

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2021



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

85p

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Reflection for February 2021

As many of you will have heard by now, I have announced that I intend to retire as Rector at the end of April 2021. My last Sunday will be the Sunday after Easter, 11th April.

I have not quite reached normal retirement age (if there is one anymore) of 65 so I am going a bit early. This is something that I have been thinking about for some time. It is not because I have had enough of being the Rector of St Michael's and St John's or because there is nothing left to do. On the contrary, there is a great deal left to do and there are some real challenges to meet in order for church to be put back together, with all our activities, as the current pandemic hopefully draws to a close. I will also miss the fellowship and support of our church community.

So, why retire now? Well, there are lots of things I want to do before I get too old. I have a wide range of interests, some are related to church life but there are others too. Over the years I have had some quite responsible roles which have often taken me away from home and which have demanded long hours. Before old age catches up with me, I want to be able to explore some new possibilities and some different ways of being a disciple of Jesus. That will mean picking up more on some things I already do but also looking for other things too.

It is quite difficult to do much work or volunteering in the wider community if you have a very full church leadership role. So, one of the things I want to look at is how I can possibly get involved in charity or voluntary work. I am not sure how that will work out, but ex-Archdeacons do have some useful transferable skills! We will be moving to an area of the country that is new to me (though very close to Devon where Diana comes from) so I will have to wait and see what opportunities there are in a different community and a different diocese.

The other important factor in retiring a little early is that I do want to spend more time with friends and members of my and Diana's families. Most of them are already retired and are more free with their time than I am currently.

As I reflect on our plans to retire, I see it as a new chapter not an end. As someone who was quite reluctant to be ordained in the first place, I am a bit surprised to have done as much and got as far as I have. None of us know how our ministries or careers will turn out. Sometimes opportunities come our way and we consider carefully whether we should take them. Sometimes we have no choice and change is thrust upon us. I have experienced both of those.

Someone once said, "All political careers end in failure", because that is the nature of politics and human nature as well. I suppose you could say that all church careers end in failure too. Few of us ever live up to the ideals and hopes that we had when we started out. We do not bring about the great conversions or the radical reforms that might have been our ambition. The Kingdom of God may have inched forward on our watch but that is all. That might seem a bit depressing but actually I do not think that our ministries end in failure at all. Judged by the standards of the world of career success it might seem like that, but in terms of our faith and our calling that is not so. Some might achieve great outcomes and be renowned for their leadership and what they have done – it is these people we remember and commemorate as saints and examples of good and godly living. But all of us are called to faithfulness and perseverance in faith. We are called to listen to God and the Holy Spirit prompting our daily thoughts, words and actions. St Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." That should serve to remind all of us that as we serve the Lord and seek his Kingdom we are building upon what others have done before us – an inheritance of which we are the stewards – yet it is God who brings about the growth and any good that comes

from our efforts. Faithfulness to our calling and perseverance for the sake of Jesus can never be counted as failure.

Throughout my life I have always tried to ask myself the question “What does God want me to do with this?”. It is a question that I ask in times of difficulty and disappointment and in times of success and when things are going well. I may not always have got the answer or the subsequent words and actions right. But it is a question that keeps me grounded and rooted in God – not just as a minister, but as a follower of Jesus. It is a question that can prevent me from getting too full of myself and certain that I am right; it can also stop me from indulging in self-pity or being too downcast. In response to the question there may be clear things to address and do. But sometimes things are not clear and prayer is always the right response – prayer and waiting upon God. “What does God want me to do with this?” is a question I commend to you. It’s a good question as we all begin to emerge from the restrictions, deprivations and challenges of the last twelve months. Dare I say, it is a good question for both of our church communities to ask as you look for a new Rector and work together. It’s a good question for Diana and me as we prepare to move to a new chapter of our life together. What does God want me to do with this? I have no idea at the moment, but He will make it clear in due time.

Simon Baker

Rector

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

St Michael's & St John's Bake and Deliver Scheme

Advent 2020 saw St Michael's and St John's introduce a new community outreach scheme in the Lichfield and Wall area. The Bake and Deliver scheme was devised as a way for us to reach out to people in the community (in a Covid-safe way!) who might be feeling low, or lonely during the Christmas period. We felt that this was particularly important this year when people are feeling the effects of Covid-19 through increased isolation, stress, or losing their jobs. Our plan was to deliver a small bag of Christmas baked treats with a friendly (distanced) hello from the deliverer – providing a point of contact, and letting people know that we are thinking of them and care. We also included items such as a benediction Christmas card, a Church of England prayer card and (thanks to the Sewing Bee group) some small sewn items. A nomination form was set up on the church website so that people could enter the details of someone they knew who might appreciate it.

We were really thrilled with the response to the scheme. Sixty-four people in the Lichfield and Wall area were nominated and received a delivery. There was also a wonderful response to a call for volunteers to bake and deliver, with twenty-five people volunteering for the scheme. We reached out both within and beyond our worshipping community with nominees and volunteers who hadn't previously been



connected with our churches. There was a great response from St Michael's school, with many parents nominating neighbours and loved ones and also parents and children volunteering to help. Overall, there was a really powerful sense that people in our community wanted to do something to help each other.

Some of our volunteers came back to me with stories of their delivery experiences, and many of their accounts were very moving and spoke volumes about the impact of the scheme. Liz Weston, a parent at St Michael's school, reported back on how one nominee she delivered to - who was isolating at home with her husband who is receiving cancer treatment - was so delighted and thought it 'a lovely surprise'. Elizabeth Allen told me about 'one recipient who struggles with her own health problems and still looks after her husband who has dementia and a son with Downs was thrilled.... "oh this is lovely" she said, "it's not very often that anyone does something for me."' Many deliverers conveyed how emotional that point of contact was, being able to share a bit of conversation from the recipient's garden, and hearing about how they were going to spend Christmas. For some it provided an opportunity to make connections with neighbours who they plan to continue to keep in touch with.



Because the scheme was a success and because we know that the consequences of Covid are ongoing, many volunteers have suggested we do the scheme again at some point soon. Watch this space for more news!

Rev Mel Clark



I would like to thank the volunteers for the scheme, without whom it wouldn't have been possible:

**Sheila & Helen Vaughan,
Ruth Bull,
Sue Jones,
Elizabeth Allen,
Liz Weston,
Barbara Homewood,
Alison Stephens,
Liz Clarke,
Jenny Danby & Amy,
Caroline Haddon,
Sarah, Richard, Katie and Harry
Brooks,
Jan Hewitt,**

**Lyn Elcock,
Melanie Arnold,
Lyn and David Shiel,
Jenny Bryant,
Linda Collins,
Kareen Lowther,
Hilary Barker,
Lynn Rock,
The Sewing Bee group for
kindly donating items,
Angie King in the Parish Office
for all her help and for donating
items.**

Some very good news to share

Will and Torz Stevens have welcomed into the world a beautiful baby boy – Arthur Hugo.

Many of you will remember Will as he sang in the church choir for many years and also played a pivotal role in forming and leading the 'Girls Choir'.

We send our love and congratulations to them all and to Alison Stevens on the arrival of her first grandchild and also to Gerry and Brenda Stevens for a most welcome great grandchild.

During this extremely difficult time for us all, it is wonderful to share this happy news to help brighten our day.

Magazine Subscriptions

Thank you to everyone who sent their annual subscriptions after reading the last magazines. I was able to safely bank most of the cheques before the current lockdown.

Barbara Homewood

Deadlines!

For **March** Magazine: Deadline is
MONDAY 15th February
Contact David Shiel

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

CATHEDRAL HOSTING VACCINE CLINICS

Published: 8th January 2021

Since the news of a viable and effective vaccine broke a new hope in the fight against COVID-19 has arisen. When the news first broke, back in the summer, the Dean of Lichfield, The Very Revd Adrian Dorber, wrote to Lichfield medical practices to offer Lichfield Cathedral as space for vaccinations. As a cathedral truly at the heart of its community, Lichfield Cathedral wanted to do all that it could to help serve the community.

The Very Rev Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield, said: "The roll out of these new vaccines to immunise us against COVID-19 was the best news of 2020! We want to offer this cathedral nave as a big space that can safely and securely house local vaccination programmes and enable speedy delivery to those most at risk."

This led to a relationship with Lichfield Primary Care Network, who have a long history and years of experience of providing seasonal flu vaccine clinics off site in community spaces. A spokesperson from the network said: "The Lichfield Primary Care Network, comprising of The Langton Medical Group and The Westgate Practice, is extremely pleased to accept the generous offer of the Dean, to use Lichfield Cathedral for patient vaccinations against COVID-19.

"It seems very apt to use the cathedral because it is such a central focus of community life in Lichfield and we are delighted to be offering this service to our shared community."

Lichfield Cathedral is an ideal space for holding such a clinic, with plenty of space for patients to queue inside the building safely, areas for multiple, socially distanced immunising stations, a secure area for storing the vaccine, ample room for patients to sit for their observed 15 minute wait, and a one way flow around the building from entrance to exit. The cathedral is also easily accessible with step-free access, accessible parking and is central and easily signposted for patients to get to.

The first vaccine clinic at Lichfield Cathedral is due to start on Friday 15 January, with set up by the team at Lichfield Primary Care Network on 13 January. Alongside the medical team the cathedral's volunteers will be available to be a welcoming face and help direct patients as they await their vaccine.

The Dean continues: "Lichfield Cathedral has a long history, dating back to its mediaeval beginnings, of being a space of welcome and healing for the community. We pray every day for our nation and community, especially for healing the sick and protecting the vulnerable. It's only right we offer the Cathedral as a practical means for those prayers to be answered."

Meanwhile, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield has granted an Additional Matters Order that allows churches and their halls to be used for vaccinations without the need for a faculty application.



St Michael's Church

THANK YOU
for supporting Lichfield foodbank

Your donations of food
make a big difference to local
individuals and families in crisis

In the quarter
October – December 2020
you donated the equivalent of
539 meals!

Thank You!

Find out more: www.lichfield.foodbank.org.uk

Lichfield foodbank is run in partnership with local churches
Registered charity number: 1162359 / Registered in England & Wales



CHAD BLOG

Published: 4th January 2021



A highlight of our Christmas was the opportunity to watch the new Disney Pixar film 'Soul'. When our children were young, the latest Pixar animation was a guaranteed summer holiday highlight.

Now we are all adults, I wondered whether a new Pixar film would have the same magic. I needn't have worried. 'Soul' is at least as much for adults as for children, not least because of its magical exploration of the profoundest of psychological and spiritual questions such as 'How have I become the person that I am?' and 'How to live?' Do we have to find a purpose or a calling to unlock life in all its fullness? Or should our attention be focussed more on attentiveness in the present moment, on making connections between the everyday reality we experience and the sacred space that underpins and surrounds it?

A key motif in 'Soul' is a falling leaf, which nestles in Joe, the main character's, hand at a crucial moment, helping him to see the world and his life through a very different lens. I was put in mind of William Blake's famous lines;

*'To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower.
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour'*

Can we really see the whole world in a grain of sand, or in a falling leaf? It's not only poets and film makers who encourage us that it might be possible. Adam Frank is a Professor of Astrophysics and he writes;

‘Through the lens of science we can see how even the smallest thing can be a gateway to an experience of the extraordinary, if only we can practice noticing. We walk past a thousand, thousand natural miracles every day, from the sun climbing in the sky to the arc of birds seen out of our windows. Those miracles are there waiting for us to see them, to notice them and, most importantly, to find our delight in theirs’.

As we enter more weeks of lockdown, it may be that some of us have more time and space to ‘practice noticing’, to develop our awareness of the sacred web that holds and connects us to the divine, and to find a deep joy in that sense of connectedness.

What better season for such a spiritual discipline than Epiphanytide, as our scriptures and tradition help us focus on the God who reveals himself to us in and through our earthly reality; a man in need of healing; a wedding in need of wine...?

In both of those gospel stories human needs are met and an epiphany brings transformation. Just as it did for Joe. Just as it can for all who are practised in *noticing*.

+Clive Wulfrun



St. Michael's Churchyard

Spring seems to start earlier each year in the Churchyard. I was walking in there a few days after Christmas and I noticed a few snowdrops were coming through. These beautiful flowers are not native to the UK but they have certainly made their home here since being introduced from Mainland Europe and The Middle east in the 17th. Century. This is a lovely time of year to go for a walk in the Churchyard. Please do this and see if you can spot other early signs of Spring as you go for your walk. Flowering plants to look out for in the coming weeks include crocus, daffodils, primroses and sweet violets. Enjoy your walks in the Churchyard. Here is a selection of photographs of the Churchyard taken in Late Autumn and Winter. I hope you enjoy looking at them.



The first of this year's snowdrops.

Ray Allen



A beautiful Late Autumn day in the Churchyard.



The Churchyard after a heavy snowfall in 2010.



John Louis Petit Information Panel in St Michael's Old Churchyard



The backstory to the installation of the new information panel in St Michael's Old Churchyard is that it celebrates the life and work of the Revd John Louis Petit [1801-1868], who was Curate of St Michael's [1825-28] and whose family resided in Tamworth Street from 1823.

Quite erroneously and inexplicably, the recent volume of the Transactions of the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society identifies Petit as Curate of St Michael's at Derby but the whole focus and orientation of his life was based at Lichfield, indeed to the degree that in retrospect he may be regarded in cultural terms as one of the most significant nineteenth-century residents of Lichfield.

His reputation stands on two separate foundations. Albeit untrained, he was an accomplished water-colourist, in the impressionist tradition. He did not sell any of his water-colours and only a few were exhibited in his life-time but posthumous evidence has emerged which reveals that, between the 1820s and his death in 1868, he produced about 14,000 water-colours and sketches. His illustrations are international as well as British, extending as far as Syria and much of Europe.



How he was able to commit himself to this prodigious activity can be explained by the fact that the Petits were an immensely wealthy family, originally Huguenot emigres from France, with extensive property and business interests on the edge of the Black Country. By 1834 he ceased full-time ministry and devoted himself to his painting and his other scholarly activity.

This latter was as a prominent opponent of the trend towards Gothic Revival in English Churches, represented by Pugin and the Gilbert Scotts. His book *Remarks on Church Architecture* was published in 1841 and is regarded as a principal reflection of the alternative view that church design should evolve naturally and not be cast in an illusory standard design derived from medieval times. His contemporaries recognised his standing as the principal alternative voice and he was respected, even by his architectural opponents, for his scholarship.

Latterly single-handedly Philip Modiano has placed John Louis Petit firmly in the public eye and demonstrated his national standing in the artistic hierarchy of nineteenth-century Britain. His book *Petit's Tours of Old Staffordshire* [2019] is available by request or on Amazon, and he has prepared another booklet on Petit which is due to appear in 2021.

The information panel is located in front of the Petit family tomb, where John Louis Petit and his sisters are buried.

Trevor James



The Children's Society

**No child
should feel
alone**

The Children's Society

Hello,

I did eventually receive confirmation and thanks for our home box contributions which came to £628:44.

I have pinned up the letter and a poster on the church noticeboard.

You will be aware that our next box collection and counting is only a couple of months away. Many of us haven't been using much cash lately, and consequently don't have a lot of change. If you would prefer to give me a cheque to send in March that would be great - we all have plenty of time to think about that.

The Children's' Society need our help even more now after this horrendous year, please don't forget your home box.

Many thanks to all of you,

Maureen Duff

An update from the Hawksworths in Hong Kong:

Christmas 2020 was a little different this year. When we decided to move to Hong Kong at the end of 2019, the plan was to be surrounded by family and friends from the UK. The outbreak of Covid put a stop to that.

This year we spent Christmas Day with our neighbour and her daughter, a 20 year old law student studying at Coventry University. It was lovely and the children had a really enjoyable day. We were able to have a very English Christmas lunch complete with pulling crackers!

We continued to go hiking along the High Junk Peak trail to Clearwater Bay country park. The weather over Christmas was glorious! Hot and sunny with incredibly blue skies.



On New Year's Day we met with friends and hiked up to Lantau peak. The peak is 934 meters above sea level and has some of the most wonderful views of Hong Kong, the surrounding islands and mainland China!



The hike was only 5k but took us most of the day to complete. After we summited, we then descended to see the seated Buddha. It's reportedly, the tallest bronze statue in the world. The statue is approximately 34 metres tall. At the foot of Buddha is an active monastery. It's a beautiful building with wonderfully decorated rooftops and traditional fighting dogs by the entrance to ward off evil spirits.



We recently took a trip to Lamma Island with some friends to explore the local community and what the island had to offer.

It's a wonderfully lush island with lots of trees and foliage. There's a jungle hike you can do that takes you across the island to a ferry port where you can then catch the ferry back to Aberdeen on the mainland. As time was against us, we decided not to complete the hike. Instead, we meandered through the streets past some wonderful food vendors offering grilled squid or grilled corn on the cob. The smells were wonderful! There are plenty of seafood restaurants to dine in as well. All have the traditional fish tanks outside that fascinate the children so much.

Lamma is perhaps most famous for its power station. At almost any point on Hong Kong Island, you can see the towering cooling stacks. They dominate the skyline somewhat. Deep Bay on the South of the island is the breeding ground for a species of turtle. The beach is

closed for a few months of the year to ensure the turtles are undisturbed by people. Rumour has it, turtles haven't been seen in the area for some time which is concerning. However, the wildlife we've seen so far has thrived in spite of being constantly encroached on by humans.

The current Covid situation here means we're unable to travel outside of Hong Kong, unless we're prepared to do a 3 week quarantine on our return. Schools are closed. Ellie and Milo continue to have online classes at home. Our daily confirmed Covid cases seem to be falling. News of a vaccine here is good, however, people are naturally reluctant to have anything that comes from China! We'll have to wait and see what Hong Kong comes up with!

We're thinking of you all! Please take care and stay safe.

With love,
The Hawksworths xx

The floodlights at St Michael's were lit on

January 29th 2021 in loving memory of

Kathleen Plimmer

25th January—Years Mind

29th January—Birthday Anniversary, age 80

Mothers' Union's best kept secret

Regional Development Manager Alison Fernandes celebrates the Passionate about Parenting programme

The Archbishop of Canterbury has often talked about Mothers' Union as the Church of England's 'best kept secret' and, having recently completed an evaluation of the 20-year old Passionate about Parenting (PAP) programme, I think we can argue that this has been one of MU's best kept secrets in Britain and Ireland! So here I am celebrating the achievements of what was one of our special millennium programmes.

Over the last 20 years, more than 350 people have become accredited by the Open College Network (OCN) as PAP facilitators. This wonderful cadre of volunteers have facilitated parents groups in churches, schools, children's centres, refuges and prisons. They have come alongside parents whatever their life experience, including those who feel excluded by society, parents of children with additional needs and parents escaping abusive relationships.

All parent groups are different, depending on the context and local needs of participants, but on average, groups have about eight parents in them and run over six to eight sessions. At the heart of these sessions is a desire to create a space for parents to develop self-confidence and to form and nurture relationships. PAP does not teach

parents how to parent or offer advice but instead it creates an opportunity for parents to meet, to listen and to learn, to be vulnerable and to solve problems together. The role of the MU facilitators has been to ensure that everyone in a group feels heard and valued.

‘PAP is impacting the lives of those participating and their families in a remarkable and valued way,’ says the external evaluator, Keith Etherington. The evaluation has found that for every £1 invested in Passionate about Parenting, at least £32 of social benefit has been brought about.

The positive benefits of PAP

In helping to build self-esteem and relationships, PAP has enabled parents to resolve family problems more effectively. It has helped parents to model healthy relationships with their partners and children. For some, it has reduced the risk of children being taken into care, or when children are in care, it has increased parental access and the speed in which children are returned to their families. Good friendships have been formed with other group members and been sustained after the group sessions finished, which increases support networks. In some cases, participation in parent groups has sometimes improved children’s educational achievement. One family support worker explained that, ‘it empowers parents and helps them to believe in themselves. One person went on and started to apply for jobs and is now volunteering. Doing the course gave her a sense of empowerment and belief that she could do things for herself.’

In prisons PAP has also enabled participants to improve relationships with other prisoners, with those in authority and with family members visiting. One facilitator explained how prisoners have developed empathy. After a listening exercise in one of the prisons a prisoner reflected on his relationship with his wife, commenting: ‘I never thought my wife had an opinion, I thought I was always right.’ While expressed in different ways, this attitude and change is quite common.

Working together

One of the biggest challenges of PAP has been to get groups started, so working in partnership with other organisations who have been able to link PAP facilitators to groups has worked best. These organisations really appreciate and value MU's involvement as it contributes to and enhances their ongoing work with families. MU as a movement of volunteers can often provide services a lot more cost effectively than other organisations and, because we are not coming in as parenting experts, facilitators are more likely to be accepted by parents.

Not only has the programme benefited parents and supported the work of schools, refuges and prisons; it has also benefited facilitators. As one of MU's prison PAP facilitators stated, 'when I retired, I never dreamt God would say to me "Go to prison" but I think it is the best thing I have ever done.' All facilitators that were interviewed as part of the evaluation reported a sense of purpose, meaning and wellbeing due to this volunteer role with MU. Their skills as facilitators also supported other leadership roles in the MU and, for some, it improved employment prospects, as well as increasing friendships.

Looking to the future

Over the past 20 years, our PAP facilitators have been working quietly and tirelessly and the recent evaluation has helped us to understand and celebrate the wonderful impact of their work. There are many things we have learned too and there are things we will do differently going forward. Do watch this space for how we plan to reimagine and build on these wonderful foundations in 2021 and beyond.

Cheer-up things could be [a lot] worse!!

Anyone who may be under the false impression that being a member of the Ministry Team or a Churchwarden is without its trials should contemplate on this nugget from Revd. Chris Baker which he found whilst searching in the Parish Archive for 1658.

"during the night of 13th. January 1865 the roof of the middle aisle of St. Michael's Church - FELL DOWN!!"

And whilst on the subject of church roofs we should be grateful that our roofing repair work at St. Michaels is finished, because - "in Brighton in 1876 work was in progress on the roof of St. Mary's Chapel. One night the roof fell in, followed by some of the walls!!

This resulted in the demolition of the Chapel and the building of St. Mary's Church where, in later years, Revd. Ruth Bull's father became Vicar.

Could be why he named her Roof (sorry RUTH).

The Editor



*St Mary's,
Brighton*

Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, AD 865



Saint Ansgar, Ansgar also spelled **Anskar**, or **Anschar**, (born probably 801, near Corbie, Austrasia [France] —died Feb. 3, AD 865, Bremen, Saxony [Germany]; canonized AD 865; feast day February 3), missionary of medieval Europe, first archbishop of Hamburg, and the patron saint of Scandinavia.

Ansgar, Saint

Saint Ansgar, statue by Engelbert Peiffer, Hamburg, Ger.

KMJ

Of noble birth, Ansgar entered the Benedictine abbey of Corbie in Picardy, where he was educated. After AD 823 he taught in the monastic school at Corvey (“New Corbie”), Westphalia, where he also began his pastoral work. When Harald, an exiled Danish king, appealed to the Carolingian emperor Louis I the Pious for support, Louis dispatched Ansgar to accompany and assist the king in evangelizing Denmark. Ansgar in AD 826 began short-lived missionary work in Schleswig. Harald’s downfall in AD 827 and the death of his assistant, Autbert, were blows to the mission, and in AD 829 Ansgar returned to the Franks. With the help of Witmar, a monk from Corvey, Ansgar began his evangelization of Sweden. The first to preach the gospel in Sweden, he was cordially received by King Björn.

Louis recalled Ansgar in AD 831, making him abbot of Corvey and bishop of the newly established diocese of Hamburg. Consecrated in AD 832, he initiated a mission to all the Scandinavian peoples and went to Rome, where Pope Gregory IV made him archbishop and papal legate to the Scandinavians and Slavs, thereby earning him the title of “the Apostle of the North.” At Hamburg, Ansgar founded a monastery and a school, and in AD 834 Louis endowed him with Turholt Abbey, to be used as the centre of his activities.

When Denmark had become united under King Haarik (Horec) I, he allowed the revival of Ansgar’s work in Schleswig. Ansgar lost Turholt after Louis I’s death (AD 840); and in AD 845 Northmen destroyed Hamburg, and the Swedish missions were extinguished by the expulsion of Bishop Gautbert. Returning to paganism, Sweden and Denmark rejected Christianity.

In AD 847 Louis the German, king of the East Franks, made Ansgar bishop of Bremen, from where he revived and redirected his northern evangelization. He dispatched a missionary to Sweden in AD 851 and converted the succeeding Danish king Haarik II. He then went to Sweden (AD 853–AD 854), where the king (himself destined for conversion) allowed the Christian missionaries to preach. Ansgar succeeded in thwarting a pagan rebellion before returning to Bremen. He was proclaimed a saint by his successor, Rembert, and Pope Nicholas I the Great approved the proclamation.

This article was most recently revised and updated by [Amy Tikkanen](#), Corrections Manager.
Citation Information

Article Title: Saint Ansgar

Website Name: Encyclopaedia Britannica

Publisher: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

Date Published: 30 January 2020

URL: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Ansgar>

Access Date: January 11, 2021

WALL NEWS

Found and Lost

The Chi-Rho (Ky-Ro) Bowl discovered at Wall in Staffordshire

We often read in the press of unusual items which are brought to valuation days organised by various auction houses, and then we follow the frisson of excitement when such an item is then successfully sold for an unexpectedly high price.

In the historical and archaeological world, sometimes, however, we are aware of the reverse situation. An item is unearthed or discovered, reported and exhibited, and then disappears from public view and awareness.

One such example is a small bronze bowl excavated at Wall, the historic Letocetum, in 1922. It was exhibited in 1924 by a Mr F. Jackson of Wroxeter at a meeting of the Birmingham Archaeological Society, and fortuitously was photographed, but has not been seen since that time. Why is a 3 ½ in. diameter bowl made of very thin and embossed metal so important? The reason is that it bears the early

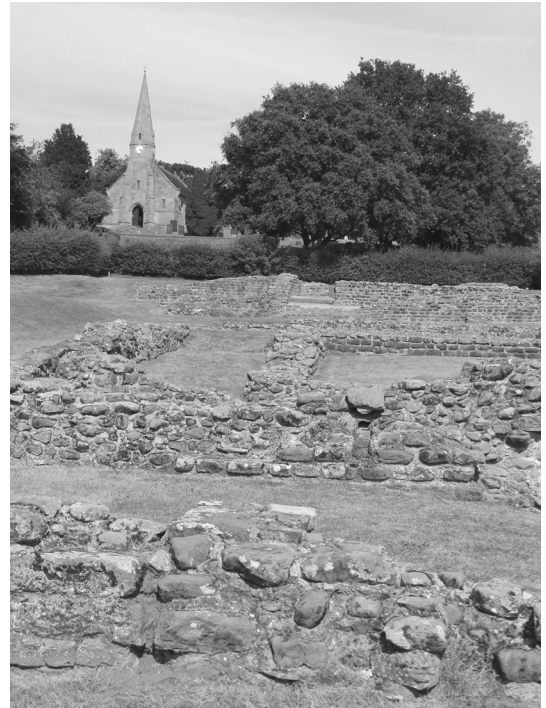
Christian Chi-Rho symbol. The fact that it bears this symbol is now much more significant to us than when Mr Jackson excavated it at an



undisclosed location at Wall a century ago. The reason why it is now so much more significant is that a series of mid-twentieth century discoveries of the early Chi-Rho symbol at various Romano-British sites means that this bowl is part a much earlier Christian story in Britain. The presence of the Chi-Rho motif tells us that Christians were present at a location in Roman times. A Roman mosaic at Hinton St Mary in Dorset [discovered 1963] and a wall decoration at a Roman archaeological site at Lullingstone in Kent [discovered c1949] are both structural examples that exhibit the Chi-Rho symbol and are very visibly potent and substantial signs of the emerging evidence of that early Christian presence, and Wall's bronze bowl is a significant element in this archaeological jig-saw.

The Chi-Rho evidence is something of a counterbalance to the picture provided by the Venerable Bede in his *A History of the English Church and People* [AD 731], from which source it would be easy to form the view that active Christian mission had commenced in south-east England under the leadership of St Augustine from AD 597; and that a parallel mission had reached Northumbria from Iona in ADc635. Bede's acknowledgement of a continuous Christian presence from the Roman era was very sparse: his determination to ignore the Christians of the west and south-west was broken twice when he reported an unsuccessful meeting between St Augustine and some of their representatives in AD 603 and the fact that St Chad was originally consecrated by Bishop Wini of Winchester and two 'British bishops' whose status was not recognised by the Roman Church. This thus had rendered his consecration uncanonical because they were not part of the clear Apostolic Succession from the time of St Peter. The general picture presented by Bede is one of the newness of Christian activity rather than continuity. The Chi-Rho evidence is an antidote to that perspective because it confirms a degree of continuity, and this is continuing further to be informed by modern archaeological discoveries.

This discovery at Wall is of national importance but it also emphasises the reality of a continuing Christian story from the days of the Roman Empire, long before St Chad came to Lichfield in AD 669 and suggests at the very least that, when St Chad arrived, he was coming to a location which already had a continuing Christian presence.



Trevor James

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.

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From the Registers

Funerals

17/12/2020	St Michael	Samuel Lamburn	94
21/12/2020	St John	Eileen Barbara Fletcher	89
07/01/2021	St John	John Joseph (Sean) Drew	56
11-01-2021	St Michael	William Thomas Hill	96

And Finally

What we do today is more important than what we plan to do in the future.

Jack Hyles

Bible Readings

Sunday 3rd January

Epiphany

[White]

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday 10th January

Baptism of Christ

[White]

Acts 19.1-7

Mark 1.4-11

Sunday 17th January

Epiphany 2

[White]

Revelations 5.1-10

John 1.43-end

Sunday 24th January

Epiphany 3

[White]

Revelations 19.6-10

John 2.1-11

Sunday 31st January

Candlemas

[White]

Hebrews 2.14-end

Luke 2.22-40

Sunday 7th February

Second Sunday before Lent

[Green]

Colossians 1.15-20

John 1.1-14

Sunday 14th February

Sunday next before Lent

[White]

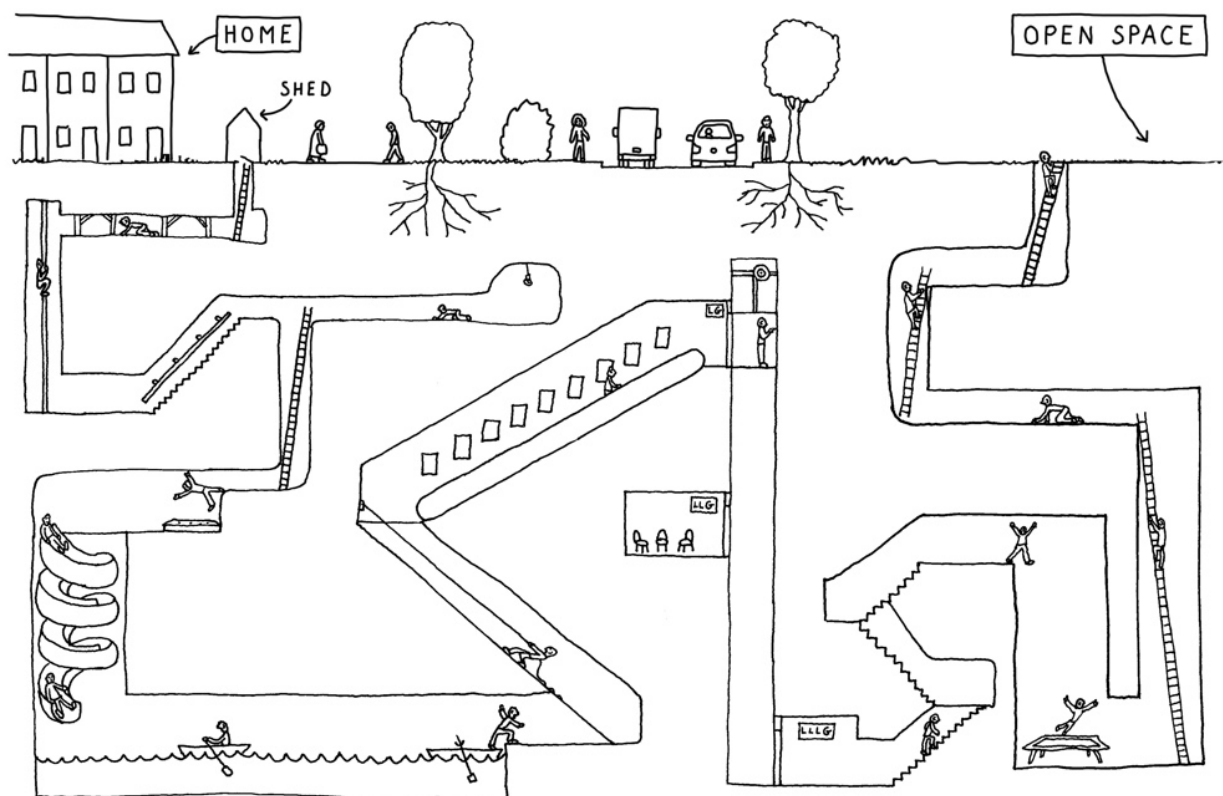
Acts 19.1-7

Mark 1.4-11



EXERCISE

HOW TO AVOID EVERYONE ELSE



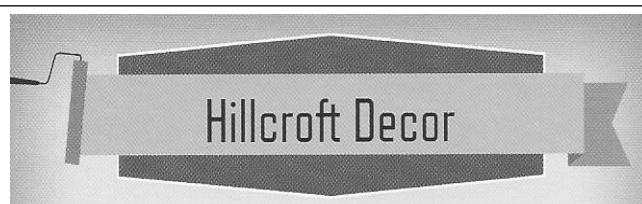
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