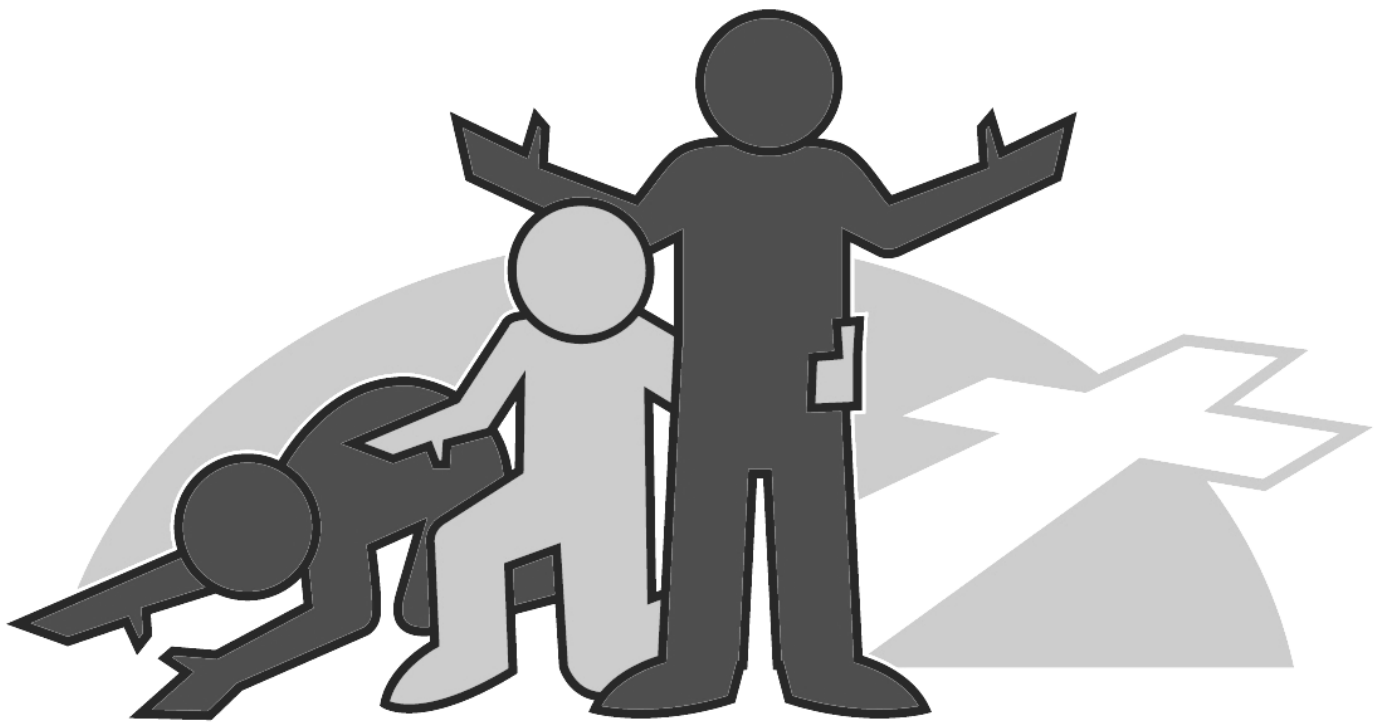


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2022

Take action in the name of Jesus



LOVE GOD ♥ LOVE OTHERS ♥ SERVE THE WORLD

**The United Benefice of
St Michael Lichfield, with St John, Wall**

£1

<p>Rector:</p>	<p>Curate:</p>
<p>Associate Minister (NSM Part-time): The Revd. Ruth Bull 36 Broadlands Rise, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9SF Tel: 01543 252123 Email: dkbrlcb@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Jeyan Anketell 7 Wissage Lane, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6DQ Tel: 01543 268897 Email: jeyan.anketell@ntlworld.com</p>
<p>Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd Chris Baker 15 Saddlers Close, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 9ZW Tel: 01543 256320 Email: C.J.Baker@bham.ac.uk</p>	<p>Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Stephen Barton 1 Seckham Road, Lichfield WS13 7AN. Tel: 01543 257692</p>
<p>Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd Christine Polhill Little Hayes, Beaudesert, Cannock Wood, Staffs WS15 4JJ Tel: 01543 674474</p>	<p>Reader: Lesley Allen 21 Boley Close, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9AR Tel: 01543 251654 Email: lesley.allen21@googlemail.com</p>
<p>Reader: Alan Toplis Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk</p>	<p>Reader: Trevor James 36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434</p>
<p>SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN Maureen Brand 01543 264880 For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.</p>	<p>United Benefice Office St Michael's Church, Church St, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6ED Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri CLOSED Thursdays 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Tel: 01543 262211 E-mail: office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</p>
<p>St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED</p>	<p>St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS</p>

Reflection.....

When you read this, we will be looking forward to the celebration of Candlemas. This is because we recognise that the season of Christmas is not complete until Candlemas when we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the Purification of Mary. Candlemas is a visible celebration of those two events which together complete the initial Nativity story

If you speak with other Christians, even some local Anglicans, many will reveal a complete lack of awareness of the feast of Candlemas and its significance. Many will be surprised to learn that snowdrops are alternatively known as 'Candlemas bells' because, historically, they appeared as Candlemas was being celebrated. The reason for our different and distinctive theological stance on Candlemas is that we all tend to recognise and celebrate traditions that we have inherited. We do not especially believe that there were exactly forty days between the birth of Jesus and his Presentation at the Temple, any more that we actually believe that Jesus was precisely born on Christmas Day, but we have inherited a Jewish tradition which tended to emphasise important periods of devotion in forty day spans – really just stressing that a considerable period of time was involved – and our Christian tradition has adopted a regular pattern of observance of these special occasions as a means of directing our faith and religious understanding.

We share with Jesus our attachment to tradition. He was presented at the Temple in line with tradition and he was faithful in his attendance at the synagogue on the Sabbath, sharing the historic teaching of his faith. However, the message of Jesus tells us to build on tradition, not to let it govern us. Therefore, he healed people on the Sabbath, in contravention of tradition, and he expelled the money lenders from the Temple. In fact, much of his teaching is a guide to behaving differently, and having different values from the past, but it is rooted

nonetheless in Jewish tradition. This link with tradition is confirmed by the Gospel writers who were determined to demonstrate that Jesus was indeed the Messiah that had been long predicted and expected.

What Jesus revealed to the people of his time was that they needed to understand that, because God is eternal, he is always the God of the present. Jesus was part of a long tradition but his immediate message, God's message, was to the people of his time, even though it still resonates for us now. We have ourselves learned from more recent history, and in our own times through such movements as the anti-apartheid campaign and the fairtrade movement, that God is also the God of our times, and that his revelation is continuously being presented to us in our world now, if we are prepared to listen.

Jesus gave his commission to the apostles [Matthew 28:16-20] to take his message of redemption and salvation to the wider world. Some modern theologians, such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, have taught us that the implication of what Jesus was saying was that Christians who have truly accepted Christ into their lives are, in effect, the incarnation of God in the world, in that God's mission entirely depends on their human endeavour in the world. This is an example of present-day revelation and interpretation of God's message.

What we all share is that we have been called individually and separately into God's Kingdom here on Earth and, by our faith and devotion, we have accepted that calling. It is a call to mission. How we interpret that in our lives and actions is a very personal decision, heavily influenced by our personal circumstances and the depths of our faith, but Jesus certainly intended the church to be missionary in its purpose. What we can be sure of is that, in faith, what we do, we do in the Name of Jesus.

Trevor James

The Ministry of Readers

We have been lucky enough in this benefice to have a number of Readers on our Ministry Team, over the years, but maybe you have sometimes wondered what exactly a Reader is. The Church of England website defines their role in this way:

Readers have a leadership role serving alongside clergy to support people in faith and enable mission. They are lay people who are trained and licensed by their bishop. Reader ministry looks different in different places depending on the local context. Many Readers teach, preach, lead worship and are involved in mission. Some also take funerals.

Lesley Allen has been a Reader with us for 19 years and in that time has taken many funerals, led innumerable school services and assemblies, besides leading and preaching in church services and many other activities. She has now decided, however, that this is the time to retire from her formal Reader ministry, although she still intends to play an active role in services and other activities. We have all benefitted greatly from her ministry with us and we will be marking her retirement in due course.

Phil Clayton also left us recently, to move his licence to another parish and we thank him for his time with us and wish him well in his future ministry.

We are very grateful to Trevor James and Alan Toplis who remain on our Ministry Team as Readers.

Ruth Bull

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

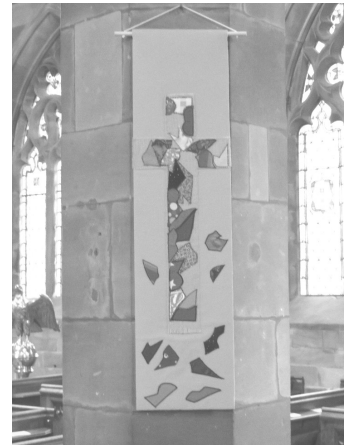
New hangings at St Michael's

For a while now there have been two hangings on the front pillars at St Michael's, based on Caring for the Environment – one of the key themes from our Mission Action Plan. These depict wildlife from our churchyard, in Spring and Summer on one hanging, and Autumn and Winter on the other.



These have now been joined by two more hangings, depicting another of the key themes, that of Inclusion and Welcome.

A huge thank you to all the members of the Sewing Group, who have created these stunning, and thought-provoking hangings.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Rob and Emma Stevens welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Ava Grace, into the world on September 27th.

Many of you will remember Rob as he sang in the choir for many years and led trips to Camas, including completing a four-month spell as a volunteer.

Ava is a very welcome second grandchild for Alison Stevens this year and another great grandchild for Jerry and Brenda Stevens.

Alison

Deadlines!

For **February** Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 16th January

Contact David Shiel

shielfamily@gmail.com

Pew Sheet:

every Thursday 7:30am

Contact Parish Office

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Family Praise

Sunday 2nd January

10am St Michael's



First Steps



Monday 3rd January

10am St Michael's

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



SUNDAY 9th January

4.30 – 5.30pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome

The Chad Blog

Revd David Sims on his venture into the world of pithy social media

My journey into TikTok started a couple of years ago, when my housegroup encouraged me to give it a go! TikTok is a social media app which allows users to record and share short videos, as well as 'go live' and interact with their followers - and they were convinced that my personality, cheesy dancing, and love for silliness would be perfect for that platform. So Revd_Tiktok began!

When I started, my main aim was to tweak videos that were trending



with a Jesus slant- so, for example, one of the first ones I did was the trending song blinding lights dance in church. After this, I took a trending sound and recorded a video with it with the simple message of Jesus loving you no matter what - and around 2.6k people saw it. And this is one of the most exciting things about Tiktok. For this previous video, 2600 people heard the news that Jesus loves them - people who might never have stepped foot into church, or even thought about faith.

More recently, I did a video about 'Should Christians celebrate Halloween' which had around 2k views, and over 100 comments -

some agreeing, some disagreeing, but what a great opportunity to talk about Jesus' light in the darkness and victory over evil to people who might never have heard the gospel before.

A few weeks ago I recorded a really short video asking people if I could pray for them. Eight thousand people watched it, and I had around 250 requests for prayer, mostly from people who weren't Christian.

A final example - on Sunday night I did my first Tiktok Church service. Nearly 2,000 people tuned in for some of it, and we regularly had numbers of between 80-100 watching- with, at some point, 210 people watching. We sung some worship songs, had a bible reading and talk, and I led a time of prayer. As a result of this, 10 people asked for Bibles to be sent to them, one person has asked to be linked in to a local church near them, and we had two visitors yesterday who came to church after seeing a couple of videos on TikTok.

Imagine how excited you would be if someone came up to you at church and said 'I'm interested in faith - do you have a Bible I could have?' I'd be jumping for joy, and rushing to get them one. And here I was, with piles of Bibles in the hallway ready to go to the post office- all because some people saw a silly dancing vicar on Tiktok, and God's Spirit started to work in their hearts. Praise God!

I'd encourage you to get onto Tiktok. If you can use whatsapp, you can record a video on Tiktok - and it doesn't have to be all polished, or squeaky perfect, or anything like that. I've realised that authenticity, integrity, and taking time to reply to comments and messages means that more and more people will engage. Why not record a daily one minute Tiktok prayer, and upload that? Or go live when you pray, and invite people to ask for prayer? If you like dancing, give it a go - and type a bible verse onto the video to go with it?

The possibilities are huge. The Tiktok fields are ripe for harvest, but the Tiktoking harvesters are few. Go for it!

David Sims is vicar of St Thomas Church in Aldridge

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION DAY

for the **FEBRUARY EDITION** will be on
Friday 28th January

PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR ST. MICHAELS ONLY 2022

WALL parish will organise their own collection of subscriptions.

The annual subscription from January issue (delivered at Christmas) will be £10 for 2022 and £1 for individual copies. Subscriptions will be collected before Monday 10th January 2022.

Exact money in cash is preferred this year because we incurred huge bank charges using cheques only last year.

Please put your cash in an envelope with your name and address clearly written on the front.

If a cheque is really necessary please make it payable to P.C.C. of St. Michael and St. Mary”

We hope to collect the money from the door in the normal way but none of us can predict the future so we aim to do this as safely as possible.

Thank you to our teams who help to deliver the magazine and those who collect the annual subscriptions

If you are reading this magazine for the first time and would like to have it delivered monthly please contact the office on 01543 262211 or me on 01543 255909

Many thanks

Barbara Homewood

2 Wightman Close Lichfield WS14 9RR or email brian@britcave.co.uk

Years Mind

20th January

Kathleen Plimmer

Birthday Memories

29th January

Kathleen Plimmer

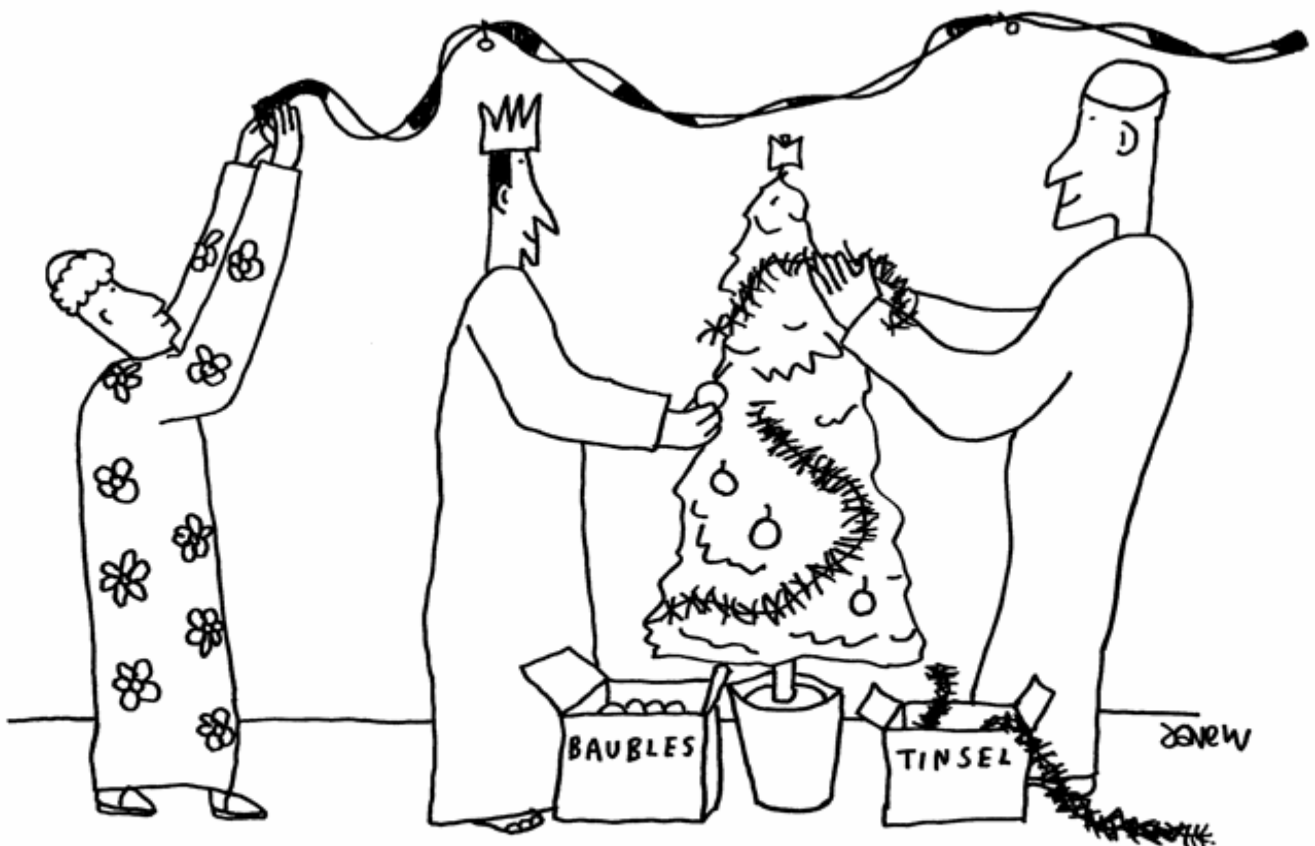
FLOODLIGHTING

Sponsor St Michael's floodlights to mark a special occasion or remember a loved one!

Your donation will brighten up the skies

over Lichfield for the night.

Contact the United
Benefice Office on
01543 262211



EPIPHANY: THE WISE MEN /
TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

St. Michael's Churchyard

Happy New Year to you all!

We were very fortunate to receive 2 Grants towards the end of last year to be spent on Churchyard trees.. Councillor Angela Lax donated £300 towards the cost of tree maintenance in the Churchyard This money will specifically enable us to obtain stronger tree guards to protect the small Free Woodland Trust trees that we planted last year. A number of these trees were damaged following their planting in March last year and the new tree guards are stronger and should give greater protection to the trees.

The other Grant of £150 was donated by Councillor Colin Greatorex, to go towards the cost of a Hornbeam Tree to be planted in the Churchyard as a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. More about this tree in next month's magazine.

I would like to thank both Councillors for their kindness and generosity in giving these Grants to spend on Churchyard trees. The Churchyard means a great deal to many people in Lichfield. A short walk through it is great for your spiritual and mental well-being. Although we do occasionally have to fell trees because of death, disease or danger to people we always intend to continue to plant new, young trees to replace them. In 2021 at least 37 new trees were planted in the Churchyard.

The first **Churchyard Working Party Session of 2022** will be held on **Saturday January 29th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** Do join us if you can. We will be doing **Winter Maintenance work**, which will include clearing plants from headstones and making sure that as many graves as possible are accessible. We will also be fitting new tree guards and clearing litter. **Refreshments (Tea/Coffee/ Cake)** will be served during the Mid-Morning Break. If you have not helped at our

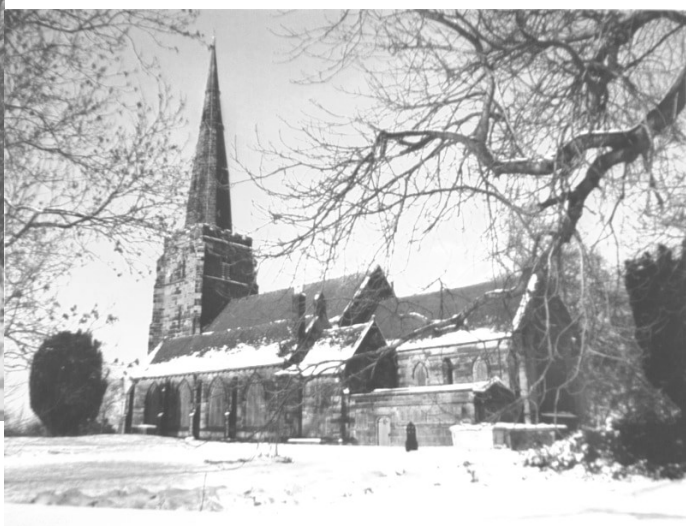
monthly Working Party please consider joining us. You will be made very welcome.

Meanwhile, here are 2 photos from the archive, of the **Churchyard in Winter**; and a 3rd. photo of the **Bishop of Lichfield blessing the recently installed John Louis Petit Information Board**, taken after the Harvest Festival in October, 2021.

Ray Allen 251654



St Michael's Churchyard in Winter



The Bishop blesses the John Louis Petit Information Board

Ray Allen 251654

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

Mothers Union November 2021

Did you know that you can join Mothers Union even if you have no children, are not married and even if you are male? At recent meetings we have been joined by a prospective gentleman member so if you are interested in the organisation do give us a trial. St. Michael's is one of the larger groups in the Deanery but we are never too full.

We sent birthday wishes to Sybil on the occasion of her 95th birthday and learned that she had moved to Kings Langley to live near her daughter.

Our service included the hymn "Be Thou my Vision " and a reading from Mark Chapter 1. We prayed for the ongoing Cop 26 meeting in Glasgow and hoped for a good outcome to the deliberations. We are looking towards M.U.'s campaign against gender violence and a proposed transformational conference called "Reimagining M.U.

Discussion followed based on a questionnaire about our way forward. Should we advertise ourselves more within the church? Make links with other groups.? Internationally we should have more of a presence. Suggestions welcomed from members and non-members.

Next meeting will take the form of a Meditation for Advent and in December it will be party time.

Betty Lyne

We finished our autumn meetings with our annual Christmas party in December and now look forward to a full programme in 2022 beginning with the AGM on 24 January.

A warm welcome awaits any who want to know more about the work of Mothers' Union.

Elizabeth Allen

STEWARDS OF CREATION

We need to work together on a large scale to save the environment, says Sheran Harpur our Worldwide President

I woke at dawn and stood at the doorway of the MU Transit House in Honiara, admiring the Pacific Ocean in all its splendour.

Somehow, today was different. Thick white cloud spiralled from the surface of the water and rose to the sky, but members did not seem bothered. Rain poured as we made our way to the provincial headquarters. By midday, winds were alarmingly high and trucks were bringing schoolchildren to the provincial compound. I asked what was happening and the provincial present calmly said , 'Cyclone hem bikbik Kam, bikfala rain hemi mekm Kam bikfala flood,' which means, 'the cyclone is building, the heavy rainfall and rising waters have flooded the schools'. I realised that storms of this nature were a way of life for our members in the Solomon Islands. By evening, the beautiful island of Vanuatu was devastated and the airport closed. Members who attended the positive parenting training could not return home, with no way of knowing if their families survived.

I live in the Caribbean, where friendly people, lush green hills, white sandy beaches and aqua seas reflect ultimate ideas of paradise. However, people of the Caribbean islands, as with all insular states, continue to face the impact of climate change, with worsening economic and health issues. Rising sea levels, increased natural disasters and shifts in rainfall patterns threaten the region's freshwater

resources and coastal populations dependent on tourism and agriculture.

In May 2021, I was invited to speak at the first conference organised by the Dicaster of Integral Human Development at the Anglican Centre in Rome: Building Fraternity, Defending Justice: Challenges and Opportunities for Insular Peoples. It was a privilege to represent MU and be a voice for our members and vulnerable women in insular states. While Small Island Developing States are the smallest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, their population, biodiversity and resources are at high risk and under constant threat from recurrent natural disasters.

There are about 60,000 Mothers' Union members in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. Issues affecting individuals and families include environment-related social challenges. Coincidentally, these were highlighted at the MU Global Theory of Change MULO Consultations, where 200,000 women across the globe were given a voice. Protecting the environment was one of the seven priorities agreed.

Our members actively care for the environment in small pockets in their regions and have a meaningful impact. Mini MUs in Liverpool have made protecting the environment a priority and are increasing awareness. The conservation of existing rainforests continues to be a global priority; one example of MUs involvement is our support for the Iwokrama Rainforest Project in Guyana.

A resilience project in Madagascar plants Vetiver grass to prevent mudslides in the rainy season, then harvests it in the dry season to make craft, generating income for members. Anglican Alliance provides training in Disaster Resilience Management to equip the Church to deal with the aftermath of natural disasters. NGOs and governments assist in flood-risk capacity building, ocean and coastal management and climate-related education and training of local people.

With the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is not enough for the

Church to work in small local partnerships and be satisfied with achieving in its own little corner. Regional leaders need to unite, engage in dialogue and build partnerships with governments, civil society, NGOs and FBOs to make the necessary transformation. We must act wisely as MU leaders of influence and action; interventions are needed now if we are to save the environment and uplift women and families. Building bridges by growing ecumenical, government and NGO partnerships is paramount to tackling climate change and giving insular peoples a better life.

Our provinces are still in the early stages of working together as a zone, focusing on one or more of their regional priorities, informed by their own provincial and regional frameworks and plans.

It is my hope that members living in the insular states will one day be at the forefront of building bridges to protect our environment, engaging in dialogue at diocesan and provincial levels, followed by zonal collaboration to develop strategic plans of action for the common good. I look forward to the day when the zonal trustees for Zones B, C and F convene a virtual conference for members of insular states to share, support and learn from each other.

Marie-Pierrette Bezara, Zonal trustee for Zone F, which includes the Indian Ocean, says, 'Life continues to be a huge struggle, so it is important for us to collaborate with the Church, government and other organisations to uplift the lives of island people. It would be effective if there are strong relationships existing between insular states to build bridges for regional co-operation.'

As stewards of God's creation, they can build a coalition for advocacy and action that will address the challenges to our humanity and the environment.

***“....it is not enough for the Church to
be satisfied with achieving in its own little corner”***

'We must now keep up the moral pressure so that pledges are urgently

turned into measurable action': Bishops responds to COP26

Comment
from

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY

Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich and the Church of England's lead bishop for the environment, and Olivia Graham, the Bishop of Reading, have spoken at the conclusion of COP.

In a statement they said: "At COP we called for keeping global warming to below 1.5 degrees, ending fossil fuel subsidies, and securing finance for the world's most vulnerable people who are already effected by climate breakdown.

Progress was made in all these areas, plus cutting methane emissions and halting deforestation. We were particularly inspired to hear powerful testimonies from young people and representatives of indigenous peoples.

We pay tribute to the work of Alok Sharma MP, the COP26 President, and his team.

Negotiations always have some compromises and disappointments. These impact the world's economically poorest the most. We must now keep up the moral pressure so that pledges are urgently turned into measurable action.

The whole world needs to do more for climate justice. More quickly. More generously. More together. During its presidency year, the UK



can be a key player. And this includes all of us within the Church of England.

At Glasgow, the world glimpsed the possibility of a hopeful future. Hurting God's creation and contributing to the suffering of God's poorest people is not the 'love God and your neighbour' that Jesus commands of us.

COP showed us the unity of purpose people of faith can bring. This encouragement should reignite in all of us hope for our future."

CLIMATE CHANGE PRAYER

Heal our Planet

God our Creator and Healer
we confess that we have sinned:
we have used creation
not cherished it;
we have lived selfishly
not watched the balance of life;
we have been greedy
not sharing earth's gifts;
and our footprints are heavy
not gentle.

Forgive us the damage
that disturbs our planet.
Grant us the grace
to live for the world's healing
and our own.

Bless the seasons of the year,
may they be restored
to Your design.

Chris Polhill

A prayer for us at this time:

Almighty God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified, hear our prayer for our benefice and the congregations of St Michael and St John.

Give us discernment to recognise the gifts and ministries you have given to us together with the grace to exercise them in harmony with one another and for the good of all.

May we have patience in awaiting the appointment and arrival of a new leader for our parish, and give support to those responsible for choosing that person.

Finally, may we trust you, the God of faithfulness and generosity, to guide us through this time of transition and change, so that we are ready to enter a new chapter in the life of our parish for the glory of your Name and the furtherance of your kingdom. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Progress Report—A New Rector

The advert for the position of Rector of St Michael's and St John's was published in the Church Times and on the Church of England website on December 3rd. The closing date for applications is the 7th January. There will be a Familiarisation Day on 19th January and Interviews will be held on 2nd February.



DIocese of LICHFIELD
Rector

St Michael & St Mary, Lichfield and St John, Wall

Situated in, and near, the beautiful cathedral city of Lichfield in Staffordshire, the Benefice offers opportunities to work in two contrasting, yet complementary, environments, one suburban and one rural.

We are a benefice with:

- a broad inclusive theology that reflects the many traditions of the Anglican church.
- an enthusiastic team of lay and ordained ministers and supportive congregations.

We are looking forward to welcoming applications from prayerful, enthusiastic candidates who can share our vision for the future and lead us as we:

- rapidly grow in population, with housing developments in both parishes.
- develop our mission to families and young adults.
- share, across the deanery, resources and skills, especially with youth work.
- progress our vision, moving forward with the development of our parish rooms.

If this sounds like you, then we look forward to hearing from you.

Full details from lichfield.anglican.org/vacancies
For an informal conversation please contact Rev Ruth Bull dkbricb@hotmail.com

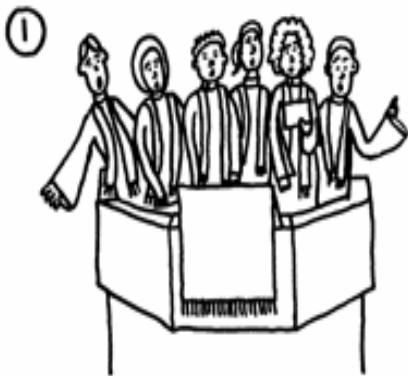
Enquiries: The Ven. Dr Sue Weller - 01543 306145
archdeacon.lichfield@lichfield.anglican.org

All applicants should normally have 3 years' experience in the Church of England or another Anglican church in the British Isles.

Closing date: 7th January Familiarisation day: 19th January
Interviews: 2nd February

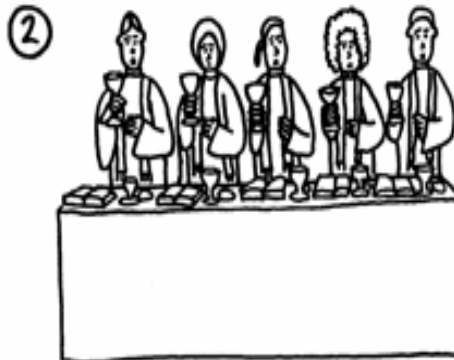
APPOINTING A NEW VICAR

THE PROCESS IS LONG AND COMPLEX



THE PREACHING COMPETITION

THE CONGREGATION VOTE OFF THE LEAST INSPIRING



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AUDITION

THE CONGREGATION VOTE OFF THE LEAST DIGNIFIED



THE 'VISITING THE SICK' TEST

THE CONGREGATION VOTE OFF THE LEAST COMPASSIONATE



THE ROBINING CONTEST

THE CONGREGATION VOTE OFF THE LEAST STYLISH



THE CHURCH MEETING CHALLENGE

THE LAST ONE AWAKE GETS THE JOB



UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

Our first walk in 2022 will be in **Lichfield**.

Date of Walk: Saturday January 22nd.

Meeting Point: St. Michael's Churchyard, near to The Main Entrance to the Church.

Meeting Time: 10.30 a.m.

Distance: Around 2 and 1/2 miles.

Type of Paths: The walk will mostly be on pavements and other well-surfaced paths, although a small amount of the walk will be on grass. Walking Boots or Shoes are recommended.

We will begin our walk in the **Churchyard** looking at any early flowers that may have appeared. We shall also be looking at the **John Louis Petit Information Board and tomb**. The walk then continues to **Stowe Pool** and afterwards to the **City Centre** where we will begin **The Lichfield Heritage Trail**.

We will be having a short break for coffee in **The Museum Gardens part of Beacon Park**. You are welcome to bring your own coffee and snack, although you may prefer to buy a coffee from a nearby coffee shop.

Following the coffee break we will continue The Heritage Trail until we have completed it. We then make our way back to St. Michael's Churchyard.

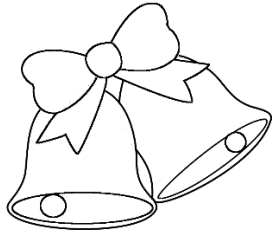
There will be no organised Pub Lunch for the Group after the walk.

The walk will be limited to 20 people. Do join us if you can and learn more about our wonderful historic City of Lichfield.

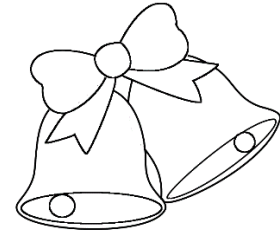
BOOKING FOR THE WALK IS ESSENTIAL- PLEASE VISIT

<https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/walking-group-bookingpage.html>





New Year's Day



Come and welcome in the new year,
with all its hopes and possibilities,
with a time of prayer and fellowship

in St Michael's Church

at 3pm on Saturday, 1st January.

We will be praying for those
applying for the post of Rector,
as the deadline approaches,
and also praying for the world
and for ourselves.

Tea and cake afterwards!



LICHFIELD DEANERY SYNOD ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2021

The invitation on the church notice sheet was hard for me to resist. My curiosity about church synods was about to be satisfied. The main attraction was to be a presentation by Peter Bate, the Diocesan Director of Communication, about the C.

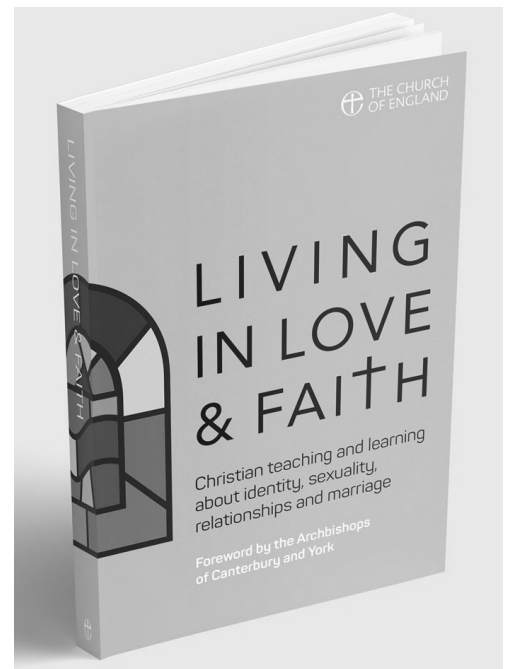
of E. book, *Living in Love and Faith*, which came with an ominous warning of its controversial content. Peter explained that the course is designed to help people to engage in respectful dialogue in an effort to bring together people with opposing views on identity, sexuality and marriage. He hoped that the parishes would want to offer "Love and Faith" to their congregations. The discussions which followed provided much food for thought.

The other parts of the evening were taken up by the usual (I imagine) bread and butter business of the Lichfield Deanery Synod. For me, as a "non-member" this was the most interesting part as it provided a view into the support for what goes on in the day to day life of our parish church, apart, that is, from our own parish council. It reminded me very much of the levels of local government which govern us civically rather than spiritually.

St. Michael's church was full of deanery synod members from other churches. I felt quite an outsider but was reassured by a very friendly Deanery Synod member from St. Peter's, Little Aston who sat near me and chatted.

The next Lichfield Deanery Synod will be a Virtual Zoom to be held on Wednesday, 16th February 2022. I am looking forward to it.

Margaret Freaan



St. Michael's parish magazines 1889-1892

I have recently come across a bound copy of the church magazines from 1889 to 1892. In this article I will share some items of interest that I found there - some that will describe situations that will be very familiar to the current congregation and some that are rather strange in modern terms.

The vicar for those years was the Rev. Cyril Hubbard, an old Etonian who the census tells us lived at the Rectory in Mount Pleasant with his wife, two children and four servants (!), and had been Rector since 1886. He seems to have been the driving force behind the magazine and wrote an article each month - a mix of devotional and news material. He was particularly concerned to increase the number of communicants, but also to repair and restore the tower and the chancel which were in a poor state of repair - more of this below. As ever, there were financial issues, and not infrequent requests for subscriptions to projects and for increased weekly offerings. In the November 1892 magazine he both announced that he was leaving the parish and also named his successor who had been appointed by the Bishop of Lichfield - Rev Otho Steele from Hanley. He was to leave early in 1893, and Rev Steel took up the post very soon afterwards. It doesn't happen like that these days!

The magazine was a simple four- page affair - essentially a folded A4 sheet. There is an indication that these magazines were the first that were wholly church produced - a more generic "Banner of Faith" magazine having been used beforehand. The front page was standard and gave details of the services and other activities. On a Sunday there were four or five services - a weekly Holy Communion at 8.00am (some things never change); Mattins at 10.45; a monthly Holy Communion at 12.00; an afternoon service at 3.00, that on various Sundays of the month included a Children's service, baptisms, or churchings; and Evensong at 6.30. There were also services on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 in church, and on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 in St. John's St., and in Streethay. It is not clear where the latter

were held - presumably in hired rooms? Sunday Schools were held in the School at 9.30 and 2.30, and also in St John's St. and occasionally Streethay at 2.30. There were a number of regular Monday meetings - a Clothing Club at the School from 12.00 to 1.00, three Mothers meetings at the Rectory, City Mill, and Birmingham Road Barracks at 2.00, and a Band of Hope Meeting (a young person's temperance society) at 6.00 in the School. On Saints' days there was a service of Mattins at 9.00. The Rev Hubbard and his congregation were not idle!

In addition to all the above there were occasional lectures, bible studies, concerts and so on. Of particular interest were the Smoking Concerts for men, where the entrance fee was 2d, for which they received 1d worth of tobacco and the rest being spent on the hired room and heating. Newspapers and board games were provided, and those who came entertained each other with song and rhymes (in a fog of tobacco smoke one assumes). The annual Vestry meeting took place just after Easter, for the election of Churchwardens and presentation of their accounts; and the election of sidesmen for the parish and for the surrounding hamlets - Streethay, Fulfen, Tamhorn, Freeford, Statfold and Fisherwick. Sidesmen had a more representative role in that period than their current role as being welcomers into church. The churchwardens accounts for 1890 show a total income of £204 with £70 from St. Michael's Trust, £52 from the offertory and £45 from burial and other fees; and an expenditure of £165 with £37 being spent on the organist and choir, £51 on the Sexton's wages; £25 on the heating and cleaning; and £18 on "making a new carriage road to the church door". There were special collections for charities such as "Waifs and Strays", CMS, the clothing club et.c of £32 in total.

At the start of the period covered by the magazines, both the tower and the chancel were in a poor state of repair and it had become inadvisable to ring the bells except when strictly necessary. The tower had suffered from severe settlement problems, and by late 1889 there was a wide crack in the south wall that ran the entire height of the tower and part of the spire, and the western buttresses were also in a poor state. There were also problems with the north wall, and



ST. MICHAEL'S,
LICHFIELD,
PARISH
Magazine.

Vol. III.

JANUARY, 1889.

No. 1.

HOURS OF SERVICE:

SUNDAYS—Morning Service 10-45. Afternoon 3-0. Evening 6-30.

HOLY DAYS—Morning Prayer 9-0. Wednesday Evenings 7-30.

HOLY COMMUNION:

1st Sunday in the month at noon. Every Sunday at 8-0 a.m.

HOLY BAPTISM:

1st and 3rd Sunday in the month at Afternoon Service at 3-30.

CHURCHINGS: Sunday Afternoons, and after other Services.

All Churching Offerings are given as Aids to the Poor.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS:

St. Michael's School at 9-30 and 2-30.

At Streechay and St. John Street, Sunday Afternoons at 2-30.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE 2nd Sunday in the month.

MOTHERS' MEETINGS at the Rectory, City Mill, and Birmingham Road Barracks, Mondays at 2-0.

CLOTHING CLUB every Monday at Girls' School 12 to 1.

BAND OF HOPE Monday Evenings in the Girls' School at 6-0.

Churchwardens:

MESSRS. EDWARD PARKES AND GEORGE ANDREWS.

Subsiders:

MESSRS. ALFRED COTTERILL,
JAMES EVANS,
ALFRED WHISSON,
THOMAS DUMBLETON.



Lay Representatives:

MESSRS. W. J. DURRAD
AND
G. ANDREWS.

parapets. An appeal was launched to meet the £250 required for the work, which was successfully completed by September 1891.

The chancel had been extensively modified in the 1840s, when the roof was lowered, the walls plastered, a vaulted roof added, and all the windows (including the large east window) replaced by narrow lancet windows- in an effort to restore it to some (fictional) early English style. By 1889 it was in a very poor state of repair and work clearly needed doing. Rev. Hubbard largely financed this from his own resources. The plaster was removed, a new oak ceiling added, and the east window restored to its past (and current) form. At that point there was not enough money to install stained glass, which was eventually incorporated a decade later. To the right of the altar a credence niche was created in the wall for the communion vessels. It was decorated with tiles found in a vault to the north of the altar that was entered by stairs beneath it - these tiles can still be seen. The choir were moved into the chancel, a move which gave the Rev. Hubbard some anxiety as to whether they were too remote from the congregation to properly lead the singing, and he pleaded for the congregation to join in the singing psalms and hymns. The clergy reading desk was also moved into the chancel, which gave similar concerns, although it seems that the (unamplified of course) voice of Rev. Hubbard could still be heard.

The new Girl's school was opened with a great fanfare in July 1889 - effectively the completion of the school in the form that many older residents of the parish will have known it. The new building was the part of the school next to Church Street and connected with the 1858 building with the tower to the south of it. At the opening, children's games were played and after a short service of dedication the building was handed over by the Hon Alfred Percy Allsop, who had served on the school management committee for a number of years and had paid for the new building. The enthusiasm was somewhat damped within a few days by the sudden departure of the much-respected schoolmaster, Mr Lasseter, following the death of his wife and his own ill health. A former pupil teacher was drafted in to keep the school

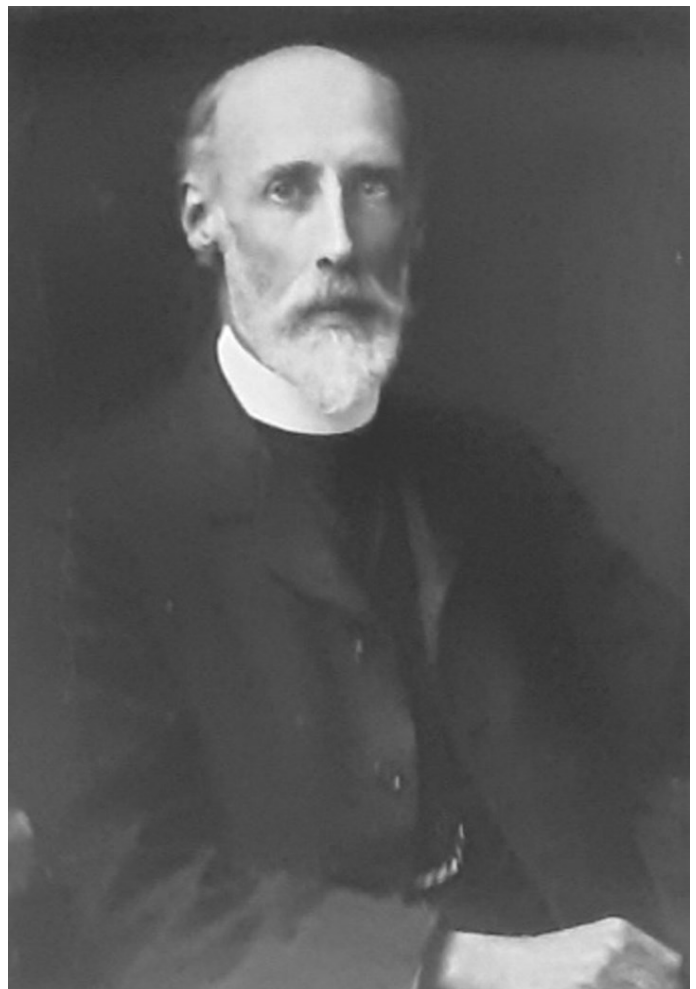
running while a new master was appointed. The school accounts for 1889 show an income of £479 with a government grant of £217, school pence (from families) of £130 and voluntary contributions of £53; and an expenditure of £493, with £404 spent on teachers' salaries. There were 107 boys on the register, 92 girls and 60 infants (who were presumably also boys and girls).

At that time most of the burials in the churchyard were in the now overgrown area next to what we call the new churchyard, and these are recorded month by month in the magazine, in much the same way as now. A couple of articles also give details of the avenue that runs up to the church from the north gate. Mr Henry C Malden, in describing his research in the parish registers, informs us that the avenue was set with *elm* trees on February 26th 1750 - on a "windy Tuesday". In 1890, many of these were in poor condition and had, according to Mr Walden, felt the effects of many windy Tuesdays and seen their best days, and it was decided to replace every other one by quick growing *lime* trees. Of crab apples there is not a mention. Mr Malden ends his article with the words.

"Sooner or later, my readers, like them, will have seen their best days, and have their names added to the long list of those whose last home is in the old churchyard on the hill."

And that seems a good place for me to stop as well!

Chris Baker



Year after vaccine roll out began bishop warns: 'None of us are safe until we're all safe'

Dr Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford and an epidemiologist, writes of the urgent need to vaccinate the world on the first anniversary of vaccines being administered in the United Kingdom.

It's amazing to salute all that's been achieved in the last year of COVID vaccinations in the UK.

Yet even as we give thanks for this success, the arrival of Omicron - a variant of the virus that was first identified thousands of miles away, has underlined once again that caring for everyone's health, wherever they may be, is not just a matter of justice, it's also in our own self interest.

Every time a person is infected with COVID around the world, the probability increases that new mutations of the virus will happen and make it to our shores.

Such variants, like Omicron, carry the risk of being able to evade our vaccines or cause serious illness.

Vaccinating everyone would act dramatically to reduce this risk. Yet our record to date is lamentable.

Despite the fact that by the end of this year 12 billion doses of vaccines will have been produced – enough to vaccinate every adult in the world - 95 per cent of adults in low income countries remain unprotected.

We must act now to change this picture and demand vaccine equity across our globe. 'None of us are safe until we're all safe'



From the Registers

Baptisms			
St Michael's	28th Nov	Paige Hodgkiss	3 yrs
St Michael's	28th Nov	Roman-Jay Harvey	5 mths
St Michael's	28th Nov	Kayden Slater	6 yrs
St Michael's	28th Nov	Logan Slater	2 yrs

Weddings			

Funerals			
St John's	26th Nov	Lawrence Robinson (Stan) (interment of ashes)	97
St Michael's	3rd Dec	Theodore Wellings	98
St Michael's	7th Dec	Margaret Finley (interment of ashes)	81

PROVERBS 10.1-9

10 Solomon's proverbs:

A wise son brings joy to his father,
but a foolish son, heartache to his mother.

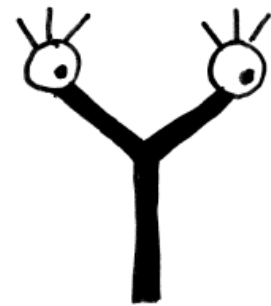


² Ill-gotten gains do not profit anyone,
but righteousness rescues from death.



³ The LORD will not let the righteous go hungry,
but he denies the wicked what they crave.

⁴ Idle hands make one poor,
but diligent hands bring riches.



⁵ The son who gathers during summer is
prudent;
the son who sleeps during harvest is
disgraceful.

⁶ Blessings are on the head of the righteous,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

⁷ The remembrance of the righteous is a blessing,
but the name of the wicked will rot.

⁸ A wise heart accepts commands,
but foolish lips will be destroyed.

⁹ The one who lives with integrity lives securely,
but whoever perverts his ways will be found out.

Christian Standard Bible

Related reading

Psalms 5 & 119

Lord God, thanks you for your commandments and the words that guide my steps.

Father, help me to learn from the Proverbs so that I may live with increasing integrity.

Send your Spirit to lead me in my quest for wisdom so that I may bring joy to others by my actions and my words.

I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Angie King

THE wildlife TRUSTS
Staffordshire

LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP

LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP

Winter Bird Walk

A guided walk at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's
Doxey Marshes Reserve
led by Alex Rogers of the SWT

Saturday 8 January at 10:30 a.m.

Stafford ST16 1PU

Use the car park at the end of Wootton Dr.

Under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Contact (01543) 257812

 www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup

Bible Readings

Sunday 2nd January 2022

Epiphany

[White]

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday 9th January

Baptism of Christ

[White]

Acts 8.14-17

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

Sunday 16th January

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

[White]

1 Corinthians 12.1-11

John 2.1-11

Sunday 23rd January

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

[White]

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

Luke 4.14-21

Sunday 30th January

Candlemas

[White]

Hebrew 2.14-end

Luke 2.22-40

Sunday 6th February

4th Sunday before Lent

[Green]

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Luke 5.1-11

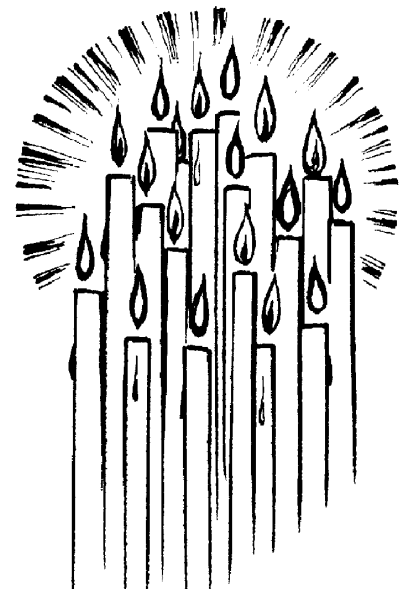
Sunday 13th February

Racial Justice Sunday

[Green]

Isaiah 58.5-12

Luke 6.17-26



..... And FINALLY!

St Michael's has become an Eco Church and already gained the Bronze Award. The national Eco Church scheme has been run by the international environmental charity A Rocha since 2016, though Lichfield Diocese had its own scheme as early as the late 1990s. The scheme encourages churches to adopt environmentally sensitive policies in all of their activities. To join, churches fill in a questionnaire survey where each question contributes a number of points. Depending on the answers, the church may be given a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.



The questions cover five aspects of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Our results gave one Gold level, one Silver levels and three Bronze levels – but the award is given on the lowest of the five aspects. However, of the 100 churches in the diocese that have joined the

scheme only a quarter have achieved Bronze level or higher, so to get Bronze when we start shows that St Michael's is already concerned about environmental issues.

What is even more pleasing, is that in the aspects for which we have achieved Bronze level, it will take only a few improvements to raise the score to Silver level and the PCC will be planning how to take these steps. If we succeed we will be only the fifth church in the diocese to achieve this level !

St Michael's currently does these things

- We use eco friendly cleaning products and refill larger bottles from a local bulk supplier.
- The office uses 100% recycled paper for printing on and all wasted paper is taken to the local recycling station.
- Any disposable products used are either compostable or recyclable.
- We have three composting bays in the churchyard. Our Churchyard Working Party works closely with the Caring for God's Acre organisation.

Regular worship with a focus on the environment.

The Editor

ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

If you would like to advertise here, the prices per year are:

Full page £280

Half Page £150

Quarter Page £85

Eighth Page £50

Please contact the office  01543 262211

 office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

P.J. NEVILLE MEMORIALS

Hand carved quality
memorials. Renewals.
Additional inscriptions.

House numbers.

Home visits and brochure at no
extra cost.

Willow Court, Tamworth
Road, Lichfield, Staffs.

WS14 9HD

Telephone and fax:

01543 263440

Our family would like to
help your family.

We are an independent, family
business from Lichfield.

At your service 24 hours.



House of Minster Funeral Home,
26 Tamworth Street, Lichfield, WS13 6JJ

enquiries@jukesfuneralservices.com

www.jukesfuneralservices.com

01543 415050

DECORATING BY JULIE

Your local
lady
decorator



Julie Parkinson

Home: (01543) 317258

Mobile: 07796268056

Email: travellergirl2000@yahoo.co.uk



ThreeSpires
PHYSIOTHERAPY

HOME VISIT PHYSIOTHERAPY

For ALL your physiotherapy needs, including:

- Post-Operative Rehabilitation
- Neurological Rehabilitation, for conditions such as Stroke
- Improving mobility and fitness
- Relief from Musculoskeletal injuries, such as back and neck pain



T: 07884 281623

E: enquiries@threespiresphysiotherapy.co.uk

www.threespiresphysiotherapy.co.uk

CENTRAL GARAGE

(LICHFIELD) LTD

QUEEN STREET, LICHFIELD, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS13 6QD
info@centralgaragelichfield.co.uk

A family run business established for over 75 years.
We not only service your car, we can offer the following:

- **Quality Body Repair Work**
- **Engine Diagnostic Work**
- **MOT Testing Station**
- **Collection & Delivery Service**
- **Courtesy Cars**

FREE MINI VALET WITH EVERY SERVICE



01543 262826

G. A. CANNELL MEMORIALS

*Individual designs & personal
attention our speciality*

*Also : Memorial Revonvations and Repairs.
FREE QUOTE*

Home visits available at no extra charge - No oblication

Visit our Showroom at: Curborough Hall
Craft Farm, Water Lane, Lichfield Or
Telephone: (01543) 256395
Web: www.cannellmemorials.co.uk

Open: Wed-Sun 10.30am-5pm



The **co-operative** funeralcare

Locally owned by The Midcounties Co-operative

Our caring staff are here to listen and
advise you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**- Funeral Pre-Payment Plans
- Memorial Masonry**

1 Birmingham Road, Lichfield

Tel: 01543 416660

www.coopfunerals.co.uk



National Association
of Funeral Directors

Would you like
to reduce your
household
bills?

UW Utility
Warehouse

Authorised UW Partner

Utility Warehouse could save you a huge
amount of money every year. They provide **gas,
electricity, broadband, home and mobile
phones.**

Membership gives you access to the best value
utility services in the UK with everything on one
single monthly bill, and a host of money-saving
member benefits.

As well as savings on your household services,
membership gives you access to lots of other
benefits.

If you would like to save money, contact me for
more information.

Frazer Sneddon, Lichfield

Frazer & Ruth Sneddon

Authorised UW Partner

+447974122710

frazer.and.ruth@uw.partners

Web Site : uw.partners/frazer.and.ruth

FLOODLIGHTING

Sponsor St Michael's floodlights to mark a special
occasion or remember a loved one!

Your donation will brighten up the skies
over Lichfield for the night.

Contact the United Benefice Office on 01543 262211



Who's Who

<p style="text-align: center;">St Michaels PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: <i>Lyn Shiel 320437</i> <i>Sue Jones 415242</i></p> <p>Assistant Wardens: <i>June Frayn 264920</i> <i>Liz Clarke 268862</i> <i>David Easton 255308</i> <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p>Treasurer: <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p>PCC Secretary: <i>Ted Green 362342</i></p> <p>Stewardship Recorder: <i>Sandy Baker</i> 256320</p> <p>Electoral Roll Officer: <i>Mike Godfrey 264255</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John's PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: Christine Higgs 410351 John Alsop 480240</p> <p>Assistant Churchwarden: Linda Rubisch 481294 Pat Owen 673204</p> <p>Treasurer: Paul Wright 01543 483230</p> <p>PCC Secretary: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>PCC Lay Vice Chair: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Electoral Roll: Angie King office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">St Michael's Church</p> <p>Verger: <i>Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</i></p> <p>Sacristan and Head Server: <i>Maggie Easton</i> 255308</p> <p>Organist and Choirmaster: <i>Dudley Ray</i> 07847 643373 dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Music Group: <i>Richard Brooks 07918 906</i> 350</p> <p>Transport Rota: <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p>Pastoral Care: <i>June Frayn 264920</i></p> <p>Flowers: <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p>Safeguarding: <i>Maureen Brand 264880</i></p> <p>Junior Praise: <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p>Bell ringers: <i>Gillian Eastwood 07568134115</i> Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. gillieastwood@gmail.com</p> <p>Mothers Union: <i>Elizabeth Allen 304938</i></p> <p>Social Team: <i>Contact via the office 262211</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John's Church, Wall</p> <p>Verger: Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p>Pastoral Care:</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: <i>Barbara Homewood 255909</i> E-mail brian@britcave.co.uk Magazine Editor: <i>David Shiel 01543320437</i> shielfamily@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scouting and Guiding</p> <p>Group Scout Leader Carl Hall 07988 685378 chair@7thlichfield.org.uk</p> <p>Rainbows: <i>Becky Bickley 07703 671568</i> <i>Vicki Davies Friend 07970 549284</i> <i>Hannah Heath 07854 824443</i></p> <p>Brownies: <i>Julie Cragg 301098</i></p> <p>Guides: <i>Lisa Webb 07900 164587</i></p>	

