

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
September 2023

*‘Love God with all
your heart and with
all your mind and with
all your strength;
and love your
neighbour as
yourself.’*

Mark 12:33

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

£1

<p>Rector: Revd Dr Abbie Walsh Tel:: 07395 500745 Email: rev.abbie.walsh@gmail.com DAY OFF—FRIDAY</p>	<p>Associate Minister (SSM Part-time): The Revd. Ruth Bull 01543 252123 dkbrlcb@hotmail.com</p>
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<p>Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Helen Barton 1 Seckham Road, Lichfield WS13 7AN. Tel: 01543 257692 Email: helen@the-bartons.com</p>	<p>Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Stephen Barton 1 Seckham Road, Lichfield WS13 7AN. Tel: 01543 257692 Email: stephen@the-bartons.com</p>
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<p>Reader: Trevor James 36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434</p>	<p>Reader: Alan Toplis Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk</p>
<p>United Benefice Office St Michael's Church, Church St, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6ED Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri CLOSED Thursdays 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Tel: 01543 262211 E-mail: office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</p>	<p>SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN Maureen Brand 01543 264880 For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.</p>
<p>St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED</p>	<p>St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS</p>

Reflection.....

By the time you're reading this we will be coming to the end of our Summer holiday and looking forward to a new school year. Each September we have an opportunity as a school community to revisit our vision and to recommit to our school values.

Excited to learn with confidence together in God's hands.



At St Michael's, we are guided by our Christian values to inspire one another; encouraging confident, committed and caring children to flourish through life's journey.

'Love God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength; and love your neighbour as yourself.'

Mark 12.³³

Our Christian Core Values

Belonging



'Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.'

Psalms 73:²³⁻²⁸

Friendship



'A friend loves at all times.' Proverbs 17:¹⁷



Forgiveness

'Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else.' Colossians 2:¹²⁻¹³



Respect

'So in everything you do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:¹²



Courage

'Be on your guard. Stand firm in faith. Be courageous. Be strong. Do everything in love.' Corinthians 16:¹³⁻¹⁴



Perseverance

'Stand firm and you will win life.' Luke 21:¹⁹

Last term was the first time since March 2020 that school life felt as if it had returned to normal. During the year we had increasingly managed to re-establish our performances, face to face meetings and PTA events. At times the biggest challenge was remembering how we used to do things! The first school disco certainly caught us unawares – but the children had a great time and parents were very forgiving of the long queues to get in. However, it was the Summer Term where

we had a full range of extra-curricular activities back on offer and successes such as our teams participating in all three County cricket finals.

However, as I've looked back and reflected on the past year, one of the greatest gifts to us as a school has been the arrival of Abbie as our new Rector. Abbie has been a great enabler in the past twelve months. We have always been proud of the strong links between our school and St Michael's Church and in this post Covid era we are so grateful for the passion, commitment and creativity that has galvanized both church members and school staff to promote the 'Growing Faith' agenda. From film shows with lunches, to uniform exchanges with craft activities, photography competitions, churchyard trails and homework club, St Michael's Church community has opened its doors and provided a place of welcome. Conversations with children at school and their parents demonstrate that people feel a part of the wider St Michael's community. They may not be in church on a Sunday, but they feel they belong – and that's a fantastic achievement. Thank-you to each and everyone of you who has given time to make this happen. It's valued beyond St Michael's School too.

Through the myriad of opportunities provided for our children to connect with St Michael's, we've seen 6 children baptised, 22 make communion before confirmation and welcomed Bishop Michael to confirm 9 children. It's been wonderful to see the Junior Choir grow over the past year with pupils loving the opportunity to sing regularly in Church Services. Our Year 5 children led inspiring workshops for children across the school for Thy Kingdom Come; to see their confidence and conviction as they explained about and provided opportunities for the rest of the school to respond to different types of

prayer was very moving. It has been lovely, once again, for our Year 2 children to be involved in creating flower arrangements for Harvest and our Year 3 children to create Christingles. These small contributions enable our children to feel that they belong.

The Church of England Vision for Education defines a thriving church school as one which enables all of its children to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. As children move on to the next stage in their education they should have hope and aspiration; have a sense of belonging and understanding of community, and be able to live well together; they should demonstrate dignity and respect; and have the appropriate wisdom, knowledge and skills to succeed. At the heart of this they should also understand the riches of Christianity underpinned by their knowledge of Jesus and the Church.

It is an absolute privilege to be the Headteacher at St Michael's School where this is truly possible. Without the support that you all provide, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. If you've not been involved to date, and would like to do so, please do get in touch. Abbie has been promoting the Pray – Bake – Read strategy in recent weeks. Please do consider helping us. If you can't commit on a regular basis, but are nifty at threading needles, we'd love your occasional help when the children are sewing.

This coming year sees new ventures for us. With Abbie's support we're aiming to start a discipleship group for those children who have made their communion before confirmation and who have been confirmed. We've registered for the Eco Schools programme and are looking to combine the two so that courageous advocacy is at the heart of our discipleship. Andrew Jones, our Assistant Head, is going

to be training some new pupil worship leaders and Sarah Brooks will be continuing to develop our Dementia Friendly School initiative. Another joy this year are the links Sarah has re-established with the Memory Café at the Methodist Church. There are exciting times ahead.

As we begin a new school year, the legacy and spirit of Alison Staines, a former Foundation (Church) Governor and previous Chair of Governors, will be with us. The epitome of our school values; Alison was such an inspirational, caring, fun-loving and amazing person. Her zest for life and passion for our school were a great support to us as staff. Even after her time as a governor, she retained her interest in what we were doing and encouraged us along the way behind the scenes. Alison's wisdom and insight were second to none. As a staff team our thoughts are with Tony, Alex and Amy at this time; Alison's spirit lives on with those of us who had the pleasure and privilege to work with her at St Michael's.

Helen Robertson, Headteacher, St Michael's School



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

3rd September

10am St Michael's



First Steps

Monday 11th September

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 October Magazine: Deadline is

SUNDAY 10th September

Please send articles to David Shiel

AND the Parish Office

shielfamily@gmail.com

office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

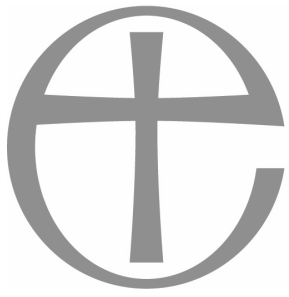
Pew Sheet:

every Thursday

7:30am

Contact

Parish Office



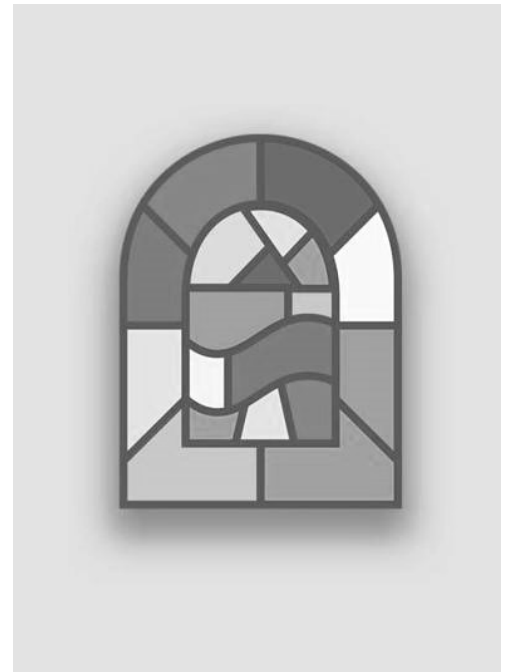
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

Group to meet ahead of
November Synod

07/08/2023

Group reflecting wide range of Church traditions to take part in facilitated Living in Love and Faith conversations ahead of November Synod



A group drawn from across different traditions within the Church will meet next month as part of ongoing work in the Living in Love and Faith process.

Invitations have been issued to join three facilitated conversations in September ahead of consideration at the November Synod of proposals to enable same-sex couples to come to church following a civil marriage or civil partnership for prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and for God's blessing on the two people.

The group, created at the invitation of the Co-Chairs of the Living in Love and Faith Steering Group, Bishop Sarah Mullally and Bishop Philip Mounstephen, will bring a wealth of knowledge from prior involvement in the LLF process, as well as a range of lived experiences. Membership of the group will be published at a later date.

The group will receive an update on the ongoing work on pastoral guidance and pastoral assurance in relation to the Prayers of Love and Faith and will be asked to provide their insights and reflections.

The outcome of the conversations will feed into discussions at meetings in the autumn of the College and House of Bishops ahead of the November Synod.

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, said the creation of the group was part of the next stage of consulting widely following the July Synod.

“The House and the College of Bishops have a real desire to create a loving, generous, ecclesial and pastoral space, despite deeply held differences of opinion, in which we can share our ministry and implement the motion agreed by the Synod in February,” she said.

“There is a desire to joyfully offer a pastoral response to loving, faithful and long-term same sex relationships. There is at the same time no intention of changing the doctrine of marriage as expressed in the canons and the authorised liturgy of the Church of England.

“Holding these commitments together is at times painful and complex. As part of this we are seeking to listen to people’s hopes and concerns and to ensure that they are satisfied that their views have been taken into consideration.”

The new group has been formed after the General Synod received an update earlier last month on the work which has taken place since the landmark debate in February welcoming proposals to enable same-sex couples to come to church following a civil marriage or civil partnership for prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and for God’s blessing on the two people. The proposals came out of a six-year period of listening, learning and discernment known as Living in Love and Faith.

Inclusive Church at St Michael's

In our PCC and ministry team meetings we have been talking about whether St Michael's should join the organisation "Inclusive Church". Inclusive Church is a network of Churches, groups and individuals gathered around a shared vision.



Their vision statement is as follows:

“We believe in **inclusive church**— a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

Joining Inclusive Church is a way of proclaiming boldly as a Church that God's love is for everyone. It would also help us to reach out to new members who are looking for a Church where they are sure to be welcomed warmly, whoever they are. You don't have to have a particular view on any issues to be an Inclusive Church (for example, same sex relationships or immigration), just to be committed to welcoming people warmly and without discrimination.

Over the next couple of months at St Michael's we will be working through some of the prickly issues of inclusion and thinking about the ways in which Churches sadly have made some people feel unwelcome in the past, and what we might need to do differently in the future, so that we can decide whether Inclusive Church is for us, and work towards being a community in which everyone is equally valued and celebrated.

Rev'd Dr Abbie Walsh

Rector of St Michael and St Mary Lichfield and St John Wall

07395 500745

For more information visit www.inclusive-church.org

THE ELIZABETH LOGAN PARISH CENTRE

PROJECT UPDATE

You might not recognise the title of this article – but there is good news that St Michael’s PCC met at the end of July to progress the project formerly known as the “parish rooms”.

The vision

The first decision was to adopt formally the vision statement for the project, which has been formed over a long period, but has now been fully “landed” in writing, with thanks to Rector Abbie.

The vision is introduced by confirming that once completed, the rooms will be called the “Elizabeth Logan Parish Centre”. Elizabeth was a nurse who worked alongside Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War. Not much is known about her after that except that she made her way back home on the Ottawa and died in Lichfield many years later and was buried in St Michael’s Churchyard. On her gravestone it says that she had *“a strong sense of duty and great kindness of heart. No one who witnessed her self-denying exertions in aid of suffering humanity could ever forget them.”* Naming our new Parish Centre after Elizabeth reminds us that all we have as a Church is to be used in the service of others, and for the common good. The Parish Centre is an opportunity to live out this calling for the benefit of the community.

The vision statement also confirms that we are looking to use the Parish Centre primarily to enable the Church to serve the community, rather than as rooms for commercial hire. The Parish Centre will facilitate our mission as a Church, currently expressed and lived out through our commitment to film club, homework club, first steps, junior and senior choirs, the churchyard working party and to possible future projects such as bereavement groups and coffee mornings. The Centre will allow the current activities to be delivered in comfortable and suitable surroundings, without the concern of having to heat a largely uninsulated building which is not suitable for general

community activities, allowing us to improve our carbon footprint.

Making progress

PCC also decided that we should embark on the next stage of the project which will involve the architect producing more detailed drawings, plans and specifications for the Centre which will facilitate a planning application and a faculty application. This work will also result in more accurate costings for the project.

Obtaining planning permission is never straightforward, and we will want to consult the wider church community and the local community on the plans for the Parish Centre. As well as this, many other surveys and plans must be submitted demonstrating that the construction and finished project will, as examples, minimise impact on the environment and nature and has a transport plan which will encourage sustainable ways of getting to the Centre.

Once planning is obtained and detailed cost calculations are received, this will enable us to embark on the fundraising phase, because most funders will only award grants once projects are fully costed and can proceed. There is a good prospect of applying for multiple capital grants which are available for new community based facilities. Towards the end of the fundraising phase, estimates will be obtained from suitable local building contractors and construction can commence.

In the meanwhile, we have to do more work on VAT and governance.... the work does not stop...!

If you have any queries about the Elizabeth Logan Parish Centre, please do get in touch with the Churchwardens, the Rector, Alan Toplis, Richard Brooks, Nigel Oakley or David Lingwood who form the project team.

Richard Brooks, 1 August 2023



FESTIVAL FLOWERS

Patronal Festival -
Saturday Sep 23rd at 2pm

Harvest Festival -
Saturday Sep 30th at 10am

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 days.

Many thanks
Anne Lingwood



SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

WORKING PARTY

We will be meeting on

Saturday September 16th.

from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

There will be an organisational meeting from 10.00 to 10.30 a.m.

We will be weeding and dead heading plants in the Tower Beds and Herb Garden; and maintaining our new wildlife hedge.

Refreshments (Tea/Coffee/Cake) will be provided during the Mid-Morning Break

For more information please contact

Ray Allen.

Email: rj.allen45@icloud.com

Telephone: 01543 251654

SOUL FOOD



Soul Food – a course for anyone who wants to grow in responsiveness to God. With an awareness of some of the Christian prayer traditions, tutors journey with participants to develop reflection (noticing the movements of the Spirit), an awareness of personality and prayer, and the use of silence, solitude, the Bible and our imaginations as helps to develop intimacy with God.

The course will be run on three Saturdays in-person plus 6 weekday evenings, from October 2023 – early Feb 2024.

Cost: £144** (i.e. £12/eve plus £24 per day session)

This reflects the running cost of the course; however if cost presents an obstacle **please still apply as we may be able to help.

The course is open to all who want to explore Christian prayer, whatever their level of experience. More info on the link below. To discuss the courses, please email Spirituality Advisers:


Lichfield: Charles Ruxton, charles.ruxton@trinitychurches.org .

Worcester: Mary Flitcroft, spirituality@cofe-worcester.org.uk .

APPLY : overleaf or go '**Soul Food**' on the following link & click 'Apply here':

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/mission/spirituality-resources/spiritual-direction-courses/>

 **DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**
Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
**DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER**

APPLY FOR 'SOUL FOOD'

This course is about *doing* prayer. So a typical session will include time for prayer (using different ways of praying), personal reflection and listening to one another, as well as some teaching from the front. There won't be long essays to write; the 'homework' is to spend some time each day praying.

Course venue and dates:

**Day meetings: Saturdays 14 Oct, 2 Dec and 3 Feb: 10am – 3pm,
St Aidan's Church, 10a Mount Rd, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 5SW**

Zoom: Tuesdays 24 Oct; 7 & 21 Nov; 12 Dec, 9 & 23 Jan: 7 – 9.30pm

There is no entrance requirement for this course other than a desire to grow in prayer. This is likely to be expressed in:

- ❖ A willingness to talk about your prayer life;
- ❖ A sense of (or desire for) community with other praying people;
- ❖ A commitment to attend all the course sessions.

If you would like to join the course, please email or write to Charles Ruxton (address below) with the following:

1. A paragraph or two on any experience of prayer that you have, and how you hope the course will help you.
2. Any access requirements (e.g. internet access, large text, wheelchair access for the day sessions etc.)?

(remember to include your address, phone and email please!)

Charles Ruxton (Lichfield Diocesan Spirituality Adviser) is at charles.ruxton@trinitychurches.org

Mary Flitcroft (Worcester Diocesan Spirituality Adviser) is at spirituality@cofe-worcester.org.uk

All of the information you provide will be confidential to the Tutor Team (including Diocesan Spirituality Adviser). It will only be used for course administration and will not be passed on to anyone beyond the Tutor Team. If you would prefer your details not to be recorded in this way, please let us know.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

In August we had our summer outing when we visited Curborough Craft Centre. First we had a chance to browse round some of the shops there. Many of us had a nostalgic tour of the Antique Centre and remarks like “we had one of those” and “do you remember using one like that?” were continually to be heard. In the café we gathered to enjoy tea, coffee and scones and plenty of conversation. This concluded our scone survey for the summer and I have decided that biggest is definitely not best and it would be difficult to compete with home –made.



We now have a break to enjoy the rest of the summer, if there should be a chance of any more sunshine. At present it is raining, my geraniums are trying hard to cope and slugs and snails are enjoying a bumper feast of hostas. I am reminded of a holiday in Southern Germany, near the Austrian border. The picturesque wooden houses all had window boxes full of geraniums and each container also held a mini umbrella as protection during the frequent showers. What a great idea. Has anybody seen something similar in England? Let us hope for an Indian summer before we go into autumn.

Our next meeting will be on September 25th when we meet in Church for a service to be led by June. Plans are in hand for speakers at some of our coming meetings, notably an introduction to Tai Chi by the

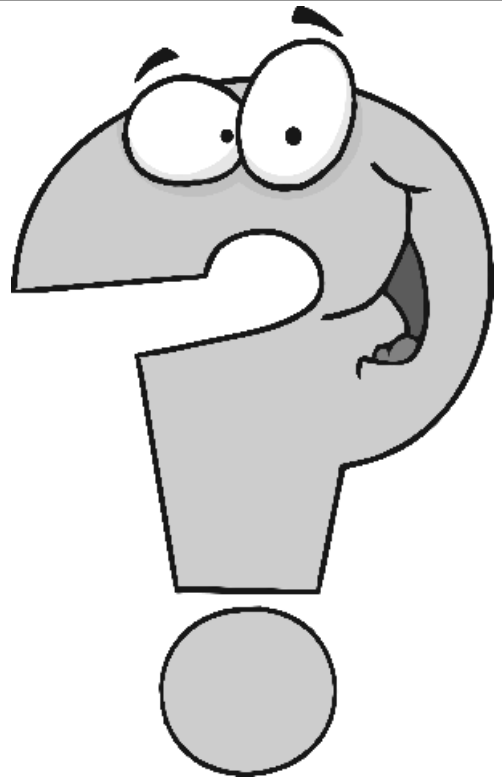
husband of a member. Will this result in a serene and well-balanced group? I hope so.



Betty Lyne

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are
available on request

QUIZ NIGHT



In aid of St Michael's Church
Clock Fund which is raising money
to pay for the electrification of the
tower clock.

Saturday 16th September, 6pm

Tickets - £10 adult

£5 children

Includes fish & chips at the interval.

*Available from the Benefice Office
office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk*

01543 262211

Teams of up to 6 which can be made up on the night.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Film Club

at St Michael's Church

FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS

Doors open at 2pm

The Lost King

(2022, 12A, 1h 48 Comedy/Drama)

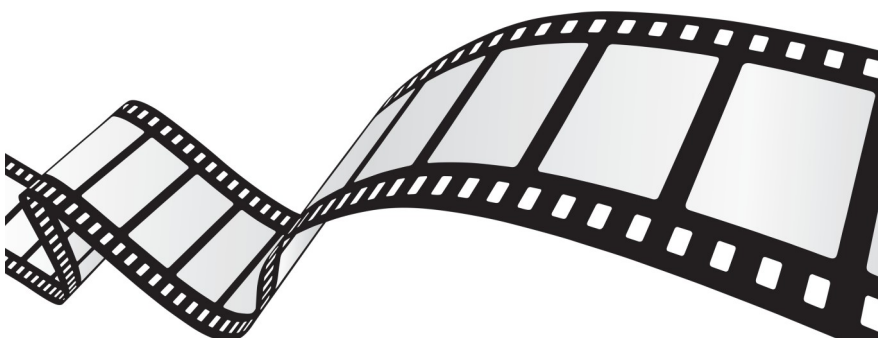
An amateur historian defies the stodgy academic establishment in her efforts to find King Richard III's remains, which were lost for over 500 years.

Mon 4th September 2.30pm start

Tea/Coffee and Cake will be served

at the interval

All welcome.



Save the Date:

Next Film Club

2nd October

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

We would love to have more members of the congregation involved in supporting the staff, students and families at St Michael's school. If you'd like to help but not sure how, here's a suggestion...

PRAY... for our school every week

BAKE ... a cake for the staff each half term (nut free please!)

READ ... 1:1 with a student once a week

You can do these in any order and combination and the frequency is just a suggestion. The first two can be done by anyone, and the third one requires a DBS check (which is easy to arrange and just needs some ID and personal details). For more info, speak to the Rector.

Rector: Revd Dr Abbie Walsh

Tel.: 07395 500745

Email: rev.abbie.walsh@gmail.com

DAY OFF—FRIDAY



WALKING GROUP

WALSALL ARBORETUM with talk about the history of the arboretum

Leader: Trevor James

Date: Saturday 9th September

Start: 10:30am

Meeting Point: Main entrance on the south-west corner where Lichfield Street meets Broadway North.



There are plenty of metered car parks nearby, including a supermarket.

Walk Details;

2024 marks the 150th anniversary of Walsall Arboretum.

The walk will take us around the Arboretum lake and I will point out various features and tell you about the history of the arboretum.

There is a café which we will reach about a third of the way round our very flat walk. About an hour and a half altogether, probably less than two miles.

Lunch - The Inkpen Pub, Lichfield.

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

Trevor James

beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com

01543 262211



RAMBLE SCRAMBLE???

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



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

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

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



The items, obviously quite mixed up, are listed below – can you unscramble them to enable a thorough inventory to be made before setting off on the remainder of the afternoon's ramble?

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

The closing date for entries is 20/9/2023 . All correct entries will go into my Bucket Hat and the first to be pulled out will win an appropriate National Trust branded prize.

David Shiel

Editor's Disclaimer

This Brainteaser is by no means meant as a reflection on the organisation and/or safety of the St. Michael's Church Walking Group.

The correct answers and the winner will appear in the October edition of the Church Magazine.

Late Night Listeners report, Sat 29/07/23

It was a night with a difference for the team of 6 volunteers, as we were joined by the very talented and all round nice guy, Oscar Hodges of AgateMedia, a Lichfield based business, who was filming us on our shift as part of a video that will be used through selected outlets with the aim of recruiting more volunteers for the work of the LNL.

Excited, the team headed out onto the street only to stumble on their potential first problem of the evening, that their pitch (outside the, soon to open, Dessert Shop) was occupied by a large white van.... Eventually a very amicable workman appeared to whom we explained our dilemma... "no problem!" said he, as he was just loading his tools into the van and heading off. He also informed us that the shop was aiming to open in the next two weeks before driving off and allowing us to 'set up shop'.

Our evening was a mix of conducting and filming interviews with volunteers and the general public, doing the rounds of the City centre and the normal generosity of people - be it donations or kind / encouraging words for what we do. A couple we had not seen around for some time stopped by for quite a while and chatted. The husband willingly agreed to do an interview (which will definitely need editing as we couldn't stop him once the camera was rolling!!). We had interest from a man wanting to volunteer with us and email contacts were exchanged.

We came across a young man who had got separated from the friends he had come out with and was trying to get back to Birmingham but didn't have money (as it was around £25 he needed we couldn't really help him out - so we prayed he would link up with his friends at some

point). A young homeless man was outside B&M writing copious notes and was surrounded by loads of books and papers... we chatted for a while but became quite aware that he appeared to have some obvious mental health issues... when a team passed him later that night he was asleep in that same doorway- it so sad that we can only inform people like him that there are places they could stay...but it is up to them to want to go to them.

There were a couple of falls by some young men, one of whom chose, for some reason, to do a 'belly flop' onto the slabbed pavement!! The other went over on his back spilling his chicken and chips all over the pavement and possibly giving himself some 'next morning' bruises. A number of people went to help him up but his embarrassment and pride was stronger than our eagerness to help him as he rebuffed all efforts those trying to help him to his feet.

We managed to get our favourite doorman, Bobby, on film bringing us a complimentary box of chips!! He will officially be immortalised as the legend that he is!

Soon it was time to pack up and return to our base. Our heartfelt thanks to Oscar for 'staying the course' as he was a real trouper throughout the evening. We may or may not have a little bit more filming to do before editing but we are looking forward to seeing what he produces. If you are reading this and are interested in volunteering or know someone who may be, please get in touch with me on dwestmullen@gmail.com

be blessed!

DWM



Staffordshire
Wildlife Trust

**LICHFIELD
WILDLIFE GROUP**



**A guided walk at Doxy Marches
led by Alex Rogers, Reserve Warden
Saturday 30 September 10:00 a.m.**

Stafford ST16 1PU

Park in the car park at the end of Wooton Drive.

Free admission / Donations welcome

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

Contact (01543) 257812

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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

LOVE

PROVERBS PRAYERS

Chapter 4 verse 6

Don't forsake her (Wisdom), and she will preserve you. Love her, and she will keep you.

Chapter 10 verse 12

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all wrongs.

Chapter 14 verse 22

Don't they go astray who plot evil? But love and faithfulness belong to those who plan good.

Chapter 15 verse 17

Better is a dinner of herbs, where love is, than a fattened calf with hatred.



Chapter 17 verse 17

A friend loves at all times; and a brother is born for adversity.

Chapter 20 verse 6

Many men claim to be men of unfailing love, but who can find a faithful man?

Chapter 20 verse 28

Love and faithfulness keep the king safe. His throne is sustained by love.

World English Bible (WEB)

Gracious Lord thank you for your unfailingly perfect love. Help me to love as you love and to remember that even though I am weak, your love is strong within me.

Jesus, fill my life with the power of your love so that I can try to make a difference in this world in your name. Help me to show patience with those around me and to extend kindness to others. Help me to cast aside feelings of jealousy or hatred. Help me to broaden my understanding of 'love thy neighbour' rather than caring mainly for my own family and friends. I know that I have an innate tendency to judge others, to find fault or be critical. Lord help me to let this go, to not hold grudges or cling to hurtful memories and feelings, but to choose to forgive, even when it's difficult.

Holy Spirit I ask for your help, day by day, to remind me that the most important things are not what I do, nor any talent or gift, but that the most significant thing I can do in this life is simply to love God and to choose to love others.

I ask this in Jesus' name.

Angie King

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13

THE GIFT OF LOVE

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient;

love is kind;

love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way;

it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end;

as for tongues, they will cease;

as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;

but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.

Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;

and the greatest of these is love.

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	2nd July	Riley Hicken
St Michael's	2nd July	Hugo Groutage-Davis

Weddings		
St Michael's	22nd July	Catelyn Michaels and Bradley Fletcher
St Michael's	5th August	Laura Mynott and Robert Read

Funerals		
St Michael's	25th July	Sheila Edwards
St Michael's	26th July	Ida Macnab (interment of ashes)
St Michael's	2nd August	Beryl Hartley (interment of ashes)



Bible Readings

Sunday 3rd September
13th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Romans 12.9-end
Matthew 16.21-end

Sunday 10th September
13th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Romans 13.8-end
Matthew 18.15-20

Sunday 17th September
Matthew, Apostle and
Evangelist
[Red]

Proverbs 3.13-18
Matthew 9.9-13

Sunday 17th September
EVENSONG
Matthew, Apostle and
Evangelist
[Red]

Ecclesiastes 5.4-12
Matthew 19.16-end

Sunday 24th September
Michael and All Angels
[White]

Genesis 28.10-17
John 1.47-end

Sunday 1st October
HARVEST
17th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Deuteronomy 28.1-14
Luke 17.11-19

Sunday 8th October
18th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Isaiah 5.1-7
Matthew 21.33-end



St Michael's Rota

Sunday 08.00 am	3 September	10 September	17 September	24 September
Sidesperson	Brian Smith	Brian Smith	David Bull	Brian Smith

Sunday 10.00 am	3 September	10 September	17 September	24 September
	Family Praise		Family Communion	
Sidespersons	Maureen Brand Audrey Dudley	Ray Allen Enid Barry	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Viv and Stephen Oliver
Reader		Kay Martin		Nigel Oakley
Servers		Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
Intercessor		Kay Martin		Nigel Oakley
Coffee	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Sonia Doidge Lesley Allen	Angela Burgess Sylvia Burkinshaw	Anne Whatson Brenda Eley
Healing				TBA

Sunday	3 September	10 September	17 September	24 September
	No service	No service	No service	Evensong at 16.30
Sidesperson				Lyn Shiel
Reader				Lyn Shiel

And Finally

I have recently had recollections of "Pre-Covid Lockdown", what I will refer to, as *House Fellowship Groups*; these were informal groups of approximately 10 to 12 members of St. Michael's congregation who met on an informal basis at various members homes each month for coffee/tea and cake/biscuits for a couple of hours chat and fellowship.

If you have any recollection of these groups please get in touch with me to see whether similar groups could once again form a part of St Michael's fellowship within our Church Community.


Editor

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

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