

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

November 2019



20th November — Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a restorer of the religious life in the Church of England, 1876

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

80p

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Reflections for November

The rest you know

One Wednesday evening in August 1974, Alastair Cooke of “Letter from America” fame was faced with a dilemma. The Watergate scandal was coming to a head, and it seemed likely that Richard Nixon would resign in the following few days, but, on that Wednesday evening, as the deadline for his weekly recording of the Letter approached, this was far from certain and a number of outcomes were still possible. By the following weekend, when the Letter was to be broadcast, it was quite possible that events would have moved on such that whatever Cook said on the Wednesday evening would no longer be relevant. Master broadcaster that he was, he recorded one of his most widely admired Letters, a step by step description of the events that had unfolded over the previous two years, a detailed description of the situation that Wednesday evening, ending with the final, enigmatic phrase, “The rest you know”.

Now, in October 2019, in the UK we are facing perhaps the major political and social event of our lifetime, and the country may or may not leave the European Union on October 31st, with or without some form of agreement. Although I am strongly tempted to simply ignore Brexit and talk about something completely different, and perhaps a little more comfortable, it is an issue that really does need to be addressed. I thus feel that in some way my situation mirrors that of Alastair Cook (although I would wish for the same fluency in writing and speaking as his had!). I write this in early October for a deadline on October 14th, but the magazine itself won’t appear until sometime close to October 31st. There is thus a danger that this reflection will become out of date very quickly, So in this article, at the risk of such irrelevance, I consider what then should be the response of the Church and of individual Christians to the current situation?

Any such response should of course be based on the words of scripture. Unsurprisingly, Brexit doesn’t get a mention in the Bible, but

there are principles there that can be applied. In the Old Testament, the prophets' teaching on truth and social justice is very clear, with strong words of condemnation for societies where the poor, the weak and the alien are neglected. The thrust of Jesus's teaching as recorded in the Gospels was the requirement to love one's neighbour, and this was unpacked by the writers of the various New Testament letters and Christians urged to develop qualities that were in some way alien to those of the societies around them, of gentleness, kindness, restraint and self control, and to pray constantly for those who governed the societies in which they live.

So how can we work out these principles in our own lives and in the life of our church over the next few weeks? Firstly there is the need to be very careful about what we say and how we say it. In the last few days there has been a level of vitriol in and outside parliament that I have never before experienced. Indeed the constitutional settlement and the independence of the judiciary seem to be under attack. This has led to a sharply worded letter from the Church of England bishops, which contains the following.

"In the last few days, the use of language, both in debates and outside Parliament, has been unacceptable. We should speak to others with respect. And we should also listen. We should do this especially with the poor, with the marginalised, and with those whose voices are often not heard in our national conversation. We should not denigrate, patronise or ignore the honest views of fellow citizens, but seek to respect their opinions, their participation in society, and their votes. The teachings of Jesus Christ call for us to be generous and humble servants; virtues which are for all leaders, whatever their faith. We call on politicians to adhere rigorously to the rule of law and on all to respect and uphold the impartiality of the courts and our judiciary."

Words have consequences, and whilst the words of the Bishops were primarily addressed to government and parliament, we need to apply these principles in our own lives. However we each feel about Brexit, there will be others within the church and within our own circle of

acquaintances who have very different views. We need much sensitivity here, and rather than accusing and blaming on the one hand, or feeling triumphant on the other, we need to try to build bridges with those with whom we disagree, as far as we possibly can. If any of us are active on social media, great care is required in making or responding to posts or tweets on this subject – and I personally wonder if the best way forward in the short term is to simply keep silence on this issue.

Secondly, if a “no-deal” Brexit goes ahead, there are likely to be significant shortages in a number of areas – particularly food, fuel and medicine. The role of the Christian in such circumstances should be to take heed of Jesus’s commandment to *“love your neighbour as yourself”* and to help those who are not able to help themselves – the poor, the old and the vulnerable – perhaps through helping individuals with shopping and transport, through ensuring that organisations such as the Foodbank are properly resourced to meet the needs of others, and through simply being with those who are worried and concerned. When there were last shortages of this sort in 2005, there was much panic buying that led to empty shelves in the shops and ultimately excess food going to waste. We need to be careful here not to collude with such behaviour and make the situation worse, and simply buy what we need, when we need it.

And as we seek to protect the vulnerable, we should not forget those from other EU countries who live with us, and indeed those from countries further afield. Many are feeling very vulnerable and afraid at the moment, with an increasing level of abuse and violence directed at them. Just as the Old Testament prophets exhorted their societies to protect the needs of the alien and the stranger, so we should all seek to help and reassure those from overseas who are vulnerable and worried at the moment.

Thirdly we need to pray. You would expect a clergyman to say this of course, but nonetheless it does seem to me to be the most important contribution that the church can make. St Paul exhorts us to pray for

“for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness”. These words have never been more relevant, and we should pray that our political leaders and representatives may seek the good of all those they lead, rather than simply some faction; that they may act with proper regard for the truth, with integrity and honesty; and that they may build bridges, rather than creating divisions within our society. I believe we should make this a priority in our individual prayer lives and in our corporate life together over the coming weeks and months. The Church of England is of course the established church, with the Queen as Supreme Governor. At the present time, the Queen herself is in a very difficult constitutional position, and we need to pray particularly that she would have the strength to cope with the demands made upon her.

Finally we need to remember through all of the difficulties that this country faces, that ultimately, in the face of all uncertainty, that God is in control. The psalmist writes

But the Lord abides forever; he has established his throne for judgment, and he will judge the world in righteousness; he will execute judgment for the peoples with equity. The Lord also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble; and those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

As we move forward into whatever lies in front of us after October 31st, we perhaps need to keep these words in mind.

Rev. Chris Baker

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

PRISCILLA LYDIA SELLON



In 1848, Lydia Sellon (1821-76) — she did not use her first name, Priscilla — founded one of the first sisterhoods in the Church of England since the Reformation. The Devonport Sisters of Mercy worked among the destitute of Plymouth and Devonport, setting up schools, orphanages, and, housing projects, besides tending the sick during three cholera epidemics. In 1856, the community merged with the Sisters of the Holy Cross, in Regent's Park, founded in 1845. The enlarged community became known as the Society of the Most Holy

Trinity, and established its mother house at Ascot. It set up houses in several cities in the UK and overseas.

Mother Lydia is remembered by the Church on the anniversary of her death, 20 November 1876

For more information about the extensive work of the Sisters, including their role in cholera nursing, working with the poor and homeless and nursing during the Crimean War please visit

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/20-november/faith/faith-features/sustained-by-prayer-to-serve-in-the-slums>

&

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lydia_Sellon



Priscilla Lydia Sellon, about 1865

Chad Blog

Not just once upon a time

I recently enjoyed a wonderful evening at Lichfield Cathedral, listening to Simon Johnson, the Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and members of the Lichfield Cathedral Choir and Chamber Choir presenting *The Planets* by Gustav Holst accompanied by amazing on-screen images from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre. This was part of the Cathedral's excellent series of events to mark the 50th anniversary of the first landing by a human being on the moon: 'Journeys through Space and Time'.



I will not forget the wonder of listening to 'Neptune, the Mystic' whilst watching images of cloud formations on the planet itself and being overwhelmed by the beauty of God's creation. The Psalmist tells us:

'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands... Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the end of the world.'

Psalm 19: 1-2

Our Creator God made all of this and he also made each one of us as a unique expression of his love. God calls us to care for his creation, to be good stewards. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said:

"The future of our fragile, beautiful planet home is in our hands. As God's family, we are stewards of God's creation. We can be wantonly irresponsible, or we can be caring and compassionate. God says, "I have set before you life and death... choose life."

In April of this year, a 16 year old young woman from Sweden, Greta Thunberg, addressed M.P.'s in the Houses of Parliament. Her message

was clear and powerful:

“We are living with a climate emergency. Sometimes we just simply have to find a way. The moment we decide to fulfil something, we can do anything. And I’m sure that the moment we start behaving as if we were in an emergency, we can avoid climate and ecological catastrophe. Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long. We must start today. We have no more excuses.”

In the last week of September, people around the world took part in action to coincide with the United Nations Climate Summit, including many churches, schools, chaplaincies and fresh expressions in [this diocese](https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/2019/09/20/thousands-join-climate-action)—<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/2019/09/20/thousands-join-climate-action>

We can all be a part of restoring God’s creation, we can all make a difference but it requires our ongoing commitment – we’re not finished in a week! In my office we are taking further steps to become more environmentally friendly, stopping any use of ‘single use’ plastics and items that are not environmentally friendly, ensuring that we cut down on the amount of paper we use and that all documents are printed double-sided, reducing, re-using and recycling.

What will you do?

+Sarah Bullock, Bishop of Shrewsbury

Deadlines!

For **DECEMBER** 2019 Magazine:
Deadline is
MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
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

2nd 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

1st Sunday 12:30pm

Holy Baptism

2nd Sunday 6:00pm

Holy Communion

3rd Sunday 4:30pm

Messy Church

4th 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 **1st and 3rd Saturday mornings** in the month by appointment only.

Please telephone 01543 262211 or email

office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk to make an appointment.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

First Steps



Monday 11th November
10am St Michael's

Remembrance Family Praise



Sunday 10th Nov.
10am St Michael's

Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



Sunday 17th November

4.30 – 5.45pm

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

The Sainly Landscape of the Trent Valley Region

Notes from a presentation by **Trevor James** on 28 September 2019 at the Castle Hotel Tamworth.

The saintly landscape surrounds us. It is comprised of church dedications, place names, inn names, street names and traditional associations.

My task today is to introduce you to our saintly landscape in the broader reaches of the Trent Valley, dominated by our river system and two principal Roman roads.



To a very significant degree it is dominated by **St Chad**. His short period as Bishop at Lichfield [669-672], with his personal spirituality and the development of a shrine in his memory, led to a network of pilgrim routes. From our modern maps we can identify several:

- at Church Wilne in the Trent Valley near to Sawley a relatively isolated St Chad Church, in the floodplain, indicates a route south westwards along the valley;
- an ancient church dedicated to St Chad is situated in Stafford and halfway to Lichfield in the Trent Valley David Horowitz has identified a 'lost settlement' of Chadesholme, between them suggesting a route from the northwest;
- to the north of Derby the place name Chaddesden yields a reference to St Chad, indicating a route from the north;
- to the west at Brewood the church is dedicated to St Mary and St Chad, with another clue being the place name Chadsmoor, just to the west of Cannock, suggests a route from the west;
- near to The Belfry golf course, east of Sutton Coldfield is the remote

church of St Chad at Wishaw, giving a route from the south; just to the north of Nuneaton the isolated 'estate' church, with a multiple dedication which includes St Chad at Caldicote, gives a route from the east.

This means that there is a discernible network of six possible routes approaching Lichfield, with the additional evidence of a church with a St Chad dedication about a mile to the north of the Cathedral, in the traditional location of a last point of rest before the final arrival for pilgrims at a shrine.

However there are five more major shrines within this river network:

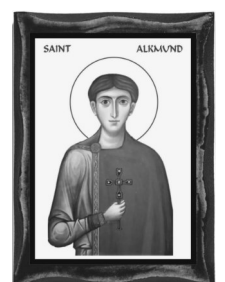
St Editha was venerated at Polesworth, where she had been the abbess. There is adequate evidence of pilgrim routes to this shrine: to the north east a church dedication at Orton-on-the Hill; to the east at Monks Kirby on the Fosse Way; and to the west at Tamworth and Church Eaton [on the Shropshire border]



St Wistan was buried at Repton, in the mausoleum of the Mercian kings, following his murder at Wistow, with an alignment of clues linking the murder site, via a church named in his honour at Bretby, following the route of his funeral cortege which became a pilgrim route. Fifteen miles north of Derby the village of Wessington yields the meaning of 'Wistan's village', thereby suggesting a pilgrim route from the north.



St Alkmund was buried at Derby and two pilgrim alignments to that location can be identified to the north in St Alkmund's church at Duffield and the place name of Alkmonton to the south west of Derby.





St Modwen is venerated and remembered only at Burton-upon-Trent where she was a hermit on an island in the River Trent, an island known then and now as Andressey, the island of Andrew, in memory of the Biblical saint whose memory she herself revered.

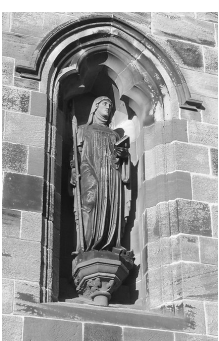
Equally **St Bertelin** is only celebrated in one ancient church dedication at Stafford but some miles away at Ilam there is a chapel to his alternative name of St Bertram, with some further local locational name evidence. It is thought



Chapel of St Bertelin, Stafford

that St Bertelin was revered at Stafford but that he had a retreat at Ilam in the forested area. St Bertelin offers us another piece of place name evidence: the earlier name of Stafford, before it was re-named in the later Saxon period, was Bethenely, which translates as 'island of Bertelin'. This reveals to us that St Bertelin's base was on an island in the River Sowe, a direct parallel with the situation at Burton-upon-Trent.

In addition further saints are also reflected locally in fragmentary form: **St Edburga of Repton** is mentioned in a document at Southwell Minister and is believed to have been another sister of St Guthlac; and two local martyrs, **St Wulflad** and **St Ruffin**, are memorialised here in Tamworth, sons of King Wulphere, murdered at his behest for their faith, with the former being part of the ancient dedication of Stone parish church, near the site of his murder.



We also celebrate **St Werbergh**, abbess of Hanbury, located between the rivers Trent and Dove, and for whom wider pilgrimage evidence is readily available.

We also offer three tribal memories: **St Swithin** was the ancient church dedication at Elford and at Yoxall, both subsequently supplanted by St Peter. The former is close to the River Tame and the other is adjacent to the sporadically fast-flowing River Swarburne. These dedications demonstrate the manner in which Saxon tribes brought their preferred dedication with them as they migrated northwards. This is matched by the dedication to **St Cuthbert**, the very popular saint of the Northumbrians, found at a relatively southerly location at Doveridge, eponymously on the River Dove at the Derbyshire-Staffordshire border.

Part of a western arm of the pilgrim route to the shrine of **St Wilfrid** at Ripon can be found at Egginton on the River Dove and at Barrow on the River Trent. The main pilgrim route can be traced from Oundle, where he died, following Roman roads and the Rivers Soar and Trent through the East Midlands, in effect following the line of his funeral route in 709.

Fragmentary saintly evidence can also be found at Etwall, on the Derbyshire-Staffordshire border. The place name means 'Eata's well' and therefore refers to **St Eata**, one of the companions of St Aidan. In those remote times it was quite possible to venerate a holy person though holy water at a well, without there being a church structure. It is worth noting that the only known dedication to St Eata is a Atcham, an eponymous place name meaning 'farm of Eata', on the outskirts of Shrewsbury, about forty miles away.

Near to Ticknall, near Melbourne, the church is now dedicated to St George but until the 1820s it was dedicated to **St Thomas Becket**. On being rebuilt, it was re-named St George for the curious reason that the landowner and source of funding was George Harper-Crewe. The

St Thomas Becket dedication is an indication that pilgrims en route to Canterbury travelled this way and that this is part of a long-distance pilgrim route.

Nearby is Swarkestone Bridge, a major medieval crossing point on the River Trent. To the north side is a dedication to **St James**. If this bridge has been built at an established traditional crossing point, the dedication may well be a signal that this north-south crossing is part of an international pilgrim route to the shrine of St James at Compostella.



My final clue to demonstrate the local portion of the Midlands saintly landscape is to mention The Scales public house in Lichfield. The name of this uniquely-named establishment is a matter of debate but in the Harleian Manuscripts at the British Library ‘the scales’ is a heraldic



reference to St Michael the Archangel, who frequently appears in Doom paintings ‘weighing souls’. This is an especially good example because this establishment stands half a mile from one of the most ancient St Michael sites in England on Lichfield’s Greenhill.

What we have is clear evidence of a saintly landscape strongly linked to our local river system, supported by a Roman road system which in medieval times was still readily viable for travellers and pilgrims. This is not the totality of the evidence: I have not explored the wider significance which arises from the pattern of church dedications, saint-related place names or the rich resource of inn names.

Trevor James



A prayer for Remembrance Sunday

God, it's difficult to see the point of wearing a poppy,
or what difference two minutes' silence will make
when we could be shouting protests.

But we can recognise a broken life being valued,
a gift being given,
and taking two minutes to reflect on how much we
have.

We look to the future, not to the past.

We cannot change what has been
but do not need to repeat its mistakes.

So as old and young come together before you,
take the very best of our lives;

bind us into one people of faith
and help us to share our common values,
love of Jesus and care for each other;

to build dreams,
and, with your Holy Spirit,
turn them into reality.

Amen.



Committed to Prison work

With the recent Prisons' Week in October, Becky Weaver-Boyes, Regional Development Manager at Mary Sumner House, reflects on the ongoing work Mothers' Union members do in prisons around the UK:

We're so excited that this October Mothers' Union has, for the first time, been a sponsor of Prisons Week (www.prisonsworld.org). We have had the opportunity to share more about the valuable work that Mothers' Union members do across the spectrum of need around prisons and to ask churches to pray for prisoners, their families, prison staff, victims of crime and all those in the justice system.

The prisons work Mothers' Union members do is incredibly varied. Some are inside prisons interacting with prisoners, showing love and acceptance and helping prisoners to feel valued and to have hope. Other members work with the families of prisoners as they visit their loved ones, providing a safe space without judgement where children can play and partners of prisoners feel understood and cared for. There are other members who support prisoners as they leave prison, providing sturdy bags containing clothes and toiletries to help them get restarted with dignity as they go back into life on the outside.

Working together: Mothers Union often works in effective partnerships with prison chaplaincies and other organisations to bring its love and care for families in all their forms.

We asked Rachel Shackleton, from Spurgeons, which delivers

government contracts in 12 prisons, where some Mothers' Union members volunteer, what difference it makes to families who have a warm friendly and safe welcome when they arrive:

'It makes a huge difference to first time visitors or those expecting a difficult visit. Even for regular visitors there are so many emotions going on – some are tired after long journeys, or angry and ashamed about even being there, worried about how the prisoner is, anxious about how children are coping. Children might be over-excited or scared or not even sure where they are... A friendly welcome, somewhere to sit and talk, or play, a kind and non-judgemental response to questions and situations can help to reassure and defuse things.'

She feels Mothers' Union members' unique offering is their 'steadfastness and commitment'. Often over a long period of time prisoners, staff, governors and especially Ministers of Justice come and go; but amongst all the changes and the difficult environment, Mothers' Union members continue to serve families and children in person and in prayer.

On the ground: Rita has volunteered in two of her local prisons for 11 years and said the prisoners respond very positively to members because: 'we are non-threatening grannies.' Amongst other activities, Rita and her team organise regular Dad's days where prisoners are able to spend an extended amount of time with their children. Doing activities together is an opportunity to nurture their relationships. Often young prisoners have had limited, if any, time with their children so a Dad's Day is precious time where children and dads can play together. Rita also runs a programme supporting prisoners who want to create a book for their children. This book provides a unique present for children to keep. It also helps prisoners who have struggled with literacy to grow in confidence.

The Angel Tree programme: To have the greatest impact, Mothers' Union feels they need to work with other charities that are also involved in prison work. One area that members across the UK are involved in is the Angel Tree programme which is run by Prison Fellowship. Through this Mothers' Union members have helped prisoners connect with their children and their mothers through Christmas and Mothering Sunday gifts.

Requests come through prison chaplaincies, and Prison Fellowship works with Mothers' Union members to source and wrap gifts suited to each recipient and then sends them to prisoners' families. We asked Prison Fellowship how this impacted prisoners and their families and they told us about Ashley who said:

'When I did receive a card saying that the presents had been sent to my children – not just random gifts but things I had suggested – a piece of my hardened heart began to crack. Those gifts were the first



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:

Thank you to everyone who helped make the recent Macmillan Coffee Morning such a success.

Including Gift Aid, **we raised £346 for this worthwhile cause.** Whether you baked, served, washed up, ate cake or drank coffee, thank you. ***Ruth***

Mother's Union Report for November 2019

After a summer break from indoor meetings when we had enjoyed afternoon tea at the Plant Plot we were back in church at the end of September for a service with hymns and readings by members.

In October St. Michael's celebrated Harvest and a number of our group helped to decorate the church. On the following evening we enjoyed a Harvest Supper prepared by Marjorie, Angela, Elizabeth and Lynn. This took the form of a ploughman's lunch with all the trimmings and apple crumble for dessert. To bring the evening to a close Lesley led us in a service of prayers and hymns.



FLOWER ARRANGING

CartoonChurch.com

On October 28th we will welcome Dawn Hardy from Burton Hospital to speak about End of Life Quality Improvement which is a subject which will affect us all. You do not need to be a member of M.U to attend if you would like to learn more. All are welcome.

Betty Lyne



LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP



Photo: Peter Norbury

**A talk by Denise Gold
of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust**

Tuesday 3 December 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

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

We are pleased to invite you to 2 Churchyard Events this month.

On **Thursday November 7th.**, **Mark Duffiell, Ecologist from Shropshire**, will be giving a Presentation about **The Churchyard Trees and Wild Flowers**. He will be giving an illustrated summary of his findings following 3 days of **Wild Flower and Tree Surveying held in the Churchyard in August, 2018 and April and July, 2019**. The Presentation will be held at **Martin Heath Hall in Christchurch Lane from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon**. The event is part of a programme of monthly talks for members of **Lichfield Botany Group** who gave a lot of help with the surveying. This event is free and open to all. **Coffee and biscuits** will be served in the interval.

If you would like to come along, please let me know. **My telephone number is 01543 251654.**

Saturday November 23rd. is Churchyard Bulb Planting Day.

One of the great natural features of the Churchyard is the Spring Bulb Display which starts as early as January with the first snowdrops of the year; and ends in Late May with the bluebell flowers. In recent years the rampant growth of brambles has caused many bluebells to disappear. However, with the clearance of some brambles in the past 2 years many bluebells are starting to reappear. A large open area has been created towards the bottom right hand corner of the Churchyard and we will be planting **1,000 bluebells and smaller amounts of wild daffodils, wood anemone and winter aconite** in this open area. We invite you to join us on **Saturday November 23rd., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** to plant these bulbs. Please bring along a trowel and small fork if you can, and do wear thick gloves. We shall have a **Mid-Morning Break** in which **tea/coffee/cake** will be provided.

We do hope you can join us for what I am sure will be a very enjoyable morning.





UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

Our September walk was around Norton Bog, the lesser known area of Chasewater.

We began by meeting at St Michael's Church for coffee and cake at the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Then we set off for the Station Café at Chasewater Heaths. Our walk began from there and although the paths were wet from the rain that had fallen during the week before, we were all well prepared and some of us thoroughly enjoyed splashing through the puddles!

We saw a great range of flora and fauna on our walk, including 2 deer, tufted ducks, various fungi and we even saw a gentleman collecting blackthorn berries to make Sloe Gin!

Angie



The November Benefice walking group will be on **Saturday November 2nd**

The meal has been booked at the **Bulls Head, Shenstone**. It has been requested that the time for the meal is 12 midday. Also, it is requested that the group make a pre booking of the meal order. Therefore, the walk will need to be undertaken near to home.

I plan to lead the **heritage walk around Wall**.



Approximately 3 miles, no stiles. Can be muddy in parts.

We meet at **St Michael's Church, Lichfield** at **10am** or parking at **Chesterfield Barn, WS140EJ** where the walk will start from.

Please look at the Bulls Head website for meals and give **orders no later than Thursday 31st, October** to Hilary

Hilarymaybarker@gmail.com tel 01543482027 mob. 07714958559

Ray Allen. 01543 251654



St. Michael's Film Club

1. 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

Refreshments £3.00 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church

All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

2. Dick Whittington

Pantomime

Live broadcast of the 2014 pantomime recorded at the Bristol Hippodrome. The cast also includes Brenda Edwards, Andy Ford, Eric Potts and 'Britain's Got Talent' winners Ashleigh and Pudsey.

Monday 2nd December, 1.30pm start



October Film Club – ‘Fishermen’s Friends’

A good autumn film - October wind and rain outside our church, a life boat rescue on screen and a happy resolution to the personal and social dramas.

This new (2019) British film is ‘based on’ events centred on Port Isaac, Cornwall (a setting familiar to fans of ‘Doc Martin’). Some fishermen and friends are singing shanties and ballads at local fundraisers when a group of music producers ‘down from’ London for a stag weekend turn up. An unlikely recording deal results in a hit (‘One and All’, 2013).

There are classic moments – what can go wrong if the local carpark uses the tidal beach? When does real local history and tradition merge with telling tall tales to take a rise out of the outsiders? Some of the well-loved classics of our cinema explore the clash of values between the élite and local – ‘Whisky Galore’, ‘Passport to Pimlico’ to start your own list.

The singing gives the soundtrack a particular appeal if you have ever sung in a pub. (Did you know that Lichfield, no matter how far we are from the sea, has its own ‘Lighthouse’ shanty singers?)

As you can imagine, the townies and the locals clash before some mutual respect can emerge. Some real problems are raised – how does a family run pub keep going in a small village?

As the scene shifts from Cornwall to London (you can tell as the view of the Tamar bridge is followed by a shot of the Gherkin tower) questions are raised –

Can love overcome the gulf between a young widow and an urban record executive?

Will a smooth property developer buy up and close the social heart of the village?

Can the Friends' disc break through into the Top Ten?

Will friendship and community prove stronger than the lure of fame and fortune?

You needn't hold your breath too long to find out!

David Easton

FLOODLIGHTING

Sponsor St Michael's floodlights to mark a special occasion or remember a loved one!

Your donation will brighten up the skies over Lichfield for the night.



Contact the United Benefice Office on 01543 262211

St Michael's Parochial Church Council

The latest meeting of St Michael's PCC was held on 8th October. A summary of the key issues discussed is given below.

Safeguarding

It is important that everyone who is involved in the activities at St Michael's is safe. At present no emergency contact details are held for people attending services or events in Church. It was decided that a form will be produced which can be completed on an entirely voluntary basis giving details of emergency contacts. This would be held securely on the premises.

Risk assessments are required for all regular activities which take place under the auspices of St Michael's. It was agreed that a general risk assessment covering use of the church premises would be produced, with other, more specific assessments introduced as necessary.

Streethay Development

The new school at Streethay opened in September and Mel Clark has a meeting arranged with the Head Teacher to discuss ways in which we, in conjunction with other local churches, can support its future development.

Dates for your diary (please speak to Mel for further information)

Welcome Pack and leaflet drop to new home-owners is planned for 23rd October at 10.00am.

Streethay Carol Service on 21st December – time to be confirmed.

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

This is a 5 year plan which sets a direction of travel for the Benefice.

It is not intended to cover every aspect of church life but rather give an overview of the key areas of focus.

There are 3 key themes in the latest MAP – Inclusion & Welcome; Growth in Discipleship; Care for the Environment.

The MAP also identifies key areas that are likely to influence the Benefice e.g. the increase in population as a result of new housing developments and the construction of new parish rooms following the sale of the church hall.

It is anticipated that the MAP will be a flexible and dynamic document that is reviewed and updated at least annually.

If you are interested in reading the MAP, it can be found on the Church website or a copy can be obtained from the office.

Church Charity Collections

It was agreed that we would continue to support the same charities in 2020 that we have during this year.

It was also decided that the Bishop's Lent Appeal in 2020 will be focused on a particular Sunday during Lent rather than throughout the Lent period.

Churchyard

Following an unfortunate incident of vandalism in July when the new compost bin was set alight, it has been decided to remove the bench in this area to discourage further instances.

The recent Summer Bioblitz was a great success and excellent

feedback has also been received from Lichfield in Bloom. In addition, we have received a very positive Tree Report from the local council.

We are planning a Bulb Planting day on Saturday 23rd November which all budding gardeners are invited to join.

We are always looking for volunteers to help continue the great improvements already seen in the churchyard.

Parish Rooms

We are moving ahead with the development of ideas for the new parish rooms.

A Fit for Funding Workshop will be run to explore a variety of funding options for the project. Anyone interested in finding out more is welcome to attend the workshop.

Plans have also been approved to extend the available parking outside St Michael's Church.

If you would like further information on any of these issues, please speak to a member of the PCC.

Alison Staines

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St Michael's Rota - November 2019

Sunday 8.00 am St Michael's	3 Nov	10 Nov	17 Nov	24 Nov
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes

Sunday 10.00 am St Michael's	3 Nov	10 Nov	17 Nov	24 Nov
	All Saints	Remembrance Sunday		Christ the King
Welcomers	Brenda Eley	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Pat Toplis	Maureen Brand
Sidespersons	Lynn and David Edge	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Barbara Home-wood David Bull	Brenda Liptrot Richard Keay
Reader	Ted Green		Alison Staines	Angela Burgess
Servers	Maggie Easton Elizabeth Allen		Maggie Easton David Shiel	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
Communion Assistant	Elizabeth Allen		Maggie Easton	Elizabeth Salt
Intercessor	David Easton		Trevor James	Stephen Barton
Coffee	June Frayn Betty Lyne	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Anne Lingwood Shirley Trelfa	Alison Anketell Angela Burgess
Healing				Alan Toplis Chris Polhill
Transport	Ray Allen	Ron Plimmer	Brenda Liptrot	Elizabeth Allen
Flowers	Sue Jones	Kate Bellamy	TBA	TBA

Sunday 12.30 pm St Michael's	3 November Baptism	Reader	Intercessor	Server
		June Frayn	TBA	Maggie Easton

Sunday 6.00 pm St Michael's	3 Nov	10 Nov	17 Nov	24 Nov
	Candles of Re- membrance	Communion	No service (Messy Church at 4.30)	Evensong
Sidesperson	Ray Allen	Margaret Frean		David Shiel
Reader		Margaret Frean		Lyn Shiel
Comm Asst		Phil Clayton		

Bible Readings

Sunday 3rd November

All Saints Day

[White]

Ephesians 1.11-end

Luke 6.20-31

Jonah 3 &4

Luke 6.37-42

Sunday 10th November

3rd Sunday before Advent

[Red]

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-end

Luke 20.27-38

Sunday 17th November

2nd Sunday before Advent

[Red]

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Luke 21.5-19

Sunday 24h November

Christ the King

[Red]

Colossians 1.11-20

Luke 23.33-43

Sunday 24th November

Christ the King

EVENSONG

[Red]

1 Samuel 8.4-20

John 18.33-37

Sunday 1st December

1st Sunday of Advent

[Purple]

Isaiah 2.1-5

Matthew 24.36-44

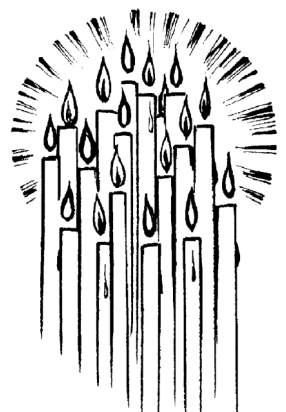
Sunday 8th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

[Purple]

Isaiah 11.1-10

Matthew 3.1-12



From the Registers



Baptism

St Michael	6th Oct	Alexander Henry George Pullin	8 mths
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Wedding



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At Rest



St Michael	1st October	Kathleen Mary Stuart	85
St Michael	21st October	James 'Alan' Ridsdale	84

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Speak words of hope. Be human in this most inhuman of ages.
Guard the image of man for it is the image of God.

Thomas Merton

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<p style="text-align: center;">St Michael's Church</p> <p>Verger: <i>Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</i></p> <p>Sacristan and Head Server: <i>Maggie Easton 255308</i></p> <p>Organist and Choirmaster: <i>Peter Hawks-worth 251938 or 07771 986538</i></p> <p>Music Group: <i>Richard Brooks 07918 906 350</i></p> <p>Transport Rota: <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p>Pastoral Care: <i>Peter Salt 250723</i></p> <p>Flowers: <i>Diana Baker 01543 416232</i></p> <p>Safeguarding: <i>Maureen Brand 264880</i></p> <p>Junior Praise: <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p>Bell ringers: <i>Gillian Eastwood 480017, Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. gillieastwood@gmail.com</i></p> <p>Mothers Union: <i>Elizabeth Allen 304938</i></p> <p>Social Team: <i>Contact via the office 262211</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John's Church, Wall</p> <p>Verger: Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p>Pastoral Care: Christine Gilbert 07821 987999</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p>Magazine Distributer: Eileen Carson 254107</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: <i>Barbara Homewood 255909</i> E-mail brian@britcave.co.uk Magazine Editor: <i>David Bull 07525 012272</i> or email: dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk</p>
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