

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2019



10th April—William Law, priest, spiritual writer 1761

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

80p

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Reflection for April

Dear Friends,

How's Lent going? Traditionally Mothering Sunday, this year the very end of March, gives us a brief break from whatever discipline we have taken on for lent. Now April is here and we enter the central events of the Christian year this, the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. I value the drama and seriousness of these few weeks, leading to the joy of resurrection. The rhythm of the worship, particularly in Holy Week, hangs together and builds to the climax of resurrection. You will see elsewhere in the magazine the possibilities for participating in all of this.

One church, where I served, covered all pictures and figures with black cloth from Passion Sunday; it made the different crosses stand out vividly. It was a church that responded to imagery and for Maundy Thursday, they made a large garden in the Lady Chapel and held a vigil from the end of the Maundy Thursday service until midnight. Not every one was there all the time, but most slipped quietly in for a while. Two miles away in a different village, they went from Palm Sunday to Easter day with no services in between. One or two might turn up at a Good Friday service, but most didn't. As a response I designed a Holy Week at home, with options to have something relevant to Holy Week at the main meal of each day. It will be available here, in the magazine or at the back of church. You just use what suits your situation and family. I do encourage you to join in the journey from Passion Sunday to Easter as a deliberate decision.

One of my favourite activities on Good Friday is to join the Messy Church and make an Easter Garden. As a child I made them on an enamel plate every year; as a priest I encouraged the churches I was part of to make a large permanent one in the churchyard. I well remember going to Pottle Pool Quarry to get the large stones for the external Easter garden at St. Michael's, with a group of men from the

congregation, meeting the lorry and manoeuvring the stones into place. Recently I've been turning up to Messy Church with buckets of soil, moss and plants, and then having interesting conversations as we have made the Easter garden for inside church. For me they express something of the Good Friday/Easter event as a whole. Alongside that, the quiet evening services of Holy Week do give that space for quiet and reflection that is an essential part of just being with Jesus Passion.

Of course the season's journey does not end on Easter Day; that is just the first of the great 50 days of Easter. It often seems to me that we give a great deal of attention to the cross and the events that led up to it, then breathe a sigh of relief at the gladness of Easter Day and eat chocolate. There is nothing wrong with eating chocolate, if its dark and good quality that is, (why eat any other kind?) and I like making chocolates, but nothing should distract us from the central Christian message of resurrection. Jesus makes clear to his followers that to know him is to know the resurrection. This is meant for life now, not just after death which almost distracts us from the consequences of knowing resurrection now.

We live in a culture that is quick to blame and we have seen distressing increases in violence, physical and verbal, this past year. Imagine a culture where unselfish love is the aim of everyone, discussed on the radio and TV, worked at in every part of our community life, seen in the way we care for and love this beautiful planet....

Resurrection, Easter weaving among us. It is worth wondering what next step God is calling you towards as you grow in this life reflecting that love.

Happy Easter too pale a phrase for the possibilities it raises.

May God Easter within you, and me.

Chris Polhill

A HOME LITURGY FOR HOLY WEEK

This liturgy takes place at the family table at a meal. The youngest person able to, asks the questions.

Items: Six candles in holders, one of them red; palm cross; copy of the Lord's prayer; jar of perfume; jar filled with money; bowl of perfumed water and hand towel; wooden cross; special Easter candle.

Palm Sunday

Light six candles in a circle on the table, place the palm cross from church in the centre.

Reading: Mark 11v1-11

Question: Why do we have six candles and this palm cross on the table today?

Answer: Because this week is Holy Week, in six days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember how all the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem waving palm branches.

Monday

Light five candles, place a copy of the Lord's Prayer in the centre.

Reading: Mark 11v15-19

Question: Why do we have five candles and the Lord's Prayer on the table today?

Answer: Because this week is Holy Week, in five days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember that Jesus threw the money changers out of the Temple, saying it will be a place of prayer for everyone. His special prayer is for us all.

Tuesday

Light four candles, place some special perfume in the centre.

Reading: Mark 14v3-9

Question: Why do we have four candles and some perfume on the table today?

Answer: Because this week is Holy Week, in four days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember the woman who anointed Jesus' head, recognising he was a king and that he would die.

Wednesday

Light three candles, place a jar with money in the centre.

Reading: Mark 14v10-11

Question: Why do we have three candles and this jar of money on the table today?

Answer: Because this week is Holy Week, in three days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember that Jesus was betrayed for money and that Jesus wants us to give to the poor.

(The family could discuss right and wrong ways of using money thinking of the last two readings.)

Maundy Thursday

Light two candles, have a bowl of warm water and a towel between them. Reading: Mark 14v22-26; John 13v2-5&12-15

Question: Why do we have two candles and this towel and water on the table today?

Answer: Because this is Holy Week, one candle for Good Friday, and one for today, Maundy Thursday. Today we remember the last Passover Jesus celebrated with his disciples. Our Communion service comes from this meal.

(The family wash each other's hands before the meal, which could be

like the Passover with wine and unleavened bread.)

Good Friday

One red candle is lit, and blown out. A wooden cross is placed on the table. The Palm Cross is blu-tacked to the front door until the Sunday after Easter or Pentecost.

Reading: Mark 15 v21-32

Everyone is quiet for a few minutes.

Saturday

The family together make an Easter Garden on a tray or plate.

Reading: Mark 15 v42-47

Easter Day

Seven candles, six in a circle and a special one in the middle. Spring flowers either side. The stone rolled away in the Easter Garden and a candle alight beside it. Easter eggs etc.

Reading: John 20 v11-18

Question: Why do we have Easter eggs and all these flowers and candles today?

Answer: Because today is Easter Day, the last day of Holy Week. Today we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead and showed us the new life God offers all of us, not just after we die but through the difficult bits of living now.

If sufficiently extrovert, everyone cheers, or says Alleluia!

Chris Polhill

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 2nd April: Church, society and ethnicity

Tuesday 9th April: The Church and Mental Health

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

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

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)

Lent Appeal to help vulnerable women



The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, heard first-hand about how vulnerable women will benefit from one of his Lent Appeal projects when one of the coordinators visited from Egypt.

Bishop Michael hosted a tea party for two visitors, Su McClellan from the charity Embrace the Middle East and her guest, Sara Hanna from the Soteria project in Egypt, which the charity supports and which is one of the recipients of the Bishop's Lent Appeal. Sara was visiting the UK to promote the work of Soteria.

Bishop Michael was fascinated to hear about Soteira and especially the projects they run from Anafora, a retreat house situated between Cairo and Alexandria. Anafora is owned by the Coptic Diocese of Qusiya in Upper Egypt and was founded and is keenly supported by their Bishop Thomas who also offers ongoing pastoral and practical support to the women and others who take their programmes. Anafora is a Greek word meaning "to lift up" and Bishop Thomas chose it because he saw that as the focus of his episcopal ministry from the beginning: lifting people up.

The Soteira project brings groups of mainly Christian women from rural areas in Southern Egypt up to Anaphora for retreats and leadership training. Often in these rural areas women are treated as “walking, talking domestic appliances” and they face all sorts of traumas and challenges, including sexual assault, abuse, forced marriage, and simply not being allowed the freedom to dress or act how they would like – something that in itself can cause profound trauma.

Sara explained how Soteria chooses women from these areas who show particular leadership potential and bring them on courses and retreats where they seek to empower them. The women have some time away when they can dress and act however they like; for instance, learning to ride bicycles. They are also given lectures and seminars on women’s rights and other important matters. They then go home more able to advocate for themselves and other women and they transfer this learning to others in their community, sometimes by starting groups or businesses involving other women. The project has also started running sessions for men, especially brothers and family members of the women, educating them on supporting women’s rights and seeking also to empower them, and retreats for priests raising their awareness of the issues facing women and how they can help (for instance, in refusing to perform forced marriages and offering pastoral support to women in the problems they face). It’s about transforming a whole community, Sara explained. Many of the women who’ve been on the courses have restarted their education and even gone to university, something that is very difficult for Egyptian women if they live outside the big cities.

Su commented that Embrace the Middle East is always concerned to support projects that show Christians being ‘salt and light’ in their communities and Soteria is one that shows this principle most fully. The Bishop of Gloucester Rachel Treweek was a recent visitor and is enthusiastic about the project.

Sara told Bishop Michael a little of her own story: she grew up in Cairo and studied at the university there. While she was studying French and business, Bishop Thomas asked her to be a translator to a group of French-speaking visitors at Anafora and there she found the cause she was looking for – she wanted to do something that gave back and helped her community. She is passionate about the project and the work they do to empower women, which not only transforms the life of individuals but, over a longer time period, will transform whole communities.

Find out more about this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal, and its focus on mental health and wellbeing, at

https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal_2019/

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

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

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

2nd Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

Regular Services at St John's Sundays

10am Holy Communion

Baptism @ 11.30am

4th Sunday

Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

1st Sunday 12:30pm

Holy Baptism

2nd Sunday 6:00pm

Holy Communion

3rd Sunday 4:30pm

Messy Church

4th Sunday 6:00pm

Choral Evensong

Tuesday

School Service

Wednesday

9:30am Holy Communion

Music in the Benefice

St Michael's Church

Wednesdays

6.30pm Girls Choir

7.15pm Other parts &
St Michael's Singers

Monday before 2nd Sunday

7:30pm Music Group

Prayer Group, St Michael's.

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



Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

Parish Surgery

Every 1st and 3rd Monday by Appointment from 6:30pm at the Parish office in St Michael's Church. Please call 01543 262211

Baptism

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

PRAYER FOR William Law, *Priest, Spiritual Writer*, 1761

Almighty God,
who called your servant William Law
to a devout and holy life:
grant that by your spirit of love
and through faithfulness in prayer
we may find the way to divine knowledge
and so come to see the hidden things of God;
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.
Amen.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/prayer-during-day-contemporary-tuesday-10-april-2018>

Parish Surgery

For Baptisms, Banns and Weddings, staff are available at the Parish Office in St Michael's Church, Church Street on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings in the month by appointment only.

Please telephone 01543 262211 or email
office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk to make an appointment.

Deadlines!

For **MAY** 2019 Magazine:
Deadline is

MONDAY 15th April

Contact David Bull

Pew Sheet:

7:30am

every Thursday Morning.

Contact Parish Office

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

First Steps



Monday 15th April
10am St Michael's

Family Praise

Sunday 14th April
10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



GOOD FRIDAY 19th April

4.30 – 5.45pm

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

On a recent visit to Clovelly, a beautiful fishing village in North Devon, we came across this version of Psalm 23, which offers a different slant on this well-known psalm.

Fisherman's 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my pilot; I shall not drift
He lighteth me across the darkest waters
In the deepest channels he steereth me.
He keepeth my log

He guideth me by the star of holiness
For his name's sake

Yea though I sail amid the thunder and tempests of life
I will feel no danger, for thou art with me
Thy love and thy care they comfort me
Thou preparest a harbour ahead, in the heaven of eternity.
Thou anointest the waves with oil;
My boat ridest calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight
Favour me on all voyages I take

And I shall rest in the port of my God forever.



Ruth and David Bull



William Law

(1686 – 9 April 1761)

William Law was a Church of England priest who lost his position at Emmanuel College, Cambridge when his conscience would not allow him to take the required oath of allegiance to the first Hanoverian monarch, King George I.

Law first continued as a simple priest (curate) and when that too became impossible without the required oath, Law taught privately, as well as wrote extensively.

His personal integrity, as well as mystic and theological writing greatly influenced the evangelical movement of his day as well as Enlightenment thinkers such as the writer Dr Samuel Johnson and the historian Edward Gibbon.

In 1784 William Wilberforce (1759-1833), the politician, philanthropist and leader of the movement to stop the slave trade, was deeply touched by reading William Law's book *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* (1729). Law's spiritual writings remain in print today.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Law

Dr. Samuel Johnson said (Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, ch. 1): "I became a sort of lax talker against religion, for I did not think much against it; and this lasted until I went to Oxford, where it would not be suffered. When at Oxford, I took up Law's *Serious Call*, expecting to find it a dull book (as such books generally are), and perhaps to laugh at it. But I found Law quite an overmatch for me; and this was the first occasion of my thinking in earnest of religion after I became capable of rational inquiry."

<http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bio/131.html>

St. Michael's Film Club

1. 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

Refreshments £3.00 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church

All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

2. Mary Poppins Returns

(125 min. Cert U. 2018.)

In Depression-era London, a now-grown Jane and Michael Banks, along with Michael's three children, are visited by the enigmatic Mary Poppins. Stars Emily Blunt, Julie Walters, Colin Firth.

Monday May 13th.

1.30pm start



March Film Review of Johnny English Strikes again

An action – comedy. Starring Rowan Atkinson who is best known as Mr Bean, Johnny a retired spy has joined the teaching profession when the government calls him to re-enlist; this new adventure begins when a cyber attack reveals the identities of all active undercover agents in Britain, leaving Johnny English as the secret service's last hope.

Johnny, and his partner Bough, is up against the brightest and best master of the internet. Their investigations take them to the South of France where they believed cyber attack originated from. The theme of middle – aged people who can't adjust to new technology has been produced in many movies, however, Johnny English adds humour to this theme for example, when he was selecting a car to drive to the South of France he chose a vintage car instead of a newer car with lots of technology; he did this because if the enemy is a master at technology, they can't track him if he doesn't have any technology. Rowan Atkinson is hilarious; his comedy is well known, and his actions can be anticipated for example, his rubber facial and body expressions when he eats something spicy or dances ridiculously. However, there were some things that Johnny English did

that were unpredictable, like firing a smoke missile at a group of French cyclists who were blocking his pursuit of the enemy.

Though the comedy is outdated and silly you can't help but laugh at the bumbling spy - a typical Rowan Atkinson movie. I laughed from beginning to end and it got us all away from Brexit.

This was the first time we used the new drop-down screen and projector. After some teething problems on that morning, the engineers came and sorted it out. This is going to be an asset for Church events and a tribute to the Rev Linda Collins who started the film club about 9 to 10 years ago in the Church Hall with a painted board on the wall for a screen a small D V D player and sound box with a very old projector, we all wish her a happy retirement.



Romulus



Mother's Union Report, April 2019

It has become customary for us to have a meal out at the beginning of the year. Something to look forward to in the dull days after Christmas and which does not require us to cook or wash up afterwards. So, at the end of February we enjoyed lunch at Chapters in the Close where we were served a variety of tasty dishes by the welcoming, efficient staff.

In March we held a meditation for Lent which Elizabeth had prepared. It was in four parts. The first, Contemplative Prayer, was based on psalm 84 and the second, Place, on Genesis chapter 13. Genesis chapter 3 was the basis for Exile and the last part, Calvary, on Luke chapter 18. Elizabeth, June and Kath gave the readings and the whole service was linked by music which Sandy had selected. It made a peaceful and thoughtful programme.

Our next meeting will be at Little Aston where their M.U. will host a service for Lady Day. Before that, on March 23rd we will be providing a Lent Lunch. This will be the first time away from the Hall but be assured that it will be business as usual, even if the kitchen in church is smaller. Soup and bread, tea and cake will be provided. We are the Mother's Union and we can cope.

Betty Lyne

Prison Fellowship

As a representative of Prison Fellowship at St Michael's I attend a group prayer meeting in Whittington once a month. Members of the group are from churches in and around Lichfield. We pray for all prisoners, prisons, prison officers, prison chaplains and all volunteers who work in prisons around the United Kingdom and especially for those at HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall. Two of the members of the group are volunteer workers in the chaplaincy department there, which cares for the pastoral needs of the prisoners - we believe that no one is beyond hope – do you?

Everyone knows that violent crime is increasing, that many offenders re-offend and that our prisons are overfull. So what can we, as Christians, do about the problem?

What we can do is to pray for financial help from the government to provide well trained prison officers, more chaplains for all faiths and religions, more education opportunities and pastoral care for prisoners, and for voluntary workers to support the chaplaincy teams. We can write to our members of parliament reminding them of this need. We can support Prison Fellowship's work with donations to pay for the training of workers to provide vital courses for prisoners that may help with rehabilitation, such as the Sycamore Tree course, which is an awareness programme that teaches the principles of restorative justice. Other ways of supporting the chaplaincy team could include prison visiting, admin work, music tuition, support in Bible studies and attendance at Sunday services.

There is a monthly prayer letter from Swinfen that can be found on the notice board at the back of church, requesting prayers for general prison issues and for specific prisoners. If you would like to have these letters then email dandr.evans@btinternet.com for your own copy. Mothers' Union members send small jigsaws – no larger than 500 pieces – that a prisoner can do in his cell and colouring books, crayons and puzzle books to while away the time on his own. Other members

of the congregation may wish to join this programme – please contact me if you're interested. Some church members have helped buy and wrap Christmas presents for the children of prisoners through the Angel Tree project. I am a Prison Fellowship letter writer and I'm now writing to my third prisoner. It's not an onerous task but there is a half day course and rules that have to be observed. I can explain more if you're interested.

If you would like to know more about Prison Fellowship, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, go to

www.prisonfellowship.org.uk or Tel: 020 77992500

Caroline Green

The next Tuesday Club meeting is not on a Tuesday!

The reason is that on **Thursday 23 May at 2.30 pm** we are to meet Philip Modiano, the author of Petit's Tours of Old Staffordshire in St Michael's Church and Old Churchyard for a relatively informal introduction to the life of the Revd John Louis Petit, former curate of St Michael's, architectural commentator and very accomplished watercolourist. Our session will include looking closely at the monument that he funded for his uncle [adjoining the Chancel arch] and his substantial monument in our Old Churchyard.

For anyone interested in a more formal presentation, he will be speaking later that evening at the Lichfield Civic Society in the URC Hall at 7.45 pm.

Copies of the book can be obtained from Trevor James or the Cathedral Gift Shop.



UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

Beautiful weather on Saturday 23rd February, just what the walking group needed for the walk around Chasewater Reservoir.



The weather forecast was good so the numbers for the walk kept increasing until we had 30 people signed up for the meal. At this point it was necessary to halt the numbers for the meal and add only additional numbers to be on the walk. The numbers signing up to the Benefice walk have consistently been good proving how popular this event in the United Benefice diary is.

Hilary

We invite you to join us for our **April walk** in the delightful **Derbyshire town of Ashbourne**.

We meet at St. Michael's on Saturday 27th April at 10.00 a.m. and drive to the Ashbourne Leisure Centre Car Park in the centre of the town.

We begin with a pleasant walk along part of the **Tissington Trail** which starts with a walk through the old **Railway Tunnel**. This was restored some years ago and is now popular with walkers and cyclists. Once out of the tunnel we will walk a short distance along the Trail, and then we shall stop for **coffee which is sold from a kiosk near the tunnel**.

After coffee we return to the town and then go on a walk around Ashbourne, looking at the interesting buildings to be seen. The walk will include a visit to the **Parish Church** which has lots of interesting monuments and Chapels. We will also be walking in the **historic Park**

The 2 walks are 2.5-3 miles altogether, mostly on flat pavements. You are advised to wear walking shoes.

Following the walks we return to the Car Park and then drive to **Fairways Garden Centre for lunch**.

A good variety of lunches are provided here. They will need to be ordered in advance and I will be giving details of the meals that are available nearer to the date of the walk.

Join us if you can for this Springtime walk in Derbyshire.

Ray Allen 01543 251654



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

We have a number of Churchyard Events in the coming weeks. All are very welcome to come along to any or all of the events:



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**

SOWING OUR NEW CHURCHYARD MEADOW.

On Saturday April 6th., we invite you to join us at 10.00 a.m. as we sow our new Churchyard Meadow. Shaun Rimmer, from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, will be coming and leading this activity. After marking out the meadow area and removing the grass we will level the soil and then sow the wild flower seed mixture. The meadow will have an area of about 50 square metres. **It will be located to the left of the Millennium Oak Tree.** Refreshments will be served during the morning.

2ND. WILDFLOWER SURVEY DAY.

Join us on **Thursday April 11th., from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. for our 2nd Wildflower Survey Day.** This event will be led by Mark Duffell, Professional Ecologist from Shropshire. The first day, held in August last year was extremely successful and I am sure we will have an equally good day this time. We should see a good number of Spring wild flowers. If you only wish to come for part of the day that is fine. The event is free as it is paid for from our National Lottery Awards For All Grant. Please bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the whole of the day. **Tea/Coffee/Cake will be provided.**

CHURCHYARD BIOBLITZ

A Date for your Diary: Saturday June 15th. We are hosting a Bioblitz in The Churchyard lasting all day. This is an event run jointly by Caring for God's Acre and ourselves. At the Bioblitz lots of wildlife activities will take place, the aim being to discover and find out about the variety of wildlife that exists in the Churchyard. We hope lots of families will come along and enjoy the day while learning about wildlife at the same time. Further details of this event will be given in the May Magazine.

We look forward to seeing you at our Spring and Summer Churchyard events.

Ray Allen 01543 251654

Saturday April 6th., 10.00 a.m.	Sowing our new Wildflower Meadow.
Thursday April 11th., 10.30 a.m. -3.30 p.m.	2nd. Wildflower Survey Day.
Wednesday June 12th., 10.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m.	3rd. Wildflower Survey Day.
Saturday June 15th., 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.	Churchyard Bioblitz Day.



Staffordshire Wildlife Trust



WALL NEWS

RAMBLINGS

Easter is very late this year and when you read this we shall still be in the season of Lent. Have you done anything special during Lent so far? Maybe you have given up chocolate, reduced your TV viewing, stopped using Facebook.... The possibilities are endless. Orthodox Christians will be abstaining from meat and dairy products through the Lenten period. You may think that that is going a little too far but it reflects a desire to engage both the physical and the spiritual, to set aside time for God, to rediscover God's purpose and meaning for us in our frantic and crazy world. I often think of those words Psalm 46 v 10, 'Be still and know that I am God'. In fact I came across them the other week when the family all went to the Memorial Arboretum. I was walking on my own through a field of poppies when my feet slid from under me and I fell down. I was unhurt but shaken, so my daughter sat me on a seat to recover. As I was sitting there I noticed a large poster right in front of me. I can't remember exactly what it was advertising – possibly the Salvation Army – but suddenly the sun lit up the bottom of it and there were those words....'Be still and know that I am God'. The Hebrew, I believe, expresses a strong command here....'Stop', 'Be quiet', We spend so much time faffing around.. (the Cambridge English Dictionary gives the meaning of this as...'to spend your time doing a lot of things that are unimportant instead of the thing you ought to be doing.') So stop faffing around this Lent, turn aside for a fresh perspective on the life you are living, your priorities and the way you spend your time. Maybe God has something to show you as you seek to know Him and be still before him this Lent.

Christine Higgs

WALL VILLAGE HALL SKITTLES will be on **Saturday 13th April**, 7.30pm. Entry £7.50, includes Fish and Chips. BYO drinks

KNOWLE LODGE OPEN GARDEN

The two dates for this year's Open Garden at Knowle Lodge are **Sunday April 7th 1pm - 5pm and Sunday June 30th 1pm - 5pm.** Once again we have been asked to assist with the afternoon's fund raising event by providing the refreshments of tea and cakes.

Therefore can I once again make a request for cakes on the day. Also help is always appreciated to assist with serving the refreshments, washing up and collection of cups and plates etc.

Please phone Hilary on 01543 482027 if you can help in any way.

Hilary

STONEMWORK REPAIRS AT ST. JOHN'S

During the past year some essential repairs were made at St. John's to the stonework and some re-pointing was carried out. If we had not taken action, there would have been ingress of damp into the structure of the church. All these repairs are essential but also expensive...

We applied to the **National Churches Trust** for a grant towards the cost and were delighted when they gave us nearly half of the money needed. It was a steep learning curve for me as I gained experience of applying online which expended my computing skills somewhat beyond my comfort zone...



*For people who love
church buildings*

One bonus from this exercise was that our church is now on the website **Explore Churches**. John Crowe kindly supplied the photo which figures in the Wall Heritage Walk literature and I am very pleased with the result. Try the site for yourself and see us on line!

Christine Higgs

LINDA'S LAST SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday 17th March saw Linda's last service at St John's. We will all miss her but wish her a very long and happy retirement.

After the service Christine presented Linda with gifts for the congregation which included, Garrick Theatre vouchers, , a year's membership of English Heritage, a 2 seat and table bench, book vouchers, a bottle of Madeira (to help her prepare for her holiday) and a bouquet of flowers.

Then we all made our way into the Mott Room for 'tea and cake'.

Thanks Linda for everything you have done for St John's behind the scenes and during services. Your sermons have always inspired us



St Michael's Rota – April 2019

Sunday 8.00 am	7 April	14 April	21 April	28 April
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes

Sunday 10.00 am	7 April	14 April	21 April	28 April
		Palm Sunday	Easter Sunday	
Welcomers	Pat Toplis	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Maureen Brand	Brenda Eley
Sidespersons	Caroline and Ted Green	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Brenda Liptrot Richard Keay	Barbara Home-wood Mike Jones
Reader	Alison Staines		Brenda Liptrot	David Easton
Servers	Maggie Easton Elizabeth Allen		Maggie Easton Kay Martin David Shiel	Kay Martin David Shiel
Communion Assistant	Elizabeth Allen		Maggie Easton	Sheila Vaughan
Intercessor	Ted Green		Stephen Barton	Brenda Liptrot
Coffee	Anne Lingwood Alison Anketell	Lynn and David Edge	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	June Frayn Betty Lyne
Healing				Alan Toplis David Easton
Transport	Martin Dewes	Betty Bradbury	Ray Allen	Brenda Liptrot
Flowers	No flowers	No flowers	Easter flowers	Easter flowers

Sunday 12.30 pm St Michael's	7 April	Reader	Intercessor	Server
	Baptism	Sonia Doidge	Rita Athersmith	Maggie Easton

Sunday 6.00 pm St Michael's	7 April	14 April	21 April	28 April
	No service	Communion	No service	Evensong
Sidesperson		Lyn Shiel		Margaret Frean
Reader		Ray Allen		Margaret Frean
Communion Assistant		Ray Allen		

Bible Readings

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

Friday 19th April
Good Friday

Isaiah 52.13—end of 53
Hebrews 10.16-25
John 18.1-end of 19

Sunday 21st April
Easter Sunday
[White]

Acts 10.34-43
John 20.1-18

Sunday 28th April
2nd Sunday of Easter
[White]

Acts 5.27-32
John 20.19—end

Sunday 28th April
EVENSONG
2nd Sunday of Easter
[White]

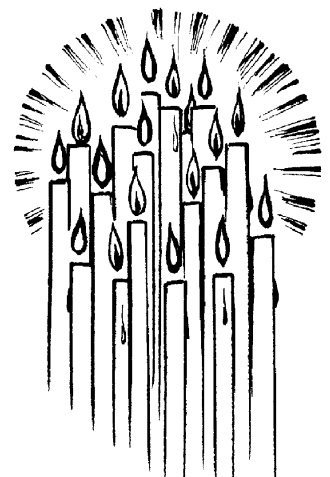
Isaiah 52.13—53.12
Luke 24.13-35

Sunday 5th May
3rd Sunday of Easter
[White]

Acts 9.1-6 [7-20]
John 21.1-19

Sunday 12th May
4th Sunday of Easter
[White]

Acts 9.36-end
John 10.22-30



From the Registers



Baptism

St Michael	3rd March	Olivia Suzanne Clarksmith	25 yrs
St Michael	3rd March	Emily Elizabeth Lanes	8 mths
St Michael	3rd March	Samuel Thomas Walton	17 mths
St Michael	3rd March	Bridie Nicolle White	26 yrs
St John	24th March	Orlaith Rose Ashmore	1 yr



Wedding

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At Rest

St Michael's	20th March	Mary Rosaline Bailey	87
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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)



Photo: 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

And Finally:

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He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than the one that takes the city.

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Who's Who

<p style="text-align: center;">St Michaels PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: <i>Lyn Shiel 320437</i> <i>Sue Jones 415242</i></p> <p>Assistant Wardens: <i>June Frayn 264920</i> <i>Caroline Green 262342</i> <i>David Easton 255308</i></p> <p>Treasurer: <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p>PCC Secretary: <i>Phil Clayton 308331</i></p> <p>Stewardship Recorder: <i>David Athersmith 255979</i></p> <p>Electoral Roll Officer: <i>Mike Godfrey 264255</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John's PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: Christine Higgs 410351 John Alsop 480240</p> <p>Assistant Churchwarden: Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>Treasurer: Sheila Irvine 252982</p> <p>PCC Secretary: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer & Electoral Roll: Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>PCC Lay Vice Chair: Christine Higgs 410351</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;">St Michael's Church</p> <p>Verger: <i>Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</i></p> <p>Sacristan and Head Server: <i>Maggie Easton 255308</i></p> <p>Organist and Choirmaster: <i>Peter Hawks-worth 251938 or 07771 986538</i></p> <p>Music Group: <i>Richard Brooks 07918 906 350</i></p> <p>Transport Rota: <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p>Pastoral Care: <i>Peter Salt 250723</i></p> <p>Flowers: <i>Diana Baker 01543 416232</i></p> <p>Safeguarding: <i>Maureen Brand 264880</i></p> <p>Junior Praise: <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p>Bell ringers: <i>Gillian Eastwood 480017,</i> Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. gillieastwood@gmail.com</p> <p>Mothers Union: <i>Elizabeth Allen 304938</i></p> <p>Social Team: <i>Contact via the office 262211</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="791 1178 1490 1384"> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="791 1384 1490 1715"> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: <i>Barbara Homewood 255909</i> E-mail brian@britcave.co.uk Magazine Editor: <i>David Bull 07525 012272</i> or email: dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk</p> </td></tr>	<p style="text-align: center;">Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: <i>Barbara Homewood 255909</i> E-mail brian@britcave.co.uk Magazine Editor: <i>David Bull 07525 012272</i> or email: dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk</p>	
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