

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2022

Thy Kingdom Come



26th May—5th June 2022

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

£1

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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.

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E-mail: office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

Reflection.....

I was driving on the M54 recently – regular users will know that if you are not doing at least 75 in the inside lane you are likely to be causing an obstruction! I became concerned because I noticed that everyone was driving at around 65 in the way that people do in those “average speed check” sections of motorways. I thought maybe there was a new speed camera or a Police car at the front and then realised that people were driving slowly because of the price of fuel...

I happened to be driving at that same speed as part of my intent to be a “better person” – as Joanna Lumley frequently requests of my brother-in-law in the Radio 4 6.30 comedy “Conversations from a long marriage”. In this instance my intent is to be aware that I am not a 17 year old boy racer any more. This new challenge comes from reading Richard Rohr’s book “The Wisdom Pattern”. He says that our goal in life is to be “transformed”. I think this means to recognise the behaviours that limit what we are able to become and to set them aside.

Having become a bit of an environmentalist, I am, of course, also concerned to reduce my energy consumption, and particularly the use of fossil fuels. These days it is pretty much impossible to avoid the notion that, as a species, we need to reduce our CO2 emissions or risk permanent damage to the ecosystems of the planet. My experience on the M54 brought home to me how true it is that money and short-term results are more powerful than the promise of long-term benefits.

In 2004, I wrote a kind of environmental version of the Beatitudes for one of Chris’ books of liturgical resources – it feels a bit dated now and shows how we have progressed. I was rather gratified to learn that it did become one of the most frequently downloaded items on the Wild

Goose Publisher's website. I sometimes think we may have misunderstood much of Jesus' teaching as recorded in the Gospels. One can read the Beatitudes for example, as a set of strategies for earning celestial "brownie points", and this makes them feel rather heavy. They can alternatively be read as observations that Jesus was making about how our behaviour affects our well-being. Some of the happiest people I have met were at a church in Gugulethu which is basically a shanty-town suburb of Capetown. AIDS was rife there at the time and most of the housing was small breeze-block units, but yet the joy in their singing was out of this world, as was their care for each other.

As we try to cope with the fears about the war in Ukraine, the uncertainty of Covid, and the rapidly rising cost of living we can take pleasure in the small things we all do to care for our planet - God's gift to all living things - and recognise in ourselves the transforming love of our Creator. Enjoy the early Summer – it's a time when hopes are realised in abundance and bright new life is all around.

The be-attitudes

*Blessed are those who use low-energy light bulbs,
For theirs is the light of God's wisdom.*

*Blessed are those who travel by train,
For their lives are on God's track*

*Blessed are those who choose a car with low fuel consumption,
For they are in God's fast lane*

*Blessed are those who insulate their homes,
For theirs is the warmth of God's love*

*Blessed are you when you put yourselves out
To use energy from renewable resources,
For you have kindled the flame of the future.*

From Eggs and Ashes: Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill: Wild Goose Publications

John Polhill

CALLING ALL MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

A reminder that you invited for tea and cake
at St Michael's Church
on Tuesday 17th May.

at 3pm

Look forward to seeing you.

Liz Clarke



The Children's Society

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our 2022 annual home box collection.

I have now sent off all the cheques and cash- via Barclays Bank which doesn't charge fees for this charity- totalling the excellent amount of £600:50.

- Many thanks also to Sonia for helping me.

Maureen Duff



The
Needwood
Singers
present

**GLORIA and
MAGNIFICAT**
Vivaldi

REQUIEM
Fauré



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

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

Deadlines!

For June Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 15th May

Contact David Shiel
shielfamily@gmail.com

Pew Sheet:

every Thursday 7:30am
Contact Parish Office

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Family Praise

Sunday 1st May
10am St Michael's



First Steps



Monday 2nd May
10am St Michael's

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



SUNDAY 8th May

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome

Up to 500,000 children's storybooks on faithfulness distributed for Platinum Jubilee

Published 04/04/2022

Up to half a million story books will be given to primary school-aged children ahead of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by the Church of England and Thy Kingdom Come, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's global prayer movement.

The book, 'Queen CJ and the Bouncy Castle', is the latest development from the Cheeky Pandas, a children's online cartoon series created by Swell Revolution, led by Pete and Nicola James which has featured contributions from people including Archbishop Justin Welby, Nicky Gumbel, and CBeebies' Gemma Hunt previously.



The free storybook, based on the theme of faithfulness, helps children understand the faithfulness of the God – in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years of faithful service.

The book's creation and distribution is part of plans for this year's Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which unites Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide to pray for evangelisation from Ascension to Pentecost. It is also an official Church of England schools' resource for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Alongside the book, similar in size to Mr Men and Little Miss books, there will be a brand new five-part online TV series of the Cheeky Pandas, based on the Fruit of the Spirit and inspired by the Bible. There are also Platinum Jubilee music videos for toddlers and young children, and a special 'Royal' episode to accompany the story book, created by the makers of CBBC's 'Andy and the Band' and CBeebies' 'The Baby Club', with voiceovers from Gemma Hunt.

Other free resources will include activity packs, assembly plans, TV episodes online and music videos of original songs created especially for the series. These can be used in homes, churches and schools, who are encouraged to order bulk copies of the free book to give out as they choose. They have been generously funded by a range of external funders.

More than a quarter (135,000) of the half a million books have already been ordered.

Nigel Genders, Church of England's Chief Education Officer, said: "We are really excited to be a part of Thy Kingdom Come again this year.

"It continues to offer a fantastic opportunity for schools to engage



children and young people in thinking creatively about prayer, faith and offers the opportunity to put this into practice both within school and through serving their local communities.”

Pete James, the creator of the Cheeky Pandas said: “It is an honour to partner with Thy Kingdom Come and the Church of England this year to create these resources to nurture young children’s faith in a fun way, in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. “The new series of online TV cartoons and the book are based on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians. With new songs to dance along to, and activity packs to enjoy, we hope these fun resources will help children grow deeper in their faith during this year’s Thy Kingdom Come.”

More information and how to order the books visit <https://cheekypandas.com/product/queen-cj-and-the-bouncy-castle/%C2%A0>

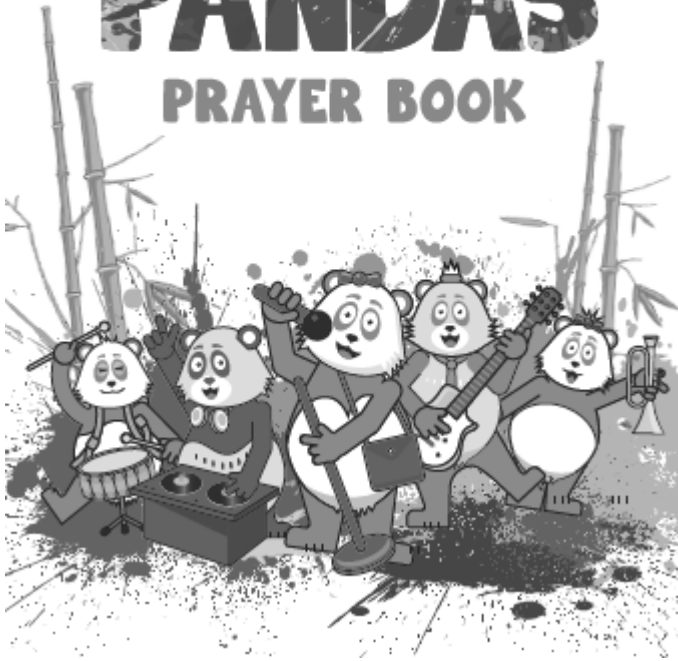
Find out more about the Cheeky Pandas at www.cheekypandas.com

Thy Kingdom Come: Initially a call to prayer by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Thy Kingdom Come movement has united more than a million Christians, annually from Ascension to Pentecost, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide ranging from Australia to Austria, South Africa to Sri Lanka and from Burundi to Brazil, from across more than 65 different denominations and traditions since it began in 2016.

Find out more at Thykingdomcome.global

Cheeky Pandas provides free songs, music videos, TV cartoons and free resources to help children and families grow in their faith. Cheeky Pandas is charitably funded and produced in the UK for churches, schools and homes.

CHEEKY PANDAS PRAYER BOOK

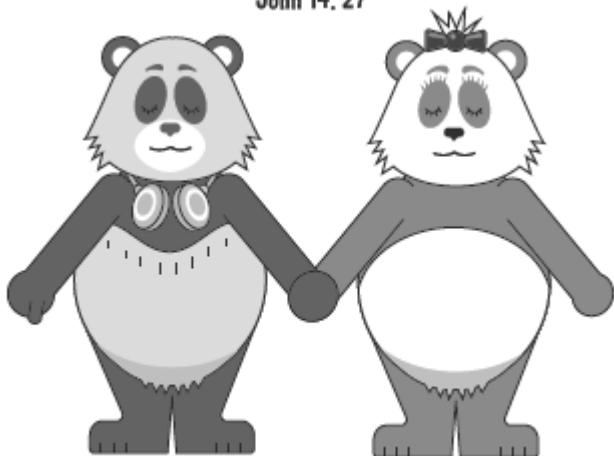


Dear God,
thank you that
you love me and
care for me.
Thank you that you
love me and that
I am never alone.
Please help my
friends know
how much you
love them too.
Amen



Jesus said:
'Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled
and do not be afraid.'

John 14: 27



To order **free**
Cheeky Panda books
or download this
Prayer Book
visit

[www.thykingdomcome.global/
cheekypandas](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas)

Overwhelming - the bad and the good



I wonder what adjective you would choose to describe the experience of living through recent events? How about ‘overwhelming’?

Being overwhelmed is to be caught up, carried along or bowled over, by things over which we have no control. The list from the last couple of years is long and growing: the changes brought by Brexit; the covid pandemic – the invisible virus causing so much illness and death, fear of who might be affected next, and daily living abruptly changed by strict public health restrictions; a fuel shortage causing petrol pumps to run dry; and now rapidly escalating costs of living along with a war much closer to home than any others we have known for many decades. Our own personal circumstances might add a few more to the list.

Although the word ‘unprecedented’ has rapidly risen up the list of most commonly used words in the last two years, life being overwhelming is not new.

The Bible is full of stories of people being overwhelmed by both bad and good things. Creation is overwhelmingly beautiful; the consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin are overwhelmingly devastating. In the story of Noah the world is overwhelmed by evil, then the water of the flood, then the water is overwhelmed by God’s mercy and blessing, to name just a couple of examples. The story of Jesus might

be read as a sequence of overwhelmings as he is tempted in the desert, immerses his life in prayer, and transforms the lives of many he meets. The 'success' of Jesus' mission and ministry appears to be crushed by the defeat of the cross.

The good news of Easter though is that the negative overwhelmings don't have the final say. As Jesus willingly goes to the place of ultimate overwhelming and annihilation, the power of death itself is overwhelmed by God's love as Jesus rises again to life.

One theologian, David Ford, suggests that 'coping with multiple overwhelmings' is 'the most important thing in our lives'¹. Rather than resisting or fighting senses of overwhelming he suggests three steps. Firstly to name them. In the Bible God does not shirk away from naming the sin and evil that is harming the world, or the ways in which His people wander away from Him. Second is to be real and describe or narrate the experience. The book of Job and the Psalms are great examples of this. Then thirdly to 'attend to the shape of living'. Rather than fiddling with the details of bad overwhelmings, or allowing ourselves to drown in them, to shape our lives in ways which allow the truth of God's love, life and hope to dominate. If you took up any form of spiritual practice for Lent and it helped you focus more on Jesus, then why stop them just because you've got to Easter?

My prayer is that as we celebrate Easter we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed again by the reality of Jesus resurrection, and then let the implications of it shape our thinking, our feeling and our living. As John's gospel famously starts: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' (John 1:5 NIV)

*The Ven Megan Smith,
Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent*

(¹David Ford, 1997. The Shape of Living. Canterbury Press).

The St. Michael chalice of 1684

A short historical article this month. In “A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 14, Lichfield” we read the following in the section devoted to St. Michael’s church in Lichfield.

....a silver-gilt chalice and paten of 1684 were acquired. They were sold (by the Church Wardens) with a pewter flagon and plates in 1852 to a Birmingham firm in part payment for a new set of plate. The chalice and paten of 1684 were bought the same year by St. Clement’s, Oxford.

Clearly this was later regretted and we read.

... attempts in 1892 and 1923 to recover them for St. Michael’s were unsuccessful.

And there I might have left the matter, perhaps as a sort of parable on the foolishness of Church Wardens*, and the futility of the pursuit of modernity, but for the all-seeing eye of Google. A quick search of “chalice / St Clements / Oxford” let me to “An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of Oxford” from 1929 in which I found the rather poor photograph of the 1684 chalice shown below. It is rather fuzzy, but I think the motif is clear enough – the winged archangel trampling over the devil at his feet. I can’t read the caption, so if any reader can enlighten me on this I would be grateful. The question arises as to where the chalice and its associated paten are now. To find the answer to this would I am afraid take more than a quick Google search. Perhaps one day....

Chris Baker

**present incumbents excepted!! Editor*





UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

Wall and the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal

- Date of Walk:** Saturday 21st May
- Meeting point:** St John's Church, Green Lane, Wall,
Staffordshire, WS14 0AS
- Meeting Time:** 10.30 a.m.
- Distance:** 3 miles
- Type of Paths** Field, road and canal path. Walking boots or shoes are recommended.

The walk will begin from outside St John's Church, Wall. Depending on the conditions on the day we will either walk across fields to Pipe Hill or take the road. We then walk along the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal restoration (Fosseway Heath). The return is the other side of the canal.

The walk finishes at St John's Church, Wall

Wall village has a pub and Shenstone village near by also has a number of pubs for those wishing to book a meal following the walk.

The walk is limited to 20 people. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. Please book by Thursday 19th May

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

Hilary Barker

beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com



St. Michael's Churchyard Working Party



Churchyard Award Scheme 2022

Now that the tree planting season is over attention turns to **Planting of Summer Flowering Plants**. We have **2 Tower Beds and a Herb Garden**. We established the herb garden last year. At this month's Working Party we will be **planting perennials and some annual bedding plants in the Tower Beds**. In the **Herb Garden weeding** will need to be done with the possible addition of a few new herbs for this year, although I am pleased to say that most of last year's plants have survived thanks to yet another mild winter.

At their April Meeting the PCC supported my decision to apply for an annual Award given by Lichfield Diocese to Churchyards that meet specific criteria. **The Diocesan Churchyard Award Scheme** is not a competition between Churchyards. It is an award that is given to individual Churchyards based on their achievements in reaching certain criteria. The criteria include Provision of Information, Care of graves and memorials; Provisions to promote wildlife; and Community involvement. Following the receipt of the application, judges will be visiting the Churchyard in the Summer months. There are 4 categories of Award: Highly Commended: Bronze; Silver; and Gold. The result will be given in September or October. At the May Working Party part of our time will be spent simply walking around the Churchyard and considering any work we need to do in readiness for the judges' visits.

The Working Party will be on Saturday May 28th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Refreshments of Tea/Coffee/Cake will be provided. Do please join us if you can.

Best Wishes to you all
Ray Allen 251654

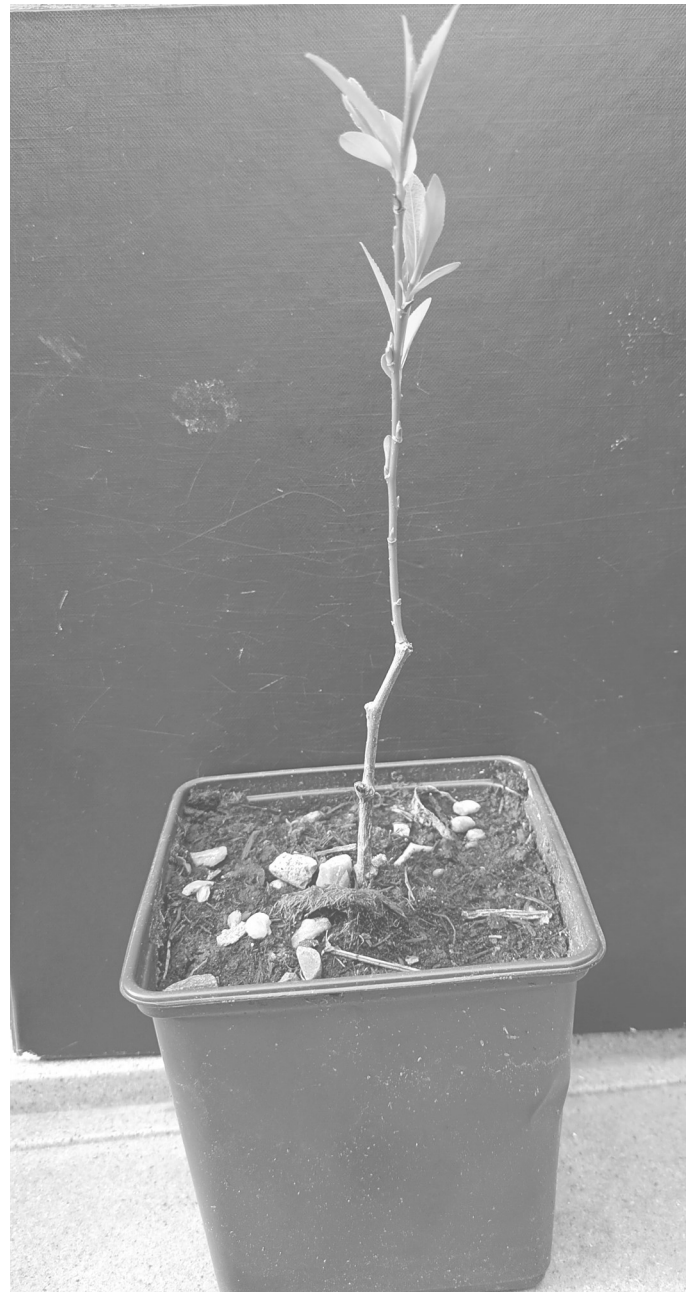
St. Michael's Churchyard

More About Trees.

You may recall that Ron Plimmer took cuttings of the willow tree, known as Johnson's Willow, last Autumn. The tree grew by the side of Stowe Pool but was diseased and replaced by a new descendant of the original Johnson's Willow tree. This new tree was planted in November, 2021. Ron potted up his 5 tree cuttings and I am pleased to report that they are doing well in their individual pots. We hope to plant them in our Churchyard Tree Nursery this Autumn. Ron's photograph shows 1 of the healthy willow seedlings.

At our February Working Party we planted 5 new native tree seedlings and these have settled in their new home near to the Law Monument and are being protected by substantial tree guards.

We had donations of 3 new deciduous trees, 2 beech and a ginkgo, a tree new to the Churchyard. These were planted at the end of March and they, too have taken well to their new surroundings. Many thanks to those who have donated the trees. Your generosity is much appreciated.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Tree.



<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

As I write the Churchyard News at the beginning of April, the new leaf buds of the Hornbeam Tree, planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, are swelling and it should not be long before we see the new leaves emerge. They are plain green, with toothed edges and are around 6 centimetres long. We look forward to the growth of the tree in the coming months and years.

Her Majesty the Queen has sent a message of thanks to all who have planted trees to commemorate her Platinum Jubilee and I reproduce this here. We wish Her Majesty well, especially next month as the whole country celebrates her record 70 year reign.

Ray Allen 251654



Mature Hornbeam tree

As the planting season draws
to a close,
I send my sincere thanks to
everyone
across the country
who has planted a tree to
celebrate my Platinum Jubilee.

I am deeply touched
that so many community
groups,
schools, families and
individuals
have made their own unique
contributions
to the Green Canopy initiative.

I hope your Jubilee trees
flourish for
years to come, for future
generations to enjoy.

Her Majesty the Queen.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

MOTHER'S UNION REPORT

At the end of March a group of members made posies of daffodils and greenery to give out on Mothering Sunday. This coincided with the beginning of summer and putting back the clocks which might have explained a smaller than usual attendance for this service. Perhaps mothers were enjoying breakfast in bed courtesy of their grateful children. Let us hope so.

Lady day also fell in the same week and M.U. met in church for a service led by Kareen and Linda. We celebrated Mary's willing obedience to God with prayers and readings on the theme of being transformed by God to be people of vision and faith.

At the beginning of the service we enrolled Audrey Dudley, Judy Godfrey and Ron Plimmer.

Afterwards Elizabeth reminded us to continue collecting boys school socks as a contribution towards Aid for Ukraine.

It was unanimously agreed to continue meeting in the afternoons as most members felt more comfortable than when they had to come through the churchyard at night.

Betty Lyne

JOINING THE DOTS Worldwide President **Sheran Harper** reflects on the power of coming together to transform lives

For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37)

As a child, I used to enjoy joining the dots in my book of puzzles. I would become ecstatic as the bigger picture emerged. I would then grab a handful of crayons and joyfully work to make a bright colourful picture, which would, in my eyes, be a masterpiece. My picture in hand, I would demand everyone's attention; the excitement of receiving many compliments and little rewards was second to none. I can still remember the delightful 'ooohs' and 'aaahs' from my parents and all those around me.

Joining the dots is very important to Mothers' Union work. It not only inspires members to share their passion and stay connected across the globe; it highlights the way a single green patch can be nurtured from small seeds to healthy growth. When joined up with other patches, it becomes part of a sea of living, flourishing fields making a huge difference.

A landscape that was once lacking is transformed into a marvellous place, bearing good fruit for all to benefit. It is the collective acts of love driven by our courageous and determined members that transform churches and communities to reflect the love of Christ and his Kingdom. Every little bit counts, creating the kind of transformation that alters the course of history.

Mothers' Union is committed to its priorities, which are determined by the strong voices of our faithful members.

As a movement, we believe and move forward with our theme, **Transformation – NOW!** This is the season to transform lives across cultures and societies by stopping hunger and increasing self-reliance; stopping violence through peace and safety; and stopping gender injustice. Calling for an end to violence and domestic abuse unites Mothers' Union with 6,000 organisations in over 175 countries, for we cannot do it alone – we are a voice to be heard.

Church and Community Mobilisation (CCM) processes, such as Metamorphosis, Eagle and Awaken, bring together small groups of people, equipping them with skills and confidence to create much needed change in their communities. The impact is tremendous as lives are transformed, giving new hope and confidence for the future.

From parents loving and caring for their children at home; to parent and toddler groups; to providing safe spaces for children in the community – whether for prison visits, receiving a small, knitted toy or simply catching up to share stories – it all adds up to caring for all children in safe environments.

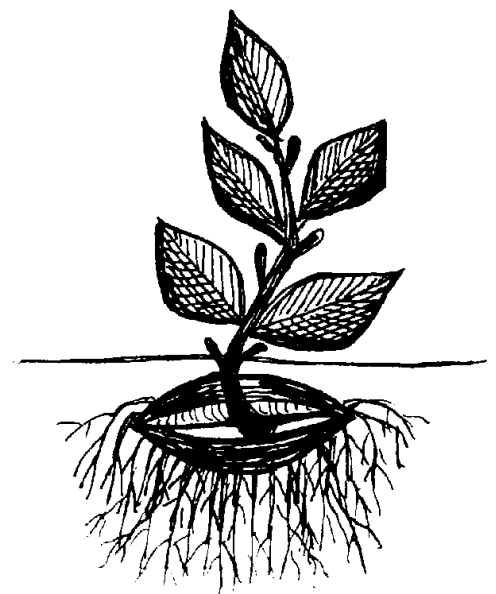
I am always intrigued by the way members find joy in whatever life holds. They find ways to adapt and reach out. Rooted in faith, their commitment to the work is vibrant and alive. They respond generously in unique ways, resilient in all circumstances at the heart of where it matters most – our homes, our communities. Members embrace the need to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and the good news of his Kingdom through their work.

It is the small things that matter most and, when joined together, they

have an enormous impact. It is as simple as using your gift to do what you can: providing a listening ear; welcoming a stranger and reaching out to a refugee family; in whatever way the Spirit leads you, it all adds up.

Over a decade ago, when I was diocesan president, the opportunity arose in a remote village to work with one member and her family to build a much-needed vegetable garden. Inspired, other members started growing vegetables in their gardens too. They then started growing different vegetables, so they could share with each other. A surplus of vegetables one year resulted in providing hot meals for primary school children. This led to the establishment of a market, where the vegetables could be sold to nearby villages, providing an income for the families and food for the communities. *To God be the glory, great things he has done ...* became their theme song.

A changing world can feel overwhelming. However, with Christ at the centre and our eyes focused together on the goal ahead, with faith as small as a mustard seed and determination to overcome challenges, growth from tiny seeds results in a huge harvest of miracles. These create a ripple effect of change, transforming our churches and communities to reflect Christ's Kingdom.



David and Lyn & Lynn go Walkabout Downunder!!

First let me make clear that LYN is Lyn Shiel (Churchwarden of that ilk), and LYNN is Lynn Edge (of PCC fame).

After a not uneventful journey from Birmingham to Melbourne, via Dubai, we arrived, somewhat jet-lagged but in good spirits, to be picked up at Melbourne Airport at 12:45 am by Adrian, David, and Lyn's son, and driven the 22 miles to Adrian and Jacqueline's new apartment in Footscray, an up-and-coming suburb of West of Melbourne overlooking the MARYBIRNONG river.



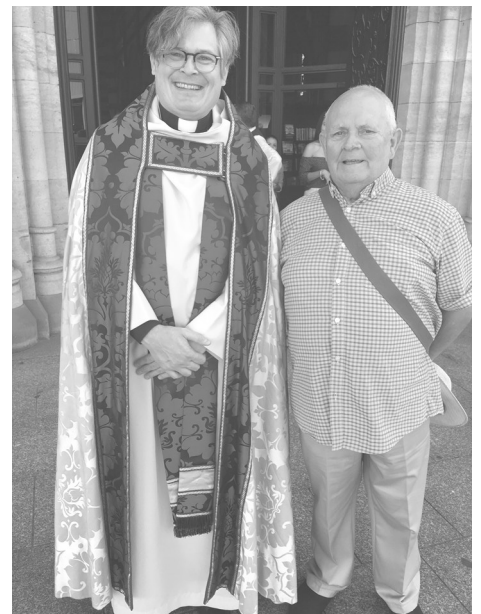
St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

We relaxed on the sunny but slightly breezy veranda for the next 3 days and on Sunday morning we made the 60- minute bus/train journey to Melbourne's beautiful three-spired, St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral for the 10. 00am Choral Eucharist service, for Mothering Sunday.

The service, was like our own Sunday morning service and led musically by the

Cathedral's 20+ Robed choir with readings from Numbers, Philippians, and Matthew

The Sermon was delivered with great sincerity by The Revd. Canon Dr. Bob Derrenbecker who took the text of the 3 readings as his theme. The Greeting Peace took the usual form, and it



was good to see it observed in the time-honoured pre-covid manner. Communion was taken, with the Vergers and churchwardens doing a sterling job directing the communicants in much the same way that Lyn and Sue do at St. Michaels.

Prayers were offered for Peace in Ukraine, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and the many other places of unrest around the world.

An announcement was made by Mrs Fran Henderson of the forthcoming Annual Mothers' Union Lady Day Choral Eucharist due to take place that afternoon.

Advance notice was also given of the 6.30am Easter Day Vigil and breakfast service much the same as our own Easter Morning. dawn service introduced by the "last Rector" Simon Baker shortly after joining us at St. Michaels.

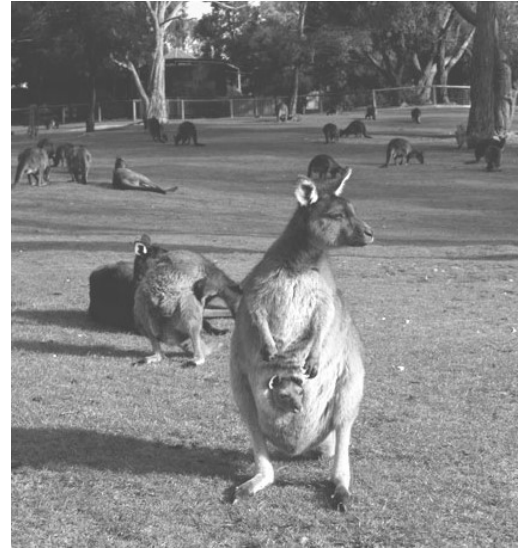
In the next fortnight before Lynn had to depart to the UK at the beginning of April. our days were mainly spent shopping and " doing the Tourist bit" in and around Melbourne, taking in the many places of interest: the Melbourne State Parliament building, City centre parks, St Patricks RC Cathedral and Melbourne's many riverside Coffee bars ad eateries along the Yarra River. For Lyn & Lynn the week culminated in a hair-raising trip up Melbourne's 2nd tallest building, the Melbourne Eureka Sky Deck which includes entering a glass cube high up at the top of the building and then pushed out of the building " over the Edge " Meanwhile I took the opportunity for a coffee and a read of the daily newspaper while this took place



St Patrick's RC Cathedral

high above my head!!

Also prior to Lynn's departure for the UK we made the 75-mile rail journey to the city of Ballarat, north of Melbourne, and visited the Ballarat Wildlife Reserve where we made close-up acquaintance with Koalas, Kangaroos, and



crocodiles, plus many other indigenous Aussie animal species.

<https://wildlifepark.com.au/>

Alas Lynn's holiday came to an end on the 3rd of April, and she made her way back to the UK, accompanied by three of Lyn's friends and family from Lichfield, for the 23-hour flight home. to be picked up by her son, Chris and reunited with her three grandchildren in Nuneaton.

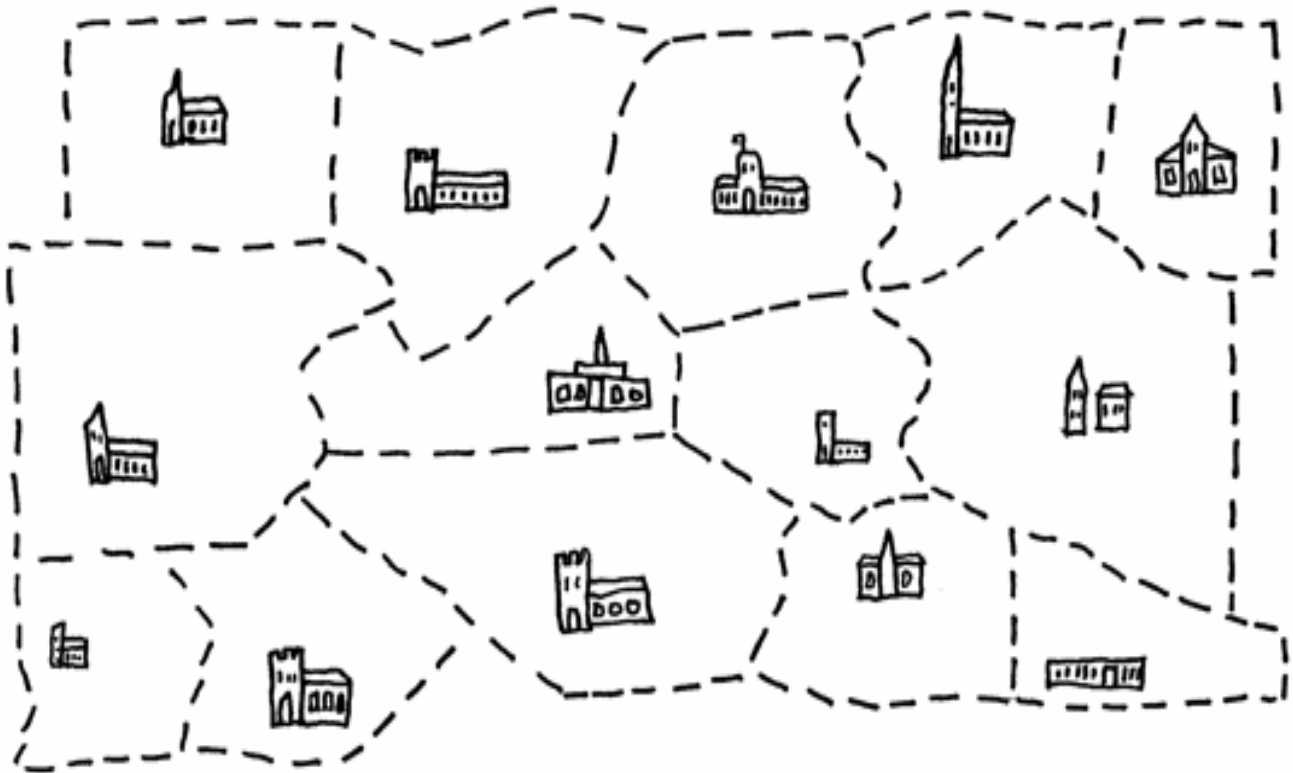
See you all soon,

Best wishes and God Bless

David and Lyn Shiel.

THE PARISH SYSTEM

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS DIVIDED INTO PARISHES. EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN CHURCH. EVERYBODY GOES TO THEIR LOCAL PARISH CHURCH*



* UNLESS IT IS TOO HIGH, TOO LOW, TOO LIBERAL, TOO EVANGELICAL, TOO CATHOLIC, TOO MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, TOO UNBIBLICAL, HAS TOO MANY BELLS AND SMELLS, HAS TOO MANY SMELLS, HAS SERMONS THAT ARE TOO LONG, HAS TOO MANY CHILDREN, HAS NOT ENOUGH CHILDREN, HAS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO OLD FASHIONED, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO HAPPY CLAPPY, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A WOMAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A MAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A BIT ODD, HAS SERVICES THAT START TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING, HAS REALLY BAD COFFEE AFTER THE SERVICES, HAS PARTICULARLY UNCOMFORTABLE PEWS, HAS SERVICES THAT CLASH WITH SUNDAY LUNCH PREPARATION TIME, HAS SERVICES THAT DON'T USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, HAS SERVICES THAT DO USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER OR ISN'T THE CHURCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRIMARY SCHOOL THEY HAD IN MIND

LENT COURSE

Through the Wilderness

This was held on Wednesdays, 9th; 16th; 23rd March, at 2pm to 3.30pm in St. Michaels.

There was also a connected session in Holy Week on Wednesday 13th April 2pm to 3.30pm.

The sessions were held by Christine Polhill and Helen Barton.

Whether we were aware of it or not, all of us have been in a wilderness for the last two years, a very different experience from the normal life we had.

The Lent gatherings gave people an opportunity to journey together, exploring where they are with God now, what we can learn from our own personal wilderness experience and how our faith has helped us through our experiences.



Together, as these discussions took place, the groups wrote prayers and psalms to express their gratitude to God

Prayer and psalm from Through the Wilderness 3

Creator God, even though you were with me,
I was afraid of being seriously ill on my own.
Thank you for the gifts of the scientists, doctors and nurses
who found ways to combat this pandemic.
Thank you for friends to walk with,
and to communicate with.

Praise God – zoom came like a gift from heaven.
Instead of being alone I could see everyone: their smiling faces and
shouts of hallo.

We did not have to travel to church:
we sat in our own comfy chairs.

I kept trying to work out who was speaking: it was strange to only hear
myself sing.

There were no private chats: and too many people who should have
muted their voice.

But we could worship God together: we could take part.

Praise to you living God: there are so many ways to worship you.

Alleluia!

Thanks be to God for people who discovered the vaccine: all the
experts gave me hope.

Thankyou for those who kept us informed: who helped us understand.
I was relieved to get the jab: all the people were so excited it was like a
party.

It was hard to realise I might die from covid: thankyou for the gift of
life.

Alleluia!

PROVERBS PRAYERS

PROVERBS

11.7-14, 17-21



⁷ When the wicked die,
their hope dies with them.

Confidence placed in riches comes to nothing.

⁸ The righteous are protected from trouble; it comes to the wicked instead.

⁹ You can be ruined by the talk of godless people, but the wisdom of the righteous can save you.

¹⁰ A city is happy when honest people have good fortune, and there are joyful shouts when the wicked die.

¹¹ A city becomes great when the righteous give it their blessing; but a city is brought to ruin by the words of the wicked.

¹² It is foolish to speak scornfully of others. If you are smart, you will keep quiet.

¹³ No one who gossips can be trusted with a secret, but you can put confidence in someone who is trustworthy.

¹⁴ A nation will fall if it has no guidance. Many advisers mean security.

¹⁷ You do yourself a favour when you are kind. If you are cruel, you only hurt yourself.

¹⁸ Wicked people do not really gain anything, but if you do what is right, you are certain to be rewarded.

¹⁹ Anyone who is determined to do right will live, but anyone who insists on doing wrong will die.

²⁰ The LORD hates evil-minded people, but loves those who do right.

²¹ You can be sure that evil people will be punished, but the righteous will escape.

Good News Bible

Father, I know that you are the one who created all things, visible and invisible. In the beginning you made heaven and earth. I put my faith and trust in you.

Jesus, I try to live my life by following your teachings but you alone are perfect. I know that I can never achieve anything near perfection and therefore I am supremely grateful that you died for me so that I might live.

Father forgive me for my wrong doings and I humbly ask that you help me to be the good person that you want me to be.

I live in hope that I may share in your gift of eternal life.

Angie King

Death is terrible for an evil man.

He will lose all of his money. He will lose all of his possessions.

He will lose everything that he achieved in life.

He will discover that he was wrong.

But then it will be too late.

*'Proverbs Bible Study Commentary'
by Keith Simons*

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

Baptisms			
St Michael's	27th March 2022	Joel Christopher Pomeroy	7 mths

Weddings			
St Michael's	8th April 2022	Joel Peter Scheven & Amy Lauren Danks	

Funerals			
St Michael's	17th March	John Tipper	78
St Michael's	26th March	William Bramley (interment of ashes)	84
St John's	29th March	Harvey Russell	82
St Michael's	7th April	Christine Kirk	92
St John's	20th April	Susan Paine (interment of ashes)	69

Bible Readings

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

Sunday 15th May

Easter 5

[White]

Acts 11.1-18

John 13.31-35

Sunday 15th May

Easter 5

EVENSONG

[White]

Daniel 6.[1-5]6-23

Mark 15.46-16.8

Sunday 22nd May

Easter 6

[White]

Acts 16.9-15

John 14.23-29

Thursday 26th May

Ascension Day

[White]

Acts 1.1-11

Luke 24.44-end

Sunday 29th May

Easter 7

[White]

Acts 16.16-34

John 17.20-end

Sunday 5th June

Pentecost

[Red]

Acts 2.1-12

John 14.8-17[25-27]

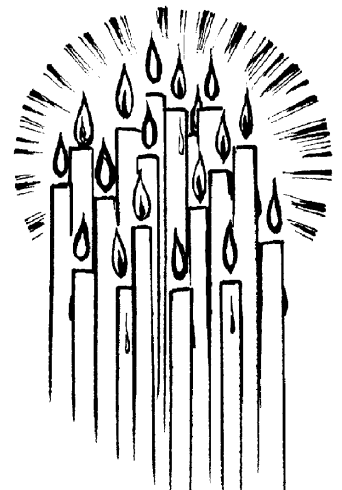
Sunday 12th June

Trinity

[White]

Romans 5.1-5

John 16.12-15



St Michael's Rota – May 2022

Sunday 10.00 am	1 May	8 May	15 May	22 May	29 May
	Family Praise				
Sidespersons	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Ted Green Mike Jones	Ray Allen Pat Toplis	Brenda Lip- trot Enid Barry	Viv and Ste- phen Oliver
Reader		Kay Martin	Alan Toplis	Jeyan An- ketell	Trevor James
Servers		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Communion Assistant		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Intercessor		Kay Martin	Alan Toplis	Jeyan An- ketell	Trevor James
Coffee	Sonia Doidge Lesley Allen	Veronica Morris Betty Lyne	Brenda Lip- trot Judy Godfrey	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Kareen Lowther Angela Bur- gess
Healing				TBA	

Sunday 6.00 pm	1 May	8 May	15 May	22 May	29 May
	No service	No service	No service	No service	No service
Sidesperson					
Reader					
Communion Assistant					

Lichfield Wildlife Group



A bat walk will be Led by Heather Lomas in conjunction with SE Staffs Bat Group. We will visit Fisherwick Lakes where, equipped with bat detectors and powerful lights, we will hear the bats flying around us as well as seeing the Daubenton's bats skimming the surface of the lakes. Meet at Fisherwick Lakes, Fisherwick Wood Lane, Whittington WS13 8QF in the car park on **May 28th at 9:00 pm.**

Contact HeatherLomax, 01543 263082 , hlbluelilac@googlemail.com.
Booking not required.

..... and Finally

Following the Mothering Sunday service at St. Paul's Cathedral I took the opportunity to talk with Canon Darrenbecker who asked me to convey his best wishes to Revd. Abbie on taking up her appointment as Rector of St Michael and St. John In May. He said he would hold her in his prayers over the coming months.

I took the opportunity, in the light of a possible connection, to Lichfield, to extend an invitation to look us up at St. Michaels if ever he were to make the journey to Lichfield at some time in the future.

Editor

PS. Lyn & David's Australian Walkabout continues until mid - May.



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