

CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 10th May – **5th 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 13th**. The theme is ***Living our Easter Faith***, and the text will be Acts 2.29-36. 1 Corinthians 15.3-5, Colossians 1.13-20

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>

CAROLINE GREEN. Tim, Simon and I would like to thank everyone who has sent messages of condolence and support following Caroline's death, peacefully at home on 22 April. I will answer them all but it may take some time, so please bear with me. The funeral service, taken by The Rector, will be at Fradley Crematorium at 4.30 pm on Thursday 14 May with just 10 mourners present. Ron Plimmer has kindly agreed to film it. We plan to hold a Celebration of Caroline's Life at St Michael's when the current restrictions are fully relaxed. *Ted Green*

Caroline and Pathway. Please see this link to a Pathway tribute to Caroline:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10158296796208064&id=111527638063. Ted, Tim and Simon green have nominated the Pathway Project as their chosen charity in memory of Caroline. Kathy Coe has written to Ted thanking him for the choice and saying, "Any donations will make a huge difference to us at the moment and we are really grateful, not least that in this way Caroline will continue to be supporting Pathway, which I am sure she would have loved." If you would like to make a donation to Pathway the link is: <https://www.justgiving.com/pathwayproject/Donate>

GIVING 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 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.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY: 11TH - 17TH 2020

As you may know, door-to-door collections have been cancelled this year due to the ongoing situation with Covid-19.

However, if you would like to make a donation you can still do so by going to the Christian Aid website and donate online. The link is: www.Christianaid.org.uk/appeals

For more information about Christian Aid and the work it continues to do you can visit: www.ChristianAid.org.uk
Thank you for your support - *Rowan.*

On the website this Sunday as well as the Service with the Sermon, there is also a short "Family Praise" for Christian Aid Week. In it we are encouraging people to maybe have their "Big Breakfast" in their own homes (no inviting folk sadly!). This is part of the usual Christian Aid fundraising, albeit individually this year. However, you might want to email a photo to Angie with yourself (or your breakfast) to form a virtual "Big Breakfast" photo gallery on our website! You may like to donate to Christian Aid online, or put aside a donation to bring to church when we meet again.

Linda Collins

GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S

Our accounts for last year show that we operated at a loss. In many ways that is due to the increase in utilities and costs as a result of the church being used as the main venue for all our activities. This is very worthwhile and just what we should be doing, however we do need to make an effort to put our finances back into balance.

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>

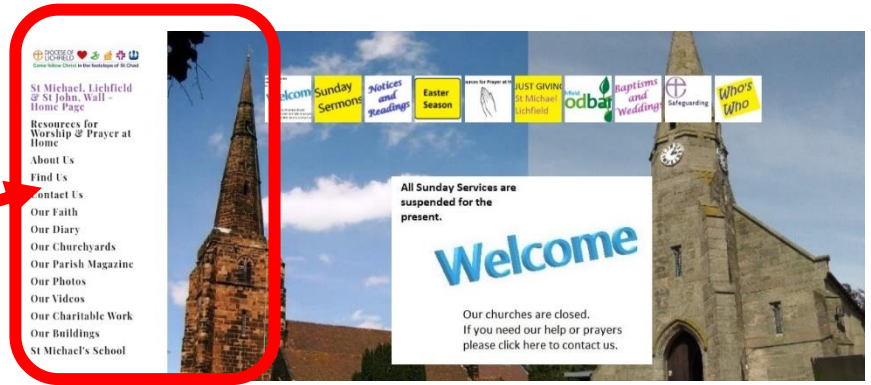


The graphic features a collage of images: a woman in a pink shirt and a child, a close-up of hands being washed with soap, and a young boy and an elderly woman. Text overlays include: 'christian aid week' in a red arrow, 'This year the door-to-door collection has been cancelled, but poverty will always be with us – let's not wash our hands of them, but provide the means for others to wash theirs.', 'Please consider going on line (www.Christianaid.org.uk/appeals) and donate electronically', 'Donate', 'Christian Aid Week 10-16 May', and 'For more information about Christian Aid please visit www.ChristianAid.org.uk'.

OUR WEBSITE www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

There is a lot more on our website than the pages that you can link to from the email I send out on a Friday. Why not try exploring some of the pages that pop up when you point to the menu on the list?

If you find anything that is wrong or missing, do let me know so that I can get it updated. Many thanks.
Angie



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

The Spires Care Home

Carrie Jahn the Home Services Adviser has written to us:
We will plan a large garden party (or may be a few with smaller numbers!!) when lock down is over and we can invite our residents families back in so we are requesting if anyone could spare any vintage bunting or may be some fabric that we could then make our own?
Many thanks, stay safe and well
Carrie

If you can help with this please contact Carrie on carrie.jahn@barchester.com

Thy Kingdom Come

Sadly, we will not be able to mark Thy Kingdom Come as we have done over the last few years with worship and activities for St Michael's School. Below is a link to the TKC website with some activities for families and individuals.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/digital-family-prayer-adventure-map>

Note: The article below is taken from the Spring edition of Mothers' Union Families First magazine, but of course all is now changed due to Covid-19 and lockdown and there cannot be a service and gathering in Coventry Cathedra a planned. But there will still be Thy Kingdom Come!



Rachel Anderson, Events & Community Fundraising Manager, reflects on last years' initiative and encourages us all to get involved in 2020

In May 2019, over 600 Mothers' Union members and their families joined at Coventry Cathedral to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' at our third annual Global Moment service. The team from Mothers' Union in Coventry created great activities for children to take part in before the family-friendly service, which included music from Gosp-Ability Choir.

Along with those filling the cathedral, we were also joined by many members around the world – who were able to join in live via our Facebook page or watch the event afterwards! It was great to hear that some branches met together to specifically watch the service and take part in fellowship together as the service focused on Mothers' Union's support of families and faith. Many members who attended the service for the first time told us how much they had enjoyed the fellowship and the positive message.

It was extra special to be joined by our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, who spoke about our worldwide Parenting Programme: 'Mothers' Union's Parenting Programme is a blessing and a gift from God to all who parent and care for children. Its impact has been tremendous in 24 countries around the world. I have witnessed the transformation it has made in building long lasting, fulfilling relationships in the home and the huge impact it has made in the lives of so many, by giving them the assurance of hope from new and enhanced parenting skills. It breathes life and new beginnings after emotional, physical and sexual abuse, and helps communities to take action for stable family life and the protection of children.'

Catherine Kyte, our Faith Adviser, led us in a creative prayer; as they arrived, everyone was given a paper fish on which to write the name of a person who they wanted to know that Jesus loved them. During the service the fish were collected and placed in a fishing net as a symbolic prayer offering. These were later displayed beautifully at the Mary Sumner House Chapel.

A growing event

This is an event that we have been proud to see grow year by year, not just for MU but also for the whole of the Anglican Communion - for what affirms and connects us more than the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit? Thy Kingdom Come is the perfect uniting of these, as we seek to reflect God's kingdom here on earth and pray that those we know and love may find the hope of Christ.

Reverend Barry Hill, who serves on the board for Thy Kingdom Come and spoke recently at our General Meeting commented: 'Thy Kingdom Come is a remarkable move of God! If just four years ago someone had said that millions of Christians from 172 countries and across ages, cultures and traditions, would respond positively to Archbishop Justin and Archbishop Sentamu's invitation to spend 11 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost praying for specific people to come to know Jesus, I am not sure many people would have believed it. The wind of the Spirit has blown far more than we might have expected into the sails of the worldwide movement of prayer for evangelism. Perhaps most surprising is that in 2019 (the third year), 40 per cent of those taking part did so for the first time and 92 per cent of those taking part were praying for particular people to come to faith in Jesus Christ.'

St. Bridget

Numerically, after St Mary and St Mary Magdalen, amongst the most regularly occurring women saints is **St Bridget**. There is depth of commitment to the veneration of this saint, as with many others, but Mary Anderson in her **History and Imagery in British Churches**

[1971] warns that it may have mythological origins. Her belief was that Brigantian settlers took their tribal goddess, the Dea Brigantes, with them to Waterford in Ireland where there already existed the worship of a local Celtic goddess named Bridget, who was the patroness of poetry and wisdom, and that locally Irish peasants appear to have merged two traditional beliefs into a celebration of St Bridget. Subsequently Irish missionaries in the 10th Century to north-west England brought with them the veneration of St Bridget or St Bride, in effect bringing it back to the land of the Brigantes. Anderson saw this conceptual evolution, in much the same way as in Gaul the god Mercury had become St Michael, part of a wider trend through which earlier pagan venerations were converted into Christian spiritual direction.

The role that this veneration plays in the saintly landscape is quite clear: people believed in this story and adopted it as the focus of their Christianity. It does not diminish how we might view their faithfulness but it does warn us of the historical tendency of Christianity to subsume facets of other faiths. In the topographical sense of a saintly landscape, this draws together self-evident venerations of St Bridget in place names such as Bridekirk and Kirkbride but also in Cornwall's Virginstow, which is a reference to St Bridget, and, in a locational sense, the still as yet not fully interpreted St Bride's Farm near Melbourne in Derbyshire.

Trevor James [This is an extract from a forthcoming book on 'Saintly Landscapes']