

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
November 2023

Treat others
as you
want them
to treat you.

Matthew 7.12a

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

£1

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<p>Reader: Trevor James 36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434</p>	<p>Reader: Alan Toplis Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN Maureen Brand 01543 264880 For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.</p>
<p>St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED</p>	<p>St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS</p>

REFLECTION

As I have driven around the countryside of England, Scotland and Wales over the past few weeks, I have been very conscious of the change in the landscape as the seasons begin to move towards autumn and the last knockings of the harvest season. As I write this reflection the fields are now cleared of their crops and laid bare ready for the next planting of new life. It's a quiet reminder that change is the ever present feature of our lives.

The Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 tells us that "for everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven". Pete Seeger took eight verses from this chapter and, adding a haunting melody, created the iconic song "Turn, Turn, Turn", which took a text from the bible to the top of the hit parade in 1965

Over the years I have come to love the words of Ecclesiastes, however if we are to look beyond the elegant poetry hoping to find solutions for our existential problems, easy answers are not forthcoming. The text presents itself as a reflection by an unknown author on what the teacher "Qohelet" had told him about the futility of anything that we might normally rely on to give stability to our lives: everything has its time, and nothing is permanent

Life so far in the twenty-first century might appear to be echoing Ecclesiastes. From the perspective of my own post war generation it can at times feel as if we are now living in a chaotic "post-modern" world, where much of what we had taken as understood is being routinely rejected. If I am going to be objective however, I am bound to ask is this really new? How for instance did those who had just fought and survived two world wars experience the new ideas brought in by my own "flower power" generation?

Ecclesiastes is quietly nodding at this point, reminding us that it has all been seen before: "what has been, will be" as "there is nothing new under the sun". In case we are about to sink into despair the books

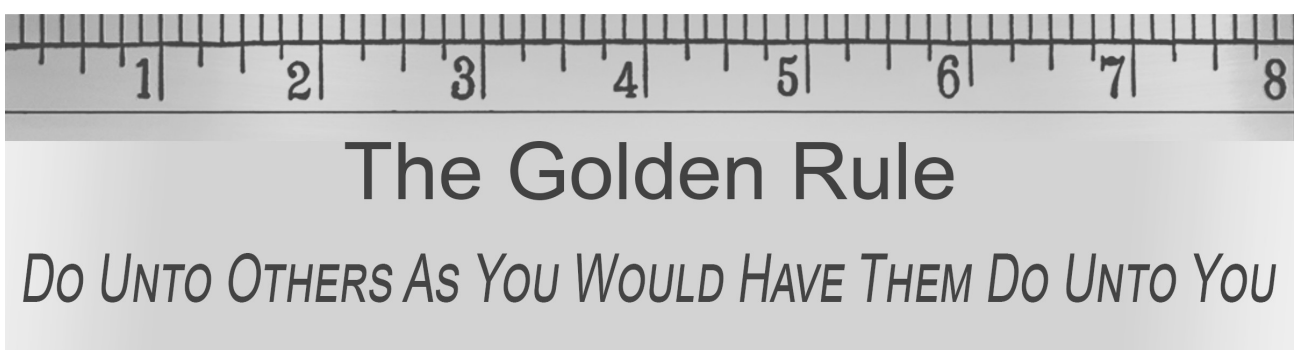
penultimate verse finally reminds us that there is a simple solution: “Fear God and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone”.

But how? Several centuries later Jesus was asked to clarify which of the commandments was the greatest. No one was particularly surprised when he answered, “you should love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul”, but then he suddenly added that “you should love your neighbour as yourself”. In case that was not clear he also elsewhere twice puts it another way, saying “you should do to others as you would have them do to yourselves”.

We are of course already blessed by a few individuals who do their best to live by these simple rules, but the other day a strange thought suddenly struck me. What would happen if year on year a small percentage of people in every country of the world were to suddenly be motivated to follow that advice and moreover were never to turn back. Well that would certainly be something totally “new under the sun”. But then what might our world be like some ten years hence?

Meanwhile back to reality, and let us all enjoy what’s left of the beautiful Autumn!

Alan Toplis



INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Notice on Warblington with Emsworth Church, Hampshire

The Church of St Thomas a Becket

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, questioning, well-heeled or down at heel.

We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or just out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Christmas 10 years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those over 60 but not grown up yet and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted.

We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps, or don't like organised religion (we're not that keen either).

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to look around. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither.

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as a kid or got lost on the ring road and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters—and especially you.

Please come in!

Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

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

1st Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

Wednesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

Thursdays

9.30am Morning Prayer

Regular Services at St John's Sundays

10am Holy Communion

Baptism @ 11.30am

3rd Sunday of the month

Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

1st Monday 10.00am

First Steps

2nd Sunday 4:30pm

Messy Church

3rd Sunday 6:00pm

Choral Evensong

Last Sunday 12:30pm

Holy Baptism

Music in the Benefice

St Michael's Church

Wednesdays

6.00pm Junior Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal
(except on the Weds before 1st
Sunday)

Friday before 1st Sunday

7:30pm Music Group & Senior
Choir Rehearsal

Baptism Preparation

First Saturday 10:30am

at St Michael's

Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Family Praise

Sunday

5th November

10am St Michael's



First Steps

Monday 6th November

10am—11.30am

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on

SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome



Deadlines!

For December Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 12th November

Please send articles to David Shiel

AND the Parish Office

shielfamily@gmail.com

office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

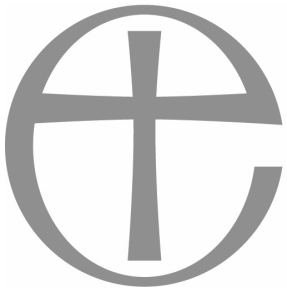
Pew Sheet:

every Thursday

7:30am

Contact

Parish Office



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Church of England invests GBP 30m in kickstarting net zero plans

Published 12 October 2023:

Thousands of churches, cathedrals, schools and clergy houses in England will benefit from the first phase of grants and projects worth £30 million, as part of the Church of England's ambitious plan to achieve net zero by 2030.

The aim is to support the Church in reducing carbon emissions from the energy used in churches, schools, cathedrals, houses and other buildings, saving money by improving the energy efficiency of buildings, and switching to cheaper, more reliable, renewable energy sources.

“The ambition to be net zero by 2030 is at the core of the Church of England's response to the climate crisis – to help safeguard God's creation and achieve a just world,” said the Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, the Church of England's lead Bishop for the Environment. “Climate change is hitting the poorest people of the world hardest. We are already seeing the devastating effects of climate change and we must act now. The Church is called to be a people of hope; to repent and live in harmony with our world; to treasure God's creation and to love our global neighbours.”

Dioceses, and their parishes and schools, can now take advantage of the first round of grants from the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Programme, made possible by funding from the Church Commissioners for England.

600 churches with the highest energy use will have access to fully funded energy audits, which come with small grants to create action plans and kickstart initial green projects. A further 1,000 churches will be able to apply for subsidised audits. The programme will also offer Quick Wins grants for small scale work in churches such as installing LED lighting or alternative heating solutions.

A Pilot and Evaluation Fund will support the trialling of new net zero carbon technologies, and there will be packages of technical and fundraising support for demonstrator churches – who can then inspire other churches by sharing their own success in reducing carbon emissions.

The programme will also fund detailed energy surveys on cathedrals and over 100 Church of England clergy houses across four dioceses, representing various housing types and uses. The surveys will help dioceses and cathedrals understand what is needed to achieve their net zero carbon ambitions.

“The announcement today represents the first major milestone of the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Programme, and there is much more to come,” said Julian Atkins, Net Zero Carbon Programme Director with the Church Commissioners, which is providing funding in support of the programme. “There will be more details on how dioceses and parishes can apply for support in the coming weeks and months – and what we learn during this phase will inform the future phases of our work.”



DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

Called to Serve?

Did you know that 15 million people alive today attended a Church of England school? Today a quarter of all primary schools are Church of England schools and approximately 1 million children currently attend a Church of England School.



For hundreds of years, Church of England Schools have been at the heart of local communities. In the 1800s, a time when there were no state schools, the Church of England began a mission to set up a church school in every parish in England and Wales. At the heart of this mission, was the vision to provide an education for all, with the belief that moral and spiritual education, was as important to children as learning skills or a trade. Today this deeply Christian vision lives on, educating children to help them flourish regardless of their background or starting point, providing an education that enables 'life in all its fullness'. Could you be a part of this mission?

The Church School is an example of the Church working in the community and working for the community. Many Christians find the opportunity to serve the school in the community as a Foundation Governor extremely rewarding and gain a great deal of satisfaction from bringing their own skills and experiences to the governing body.

Church schools are driven by a distinctive Christian vision which serves the whole community, people of all faiths and none. Church schools

are distinctive in their collective worship and religious education offering, their ethos, and the ways in which this distinctively Christian vision is worked into the daily life of the school.

Governors are guardians of the school vision, keeping it alive and ensuring that it is implemented. They are also responsible for ensuring that the school upholds its Trust Deed which sets out exactly what it means to be a church school in the local parish. The expectation is that a church school will seek to offer excellence in education and will above all be concerned to develop the whole human being in a place where the Christian faith is lived daily. As a foundation governor, you will be ensuring that this is happening.

As part of the role, you will need be involved in building relationships within the school community and finding out what happens in school. This might involve talking to leaders, meeting pupils and talking to them about school or looking at books. This will ensure you are well informed about the school. In addition, headteachers tell us the importance of foundation governors who are concerned about the staff and pupils in the school, those who 'check in' alongside the statutory role.

Do you feel called to serve? To be a part of educating children to help them flourish regardless of their background or starting point? Maybe you could share your life skills and expertise as a foundation governor in a Church of England school? You do not need a background in education but will need to commit to training to help with your role as a Foundation Governor for your parish Church of England school. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Lynsay Jennings is a Christian Distinctiveness Adviser and Governance Officer in the diocese's Education team

Published: 20th September 2023

Welcoming the World Quiz

How many people are currently forcibly displaced in the world?

79.5 million / 6.4 million / 25.9 million people

Which country hosts the largest number of displaced people world-wide?

Turkey / France / Mexico

True or false: most people flee to richer countries like the UK?

True / False

On average, how many people are forced to flee their homes every day because of conflict or persecution?

140 / 37,000 / 2,600

How many Syrian refugees has Scotland resettled since 2014?

3,318 / 31,800 / 5,038

True or false: The UK has one of the world's lowest proportions of asylum seekers in relation to its population and wealth.

False / True

Most asylum applications in the UK come from nationals of which country?

Albania / Syria / Iran

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work in the UK. How much financial support do they have for food , clothing and toiletries per week?

£89.80 / £105.50 / £47.39

ANSWERS

Answers: 1:A, 2:A, 3:B, 4:B, 5:A, 6:B, 7:C, 8:C

Useful definitions

An asylum seeker:

- flees their home

- arrives in another country, whichever way they can

- makes themselves known to the authorities

- submits an asylum application

- has a legal right to stay in the country while waiting for a decision.

A refugee:

- has proven that they'd be at risk if returned to their home country

- has had their claim for asylum accepted by the government

- can now stay in the UK either long term or indefinitely

- the term is frequently used to describe anyone who has had to flee their home, irrespective of their legal status

A migrant

Any person who moves from one country or region to another (e.g. for studying or work).

If you want to find out more about the current worldwide refugee statistics, this website has all the information that you need.

www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024

Thank you all for subscribing to the magazine in 2023.

For 2024 the subscription is held at the special price of £10 for the year (£1 per copy for non-subscribers). Subscriptions will be collected from December onwards and we would like all subscriptions paid, please, by **Monday, 8th January 2024**. Please try to **avoid paying by cheque**, as we have to pay a significant banking charge.

May I ask you, please, to **pay via your distributor** who will come to collect the money from you. With the December magazine, you will receive an envelope with your name, address and name of your distributor. Please put your subscription into this envelope and hand it back to your distributor when asked.

For those few subscribers who collect their magazine from church, you, too, will get a personalised envelope. Please use this for your subscription and place on the collection plate at the back of church.

For those subscribers who worship at St John's, please use your personalised envelope and hand to Paul Wright, treasurer.

We welcome new subscribers. Please contact me, if you would like to subscribe.

Steve Oliver

REGULAR GIVING ENVELOPES

NOVEMBER 2023 TO OCTOBER 2024

I am standing in as Stewardship Recorder now that Sandy and Chris have moved to Oakham.

The regular giving envelope box sets will be available for collection at the back of church by Sunday 22 October for those who prefer to give to the church in this way. Your ongoing support is very much appreciated! If you are unable to collect your box and need to have it delivered please let me know.

However, if you would find it simpler to give by standing order please also contact me for the PCC account details. The advantages of giving by this method are that you do not have to write cheques or find cash but remain in control of your giving. As an added bonus the church is not charged by the bank for processing your gift.

Many thanks

Viv Oliver

Acting Stewardship Secretary

Hon Treasurer

email: viv.oliver@ntlworld.com

mobile: 07891 935399

address: 13 Holywell Rise, Lichfield WS14 9SW

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

We resumed meetings in September with a service prepared by June during which we reminded ourselves of the aims of the Union worldwide. We learned that Winifred has moved to Rosemary Lodge and would welcome letters.

In October we welcomed Sam Collins to tell us about Blood Bikes. She is a senior midwife at Coventry hospital but also a Blood Biker. The organisation began in 1962, it is divided into areas and Sam works with the local branch covering Staffs, Shrops and Cheshire which was formed in 2014. Not only blood is delivered but also breast milk, tools and PPE. Bone marrow, platelets, frozen sections, heart monitors and faecal matter. The service is available night and day and can make the difference between life and death. Some items have a very short "life" from being collected to being used. They are stored at certain suitable hospitals and no time can be wasted en route to its destination. Shropshire poses problems as it is a very rural county requiring long journeys. Unlike other emergency services the bikers must keep within speed limits.

Everyone is a volunteer who can commit for any length of time they choose. A controller works from home, calling up a rider when a request comes in and keeps in touch until he/she is safely home again. Some work as fund-raisers, speakers or bike managers. Riders must have advanced qualifications and 3 new bikes are needed each year. Not surprising when you realise that 6291 jobs are done in one year.

Now , the startling news. There is no funding from the government or elsewhere. The whole organisation is financed from voluntary

contributions, often a legacy from a grateful patient or family and about £82000 is needed each year. It has been known for a biker to fill up with fuel and be told that another customer has already paid their bill. A sobering thought.

Betty Lyne



Visit www.bloodbikes.org.uk to find out more

The following article taken from the Autumn MU CONNECTED magazine is produced to help members bring awareness to their branches of MU's new Domestic Abuse campaign and how they can get involved. This is an issue that everyone not just MU members should be aware of and we hope all who read this will support the campaign too. **Together let's RISE UP against domestic abuse.**



RISE UP AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

Respond – to a disclosure of abuse with compassion and calm

Inform – the person where they can get help from

Support – them appropriately and in a safe manner

Empower – them to grow and heal

Unite – with other members of Mothers' Union

Pray – for an end to domestic abuse in the UK and throughout the world

As many of you will know, we have just launched Mothers' Union RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse challenge throughout Britain and Ireland. Our aim is to make sure that activism against domestic abuse and gender-based violence happens 365 days per year, not just during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in November – December.

We hope that all branches will get involved and RISE UP to the challenge by carrying out three simple actions:

1 downloading the RISE UP poster, adding your nearest support organisation number and displaying in your church toilet or on relevant noticeboards.

2 committing to praying for victims, survivors, perpetrators and those who work in the field of domestic abuse three times per year

3 contacting your local support organisation to see how you can help support them, maybe with 'moving in' or 'moving on' packages

A moving in package contains essentials a woman may need when she first arrives at a refuge, such as soap, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste and sanitary towels.

A moving on package contains some of the smaller items a family will need when they move out of the refuge and set up on their own. It includes items like cutlery, tea towels, washing up liquid, clothes pegs. These packages can be small, ideal for refuges that often don't have a lot of space. The moving in package can be contained in a small washbag and the moving on package in a washing up bowl.

We hope that MU members and others can work together to be a part of the change. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone from any walk of life. It isn't just unemployed, single parents who suffer from abuse. It is the educated, the affluent, both women and men.

We need to ensure that perpetrators of abuse know that the church is not somewhere they can hide, nor can they use miscommunicated

passages of the bible to justify their actions.

**16 Days of Activism campaign: 25 November – 10 December
(International Human Rights Day)**

During the 16 days we are again asking members to be involved with our campaign **'No More 1 in 3**

We do this to raise awareness of the fact that 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. This means that there is a strong possibility that some of your branch members or congregation have been a victim or witnessed abuse in some form. As well as asking you to hold a one minute's silence on Saturday 25 November at 1.03pm, we have additional resources available at mothersunion.org/16days

This year, we have created a video of MU members, staff and supporters reading out the names of 108 women who were the victims of domestic homicide during 2022 in the UK. This video can be used on your social media accounts or during your services.

We understand that this is a sensitive topic but we feel that this matter should not be shied away from. The reality is that domestic abuse is real. It is a pandemic which we are struggling to fight.

REDUNDANT SPECTACLES FOR THE THIRD WORLD.

Since Easter Trevor James has dispatched over one thousand pairs of redundant spectacles through a Rotary pathway for redistribution in the Third World. They are being donated at various local churches and also at two Lichfield opticians. Please do continue to donate your spare spectacles to this very positive initiative which is making a significant difference in impoverished communities



TUESDAY CLUB

Tuesday 14th November

2.30pm

REMEMBRANCE

LECTURE

Vietnam 1950-1975

SPEAKER - TED GREEN

St Michael's Church

Film Club

at St Michael's Church

FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS

Doors open at 1.30pm

The First of the Few

(Cert U. 1hr 58. Adventure, Biography Drama 1942.)

with Leslie Howard, Rosamund John and David Niven.

Aircraft designer/patriot R. J. Mitchell, alarmed at growing German militarism, works to perfect a defence against the German Messerschmidt at the cost of his health.

Monday 6th November

2.00pm start

Tea/Coffee and Cake will be served

at the interval

All welcome.

The Bishop's Wife

(Cert U, 1hr 49 mins., Comedy 1947)

Starring Cary Grant, Loretta Young and David Niven.

A debonair angel comes to Earth to help a bishop and his wife in their quest to raise money for the new church.

Monday 4th December

2.00pm start

SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We will be meeting on

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER
from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30p.m.

**Refreshments (Tea/Coffee/Cake) will be provided
during the Mid-Morning Break**

*We will be meeting every third Saturday,
so the dates going forward will be*

November 18th. , NO DECEMBER MEETING,
January 20th, February 17th
March 16th April 20th
May 18th, June 15th,
July 20th, August 17th

For more information please contact
Brenda Liptrot.
Email: brendaliptrot@outlook.com

St. Michael's Churchyard Working Party

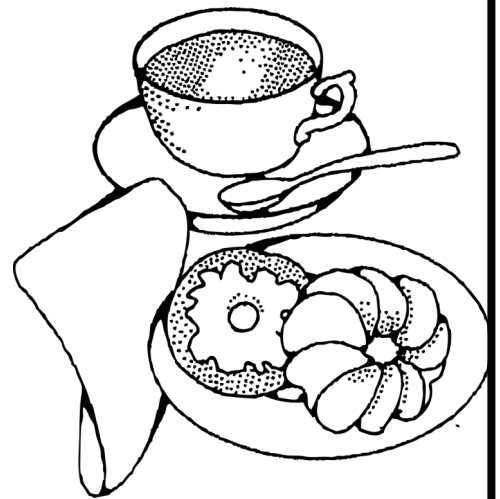
The Working Party met in September following our Summer Break. As well as weeding and general tidying of the Tower Beds and the Herb Garden we also sowed wild flower seeds in our new mini meadow, a circular 2 metre diameter bed near to our main meadow. I would like to thank Brian Hammond who gave us 6 packets of Seeds for Bees. September is a very good time of year to sow native wild flower seeds. The soil is still warm from the Summer and the plants should flower in the early Spring next year.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING

We warmly invite you to a
Fellowship Meeting to be held in

St Michael's Church
Thursday 23rd November
2:30 to 3:30pm.

We hope you will come along
for a chat and a cuppa.



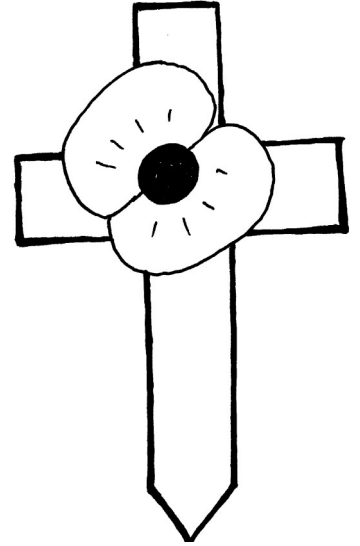
If you need transport please
contact Sue on 01543 415242 or
Brenda on 07980 011150.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 23rd!
Sue and Brenda



WALKING GROUP

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ABORETUM ALREWAS
following Remembrance Sunday -Leader, Hilary
Barker



Date: Saturday 18th November 2023

Start 10.15 a.m.

Meeting Point; Entrance door to National Memorial Arboretum,
Alrewas DE137AR

Walk terrain Details ;

The walk will be on good paths, however at times we may need to walk on wet grass areas. Therefore sturdy shoes are recommended.

Entrance to the Arboretum is free however booking parking in advance is recommended as it is cheaper.

It is hoped we will be able to participate in the daily two minute silence in the Millennium Chapel. Seating for this is at 10.50 a.m. Therefore meeting at 10.15 a.m. gives us chance to discuss our options.

We will be able to visit the British Legion Field of Remembrance which is opened on 3rd November

The walking options will be guided by the weather and the group on the day.

Restaurant for those who would like a coffee break or mid day meal the restaurant is self service.

I would be grateful if you would let me know if you plan to come so that I have some idea of the size of the group and we do not set off without you.

Hilary Barker
beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com
01543 262211



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



ALL SOUL'S SERVICES

Sunday 5th November at 6pm

At St Michael's, Lichfield

and at

St John's, Wall

**REMEMBERING
OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES**

Painting in St. Michael's Churchyard

Over the past year I have been pleased to receive paintings of trees, flowers and general Churchyard views from Olga Vikhireva, who has used St. Michael's Churchyard as the subject for a year's art project. Olga has written this article for the magazine giving more information about her work. She has also included her 3 latest paintings. *Ray Allen*

“Artist Statement”

Hello, I am Olga, a Lichfield-based curious creative, fascinated by local flora (particularly trees and flowers), obsessed with watercolour, and devoted to daily art practice. Exploring Lichfield’s surroundings and beyond, I paint and draw nature’s miracles that truly move me, no matter how tiny, familiar, or overlooked.

About a year ago, I decided to start a long-term project of drawing and



Sunny Patch

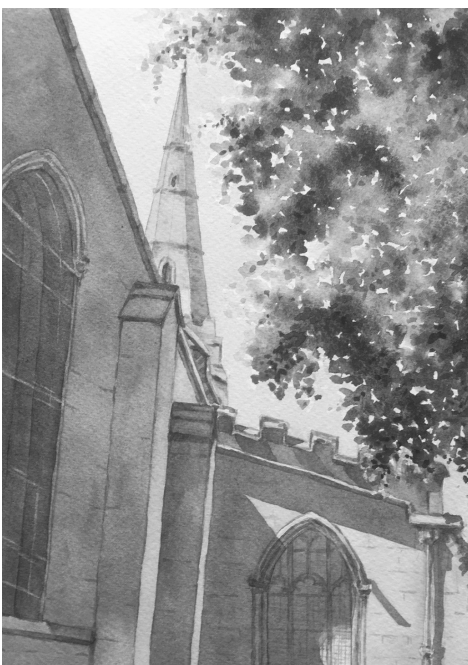
painting St. Michael's Churchyard throughout the seasons. The initial idea was born during lockdown walks, when I fell in love with this very special place which never fails to provide solace and inspiration freely and generously.



Evergreen

Attending the Eco Fortnight Walk event last November, expertly organised by Ray Allen and his team, was the lightbulb moment. I finally realised how I could use my art for saying thank you to the Churchyard and all the people looking after it. For the past year, Ray patiently received monthly instalments of my “seasonal scenes”, from flower close-ups to panoramic landscapes, and anything in between.

Even though my self-imposed one-year project is over now, and I plan to focus more on figurative work, I also know that painting and drawing St. Michael's Churchyard will always be a part of my art practice.



I strongly believe that every one of us is an artist, in our own unique way.

Art, in every shape or form, helps us understand, appreciate, and cherish the world around us – and our place in it.

Let's discover, share, and protect the beauty of Creation together.

Midday light

by Olga Vikhireva

The Erasmus Darwin Society

Do you enjoy discussing religion, science, philosophy? If so, you may be interested in Lichfield's **Darwin Society**. It was formed over 20 years ago when Darwin House was opened to celebrate the 'Enlightenment' period of the Midlands in the 18th C.

The Society meets monthly between September and May. We take our inspiration from the Lunar Society that would meet in Birmingham and Lichfield during the Georgian era. There is no membership or formal constitution. – just an email list of interested people who enjoy debating contemporary issues in a relaxed and respectful environment over a glass of wine (or fruit juice). A paper is presented and then followed by discussion – from 7.30 to about 9.00pm.

We meet in the Lunar Room at Darwin House in the Cathedral Close off Beacon Street. Those attending contribute £5 to cover the cost of room hire, photocopying and the drinks.

Topics to be debated during the coming year :

'Nuclear Power' on Wednesday 4th October

'Why do we obey the law?' on the 28th November

'Did God or nature create the universe?' on the 31st January

'The psychology of spirituality and our search for meaning' on 28th
Feb

'How geology created the Theory of Evolution' on 20th March

'Identity and Character' on 24th April

'What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?' on 29th
May

If you would like to join the Darwin Society mailing list, please email Iwan Griffiths on iwangriffiths@sky.com

Do contact Michael Hawkes for more information on hawkes.madiba@btinternet.com or phone 01543 250332.



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**LICHFIELD
WILDLIFE GROUP**



A talk by Graham Evans

Tuesday 7 November 7:45 p.m.

Wade Street Church

Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HL

Admission: £3.50 (under-16s free)

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

Contact (01543) 257812

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Staffordshire
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**LICHFIELD
WILDLIFE GROUP**



LARGE COPIES of
the magazine are
available on
request



A talk by Heather Lomas

Tuesday 5 December 7:45 p.m.

Wade Street Church

Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HL

Admission: £3.50 (under-16s free)

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

Contact (01543) 257812

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ARROGANCE

PROVERBS PRAYERS

16.18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
(NRSVA)

Pride comes before disaster, and arrogance before a fall. (CEV)

11.2

When arrogance comes, shame follows, but with humility comes wisdom. (EHV)

People who are proud will soon be disgraced. It is wiser to be modest.
(GNT)

21.4

Lofty eyes, and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin. (DARBY)

Evil people are proud and arrogant,
but sin is the only crop they produce (CEV)

21.24

Proud, arrogant, scorner is his name who dealeth in proud wrath.
(DARBY)

If you are proud and conceited,
everyone will say,
“You're a snob!” (CEV)

27.2

Let another praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips. (DARBY)

Don't brag about yourself— let others praise you. (CEV)

RELATED READING

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV)

Heavenly Father, you know that mankind's problems stem from our arrogance in thinking we are in control instead of you.

Jesus, help us to let go of the desire to be in control, trying to solve everything by ourselves. Remind us to lean on you completely.

Spirit, be with us to guide us every day, especially when we don't want to admit that we're wrong, refuse to apologise, criticize others, grumble, brag, moan and make judgements about others.

Lord, help us to put our self-centred pride and arrogance aside and to treat all people that we meet in the way that we would wish to be treated—with love, respect, patience and care.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Angie King

SEVEN DEADLY SINS IN THE BIBLE

The list of seven deadly sins does not appear in any Bible verse. They were first compiled by Pope Gregory I around the year 600.



Pride is an excessive view of one's self without regard for others.



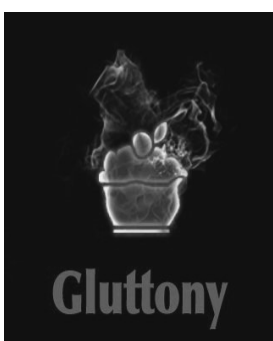
Greed is an excessive pursuit of material goods.



Lust is a strong passion or longing



Wrath is a strong anger and hate towards another person.



Gluttony is an excessive and ongoing eating of food or drink.



Envy is the intense desire to have an item that someone else possesses.



Sloth is an excessive laziness or the failure to act and utilize one's talents.

Gregory also compiled a list of the seven virtues: faith, hope, charity, justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

However, a slightly different set of sins can be found in Proverbs 6:16-19, "These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

A proud look,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
A heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that are swift in running to evil,
A false witness who speaks lies,
and one who sows discord among brethren."

Additionally, Galatians 5:19-21 mentions several more sins to be on our guard against: "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

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 the pages are turned twice a week, so that names are visible through the glass on the date of their death. It costs £10 to insert a name.

Please complete this form and return it to

✉ Parish Office, St Michael's Church, Church Street, Lichfield, WS13 6ED

✉ office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

Name of Deceased (as you wish it to appear in the Memorial Book)

Date of Death:

Age at Death:

Name of Contact (in case of any problems or queries)

Telephone Number:

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

If you wish to pay by bank transfer the details are

Bank: Lloyds

Sort Code: 30 95 04

Account Number: 00114488

Please label your payment: **MEMBOOK** follow by your surname

From the Registers

Baptisms		

Weddings		
St Michael's	3rd October	Nicole Lee and Anthony Morgan

Funerals		



Bible Readings

Sunday 5th November

All Saints Day

[White]

Revelation 7.9-end

Matthew 5.1-12

Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Sunday

[Red]

Amos 5.18-24

Matthew 25.1-13

Sunday 19th November

2nd Sunday before Advent

[Red]

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Matthew 25.14-30

Sunday 19th November

2nd Sunday before Advent

EVENSONG

[Red]

1 Kings 1.15-40

Revelation 1.4-18

Sunday 26th November

Christ the King

[Red]

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

Matthew 25.31-end

Sunday 3rd December

1st Sunday of Advent

[Purple]

Isaiah 64.1-9

Mark 13.24-end

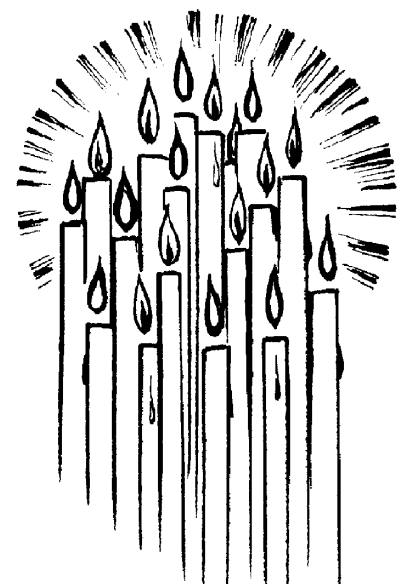
Sunday 10th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

[Purple]

Isaiah 40.1.11

Mark 1.1-8



St Michael's Rota – November 2023

Sunday 8.00 am	5 November	12 November	19 November	26 November
Sidesperson	Brian Smith	Brian Smith	Brian Smith	Brian Smith

Sunday 10.00 am	5 November Family Praise	12 November Remembrance Sunday	19 November	26 November
Sidespersons	Pat Toplis Enid Barry	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Maureen Brand Anne Whatson	Viv and Stephen Oliver
Reader		Mike Godfrey		Nigel Oakley
Servers		Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
Intercessor		Kay Martin		Nigel Oakley
Coffee	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	June Frayn Betty Lyne	Sylvia Burkinshaw Brenda Eley	Sonia Doidge Lesley Allen
Healing				TBA

Sunday 6.00 pm	5 November	12 November	19 November	26 November
Sidesperson			Evensong Ray Allen	
Reader			Ray Allen	

ADVANCE NOTICE

Recycling of empty tablet Bubble packs

Lyn and I are spending three months in Australia with our son, Adrian, and wife; from the end of November 2023 until the end of February 2024 (*the Aussies call it SUMMER*).

Consequently, there will be no facility for the recycling of empty tablet Bubble packs from Sunday 26/11/2023 until Sunday /2/2024 (both dates inclusive). During this period, you can continue saving your empty tablet Bubble packs in your garage/shed in a supermarket carrier bag and bring them along to church on Sunday 3/3/24.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported this worthy project over the past months; and to inform them that **SIX LARGE** bags of Bubble packs were sent ff for recycling on Saturday 16/9/2023 (see photo of my car boot packed ready for despatch).



I eagerly anticipate a similar consignment shortly after my return from the Antipodes in 2024!!!

Editor

REUSE 
REDUCE
RECYCLE

WALL WI

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

AND

QUIZ EVENING

SATURDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 2023

7.30 pm

at

Wall Village Hall

£5 per ticket

Sausage rolls/Mince pies/Mulled wine

Tickets available from Committee members

or at the door

and Finally

and for those who struggled to unscramble the answers there is no prize as no entries were received!!.. Again sorry for the mix up"

RAMBLE SCRAMBLE ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|------------|------------------|
| 1. SLEKAFTAFO | ----- | -(5, 2, 3) | Flask of tea |
| 2. RATNIDNSASHEI | ----- | (4,9) | Hand sanitiser |
| 3. ITNNSAELCLTERPE | ----- | -(6,9) | Insect repellent |
| 4. SGRNGIBCITUESI | ----- | (6,8) | Ginger biscuits |
| 5. TWLOHYLOA | ----- | -(6,3) | Wooley hat |
| 6. OHCNOP | ----- | (6) | Poncho |
| 7. LEWTRBTEOTA | ----- | (5,6) | Water Bottle |
| 8. NARSUMEC | ----- | -(3, 5) | Sun cream |

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

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