# THE PARISH MAGAZINE March 2019



7th March—Perpetua, Felicity and their companions, martyrs, 203

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

80p

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<b>St Michael's Church</b> Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED	<b>St John's Church</b> Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 OAS

#### **Reflection for March**

#### We are pilgrims on a journey ...

As I write (and thinking HOW does this moment come round so fast?), I am in the throes of preparing to put down my role in ministry in the United Benefice and look forward to retirement. This, in itself, is a real mixed bag of things to do, feelings, and emotions, tidying up and throwing out! The sacred and the secular! Looking back, and looking forwards! What will I forget to tell people? Where has the time gone? What amazing things God leads us into! Is it really Lent again? Where am I going now?

They say that variety is the spice of life, and the journey in the UB has certainly had that in spades. There are things I will never forget – the first Christingle with Deb Dyson pre new heating and being frozen to the 'radiator', and then thoroughly warmed by the wonderful sight of SO many people in church celebrating Christ's incarnation as Light of the World. Baptisms of St. Michael's School pupils in School Worship; baptisms where it suddenly becomes apparent that the Holy Spirit is moving and sometimes unlikely folk are touched by God's grace and presence; baptisms where the baby *almost* escapes into the font in their shiny, slippery, beautiful christening gown! Weddings where love is shared deeply, and vows are exchanged with real meaning; and the one where the groom knelt down and apparently had 'Help me' on the soles of his shoes ...... sense of humour bypass for me on that occasion! The privilege of conducting funerals for strangers who became less so, for family, for church friends. I have always loved the pastoral offices, for better for worse, all part of our pilgrimage from cradle to grave.

There are many 'things' that have been done, sometimes holy, sometimes funny, sometimes joyful, sometimes sad, sometimes all of these by turn, a bit like a Stephen Spielberg film (think ET!). Above all, it is God's people that I love to be with. And that is very much how it has felt in the UB, being *with* people as we seek to discover God's will for us and together move as pilgrims on that journey. It has been fantastic to share that with such a diverse and gifted ministry team, past and present, and to learn from and with them. Equally, it has been fantastic to share with such diverse and gifted people of the congregations and beyond. One of my favourite thoughts about the Trinity, given to me long ago, is that in the Trinity there is no hierarchy – Father, Son and Holy Spirit move together and apart in a holy dance of community and mutual love, each with their own contribution to the life of God, and inviting us to join in and form such community. The UB isn't perfect, but there is something of that mutual learning, caring and sharing that has been, and is, lovely to be part of.

Pilgrimage is a journey with a purpose of moving nearer to God, to a holy place. Personnel and congregations change, and this journey still goes on. During this time of Lent we ponder and study what it means to be an 'Inclusive church' – how we might move from being very welcoming churches to being positively inclusive to all God's people with their spectrum of disability, sexuality, ethnicity and mental health and wellbeing. In our current society where division and fracture and the labelling of 'other' has grown, what might be our role in bringing healing and wholeness and community? There's always a challenge to explore on the pilgrimage! We move nearer to God, that we might live better for others in God's world.

It truly has been a privilege to walk with you all on this journey, on this pilgrimage. I will miss you all, you lovely people! May the road rise beneath your feet .....

> 'We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.'

(from Brother sister let me serve you)

#### **Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice**

#### Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10:00am Family Praise

#### Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 12:30pm Holy Baptism
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 6:00pm Holy Communion
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 4:30pm Messy Church
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 6:00pm Choral Evensong
Tuesday
School Service
Wednesday
9:30am Holy Communion

#### Prayer Group, St Michael's.

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



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

#### **Regular Services at St John's**

**Sundays** 10am Holy Communion

Baptism @ 11.30am 4th Sunday

**Music in the Benefice** 

St Michael's Church

Wednesdays 6.30pm Girls Choir 7.15pm Other parts & St Michael's Singers

Monday before 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 7:30pmMusic Group

#### **Bells Practice**

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

#### **Parish Surgery**

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday by Appointment from 6:30pm at the Parish office in St Michael's Church. Please call 01543 262211 ST MICHAEL ON GREENHILL LICHFIELD and ST JOHN WALL

# Lent Holy Week Easter Events and Services 2019



#### All God's People?

The Lent Study Course this year will look at how we can be a more inclusive church. We will consider a number of topics to help us understand inclusion and exclusion in church and society and how we can be a more welcoming community

All sessions in St Michael's Church at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 12th March:Welcoming the Differently-abledTuesday 19th March:Society, Sexuality and SundayTuesday 2nd April:Church, society and ethnicityTuesday 9th April:The Church and Mental Health

The Study Course will be led by the Revd Linda Collins and other members of the ministry team.

Saturday 30th March, Lent Outing to:

#### International Slavery Museum,

Royal Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AX

Meet at Liverpool Lime Street Station 10.15am

Sign up sheets for the trip and travel details will be available separately.

For details of all our services and activities please contact:

The United Benefice Office, St Michael's Church, Church Street, Lichfield WS13 6ED

**2**01543 262211

www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

<sup>⊕</sup>office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

#### Lent Services at St Michael's and St John's

#### Ash Wednesday 6th March

9.30am Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes (StM)

7.30pm Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes (StJ)

#### Sundays in Lent

8.00am every Sunday: Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer at St Michael's

#### Lent 1 10th March

10.00am Family Praise (StM)10.00am Holy Communion with hymns (StJ)6.00pm Holy Communion with hymns (StM)

#### Lent 2 17th March

10.00am Parish Communion with hymns and choir (StM)

10.00am Holy Communion with hymns (StJ)

4.30pm Messy Church in St Michael's Church

#### Lent 3 24th March

10.00am Parish Communion with hymns and music group (StM) 10.00am Holy Communion with hymns (StJ)

6.00pm Choral Evensong (StM)

After the 10.00am service there will be a bring and share lunch to mark the retirement of the Revd Linda Collins (StM)

#### Lent 4 Mothering Sunday 31st March

10.00am Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday (StM) 10.00am Holy Communion with hymns (StJ)

#### Lent 5 Passion Sunday 7th April

10.00am Parish Communion with hymns and choir (StM)

10.00am Holy Communion with hymns (StJ)

#### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

#### Palm Sunday 14th April

10.00am Family Praise including Palm Procession and Dramatic Reading of the Passion. (StM)
10.00am Holy Communion with hymns and distribution of Palm Crosses (StJ)
6.00pm Holy Communion with hymns (StM)

#### **Holy Week**

Short addresses on "The emotions of Jesus" given by Revd Dr Stephen Barton **Monday 15th April** 

7.00pm Compline (StM)

Address: Lk 7.11-17: Jesus' compassion for the widow of Nain

#### **Tuesday 16th April**

7.00pm Compline (StM)

Address: Lk 10.17-24: Jesus' joy in the Holy Spirit

#### Wednesday 17th April

9.30am Holy Communion (StM)

7.00pm Compline (StJ)

Address: Lk 19.41-44: Jesus' grief over Jerusalem

#### Maundy Thursday 18th April

7.30pm Commemoration of the Last Supper (StM)

Address: Lk 22.39-46: Jesus' anguish in Gethsemane

#### Good Friday 19th April

2.00pm Service for the Last Hour (StJ)

- 4.30pm Messy Church in St Michael's Church
- 7.00pm Compline (StM)

Address: Luke 23.44-47: The faith of the dying Jesus

#### EASTER SUNDAY 21st April

#### 5.45am Dawn Service and Easter Fire

- 8.00am Holy Communion (StM)
- 10.00am Holy Communion: Full sung service (StM)
- 10.00am Holy Communion with hymns (StJ)

# PRAYER FOR Perpetua, Felicity and their companions:

Holy God,

who gave great courage to Perpetua, Felicity and their companions:

grant that we may be worthy to climb the ladder of sacrifice

and be received into the garden of peace;

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/prayerduring-day-contemporary-thursday-7-march-2019

#### **Parish Surgery**

For Baptisms, Banns and Weddings, staff are available at the Parish Office in St Michael's Church, Church Street on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evenings in the month by appointment only. Please telephone 01543 262211 or email

<u>office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</u>to make an appointment.

### **Deadlines!**

For APRIL 2019 Magazine: Deadline is

MONDAY 18th MARCH

Contact David Bull

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

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES**

# First Steps



Monday 11th March

10am St Michael's

# Family Praise

Sunday 10th March

10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...

### **MESSY CHURCH**

for craft, story, song and food on



### SUNDAY 17th March

4.30 – 5.45pm

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

#### **Farewell to Linda**

Most of you now know that Linda Collins, our Associate Minister, will be retiring at the end of March. Her last service at St Michael's will be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, followed by a bring and share lunch, and we hope as many people as possible will come.



Linda joined the Ministry Team in June 2010, and it was clear from the start that she brought some special gifts to the United Benefice. In January 2012, the Rector, the Revd. David Beedon left and we began a very difficult interregnum which lasted for 18 months. It was during this time that Jon Irons and myself, as the Churchwardens, developed a close working relationship with Linda and really got to know her as a person. She agreed to work full time, and took on the duties of running the Ministry Team, and the day to day life of the church. Her excellent organisational and leadership skills came to the fore.

During this time of uncertainty, members of the congregation were adamant that whatever happened they did not want to lose Linda. In a relatively short time she had become well liked, respected and needed. It was during this time I discovered that Linda has a wicked sense of humour, which certainly kept me sane at the more difficult moments. As you know we ended the interregnum in a slightly unusual way, the Venerable Simon Baker was appointed as part time Rector to the United Benefice and also took on the role of Archdeacon of Lichfield. Linda returned to a part time post but I think it is fair to say that she has played a major part in the day to day running of the church.

Linda leaves us an excellent legacy to continue and build on. I think one of her finest achievements was the setting up of Messy Church, which has had a steady membership since it began. Her teaching skills have been evident both at Messy Church and Family Praise Services where she engaged with the children with a sense of fun but taught them the message of the Bible. Linda also set up the Film Club, which has proved to be hugely popular with church members and people of the wider community. She helped to set up the Memory Café, held in the Methodist Church, at which some of our congregation are volunteers. Outreach has been one her strengths and interests.

I know from my own experience that Linda has given a lot of support to people experiencing personal problems and difficulties. She provided a lot of pastoral support by visiting people in their own homes, hospitals and care homes. She has conducted funerals with dignity and compassion, making them very special and personal for the bereaved families.

We will miss you Linda, you have been a faithful and hardworking member of the Ministry Team and served us well. We hope you have enjoyed your time with us; you leave as a much loved and respected friend. Enjoy your year out, have lots of fun, and good luck with whatever you plan to do in your retirement.

Brenda Liptrot

# Perpetua, Felicity and their companions. Martyrs, 203

#### 7th March



Perpetua was a young, married noble woman and Felicity was her slave. They were African saints and through their faith they encouraged the very early church. Both were learning about the Christian faith when they were arrested by the Roman authorities, Felicity was pregnant at the time.

The Roman authorities condemned them to death for being Christians (they were baptised when in prison) and were sent to the Arena to be killed as part of the Roman games with crowds of people looking on.

But they didn't die after the animals attacked them and so they were then killed by the sword, before this the two women and the other Christians friends with them share the kiss of peace and affirmed their faith in Jesus Christ.

The story of the how they gave their lives for their faith was shared among the Christian communities who were encouraged by the story. They died on this day in the year 203. They are the patron saints of mothers and children.

This story is over 1,800 years old and it can seem from a different time when law and justice was not as good as it is now, but we need to remember that there are Christians all over the world being killed for their faith in Jesus everyday. Nigeria and Syria being very dangerous places at the moment and there is a great risk of the Christian faith being removed from the Middle East altogether as a result of terrorists. You can find out more if you look at the Barnabas Fund website <u>https://barnabasfund.org</u> Take time today to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who live in fear and are unable to practice their faith openly like we can here in the UK.

https://londondeafchurch.com/2015/03/07/perpetua-felicity-and-their-companions/

The Christian Martyrs' Last Prayer by Jean-Léon Gérôme in the Walters Art Museum, Mount Vernon-Belvedere, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.



#### **St Michael's Church Easter Flowers**

We will be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday 20th April from 9am and would welcome all who would like to help.

If you wish to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please put the money, the name of the person and your message into a blue Gift Aid envelope and mark it Easter Flowers. All donations should be received by Sunday, 14th April.

> Many thanks, Anne Lingwood

## St. Michael's Film Club

### **1. 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

### Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm. St. Michael's Church

All welcome. Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

### 2. Hidden Figures

(127min. Biography/Drama/ History 2017)

The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.

### Mon 1st April. 1.30pm start

#### February Film Review of "The Book Club"



The film is about four female friends who formed a monthly book club some 30 years ago, perhaps "The Wine Club" as a name would have be more apt!!

The friends are Candice Bergen, Sharon a Federal Judge still working her way through her decades old divorce, Jane Fonda, Vivian, a selfmade hotel owner, who enjoys her men with no strings attached, Diana Keaton, Diane recently widowed after 40 years of marriage and Mary Steenburgen, Carol whose marriage is a slump after 35yrs and a recently retired husband.

The film tells story in an often hilarious, outrageous and explicit sexual way of how all their lives are turned upside down as a result of reading the '50 Shades of Grey' book series.

The film tells how they individually re find love, by accident on an aeroplane, by internet dating, or by rekindling of an old love affair or just taking hubby to a dancing class.

As a review written at the time describes, the underlying theme is that you don't need anyone's permission to be happy, but some people have problems with the idea women who are old enough to be mothers and grandmothers can be both sexually attractive, as well as attracted to the opposite sex, as it makes them uncomfortable.

I quite enjoyed this film, the sexual content and language could have offended some, however the laughter proved that the majority of the audience were very broad minded.

This was a woman's film, however there were plenty of men present, I would have been very interested to read a review written by one of them.

#### Angela Burgess

# CENTRAL GARAGE

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### **The Feast of the Annunciation – also known as Lady Day –** has a special place in Mothers' Union history

#### Lady Day

'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.'

'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to be to me as you have said.'

Luke 1: 30-31, 38

I wonder how many of us are aware that Mothers' Union observance of Lady Day is actually part of our constitution? (as a recommendation rather than an edict!) In fact, Lady Day has been a significant day for Mothers' Union since 1897.

The updating of our Mothers' Union Constitution, making it fit for 21<sup>st</sup> century purpose, has kept in full the statement in no.13 of the Regulations made under the Bye-Laws. This says that the Feast of the Annunciation may be observed annually as a special day of prayer and thanksgiving for Mothers' Union.

Although the idea to celebrate Lady Day was first suggested to Mothers' Union in 1895 at the Annual Committee of Presidents and agreed to by Central Council in 1897, it took some time to be adopted across the membership. At a Central Council meeting in 1902, the President of the Diocese of St David's plaintively asked how to surmount the difficulty of obtaining due observance of the day. In the same year however, it was reported that the day was celebrated as far afield as Armagh, Antananarivo and Sydney. In the 1909 annual report it was declared that in the past year the Feast of the Annunciation had almost universally been recognised as a great day of intercession and thanksgiving. Of equal significance was that 'many bishops' had held special services in their cathedrals to mark the day.

Fast forward to today and we find that across the 84 countries where Mothers' Union is represented, Lady Day is celebrated in many and varied ways. Thanksgiving services are widely held and often include the enrolment of new members. Creative ways of celebrating might involve drama and games – as in West Ankole, Uganda, whilst events for Lady Day in Mandalay in Myanmar have included a quiz about Mary and a competition about the Mothers' Union prayer. The Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham have held contemporary Lady Day celebrations during which wonderful prayer activities were enjoyed by children and adults together (some of which included chocolate – a sure winner!)

### Ways in which Mothers' Union relates to the story of the Annunciation:

- **Family life** we look to provide Christian care for families worldwide and this includes initiatives to support the role of parents and carers. We deliver parenting programmes, development, policy and faith work that empower women and men in their parenting and life in general. Our emphasis on faith in the family encourages families to experience together the love of Christ; the One whose coming is heralded on Lady Day.
- **Faith** through our fellowship together and our faith and worship resources we nurture our relationship with God, we cultivate our

prayer life and strengthen our willingness to follow our Lord, just as Mary was willing to obey his call.

- **Vocation and service** the annunciation was about listening and responding to God; the result of which has had consequences for all, in every aspect of life. As Mothers' Union we seek to care for people's physical, social and spiritual needs. At this time, we are particularly seeking to listen to God through our global listening process: MULOA, through which we seek to respond to his plans for our service going forward, as we continue to reach out as Christ's hands across the world.
- **Vision** Mary's faith and obedience affected all generations around the world. The faith and obedience of our founder, Mary Sumner, has led to Mothers' Union sharing the love if God's son, Jesus Christ for generations, throughout the world. We pray that in our day, we too, will be willing to follow God in obedience and faith, with thanksgiving and praise and that our souls will always magnify the Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ give us, we pray, the graces of Mary; faith, patience ready obedience, thankfulness and courage. **Amen** 

(the above article was taken from *Families Worldwide* – Mothers' Union resources for prayer and action)

St Michael's branch of Mothers' Union will be celebrating Lady Day with other Deanery members at St Peter's church, Little Aston on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019. If anyone feels they would like to join us you will be very welcome.

#### Mothers Union Report for March 2019 Magazine

At our A.G.M. at the end of January Elizabeth gave a resume of the past year's activities. We had enjoyed a variety of speakers and services, successfully catered for a Lent lunch despite the bitter weather and moved "home" from the hall to the church. She thanked her committee for their unstinting support and presented flowers to Caroline who had relinquished her secretarial duties. Last, but definitely not least, she expressed our appreciation to Lesley who prepares and leads our services at every meeting.

In February we welcomed Helen Palfrey, MU Archdeaconry leader who gave us an illustrated talk about a visit to the diocese of Matlosane in South Africa which is twinned with Lichfield diocese. She had been invited by Bishop Michael to join his group which aimed to strengthen links and meet members of several churches and organisations which worked to improve the welfare of a mainly poor population. They were based about 2 hours drive south of Johannesburg. Here , as in other parts of S.A. the Mothers Union is strong with members wearing uniforms and working hard in their communities.

Everywhere the group was received with great hospitality. They attended many services including the dedication of an Anglican church which had previously been a Dutch Reform church specifically for "whites only" and visited a new cathedral. Some services could last up to 3 hours with people spontaneously bursting into praise or urging the congregation to donate a little more.

Sadly, throughout the diocese they observed great contrasts in life style. Gated communities and guard dogs protect the wealthy while the majority are in shanty towns. There is not enough employment and numbers are swollen by immigrants from Zimbabwe hoping for a better life. Schooling is available but unless the parents can afford to buy them shoes the children cannot attend. They visited a residential centre for treating drug addicts and a hospice whose staff treat 500 patients in their own homes as they have not the facilities for in-patients. Instead they train the patients' families and neighbours to care for them.

In Johannesburg they visited the Apartheid Museum and in Soweto were shown houses where Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu had lived. It was a busy visit and Helen's account gave us plenty to discuss.

Betty Lyne

#### 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



#### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY HOME BOXES

Sonia and I will be collecting boxes for St Michael's during March.

I am happy to collect boxes from your homes, but please wait until March before ringing (phone number on label under the box).

Thanks to you all for keeping a home collection box. *Maureen Duff* 

#### The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lichfield: Saint Michael and St Mary.

There's a grand title for you! But this is the official name for the group of people who sit on the PCC to help make decisions about the way the church is run; organised; what projects it takes on; how these are supported and how financing of these things is maintained. I am one of those people!

At the last meeting of 2018 it was decided that, during 2019, a summary of the meetings would be made for inclusion in the Parish Magazine. Hopefully this will keep those, who may only have contact with Church via that medium, in touch with items being discussed and decisions made. Some information is issued via the weekly Sunday Pew Sheets. The draft minutes of each meeting are available on the "Church Notices" board at the back of Church and on the website (choose "Our PCC" at the bottom of the list on the left-hand side of the Home Page – click on St Michael's and the meeting dates and minutes are listed).

Tuesday 12/02/19 was the first meeting of 2019. The agenda followed the usual pattern – Opening Prayer; Apologies; Minutes of Last Meeting; Matters Arising from those Minutes; Ministry; Mission; Resources and a new item – New building on Church site!

The old Church Hall's sale packs are nearly ready for prospective buyers to view and the sale will be advertised, asking for offers in excess of £475,000. Questions for consideration on a new building were gathered and will be re-visited and shared with the congregation in due course for comment and input. Decisions made by the PCC on the night were -

- Final design of the Interpretation Board for the Churchyard was agreed and permission is now to be obtained for installation.
- Elizabeth Allen's request to plant a Rowan Tree in the Churchyard in memory of her husband, Ray, was agreed.
- Outreach to Streethay new development will continue with the distribution of cards hi-lighting Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter services.
- Plans were accepted for extra parking on the left-hand side of the drive, as you approach the Church, creating 10 Grass and Reinforced Gravel Parking Bays. This will go ahead if the Faculty is granted.
- The Contactless Payment Terminal, which has been in use for Weddings, Funerals and Special Services for a three-month trial, will continue. It's extended use for all services is to be considered by the Ministry Team.

Linda Collins reported back on a meeting she had regarding signing up to be an "Inclusive Church". She will be giving a sermon on 03/03/19 to explain and give information about this, as the community and congregation need to embrace it and get a sense of involvement with the idea. More discussion will be needed and this is just the start of the journey.

Viv Oliver reported on the accounts and it is evident that an increase in income is needed this year. Fundraising needs to be considered together with a reminder about a person's individual weekly giving.

Thankyou for taking the time to read this, I hope it was useful.

Kath Bird.

#### UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

We had an enjoyable walk here in Lichfield in January. We walked to and discovered some of the many examples in Lichfield that remind us of the great influence Dr. Samuel Johnson has had on our City; and the generosity of Chancellor James Thomas Law who gave so much to Lichfield when he was Chancellor of The Diocese. Many thanks for the excellent talks given by Christine Gilbert and Kay Martin. Christine told us about the interesting history of St. John's Without the Barrs of the City of Lichfield; and Kay told us all about the wonderful icons in Lichfield Cathedral.



Chancellor Law was a great benefactor and gave the money to build the Library and museum which is now the Registry Office

We invite you to join us on Saturday 16th March at 10.00 a.m., for our March Walk.

This will be a walk around Mill Valley and Hawks Green Valley Nature Reserve, a hidden spot in Cannock. **Dogs are welcome on the walk but not in the restaurant.** 

Parking will be at the The Mill Farm, Lichfield Rd, Cannock WS11 8EE which is a Stonehouse Restaurant .

(<u>https://www.stonehouserestaurants.co.uk</u> and search for Cannock)

The walk will start at 10.30am with a short walk on level ground on hardcore paths around the lake.

**Refreshments** will be in the restaurant at approximately 11.15am and then we will set out for our second walk in the reserve. This will be along rough trail paths which can be muddy. There are quite **a few steps** in this part of the walk but **no stiles**.

The walk will end with **lunch at The Mill Farm, at around 1.00 p.m**. I can recommend the carvery lunch!!

The total distance of the 2 walks is **3 1/2 miles. Walking boots** are advised and you will need a **change of shoes** to go into the restaurant.

Please let me (Angie) 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 tranquil woodland walk in the heart of an urban environment.

angieking000@gmail.com

Ray Allen 01543 251654

AAR ZARAK KARAMA MAARSKA ARRA ARRA ARRA ARRA AR ARAAR ARAAR AR

#### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

At our January Working Party members of the Community Payback Team planted 4 new Crab Apple trees that were obtained to replace older trees that had died. The trees were well planted, staked and tied.





They also have a tree guard for further protection. The variety is called Wisley Crab and the trees were provided by Walcot Nursery at Pershore in Worcestershire, a good fruit tree growing area. Many thanks to members of the Congregation who paid for these trees.

Our March Working Party is on Saturday March 9th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided during the break.

#### SAVE THE DATES

Saturday April 6th. <i>,</i> 10.00 a.m.	Sowing our new Wildflower Meadow.
Thursday April 11th., 10.30 a.m3.30 p.m.	2nd. Wildflower Survey Day.
Wednesday June 12th., 10.30 a.m3.30 p.m.	3rd. Wildflower Survey Day.
Saturday June 15th., 10.00 a.m4.00 p.m.	Churchyard Bioblitz Day.

Ray Allen 01543 251654

#### Lichfield Emergency Night Shelter

Churches Together in Lichfield launched this initiative at the start of February, in response to concerns about the number of people sleeping rough in the area. It is planned that it will run for two months, while the temperatures are at their lowest. The shelter moves around local churches and halls and a hot meal is offered, a place to sleep for the night and a light breakfast, also washing facilities, where possible. The first night of this project, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, is described here:

The first night at the Methodist Church went extremely well; no incidents and all was quiet.

Both a and b said they felt warm and glad to be off the street, especially with it being so cold.

They also said to both c and d how disappointed they are that 'the others didn't show'...'did not show respect for what the churches are offering'. That's great testimony just there...

This morning both guests were up and about from 6.45am when I arrived, had generous portions of tea, toast and cereal.

B had a good wash and looked 10 years younger!

Both said they put some extra mats under them as they felt the floor was a bit too hard, so tonight we'll sort that because the floor at CC is wooden.

D and e got on very well and said the night for them was enjoyable.

The volunteers last night and this morning, whose first names I have noted, were so good in every way, praise God!

The Methodists have certainly done themselves, their church, and our Father the humblest of good deeds.

The other churches now have a high standard of compassionate, friendliness and love to show to stand equally tall!

All was left tidy and clean, with windows ajar to freshen the room.

The kit was safely loaded and transported, ready for deposit by Tim and myself to CC later.

Have a blessed Sunday - and let's pray today with thanksgiving to our Father especially for all at the Methodist Church.

Patrick Kearney

# WALL NEWS

#### Ramblings

#### **Beginnings and Endings**

Maybe the title should read 'Endings and Beginnings' for it is at the end of March that Rev. Linda leaves us for her retirement. I still remember clearly her interview with Bishop Clive at which I was present! She has given us years of faithful service not only in leading our services but also behind the scenes in caring for those in need of wisdom and comfort at times of bereavement or trouble as well as taking Baptism and Wedding services at those milestones of our lives. A huge thank you to her for all that she has done and for all that she has meant to so many in the United Benefice and beyond. We wish her a very happy and fulfilling retirement as she enters this new phase of her journey.

Talking about retirement reminds me that I have now been retired for over 10 years... it just doesn't seem possible! I had such good intentions – there were so many things I was going to do 'when I retired...' I fear that I have left it too late for some things... I have been having piano lessons again since I retired and have really enjoyed playing my piano which had survived the blitz. I can even say that my piano playing has improved... but I do wish I had played for all those years when I was waiting 'until I retired' and my fingers were more supple...

So don't leave it until.... From time to time take stock of your life before God and walk confidently into the future with Him.

Christine Higgs

# WALL WOMENS' INSTITUTE Quiz and Puds Night Saturday 23rd March 7.30pm Entry £6 Bring your own drinks.

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#### LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP



### Annual General Meeting of the Lichfield Wildlife Group

followed by

### The Pipe Green Trust

A talk by Jane Arnold

Tuesday 2 April at 7:45 p.m.

Wade Street Church Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HL

Admission: £3:50 (under-16s free)



ioto: Peter Norbury

### The Pipe Green Trust

A walk at Pipe Green led by Jane Arnold

Saturday 18 May at 10:30 a.m. Parking is available off the A51 Western Bypass, adjacent to the football fields

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

#### Contact (01543) 257812

www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup

#### St Michael's Rota – March 2019

Sunday 8.00 am	3 March	10 March	17 March	24 March	31 March
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith	Martin
					Dewes

Sunday	3 March	10 March	17 March	24 March	31 March
10.00 am					Mothering
		Family Praise			Sunday
Welcomer	Maureen	Brenda Eley	Anne	M and R	Alison
	Brand		Lingwood	McAllester	Anketell
				Jones	
Sidesperson	Pat Toplis	Viv and	Judy and	Lynn and	Barbara
S	Mike Jones	Stephen Oliver	Mike Godfrey	David Edge	Homewood
					David Bull
Reader	Ted Green		Mike	Angela	David Easton
			Godfrey	Burgess	
Servers	Maggie		Kay Martin	Elizabeth	Maggie
	Easton		Phil Clayton	Allen	Easton
	David Shiel			Phil Clayton	Kay Martin
Communion	Ray Allen		Phil Clayton	Sheila	Maggie
Assistant				Vaughan	Easton
Intercessor	Trevor James		David Bull	Phil Clayton	Brenda
					Liptrot
Coffee	Caroline	Alison Anketell	June Frayn	Angela	Elizabeth
	Green	Brenda Liptrot	Betty Lyne	Burgess	Allen
	Brenda Eley			Pam Towle	Trish Jones
Healing				Alan Toplis	
				Anne	
				Whatson	
Transport	Ray Allen	Martin Dewes	Elizabeth	Betty	Brenda
-			Allen	Bradbury	Liptrot
Flowers	ТВА	No Flowers	No Flowers	No Flowers	No flowers

Sunday 12.30 pm	3 March Baptism	Reader	Intercessor	Server
		Kay Martin	Lynn Edge	Kay Martin

Sunday	3 March	10 March	17 March	24 March	31 March
6.00 pm	No service	Communion	No service	Evensong	No service
Sidesperson		Margaret		David Shiel	
		Frean			
Reader		Margaret		Lyn Shiel	
		Frean			
Comm Asst		Elizabeth Allen			

### **Bible Readings**

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

Sunday 17th March 2nd Sunday of Lent [Purple] Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 Luke 13.31-end

Sunday 24th March 3rd Sunday of Lent [Purple] Isaiah 55.1-9 Luke 13.1-9 Sunday 24th March EVENSONG 1st EP of the Annunciation [White] Genesis 3.8-15 Galations 4.1-5 4.1-13

Sunday 31st March 4th Sunday of Lent [Purple] 1 Samuel 1.20-end Luke 2.33-35

Sunday 7th April 5th Sunday of Lent [Purple] Isaiah 43.16-21 John 12.1-8

Sunday 14th April Palm Sunday [Red] Luke 19.28-40 Luke 23.1-49







#### Baptism

t Michael 3rd	d February	Hayden James Lloyd	3 years
---------------	------------	--------------------	---------



#### Wedding

#### At Rest



St Michael	22nd January	Roger James Plumb	70
St Michael	24th January	Stuart Russell Gorton	58
St Michael	30th January	Joan Eleanora Chubb	94
St Michael	6th February	Patricia Westwood	65
St Michael	7th February	Doris Wright	98
St Michael	13th February	John Wright	78
St Michael	14th February	Norah Jefferson	93

# And Finally:

"God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living as well"

Voltaire

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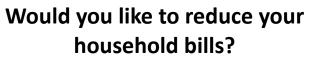
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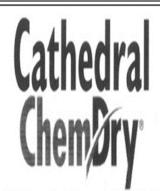
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Caroline Green 262342	Assistant Churchwarden:	
David Easton 255308	Linda Rubisch 481294	
Treasurer: Viv Oliver 258054	Treasurer: Sheila Irvine 252982	
PCC Secretary: Phil Clayton 308331	PCC Secretary: Christine Higgs 410351	
Stewardship Recorder: David Athersmith	Assistant Treasurer & Electoral Roll:	
255979	Linda Rubisch 481294	
Electoral Roll Officer: Mike Godfrey 264255	PCC Lay Vice Chair: Christine Higgs 410351	
St Michael's Church	St John's Church, Wall	
Verger: Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411	Verger: Hilary Barker 01543 482027	
Sacristan and Head Server: Maggie Easton	Pastoral Care:	
255308	Christine Gilbert 07821 987999	
Organist and Choirmaster: Peter Hawks-	Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880	
worth 251938 or 07771 986538	Magazine Distributer: Eileen Carson	
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350		
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Scouting a		

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