

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
August 2023

Be still and
know that
I am God

Psalm 46:10

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

£1

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<p>United Benefice Office</p> <p>St Michael's Church, Church St, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6ED</p> <p>Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri CLOSED Thursdays</p> <p>9.00 am to 12.00 noon.</p> <p>Tel: 01543 262211</p> <p>E-mail: office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</p>	<p>SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>FOR ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN</p> <p>Maureen Brand</p> <p>01543 264880</p> <p>For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.</p>
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Reflection.....

Let me set the scene.....

I'm sitting still, looking out of the window ahead of me. Sheep wander slowly, one behind the other, on the brow of the hill that is on my horizon. The chattering of birds in the surrounding trees and shrubs, accompanied by the bleating of yet more sheep in the neighbouring field, form the audio track. Rural noises, occasionally disrupted by indistinct traffic sounds or the odd roar of engines lagging behind the faster-than-sound fighter planes as they practise low level flying – the 'Mach Loop'. Even that, loud but fleeting, doesn't disturb the peacefulness of just sitting.

You've probably worked out that I'm writing this while on holiday! And to be honest a lot of my holiday activity isn't particularly sedentary – we walk a lot, especially with an 8 month old puppy! I also know that I have the good fortune to be able to afford the time (a joy of retirement) and the cost of going away on holiday – which isn't true for many. But there is something incredibly important about being able to take time out of the normal routine, to stop a while and be still. And so, from my moments of stillness on this holiday, I'd like to share two reflections - on stillness and on balance.

For many people the words of psalm 46:10 are very familiar – 'be still and know that I am God'. Words that provide comfort, offer consolation and hope. Words that we might turn to in times of need, when all else seems out of control. Interestingly the words of this psalm were written in a time of chaos, trouble and war. Being still in this context was definitely not about seeking quietness but more about letting go. When our lives become overburdened and chaotic it

is easy to respond in a chaotic way and try frantically to control the situations we find ourselves in. Here the words 'be still' can encourage a sense of stopping our frantic activity, letting go of trusting in ourselves, and discover again that God is there with us, that in fact God never went away! Whether life is just terribly busy or is troubled and confusing (or both) I hope that you might find hope, rest, and the chance to be still for a while and let God in.

My other thought is about balance. Everyone says that when you retire you'll be busier than ever – and they're right! In retirement, as in any of the life-stages we go through, it can be all too easy to find that one thing takes up more time than everything else. The demands of work/family/illness – in fact any of the different aspects of just living – can feel overwhelming. And it's easy to begin to feel guilty when you want, or need, to make time for yourself. There are precedents to do just that however. Jesus in the gospel accounts wasn't continually preaching and healing - he took time to eat with friends, to find quiet places to stop and pray, to spend time with God. These things were important, and probably energised Jesus for the other areas of his life and ministry. A balanced approach to life. Monastic orders such as the Benedictine order have built into their very being a balance between prayer, study and work. Of course we all know this, but how easy is it to put into practice? How often do we put ourselves second and the needs of others first? Yes we are called to serve. But we are also called to 'be'. If nothing else, making the time to sit still – be it at home or on holiday – can help us regain that sense of balance and maybe, again, to let God in.

Wishing you all peace,
Kareen
(In Wales)

PSALM 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ 'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Be Still

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

6th August

10am St Michael's



First Steps

Monday 7th August

10am—11.30am

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on

SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome



Deadlines!

For September Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 13th August

Please send articles to David Shiel

AND the Parish Office

shielfamily@gmail.com

office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

Pew Sheet:
every Thursday

7:30am

Contact
Parish Office



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

UN Security Council adopts Bishop's recommendations on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Bishop and Minister welcome UN Security Council's adoption of UK Government resolution on Freedom of Religion or Belief

The Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen, has welcomed the UN Security Council's adoption of a joint UK / UAE Government resolution highlighting threats to Freedom of Religion or Belief.

The steps taken by the UK Government followed a review authored by Bishop Philip at the invitation of the then Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, the implementation of which has since become Government Policy. In a vote, the Security Council adopted the proposal, which will see the UN Secretary General produce an oral report on Freedom of Religion or Belief related threats to international peace and security. The initial deadline is 14th June 2024, with the intention of such a statement becoming an annual event.

Bishop Philip welcomed the vote, saying: "I'm delighted by this news of the implementation of one of the key recommendations of the



Truro Review - especially in the light of the fact that last year it was deemed unlikely that any Security Council Resolution on Freedom of Religion or Belief would be possible.”

“That it’s happened is huge credit to the UK’s UN team and speaks volumes of the UK’s commitment to this vital human right. This, along with other recent actions, puts this issue firmly on the international geo-political table.”

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt said: "I’m proud and delighted to see this key recommendation of Bishop Philip’s report implemented and send my warm congratulations to the UK team at the UN on their very impressive work."

The action taken by the British government is the first time a Security Council Resolution has been passed on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and puts in place Recommendation 20 of the Truro Independent Review:

The FCO to use the United Kingdom’s position, as a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council, to seek a Security Council Resolution to call on all governments in the MENA Region to:

- a. ensure the protection and security of Christians, and other faith minorities, in their respective countries;*
- b. facilitate the establishment of security and protection arrangements for Christians, and other faith minorities, within the legal and governance structure of their respective countries;*
- c. permit United Nations observers to monitor the protection and security arrangements for Christians and other faith minorities in their respective countries.*

FCO also to consider taking a similar approach for other regions as appropriate

LEAD BISHOP FOR HOUSING BACKS PRINCE OF WALES HOMELESSNESS PROJECT

Published 26/06/2023

Church of England's lead bishop for housing Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani backs Prince of Wales bid to end homelessness.



The Church of England's lead bishop for housing Dr Guli Francis-Deqhani, has welcomed the launch of the five-year *Homewards* project by the Prince of Wales to end long term homelessness.

"I am delighted to see the personal commitment the Prince of Wales has made to ending homelessness," she said.

"Across the Church of England we share this desire to tackle the underlying causes as well as supporting those in crisis.

"The leadership of the Prince of Wales will undoubtedly have a tangible impact; his determination to address this crisis will be welcomed by churches up and down the country who are on the front line of supporting those experiencing homelessness.

"Ending homelessness does indeed require a societal response, and we will play our part.

"The *Coming Home* report from the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community set out the role that the Church can play in addressing a lack of truly affordable and high quality housing - a major factor behind homelessness.

"We are working to bring about that vision, and are grateful for the wisdom and encouragement from the Duchy of Cornwall and Royal Foundation.

"Good homes provide a foundation for communities where everyone can flourish. Together we have substantial resources to bring to bear, and so we look forward to adding our support to the Prince of Wales as he leads on this vital issue."



DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

Bishop leads on the Methodist connection

Published: 29th June 2023

I write this blog whilst at the Methodist Conference, held this year in Birmingham. I am here because I am the 'lead bishop' for the Church of England's relations with the Methodist Church. I have a personal interest as someone who was baptised in a Methodist church and whose family, on my father's side, were committed Methodists. Like many, I am a great admirer of the Wesley brothers' warm and generous passion for the gospel.

The Conference is the body that sets policy for the Methodist church. In many ways it is like the General Synod of the Church of England. Indeed, the similarities are marked and many of the issues discussed are common to both our churches, as are the challenges and opportunities.

Significant theological and practical differences remain but there is a great deal more that unites us than divides us as churches. This is the experience of many 'on the ground' in parishes, chapels, circuits and



deaneries where Anglicans and Methodists work closely together, not least since the establishment of Anglican-Methodist Covenant in 2003.

And what is true of relations between Anglicans and Methodists is true of our relationships with other churches. As Christians of different denominations, we have come a long way from the days of suspicion and competition. We recognise one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. There are good relationships and active local groups of Christians of all traditions meeting and praying together. We have found ways of working together in mission through joint projects such as food banks, Passion plays (such as those held this year in Stafford and Leek) and Street Pastors.

And yet... We still must hear the challenge of Jesus' own prayer to the Father for his church on the night before his crucifixion: "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." Unity amongst all God's people is no optional 'nice to have'. It appears to be fundamental, reflecting the very nature and character of God and God's purposes for the world. The continuing divisions within Christ's church are a scandal, a stumbling block. We are to be one, says Jesus "so that the world may believe that you have sent me." We must be one so that the world will believe. The corollary of that being if we are not one the world will not believe. We rejoice at how far we have come but know there is much still to do.

We commit ourselves to working where we can, when we can, with sisters and brothers from other denominations, not as some add-on to the rest of our work as a churches but in obedience to Jesus' desire that all those who have heard the message and believe may be one so that the world may believe.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

In June we met Marion Standing at Erasmus Darwin's House where she talked about Dr. Darwin and his use of herbal remedies. He was a respected doctor who was always seeking more knowledge to alleviate pain and suffering. In those times it was thought that illness had to be evacuated from the body through blood-letting, vomiting or faeces. Methods which could make the patient weaker, maybe more ill. Erasmus turned to growing and using herbs, even cleverly administering opium, grain by grain.



The Garden Heritage Group acknowledges part of the garden as "Dr. Darwin's Medicine Chest" The rest is a culinary garden and everything is clearly labelled with name and uses. There are even some plants grown for making dyes. Sheltered by the surrounding houses it enjoys a beneficial micro-climate and when we visited the display of climbing roses was beautiful and very fragrant.

Marion then showed us how she and her team are replacing many plants around the Cathedral with more suitable, often medieval ones which have connections with the Virgin Mary.

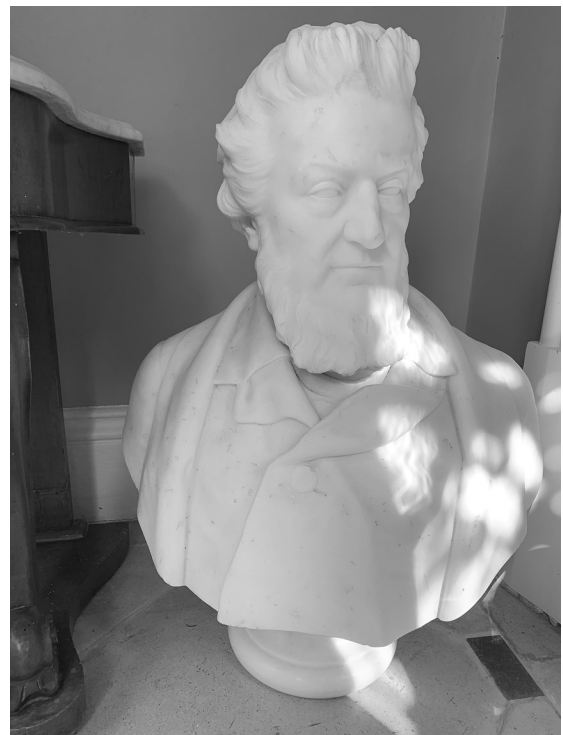
After our tour we had tea and scones in the nearby café (if it is M.U. there must be tea). A warning to anyone with a small appetite. Take a doggy bag and bring home half of your scone for later. They were ENORMOUS.

At the end of the month we met for a service and in July it was time for our annual strawberry tea. More manageably sized scones made by a member's husband (can we clone him?) with strawberries and shortbread. We hope to have an outing in August and---of course--- there will be refreshments, maybe more scones. We could say we are doing a scone survey.

Betty Lyne

Revd John Louis Petit

This marble bust of the Revd John Louis Petit was prepared by the well-known sculptor Mary Grant and is dated 1891. It is known that she prepared an earlier version, a half-sculpture [ie flat against the wall] in the 1870s but this has yet to be found. This is a remarkable discovery, part of the on-going quest for more information about this important figure.



Dr Trevor James

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are
available on request

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION!

This summer 15 people from the benefice have been confirmed over 2 services. Confirmation is when people make for themselves the vows of their baptism, that were often made on their behalf by their parents and godparents. The bishop then prays to “confirm” the holy spirit on them and anoints them with holy oil. It is a really precious moment in the Christian journey – a chance to declare your faith in the presence of your family, friends and community and for us to celebrate it together.

The first service was our School Confirmation Service at St Michael’s Church. We had 9 candidates from St Michael’s Church and 2 candidates from Wall parish. The second service was our Deanery Confirmation Service at St Chad’s Church. There were 4 candidates – 2 adults and 2 young people. Both services were joyful and moving and a cause of celebration in the benefice!





WALKING GROUP

HAWKS GREEN NATURE RESERVE—Leader, Angie King

Date: Saturday 19th August 2023

Start: 10.30 a.m.

Meeting point ; Newhall Farm Pub, Lichfield Road, Cannock
WS11 8NL

Walk terrain Details;

The walk follows a number of green corridors through an area of housing to reach the Nature Reserve which we will then walk through as we return to the pub. Paths are a mixture of hardcore and woodland trails, so shoes with sturdy soles are recommended.

The walk takes about 1hr to 1 1/2 hrs -

I have initially booked a table for 8 indoors at Newhall Farm Pub. Dog walkers can eat indoors in a separate section of the pub, so please let me know if you would like to join us in that area and I will increase the size of the 'doggy' table that I have booked for us.

I'd be grateful if you could let me know if you plan to come so that we don't set off without you.

Angie King

beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com

01543 262211

07907 691053



Review of The Junior Choir Concert

Rows of happy smiling faces, the church full of joyful music, cheers and applause - yes it was the Junior Choir Concert. What an enjoyable evening, followed by a delicious barbecue outside in the churchyard!

The Choir sang out wonderfully, full of enthusiasm. This is the result of their dedication and the leadership, teaching, and guidance of a great team of people.

Our thanks must go to Dudley Ray and all the Choir members. Also, we should not forget the parents who have supported them through hours of practice.

For Junior children it was a demanding programme, which they performed brilliantly.

Some of the items were written/ arranged by Peter Hawksworth - "Oh Love that will not let me go" "Enchanted" and one I am sure we all loved "The Lord's Prayer".

My personal favourite was "I love the mountains" which I had never heard before. It was sung very joyfully.

Many congratulations and thanks for a wonderful evening!

Lesley Allen



SUPPORTING LICHFIELD FOODBANK

Thank you very much to all of you who faithfully support us week in and week out. We really appreciate your donations as we are in constant need of food. We are now giving out 200 food parcels every week, which is around two tonnes of food every seven days.

For those of you who don't already support us, but would like to, the best way to help is to donate food physically, either through St Michael's Church, or via the collection basket in the main supermarkets (Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons and the Co-op).

Some of you may prefer to donate money to us. We are having to buy between £1000 and £1500 of food every week to keep our services going – despite the generosity of people donating physically.

You can donate by bank transfer to:

- Account: Lichfield foodbank
- Sort code: 77-75-28
- A/C 01051868

For gifts by JustGiving or by cheque, using Gift Aid or Standing Order, please visit our website www.lichfield.foodbank.org.uk

Thank you for helping those in need in our community.

David

David Clarke
Operations Manager,
Lichfield foodbank



Family Film Club

at St Michael's Church

FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS

Doors open at 10.30am

Super Mario Bros

(2023, PG, 1h 32 Animation/Comedy/Adventure)

A plumber named Mario travels through an underground labyrinth with his brother, Luigi, trying to save a captured princess. .

Tues 29th August 11am start

FREE SANDWICH LUNCH

All welcome.



Film Club

at St Michael's Church

FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS

Doors open at 2pm

Matilda

(1996, PG, 1h 38 Family/Comedy/Fantasy)

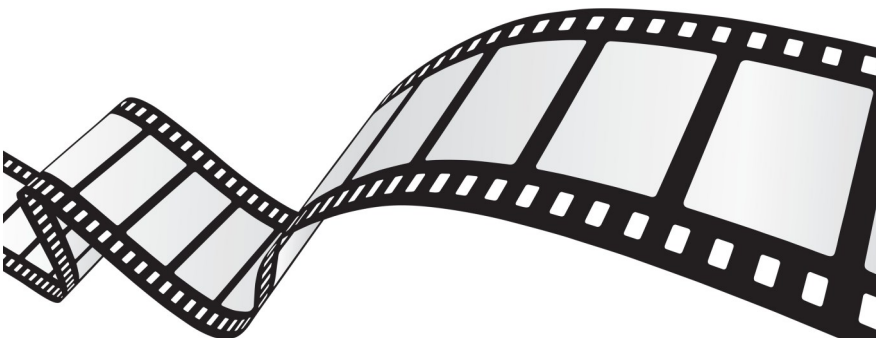
A girl gifted with a keen intellect and psychic powers uses both to deal with her crude, distant family and free her kind teacher from their sadistic headmistress.

Mon 7th August 2.30pm start

Tea/Coffee and Cake will be served

at the interval

All welcome.



Save the Date:

Next Film Club

4th August

A hideous and unnecessary aftergrowth...so substantial a deformity.

St Michael's Church restoration of the 1840s

When first built, the entirety of St. Michael's church had a height roughly equivalent to the height of the current chancel. By the time of the Reformation, the high clerestory windows had been added, and the height of the chancel increased. The 1833 view of the church from the north



shown in the picture shows the high line of the chancel - at the same level as the current nave. The original roof line can also be seen in the gable. Now a number of drawings exist in the William Salt library of the outside and the inside of the church in the mid-nineteenth century that are of some historical interest. From these it can be seen that at that time, there were box pews throughout the church, including part of the chancel. The main three decker pulpit and reading desk were situated in the south east corner of the chancel, near the current vestry door.

By 1841 however, it was clear that major work was needed on the church and in particular the chancel area. Part of the reason for this seems to have been the lack of care to maintenance given by the Dean and Chapter who were felt to have some responsibility as many of their endowments were within the parish. A request to them for support however seems to have had little effect and an appeal was

launched to finance the rebuilding. A church rate was also levied which was probably far from popular. The architect Thomas Johnson from St. John's Lodge was retained and drew up a list of urgent repairs. However, Johnson persuaded the Vestry to go much further and restore the church to the Early English style. In this the Vestry were much influenced by the banker Richard Greene, a churchwarden and also the secretary of the Lichfield Society for the Encouragement of Ecclesiastical Architecture, founded in 1841, which seems to have viewed the early English gothic style as the only acceptable style for churches.

The work that was carried out by a local builder, Mr. J Johnson from Wade Street, was extensive, and to allow this to take place the church was closed from Easter 1842 to July 1843, with the congregation worshipping in the chapel of St. John's Hospital. The roof of the centre aisle was completely replaced, and the roofs of the side aisles extensively repaired. The singer and musician's gallery at the west end of the church was taken down and the organ placed in the chancel. The door on the south side of the church was closed and replaced by a window, and a new north porch was added. Structurally unnecessary buttresses were added to the south aisle. The mausoleum of the Donegal family of Fisherwick Hall was replaced by a stokehole over which a clergy vestry was built with doors into the chancel and the south aisle; and an organ loft was built over the vestry.

But that was not the end of the matter, The next part of the church in line for restoration to the Early English style was the chancel and further work was carried out to the design of Sydney Smirke This part of the work amounted, in my totally objective and unprejudiced view, to large scale church vandalism, in the search to make the church

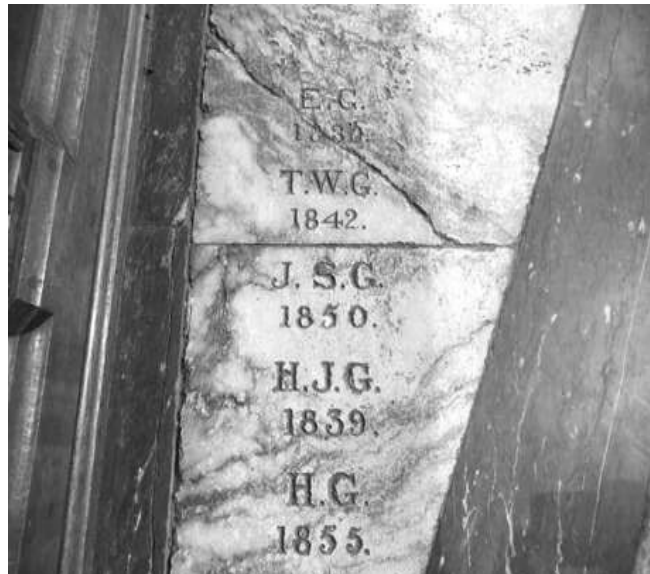
conform to a theoretical ideal. The chancel was lowered, with the upper row of windows removed, the walls-plastered and a fanned ceiling built. The side windows became single lancets and the east window was turned into a three-light window, presumably removing much medieval glass. The finished article can be seen from the inside and outside in the figures below.



An interesting illustration of the passions aroused by church architecture at the time can be found in a letter from Richard Greene, the churchwarden and banker mentioned above, to William Salt where he writes that Intends to remove the chancel clerestory, '*a hideous and unnecessary aftergrowth... so substantial a deformity*'. Such were the tastes of some of that time, odd as they might seem to us.

Richard Greene was to influence the rebuilding further. On the north wall of the chancel we find the memorial to his grandfather - Richard Greene, Surgeon and Antiquary (d 1793) who is buried in the Cathedral, and many of the younger Richard's family, who died in the

1830s and 1840s were interred in a tomb in the centre of the Chancel. The hater of the original chancel seems to have taken the opportunity of the rebuild he financed to install a family vault in the process.



Over the following decades the work of the 1840s came to be increasingly regretted. Major repair and restoration work was carried out in the 1890s, with cracks in the Tower being repaired, the lancet window at the west end being reopened, and much of the 1840s work on the chancel undone between 1891 and 1893. The plaster was taken off to reveal the stonework and the ceiling was replaced with an oak roof. The lancet windows at the east end were replaced by a new three light window, but it was not until 1897 that a new stained glass window could be afforded. and finally in 1899 the current clergy desks and choir stalls were added in the chancel, which then assumed its present form, which is very far from being “a hideous and unnecessary aftergrowth”!

Chris Baker

Royal Trees In The Churchyard

The Wild Service Tree, celebrating **the King's Coronation**, was planted by The Payback Team on Saturday June 3rd., 70 years and 1 day since the Queen's Coronation on June 2nd., 1953. Many thanks to all who made a donation towards the cost of the tree. Over £150 has been given.

The Coronation Tree joins 2 other Royal Trees in the Churchyard. On June 3rd., 2012, an **English Oak Tree** was planted to celebrate **Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee**; and then in December 2021 a **Hornbeam Tree** was planted ready for the start of the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. This tree was dedicated on Sunday 6th February 2022, exactly 70 years since she became Queen.

All 3 trees are growing well. Do have a look at them when you are in the Churchyard. To find them, go to the outside tap and walk for around 15 metres along the path that goes to the New Churchyard. Turn to your right and you will see the 3 Royal Trees.



The 3 Royal Trees.



The Platinum Jubilee
Hornbeam Tree.



The Coronation
Wild Service Tree.

The Diamond Jubilee Oak

St. Michael's Churchyard Working Party

I have decided to stand down as leader of the Churchyard Working Party, although I will be continuing as a member. The Working Party in its present form began in October, 2017. We have met on Saturday mornings on most of the months of the year working to improve the Old Churchyard by planting new young trees, making log piles, planting flowering plants in the 2 Church Tower beds and creating a new herb garden, as well as doing general maintenance work in lots of parts of the Churchyard. Many thanks to past and present working party members for all the work they have done.

Our next Working Party session will be on **Saturday September 16th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** Do come along and help us if you can. We are a small, friendly team. You will be made very welcome and tea/coffee and cake is provided during the Mid-Morning Break.

Ray Allen 01543 251654

H is for Hedge.

Our 9 acre churchyard has a variety of boundaries – a stone faced bank along the main road, brick wall by the old school, timber garden fencing, railings and wire fence – but the only living growing one is the hedgerow around the ‘new’ churchyard.

H is for Hawthorn.

The classic English hedge plant. In open ground it will be a small stout tree. Close planted and trained, it is robust enough keep cattle in their field. Spring is marked by the bright green leaves and frothy flowers, called ‘May’, part of our language. The mayflower signals warmer weather, so winter clothes can safely be stored – “Ne’er cast a clout till *may* be out”. It makes sense of the old song, “Gathering nuts in May”. You won’t find nuts at this time of year, but you can pick “knots (sprays) of may”. Autumn brings the deep red berries, “haws”.



H is for Holly.

The fiercely spiked leaves provide an evergreen part of our hedge, and fruit for birds. Holly berries are a prized part of our Christmas decorations, and make the chorus of the carol, “The holly and the ivy”. How many of your Christmas cards featured holly berries?

H is for Hazel.

Another tree which a hedger can lop into multi-stemmed dense growth. Long tailed catkins start to sprout as winter ends, before its leaves are out. Hazel does produce nuts.



H is for Hips.

The scarlet fruit of the pink and white rose which scrambles through the hedge. Rose hip syrup vanished from chemists as imported fruit and juices removed the risk of vitamin C deficiency from growing children.

(Have you noticed that our hedge gives girls' names? May, Holly, Hazel and Rose – and Ivy also flourishes there. Its tiny white flowers provide early nectar and the glossy dark berries support birds.)

H is for Highway.

The stretch of hedgerow is a sheltered track for birds, small mammals and insects. It can link isolated 'green islands' into a connected system.



H is for Hiding-place.

If you're a little creature, a hedge can make it harder for predators to spot you.



H is for Haven.

A mature hedge is a shelter from wind, and a shade from sun. Plants can avoid trampling and grow to set seed.

H is for Home.

It's where you need to live and be fed. Biologists call it 'Habitat'.

H is for Host.

Meaning

- 1) *SOMEONE WHO WELCOMES YOU.*
- 2) *A HUGE NUMBER.*

So,...

Our hedge is a *HOST* to a *HOST* of species.

Please enjoy it!

David Easton

Refugees

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries

Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way
(now read from bottom to top)

Brian Bilston

English poet, b. 1950



Staffordshire
Wildlife Trust

**LICHFIELD
WILDLIFE GROUP**



Bat Walk

**Led by Heather Lomas
in conjunction with SE Staffs Bat Group**

Saturday 26 August at 8:00 p.m.

Fisherwick Lakes, Fisherwick Wood Lane,

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Meet in the car park.

Free admission / Donations welcome

Please don't bring dogs.

Under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Contact (01543) 263082



www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup

WALL NEWS

AN INVITATION ON BEHALF OF WALL WI TO OUR MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, WALL FROM 2.00 PM

Wall WI hold their meetings at the Village Hall, Watling Street, Wall WS14 0AX on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm.

This year we want to support the Macmillan Cancer Charity and we would like to invite anyone who has a couple of hours to spare to join us for the afternoon.

We are a small WI group and would love to have some new members. You don't have to be able to make cakes, knit or sew but we would love you to come along, try us and enjoy our company!

We have very interesting people who give us a variety of talks and we always finish the meeting with a "CUPPA" of course.

If you would like further information, our Secretary, Gill Sweet, can be contacted on 07800 803 809. You can always just come along to a meeting; we will be pleased to see you.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US ON THE 12TH SEPTEMBER TO SUPPORT THIS WORTHWHILE CHARITY.

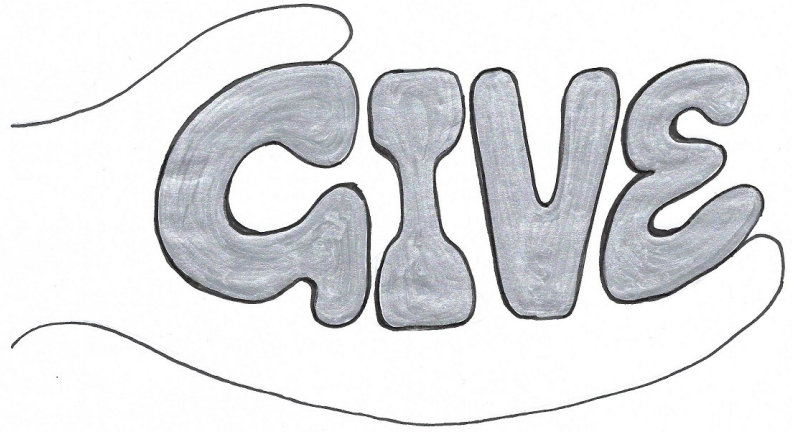
Wall WI

PROVERBS

PRAYERS

19:17

Caring for the poor
is lending to the Lord,
and you will be well
repaid. (CEV)



Mercy to the needy is a loan to God,
and God pays back those loans in full. (MSG)

21:13

If you refuse to listen to the cry of the poor, your own cry for help
will not be heard. (GNT)

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also himself shall
cry, and shall not be heard. (DARBY)

22:9

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

He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his
bread to the poor. (KJV)

13.23

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

Even when the land of the poor produces good crops, they get
cheated out of what they grow. (CEV)

31.20

She welcomes the poor. She helps the needy. (ICB)

TRADITIONAL PROVERBS

Charity is a matter of the heart not of the pocket.

Swahili Proverb

Charity supports both the giver and the receiver.

Swedish Proverb

The greatest charity is to enable the poor to earn a living.

Hebrew Proverb

Charity looks at the need and not at the cause.

German Proverb

Charity begins at home but should not end there.

Scottish Proverb

Where there is no love there is no charity.

Sicilian Proverb

Merciful God, you are full of compassion and love for us. Help us to share these feelings with all people in the same way that you show love and compassion to us. Jesus taught us that we must love everyone. Without love there is no compassion and generosity comes from compassion.

Lord, make our hearts compassionate towards others. Let us look upon the world and care for those who are in need. Help us rise to the challenge that you set before all of us, that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Send your Spirit to remind us that we must give what we can, whenever we can, to whoever we can, as often as we can, without ceasing, loving our neighbours as ourselves.

I ask this in Jesus' name

Amen.

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

Baptisms		
St Michael's	25th June	Matthew Hearnden
St Michael's	25th June	Ophelia Hearnden
St Michael's	25th June	Luna Pickering
St Michael's	28th June	Reuben Peart
St Michael's	28th June	Florence Peart
St Michael's	2nd July	Margot Edwards
St Michael's	2nd July	Freddie Williams

Weddings		
St Michael's	14th July	Laura Gentle & Nicholas Buxton

Funerals		
St Michael's	19th June	Brian Lakin (interment of ashes)
St Michael's	24th June	June Weedon (interment of ashes)
St Michael's	26th June	Martha Swift
St Michael's	28th June	Michael Beckett (interment of ashes)

Bible Readings

Sunday 6th August

Transfiguration of our Lord

[White]

Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

Luke 9.28-36

Sunday 27th August

12th Sunday after Trinity

[Green]

Isaiah 51.1-6

Matthew 16.13-20

Sunday 13th August

The Blessed Virgin Mary

[White]

Revelation 11.9-12.6, 10

Luke 1.46-55

Sunday 3rd September

13th Sunday after Trinity

[Green]

Romans 12.9-end

Matthew 16.21-end

Sunday 20th August

11th Sunday after Trinity

[Green]

Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15.[10-20]21-28

Sunday 10th September

13th Sunday after Trinity

[Green]

Romans 13.8-end

Matthew 18.15-20

Sunday 20th August

EVENSONG

11th Sunday after Trinity

[Green]

2 Kings 4.1-37

Acts 16.1-15



St Michael's Rota – August 2023

Sunday 08.00 am	6 August	13 August	20 August	27 August
Sidesperson	Brian Smith	Brian Smith	Brian Smith	Brian Smith

Sunday 10.00 am	6 August	13 August	20 August	27 August
	Family Praise			
Sidespersons	Maureen Brand David Bull	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Pat Toplis Mike Jones	Viv and Stephen Oliver
Reader		Mike Godfrey	Kay Martin	Brian Rostill
Servers		Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt	Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
Intercessor		Nigel Oakley	Ted Green	Brian Rostill
Coffee	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Brenda Eley Anne Whatson	Judy Godfrey Angela Burgess	June Frayn Betty Lyne
Healing				TBA

Sunday 6.00 pm	6 August	13 August	20 August	27 August
	No service	No service	Evening Prayer	No service
Sidesperson			Ray Allen	
Reader			Ray Allen	
Communion Assistant				

And Finally

Many a calm river begins as a turbulent waterfall, yet none hurtles and foams all the way to the sea

Russian poet **Mikhail Lermontov** reminds us that although things might seem tumultuous now, it won't be that way forever. The turbulence of a river fades as it flows, and many of life's troubles will lessen as they take their natural course.


Editor

ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

If you would like to advertise here, the prices per year are:

Full page	£280
Half Page	£150
Quarter Page	£85
Eighth Page	£50

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<p style="text-align: center;">St Michael's Church</p> <p>Vergers: Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</p> <p>Sacristan : Maggie Easton 255308</p> <p>Organist and Choirmaster: Dudley Ray 07847 643373 dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Music Group: Richard Brooks 07918 906 350</p> <p>Pastoral Care: June Frayn 264920</p> <p>Flowers: Brenda Liptrot 07980 011150</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p>Junior Praise: Viv Oliver 258054</p> <p>Bell ringers: Gillian Eastwood 07568134115 Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. gillieastwood@gmail.com</p> <p>Mothers Union: Elizabeth Allen 304938</p> <p>Social Team: Contact via the office 262211</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John's Church, Wall</p> <p>Vergers: Linda Rubisch 481294 Angie King office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: Steve Oliver 07872 673991 email: vivoliver@ntlworld.com</p> <p>Magazine Editor: <i>David Shiel</i> 01543320437" shielfamily@gmail.com</p>
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