.html>

## VOLUNTEERING AND CHARITIES

**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 are – long-life milk, long-life fruit juice, tinned fruit, tinned fish, rice pudding, teas, coffee, jars of pasta sauce, tins of tomatoes. If you can, please do support this appeal. Many thanks. Trevor

You can access more information about the Foodbank on our website. There is information for those who would like to make a financial donation and a gift aid form.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT.** Support Staffordshire are looking for volunteers to provide help during the Coronavirus epidemic. If you would like to volunteer please go to <https://www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk/covid-19-support/coronavirus-community-support-effort>

### 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.

## GIVING

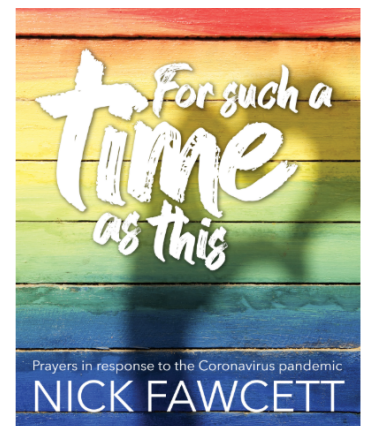
**We are grateful to everyone who gives to St Michael's church and helps us cover our costs.** At the moment we cannot supplement our donations by standing order with collections made in church. If you give through the envelope scheme please consider changing to a bank order, hold on to your envelopes 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 visi: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmichaellichfield>

## IDEAS

### PRAYERS IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC...

Are you reeling at the moment from the impact of coronavirus? Are you wondering how you're going to cope with months of isolation or social distancing? Are you worried about work, money or how the country is ever going to recover from the impact of this pandemic? And are you looking for some kind of spiritual solace, but struggling to find words to pray. Then this little book could be just the thing for you.

It contains 52 prayers written in response to the crisis, asking for strength, encouragement and support, as well as help for loved ones and the wider world. Honest, down-to-earth and heartfelt, it's a resource written to help you articulate what you are feeling and bring you hope in these dark and difficult days.



<https://kevinmayhew.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=643d54ef267eea78ab17fd6cc&id=3310fda3e7&e=799b17a211>