

# THE PARISH MAGAZINE

## October 2021



**Sunday 3rd October - Harvest Services**

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

**85p**

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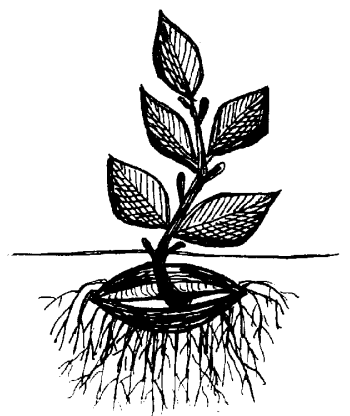
## Reflection.....

### ‘A little thing’

Four years ago I had the chance to fulfil a dream, to have a go at looking after an allotment! I’ve always been interested in growing vegetables – from growing a few potatoes and green beans in a tiny back yard 40 years ago to planting in tubs, growbags and potato sacks in a vicarage garden. Mind you, I’m not really much of a gardener. And I certainly don’t think you could say my approach was scientific – I don’t know a thing about soil acidity or the merits of ‘no-dig’ or which is the best type of broad bean to plant! I’d describe myself more of an intuitive gardener – I try to follow a basic crop rotation but otherwise it’s ‘let’s try planting this here’!

And so, four years on and after much digging and weeding (and more digging and weeding) about 90% of my plot is now producing crops. It’s very rewarding. Don’t get me wrong, there are times of despair – especially when returning from holiday to find ALL the weeds have reinstated themselves! But so many joys - the vegetables tasting so much sweeter and fresher than bought ones, the grandchildren enjoying digging up potatoes and popping peas from their pods, and especially during the last 18 months the importance of having somewhere outdoors to spend positive time and energy. But the thing that amazes me the most, and never ceases to amaze me, is the planting of a tiny seed that grows and changes until it produces food to sustain me and my family.

This is my harvest story. Only a little thing in the face of feeding myself, let alone the bigger picture of food production, poverty and plenty that we think about and thank God for at harvest-time. But I think little things matter. I often use the image of the parable of the mustard seed as I’ve tried over the years to encourage congregations that each person’s small actions make a difference to the world.



‘It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.’ *(Mark 4:31-32 NRSV)*

Another image I’ve often turned to is from the writings of Julian of Norwich. Julian talks about being shown a little thing the size of a hazelnut that represents all that is made. When marvelling at its size and seeming fragility, and questioning how it could last, Julian receives the answer that ‘it lasts and ever shall because God loves it’. She goes on to say:

‘In this little thing I saw three truths. The first is that God made it. The second is that God loves it. The third is that God looks after it.’ *(From ‘Enfolded in love’ Daily readings with Julian of Norwich DLT)*

My little allotment plot is never going to win prizes or feed a family for a year. But I take comfort and find joy from the small returns to the effort I put in. For many of us these last 18 months have reduced our lives, our world, to something smaller than it was before. Yet our appreciation of the natural world has grown, as has our understanding of the importance of the seemingly small things in life such as sharing a cup of tea with a friend or holding the hand of a loved one. In these things, as in all the little daily tasks and activities that make up our lives, we can take comfort and find joy. No matter how small or fragile or insignificant we may feel we can place out trust in God who made us, loves us and looks after us. Then who knows how much the seed within us will grow to spread the good news that will sustain all things!

*Revd Kareen Lowther*

God made us

God loves us

God cares for us

St Michael's and St John's

*Harvest Services*

**Sunday 3rd October**

**10am**

Please bring tinned  
or packet food  
items for the  
**Lichfield Foodbank**



**Feeding the  
Community**

St Michael's will also be making a  
collection for **WaterAid**.



# DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

## ***The Chad Blog***

### **Fragile – handle with care**



I have been thinking much about the fragility of the world in recent weeks. The departure of UN troops from Afghanistan and the rapid takeover of the country by the Taliban has revealed the fragility of human efforts at peace-making. We pray earnestly for that troubled nation but cannot help but be apprehensive for its future. During the pandemic, we have seen how vulnerable we are in the face of a deadly virus. The climate emergency has shown our planet's fragility. In the midst of all this we sense our Church is also fragile and sometimes our faith is too – “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!”

We have sometimes told ourselves a story of invulnerability, particularly here in the West, in which our wealth, power and technological knowhow will always enable us to overcome every obstacle. Of course, scientific advances have conferred great benefits on us, but our recent experience has demonstrated that our world is a fragile place, and we are fragile people.

For Christians, this is a discipleship matter and so we reaffirm our belief that the only lasting foundation upon which we can build is the

loving faithfulness God. Psalms 46 and 103 are key texts. We do not “put our trust in princes” (or armies, or technology or wealth). Our hope is in God, “the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them - the LORD, who remains faithful forever” (Psalm 46). We give up on that false story of our power and invulnerability and put our trust in the God who “knows of what we are made”, who sees our fragility and whose steadfast love is from “everlasting to everlasting.” (Psalm 103).

In recognising our fragility, and by putting our trust in God in this way, we do not instead descend into fatalism, a *que sera sera* kind of faith that absolves us of actively seeking a better world. Because God is compassionate and “knows of what we are made” and because God loves this fragile world so much, then we too must be compassionate and loving after the pattern of Jesus. In such unstable times, we need to practice kindness, forbearance and hopefulness more than ever. As Christian disciples, we remember that the world, our neighbours, and we ourselves, are fragile and must be handled with care.

*+Matthew Parker  
Bishop of Stafford*

*Published: 31st August 2021*

## Deadlines!

For **November** Magazine: Deadline is

**MONDAY 18th October**

Contact David Shiel

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

**Pew Sheet:**

every Thursday 7:30am

Contact Parish Office

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

# LIGHT PARTY!

*Alternative Halloween!*

**St. Michael's Church**

**4.30 – 5.45pm**

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

*Free! Craft, games, food, Bible story, songs, pumpkins!*

**DRESS SPARKLY OR  
SUPERHERO!**

*(nothing scary!)*

**LIGHT PARTY!**



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

## First Steps



**Monday 4th October**  
**10am St Michael's**

## Family Praise

**Sunday 3rd October**  
**10am St Michael's**



Come and join us at our ...

## MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



**SUNDAY 12th September**

**4.30 – 5.30pm**

**in St Michael's Church**

**Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome**



# United Benefice Walking Group: Re-starting the Walking Group Walks.

We are pleased to tell you that the Walking Group Walks will begin again next month. **There will be some changes to the organisation of walks.** Here is a summary of the way walks will be organised:

1. Monthly walks will continue to be led by Angie, Hilary and Ray. They will be **advertised in the Parish Magazine, the Pew Sheet and to those who are on the Walking Group Mailing List.**
2. It will be necessary to **book for walks.** A Booking system will be introduced. Please book for a walk on the **Parish Website: <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk>**
3. **The maximum number for walks has been set at 20, to make walks more manageable and safe.**
4. **For walks in Lichfield walkers will meet in the Churchyard or at a prominent City Centre location such as the Market Square.** For walks outside Lichfield everyone is to **go by car to the Walk Meeting Point given by the Walk Leader.** We are confident that lifts can be arranged before the walk for those who do not have their own transport.
5. **Social distancing will not be possible on walks.** However, **masks can be worn,** although this will not be compulsory unless part of the walk consists of going inside a building, for example a Church.
5. **We shall no longer be calling for coffee at a cafe, but walkers are welcome to bring their own drink and snack.**

6. Similarly the **Walking Group Leaders will not be arranging and booking meals at a pub following walks.** However, walkers may wish to book a lunch for themselves before returning to Lichfield.

7. Walks will last an **hour to an hour and a half** and the distance of the walks will be around **3 to 3 and a half miles long.**

8. Dates and venues for walks have been planned for November, 2021 and January and February, 2022, as follows:

**Saturday November 20th: Pipe Hall Farm, led by Angie.**

**Saturday January 22nd: Lichfield, led by Ray.**

**Saturday February 12th: Shenstone, led by Hilary.**

Full details of all of these walks will be given nearer to the date of the walk

The Walking Group was formed in September, 2007. We would like to thank everyone for all the support we have received for many years. We very much look forward to re-starting the walks next month.

Please join us if you can. You will be made very welcome

Best Wishes to you all  
*from Angie, Hilary and Ray,*  
United Benefice Walking Group Leaders





# THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

## **Afghanistan crisis: advice for parishes on helping refugees**

The Church of England has published a 'toolkit' of resources for parishes seeking to help refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover of the country.

The material, available online, at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/toolkit-supporting-afghan-refugees>

brings together links and information on how churches can welcome people arriving from Afghanistan through giving, longer-term practical support such as community sponsorship, prayer and advocacy.

Staff in the Church of England's national Mission and Public Affairs team say they have been overwhelmed with messages from churches and individuals concerned by the situation in Afghanistan and asking what they can do to help.

The toolkit includes a range of prayer and theological resources from the Church of England and other sources alongside details of an array of charities and NGOs also working to support refugees and asylum seekers.

It also includes a simple explanation of the two main resettlement schemes and the asylum system and offers suggestions on how Christians can speak out on behalf of those unable to do so.

In a foreword to the toolkit, the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Refugees and Asylum, said: "The challenge for the whole nation is to welcome these families and help them build new lives here in the United Kingdom.

"Alongside this is the reality that there are thousands of Afghan citizens already here and stuck in the asylum system awaiting a response to their claim.

"God's call on God's people has always been to welcome the stranger and help provide for them.

"So here is a fresh opportunity to live out this calling.

"It has to be very practical; hence this toolkit.

"It is not a quick short-term response that is most needed but a willingness to befriend families and support them for the long haul.

"It is also a call to stand up for justice and advocate for the most vulnerable."

The Church of England is a longstanding supporter of refugee programmes including the Government's Community Sponsorship scheme set up in 2016 to offer support to Syrian refugees coming to Britain (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/community-sponsorship-scheme-launched-for-refugees-in-the-uk>).

Bishops in the House of Lords regularly raise issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers and last year played a key role in supporting series of amendments to the Immigration Bill calling for child refugees to be reunited with close relatives in the UK.

*Published 2nd September 2021*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases>

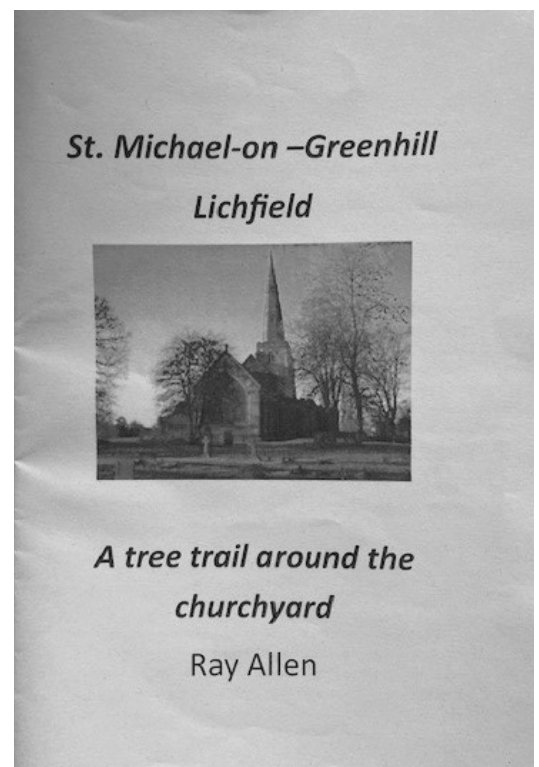
# St. Michael's Churchyard

## Meadow Cutting

At our September Working Party, helped by the Community Pay Back Team, we cut down the **Churchyard Meadow**. We had planned to do this work in August, but there were still a number of plants flowering and attracting insects, so we decided to leave the cutting until September. The plants are left to dry on the ground for a week, the cuttings are then turned and after another week the cuttings are collected and shaken in other parts of the Churchyard, to disperse seeds around, before being taken to the Compost areas. After this a final cut of the meadow is made. This cut should make the meadow flat, staying dormant until the stirrings of new life next Spring and hopefully another good crop of wild flowers and more insects in 2022. We also sowed a new Bee and Butterfly Meadow mix in a new bed next to the herb garden.

## Churchyard Tree Walk

I would like to invite you to a **Tree Walk** that I am leading on **Friday October 1st., at 10.00 a.m.** The walk, which will last for an hour, will follow the recently devised **Tree Trail**, looking at **12 common British trees** to be seen in different parts of the Churchyard. A **Tree Trail Booklet**, containing trail directions, information about each tree and a photograph of the tree showing its location and appearance in Summer. will be followed throughout the walk. **The walk is free and will be followed by refreshments (Tea/Coffee/ Cake) in Church. Numbers are limited to 20 The walk can be booked on the Church Website; or telephone me on 01543**



*The new Churchyard  
Tree Trail Booklet.*

**251654 to book a place.** The walk forms part of St. Michael's special events being held from the Patronal Festival on Sunday September 26th. to Harvest Festival on Sunday October 3rd. The event is called "The Angels keep their ancient places" and more information can be found on the Church Website, [stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](http://stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk)

### **October Working Party: Bulb Planting Morning**

Our **October Working Party** will be held on **Saturday October 9th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** All are warmly invited to join us and take



part in our **Bulb Planting Morning.** We are hoping to plant 500 Crocus Bulbs and a good number of daffodil bulbs to fill in spaces in the Crab Apple Avenue Borders. I do hope as many of you as possible would consider joining us for the Bulb Planting. I am sure it will be a very enjoyable occasion. The more people who can come along the easier the work will be for all of us.

*Crocus Ruby  
Giant bulbs will  
be planted. We  
hope to plant  
500 new crocus  
bulbs this month*

It will be good to further increase the Spring Flowering Bulbs in the Churchyard. There will be a **Mid-Morning Refreshment Break. Tea, Coffee and Cake will be provided.** Do please join us if you can.



*Daffodil Fortune  
bulbs will also be  
planted in the  
Crab Apple  
Avenue borders.*

Ray Allen      251654

# Mothers' UNION

## Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

QUARTERLY REFLECTION October-December

### **The Joy of Prayer**

Written by Rev Dr Deborah Chapman, Mothers' Union Chaplain for the Diocese of Europe

**Scripture: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! The Lord is near.**

*(Philippians 4:4, 5b)*

I like to think of prayer as becoming one with the heart of God – complete union with him and his loving will for our world. When God's loving heart became flesh in Jesus (Hebrew "Emmanuel" = God is with us) God drew near to us. And the angels said, 'Do not be afraid.' (Luke 1 and 2)

Zephaniah's prophecy has come true in Jesus. 'The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm... Be glad and rejoice with all your heart...' (Zephaniah 3:15b, 14b). NEVER is a big word! God does not tell us that 'never again will you suffer harm'. No – he tells us we will never again FEAR any harm.

On quiet days to pray and praise God, leaving everything in his powerful and able hands, I have deep peace and joy. And I become aware of how much God delights in me – I receive the stillness that



comes from knowing how much I am loved – I hear him singing, as I sing in praise to him, about how he rejoices in me – not because I am perfect or strong, but because in my imperfection and weakness, I turn to him – God with us!

### **Prayer points**

What do you fear? Make a list and offer each one to God in prayer. As you listen to him, cross out each item and write down what God has put in its place. Savour the joy of freedom from fear and the strength it gives to live life to the full.

Repeat this litany from Zephaniah 3:17 as a prayer:

He is mighty to save  
He will take great delight in me  
He will quiet me with his love  
He will rejoice over me with singing

Pray daily for a fresh filling by the Holy Spirit.

### **Our Impact**

Sewing machines for disadvantaged women in Rwanda

Mothers' Union members in Rwanda have been responding to local needs with health awareness, Savings and Credit groups, peace and reconciliation, support for widows, and vocational skills training.

A particular project, which has helped women in Rwanda to support their families, was boosted by members in Ringmer, Sussex at a Mothers' Union coffee morning. Two members from the Ringmer group, Sue and Margaret, visited the Diocese of Cyangugu, Rwanda in early 2019 and came across a tailoring project which Berthe, the wife of the Bishop of Cyangugu, had started.

Berthe realised that there were many young single mothers abandoned by their families. These women barely had enough to feed their children, earning a few francs by weeding and digging for a neighbour, and most mothers were going hungry in order to feed their children. She decided to set up an MU project to teach these young women tailoring in order to give them skills to earn some money.

The project only had a few sewing machines for the whole group to use and needed more so that they could help more women. The women would then sell what they produced and thereby earn more money, giving them the dignity of being able to feed their family.

Sue and Margaret identified a need to provide more sewing equipment and education on tailoring. The treadle sewing machines cost £90 and were to be sourced locally, to help support the local economy as well as reducing shipping costs. Ringmer MU decided to hold a coffee morning and raise enough money to buy at least one of the treadle sewing machines they use. The coffee morning was advertised widely and immediately people started to donate, some people even gave enough to buy a whole machine. The final sum raised was £2000 (or two million francs in Rwanda), far more than the group had dared to hope. Sue and Margaret gave the two million francs into the hands of Berthe and Esther as cash – in a brown paper bag!

## Celebrating new beginnings!

The first Family Praise at St Michael's, since the lockdown 18 months ago, was held on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The theme was celebrating new beginnings. This all-age service was an uplifting and joyous occasion, with many of the much-loved elements of Family Praise.

It was lovely to be able to celebrate together, with well-known, hymns, sung with gusto, behind our masks.

The short talk was thought-provoking and alluded to those "new beginnings" which are not always looked for, both in our own lives and in the lives of those around the world.

We shared our own prayers on paper hearts, which were taken to the altar and offered to God.

As with the best celebrations, there were balloons, party-poppers and cake for all!

The comments after the service were that it was greatly appreciated and people felt uplifted and encouraged to embrace this new beginning.

We look forward to the next Family Praise on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, which will be a celebration of harvest.

*David Bull*



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**

Sunday 3rd October  
Harvest Family Praise

## Camas 2021

The last time we ventured up north and across the border, it was a different time and Covid-19 was not even a whisper on the wind... lockdown, what's that? And it was wet wet wet. Two years later to the day, near enough, it was hot hot hot! The sun shone and the mood was good as we made our way to our community home for the week.

Changes! One of this year's defining features was that of change – the Camas group this year was travelling to Ross of Mull in a minibus (shock horror). For years and years we have taken the train to Mull,



however due to a number of unforeseen circumstances this year minibus was the mode of transport. 18 intrepid folk piled into a hired minibus and

### *Setting Out*

Ted's car to make the journey up to our favourite place. I should mention at this point a massive thank you to Dad, who you all know as Frazer, for driving us all up to Oban! A stay at the youth hostel and a little wander around Oban was possible .... some of the elders may have even had a beer or three!

Ferry and then bus and there we are! The Camas track, and a familiar face waiting for us, our very own Brigid Ray who would normally be a part of the group has been volunteering at Camas for a couple of months, following in the footsteps of some great alumni from the Lichfield group. A mile and a half of boggy marsh and rickety wooden track and we had arrived at our home for the week. Part of the Camas

ethos is about building a community while we are there, helping with chores, the general up keep of this beautiful place and going from individuals to one cohesive group, and there's a lot of fun along the way!

The first day at Camas is a big activities day, Kayaking and Abseiling. As mentioned before and I'm sure will be again, the weather was stunning! So the kayakers had a blissful paddle out into the bay followed by a number of games to (believe it or not) cool off in the Scottish sea! The abseilers were treated with views that were second to none! Most people braved the descent, which always feels perilous, however the Camas staff are very good at morale support at the edge of a cliff! Of course the climbers of the group gave it their best shot climbing up the wall with some success, our resident tree monkey Ruben did not disappoint and Andy made it for the first time.



*Drew Dyson*

When writing about time at Camas I'd be a fool to not to give a very special mention to an aspect that can sometimes be taken for granted, especially when you are starving after spending a day in the great outdoors... the food! For the week at Camas we are vegetarians and for those that work and volunteer at Camas long term that means they have some ingenious recipes that just taste amazing! Special mention for the soups and freshly baked bread all week for lunch, not so special mention for the scones and porridge every morning.

Over the next few days we had times for activities, arts, crafts and games. We had a short service put together by Sean and Edmund. An important aspect of our time at Camas is to have time to reflect, sometimes as a group and sometimes independently, these moments

of reflection are something that give us time to take stock of our busy home and work lives, with moments of calm and stillness, made all the more achievable when in beautiful scenery and away from the world.

Thursday, and a trip to the beach was in order, the beach in question Market Bay. The sun was again blaring, the sand was white and the sea was crystal clear. We swam and splashed in the refreshing water before drying off and applying A LOT of sunscreen! Once again we played big group wide games, laughed and relaxed, it was a beautiful day and one that won't be easily forgotten!

Our last day dawned, in the morning some brave participants went coasteering, scrambling over rocks, swimming across the bay and some BIG jumps into the sea. The afternoon consisted of the Camas Challenge, where we take over Camas for the afternoon and evening! The team in the kitchen cooked fish that we had caught on Mark's boat the day before, and they were cooked to perfection.



*Joe gutting mackerel*

The decorating team took inspiration from the weather and gave us a tropical theme. The group who led Reflection took us through a beautiful and calming period where we could leave messages for each other, of favourite memories or caring words that I think everyone in the group will treasure. We also took time to share, remember and celebrate the life of Luke Cotton, who attended in 2018 and was a good friend of many members of this group. The night ended with entertainment and games. Historically Ted has taken the brunt of the jokes in the entertainment, and this year I was certainly not prepared for those reins to be handed over to me, all in good spirit though (I hope)! Some music, songs and dance closed the evening off on a high note.

Camas is a wonderful place where for nearly two decades now Lichfield has been a part of in some way. As time moves on and people grow older I can guarantee that if you ask anyone who has spent a week there, building a community and creating lasting friendships, they will look back and remember it with fun, laughter and fondness. The importance of youth in our church cannot be underestimated and the Lichfield Camas group can hopefully keep being a key part of that. Until next year, Joe.  
*Joe Sneddon*

*Edmund is a second-year maths student (one of four studying the subject in the group this year) who has become friendly with Sean Adams, a long term member of our group from Wade Street Church, at Durham University.*



*Dan & Edmund cooking for the Camas Challenge*

This was my first year at Camas and it was a wonderful time. The location on the Isle of Mull is spectacular for its natural beauty. I really enjoyed engaging with outdoor activities and meeting some great new people. My highlights from the week included abseiling down a cliff face for the first time and also having the opportunity to cook the fish we caught as a group. I have made many new memories from my time at Camas and I'm so grateful to have gone.

*Edmund Milwain*

*Edmund turned out to be a cooking purist and wouldn't let the baked mackerel out of his kitchen until each one registered the exactly correct temperature – supper was a bit late but we were all saved from potential tummy trouble!*

Ted writes, “This was the second year that Joe has led our Camas expedition and I wasn’t there in 2019. There was some doubt, including by me, whether I could stand back this year and let him get on with it. Reader – I did! When you see a team like Joe and his two Young Leaders, Carley and Josh, so totally on top of things it’s very easy to relax and go with the flow. As a result I had my best Camas ever – and I hope to go again next year. I don’t do all the activities now but I try to get involved when I can. I only pulled the age card twice, both time on the Thursday, by having both fishing trips on the *B Marie* with my old friend Mark (we caught a record 30 or so mackerel) and then being taken to and from Market Bay in the safety boat – it definitely beats *shanks’s pony*.



*Frazer Sneddon with the group at Oban Youth Hostel*

In my last Camas article I explained the problems with getting minibus drivers and I’d like to add my thanks to Joe’s for his father, Frazer, for helping us out. We don’t know if it will be minibus or rail next year, but we certainly plan to have Joe and other under 30’s with the mandatory D1 on their licences to drive minibuses in the future.

Joe mentioned Change in his article. Covid was behind the other two main changes. Firstly, we weren’t allowed to cook our own breakfasts at the Youth Hostel – a time when we take on some much needed



cholesterol before our veggie week at Camas. More importantly the Camas staff had to keep more of a distance and weren't able to mingle at meals, a valued time for getting to know each other, and they didn't come into the Common Room in the evenings. Things eased off a bit later in the week after some staff PCR tests came back negative (we'd all taken lateral flow tests before we travelled). That is certainly something we hope not to see again. As Joe has explained 'community' is vital at Camas.

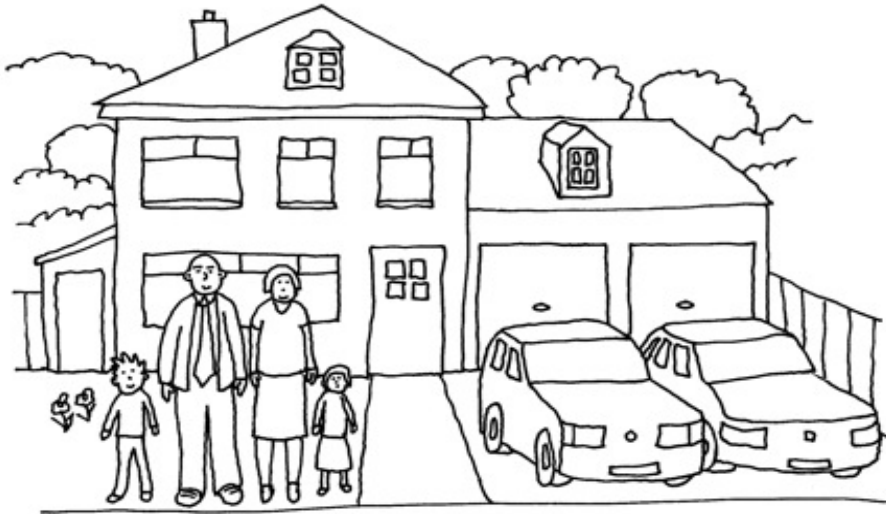
So far, Rob & Charlotte have done seasons on the Camas staff as Volunteers (paid, but not a lot) and Katie & Bethan have done shorter times. Brigid was doing a 2-month stint while we were there and Drew & Reuben are up there now to finish off the season. Both could well do fuller seasons next year. It's an enormous source of pleasure to me and credit to our group that they are so welcome to join the Camas staff. We have a reputation for working hard and understanding what makes Camas tick – not always the case with Volunteers!

This year's Camas trip was a wonderful 'memory lane' opportunity but Joe and I very much hope that we can take many more 10-16 year olds next year. If you know of any young people who might be interested (possibly third week of August) please let one of us know.

PS – I love porridge and scones (both with honey) for breakfast."

*Ted Green*

# CLIMATE CHANGE



MOST RESPONSIBLE

LEAST VULNERABLE



LEAST RESPONSIBLE

MOST VULNERABLE

# Praying for COP26—UN Climate Change Conference

The COP26 meeting in Glasgow at the start of November, at which international agreement will be sought on measures to mitigate the effects of climate change, is of major importance for the future of the planet and a successful outcome is something is vital for the future as we approach various climate “tipping points”. The importance of caring for the environment and the future well being of the earth is summed up in the last of the five Anglican Communion Marks of Mission - “The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ ... to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”. I believe that the major role that we as a church community can play in the run up to COP26 is in prayer - our unique selling point one might say. To enable us to do this within the United Benefice a short booklet containing suitable prayers will be compiled and made available to the congregations in the middle of October, which will contain material that can be used at home to prayer for the meeting. In addition, we will be holding a **prayer walk** around St. Michael’s churchyard at **3.00 on Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup>** where we be using the plants, trees and monuments of that most beautiful of places to act as foci for our prayers on the various issues concerning COP26 that most need our prayers. This will last about 30 to 45 minutes and is open to all, young and old, church goers and non-church goers alike (and will go ahead whatever the weather!). More details will appear in the church notices, on the web site and on the Facebook and Twitter feeds nearer the date.

*Chris Baker.*



# UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Conference of the Parties 26<sup>th</sup> Climate Change conference, that's the long name for COP26 which is happening in Glasgow this November. All the countries of the world send a delegate and so do a variety of invited organisations. This is the first time the Anglican Communion has a representative there. The hope is that nations will co-operate to reduce/end the crisis of climate change. Knowing how well nations manage, or not, to cooperate, this needs our active prayer.

Events around COP are being planned since governments need to know that people want the changes that are needed, but not always popular. Faiths, who know this is God's world and our stewardship has been faulty, are working together to raise awareness of the issues. So, there are different prayer vigils planned, hopefully there will be one in Lichfield by the time you read this. Faith 4 Climate Justice, see their web-site, are hoping many churches, mosques and temples around the world, will call for climate justice and care for the vulnerable, by ringing their bells, singing and praying on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Church bells have been used in the past for warnings of danger, another initiative is calling for bells to be rung as a warning on 30<sup>th</sup> October. There is to be a C of E statement calling for fair finance for countries facing loss and

damage due to climate change. Check Faiths 4 Climate Justice on the web for more details.

The Taizé website is planning a service, Christian Aid is holding breakfast briefings, check their web-site for more details.

[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

The Iona Community has published several books to help with our prayer at this time; Living Faithfully in Creation Time, gives reflections, suggestions, questions and prayers.

Remember how the canary was used in a cage to check whether the air in a mine was safe for humans? A suggestion is that people craft canaries by whatever method suits them, send them to MP's or large corporations, display them, as a warning about the dangers of climate change for humanity. This can be fun and doesn't involve walking, but is another way of making your views known.

At the very least I invite you to pray daily for COP26, God's beautiful world needs humanity to live gently on earth.

Gracious God,  
share with us  
your heart for creation.  
That we may cherish all life,  
working together to heal  
the damage we have done.  
Knowing that in all our struggles  
you are beside us,  
to inspire, strengthen  
and transform us. Amen

*Chris Polhill*

# News from the Hawksworth Family in Hong Kong:

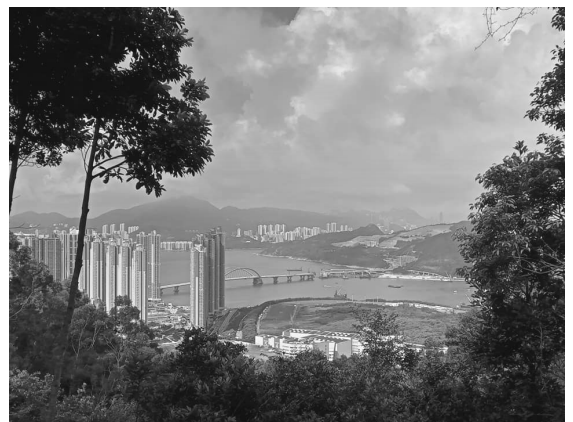
This month has been a fairly quiet month for us.

Ellie and Milo are back in school after the summer break. Ellie is now in Grade 5 and Milo has just started Grade 7. They both seem to have settled into their new year groups and have made some new friends.

Rupert and Gabriel have started back at kindergarten and are both attending the morning session. Due to COVID-19 restrictions they can only do half days until the government decide it's safe to resume full day sessions again. We don't know when that will happen.

Peter and I alternate taking the children to the different schools. Peter is teaching a few afternoons a week so he's enjoying being around more for Rupert and Gabriel.

I'm making the most of having the morning to myself. We have a wonderful hiking trail that starts at the top of our road. It takes you up to High Junk Peak and then into Clearwater Bay Country Park. It's divided into sections so you can do a portion of it if you don't have time to do the whole trail.



The section I walk takes about an hour to complete. It's quite steep in places but the views you have across the islands is so worth the effort.

Our weekends are becoming busier as we countdown until we leave for China. Last weekend we invited our Swedish friends over for lunch. We introduced them to our Swedish neighbours who have children of similar ages. It was a lovely afternoon with some great food.

This weekend we had some more friends over for lunch! We made

Chinese dumplings and wontons. They're super easy to make and really tasty.

Today (Sunday) we're off to Turtle Bay in Stanley for brunch on the beach with friends. Stanley is a lovely part of Hong Kong island, located at the south east side; there isn't an MTR station so you need to get a bus or a taxi to visit. Stanley market is worth a visit too. It has lots of art shops selling prints and photos of HK. There are jade shops, as well as pearl shops. Some of the biggest pearls I've ever seen are sold here. There's also a wonderful china shop, selling crockery of all shapes and sizes. I've bought many dishes from here, all very cheap. Three breakfast bowls will cost you about \$40hkd (£4.00) The market is usually filled with tourists but it's so quiet at the moment.

Back in the mainland, Sai Kung is worth a visit too. It's about a 45 minute drive from our village, and it's the place to go if you fancy a day island-hopping! We recently discovered a wonderful fish and chip shop! It's a very small unit so if you're not looking for it you could easily miss it, however, the food was delicious and a big hit with the children. It definitely made us think of home! We followed that with a trip to the ice cream van located on the waterfront. Again, this was a big hit with the children!



The weather here is starting to cool down. Daily temperatures are around the 30° mark. Humidity is lowering so it feels cooler. We do still get days when there isn't a cloud in the sky and it's incredibly hot but thankfully they are lessening as we move closer to autumn and the mid-autumn festival! The shops are filled with mooncakes again. I've been told the custard ones are very tasty!

That's all from us for now. We hope everyone is well and keeping safe. Take care! Much love - The Hawksworths xx



# WALL NEWS

## St John's Church, Wall Churchyard

The new steps leading to the lower graveyard are now finished.  
( photograph showing how they connect the upper to the lower graveyard)



Also on a beautiful autumn Saturday 1,400 daffodils were planted in the graveyard by a Mr John Holder. Mr Holder is a member of the daffodil society and had asked if he could plant the bulbs this September ready for the spring. We therefore look forward to an increase in the display which has been added to over the years.

*Hilary*



# **Bible Readings**

**Sunday 3rd October**

**Harvest**

**[Green]**

1 Timothy 6.6-10

Matthew 6.25-33

**Sunday 3rd October**

**EVENSONG**

**Harvest**

**[Green]**

Deut. 26.1-11

Rev. 14.14-18

**Sunday 10th October**

**Nineteenth Sunday after**

**Trinity**

**[Green]**

Hebrews 4.12—end

Mark 10.17-31

**Sunday 17th October**

**Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

**[Green]**

Hebrews 5.1-10

Mark 10.35-45

**Sunday 17th October**

**EVENSONG**

**Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

**[Green]**

Joshua 14.6-14

Matthew 12.1-21

**Sunday 24th October**

**Bible Sunday**

**[Green]**

2 Timothy 3.14-4.5

John 5.36b—end

**Sunday 31st October**

**All Saints**

**[White]**

Revelation 21. 1-6a

John 11. 32-44

**Sunday 7th November**

**Advent –3**

**[Red]**

Hebrews 9.24-end

Mark 1.14-20

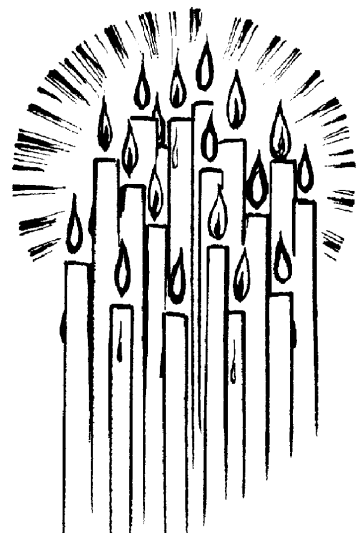
**Sunday 14th November**

**Advent –2**

**[Red]**

Hebrews 10.11-25

Mark 13.1-8



**PROVERB**

**PRAYERS**

**PROVERBS**

**8.1-10**



**8** Listen! Wisdom is calling out.

Reason is making herself heard.

<sup>2</sup> On the hilltops near the road  
and at the crossroads she stands.

<sup>3</sup> At the entrance to the city,  
beside the gates, she calls:

<sup>4</sup> "I appeal to all of you;  
I call to everyone on earth.

<sup>5</sup> Are you immature? Learn to be mature.  
Are you foolish? Learn to have sense.

<sup>6</sup> Listen to my excellent words;  
all I tell you is right.

<sup>7</sup> What I say is the truth;  
lies are hateful to me.

<sup>8</sup> Everything I say is true;  
nothing is false or misleading.

<sup>9</sup> To those with insight, it is all clear;  
to the well-informed, it is all plain.

<sup>10</sup> Choose my instruction instead of silver;  
choose knowledge rather than the finest gold.

**NOTE ON THE USE  
OF WORDS IN  
PROVERBS**

**SIMPLE**—someone  
who has not yet  
learnt, childlike or  
immature

**FOOL**—someone  
who has chosen not  
to learn right from  
wrong

***From the Good News Bible Translation***

Wisdom cries out to all who will listen to her. Her message is for ordinary people. As she stands in the public places, she is sharing her knowledge with everyone and anyone who will listen. Wisdom goes to the people to pass on her message. She does not expect them to come to her, to visit a temple, synagogue, church, chapel, mosque or any other place of worship.

What is written in this passage of the bible is as relevant to us now as it was at the time it was written, no matter who we are or where we find ourselves. It is relevant regardless of race, creed, colour, gender, ability, age, status, income or where we call home. Her message is truly inclusive.

*Father, I thank you for making me, loving me and caring for me. Thank you for sharing your wisdom with me. I want to learn the ways of Wisdom, not only for my own benefit but also so that I can share my learning with others.*

*I know that I have a lot to learn. Jesus, guide me as I read my Bible. I choose Wisdom's instruction and want to learn and gain knowledge from her as I read the Proverbs. Send your Spirit to guide me as I apply my learning in my everyday life. Help me to reach out to others and to talk about my faith.*

*I ask this in Jesus' name.*



*Angie King*

# Memorial Book

Having the name of a loved one written in our Memorial Book is another way of remembering their life. The Book is kept in the case in the Prayer Corner and pages are turned twice a week, so that names are visible through the glass on the date nearest their death.

It costs £10 to insert a name. Please complete the form below and return it to a member of the Ministry Team with the remittance.

## Memorial Book

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'

# *From the Registers*

<b>Baptisms</b>			
St Michael's	29th August	Emily Knight	1 yr
St John's	15th August	Jacob Robbins	6mths

<b>Weddings</b>		
St Michael's	9th Sept	Stephen Hope & Emma Spooner
St Michael's	17th Sept	Robert Wilson & Danielle Walker

<b>Funerals</b>			
St Michael's	7th Sept	John Roberts (interment of ashes)	77
St Michael's	14th Sept	Graham Stevens	79
St Michael's	20th Sept	Alan Derbyshire	83

## **..... And FINALLY!**

**With our younger readers in mind-----**

**As part of the 2021 LICHFIELD Festival's Extended programme of Events there is a Children's 's Concert entitled "Musical Explorers" on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30 am at The Hub at St. Mary's in the Market Place at only £5 (for full details visit the website at [www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org) or call 01543 306271**

We probably all recognise Jellybabies but how many of you know their real significance?

These sweets were first made by Bassetts in 1918, to mark the end of the First World War, they were originally called *Peace Babies* and they ere each given a different colour to represent one of the branches of the forces who fought in the war. At that time, they were all the same apart from their colour, their message was that peace comes when we live together in harmony and sweets would be boring if they were all the same. In 1939, when WW2 started, there was a shortage of sugar and the Bassetts factory stopped making them. As the country recovered after the war, in 1953 the factory started to make them again and called them *Jjellybabies*.

At the same time after that each *Jellybabiy* was given its own identity. There is some debate about what they mean but here is one way of thinking about them. Each has its own symbol- but to get at it you must lick the sugar off, So! If you have a black one give it a lick!!

**Black** has a heart to symbolise God's love.

**Green** is a baby crying to symbolise the sadness of God.

**Red** has a B standing for the blood of Jesus dying on the Cross.

**Orange** is carrying a bag for the burdens we carry, the loads we must bear and tells us to be prepared for the journey through life.

**Pink** is a baby representing the new start we have with God when we become followers of Jesus.

**Yellow** is wearing a necklace representing the riches of Heaven that God promises us for the future.

So, when you eat a *Jellybaby*, remember the message of peace that they represent and remember we only have the chance to enjoy ordinary, everyday good things because people were willing to live and die to protect us and enable us to live good and happy lives in peace and safety.

[With Grateful thanks to The Revd Richard Hainsworth from a talk recently given to a branch of the Mothers' Union and reported in the Spring/Summer 2021 edition of LICHFIELD BEACON]

PS. JELLYBABIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM MOST GOOD SUPERMARKETS AND SWEETSHOPS IN THE LICHFIELD AREA,

**But remember – “Moderation in all things.”**

{EDITOR}



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<p style="text-align: center;"><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 255308</i></p> <p><b>Organist and Choirmaster:</b> <i>Dudley Ray 07847 643373</i> <a href="mailto:dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk">dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Music Group:</b> <i>Richard Brooks 07918 906 350</i></p> <p><b>Transport Rota:</b> <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></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> 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 style="text-align: center;"><b>St John's Church, Wall</b></p> <p><b>Verger:</b> Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p><b>Pastoral Care:</b></p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Maureen Brand 264880</p> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="798 1227 1497 1386"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other Useful Numbers</b></p> <p><b>St Michael's School:</b> 227425</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="798 1388 1497 1713"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Magazine</b></p> <p><b>Magazine Distributor:</b> <i>Barbara Homewood 255909</i> E-mail <a href="mailto:brian@britcave.co.uk">brian@britcave.co.uk</a> Magazine Editor: <i>David Shiel 01543320437</i> <a href="mailto:shielfamily@gmail.com">shielfamily@gmail.com</a></p> </td></tr>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other Useful Numbers</b></p> <p><b>St Michael's School:</b> 227425</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Magazine</b></p> <p><b>Magazine Distributor:</b> <i>Barbara Homewood 255909</i> E-mail <a href="mailto:brian@britcave.co.uk">brian@britcave.co.uk</a> Magazine Editor: <i>David Shiel 01543320437</i> <a href="mailto:shielfamily@gmail.com">shielfamily@gmail.com</a></p>	
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### Scouting and Guiding

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*Vicki Davies Friend 07970 549284*  
*Hannah Heath 07854 824443*

**Brownies:** *Julie Cragg 301098*

**Guides:** *Lisa Webb 07900 164587*

