

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

September 2022



Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist 21st Sept 2022

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

£1

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Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri **CLOSED** Thursdays

9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

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LARGE COPIES of the
magazine are available
on request

Reflection.....

About four years ago as I was working in my study sorting through papers and doing my least favourite job of filing, out of the blue, a memory of a story my father used to tell flashed into my mind.

The story was of how from the summer of 1946 onwards my father and his three brothers each day waited with trepidation for how their father returned home from work. If the front door was shut quietly and he strolled down the hall, then they would relax, but if he slammed the door so that the house shook, stormed into their living room and sat down at the piano, they kept out of the way until he had played his way through some dark and stormy Beethoven, some poignant Chopin and finally arrived at playing and singing cheeky, jolly Fats Waller songs. Then they knew it was safe to come out without feeling fearful of his temper. As I remembered this, I thought, "That is not normal behaviour!" And wondered why he had developed such a fearsome temper.

Grandpa had returned home from the war in June 1946, having been away since September 1939. He died of heart problems in 1955 aged 46 just 9 months before I was born. I grew up hearing many colourful stories about my grandfather - a larger than life character held in deep affection by those he left behind.....and yet there was this issue of his temper. What had happened to him?

The phrase "post traumatic stress disorder" was not known back in the 40's. "Shell shock" was seen as a sign of emotional cowardice and weakness, and no-one would want to admit to that. "Stiff upper lip" was the order of the day. So many service personnel and civilians had to keep quiet about what they endured.

I decided to apply to the Royal Navy Command for my grandfather's service record to see if that might give us a clue. The first 4 years of his record was either lost or destroyed, but from October 1943 until December 1944 he was stationed as an Ordinary Seaman at a succession of training bases before being made a Sub Lieutenant in Executive Special Branch stationed at Castle Toward on the west coast

of Scotland where the Combined Services (Army, Navy, RAF) were trained in handling landing craft such as were used in the D-Day landings and in landing troops behind enemy lines. At regular intervals he was 'stationed' at the Pay Records and Accounts Department in Largs for a few days or weeks at a time; I have discovered that was short-hand for him being away on "manoeuvres" somewhere. Was it behind enemy lines? What did he experience? Before he was posted to this work, it was noted on his service record that he was "A very sound, steady type who exercises a good influence." Yet, *that* seems to be at odds with the anger he was exhibiting after the war.

In his recent bestselling book "*The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind and Body in the Healing of Trauma*" scientist and therapist, Bessel van der Kolk, outlines 30 years of research by the scientific community on measuring the effect of trauma on a person and struggling to help patients into a range of treatments that help them develop new neural pathways to counteract the trauma. He writes: "New insights into our survival instincts explain why traumatized people experience incomprehensible anxiety and numbing and *intolerable rage*, and how trauma affects their capacity to concentrate, to remember, to form trusting relationships, and even to feel at home in their own bodies."

Mercifully, the advances in mental health mean that society now talks about those difficult things which previous generations did not. Several months ago, I met a former soldier who admitted that although he had been out of the army for 20 years, nevertheless the pandemic had triggered post traumatic stress disorder which he barely knew he had been carrying until then. Several months later, with the right help he is now back on an even keel. We know that "it is good to talk"; it helps us know we are not alone, we discover fresh perspectives on whatever we might struggle with, and we realise that every human being has struggles to a greater or lesser extent. How we need each other!

Helen Barton

LICHFIELD CHRISTIAN AID ACTION GROUP

BIG BREKKIE

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

On Saturday 17th September from 09.00 – 11.00 am Lichfield Christian Aid Action Group will be holding a Big Brekkie at the Methodist Church, Tamworth Street

Come and tuck in to a good breakfast on the eve of Christian Aid Week

We will be serving bacon rolls (and vegan sausages) muesli, yogurt, croissants, pastries and toast, (gluten-free alternatives available) and liberal supplies of Fairtrade tea and good coffee

All to support Christian Aid projects

Please do come and support – bring your family – meet your friends

Deadlines!

For **October** Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 11th September

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

MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Coffee Morning

Saturday 24th September

10am – 12noon

St Michael's Church

Have a coffee and cake
and donate to a great cause!



Festival Flowers

Patronal Festival - Thursday September 22nd from 11am

Harvest Festival - Saturday October 1st from 9.30am

We will be decorating St Michael's church on the above dates
and would welcome all who would like to help on either or
both of these mornings.

Many thanks

Anne Lingwood

St Michael's

Patronal

Sunday 25th September

10am Patronal Eucharist



**3pm Afternoon
Tea**

**4pm Patronal
Evensong**



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

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

6.30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday before 1st Sunday

7:30pm Music Group & 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 4th September

10am St Michael's



First Steps



Monday 5th September

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

In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.'

1 Peter 3:15

The 15th Lambeth Conference of bishops from across the Anglican Communion, with some ecumenical guests, is currently meeting in Canterbury. The focus of the conference is to discern the Holy Spirit's directing in exploring what it means to be 'God's Church for God's World', as we seek to walk, listen and witness together. This gathering offers an opportunity to listen to one another, learn from the diversity of our communities and our expressions of faith and to respond to the needs of our world. We are grounded, supported and strengthened each day by worship together and Bible study. The text for our study is 1 Peter, a book that deals with the realities of life whilst holding before us an inspiring vision of God's kingdom. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, Peter encourages us to live lives of witness, hope and holiness as children of God.

Walking, listening and witnessing is the call of all Christians, knowing that we are all equally known and loved by God, learning that peace and understanding between us can be found, even when we disagree, if we put Christ at the centre of our conversations. The Archbishop of York reminded us, in his address, that for Christians 'water is thicker than blood' – we are all bound together by the water of baptism, and we are all called to be 'living signposts', pointing people to Jesus, the source of our hope. God calls every person through his great love, so let us be people who help others to hear the good news of God, shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

+Sarah Shrewsbury



Image: Rt Revd Sarah Bullock, Bishop of Shrewsbury with Rt Revd Maria Grace Tazu Sasamori, the first female bishop in Japan.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

It is now a year since we took the decision to re-start our children's activities after 18 months of Coronavirus restrictions. We had really missed seeing all the children and their parents during those months, although we had tried to keep in touch by e-mail and Zoom Family Praise services. We could not wait to be able to welcome them back into the church building.



First Steps re-started in September 2021 with a bumper total of 18 children. Families were so keen to be back together after so long apart. Since then, numbers have fluctuated, as they always do with little



ones. We have seen some go off to nursery and others arrive, not least with a number of new babies joining us. We decided to continue in August and welcomed 15 children with their families, including older siblings who used to come to First Steps but have now moved on to nursery or school

Our wonderful helpers – Anne, Sandy and Maureen – have continued to do a sterling job with refreshments, crafts, colouring and following inquisitive toddlers around the church to make sure they come to no harm.

Messy Church also began in September and numbers have gradually built up again over the year. It was lovely to welcome back old friends as well as many new families. I led for the first term and then welcomed Alison Stevens as our new leader in January 2022. Alison is ably supported by a team of crafters and sandwich / cake makers and I find it amazing how smoothly everything runs on Sunday afternoons, with such a wide range of ages, abilities and interests!



Family Film Club

We decided to have a Family Film Club during the school holidays to

see if this would be popular. We showed Paddington 2 and welcomed nearly 50 children with their carers. Everyone had a great time, with popcorn, sweets and squash for the children and tea and biscuits for the adults and lots of fun for everyone. In the



current economic climate, we want to support families in any ways we can. This will definitely be repeated, so look out for details on our website – www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk and social media pages.

Ruth Bull



Some of you might know that Mike and I have been members of Lichfield Gospel choir for over 10 years.

This summer we were asked to take part in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth games as part of a massed choir which comprised of over 600 singers, taken from all parts of the West Midlands conurbation.

The whole process began at the start of May where we had to submit our individual applications and photographs for the necessary security checks which when approved, allowed us to collect our individual passes, enabling us to access the Alexander Stadium for our rehearsals and the actual ceremony on July 28th.

At the beginning of July we attended a huge convention centre in West Bromwich over 4 consecutive evenings where we had to record all the

songs that we would be performing on the actual evening – this was quite challenging as it was the week of the first heatwave!

The camaraderie was brilliant as it enabled us to get to know other choir members from around the West Midlands and share our mutual love of singing. We were conducted by our own musical director Themba Mvula who was responsible for leading all the choirs.

The week before the ceremony we attended 3 dress rehearsals to ensure that everything ‘would be alright on the night’ so this meant that we all had to be transported by coach to the stadium as access was restricted at this stage.

Alexander stadium looked quite splendid and the great number of volunteers helped to make the experience such a great occasion – nothing was too much trouble for them.



On the day of the opening ceremony, all performers had to arrive at the stadium by lunchtime even though the event did not start until 8pm - this was due to the high level of security and the whole area being 'locked in' until the doors actually opened to ticket holders.

The atmosphere buzzed with expectation, flags from the Commonwealth gently waved in the breeze and you could feel the sense of anticipation throughout the stadium.

At 8pm, the moment had arrived, and so it began!

Everything went like clockwork from the Red Arrows, to the entrance of the spectacular bull which was part of the rich heritage story of Birmingham.

Athletes from 54 countries and 18 territories proudly carried their flags to cheers and applause from a packed stadium.

These games gave all athletes the opportunity to celebrate it's diverse and multicultural identity before the world and included the largest – ever integrated programme of para – sport, as para – athletes competed on the same stages and over the same days.

The finale heard choirs accompanying Duran Duran in their medley of hits from the 80's and as the evening came to an end the sky was filled with a spectacular firework display.

As Mike and I were both born in Birmingham, it was a great privilege to take part in this fantastic event which showcased our home city and made us incredibly proud to be a pair of 'Brummies'.

Sue and Mike



learn, laugh, live

Several members of the congregation will recognise this as the motto of the u3a , sometimes known as the university of the third age. This year u3a is celebrating its 40th birthday. Founded in 1982 to encourage and promote life long learning and sharing of interest amongst retired people. It is a UK wide movement of locally run interest groups, all groups are run by the members, whether providing expertise, leading interest groups, making tea or using their homes for meetings.

I belong to Lichfield u3a, which was formed in 1994 and now has 600 members and 60 groups . There are a lot of groups to choose from eg art, history, book groups, various music groups, walking groups and many more. You can belong to as many groups as you wish or have time for!

I belong to one of the book groups, we currently have 9 members and meet once a month in one of our member's homes. We have read a huge range of books, had some very interesting discussions ,we don't always agree but that is part of belonging to a book group. I am always interested to learn what other people think of characters and plots.

I also belong to the hugely popular History Group. Talks are given each month by a speaker from the Tamworth u3a. We have looked at so many different aspect of history. It is a bit sobering to realise that a lot of modern history relates to the events of our own life time.

Lichfield u3a holds a general meeting and talk in the Guildhall at 2pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Anyone who would like to find out about joining or getting more information about us is welcome to come along as a guest.

The next meeting will be on September 14th and the talk will be 'the Antarctic, the coldest place on earth '. You will be made very welcome.

I would encourage anyone to join Lichfield u3a, it is a great way of learning new subjects, revisiting old skills or bringing a new skill to other people , keeping your brain and body active and most important of all an opportunity to make new friends. As with many social groups we gave each other a lot of support during lock downs, led by the committee and group leaders which was much appreciated.

If you would like more information or are interested in joining us, please visit the Lichfield u3a website or you are welcome to speak to me.

Brenda Liptrot

ST MICHAEL'S MU REPORT

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

Mother's Union will be holding their first meeting of " the new term" on Monday 26th September at 2-30 p.m. in church. This will take the form of a service and we are pleased that Abbie has agreed to take part.

Betty Lyne

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## Past, Present & Future: Transformation – Now!

*SUITABLE FOR ITS TIME: Bishop Emma Ineson reflects on learning from the past, living in the present and looking to the future*

There is a popular Chinese proverb that says that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now. That's also something of the sense behind the Mothers' Union vision for



2022, *Transformation – Now!* If we are to see transformation in the future, the time to start that process is now. To see something change, we need to bear in mind the past, present and future, thinking about how these three periods of time can work together.

All this should be very familiar to us as Christians. The bible is full of talk of how past, present and future are woven together in God's plans. Our God is the 'Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come' (Revelation 4:8). That's the wonderful thing about God – he has no beginning and no end; God spans time and space in a way that we mere mortals can never really get our limited human minds around. And yet God has made us with an innate sense of time. As the writer of Ecclesiastes puts it: 'He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end' (3:11). God wants his people to learn from the past. That theme comes across very strongly in the Old Testament when God was establishing his people in the Promised Land. They were called to remember the past and learn from it: 'Remember the long ways that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments' (Deuteronomy 8:2). But God does not want his people to dwell in the past, and the whole Bible has been described as having a 'forward-facing tilt', continually drawing us into the future God has for us with hope and confidence: 'I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?' (Isaiah 43:19). Past, present, future. Perhaps God wants his people to learn from the past, live in the present and look to the future.

What might this mean for Mothers' Union 2022 and beyond. Mothers' Union as an organisation has a rich past, for which we give great thanks, learning from our incredible forebears like Mary Sumner, who can teach us how to approach the challenges of now. I am constantly

amazed at how the words and work of Mary Sumner are still relevant for our present situation. We give thanks for the present, for our fellow members, our leaders, trustees and presidents. We embrace the vision God has given us to bring *Transformation – Now!* in ourselves, our churches and communities, and in our world. Mothers' Union is an organisation built on the past, relevant to now and looking to the future.

That's the transformation God longs to bring to each one of us. Because he is the God of yesterday, today and always, he is the one who is able to join the dots for us. We look back with thanks for his blessings, and bring him the pains and regrets of the past, trusting him to use both to make us who we are today. But he doesn't leave us there. God calls each one of us forward into the exciting future he has for us – unknown to us now but known to our loving God who has gone before us and holds our hands. UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld once said: 'For all that has been, thanks. To all that shall be, yes'. May that be our prayer in 2022 and beyond. *(the above article taken from the MU Spring 2022 magazine CONNECTED)*

## **Re-imagining MU**

Earlier in the year, branches in the whole of Lichfield diocese were encouraged to take part in the exercise 'Re-imagining MU' when we discussed and answered the questions supplied to help those at head office – Mary Sumner House in London - and its Trustees, perceive and understand what members felt about MU, its strengths and weaknesses, what changes may be needed to secure a sustainable future and how best to move forward as part of the Transformation – Now! theme.

Our responses and those of other branches were sent to MSH who collated them and brought them to the Re-imagining Conference recently held, the result of which was an e-newsletter laying out proposals and ideas for the future beginning with three actions/

changes to start our Transformation journey here in Lichfield diocese.

A copy of this newsletter has been placed on the MU board at the back of church and another copy can be found on the cupboard top also at the back of church.

*Elizabeth Allen*

Finally a prayer taken from an article in 'Connected' magazine which was written for members to use during the process of re-imagining MU. Others could also use and add to the prayer to reflect hopes for transformation in their own particular context.

**Gracious God, we put our trust in you.**

**Give us open hearts and minds to discern your perfect direction for our Mothers' Union**

**Affirm us in your love that we may be bold to seek your face**

**Strengthen us with resolve to embrace new ways with confidence**

**Unite us in heart and mind that we may move forward with gladness**

**Inspire us in our faith that all things are possible with God**

**Transform us into a people empowered by the Spirit, overflowing with hope, to effectively serve our communities. Amen**

## **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

Please contact the office

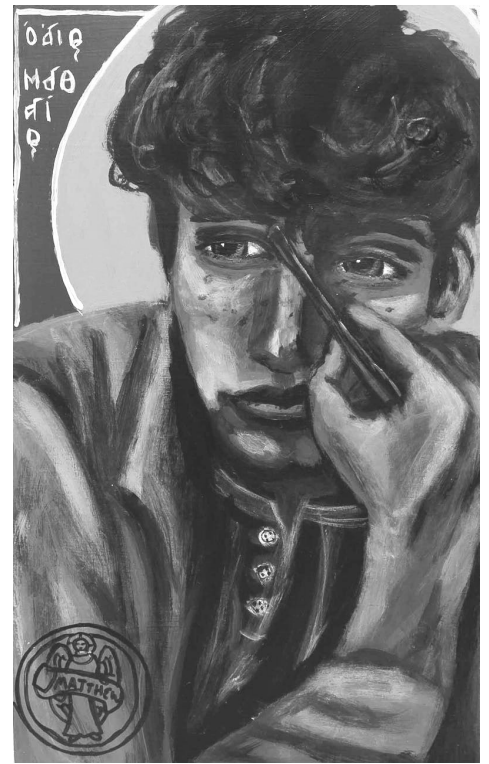
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## Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Matthew appears in the list of the twelve apostles of Jesus and, according to the gospel written under his name, was a tax collector. Mark and Luke called the tax collector Levi, and it has been assumed that they are one and the same. This occupation was despised by his fellow Jews as a betrayal to the occupying Roman force but Christ showed that judging by outward appearance was not what he was about. He ate with Matthew and with his friends, scandalising those around him. Matthew affirmed that his life would now change because of following Jesus, and that he would make amends for any former wrongdoing. This was enough for Jesus, for he had drawn someone back to God. He was forgiven, therefore he was acceptable, therefore he was received.

*From 'Exalting Holiness' published by Canterbury Press*



Painting by Gracie  
Morbitzer  
visit

[https://www.etsy.com/  
uk/shop/  
GracieMorbitzer](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/GracieMorbitzer)  
*The Modern Saints*

### 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**



# ***Film Club***

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

***FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS***

***Doors open at 2pm***

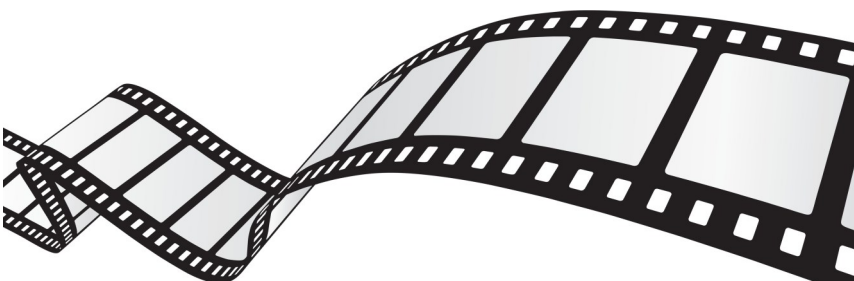
## **DOWNTON ABBEY: A NEW ERA**

*(2022, PG, 2h 4m Drama/Romance )*

The Crawley family goes on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.

**Mon 5th September 2.30pm start**

**Tea/Coffee and Cake will be served  
at the interval  
All welcome.**



**Save the Date:**  
Next Film Club  
October 3rd

# St Michael's Historic Clock has returned!

Monday 1st August saw the return from the clock restorers of St Michael's Tower Clock. Two technicians from Smith's of Derby spent that day and most of Tuesday reinstalling the clock in the tower.



Smith's of Derby are the continuing business of John Whitehurst, the nationally known Derby clockmaker, who created our clock in 1814. The funding of the refurbishment has been funded by a grant of £2,500 from St Michael's Trust and a generous grant of £2,000 from the Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust, together with private donations from the congregation.

We do need now to keep it fully wound up and Dudley Ray and Richard Brookes have kindly volunteered to do this. We need to keep it continuously operational for six months to check that it is functioning properly.



This is a preliminary stage towards our final goal which is electrification. This can only happen when everyone is sure that the mechanism is running smoothly.

Discussions are underway to secure the necessary permission for the modification and to raise the necessary funds.

*Photos by Ron Plimmer  
and Angie King*

*Trevor James*

# Environmentally Friendly Stuff

## *Let's try and get the Silver Eco Award*



I know this is a simple question but, what do we mean by reuse?

**Reuse** is the action or practice of giving away, selling or swapping items so that an unwanted thing can continue to be used, whether for its original purpose (conventional reuse) or to fulfil a different function (creative reuse/ upcycling or repurposing).

Here's 2 simple examples of repurposing

1. Don't throw away rubber gloves that have worn out at the finger tip. Cut strips from the cuff downwards to make strong (and free) rubber bands.

ALSO—To make rubber gloves last longer—before you use them turn them inside out and stick a strip of sticking plaster across the top of each finger. *Thanks to Ron Plimmer for these ideas from his book 'Tips and Wrinkles'*



2. Save toilet roll cardboard inner tubes. Tape them together to create a storage system for cables, headphones and any wires that instantly turn into a tangled mass of spaghetti when you put them in a draw!! Visit this website for full instructions

<https://www.instructables.com/TP-Roll-Organizer-Box-instructable/>

*Angie King*

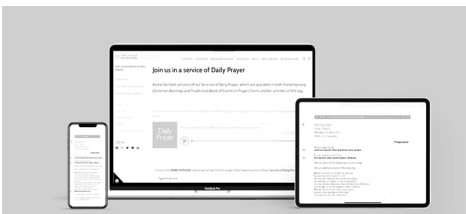
# Daily Prayer podcast celebrates 1,000th episode

News from



A free service bringing the ancient monastic cycle of daily prayer to millions of modern listeners has broadcast its 1,000th episode.

The Daily Prayer podcast, brings listeners together twice a day for the short traditional services of Morning and Evening. It is available both via the Daily Prayer app as well as all major podcasting platforms, was launched in March 2021. It has now been streamed more than four million times, with a monthly audience of 60,000 people.



The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: “Reaching 1000 episodes of Daily Prayer is an impressive milestone. Being able to participate in Daily Prayer through the app has been of great help and encouragement for many to begin, sustain or develop their life of prayer. I often hear of people who have found a rhythm of prayer by using it. I’d like to thank all those involved in bringing the services together each day.”

The services are usually led by the Revd Catherine Williams from Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, with readings recorded by people around the country and music from St Martin’s Voices in London. The 1,000th service fell on the Feast of Mary Magdalene (22 July) with readings, psalms, and music to mark the day.

Canon Simon Wilkinson was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2013. In the years that followed his diagnosis he continued turning to Matins and evensong to keep him “on track spiritually” – a pattern he said he followed ever since starting at Cuddesdon Theological College in the 1970s. “It was the bedrock of my spirituality along with the Eucharist



for all those 40 or so years,” he said.

On discovering the Church of England’s online Daily Prayer podcast, Simon expressed his relief at “not needing to carry so many bits of paper or books at the same time”, as he explained:

“I have found the whole experience to be transformative for me and for many others whom I have recommended doing the same thing. When I am particularly unwell, I am now able simply to switch on the iPad and lie back and listen to the services.”

Dr Rob Mannion, retired medical lecturer and writer, described finding “much joy and peace” in listening to the Daily Prayer podcast while unable to attend his church due to a health condition, “From the comfort of my special armchair, I’m able to share in the worship with all the wonderful music and voices” he explained. “We may seem to be apart” he added, “but in fact, we’re brought much closer together through the online medium.”

Revd Laura Martin, Curate at St John’s and St Luke’s Harrogate said the Daily Prayer podcast from the Church of England was “a revelation” amid the Covid-19 pandemic. “At that time, finding the time and energy to retreat into prayer became more difficult” she explained. “I found that my established rhythms of prayer went out of the window with the demands of home learning, home working and the general chaos of everything. I established a pattern of taking a walk whilst listening to the podcast and found much needed peace, connection with God, space to reflect and a deep sense of God’s presence as I walked.”

She added: “It made a significant difference to my spiritual and emotional wellbeing during the winter period of lockdown.”

Have you listened yet? Find out more at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>

# UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

## Walk at The Deer Park, Hoar Cross

**Date:** Saturday September 10th.

**Meet:** 10.30am at The Car Park of The Deer Park.

**Walk Distance:** 3 miles.

**Directions:** Drive along the A515 Ashbourne Road. After leaving Yoxall in 1 mile you come to a left turn signposted Hoar Cross. Drive along this road for about 1 and 1/2 miles and you come to the entrance to the Deer Park on your right. Park in the large car park. The walk starts from here.

## Walk Details

The Deer Park is a relatively new attraction at Hoar Cross, around 11 miles from Lichfield. We begin our walk by crossing the field and entering the beautiful wood. We walk through the wood on a very well signed footpath. After about 15 minutes walking we come to the bottom of the wood. We will then go through the gate and walk towards a spectacular ancient oak tree. After looking at the oak tree we will then have a short walk along the lane before returning to the wood and completing our circular woodland walk. This walk is in a very pleasant part of the Forest of Needwood and there will be lots of photo opportunities. The woodland is hilly in places and there are lots of tree roots growing over the paths. Please take care and wear strong walking boots or shoes.

Following the walk we return to the Deer Park Building. Here there will be the opportunity to have coffee and/or lunch in the restaurant; and also to visit the very attractive shops.

Please join us if you can for this early Autumn walk.

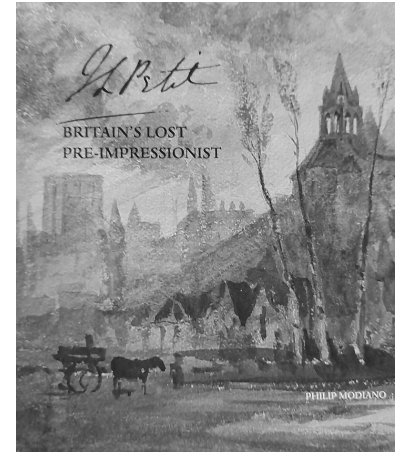
Please book by **Thursday September 8th.**

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

Ray Allen 01543 251654

## Book Review

**J.L. Petit: Britain's Lost Pre-Impressionist**, Philip Modiano, RPS Publications, 122p. 2022, £20. ISBN 978-1-9164931-2-4.



*Britain's Lost Pre-Impressionist* is how Philip Modiano champions the prolific Victorian water-colourist and pioneering campaigner for the preservation of ancient buildings, Reverend John Louis Petit [1801-1868]. This new book continues to raise the profile of this neglected Staffordshire artist and follows on from *Petit's Tours of Old Staffordshire* [2019] and *Clarke, Petit and St Mark's – A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Journey on the Isle of Man* [2022].

After introducing us to Petit, Modiano explores his subject's motivation, sets him in context with his contemporaries, and follows his subject's artistic development chronologically. He is a measured, authoritative and passionate guide. Petit was an opponent of Gothic Revival. He believed architecture should be original, not merely copying the past but learning from it and taking tradition forward. He took the same approach to his art. Numerous examples of churches, seascapes and landscapes, show how Petit ceaselessly refined his technique, developing a looser, more impressionistic approach, anticipating the direction in which art was moving. His later architectural studies in particular have an extraordinary subtlety. Painted on the spot, they deftly capture the essence of the buildings depicted while losing nothing in authenticity. Petit is important as an artist but his works are also valuable as historical documents.

This is the survey of his life and work that Petit deserves. I hesitate to write that this is the definitive book but it has already been highly praised by art historian Andrew Graham-Dixon as being the definitive reflection of Petit's work. It may well be that, as his star rises and more of his work continues to come to light, we may be able cherish even further the value of Petit's art and his life.

*Trevor James*

# News from St Michaels' PCC

As Ted Green announced in the April 2022 magazine, he would be stepping down as PCC Secretary. I took up post in April. My thanks go to Ted for covering the role whilst a replacement was found and also for him showing me the ropes and taking the minutes when I have been away.

There have been 3 PCCs since March – 4 April, 23 May and 18 July. During the vacancy Mike Godfrey chaired the PCC (thank you Mike), and then Revd Abbie took over the role in May. Following are the main issues that PCC have considered over the period.

## **Ministry.**

**Worship.** As we move into a post-Covid situation PCC discussed the reintroduction of the common cup from August, a gradual move towards sharing the Peace and arrangements for collections with the plate being circulated only on Charity Sundays (other collection arrangements remain the same). The Rector also wants to see more people involved in rotas and has set up training for servers and intercessors.

**Mission.** The Film Club is starting up again, and a film club for families and children is being tried out. The Rector and Sue Jones (one of our wardens) also attended a 'Healthy Healing' course with a theme on well-being. More to come on that. The Rector has also announced that she would like to set up a Communications and Outreach group – please let her know if you would be interested in getting involved.

## **Pastoral Matters.**

A key matter for PCC has been ensuring that all PCC member are DBS checked and have completed safeguarding training a requirement of Church Representation and Charity Law. Non completion will mean that PCC members will have to step down. Other roles, such as

pastoral visitors, may also need to be DBS checked and people have to complete the training and do DBS checks. People affected will be advised. Please talk to the Rector with any concerns. A new Health and Safety Policy was agreed at the April meeting.

### **Church Buildings.**

Planning work is continuing on the Parish Rooms and an update on progress will be provided in the Church Magazine. It is hoped the archaeological work can get underway soon. Work is also being progressed on the new audio-visual system and mock screens will be put up in church so people can see how they will work. Finally the Church Clock work has been completed and it will be back in position soon.

### **Churchyard.**

The council commissioned a Tree Safety Survey in May and as a result dead and dying trees have been removed. Permission was obtained from the Diocese for this work. In addition PCC has been advised that permission would also be needed for the planting of new trees. A Tree Planting Policy is to be developed. Discussions on the broken bench outside the front door are ongoing – a Faculty may be required for its repair or replacement.

### **Finance.**

The 2021 financial accounts and treasurer's report were approved at the July meeting. They will be forwarded to the diocese.

When available a copy of the PCC minutes will be posted on the noticeboard at the back of church in future. Our next meeting is 26 September.

Veronica Morris  
PCC Secretary

## News from the Hawksworths in China:

The summer holidays are in full swing here! We knew we wouldn't be allowed to leave our province of SiChuan so decided to stay somewhere fairly local. We had heard a lot about a place called Leshan. It is home to Mt. Emei (Err-May) and the golden Buddha as well as the Giant Seated Buddha. These were both on our 'must see' list when we moved to China.

We'd booked an AirBnB Saturday to Saturday in Emei Town. The complex had two swimming pools, one indoor and one outdoor. It was an hour by car from the Giant Buddha and only 15 Minutes away from Mt. Emei. Ideal!

The day before we were due to leave there had been one confirmed case of Covid in Chengdu! Disaster! The day we were due to leave that number had risen to ten! There was mandatory testing for everyone and you couldn't travel with a negative test result or green health code. We explained everything to the management people in Leshan and they were happy for us to travel. 24 hrs after arriving our health codes had turned yellow! We then had to go for more testing at the local hospital.

Word had now got round the holiday complex that we had yellow codes and people knew to stay away...just in case. We 'quarantined' for 24hrs and then our codes returned to green! It was a bit touch and go as to whether we could continue with the rest of our holiday as the rules keep changing and are different depending on which province you're in. After much discussion with the property owner, property management team and the local hospital, they decided we could stay as we were considered a low enough risk.

So finally, on Tuesday we were able to leave the apartment and made our way to the top of Mt. Emei. We took a bus up which took about 2hrs. We were then dropped off at the bottom of some stairs which

we had to climb up to reach the cable car. The cable car then took us to the highest point it could go, where we had to walk the rest of the way, about 15 minutes to reach the summit. You could hike up instead of taking the cable car, but the hike takes about 2hrs.

The view from the top was stunning. If you looked East you could see mountains as far as the eye can see. These mountains run to the Tibetan plateau and then turn into the Himalayas. If you look West you see back down into Emei town and beyond. It's very flat once you get off the mountain.

Mt. Emei is also called the 'Cloud Mountain'. If you are adventurous enough to hike up before dawn, you are rewarded with the most glorious sunrise as the clouds sit low down on the mountainside. There is a monastery at the top of the mountain where the monks live, as well as a temple on the next mountain top. This is closed to visitors, naturally.

The whole place felt very serene and we were always aware that this is a place of pilgrimage and worship. We didn't take part in ringing the bell of the ancestors as we didn't feel it was appropriate for us, but there were families there with offerings, incense and candles, as well as other tourists.





The children really enjoyed the trip, it did get quite cold at the top as the elevation is 3099 meters. So we bought the children some panda fleeces to keep them warm. Some of the visitors were taking photos of the children. They looked very cute!



On Thursday, we made the trip to see the Giant Buddha in Emeishan. We took the boat trip along the river to get the best view. We were told this was a wise decision as it can get quite crowded at the feet of the Buddha. It's not only a tourist attraction but also a place of worship. It was a wet day so crowds were minimal and we got a good view.



On our return we stumbled across a local informal restaurant called a CanTing (Tan-Ting). The tables are the folding type and you sit on plastic stools. The menu was two sides of A4 paper, but the food was just delicious!



I have been told lots of times that we shouldn't be put off if a restaurant looks a bit run down or informal. It usually serves the best food. We weren't disappointed. We had Jiaozi (Steamed dumplings) Cold cured whole duck, rice balls with black sesame, greens, egg fried rice and qiezi (Aubergine with fresh and dried red chillies, topped with minced spring onion and lots of fresh coriander!) Qiezi (Chi-et-z) is a typical SiChuan dish and is usually very spicy. It's one of my favourite dishes!

In between the sightseeing, we had lots of trips to the pool! The children made friends with some local children who live on the complex. We even bumped into a class mate of Rupert's! Her Grandmother lives on the complex! Small world! We're planning to go back for the October break!

The weather in Leshan, for the week we were there, was very mixed. It rained a lot due to its location. Any clouds coming off the mountain would always bring rain. We had a few dry afternoons which made swimming pleasant.

On our return to Chengdu we were sad to find the weather had got even hotter! It's high 30s most days here. Temperatures this week will pass 40c. When the weather gets that hot I take the babies to the local shopping centre. They have lots of activities for children and is always busy when it's hot outside!

The children start school again in a couple of weeks. They're very much looking forward to getting back into a routine!

We hope you are all keep safe and hydrated in the current heatwave the UK is experiencing. Do look after yourselves and each other.

As always, much love to you all.

The Hawksworth family xxxx

# St. Michael's Churchyard Working Party

## Improving the Environment in the Churchyard

You may recall that I wrote earlier this year about the Bible Reading Fellowship Centenary Rose planted by the Working Party in the Tower Bed. I am pleased to say that the rose has been flowering beautifully in recent weeks. The variety is called "**Cream Abundance**" and is a good way of marking the centenary of an organisation that produces daily Bible Reading notes for every day of the year. Long may the rose prosper in the



*The BRF Centenary Rose  
"Cream Abundance."*

corner of our Church Tower Bed.



Also flowering this month is another new Tower Bed plant, the **Michaelmas Daisy**. This also was planted a few months ago and seems to be thriving despite the very hot weather we have experienced this Summer. It is also very apt that St. Michael's should have its own Michaelmas Daisy, which should be in flower in time for St. Michael's Patronal Festival on Sunday September 25th. Do look for these and other plants in the Tower Beds and other parts of the Churchyard.

*St. Michael's Michaelmas Daisy.*

**The Churchyard Working Party** will be meeting on **Saturday September 17th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** We will continue cutting the wildflower meadow and scattering the seeds around the Churchyard. We will also be doing weeding and dead heading of plants in the Tower Beds and Herb Garden; and pruning plants that overhang

paths in different areas. Please join us if you can. **Tea/Coffee/Cake** will be provided during the **Mid-Morning Refreshment Break**.

Ray Allen 251654



*The Churchyard in September. Note the fungi just appearing.*



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**Saturday 1 October at 10:00 a.m.**

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**Meet at the car park.**

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

**Contact (01543) 257812**



[www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup](https://www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup)

## PROVERBS PRAYERS

# HONEST

<sup>10.9</sup> Honest people are safe and secure, but the dishonest will be caught.

<sup>10.25</sup> Storms come, and the wicked are blown away, but honest people are always safe.

<sup>10.29</sup> The LORD protects honest people, but destroys those who do wrong.

<sup>11.4</sup> Riches will do you no good on the day you face death, but honesty can save your life.

<sup>11.5</sup> Honesty makes a good person's life easier, but the wicked will cause their own downfall.

<sup>11.6</sup> Righteousness rescues those who are honest, but those who can't be trusted are trapped by their own greed.

<sup>12.5</sup> Honest people will treat you fairly; the wicked only want to deceive you.

<sup>14.2</sup> Be honest and you show that you have reverence for the LORD; be dishonest and you show that you do not.

<sup>19.1</sup> It is better to be poor but honest than to be a lying fool.

<sup>21.21</sup> Be kind and honest and you will live a long life; others will respect you and treat you fairly.

<sup>28.6</sup> Better to be poor and honest than rich and dishonest.

*(Good News Bible)*

*All-knowing God, you examine our hearts and minds and want us to live with honesty and integrity.*

*Jesus, help us to be consistently and courageously honest, even when it is difficult or uncomfortable, so that others know that they can depend upon our word.*

*Help us to be straightforward, trustworthy and sincere so that we may feel the safety and security that you have promised to honest people. We ask this, in Jesus name.*

*Angie King*

# *From the Registers*

| <b>Baptisms</b> |             |                      |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|
| St Michael's    | 31st July   | Oscar Roux Johnson   |
| St Michael's    | 31st July   | Luke Ernest Harris   |
| St Michael's    | 31st July   | Adam James Harris    |
| St Michael's    | 31st July   | Ronnie Graham Stokes |
| St Michael's    | 21st August | Juno Ivy McDonagh    |

| <b>Weddings</b> |                 |                                |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| St Michael's    | 6th August 2022 | Stephen Picton & Shelley Brant |

| <b>Funerals</b> |            |                                             |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|
| St Michael's    | 1st August | Jeremy Robin Patten<br>(interment of ashes) |
| St Michael's    | 9th August | Betty Free                                  |

# Bible Readings

**Sunday 4th September**

**Trinity 12**

**[Green]**

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14.25-33

**Sunday 11th September**

**Trinity 13**

**[Green]**

Exodus 32.7-14

Luke 15.1-10

**Sunday 18th September**

**Matthew the Apostle**

**[Red]**

Proverbs 3.13-18

Matthew 9.9-13

**Sunday 18th September**

**Matthew Apostle**

**Evensong**

**[Green]**

Ecclesiastes 5.4-12

Matthew 19.16-end

**Sunday 25th September**

**Michael & All Angels**

**[White]**

Revelation 12.7-12

John 1.47-end

**Sunday 2nd October**

**Harvest**

**[Green]**

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

John 6.25-35

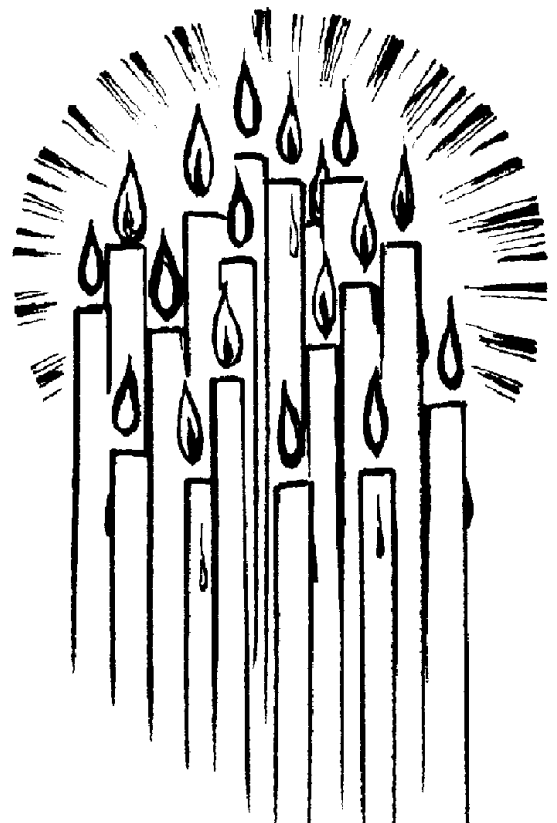
**Sunday 9th October**

**Trinity 17**

**[Green]**

2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c

Luke 17.11-19



## St Michael's Rota – September 2022

| <b>Sunday<br/>08.00 am</b> | <b>4 September</b> | <b>11 September</b> | <b>18 September</b> | <b>25 September</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Sidesperson</b>         | David Bull         | Brian Smith         | Sandy Baker         | Brian Smith         |

| <b>Sunday<br/>10.00 am</b>     | <b>4 September</b>           | <b>11 September</b>           | <b>18 September</b>                 | <b>25 September</b>          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                | <b>Family Praise</b>         |                               |                                     |                              |
| <b>Sidespersons</b>            | Brenda Liptrot<br>Ted Green  | Judy and Mike<br>Godfrey      | Enid Barry<br>Mike Jones            | Viv and Stephen<br>Oliver    |
| <b>Reader</b>                  |                              | Mike Godfrey                  | Elizabeth Salt                      | Brian Rostill                |
| <b>Servers</b>                 |                              | Kay Martin<br>Elizabeth Allen | Kay Martin<br>David Shiel           | Kay Martin<br>Elizabeth Salt |
| <b>Communion<br/>Assistant</b> |                              | N/A                           | N/A                                 | N/A                          |
| <b>Intercessor</b>             |                              | Trevor James                  | Elizabeth Salt                      | Brian Rostill                |
| <b>Coffee</b>                  | Brenda Eley<br>Audrey Dudley | Sonia Doidge<br>Lesley Allen  | Angela Burgess<br>Kareen<br>Lowther | June Frayn<br>Judy Godfrey   |
| <b>Healing</b>                 |                              |                               |                                     | TBA                          |

| <b>Sunday</b>      | <b>18 September</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Reader</b>      | TBA                 |
| <b>Intercessor</b> | TBA                 |

| <b>Sunday<br/>6.00 pm</b>      | <b>4 September</b> | <b>11 September</b> | <b>18 September</b> | <b>25 September</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                | <b>No service</b>  | <b>No service</b>   | <b>Evensong</b>     | <b>No service</b>   |
| <b>Sidesperson</b>             |                    |                     | Ray Allen           |                     |
| <b>Reader</b>                  |                    |                     | Ray Allen           |                     |
| <b>Communion<br/>Assistant</b> |                    |                     |                     |                     |

## ..... and Finally

### Lichfield “City of Sanctuary”

Established here in Lichfield in 2019 by a small group of Lichfield residents committed to working towards the recognition of Lichfield as a **“City of Sanctuary”**.

### **Sanctuary - a place of safety, security, and rest**

**“City of Sanctuary”** is a national movement established in Sheffield some 15 years ago and now with over 100 cities, towns and villages working to nurture a culture of welcome and hospitality, celebrating the contribution of people seeking sanctuary in the UK and to make the UK a welcoming and safe place for all who suffer discrimination and exclusion due to displacement immigration, poverty, abuse, sexuality, disability, and violence.

**“City of Sanctuary”** works alongside individuals and organisations to support people in Lichfield, especially newcomers, who face any/ or all, of the above to co-ordinate welcome and support for those who need it and challenges visions of Lichfield that exclude any individual or group that live and work here by holding events, exhibitions, campaigns, and meetings to engage and inform about issues that are of concern to all.

**“City of Sanctuary”** believes that Lichfield is an open-hearted City where all are welcome and treated with respect and understanding and works to make Lichfield a supportive place that provides sanctuary and support to those who need it especially. the most vulnerable in our society.

For further information see City of Sanctuary’s website at <http://Lichfield.cityofsanctuary.org> or by e-mailing [nigelgann@lichfield.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:nigelgann@lichfield.cityofsanctuary.org).

## Editor





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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>St Michaels PCC</b></p> <p><b>Churchwardens:</b> <i>Lyn Shiel 320437</i><br/><i>Sue Jones 415242</i></p> <p><b>Assistant Wardens:</b> <i>June Frayn 264920</i><br/><i>Liz Clarke 268862</i><br/><i>David Easton 255308</i><br/><i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p><b>PCC Secretary:</b> <i>Veronica Morris</i></p> <p><b>Stewardship Recorder:</b> <i>Sandy Baker</i><br/>256320</p> <p><b>Electoral Roll Officer:</b> <i>Mike Godfrey 264255</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>St John's PCC</b></p> <p><b>Churchwardens:</b><br/>Pat Owen 410826<br/>John Alsop 480240</p> <p><b>Assistant Churchwarden:</b><br/>Christine Higgs 410351<br/>Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Paul Wright 01543 483230</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary:</b> Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p><b>Assistant Treasurer</b><br/>Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p><b>PCC Lay Vice Chair:</b> Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p><b>Electoral Roll:</b> Angie King<br/><a href="mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk">office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</a></p> |
| <p><b>St Michael's Church</b></p> <p><b>Verger:</b> <i>Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</i></p> <p><b>Sacristan and Head Server:</b> <i>Maggie Easton</i><br/>255308</p> <p><b>Organist and Choirmaster:</b> <i>Dudley Ray</i><br/>07847 643373 <a href="mailto:dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk">dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Music Group:</b> <i>Richard Brooks 07918 906</i><br/>350</p> <p><b>Pastoral Care:</b> <i>June Frayn 264920</i></p> <p><b>Flowers:</b> <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> <i>Maureen Brand 264880</i></p> <p><b>Junior Praise:</b> <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p><b>Bell ringers:</b> <i>Gillian Eastwood 07568134115</i><br/>Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. <a href="mailto:gillieastwood@gmail.com">gillieastwood@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Mothers Union:</b> <i>Elizabeth Allen 304938</i></p> <p><b>Social Team:</b> <i>Contact via the office 262211</i></p> | <p><b>St John's Church, Wall</b></p> <p><b>Verger:</b> Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p><b>Other Useful Numbers</b></p> <p><b>St Michael's School:</b> 227425</p> <p><b>Parish Magazine</b></p> <p><b>Magazine Distributor:</b><br/><i>Liz Clarke 268862</i> <a href="mailto:liz.clarke@virgin.net">liz.clarke@virgin.net</a></p> <p><b>Magazine Editor:</b> <i>David Shiel</i><br/>01543320437" <a href="mailto:shielfamily@gmail.com">shielfamily@gmail.com</a></p>                                  |
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