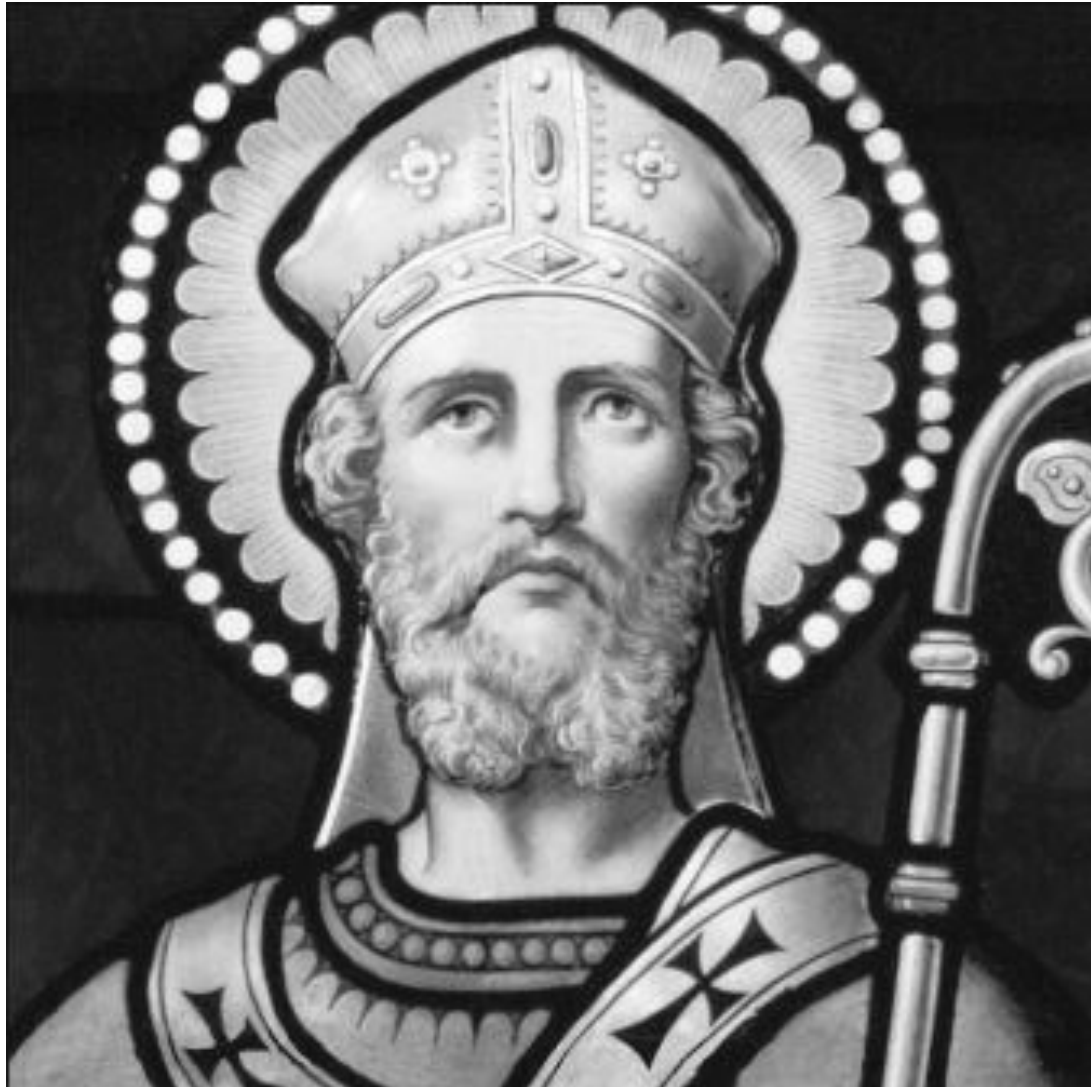


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2020



21st April

Anselm - abbot, Archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1109

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

85p

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Reflection for April:

In these difficult and uncertain times, I find the opening verse of a favourite hymn going around in my head:

All my hope on God is founded ;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Hymns can capture our feelings about what is happening in the world or in our own lives and reflect them back to us through a different perspective – often with a refreshed insight into God.

But having a hymn going around in your head at this moment points up, as never before in our experience, that we are not able to come together in church and sing our hymns. That is something I look forward to with hope and longing.

The restrictions on our life together, church, social, work and business are challenging for our faith. The original, Greek, word for church is *ecclesia* – those called together. And yet there has always been a strong tradition in our faith of spending time alone to come closer to God and to search ourselves in prayer and contemplation. Jesus himself goes away to lonely place to pray. The early desert fathers lived most often as hermits. The Celtic saints searched out places in the islands off the coast of our shores. Monastic communities of the past and present know a lot about social distancing! This may not make you feel any better about what is happening. Many are fearful of isolation and loneliness and besides, this is not our choice but laid upon us. That is why it is so important to keep in touch with family and friends and to look out for neighbours too. Also time to

perhaps to give thanks for the technology that allows us to telephone, face time, skype (and all the others too) which means we can hear familiar voices and often see people too.

As we enter the most solemn time of the Church's year we will be travelling the way of the cross in a very particular manner. Through Passiontide and Holy Week we will experience in a different way some of the isolation of Jesus as he follows God's way and fulfils his calling, separated from his friends and disciples. We will have time to pause and reflect deeply on the sacrificial love of God that costs one person so much for the sake of many. We will be able to take time, especially on Good Friday, to open our hearts to God's love for each one of us in our most difficult moments.

God unknown, he alone, calls my heart to be his own – That line from the hymn is about a greater belonging. It is about the wonder of God, who we cannot really know, being the one who comes near to and calls each one of us. Now is a time to stand firm in our faith, united in prayer and service to our families, friends and neighbours. Faith may be tested but with God's grace it comes through stronger and more resilient.

In a time when Christians were treated with suspicion and even persecuted (as some still are), Paul wrote to the faithful in the city of Philippi the following, which might well become the central text for our time:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4.6-7)

How can we have this confidence – that our faith can hold and

that God still calls and guards? It is because we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God, neither the things of this life nor death itself. It is he who raises Jesus from the grave and in that resurrection gives us the greatest sign and the greatest promise. There is new life and new hope. God has the first word and the last word.

In order to help us all remain faithful and continue in prayer there are resources on the church website and we will be emailing out and posting our newssheet and the readings for each Sunday. Over the next weeks a sermon for each Sunday will also be available on the website with additional addresses for Holy Week. I hope that these things will be comfort and a help to you.

I wish you all a newly thoughtful and reflective Holy Week and a joyful Easter.

Simon Baker
Rector

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

Deadlines!

For **MAY** Magazine: Deadline is

MONDAY 13th APRIL

Contact David Bull

Pew Sheet:

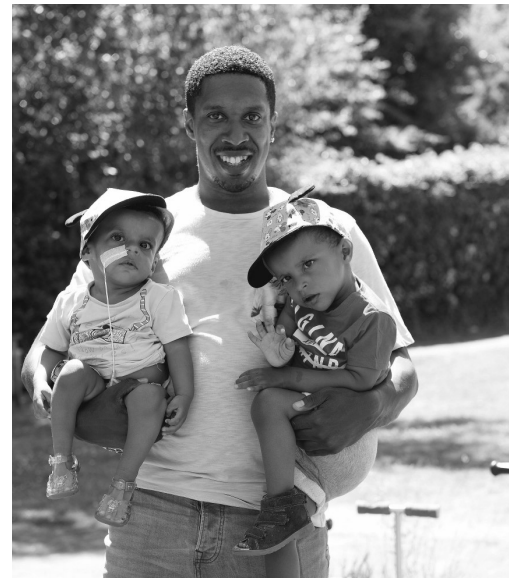
every Thursday 7:30am

Contact Parish Office

DIOCESE NEWS

Some of the most vulnerable families in the Midlands and abroad will be supported through this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, has launched the 'Precious In My Sight' appeal which will raise funds for Acorns Children's Hospice in Walsall and families under stress in South Africa.



The Bishop's Lent Appeal is an annual opportunity for churches and others across the Diocese of Lichfield - which covers Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, most of Shropshire and the Black Country - to offer generous support to worthwhile causes.

Acorns Children's Hospice provides specialist nursing care and support to babies, children and young people who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and associated complex needs. It helps families cope at every stage of their child's life and beyond, wherever and whenever they need it. Based next to St Gabriel's Church in Walsall, the hospice is currently at the centre of an urgent £2m appeal to secure its long-term future.

Clergy families in Lichfield Diocese's link Diocese of Matlosane - South Africa's only diocese with a cathedral in a township - are under significant stress as they minister to large numbers of people, covering huge distances, with widespread social problems facing many in their congregations including extreme poverty. Funding is needed for a proposed clergy wellbeing event and other support to strengthen families and prevent breakdown.

"This year we are looking to support some of the most vulnerable people with whom we come into contact, knowing that all people

are precious in God's sight and that he has a particular care for the needy," Bishop Michael said.

"Acorns Hospice in the Black Country has been quietly working to support children with life-changing and life-threatening illnesses, and their families, for many years. Their work honours all lives, no matter how short, and provides essential care and respite to families facing serious illness and disability in their children. I would be very sorry indeed to see the hospice forced to close, but with your support and the hard work of the hospice and local people I am optimistic that its future can be safeguarded and its vital work with children and their families can continue.

"A very different project which I have chosen to support comes from the Diocese of Matlosane, our link diocese in South Africa. It is a wonderful place full of Christians with a deep and lively faith. It is also a place that faces many challenges, notably the toll taken by extremes of poverty, by climate change, and by other serious social issues faced in South Africa. The clergy of the diocese are on the frontline of helping people work out their faith and their lives against this backdrop, and sometimes this can take a real toll on them and their families."



"I do hope that you will feel able to give generously to this year's Appeal, and I pray for God's and I pray for God's blessing on your own lives, families, and work."

Give online at www.justgiving.com/lentappeal2020

For more information about the appeal, visit <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/about-us/bishops-archdeacons/bishops-lent-appeal-2020/bishops-lent-appeal-2020.php>

All Services and Events
are suspended until
further notice.

Please visit the website
www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

for videos of Sunday
Worship and Resources for
Prayer at Home

Let's Keep in Touch

To keep in touch with the church please visit our website and join our mailing list to receive regular news, bible readings and lots more.

If you do not have the internet please ring the office on

01543 262211

and leave a message asking to be added to our postal mailing list.

I am working from home but Simon will pick up your message and let me know.

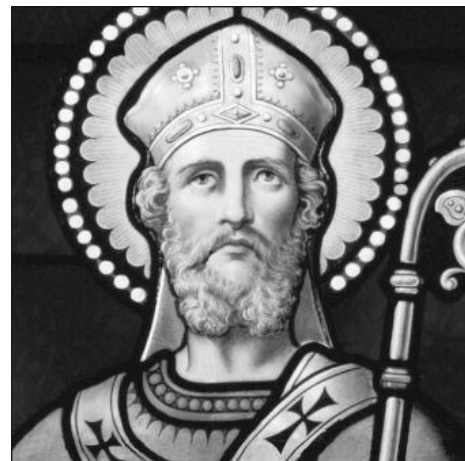
Angie King

Saint Anselm

Archbishop of Canterbury

21st April

Abbott, Archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1109



Saint Anselm of Canterbury, (born 1033/34, Aosta, Lombardy—died April 21, 1109, possibly at Canterbury, Kent, England, feast day April 21), Italian-born theologian and philosopher, known as the father of Scholasticism, a philosophical school of thought that dominated the Middle Ages. He was recognized in modern times as the originator of the ontological argument for the existence of God (based on the idea of an absolutely perfect being, the fact of the idea being in itself a demonstration of existence) and the satisfaction theory of the atonement or redemption (based on the feudal theory of making satisfaction or recompense according to the status of a person against whom an offense has been committed, the infinite God being the offended party and humanity the offender). There is incomplete evidence that he was canonized in 1163, though some scholars contend that he was canonized by Pope Alexander VI in 1494.

Appointment As Archbishop Of Canterbury

William the Conqueror, who had established Norman overlordship of England in 1066, was a benefactor of the monastery at Bec, and lands in both England and Normandy were granted to Bec. Anselm made three visits to England to view these lands. During one of those visits, while Anselm was founding a priory at Chester, William II Rufus, the son and successor of William the Conqueror, named him archbishop of Canterbury (March 1093). The see had been kept vacant since the death of Lanfranc in 1089, during which period the king had confiscated its revenues and pillaged its lands.

Anselm accepted the position somewhat reluctantly but with an

intention of reforming the English Church. He refused to be consecrated as archbishop until William restored the lands to Canterbury and acknowledged Urban II as the rightful pope against the antipope Clement III. In fear of death from an illness, William agreed to the conditions, and Anselm was consecrated on December 4, 1093. When William recovered, however, he demanded from the new archbishop a sum of money, which Anselm refused to pay lest it look like simony (payment for an ecclesiastical position). In response to Anselm's refusal, William refused to allow Anselm to go to Rome to receive the pallium—a mantle, the symbol of papal approval of his archiepiscopal appointment—from Urban II, lest this be taken as an implied royal recognition of Urban. In claiming that the king had no right to interfere in what was essentially an ecclesiastical matter, Anselm became a major figure in the Investiture Controversy—a conflict over the question of whether a secular ruler (e.g., emperor or king) or the pope had the primary right to invest an ecclesiastical authority, such as a bishop, with the symbols of his office.

The controversy continued for two years. On March 11, 1095, the English bishops, at the Synod of Rockingham, sided with the king against Anselm. When the papal legate brought the pallium from Rome, Anselm refused to accept it from William, since it would then appear that he owed his spiritual and ecclesiastical authority to the king. William permitted Anselm to leave for Rome, but on his departure he seized the lands of Canterbury.

Anselm attended the Council of Bari (Italy) in 1098 and presented his grievances against the king to Urban II. He took an active part in the sessions, defending the doctrine of the *Filioque* (“and from the Son”) clause in the Nicene Creed against the Greek church, which had been in schism with the Western church since 1054. The *Filioque* clause, added to the Western version of the Creed, indicated that the Holy Spirit proceeded from the Father and Son. The Greek church rejected the *Filioque* clause as a later addition. The Council also reapproved earlier decrees against investiture of ecclesiastics by lay officials.

The Satisfaction Theory Of Redemption

When Anselm left England, he had taken with him an incomplete manuscript of his work *Cur Deus homo?* (“Why Did God Become Man?”). After the Council of Bari, he withdrew to the village of Liberi, near Capua, and completed the manuscript in 1099. This work became the classic treatment of the satisfaction theory of redemption.

According to this theory, which is based upon the feudal structure of society, finite humanity has committed a crime (sin) against infinite God. In feudal society, an offender was required to make recompense, or satisfaction, to the one offended according to that person’s status. Thus, a crime against a king would require more satisfaction than a crime against a baron or a serf. According to this way of thinking, finite humanity, which could never make satisfaction to the infinite God, could expect only eternal death. The instrument for bringing humans back into a right relationship with God, therefore, had to be the God-human (Christ), by whose infinite merits humanity is purified in an act of cooperative re-creation. Anselm rejected the view that humanity, through its sin, owes a debt to the Devil and placed the essence of redemption in individual union with Christ in the Eucharist (Lord’s Supper), to which the sacrament of baptism (by which a person is incorporated into the church) opens the way.

After completing *Cur Deus homo?* Anselm attended a council at the Lateran (papal palace) in Rome at Easter 1099. One year later William Rufus died in a hunting accident under suspicious circumstances, and his brother Henry I seized the English throne. In order to gain ecclesiastical support, he sought for and secured the backing of Anselm, who returned to England. Anselm soon broke with the king, however, when Henry insisted on his right to invest ecclesiastics with the spiritual symbols of their office. Three times the king sought an exemption, and each time the pope refused. During this controversy, Anselm was in exile, from April 1103 to August 1106. At the Synod of Westminster (1107), the dispute was settled. The king renounced investiture of bishops and abbots with the ring and crosier (staff), the

symbols of their office. He demanded, however, that they do homage to him prior to consecration. The Westminster Agreement was a model for the Concordat of Worms (1122), which settled for a time the lay-investiture controversy in the Holy Roman Empire.

Anselm spent the last two years of his life in peace. In 1163, with new canons requiring approvals for canonization (official recognition of persons as saints), Archbishop Thomas Becket of Canterbury (1118?–70) referred Anselm's cause to Rome. It is possible that Anselm was canonized at this time, for the Canterbury records for 1170 make frequent mention of the pilgrimages to his new shrine in the cathedral. For several centuries after his death, he was venerated locally. Clement XI (pope from 1700 to 1721) declared Anselm a Doctor (teacher) of the Church in 1720.

To read the full article please visit

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Anselm-of-Canterbury>

Prayer by St Anselm for Holy Week

O Father, most merciful, in the beginning you created us,
and by the passion of your only Son you created us anew.
Work in us now, both to will and to do what pleases you.
Since we are weak and can do no good thing by ourselves,
grant us your grace and heavenly blessing,
that in whatever work we engage
we may do all to your honor and glory.
Keep us from sin
and empower us daily to do good works,
that as long as we live in the body
we may always perform service to you.
After our departure give us pardon of all our sins,
and receive us to eternal life;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,



UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

In February we celebrated our 150th. Walk since the United Benefice Walking Group began in September 2007. To mark this milestone a special walk was arranged in Birmingham. The walk was held on Saturday February 8th. and repeated the following Saturday, February 15th. We went by train to Birmingham, walked from New St. Station to The BBC at The Mailbox and were given an excellent guided tour of the BBC Television and Radio Studios. To end the tour we were invited to take part in a short radio play complete with sound effects! After our tour we had coffee and then walked along The Canal to The Malt House Pub for a very good lunch. After lunch we returned to the station by tram from Centenary Square and back home to Lichfield.

It was a memorable occasion enjoyed by all. Here are photographs of the walkers on the 2 walks.





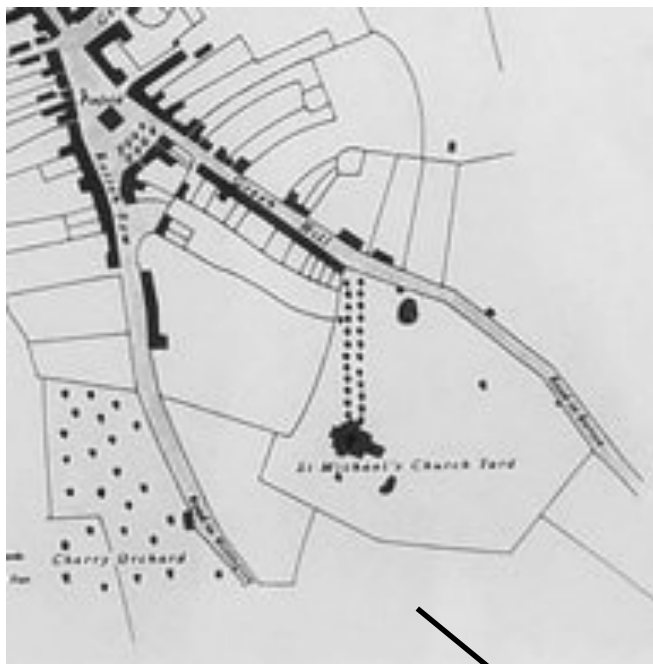
In view of the current **coronavirus** situation we have decided to **suspend the Walking Group Walks for the next 3 months**. There will be **no walks in April, May and June**. We shall review the situation in June. I am sure you agree that the safety of the walkers is of the utmost importance.

Ray Allen 251654



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

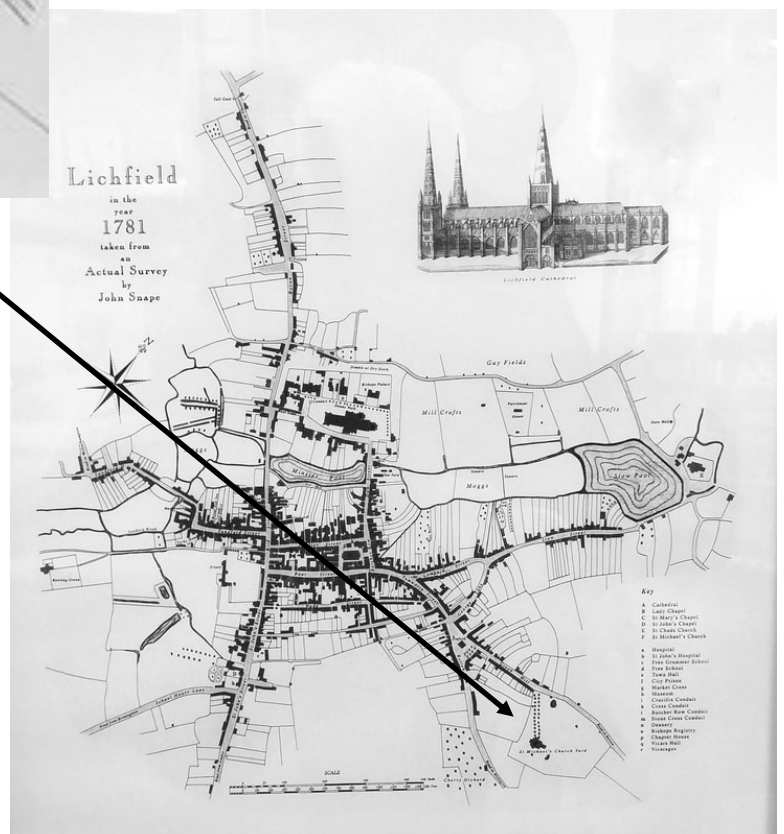
One of the mature crab apple trees was demolished in a recent storm. A number of the older trees have died in recent years and the decision was made to purchase 5 new young trees as replacements. The variety chosen is called **Wisley Crab**. This is an attractive tree with good **Spring blossom and large red apples in the Autumn**. We hope to continue to plant this variety each time we need to replace a tree. Wisley Crab is a **Heritage Variety** and is grown in **Worcestershire**, one of the best areas in England for growing fruit trees.



You may be interested to know that the **Crab Apple Tree Avenue** has been in existence since at least **1781**. It is shown on the old map printed below.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered with our Churchyard Working Party so far. Meetings of the Working Party are now suspended until further notice.

Ray Allen 251654



At the beginning of March, we held a Meditation for Lent which had been devised and presented by Ann and Lynn. The service alternated readings about the last week of Jesus' life with appropriate music and films of beautiful scenery. We heard "No matter what" which was the theme tune from "Whistle down the Wind", some Celtic worship music and a tender duet, "Guide us with your grace". Congratulations to Ann and Lynn and also to the readers, Joyce, Angela and Alison who gave us a calming and meditative programme.



Three members had recently attended the funeral service in Cheadle for Sue Egerton who had been an inspiring and brave Diocesan President.

Our traditional Lent lunch was held on March 14th in church with the usual delicious home-made soups and cakes. The unsettled situation regarding coronavirus was probably responsible for smaller numbers than before but some absentees sent donations and we also had a Bring and Buy stall so were pleased to raise £256 for Mothers' Union charities.

Future meetings are uncertain but let us hope we all stay healthy and can meet again soon.

Betty Lyne

These resources are intended to help you pray at home if you can't attend church. Included are a form of daily prayer or 'office' for you to follow, prayers, collects, and creative ways to pray. Our website now also includes a list of online resources for prayer, study and reflection at home, which you might also find useful:

<https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-at-home.html>

If you're unable to get out of the house it can be boring, frustrating, or lonely, even if there are other people in the house with you! And if you are very unwell, or worried you might become so, it can be frightening, too. God is with us in these situations, whether we are conscious of his presence or not. Remembering this, and relying on him in prayer, can help you to keep going.

In normal circumstances, we are pleased to arrange for sick or housebound people to have communion at home, but where quarantine/ self-isolation rules are in place, this won't be possible. But our prayers for the sick remind us that "Believers who cannot physically receive the sacrament are to be assured that they are partakers by faith of the body and blood of Christ and of the benefits he conveys to us by them." Illness – or self-isolation – can't separate us from Jesus' love.

We hope this booklet will give you some ideas about how to maintain and deepen your faith and your prayers. God wants us to turn to him in all our troubles and perplexities, even if we can't always find the "right words". Please do send the Ministry Team your prayer requests – and remember - the rest of the church is praying for you!

Every week the readings for Sunday and the prayer for the Day (Collect) will be emailed out to those on our list and will be posted on our website. <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/> if you would like to subscribe to our emails please contact us <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/contact-us1.html>

St Michael's and St John's Ministry Team.

Daily Prayer

This is a form of prayer, sometimes called an 'office', which you can use on its own, or use to expand your daily 'quiet time' with the Bible. If you are doing the latter, then replace the suggested readings with the ones your Bible notes/ plan suggest.

You might also choose to use the "Daily Eucharistic Lectionary" readings, or the readings for Morning or Evening Prayer, which are available online (<http://almanac.oremus.org>).

You should always say a Psalm and the simplest way is to work through the Book of Psalms using a Psalm a day (perhaps splitting some of them).

If you are using these prayers on Sunday the readings for the day and the Prayer for the Day (Collect) will be on our website and emailed out to those on our list.

When saying this office alone, say both the parts in plain and in bold.

St Michael's Lichfield & St John's Wall

Prayer at Home



A resource for when you can't get to Church

Daily Prayer

This is a form of prayer, sometimes called an 'office', which you can use on its own, or use to expand your daily 'quiet time' with the Bible. If you are doing the latter, then replace the suggested readings with the ones your Bible notes/ plan suggest.

You might also choose to use the "Daily Eucharistic Lectionary" readings, or the readings for Morning or Evening Prayer, which are available online (<http://almanac.oremus.org>). You should always say a Psalm and the simplest way is to work through the Book of Psalms using a Psalm a day (perhaps splitting some of them).

If you are using these prayers on Sunday the readings for the day and the Prayer for the Day (Collect) will be on our website and emailed out to those on our list.

When saying this office alone, say both the parts in plain and in bold.

This, or another Collect is said:

O Lord our God,
grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;
that so desiring, we may seek and find you;
and so finding, may love you;
and so loving, may hate those sins from which you have delivered us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Form of prayer to be used at Home

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

***Praise** - you could sing a hymn, listen to music, or say*

We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as the Lord;
all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

***Read a Psalm** (see table)*

End the Psalm with:

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***Bible Reading**, eg*

Sunday: From the notice sheet or Revelation 21.1-4, Monday: Isaiah 49.1b-4, Tuesday: Deuteronomy 28.1-6, Wednesday: Matthew 9.35-end, Thursday: John 17.18-23, Friday: Luke 9.22-25, Saturday: John 11.17-26a.

Intercessions:

pray for the Church, the world, for individuals. and for yourself

The Lord's Prayer

Contemporary

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.

Traditional

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Ending

A time of silence may be kept followed by:
May God who made both heaven and earth bless us. **Amen.**

THE DAILY OFFICE



20 MINUTES

ALL OF THE CLERGY
PRAY THIS EVERY DAY



40 MINUTES

IF THEY ARE TOO BUSY THEY MAKE
UP FOR IT THE FOLLOWING DAY



5 DAYS

SOME CLERGY PREFER TO DO
A YEAR'S PRAYING ALL AT ONCE



6 MONTHS

OTHERS SAVE IT ALL UP AND DO
ONE LONG STINT BEFORE RETIREMENT

CartoonChurch.com

POPE FRANCIS' WORDS

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill you heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to other
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

For those of you who are isolated at home.

The recent government guidelines have left many people feeling anxious, stranded and isolated in their own homes. Regular routines have changed and social calendars suspended and, as I write this, we are not even able to gather for worship and fellowship as a church. It is hard to be positive in these unsettling times. One of the most unsettling things about self-isolation is wondering what to do. Here is a suggestion of something you might like to try. Further suggestions will follow in the weekly news sheet.

Get sowing.

This is the best time of year for planting seeds and watching things grow even if you are not an experienced gardener. With many people stocking up with dried goods and tinned foods, something fresh and green is a good and healthy alternative. You do not



need a ready dug bed or greenhouse to grow salad crops, all you need is a container, some compost and seeds. Seeds are readily available from many supermarkets and high street shops as well as garden centres. Plastic tubs of a good size such as old ice cream tubs can be used as long as you put holes in the base. A wooden crate lined with plastic (with drainage holes) or a storage box would give more room. Fill your container to within 1 inch of the top with compost, lightly firm it down, water it well and allow excess water to drain off. Then, with a pencil draw straight lines across the surface two inches apart. Put your seeds in and cover with a scattering of compost. Place in a sunny but sheltered area outdoors and make sure the soil remains damp but not over wet. Watch out for slugs! Mixed “cut and come again” lettuce, bulls blood beetroot, mustard, rocket, spinach all work well and you can harvest each crop up to four times. You can also grow peas for harvesting as shoots (just plant a little deeper) or radish

in the same way. Herbs are also useful. Try sowing parsley or basil in 4 to 6-inch pots on a sunny windowsill. Almost fill the pot with compost, firm, water well, sprinkle seeds sparingly and cover with a light covering of compost. Do not let the compost dry out. This is the ideal time for planting potatoes. All you need is an old bucket or large plant pot of a similar size, two to three potatoes (preferably a salad variety such as "Charlotte") and compost. Make sure you put holes in the base first. Fill the bucket $\frac{1}{4}$ full of compost and place in your potatoes with the "eyes" upward. The "eyes" are where you can see little indentations or shoots in the surface. Cover with three inches of compost and water well. Once the potatoes start to push through, place more compost on top. Do this until the bucket is almost full. Don't forget to water regularly if the weather is dry. Once the potatoes start to flower, you can empty the bucket and harvest the potatoes. This will take about 12 weeks. If you do this carefully, you can remove the larger potatoes and let the smaller ones grow bigger. When the danger of frost has passed, get some tomato plants. You may need someone to purchase them for you. You can pot them up into at least a twelve-inch pot and grow them on the patio supporting them with a cane. Remove the side shoots regularly. These are the little branches which grow between the stem and the leaves. Water and feed regularly with tomato food. When three sets of flowers have formed, remove the tip of the plant. If you can find a sheltered spot under the eaves of the building, it will protect your tomato plant from blight.

I find there is something wonderful about watching things burst into life and grow even if the harvest is not as good as you hope.

Gardening is a creative and life affirming hobby which many find both restful and spiritually fulfilling. It is a way in which we can engage with and share in God's creation.

many of us have. Between us we have created some amazing hangings for the church and will continue to do so even if we are working alone at present.

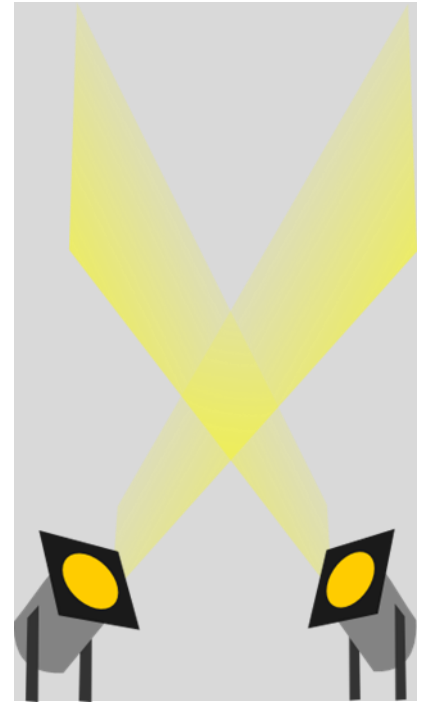
Diana Baker

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In Loving Memory

Peter Jones

11th Anniversary

The floodlights at

St Michael's

were lit on

March 14th 2020

In Loving Memory

Mary Bailey

Birthday Memories



Thank you, Rita and Team

Fifteen years ago, St Michael's was keen to become a Fairtrade church and Rita Athersmith decided that as part of this she would run a Fairtrade stall at the back of church, after the morning service, selling a range of edible and other Fairtrade items. Aply assisted by Alison James and Brenda Liptrot, this stall ran successfully for 15 years and in that time had a turnover of around £30,000 pounds!

Christmas and Easter were very popular times at the stall, with a range of Fairtrade Easter Eggs and Christmas cards and gifts available for sale. The aim of the stall was not to make a profit but to make Fairtrade items readily available to everyone in the congregation. Where there was a surplus, it was donated to the church funds.

As a church we aim to use Fairtrade goods for refreshments at all our activities in church and, although the stall has now ceased, Rita still arranges for Fairtrade supplies to be provided for church use.

A HUGE thank you to Rita and her team for all they have done and continue to do, to bring Fairtrade awareness to us all.

Ruth Bull

BOOK REVIEW

Churchyards, Roger Bowdler,

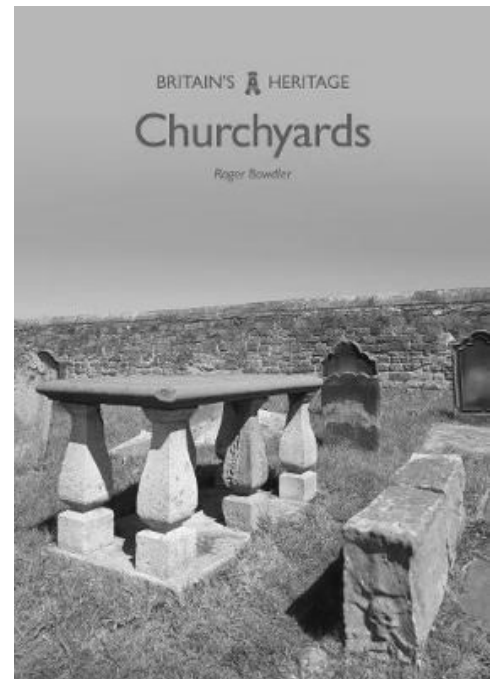
Amberley Publishing,

2019,

64p,

£8-99.

ISBN 9781445691114



This book is dedicated to the memory of Frederick Burgess, the author of **English Churchyard Memorials** [1963], from whom many of us learned to study and understand what we find in churchyards. This carefully developed study by Roger Bowdler is different in scale from Burgess's mammoth volume but it is a valuable resource in its own right. It is very carefully illustrated, thereby giving the reader a clear sense of what to expect to find; and varieties of design and shape are very carefully explained. These strengths are supplemented by a very helpful and strong section on the need to care for, and protect, churchyards and their memorials.

However, like Burgess before him, Roger Bowdler is really just offering us an extended, more modern, insight into graveyard memorials. Whilst this is very positive, it does not fully embrace what might additionally be found in a churchyard, in the sense that it is rather more than just a graveyard. For example, no reference is made to the former market crosses, of which there are many across England; and no reference is made to other churchyard structures, whole or ruined, such as the ground level bell chamber in East Bergholt churchyard or the evi-

dence of a possible second tower in the grounds of Salthouse Church, part of a complex harbour signalling system. Equally, like Burgess, this study seriously understates the significance of timber graveboards. Nonetheless, this is strongly recommended as a handbook for local historians planning to explore and study the variety of memorials to be found in English churchyards.

Trevor James

And the people stayed home and read books,
and listened, and rested, and exercised,
and made art, and played games, and learned new ways
of being, and were still.
And listened more deeply. Some meditated,
some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed. And in the absence of people
living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.
And when the danger passed, and the people
joined together again, they grieved their losses,
and made new choices, and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara

Film Review

“Judy”



“ If I am a legend then why am I so lonely?” asked Judy Garland. Watching the film which detailed her behaviour and unreliable performances at the end of her life it was not hard to see why. But when one knew the background to her career the reasons for the breakdowns were obvious. Nowadays she would have been described as a victim of child abuse and bullying.

Judy had the misfortune to be born to a very pushy mother who eventually signed her daughter up to Louis B. Mayer and M.G.M. films. The public adored the bright young teenage star with the sparkling eyes and vivacious manner and the studio was determined to foster her youthful image as long as possible. Overwork caused tiredness so she was given pills to “pep her up” then her fluctuating weight was a concern so amphetamines were added to maintain a slim , youthful figure. In addition her minders ensured that she ate very little. So began the lifelong addiction to drugs and later, to alcohol.

The film opens when a mature Judy (with 4 marriages behind her) on tour with her 2 younger children tries to check in to a hotel but is refused as she owes them money. Desperate she takes the children to stay with their father, Sid Luft who wants to have sole custody. Judy is convinced that she will one day have enough money ,if she keeps touring , to one day buy a house and settle down with the children

but her addictions mean she can never save money.

Meeting a young man called Mickey Dean reminds her of her old friend and fellow child actor Mickey Rooney and we see a flashback of the 2 teenagers in a diner where he is eating a burger but Judy's minder snatches her food away from her.

Moving to London Judy gets a job but refuses to rehearse and seems petrified of going on stage. She has to be hustled out of the hotel and pushed on stage. Once she begins to sing she performs well, singing "I'll go my way by myself" which seems to sum up her situation. There are good performances and meltdowns, a raw T.V. interview in which she bares her soul but always afterwards she is alone in a hotel room unable to sleep and having flashbacks to her younger days with bullying directors.

Mickey Dean arrives from America and his affection and care bring about a change for good in her health and performance. They marry and he tries to broker a deal for her where she can give up touring and settle with the children but sadly it falls through. Back touring Judy realises her dream will not come true and she tearfully grants Sid sole custody to ensure a settled life for Lorna and Joey. A season at London's Talk of the Town begins well but she is eventually sacked. Even her fans were booing her drunken performances. Not long after she died aged only 47.

Rene Zellweiger gave an award winning performance of a woman who could have given so much if only she had not been exploited. Her most famous song from "The Wizard of Oz" include the words that "over the rainbow the dreams that you dream really do come true". Sadly Judy never managed to reach the other side of the rainbow.

Betty Lyne

WALL NEWS

Ramblings

It has been a long and wet winter. The farmers have had a hard time, unable to sow the seeds and finding plants and vegetables rotting in the soil. Homes have been flooded and now Covid 19 is on everyone's mind. Despite all this, the snowdrops heralded the arrival of spring followed by the miniature tete a tete daffodils, and the song of the birds arises above the noise of the traffic. I often wonder at the amount of sound which an unseen and tiny bird can make! The days are gradually growing longer and Spring is on the way with its light and new life.

For us, the period of Lent, of preparation, of self denial, and of turning aside to consider our lives before God, has finally come to the joyous celebration of Easter.

'Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life'

Whatever we have to face in the weeks ahead we can have confidence in Christ Who lived our life and Who understands the suffering as well as the joys of our lives. We can have confidence that death is not the end, that there is resurrection when we shall be united with those whom we have loved in the love of God.

Christine Higgs

Lament to the Lord

They've brought you up to date, Lord, down at St. Cecilia's.
They've pensioned off the organ, and they're praising with guitars.
They've done it for the young ones; we want to draw them in,
But I do wish they could worship without making such a din,
For I'm growing rather deaf, Lord, and when there's all that noise,
It gets so very hard, Lord, to hear your loving voice.
They've written brand new hymns, Lord, with tunes that I don't know,
So I hardly ever sing now, though I did love singing so.
They're very go-ahead, Lord, they're doing 'Series Three',
But the words are not as beautiful as the others used to be.
They've modernised the Bible and the Lord's Prayer and the Creed,
When the old ones were so perfect that they filled my every need.
My mind's not quite so agile as it was some years ago
And I miss the age-old beauty of the words I used to know.
It's very clear to me, Lord, I've overstayed my time;
I don't take to change so kindly as I did when in my prime.
But it can't be very long now before I'm called above,
And I know I'll find you there, Lord, and glory in your love.
So till then I'll stick it out here, though it's not the same for me,
But while others call you *You*, Lord, do you mind if I say *Thee*?

Bible Readings

Sunday 5th April

Palm Sunday

[Red]

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Matthew 27.11-54

Thursday 9th April

Maundy Thursday

[White]

Exodus 12.1-8 & 11-14

1 Corinthians 11.23-29

John 13.1-15

Friday 10th April

Good Friday

[Red / No Hangings]

Isaiah 52.13—53.12

Hebrews 10.16-25

John 18.1-19.42

Sunday 12th April

Easter Day

[Gold / White]

Acts 10.34-43

Matthew 28.1-10

Sunday 19th April

2nd Sunday of Easter

[Gold / White]

Acts 2.14a, 22-32

John 20.19-end

Sunday 26th April

3rd Sunday of Easter

[Gold / White]

Acts 2.14a, 36-41

Luke 24.13-35

Sunday 26th April

3rd Sunday of Easter

EVENSONG

[Gold / White]

Haggai 1.13-2.9

1 Corinthians 3.10-17

Sunday 3rd May

4th Sunday of Easter

[Gold / White]

Acts 2.42-end

John 10.1-10

Sunday 10th May

5th Sunday of Easter

[Gold / White]

Acts 7.55-end

John 14.1-14



From the Registers



Baptism

St Michael's	1st March	Jonah Philip Matthew Revell	6 mths
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Wedding

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At Rest

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