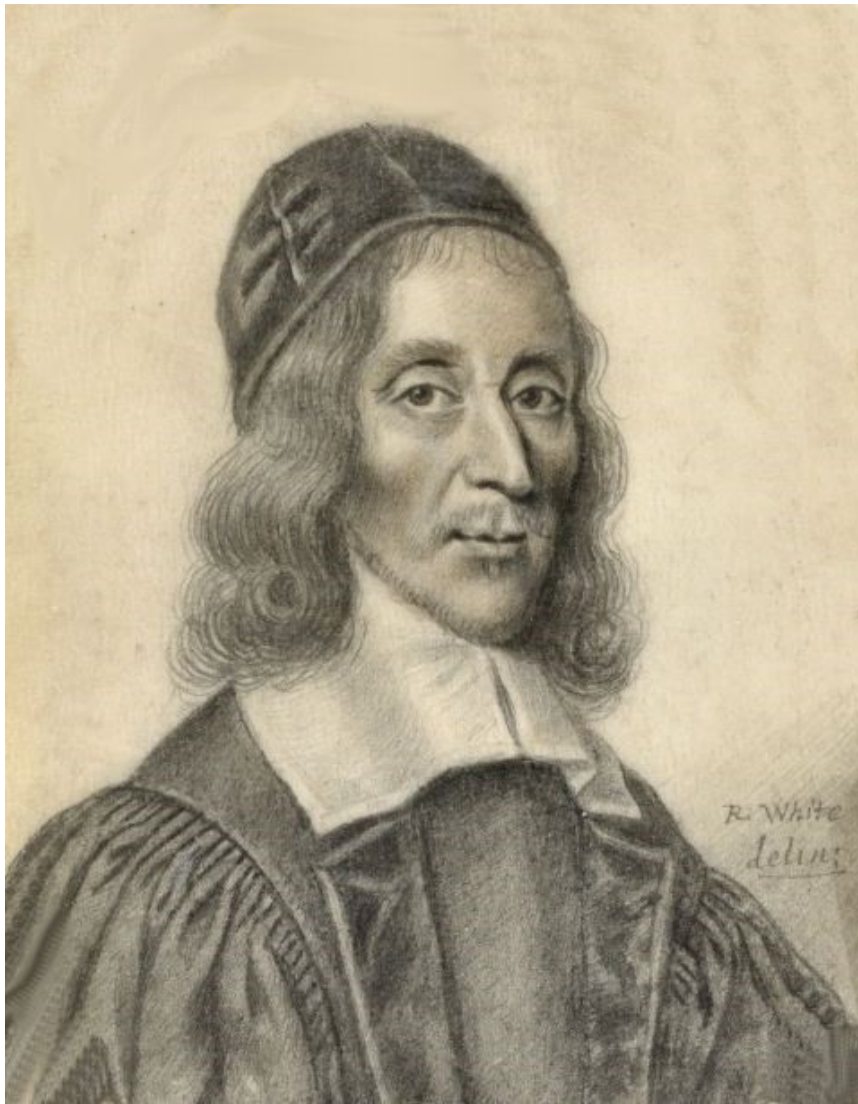


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2019



George Herbert, priest and poet—27th February

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

80p

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Curate: The Revd. Melanie Clark 25 Lister Avenue, Streethay, Lichfield, WS13 8FY Tel: 07751 072332 Email: revdr.melclark@gmail.com	Associate Minister (NSM Part-time): The Revd. Ruth Bull 36 Broadlands Rise, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9SF Email: dkbrlcb@hotmail.com
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St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED	St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS

Reflection for February.....

The excitement of Christmas is well past now; New Year has become a distant memory and here we are in February, another dark, cold month but without anything much to alleviate the gloom. As Christina Rossetti wrote,

On the wind in February

Snowflakes float still,

Half inclined to turn to rain,

Nipping, dripping, chill. from *A Year's Windfalls*, 1866

But is it all doom and gloom in February? The days are getting longer, with the sun setting a little later each day. The first signs of Spring are already showing, with snowdrops and crocuses abundant in the churchyard and perhaps in your gardens as well. Other bulbs are sending up their shoots, ready to flower as the warmth returns.

The trees will soon be covered with the tiny new leaves that burst out of their long-dormant buds. February may be dark and cold, but we know with a certainty that Spring will come round in due season.

On these dark, cold days of February it is easy to develop a sense of gloom and hopelessness when we look around and see the state of this country and of the world.

With all the political upheaval that has been going on in this country, we have witnessed examples of a clear lack of respect for people with differing opinions; disdain and scorn have often replaced meaningful debate.

In other countries across the world, diplomacy has been replaced by vitriol and inflexibility. Leaders of the nations refuse to accommodate or compromise in order to achieve the greater good, and would rather continue on their own narrow path with no heed for the wider view.

But just as the gloom of February should not make us despondent, neither should such a state of affairs. Just as we have the certainty of the coming of Spring after winter, so we have the certainty of God's love and care for us all.

Maybe February should be the time when we make an extra effort to follow Jesus' command to his disciples,

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35)

We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can all do a little to change the world around us. If we can reflect God's love for us, in the way we treat those we meet in our daily lives, who knows what effect that might have, what ripples of love and respect might radiate out from each small gesture.

Have a fabulous , friendly February!

Ruth

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



**Friday 1st
March**

Holy Cross Church
Upper St John Street
WS14 9DX



PRAYER FOR GEORGE HERBERT

King of glory, king of peace,
who called your servant George Herbert
from the pursuit of worldly honours
to be a priest in the temple of his God and king:
grant us also the grace to offer ourselves
with singleness of heart in humble obedience to
your service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/prayer-during-day-contemporary-wednesday-27-february>

Deadlines!

For MARCH 2019 Magazine:

Deadline is

MONDAY 11th FEBRUARY

Contact David Bull

Pew Sheet:

7:30am

every Thursday Morning.

Contact Parish Office

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

First Steps



Monday 11th February
10am St Michael's

Family Praise

Sunday 10th February
10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



SUNDAY 17th February

4.30 – 5.45pm

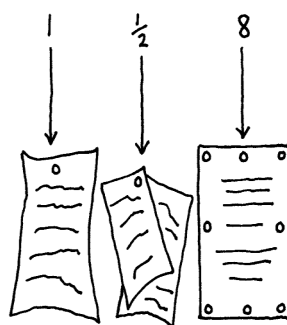
in St Michael's Church
Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome

CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS



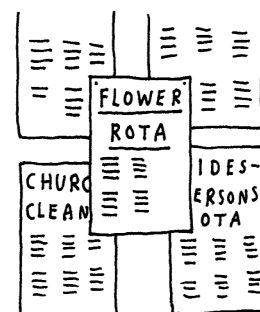
WRATH (DIRECTED AT
INVALID ADDITIONS)



GREED (USING TOO
MANY OF THE PARISH PINS)



SLOTH (NOT REMOVING
OLD NOTICES)



PRIDE (COVERING
UP OTHERS' WORK)



LUST (COVETING THY
NEIGHBOUR'S FONT, LAYOUT, ETC)



ENVY (RIVAL CHURCHES
POACHING OUR CONGREGATION)



GLUTTONY
(OVERINDULGENCE, ETC)

CartoonChurch.com

Parish Surgery

For Baptisms, Banns and Weddings, staff are available at the Parish Office in St Michael's Church, Church Street on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings in the month by appointment only. Please telephone 01543 262211 or email office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk to make an appointment.

Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion
10:00am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

Regular Services at St John's Sundays

10am Holy Communion

Baptism @ 11.30am

4th Sunday

Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

1st Sunday 12:30pm

Holy Baptism

2nd Sunday 6:00pm

Holy Communion

3rd Sunday 4:30pm

Messy Church

4th Sunday 6:00pm

Choral Evensong

Tuesday

School Service

Wednesday

9:30am Holy Communion

Music in the Benefice

St Michael's Church

Wednesdays

6.30pm Girls Choir

7.15pm Other parts &
St Michael's Singers

Monday before 2nd Sunday

7:30pm Music Group

Prayer Group, St Michael's
1st Wednesday of the month
Contact June Frayn (264920)
Brenda Liptrot (251863)



Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

Parish Surgery

Every 1st and 3rd Monday by Appointment from 6:30pm at the Parish office in St Michael's Church. Please call 01543 262211

Baptism

Preparation First Tuesday at
8:00pm at St Michael's

THE CHAD BLOG



Tributes have been paid to the Archdeacon of Lichfield after he announced he will step down to devote his time to parish ministry.

The Venerable Simon Baker became Archdeacon of Lichfield in July 2013 and carries out the role alongside his position as Rector of St Michael's Lichfield and St John's Wall.

He announced this week that he will step down on 31 May to devote himself to his Rector role full-time after his parish colleague, the Revd Linda Collins, announced she intended to retire in March.

The Archdeacon of Lichfield is one of two – the other being the Archdeacon of Walsall - in the Wolverhampton episcopal area, with specific responsibility for pastoral care for clergy in places including Lichfield, Tamworth and Cannock.

Simon said: "Retiring from the Archdeaconry at the end of May means that I will be able to conduct the round of Archdeacon's Visitations and say farewell and thank you to the clergy and churchwardens. I will miss my Diocesan role and responsibilities (though I may retain a few), and I will miss working with Diocesan colleagues, Bishops and my

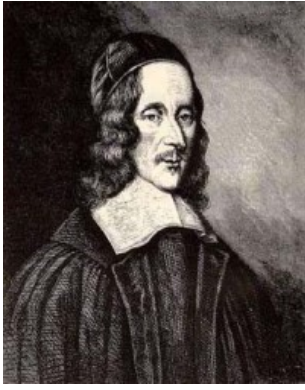
fellow Archdeacons.

“This is a positive choice and something I am looking forward to with renewed energy. There is a great deal going on in the benefice, with much more to do and wonderful people to work with and minister alongside. I became a vicar for the first time in 1985 and it seems a fitting way to spend the last years of my ministry as a parish priest once again.”

The Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Rt Revd Clive Gregory, said: “Archdeacon Simon has brought a wonderful mix of wisdom, experience, energy and humour to the role and the Archdeaconry has been hugely blessed through his ministry. I will greatly miss his collegiality as a senior colleague but am thrilled he will be continuing his wonderfully fruitful ministry as Rector of St Michael’s and St John’s.”

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, added: “I have greatly appreciated Simon’s insight, energy and care as archdeacon, his wide and deep knowledge of the Church of England and its law, and his unstinting support of parishes and clergy at local level. I am delighted that he will be continuing in his much valued parish ministry at St Michael’s and St John’s and so will still be in a position to contribute to the common life and mission of the diocese.”

An announcement about Simon’s successor as Archdeacon of Lichfield will be made in due course.



George Herbert, Pastor and Poet

27 February

Birth year: 1593

Death Year: 1633

Many people know of George Herbert only because of his popular and inspiring hymns. He wrote poetry from a young age and for many students of English Literature he is the finest devotional poet, whose work has wide appeal to those both inside and outside the Anglican Church and the Christian faith.

Inspired by Conflicting Desires

In common with most of us, George Herbert struggled for most of his life with conflicting desires. On the one hand, he was a gifted scholar who shone at school and university and for whom a glittering political career seemed to beckon. On the other, guided by his mother, he was conscious of a constant leaning towards a calling to ordination as a priest. This persistent inner turmoil was the source and inspiration of much of his poetry.

It was not until the age of 36, after considerable soul searching, that he resolved his innermost doubts. He gave up any aspirations to public life,

“Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing”,
originally a poem by George Herbert,
published in *The Temple*.

Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing,
My God and King.

The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly:
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.

Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing,
My God and King.

The church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out:
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing,
My God and King.

embraced the priesthood and accepted the living of the small, insignificant parish of Fuggleston-cum-Bemerton in Wiltshire. Here he found inner peace at last, serving God and the local community, and here his poetic talent was able to flourish. Sadly, this tranquillity lasted for only three years, brought to an end by his early death just short of his 40th birthday.

This is what John Julian wrote about him in the *Dictionary of Hymnology* (1907)

George Herbert, M.A., the fifth son of Richard Herbert and Magdalen, the daughter of Sir Richard Newport, was born at his father's seat, Montgomery Castle, April 3, 1593. He was educated at Westminster School, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating B.A. in 1611. On March 15, 1615, he became Major Fellow of the College, M.A. the same year, and in 1619 Orator for the University. Favoured by James I., intimate with Lord Bacon, Bishop Andrewes, and other men of influence, and encouraged in other ways, his hopes of Court preferment were somewhat bright until they were dispelled by the deaths of the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Hamilton, and then of King James himself. Retiring into Kent, he formed the resolution of taking Holy Orders. He was appointed by the Bishop of Lincoln to the Prebend of Leighton Ecclesia and to the living of Leighton Bromswold, Hunts, July 15, 1626. He remained until 1629, when an attack of ague obliged him to remove to his brother's, house at Woodford, Essex. Not improving in health at Woodford, he removed to Dantsey, in Wiltshire, and then as Rector to Bemerton, to which he was inducted, April 26, 1630, where he died Feb. 1632. The entry in the register of Bemerton is "Mr. George Herbert, Esq., Parson of Foughlestone and Bemerton, was buried 3 day of March 1632."

His life, by Izaak Walton, is well known; another Memoir, by Barnabas Oley, is forgotten. Herbert's prose work, *Priest to the*

Temple, appeared several years after his death: but *The Temple*, by which he is best known, he delivered to Nicholas Ferrar (q.v.), about three weeks before his death, and authorized him to publish it if he thought fit. This was done in 1633. The work became popular, and the 13th edition was issued in 1709. It is meditative rather than hymnic in character, and was never intended for use in public worship. In 1697 a selection from *The Temple* appeared under the title *Select Hymns Taken out of Mr. Herbert's Temple & turned into the Common Metre To Be Sung In The Tunes Ordinarily us'd in Churches*. London, Parkhurst, 1697. In 1739, J. & C. Wesley made a much more successful attempt to introduce his hymns into public worship by inserting over 40 in a much-altered form in their *Hymns & Sacred Poems*. As some few of these came into their collection of *Psalms & Hymns*, 1741, revised 1743, they were long sung by the Methodists, but do not now form part of the *Wesleyan Hymn Book*. No further attempt seems to have been made to use the *Temple* poems as hymns until 1853, when some altered and revised by G. Rawson were given in the *Leeds Hymn Book* of that year. From that time onward more attention was paid to Herbert alike by Churchmen and Nonconformists, and some of his hymns are now widely accepted. Many editions of his works have been published, the most popular being that of the Rev. Robert Aris Wilmott, Lond., Geo. Routledge & Son, 1857; but Dr. Grosart's privately printed edition issued in his *Fuller Worthies Library* in 1874, in three volumes, is not only the most complete and correct, but included also his psalms not before reprinted, and several poems from a ms. in the Williams Library, and not before published. The *Temple* has also been published in facsimile by Elliott Stock, 1876, with preface by Dr. Grosart; and in ordinary type, 1882, by Wells Gardner, with preface by J. A. Shorthouse.

The quaintness of Herbert's lyrics and the peculiarity of several of their metres have been against their adoption for congregational purposes. The best known are: "Let all the world in every corner sing"; "My stock lies dead, and no increase"; "Throw away Thy rod"; "Sweet day, so cool, so calm"; and "Teach me, my God, and King." [William T. Brooke]

A Priest to the Temple

Herbert wrote this treatise during his time at Bemerton. Sub-titled '**The Country Parson, His Character, and Rule of Holy Life**', in the preface he writes: "*I have resolved to set down the Form and Character of a true Pastour, that I may have a Mark to aim at*". While it was written to clear his own mind, it was also aimed at all those who ministered to similar parishes. In particular, he addresses the practical difficulties of bringing the word of God to poorly educated folk and the need for the clergy to set an example for others to follow. First published in 1652, it remains influential to this day.

Outlandish Proverbs

George Herbert's pleasure in brevity fed his interest in proverbs, which he collected over the years, and also possibly wrote some himself. The collection of over 1000 proverbs was first published in 1640, and again with additions in 1651 under the title '**Jacula Prudentum**'. Some of these sayings, such as '*Who is so deaf that will not hear*' and '*Good words are worth much, and cost little*', are still used in modern form today.

You can find out more at <http://www.georgeherbert.org.uk/>

My tender age in sorrow did beginne
And fill with sicknesse and shame
Thou didst so punish finne,
That I became
Most thinne.
With thee
Let me combine,
And feel this day thy victorie:
For, if I imp my wing on thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in mee.

Easter Wings is a poem by George Herbert also published in , *The Temple* (1633). It was originally formatted like this, sideways on facing pages and is in the tradition of shaped poems that goes back to ancient Greek sources.

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the fame,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:
With thee
O let me rife
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

FROM THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

George Herbert (1593-1633), Devotional poet.

by Robert White

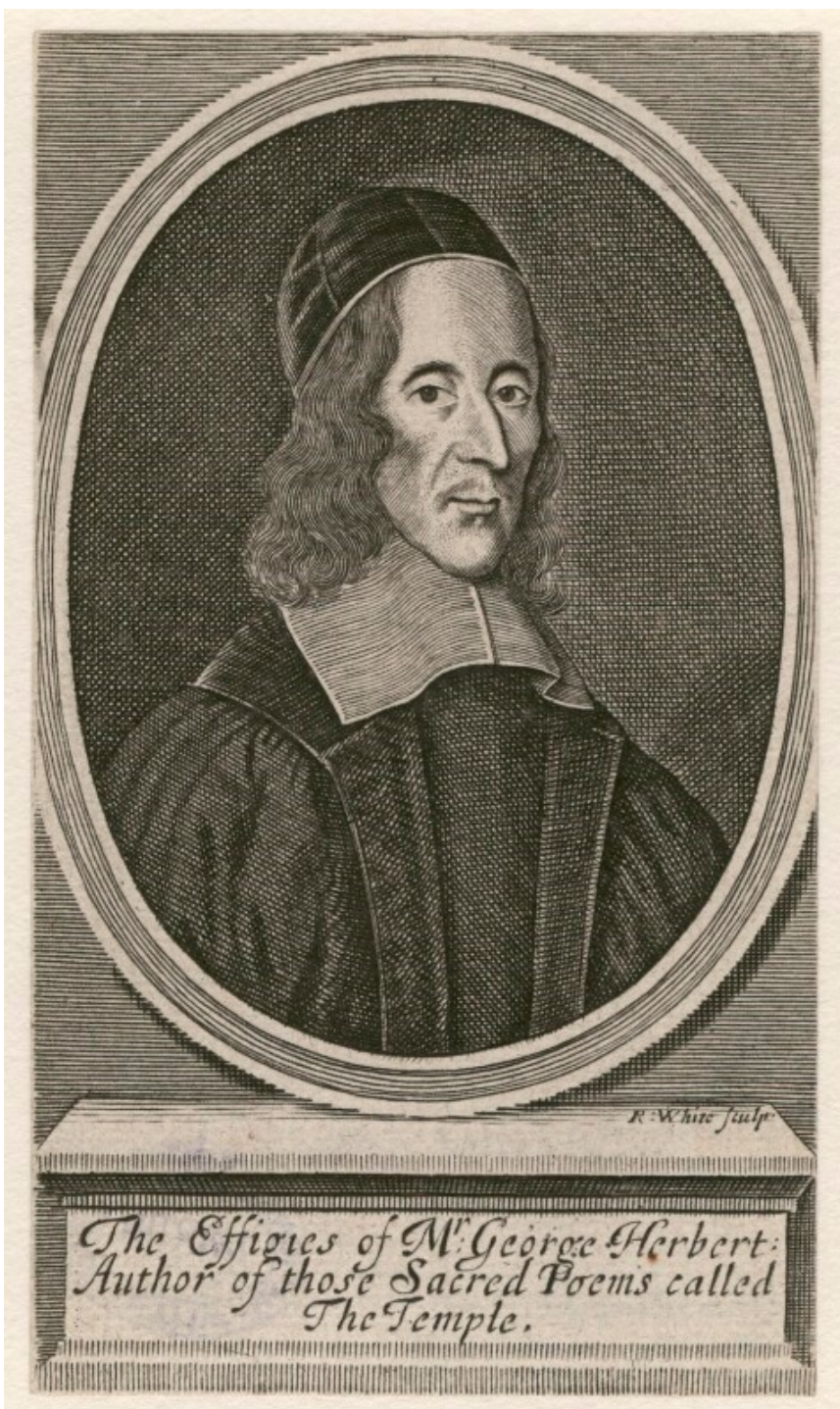
engraving, 1674

5 1/4 in. x 3 in. (133 mm x 77 mm) paper size

Given by Henry Witte Martin, 1861

Robert White, draughtsman and engraver, was born in London and was apprenticed to David Loggan, whose position as the leading line engraver for the print trade he later inherited. His output was huge,

and in fact has never been fully documented. White's principal activity was as a portrait engraver. He usually engraved these from his own drawings, made from life in black lead on vellum. The majority of his portraits were made on commission from publishers who used them as frontispieces for books. As well as frontispieces, he engraved book-plates, almanacs and architectural views. His son, George White, was also an engraver.





UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

We invite you to join us on **Saturday 23rd February, at 10.00 a.m., for our February Walk.**

This will be a walk around Chasewater Reservoir, bring your binoculars as the deer and winter birds will be about. **Dogs welcome.**

Parking will be at the Visitor Centre on the A5 and there is now a charge of £3 for all day parking. **Refreshments** will be half way round the route at the Railway Café.

The walk will end with **lunch at The Crown Brownhills, on the A5 at around 1.00 p.m.**, where we will be able to sit together for lunch.

The total distance of the walk is **3 miles, on level ground. There are no stiles but walking boots are advised.**

Please let me (Hilary) know if you would like to go on the walk as soon as you can, so that I can let the pub know how many people to expect.

I look forward to seeing you on what I am sure will be an enjoyable walk.

Hilary Barker: hilarymaybarker@gmail.com

Ray Allen 01543 251654



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

This is a great month of the year to go for a walk in the Churchyard to see the beautiful snowdrops growing, heralding the coming of Spring. There are lots to be seen in the large grassed area near to the Church; and in the wooded areas. Also, if you walk round the far side of the Churchyard where the old and new parts meet you will see some more clumps of snowdrops with much longer stems and larger flowers. Fair Maids of February they really are.



Here are two dates for your diary:

Saturday May 4th., at 10.00 a.m. Creation of St. Michael's Churchyard Meadow. All are invited to come along and sow lots of wild flower seeds in our new meadow area.

Saturday June 15th., from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Churchyard Bioblitz Day. A day for all the family. Wildlife experts will be coming along to help us to discover many different species of plants and animals in our Churchyard. This event is free and is being provided by the Charity "Caring For God's Acre."

There will be free refreshments at both of these events.

There will also be **2 more wildflower Survey Days in the Spring and Early Summer led by Mark Duffell.** The dates of these days are **Thursday April 11th.** and **Wednesday June 12th., from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.** These are also free as they are paid for by The National Lottery. Refreshments will also be provided on each of the 2 days.

This month our **Churchyard Working Party** will be meeting on **Saturday February 16th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** Join us if you can for a morning's work in the Churchyard. Tea/Coffee/Cake during the Mid-Morning Break.

Ray Allen. 01543 251654




**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**

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If you are reading this magazine for the first time and / or would like to have it delivered, please contact

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The annual subscription is £8 from the January Edition, payable by cheque to 'PCC of St Michael and St Mary'



MANY THANKS to all of you who deliver this magazine monthly and collect the subscriptions so promptly.



LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

St. Michael's Film Club

1. Book Club

(99 min. Cert 12. Comedy/Romance 2018.)

Diane Keaton and 3 friends rediscover romance and
the best is yet to come!

**Mon February 4th. 1.30pm start
in St Michael's Church**

Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church

All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

2. Johnny English Strikes Again

(89 min. PG Action/ Adventure/ Comedy 2018.)

After a cyber-attack reveals the identity of all of the
active undercover agents in Britain, Johnny English is
forced to come out of retirement to find the
mastermind hacker.

Mon March 4th. 1.30pm start



I really enjoyed this film despite a critical review from The Guardian! I found it uplifting, inspirational and heart-warming.

“Wonder” is based on a true story and a children’s best-selling novel published in 2012. August Pullman (Auggie) was a 10 year old boy living in Manhattan with his mum, dad, sister Via and dog Daisy. Auggie has Treacher Collins Syndrome which is a genetic disorder characterised by deformities of the ears, eyes, cheekbones and chin, but Auggie had inner beauty. He had many operations to correct the condition. He would always wear a toy astronaut helmet given to him by his sister’s once best friend Miranda when he was outside.

He has been home-schooled by his mum but his parents enrol him in Beecher Prep Private school for the 5th grade. He forms a close friendship with Jack but he is bullied by some children especially Julian. He is very hurt when he overhears Jack making fun of him behind his back. He becomes sick forcing his mum to abandon her mother-daughter day. Via is hurt and feels neglected amid all the drama surrounding her brother which gives the film a bittersweet counterpoint. A very kind and caring girl, Summer, befriends Auggie and sits with him at lunchtimes. Most of the characters are given backstories which sympathetically lets us into their private and sometimes lonely lives. Miranda is envious of Via’s close family life

and stops being her best friend. Her parents are divorced and she doesn't get much attention from them so she pretends she has a secure home life and Auggie is her brother. She becomes very popular with her new friends and Via is understandably upset.

This story is as much about the collective growth of all these children, to be able to "look" behind the surface, as it is about Auggie's maturing courage facing the world. At Auggie's graduation ceremony he receives the Henry Ward Beecher's Medal to honour students who have been exemplary in certain areas throughout the school year, for his great courage, kindness and friendship. His mum whispers in his ear that she is thankful for everything he has given to his family and for being himself. She says he really is a "wonder".

Some critics have dubbed the film "American schmaltz" but this did not detract from the valuable message of tolerance, kindness, friendship and acceptance.

Alison Anketell

"Owing to an oversight our guest reviewer of last month's Mamma Mia 2 was not given the credit due. It can now be revealed that it was Julie Parkinson".



Policy: Listening at the Grassroots (*an article from Families Worldwide: Mothers' Union resources for prayer and action*)

Forming policy should always be a process of listening to and understanding those it seeks to support, says Mothers' Union Advisor Mary Santo

Over ten years ago, I sat in a London inner-city school supporting a young girl with a disability and working with groups of children who had particularly complex needs. I remember one day when all of the teachers in that school were asked to implement a particular policy decision. On hearing the policy, I remember pausing and wondering whether implementing this decision was really going to help these children or whether it was going to take time and resources away from what would really help them. Faced with the reality of the practical needs of those in front of me, regrettably I concluded the latter. At that time, I had wondered whether those that had made the decision had spent time in similar school environments. I wondered if they had seen the reality of the lives of those young people. I wondered whether they had spoken to those people they wished to support or to those who had experience in doing so.

That memory of a disjoint between policy and the grassroots needs of people has remained with me. It stirred me to want to engage in influencing policy decisions, to ensure that the voices of those whom a policy seeks to support are the voices that help to define that policy.

A great strength of Mothers' Union is that we are a grassroots organisation. Members walk alongside and support the communities in which they live. Since becoming Policy Advisor for Mothers' Union in May 2018, it has been both inspiring and sobering to hear of the firsthand experiences of members from across the world. No matter where these stories and experiences come from, one thing has been absolutely clear: if there is a need to be met, where others may come and go, the members of Mothers' Union stay. Having worked in UK Parliament over the past seven years, I recognise that such insights and experiences are of great value when formulating evidence-based and effective policy positions.

You may have heard of MULOA – Mothers' Union Listens, Observes, Acts. MULOA is creating a safe space for open conversations across the world to address fundamental questions about Mothers' Union. Questions such as 'whose lives should we be reaching?', 'what difference should we be making in people's lives?' and 'how do we most effectively make that difference?'. You may have taken part in one of those conversations. MULOA is a significant opportunity for Mothers' Union members to shape the future together, based on what has been seen and experienced in your own communities. It can provide a strong evidence base to both determine policy priorities and to form credible policy positions – policy which can have a meaningful, positive impact within those communities.

At the same time that these valuable conversations are taking place, we are continuing to address those issues which members have previously said are crucial. Supporting healthy relationships and ending gender-based violence have been key policy areas for the

movement. Therefore, in Britain and Ireland for example, we are responding to the UK Government consultations on Relationship and Sex Education and on the proposed Domestic Abuse Bill. Globally, we continue to increase awareness of gender-based violence through resourcing communities for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign. And in March 2019, Mothers' Union will make recommendations at the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women on issues surrounding gender equality.

Looking ahead, Mothers' Union policy focus is to develop policy which is aligned to the needs identified by those at the grassroots. We will work hand-in-hand with members and staff, connecting policy to the ongoing practical community work of members. Our desire is to see real and lasting positive change. We must therefore ensure that Mothers' Union does not just develop policy, but policy which has grown from the grassroots.

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



Birthday Memories

January 29th 2019

Kathleen Plimmer



giving
nature
a home



Lichfield and District RSPB LOCAL GROUP

Are you interested in birds and wildlife?

Join us at our monthly meetings at Lichfield Guildhall for illustrated talks on a variety of bird and wildlife subjects.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and begin at 7.30pm and end at about 9.30pm with a half-time break for refreshments and chat. Admission £4.

Our 2019 winter/spring programme is:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8 th January | - Sherwood Forest |
| 12 th February | - Green Birding |
| 12 th March | - Inspired by Birds |
| 9 th April | - Wildlife of the Seychelles |
| 14 th May | - Wildlife in Australia |

For more information call Dennis Muxworthy on 0121 353 6886 or email dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com.



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A talk by David Emley

Tuesday 5 March 7:45 p.m.

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Contact (01543) 257812



www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup

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 pages are turned twice a week, so that names are visible through the glass on the date nearest their death.

It costs £10 to insert a name. Please complete the form below and return it to a member of the Ministry Team with the remittance.

Memorial Book

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
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WALL WOMENS' INSTITUTE FOR END OF YEAR 2018

We are now welcoming a New Year of 2019, and for many days of learning and friendship in our W.I. meetings. But a time of reflection for our November and December get togethers of 2018.

November was a delight of Humour, in the form of stories and happenings spoken by Pat Hall. Her title was "Life can be Funny", and her renditions certainly were. We were enthralled by this lady, who delighted us with times in her life and other people's lives, and who was full of Joy and who brought Joy to our meeting.

We also listened to Margaret Ball's day at the 100th Council Meeting at Stafford, where Rosemary Conley of Fitness fame, and Paul Martyn of Flog It, came to speak.

December meeting's entertainment was by Cherrywood Singers, Linda and Sally, who entertained us with guitar and folk songs and festive carols. They had been singing together for 15 years and first met in a Folk Club. We learnt that "Jingle Bells" written in 1857 was originally written as a song for Thanksgiving.

Two delightful ladies who began our Christmas season for us.

With much sadness though our dear friend Dot Booth passed away on 8th December after a short illness. Dot belonged to, and enjoyed many years with our W.I. and made many friends.

The Year of 2018 was very varied, and we look forward to 2019 with much of the same, having already started our programme with a talk on January 8th by Mr. Simon Wilson of Wilsons' Butchers Abbots Bromley. A BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR

Margaret Wilcox

WALL NEWS

Ramblings

February..... Christmas is well and truly over; the decorations have been put away for next year and the last bit of turkey, Christmas cake and Christmas pudding have been eaten. New Year Resolutions have been made – and probably broken already. We do not know what this year will hold for us in today's unstable world and fragmented society.

I would like to introduce you to **Nehemiah**. Our little SACRED (Simply a Chapter Read Every Day) group met him recently and have been very impressed with his qualities of leadership. He was an exile from his homeland who had risen to a position of great responsibility in the realm. He was part of the security team surrounding the monarch who therefore had close contact with him. One day he had bad news from his homeland – those who had managed to return home after their capture and exile, were struggling – life was hard and their city was vulnerable to attack. Nehemiah was very upset at the news and he wept, prayed and fasted. His king noticed that he did not seem his usual self and asked him what was wrong. He was petrified – one was supposed to look happy in the presence of the King – but he answered honestly and when the King asked him 'What is it you want?' he swiftly prayed to God before answering the King.

You can read all about Nehemiah in his book in the Old Testament – it is a good read. He became Governor of Judah, repaired the walls of Jerusalem which were derelict after the war, countered the opposition of those who tried to stop what he was doing and ensured that the Temple was functioning as God had intended. How did he achieve all of this?

He was a man of **prayer**; when he was in a difficult spot, he prayed and he saw how God answered his prayers. When it became clear that the task of rebuilding was going to succeed, the neighbouring enemies conspired to attack, *‘so we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat’*. He was a man of **action** and **common sense** as well as prayer.

His name means ‘The Lord is compassionate’ and he showed **compassion** and **wisdom** in the way he governed. He involved the whole community in the great and dangerous project of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem by dividing the task into manageable portions and, where he could, enabling men to repair the part of the wall nearest to their home.

He **was not a man to be spiritually compromised**. His enemies tried to get him to disobey the strict purity laws which were made to keep the Temple holy but he had the sense to realise the danger and did not compromise.

Read all about him! May we learn from him in our own journey to and with God.

Christine Higgs

A star in the Chancel

For many years now John Polhill has been coming quietly to St John's Wall to put up the beautiful star in the Chancel. I have never seen how he manages to get the star to be central and high in the ceiling. Just as quietly as it is put up it gets taken down at the end of Epiphany.

Thank you, John, for this extra touch of symbolism over the Christmas period.

Hilary

Community Carols in Wall Village Hall 2018

This is the first opportunity in the New Year to report on yet another pleasant event on the lead up to Christmas. Carols in the Village Hall brings together the community to join in fellowship. An evening of readings, carols and refreshments. This year the programme was lead by Rev. Linda Collins with the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas starting the evenings community singing.

Once again we had two beautiful Christmas cakes to raffle. This year the lucky winners were Charles Baskerville and Margaret Wilcox.

Thanks go to Eric Lunt who brought along his electric piano to accompany the singing. We are always grateful to our organists who give up their time at this busy period of celebration to accompany our singing.

Last Christmas Rev Denise Youngs led the programme for the last time before moving away in the new year to Ely. This year it is the last year for Rev Linda Collins to take on the programme before retirement this year.

It is a pleasant evening of fellowship to be bringing in their last celebrations with us at St John's.

Hilary

St Michael's Rota - February 2019

Sunday 8.00 am	3 February	10 February	17 February	24 February
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes

Sunday 10.00 am	3 February	10 February Family Praise	17 February	24 February
Welcomers	Alison Anketell	Angela Burgess	Shirley Trelfa	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones
Sidespersons	Brenda Liptrot Richard Keay	Viv and Stephen Oliver	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Barbara Home-wood David Bull
Reader	Alison Staines		Ted Green	David Easton
Servers	Elizabeth Allen Kay Martin		Kay Martin David Shiel	Maggie Easton Elizabeth Allen
Communion Assistant	Elizabeth Allen		Sheila Vaughan	Maggie Easton
Intercessor	Trevor James		Caroline Green	David Bull
Coffee	Lynn and David Edge	Alison Anketell Brenda Liptrot	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Anne Lingwood Judy Godfrey
Healing				Lesley Allen John Polhill
Transport	Martin Dewes	Elizabeth Allen	Ray Allen	Betty Bradbury
Flowers	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Sunday 12.30 pm	3 February	Reader	Intercessor	Server
Baptism		June Frayn	Caroline Green	Elizabeth Allen

Sunday 6.00 pm	3 February No service	10 February Communion	17 February Messy church 4.30 pm	24 February Evensong
Sidesperson		Ray Allen		Margaret Frean
Reader		Ray Allen		Margaret Frean
Server/ Communion Assistant		Phil Clayton		

Bible Readings

Sunday 3rd February

Candlemas

[Gold or White]

Hebrews 2.14-end

Luke 2.22-40

Sunday 10th February

4th Sunday before Lent

[Green]

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Luke 5.1-11

Sunday 17th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

[Green]

1 Corinthians 15 12-20

Luke 6.17-26

Sunday 24th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

[Green]

Revelation 4

Luke 8.22-25

Sunday 24th February

EVENSONG

2nd Sunday before Lent

[Green]

Genesis 1.1—2.3

Matthew 6.25—end

Sunday 3rd March

Sunday next before Lent

[Green]

2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2

Luke 9.28-36 [37-43a]

Wednesday 6th March

Ash Wednesday

[Purple]

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

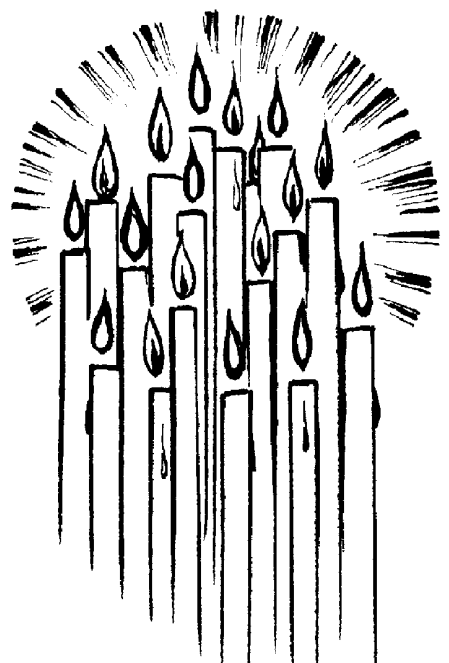
Sunday 10th March

1st Sunday of Lent

[Purple]

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Luke 4.1-13



From the Registers



Thanksgiving

St Michael	13th January	Albie Roger James Evans	11 mths
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Wedding

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At Rest

St Michael	19th December	Janet Walsh	70
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And Finally:

Kindness is the oil that takes the friction out of life.

But the fruit of the Spirit is.....kindness

Galatians 5: 22 (NIV)

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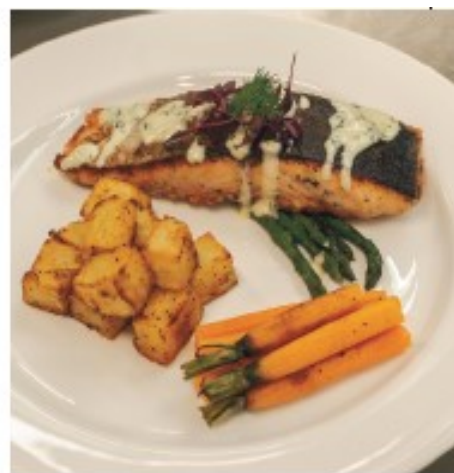
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Where? The Community Space, Tesco Extra, Church Street,
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Why? For a chat and a cup of tea with one of our support
volunteers. For advice and information on emotional/
practical and social support.

Who? If you are experiencing or have experienced
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information on how to cope with all aspects of losing a
relative or friend, and if we don't have information to hand,
we will endeavour to get it for you.

For more information telephone:

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Who's Who

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