

The United Benefice of
St Michael on Greenhill, Lichfield
with St John, Wall

COLLECT AND READINGS
31st May
PENTECOST



Alleluia, Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Collect

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

New Testament Reading Acts 2.1-21

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I

say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Gospel Reading John 7.37-39

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

In preparation for each Sunday we will email out and post on the website the Collect and Readings for the day. If possible, please join us in using the short act of worship and the readings at 10.00am which is our usual service time on a Sunday. There will also be a short sermon video available on the website on the 'Resources for Prayer at Home' page.

Sunday Sermon

The link for the Sunday sermon is

<https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/sunday-sermons.html>

For those who receive this by post the text is printed below.

Services recorded in Church

Since the lockdown began all clergy have been instructed not to go into their church for private prayer or to record or stream worship. This has now changed so that a priest alone or with anyone domiciled with them can go into church. At present, this can only be one priest for each church. From this Sunday onwards some or all of the service we record will be done at St Michael's. It is good to have our church back in a small way at least. The service for 21st June will be recorded at St John's because it is their Patronal Festival.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

ST MICHAEL

Those newly in need of prayer

Anthony Staples aged 6, Audrey Egleston

Those in continuing special need of prayer:

Colin Eastwood, Yvonne Harper, Ian and Judith Watson, Alison Cox-Toplis, Julian & Wendy, Jamie, Gary and Denise, Sam Bassett, Mark Berry, Dorothy Clayton, Jo Cobb, Dottie Collins, Robert Harris, Bill Hill, James Knight, Marielouise Oliver, Arthur Palin, Nick Rutter, John Tipper, Sheila Vaughan, Renee Wellings, Felicity Woodfield

Those who have died

Caroline Green(interment of ashes)

ST JOHN

Those who are ill and their carers:

Pat Crowe, Jo Hearn, Ann Kinson, Allan Law

Prayer Resources

We have produced a booklet of resources for prayer at home which contains a short act of worship that you can use. This can be found here along with other resources for prayer: <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-at-home.html>

You can text prayer requests to 07388 529020

The Royal School of Church Music are putting a *Hymn of the Day* on their website as well as a service with readings and hymns. There is a link on our website on our resources for prayer page.

Here is a link to the Diocese of Lichfield facebook page where videos of daily prayers from the cathedral will be posted <https://www.facebook.com/LichfieldCofE/>

Bible Study

Each Wednesday at 10.30am in Easter season we will be holding Bible studies on the theme: ***Living our Easter Faith***. There are full instructions as to how to join in on our notice sheet and the Bible text and questions can be found on our website. The last session of this series will be on Wednesday 3rd June. The following week we begin a study of ***Paul's letter to the Philippians***.

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

If you would like to join, please contact Rev Chris Baker on c.j.baker@bham.ac.uk

The Rector, Simon Baker

01543 253010

CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 31st May

Pentecost



Worship by Zoom

Pentecost Sunday- 31st May - we will 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.

Bible Study

Next week our Bible Study will be led by the Bishop of Lichfield, The Rt Rev Michael Ipgrave. This will take place on **Wednesday 3rd June**. This will be the last session in the series "living our Easter Faith.

On Wednesday 10th June we begin a study of Paul's letter to the Philippians.

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>

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)

VOLUNTEERING AND CHARITIES

New

Food Bank Drop Off Points

At the moment it is not possible to drop off foodbank items at church but there are two places where you will find the green collection boxes on the door step: David and Maggie Easton 51 Lime Grove WS13 6ER and Simon and Diana Baker 10 Mawgan Drive WS14 9SD. If you are passing, please drop items in the box. See below for items needed.

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 – **snacks (breakfast bars, crackers), custard and tinned meat**. If you can, please do support this appeal. 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.

GIVING TO CHARITIES

It is clear that many charities are suffering 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

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>

ITEMS FROM OUR MAGAZINE

Poetry for Pentecost

The poet and author Michael Guite has written a number of sonnets covering the seasons of the churches year and drawn together in a book: Sounding the Seasons. Here he comments on his Sonnet for Pentecost which is printed below.

"This is a sonnet reflecting on and celebrating the themes and readings of Pentecost. Throughout the cycle, and more widely, I have been reflecting on the traditional 'four elements' of earth, air, water and fire. I have been considering how each of them expresses and embodies different aspects of the Gospel and of God's goodness, as though the four elements were, in their own way, another four evangelists. In that context I was very struck by the way Scripture expresses the presence of the Holy Spirit through the three most dynamic of the four elements, the air, (a mighty rushing wind, but also the breath of the spirit) water, (the waters of baptism, the river of life, the fountain springing up to eternal life promised by Jesus) and of course fire, the tongues of flame at Pentecost. Three out of four ain't bad, but I was wondering, where is the fourth? Where is earth? And then I realised that we ourselves are earth, the 'Adam' made of the red clay, and we become living beings, fully alive, when the Holy Spirit, clothed in the three

other elements comes upon us and becomes a part of who we are. So something of that reflection is embodied in the sonnet.”

Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.