

# THE PARISH MAGAZINE

## October 2019



**12th October — Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer 1845**

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

**80p**

<b>Rector:</b> <b>The Revd. Preb. Simon Baker,</b> 10 Mawgan Drive, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9SD. Tel: 01543 253010 Email: <a href="mailto:simonbaker57@outlook.com">simonbaker57@outlook.com</a>  Day Off: Friday	<b>Curate: The Revd. Melanie Clark</b> 25 Lister Avenue, Streethay, Lichfield, WS13 8FY Tel: 07751 072332 Email: <a href="mailto:revdr.melclark@gmail.com">revdr.melclark@gmail.com</a>
<b>Associate Minister (NSM Part-time):</b> <b>The Revd. Ruth Bull</b> 36 Broadlands Rise, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9SF Email: <a href="mailto:dkbrlcb@hotmail.com">dkbrlcb@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Assistant Minister (PTO)</b> <b>The Revd. Jeyan Anketell</b> 7 Wissage Lane, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6DQ Tel: 01543 268897 Email: <a href="mailto:jeyan.anketell@ntlworld.com">jeyan.anketell@ntlworld.com</a>
<b>Assistant Minister (PTO)</b> <b>The Revd Chris Baker</b> 15 Saddlers Close, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 9ZW Tel: 01543 256320 Email: <a href="mailto:C.J.Baker@bham.ac.uk">C.J.Baker@bham.ac.uk</a>	<b>Assistant Minister (PTO)</b> <b>The Revd. Stephen Barton</b> The Master's House, St John's Hospital, St John Street, LICHFIELD WS13 6PB Email: <a href="mailto:stephen@the-bartons.com">stephen@the-bartons.com</a>
<b>Assistant Minister (PTO)</b> <b>The Revd Christine Polhill</b> Little Hayes, Beaudesert, Cannock Wood, Staffs WS15 4JJ Tel: 01543 674474	<b>Reader: Lesley Allen</b> 21 Boley Close, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9AR Tel: 01543 251654 Email: <a href="mailto:lesley.allen21@googlemail.com">lesley.allen21@googlemail.com</a>
<b>Reader: Phil Clayton</b> 23 Follows End, Burntwood, Staffs, WS7 3QZ Tel: 01543 682141 E-mail: <a href="mailto:phil@philclayton.net">phil@philclayton.net</a>	<b>Reader: Trevor James</b> 36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434
<b>Reader: Peter Salt</b> 7 Redlock Field, Lichfield WS14 OAB Tel: 01543 250723 E-mail: <a href="mailto:peter.salt@btinternet.com">peter.salt@btinternet.com</a>	<b>Reader: Alan Toplis</b> Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: <a href="mailto:alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk">alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk</a>
<b>SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR</b> <b>FOR ST MICHAEL &amp; ST JOHN</b> <b>Maureen Brand</b> <b>01543 264880</b> For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.	<b>United Benefice Office</b> St Michael's Church, Church St, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6ED Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri <b>CLOSED</b> <b>Thursdays</b> 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Tel: 01543 262211 E-mail: <a href="mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk">office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</a>
<b>St Michael's Church</b> Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED	<b>St John's Church</b> Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS

# Reflections for October

Autumn brings with it a change in the colours of our gardens and the first few leaves will be beginning to fall by the time this magazine arrives with you. Hopefully our churchyard here at St Michaels will still be looking as well tended as it has throughout the year but that does not happen without a lot of voluntary effort.

Here at St Michaels we have been eagerly awaiting the results of Lichfield's entry in the in the Heart of England in Bloom competition and we have just learnt that our city has been awarded GOLD status. What has made this award so special is that the Lichfield entry was unusual in that the contributing entrants have no direct source of money for the competition, that it is made up of disparate groups all pulling together, and each group doing its own thing in its own way, so a Gold is for us all.

The churchyard here at St Michaels was an integral part of Lichfield's entry in the competition and much of the credit for the condition of the yard and the church surrounds is entirely due to the efforts of our churchyard working party and a band of volunteers lead by Ray Allen. The involvement of the Community Payback team have also carried out big clearance tasks and we are grateful to their leader for the work she puts in with them. The city council horticultural team have also helped by keeping our grass well mown and after the working party opened up previously overgrown areas have now started to keep them under better control.

Public interest in our environs has risen and the footfall through and around the churchyard has risen considerably. Graves previously overgrown have been exposed and almost miraculously relatives of those long passed have returned and started to tend once hidden graves.

Our Bio Blitz event held in June this year attracted a very good number of people and again raised public awareness of the amazing

resource we have surrounding our beautiful church. The new interpretation board has also attracted much attention.

It's very hard to remember now but until the working party started to raise the tree canopy and clear the front lawns most people leaving Aldi or Tesco would have found it difficult to know that there was a church hiding behind the trees on Church Street!!

What we have achieved is to make our churchyard a truly amazing shop window for St Michaels. We now have two even bigger tasks.

Firstly we have to keep up the amazing standard that our volunteers have achieved and we have to realise that even the Community Payback team comes with a cost which comes from our church housekeeping budget. The only work done by the city council on a regular basis is the mowing of the grass and litter bin emptying.

Secondly, and more importantly, we have to find innovative ways to engage those non church members who come along to assist us and those who pass through the churchyard to take one more step, the step that gets them inside the church door where they can experience the warmth and friendship offered by our worshiping community here at St Michaels and through that Gods love. Community engagement days combined with church opening events and perhaps even a Churchyard Sunday next Spring might be ways of attracting enquirers into our church.

We can all play our part as well. Whenever you meet anyone passing through the churchyard offer them a friendly word and if they are looking lost ask how you can help. This year one of our volunteers offered to help find a grave for someone. Their comments about the warmth of our friendship were shared with thousands on Facebook.

*Alan Toplis*

# Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer



*"... to form in them, as much as possible, those habits of sobriety, order, and industry, which may render them docile and peaceable while in prison, and respectable when they leave it."*

In the early 1800s, English prisons were pits of indecency and brutality. The idea was to punish, not reform prisoners. Most people thought this was the way things should be or believed nothing could be done to change the entrenched system. Elizabeth Fry disagreed on both accounts and pushed for a number of prison reforms we still practice today.

## Horrifying conditions

The daughter of an English banker, the 20-year-old Elizabeth married Joseph Fry, a wealthy tea dealer. Children came quickly, eventually numbering 11. When she had rededicated her life to Christ at age 18, she wanted to help the downtrodden. So as a young bride and mother, she gave medicine and clothes to the homeless and helped establish the Sisters of Devonshire Square, a nursing school. In 1813, at age 33, her attention turned to the female prisoners in London's Newgate prison. She began to visit the prison almost daily, and what she found there horrified her.

At Newgate, women awaiting trial for stealing apples were crammed into the same cell as women who had been convicted of murder or forgery (both capital crimes). Women ate, defecated, and slept in the same confined area. If an inmate had children, they accompanied her to prison and lived in the same inhumane conditions. For those without help from family, friends, or charities, the options were to beg and to steal food, or to starve to death. Many women begged for alcohol as well, languishing naked and drunk. The sight of children clinging to their mothers as they were dragged to the gallows was a scene replayed time and again.

## Better life for inmates

Prison officials warned Fry of the risks she was taking in visiting prisons (exposure to violence and disease), but she waved the warnings aside.

Besides comforting women, she taught them basic hygiene and to sew and quilt (so they might earn a living when they were released). She read the Bible to inmates and gave Bibles away. She intervened for women on death row, and if her pleas were unsuccessful, she accompanied women to the scaffold and comforted them in their last moments.

To expand her efforts, in 1816 she founded the Association for the Improvement of the Female Prisoners of Newgate "to provide for the clothing, instruction, and employment of the women; to introduce them to a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and to form in them, as much as possible, those habits of sobriety, order, and industry, which may render them docile and peaceable while in prison, and respectable when they leave it." Specific reforms she campaigned for included: separation of men and women prisoners, paid work for inmates, women guards for women prisoners, and the housing of criminals based on their crimes.

### **Beyond Newgate**

To nineteenth-century observers, Fry's efforts produced a miracle: many of the reportedly wild and incorrigible inmates became, under her care, orderly, disciplined, and devout. Mayors and sheriffs from surrounding regions visited Newgate and began initiating reforms in their own prisons. In 1818 Fry gave testimony before the House of Commons on the state of English prisons, which contributed to the Prison Reform Act of 1823.

Fry's concern extended to women in half-way houses, where she introduced education, discipline, and Bible instruction. She helped establish a night shelter in London (1820) and formed societies to minister to vagrant families. She also promoted her prison reform ideas in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Until her death in 1845 at age 65, she visited every convict ship that carried female prisoners to the British colonies.

Fry's ideas inspired subsequent generations to combine social work and gospel proclamation and reshaped how prisoners have been treated, ever since.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/activists/elizabeth-fry.html>



**Pray for prisoners and their relationship with God, that they would:**

- Experience His love
- Accept Christ as Savior
- Allow God to work in them and accomplish His purpose in their lives
- Earnestly seek God and get involved with chapel services and other Christian programming offered within the prison

**Pray for prisoners to grow in godly attributes, that they would:**

- Respect the authority of the prison staff
- Be able to control their temper
- Exhibit the fruit of the Spirit
- Experience genuine remorse for the harm they have caused their victims, and that they would seek to make amends as appropriate and possible

**Pray for prisoners' relationships with their families, that they will:**

- Be committed to keeping in touch with their spouse and children
- Be able to maintain a strong connection with their family, despite being separated
- Experience reconciliation in strained or broken relationships

**Pray for prisoners and their relationships with other inmates, that they will:**

- Make godly friends to support and encourage them
- Stay away from harmful associations that will lead them astray
- Be a friend to the lonely, the discouraged, the lost

**Pray for prisoners' protection, that they would:**

- Resist the snares of the evil one, Satan
- Shun drugs and other types of contraband that get into prison
- Be safe from sexual assault and other forms of victimization
- Be healthy and free from serious illness

**Pray for prisoners and their future, that they would:**

- Take advantage of prison programs to enhance their educational and vocational skills
- Be wise in the use of their God-given talents
- Seek the wisdom and resources they need to adjust to reentering society: job, housing, supportive friends, etc.

**Pray that Christian prisoners will:**

- Remain strong in their faith
- Find a volunteer mentor to encourage and disciple them
- Have strength and courage to witness to other inmates
- Resist temptations and remain good role models

# LIGHT PARTY!

*Alternative Halloween!*

**St. Michael's Church**

**4.30 – 5.45pm**

**Thursday Oct 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Free! Craft, games, food, bible story, songs, pumpkins, glow in the dark! Free fun!*

*Sparkly dress (nothing scary!)*

# LIGHT PARTY!



# HARVEST SERVICES

**St John, Wall**

Harvest Service

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 10am**



**St Michael, Lichfield**

Harvest Family Praise

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**10am**

## **St Michael's Church Harvest Flowers**

We will be decorating the church for  
Harvest Festival

on **Saturday 12th October from 9am**

and would welcome all who would like to help.

Many thanks,  
*Anne Lingwood*



## Chad Blog

### Three words to put our house in order

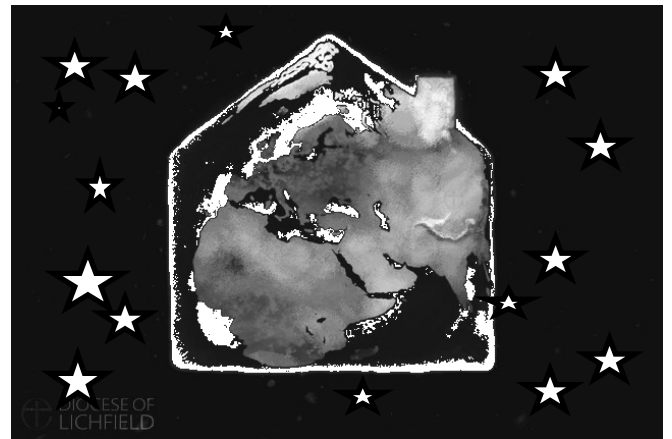
Where were you at 21.17 (British Summer Time) on 20th July 1969?

Like almost everybody my age or

even older, I was glued to a television set, watching very blurry images of Apollo 11's lunar module touch down on the moon – followed a few hours later by the first human moon walk. And where was I at 21.17 on 20th July this year? I was in Lichfield Cathedral, for a celebration of the Eucharist beginning exactly 50 years to the day, hour and minute after that momentous event. We used Eucharistic Prayer C from the American Book of Common Prayer: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. Those words, written ten years after the moon landing, express powerfully both the vastly enlarged horizons which space exploration has opened to us, and at the same time the focus it shines on our own small planet, 'our island home'. Viewed from beyond, our earth looks both very beautiful and very vulnerable.

The recognition that together we need to care for this home of ours is an ancient one, as can see from three related 'eco' words, all of them from the Greek oikos, 'a house'. First is eco-nomics, literally the way in which a household is to be ordered. In Christian tradition, the 'Divine Economy' means in the first place the Incarnation, the coming among us of God as the man Jesus of Nazareth to recast and renew our relations with one another. In everyday terms, that momentous event of economy means that we have to look for right dealings, fairness and justice among us, and a sustainable use of our resources.

Then there is the word ecu-menical. In its deepest sense, this is not just about relations between different denominations of the church; it



refers to all who dwell within our own home – that is, all the citizens of earth. The future of our planet belongs to us all, and it can only be saved by all of us together: as members of a worldwide communion, we Christians should of all people know that being part of a wider belonging is the only way to bring change in our divided world.

And third, of course, there is eco-logy. We have come to see, as never before, how fragile our world is, how precarious its survival, how great the responsibility laid on us to care for this, the home God has given into our stewardship. On 20 September, led by young people around the world, there was a great day of mobilisation of Christians, people of other faiths, and all of good will to raise awareness of the challenges facing us, and the urgency of collective action to change our collective behaviour. We can join together on 20 September and remember that we need to hold to the big picture. Ecological mobilisation, ecumenical partnership and economic justice go together as we commit to the future of ‘this fragile earth, our island home’, which God loved so much that he gave his only Son for its life.

*+Michael* 30 Aug 2019

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

## Deadlines!

For **NOVEMBER** 2019 Magazine:

Deadline is

**MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Contact David Bull

**Pew Sheet:**

7:30am

every Thursday Morning.

Contact Parish Office

# Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

## Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion  
10:00am Holy Communion

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

## Regular Services at St John's Sundays

10am Holy Communion

### Baptism @ 11.30am

4th Sunday

## Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 12:30pm

Holy Baptism

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 6:00pm

Holy Communion

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 4:30pm

Messy Church

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 6:00pm

Choral Evensong

### Tuesday

School Service

### Wednesday

9:30am Holy Communion

## Music in the Benefice

St Michael's Church

### Wednesdays

6.30pm Girls Choir

7.15pm Other parts &  
St Michael's Singers

### Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

### Baptism

**Preparation** First Tuesday at  
8:00pm at St Michael's

## St Michael's Prayer Group,

For information contact June Frayn (264920) or Brenda Liptrot (251863)



## Parish Surgery

For Baptisms, Banns and Weddings, staff are available at the Parish Office in St Michael's Church, Church Street on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday mornings** in the month by appointment only.

Please telephone 01543 262211 or email

[office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk) to make an appointment.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

## First Steps



**Monday 14th October**  
**10am St Michael's**

## Harvest

## Family Praise



**Sunday 13th October**  
**10am St Michael's**

Come and join us at our ...

## **MESSY CHURCH LIGHT PARTY**

for craft, story, song and food on



**THURSDAY 31st October**

**4.30 – 5.45pm**

in St Michael's Church  
Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome

## Mel's stoles.

Having worked hard on the banners for St Michael patronal festival last autumn, the Sewing Bee were in need of a new project. We suggested to the PCC that, with their approval and funding, we could make our curate, Mel, a set of ecclesiastic stoles for her ordination as priest.

A priest in the church of England usually wears a stole for sacramental occasions – weddings, funerals, baptisms and communion services and we needed to make four for the different seasons of the church's year. White for Easter, Christmas, weddings and ordination, red for Pentecost and saint's days, purple for Advent, Lent and funerals and green for the ordinary seasons of the year.

The Sewing Bee discussed ideas with Mel and worked in pairs to produce the four stoles. We felt it was important, where possible, to incorporate something that linked the symbolism used to the church of St Michael's.

### The white stole.

The white stole depicting a fragmented cross and a sunrise (representing crucifixion and resurrection) is inspired by the shape and colours of the stained glass in the windows of the north aisle.



### The red stole.

This design was inspired by a design Mel liked from images found on the internet. It depicts both a dove (an ancient symbol of the Holy Spirit) and the fire of martyrdom and flame of the Holy Spirit which descended on the disciples at Pentecost.

### The purple stole.

This contains an image of a lily and interwoven greenery. The greenery is in the form of a Stafford knot which is not a religious symbol, but is a reminder that Mel began her ministry in this location. The lily, made from the remnant of one member's wedding dress, is a copy of a lily



from a window in the north side of the choir. The angel Gabriel is often depicted as giving Mary a lily at the time of the annunciation and this lily is a symbol of Advent hope. A lily is also a flower associated with funerals and Mary Magdalene is depicted holding a lily at the tomb in the resurrection window in the north aisle.



### **The green stole.**



Mel asked for one of the stoles to depict St Michael and the green stole has a golden wing on each side representing St Michael. Although the body of the archangel is not depicted, Mel will be symbolically wrapped in his wings and, during her ministry amongst us, Mel will be surrounded both by the fellowship of the saints in heaven and by the love and support of the congregation of St Michael's church.

### **The butterflies.**

Mel said the symbol of a butterfly was important to her and asked if we could somewhere include a butterfly on one of her stoles. On the reverse of each stole is a beautiful, life sized embroidered British butterfly complementing the colour of the stole.

We hope as Mel continues in the journey of ministry, the stoles made for her by St Michael's Sewing Bee as a gift from the whole church will be a reminder of our ongoing love and support.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Sewing Bee for their hard work, dedication and fellowship. We have come a long way from making shopping bags and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together.

### **The next chapter.**

The Sewing Bee are currently working on their next project.

If you would like to join us, we usually meet twice a month on a Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm currently at church. Please speak to me if you would like to know more.

*Diana Baker*

## Camas Notes

As the Camas party was going to be small in 2019 we didn't need to do so much fundraising this year. It costs about £400 for an adult to go to Camas and about £100 less for an under 16. This year we were looking to provide about £1500 in support to families and we achieved that through grants, personal donations and the enormously successful Strawberry Tea and Grand Raffle that raised nearly £900 – see below for the raffle results. We're also very grateful to the Rector and Churchwardens for giving us the church's share of the Patronal Concert takings this year. Once again we have had support from Lichfield Diocese and from the Swinfen Broun Charitable Trust.

I've always felt a great responsibility leading the Camas group, more so than in my Army days. The age of those attending is obviously a factor, but it's also because we're a church community and we all know each other, and I know all the parents really well. Despite his work as a paramedic, I know that Joe Sneddon felt the same leadership pressure this year. However he's keen to give it another go and we've already started looking at dates for a Camas visit next year. If it's to be viable we want the group to be at least 18 in number and to have some younger members – 10 is our minimum age. If that's the case we'll need to hold two or more fundraisers in 2020 in addition to the tea and raffle. That will be clear by Christmas and we'll try to announce them in the New Year.

Joe and I are redefining our Camas roles and in future he'll be the Camas Leader and I'll be the Camas Administrator, which means that Joe will take over contact with the Camas team and the selection and briefing of the Young Leaders. I'll be around to help but, as the leader on the ground, he should feel that he's planned the week and its activities.

We are always grateful to the Lichfield firms that support the Grand Raffle and I try to vary those that we approach. This year we would like to thank: Keelys Solicitors, The Owl, Ask Italian, Wheate's (antique dealers and jewellers) and Central Garage.

*Ted Green*

# Camas Grand Raffle Results 2019

£50 Debenhams voucher ( <b>Keelys</b> )	626	Amanda Saunders
Bollinger Champagne	975	Brenda Eley
£30 Voucher – <b>The Owl</b>	078	Tricia Jones
Bottle of Irish Whiskey	141	Peter & Rowan
<b>Wheate's</b> £25 Voucher	220	Anne Lingwood
Bottle of Proseco	389	Bill Pegg (c/o Tinsdeall)
<b>Central Garage</b> £25 car Clean	814	Elizabeth Allen
Bottle Beaujolais Village	761	Richard Keay
Bottle of Port	070	Peter Boggis
Fairtrade Hamper	118	Joan Sharman
Bottle of Lansen Champagne	320	Jason Bryant
White fragrance basket	185	Shirley Trelfa
Bottle of Spanish red wine	391	Martin K (c/o Tinsdeall)
<b>Ask Italian</b> Gift Pack (wine & oils)	195	Sonia Doidge
Lady's Watch	717	Peter Salt
Lindt Chocolates	481	Rose Harvey
Bottle of Big Bill red wine	997	A Clarke (c/o Pearsall)
A-Z of Lichfield	501	Gwen Smith
Brown Fragrance Basket	931	Phil Clayton
Miscellany	358	Frazer Sneddon
Preserves	475	Jackie Harvey
Bottle of Rosé wine	158	Jeyan Anketell
Sweets	500	Chris Henson

# The Camas Newsletter 2019

The main features of Camas 2019 (18 – 24 August) were the smaller group (13) and the very mixed weather. We were due to go fishing on the B Marie on the Wednesday morning (21 August) but it had to be cancelled because of a major storm. Mark Jardine had to put his boat, B Marie, into the Bull Hole – a safe anchorage on Mull also used by the Iona ferry. Many thanks to Darragh and his team for making everything so good despite the weather. Kelly summed it up beautifully: “I’ve met new staff at Camas, who are really cool and awesome.” The group kept a diary and the newsletter is made up of entries. Amanda and Erin, both 13 and members of the Girls’ Choir, were the two ‘newbies’ this time.



**18 August – Joe:** Even though I'm approaching my 10<sup>th</sup> year going to Camas, this time is a year of firsts:

First year with no Ted

First year of leading

First year with such a small group

First year without my 'original crew'.

Whilst I'm super-nervous I can't wait to go back to this beautiful and wonderful place to help a new generation of Camas goers.

**Catie** and **Pippa** wrote about their responsibilities as Young Leaders, which they had both been looking forward to. It was clear from their entries how well they cooperated and how much they enjoyed looking after the group.



**19 August** was the second travel day, including a self-cooked breakfast at Oban Youth Hostel and an afternoon on Iona before arriving at Camas in the evening.

**20 August – Amanda:** I'm very much enjoying Camas so far. I got scared during the abseiling but I'm excited to do kayaking. I also like the food. (Ed: Camas is vegetarian.)



**Carley:** I'm so happy to be back here, everything is so comforting. Kayaking was really fun, you could barely feel the cold! Also Camas soup is the best.

There was general disappointment about the cancellation of the fishing on the 21<sup>st</sup> but the group enjoyed chilling out together.

**22 August** was 'walking and beach day' but the beach part had to be abandoned part way through because of the rain.

Comments from three old hands:



**Sean:** Today was rather wet and, in fact, rather soggy. However all damp is thrown away with a warm shower and a cuppa. For some reason Reuben decided to swim in the ocean .....

**Reuben:** Damp old day today. I was the only person to go in the sea – disappointing. Spotted a seal whilst dunking.



(Ed. We haven't been able to stop Reuben swimming in freezing water since he was 10. Thankfully it's his own responsibility now!)



**23 August** was the last full day and the morning was spent on the hills behind Camas playing two favourite games, Camouflage and Plant the Flag. **Chelsea** and **Harriet** have both been going to Camas since they were 10 or 11



and both wrote how much they enjoy this part of the week. Then it was the Camas Challenge (cooking, decorating, Reflections and entertainment) summed up by **Brigid**: It went brilliantly! Pizza, chips and sticky toffee pudding in a Narnia themed garden and some cracking entertainment, plus the Reflection was beautiful. It has



**24 August.** The journey home makes for a long day and here are **Erin's** thoughts: I really enjoyed my first Camas even though I had a bad first night. Getting to know everyone better was

great fun. I'd like to go again even though the journey back has been very hectic. (Ed. Thanks to Network Rail!) And the last thoughts are from **Josh**: Strewth, what a blur this week has been! I'd like to thank the Camas staff and our group leader, Joseph, for only hitting me once. (Ed. Brotherly love!)



## More Pictures:





# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

**Thursday September 5th. was Britain In Bloom Results Day** and I am pleased to say that Lichfield were awarded **GOLD!**

It is great that we as a Church were able to take part with the Churchyard being one of the Open Spaces judged in Lichfield's 2019 Entry. Lilas Rawling, Chairman of the Lichfield In Bloom Committee, attended the Awards Ceremony at Dunchurch and she received the certificate on behalf of the City. The photographs show Lilas and 2 representatives from Britain In Bloom at The Awards Ceremony; and the Certificate itself.

I would like to thank everyone who has worked in the Churchyard over the past 2 years. It is the Team Work of the Working Party members and The Payback Team that helped us to achieve a very good standard for Judging Day in July. I would also like to thank The Rector, Churchwardens, PCC and the Congregations who have supported us in all we have tried to achieve.

The work goes on and our **October Working Party** is on **Saturday October 26th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Refreshments will be served during the Mid-Morning Break.** If you have not been to a Working Party session before but would like to join us, please come along. You will be very welcome.

Ray Allen 01543 251654





HEART OF  
ENGLAND

Heart of England in Bloom is proud to present

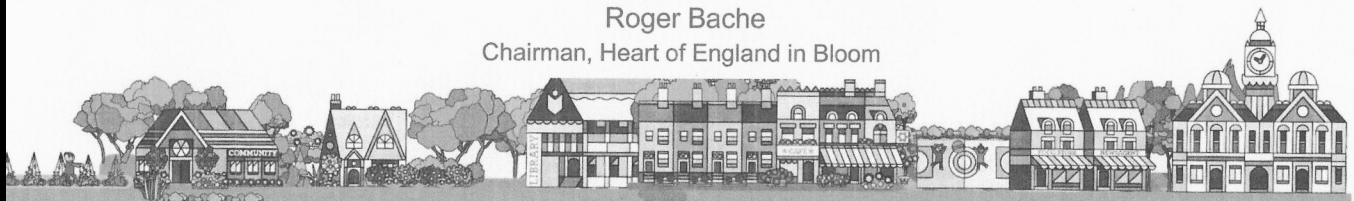
Blooming Lichfield

with a 2019

Gold – Small City

*R. Bache*

Roger Bache  
Chairman, Heart of England in Bloom



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# Johnson Birthday Celebration

For many years the Mayor has led the Dr Samuel Johnson Birthday Celebration by placing a wreath on his statue in Lichfield Market Square on a Saturday near to his birth date, 18 September – shared with Caroline Green and Trevor James! Johnson was born in 1709 and attended Lichfield Grammar School from 1716 until 1725. To commemorate that, members of King Edward VI School student leadership team take part in the Birthday Celebration and the School Captain gives a speech at the Johnson Dinner in the evening. In recent times Will Stevens and Charlotte Bull from St Michael's have had that distinction. This year the President of the Lichfield Johnson Society is Archbishop Rowan Williams, who will have carried out the only duty in his year of office, a speech about Dr Johnson at the dinner. Some years ago Suzie Dent was President and invited members of the Society to the filming of *Countdown* in Manchester.

Traditionally St Michael's Robed Choir sang at the lunchtime Celebration but this stopped about 15 years ago when the choir was going through a fallow period. However in 2013 we resumed our position as the regular choir. The Birthday Celebration takes the form of a short outdoor church service and the choir always sang part of Johnson's Last Prayer, set to music written before the First World War. Peter Hawksworth was uncomfortable with the setting and wrote new music for the whole prayer, to be sung by St Michael's Combined Choir. This is now a feature of the Celebration and this year, on 14 September, Pippa Bryant and Joe Sneddon sang the solos. The text of the prayer is:

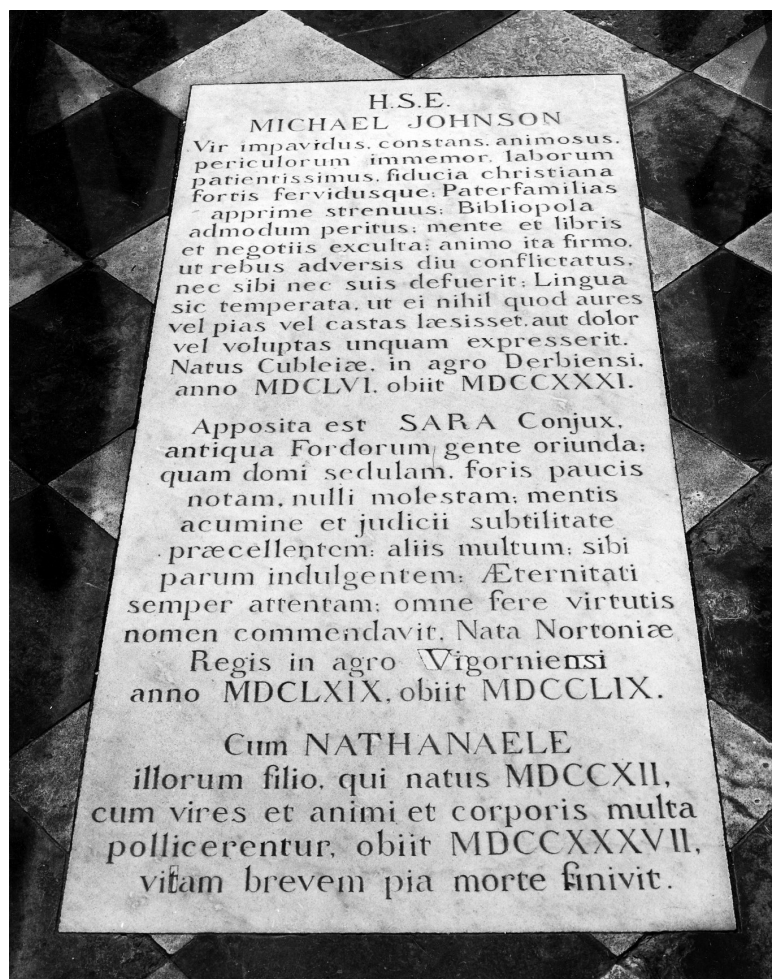
*Almighty and most merciful Father, I am now as to human eyes, it seems, about to commemorate, for the last time, the death of thy Son*



*Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. Grant, O Lord, that my whole hope and confidence may be in his merits, and thy mercy; enforce and accept my imperfect repentance; make this commemoration available to the confirmation of my faith, the establishment of my hope, and the enlargement of my charity; and make the death of thy Son Jesus Christ effectual to my redemption. Have mercy upon me, and pardon the multitude of my offences. Bless my friends; have mercy upon all men. Support me, by thy Holy Spirit, in the days of weakness, and at the hour of death; and receive me, at my death, to everlasting happiness, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

In church on Sunday morning 15 September, members of the Combined Choir sang the prayer again to the congregation, with the same soloists. As the Rector pointed out, St Michael's is now the Lichfield church with most links to Johnson. His parents and brother are buried beneath the centre aisle and Johnson wrote *Rasselas, or the Prince of Abyssinia* for £100 to pay for the memorial slab covering the bodies. Johnson wrote the Latin inscription on the slab, a translation of which is kept at the back of church.

*Ted Green*





## UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

Our August walk was a return visit to Alrewas National Memorial Arboretum.

The weather was HOT so we were fortunate to start with refreshments in the cafe and then were able to walk in the shade for most of the visit.

We had a knowledgeable volunteer from the Arboretum with us who was able to make the visit more interesting. We have to thank Ron Plimmer for the photos of the group at the 'Spirit Horse Statue'.

Taking lunch refreshments at the restaurant enabled the group to disperse as they wished.

*Hilary*



We invite you to join us for our **October Walk** at **The Wolseley Centre**. We meet on Saturday October 19th., at **10.00 a.m.**, at **St. Michael's** and then drive to the **Car Park of The Wolseley Centre, Headquarters of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust**, around **2 miles** from Rugeley.

Car Parking is free, but a donation towards the work of The Wildlife Trust, is requested.

We begin with a short walk around part of this excellent Nature Reserve which has been extensively developed over the past few years. At the end of this walk we will be having **coffee in the newly opened Kingfisher Café** which has views of planted pollinator beds and Swan Lake.

During coffee we will be **choosing our lunch** which we will also be having at The Kingfisher Cafe.

After coffee we will be going on a longer walk visiting the rest of the Wolseley Centre Reserve, looking at the wildlife to be seen, and features that have been provided including **pond dipping platforms, a bird hide, and new boardwalks**. We will also be walking by **The River Trent**. There will also be an opportunity to visit the **Shop** which has a good range of **Wildlife Themed Gifts**. The total distance of the 2 walks is about **3 miles**.

Lunch will be at around **1.15-1.30 p.m.** We should **return to Lichfield by 2.30-3.00 p.m.**

Do join us if you can for what I am sure will be a very pleasant walk in this fine Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.

*Ray Allen.      01543 251654*



# ***St. Michael's Film Club***

## **1. Fisherman's Friends**

*(112min. Cert 12A 2019) Comedy, Drama, Music*

Ten fisherman from Cornwall are signed by Universal Records and achieve a top ten hit with their debut album of Sea Shanties.

**Monday 7th October**

**1.30pm start**

**Refreshments £3.00 from 1.00pm.**

**St. Michael's Church**

**All welcome.**

**Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211**

## **2. Casablanca**

*(102min. Cert PG 1942) Drama, Romance, War*

A cynical American expatriate struggles to decide whether or not he should help his former lover and her fugitive husband escape French Morocco.

**Monday 4th November**

**1.30pm start**



## 2nd September Film Review Dumbo

From Disney and visionary director Tim Burton, the grand action adventure Dumbo expands on the beloved classic story where differences are celebrated, family is cherished and dreams take flight, this Disney movie remake of the 1941 classic about a flying baby elephant is more of an expansion of the original simply a souped – up retread, for one thing it's nearly twice as long as the earlier film which was itself inspired by a mere handful of unpublished sketches made for a scrolling picture – book - series called “roll – a book”

This new story is decidedly deliciously dark, veined with thin layers of Burtons trademark macabre sensibility which adds texture and charm, the story about parent child bond and new love, the possibility of the impossible. The film opens in 1919 “Sarasota flats US of A” , where the ragtag circus at the centre of the film spends its winters. Holt Farrier (Colin Ferrell) is a returning veteran who has not only just lost an arm (in the great war) and his wife (to influenza), but his job as well. No longer able to work as the circus's trick western rider, with two children a boy and girl, Holt is reassigned by the circus owner/ ringmaster Max Medici ( Danny DeVito) to take care of the elephants, but soon real trouble arrives. The female Indian elephant Jumbo who has just given birth to a calf with comically oversized ears,

a sadistic animal trainer is accidentally killed and Mom is sold off as a “mad” animal, leaving Dumbo as her son has been nicknamed, disconsolate. The children try to console Dumbo, the girl has a chain around her neck with a key that her mother gave her when she was ill telling her when you are feeling sad turn the key and magical things shall happen, the girl turned the key and gave Dumbo a feather, and soon Dumbo was flying. The already struggling circus makes an incredible comeback , attracting persuasive entrepreneur V. A. Vondevere (Michael Keeton) who persuades the circus owner to go into partnership with him in his newest larger than life entertainment venture, Dreamland. Dumbo soars to new heights alongside the charming and spectacular aerial artist who Holt falls in love with. Everything is going well until Holt learns that beneath its shiny veneer, Dreamland is full of dark secrets.

This movie is basically how the love of mother for her children and finding new love again can overcome evil, Just as Phil wrote in the magazine, love is the greatest of all qualities that we as Christians are to possess.

*Romulus*

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# WALL NEWS

## Ramblings

The other day I was sitting in my favourite chair reading. The sun was shining and when I looked at the sideboard next to me, to my dismay I saw a thick layer of dust! Normally the furniture looks spotless as I am somewhat house proud but the light of the sun had revealed my deficiencies! The sun certainly shows up things we may not have noticed, cobwebs in dark corners as well as dust in unlikely places. It seems to me that there is a lesson here somewhere. Sometimes the light of God can shine onto corners of our lives and show us what is lurking in dark corners. King David had some experience of this for although he was a great king he was very human. You may remember how he fell in love with Bathsheba who was another man's wife. You can read the whole story in 2 Samuel chapter 11.... When it was clear that Bathsheba was pregnant, David tried to cover it all up but his plans didn't work so he engineered the death of her husband and married her. The sad consequences brought David to his senses as you can read in chapter 12.

Sometimes the light of God shines out and reveals to us something we had not thought of before. This can happen when we are reading the Bible, listening to a sermon or even walking in the countryside. Let us pray that the light of God will shine on us anew in the days to come.

*Christine Higgs*

## **Knowle Lodge Open Garden in June**

I missed the dead line for the last magazine print so am late with the write up for what is one of our important fund raising events. Sunday June 30th was a beautiful day with a lot of activities in Lichfield to choose from. However we still had plentiful visitors to the garden from far and wide. We have to thank Kate Cooper for giving us the opportunity to help at this fund raising event. Also thanks go to those who bake cakes and help out on the afternoon serving the refreshments. It is an important fund raising event and monies raised always go to good causes.

*Hilary*

## **St John Church, Wall Open Door**

During the Summer months for some years now there has been an open door to the church in day light hours. Margaret Russell has enabled this to take place day in, day out. With out her diligence this important undertaking would not happen. On Sunday I took the time to go back in the visitors book to see just how many had signed the book since the door was opened this year. Approximately 80 people have signed the book. I have acknowledged many more who come into the church, look around and leave not signing the book. Therefore just how many more have the opportunity to step into this place of worship and be at peace.

The pebble pool introduced fairly recently is also in evidence of use. I often have to move the pebbles back to the dish.

Visitors come from far and near. The visitors range from Ontario Canada, Poland, The Netherlands and USA.

Our congregation may be small, however the larger congregation are in the visitors who step over the entrance at St John Church, Wall.

*Hilary*



## **LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP**



# *Wildlife Gardening*



Photos: Peter Norbury

**A talk by Ron Rock**

**Tuesday 5 November 7:45 p.m.**

**Wade Street Church  
Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HL**

**Admission: £3:50 (under-16s free)**

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

**Contact (01543) 263082**



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

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# St Michael's Rota - October 2019

<b>Sunday 8.00 am</b>	<b>6 October</b>	<b>13 October</b>	<b>20 October</b>	<b>27 October</b>
<b>Sidesperson</b>	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes

<b>Sunday 10.00 am</b>	<b>6 October</b>	<b>13 October Harvest Family Praise</b>	<b>20 October</b>	<b>27 October</b>
<b>Welcomers</b>	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Maureen Brand	Shirley Trelfa	Anne Lingwood
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Pat Toplis David Bull	Viv and Stephen Oliver	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Barbara Homewood Richard Keay
<b>Reader</b>	Phil Clayton		Mike Godfrey	Angela Burgess
<b>Servers</b>	Phil Clayton David Shiel		Maggie Easton Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Sheila Vaughan		Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin
<b>Intercessor</b>	David Bull		Phil Clayton	Peter Salt
<b>Coffee</b>	Caroline Green Brenda Eley	Alison Anketell Brenda Liptrot	Lynn and David Edge	Angela Burgess Judy Godfrey
<b>Healing</b>				Lesley Allen John Polhill
<b>Transport</b>	Ray Allen	Elizabeth Allen	Brenda Liptrot	Ron Plimmer
<b>Flowers</b>	Diana Baker and Team	Harvest flowers – all please	Harvest flowers	Sue Jones

<b>Sunday 12.30 pm</b>	<b>6 October Baptism</b>	<b>Sunday 6.00 pm</b>	<b>13 October Communion</b>	<b>27 October Evensong</b>
<b>Reader</b>	Sonia Doidge	<b>Sidesperson</b>	Ray Allen	Margaret Frean
<b>Intercessor</b>	Rita Ather-smith	<b>Reader</b>	Ray Allen	Margaret Frean
<b>Server</b>	David Shiel	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Elizabeth Allen	

# Bible Readings

**Sunday 6th October**  
**16th Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

2 Timothy 1.1-14  
Luke 17.5-10

**Sunday 13th October**  
**17th Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

2 Timothy 2.8-15  
Luke 17.11-19

**Sunday 20th October**  
**18th Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

2 Timothy 3.14-4.5  
Luke 18.1-8

**Sunday 27th October**  
**Last Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18.9-14

**Sunday 27th October**  
**Last Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

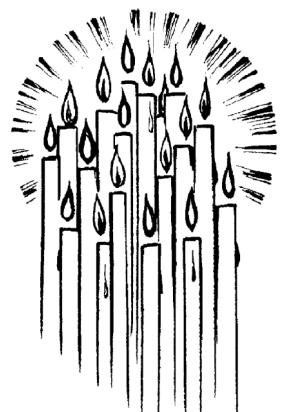
**EVENSONG**  
Ecclesiastes 11, 12  
2 Timothy 2.1-7

**Sunday 3rd November**  
**All Saints Day**  
**[White]**

Ephesians 1.11-end  
Luke 6.20-31

**Sunday 10th November**  
**3rd Sunday before Advent**  
**[Red]**

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-end  
Luke 20.27-38





# From the Registers



## Baptism

St Michael	1st Sept.	Max James Weldon	5 mths
St Michael	8th Sept.	Gabriel Michael Hawksworth	7 mths



## Wedding

--	--	--



## At Rest

St Michael	2nd September	Vivian Poynton	86
St Michael	5th September	Margaret Lilian Handley	90

## And Finally...

It is the crushed grape that yields the wine.

*Anon*

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