

# THE PARISH MAGAZINE

July 2023

ADONAI, God, took  
the person and put  
him in the garden of  
Eden to cultivate  
and care for it.

Genesis 2:15

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

**£1**

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# Reflection.....



**LARGE COPIES** of the magazine are  
available on request

# Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

## Regular Services at St Michael's

### Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion

10:00am Holy Communion

### 1st Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

### Wednesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

### Thursdays

9.30am Morning Prayer

## Regular Services at St John's

### Sundays

10am Holy Communion

### Baptism @ 11.30am

Last Sunday of the month

## Other Services at St Michael's

### Sundays

*1st Monday 10.00am*

First Steps

*2nd Sunday 4:30pm*

Messy Church

*3rd Sunday 6:00pm*

Choral Evensong

*Last Sunday 12:30pm*

Holy Baptism

## Music in the Benefice

St Michael's Church

### Wednesdays

6.00pm Junior Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal  
(except on the Weds before 1st Sunday)

### Friday before 1st Sunday

7:30pm Music Group & Senior  
Choir Rehearsal

## Baptism Preparation

First Saturday 10:30am

at St Michael's

## Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

## Family Praise

Sunday

2nd July

10am St Michael's



## First Steps

Monday 3rd July

10am—11.30am

Come and join us at our ...

## MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on

**SUNDAY 9TH JULY**

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome



## Deadlines!

For August Magazine: Deadline is

**SUNDAY 16th July**

Please send articles to David Shiel

AND the Parish Office

[shielfamily@gmail.com](mailto:shielfamily@gmail.com)

[office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk)

**Pew Sheet:**  
every Thursday

7:30am

Contact  
Parish Office



# THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

## Why are we supporting the People's Plan for Nature?

Published 05/06/2023

On World Environment Day, Bishop Graham Usher discusses why we should back the People's Plan for Nature.

This year, David Attenborough and the BBC, through the Wild Isles programme, reminded many of us of the nature that we can notice on



our own doorsteps, populating our rugged coastlines, ancient woodlands, and flower meadows.

When I read the Gospels and hear the stories that Jesus taught, what strikes me is how much he notices – how much he sees of the environment around him. He sees the lilies of the field, the birds of the air, the type of soil that seed is planted in, and the fruitfulness of trees.

**“Part of our Christian discipleship is to notice what we’re interconnected with, so that we can wonder at God’s creation and then take action to safeguard it”**

*Graham Usher, the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs*

Sadly, much of this wildlife is at risk from climate change and associated biodiversity loss. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. 15% of all our species are threatened with extinction, 97% of our wildflower meadows have



been lost since the 1930s, and we have lost 492 animal and plant species in England since the 1800s. This can be even more pronounced on a local level – since 1900, one species of plant has been lost every two years on average on a county level.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, biodiversity loss and degradation, and damages to and transformation of ecosystems are already key risks for every region of the world due to past global warming, and will continue to escalate with every increment of temperature. This crisis of nature is now being recognised alongside the climate crisis as a serious threat to the future of the people and other creatures living on the planet. Part of our Christian discipleship, as we care for creation, is to notice what we're interconnected with, so that we can wonder at God's creation and then take action to safeguard it on this island we call home.

The Church already recognises and treasures the intrinsic value of nature through our Fifth Mark of Mission: 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

This is why I welcome the People's Plan for Nature, particularly the participatory and inclusive processes in its creation, alerting us to the irreplaceable value of nature, the threats which it faces and the need for immediate action.

It's time to start approaching solutions in a way that meets the seriousness of the situation – and that includes all of us.



It's often those who have done the least to contribute to biodiversity loss who suffer the most from its impact. We want to ensure everyone has a voice and is empowered to help tackle the climate and nature crises, just like The People's Plan does. The People's Plan has included input from over 100 people across all age groups, all

education levels, different locations, different ethnic backgrounds and different views on the importance of nature. Listening to these different voices is so important, as is considering nature's 'voice'. Later this year, we will mark the Season of Creation (1 September to 4 October) by seeking justice for this myriad of voices. The theme this year is 'Let Justice and Peace Flow' – look out for more information and resources closer to the time.

In 2020, the General Synod of the Church of England agreed the goal for the Church to be net zero by 2030, far ahead of the Government's target of 2050 for the country. Now is the time to be ambitious – we can't lose any more time in tackling the climate and biodiversity crises.

Our churches and churchyards are at the forefront of this urgent issue, from reducing carbon emissions from our buildings, promoting biodiversity in our churchyards, and encouraging the wider community to consider their own impact on the planet. How might we live more in harmony with nature? Here in Norfolk, for example, churchyards are vital for the survival of six wildflower species, where at least 50% of their UK populations are to be found.

The People's Plan for Nature is calling for a country where humans and nature are in harmony, nature is valued and respected by all, and we all take individual and collective responsibility to enhance and sustain nature so that all might flourish.

I encourage you to read the plan and add your response. What one thing could you do to show your care for creation today?

Learn more

Read the People's Plan for Nature and add your voice. <https://peoplesplanfornature.org/>

Find out about the Season of Creation 2023 and sign up. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Find out more about the Church of England's plans to reach net zero by 2030 by reading our Routemap. <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/net-zero-carbon-routemap>



# WALKING GROUP

## CLAYHANGER—Leader, Angie King

**Date:** Saturday 29th July 2023

**Start:** 10.30 a.m.

**Meeting point ;** The Smithy's Forge, 7 Lichfield Road, Brownhills, Walsall, West Midlands, WS8 6HR

### Walk terrain Details;

We start the walk on the McClean way walking towards Clayhanger from the pub in Brownhills. Then we will go down some steps to the Wyrley and Essington canal. This takes us to Clayhanger Common where we will walk on hardcore paths and woodland trails to get back to the canal and retrace our steps along the McClean Way back to the pub for lunch at 12.30pm.

The walk takes about 1 1/2 hrs - 2 hrs. Paths are mainly hardcore and gravel so shoes with sturdy soles are recommended.

I have booked a table for 10 indoors at The Smithy's Forge.  
Dog walkers can eat outside.

Please inform me via the Parish Office if you plan to come on the walk so that we don't set off without you.

[beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com)

01543 262211

Angie King

07907 691053





**DIOCESE OF  
LICHFIELD**

**TRANSFORMING  
COMMUNITIES  
TOGETHER** 

TCT was established in 2014 as a joint venture between the diocese and Church Urban Fund to help churches and local organisations tackle poverty and the causes of poverty in and around the whole of the Black Country, Staffordshire and northern Shropshire. Its mission is to partner with others, seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope, so that communities may flourish and those who are vulnerable, isolated, and disadvantaged might enjoy life in its fullness.

Various challenges, including the changing nature of the national funding landscape, the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis, led to a strategic review of TCT's work at the start of 2023.

As a result, the TCT Board of Trustees has agreed that, from 1 April 2023, TCT will be integrated into the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF).

This will provide organisational and financial stability in the coming years so that TCT can continue to deliver its core work streams with other partners, such as Sandwell Churches Link and the Diocese of

Worcester, in areas including Places of Welcome, Dementia-Friendly Church, Enabling All and Mental Health & Wellbeing. It will also offer sustainability as TCT listens carefully to the needs of parishes to develop further work that supports mission and ministry in local communities.

TCT's current staff members have helped shape the discussions around these changes which will see their roles align with the DBF where they do not already.

Diocesan Chief Executive Julie Jones said: "Following the pandemic and other recent challenges, this is a Kairos moment as we seek to re-establish TCT's crucial work at the missional heart of the diocese."

The Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Rt Revd Sarah Bullock, Chair of TCT's Board of Trustees, said: "We are excited to be moving to working as fully integrated members of the diocesan team to support our diocesan direction of travel, to meet the needs of parishes and communities expressed through our Shaping for Mission process and our focus on living out the 5 Marks of Mission in word and action."

The Rev'd Adam Edwards, Acting Group CEO at CUF said: "TCT have been a strong member of the Together Network from the very beginning. They've helped shape the Network's future, strategy, and theology, create and deliver programmes, and share resources and ideas. We're looking forward to continuing to work closely with the Diocese of Lichfield and supporting their commitment to social justice work, in particular the growing Places of Welcome network across Staffordshire and the Black Country."

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

Mother's Union members are grouped in Deaneries who take it in turn to play host. At the end of May it was our turn to welcome members from St. Chad, Lichfield, St. Peter Yoxall, St Peter Little Aston and Burntwood. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and the churchyard was looking its best so everyone was cheerful and more relaxed than when we used to meet in the (often gloomy) evenings.

We gathered to celebrate the ways we live out our faith in action and look forward to continuing the work which makes a difference to individuals, communities and families. The service was led by Christine and Abbie gave a sermon..

Each branch gave readings and led intercessions.

In her sermon Abbie told us how she concentrated on a word or phrase and this time the key was "take courage". At the Annunciation Mary was told to take courage and we should also take courage although the world seems to be in crisis. We must not let events in our lives cloud our judgement but refuse to be afraid and follow the example set by Mary and the disciples. We celebrated communion, sang some cheerful hymns then gathered for tea and cake. It wouldn't be an MU meeting without tea and chat with our friends from the other branches.

The sun was still shining when we left.

*Betty Lyne*

## **CARRYING A TORCH FOR TRANSFORMATION**

Mothers' Union members show perseverance in Mahajanga, Madagascar

'If you have no civil status paper or identity document, you cannot make progress in life. You lose your civil rights, you cannot vote... You are bound to stay at the place where you are living. You cannot go to school because school requires identity papers', reports Nicole, MU Community Development Coordinator in the Diocese of Mahajanga, Madagascar.

Nicole has spent the past two years developing a birth registration project, after being told that the biggest problem the mayor faced was children's births not being registered. This results in inaccurate official statistics, as well as children not being eligible for education or health facilities. (One of the reasons why births were not registered in one area was because people were being charged huge amounts of money for birth certificates – much more than the standard fee).

Sadly, after initial enthusiasm from local authorities and promises of cooperation, the project was halted – owing to an upcoming presidential election, officials' time was focused on registering voters over 18. 'We had emphasised the importance of birth registration to over 4,500 people, but many other people need it', says Nicole, 'We do not want to give up. We still think of doing it later, if we have the opportunity.'

## **New plans to shine**

Putting aside this disappointment, Nicole and her MU colleagues are now working on a new project called *Fanilo* ('Torch'), with a remote community of Port Berger. Port Berger, in the fokontany (smallest structure) of Antanakova, is 10km away from the nearest place with electricity. They aim to provide solar-powered light in homes without access to (or resources to pay for) electricity.

**Only 14% of the population in Madagascar has access to mains electricity, exclusively in major cities and towns.**

Most homes in Mahajanga are lit by one candle at night, inadequate for children doing school work, or for doing household activity safely – fires caused by candles are common. Some people in the village have solar panels. Neighbours can walk there and pay to charge their mobiles. MU has identified people who do not have light at home, especially pupils and elderly people. They will now be able to charge their own mobile phones and not have to go to their neighbours and pay. It is hoped that 410 households will be provided with solar lamps.

**Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. – Galatians 6:9**



# Hymns and Pimms



at St John's Church Wall

on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> July**  
from **3pm to 5pm**

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



# ***Film Club***

***at St Michael's Church***

***FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS***

***Doors open at 2pm***

## **Operation Mincemeat**

*(2021, 12A, 2h 08 Drama/War)*

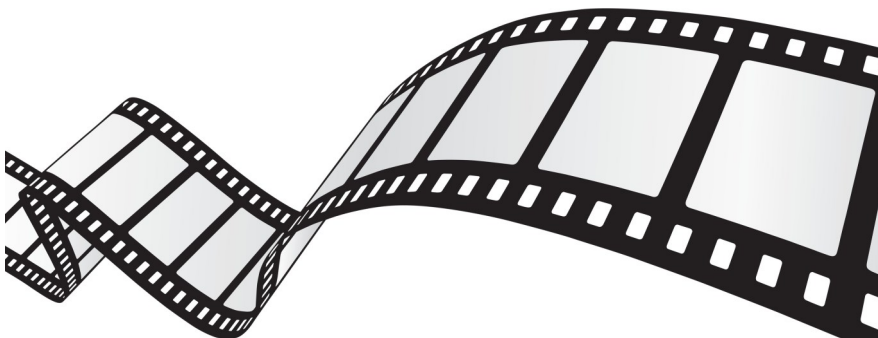
During WWII, two intelligence officers use a corpse and false papers to outwit German troops.

**Mon 3rd July 2.30pm start**

**Tea/Coffee and Cake will be served**

**at the interval**

All welcome.



**Save the Date:**

Next Film Club

7th August

## Lichfield's first station master

On the floor by the side of the pulpit at St. Michael's, there are tile memorials to the Durrad family of Streethay. The head of the family, William John Durrad was Lichfield's first station master, a churchwarden of St. Michael's and a notable figure in 19<sup>th</sup> century Lichfield Society. In this article we give a brief sketch of his life and times as one of the more publicly visible members of St Michael's in the nineteenth century,

William John Durrad was born in 1817, the second child of John and Ann Durrad of the village of Welford in Northamptonshire and baptised in the parish church. The Durrad name has a long history in that area, with a John Durrad of the nearby village of Misterton (d1726), being part owner of the Lordship of the Manor and a considerable donor to local charities. William's father, John (b1780), however seems to have been of humbler stock and is described at William John's baptism as a weaver.

In the early 1840s William John and another somewhat younger William Durrad, who were probably cousins, were owners of a bookshop in Eccleshall in Staffordshire, with William John, at least at first, being the senior partner. It was there that they met the vicar of the parish Rev Henry Moore, later Archdeacon of Stafford, who was something of a bibliophile. From that meeting, the influence of the clergyman was enough to find the elder William a position in the London and North Western Railway in 1845 as the company's agent in Lichfield representing the interests of the railway as it was being constructed, being paid £100pa.

By the time the station opened in 1847, he was the designated Station Master, on a salary of £120pa. He was also at that stage a married man, having married Elizabeth Lowe, at Tettenhall in April 1846. The original Lichfield station was situated on the west side of the Lichfield / Burton Road which the railway crossed on the level, i.e. on the opposite side to the current station.



The picture shows the rather grand style that was adopted by the architect John William Livock. The station building contained not only the passenger facilities and offices, but was also the Station Manager's House, for which William John paid £15 a year in rent. To the east of the station and the Burton Road, from 1849 the railway was crossed by the South Staffordshire Railway (now the Cross City line). This had a station to the north of the crossover entitled Lichfield Trent Valley junction. The South Staffs Railway was leased to the LNWR in 1861 and absorbed into the company in 1867. Clearly having two stations was inconvenient for passengers and both stations were closed in 1871 and a new station, with low level and high-level platforms, opened at its present site. William was the Station Master for the entire life of the original Lichfield station, with a wide range of responsibilities for the passenger and freight traffic, and for a significant number of staff. - clerks and the porters as well as yard staff. William and Elizabeth's children were born at regular intervals over the first decade and a half of his tenure as Station Master, and all were baptised at St Michael's church, the station being situated in Streethay, a township at the northern end of the parish. He was churchwarden for a couple of years in the 1850s and the churchwardens accounts in his neat copper plate hand, still exist in the Records Office.

He resigned from his post as Station Master in June 1871, by which time his salary was £150pa. Why is not at all clear – but perhaps the fact that he would be required to move into less palatial accommodation when the new station was built may have been a factor. There was a collection for a testimonial in the town, announced in the press, that raised a considerable (but not specified) sum. In the census of April 1871 all his children were still living at home. William Henry (22) was cashier at Lloyds Bank in Rugeley ; Arthur (20) was an undergraduate at Jesus College, Cambridge (and presumably on vacation); Walter (19) was also a bank clerk; whilst Emma (17) and Bertram (11) were identified as scholars. Both Arthur and Bertram attended Lichfield Grammar School and Loughborough

School – and this may well have been the case for William junior and Walter too. Arthur and Bertram were ultimately ordained and took up a clerical career and served in parishes mainly in northern England; Walter and William junior continued in the banking world in Rugeley and London respectively whilst daughter Emma became a governess and companion in Cambridgeshire.

After his resignation William, Elizabeth and Emma moved to Misterton Cottage. This is on the corner of Trent Valley Road and Wissage Road and still exists – as Holly Lodge – in the grounds of the Samuel Johnson Hospital. Its name is of course an echo of the Durrad's roots in Northamptonshire. It was a substantial property. When it was eventually sold in 1890 it is described as being comprised of *Entrance Hall, Two reception rooms, Kitchen, Scullery, Pantry, Cellar, Four bedrooms, dressing room and WC. Well laid out gardens and a quarter of an acre of land.*

Shortly after his resignation from the railway, William took up the post as High Bailiff at Lichfield County Court, based in St. John's Street, which he was to retain for the rest of his life. In this role he was responsible for executing warrants and court orders. He also had ecclesiastical responsibilities that may have dated back to his time as Station Master. Firstly, he was Apparitor to Archdeacon of Stafford (Henry Moore as noted above), with the responsibility to summon witnesses and execute the orders of the ecclesiastical court. Secondly, he was sub-librarian in the Cathedral library, so he obviously retained his bibliographic interests. Both of these positions would have supplemented the pension from the LNWR. In his civic roles he appeared regularly, if briefly each time, in the local press in the 1870s and 1880 – at the Mayor's luncheon, the Sheriff's breakfast and the perambulation of the city. He was also active in the St John's Freemasons Lodge and held office there – as Junior Deacon in 1870 and as Junior Warden in 1876.

1882 saw the death of William junior in Rugeley where he was a bank manager, from "*congestion of the lungs*". A muffled peal of bells was rung at St Michael's after evensong on a following Sunday, where both

William junior and his father had been regular ringers. The following year William's wife Elizabeth died from heart disease. William Durrad himself died in January 1889. His obituary records that he had been ill for several weeks beforehand following an operation from which he was never to recover. The funeral was a full choral service and at the burial the choir gathered around the grave and sang the hymn "Now the Labourer's task is o'er". William, his wife Elizabeth and William junior are buried together in one grave in the graveyard of St Michael's church. It is currently (February 2022) somewhat overgrown and difficult to access. Nonetheless its design is rather unusual as can be seen from the picture.



They are also commemorated in floor plaques in the church at the



front of the chancel beneath the pulpit, These are positioned (deliberately?) on the opposite side of the chancel to two similar plaques commemorating the lives of two of the 19th century Bishops of Lichfield (Selwyn and Lonsdale). I strongly suspect this placement was deliberate on the part of the family and church leaders.

This is perhaps a final indication of the perceived importance of the Station Master in Lichfield society at the time.

In his will, with the clergy children Arthur and Bertram named as executors, William's effects are said to be worth £3138, a very considerable sum. What this refers to is not clear, but probably includes Misterton Cottage and its contents, some land off the Walsall Road as well as his personal effects and any other savings. The year after the funeral his daughter Emma married Frances Carver of Meldrith in Cambridgeshire (for whom she had worked as his daughter's teacher and companion), Misterton Cottage was sold, and the Durrad family finally severed its connections with Lichfield.

*Chris Baker*

# Enjoy visiting our beautiful Churchyard this Summer





# INTRODUCTION

TO THE 'DAVE WALKER GUIDE TO THE PLANET'



THE PLAN FOR THIS SERIES: VARIOUS DIAGRAMS ON THESE KINDS OF TOPICS



Some news about David Walker, the artist who draws cartoons like the one above that used to appear in the Church Times. As of December 2022 his drawings were back in the Church Times, but with a somewhat different emphasis to those you may have seen before. A new series, entitled 'The Dave Walker Guide to the Planet', will explore various themes relating to the environment. You can find them on the Church Times website or on Dave Walker's social media channels.

He has written more about this on his website <https://davewalker.com/guide-to-the-planet/>

## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY—JUNE 5th 2023**

*World Environment Day was a reminder that people's actions on plastic pollution matters. The steps governments and businesses are taking to tackle plastic pollution are the consequence of this action. It is time to accelerate this action. It is time to #BeatPlasticPollution.*

### **Prayers for World Environment Day (published on the Church of England website)**

God of life,  
we praise you for the beauty of creation,  
its richness and variety;  
yet, through greed and ignorance,  
we scar your world with plastic waste  
and throw so much away.  
Make us more like Jesus,  
treading gently on our common home,  
and breathe your Spirit on us,  
that we may care more deeply for your Earth.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Rt Revd Graham Usher  
Bishop of Norwich and Lead Bishop on the Environment**

Heavenly Father,  
You have taught us, through your servant St Francis,  
That all creation is your handiwork.  
Grant us your grace that we may  
Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth;  
Tread lightly upon it;  
And cherish its resources;  
That our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations,  
And your name be glorified through all that you have made.  
Amen.

**Rt Revd David Walker, Bishop of Manchester**

God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved,  
open the eyes of your people,  
that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet.  
Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.  
Amen.

**Rt Revd Nicholas Baines**  
**Bishop of Leeds**

Eternal God,  
whose Spirit moved over the face of the deep bringing forth light and  
life;  
by that same Spirit, renew your creation, and restore your image in  
your people.  
Turn us from careless tenants to faithful stewards,  
that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure water and rich earth  
may be the inheritance of everything that has the breath of life  
and one generation may proclaim to another the wonder of your  
works;  
through Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
in whom the fullness of your glory is revealed.  
Amen.

**Rt Revd Libby Lane**  
**Bishop of Derby**

Lord Jesus,  
the earth is yours and you have commanded the winds and the sea;  
help us to leave behind our consumer demand for plastics and move  
towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy;  
help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love.  
Amen.

**Rt Revd David Urquhart**  
**Bishop of Birmingham**

Creator God,  
Thank you for the waters of the earth,  
for the life-sustaining rains,  
lakes, and deep oceans.  
Keep us mindful of how precious these are,  
and how vulnerable they are.  
Help us to work together for clean water,  
and for the sharing of it with those who have need of it today.  
Amen.

**Rt Revd Christine Hardman, Former Bishop of Newcastle**

Creator of our common home,  
You fill the earth and sea and sky with life  
Forgive us our neglect of your creation  
The choking waste of our pollution  
The damage done by careless habits  
And our indifference to future generations.  
Help us to amend our lives  
To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it  
To lift our voice for lasting change  
And to live well and gently on the earth  
To the glory of your Son, the Living Word  
Through whom you made this fragile world.  
Amen.

**Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford**

Everlasting God  
whose Spirit broods everlastingly over the lands and the waters,  
and endows them with form and colour:  
give us, we pray, the mind and heart  
to rejoice in the majesty of creation.  
Teach us to be responsible stewards of this world  
and to seek the common good,  
that through your blessing all may flourish,

and creation sing your praise  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Rt Revd Robert Atwell**

**Bishop of Exeter and Chair of the Liturgical Commission**

God our Father,

As we celebrate the beauty and diversity of your creation,  
we are truly sorry for our consumerism and wastefulness.

Have mercy on us for contaminating the Earth with billions of tons of  
plastic waste.

Please give each one of us the desire and the means to put things  
right;

no longer trusting in ourselves but in your grace and wisdom alone.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour,

Amen

**Revd Arthur Champion**

**Former Environment Officer, Diocese of Gloucester**

Creator God,

We acknowledge that as your handiwork,  
we stand alongside all that you have made.

Trees and rivers, mountains and valleys,  
soaring birds and scuttling creatures,  
all are held within your care.

May we grow in our love and appreciation  
for the fabulous variety around us;  
and may our awe and wonder draw us closer  
to the natural world, and through it to you,  
the God of all things.

We pray in Jesus name,

Amen

**Revd Cate Williams**

**Environment Officer, Diocese of Gloucester**



dreamstime.com

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Many of our clothes contain plastics like polyester, nylon, acrylic and polyamide. In fact, most new fabrics are made of plastic – up to 64% of them.

The thing is, every time we wash these materials they shed millions of plastic microfibrils. Threads so small they can drain out of our washing machines and pass straight through wastewater treatment plants into the sea.

It gets worse. Once in our oceans, they can absorb nasty chemicals. Disturbingly, sea creatures are eating these toxic fibres, potentially passing them up the food chain. Some studies have found them in seafood like mussels.

If you don't like the idea of eating your own clothes, we need to find alternatives to using plastic.

To read the rest of this article visit <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics/microfibrils-plastic-in-our-clothes>

# WALL NEWS

## News from Wall W I.

It has been sometime since I wrote about how the Wall W.I. is going and what is happening.

We all have a story how Covid has affected the lives of many of us, but we are well and enjoying our meetings. We did begin again in 2021 so sometime now and even though we are small in numbers, we are back into the swing of things. Enjoying our meetings in the afternoon of the second Tuesday in the month. We decided to change from evenings to afternoons as it suited many of our members.

Our speakers have been varied each month, from woodland coppicing to maids for Lords and Ladies etc. We enjoy a luncheon out once a month and many of us are excellent crafters.

This month May saw the Coronation of our new King Charles 111, and we had our own afternoon tea to celebrate. The room was bedecked in flags and buntings fortunately for us, that had been left following the weekend event in the village hall. We had a good tea and fellowship and wished our new King a Happy and Glorious Reign.

We also elected our Committee members for another year and voted on the W.I.'s Resolution to make safe our Rivers and Waterways for bathing etc... which Resolution will now be passed together with all the other W.I.'s in England and Wales to the Annual A.G.M. in Cardiff in June and then onto our Government.

Next month 13<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00 pm our speaker will talk on the Pickwood Bicycle Club.

Visitors are always welcome and new members too.

*Margaret Wilcox*

## PROVERBS

### PRAYERS

#### 12:10

Good people take good care of their animals, but the wicked know only how to be cruel. (*Easy Read Version*)

The righteous person looks out for the welfare of his livestock, but even the compassion of the wicked is cruel. (*International Standard Version*)



#### 27:18a

Take care of a fig tree and you will have figs to eat. (*Good News Translation*)

#### 27:23

Pay careful attention to your flocks,  
and see to the welfare of your herds (*The Voice*)

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. (*King James Version*)

#### 1:32

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. (*King James Version*)

Indeed, the waywardness of the naïve will kill them,  
and the complacency of fools will destroy them.  
(*International Standard Version*)



## Genesis 1:27-29

### King James Version

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish the earth**, and subdue it: and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

### The Voice

Then God blessed them and gave them *this directive*: “Be fruitful and multiply. Populate the earth. *I make you trustees of My estate*, so care for My creation and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that roams across the earth.”

## Colossians 1:15-17

### The Supremacy of Christ

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Creator God, thank You for all that you have created, the things that we can see here on Earth and all that we cannot see in Your universe. Only you can have complete dominion over your creation, we are your servants and you asked us to replenish the earth, caring for it as a benevolent ruler should care for his people.

I am sorry that mankind has twisted your words in order to make profit from your creation and in the process damaging it beyond recognition. We continue to behave foolishly and close our eyes to the harm we are doing.

Send your Spirit to guide us so that we can make amends and do what is right for your creation.

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 the pages are turned twice a week, so that names are visible through the glass on the date of their death. It costs £10 to insert a name.

Please complete this form and return it to

✉ Parish Office, St Michael's Church, Church Street, Lichfield, WS13 6ED

✉ office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

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'

If you wish to pay by bank transfer the details are

Bank: Lloyds

Sort Code: 30 95 04

Account Number: 00114488

Please label your payment: **MEMBOOK** follow by your surname

# *From the Registers*

<b>Baptisms</b>		
St Michael's	30th April	Maggie Brown
St Michael's	30th April	Sydni Doyle
St Michael's	30th April	Franklin Doyle

<b>Weddings</b>		
St Michael's	22nd April	Simon Weldon and Stacey

<b>Funerals</b>		
St Michael's	27th April	Phillip Goodwin (interment of ashes)
St Michael's	4th May	Jude Keogh (interment of ashes)

## **FLOODLIGHTING**

Sponsor St Michael's floodlights to mark a special occasion or remember a loved one! Your donation will brighten up the skies over Lichfield for the night.

**Contact the United Benefice Office on 01543 262211**



## RAMBLE SCRAMBLE???

An (ANONYMOUS] church's intrepid walking group were taking an invigorating afternoon's ramble through Hopwas Woods.

The group's leaders had packed a rucksack with everything the group might need for an enjoyable, and safe, afternoon's ramble, quite a lot of items but then this is England with our variable weather!!



A short distance into the ramble one of the leaders slipped and lost their footing on a slippery, mossy bank, spilling the contents of the rucksack across quite a wide area.

A thorough search was undertaken by the group and most of the spilled items were recovered. Can you help the group check that all their spilled items were recovered so that they could continue their ramble safely?

The items, obviously quite mixed up, are listed on the next page – can you unscramble them to enable a thorough inventory to be made

before setting off on the remainder of the afternoon's ramble?



- 1.] SLEKAFTAFO            \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_
- 2]. KPSRESACSO        \_\_\_\_\_
- 3]. NARSUMEC            \_\_\_\_\_
- 4]. RATNIDNSASAEI      \_\_\_\_\_
- 5]. TNRESACTLECENA    \_\_\_\_\_
- 6]. SGRNGIBCSITUESI    \_\_\_\_\_
- 7]. TWLOHYLOAO        \_\_\_\_\_
- 8]. OHCNOP              \_\_\_\_\_
- 9]. LEWTTRBTEOTA        \_\_\_\_\_

The **Closing date** for entries is the **23<sup>rd</sup>. JULY 2023**: all **CORRECT** answers will be put into my bucket hat and the first to be pulled out will win an appropriate ***National Trust branded*** prize.

Enjoy and **GOOD LUCK!!!**

**EDITOR'SDISCLAIMER!!!**

This brainteaser is by no means based on, or a reflection on, the organisation and/or safety of the St Michael's Church Walking Group.

**(The correct answers will appear in the August edition of the Church magazine)**

# Bible Readings

**Sunday 2nd July**

**Peter and Paul Apostles**

**[Red]**

Zechariah 4.1-6a, 10b—end

Matthew 16.13-19

**Sunday 9th July**

**5th Sunday after Trinity**

**[Green]**

Romans 7.15.25a

Matthew 11.16-19,25-end

**Sunday 16th July**

**6th Sunday after Trinity**

**[Green]**

Romans 8.1-11

Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

**Sunday 16th July**

**5th Sunday after Trinity**

**EVENSONG**

**[Green]**

2 Samuel 7.18-end

Luke 19.41.20.8

**Sunday 23rd July**

**Mary Magdalene**

**[Red]**

Song of Solomon 3.1-4

John 20.1-2,11-18

**Sunday 30th July**

**8th Sunday after Trinity**

**[Green]**

Romans 8.26-end

Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

**Sunday 6th August**

**Transfiguration of our Lord**

**[White]**

Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

Luke 9.28-36

**Sunday 13th August**

**The Blessed Virgin Mary**

**[White]**

Revelation 11.9-12.6, 10

Luke 1.46-55



# St Michael's Rota – July 2023

## And Finally

## The answers to last months Leafy Letters are

Ash, Elder, Yew, Elm, Sycamore, Lime, Hawthorn, Oak, Spruce, Apple, Pine, Beech

Congratulations to everyone who got these correct!


**Editor**

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