

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

July 2022



Mary Magdalene 22nd July 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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Reflection.....

Dear friends,

I was sitting taking a break from the heavy gardening load that characterises this time of year, and found I was staring at the trees. All now have their new large leaves, fresh and many shades of green. In the leafless winter we see further, but now it is as if we are embraced by trees. We still have plenty of sunny space, but we are a clearing sheltered by a surround of trees. As I write we have almost finished the big plant out that characterises this time of year. Flowers and vegetables brought on in the greenhouse, hardened off in a cold frame and then planted in positions in the garden. I alternate, one day I deal with food, the next with flowers. Today we put protective enviromesh around the carrot bed, weeding and thinning carrots as we went. I love the first taste of the new crops, new potatoes for lunch, the first strawberries, and carrot thinnings, at last the real taste of carrots again. I don't know what the suppliers of supermarkets do, but I can assure you that even their organic carrots do not taste like the carrots we grow.

Eating, and being able to eat is a big issue now as prices have increased and money is worth less. We have a community shop in Burntwood where supermarkets give food about to run out of date, and those of us who grow food can leave our excess on the friendship table. It's a FairShare shop, a UK charity that works for the redistribution of food and reducing the appalling waste. I've become very aware that some of the obesity in our country is due to the content of the very cheap food that is all some people can afford. Obesity is one of our biggest health problems as a country, some comes from this need for good, healthy food, more comes from greed and comfort eating and just not realising how much more than we actually need is being consumed. The journey out of this, whether

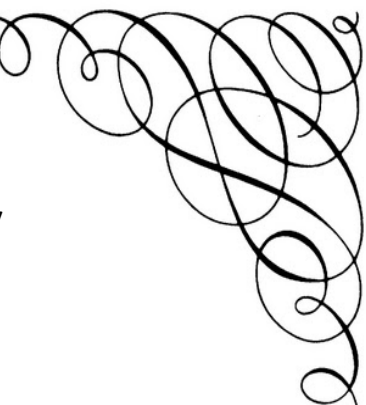
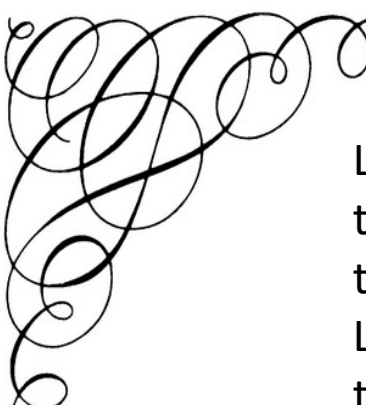
individual or communal, is a spiritual one just as much as one that needs practical decisions. For a community to live in a way that delivers food justice for all involves changes from government to commerce to personal. More than I can write of here. Personally, we can look at what we can do ourselves or around us. The inner journey behind changing unhealthy food habits is profound. I watched and prayed for a family member who worked through bulimia, where the food issues were a consequence of early suffering that needed exposing. It took a long time. Greed, one of those seven deadly sins, carries many different possible reasons behind its practice, from an unacknowledged fear of hunger, to misery at loneliness and loss, with many other possibilities between.

It is simplistic to say that Jesus, the great healer, can heal us. Of course he can, but healing is not magic, it is a journey that requires our active participation and, mostly, our consent. It also helps to be part of a loving and healing community that accepts people as they are and supports change and growth. At its best a Christian community would be like that. For the wider community to change in a way that is healing is much tougher, as people need to agree that, for example, hunger in this country should end, and then agree the ways this can come about. In the current situation, something worth both working and praying for.

Your friend in Christ

Chris Polhill

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request



Let light enfold me
that my inward eye may see clearly
the path that lies ahead.
Let my mind be opened up
that I may recognise
the sign posts along the way.

Grant me the wisdom
that comes from understanding
the true from the false.
And guide my steps,
so that should I falter or stumble,
tripped by former beliefs
that blind me still,
I may go forward with courage,
and with the determination
which persistence brings.

Let me be embraced
with the love by which
the whole creation is moved,
The very essence with which
all things are held together,
dependent yet independent,
whole yet individuated,
in which all are my relatives.

Anon

*A book of Blessings
Ruth Burgess*



Mary Magdalene

All four gospels give Mary Magdalene a unique place among Jesus' followers. Probably from Magdala by the Sea of Galilee, she is described as having been healed by Jesus before accompanying him during his ministry. Along with other faithful women, she stayed beside the cross during the crucifixion and was the first disciple to discover the empty tomb on Easter morning. She was privileged with the first appearance of the risen Lord, who sent her to take the good news of the resurrection to the other disciples. This commission earned her the title *'Apostle to the Apostles'* in the early Church.



Deadlines!

For **June** Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 17th July

Contact David Shiel

shielfamily@gmail.com

Pew Sheet:

every Thursday 7:30am

Contact Parish Office

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Family Praise

Sunday 3rd July
10am St Michael's



First Steps



Monday 4th July
10am St Michael's

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



SUNDAY 11th September

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome



The Chad Blog

Knowing whose minister she is...

As someone born 10 years after Queen Elizabeth the Second ascended the throne, I have grown up, like most people in this country, as an Elizabethan. The Queen's image is literally stamped on my life; her crowned head in profile on every postage stamp on every letter I have sent, and every bank note and every coin I have spent. Week by week, too, I have prayed for the Queen in church. She has been a stable and constant presence.

This month (June) we have been marking the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen's Accession. For most, this is the cause of rejoicing and celebration and, for all of us, it is a moment of reflection; reflection on who we are as a nation, the nature of government and the character and relevance of our institutions. For Christians, and especially Christians who are part of the Established Church, we may ponder too the complicated relationship between church and state.

The history of this relationship is found in our liturgy when we pray for the Queen during our intercessions or in the various Collects (special prayers) written for the Queen and Royal Family.

So, for example, in the Communion Service in *The Book of Common Prayer* of 1662, we pray for the Queen and that we, and all her subjects, would "humbly obey her".

But this obedience is carefully hedged about. The king or queen does not have absolute or arbitrary power over those they rule but is accountable to God. She must know "whose minister she is" and "consider whose authority she hath". The sovereign is to govern according to God's "blessed Word and ordinance" and to seek the

“honour and glory” of Almighty God. His or her heart is to be directed by the One who *alone* has “power infinite” and from whom all earthly power is derived. Christian Rulers may not simply do what they like but are bound by law and the high demands of the gospel. It has been the consistent witness of our Queen during her long reign that she has recognised that she is, first and foremost, God’s “chosen servant”.

Of course, our expectations of how we should be governed have evolved in the centuries since that Collect was written, but the basic principle is the same: those who have power are accountable for the way in which they exercise that power for the good of all. In a democracy, political leaders are accountable to Parliament, the law and to the electorate. Christians would add that all who govern are ultimately answerable to God. Anyone who has power of any kind and in any context should know “whose minister she (or he) is”.

In our own Queen’s lifetime, we have witnessed what happens when earthly rulers claim for themselves the “power infinite” that belongs to God alone and, today, in Russia (and elsewhere), we see again the full terrors of unaccountable government. In this year of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, we can give thanks that – imperfect though our democracy is – we live in a country where we enjoy the freedoms that exist because power is held to account. We should not take such freedoms for granted. We must continue to pray for those in authority and there is still plenty to be done in this country to share power more equally, but nonetheless we can be grateful for the stability we enjoy.

And do we exercise authority over others? We might also reflect on “whose minister” we are, especially if we have positions of responsibility in our workplace, community, or church. As we celebrate the Queen’s 70 years on the throne, we pray that we too may live according to God’s “blessed Word and ordinance” and seek God’s “honour and glory” in all things.

+Matthew

Rt Revd Matthew Parker



UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

Date: Saturday July 2nd, 2022.

Meeting Point: Holland Park Car Park, Brownhills, WS8 7JA

Meeting Time: 10.30 a.m.

Directions: To get to Holland Park Car Park from Lichfield, drive to Muckley Corner. At the Roundabout take the 3rd. Exit on to the A5 heading for Cannock. Stay on the A5 for around **4 miles** until you come to the set of traffic lights at **Watling St. Primary School**. Turn left here and drive along the road called **The Parade**. Take the first left turn where there is an avenue of mainly horse chestnut trees. Drive for a few yards to the Car Park Entrance.

Walk Details: We walk from the Car Park through the Avenue of trees to the old Railway Bridge in the centre of Brownhills. After the Railway Bridge we turn left and walk on to **The Mclean Way**, a Greenway for **Pedestrians and Cyclists** on the track bed of the old Railway that ran from Walsall to Lichfield. We will be walking on the part of the Greenway that goes in the direction of Lichfield. This is a delightful walk, full of trees and wild flowers. Please wear strong walking shoes or boots. The walk can be wet and uneven in places.

Length of Walk: 3 miles.

Cafes: There are 2 cafes on the left hand side of Brownhills High Street near to the walk entrance. They are called Star Coffee Shop and Costa Coffee.

Pub: There is a pub called Smithy's Forge next to the Walk Entrance. Lunches are available here.

The walk is **limited to 20 people**. Please book by **Thursday June 30th**.

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

Ray Allen 251654

beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com



CHURCHES AND CATHEDRALS TO HOLD MORE THAN 1,000 EVENTS TO MARK QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

News from



Published—Wed, 1 June

Churches and cathedrals across the country are to welcome their communities for thousands of events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, from barbecues, tree planting and flower festivals to services of thanksgiving, the ringing of bells and lighting of beacons.

Platinum Jubilee beacons will be lit on Thursday 2nd June at venues across the country including churches and cathedrals, to mark the Queen's 70 years of service as Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth.

Beacons will be lit at venues including Lambeth Palace and St Mary's Church in Putney in south west London as well as the tower of Derby Cathedral and outside Lichfield Cathedral, before the medieval Cathedral is illuminated in red, white and blue.

At Bradford Cathedral a vertical light beam will be lit from tomorrow evening into the night sky, while in the city, a torch will be passed between faith leaders, including the Revd Canon Paul Maybury, the Cathedral's Acting Dean, before it lights the beacon in Bradford's City Park.

Bells will ring out in cathedrals and parishes on Friday to coincide with the service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral and at events throughout the four-day Jubilee weekend.

The lighting of beacons and ringing of bells comes as a more than 1,000 events and services to mark the Jubilee were posted on the church finding website AChurchNearYou.com in parishes and cathedrals across the country.

In Devon, St Andrew's Church in Ashburton is one of a number holding Jubilee-themed flower festivals. On Sunday hundreds of Jubilee balloons will be released inside the church during a special Jubilee service.

At St Andrew's Church, Sampford Courtenay, in Devon, there will be a service of celebration on Sunday that will include hymns and music from the Queen's Coronation service at Westminster Abbey, with trumpeters accompanying the church choir.

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Revd Robert Atwell, said: "By custom, we call a 70th anniversary a 'platinum' anniversary and such a noble designation is certainly worthy of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen.

"Her constancy in times of pressure and difficulty, as well as in times of joy, has been exemplary. Public service, duty and a devout Christian faith continue to be hallmarks of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Her trust in Jesus Christ is central to her life.

"As we mark the Queen's Jubilee, let us pray for grace to build communities of trust, service and fairness worthy not only of our Queen but of the God who in Jesus Christ promises us the gift of abundant life."

St John's Church in Kensal Green, West London, will mark the Jubilee by unveiling new stained glass windows. *The Flowers of the Commonwealth* were designed by stained glass artist John Reyntiens, who also designed the Diamond Jubilee window in Westminster Hall.

In Southsea, Portsmouth, refugees and asylum seekers launched a week of Jubilee celebrations at St Luke's church with a concert that embraced art and culture from across the world.

Churchgoers and residents at All Saints Church, Denmead, Hampshire, knitted and crocheted around 2,700 red, white and blue flowers, which were sewn together to create bunting.

ST MICHAEL'S AND THE LICHFIELD FESTIVAL

by Ted Green

Firstly, my thanks to Betty Lyne, who loaned a number of early Festival programmes that have helped me greatly. Dean John Lang started the Lichfield Festival in 1982. He had spent 17 years with BBC Religious Broadcasting, ending up as Head, and was brought into the Cathedral in 1980 to 'give it a shake-up'. The Festival was one of his efforts and some of the participants in the first year indicated the breadth of his contacts: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Halle Orchestra and the Band of the Royal Marines. Also there were some fledging actors from the Cambridge Footlights, who had made a splash at the Edinburgh Festival in 1981 – whatever happened to Emma Thompson, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie?

The only local church to be used in the early days was St Chad's, but guitarist Paul Galbraith appeared at St Michael's in 1986; this is the only performance I'm aware of, but he may have played with us more often as he was a regular visitor to the Festival in the 80s and 90s. Throughout the 90s, when Caroline and I first became Festival Volunteers and then Millennium Members, St John's was the only local church used, although concerts were held in churches in quite a wide surrounding area. Several of us from St Michael's pressed for concerts, but it wasn't until 2006 when Richard Hawley, a feisty Australian, arrived as Festival Director that we got our way. For the first couple of years I acted as church representative on site, with a separate concert manager, but I took on both roles in 2008.



Paul Galbraith

That first concert featured the Endellion String Quartet, which had formed in 1979 and played at the first Festival. By 2006 they had a world-wide reputation and the church was very full for the concert. They held a Q&A session beforehand and I asked about the ‘acoustic’ at St Michael’s, supposedly a reason for not giving us concerts in the 90s. They said that our church suited string quartets very well and that their rehearsal time was not to work on the pieces, which they knew intimately, but to make sure that their sound came over the same in each venue, be it cathedral, church or concert hall. We were lucky to host them again in 2010 and 2011 and one of my abiding memories is their coolness. When I went in to give them their call they would be playing bridge, immediately put down their cards and tune their instruments. I could be sure of the same thing happening after the interval. Sadly Endellion retired from performing over the Lockdown and we can’t welcome them back this year.



Endellion

For the first six years we hosted only string quartets (Nash, Elias twice, Australian, New Zealand, Badke, plus Endellion three times) and then in 2012 we welcomed the Aquarelle Guitar Quartet, who had set several string quartet pieces for guitar. We sold more CDs for that concert than any other. More string quartets followed but they were interspersed with Caliante (flute, saxophone and harp), Sounds Collective (viola, flute and harp), Mr McFall’s Chamber Group (string quartet plus double bass) and then in 2018 Damian Thantrey came as Festival Director, which widened our scope considerable.

Before I come onto the later years, something on our congregational involvement. When country churches were dropped in favour of those in Lichfield, cream teas disappeared too. I’m not sure when St

Michael's incorporated them but the first reference in the Visitors Book is 2013 (Caliente – fabulous cake!) Fairly early on Brenda Liptrot and Lynn Rock put together a 'group of ladies' to bake, buy and serve wonderful cakes with tea and coffee at the major concerts, in return for donations. They became famous and some people said they just came for the tea! Each year I, or later Simon, would tell the audience about our latest plan for the church and encourage generous donations, which have raised more than £3000 over the years. Brenda made a point of getting orders from the performers while they were rehearsing and they would find their tea & cakes waiting at the interval; hence the tributes in the Visitors Book. Ron Plimmer and his team have organised the churchyard parking for many years and have provided a warm welcome to our visitors. Ron sees the drivers in and he sees them out, while the rest of us try to provide an equally warm welcome inside the church.

As Festival Director, Damian Thantrey fell in love with our church building first and our teas and hospitality later. In his first year we hosted six concerts and a talk. They included double bass and piano; a violin, piano and cello trio; a string quartet with piano, solo piano and our first choral group (proving that we can do more than strings) the Agnes Collective. In 2019 we hosted Curzon Brass, the Albion String Quartet; a duo of saxophone and piano and our most unusual performers yet, the Kahalsitsi African Drummers and Dancers, who filled the church with rhythm and enthusiasm. A coup was to host Lauren Zhang, the BBC Young Musician of the Year. At the piano she was fearsome but, otherwise, she was a very normal teenager – as soon as she met Angie's little dog she was on her knees, laughing and playing. She was due to return in 2021 but was studying in New York. I hope she'll come back as hers is one of the few signatures I haven't captured in our Visitors Book!

The 2020 Festival was lost to Lockdown and I wrote at some length in last year's magazine about the nine concerts we hosted in 2021, most

of them twice as our capacity was limited to 60. I won't repeat what I wrote then, but I called the article 'An Unusual Festival' and opened with the sentence "I hope we never experience another Lichfield Festival at St Michael's like 2021, but it's something I'm really glad we've done." We were all exhausted afterwards and I'm particularly grateful to Brenda and the tea team, who changed role and cleaned the church thoroughly between concerts.

This year a date clash and tight Festival finances mean that we're hosting three concerts and a talk. On Friday 8 July we welcome pianist Danny Driver for his seventh visit, which I'm very much looking forward to as he's a wonderful guy; on 9 July Paul Galbraith is going to play guitar for us, 36 years after his first visit, and I'm sponsoring a Young Artists concert on Tuesday 12 July in memory of Caroline. It's called *Flutes and Frets* and features music from the Renaissance to the present day, played on contemporary flutes, lutes and guitars. We finish on Sunday 17



Danny Driver

July with a talk by world renowned cellist, Steven Isserlis, on his book *The Bach Cello Suites*. He will be closing the Festival that evening with a concert at the Cathedral. The Festival this year is the 40th and many old friends have been invited back to perform for us. Do take a Festival programme from one of our churches, or go online, and revel in 11 days of wonderful performances.

Recently, Ron our resident film maker borrowed photos from many members to compile a film about events at St. Michael's. These were mainly about church activities in the 70's to 2000. More recently everyone keeps their snaps on their phones and does not have copies to hand around but we still had a very interesting hour looking at the film.

Along with all the "Do you remember him/her/that? What was her name?" were questions from more recent members such as "Why are all those children dressed as knights and princesses? Why are the Sunday School teachers dressed like extras in Downton Abbey? What was the occasion to create such extravagant flower arrangements?"

We talked so much about each picture that we never reached the end of the film.

At our next meeting we welcomed Abbie who joined us for a talk about The Salvation Army given by a member from the Cannock Branch. Lydia was a wonderfully enthusiastic speaker and obviously a totally committed worker for the army. The Cannock branch is 139 years old but the army was founded in 1865 in East London by William and Catherine Booth. William was an evangelist who began by preaching outdoors, then in tents and his motto was Faith in Action. It was not enough to talk about better lives but to help people to improve. This was impossible with the dreadful living and working conditions that they lived in and he and his converts tried to alleviate the poverty in the East End. It is sad that to-day the problems of refugees and poorly paid workers show that there is still a huge problem.

William was concerned about the match girls whose work with

dangerous chemicals caused disease and early death. He opened his own factory with safer working conditions, better pay and living conditions and he drew the attention of Parliament to the prevalence of sexual exploitation.

In 1884 the first hostel for women was opened followed later by one for men. Here they were able to wash, receive clothes and get better jobs. A maternity home was established and “Social Sisters” who lived among the poor. The Booths wanted to give “power to the powerless and a voice to the voiceless”

Nowadays the army still exists to serve humanity not just in London but locally, nationally and internationally. Their work and prayer is all for the glory of God and during the pandemic they continued their work and kept their churches open. Working in 153 countries they support disaster victims, front line workers and refugees..

Lydia left with a large bag of school socks which we had collected for her group who help parents to fit out their children with school uniforms in Hednesford. A mere drop in the ocean but a pound of help is worth a ton of pity.

Betty Lyne

SEND A MESSAGE HOME

Marian Pope tells the story of an MU initiative that inspired many members to action and impacted many lives

It was June’s first day as diocesan secretary in the Diocese of Liverpool. The phone rang – a call from an 18-year-old lad who had got into a bit of a scrape in Spain and was in a police station. He’d found a card in a toilet with a number to call to let his family know he was okay.

The card was part of the *Message Home* scheme, which began in the

Diocese of Liverpool in 1975. It was a simple idea. Cards were left in public places with a phone number for young runaways to ring, if they wanted to send a message home for their families. June – who is now the provincial president for York – remembers that first phone call vividly. ‘I contacted the vicar of the parish who went round to see the family, told them about their son and supported them’.

The scheme was the brainchild of Phyllis Bretherton, a committed Mothers’ Union member and clergy wife who recognised the anguish of parents whose children had run away from home and who didn’t know what had happened to their children. Phyllis was also aware that, for those children, official authorities would be the last place they approach, as the police or social services would just take them home. However, a phone number which could be used to relay a message on their behalf would mean that all ties weren’t broken. She believed that if even the most tenuous of threads could be kept with at least some family members, there was always hope that relationships could be rekindled. Phyllis took her idea to MU leaders in Liverpool who agreed to get behind the idea, even agreeing to rent an answering machine (these were not as commonplace or as affordable in the mid-70’s). Cards were printed making it clear that no questions would be asked and showed nothing to connect it to MU or the Anglican church. (the number used was the direct line to the Mothers’ Union office so for years MU members in the Liverpool office would answer ‘Message Home’). For the scheme to work the cards needed to be left in places where those vulnerable young people were most likely to see them. The cards were distributed to Liverpool MU members through their branches; they were encouraged to leave the cards wherever they chose and if possible to check to see if a card had been taken and needed replacing. Cards appeared in phone boxes, public toilets in railway and bus stations. Some members persuaded shops and newsagents to put the cards in their windows. Members took up the idea with enthusiasm helping to distribute the cards in Liverpool and surrounding areas and even took cards on holiday to leave in holiday resorts at home and abroad.

When calls were taken or messages left, contact was made with the family; this was usually done by local clergy which also provided opportunities for pastoral care and on-going support for the families. Word spread across to other dioceses and by the 1980s the cards included numbers for Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, London, Portsmouth, Scotland and Wales. *Message Home* knew no bounds – an MU member visiting the UK heard about the scheme and it was taken up in Australia, initially in Queensland. Rather than small cards, advertising signs were made in distinctive bright green and black writing and were placed in large railway stations. Calls to the phone numbers in Queensland were free.

In the early 1990s it was clear that, while the service provided through the network of MU members in parts of the UK was invaluable, it needed to be more widely available across the UK. In 1994 the service was passed to what was then known as the National Missing Persons' Helpline, with a single freephone number, providing a national service to families whose children had run away.

What had started with a basic answerphone on top of a filing cabinet in the corner of the MU office in Liverpool was recognised as a vital service working across the country and taken on by a charity focusing on helping to find and assist those who are missing. The charity is now known as Missing People; a message can still be sent home by ringing or texting 116 000.

The Children's Society estimates that around 100,000 children run away from home every year. sometimes they run away because of a fear of consequences of something they have done at home or at school. Some are trying to escape issues at home such as neglect, drug or alcohol addiction or physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Other common problems include bullying, relationship difficulties or family breakdown. A few children are forced to leave home by their parents or carers.

Hymns and Pimms



at St John's Church Wall

on Sunday 17th July

at 6pm

Come and sing some
favourite hymns and enjoy
refreshments and fellowship



Parish Picnic



Come and join us
for food and fun
at **St Michael's Church**
(outside, weather permitting)
on **Sunday 10th July**
from **3pm to 5pm**

Donations of sandwiches and cakes gratefully received, but
mostly, just bring yourselves!



St. Michael's Churchyard Working Party

Improving the Environment in the Churchyard

In recent weeks a number of items have been added to the Churchyard. These will, hopefully, further increase the number and variety of insects and other creatures that visit or live here.

A **black ceramic water bowl** has been placed in the herb garden, the intention being to ensure there is always a plentiful supply of water for wildlife.



New **herbs** have been planted in the Herb Garden. We have seen **Love In A mist, Calendula, Candytuft, Borage and Chives** flowering particularly well, bringing in lots more insects.

Further help for insects, spiders and many other tiny creatures has been given by the provision of a **Bug Hotel**. This has been hung on one of the branches of the **Diamond Jubilee Oak Tree**.



Let us not forget that we have bats in the Churchyard too. To this end a **Bat Box** has been attached to each of **2 mature Ash Trees** in different parts of the Churchyard.

As well as the meadow wild flowers the Churchyard Working Party recently planted the **2 beds at the base of the Church Tower**. This year we have planted **perennials** such as iris, astilbe and achillea as well as a selection of **annual begonia and lobelia bedding plants**. Bees love getting nectar from garden flowers as well as wild ones.

Finally **2 new troughs** have been planted with more annual plants such as **French Marigolds and Coleus**. The troughs can be seen on the slabbed area to the right of the Church Tower.



It is disturbing to hear that once again last year there was a fall in the overall number of **Butterfly Species** in our country. In our small way let us hope we can contribute to a reversal of fortunes for these beautiful creatures.

Do enjoy looking for these important Environmental additions and the wildlife we hope to attract.

Our **Churchyard Working Party** will be meeting on **Saturday July 30th from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** We will be doing seasonal Summer tasks, such as pruning, weeding of Tower Beds and the Herb Garden, dead heading flowers and clearing weeds from some of the paths and graves. We welcome you to join us. **Tea/coffee/Cake** will be provided.

Best Wishes to you all

Ray Allen 251654

HISTORY AND HERITAGE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

At the end of May I was part of a 14-member group from the Lichfield U3A (more about the U3A in August's magazine) on a fieldtrip to the magnificent 19th century blue polychromatic brick, Italianate-style Sandfields Pumping Station in Chesterfield Road here in Lichfield, (on your way to and from Waitrose, the pumping station can be seen towering above and behind the houses on Chesterfield Road.



The pumping station was commissioned by South Staffs Waterworks Company in the mid 1850s, following an Act of Parliament, and was pivotal in the fight against waterborne diseases such as Typhoid and Cholera which were endemic at that time in the industrial region of the Midlands known as the 'Black Country'.



DEATH'S DISPENSARY.

OPEN TO THE POOR, GRATIS, BY PERMISSION OF THE PARISH.

Credit: Wellcome Foundation

Around that time John Snow, an eminent London doctor, had shown that these diseases were waterborne and that the only way to eradicate them from the population was in the provision of a clean, uncontaminated water supply. However, the Black Country had no organised provision of water provision, or any major rivers, the only public source of water was from wells; usually heavily contaminated by

neglect and intense industrial activity.

Cholera in Britain in the early 1830s had spread rapidly causing epidemics in 1832 and 1849 and claiming over 10,000 lives in the Black Country alone: Hence the urgent need for a source of fresh, clean water.

This was the situation facing a group of concerned public-spirited men, including the Earl of Dudley, who became aware of the dire public health crisis in the Black Country. Along with John Robinson McClean, a civil engineer and a director of the South Staffs Railway Company, this group promoted a Bill through parliament for the formation of the South Staffs waterworks Company.



John Robinson McClean

[Also of note here is that John McClean, also a director of the Chasetown Colliery, took the opportunity to provide a Free Church



St Anne's Church

for his miners and their families to worship in. Thus he formed St Anne's Church (named for his wife) in Chasetown, and built it in the Romanesque style; similar to the Sandfields Pumping Station, and well worth a visit!!]

The South Staffs Waterworks Act (1853) authorised the South Staffs Waterworks Company to provide an ample supply of “*pure and wholesome*” water to the Midlands area of the Black Country i.e. Walsall, Brownhills, Dudley and also to Lichfield which, fortunately, was thus far free of the ravages of industrialisation.



The Sandfields Pumping Station was built and formally opened by the Earl of Dudley on 26th October 1858 and by 1869 over 20, 000 houses throughout the region were being supplied with “*pure and wholesome*” water.

All pumping at Sandfields ceased in 1997 due to the modernisation of operating procedures, a fall in ground-water levels and a deterioration in the local environment.

In 2017 the Lichfield Waterworks Trust (a charitable trust) obtained access to the site and a large group of volunteers, all with various levels of expertise, took over the day-to-day care of the site with a long-term aim of bringing life back to the magnificent Cornish pumping engine and using the buildings for community use as an Arts and Heritage Centre.

For further details see the website at
www.lichfieldwaterworkstrust.com



I am sure that you will find it fascinating, as did I, when you discover the History and Heritage that is on your doorstep, which we all pass, without giving it a sideways glance, on numerous occasions each week!!

David Shiel, Editor



Our volunteers

News from the Hawksworth Family in China

We've had some fairly busy few weeks recently. The weather is very similar to that of the UK in spring time - constantly changing and temperatures fluctuating. I found myself making bread and butter pudding a few weeks ago as well; we needed some comfort food, due to the cold weather! I've been told that the weather is very unusual at the moment, as it's normally hot and sunny almost all of the time.

The beginning of June we experienced our first strong earthquake, 6.2! It was a very odd experience. Everyone in the school was fine and there wasn't any damage to the building. Unfortunately, closer to the epi-centre, approximately 100 km East from Chengdu, one person was killed and six others were injured. It's a reminder of just how destructive earthquakes can be!

The following week was my birthday. Peter and the children made a fuss of me which was nice. He even managed to find Black Forest gateau for my birthday cake. It's my favourite dessert! Next Sunday will be Ellie's birthday, followed by Peter's birthday a week on Thursday!

A couple of weeks ago we went out for dinner with friends and their two children, who are Ellie and Milo's age. They'll be starting SPGS in August with E and M as well!

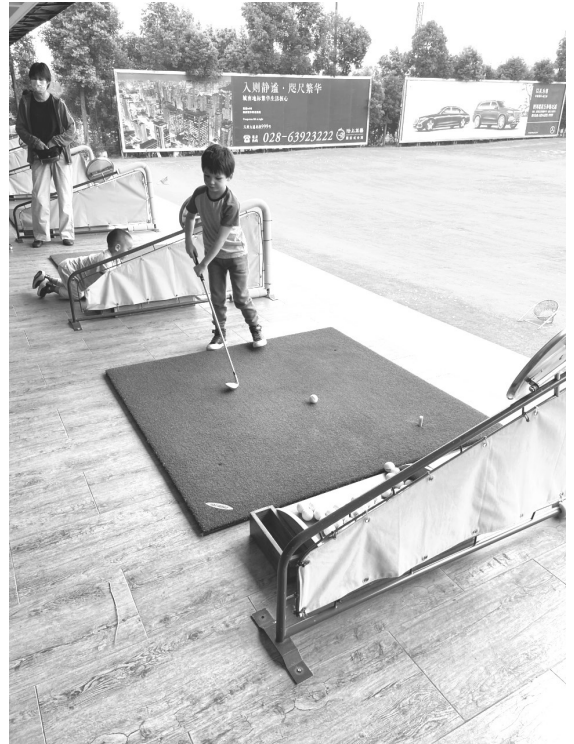
They took us to a local Sichuan restaurant. We had a private room with chef and waiting staff. They cooked some traditional Sichuan foods: chicken broth soup, ox tongue, red oil fish and Ma Po Do Fu (Mar-Poh-Doh-Foo) a spicy tofu dish.

This was followed by instant ice cream with assorted toppings. The ice cream was instant because the chef put cream into a metal ladle and

dipped the base of the ladle into liquid nitrogen causing it to freeze instantly! The children loved it!

Today (12/06/22) we met some friends and the boys (Gabriel and Rupert) had a trial session of golf with our friends' two boys.

None of the boys took to it so we met another friend and her triplets(!) who are in Rupert's class, and all went for coffee and cake. The children had a fabulous time and really enjoyed being with their friends. We're planning to have a group BBQ soon and are looking into a group trip into the mountains over the summer!



Lots to look forward to!

All of the children continue to enjoy school. Their classes are starting to wind down as we approach the end of the school year! Milo has 7 days left, Ellie 10 days and the babies finish on the 30th June!



It feels like a long term this time, however, thankfully, it was broken up by a long weekend! June 3rd and 4th were a national holiday as everyone celebrates the Dragon Boat Festival (Duan Wu Jie)!



The festival falls on the 5th day of the 5th lunar month. It's one of four important festivals in Chinese culture. The other festivals are Spring Festival, Tomb Sweeping and Mid-Autumn Festival.

The festival is generally considered to be a commemoration of Qu Yuan, a Chinese poet who threw himself into the MILUO River after his beloved state, Chu, fell during the state wars in 278BC. The boat races remember those who tried to paddle out to save him and the dumplings are to remember the rice dumplings that were used to feed the fish in the river so they didn't eat Qu Yuan.



Everyone eats Zongzi, a triangular rice dumpling steamed in a banana leaf. These are either sweet red bean paste or savoury with dried meat inside. I prefer the savoury version. The children aren't too keen.

Our Mandarin continues to improve and life feels like it's getting a little easier as we can all communicate more easily with people around us.

We hope everyone is safe and well. We send you all our love.

The Hawksworth family xx

WALL NEWS

Platinum Jubilee Tree

On Sunday 29th May, Revd Abbie Walsh took her first service at St John's. After the service the congregation were invited to gather outside with her to join in with the prayers and the blessing of the tree that has been planted in the churchyard to honour Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.



LICHFIELD FOODBANK
URGENTLY NEEDS

All food items
but not toiletries /nappies

Must be at least 3 months in date

There are collection boxes at both
St Michael's and St John's

8 THINGS TO REMEMBER
WHEN GOING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

1. EVERYTHING CAN AND WILL CHANGE
2. YOU'VE OVERCOME CHALLENGES BEFORE
3. IT'S A LEARNING EXPERIENCE
4. NOT GETTING WHAT YOU WANT CAN BE A BLESSING
5. ALLOW YOURSELF TO HAVE SOME FUN
6. BEING KIND TO YOURSELF IS THE BEST MEDICINE
7. OTHER PEOPLE'S NEGATIVITY ISN'T WORTH WORRYING ABOUT
8. AND THERE IS ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR

AMEN

PROVERBS PRAYERS

22:9

Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it.

19:17

When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back.

28:27

Give to the poor and you will never be in need. If you close your eyes to the poor, many people will curse you.

13.23

Unused fields could yield plenty of food for the poor, but unjust people keep them from being farmed.

31:8-9

Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless. ⁹ Speak for them and be a righteous judge. Protect the rights of the poor and needy.

Good News Bible

Heavenly Father, guide our actions with your words.

Jesus, help us to follow your example of always helping the poor and needy. There are so many ways that we can help—giving money, food or our time as volunteers.



Holy Spirit, remind us daily to be generous and mindful of the needs of others in our local community and around the world

I ask this, in Jesus name.

Angie King

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	29th May	Lilly Rachel Smith	16 mths
St John's	11th June	Maisy Louise Garrity	8 yrs
St John's	11th June	Meela Ivy Patricia Garrity	2 yrs
St John's	11th June	Marnie Rose Garrity	11 mths

Weddings		

Funerals			
St John's	23rd May	Audrey Lees (interment of ashes)	
St Michael's	25th May	Andrew Macnab (interment of ashes)	
St John's	30th May	Glenys Knight (interment of ashes)	
St Michael's	7th June	Ron Lewis	89
St Michael's	9th June	John Wood	89
St Michael's	20th June	Amanda Baker	54

Bible Readings

Sunday 3rd July
Thomas the Apostle
[Red]
Ephesians 2.19-end
John 20-29

Sunday 10th July
4th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]
Colossians 1.1-14
Luke 10.25-37

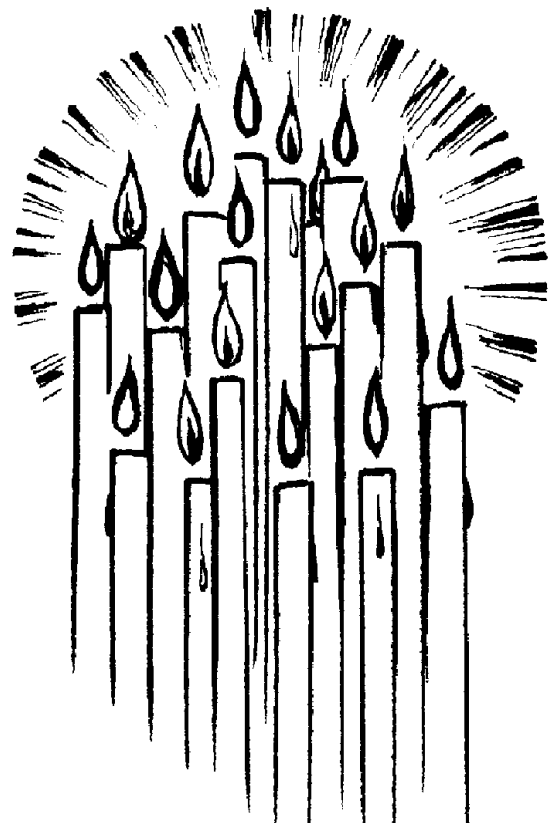
Sunday 17th July
5th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]
Genesis 18.1-10a
Luke 10.38-end

Sunday 24th July
Mary Magdalene
[Red]
Song of Solomon 3.1-4
John 20.1-2, 11-18

Sunday 31st July
7th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]
Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14
Luke 12.13-21

Sunday 7th August
Transfiguration of Our Lord
[White]
2 Peter 1.16-19
Luke 9.28-36

Sunday 14th August
The Blessed Virgin Mary
[White]
Revelation 11.19—12.6,10
Luke 12.49-56



St Michael's Rota – July 2022

Sunday 8.00 am	3 July	10 July	17 July	24 July	31 July
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith	Brian Smith	Brian Smith	Brian Smith

Sunday 10.00 am	3 July Family Praise	10 July	17 July	24 July	31 July
Sidespersons	Brenda Liptrot Mike Jones	Judy and Mike Godfrey	David Bull Pat Toplis	Viv and Stephen Oliver	Maureen Brand Ray Allen
Reader		Angela Burgess	Ted Green	Kay Martin	Ray Allen
Servers		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Communion Assistant		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Intercessor		Trevor James	Ted Green	Kay Martin	Alan Toplis
Coffee	Kareen Lowther Angela Burgess	Betty Lyne Veronica Morris	Sonia Doidge Lesley Allen	Brenda Eley Audrey Dudley	Brenda Liptrot Judy Godfrey
Healing				TBA	

..... and Finally

As a postscript to Ray Allen's excellent article on our beautiful churchyard....

"Caring for God's Acre"

Whilst in Australia recently Lyn and I visited Melbourne's first port settlement – Williamstown, 7 miles NW of Melbourne. On walking round the town, we passed Williamstown Anglican Church where their "call to arms" to their churchyard working party was on display on their lawn.

SO it seems that dedicated groups of concerned and caring volunteers are not only to be found at St. Michaels but on the other side of the planet – and they provide tea & cake also!. It certainly bodes well for the environment. Keep up the good work Ray et al!!

Editor





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<p style="text-align: center;">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>Veronica Morris</i></p> <p>Stewardship Recorder: <i>Sandy Baker</i> 256320</p> <p>Electoral Roll Officer: <i>Mike Godfrey 264255</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John's PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: Pat Owen 410826 John Alsop 480240</p> <p>Assistant Churchwarden: Christine Higgs 410351 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 style="text-align: center;">St Michael's Church</p> <p>Verger: <i>Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</i></p> <p>Sacristan and Head Server: <i>Maggie Easton</i> 255308</p> <p>Organist and Choirmaster: <i>Dudley Ray</i> 07847 643373 dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Music Group: <i>Richard Brooks 07918 906</i> 350</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 style="text-align: center;">St John's Church, Wall</p> <p>Verger: Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="798 1227 1497 1386"> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="798 1388 1497 1713"> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: <i>Liz Clarke 268862</i> liz.clarke@virgin.net</p> <p>Magazine Editor: <i>David Shiel</i> 01543320437" shielfamily@gmail.com</p> </td></tr>	<p style="text-align: center;">Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: <i>Liz Clarke 268862</i> liz.clarke@virgin.net</p> <p>Magazine Editor: <i>David Shiel</i> 01543320437" shielfamily@gmail.com</p>	
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