

CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 12th April - **Easter 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)

TOGETHER AT EASTER

Sadly, we cannot actually be together this Easter, but we can come together in a number of other ways.

Easter Dawn Candles

Bishop Michael is inviting everyone who wishes to join with him at **5.15am on Easter Morning** (when we would have had our Dawn Eucharist) and light a candle to celebrate the light of the risen Christ. (If you cannot make that early start, then please light a candle at some time during the morning).

At this time on Easter morning I shall light the Paschal Candle from St Michael's and Revd Mel Clark will light the candle from St John's. We will light these again when we all come back to church.

As you light the candle please say the prayer which is included on the Readings sheet.

Easter Photographs

So that we can "see" each other we are inviting everyone who wants to, and who can, to send us photographs of yourself and those living with you. If you can, please take the photos on Easter Day itself or on the Monday. You might like to include in the photo something you have been doing during the past few weeks. If you have never taken a selfie before now is the time to try!

We will post the photos on the website during the week after Easter.

Please send your photos to simonbaker57@outlook.com

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. We are now celebrating the great festival of Easter. So that we can celebrate together take a photo and send it in for the website (see above)
4. 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.
5. 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.

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 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.

Lichfield Foodbank Coronavirus Update

We are now well into the second week of 'lockdown'. The new operating system at the distribution centres has settled down and is working well - thank you to all of you on the 'front line' of our support for those in Lichfield who cannot afford food. The warehouse has got into a new routine of pre-packing food bags - thank you to those who have stepped up their support and are covering Thursdays and Saturdays which haven't previously been necessary. Our drivers, ably supported by a host of new volunteers, are keeping the food moving from the supermarkets to the warehouse and out to the distribution centres - thank you. Thank you too to all of you who are working behind the scenes to make all of this happen. We have now set up all of our referral agencies so that they can send an electronic voucher to a client's phone, saving our volunteers having to handle a physical voucher.

We have been busy this last week, providing food for 125, and 144 in the week before. This compares with an average of 63 per week in February.

Thank you to the people of Lichfield and the surrounding areas who have responded magnificently to the appeal we put out for extra food. We are still short of some items but we have been able to keep the supply of food bags going thanks to that support. Many individuals have come to the warehouse this week with personal donations and street collections - we are very grateful for all these acts of kindness towards their fellow citizens.

Our four major supermarkets - Tesco, Morrisons, Waitrose and the Co-op - have all supported us, whether that be by donating food, organising extra collections or allowing us to buy food in volume. We also need to remember Riley's Greengrocers and thank them for continuing to be willing to take our £5 vouchers.

Finally there is the army of older and vulnerable volunteers who would be helping us if they could. Thank you too for your supportive good wishes and prayers.

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 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>

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR STAFFORDSHIRE

In response to the outbreak of Covid-19 in the United Kingdom, the Community Foundation for Staffordshire has launched an appeal via JustGiving to raise funds that will enable us to support communities that have been severely affected by the pandemic.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

In an unprecedented move, the 22 most senior **Church Leaders** in Britain and Ireland met in video conference last Wednesday, 1 April. Following the meeting, they issued a **Joint Statement** concerning the current national and international COVID-19 crisis. Read the statement [HERE](https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=572255).
<https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=572255>

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 Angie at stmichaellichfield@gmail.com