

CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 17th May – **6th 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 20th**. The theme is *Living our Easter Faith*, and the text will be Acts 17.16-34

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 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.

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 PARISH MAGAZINE

Unfortunately it is not going to be possible to produce and distribute the Parish Magazine for May, June and probably July in the way that we usually do.

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.

We welcome articles for this newsheet. 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

Kathleen O'Meara's poem, 'And People Stayed Home,'

written in 1869, after the Irish famine.

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated

someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves"

Thy Kingdom Come – Ascension Day to Pentecost

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>

Mothers' Union Thy Kingdom Come

The event in Coventry Cathedral has been cancelled. However, we hope you can join us on May 22nd at 2pm as we hold a service on our Facebook Page as a 'Watch Party'. This will be a video which you can comment on as you watch, allowing more interaction and increased engagement.

This promises to be an exciting and powerful service so don't miss it!

Worship by Zoom

On **Ascension Day** – Thursday 21st May- and on **Pentecost Sunday**- 31st May - we intend to hold live worship via Zoom.

The service will start at 6.00pm and will last for about 30mins. There will be readings, prayers, a short address and hymns.

If you would like to join in please email Simon on simonbaker57@outlook.com and you will be sent a direct link. You do not need to have Zoom downloaded on your PC or other device.

Get your photographs sorted

When I was 60, I realised I had shelves of photograph albums and packets of photographs in drawers and a multitude of images on the computer, covering most of my and Simon's life. I also realised the majority of these photos would be of little or any interests to my friends and family now, or in the future. Who wants to see hundreds of photos of ancient Greek ruins or a multitude of beautiful sunsets? We enjoyed them when we were there, but now, to be honest, there are far better images you can download of Corinth or Delphi and a photograph can never capture the magic of experiencing the ever-changing colours of a beautiful sunset.

What I thought was of interest, was the people in the photographs and, sometimes, a significant building such as a house we have lived in or an image of one of Simon's churches. I went through everything and threw away the vast majority of photographs, keeping the negatives, just in case. I then downloaded the ones I wanted from my computer on to a memory stick (280 of them) and had them printed. I took my memory stick into a shop, but you can easily do this on line. It was not that expensive.

How many of us store our photographs on a computer and never look at them or share them with friends and family? I could have reused the old albums, but I treated myself to ten large photo albums with sleeves each holding 250 photos. Again, you could order these to be delivered.

Deciding how to group them was difficult, but rather than put them into chronological order, I decided to bring together groups of photos which I felt would mean something to different people. Each album is in chronological order with a piece of paper denoting the year placed throughout. I have an album for my family and one for Simon's family, one for the children in our families from baby photos to adulthood, several which cover our lives and events at different parishes, one for holidays with friends and one for holidays alone.

It has been lovely to take one or two of these and show them to the people who appear in the photos. This has been the cause of much laughter and shared memories.

When my father died in 2010, I inherited the family photographs but, sadly, I do not always know when or where they were taken or the names of many relatives that appear. I cannot ask anyone about them now.

Make sure, if you catalogue your photographs, that you make a note of any dates and places you can remember, but most importantly, the names and relationship of the people in your photographs.

Choosing an album where you can slip photos in and out is also important because you can change the order or add in some you have left out by mistake. You may not want to use albums at all if space is tight. You can put the photographs in large envelopes and write on the front what they contain. Some people may prefer to do this in chronological order using an envelope per year.

Looking through old and more recent photographs, reminds us of people and places which have been special in our lives and keeps those memories alive. I found the exercise to be hugely rewarding and enjoyable but it did take me the best part of two weeks to complete.

Diana Baker