

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2021



April 24th—The Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, Solomon Islands, 2003

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

85p

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

Reflections on Curacy and the challenges of Covid

As I come to the end of my curacy, I've been reflecting on my time with you all and as I've done this I've felt very thankful for the opportunities I've been given to grow and develop as an ordained minister within such a supportive Christian community. It has been a privilege to be amongst you and walk alongside you in our journey of Christian faith together. When I think back across the three years, Covid has certainly been a significant chapter, and one that I definitely didn't expect when I was ordained on that very warm July afternoon of 2018! But in addition to bringing all sorts of challenges to how we worship and praise God together, Covid has also brought some opportunities. It's challenged me to think creatively 'outside the box' about how to find new ways to worship together whilst in lockdown, and motivated me to learn new skills, especially technological ones - as I know it has for many of us!

In those days of preparing for curacy at theological college, I never imagined that learning how to embed YouTube videos into power point files would be an important skill, but I've really enjoyed all the parts of putting together online worship - seeking out liturgy, art and music to help us feel closer to God and connect us together. Neither did I imagine that I would be filmed in an empty church preaching my sermon (apart from Ron our camera person and movie editor!), or that we would regularly welcome around 80 people, from all over the country, to Sunday worship online. Ministry certainly is full of surprises!

Zoom services have been another revelation, and I've found great joy in seeing all those friendly faces in boxes on the screen before we begin our services. Faces familiar, faces new, faces from all over the country, and sometimes faces from other parts of the world! Yes, we are in our homes in front of screens, but there has been a true sense of connection and togetherness in seeing each other and then coming together to worship God online. Those moments of connection online

have been very special to me, and something I'll never forget.

What does all this tell us about what worship is and what makes it work? Perhaps it reinforces the idea that connecting to God in worship is enhanced by connecting together, by having a sense of shared experience and community. Perhaps before Covid we only really imagined that this connection, which I believe also involves the Holy Spirit, can take place in person, but I think the experience of online worship has encouraged us to re-think. Online worship can never replace the joy and spiritual experience of worshipping together in our churches, but perhaps now we can think of it as another way we can find community, and God, together.

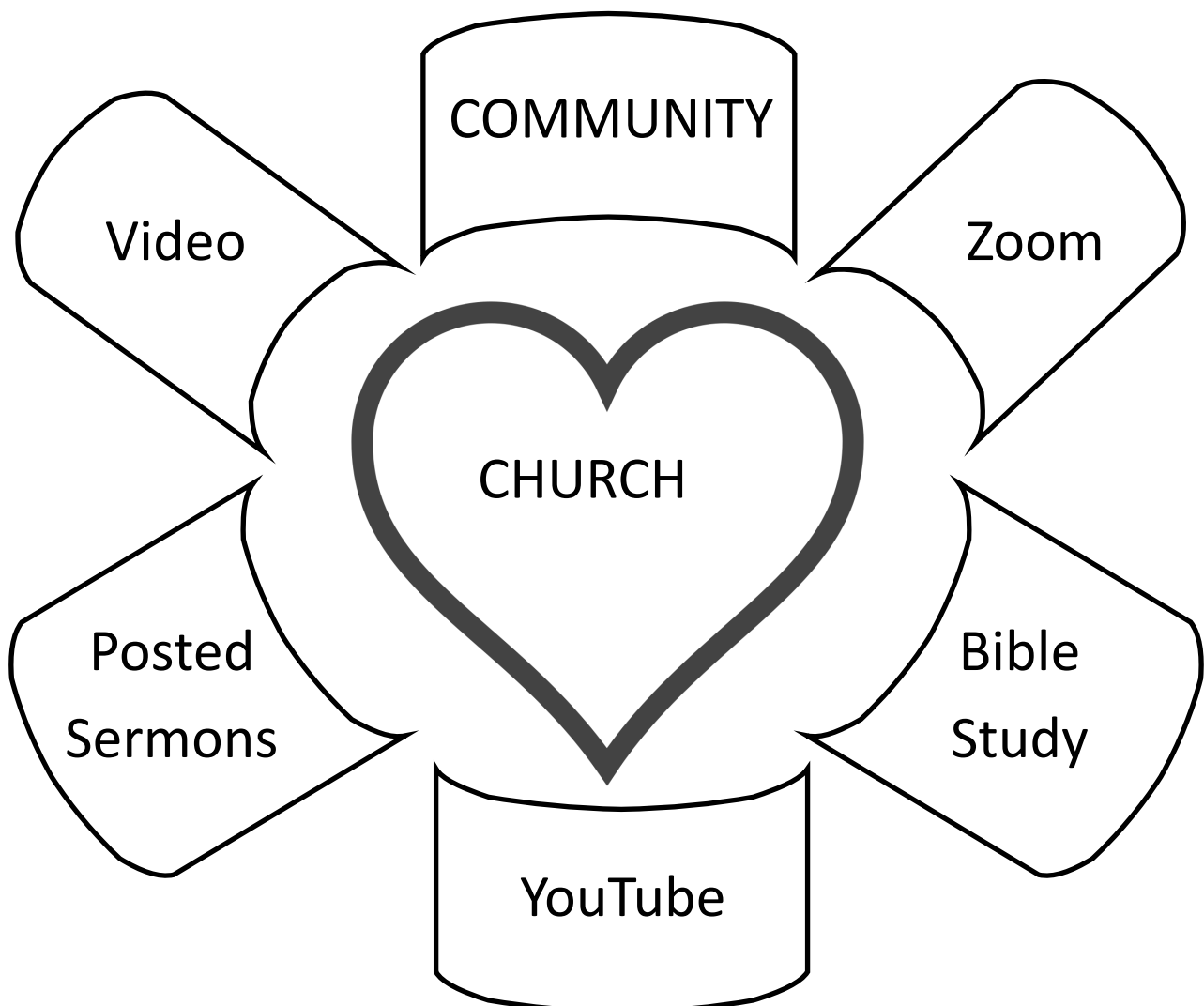
Online worship is not for everyone, and we must never forget that some people are not able to be online, whilst others prefer not to. We haven't forgotten those members of our community who aren't online and continue to send out printed sermons and reach out over the phone.

We hope to soon be able to gather again in our churches, but even when we can there may be some of us who understandably feel it is best to continue to stay at home and connect to worship online, or receive printed sermons. Even when we get to a point where we don't have to be cautious about gathering together, I hope that St Michael's and St John's will carry on taking advantage of online worship, and build on the good work that has taken place during this difficult past year. Online worship has shown that it can encourage inclusion by opening up access to those who physically can't be with us, and from a mission perspective, it can open up doors to becoming part of a church community for those who don't have the confidence to physically step through the church doors on a Sunday morning but might after experiencing online worship. And of course, it's not just worship that can take place online. It's also a great opportunity for learning and discipleship. We had our Study Week online last summer with speakers from all over the country, and our Zoom Bible Study, which started early on in the first lockdown, has continued to go from

strength to strength. We've enjoyed excellent discussion together as we've grappled with scripture from Daniel, to Acts and now Mark. I've certainly really enjoyed having that time of engaging in scripture together, and Zoom seems to be a great way of doing it!

Covid has been a significant chapter of my curacy and has brought challenges to our church life, but I have more skills to bring as a new Vicar as a result of it. I'm grateful to this community for how, at all stages and ages of life, you have embraced new ways of connecting together during this difficult time, whether its reading emailed reflections, watching services on YouTube, or joining in on Zoom. I hope and pray that the steps forward we have made in the use of technology and online church will go on to enhance your worship, discipleship and evangelism as you go forward.

Rev Melanie Clark



EXIT STRATEGY DATES



STEP 1 29th March

Education

- As previous step



Social Contact

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors



Business & Activities

- Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities
- All outdoor children's activities
- Outdoor parent & child group (up to 15 parents)



Travel

- Minimise travel
- No holidays



Events

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings and wakes (6)



Based on the Government's Reopening Roadmap published on February 22, 2021



STEP 2 No earlier than April 12th

Education

- As previous step



Social Contact

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors



Business & Activities

- All retail
- Personal care
- Libraries & community centres
- Most outdoor attractions
- Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only)
- Self-contained accommodation
- All children's activities
- Outdoor hospitality
- Indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents)



Travel

- Domestic overnight stays
- No international holidays



Events

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings, wakes, receptions (15)
- Event pilots



Based on the Government's Reopening Roadmap published on February 22, 2021

from THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



STEP 3

No earlier than May 17th

Education

- As previous step



Social Contact

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review)



Business & Activities

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)



Travel

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)



Events

- Most significant life events (30)
- Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%
- Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%



Based on the Government's Reopening Roadmap published on February 22, 2021



STEP 4

No earlier than June 21st

Education

- As previous step



Social Contact

- No legal limit



Business & Activities

- Remaining businesses, including nightclubs



Travel

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel



Events

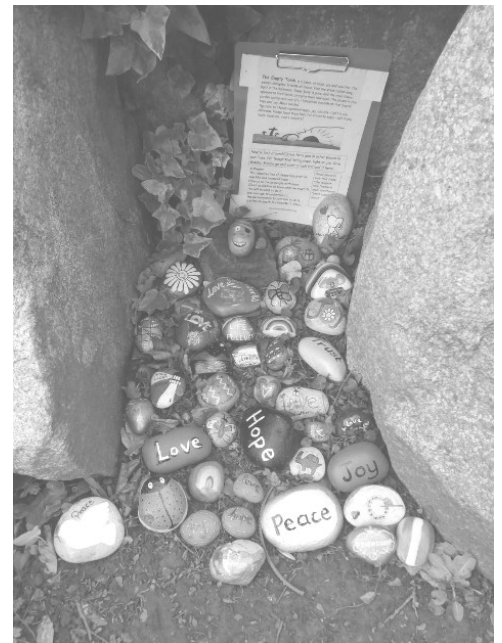
- No legal limit on life events
- Larger events



Based on the Government's Reopening Roadmap published on February 22, 2021

Mission in the Churchyard: 'Love – Your World'

Since Ash Wednesday, and through Lent into Easter, there has been a trail in the churchyard encouraging folk to reflect upon God's creation and their role within it. The reflections, prayers and actions are aimed at all ages, and varying spirituality.



Two of the 'stations' reference community groups in Lichfield – Lichfield Litter Legends and Lichfield Kindness Rocks. You might have seen Litter Legends volunteers with their hi-vis jackets litter-picking around Lichfield. Recently they picked 260 bags in one week! Anyone can join!

Lichfield Kindness Rocks make and hide painted rocks, as shown in the photo, with positive messages or pictures. It's been VERY popular, particularly in lockdown, with families. The rock 'garden' shown is in the empty tomb in the Easter garden outside church. As part of the churchyard trail, and advertised on the Kindness Rocks facebook page, it has definitely drawn even more people to visit the churchyard. During lockdown families have been searching for a focus for their outdoor activities with children, and our rock garden in the empty tomb has been popular. The painted rocks fill the empty tomb with their messages and symbols of hope, joy, peace and life – Resurrection!

Over recent years the amazing work by our churchyard working parties and volunteers, has transformed it into a place of great beauty and welcome, where creation thrives. May we continue to find transformative and creative ways to enhance it as a spiritual resource and place of welcome for the community. It is all much appreciated, especially in our current times! *Linda*

Leaving Gift for Simon and Diana

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

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

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

Lloyds Bank

Account Name – PCC of St Michael and St Mary Lichfield

Account Number – 00114488

Sort Code – 30-95-04

Reference – **RETIREMENT**

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

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

Sue Jones or Lyn Shiel

38 Bracken Close 1 Aspen Close

Lichfield WS14 9RU Lichfield WS 13 6FE

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

Many thanks,

Sue and Lyn

Churchwardens, St Michael, Lichfield

CHAD BLOG

Travelling together, metaphor, and devotion

Last summer when COVID restrictions loosened I was fortunate enough to be able to walk round all the churches dedicated to St Chad in this diocese. It was a wonderful experience of walking, prayer and hospitality despite the strange times we are living through. And now I want to encourage you all to join me in a new 'season of pilgrimage'. As preparation for that I have been reflecting on the meaning of 'pilgrimage' in a time of restriction. Three aspects of pilgrimage have particularly emerged for me: pilgrimage as travelling together, as metaphor, and as devotion.



Pilgrimage is most obviously travel: being on the move, getting from one place to another. In lockdown it can feel that we are isolated and going nowhere, stuck in an endless series of grey days that merge together. But we can still continue to invest in learning, in building relationships, in our own spiritual growth. We can still travel forward as pilgrims in the creative ways we have found to be together and build community online and, where safe, in person, despite these times.

Pilgrimage has been used as a metaphor throughout Christian history. We go on physical pilgrimages to remind ourselves that our whole life is a spiritual pilgrimage back to the God who created us, to our heavenly home. We need to take time for individual and communal prayer and for a return to the God who loves us,

particularly in this great season of Lent.

And pilgrimage is at its deepest a form of devotion. This holds true whether we are able to go on the traditional long walks together to do it, or not. 'Pilgrimage of the mind', it turns out, is not an invention of modern technology, much as many people are enjoying exploring sacred sites online at present. Medieval people who were unable to go on physical pilgrimages, often because they were members of enclosed Religious orders, pored over manuscripts which gave them vivid descriptions of the sacred sites of Jerusalem and other holy cities. Some of these contained exact directions and measurements so that a reader could 'walk round' such sites in their own mind and cloister. Popular devotions such as the Stations of the Cross emerged from such mental pilgrimages. We go on pilgrimage, whether physically or in our minds, to come closer to Christ and allow him to come closer to us.

Many people at present are creatively imagining that they are walking famous long-distance trails or climbing great mountains, when in fact they are logging the miles from their local park or back garden (I have been walking the Cabot trail around Nova Scotia in my own garden in Lichfield!). Drawing on this and on the medieval examples of mental pilgrimage, we hope soon to produce some resources to help people go on a 'virtual pilgrimage' exploring places known to St Chad, joining with us in prayer and devotion as we journey onwards. I hope that many of you will be able to join me in this endeavour. In the meantime I would encourage us all to get out and walk prayerfully as pilgrims, whether virtually or, when safe, in reality. In these times above all I believe we must take time for the practice of pilgrimage in our own lives. I invite you once more to join me: come, follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad.

Bishop Michael

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FLOWERS

I am looking for someone to take on the weekly flower rota. You don't need to be a flower arranger to do this job. I usually put up a list in church of dates when we need flowers, and arrangers are responsible for a two week slot. People are very good at signing up but sometimes need encouragement and we can always do with new people. Reminding people the week before they are on duty ensures the church always looks good for Sunday. Anne Lingwood is responsible for organising the major festivals.

Please let me know if you can help.

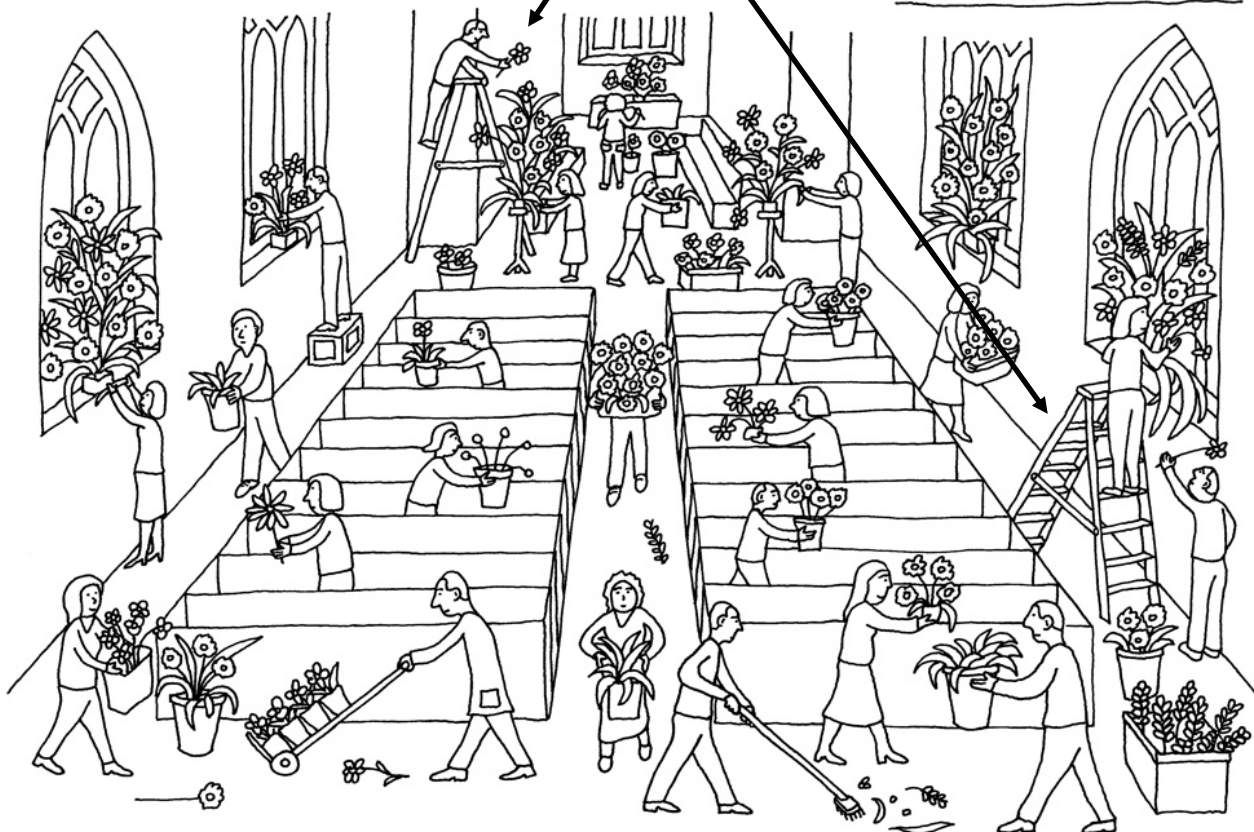
Many thanks

Diana

Please consult
Richard Brooks
before doing this!!

ANNE'S JOB

ARRANGING THE FLOWERS



CartoonChurch.com



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Response to the Budget from the Church of England's bishops in Parliament

03/03/2021

Following the Budget speech, the Bishop of Birmingham, David Urquhart, Convenor of the Bishops in the House of Lords, said:

“This is a time of great uncertainty, and while the Chancellor has rightly focussed on steps to get the economy moving, I’m concerned he has missed the chance to give certainty to those people and families who rely on Universal Credit, by not making the £20 uplift permanent.

“I’ll look at the details of the Budget closely for measures that will help the poorest and most vulnerable, especially access to sustainable jobs. The £19m for Domestic Abuse programmes is welcome as is support for schools to help get children back on the road of educational discovery. The lack of detail on social care is, however, a worry.

“The £300m additional funding for the Culture Recovery Fund is very welcome and will support the many small businesses and independent contractors our churches employ and support. I also note that the Levelling Up Fund prospectus specifically mentions cultural and heritage assets, including churches, and we look forward to churches and cathedrals particularly in areas of high deprivation taking part in this programme.”

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

St Michael's Parish Rooms February 2021.

St Michael's PCC has met 5 times since 1st January 2021 to make some major decisions with regards to the Parish Rooms project. These meetings have primarily been concerned with the appointment of two teams to work with the PCC to bring the project to a satisfactory conclusion.

The PCC put out 2 invitations to tender in the latter part of 2020. Each document detailed what the requirements of the PCC would be. The tenders were for work as follows:

Tender 1: to be the design team for the project.

Tender 2: to be the project managers and quantity surveyors for the project.

Each of the submissions for the work were closely examined by all members of the PCC and companies that met a minimum threshold were interviewed by the whole PCC. At the interviews each company had the opportunity to make a presentation and were then questioned by PCC members about the content of their submission, presentation and financial costs.

The whole process was fair, open, transparent and resulted in 2 unanimous decisions.

PCC awarded the project manager and quantity surveyor tender specification to Greenwoods Projects of Lichfield. Greenwoods are based at the bottom of the Rectors Walk of the Church. They have a wealth of experience in working on projects like ours nationally and

most recently have been working with the PCC to secure grant funding on a number of projects.

PCC have appointed BHB of Lichfield to be the design team. BHB have worked with St Michael's on a number of our most recent projects including the new kitchen and toilets and the Church roof. They too have worked on many ecclesiastical projects nationally and have a wealth of experience in projects like ours. The most notable project is the new Library at St Mary's, Lichfield in the city centre.

The PCC are delighted to share this news with everyone at St Michael's. We will be working with both companies for some considerable time in the realisation of our vision to have additional facilities on the St Michael site.

I think it is important to emphasise that a design has not yet been approved. There is a long way to go before the architect puts pen to paper. There will need to be considerable discussion and public meetings before that happens. Everyone connected with St Michael's will have an opportunity to have their views heard by the design team. In addition, there are several public consultations that need to take place with stakeholders and interested parties.

PCC will continue to update everyone as key decisions are made.

Phil Clayton

Honorary Secretary to the PCC

News from the Belltower

Why are St Michael's Bells Silent?

The last year has been hard for everyone but hopefully things are starting to change at last. We all have things we are looking forward to when life starts getting back to normal. Spending time with family and friends is probably at the top of the list for many of us. I am looking forward so much to having my daughters and their partners come home and am still waiting for permission to see my Dad for the first time since August last year! Once I can do that then I can start thinking of all the other things I used to do but haven't been able to do because of all the various restrictions including bellringing at St Michael's.

In February last year ringers were starting to shield if they or a family member was at risk. There were genuine concerns about safety of ringers going to ring even one bell for a service. The concern wasn't just about ringers themselves who are generally pretty savvy when it comes to safety in a bell tower, but about whether or not your actions might require an ambulance or fire brigade which you would then be taking away from someone else. I think that one year on we can recognise that was a panic reaction of the unknown, but it was right to raise the questions. Some bands stopped ringing earlier than others. Some churches made the choice for the ringers. All ringing stopped with the National Lockdown.

Since then a lot of effort has been made by the Central Council for Church Bellringers who have liaised with the Church of England and the Government to set up guidelines to ensure that ringing would restart safely at the earliest opportunity. Not when churches wanted ringing to start, or when ringers wanted to ring, but when it would be safe for people to meet to ring together.

There was a brief time last year when ringing could take place if ringers were prepared to meet under strict but sensible measures.

These included mask wearing, using handgel, one ringer per rope for the duration of the ringing, keeping a 2 metre distance apart, no more than 6 people in a room and a maximum time of 15 minutes in the tower. It was also considered to be safer if the tower had a ground floor ring as there would be no need to climb a staircase. Not all churches were open at the time and generally those who rang were mainly young and healthy or where families ring together to ensure that it was done safely.

Currently the guideline is that ringing should not take place at all. In February provisional dates based on the loosening of lockdown restrictions were made for ringing to restart and it looks like ringing MIGHT be possible again from May or June.

There are many things to consider though. Will we all have been vaccinated? Will distancing still be necessary? Will masks still be necessary? Are the ringers willing to return to ringing? How do you teach or supervise ringers who need assistance? Are the bells still safe to ring? Will any maintenance be needed? Is the tower still safe? Will insurance include Covid cover?

When the guidance from the Central Council of Church Bellringers and the Government says that ringing can re start safely then I can start looking at the logistics for us to ring again at St Michael's. That means checking the bells, doing maintenance should it be needed, doing a refresher course for our band who return and probably having to recruit and teach new ringers. It's probably going to take a bit of time and effort before we can get back to regular Sunday service ringing, but hopefully we will get there.

If you would be interested in learning to ring in the future then please do get in touch with me.

Gillian Eastwood

Bell Captain - St Michael's Church, Lichfield

Mobile Number—07568134115

The Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, Solomon Islands, 2003

The Melanesian Brotherhood is an Anglican religious community of men in simple vows based primarily in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea.

History

The Melanesian Brotherhood was formed in 1925 by Ini Kopuria, a policeman from Maravovo, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. He and the Bishop of Melanesia, the Right Reverend John Manwaring Steward, realised Ini's dream by forming a band of brothers (known in the Mota language as 'Ira Reta Tasiu') to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the non-Christian areas of Melanesia.

The Brothers (or 'Tasiu', as they are more generally known in the islands) were responsible for the evangelisation of large areas of Guadalcanal, Malaita, Temotu, and other areas in the Solomons, for Big Bay and other places in Vanuatu, and the Popondetta area of Papua New Guinea.

Structure

After training for three years, a novice is admitted as a brother by the Archbishop of Melanesia in his capacity as Father of the Brotherhood, or his deputy, or the Regional Father, who is a diocesan Bishop in his role as a Regional Father of the Brotherhood. This admission usually takes place on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Simon & St. Jude (28 October) at one of the three regional headquarters.



The Head Brother is the leader of the whole Brotherhood and is based at The Mother House at Tabalia. Tabalia is the place given by Ini Kopuria on northwest Guadalcanal. Three regional Head Brothers assist the Head Brother, and work supervising the Brothers' ministry in the three regions of Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, based at Popondetta, and at Tumsisiro, on east Ambae, Vanuatu.

Each of the three regional centres supervises the life and mission of the brothers in Sections (which are coterminate with the dioceses of the Church of Melanesia). The Sections are led by a Section Elder Brother. Under the Sections are the Households, which are led by an Elder Brother, and under the Households are relatively small communities of 3 to 6 brothers in Working Households, who are led by a Brother-in-Charge. Below the Working Households are Mobile Households with no full-time Brothers. Mobile Households have two or more Brothers, and may develop into Working Households.

Each Mobile Household, Working Household, Section, Region, and the entire Brotherhood has its own chaplain, responsible for the daily celebration of Mass and the spiritual lives of the Brothers in his care. He may or may not be a member of the Brotherhood.

Daily cycle and vows

The Brothers follow a sixfold cycle of daily office and Eucharist consisting of First Office (Prime), Morning Prayer, Mass, Morning Office (Terce), Midday Office (Sext), Afternoon Office (None), Evening Prayer, and Last Office (Compline). The text for Morning Prayer, the Eucharist, and Evening Prayer are from the Melanesian English Prayer Book, or its authorised alternatives, the lesser hours are simple offices in the "cathedral office" tradition rather than monastic, and the devotion of the Angelus (or Regina Coeli) is prayed daily.

The Brothers follow the evangelical counsels under the vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience. They spend three years as novices and then take vows for terms of five years, which are renewable. The constitution of the brotherhood permits some brothers to take life vows, but most brothers serve from seven to twenty years and are released. The released brother goes back into the world, usually finds a wife, and resumes life as a Christian layman in his village.

Several brothers, however, and many more former brothers are ordained to the diaconate or the priesthood. Although called the Melanesian Brotherhood, there are many Brothers who are from Polynesian islands, and several Filipinos and Europeans have joined the community.

Peace-making

Icon of the Melanesian Martyrs at Canterbury Cathedral

During the "ethnic tension" of 1999–2000 in the Solomon Islands, the Brotherhood participated in peace-making efforts

which led to a ceasefire and to the Townsville Peace Agreement of October 2000. They then gathered weapons from combatants and discarded them at sea.

One rebel leader, Harold Keke, did not comply with the agreement and continued to cause trouble. Brother Nathaniel Sado, who knew Keke, went to reason with him, but did not return. On 23 April 2003, six



brothers went to investigate reports that Keke had murdered Br. Nathaniel, and they did not return either. Scanty reports indicated that Keke was holding them hostage, but on 8 August 2003, the Police Commissioner was able to inform the Brotherhood that all six were dead. Keke and his men surrendered several days later, and the bodies of the seven brothers were exhumed and brought back to Honiara for autopsy. Br. Nathaniel had been tortured for several days before dying, three of the others had been shot on arrival and the remaining three had been tortured and shot the next day. The bodies were interred at Tabalia on 24 October 2003.

On 20 February 2004, Prime Minister of Fiji, Laisenia Qarase presented the Brotherhood with the first prize in the regional category of the 4th Pacific Human Rights Awards "for its sacrifice above the call of duty to protect the vulnerable and build peace and security in Solomon Islands during the civil conflict and post-conflict reconstruction".

On 3 August 2008, the seven martyred members of the Anglican Melanesian Brotherhood were honoured during the concluding Mass of the Lambeth Conference, at Canterbury Cathedral. Their names were added to the book of contemporary martyrs and placed, along with an icon on the altar of the Chapel of Saints of Our Times. When the Eucharist was over, bishops and others came to pray in front of the small altar in the chapel. Now their icon stands at the Cathedral as a reminder of their witness to peace and of the multi-ethnic character of Global Anglicanism.

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

QUARTERLY REFLECTION



April – June

Diocese of Lichfield

Power of Prayer

Written by Kathleen Snow

Mothers' Union Trustee for Zone B (*Canada, South America, USA and West Indies*)

Scripture: The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
James 5:16

One blessing during the COVID-19 pandemic was how our Mothers' Union members came together worldwide through prayer. We prayed for one another on WhatsApp, on Zoom, during midday prayers on Facebook and when able to in person, physically distancing and wearing masks. We did what we do best – when we are faced with trials, we pray.

Our prayers do make a difference – God never lets us down. He answers our prayers in his time and in his way. He hears our prayers as we pull our lives together. But we can become distracted from focusing on Jesus when our lives are in turmoil. Peter became distracted when Jesus invited him to walk on water to meet him. We need to keep our focus on Jesus and cry 'help!' when we are drowning.

Jon, a priest and friend shared with me, 'It's all about Jesus. Jesus is large and in charge and he hasn't left the building'. He reminded me of three things we can do:

Pray for direction.

Wait for direction.

Follow direction.

And leave the rest to Jesus!

Prayer points –

For wisdom and guidance for the people of Brazil and USA, and for their leaders to give good direction in containing and overcoming these grave outbreaks.

For peace, reconciliation and unity in the USA as they struggle with division and polarisation among their people.



Mothers' Union impact in Down & Dromore, Northern Ireland

Combatting 'holiday hunger'

Since 2019, Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Down & Dromore, had planned to get involved in a 'Grub Club' during 2020 Easter and summer holidays by providing a team to prepare and serve hot meals twice a week, to children suffering from 'holiday hunger'. Organised by Mount Merrion church, when the plans had to be altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MU members quickly adapted and offered their support in different ways.

They also supported the project financially through their 'Mums in May' fund, which awards grants to support projects in communities across the country. Clare Stewart, Action and Outreach coordinator, said 'One of our objectives as Mothers' Union is "to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children", so when we heard about the 'Grub Club' project which Rev Adrian was planning we were very keen to support the project in every way we could.'

Every week during the school summer holidays, a mini-bootcamp and packed lunch giveaway took place instead, on the green in the middle of the estate. Free for all to join and attended by up to 30 people each

time in order to abide by social distancing and coronavirus gathering laws at the time.

The project also attracted support from Active Belfast, who provided funding for the development and production of exercise stop signs that were placed around the green. Three sports coaches, Carl Green from Peninsula Fitness Bootcamps and local volunteers Rachel Colligan and Rachel Warnock, all of whom had already been providing various exercise classes through Mount Merrion church's Community Fitness Hub, helped run the bootcamp.

When asked why Mount Merrion church wanted to provide this service, Adrian said, 'The Grub Club' idea and now this mini-bootcamp and packed-lunch giveaway simply reflects our heart for the community we are part of. During the pandemic we have sought to work in partnership with others to provide for the most vulnerable and isolated in the area. It is clear that finances are tight and through the uniform recycling scheme that we are currently running and this weekly give-away, we hope to share something of the love of Jesus in a practical way.'



WALK FOR WATER.

Many of you will remember Imogen, who sang with Girls' Choir from the age of nine until she went to college a couple of years ago. She has sent me this message and asked me if I can publicise it through the church. "This Lent I'm taking on the Walk for Water Challenge. I'll be walking 10,000 steps a day for 40 days to raise money for CAFOD's work around the world. Watching the amazing key workers do wonders throughout this tough pandemic, I want to make sure that I do what I can to help struggling communities. I know these are hard times but anything you can spare for this cause would be really greatly appreciated. My website is:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/imogens-walk-for-water>

Our official charity in this area is Water Aid, which we support at Harvest, but you may want to thank Imogen for her years of service by making a small donation.

Many thanks.

Ted Green

Pathway Project Representative.

I've taken on Caroline's old role as St Michael's representative to the Pathway Project.

In doing this I'll be working with Elizabeth Allen (MU) and Brenda Liptrot (Charity Coordinator). If you have any questions about Pathway please contact me on 262342 or ctgreen@ntlworld.com.

Ted Green

St Michael's Churchyard

St. Michael's Churchyard

The Churchyard continues to give us its spectacular displays of Spring bulbs. A large number of **golden daffodils** can now be seen. In 2004, Barbara Homewood and the Guides planted a large number of daffodils in the grass near to the Church Hall. A few years later, when the decision was made to close the Hall the daffodils were transferred to the Churchyard and planted in the borders of the crab apple tree avenue. It is good that they provide this historic link with the old St. Michael's Church Hall. More bulbs have been planted over the last few years and it is good to see that they now stretch right to the end of the path.



A fabulous view of daffodils looking down the Crab Apple Avenue.



These daffodils are best seen from the pavement near the junction of Trent Valley Road and Burton Old Road West.

Narcissus is the Latin name for daffodil, perennial plants of the amaryllis family. Jonquil is also used to describe some daffodils. The flowers are generally white and yellow and there are orange and pink garden varieties. They were well known in ancient civilisations. The exact origin of the name is unknown, but is often linked to the myth of the youth Narcissus who fell in love with his own reflection. The English word daffodil appears to come from asphodel with which it was commonly compared.

Daffodils are native to meadows and woods in Southern Europe and North Africa. There are different varieties of daffodil in the Churchyard

but it is unlikely that any are wild A good crop of wild daffodils can be seen in the woodland at Georges Hayes, a Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Reserve near Longdon.

Do enjoy a good walk around both the old and new Churchyards to see the large number of daffodils we have, spreading beautifully every year.

Another flower to look out for this month is the **sweet violet**. **j Sweet Violet** is a species of flowering plant in the viola family and is native to Europe and Asia. To find sweet violet, start at the outside tap and walk along the path that goes to the new Churchyard. Just before you enter the new Churchyard, turn left and go down some steps leading to Burton Old Road West. You will see sweet violets growing on your left.



A group of Sweet Violets with their pansy-like flowers.

Ray Allen



A large clump of daffodils growing in the grass on the south side of the Church.

Latest news from the Hawksworth family:

We've had another busy month here in Hong Kong!

We took advantage of the increasingly nice weather and went for a hike up Pineapple Hill. This was a recommendation from a friend and is reportedly considered the Grand Canyon of Hong Kong. We set off with relatively hazy weather and it usually clears around lunchtime. However, this wasn't the case when we did our hike. Although we could see Schenzen, which is in China, that was pretty much it.



We were helped by a local lady who could see we were struggling to find the start of the hike. She wrote down where we wanted to go, in Chinese, and told us to show people the piece of paper if we got lost again. We didn't need to.

Milo has been enjoying staying with his friend in Stanley. His friend's Mum owns an island off Cambodia and she's really interested in conservation. She took her two boys and Milo to an oyster restoration project in Hong Kong. They spent the day on the mudflats digging out the dead oysters and building platforms for the new oysters to attach themselves. Milo found it really interesting and is eager to learn more about marine conservation.



Even though we're currently living in a pandemic, Hong Kong seems to be getting on with life as normal. We wandered down to the waterfront at Tseung Kwan O a couple of weeks ago and were lucky enough to see some Dragon boat practice. The dragon boat

races are a big part of the Chinese calendar and everyone enjoys the long weekend by watching the races. The boats seat 50 people and are decorated with heads and tails to depict the deities they want to please. We really enjoyed watching them on the water.

The weather took a turn for the worse last week. We had lots of low-lying cloud for about a week. When the forecast changed slightly, we took advantage and went on a trip to Ma On Shan country park. The plan was to travel across and walk back via Sai Kung. However, we soon discovered that the route we should have taken was no longer walkable and had been cordoned off. We ended up walking a circular route and then headed back to the MTR station. The children enjoyed the walk and there was even time for an ice-cream!



On Saturday (March 13th) my friend and I went to the Conrad hotel for an overnight stay. It was a staycation offer they have promoted for the last year and a half. We decided to take advantage of it and had a wonderful afternoon drinking champagne and enjoying some wonderful food. The setting was wonderful. A nice mixture of Chinese opulence and modern décor!

On my return home on Sunday, it came to light that there had been a Covid outbreak at one of the gyms that's popular with westerners. Peter, Ellie and Milo have had to go for another Covid test. The outbreak now means that the children are here full time and back to online learning. Parents at the school have been swift to get tested which is great. We continue to hold everyone affected by Covid in our thoughts and prayers.

Please stay safe and well.

All our love,

The Hawksworths xx

With thanks from Wall

In the early months of 2013, eight years ago now, I had the privilege of being involved with the appointment of a new Rector after the inter-regnum following David Beedon's ministry. It had been decided that the new incumbent would be part-time Rector and part-time Archdeacon. I must admit that at the time I thought this was an impossible role to fulfil. I still think that it would have been impossible for most clergy, but Simon has fulfilled both roles magnificently.

The Ven. Rev. Simon Baker was inducted into the ministry of the United Benefice at a service at St. Michael's on 1st September 2013. I remember going to the first Course he ran which was held in the Church Hall, 'Our Faith Story,' and I also remember coming home in great delight because I had agreed with everything he had said!! There were also the days out in London and Liverpool which Simon organised which were educational as well as very enjoyable.

The Mott Room at Wall was finally built during Simon's time with us and our PCC meetings were held there as well as many other group activities.

We are also thankful for all that Diana has done for the Benefice both in leading an Advent Course based on Advent hymns and in her hospitality. I remember a Sunday lunch where we had a splendid roast meal together. This was the first of a number of social events to be held in Simon and Diana's home and garden which members of St Johns and St Michaels enjoyed. One of the last Harvest Suppers we had in Wall Village Hall was achieved by collecting slow cookers and preparing lots of vegetables in their kitchen so that we could all enjoy a traditional casserole.

The church at Wall has greatly appreciated Simon's ministry and leadership over these last seven and a half years. We shall miss him. We shall miss his gift of preaching, his experience of all things practical and his expertise with such tedious things as faculties... We shall also miss the fellowship and food! We wish him and Diana many years of a happy and fulfilling retirement in their new home.

Christine Higgs

THANK YOU

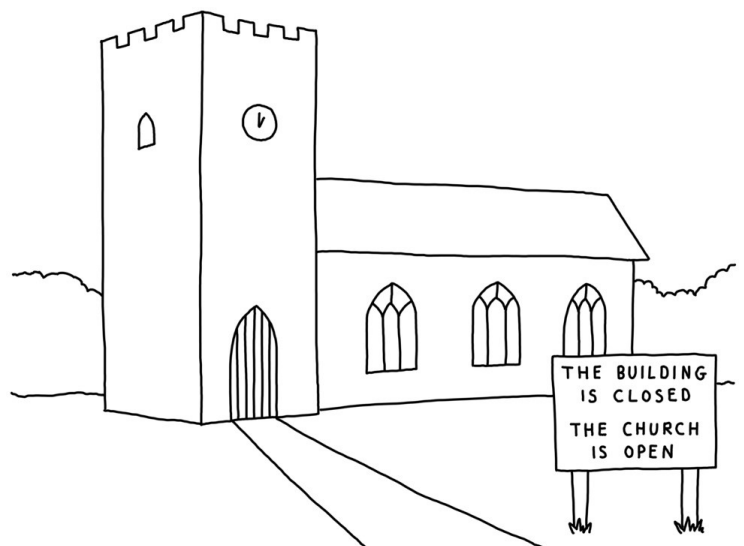
I have been so grateful for the support of so many church members during the last difficult year.

Living alone with no relatives nearby I would have been such a burden on my wonderful, very busy neighbours. You have phoned, offered and done shopping for me, collected prescriptions, delivered magazines and the weekly newsletter for and to me, baked and delivered a wonderful Christmas surprise.

Hopefully the end of isolation is in sight, but not for 2 or 3 months.

Thank you all so much,

Pauline Sale.



CartoonChurch.com

Memorial Book

Having the name of a loved one written in our Memorial Book is another way of remembering their life. The Book is kept in the case in the Prayer Corner and pages are turned twice a week, so that names are visible through the glass on the date nearest their death.

It costs £10 to insert a name. Please complete the form below and return it to a member of the Ministry Team with the remittance.

Memorial Book

Name of Deceased (as you wish it to appear in the Memorial Book)	
Date of Death:	Age at Death:
Name of Contact (in case of any problems or queries)	
Telephone Number:	

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

Deadlines!

For **May** Magazine: Deadline is
MONDAY 12th April
Contact David Shiel

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

From the Registers

Funerals

23/02/2021	St Michael	Josephine Wilkes	85
01/03/2021	St Michael	David Edge	76
18/03/2021	St Michael	Derek Smith	75
20/03/2021	St Michael	Frederick Paul	92



Bible Readings

Thursday 1st April

Maundy Thursday

[Red]

1 Corinthians 11.23-29

John 13.1-15

Friday 2nd April

Good Friday

[Red]

Isaiah 52.13—53.end

John 18.1-19.end

Sunday 4th April

Easter Sunday

[White]

Acts 10.34-43

Mark 16.1-8

Sunday 11th April

Second Sunday of Easter

[White]

Acts 4.32-35

John 20.19-end

Sunday 18th April

Third Sunday of Easter

[White]

Acts 3.12-19

Luke 24.36b-48

Sunday 25th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

[White]

Acts 4.5-12

John 10.11-18

Sunday 2nd May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

[White]

Acts 8.26-end

John 15.1-8

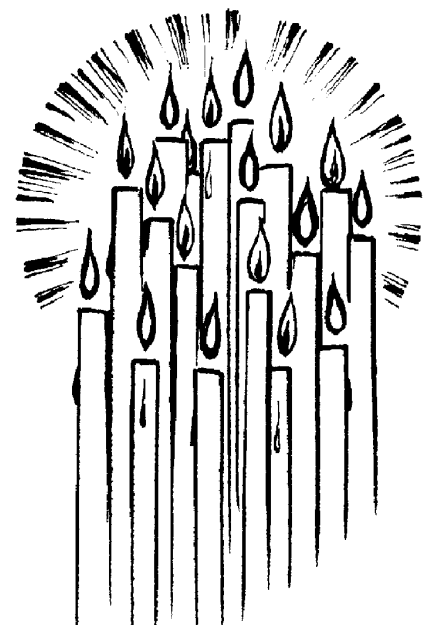
Sunday 9th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

[White]

Acts 10.44-end

John 15.9-17



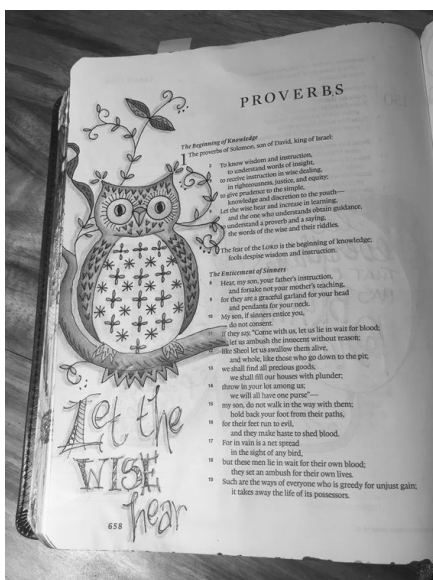
PROVERBS

PRAYERS

Chapter 1.1-6

1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David and king of Israel.

2 Here are proverbs that will help you recognize wisdom and good advice, and understand sayings with deep meaning. **3** They can teach you how to live intelligently and how to be honest, just, and fair. **4** They can make an inexperienced person clever and teach young people how to be resourceful. **5** These proverbs can even add to the knowledge of the wise and give guidance to the educated, **6** so that they can understand the hidden meanings of proverbs and the problems that the wise raise.



Sherrie
Bronniman, Art
Journaling: In My
Bible

[https://
www.pinterest.co
.uk/
pin/12961929550
2846286/](https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/129619295502846286/)



*Creator God, Father, you are the awe
inspiring well-spring of life and knowledge.
Thank you for inspiring David as he wrote
the Book of Proverbs so that we may learn
how to live our lives; how to be honest, just
and fair. Help us to reach out and share our
learning with others -with our congregation,
with our families and friends and with all
those around us. Send your Spirit to guide
us as we do our best to put our learning into
practise in our daily lives. Amen*

Angie King

And Finally

Quiz Set by Michael Arnold (answers below)

1. Who was the mother of Edward VI?
2. Which British archaeologist discovered Tutankhamun's tomb?
3. Who were the two sides in the Battle of Thermopylae?
4. Which British King suffered from a stammer, as portrayed by Colin Firth in *The King's Speech*?
5. Who invented the Spinning Jenny?
6. Which pilot famously fought in the Battle of Britain with two artificial legs?
7. Which ship is notorious for experiencing the bloodiest mutiny in British naval history? (Hint – it's also the name of a Harry Potter character)
8. Who discovered penicillin?
9. Delacroix painted *Liberty Leading the People*. Which historic event did it commemorate?
10. What was Tony Benn's aristocratic title?

1. Jane Seymour
2. Howard Carter
3. Greek City-States and Persia
4. King George VI
5. James Hargreaves
6. Douglas Bader
7. HMS Hermione
8. Alexander Fleming
9. The 1830 French Revolution
10. Viscount Stansgate

P.J. NEVILLE MEMORIALS

Hand carved quality
memorials. Renewals.
Additional inscriptions.

House numbers.

Home visits and brochure at no
extra cost.

Willow Court, Tamworth
Road, Lichfield, Staffs.

WS14 9HD

Telephone and fax:

01543 263440

DECORATING BY JULIE

Your local
lady
decorator



Julie Parkinson

Home: (01543) 317258

Mobile: 07796268056

Email: travellergirl2000@yahoo.co.uk

JUDY BARBER

FOOT HEALTH
PRACTITIONER
since 2002



01543 416068

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

Corns, callus,
General foot care

Our family would like to
help your family.

We are an independent, family
business from Lichfield.

At your service 24 hours.



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

enquiries@jukesfuneralservices.com

www.jukesfuneralservices.com

01543 415050



ThreeSpires
PHYSIOTHERAPY

HOME VISIT PHYSIOTHERAPY

For ALL your physiotherapy needs, including:

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



T: 07884 281623

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

CENTRAL GARAGE

(LICHFIELD) LTD

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

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

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

FREE MINI VALET WITH EVERY SERVICE



01543 262826

G. A. CANNELL MEMORIALS

*Individual designs & personal
attention our speciality*

*Also : Memorial Revonvations and Repairs.
FREE QUOTE*

Home visits available at no extra charge - No oblication

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

Open: Wed-Sun 10.30am-5pm



The co-operative funeralcare

Locally owned by The Midcounties Co-operative

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

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

1 Birmingham Road, Lichfield

Tel: 01543 416660

www.coopfunerals.co.uk



National Association
of Funeral Directors

872714_Feb2014_vw1

**Would you like
to reduce your
household
bills?**

**UW Utility
Warehouse**

Authorised UW Partner

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

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

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

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

Frazer Sneddon, Lichfield

Frazer & Ruth Sneddon

Authorised UW Partner

+447974122710

frazer.and.ruth@uw.partners

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

FLOODLIGHTING

Sponsor St Michael's floodlights to mark a special
occasion or remember a loved one!

Your donation will brighten up the skies
over Lichfield for the night.

Contact the United Benefice Office on 01543 262211



Who's Who

<p>St Michaels PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: <i>Lyn Shiel 320437</i> <i>Sue Jones 415242</i></p> <p>Assistant Wardens: <i>June Frayn 264920</i> <i>Liz Clarke 268862</i> <i>David Easton 255308</i> <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p>Treasurer: <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p>PCC Secretary: <i>Phil Clayton 682141</i></p> <p>Stewardship Recorder: <i>Sandy Baker 256320</i></p> <p>Electoral Roll Officer: <i>Mike Godfrey 264255</i></p>	<p>St John's PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: Christine Higgs 410351 John Alsop 480240</p> <p>Assistant Churchwarden: Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>Treasurer: Paul Wright 01543 483230</p> <p>PCC Secretary: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>PCC Lay Vice Chair: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Electoral Roll: Angie King office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</p>
<p>St Michael's Church</p> <p>Verger: <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>Dudley Ray 07847 643373</i> dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</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>June Frayn 264920</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 07568134115</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>St John's Church, Wall</p> <p>Verger: Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p>Pastoral Care: Christine Gilbert 07369 245023</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p>Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> <p>Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: <i>Barbara Homewood 255909</i> E-mail brian@britcave.co.uk</p> <p>Magazine Editor: <i>David Shiel 01543320437</i> shielfamily@gmail.com</p>
<p>Scouting and Guiding</p> <p>Group Scout Leader Carl Hall 07988 685378 chair@7thlichfield.org.uk</p> <p>Rainbows: <i>Becky Bickley 07703 671568</i> <i>Vicki Davies Friend 07970 549284</i> <i>Hannah Heath 07854 824443</i></p> <p>Brownies: <i>Julie Cragg 301098</i></p> <p>Guides: <i>Lisa Webb 07900 164587</i></p>	

