

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

March 2021



Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687

March 20th

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

85p

Rector: The Revd. Preb. Simon Baker, 10 Mawgan Drive, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9SD. Tel: 01543 253010 Email: simonbaker57@outlook.com Day Off: Friday	Curate: The Revd. Melanie Clark Tel: 07751 072332 Email: revdr.melclark@gmail.com
Associate Minister (NSM Part-time): The Revd. Ruth Bull 36 Broadlands Rise, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9SF Tel: 01543 252123 Email: dkbrlcb@hotmail.com	Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Jeyan Anketell 7 Wissage Lane, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6DQ Tel: 01543 268897 Email: jeyan.anketell@ntlworld.com
Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd Chris Baker 15 Saddlers Close, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 9ZW Tel: 01543 256320 Email: C.J.Baker@bham.ac.uk	Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Stephen Barton The Master's House, St John's Hospital, St John Street, LICHFIELD WS13 6PB Email: stephen@the-bartons.com
Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd Christine Polhill Little Hayes, Beaudesert, Cannock Wood, Staffs WS15 4JJ Tel: 01543 674474	Reader: Lesley Allen 21 Boley Close, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9AR Tel: 01543 251654 Email: lesley.allen21@gmail.com
Reader: Phil Clayton 23 Follows End, Burntwood, Staffs, WS7 3QZ Tel: 01543 682141 E-mail: phil@phil-clayton.uk	Reader: Trevor James 36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434
Reader: Alan Toplis Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk	
SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN Maureen Brand 01543 264880 For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.	United Benefice Office St Michael's Church, Church St, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6ED Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri CLOSED Thursdays 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Tel: 01543 262211 E-mail: office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk
St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED	St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS

Reflection

March 23rd will be the first anniversary of the start of the first lockdown. This is perhaps not an anniversary to celebrate, but possibly to reflect upon. A year will have passed since our lives changed radically as a result of the restrictions brought in to limit the devastating effects of Covid-19. Little did we know at that point, just how long this would all go on for.

We have now come through a particularly cold winter, and now we are in the church's season of Lent, which can, for some, be seen as quite a dark, rather gloomy time of the church year. However, as in many things in life, we can see it in a positive or a negative way. I might ask, are you a glass-half-full or a glass-half-empty type of person?

If you look at where the name Lent comes from, it comes from the Old English word *Lencten* meaning Spring season, the time when the days *lengthen*. There are also links with similar words in Old German, Dutch and Anglo-Saxon, but I will spare you all the details! This puts a rather different slant on Lent.

Captain Tom Moore, who became such a popular figure during the past year and whose death was a source of great sadness, was definitely a glass-half-full sort of person. He said "Negative thoughts don't seem to be part of me. I always think of beneficial things". He also said, "The sun will shine again, the birds will sing and we'll all have a lovely day tomorrow". What an encouraging attitude to have!

Sometimes it can feel as though life has stopped. If you are stuck indoors, especially in the colder weather, seeing few people, if any, and wondering when you will ever be able to see friends and family again, it can feel as though time has stopped and things will never be the same again. But life does carry on and the world keeps turning.

In the past year we have been saddened by the deaths of a number of very dear friends in the Benefice. Their passing has been a loss to us all and especially to their families. However, we have also had the joyful news of three new babies born into our First Steps families and there are two more due any time now. So, if we needed confirmation of it, life does still go on.

As we look around us, we can see the signs of Spring. There is some warmth in the sun now and in the churchyard and in gardens, the spring flowers are starting to bloom and the leaves on the trees are developing fast. All around us new life is springing up. The seasons move on, regardless of us. It is God's world, not ours. We do not have to do anything in order for the seasons to change and the natural world to move on. However we feel, the natural order is still safely in place.



Lockdown and restrictions have been difficult for all of us, but along with the negatives, there are some positives too, if we look for them. We have probably never had as much time as we now have, to read, to pray, to listen to music or talks on the radio or podcasts.

In 1911, WH Davies wrote the poem, Leisure, which begins with the lines,

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?*

It is interesting to think that this poem was written just three years before, for many people, the world was turned upside down with the start of the First World War.

Life in “normal” times can be so busy that we frantically rush from one activity to another. We are constantly with other people and rarely find the time to stop and to take time for our spiritual lives. The current restrictions can give us the time to focus on God and our faith and to use Lent as a time to journey with Christ on his way to Jerusalem, reading the Bible, praying and reflecting without all the usual distractions.

One part of the service of Morning Prayer, which always speaks to me is,

*The night is past and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.*

*As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
So may the light of your presence, O God,
Set our hearts on fire with love for you;
Now and for ever.
Amen*

In these difficult and challenging times, it would be good to focus on being thankful that we have been given the gift of a new day to use as best we can; a new day to share the love of Christ with those we encounter and a day to cherish the beautiful world that God has created for us to share.

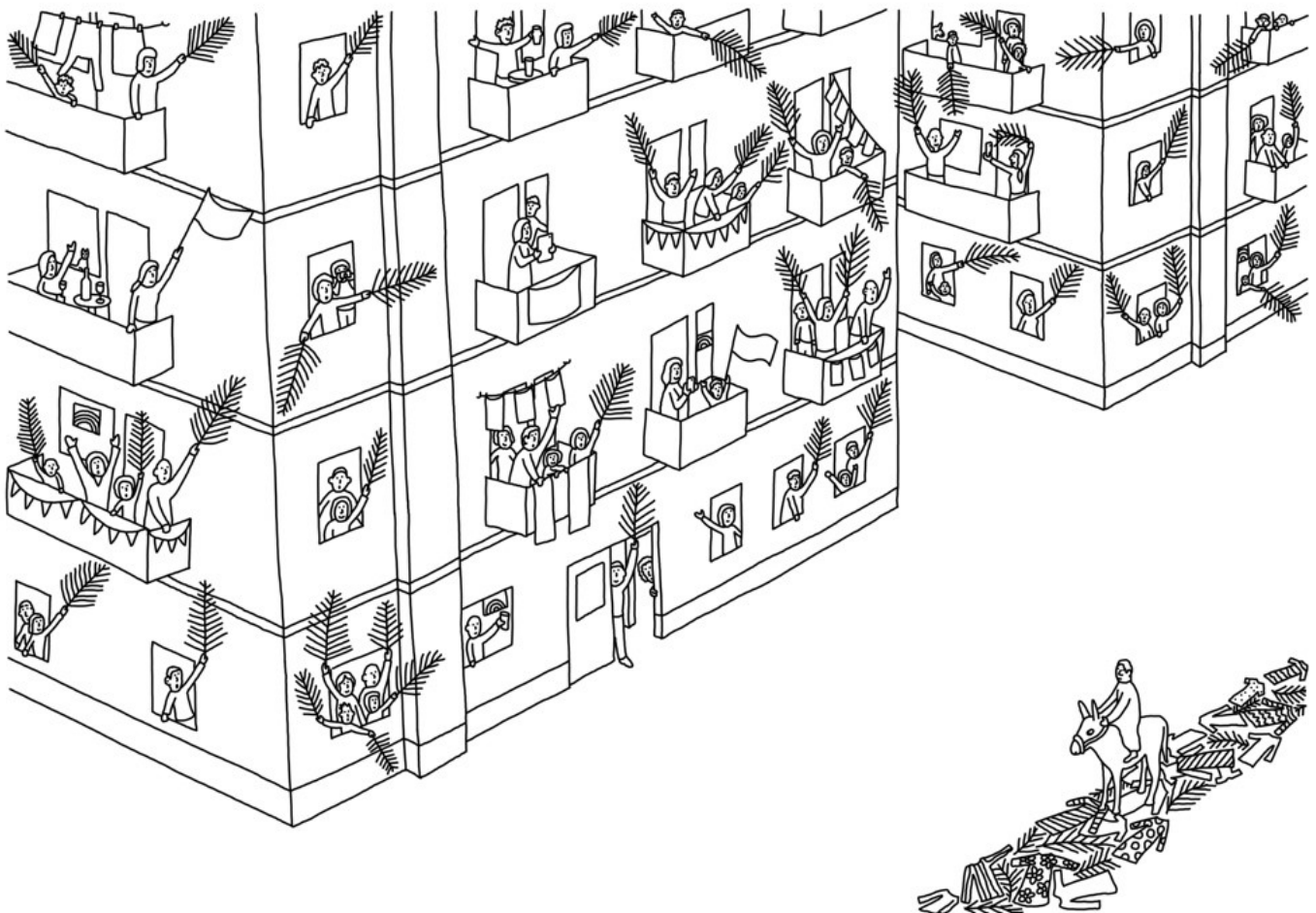
I wish you all a blessed and faith-affirming Lent and, in due time, a wonderfully joyful Easter.

Ruth

EASTER SERVICES

Please check our website
for updates
about services

<https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/our-services.html>



CartoonChurch.com

Leaving Gift for Simon and Diana

We are starting a collection to buy Simon and Diana a leaving gift from everyone here at St Michael's church.

This is obviously trickier than usual as we are not currently in church to receive donations and need to minimise the handling of cash.

If you would like to contribute you can pay your donation straight into the church bank account which would be very helpful.

Lloyds Bank

Account Name – PCC of St Michael and St Mary Lichfield

Account Number – 00114488

Sort Code – 30-95-04

Reference – **RETIREMENT**

(This is really important as we need to distinguish between this and other donations)

If you would prefer to post your donations somewhere, please deliver them to:-

Sue Jones or Lyn Shiel

38 Bracken Close 1 Aspen Close

Lichfield WS14 9RU Lichfield WS 13 6FE

Angie is currently working from home with the exception of Thursday's when she is in the church office, so if you prefer to use the church post box, please ensure that you drop your donation off by 11am on a Thursday.

Many thanks,

Sue and Lyn

Churchwardens, St Michael, Lichfield

DIOCESE NEWS

A view from the pew?

In the first of an occasional series, John Bentley shares his experience of sudden partial sight loss and how it's affected his perception of the church.

The RNIB tell us there are 3 million people in the UK with sight loss or dyslexia who cannot read 96% of our standard literature. That's 4.5% of the population. In October 2019, research showed that 854,000 attended CofE services each week. Using the same percentage, that's 26,000 people who walk through our doors only to find that they can't read the standard service or hymn books.



I am one of those 26,000. My partial sight loss came suddenly on April Fools day 2017 and I don't claim to speak for all sight impaired people. There are many different forms of sight loss that impact on people at different stages of their life. Nonetheless I can share some of my journey.

We all believe that the Church should be inclusive and welcoming.

Groucho Marx said the he wouldn't want to be a member of any club that would have him, and although the Church is not a club, the essence of God is that He welcomes all, regardless of race, gender, age, intellectual capacity and infirmity. The entry criteria for this club is to be a sinner. All have sinned, therefore all are welcome.

The New Testament is full of stories of blindness, madness, paralysis, pain and death. Through this storm strides the figure of Christ, bringing healing, calm, food, salvation, resurrection, insight, teaching, encouragement, confidence and admonition. The paradox of the Church is that She is to continue this mighty work, yet has to deliver through the very sinners who have been welcomed in.

It is no surprise therefore that this is a struggle, but blessed are they that struggle, for they shall get there in the end. With God's help.

Sudden sight loss grants an opportunity to see the church welcome through different eyes. We generally articulate our worship through words, spectacle and architecture, but give some thought to those who can't read, hear, or walk. There is an old Dr Who cartoon of a Dalek at the bottom of flight of stairs, muttering in his staccato voice that this 'messes up our plan to conquer the universe'. There is an updated version which shows the Dalek motoring up a recently installed disabled access ramp. It's not rocket science that is needed, it is not always shed loads of money either. Churches have come on a long way with sound systems, loop systems, projection equipment, toilets, coffee areas, ramps and heating. The basic layout is similar, certainly in older churches: east end, west end, chancel, nave and you can't easily alter that. But look at it though my eyes. Steps, pillars, clutter, pews (with kneelers scattered on the floor, end stops to climb over) a plethora of different books, side chapels, locked doors, open doors, statues (I once walked into the Blessed Virgin and nearly knocked her off her plinth...), poor lighting.

Terminology is another issue that exemplifies the challenges, and falls into the quagmire of political correctness. I was walking through the village recently, with my white stick to help my balance and to indicate sight loss. A villager with his stick commented that "it's no

fun being a cripple, is it". I was taken aback, as I don't consider myself to be a cripple. I can walk, I just can't always see the street sign I have just walked into. I refer to myself as half blind. Some don't like the term blind. To me it is easier than saying sight impaired.

The older among you may remember the NHS 3 wheeled blue 2 stroke invalid carriages available up to the early 1970's. A member of my church had one. Just reflect on that term 'invalid' and add a space and it becomes In Valid. What does that say about the person described as an invalid?

Words are important, but let's not get too hung up on it. There has been recent chatter on disability sites I follow, about the simple stage direction "We will stand and sing hymn number...". Should we be saying "stand if you are able and wish to do so, and we will sing...". Should we be saying "We will sing, but if you can't read the words just hum along"? 10 out of 10 for effort, but not for effect.

Words are important, effort is important, but the main thing is that the Lord welcomes us in, however clumsy we may be in our welcome to others at His door. Inclusivity is a quest that we can all take part in. I leave you with a thought to while away a dull sermon. A personal grump of mine is the Mission Praise books we use. They don't have a large print version, they have an 'easy read' version. Easy read? I'm not stupid, I just can't read the words. "Now then Janet" said John, "Look through the words of a hymn and see how you can make it an easy read for me please Janet". "Yes" said Janet, "I can make 'The vilest offender who truly believes' into 'The boy on the naughty step who knows his tables' - will that do?".

Published: 23rd January 2021

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

The Children's Society

St Michael's Church Box Holders Group

Hello everyone,

I've recently had a letter from the Society and am quoting part of it:

(our usual month for opening is March)

....."Your box opening pack will follow when the situation has improved.....thankyou for your kindness and the generosity so many of you have shown and continue to show in these challenging times.....Our priority is the safety of you and your loved ones, so I want to remind you to follow Government guidelines.....that's why we haven't sent out the box opening pack yet.....You will receive it when the situation improves...."

So, folks, we won't be sending our cash or cheques in March. Hang on to your gifts and I'll let everyone know when the Society feels it is safe to collect and send.

Sonia and I think it is good to keep as a group ie: St Michael's Church Group, as we have been doing over the years. Everyone is listed individually in the Society's paperwork, but if you would rather send your donation yourself please feel free to do so. Otherwise Sonia and I will be ready to collect boxes- cash or cheques- when the time comes.

Thank you for your continued support,

Maureen Duff

Worship the Zoom Way

Last February, we could never have imagined that our churches would be closed during a Lockdown. I mean the physical buildings, of course.



Now, worship from our own homes via Zoom has opened up new possibilities. Housebound and those as far away as Skye and Somerset are able to join the worshipping congregations of St. Michael's and St. John's.

Both 8 a. m. and 10 a. m. services are available on Zoom as well as Family services.

The 10 a. m. service, which I join, consists of prayers, readings, a sermon and singing (not permitted in the physical church). Thankfully the hymn singing, which we all enjoy, is muted.

The obvious advantages of Zoom services are that there is no social distances to worry about and no mask wearing so we can see everyone's face.

Thank you to all the ministry team for their inspirational sermons and prayers as well as their choice of hymns.

A new addition to Zoom services is breakout room- optional, of course- for about 5-10 minutes which is a chance to say Hello

to different people each week. With almost 50 screens there is a warm welcome to new-comers. So, why not come and join us on a Zoom service if you haven't tried it yet

To join a service click on one of the links at
<https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/our-services.html>

Or alternatively you can click on these links to take you straight to the Zoom service you want to join

Every Sunday

8am Zoom Service

BCP

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89376443654?
pwd=YlpmZkwrU29Nb3RpMnhCVUdhSjBWUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89376443654?pwd=YlpmZkwrU29Nb3RpMnhCVUdhSjBWUT09)

10am Zoom Service

Prayers, Readings & Hymns

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82007648461?
pwd=Y090UHN3M2QzVVlmekN5SWdhUUx4UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82007648461?pwd=Y090UHN3M2QzVVlmekN5SWdhUUx4UT09)

Barbara Homewood

PS.

Everyone thought that Christmas would be cancelled in 2020, but, "Oh NO!!" not at St. 'Michael's in Lichfield.

Our annual "Lessons & Carols" Service took place, albeit outside on the Church drive and socially distanced, of course. We were blessed with a fine, dry, but chilly, evening and thanks to the hard work of the

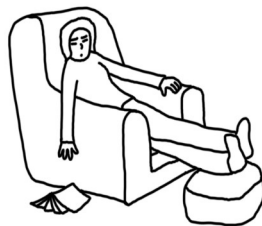
Rector and his Team of Helpers Musicians and singers (led admirably by Dudley Ray on keyboards) a truly meaningful celebration of Christmas was enjoyed by a crowd of more than 70 adults and children aged from two years to 80+

Not forgetting the marvellous "Walk through" Christingle service attended and enjoyed by over 300 of our Parish and their families.

The Editor

LENT BOOKS

SEVEN DEADLY SINS



SLOTH



GREED



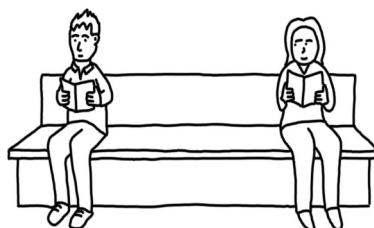
PRIDE



GLUTTONY



ENVY



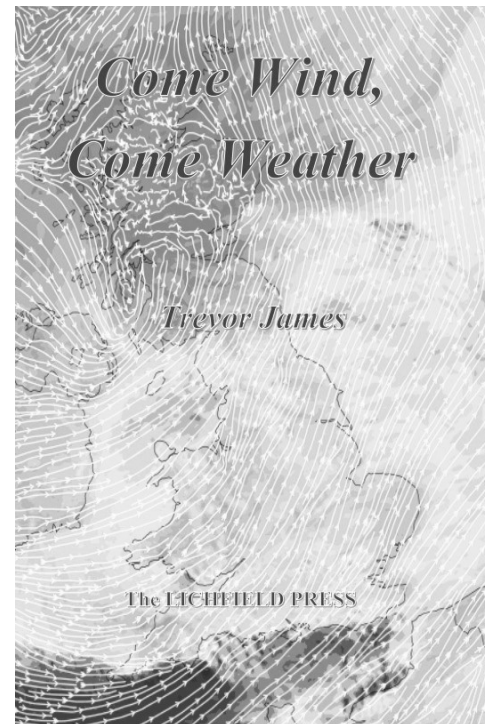
LUST



WRATH

Come Wind, Come Weather,

Trevor James, Lichfield Press, 2021, 117p, 7 photographs, 3 diagrams, £10-00. ISBN 978-0905985-62-6.



Following *England's Sainly Landscape*, this is Trevor James's second publication of the lockdown. Once again it draws together research and fieldwork spanning half-a-century. The subtitle of *Come Wind, Come Weather* is 'Storm, Tempest and other Natural Phenomena within local sources'. These local sources include parish records, diaries, letters, chronicles and personal accounts, from which he quotes extensively, analysing these 'witness statements' in order to tease out facts about extreme weather events and insights into how they were interpreted at the time. More general works such as Camden's *Britannia* (1586) and Daniel Defoe's *Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain* (1727) provide context and in some instances corroborative evidence. It is all here: tornados; snow and ice; lightning; earthquakes; fire; drought and floods; coastal erosion; storm surges; estuarine silting; unpredictable rivers and more. With a chronology beginning in the 15th century, the various accounts take us from a period when explanations for extreme weather tended to the supernatural to emerging meteorological understanding. As with *England's Sainly Landscape*, this is not the whole story. It is a summary of the story so far and hopefully it will encourage further research by others. In the meantime, *Come Wind, Come Weather* is a book to savour, full of exciting incidents, information and fascinating facts. Weather is a shared experience of interest to us all. As Samuel Johnson observed, 'When two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather'.

Richard Stone

Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687

St Cuthbert would become one of medieval England's most famous people, and one of her most significant saints. He spent just over eight years of his life on Inner Farne where he found the closeness and communion with God he so longed for. He died on Inner Farne in 687.



He was born around 634 near Melrose and after seeing a vision of St Aidan's death, he entered the abbey there as a monk. In 665 he was appointed the Prior of the monastery at Lindisfarne, then after twelve years of unremitting work he longed to devote himself fully to God. In 676 he retired to Inner Farne as a hermit.

Once there he built a cell from turf and stone and a larger guesthouse for visitors – probably on the site of the present 'Fishe' House near the jetty.

At first Cuthbert was supplied with food from Lindisfarne, but still craving for isolation he insisted on growing his own and requested tools and grain. He is said to have formed a close relationship with the birds which bred on the islands, especially the Eider Duck – still known locally as 'Cuddy's' (or 'Cuthbert's') Ducks; to which when the weather was bad he would give sanctuary.

He was elected Bishop of Lindisfarne at the Synod of Twyford (Alnmouth), but was reluctant to leave his island. Only with the

persuasion of King Egfrid of Northumbria did he change his mind. After about two years, Cuthbert resigned his position and retired to the Inner Farne to die. He died on the island in March 687.

His body was taken to Lindisfarne, where people flocked to pray at his grave, and many miracles of healing were reported. Then in 689 he was proclaimed a saint when his coffin was opened and an uncorrupted body was found.

St Cuthbert's eventual resting place of Durham Cathedral became a place of great significance to medieval pilgrims, leading to the formation of the cult of St Cuthbert in the twelfth century. His banner was flown in battle, and up to the Dissolution in the 1530s his tomb was visited by thousands of people seeking his aid.

Today his legacy is found on the Farne Islands through the health of the bird populations and the unique atmosphere that still draws many people to the islands seeking to follow his footsteps.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/farne-islands/features/st-cuthbert>

To learn more about Cuthbert and Lindisfarne you can also visit

<https://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/general/>



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

Back in November 2020, the Diocese encouraged branch members to support the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in one way or another to bring further awareness to this important campaign. St Michael's MU decided to do this by writing to local MP Michael Fabricant regarding the Domestic Abuse Bill which had recently passed to the House of Lords. In January we received a reply from Victoria Atkins MP Minister for Safeguarding which is reproduced below. (a copy of the letter sent to MF is available if required. Elizabeth Allen)



Victoria Atkins MP
Minister for Safeguarding

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Michael Fabricant MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

DECS Reference: MIN/0124617/20

8 December 2020

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December on behalf of Ms Elizabeth Allen & Others of the St Michael's Mothers' Union, Lichfield, 134 Weston Road, Lichfield, WS13 7EQ about the Domestic Abuse Bill.

Domestic abuse in any form is unacceptable and no one should have to experience it. We know that domestic abuse affects over two million victims in England and Wales every year, the majority of them women. This is why the Government is committed to tackling it. We first introduced our landmark Domestic Abuse Bill last year alongside a comprehensive action plan of non-legislative measures. The Bill has now completed its passage through the Commons and has reached Second Reading stage in the Lords. We expect the Bill to receive Royal Assent and become law by the Spring. You can find more information about the Bill at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-abuse-bill.

The Government recognises that the very necessary steps we have taken to safeguard public health during the pandemic are likely to have placed some people in an even more vulnerable situation. I would like to assure you and your constituents that we take these crimes extremely seriously and have taken steps to ensure that victims of domestic abuse have been supported during this time. We have been working closely with domestic abuse charities and the designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner to reach out to victims and ensure they can access help.

On 18 November we announced further funding measures to support victims of domestic abuse. Nearly £11 million will go towards a range of services offering practical and emotional help – allowing organisations to recruit more staff, adapt to remote counselling methods during the pandemic and keep helplines open for longer. In addition we announced that a further £7 million will go towards a range of innovative programmes aimed at perpetrators – designed to prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place.

The package of support includes:

- £10.1 million going to rape and domestic abuse support centres and Police and Crime Commissioners to fund services across England and Wales.
- £7.17 million for a range of innovative programmes aimed at perpetrators to last beyond the pandemic to help offenders change their behaviours and prevent these destructive crimes from happening in the first place. Independent research has shown these programmes cut risk of physical abuse, with the Drive Partnership, which is one of the programmes being funded, demonstrating an 82% reduction in risk. Twenty nine funding awards totalling £7.17 million have been awarded to Police and Crime Commissioners working with perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- £680,000 going directly towards up to 34 domestic abuse organisations that have shown a need for extra funds. The 34 organisations provide support services for victims, including frontline services and virtual services. Funds might be needed, for example, to provide new temporary staff to deal with additional calls to helplines or to provide additional counselling for victims.
- A renewal of the #YouAreNotAlone campaign for the period of new restrictions which signposted people towards support services and online resources, and reminded people that the new national restrictions do not apply if you are in danger at home.

The Government recognises that some people living in the UK as the partner of a British citizen or other settled person while permitted to take employment, will be prohibited in accessing public funds. This may mean that some individuals may therefore encounter financial issues if their relationship ends because of domestic abuse.

Restricting access to public funds to those on some migration routes is a longstanding Government policy and is not aimed specifically at victims of abuse. The Government introduced the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) in 2012, designed to support people at a time of crisis, for an initial period of three months – in their own right - independently from that of their sponsor. This lifts the prospect of them remaining with their sponsor on whom they may be financially dependent.

However, we acknowledge that not all migrant victims are eligible to apply for the DDVC. That is why we committed to undertake a review into the Government's overall response to migrant victims of domestic abuse, including those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NPRF). The review specifically considered the Committee's recommendation to extend the period of time that support is offered for and how this relates to a victim's ability to access refuge accommodation. In considering our response to those who are eligible for the DDVC, we will take into account any obligations we may have under the Istanbul Convention to ensure we are compliant.

The Government has announced a range of measures to ensure people can stay safe and many of these are available for those with an NPRF condition, such as protection for renters from evictions, a mortgage holiday for those who need it, as well as support for those who are vulnerable and need assistance with access to medication and shopping. We have announced £1.5 million for a pilot to better understand needs in this area.

We welcome the important role that faith communities have played, and will continue to play, in tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) in all its forms. Alongside our ongoing engagement with faith groups, Home Office officials are working on the next phase of the Government's plans to end VAWG. As part of our stakeholder engagement work, we will be reaching out to faith leaders and communities to seek their views.

Developed following direct consultation with faith leaders, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) previously delivered the Faith Leader Training programme to empower faith leaders with the confidence and knowledge to meet the changing needs of their congregations. The voluntary training was delivered to improve the capacity of faith leaders to identify issues like domestic and sexual abuse and mental health concerns, as well educating them on equalities legislation and UK marriage law.

MHCLG are funding Strengthening Faith Institutions which offer faith organisations throughout England a range of courses to help them support places of worship, including safeguarding courses for children and vulnerable adults. Advanced safeguarding courses include supporting management and trustees to develop awareness of Safeguarding and Child Protection concerns, and courses aimed to specifically support Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) within faith institutions.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner will provide public leadership on domestic abuse issues and play a key role in overseeing and monitoring provision of domestic abuse services in England and Wales. We know that there is still more to do to embed Government guidance such as the National Statement of Expectations and ensure better consistency in services for victims and their children, including through safe, high quality work with perpetrators. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner will play a key role in doing this, raise awareness of the issues, and monitor and oversee delivery of services, including those provided to the majority of victims who may never come into contact with the criminal justice system.

The Commissioner has day to day operational independence. Ministers will not dictate their work plan nor determine their recommendations, and we are clear that we expect the Commissioner to provide robust, challenging advice and recommendations to national Government as well as local commissioners. Therefore, it is a matter for the Commissioner who they invite to sit on their advisory groups.

The role description of the Commissioner states that they must adopt a specific focus on the needs of victims and survivors of domestic abuse from minority or marginalised groups with particular needs, such as victims who are BAME, LGBT, disabled, migrant, or who have complex needs relating to, for example, mental health or substance misuse.

A thematic lead within the Commissioner's office will be identified for each of these groups, as well as for any additional groups which the Commissioner feels warrants particular attention. This may include religious or faith groups, but this would be a matter for the Commissioner.

Yours ever,



Victoria Atkins MP

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

Deadlines!

For **April** Magazine: Deadline is

MONDAY 15th March

Contact David Shiel

Pew Sheet:

every Thursday 7:30am

Contact Parish Office

Update from the Hawksworths in Hong Kong.....

Kung Hei Fat Choi!! Happy New Year!

We're officially in the Chinese lunar New Year. 2021 is the year of the Ox.

We celebrated the new year with meals with our neighbours over the last 4 days.

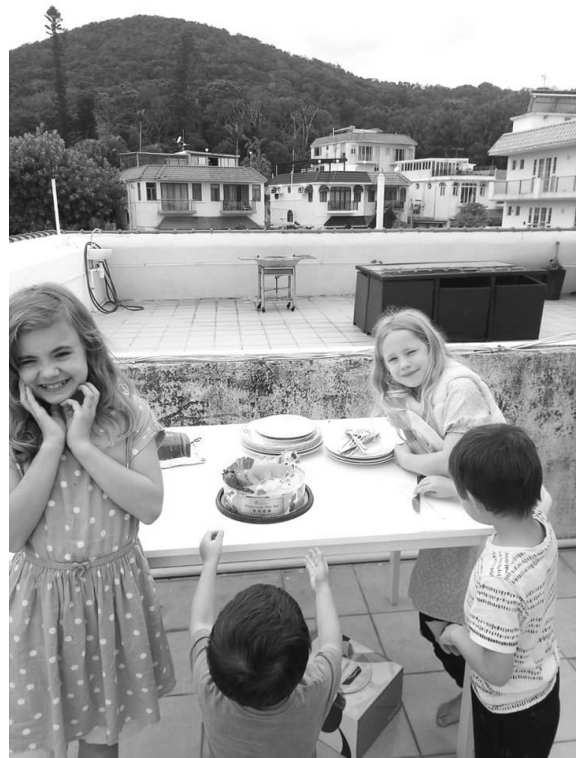
The children were given gifts of Lai See packets. Traditionally these would be red and contain brand new bank notes 10, 20 or 50HKD. It's traditional for married people to give unmarried younger people Lai See packets as they

are thought to bring good fortune and luck for the coming year. There is also a dragon dance that happens throughout the villages where the dragon is chased through the village with people banging saucepans or letting off Chinese firecrackers. The longer the dragon, the more good luck it is said to bring to the community it visits!

The children have 10 days off school to enjoy Chinese New Year. Everything is closed except for supermarkets and restaurants. This is an incredibly special time of year for the Chinese as it would have been a time to travel and spend with family and enjoying food. As our borders are shut to China, people cannot travel like before.

The children continue to enjoy school and, providing Covid numbers stay low, they'll be able to go back every day on half days.

We continue to explore our local country park, Clearwater Bay Country Park.



in

We walked the Lung Ha Wan trail which, although was quite steep to start with, was a wonderfully pleasant walk through some great scenery and we were able to see many of the surrounding islands. From the summit we could see our house. The mountain is something we see every day from our rooftop kitchen.



The weather has been very kind with almost every day being warm and sunny. It gets up to about 25-26° with 40% humidity. The babies enjoy using the paddling pool a lot. It's a great way to keep cool. We had our first rainfall last week. It was the first time it has rained for 40 days. It lasted almost 24 hours, but it cleared the air pollution a treat and we had wonderfully clear skies and seas the following day. I'm currently writing this from our local beach. The children are splashing in the water and it's 24°. Just glorious!

From our family to you and yours.....Kung Hei Fat Choi! Wishing you good fortune and many blessings for the coming year!

All our love,
The Hawksworths xx



Reading for 7th March - Exodus 20.1-17

The Ten Commandments

20 Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ For six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

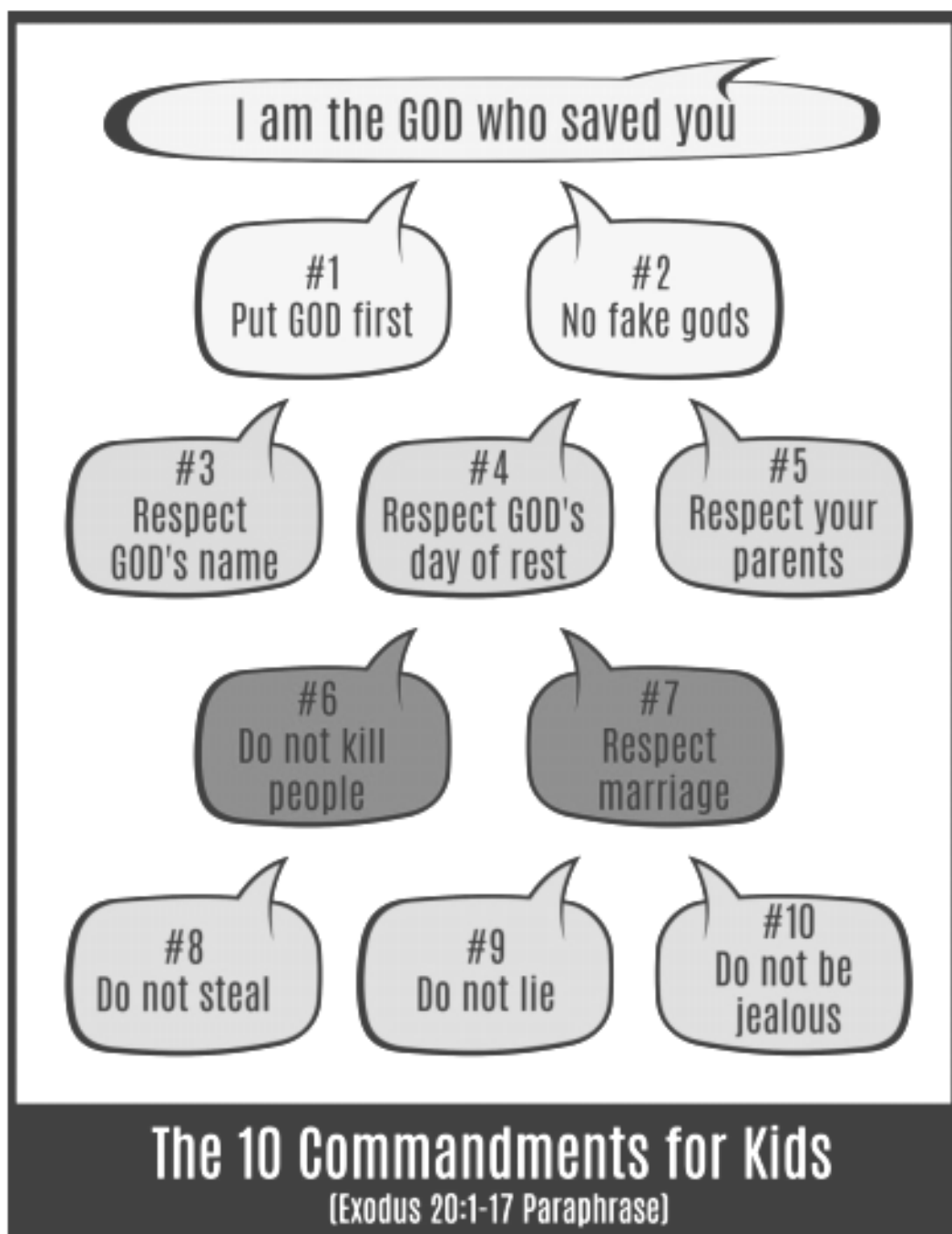
¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.



St. Michael's Churchyard

Among the many flowers beginning to bloom at this time of year the crocus and primrose are certainly two of the prettiest.

Crocus is a genus of flowering plants in the iris family. They grow from corms that were initially planted in the Autumn. Once planted they should appear every Spring. They come in many colours-blue, white, yellow and purple - and a number of striped varieties have also been cultivated. Crocuses are not native to Britain and were probably introduced here in the 17th. Century having first been brought over to The Netherlands. Their native homes are North Africa, The Middle East, Central and Southern Europe, The Aegean Islands and Central Asia.

They are one of the first Spring flowers to appear in our gardens and can even be seen as early as January and February in most years. On mild days bees will visit the crocus flowers for nectar and pollen.



A crocus flowering at the foot of the cross in the Easter Garden.

To find crocus in the Churchyard, start at the outside tap, facing downhill. Walk down the brick path and then walk along the first right path. Walk along this path for about 50 yards and you will soon see crocuses on either side of the path.



A crocus fully open in the Late Winter Sunshine.

Primrose, a plant native to this country, is a small, perennial woodland plant that grows no more than 10 cm. high. It can flower from December right through to May. The leaves are wrinkly with hairy undersides forming a rosette at the plant's base. The flowers are pale to deep yellow with darker orange-yellow centres. The seeds are brown or black and hard.

Primroses are common and widespread across Britain and Ireland. They are found in woods, at the base of hedgerows and in grasslands. They provide a source of nectar for butterflies such as the brimstone and small tortoiseshell.



A primrose braves the snow

Primrose is an ancient woodland indicator plant. If you spot it while out on a countryside walk it could be that you are standing in a rare habitat.

Queen Victoria used to send primroses to Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli as they were his favourite flowers.

There are a number of places where you can find primroses in the Churchyard. There are some clumps growing by the side of the path where

the crocuses are. Also, if you start at the Church East Window and keep walking straight on until you come to a path that goes down to the Compost Bins, you will see primroses growing on the right hand side. There are a lot of primroses growing beautifully in the Easter Garden near the Church door; and others can be seen by the side of gravestones throughout the Churchyard. I hope you enjoy looking for them as you walk around the Churchyard.



A clump of early Primroses.

Ray Allen

The History of Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday has evolved over the years; from the time when people would return to their “Mother Church” during Lent to when those in service and apprenticeships went home to their mothers with gifts such as hand-picked flowers.

By the early 20th century celebrating Mothering Sunday had waned in many places, but the institution of Mother's Day in the United States brought about renewed interest. This was a cause championed by Mothers' Union, amongst others.

By 1938 it was claimed that Mothering Sunday was celebrated in every parish in Britain and in every country of the Empire.

Cordelia Moyse: A History of Mothers' Union; 2009

Now a staple in the church calendar and celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent. Mothering Sunday is a time for us all to recognize the importance of those who have cared for and mothered us throughout our lives.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/about-mothering-sunday>



MOTHER'S DAY

ON MOTHER'S DAY WE SAY THANK YOU TO OUR MOTHERS



AND MAKE A BIT OF AN EFFORT, PERHAPS BY
TIDYING OUR ROOMS A BIT

CartoonChurch.com

WALL NEWS

A Big Thank You!

Sheila Irvine has been our Treasurer at St. John's for over ten years. She has meticulously looked after our accounts, patiently navigated us through the regulations and faithfully explained the church's financial position in the Annual Report and Financial Statements every year. Now the time has come for her to retire and enjoy a well earned rest from figures! We should like to express our thanks for all the time she has given us over the years and for all that she has done for us. Sadly we cannot meet together to express our thanks but we have presented her with an item of furniture for her renovated living room. As you can see, Sheila's cat, Lady Calico, has also shown her appreciation of the gift!



We welcome Paul Wright who has been playing the organ for us at St. John's and has kindly agreed to be our new Treasurer. We are also very grateful to Linda Rubisch who has been the Assistant Treasurer working with Sheila and will continue to help Paul in his role.

Christine Higgs

From the Registers

Funerals

16/02/2021	St Michael	John Stuart	*****
------------	------------	-------------	-------

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.

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

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:

And Finally

And FINALLY!

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Our Member of Parliament, Michael Fabricant, has been informed by local GPs that inaccurate medical records held by some local practices could cause delays, for some patients, in being called up for their Covid-19 vaccinations.

The most common, and safe, way for GP practices to contact patients, for vaccination and other purposes, is via text message using the mobile 'phone number and e-mail address stored in the patient's medical records.

However, GPs are finding that, over time, many patients have changed their 'phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses without informing their local GP surgery.

Therefore, Mr. Fabricant is urging all residents to ensure that their GP holds their correct, and up-to-date, mobile and e-mail details and that they have authorised their GP to use them.

-----HANDS >>>>FACE >>>> SPACE-----

PS. The St Giles Hospice 20/21 annual Treecycle campaign recycled 4,428 unwanted Christmas trees, of which our Church Christmas tree was one, raising a total of £65,000 in the process to support the Hospice's excellent work supporting patients and their loved ones living with serious and life-threatening illnesses.

Bible Readings

Sunday 7th March
Third Sunday of Lent
[Purple]
Exodus 20.1-17
John 2.13-22

Sunday 14th March
Mothering Sunday
[Purple]
2 Corinthians 1.3-7
Luke 2.33-35

Sunday 21st March
Fifth Sunday of Lent
[Purple]
Jeremiah 31.31-34
John 12.20-33

Sunday 28th March
Palm Sunday
[Red]
TBC
TBC

Thursday 1st April
Maundy Thursday
[Red]
1 Corinthians 11.23-29
John 13.1-15

Friday 2nd April
Good Friday
[Red]
Isaiah 52.13—53.end
John 18.1-19.end

Sunday 4th April
Easter Sunday
[White]
Acts 10.34-43
TBC

Sunday 11th April
Second Sunday of Easter
[White]
Acts 4.32-35
John 20.19-end



God loves ya baby!



ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

If you would like to advertise here, the
prices per year are:

Full page £280

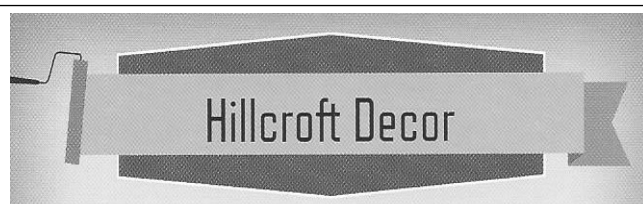
Half Page £150

Quarter Page £85

Eighth Page £50

Please contact the office ☎ 01543
262211

✉ office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk



IAN DERRY

***PROFESSIONAL PAINTING
AND DECORATING***

ALL TYPES OF PAINTING AND
DECORATING CARRIED OUT, TIMBER
REPAIRS AND CARPENTRY.

**FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION
QUOTE & FREINDLY SERVICE.**

CONTACT IAN ON:

07774 295236

thedecorator30@talktalk.net

**HILLCROFT
30 CUMBERLEDGE HILL
CANNOCK WOOD
WS15 4SB**



THE SPIRES

BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE



Celebrating Life

The Spires is more than a care home. It's a family home.
A friendly home. Your home. A home that provides tailored care,
beautiful environments and choice in every meal or activity.

A place that celebrates the little things that
mean everything – morning, noon and night.

Visit us anytime for friendly advice and to look around.

Call: 01543 330 751

The Spires Care Home, Stafford Road, Lichfield, WS13 8JD
www.barchester.com

Residential care • Dementia care • Respite care & short breaks
En-suite rooms • Café • Hairdressing salon • Wi-fi

P.J. NEVILLE MEMORIALS

Hand carved quality
memorials. Renewals.
Additional inscriptions.

House numbers.

Home visits and brochure at no
extra cost.

Willow Court, Tamworth
Road, Lichfield, Staffs.

WS14 9HD

Telephone and fax:

01543 263440

DECORATING BY JULIE

Your local
lady
decorator



Julie Parkinson

Home: (01543) 317258

Mobile: 07796268056

Email: travellergirl2000@yahoo.co.uk

JUDY BARBER

FOOT HEALTH
PRACTITIONER
since 2002



01543 416068

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

Corns, callus,
General foot care

Our family would like to
help your family.

We are an independent, family
business from Lichfield.

At your service 24 hours.



House of Minster Funeral Home,
26 Tamworth Street, Lichfield, WS13 6JJ

enquiries@jukesfuneralservices.com

www.jukesfuneralservices.com

01543 415050



ThreeSpires
PHYSIOTHERAPY

HOME VISIT PHYSIOTHERAPY

For ALL your physiotherapy needs, including:

- Post-Operative Rehabilitation
- Neurological Rehabilitation, for conditions
such as Stroke
- Improving mobility and fitness
- Relief from Musculoskeletal
injuries, such as back and
neck pain



T: 07884 281623

E: enquiries@threespiresphysiotherapy.co.uk
www.threespiresphysiotherapy.co.uk

CENTRAL GARAGE

(LICHFIELD) LTD

QUEEN STREET, LICHFIELD, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS13 6QD
info@centralgaragelichfield.co.uk

A family run business established for over 75 years.
We not only service your car, we can offer the following:

- **Quality Body Repair Work**
- **Engine Diagnostic Work**
- **MOT Testing Station**
- **Collection & Delivery Service**
- **Courtesy Cars**

FREE MINI VALET WITH EVERY SERVICE



01543 262826

G. A. CANNELL MEMORIALS

*Individual designs & personal
attention our speciality*

*Also : Memorial Revonvations and Repairs.
FREE QUOTE*

Home visits available at no extra charge - No oblication

Visit our Showroom at: Curborough Hall
Craft Farm, Water Lane, Lichfield Or
Telephone: (01543) 256395
Web: www.cannellmemorials.co.uk

Open: Wed-Sun 10.30am-5pm



The co-operative funeralcare

Locally owned by The Midcounties Co-operative

Our caring staff are here to listen and
advise you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**- Funeral Pre-Payment Plans
- Memorial Masonry**

1 Birmingham Road, Lichfield

Tel: 01543 416660

www.coopfunerals.co.uk



National Association
of Funeral Directors

B7274_Feb2014_wv1

Would you like
to reduce your
household
bills?

**UW Utility
Warehouse**

Authorised UW Partner

Utility Warehouse could save you a huge
amount of money every year. They provide **gas,
electricity, broadband, home and mobile
phones.**

Membership gives you access to the best value
utility services in the UK with everything on one
single monthly bill, and a host of money-saving
member benefits.

As well as savings on your household services,
membership gives you access to lots of other
benefits.

If you would like to save money, contact me for
more information.

Frazer Sneddon, Lichfield

Frazer & Ruth Sneddon

Authorised UW Partner

+447974122710

frazer.and.ruth@uw.partners

Web Site : uw.partners/frazer.and.ruth

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



Who's Who

<p>St Michaels PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: Lyn Shiel 320437 Sue Jones 415242</p> <p>Assistant Wardens: June Frayn 264920 Liz Clarke 268862 David Easton 255308 Brenda Liptrot 251863</p> <p>Treasurer: Viv Oliver 258054</p> <p>PCC Secretary: Phil Clayton 682141</p> <p>Stewardship Recorder: Sandy Baker 256320</p> <p>Electoral Roll Officer: Mike Godfrey 264255</p>	<p>St John's PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: Christine Higgs 410351 John Alsop 480240</p> <p>Assistant Churchwarden: Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>Treasurer: Paul Wright 01543 483230</p> <p>PCC Secretary: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>PCC Lay Vice Chair: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Electoral Roll: Angie King office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</p>
<p>St Michael's Church</p> <p>Verger: Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</p> <p>Sacristan and Head Server: Maggie Easton 255308</p> <p>Organist and Choirmaster: Dudley Ray 07847 643373 dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Music Group: Richard Brooks 07918 906 350</p> <p>Transport Rota: Brenda Liptrot 251863</p> <p>Pastoral Care: Peter Salt 250723</p> <p>Flowers: Diana Baker 01543 416232</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p>Junior Praise: Viv Oliver 258054</p> <p>Bell ringers: Gillian Eastwood 07568134115 Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. gillieastwood@gmail.com</p> <p>Mothers Union: Elizabeth Allen 304938</p> <p>Social Team: Contact via the office 262211</p>	<p>St John's Church, Wall</p> <p>Verger: Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p>Pastoral Care: Christine Gilbert 07821 987999</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p>Magazine Distributer: Eileen Carson 254107</p> <p>Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> <p>Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: Barbara Homewood 255909 E-mail brian@britcave.co.uk Magazine Editor: David Shiel 01543320437" shielfamily@gmail.com</p>
<p>Scouting and Guiding</p> <p>Group Scout Leader Carl Hall 07988 685378 chair@7thlichfield.org.uk</p> <p>Rainbows: Becky Bickley 07703 671568 Vicki Davies Friend 07970 549284 Hannah Heath 07854 824443</p> <p>Brownies: Julie Cragg 301098</p> <p>Guides: Lisa Webb 07900 164587</p>	

