

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2023

Remember,
I am with you,
always

Matthew 28.20

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

£1

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LARGE COPIES of the
magazine are available
on request

Do you remember.....?

Do you remember exactly 60 years ago, the winter of 1963? I well recall waking up to ice on the inside of my bedroom window frozen in exquisite patterns; my mother instructing me to get up and quickly wash my hands and face and then get *back* into bed to keep warm while I changed from my pyjamas into clothes ready for school; her bringing my brother and me a saucer of 'special ice-cream' taken from the top of the gold top milk bottles delivered that morning – what an unexpected treat!

The snow lay on the ground for weeks on end such that my father could not drive his Morris Minor 1000 up the hill to our house. The car lay abandoned at the bottom. At first he made several attempts to drive it up the hill, but always had to give up! Then he hit upon the idea of making my brother and me bounce around on the back seat while he drove – I suppose to act as ballast. While Simon and I rejoiced in uproariously jumping up and down in a place where it was normally forbidden to do so, the car failed to move beyond the first few yards up the hill.

The winter of 1963 was the coldest since 1740. It was so cold that the sea froze in places and the cold begun just after Christmas 1962 lasted until early March 1963. Yet to a small child who didn't feel the cold and didn't have to battle with the weather to travel to work, it was a time of joy and one to which I have often returned in my mind's eye when life has felt bleak and barren or cold!

It is vital to our well-being that we remember. Of course, disastrously

painful times may need to be remembered with skilful, professional help. Yet through remembering times when we made mistakes, we learn how to do better at our jobs, in our relationships, to better manage ourselves through life. Indeed, the season of Remembrance in November was instituted to help us work to find peaceful solutions to international conflict rather than recourse to war. Remembering times of joy and the cause of that joy is just as important to our flourishing.

At home and in the shops Christmas decorations have been dismantled and put away until next year, our daily diet may have turned from excess to its usual everyday fare, the Christmas gatherings are over, but within the Church of England we remain in celebration mode for several weeks. The Christmas/Epiphany season ends and climaxes with the story of the Presentation of the baby Christ at the Temple: carols are sung for the last time until next Christmas and the white liturgical vestments worn for the last time until Easter or an important saint's day. Joy is the note that is sounded throughout those weeks as we remember that Emmanuel – God with us – came down to earth to be among humankind to hallow and bless our ordinary, everyday lives and life after death. When it's cold and gloomy and grey outside, remind yourself that whether it feels like it or not, our Creator God is at work in each one of us..... and the most irritating, difficult person you know. Together we affirm:

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Revd. Helen Barton

Have you missed me?

You may, or may not, have noticed that David and I have been missing from St Michael's and St John's for a couple of months. It was suggested that I should take a sabbatical, after the extra work I did during the vacancy, and as we already had a trip planned for October, I decided to add November, to have a really good break. I am now back with you and thought you might be interested in our recent travels.

At the very end of September, we set off for our first trip abroad since Covid, flying first to Singapore, for a couple of days, before moving on to Perth, to commence our tour of Australia. I will spare you a day-by-day account, but will pick out a few highlights.

From Perth, we flew to Adelaide where we were at the same baggage carousel as Archbishop Justin Welby who seems to have been on our flight! We then crossed to Kangaroo Island, where we saw some wonderful wildlife – only one kangaroo, but lots of sea lions and fur seals.



After a stopover in Adelaide, we moved on to Melbourne where the T22 was about to start at the MCG. We saw the Sri Lankan cricket team practising in the nets and it was amazing how fast they bowled – far faster than it looks on television!



After a couple of days exploring Melbourne, it was on to Uluru, which was as stunning as it always is.

When we got to Alice Springs we boarded The Ghan for a 23 hour journey to Darwin. That was a wonderful experience! The train is iconic – similar to the luxury of the Orient Express (I am led to believe!) but more relaxed. It was something we had wanted to do for a long time, and we were not disappointed.

Darwin was VERY hot and humid, but then it is in the Tropics. After a couple of days there, it was on to Cairns, with some wonderful wildlife, especially birds along the sea shore, including a family of pelicans.



From Cairns, we visited the Great Barrier Reef, where David went snorkelling, whilst I confined myself to the glass bottomed boat and the semi-submersible, to see the reef and its wildlife.

One of my own personal highlights came on our last day in Australia when we attended a concert at the Sydney Opera House. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra was performing, with Daniel Muller-Schott playing Dvorak's cello concerto, one of my



favourite pieces. It was wonderful to see inside that iconic building and to experience its wonderful acoustics.

On the way home we had a stop-over in Bangkok, where we visited some very beautiful Buddhist temples. Then it was back home in time for our grand-daughter's 6th birthday.



But we have not stayed put for long, as at the end of November we visited Berlin to see our younger daughter, Charlotte, and visit some of the many Christmas Markets

Ruth Bull

Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion

10:00am Holy Communion

1st Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

Thursdays

9.30am Morning Prayer

Regular Services at St John's Sundays

10am Holy Communion

Baptism @ 11.30am

Last Sunday of the month

Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

1st Monday 10.00am

First Steps

2nd Sunday 4:30pm

Messy Church

3rd Sunday 6:00pm

Choral Evensong

Last Sunday 12:30pm

Holy Baptism

Music in the Benefice

St Michael's Church

Wednesdays

6.30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday before 1st Sunday

7:30pm Music Group & Choir
Rehearsal

Baptism Preparation

First Saturday 10:30am

at St Michael's

Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Family Praise

Sunday

1st January

10am St Michael's



First Steps

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

Monday 6th February

10am—11.30am

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on

SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome



Reminders.....



Subscriptions to be
paid by Mon 9 January,
please.

Coffee Morning for
Distributors on
Thurs 12 Jan at 11am
at St Michael's. RSVP.



Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Liz Clarke

Deadlines!

For **February** Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 15th January

Please send articles to David Shiel
AND the Parish Office

shielfamily@gmail.com
office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

Pew Sheet:
every Thursday
7:30am
Contact
Parish Office

Film Club

at St Michael's Church

FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS

Doors open at 2pm

Their Finest

(2016 12A, 1h 57m Comedy/ Drama/ Romance)

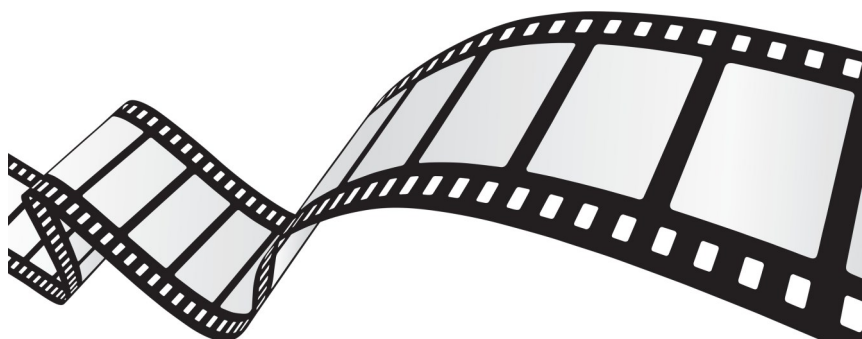
A former secretary, newly appointed as a scriptwriter for propaganda films, joins the cast and crew of a major production while the Blitz rages around them. Stars Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin and Bill Nighy

Mon 9th January 2.30pm start

Tea/Coffee and Cake will be served

at the interval

All welcome.



Save the Date:

Next Film Club

February 6th

The King's Speech

Archbishop of Canterbury visits mass graves in Kyiv

News from



Published 2nd December 2022

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited the site of a mass grave in the outskirts of Kyiv today to express his condolence and solidarity with those who suffered through Russia's occupation earlier this year.

The Archbishop visited St. Andrew's Greek Catholic Church in Bucha where he prayed with its priest, Father Andriy Halavin, and prayed alone at the spot where 116 bodies are buried.

He was shown photos of murdered civilians and the communities' response in burying the dead in a deeply emotional photographic exhibition displayed at the church.

Archbishop Justin also visited the so-called 'Bridge of Hope' in Irpin. There he heard accounts from local priests who were involved in efforts to help people escape under Russian fire, via the only route out of Russian-occupied Bucha and Irpin.

The Archbishop paused at the crosses lining the planks across the river, each one memorialising a person who died trying to cross, and prayed there for those who mourn them.

The Archbishop made the tour with the Anglican Bishop in Europe, Bishop Robert Innes, who is accompanying the Archbishop during his visit to Poland and Ukraine.

Archbishop Justin was led around Irpin and Bucha by Ivan Rusyn, a Baptist minister and president of the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary (UETS), which was struck by six Russian missiles in early March a few days after he and his staff were evacuated. Ivan and his colleagues told the Archbishop about the horrors that local people endured as they tried to escape the Russian invasion and occupation.

Later the Archbishop visited UETS where he met with faculty and students to hear their testimonies of Russia's invasion and occupation. He later prayed with the students and gave them a blessing.

Archbishop Justin Welby said today: "Russia's invasion of Ukraine is an act of evil. Being in Irpin and Bucha today has made my conviction of that even stronger. War unleashes the forces of hell and today I met people who have been through that hell.

"So often in places of war and conflict, the church suffers alongside the communities it serves. Today I met heroic priests, seminarians and local Christians who – even amidst their own agonising suffering through this brutal invasion – have loved, cared for and supported those around them. I feel today that I have touched the hem of Jesus' cloak and seen his face in the faces of the people of Irpin and Bucha.

"It was a great honour to spend time with the faculty and students of the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary. I give thanks to God for their courageous faithfulness to Jesus Christ. They will remain in my prayers for a very long time – as will all the people of Ukraine."

Reflecting on the visit to Ukraine as it drew to a close, the Archbishop said: "It has been a profound privilege to visit Ukraine. This visit has made me even more determined to stand in solidarity with the heroic people of this country. I have been so struck by the bravery, resilience and faith of the people I have met. But I have been struck too by the magnitude of evil that has been unleashed by this unjust invasion – which means that our resolve to stand with Ukrainians in their struggle for freedom must be even greater.

"I appeal to the Church of England, the Anglican Communion and Christians around the world to pray for Ukraine this Advent – and for all people around the globe living through conflicts and injustices."

Yesterday the Archbishop met with leaders of Ukraine's churches to listen to their experiences of the war and understand how the Church

of England can continue to support them. The Archbishop met with Metropolitan Epiphany and Archbishop Yevstratiy of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine; His Beatitude Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; and Metropolitan Clement of Nizhyn of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

He also attended a meeting of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations where he heard from religious leaders of Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities in Ukraine about their experience of war and the determination of the Ukrainian people. The meeting was held for part of its duration in a bomb shelter in a central Kyiv hotel after air raid alerts sounded.



Photo from the Archbishop's visit to Irpin and Bucha

Credit— Lambeth Palace



NEWS

The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Revd Adrian Dorber, has announced that he is to retire in 2023.

Adrian, who became Dean in 2005, will step down from the role on 31 March. There will be a farewell service for him on the afternoon of 19 February, which will be his final Sunday at the cathedral.

The Bishop of Lichfield has appointed The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane, currently a Residentiary Canon at the cathedral, as Acting Dean of Lichfield from 1 April while the appointment process for a new Dean is followed.

Bishop Michael said: “Adrian has served the cathedral, the wider community of Lichfield and our diocese with great commitment, faith and passion for the past 17 years and we will be sad to see him leave but happy for him in his well-earned retirement. We look forward to celebrating Adrian’s time in Lichfield on 19 February, and more details will be made available about this in the new year.

“I am very thankful to Bishop Jan for agreeing to be Acting Dean while the process to find Adrian’s successor gets underway.”



December 2022

Elizabeth had sourced a reflection for Advent which we followed at our meeting at the end of November.

It comprised four sections for the four Sundays in Advent and each began with a reading from the first chapters of John or Luke. They were headed The Creative Breath, Light and Darkness, Obedience and Birth and Rebirth. Different members of our group read prayers and intercessions for each part and there were short periods for silent reflection. The service was beautifully written, leaving us in a thoughtful and peaceful mood.



By contrast our next meeting will be a Christmas party with food, games and, of course, carol singing.

Happy New Year.

Betty Lyne

HOPE DURING THE STORM

*With the cost-of-living crisis set to worsen this winter,
Paula Stringer reflects on what is needed and how to find help*

There is barely a family untouched by the cost-of-living crisis. The rising cost of food, fuel, energy, and essentials is leaving many of us tightening our belts. For some, it means a deep breath when we fill our car with petrol. For others, it might mean cutting back on some things but still having a good standard of living. For others, it means being pulled deeper into debt and poverty due to incomes not stretching far enough to cover their basic needs.

My husband and I have personally experienced falling into serious debt so, as a mother and a wife I know first hand what it can do to a family. It damages friendships and relationships, you can find yourself cutting back on essentials like food, energy and toiletries. It often brings with it anxiety and depression. Sadly, it even leads many to contemplate suicide.

People living with a disability, carers looking after a loved one, single parents, those with a serious illness, people working extremely hard in low-income jobs or looking to get back into work; these are just some of the people being hardest hit by rising costs.

Power to tackle poverty

Those in power can, if they choose to, make a real positive difference to people's lives during this crisis. We need the UK Government to review the social security system to look at how much income people are receiving based on their circumstances, and make sure it's enough to cover their essentials. In many cases, because of rising costs, it is not.

The simplest solution is to give people in these difficult situations the extra money they need each month to cover the basics and make sure they're not having cash further deducted from their Universal Credit during such tough time. The UK government gave people on Universal Credit more money during the pandemic with the £20 and this eased the financial pressure on many. Since this was stopped, things have become more difficult.

Already in 2022, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has seen calls to its UK helpline go up by around 40% compared to the same period last year. With energy bills set to rise again this winter, life is expected to get even more difficult for people on the lowest incomes. We're urging the UK government to increase monthly incomes for the lowest paid ahead of this winter, to ensure people can survive.

Connecting with community

Jayne a single parent, had been living with her father. When he died, she

suddenly had to take on all of the bills. ‘The worry was overwhelming,’ she explains. ‘I worried about my son, and how I was going to get through it all. I worked at a children’s nursery which didn’t pay that well and I worried where every pound would come from.’ A friend recommended she contacted CAP. As soon as she had done so, a big weight lifted from her shoulders. ‘They put a budget together and I am repaying the debt bit by bit. I have a new family in the church.’

Jayne got the debt help she needed; she was also able to connect with her community through her local church. She knew she wasn’t alone. The people who choose to connect with their local church often tell us they feel like they’re part of the community again and that they have someone who cares about them – new friends and a family they can turn to.

Helping ourselves and each other

If you are having to tighten your belt, creating a budget is a good place to start. Have a look at all your outgoings for the last three months and work out what you are spending money on and where you might be able to cut back or get a cheaper deal. Trying to set a realistic budget each week and tracking what you spend daily can be helpful to ensure you avoid falling into financial difficulty. Make sure you’re receiving all the benefits you’re entitled to and look for savings tips online: moneysavingexpert.com

This crisis is also impacting the funding of charities. If you have money to spare, I’d encourage you to support a good cause that is helping people in your area who are struggling because of the rising costs. Let’s help each other through this storm and come out of it stronger together – remembering that there is always hope.

Paula Stringer is Chief Executive of Christians Against Poverty

CAP provides services which are open to everyone – regardless of whether they have a faith or not – offering free debt help, money management courses and job clubs. Find out more: www.capuk.org

EPIPHANY

Epiphany, also called Feast of the Epiphany, Theophany, or Three Kings' Day, (from Greek epiphaneia, "manifestation"), Christian holiday



commemorating the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle, at Cana in Galilee. Epiphany is one of the

three principal and oldest festival days of the Christian church (the other two are Easter and Christmas). Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, and other Western churches observe the feast on January 6, while some Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Epiphany on January 19, since their Christmas Eve falls on January 6.

The festival originated in the Eastern church, where it at first included a commemoration of Christ's birth. In Rome, by 354 Christ's birth was being celebrated on December 25, and later in the 4th century the church in Rome began celebrating Epiphany on January 6. In the Western church the festival primarily commemorates the visit by the Magi to the infant Jesus, which is seen as evidence that Christ, the Jewish Messiah, came also for the salvation of Gentiles. In the East it primarily commemorates the baptism of Jesus and celebrates the revelation that the incarnate Christ was both fully God and fully man. In the West the evening preceding Epiphany is called Twelfth Night. The time between December 25 and January 6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas. Epiphany is celebrated with special pastries in many countries, and children often receive small gifts in their shoes in honour of the Magi's gifts to the infant Jesus. The holiday also has a number of traditions involving water as a reflection of Jesus' baptism, including the blessing of houses with holy water.

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UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

January Walk

Chasetown and the Wyrley & Essington Canal

Date: Sat 21st January 2023

Start Time: 10.30 a.m.

Meeting Point: Chasetown Town Football Club Car Park WS7 3QL
(drive past the club on your left to the end of the road and the car park is on the right)

Walk Details: From Chasetown FC, we will walk into Chasetown, past St Annes's Church and various other Burntwood Heritage Trail sites (with little bits of information from me at various points about the history of the area). We will then cross over the footbridge to walk through part of Chasewater to reach the canal and then make our way back to the car park. All of the walk is on level, well surfaced paths.

Lunch

CHANGED FROM PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED

The Drill Inn,
33 Springle Styche Lane,
Burntwood
WS7 9HD
(dog friendly)

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO COME SO THAT WE DON'T SET OFF WITHOUT YOU.

beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com

01543 262211

Angie King 07907 691053



Warm Place of Welcome

Thursday afternoons

1.30—3pm

until the end of March

At Lichfield Fire Station



Join us for a
hot drink and
a chat in their
lovely warm
meeting room

EVERYONE WELCOME

PARISH ROOMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS REPORT

The project team have been working to a well tried and tested set of guidelines recommended by the Royal Institute of British Architects (“RIBA”). The guidelines seek to ensure that ground is only gone over once and does not waste money by completing tasks until they are required.

Earlier the PCC chose their preferred option for the layout. At this juncture the choice was more about the footprint and style of construction and less about internal layout.

Our next step was to hold informal consultations with the two major approvers of any building projects namely the Diocese of Lichfield, who will eventually consider granting a faculty and our local planning authority - Lichfield District Council who will give us planning permission. At this stage we were not asking for detailed building consent but for approval in principle to proceed. Outline approval in principle is a key step in the RIBA process as detailed design, local consultations (including the congregation) becomes an increasingly expensive step and without it we could not move forward.

Both approvers have now given us an amber light to move forward and in both cases have asked to view the results of the next key step which is site archaeology. Until we know that we can properly build on the site we cannot move further.

We have been fortunate in raising grant aid from the Edward Cadbury Trust to fund some of this work and a local archaeology consultant, Oliver Jessop, has been engaged to carry out historical research and a site investigation using Ground Penetrating Radar to locate burials in the area of the chosen building site. We expect to receive the report in January 2023.

As part of the remit of the development project and a condition of the grant is the engagement of the local community. We chose to use the archaeology phase to engage with pupils from St Michael’s School and

on a rather chilly day in early December two groups from Year 6 met the archaeologist and the geophysical surveyor to learn more about their work and to see the actual radar exploration taking place. The young people showed a great deal of interest in the work and asked a number of challenging questions.

Some pictures of the day are shown below.

Once we have the results back from the archaeologist we can decide if our chosen design is still feasible and move on wider consultation and detailed design.

Our project consultant, Greenwoods, continue to search for grant aid to assist with future steps in the project. Whilst obtaining grants in the current economic climate is difficult we do know that some grant making bodies have already indicated that they will view certain of the RIBA steps favourably so we remain cautiously optimistic.

Sue Jones, Alan Toplis, Richard Brooks and David Lingwood.



St. Michael's Churchyard Endangered Species Morning

A good number of adults and children came to our Endangered Species morning in November. We began with a Slide Presentation in Church, looking at examples of natural features to be seen throughout the year; and a look back at the unmanaged areas of the Churchyard before we began our Management Plan aimed at developing the Churchyard for people and wildlife. The final set of slides showed some of the improvements we have made over the last few years. We then went on a walk to see some of the ways in which we have endeavoured to increase the diversity of species that use our beautiful open space, including the herb garden, bug hotel, meadow, bat boxes, newly planted trees, fungi and log piles. We paused to look at the large ash and horse chestnut trees, both of which are sadly threatened with disease. We ended the tour on an optimistic note as we looked at the flowers in the new patio troughs and the tower beds, reminding us of the part we can play in trying to attract insects into our gardens.

**SAVE THE DATE: CHURCHYARD DAY:
SATURDAY APRIL 1ST.
10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

**Illustrated Talks - Wildlife Walks in
The Churchyard - Displays in Church
Worship - Free Refreshments - Learn
about Churchyard Biodiversity.**

The Churchyard In January

This is the first in a series of
photographs, taken by Maureen
Brand, of the Churchyard at different
times of the year.



SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We will be meeting on

**Saturday January 14th
from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.**

Do please join us if you can as we continue to make improvements to our beautiful Churchyard

Our main tasks will be

**Removing rampant plants from graves and making
log & twig piles for mammals**

All Gardening Tools are provided.

**Refreshments (Tea/Coffee/Cake)
will be served during our Mid-Morning Break**

For more information please contact Ray Allen
01543 251654
email: lesley@existenz.org.uk



A hideous and unnecessary aftergrowth...so substantial a deformity.

The church restoration of the 1840s

When first built, the entirety of St. Michael's church had a height roughly equivalent to the height of the current chancel. By the time of the Reformation, the high clerestory windows had been added, and the height of the chancel increased. The 1833 view of the church from the north shown in the picture shows the high line of the chancel - at the same level as the current nave. The original roof line can also be seen in the gable. Now a number of drawings exist in the William Salt library of the outside and the inside of the church in the mid-nineteenth century that are of some historical interest. From these it can be seen that at that time, there were box pews throughout the church, including part of the chancel. The main three decker pulpit and reading desk were situated in the south east corner of the chancel, near the current vestry door.

By 1841 however, it was clear that major work was needed on the church and in particular the chancel area. Part of the reason for this seems to have been the lack of care to maintenance given by the Dean and Chapter who were felt to have some responsibility as many of their endowments were within the parish. A request to them for support however seems to have had little effect and an appeal was launched to finance the rebuilding. A church rate was also levied which was probably far from popular. The architect Thomas Johnson from St. John's Lodge was retained and drew up a list of urgent repairs. However, Johnson persuaded the Vestry to go much further and restore the church to the Early English style. In this the Vestry were much influenced by the banker Richard Greene, a churchwarden and also the secretary of the Lichfield Society for the Encouragement of Ecclesiastical Architecture, founded in 1841, which seems to have viewed the early English gothic style as the only acceptable style for churches.

The work that was carried out by a local builder, Mr. J Johnson from Wade Street, was extensive, and to allow this to take place the church was closed from Easter 1842 to July 1843, with the congregation worshipping in the chapel of St. John's Hospital. The roof of the centre aisle was completely replaced, and the roofs of the side aisles extensively repaired. The singer and musician's gallery at the west end of the church was taken down and the organ placed in the chancel. The door on the south side of the church was closed and replaced by a window, and a new north porch was added. Structurally unnecessary buttresses were added to the south aisle. The mausoleum of the Donegal family of Fisherwick Hall was replaced by a stokehole over which a clergy vestry was built with doors into the chancel and the south aisle; and an organ loft was built over the vestry.

But that was not the end of the matter, The next part of the church in line for restoration to the Early English style was the chancel and further work was carried out to the design of Sydney Smirke This part of the work amounted, in my totally objective and unprejudiced view,

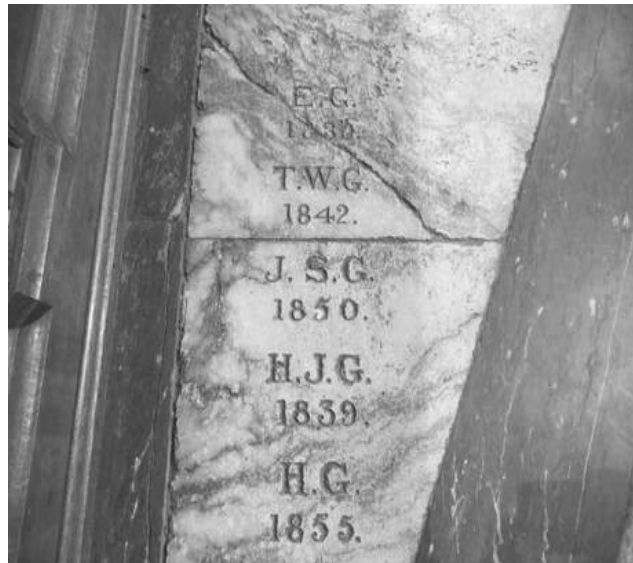
to large scale church vandalism, in the search to make the church conform to a theoretical ideal. The chancel was lowered, with the upper row of windows removed, the walls-plastered and a fanned ceiling built. The side windows became single lancets and the east window was turned into a three-light window, presumably removing much medieval glass. The finished article can be seen from the inside and outside in the figures below.



An interesting illustration of the passions aroused by church architecture at the time can be found in a letter from Richard Greene, the churchwarden and banker mentioned above, to William Salt where he writes that Intends to remove the chancel clerestory, '*a hideous and unnecessary aftergrowth... so substantial a deformity*'. Such were the tastes of some of that time, odd as they might seem to us.

Richard Greene was to influence the rebuilding further. On the north wall of the chancel we find the memorial to his grandfather - Richard Greene, Surgeon and Antiquary (d 1793) who is buried in the Cathedral, and many of the younger Richard's family, who died in the 1830s and 1840s were interred in a tomb in the centre of the Chancel. The hater of the original chancel seems to have taken the

opportunity of the rebuild he financed to install a family vault in the process.



Over the following decades the work of the 1840s came to be increasingly regretted. Major repair and restoration work was carried out in the 1890s, with cracks in the Tower being repaired, the lancet window at the west end being reopened, and much of the 1840s work on the chancel undone between 1891 and 1893. The plaster was taken off to reveal the stonework and the ceiling was replaced with an oak roof. The lancet windows at the east end were replaced by a new three light window, but it was not until 1897 that a new stained glass window could be afforded. and finally in 1899 the current clergy desks and choir stalls were added in the chancel, which then assumed its present form, which is very far from being “a hideous and unnecessary aftergrowth”!

Chris Baker

Late Night Listeners shift - Friday 25th Nov

Tonight was a change from our normal Saturday nightly outings onto the night-time streets of the city. In conjunction with local Police and Lichfield District Council, we were doing a Friday night due to the USA/England football match being played that evening. As it turned out, the rather lacklustre performance of England seemed to have dampened everyone's excitement. On this particular evening the lovely Yvonne, our local Community Safety Officer, had agreed to come and experience an LNL shift which from all accounts she found quite helpful to the role she has to play.

Some of the Police came and had a cuppa with us as well as a couple of taxi drivers.

Friday nights seem to have a distinct bias to the mainly younger people as opposed to Saturdays. Despite this some things remain the same, on our walkabouts we came across two homeless people; Ryan who was 'travelling through' from Derby on his way back to Luton. He told us that he had been on the road of and on for 9 years...the other was Marcus, who one of our team had come across before, he has a son who lives in Lichfield and he spends a bit of time with.

A lady called Karen came to our table asking if she could sit and finish her cigarette. She began to tell us how she felt her life was worthless and pointless, very down and feeling hopeless. One of the team spoke with her for some while which resulted in her leaving feeling a bit more hopeful and having been encouraged to try out an Alpha course which helps to explore the meaning of life from a Christian perspective.

Another couple stopped for a drink where the lady proceeded to share how she was made redundant from the local fruit and veg shop in Lichfield which had recently closed up due to the high rates. At her age she felt she was going to struggle getting another job. She was encouraged to persevere as she had many years experience of shop/retail work. Her and her husband already knew about the LNL from previous encounters and they were very supportive and encouraging of what we do...

Two of our team came across a man in one of the kebab shops who had a bad cut to his head but who seemed reluctant to receive any hospital treatment. He appeared opposite us later in the night with a group of younger people around him who were very concerned for his injury. One of our team phoned the hospital to be told that a paramedic could be with him in 6 hours! The Police were there and helped provide an Emergency Foil blanket and after much ado, agreed to take him to A & E (where he would most likely have another long wait but at least it would be in the warm).

After doorman Bobby had supplied our, now regular, takeaway chips, and the night air began to have a definite chill in it we packed up and looked forward to our beds.

David W-M

The Hawksworth
Family, in China,
would like to wish
you all
a very happy 2023
With love from,
Peter, Rowan,
Milo, Ellie, Rupert
and Gabriel

XXXXX



L

Environmentally Friendly Stuff

Going for the Silver Eco Award

Some more ideas from Ron's book '*Tips and Wrinkles*'



- *To reconstitute small pieces of soap into a 'new' tablet*

Put them small pieces that you have collected into an old cup or bowl with a few drops of glycerine and steam in boiling water until the mixture softens (like steaming the Christmas pudding). When cool, press into a ball, then shape it with your hands into a tablet.

- *New use for an old loofah*

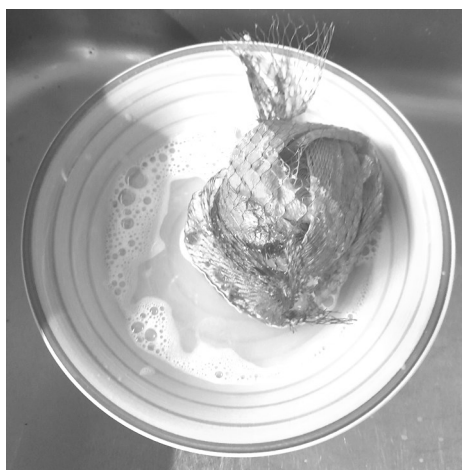
If you have an old loofah (or one that came as part of a gift set that you don't use), cut it into pieces and use it with detergent for cleaning surfaces. It will not scratch and can be used on non-stick pans.

- *Handy Storage*

Save screw-top jars and screw the tops securely to the underside of a shelf. The jars are then suspended from under the shelf. Useful storage in the kitchen, workshop/garage or study.

And finally, this is an idea I picked up when I was searching the internet. Making my own **free** washing up scrubbers.

I have saved all the netting that comes with fruit and veg from the supermarket. I filled the most intact net with the other pieces of net and then literally, tidied a knot in it.



One free scrubber, reusing stuff that was going to the tip. Best of all, because it is plastic I can bleach it as often as I like and it should last me for a good while.

Angie King

St Michael's families are invited to a

School Uniform



Exchange



Tuesday 3rd January 10-12 am
at St Michael's Church

Bring along your unwanted uniform
collect second hand items



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Refreshments and Children's Activities

School Uniform * PE kit * Coats

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Years mind 25th January

Birthday memories 29th January

for Kathleen Audrey Plimmer ,

PROVERBS

PRAYERS

CHAPTER 15 VERSE 30



A friendly smile
makes you happy,
and good news
makes you feel strong.

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

Smiling faces make you happy, and good news makes you feel better.

Good News Translation (GNT)

A twinkle in the eye means joy in the heart,
and good news makes you feel fit as a fiddle.

The Message (MSG)

The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.

King James Version (KJV)

The light of the eyes rejoices the heart,
and good news refreshes the body.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Dear God, sometimes life can get us down, especially when it is dark and cold and the cost of living is giving us tough decisions to make about our daily lives. It can be hard to stay positive, to smile and to see things to be thankful for.

Open our eyes to see the gifts you've given us, our families and our community. Help us to focus on the good things in life .

Jesus, we know that you are always with us. Help us spread your light with our smiles and make those around us feel better.

Amen.

Angie King

MEMORIAL BOOK

Having the name of a loved one written in our Memorial Book is another way of remembering their life. The Book is kept in the case in the Prayer Corner and the pages are turned twice a week, so that names are visible through the glass on the date of their death. It costs £10 to insert a name.

Please complete this form and return it to

✉ Parish Office, St Michael's Church, Church Street, Lichfield, WS13 6ED

✉ office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

Name of Deceased (as you wish it to appear in the Memorial Book)

Date of Death:

Age at Death:

Name of Contact (in case of any problems or queries)

Telephone Number:

Please make cheques payable to 'PCC of St Michael and St Mary'

If you wish to pay by bank transfer the details are

Bank: Lloyds

Sort Code: 30 95 04

Account Number: 00114488

Please label your payment: **MEMBOOK** follow by your surname

From the Registers

Baptisms		
St Michael's	27th November	Joseph Myatt
St Michael's	27th November	Thomas Myatt

Weddings		

Funerals		



Bible Readings

Sunday 1st January

Baptism of Christ

[White]

Isaiah 42.1-9

Matthew 3.13-end

Sunday 8th January

Epiphany

[White]

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday 15th January

Epiphany 2

[White]

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

John 1.29-42

Sunday 22nd January

Epiphany 3

[White]

1 Corinthians 1.10-18

Matthew 4.12-23

Sunday 29th January

Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

[White]

Hebrews 2.14-end

Luke 2.22-40

Sunday 5th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

[Green]

1 Corinthians 2.1-end

Matthew 5.13-20

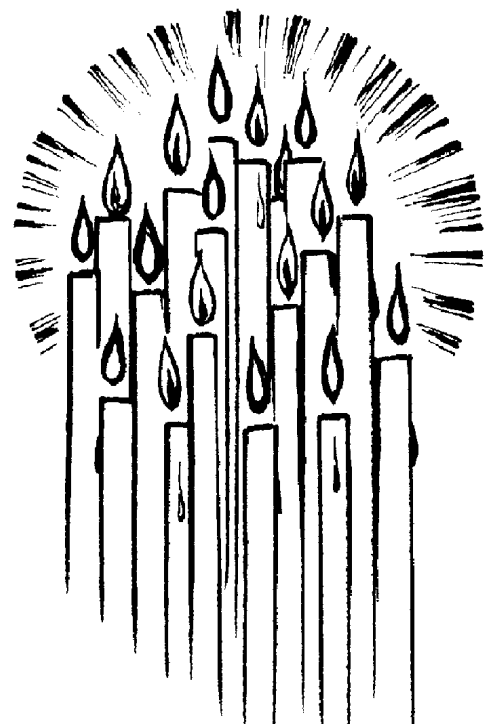
Sunday 12th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

[Green]

Romans 8.18-25

Matthew 6.25-end



St Michael's Rota – January 2023

Sunday 8.00 am	1 January	8 January	15 January	22 January	29 January
Sidesperson	David Bull	Brian Smith	Brian Smith	TBA	TBA

Sunday 10.00 am	1 January Family Praise	8 January	15 January	22 January	29 January
Sidespersons	Maureen Brand Elizabeth Allen	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Enid Barry David Bull	Pat Toplis Mike Jones	Viv and Stephen Oliver
Reader		Mike Godfrey	Angela Burgess	Maureen Brand	Brian Rostill
Servers		Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt	Kay Martin David Shiel	Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
Communion Assistant		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Intercessor		Elizabeth Salt	Trevor James	Kay Martin	Brian Rostill
Coffee	TBA	Sonia Doidge Lesley Allen	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Judy Godfrey Brenda Eley	June Frayn Betty Lyne

Sunday 6.00 pm	1 January	8 January	15 January Epiphany carols	22 January	29 January
Sidesperson			Ray Allen		
Reader			Ray Allen		
Server/ Communion Assistant					

..... and Finally

During Advent, members of St Michael's Church and school were busy baking and delivering tasty treats for members of the community who live alone, were recently bereaved or recovering at home following an illness.

Our thanks to everyone who took part in this important outreach. We wish you all a peaceful New Year.

Sue and Lyn
Churchwardens



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