THE PARISH MAGAZINE April 2022



Easter Sunday—April 17th

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

£1

Rector:	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 Chris Baker 15 Saddlers Close, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 9ZW Tel: 01543 256320 Email: C.J.Baker@bham.ac.uk	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. Helen Barton 1 Seckham Road, Lichfield WS13 7AN. Tel: i01543 257692	Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Stephen Barton 1 Seckham Road, Lichfield WS13 7AN. Tel: i01543 257692
Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd Christine Polhill Little Hayes, Beaudesert, Cannock Wood, Staffs WS15 4JJ Tel: 01543 674474	Reader: Alan Toplis Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk
Reader: Trevor James 36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434	SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN Maureen Brand 01543 264880 For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.
St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED	St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS

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

Reflection.....

A Time for Everything

- 3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

As I write, the passage above from Ecclesiastes has never seen more relevant. When I wrote the opening page last August, we were looking forward to a new start in September; a time where there would be no bubbles, no requirement for whole classes to self-isolate, and where we would be able to welcome parents and visitors back into school. That lasted for three weeks before we were back in bubbles and not able to welcome parents or visitors into school.

Since then, we've been on the 'Pesky Covid Rollercoaster' as we've responded to spikes, new variants and endeavoured to return to some semblance of normality. It's been a year where we've experienced rebirth (finally joining ATLP); opportunities to 'plant', 'heal', 'build', 'laugh', 'dance', and 'embrace'.

Thinking of 'planting', it has been great to be able to bring the children back to Church. It's been a much-missed element of school life. In addition to the fabulous Tuesday worships provided by Rev'd Chris, some of our Year 6 pupils were able to participate in February's Family Praise service where the new hornbeam tree was dedicated in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A group of pupils returned a month later to share our school values as part of March's Family Praise focus on Education. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to lead worship in Church.

Whilst we weren't able to hold our Harvest Festival in Church, 'laughter' and 'dancing' were very much in evidence when the children performed their Christmas nativities. There was a brief window when we were able to welcome parents into school, socially distanced and sat in household groups – but the children were able to perform to a live audience for the first time in two years.

And so we find ourselves 'building' and 'embracing'. On February 1 st we finally became part of ATLP (The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership). We currently on a steep learning curve as our admin and finance systems migrate over. For the children, their day to day experience in school is little changed. As a staff we have the opportunity to be part of a National Teaching School and to draw upon the best pedagogy to inform our teaching and enrich the learning experience for our children. It's both exciting and daunting. Along with St Chad's Lichfield, we are the first two Church of England schools to join the MAT. We're looking forward to being outward facing whilst sharing our mission 'to walk in the footsteps of Chad'.

For us as a school, it a 'time to keep and a time to throw away'. As part of our transition to life in ATLP our Christian distinctiveness continues to be central to all that we do. We are in a process of evaluating all that is dear to us so that we keep the best and discard what is no longer relevant.

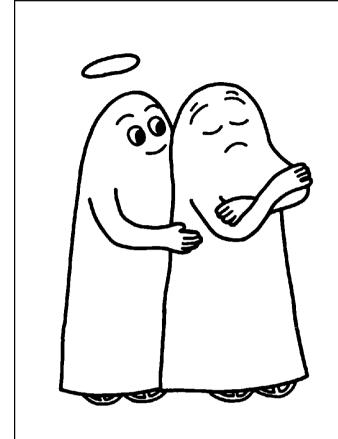
Alongside that we're really looking forward to welcoming our new Rector. Working with Abbie provides us with a fantastic opportunity to revisit the strengths of our relationship and creative new ways in which we can enable our children to flourish and be 'excited to learn with confidence together in God's hands.'

Helen Robertson Headteacher

Good News from Angie

Many of you will know that Angie King, our wonderful Parish Administrator, had a hip operation recently. She was in hospital for a couple of days and is now undergoing rehabilitation at home. She reports that she can now use her crutches quite well and is working hard on her exercises. The only reason all the weekly pew sheets and this magazine can be produced is that she set up everything possible before she went on medical leave. Continue to get better, Angie. We're all praying for you.

Angie has asked us to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes.



God loves those who hate him

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

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

Deadlines!

For May Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 10th April

Contact David Shiel shielfamily@gmail.com

Pew Sheet:

every Thursday 7:30am Contact Parish Office

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Family Praise

Sunday 3rd April

10am St Michael's



First Steps



Monday 4th April

10am St Michael's

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



SUNDAY 10th April

4.30 - 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome



UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

A Canal Walk at Huddlesford.

Date of Walk: Saturday April 23rd.

Meeting point: The Car Park of The Plough Pub, Huddlesford.

Meeting Time: 10.30 a.m.

Distance: 2 miles

Type of Paths The walk will be on the towpath of the Canal.

We shall start the walk from the Pub Car Park and then go along the towpath in the direction of Whittington .

We shall walk for half an hour and, following a short break, return on the towpath and back to the Car Park.

Along the way I will point out some of the historical and natural features of this beautiful part of the Coventry Canal.

Following the walk there will be an opportunity to have coffee or lunch at the pub. There is a good variety of food available as part of the Lunch Menu. If you wish to book a meal here before the walk the pub telephone number is

01543 432369

The walk is limited to 20 people. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. Please book by Thursday April 21st.

https:www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/walking-group-booking-page.html

Ray Allen <u>beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com</u>

MAY MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION

Change to published Distribution Date



The printing of the May magazine will be done week commencing Monday, 25 April and be completed from Wednesday, 27 April for collection.

Liz Clarke 268862

liz.clarke@virgin.net

SAFE, SECURE AND WELCOMING PLACES TO VISIT

One of the very positive features of any healthful walk that I lead at Yoxall is the very hospitable reception that is offered at St Peter's Church. By arrangement, they will provide hot drinks and make the group very welcome indeed. In particular people are drawn to this church to see the rather special artistic representation on the altar in the Lady Chapel which includes chequer board designs and other features as part of a reflection on the trial of Jesus just prior to the Crucifiction; and the Meynell Family Tomb which links this church with that at Hoar Cross.

If anyone would like to participate in a visit to Yoxall – just the Church or the longer walk enjoying the architectural and topographical landscape – please let me know and I will gladly organize another.

Trevor James

News from



Bishop of London responds to Prime Minister's announcement lifting remaining Covid-19 restrictions



The Bishop of London has responded to the announcement made today by the Prime Minister setting out the Government's plans including lifting remaining Covid-19 restrictions.

Bishop Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group, said: "The Prime Minister's announcement that Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted holds out the hopeful prospect of the end of the pandemic but will nonetheless raise concerns for some.

"The last two years have challenged us again and again but also taught us how we can do many things differently and heightened our awareness of how we transmit disease.

"People have made huge sacrifices and I would like, again, to say thank you to our NHS and front-line workers, our clergy, parish volunteers and congregations for all you have done.

"Your actions - whether noticed or unnoticed, big or small - have been the glue which has held our communities and our nation together during this time of great need.

"I recognise the pandemic has had a major impact on people's wellbeing, and the need to look out for each other is as great if not greater than ever.

"Although the legal restrictions are being lifted, there may be good reason for us to take some measures as individuals and as local churches. I am conscious that some people with medical conditions will be more fearful now that compulsory isolation for those who are likely to be infectious is ending and we should not lose our focus on the most vulnerable.

"We've much to be thankful for - not least the vaccines which have been a real answer to prayer. They are more vital than ever, both here and around the world."

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

The Chad Blog

What is 'biblical'

Published: 1st March 2022



Hope and truth are our reference points says Bishop Michael as he battles to untwist an adjective in this month's Chad Blog.

At the time of writing this, the situation in and around Ukraine seems to be deteriorating, with many citizens in Kyiv and Kharkiv sheltering in underground stations and others heading towards the borders, with Russian soldiers apparently bewildered what they are being asked to do and Russian civilians reeling under the impact of sanctions, with a rising death toll and escalating anxieties, and with all of us trying to come to terms with how quickly and dreadfully Europe has become a theatre of war. Jesus words to his disciples about 'wars and rumours of wars' have suddenly come to have a new urgency – not simply a saying from long ago, but a description of our own times.

And these terrible developments have followed close on the heels of other events which have reminded us of the fragility of life: just as we were emerging from two years of the scourge of the COVID pandemic, with all the traumatic suffering, mental and physical that brought, three successive storms in less than a week hit our beleaguered island, bringing widespread disruption, damage and destruction. And then, to cap it all, there was an earthquake – admittedly a small one, but as its epicentre was Walsall it felt very close to home.

The popular press increasingly uses one word for events of this kind and for their impact on human beings. Widespread scenes of climatic devastation, massive crowds of displaced people, terrible scenes of military destruction – all are regularly described as being 'biblical' in scale. In fact, it is probably the case that the use of the word 'biblical', outside the Church, is now almost restricted to situations of catastrophic malfunction and suffering.

It seems to me that this both expresses a profound truth and at the same time completely misses the point. The truth is, that the Bible is set in a world which is full of violence, division, pain and anxiety. And the faith of Christians, shaped by the biblical witness as we are, does not try to pretend that the world as we know it is a safe, comfortable or easy place to live. The biblical writers describe the societies in which they lived with searing honesty and unflinching challenge, and we in our turn know from the teachings of our faith that the world is not how God wants it to be.

But that is only half the picture. Our faith indeed tells us how the world actually is, but it also reminds us of how it could be — of how it will be when God's purposes are fulfilled. We have a message not only of realism but also of hope, and it is for hope that our society is so hungry. Christian hope is not a mere cheerful optimism, but a solid expectation built upon the truth that Jesus' cross and resurrection offers a better way for us to live than the sad and destructive ways of the world. And hope built on faith helps us to do what Jesus told his disciples to do in their own violent and conflicted times: 'Hold your heads high, because your redemption is at hand'.

As our churches enter into the wonderful season of Lent, given for our refreshing as we prepare to celebrate the triumphant feast of Easter, what we offer above all to our troubled times is a commitment to pray. Prayer changes many things, and most of all it changes us, because it aligns our wills to God's will. So through prayer we see the sin of the world more clearly as God sees it, and we imagine the glory of the world more vividly as God would have it be. My prayer at a time like this is twofold: first, 'Lord, have mercy'; and then, 'Your kingdom come'. Have mercy on us all in the mess we have made of your world; and renew our hope to work for Jesus' kingdom of justice and peace.

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust(SHCT)

Staffordshire's landscape has a variety of contrasting faces, from the moorlands in the north of the county to Cannock Chase in the south and the Vale of Trent in the centre.

In addition to this rich profusion of natural beauty our county includes a wealth of churches which have formed the focus of community life, often for many centuries.

The villages towns and cities of historic Staffordshire include Lichfield and Stafford, the industrial centres of the Potteries and the Black Country, and their churches range from pre-Norman village churches over 1000 years old to masterpieces of Victorian Gothic.

These buildings, each of them unique, are still loved and treasured, even by those who choose not to attend them regularly.

There are over 500 churches in Staffordshire, about one third are listed as Grade I or II* buildings of historic importance,

However, the price of this beauty and history is high. It costs a lot of money to keep a church in good repair, (as we at St Michael's know only too well). The weather takes its toll on stonework, brickwork, and roofing. Gutters, woodwork, and stained-glass windows also suffer from the effects of age and require constant repair and restoration. Many of the materials and techniques used in maintaining historic church buildings are expensive.

The SHCT exists to help fund this work, and at the same time remind people what a wonderful heritage of church buildings we have in our County.



The Trust is supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions, donations and the "Ride & Stride" annual fundraising event (for more information see the Trust's website at www.staffordshirehistoricchurchestrust.org) or contact the County organiser: - John Wallbridge on jwallbridge@hotmail.co.uk

"Ride & Stride for Churches" is the annual sponsored event in aid of Staffordshire's historic churches and takes place on the second Saturday of September *[put a note in your diaries now!]* All over England cyclists and walkers are sponsored to visit churches between 10am and 6pm [the less energetic may prefer car or public transport.

"Ride & Stride for Churches Day" is also the best time in the year to visit Churches and find them open and manned throughout the day.

Proceeds are shared between the Trust and participant's own churches and is the principal source of income for SHCT.



Diocese of Lichfield

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Each year on the first Friday of March, services are held across the world, in which prayers are said and meditations are held on themes that bring together Christian denominations. This year the service was prepared by the Christian Women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme was "I know the plans I have for you." In Lichfield we usually have two services and this year they were held at 11.30 am and 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church. Lesly Allen took part at the morning service and I did in the evening. Members from other churches in Lichfield also took part, along with music from "Ladies who Lark", led by Cathy Lamb from the Cathedral.

The service was based around a verse from Jeremiah. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Its message was for the exiled people of Israel who were longing to return to their homeland, but we can all see its relevance for today. Near the start of the service three voices - Lina, Natalie and Emily - spoke of their forms of "exile" in their own countries: poverty, fear and isolation, and how God's plans for them had worked out in unexpected ways, with freedom, justice and peace. The service moved from darkness to light or from negative places to the positive hope to be found in God's plans

for us. Seven candles were lit during the service representing the seven regions of the World Day of Prayer family, and members of the congregations were given a packet of seeds as a symbol of God's hope.

Hazel Rendle, the local leader of the World
Day of Prayer Group said it was amazing that
the words of the songs, prayers and readings,
prepared months ago had relevance for
current events, and an extra prayer for those
in Ukraine was included.



Next year the service will be held on the first Friday in March, probably at St. Chad's. It will be prepared by Christian women in Taiwan on the theme "I have heard about your faith." Do think about going.

Alison James

For more information visit

https://www.wwdp.org.uk/

God of the past, the present and the future,

Our thoughts and prayers are with our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and the surrounding countries in their fear and distress.

We pray too for all other regions of the world where there is conflict, unrest or oppression.

We pray that reconciliation will overcome hatred,

peace will conquer war,

hope will replace despair. and that your plans for the world and for us its people will be fulfilled,

God, in your mercy Hear our prayer.

St Michael's Mothers' Union Branch Report

We met twice in February, once to enjoy a meal at Bistro 19 in the Close and once in church where June led us in a Wave of Prayer service. This is a time to think specially about our Link Dioceses overseas and especially about the work of the Mother's Union in those countries. We are linked with Ankoloe in Uganda, Lainya in South Sudan, Lagos West and Abuja in Nigeria and Karnata in India. In many of these dioceses the M.U. is a strong force as their members work to improve living standards for their people and promote education for girls. They also try to provide food and shelter for homeless people. In such patriarchal societies they are fighting an uphill battle but their enthusiasm is amazing. Many of the African members even wear a uniform so they are easily recognised but so far, that has not taken off in England.

Our Lent lunch was held on March 12th for any of the congregation to attend and a few days later our meeting took the form of a meditation for Lent. At the end of March we will hold a service for Lady Day during which we will enrol 4 new members. *Betty Lyne*

St. Michael's Churchyard



On Friday February 18th. a mature deciduous tree was blown down due to the full force of Storm Eunice. The tree fell over on to Trent Valley Road, causing disruption to traffic for a time. Fortunately no one was hurt and the tree was removed and taken away. Part of the trunk of another tree, this time an old Beech

Tree, fell the following day. These incidents are a reminder to us of the damaging effects of climate change. We do have a large number of mature trees in the Churchyard, some of which, like the ones that fell, are diseased meaning they are weak and unable to withstand heavy storms.

Over the past year we have planted a number of native trees. We have a policy of planting new trees to replace any that die and it is good that we continue this in the years to come. There are 33 tree species native to the UK. Until recently there were 18 native species in the Churchyard. We planted 5 new native trees at our February Working Party, bringing the total to 23. I hope we will be able to plant the remaining 10 native trees in the coming years. The trees we planted in February are:



Juniper, Sessile Oak, Alder, Small-leaved Lime & Aspen

The trees were purchased from The Woodland Trust Shop. They are called whips and we have protected them with strong tree guards. To find our new native trees, go to the area near to The Law

Monument adjacent to Trent Valley Road. The 5 new trees have green square tree guards surrounding them. Metal pegs have been inserted to give extra stability.

The Larkin Family Graves

This year marks the 100th. anniversary of the birth of the well-known English poet Philip Larkin He was born in Coventry but he moved to Lichfield with his parents during the Second World War, following the

Lichfield with his parents during the Second World War, following the Coventry Blitz. He lived in Lichfield for a short time and wrote some of his first poems here. Several of Philip's family, including his parents, are buried in an area of the Churchyard. Philip himself died in Hull in 1985 aged 63. He is buried in Cottingham Hill Cemetery in Hull. The graves and the area itself had become rather overgrown so the Working Party's second task in February was to weed some of the Family graves and clear brambles, holly, ivy and other spreading plants from the whole of the area. Thanks to their efforts, much improvement was made by the end of the session. To find the Larkin Family Graves, walk down the brick path in the direction of Trent Valley Road. Near to the end of the path there is a path on the right. Walk along this path for about 15 metres and you will see the Larkin Graves on your right.



The Churchyard Working Party will be meeting on Saturday April 30th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Our main task will be to divide clumps of snowdrop bulbs, hopefully encouraging even more spreading of the plants in the large, grassed area near to the Church Drive. We shall also do some dead-heading of daffodil bulbs throughout the Churchyard and prepare the Tower Beds ready for planting in May. Refreshments (Tea/Coffee/Cake) will be served during the Mid-Morning Refreshment Break. Do please come and join us if you can. Ray Allen 251654

News from the Hawksworth Family in China:

Spring has finally arrived here in Chengdu! It's sunny and warm. Daily temperatures over the weekend reached 31c! It's a different heat to Hong Kong and less humid!

The trees are starting to blossom and the flowers are starting to bud. The evenings are lighter too!

We have an ayi! (A lady who helps in the house) She's called Sui! She's just wonderful! She has a daughter and two grandchildren who live outside of Sichuan. She's been with us for about 3 weeks now and makes the most delicious Sichuan dishes for us in an evening!

Rupert will only eat rice but the other 3 enjoy her cooking.

She doesn't speak English but is impressed I'm learning mandarin. She has told me she will learn English also to make communication a little easier! Here is just one of the many lovely things she makes fresh, every evening!

Ellie has now started at LeMan international school. She's happy and settled. She's made lots of friends and has a lot of fun at school. She takes the school bus by herself everyday both to and from school. She's enjoying having a little more independence.

Milo has started at QSI. He passed his entrances exam with flying colours. The problem was the school couldn't accommodate Milo's nut allergy. So we decided to move him to a nut free school instead and QSI have been wonderful! Milo's really happy and, like Ellie, has made a lot of friends and has a lot of fun at school!

Ru and Gabe continue to enjoy school. Ru's class are currently learning about creepy crawlies! They have some tadpoles that they'll document the lifecycle of and then release them back to the local park once they mature into frogs! Ru's very excited!

I have started my mandarin course. Due to the pandemic the local university isn't running foreign language courses as there are no international students coming in! I've found a local tutor whom I'm having 1-2-1 lessons with. She's a local lady called Stephanie and she speaks both mandarin and our Sichuan dialect! It's very intensive but I'm enjoying it a lot. I have two 1.5hrs lessons a week. I'm learning to speak, read and write mandarin and pin ying (simplified Chinese characters)

Peter is enjoying work enormously. The high school officially opens two weeks on Saturday! He's very excited to be able to welcome the new students into school as well as prospective parents.

Weekends continue to be busy. As the weather is so nice at the moment, we go out a lot on scooters and bikes. You often see lots of families out and about on bikes. The parks on Sundays tend be filled with families playing badminton or some or the more senior citizens play ping pong! There's often an elder gentleman who practices his whipping skills! You know he's in the park as you can hear the distinct



'crack' of the whip! He isn't keen to have his photo taken but it's very impressive.

Peter, Rupert & Gabriel

I met a friend for lunch yesterday and we went to a local Chinese restaurant. We ordered something called hot oil fish. It comes on a hot plate and the fish is gently cooked before being served whole on a bed of mixed Chinese vegetables. We opted for

greens, lotus root and shredded potatoes. The fish is then topped with dried chillis, chilli oil, garlic and ginger. It was delicious! You served with a small side of rice part way through as rice is only really eaten to fill you up. It's not usually the main part of the dish. The meal came with oolong tea or you could have water.

We're making plans for the summer to explore more parts of China. We could fly outside of China but with Covid they wouldn't let us back in. We plan to go to Leshan to see the giant Buddha, then down to see the pandas. It's a very popular tourist attraction and I've been told to get there early! People start queuing from around 7 - 7.30am for a 9am opening!

We hope you're all well and keeping safe. We have BBC news here so are keeping up to date with what's happening at home and abroad! Look after each other and keep safe.

Much love,
The Hawksworths Xx

Through the Wilderness Psalms

The Through the Wilderness Lent Group, led by Helen Barton and Christine Polhill, has been producing modern psalms. Below are the results of their first two sessions:

Session 1

God, you are there in the midst of us: you are the creator of all, thankyou.

My friends and family are in deadly peril: I fear for them, for myself, for my loss.

Fear made me frightened, scared: fear made me anxious and my confidence was gone.

God was there, present, but shrouded by the uncertainty: playing hide and seek.

I knew of God's love, but wasn't always aware of it: at times everything felt out of control.

God, you are there in the midst of us: you are the creator of all, thankyou.

.Praise God for being a constant presence through the pandemic. Thankyou for being there: for saving me from feeling alone. Thankyou for friends to walk with.

I worried I might not see my children again.

I thought I might be dead in three weeks: it felt as if there was no way to be safe.

I was scared of becoming ill and having difficulty breathing.

I felt sad and isolated at times.

I was angry that this threat had come to the world: I wanted to find someone to blame.

I felt for those who really were ill.

God was there in the family zooms: in phone calls from friends offering support.

I wanted God to act: to be like a mum.

God is where he is usually.

God was there during the pandemic: God is with us now.

It made me think about death as 'coming home'

Here I am, as confused as ever.

We praise you God: you never leave us.

You are above everything.

You are the same, yesterday, today and for ever.

Our worries about our families turned to thankfulness they were safe.

We were angry, but could not do anything to stop it.

But you helped us cope, and we were grateful.

Session 2

My God, my God, where are you in our wilderness?

Where were, where are you in our times of emptiness and isolation?

Where have you been when we couldn't see those we loved: in hospital, at home, in celebration, in grief?

We feel angry and frustrated: forgotten and sometimes lost.

But you are there God: always have been, always will be; carrying us in our darkest times: holding us in our deepest depths.

Praise God for using us to create the solutions:
Praise God for always being there in the kindness shown by others.
Oh that those who led us during the wilderness
would have followed your ways O God.

I am glad that we all have different gifts: to do different things. Praise God for using us to create the solutions.

Praise God for using us to create the solutions:

Praise God for always being there in the kindness shown by others.

Oh that those who led us during the wilderness would have followed your ways O God.

I am glad that we all have different gifts: to do different things. Praise God for using us to create the solutions.

I had so much to do and was always running from behind: I never had time to finish anything properly, and my work was full of unfinished projects.

I cried out to the Lord in my confusion, and He sent the pandemic.

I found I had more time, even for relaxation.

I finished things properly before starting something new;

I enjoyed spending time on things, rather than rushing to complete them.

So I give thanks to the Lord for His wisdom, and the gift he gave me, his child.

I'm happy to share this with others, and to praise God for all He has done.

God we thank you for your presence:
I feel the strength that has sustained me.

I wish the government had thought about others rather than themselves:

but I would hope people will remember when they make decisions in the future.

Thankyou for giving us freedom to think and to act.

Choir News

The Stevens Family and especially Rosie. 2021 turned out to be a truly momentous year for the Stevens family. Following the arrival of Arthur and Ava, Rosie and Toby welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Quinn Molly Skye into the world on November 17th (a very special birthday present for Rosie!), making it a trio of grandchildren for Alison and great grandchildren for Jerry and Brenda Stevens. Many of you will remember Rosie as she was one of the founding members of the Girls' Choir and enjoyed many visits to Camas.

Another Girls' Choir Baby. Beth Knox, another founder member of the Girls' Choir, gave birth to a baby girl, Sadie Lyn, on 22 October 2021. Beth was also a Camas stalwart and acted as Assistant Leader on her last visit a few years ago.



The original Girls' Choir with Rob Stevens. Beth and Rosie are in the centre.

News from St Michael's PCC

by Ted Green

There hasn't been a PCC magazine report for some time, for which I apologise. Unfortunately we lost Phil Clayton in September as he moved to another church. He wrote this in his last set of Minutes, "Phil Clayton announced with immediate effect he would be leaving the Ministry Team, resigning from the PCC and cease to act as PCC Secretary." Phil has been a tower of strength as PCC Secretary for many years and we are greatly in his debt for all his work. We shall also miss him as a member of the Ministry Team.

I took over as temporary PCC Secretary and I'm delighted to say that I've now been replaced on a permanent basis by Veronica Morris, to whom my heartfelt thanks!

We held four meetings between October 2021 and February 2022, two of which were on single subjects., On 18 October members of the PCCs of St John's and St Michael's had a joint meeting with the Archdeacon of Lichfield to consider our Parish Profile as part of the process of appointing a new Rector. All concerned thanked Ruth Bull for producing a final draft for Archdeacon Sue and then amending it rapidly, to take her advice into account, in time to advertise the post in late 2021 and select the Revd Dr Abbie Walsh in February. Abbie will be Licensed as Rector of the United Benefice at St Michael's on Sunday 15 May at 4 pm.

On 26 October St Michael's PCC held a special meeting with our architects and advisors, BHB and Greenwood's, to consider possible concepts for the new Parish Rooms. We didn't finish that evening

and dealt with the subject again at the normal PCC meeting in November. As a result, work is now going on with the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC) to see if our thoughts are viable. When that work is completed we will be able to publicise the way ahead. There are still many stages to go, but it's good to have our ideas with the DAC for consideration.

As well as these two special subjects, PCC has continued to monitor the Covid situation and keep up to date on Finance, Safeguarding, H&S and Environmental policy. As a result of John Polhill's efforts the church now has a Bronze Environmental Award and is working towards the rarely achieved Silver. (Gold is out of the question for an ancient building like ours.)

PCC is also keeping abreast of two technical areas: repairing the church clock (funded and under way) and, possibly, electrifying it in due course; and putting in a new audio-visual (A/V) system, including a large panning camera, to transmit services and events on Zoom. This latter project is funded and has the support in principle of the Diocesan A/V Advisor, but a great deal of work now needs to be done to get a Faculty from the Diocese, through the DAC, because it will require changes to the fabric of the church (mostly fixings and wire runs).

Another regular subject for PCC is the Churchyard, on which we are expertly advised by Ray Allen. No further report is needed here because you can read his monthly updates in the magazine.

PCC has further meetings in April, May, July, September and November, with our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (effectively our AGM) after morning service on Sunday 15 May.

The Petits of Ettingshall and Lichfield.

The monument commemorating Louis Hayes Petit is very prominent at the front of the nave in St Michael's, and recently a display board commemorating the life and work of his nephew, John Louis Petit has been erected in the graveyard close to the tomb of him and his siblings. But who were the Petit's? In this short article I will give a brief history of the family from the time they first left France up to the death of John Louis and his siblings in the late nineteenth century.

The first of the Petit family to arrive in England was Lewis Petit (1665-1720), a member of the ancient Norman family of Petit des Etans, who, with many other Hugenots, fled to England from Caen on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. He served in the British army as an engineer, rose to the rank of brigadier-general and was appointed lieutenant-governor of Minorca from 1708 to 1713. He was later involved in the suppression of a revolt by Highland clans. He had two sons, John Peter Petit and Captain Peter Petit. The former married Sarah, daughter of John Hayes of Wolverhampton, the owner of the Ettingshall Estate near Sedgley, and they occupied the manor of Little Aston from 1743 to the early 1760s. John Hayes died in 1736, and left Ettingshall to his son, another John Hayes. This John himself died in 1745 and the estate went to Sarah and her sister, and thus ultimately to John Peter Petit. Ettingshall was a large, originally arable estate, that even at that stage was beginning to be exploited for its coal and ironstone reserves. It is from that estate that much of the Petit wealth derived.

John Peter and Sarah's only son, John Lewis Petit (1736-1780) qualified as a doctor in 1767 and was physician to St. George's Hospital from 1770 to 1774, and to St. Bartholomew's from 1774 until his death. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society from 1759 and was clearly regarded as a leader in his



profession. He and his wife Katherine had three sons John Hayes Petit (1771-1822), Peter Hayes Petit (1773-1809) and Louis Hayes Petit (1774-1849), but clearly lacked imagination in the giving of names. Peter Hayes was a lieutenant-colonel of the 35th Foot and died of a wound received at Flushing in Holland during the Napoleonic war. Louis Hayes (he of the monument) became a barrister and, from 1827 to 1832, was MP for Ripon. He bought property at Yeading, Middlesex, and a house in Tamworth Street, Lichfield. After ceasing to be an MP, his remaining years were largely devoted to literary and philanthropic pursuits.

The eldest of the three brothers, John Hayes Petit (1771-1822) inherited the Ettingshall estate, but also followed an ecclesiastical career. He was ordained priest in Chester in 1798 and served a curacy at Ashton under Lyme near Stalybridge in Cheshire. During his time there he married Harriet Astley of the nearby town of Dukinfield. Harriet was born in 1779 to the painter John Astley (1724-1787) and his third wife Mary Wagstaffe (1760-1832). John Astley had a colourful life, painting portraits of many 18th century notables, arousing strong passions of admiration (mainly in women) or distaste (mainly in men). His first wife was an unknown Irish lady who died in 1749. The second was Penelope Dukinfield Daniel (1722–1762) widow of Sir William Dukinfield Daniel, 3rd baronet, and a daughter of Henry Vernon, former High Sheriff of Staffordshire. John and Penelope were married with some rapidity after she intimated that the original of the portrait he was painting of her would be available if he wished. On Penelope's death, and the death of his stepdaughter, Astley inherited the substantial Dukinfield and Daniel estates in Cheshire and was able to lead a life of some luxury and idleness thereafter. Harriett was one of three sisters, known as the Manchester beauties, and her marriage to John Hayes would have brought him both a beautiful wife and a substantial supplement to his already considerable income.

In 1811 John Hayes Petit was appointed Curate of Donnington, and then in February of that year he was also appointed as a Perpetual Curate at Shareshill, to the north-east of Wolverhampton. Around 1817 he leased Coton Hall at Alveley in Shropshire from Harry Lancelot Lee, which was a very substantial property that once belonged to the Lee family. In 1636, Richard Henry Lee had emigrated to the US, and the family became rich through the ownership of tobacco plantations with a large slave population, and from whom the US Confederate General Robert E Lee was descended. It would not have been a cheap place to lease. After John Hayes Petit's death in 1822, Coton Hall was bought by James Foster (1786 -1853), the very successful and wealthy ironmaster and coalmaster of Stourbridge. After his death his wife Harriet and her unmarried daughters moved to the house in the house in Tamworth St, Lichfield that was owned by her brother-in-law Louis Hayes Petit.



John Louis Petit, the artist, born in 1802, was the eldest of John and Harriet's nine children. He inherited the Ettingshall estate on the death of his father in 1822, and also inherited the bulk of the estate of his uncle Louis Hayes Petit when the latter died in 1849. In total they formed a very substantial estate in the Wolverhampton area, that was being heavily exploited for coal, iron ore and limestone. He and his sisters also had a less tangible inheritance from his mother and his

grandfather – the passion and the ability for painting and sketching. After he graduated from Trinity College in Cambridge in 1825, John Louis Petit firstly pursued an ecclesiastical career being curate at St Michael's in Lichfield from 1825 to 1828, under the Perpetual Curate Edward Remington, and then curate at Bradfield and Mistley in Essex from 1828 to 1834. During his time at St. Michael's, the registers tell us he carried out 61 baptisms, 35 weddings and 163 funerals, as well as presumably leading the Sunday worship – a not inconsiderable load. He married Louisa Reid, the daughter of George Reid of Trelawny in Jamaica in 1828. The Reid family derived much of their wealth from slave plantation ns in Jamaica and the family received considerable

compensation for their lost income when slavery was abolished in the 1830s. He gave up his post in Essex in 1834 and from the mid-1830s onwards he devoted his time to his painting and architectural criticism, and his story is told elsewhere. His artistic career is well described on the website of the Petit Society - http://revpetit.com/.

The Petit tomb in the churchyard hold the remain of John Louis and his siblings. The inscription reads

LOUISA PETIT sixth daughter of the Rev. HAYES PETIT deceased and HARRIET his wife. From a life of almost uninterrupted suffering which she bore with true Christian patience and cheerfulness she was released by a merciful providence on the 30 day of November in the Year of our Lord 1842 aged 30. Also of LOUIS PETER PETIT of Lincolns Inn, Barrister at Law, third and youngest son of the Rev. JOHN HAYES PETIT, and HARRIET his wife. He died on 28th May 1848 aged 32 years. PETER JOHN PETIT Lieutenant Colonel of



Her Majesty's 50th Regiment died February 15th 1852 aged 46 years. ELIZABETH HAIG daughter of JOHN HAYES PETIT born September 11th 1810 died July 5th 1895. Hic J acet quod mortal e est viri Reverendi JOHANN LS LUDOVICI PETIT AM, died 2 Dec. 1868 aet suae 67. EMMA GENTILLE PETIT born August 7 1808 died January 30 1893. SUSANNA PETIT died February 12 1897 aged 83.

Chris Baker

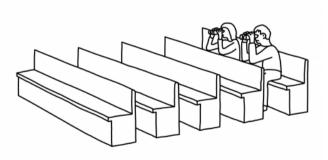


NEWCOMERS

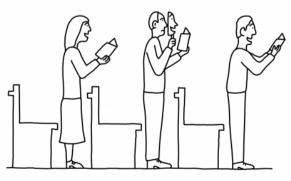
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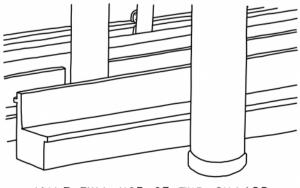
EVADE THE WELCOMERS



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Good Friday 15th April

Walk of Witness

- 1. Meet outside Whittington Pharmacy WS14 9JU. Depart at 8.15 am and walk along Darnford Lane for the first service of praise and worship at 9.15 am at Boley Park Shopping Centre
- 2. Walk along Roman Way to the top of Three Spires Shopping Centre for the second service of praise and worship at 10 am.
- 3. Walk along Bakers Lane to Bore Street and gather outside the Guildhall for the third service of praise and worship.
- 4. Walk along Bore Street to the junction with Bird Street for the fourth service of praise and worship.
- 5. Walk to the Market Place for the fifth service of praise and worship outside Dr Johnson's Birthplace Museum.
- 6. Walk to the Methodist Church, where there will be the final service of praise and worship followed by refreshments.

All are welcome to walk the whole route or just part of it.

Ecumenical Service

7.30 pm in Lichfield Cathedral led by The Rev'd Canon Gregory Platten. **All welcome.**

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'

From the Registers

Baptisms			
St Michael's	27th Feb 2022	Lydia April Roper	11 mths
St Michael's	27th Feb 2022	Rosie Ava Winn	11 mths
St John's	20th March 2022	Roman Luke Dunphy	8 mths

Weddings		
St Michael's	19th March 2022	Thomas Duggan & Lydia Harrison

Funerals			
St Michael's	19th Feb	Jean Garrod (interment of ashes)	82
St Michael's	19th Feb	John Garrod (interment of ashes)	83
St Michael's	25th Feb	Dennis Belcher	
St Michael's	25th Feb	Eunice Wood	86
St Michael's	3rd March	Pauline Duval	82
St John's	11th March	Patricia Ellett (interment of ashes)	81

Bible Readings

Sunday 3rd April 5th Sunday of Lent [Purple]

Isaiah 43.16-21 John 12.1-8

Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday [Red]

Luke 19. 29-48

Luke 22.7-23

Luke 22. 39-42 and 45-54

Luke 23. 1-25

Luke 23. 32-49

Sunday 17th April Easter Sunday [White]

Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1.18

Sunday 24th April Easter `2 [White]

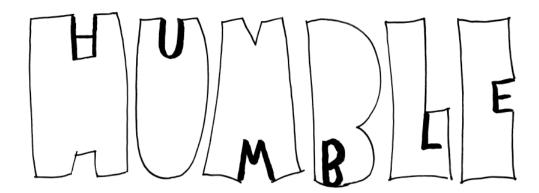
Acts 5.2732 John 20.19-end Sunday 1st May Easter 3 [White]

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

Sunday 8th May Easter 4 [White] Acts 9.36 end John 10.22-30



PROVERBS PRAYERS



Proverbs 11: 2

When pride comes, so does shame, but wisdom brings humility.

Proverbs 16:18,19

- ¹⁸ Pride comes before disaster, and arrogance before a fall.
 - ¹⁹ Better to be humble with the needy than to divide plunder with the proud. .

Common English Bible

Loving God, help me to listen carefully to your Word and study the life of Jesus, learning to be humble in all I do and say.

Father, thank you for teaching me that humility brings wisdom. Being humble will help me to live within my means and give me security and peace of mind.

Send your Spirit to guide me daily so that I am kind, empathetic and non-judgemental towards all around me, striving to live a humble life for the benefit of myself, my family and friends and all people that I meet along life's journey.

Amen Augie King

St Michael's Rota – April 2022

Sunday	3 April	10 April	17 April	24 April
10.00 am				
	Family Praise	Palm Sunday	Easter Sunday	
	David Bull	Judy and Mike	Enid Barry	Viv and Stephen
Sidespersons	Mike Jones	Godfrey	Brenda Liptrot	Oliver
Reader		TBA	Alan Toplis	Kay Martin
Servers		N/A	Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	N/A
Communion				
Assistant		N/A	N/A	N/A
Intercessor		TBA	Alan Toplis	Kay Martin
Coffee	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Angela Burgess Kareen Lowther	Brenda Eley Audrey Dudley	Brenda Liptrot Shirley Trelfa
Healing				ТВА

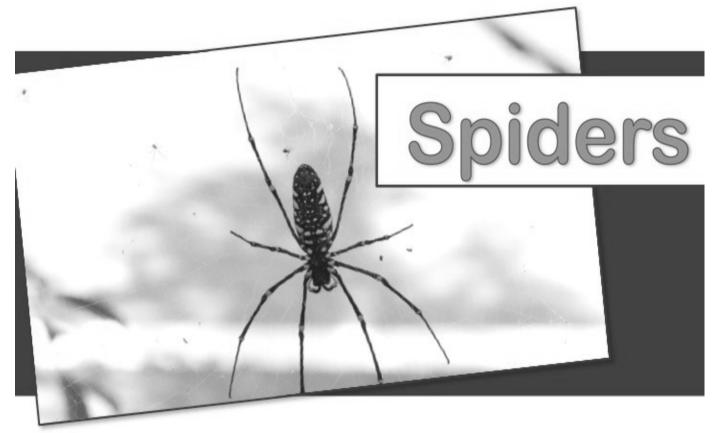
Maundy Thursday	14 April
6.00 pm	
Sidesperson	Ray Allen

Sunday 6.00 pm	3 April	10 April	17 April	24 April
	No service	No service	No service	No service
Sidesperson				
Reader				
Communion Assistant				



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Tuesday 5 April 7:45 p.m.

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Contact (01543) 257812





St Michael on Greenhill Church, Lichfield WS13 6ED 7.30 p.m. Saturday 7th May 2022. Tickets £12 from 07973 239693 or Barton Post Office 80a Main Street, Barton under Needwood or from Sue Jones on 01543 415242



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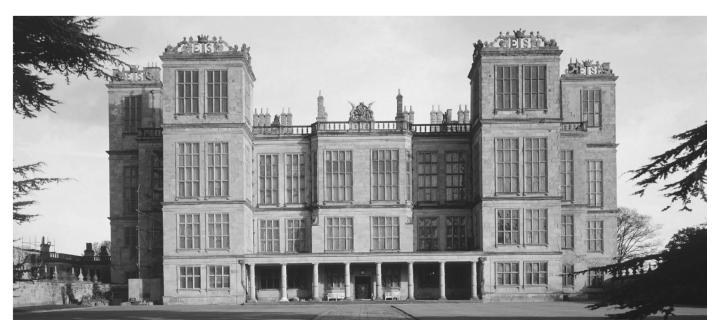
.....and Finally

An accessible and welcoming place to visit <u>Hardwick Hall</u>

I am writing from faraway across the globe in Melbourne, Australia, and hope that the UK weather is being kind to you all with Spring and Summer on your doorsteps; you will, no doubt, be wishing to spread your wings and enjoy all the wonderful local places which have been denied access to during the last two years. May I suggest and recommend a visit to Hardwick Hall, just a short drive from Lichfield, up the M1 in Derbyshire?

Hardwick Hall - or more precisely in one sense both Hardwick Halls – has welcoming walks and an abundance of beautiful flora and fauna to delight the eye and senses. The Hall is very distinctive and photogenic because of its design and its ES lettering at the skyline, memorialising the woman who arranged its construction. There is some repair work being undertaken on one side of the main Hall but much more repair work at Hardwick Old Hall.

The cafe and shop are very welcoming and are well worth a visit for coffee and a cake or a lunchtime meal.



At this time of year, and wearing the correct spectacles, it can be possible to observe, safely, Bolsover Castle in the far distance. A possible "extra "to your visit involves a detour to nearby Ault Hucknall Church, basically the Parish Church for Hardwick and an opportunity to visit the tomb of the philosopher Thomas Hobbes, the author of "The Leviathan "a deeply relevant text for our times, but please check before making the trip as the Church is only open on Saturday afternoons.



The Gardens



Hardwick Old Hall

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Sue Jones 415242

Assistant Wardens: June Frayn 264920

Liz Clarke 268862 David Easton 255308 Brenda Liptrot 251863

Treasurer: Viv Oliver 258054
PCC Secretary: Veronica Morris
Stewardship Recorder: Sandy Baker

256320

Electoral Roll Officer: *Mike Godfrey* 264255

St John's PCC

Churchwardens:

Christine Higgs 410351 John Alsop 480240

Assistant Churchwarden:

Linda Rubisch 481294 Pat Owen 673204

Treasurer: Paul Wright 01543 483230 **PCC Secretary:** Christine Higgs 410351

Assistant Treasurer Linda Rubisch 481294

PCC Lay Vice Chair: Christine Higgs 410351

Electoral Roll: Angie King

office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

St Michael's Church

Verger: Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411 **Sacristan and Head Server:** Maggie Easton

255308

Organist and Choirmaster: *Dudley Ray* 07847 643373 <u>dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</u> Music Group: *Richard Brooks 07918 906*

350

Pastoral Care: June Frayn 264920 Flowers: Brenda Liptrot 251863

Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880

Junior Praise: Viv Oliver 258054

Bell ringers: Gillian Eastwood 07568134115

Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. gillieast-

wood@gmail.com

Mothers Union: *Elizabeth Allen 304938* **Social Team:** *Contact via the office 262211*

St John's Church, Wall

Verger: Hilary Barker 01543 482027

Pastoral Care:

Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880

Other Useful Numbers

St Michael's School: 227425

Parish Magazine

Magazine Distributor:

Liz Clarke 268862 liz.clarke@virgin.net

Magazine Editor: David Shiel

01543320437" shielfamily@gmail.com

Scouting and Guiding

Group Scout Leader Carl Hall 07988 685378 chair@7thlichfield.org.uk

Rainbows: Becky Bickley 07703 671568

Vicki Davies Friend 07970 549284 Hannah Heath 07854 824443

Brownies: Julie Cragg 301098 **Guides**: Lisa Webb 07900 164587