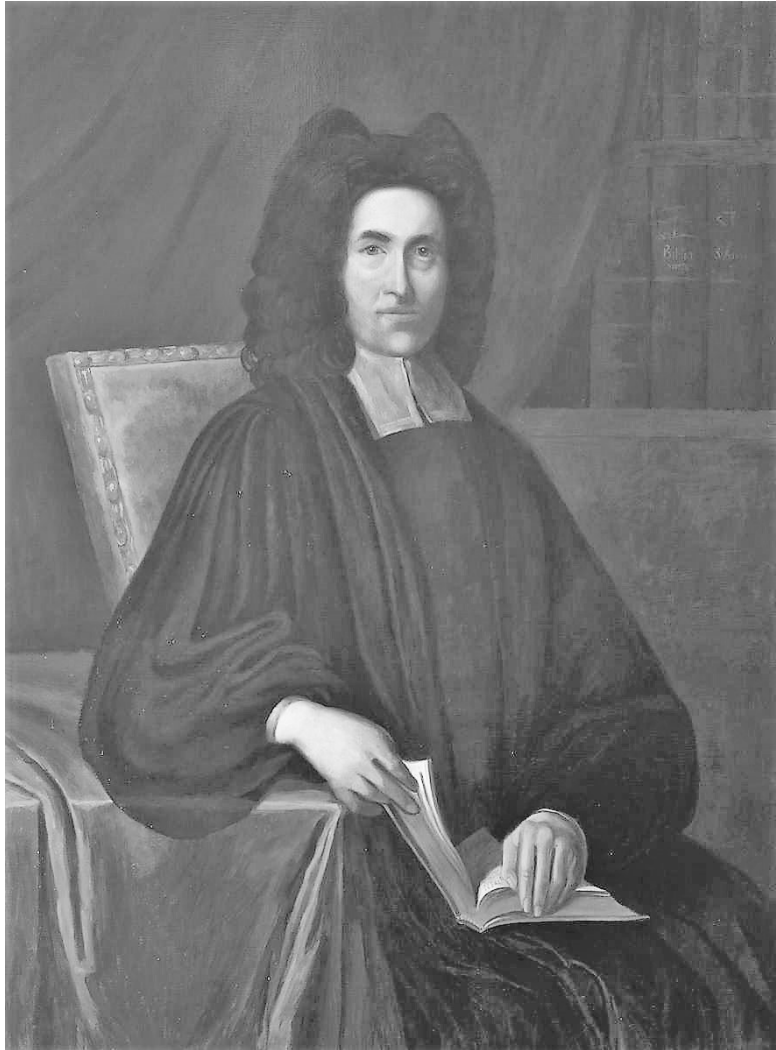


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2020



15th February

Thomas Bray, priest, founder of SPCK and SPG, 1730

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

85p

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<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: February 2020

It is time for all of us to take climate change more seriously. From all quarters now we get warnings that this may be our last chance to avoid the environmental catastrophe that is just around the corner. There is more coverage in the news of the effects of changes to weather patterns and rising sea levels, which affect most often the poorer countries of the world. There is much too about how we are poisoning the planet with the side effects of our consumer society; the rubbish that we dump and the pollutants so often carelessly discarded.

We can all agree, should all agree, that now is the time for each of us to act. It is time to change our life choices and the way we behave and time to radically review our expectation that we will be able to have more and more.

This is something that challenges each one of us and though the problem is of global dimension, the action or inaction of individuals can and will have an effect.

Nevertheless, all our response in terms of what we consume and the choices we make can seem as if it is only addressing the symptoms of a much deeper disease. There is nothing wrong with treating symptoms but if that is all that is done then we are in danger of relying upon quick fixes rather than fundamental change.

I believe that one of the deeper issues is that we have forgotten a significant set of relationships which lie at the heart of our very existence. These relationships are between God the creator, the creation itself including this small planet, and human beings of every race and culture. This triangular relationship, God, Humanity, Earth is

attested time and again in the Bible and rests on the conviction that the earth is the Lord's and we are part of it in relationship.

Modern consumer society has taken us away from that understanding. Separated as most of us are from what is grown and what is gained as raw materials, it has been easy to regard the earth as just simply material stuff to be used as we wish and exploited. Commercial transactions, on which we all rely, diminish the sense of relationship with nature, God and even each other. We have been taught to be individual consumers whose choice is paramount.

The triangular relationship is implicit in the Genesis account of creation. It is a story that sets out the nature of relationships rather than giving a "scientific" account of the origins of the universe. God creates out of nothing and everything that is made is seen to be good. God delights in its goodness, fruitfulness and perfection. There is a deep spiritual connection between the mystery of God and the mystery of nature and its myriad forms of life. Into this world of goodness and plenty God creates human beings "made in the image of God". Again, this is not an account of the origin of species but a statement of relationships. Human beings are made to be close to God and are given responsibility, stewardship and even mastery over the creation. But as the story unfolds humanity struggles to discern good from evil. This is not just a quaint story or myth of long ago – it is our story now. We struggle to know what is good and how to be responsible as part of the good creation.

One of the most significant insights that a refreshed understanding of this triangular relationship can bring us is the realisation that we are not alone- we are not individuals but made for each other. Each of us is related to God and to the earth no matter where we are or who we

are. For that reason, we cannot turn away and say that what is happening to our world does not concern us. We cannot ignore what is happening to people far away who we will never meet but whose lives are being changed now. We must act and respond and to do that we need to understand more.

Our Sunday 10.00am Services at St Michael's on February 9th, 16th and 23rd will be exploring more of these things and broadening our horizon and understanding.

Caring for God's Creation will be the theme of our Lent Study Course at St Michael's on Wednesdays 11th, 18th and 25th March starting at 10.30am. The course will include practical suggestions for what each of us can do.

Simon Baker

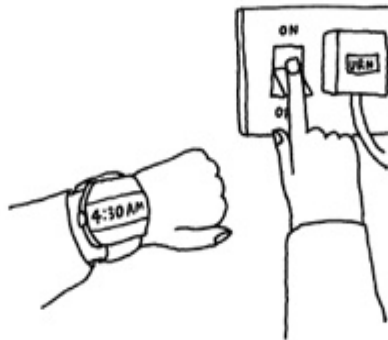
Rector



THANKLESS TASKS



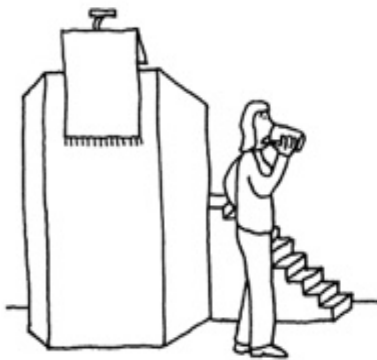
ANSWERING THE DOOR AT ALL HOURS AND FOR VARIOUS REASONS



TURNING ON THE URN



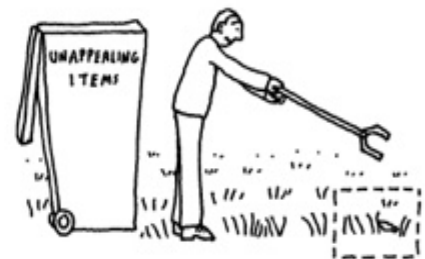
PICKING UP PIECES OF GLITTER ONE BY ONE



TESTING THE WATER IN THE PREACHERS' GLASS



ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND A DIFFERENT WALL TO KICK A FOOTBALL AGAINST



DISPOSING OF THINGS DISCOVERED IN THE CHURCHYARD

Cartoonchurch.com

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

Deadlines!

For **MARCH 2020** Magazine:

Deadline is

MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY

Contact David Bull

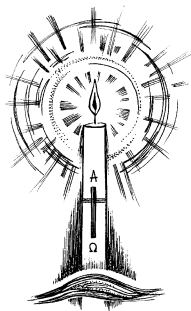
Pew Sheet:

7:30am

every Thursday Morning.

Contact Parish Office

YEARS MIND



KATHLEEN PLIMMER

25th January

Birthday Memories

29th January

Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who has collected the magazine subscriptions for 2020 and delivers it monthly.

Special thanks to Caroline Green and Betty Bradbury who are retiring from this job, also Betty who has also been on the church car rota for many years.

Barbara Homewood 255909

Prayer

God of mercy,
lost and disheartened,
we turn to You.
Instil in us Your hope and courage.
May our churches strive for
the unity
for which Your Son prayed on the
eve of His passion.
We ask this through Him who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2020/>

FLOODLIGHTING

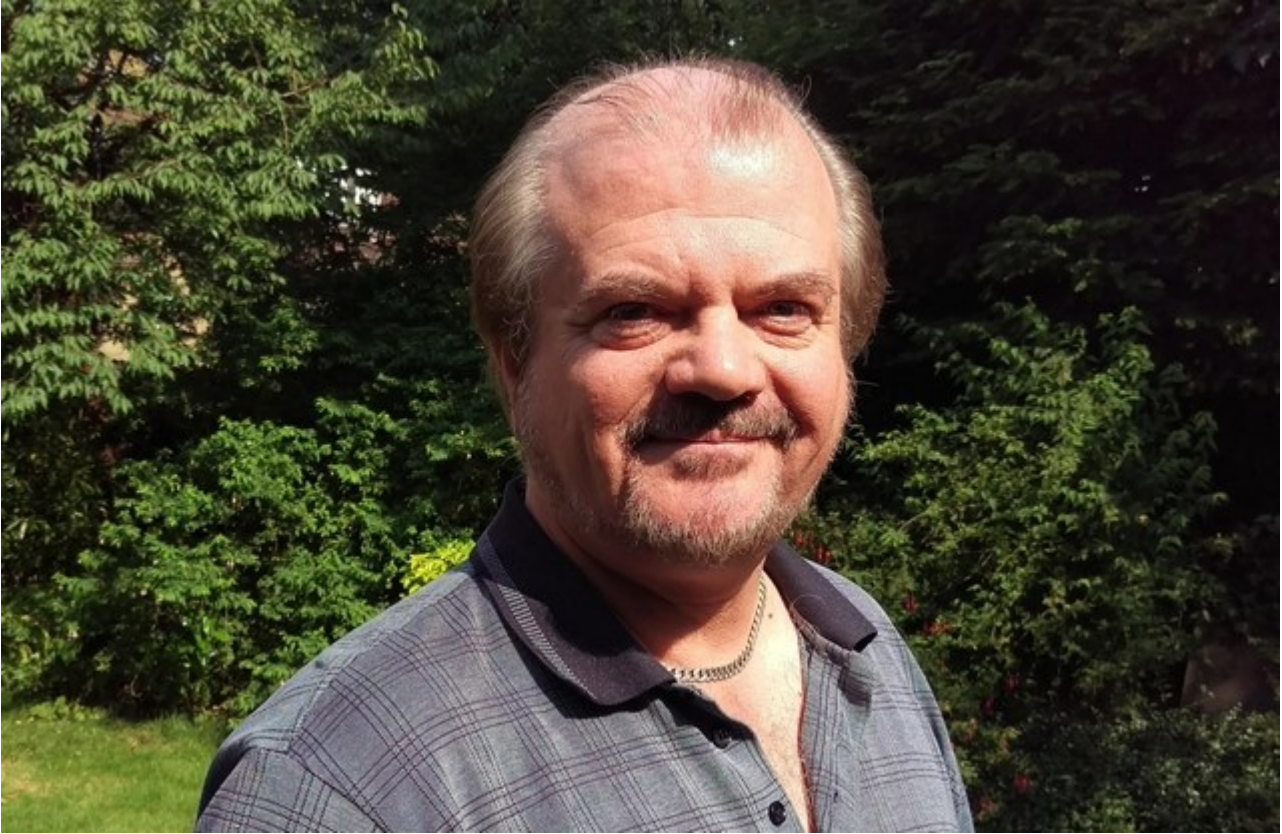
Sponsor St Michael's floodlights to mark a special occasion or remember a loved one!

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

**Contact the
United
Benefice
Office on
01543 262211**



DIOCESE NEWS



The Revd Steve Hollinghurst has been appointed to the new diocesan role of Evangelism Enabler with an Environmental Focus.

Steve will join the Mission Team, as part of the wider Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism (DVE) Department, in February.

The new post, believed to be the first of its kind, seeks both to respond to the challenge of the environment crisis and the Good News of a creator God.

Steve, who lives in Sutton Coldfield, is well known in the Fresh Expressions and pioneering world and has extensive experience in training and researching on contemporary culture, evangelism and new Christian communities. He was part of the team that developed the Forest Church movement.

Mission Team leader Simon Foster said: “This is an innovative post which takes seriously our diocesan priority of evangelism and our belief that the Church has something distinctive to bring to our response to the environment. We are delighted to welcome Steve to the diocese, and to the mission team and look forward to the passion, energy and vision he is bringing to this role.”

As part of his role, Steve will be identifying and developing a new flagship project.

Steve said: "The vision for the new role, which sees the link between evangelism and Christian commitment to creation care and climate justice, is really innovative. It is a vision I am passionate about. I am looking forward to taking up this exciting new post and sharing in that vision in the Diocese of Lichfield."

This year's Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio, explores Christian responses to the environment. It is also the Bishop of Lichfield's 2020 Lent Book

Copies have been ordered for the Benefice Lent Workshops—news about this will be in the pew sheets and the March Magazine.

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

Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

Baptism

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

St Michael's Prayer Group,

For information contact June Frayn (264920) or Brenda Liptrot (251863)



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 Saturday mornings** in the month by appointment only.

Please telephone 01543 262211 or email

office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk to make an appointment.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

First Steps



Monday 10th February

10am St Michael's

Family Praise

Sunday 9th February



10am St Michael's

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



Sunday 16th February

4.30 – 5.45pm

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

Thomas Bray (1656 or 1658 – 15 February 1730)



Some men accomplish or inspire more good in one lifetime than most of us would in three lifetimes. Thomas Bray, who died on this day, February 15, 1730, was such a man.

Born in Shropshire, England, he trained at Oxford and became an Anglican rector. His life took a dramatic turn when Bishop Henry Compton of London received a letter from Maryland pleading for religious instruction. The bishop chose Thomas Bray to investigate religious conditions in the American colony.

Various complications kept Bray from sailing at once. He used the delays to enlist missionaries to travel with him. He soon found that the older, more established clergymen were not interested in transplanting to the colonies. Bray found that only young men, usually poor, were willing to venture forth. But lack of funds meant that these men could not afford the costly books they desperately needed if they were to continue their studies and respond in an educated manner to critics. The immorality of the colonists could only be combated by tearing away the veils of ignorance, which meant books were needed. To provide them, Bray organized the Society for Promoting Christian

Knowledge (SPCK). With the help of many contributors, he acquired books and shipped them across the Atlantic.

Bray spent only ten weeks in Maryland. He saw at once that he would be more useful as a resource man in England. While in the colony, however, he reorganized the Maryland church, established a better system for examining candidates for the ministry, set in motion a system of parochial schools, and established thirty-nine libraries. In a day when fifty books were considered a sizable private collection, the SPCK put together collections of sixty and more volumes to ship overseas.

Bray also gathered data on the state of religion in the colonies and wrote an impassioned plea for Anglican missionaries in America. "My design is not to intermeddle, where Christianity under any form has obtained possession; but to represent rather the deplorable state of the English colonies, where they have been in a manner abandoned to atheism...for want of a clergy settled among them." His practical and foresighted plan received little attention, however. Neither did his appeals for the rights of Indians and of slaves.

Back in England, Bray founded another Society--this one for the Propagation of the Gospel. He continued his work with the SPCK. Long an advocate for placing lending libraries of religious works in all British deaneries, he saw his dream fulfilled as the SPCK and its faithful allies supplied England's churches with books. Bray also took a leading role in prison ministries. It was he who convinced General Oglethorpe to found the penal colony of Georgia. From 1706 until his death, he served as rector of Saint Botolph's Without in Aldgate, London.

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1701-1800/death-of-thomas-bray-who-did-much-11630211.html>

SPCK Publishing

More than a publisher. More than a charity. (Paul Chandler, former CEO of Traidcraft, Fellow at St Chad's College, Durham, and a member of SPCK)



<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/>

About SPCK

Christian mission: ours is the oldest Anglican mission agency.

Christian charity: ours is a dynamic charity that touches lives across the world.

Christian publisher: ours is the largest Christian publisher in the UK.

SPCK has been helping people find out more about the Christian faith for over 300 years. Its founder Thomas Bray was committed to tackling the problem of 'religious ignorance' in the seventeenth century.

This is still SPCK's priority while the UK becomes ever more secular:

- attendance in the Church of England has halved in 50 years;
- church membership is predicted to fall to 8.4 per cent of the population by 2025;
- over half the people in the UK say that they do not have a faith.

Here at SPCK, we are passionate about turning the tide of secularization

With the loyal support of our partners and members, we aim to ensure that Christianity remains relevant in these uncertain times and that it is accessible to *everyone*.

Everyone includes individual Christians whom we **encourage** in their faith and **empower** to talk about Christ with others.

Everyone includes people on the edge of faith whom we **inspire** to explore the Bible and ask how God works in their lives.

Everyone includes vulnerable and marginalized communities whom we **welcome** to the Christian family.

SPCK is, at heart, a Christian mission that operates through publishing to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

We reach out to a huge number of people through our charitable programmes!

Diffusion transforms the lives of prisoners throughout the UK by providing free easy-to-read books to prison reading groups. Questions at the end of each chapter focus on themes of empathy, self-reflection and the importance of making positive choices; they also encourage discussion between learners. Since 2016, we have sent books to 70 per cent of UK prisons and, through those books, have shown a huge number of people the way to a better future.

Assemblies is the go-to online resource for teachers wishing to provide a thought-provoking time of spiritual reflection in the busy school day. It is a bank of more than 1,600 assembly scripts that's being added to every month! All these resources are free to access, free to download

and free to use. SPCK was instrumental in setting up Church of England primary schools in the UK and it is still making a difference in schools today.

African Theological Network Press is pioneering theological publishing by Africans, in Africa, for Africa and the whole world. Since SPCK was founded in 1698, it has worked overseas to promote knowledge of Christianity. The Christian population is rapidly increasing in Africa, and it is only right that we support African Christians in sharing their perspective of Christ. The African Theological Network Press will provide a platform from which African theologians can share their insights.

Homegroups is currently being developed and will be the first online hub for resources for home groups. An essential part of active church communities, small groups are often where many Christians develop long-lasting friendships. By creating a reliable bank of study materials, we will empower all leaders, regardless of training, to lead inspiring Bible studies with confidence.

We publish quality books and resources under three main imprints.

SPCK Publishing is a recognised market-leader in the areas of Theology and Christian Spirituality, publishing authors such as Tom Wright, Rowan Williams, Paula Gooder and Alister McGrath. SPCK continues to gather recognition in other genres, including History and Leadership books written for people of all backgrounds, proudly representing authors such as Terry Waite, Melvyn Bragg, Janina Ramirez and Ben Cooley.

IVP UK (Inter-Varsity Press) is the leading evangelical publishing imprint in the UK, publishing acclaimed authors from the UK and overseas including John Stott, Don Carson, Amy Orr-Ewing and Emma

Scrivener.

Marylebone House publishes contemporary and historical fiction, short stories, and clerical crime mysteries. Exploring themes such as doubt, faith, brokenness and love, the novels are reaching a growing market of readers who appreciate perceptive, compassionate writing about human experience. You can learn more about Marylebone House

Why stop there?

We continue to support the Church of England in training the priests of the future. In partnership with the Sons and Friends of the Clergy, we have developed the Ordinands' App. This is a library of SPCK and IVP e-books that ordinands can access for free throughout their training.

We also administer the Richards Trust, which supports ordinands who have fallen on difficult times. <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/grants>

Every three years, we celebrate the very best in theological writing by awarding the Michael Ramsey Prize. A full list of previous winners and more information about the prize can be found at <http://www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk/>

SPCK
Communicating the Christian Faith

George Fox in Lichfield

George Fox has been here well before appearing on the front of this magazine's January edition. Have you seen the painting, now upstairs in St Mary's, which evokes the dramatic scene?

It was winter 1651 – only two years since Charles I had been executed – the Civil War had left a terrible legacy - the cathedral's damaged spire was a constant reminder of the deaths here during the repeated sieges of the city. Turmoil challenged beliefs – some became more dogmatic, others questioned certainties. Many, like George, went back to basics, so he used 'Church' for the followers of God – not a building. That's why they gather in a 'Meeting House'. (An established church building was called a 'Steeple House'.) They give each other no title – simply 'Friend'. The light of God known through conscience was a higher authority than any earthly organisation. Rocking the boat didn't make him popular and George had just been released after nearly a year in Derby jail.

Here is his account from his Journal.

"As I was walking along with several Friends, I lifted up my head, and I saw three steeple house spires, and they struck at my life. I asked them what place that was, and they said Lichfield. Immediately the word of the Lord came to me, that I must go thither. Being come to the house we were going to, I wished the Friends that were with me to walk into the house saying nothing to them whether I was to go. I stepped away and went by eye over hedge and ditch until I came within a mile of Lichfield; where in a great field, there were shepherds keeping their sheep. Then I was commanded by the Lord to pull off my shoes. I stood still, for it was winter; and the word of the Lord was like a fire in me. So I put off my shoes, and left them with the shepherds; and the poor shepherds trembled and were astonished.

Then I walked on about a mile and as soon as I was within the city, the word of the Lord came to me again saying, “Cry, Woe unto the bloody city of Lichfield.” So I went up and down the streets crying with a loud voice, WOE TO THE BLOODY CITY OF LICHFIELD!”

It being market day, I went into the market-place and to and fro into the several parts of it, and made stands crying as before, “Woe to the bloody city of Lichfield.” And no one laid hands on me, but as I went thus crying through the streets, there seemed to be a channel of blood running down the streets and the market-place appeared like a pool of blood. When I had declared what was upon me, and felt myself clear, I went out of the town in peace; and returning to the shepherds, gave them some money, and took my shoes of them again. For the fire of the Lord was in my feet, and all over me, and I did not matter to put on my shoes any more, and was at a stand whether I should or not, till I felt freedom from the Lord to do so; and then, after I had washed my feet, I put on my shoes again.”

After “a deep consideration” George reflected :-

“For though the Parliament had the minster one while, and the king another, and much blood had been shed in the town, during the war between them, yet that was no more than had befallen many other places.”

He was aware of a tradition (now not held to be factual) that

“in Emperor Diocletian’s time, a thousand Christians were martyred in Lichfield.”

Also, like any serious person of that time, he knew the Old Testament well, so the prophet Nahum’s denunciation of Nineveh was familiar – “Woe to the bloody city, full of lies and plunder.”

David Easton

Notes from St Michael's PCC Meeting

Tuesday November 26th 2019

The meeting included a discussion on the work of Lichfield Christian Schools Works Trust which supports vulnerable pupils in some Lichfield schools. The trust has written to churches seeking financial support to enable certain projects to continue.

After some discussion it was agreed that PCC should explore how funding is spent and invite a representative from the trust to come and explain the valuable work that it undertakes in schools.

Reverend Mel has a meeting with the Headteacher of Streethay school to determine how we can foster good relationships and support the school in the future. Streethay Carols will take place on Saturday 21st December at 5pm.

We also spoke about the distribution of Christmas cards on the development and a leaflet drop about the Carol Service.

Rector Simon reported that the first meeting of the ecology group has taken place with positive outcomes and the period between Candlemas and Lent there is an intention to have 3 Sundays with an environmental theme.

It was reported that the sewing group are currently working on some new banners that will be ready for the environment Sundays. They are being made from recycled materials.

A very successful bulb planting session took place with much involvement from the scout group.

We are to have some new signs for the churchyard and one new rule will be introduced that no car wheels should be on the grass.

The current work on the additional car parking area is now underway following public consultation as part of the faculty and planning application processes.

Rector Simon discussed the proposals for the development of the site where a gym is currently located and explained the legal requirements that the developer will need to adhere to.

Viv Oliver explained the finance report for the 9 months of the financial year and PCC liked the approach of £1 per week increase as it would make a difference to the general fund.

A draft budget for 2020 is to be prepared for consideration by PCC in February.

The new Parish rooms were discussed and PCC was impressed by the quality of the presentation by Greenwoods. It was noted that although 3 groups were engaged in discussion there was a great deal of unanimity amongst the participants.

The working group will be meeting in the new year to take the project further forward.

Mike Jones

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.

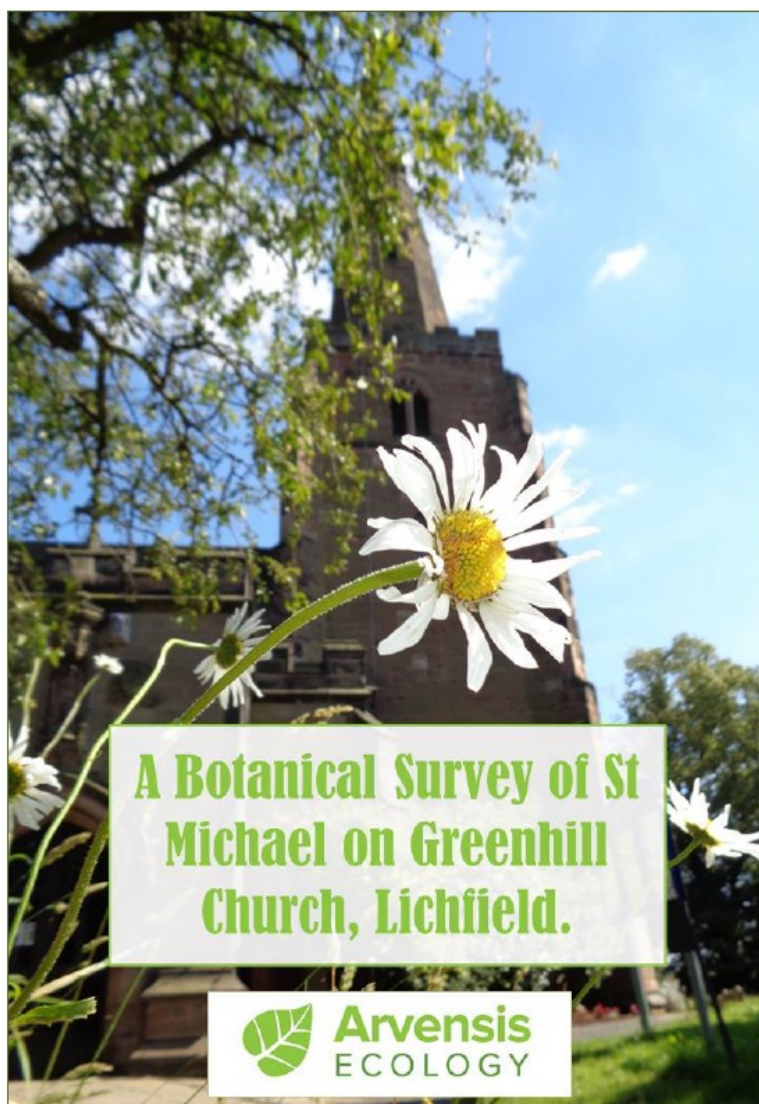
Memorial Book

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
'PCC of St Michael and St Mary'

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

The Report of the Botanical Survey of St. Michael's Churchyard has now been received from Mark Duffell, leader of the Tree and Wildflower Survey Days. Please let me know if you would like to receive a copy of the printed Report.



The Churchyard Working Party will be meeting on **Saturday February 29th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** We will be continuing to clear brambles and other plants from graves and headstones. Do please join us if you can.

Tea/Coffee and Cake will be provided during our Mid-Morning Break.

Ray Allen 01543 251654



St. Michael's Film Club

1. Downton Abbey

PG | 2h 2min | Drama, Romance

The continuing story of the Crawley family, wealthy owners of a large estate in the English countryside in the early twentieth century.

Monday 3rd February, 1.30pm start

Refreshments £3.00 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church

All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

2. Judy

PG-13, 1h 58min, Biography, Drama, Romance

Legendary performer Judy Garland (Renée Zellweger) arrives in London in the winter of 1968 to perform a series of sold-out concerts.

Monday 2nd March 1.30pm start

Film Review

January 2020



January's film was 'Yesterday' – a Danny Boyle, Richard Curtis collaboration. I have to say I wasn't looking forward to it as I just thought it would be a mish-mash of Beatles' songs with a bit of a story. However, it proved to be much more interesting and absorbing and the music was great.

The main character is an aspiring singer-songwriter called Jack Malik (Himish Patel) who is 'managed' by Ellie (Lily James) who is the loyal supporter and encourager at all his dubious performances for friends in coffee bars, pubs etc. Jack unfortunately quite early on has a serious brush with a bus at the same time as a freak cosmic glitch plunges the Earth into darkness for 12 seconds.. He awakes in a parallel dimension where the music of the Beatles is not recognised by anyone. He realises this in hospital after the accident when he says to Ellie "Will you still feed me when I'm 64?" Ellie's response was "Why 64?" Cue: Jack can now use his talents (previously not revered) to showcase all those well-known songs. He struggles with remembering some of the lyrics and Google isn't helpful as typing in Beatles persistently comes up with insects. 'Eleanor Rigby' proves particularly difficult.

There is instant success and clamouring for more and more music. Ed Sheeran gets involved and Jack acquires a slick American manager (Kate McKinnon) who exploits him predictably and wants him over in L.A. Fortunately Jack realises that the high life, wealth and stardom is not for him so he opts for the loyal love of Ellie in true Hollywood style.

Most people I asked had enjoyed it. One lady had seen it previously at Wade Street and hated it as she hadn't understood the significance of the early events. She loved it after a friend had explained!

Jan Whitehouse

WALL NEWS

Knitting Group

2019 was a very successful year for the Knitting Group. They have raised enough money to be able to buy 2 new altar cloths for St John's Church and to give £50 to the Air Ambulance, and £20 to the Salvation Army. They also bought £30 worth of food to give to the Food Bank just before Christmas.



As well as busily knitting for the stall at the back of church they have made items that Pathway need, baby clothes and blankets for Brushstrokes (a refugee charity in the West Midlands area) and have supported Saxonhill School with their project to support SANDS, a charity that helps families who have had stillborn babies. The knitters have made small white blankets that are used to wrap the babies in.

All the knitters who attend the Knitting Group would like to thank everyone who has bought items from their stall in church. Without your support they would not be able to give to charity or buy items that the church needs, so, THANK YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dr Pat Owen who has recently been awarded the title of Professor of Nursing at Keele University.

Traditional Carol Service at St Johns

Change can often be a good thing and this Christmas it was decided to hold the Traditional Carol Service in St Johns Church, Wall. It was an evening service starting at 6.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies. The congregation were able to sing the traditional carols with appropriate readings. The readers being male and female added to the style of the text.

Another change was the way the two beautiful Christmas cakes were won. Every one present had a chance of the winning ticket. The lucky tickets went to Andrew Ryman and Pam Towle. How appropriate that a cake should go to someone from both St Johns and St Michaels.

Hilary

Organist

Last year I had needed to become more acquainted with the CD player to accompany the hymn singing at some of the regular services. I am by no means a technical person so often made a few errors in pressing the wrong button at the wrong time. It has always made me nervous especially at funerals and weddings when particular tracks are requested to be played. I would never like to get the music requested in the wrong order.

Any way now we have another organist at St Johns called Paul Wright. He moved into Wall Village last year and I soon asked if he could help us out at our services. His organ playing complements the three other organists we are privileged to have. The rota is now complete and I have not needed to play a CD for some time. I wish to thank all of our organists for their skill in making our services stream like. I am able now able to concentrate on the service and not on needing to press a button at the right time.

Hilary

Ramblings

How many of your New Year Resolutions have you kept? I have quite a long list in my head but whether they will ever be put into practice remains to be seen! Sometimes it is the small things which count. I want to tell you this month about a small incident which happened the weekend before Christmas. My daughter and her family were staying with me with her two much loved and very energetic small boys! I happened to wake up at 6 am before anyone else was stirring, so I crept downstairs and made a casserole to go in the slow cooker for lunch. By the time everyone had surfaced I was somewhat tired.....!! The younger twin had decided he wanted to go with Granny to the Co-op for a coffee and a cake! We set out... very slowly as I was decidedly lacking in energy, but he held my hand which helped! I ordered a coffee and he chose a milk shake and a toasted tea cake before finding the comfy chairs to settle on! When the teacake was ready he went up to fetch it and then I sent him to find serviettes which I anticipated might be useful! This done he found a small pot of jam and brought it to the table. I sent him back to ask the lady how much it was so that we could pay for it. 35p was the answer. I was just about to take out my purse when a couple who were waiting in the queue waved at me and said 'Don't worry, we will add it to our bill!' It was a small act of kindness but I could have cried because it meant a lot. Sometimes the small things we do are as important as the big things and in them we can see the loving hand of God.

Christine Higgs



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 2020 winter/spring programme is:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 14 th January | - Plover Lovers' World of Delights |
| 11 th February | - Wild Queensland and Red Hot Centre |
| March | - No meeting |
| 14 th April | - Saving Nature |
| 12 th May | - The Long Spring |

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



RSPB Lichfield Local Group

rspb.org.uk/localgroups


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**LICHFIELD
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Wildlife Photography: Field Notes and Anecdotes



A talk by Andy Holt
Tuesday 4 February 7:45 p.m.

Wade Street Church
Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HL

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

Contact (01543) 257812

 www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup

Design: Edith Gaxiola

The Lichfield Wildlife Group will be hosting a talk entitled

'There's a Tapir at the Door, Biking Birder's Green Birding Adventures'

By Gary Prescott

At Wade Street church, Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HL

On **Tuesday March 3rd**

At 7:45

Cost £3:50

Non members welcome.

Peter Norbury (Programme Secretary Lichfield Wildlife Group)



LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP



Coach Trip to Gloucestershire



Photo: Peter Norbury



Photo: Snowmanradio

A visit to **Batsford Arboretum** to see the flowering cherry collection followed by a visit to Stratford **Butterfly Farm**

Saturday 18 April

Cost: £20 per person plus entry to butterfly farm (booking in advance)

Pick up at Boley Park Community Centre 8:00 a.m.

To book, please send a cheque, made out to 'Lichfield Wildlife Group', to:

**Lichfield Wildlife Group, 21 Charnwood Close,
Lichfield, SW13 6BU**

(Please include an email address so that confirmation can be sent.)

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

Contact (01543) 257812



www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup

Bible Readings

Sunday 2nd February

Candlemas

[White]

Hebrew 2.14-end

Luke 2.22-40

Sunday 9th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

[Green]

1 Corinthians 2.1-12 [13—end]

Matthew 5.13-20

Sunday 16th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

[Green]

St John, Wall

Romans 8.18-25

Matthew 6.25-end

St Michael, Lichfield

Romans 8.12-24

Luke 10.25-37

Sunday 23rd February

Sunday next before Lent

[Green]

St John, Wall

2 Peter 1.16-end

Matthew 17.1-9

St Michael, Lichfield

Psalms 19

John 1.1-14

Sunday 23rd February

Sunday next before Lent

EVENSONG

[Green]

2 Kings 2.1-12

Matthew 17.9-23

Sunday 26th February

Ash Wednesday

[Green]

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Sunday 1st March

1st Sunday of Lent

[Purple]

Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7

Matthew 4.1-11

Sunday 8th March

1st Sunday of Lent

[Purple]

Genesis 12.1-4a

John 3.1-17



From the Registers



Baptism

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Wedding



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At Rest



St Michael's	2nd January	Vincent Pickering	87
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St Michael's Rota - February 2020

Sunday 8.00 am	2 February	9 February	16 February	23 February
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith

Sunday 10.00 am	2 February	9 February Family Praise	16 February	23 February
Welcomers	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Maureen Brand	Anne Lingwood	Pat Toplis
Sidespersons	Barbara Home-wood Mike Jones	Viv and Stephen Oliver	Brenda Liptrot Richard Keay	Judy and Mike Godfrey
Reader	Ray Allen		Ted Green	Mike Godfrey
Servers	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt		Maggie Easton David Shiel	Phil Clayton Elizabeth Allen
Communion Assistant	Elizabeth Salt		Maggie Easton	Elizabeth Allen
Intercessor	Trevor James		David Bull	David Easton
Coffee	Caroline Green Brenda Eley	Alison Anketell Brenda Liptrot	June Frayn Betty Lyne	Lynn and David Edge
Healing				Lesley Allen Chris Polhill
Transport	Ray Allen	Elizabeth Allen	Ron Plimmer	Brenda Liptrot
Flowers	TBA	TBA	Lynn Rock	Lynn Rock

Sunday 12.30 pm	2 February	Reader	Intercessor	Server
Baptism		Kay Martin	Judy Godfrey	Kay Martin

Sunday 6.00 pm	2 February	9 February	16 February	23 February
	No service	Communion	Messy church 4.30 pm	Evensong
Sidesperson		Lyn Shiel		Ray Allen
Reader		Lyn Shiel		Ray Allen
Server/ Communion Assistant		David Shiel		

And Finally

Swallowing angry words is much better than having to eat them.

*A fool gives full vent to anger,
but the wise quietly holds it back.*

Proverbs 29:11 NRSVA.

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