

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2021



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

85p

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St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED	St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS

Reflection.....

On April 11th the church said goodbye to the Rector, Simon Baker, and to his wife Diana, and it seems a good time to reflect on all that went on in the time that they were with us, and to look to the immediate and longer-term future.

With regard to what happened whilst they were with us, the list is a long one and I can only give examples. Much happened in a physical sense to our buildings and churchyard - the move of the city library to St Mary's, the closure of the church hall and the beginning of the process of building new parish rooms, the new heating, sound and projector systems at St. Michael's, and the development of the churchyards at St Michael's and St. John's. In all of this, Simon's expertise as an Archdeacon was invaluable, not least in enabling the church to navigate the complexities of the Faculty system for approving works.

In spiritual terms there were also significant developments - much innovative worship, renewal of the liturgy, Lent groups (including visits to some really interesting places!) and Bible Study groups. Contacts with St. Michael's school were maintained and deepened through regular assemblies both in school and in the church, and through discussion groups with older children.

On a personal level, Diana and Simon offered hospitality to all in the congregation, with lunches and other events in their home and garden, and Diana's vision for the church allotment and flower arranging brought much beauty to the church and its worship. And in the last year of course, Simon has navigated us through the course of the pandemic, interpreting the ever more confusing government and

church regulations and guidance, and developing whole new ways of worship, both outdoors and online. I suspect it was not what he expected in his last year before retirement! We will miss them both. But the life of the church continues, and the future is both daunting and challenging. In the short term, we will need to continue to navigate our way out of the pandemic restrictions and re-establish many of the events and activities that have had to be suspended. This includes a backlog of weddings and, sadly, memorial services for those who have died over the last year, and the restarting of school assemblies and our Family Praise services. Hopefully by the autumn, things will have returned to some sort of normality.

But the challenges don't end there. The Diocese, facing a major financial shortfall and rapidly ageing congregations, has instigated the "Shaping for Mission" process to look at how resources (clergy and other staff) will be deployed and how mission will be taken forward. It is too early to say how this will turn out and even I, as chair of the Deanery team, wouldn't care to hazard a guess at what might emerge. But there will almost certainly be changes to how clergy are deployed, which may have a significant effect on St Michael's and St John's.

Our own challenges are similar to those of other churches - how to draw those in the community, with whom the church is in contact in various ways, into a living and active faith in Jesus; how to provide for young families and their children, and how to meet the needs of the community in which we live. Ways to provide a worshipping presence in the major new developments in Streethay, Curborough and the south of Lichfield (in Wall parish) also need to be considered.

Our churches are in a good position in many ways, to a large extent due to Simon's ministry, with sound finances, the new parish rooms

that are being planned and built and wide-ranging contacts in the school and community. But the next few years will be “interesting” (perhaps in the sense of the Chinese proverb). There is an old joke that the ultimate source of authority in the Church of England is the last vicar, but as much as we might miss Simon and Diana, we need to look forward, trusting in the Holy Spirit to lead us along his paths in the challenges ahead, not least in the appointment of the new incumbent.

Rev. Chris Baker

Children’s Society - St Michael’s

At last I’ve had the paperwork and permission to go ahead with our house box collection and count.

Sonia and I are happy to receive your boxes or you could ask a member of staff to put it in the safe at church. I am also happy to collect your box from your home at any time. My phone number is on the label on the bottom of your box.

It’s been a difficult time for cash but the Society is of course also happy to receive cheques. If you wish to contribute this way make it payable to The Children’s Society and pass it to me or Sonia and it will become part of St Michael’s group donation.

Thanks very much
Maureen Duff

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

Christian Aid Week 2021 10-16 May

Reimagine. Reshape. Rebuild.

An opportunity to build a better world is on the horizon. Luke Harman, our Campaigns and Activism manager, implores us to seize it.

For many, 2020 was one of the most difficult years in living memory. The coronavirus pandemic challenged health systems and economies in every society, stretching some to breaking point. At the same time, the climate crisis continued to grow more deadly.

There is no denying the severe impact this has had, and continues to have, on communities around the world – especially those battling poverty. But even in the toughest moments, love gives hope.

We've been inspired by remarkable people across the globe, working side by side for a more just world. Like you, our supporters. You phoned the isolated and packed food for the vulnerable. You raised almost £2million for our emergency coronavirus appeal. And over 20,000 of you called for debt cancellation to help the world's poorest countries fight coronavirus.

Meanwhile Christian Aid's local partners have provided much needed emergency relief, as well as helping communities stay standing in the face of crisis. Just like Sempreviva Organizacao Feminista who helped women in Brazil keep their businesses operating.

Against a backdrop of anxiety, heartbreak and grief, these expressions of love expose the humanity that inspires us to move forwards. The question is, will we seize it.?

The development of vaccines gives us hope that we can move on from coronavirus. But the kind of world we move into is up for grabs. We have the opportunity to reshape our world, rooted in the unshakeable belief that every individual is worthy and loved. Together we can reimagine a better way forward for everyone.

And, with the UK hosting the UN climate talks in November, we can push our political leaders to champion climate justice, ensuring that any 'green' recovery to the pandemic doesn't leave our global neighbours behind.

As we step forward into 2021, let us continue to faithfully, passionately and humbly put our faith into action, seizing the opportunities in front of us all.

Whether you sign a petition, join a protest march, pray for our global neighbours' health, or give to help communities battling the climate crisis, it all counts.

This isn't a pipe dream: you've created real change throughout Christian Aid's 75 years of fighting poverty and injustice. You've stood with the people of South Africa to fight apartheid, you've worked tirelessly to convince supermarkets to stock Fairtrade products, and you've helped to win huge victories for climate justice, such as the 2015 Paris Agreement.

We have a struggle ahead to build a world in which everyone can thrive. But together, we can draw on the inspiration of past successes and take real hope from love in action across the whole Christian Aid family.

Join us at
caid.org.uk/campaigns



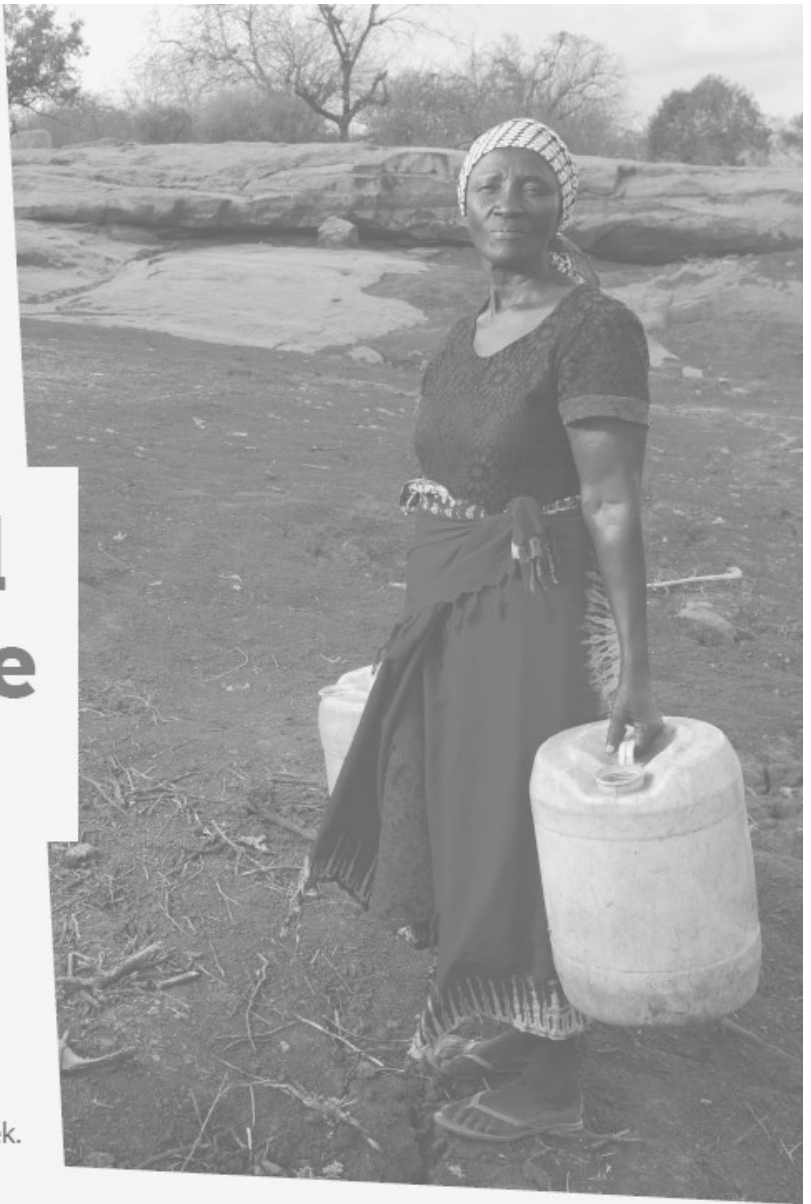


‘I pray to God that the rainfall will become normal’

The climate crisis robs Rose of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

Together we can help ensure people like Rose have the water they need to live.

Give and pray with us this Christian Aid Week.



With every gift, we help people like Rose and stop this climate crisis

In Kenya, extreme weather is making it harder and harder to survive. For communities fighting the climate crisis, every last drop matters and every last one of us can help them thrive. The coronavirus pandemic has only increased the urgent need for families to access a reliable source of water.

The devastating climate crisis robs people of the water and food they

need to live.

Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

Rose and her grandchildren shouldn't have to go hungry. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop this climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

From envelope collections to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), please:

Give generously to help ensure people like Rose fight this climate crisis.

Act as we call on the UK Prime Minister to lead the world with ambitious climate action that will also address inequality.

Pray for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that as a global community we will care for our common home and for people living in poverty.

**Together we STOP this
climate crisis.**

Join us at **caweek.org**





You're invited to a Big Brekkie!

Why not have
your own
Big Brekkie
and make a
donation to
Christian Aid

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**Add a splash of
colour to the most
important meal
of the day!**

Big Brekkie

**christian
aid**

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Wistfully longing for the old certainties of lockdown?

Published: 1st April 2021

When the first coronavirus lockdown actually began is, like so many historical timelines, disputed. Announced on the 23rd March, on 26th March



2020 at 1pm, the first *legal* restrictions came into force requiring us to stay at home, limiting social encounters and putting most of the economy on hold. We have been in lockdowns of differing degrees of severity every since. A year on, and thanks to the discovery of effective vaccines, we now have a cautious roadmap out and we are told this time it is 'irreversible' (until, presumably, it isn't!).

Whilst we are all praying earnestly to be free of the restrictions that have so damaged and diminished our lives there is something about 'unlocking' the lockdown that creates its own kind of anxiety. We are not sure what the post-Covid world will look like, we know the virus will be around for the foreseeable future and we may have lost confidence in our social interactions with others. At least in lockdown you know where you are; there is a certain kind of simplicity about that blanket instruction to 'stay at home'. Over the next few months, as we edge forwards to greater freedom - checking what we can do, at what date and anxiously monitoring the statistics - we may even find ourselves wistfully longing for the old certainties of lockdown.

We tend to think that after the first Easter Day, there was universal and unadulterated joy and faith amongst Jesus' disciples. In fact, the picture was a lot more complicated. There was great joy but there was also fear (John 20.19, Luke 24.36), doubt (John 19.24) and a good deal of uncertainty (Luke 24.22). In John's gospel we are told some of the disciples returned home and took up again their old trade of fishing on Lake Galilee (John 21). They went back to what they knew. Jesus' first followers stepped into the resurrection life very hesitantly indeed. What gave them the courage to see that there was no going back and that they could embrace a different future without fear was gradually dawning sense that it was true: Jesus was risen from the dead.

As we emerge blinking into the light of a post-Covid world, we need to be kind and generous to one another as we adjust to an uncertain future. We may find ourselves missing the certainties of lockdown or trying to recover a lost world from before the virus struck. This is quite natural in a time of upheaval and change and we will need to encourage and support one another amidst the fear, uncertainty and doubt. But as Christians, we are people of hope, not because of any pollyannaish optimism but because Christ is risen from the dead (Alleluia!) and he has promised that he will be with us always even "to the end of the age". He unlocks our lockdown lives and he is our roadmap for all that is to come.

+Matthew

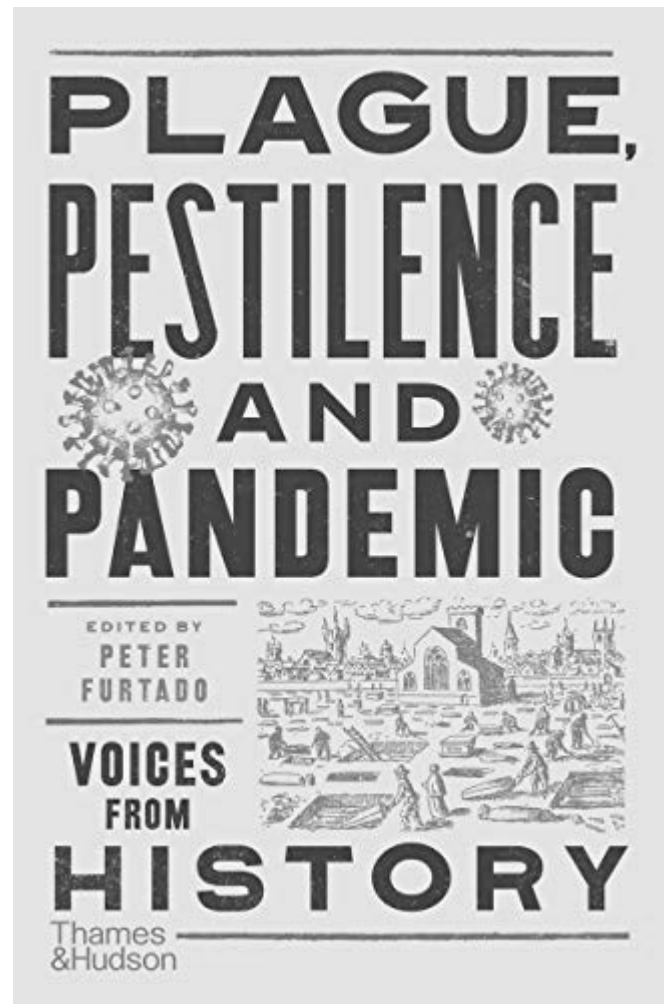
Episcopal Vicar of Stafford

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

Plague, Pestilence and Pandemic: Voices from History,

[ed] Peter Furtado, Thames and Hudson, 2021, 335p, £20-00. ISBN 978-0-500-25258-1.

This book is very timely in its arrival. Peter Furtado, the former Editor of History Today, has provided us with two approaches to the issue of *Plague, Pestilence and Pandemic*.



In the first instance he offers us a short essay on the wider context of phenomenon of the pandemic. He discusses the underlying factors which lead to a relatively localised medical outbreak becoming an international challenge and experience. He links the fact that pandemics in modern times are very strongly related to our very open and inter-connected world. However, he does also suggest that the bubonic plague in its original onslaught on Western Europe, when it killed possibly half of the population, was spread by marauding, and very mobile, Mongol warriors; and equally that cholera only became a global killer in the early 19th Century when the British army encountered it in North East India. In other words, the pattern of modern times had been anticipated by previous experiences. What is being argued is that there is a relationship between groups of people, such as the military or traders, being dispatched to unfamiliar settings,

for which their physiological metabolisms are not prepared. It is this vulnerability that leads to the spread of local diseases to unfamiliar settings.

He does make comparisons between the present experience and the past. On the one hand he emphasises that Pepys' description of London in 1665 has many of the characteristics of our own experience with coronavirus. Yet he also comments on the fact that the international death rate in the 1918-20 flu pandemic amounted to 50 million and yet people continued to live without restraint, as compared with the present reactions with one million deaths. The effect of the media in revealing the modern situation may well explain the difference, because the press reports just after the Great War were 'very restrained in their coverage'.

The greater substance of this book is a very careful survey of over twenty different pandemics which have affected the world from the Athenian period to the present-day AIDS, Ebola and Coronavirus. Each has well-chosen documentary extracts, supported by interpretative commentary.

Together the introductory essay and the extensive exemplification can give us a very good perspective on how our present-day pandemic compares with previous experience, giving us sufficient analysis to be able to guide future preparation for further and inevitable pandemics.

Trevor James



DOCTOR MILLEY'S HOSPITAL
IN THE CITY OF LICHFIELD
Registered Charity number 214782

Would you like to be involved in a historic charity & building in Lichfield?

Dr Milley's Hospital (to give it its full name) has been part of the history of Lichfield since the 1400's and still stands in its original plot in Beacon Street. Close to the Cathedral it is one of the few buildings that was left standing following the civil war. The charity has the same aims as it did then, to provide affordable accommodation to women of all ages who are in need but able to live independently. Of course, their needs may have changed in the 21st century, and applicants could have come from a partnership breakdown, be on benefits or low waged and may be unable to find accommodation in the private sector. The building has obviously changed over the years, and now houses four studio apartments and six one-bedroom flats, all are self-contained. The current trustees are looking for enthusiastic people who would be interested in joining the board of trustees to help keep this charity and building running for several more centuries!

The charity employs a part time Administrator who deals with the day to day running of the charity. The trustees meet at least six times a year, normally face to face but currently via zoom, some of the trustees' volunteer to take on other roles within the charity, such as interviewing applicants for vacancies. There are also, under normal circumstance, at least two social events held during the year at Milley's, the Christmas evening and the Roses ceremony when the Bishop of Lichfield calls at Milley's to receive his 'rent' of ten red roses. There are usually two residents and trustees' meetings, all these take place in the evening.

Although it is not a necessity, someone with a financial background would be welcome. For further information please contact the Administrator on 078580971928 or email drmilley@hotmail.com



DOCTOR MILLEY'S HOSPITAL
IN THE CITY OF LICHFIELD
Registered Charity number 214782

Accommodation

Are you a single woman seeking accommodation close to the centre of Lichfield, with no shared bathroom or kitchen, recently redecorated and carpeted, and in safe and pleasant surroundings with a large private garden? Then look no further!

Milley's is a charity started in the 1400's, which currently has two studio apartments vacant; both have recently been decorated and carpeted and both have their own modern bathrooms with shower and fitted kitchens, with a cooker and fridge if required. There is one main room for a bedroom/lounge but the kitchen is separate, and there is also a large walk-in storage cupboard. One studio is on the ground floor and the other is on the first floor. The studios are open to applications from single women of all ages with some 'need', and probably not able to obtain accommodation in the private sector, applicants could be, for example low waged, or on benefits, unfortunately pets are not allowed and there is no parking on site. For further information please contact the Administrator on 078580971928 or email drmilleys@hotmail.com

Deadlines!

For **June** Magazine: Deadline is
MONDAY 17th May
Contact David Shiel

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



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Mission Agencies

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/world-mission/mission-agencies>

The Anglican Mission Agencies have a very important role in the Church of England's international relationships. Each of the Agencies works in different ways. Some work overseas and some work only in the UK. Others work internationally and at home. Some work among specific groups such as young people and seafarers. Other Agencies support churches through sending people and making grants.

The ten major Anglican Mission Agencies are:

Church Army

The Church's Ministry Among Jewish People (CMJ)

Church Mission Society

Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS)

Crosslinks

Intercontinental Church Society (ICS)

The Mission to Seafarers

Mothers' Union

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK)

United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG)

We will be sharing the history of some of these agencies with you over the next few months.



Throughout its existence of 300 plus years, USPG's role has been to contribute to and encourage the development of the Anglican Church – and more recently the United Churches – around the world. Over the centuries it has done this in different ways, but always with the aim of seeing churches thrive to become autonomous members of the Anglican Communion, contributing to both the life of the Anglican Church and the country they are part of.

USPG itself was formed in 1965 when the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) and the Universities' Mission to Central Africa (UMCA) merged, with the Cambridge Mission to Delhi (CMD) joining in 1968, but the Society's origin is in the Royal Charter of William III forming the SPG, which was issued to the Revd Dr Thomas Bray. It's early focus was pastoral ministry and education among British settler communities in North America and the Caribbean, but the SPG's work gradually extended worldwide and to all communities, and in the mid-19th century a third strand developed, medical work.

UMCA's creation was a response to David Livingstone's speeches at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in 1857 following his return from his first journey across Africa. UMCA became a distinctive organisation, working in the area that became the countries of Malawi,

Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique.

The Cambridge Mission to Delhi was formed in 1877 to carry out the theologian, BF Westcott's vision of a serious and respectful engagement with Indian religious tradition. Focussed on the city of Delhi and the surrounding area, much of its work was carried out by two religious communities, the Brotherhood of the Ascension and the Community of St Stephen, for women.

The rapidly changing world of the mid-20th century, and particularly decolonisation, challenged traditional mission thinking and activity, leading to new concepts developing which emphasised the interdependence of the world church with relationships becoming those of equal partners. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, USPG's role has increasingly become one of facilitation, enabling the movement of ideas, resources and people around the world church.



Introducing my rabbits

BETTY AND STANLEY

By Katie Brooks

Hello everyone! At my house, we have rabbits called Betty and Stanley. Betty is a chocolate colour with little black paws, they look a little bit like boots!!! Stanley is grey and has white patches on him. They have met lots of you on Zoom over lockdown at the end of services. Betty loves a lot of cuddles while on the other hand Stanley is more shy.

They live in a 2-storey hutch which we call *The Palace*. Betty should be a professional footballer as she headbutts the ball around the pen!!! Betty and Stanley love to whizz around the pen! They go so fast you can barely see them! They enjoy nuggets for their breakfast and veg for their tea! They particularly like cabbage, peas and apple core. Betty takes her apple core to the back of the hutch to make sure that Stanley doesn't get it!!!



Palm Sunday Outdoor Service

Don't let David Shiel (magazine editor) catch you taking a photograph of a church event or you'll end up writing an article! I was taking a shot of the choir at the St Michael's outdoor Palm Sunday Service when I was caught. The service was planned to follow the very successful outdoor lessons and carols format on 22 December, which gave everyone a chance to sing well loved music. Palm Sunday has some wonderful hymns and we had a choir all lined up to lead the singing. Then about a week beforehand the Rector discovered that the regulations had changed and the congregation couldn't sing outdoors any more. We were all very sad and I even wrote to The Times to complain (Disgusted of Lichfield!). My letter wasn't published but enough people obviously felt the same and the regulations were suddenly changed at the last minute - congregational singing was back on. Over 70 people attended and the ability to sing together made our Palm Sunday worship more meaningful, even if we were frozen by a north wind whipping around the Greenhill. Thank you, Simon, for the brevity of your sermon!

Ted Green



The Painted Stones

Linda's article in last month's magazine about the painted stones reminded me of an incident earlier this year. Late one overcast February afternoon I was walking home from the New Churchyard past the church. I could see a little girl, aged perhaps 6 or 7, on the drive with her mother and I passed the time of day as I went by. The little girl was



clearly bursting with excitement and took this as an opportunity to share her discovery. She pointed over to the 'empty tomb' and asked if I'd seen the stones. I thought that she meant the stones forming the tomb, told her that they had been the idea of Chris and John Polhill nearly 20 years ago and that I was one of the team who had built the tomb. She was clearly impressed at our efforts, but said that she would show me what was so special.

With Mum's permission she took me up to the tomb and showed me the painted stones inside, fewer in February than now, which I didn't know about then. She plonked herself on the flat 'stone rolled away from the door' and asked which was my favourite. As I had just come from the cremated remains area and was in reflective mood I opted for "Peace" and "Love". She was clearly a bit disappointed and said that hers was the bright red stone with "Joy" painted on it (bottom left of the picture). I mollified her by saying that red was my favourite colour, which seemed to do the trick. We talked about the different stones for a bit and then returned to Mum as it was getting dark. The girl thanked me and said that I was very kind! I replied that we had some lovely young people in our church and I thought that children

were wonderful. This was rewarded with the biggest smile I've seen for a long time.

We parted and I walked on, thinking how such a simple thing had sparked a child's enthusiasm and wondering how we could find other ways to do the same. I had just turned the corner past the porch when I heard from the distance a tiny voice shouting, "Goodbye". That day, those stones meant that one young girl and one old man went home very happy.

Ted Green

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE VICAR IS ON
'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'



PEOPLE SHE HOPES
ARE LISTENING



THE BISHOP



ALL HER SOCIAL
MEDIA FOLLOWERS



A TV TALENT SCOUT

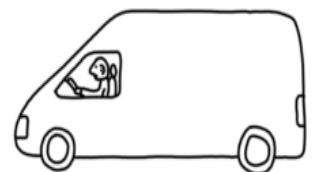


HER MUM

PEOPLE WHO ARE
ACTUALLY LISTENING



SOMEONE DOING
THE WASHING UP



A DELIVERY DRIVER



A TENNIS FAN WITH
TUNING DIFFICULTIES



AN INSOMNIAC USING THE
RADIO TO GET TO SLEEP

Lichfield Festival 2021 at St Michael's

Lichfield Festival is taking place this year and, as usual, St Michael's has been asked to host some of the concerts. At the moment the plan is to hold most of the concerts twice and to sell 60 tickets for each performance. If the regulations in July allow closer audience spacing we can sell more tickets at the door. Our programme is:

Friday 9 July

12 noon Young Artist Concert – Alex Watkins (horn)(60 minutes)

5 and 8 pm – Danny Driver (piano)(60 minutes each)

Sunday 11 July

4 and 8 pm – Chloë Hanslip (violin) & Danny Driver (piano) (60 minutes each)

Saturday 17 July

12 noon and 2.30 pm Young Artist Concerts – The Mithras Trio (violin, cello & piano)(60 minutes each)

Sunday 18 July

4.30 and 7 pm – Chloë Hanslip (violin) & Danny Driver (piano) (60 minutes each)

We have been asked to offer some of our famous cream teas and Brenda Liptrot and I will meet nearer the time to consider how to make it work in the absence of intervals. *Ted Green*



St Michael's Churchyard

Tree Planting

34 trees were planted in March. The 4 new Crab Apple trees replaced 2 that had died and there are 2 extras ready to take over when more of the mature trees die. 5 silver birch were positioned near the compost bays and the other 5 near to the Chancellor Law monument. The 5 wild cherry trees were planted on land overlooking Burton Old road West, and the other 5 opposite Aldi. The 10 rowan trees were also planted near the compost bays. These will ensure a continuation of tree growth should any of the older mature trees have to be felled because of disease or the natural dying process.



Some of the Rowan trees protected by their clear plastic tubes.

Spring Planting

Later this month I hope we can plant the Tower Beds ready for Summer. This will take place on **Saturday May 22nd**, subject to this being allowed under Government restrictions. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost of buying Summer Bedding plants for the Tower Beds please let me know.

Bluebells and Wild Garlic.

These 2 wild flower plants grow profusely in the Churchyard. They have spread beautifully and now cover large areas.

Bluebells flower from Mid-April to the end of May. They are native to Western Europe and the UK is a species stronghold. They are associated with ancient woodland. There are 2 main types of bluebell that grow in our country, the English and the Spanish. The leaves of



Bluebells and Wild Garlic growing together in the Churchyard.

English bluebells are narrow, 7-25 mm. wide and 45 cm. long. They are strap-shaped, smooth and hairless with a pointed tip. Their flowers are deep violet-blue, bell-shaped, with 6 petals and up-turned tips. The sweet-smelling flowers nod or drop to one side of the flowering stem and have creamy-white coloured pollen inside. Some are white or pink. **Spanish bluebells** are similar but grow upright with

flowers all around the stem. They have wider leaves. **Hybrid bluebells** are a mix of the English and Spanish.

Wild Garlic, also known as ramsons, have a pungent, garlicky smell. The leaves are long, pointed and oval with untoothed edges and grow from the base of the plant and bulb. The flowers are small, with 6 petals on a thin stalk. Around 25 flowers form each rounded flower cluster. This is held high on a single, leafless stalk. Wild garlic reproduces through bulbs, bulbils and seeds. The seeds, 2-3 mm. long, flattish on one side and black, are dispersed when the plant's parts above ground die down.

Do have fun finding and looking closely at bluebells and wild garlic. You may also enjoy photographing them and hopefully getting stunning results!

Ray Allen 251654



One of the newly planted Silver Birch trees.

News from the Hawksworth Family in Hong Kong:

When I last wrote there had been a Covid outbreak at some local gyms that directly impacted the teaching staff at The Harbor School (THS) thankfully this was swiftly contained and those affected were sent for testing. Positive cases were sent to hospital, there were 3 in total. Those, students and staff, who may have come into contact with those in Hospital, were sent to quarantine.

Thankfully numbers at school remained low and transmission rates were extremely low. Still, it was a worrying and stressful time for all concerned!

I have been making the most of the offers some of the hotels have been promoting. A girlfriend and I enjoyed an overnight stay at The Conrad Hotel in Central. It was an all-inclusive deal for two people with a bottomless champagne brunch. We had a wonderful time. I sampled lots of seafood and we enjoyed an afternoon with a wonderful friend. We even got to enjoy the nightly light show over Victoria harbour! It was wonderful.



This month we've enjoyed the continuing warming weather and lots of trips to our local beach. We frequently go there as a family or with friends.

We've been to Power station beach on Lamma Island. It's a 30 minute boat ride from Ap Lei Chau where the children go to school. The beach itself is a lovely beach that's overlooked by a Coal fuelled power station.



The children enjoyed paddle boarding and we even caught jellyfish that we later released a ways down the beach so the children didn't sting themselves.

Whilst on Lamma, we saw an older gentleman walking his giant orange pet bearded dragon for a walk! There's lots of wildlife on the island. You don't have to look very far to find it!

This Easter break, Milo enjoyed a stay at a friend's house in Stanley. We then had said friend stay with us.

We enjoyed a morning at the beach followed by skateboarding at the local skatepark. All was going well until Milo took a fall and broke his wrist and radius bone in his left arm. He had a two-night stay in our local hospital. The nurses were lovely to him which was great as I wasn't allowed on the ward at all due to covid restrictions.

All was well in the end. Milo had his operation to insert two K wires and was allowed home on Friday morning.



Today is Sunday. I have been for my second Covid vaccine. I was surprised by just how many people were there! I didn't have to wait long at all. All in, it took 25 minutes.

Tomorrow, Monday April 12th, the children will be back at school for half days. Children have to wear masks in school as well as travelling to and from school. Our locally transmitted daily numbers remain low which is promising. We're very much looking forward to when we can start traveling to the surrounding islands.

Take care and stay safe.

All our love,

The Hawksworths xx

WALL NEWS

Small things can mean a lot

For many years now I have taken over from Margaret Russell the overseeing of the black waste bin at the church gate. The contract with Lichfield District council was for the blue liner bag to be taken away every two weeks.

This situation caused me to have many a discussion on waste. Every time I walked by the bin, I felt I needed to look inside to see if another sack was needed. Every other Friday I would go and reline the bin hoping no one had thrown anything in it before I could get to it. I would mention to anyone who might be around just how the bin got misused i.e. flowers when a green compost bin was next to it.

Well the situation has now been resolved and I do wonder why I never tried to resolve it myself earlier. It took a Church Warden and treasurer to seek out a better contract. A new contract with Lichfield District Council has been agreed and a shiny new black bin is now in place. No more will I need to line a waste bin. The new bigger bin can be emptied as any household waste is.

My thanks go to both Church Warden and Treasurer for their efforts to resolve such a straight-forward problem. Now what else can I find to be resolved that would make my role as Verger easier?

Hilary



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
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From the Registers

09/04/2021	St Michael	David Weedon	88
14/04/2021	St Michael	Peter Whatson	91



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 3.1-6

TRUST

- ³ My child, do
not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
² for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.
³ Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them round your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴ So you will find favour and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.
⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

Trust
in the Lord
with all your
heart

*Almighty God, source of all life,
knowledge and wisdom, I know that
there is more in heaven and on earth
than I can ever comprehend. I put my
trust in you.*

*Help me to remember you in everything
that I do and say. Let your Spirit guide
me so that my faith in you never
waivers.*

Loving Father, I put my trust in you.

Angie King

And Finally

LICHFIELD FOODBANK The following is an extract from the Lichfield Foodbank newsletter to let you know what has been happening. Thank you all for your donations over the year, either in the St Michael's/St John's boxes or in the store collection points. The Foodbank did manage to give Easter eggs to clients as well. Your gifts are still very much needed, and we are still delivering regularly. *Maggie and David Easton.*

The Year 2020/21

*Running from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, our operational year pretty much covered the whole of the national reaction to the Coronavirus pandemic, with all of its lockdowns and restrictions. The figures make some grim reading: we fed **4741** people, an increase of **70%** on the previous year. The trend of more and more families coming to us has continued and we have seen a 93% increase in the number of children fed (and a smaller increase in the number of adults at 54%). Let us not forget that for a while there was another foodbank operating out of Saxon Hill School and the group 'Helping Each Other' has also been feeding those in need (as well as providing many other services - thank you Elaine), and it is easy to see that the true level of need in Lichfield and the surrounding villages has really been very significant. This sort of need should not be allowed to go on forever in the fifth largest economy in the world!*

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Sponsor St Michael's floodlights to mark a special
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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>Brenda Liptrot 251863</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 Magazine Editor: <i>David Shiel 01543320437</i> shielfamily@gmail.com</p>
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