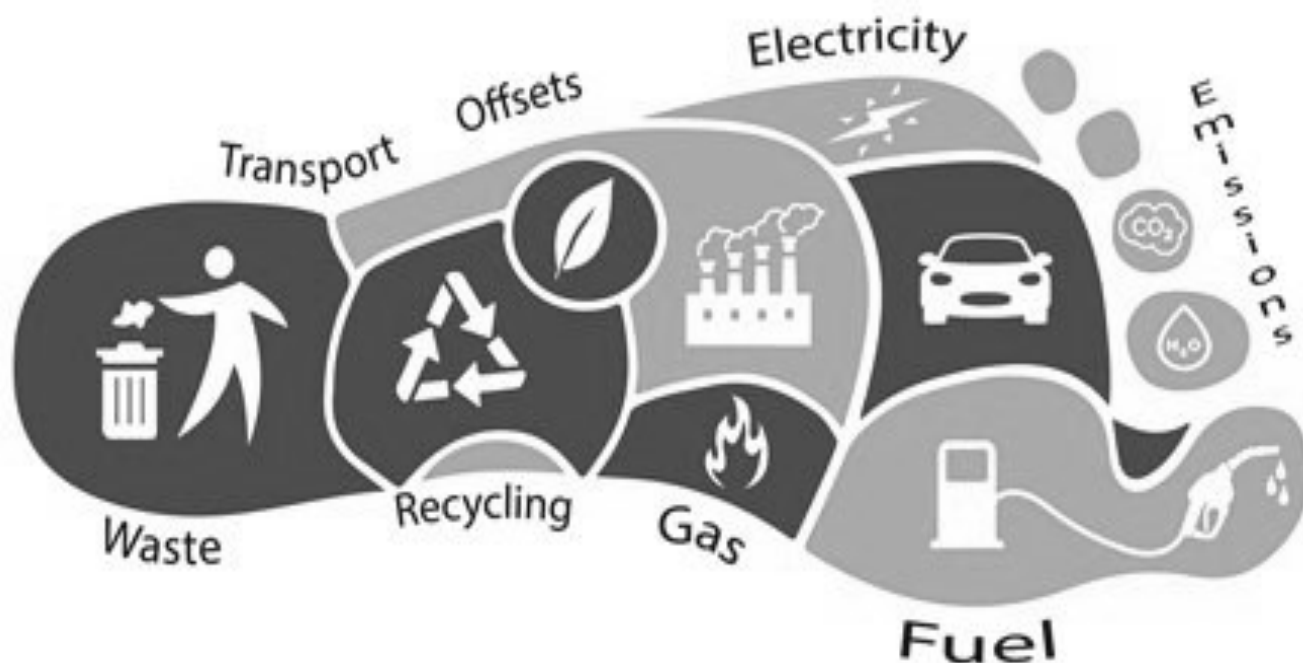


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

November 2021



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

85p

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St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED	St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS

Reflection.....

As I sit at my computer writing this reflection I can hear the much needed rain (hooray – no watering tonight) beating on my window. Wanting to check up on when the rain was forecast to stop I reached for the weather app on my phone and to my surprise find that the forecast for Lichfield is “little chance of precipitation today”!! It does show you that even the best forecasting systems are no more than just that.

I would have looked rather foolish if I had relied only on my phone and gone out shopping in a pair of shorts, tee shirt and flip-flops! Of course you would not do that. You would not rely of the phone app or even the BBC Weather forecast to tell you what it was like outside – you would just look out of the window or even open the door to see for yourself. It would be very foolish of us not to!

But still how much of life do we view and interpret through the information that we are force fed off our computers and mobile phone app's and what others think we should be reading or seeing rather than looking at reality ourselves?

More and more of life is viewed through the images that we are fed through internet, TV and social media (sorry, I know it has good points too). Of course the news has always been around to one degree or another but the speed of delivery has accelerated exponentially since the millennium.

The alarming thing now is that what we are fed is increasingly analysed through cookies and then we are fed a diet of what others “think” we should read by a diet of similar articles and advertisements and even video's thus confirming your world view rather than challenging it.

Recently I wanted to do a simple one-off check on some facts about the American Civil War and its effects on slavery. The very next time I logged in to my computer I was bombarded by article on slavery and

the pros and cons of the war and its effect on the whole of America and yes, you can guess it, even tours of the civil war battlefield too!! All this is fine if you are aware that its happening, but it can submerge you in a particularly biased view which subconsciously influences your thinking so that whatever you are being “fed” is normal reality. I can assure you that it’s not just co-incidence that those images are there.

Our television channels seemingly overflow with reality shows that could not be further from true reality if they tried. They bear no relation to any kind of life that I or I suspect most of us or my friends and relatives live in but if that is our only view of the world we are quickly going to get a very distorted view of reality and we shall soon start to think that something is lacking, or we are missing out on something. Each one of us is open to so many subtle, and not so subtle, influences.

The lockdown over the last year has confirmed for me that we miss most is mingling in the real world. The desperation with which our young people made for the night clubs a few seconds after the midnight lifting of restrictions was a good example of that. For so many months we had all been isolated from others and our view of reality has been shaped so much by what came to us through our screens. We all longed to get out amongst real people and experience reality for ourselves once again and not through someone’s idea of what the author of the algorithm or app thought we should see. We needed to be able to be free to make out own minds up about thing as far as was possible.

For us as Christians the view of reality is through the image and example of Jesus Christ. To see other people as brother an sisters. To see and care for the world as his loved creation given to us for our blessing.

I think I shall stick to looking out of the door to check the real weather and look to God for my reality check!!!

Alan

Six Months On – An update from Simon and Diana

It is now six months since I retired, and Diana and I moved away from Lichfield to a new life in South Somerset. We do miss the people of St Michael's and St Johns and we are grateful for the time we spent with you in Lichfield and all the good memories we have taken with us.



Since we moved at the end of April we do not seem to have stopped. I wonder how either of us had time to go to work – but that is what everyone says when they retire.

We were very fortunate in being able to decorate and carpet the new house before we moved in and so the move went as well as these things do, and everything was moved into place quite quickly. Despite getting rid of quite a lot of furniture and other things we still ended up with the large garage rather full of things that needed to be sorted. We have now managed to do most of that and there are only a few more boxes to go.

Both our Morris Minors are safely in the garage and we have used them to tour around the lanes and countryside of Somerset. It is a beautiful area with many lovely villages and quite few good pubs worth a visit. One of our local pubs has a classic car night each first Wednesday of the month and we have been along. You cannot get into the car park unless you arrive in a classic car.

As part of our preparations for moving Diana grew on a large collection of plants for our garden on her allotment in Lichfield. We filled two Transit vans with plants and garden furniture, stacked right up to the ceiling. The garden itself was rather overgrown and there

was lots of rubbish around, mainly pieces of stone, broken fencing and other materials. Diana wanted to get on with the garden so that we could enjoy it over the summer. I lost count of the number of trips I took to the recycling, but it did not seem to take long before the flower beds were full and there was colour and even a bit more grass on the lawn. Before we left Lichfield, Ron Plimmer gave us a greenhouse from his garden; it's a good size – 10x8 ft – and thanks to his excellent photos and plans we have managed to reconstruct it successfully and it has been full of tomato plants and cucumbers all summer. The lower part of the garden ends in a stream which you could hardly see when you managed to find a way across the overgrown and rubbish filled area. We do not think that this part had been touched for at least 20 years since the land stopped being a commercial plant nursery. Now, after much effort the land has been cleared and a shrubbery planted in the shade of the wood next door. Grass has been sown to make paths, ready to start making flower beds and remodelling the bank of the stream next spring. All Diana has to do now is plant over 600 bulbs – as well as tend the allotment she got soon after we arrived!



I have been busy reconstructing the inside of the garage – it is really very big – so that as well as the cars I can have a workshop and a room for my model railway. The workshop is nearly finished and then I can unpack and assemble the wonderful woodwork bench which was my leaving present from St Michael's. I have lots of projects lined up and I am looking forward to a cosy space in which to work.

Over the last six months we have seen a lot more of family and friends

and with them we have explored the area and sampled the local food, the beer and the cider.

There are some amazing walks around here, ranging from high up in the Blackdown Hills to low down along the rivers of the Somerset Levels.



Our church (another St Michael's) is just at the end of our road – the shortest walk to church we have ever had. We are not a large congregation, maybe 20 on a good day though we were full for harvest. Diana and I and a neighbour are now the church cleaning team. After six months off, I have applied for permission to take services and I think this will come through in time for Christmas. In the new year we will be welcoming a new vicar after a time of being in vacancy. So maybe I will be more involved in taking services in the future. But I do really like being in the congregation and sitting with Diana.

We both feel very blessed to have enjoyed our time in ministry in different places and even more blessed to have found a lovely place to live and lots to do, with many things yet to discover.

If you are passing this way do come and see us. We are only about 15 minutes from the Taunton junction on the M5. Angie in the office has our contact details.

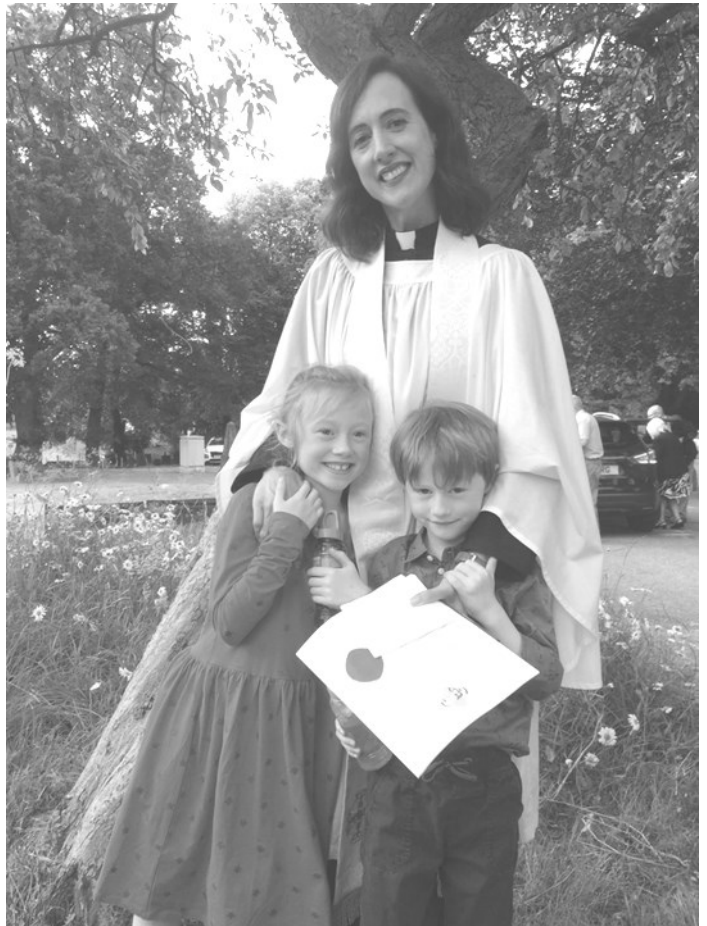
Our love and best wishes to you all.

Simon and Diana

News from our former curate:

Greetings from Kew!

We hope you are all doing well and think of you all often. It's been a busy few months settling in for myself, Vera and George (and Nigel the cat!), but we are all really enjoying our new chapter here in Kew. Vera and George have both settled in well to school, making new friends and getting to know their teachers. They seem to really enjoy it when I come to school at least once a week to lead assemblies - long may that last! They are also keen participants at Junior Church in both churches and I hope they will join soon other young people in the parishes in becoming Servers. We love having Kew Gardens on our doorstep and we go most weeks for a walk.



Life has been very busy for me getting up to speed as Vicar of two churches but I am really enjoying my new role. As we emerge from the pandemic we are beginning to introduce long missed elements to our worship such as Junior Church and singing! As well as my services at both churches on a Sunday, I've also enjoyed building up a relationship with the local C of E Primary school and other schools in the area. There is lots for me to learn stepping from curacy to first incumbency but I often find myself very grateful for all the experience I gained during my time with you all and it is certainly serving me well now. Keeping you all in my prayers and sending good wishes,
Mel.

Alan Thompson Painting Exhibition

We hope all those who saw the Paintings by the late Alan Thompson during the Michaelmas to Harvest Celebration enjoyed looking at Alan's work. An accomplished artist, the paintings on display were only a small part of Alan's artwork. We would like to thank all who supported us in the organisation of the exhibition, and we would also like to thank all who generously donated money for a painting. The total amount raised is £500.00, a wonderful achievement. Dudley Ray, St. Michael's Director of Music, has said he would like to spend the money on an amplifier for the Music Group, fabric and buttons for new Choir robes and percussion instruments for the Congregation to use at Family Services. We are sure Alan would approve.

Ray and Lesley Allen.



*Part of the exhibition of Paintings by The Late Alan Thompson
in St. Michael's Fellowship Corner
during the Michaelmas to Harvest Celebration.*



The Chad Blog

Venturing out more, in recent weeks, has been a strange and rather unsettling experience. Like traversing a landscape that seems familiar but strangely altered. The world has changed in ways both subtle and significant.

Things just don't work in the way that they used to. As Shakespeare might put it 'the times are out of joint'. Trying to catch my first train to London for two years I arrived at the station to find there was no train, the timetable had been altered at short notice due to driver shortages... I get another one and find there was no mention of a functioning buffet car...no one seems to check tickets anymore on trains or at stations...

With amazing rapidity we seem to have become a cashless society. Perhaps that's why there seem so few street beggars now or is it that they didn't make it through the pandemic? What will become of the Big Issue sellers?

It doesn't seem possible to see a GP anymore, a dentist only after weeks of waiting.

My body does not function the way that it used to. Nine months after Covid I still have little taste or smell. The shape of my ministry is much altered. So much more time on screen, so much less time spent travelling.

Mirroring the changes in society, the Church is also recognisable but changed. Also buffeted by forces out of our control. Bruised and battered by loss of members and loss of income. Yet still there, praying and singing and serving. Buffet cars not always operational, but a

warm welcome on offer.

And I am taken back to that strange new reality ushered in by the first Easter morning. The disciples' reaction to the resurrection initially being one of fear. Their difficulty in comprehending the meaning of the empty tomb compounded by their overwhelming sense of loss and grief as a result of Jesus' death & the knowledge that their world would never be the same again. The story of the early church is the story of the followers of Jesus learning to live by faith not sight; deprived of the physical presence of Jesus and the security of living in his slipstream, they stepped out courageously to create a new world of missional communities; spiritually alive, adaptive, dynamic.

The pandemic has taken much of our security away, within the Church and within wider society. There is much fear and anxiety concerning the future, for understandable reasons. But Jesus taught us and then exemplified it through his death and resurrection, that death is the necessary catalyst for rebirth and renewal. The most successful era of evangelisation in church history was in the period following its greatest trauma. As we survey a world transformed, the most imperative qualities required of us as Christian disciples will be vision, faith and courage. There will be much we need to let go of in order to reshape the church for its mission in a changed landscape. But if we hold fast to God in prayer and in our commitment to our daily discipleship, then our future will be aligned with God's purposes and all will be well.

+Clive Wulfrun

Deadlines!

For **December** Magazine: Deadline is

MONDAY 15th November

Contact David Shiel

shielfamily@gmail.com

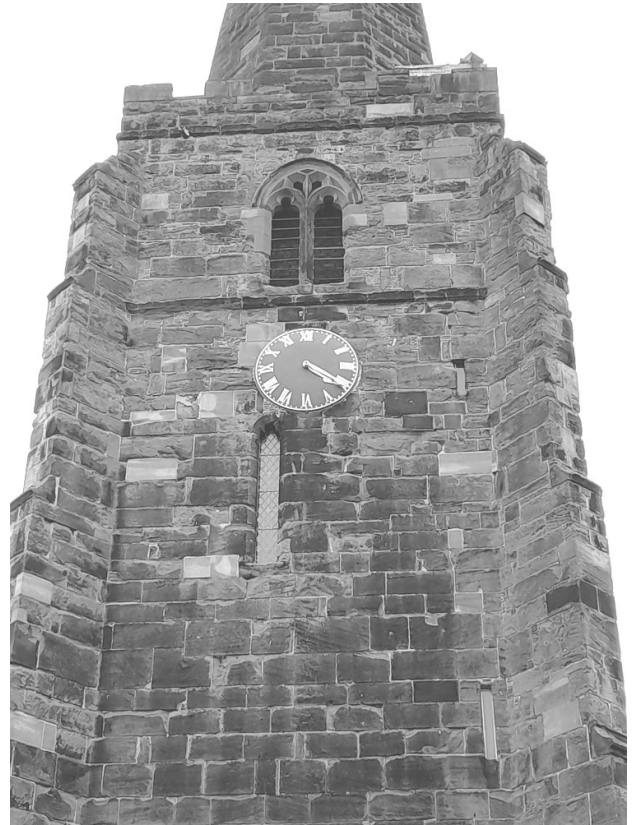
Pew Sheet:

every Thursday 7:30am

Contact Parish Office

Capital Appeal Collecting 'Jar' at St Michael's Church

Since the Capital Appeal Collecting 'Jar' was positioned at the back of St Michael's Church during the major Capital Appeal for Tower Restoration and Organ Replacement in the mid-1990s, several thousand pounds in loose change has been collected and devoted, in a small way, to a number of church upgrades. This 'jar' has now been temporarily re-purposed to support our **Historic Church Turret Clock Appeal**.



Just what happens is that the loose change is periodically included in the weekly collection count – the counters just love the low denomination *brown coins* but, as a well-known supermarket proclaims, 'every little counts!'

Euro coins are exchanged for UK currency by one of our inveterate European travellers. Most other foreign coins are donated to Oxfam.

It is important to say that what we might regard as redundant UK decimal coinage – phased out £2-00, £1-00, 50p, 10p, and 5p coins – we can still bank – they are not currency in an everyday sense but they are still redeemable.

Please do think about our current appeal priority.

Trevor James

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

First Steps



Monday 8th November

10am St Michael's

Family Praise

Sunday 7th November

10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



SUNDAY 14th November

4.30 – 5.30pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome

St. Michael's Churchyard

A few weeks ago Ron Plimmer took 6 cuttings from the tree known as Johnson's willow. The current tree has extensive decay and will be



Ron and 5 of the newly rooted willow cuttings .

removed later this year. It will then be replaced by a tree grown from cuttings taken in 2018.

This historic tree and its descendants have been growing in this same spot by Stowe Pool for over 300 years. The tree is a living reminder of the way in which Dr. Johnson used to take regular walks around Stowe Pool and visit his father Michael's parchment factory which was situated nearby.

Ron planted 6 cuttings in individual pots and they have all taken root and are growing healthily. They will be looked after by Ron and myself and, after perhaps 2 years or so, they will be planted in a suitable area of St.

Michael's Churchyard. It will be fitting for us to have a willow tree to remember Dr. Johnson whose father Michael his brother Nathaniel and mother Sarah, were all buried in our Church as seen in the memorials to them all in the Central aisle. Doctor Johnson himself was buried in the south transept of Westminster Abbey

At our **October Working Party** we planted a number of daffodils to fill spaces in the Crab Apple Avenue borders. We also planted 500 Ruby Giant crocus bulbs in 2 graves that had been weeded prior to planting the bulbs. The larger of the 2 graves is a family grave. The inscription around the edge of the grave tells us that the family name was Wright. Henry Wright died aged 53 and his wife died at the age of 65. Their daughter was



The 2 Graves where crocus bulbs have been planted.

25 years old when she died. It is sad to read that their son Charlie, aged 20, was killed in action in July, 1916. I think it is fitting to remember those who died in such tragic circumstances. As the crocuses flower in the Spring we can remember Charlie and many others who died in the service of their country. These 2 graves can be seen on the right of the path that goes from the outside tap to the New Churchyard.



*Part of the inscription from the
Family Grave.*

Our **November Working Party Session**, the last of the year, will be held on **Saturday November 6th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** We will be planting more **daffodil bulbs**, called *Narcissus Caniculatus*, an



*Narcissus
caniculatus
flowers.*

attractive variety which has white petals and yellow trumpets. It is a dwarf daffodil, growing 6 inches tall. We shall be planting 48 of these bulbs 24 in each of 2 small children's graves which are situated 5 yards from the World War Remembrance Monument at the foot of a beautiful mature oak tree. We will also plant a small Rowan tree in the grass near to the Law Monument. This tree was kindly given to us by Diana Baker, wife of Simon, our last Rector, who retired in April. We shall continue weeding graves and removing dead flowers from the planted beds. Please join us if you can. **All tools will be provided. Mid-Morning Refreshments of Tea/Coffee and Cake will be served.**

Ray Allen. 251654

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan

When I gave my talk in Angels week I thought that some women should get a mention and *googled* 'heroines of the First World War'. Ten names, including Edith Cavell, came up and I chose a few of them for my talk. I was in time trouble



and they got a pretty brief mention so David Shiel asked if I would write about Dame Helen Charlotte Isabella Gwynne-Vaughan for the magazine. She was made a Dame for commanding the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) in France in 1917-18 but her life was much richer than that.

She had an aristocratic background but didn't follow the debutante route and enrolled in the botany and zoology course at King's College London in 1899, when she was 20. She specialised in mycology (fungi) and received her doctorate in fungal genetic studies in 1907. Most of her university time was spent at various London colleges and she became head of the botany department of Birkbeck College in 1909. She became known as an excellent administrator as well as academic and that, together with her aristocratic background and earlier peaceful suffragist activity, was the reason that she was asked to head up the WAAC in France. She also served for a year as Commandant of

the newly formed Women's Royal Air Force before returning to academia as Professor of Botany at Birkbeck in 1921, one of the earlier women professors in the UK. In 1911 she had married fellow botanist, 40-year old David Gwynne-Vaughan, but he died of TB in 1915 and there were no children. She finally retired from Birkbeck in 1944, aged 65.

Helen had always been interested in politics and, together with medical pioneer and social reformer Louisa Garrett Anderson, she formed the London University Suffrage Society in 1905. In the early 1920s she stood in the London municipal elections and three times for parliament (1922, 23 and 24 – turbulent political times!) but was unsuccessful each time. She was also active in Girl Guiding and chaired the conference in 1930 that set up the world Guiding movement.

She left her academic studies again in 1939 to act as head of the (female) Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) that absorbed the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY). She retired from war work in 1941 at the age of 61, but was acknowledged as an academic and promoter of women's causes until her death, aged 88, in 1967. This was a life well lived and I suspect that she was more proud that two types of fungi were named after her and that she was a leading campaigner for women (she was commemorated with a blue plaque outside her London home in 2020) than for her war service.

Ted Green

CLIMATE CHANGE PRAYERS

Wonder at creation

God of sunset and tsunami,
of snowflake and avalanche,
revitalise within us the heart of the child
that watched a leaf drift in the wind,
and a stone fall into a still pond.
May we always wonder at the scale
and richness of your creation,
learning to live by the spirit of harmony
and inter-dependence
that lies at the heart of your natural order.

Grant this, our prayer,
in the name of Jesus
who said that a single wild flower
is more glorious than Israel's greatest king.

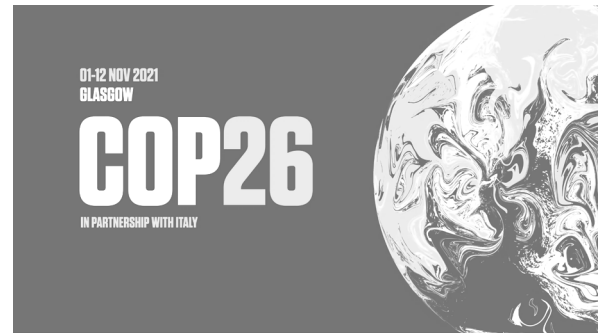
John Polhill

Bless us on a grey day

Living God, your Creation blesses us in so many ways –
first light of dawn, sun's sparkle on a raindrop, ...
we don't need to list them out for you.
There are days when they carry us, lift us over rocks,
and sweep us out of danger.

So bless us on a grey day, in a cold wet night,
in blistering heat, in storm, and when the sky is dark with dust.
We'll know because we'll hear "I love you, child of my heart".
We'll be standing so tall we will touch the sky
and we'll have a smile for everyone.

John Polhill



Creator God,
we offer to your love
all denial of climate change
and its consequences:
deaf to the cries of the poor;
blind to the troubling damage of creation.

Lead us into your truth.
Heal the fear that binds us.
Open our eyes to see,
our ears to hear
and our hearts to respond,
for your love's sake.

Amen

Chris Polhill

Rainbow prayer for Operation Noah

Creator God, how deep are your designs!
You made a living earth, cloud, rain and wind,
and charged us with their care.
We confess that the way we live today
is changing the climate,
the seas and the balance of life,
dispossessing the poor and future generations.
Build our lives into an Ark for all creation,
and, as you promised Noah never to repeat the Flood,
so make us heralds of a new rainbow covenant:
choosing life for all that is at risk -
for creation,
for neighbours near and far,
our children and ourselves.

From Operation Noah Launch, Coventry Cathedral, 2004

A Challenge:

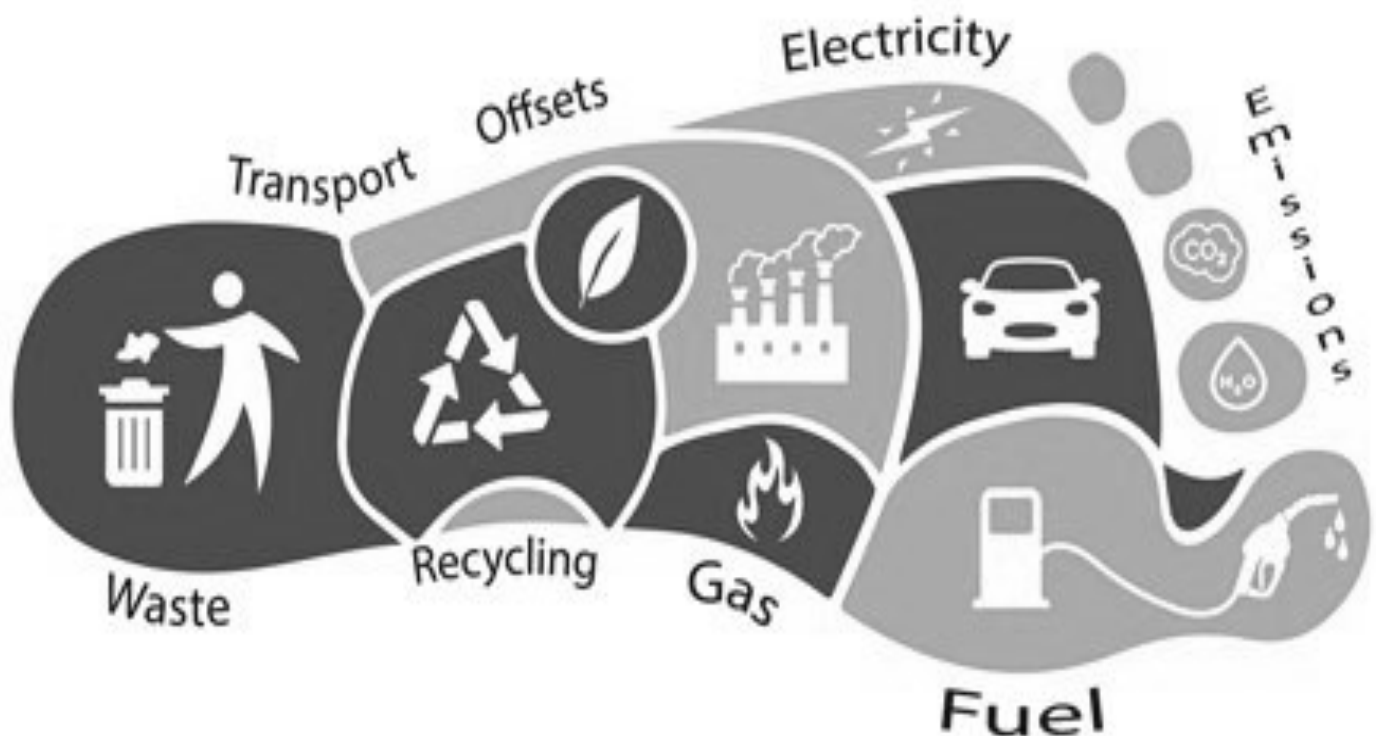
During COP26 check your own carbon footprint at:

www.carbonindependent.org

or

www.climatestewards.org

Can you reduce your footprint by 5%?





United Benefice Walking Group:

November's Walk will be around **Pipe Hall Farm**.

Date: Saturday 20th November

Time: 10.30 am

Meet at: Pipe Hall Farm
71 Mary Slater Rd,
Burntwood,
WS13 8BW

Car Parking is free.

What 3 words App noddled.giant.jabs

Distance: 3 miles, no stiles

Types of path: Woodland trails, can be muddy
Waterproof sturdy boots recommended

We will walk around parts of the woodland that we have not looked at during our previous visit. There will be a stop halfway around to look out across the Trent Valley and over Lichfield.

NO COFFEE BREAK . You are welcome to bring a drink with you to have at this point if you wish.

From there we will return to the car park.

NO ORGANISED PUB LUNCH AFTER THE WALK.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL—PLEASE USE THE FORM ON THE WEBSITE

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

Angie King

beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com



September Meeting

We always start the "new term" in September with a service and this year was no exception and helped us to feel that we were getting back to normality again. Lesley and June led the service as Elizabeth was doing a sponsored charity walk. They focussed on the treatment of women world-wide and what can be done to help those who are not so fortunate as us. Candles were lit to remind us of our aims to uphold Christ's teachings on marriage, to encourage parents to bring up children in faith and to help promote stable family life especially for those in adversity.

Congratulations were given Lesley and Ray, Lynn and David who have all celebrated golden wedding anniversaries.

In October we welcomed Sally Mustafa who gave us a very personal account of 20 years of living in Iraq. Through her work at the Embassy in London she met several Iraqi medical students who were training in London and one in particular, Kamal who was training at Moorfields hospital. After a complicated courtship, carried on by his friends when he had returned home she flew out to Baghdad to marry him in 1961. His family welcomed her warmly, his aunt taught her to manage the home and his teenage brother and sister taught her Arabic.

At first life was settled, they had 2 daughters and were able to take holidays to Kurdistan and the country around Baghdad. As a military doctor he was sent to Egypt for a time which she said was greener than Iraq. The country around Baghdad was beautiful with farms, orchards and flowers. In the cool evenings picnics were taken to the banks of the Euphrates. Shopping in the souks was a delight with the splendid array of foods and spices. When her mother came to stay she bought materials to bring home to Lichfield. Two sons were born and they learned to cope with the frequent skirmishes with Iran.

Beside his own practice Kamal was doctor to the President, not a difficult position until Sadaam Hussein took office. His permission had to be sought to leave the country for a visit but Sally was allowed to bring one boy here to attend Maple Hayes School as there was no suitable school in Baghdad for him although the other children had been well educated.

Soon military training was offered to all young men and they did not want their sons to be conscripted so managed to bring out the other boy.

Surveillance became unnerving when Sadaam and his guards would visit homes , unannounced and inspect everything, even the contents of their fridge. They kept a discreet silence and were diplomatic, so avoiding prison or torture like some neighbours. It was some years before they were all able to come to England but Kamal was last to reach Lichfield in 1989.

This was an absorbing account but it was sad to realise what had happened to a country which had had so much to offer.

Betty Lyne

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence is an international campaign.

It takes place each year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day)



Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with around 6,000 organisations from approximately 187 countries to participate in the campaign to raise awareness of, and call an end to, GBV in all forms and in all societies.

As part of the campaign this year, Mothers' Union will be holding their first Global Day (27 November) which is centred around the disturbing

figure that “1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse” and that Mothers’ Union – as a leading women’s organisation – believes this is unacceptable.

This Campaign is an extension of the day to day grass roots work of Mothers’ Union. “We work alongside communities to help end gender based violence and support those affected by it, every day of the year”.

St Michael’s branch will meet close to Global Day and the meditation planned for their meeting will be linked to the ‘1 in 3’ campaign.

In June this year, Mothers’ Union published the following article –
Mothers’ Union Stands Against Domestic Abuse – Continued Progress

Thank You Members

A huge thank you to all members who wrote to their MP, and Dioceses who wrote to their Bishops, to ensure that the Domestic Violence Abuse Bill would be as strong as it possibly could be. There were over 600 downloads of letters from the website, and feedback shows that voices were indeed heard! This landmark Bill passed into legislation on 29th April 2021, which is fantastic news, and MU has written to the minister to thank her.

More to be Done

Sadly, work still remains to have full protection for survivors with insecure immigration status, and to ensure that communities are resourced to implement the much needed support. Therefore, we will continue to work with others to call for both of these.

There is a key international convention, **the Istanbul Convention** which sets out the standards for countering violence against women. The UK Government signed this 9 years ago, but has yet to ratify, although over 30 countries have already done so.

Mothers’ Union has signed a letter to the Prime Minister and 2 ministers together with a number of other partners in the coalition, “IC Change”, calling for the UK Government, which has a leadership role in Gender Justice, to ratify the convention by 8th June, 2022, the 10th anniversary of them signing. MU will also participate in the social media campaign on 8th June this year. Look out for posts on our social channels.

A day in the life of ...

A day in the life of a paramedic, sounds like it should be simple, but one of the many beauties of 'the job' is that no two days are the same. There in lies the problem! How does one sum up a day in the life of a paramedic?



On this occasion I have decided to focus on one day in particular. A Tuesday in early August, a day of little significance, but a day that will hopefully give people an insight into modern day Para-medicine.

04:30 and the alarm goes off, there is a strange peace at this time in the morning as if the world is yet to wake and you are the first person up. This peace is not often felt by paramedics who work on the core shift patterns, as they cannot believe it themselves that they need to get up at 04:30!!

A whirlwind of shower, teeth, dressing, breakfast and a drive to work, (with coffee!) ensues, before arriving at the gates of work. I swipe my ID card on the key pad, an ID card that has a photo from 2016 may I add, and I'm in!

The ambulance is ready thanks to our vehicle preparation operatives or 'VPOs' (we have a lot of acronyms).

I book into service using our handheld radios. There's a quick debrief of what I ate and did the previous evening. Working with a regular crew mate for nearly two years is fantastic however sometimes there isn't much new to talk about.

PING! The first job comes through, an elderly person had fallen on the floor during the night and is unable to get back up. At this stage it is unknown if they are injured or not. We hit the red button and the blue lights begin to flash. We arrive at the property and use the key safe to gain access (a very, very useful bit of kit!). Thankfully the person was uninjured and we picked them up using a blow up cushion to save any unnecessary man handling (and our backs!). They were very

apologetic however we informed them that this was our bread and butter, if people didn't fall I'd be out the job!

People sometimes are embarrassed when paramedics arrive but I'll assure you all now, we've seen it all. We'd rather come out and find you well, not poorly!

As the day moved on we attended a young person who was suffering from mental health problems. A large portion of our job revolves around mental health, an illness that is as real as any physical ailment. Paramedics get very little training on mental health and a large portion of the way we manage people suffering from a mental health crisis is picked up on the job. On this occasion we calmed the patient down by removing them from the stressful situation and used breathing coaching to slow down the hyperventilation. We spent over an hour talking to this person who felt like they had been forgotten by the system and had no purpose. We made some calls and got them a referral for the next day.

Category 1 incidents are the highest priority, and on this day we attended one 'cat 1' call. An unwell child who had developed SEPSIS, a very serious condition stemming from an infection. We didn't hang around on scene here, a quick set of observations some basic treatment and a rapid transfer to the nearest paediatric emergency department. Kids on the job can be difficult, but often the treatment is TLC to the parents. On this occasion the child needed immediate intervention.

Lunch, basic rule... eat what you can, when you can, and of course another dose of caffeine stat! (No one really says stat, it's just in the films).

After lunch we attended a chest pain. Chest pains are a bit of funny one for medical professionals as the causes of chest pain can range from a simple (but painful) pulled muscle all the way to a heart attack. The patient was assessed and due to increased risk factors and an

inability to rule out serious conditions they were transported to hospital.

The next patient was referred to us by a GP, after an abnormal blood result. Not very exciting and the patient confessed they felt absolutely fine, but rules are rules.

I ended up having a very lovely conversation, all about this persons life, achievements and even regrets. A simple unremarkable transfer that turned into a thoroughly enjoyable conversation.

Whilst this is just one day, as was said at the start, no two days are the same. What makes the job so brilliant and fulfilling are the people we meet and hopefully the things we can do to make a difference to their lives.

At the end of the day we return to station, take our kit off the ambulance and head home. If it's been a particularly difficult day I find talking about things very helpful, a problem shared is a problem halved (cheesy I know! But I challenge anyone to dispute it). Tomorrow we have to do it all again... except tomorrow it's a night shift!

Joe Sneddon

The poster is titled "Make the right decision" and features the NHS logo in the top right corner. It is organized into six horizontal rows, each with an icon on the left, a description of the condition in the center, and the recommended service on the right.

Icon	Condition	Service
999	Only in an emergency: loss of consciousness severe breathing difficulties heavy bleeding	Emergency Department
Walking person	When it's urgent but not life threatening: sprains fractures minor burns skin infection	Urgent Care Centre
Stethoscope	For symptoms that don't go away: ear pain back pain stomach pain	GP Surgery
First aid cross	Feeling poorly and need advice about: fevers stomach upset aches & pains headaches	Pharmacy
Mobile phone	Need help fast and its not an emergency? Unwell? Confused? Need help?	NHS 111
House	For common ailments and illnesses: hangover grazed knee sore throat cough	Self-care

News from the Hawksworth Family in Hong Kong:

As we get closer to leaving Hong Kong, we've been making the most of our weekends and seeing as many friends as possible.

We recently enjoyed the mid autumn festival and managed to get hold of some custard mooncakes! They were delicious. The children really enjoyed them!



The weather has started to turn autumnal and we frequently have some very wet days.

We recently had two typhoons move across the Luzon straits towards Hong Kong.

The first came within 800km causing flash floods and lots of disruption to public transport as some busses flooded driving around the main island.

The second typhoon came within 400km and was classed as a T8. This caused bamboo scaffolding to collapse from the side of a building in Happy Valley. One person died and 7 others were injured.

Hong Kong has endured many typhoons and the warning systems in place mean we're always well informed.



Now the weather is calmer we're able to venture back to the beach.

This weekend we went to Shek O for lunch with friends.

Shek O is not far from Stanley on the South East part of Hong Kong island. It's a beautiful part of the island with steep slopes

covered in lush green trees and vegetation that sweeps down into the bluest sea I've ever laid eyes on. It's always breezy here and this makes the sea quite rough coming into shore. The place we visited was called Big Wave Bay. It's an ideal spot for surfing.

Lunch was delicious and we had a mix of fish, oysters (Ellie tried one for the first time!), ratatouille and pasta. It was a wonderful day and the children really enjoyed spending time with their friends!



Ellie and Milo are back at school after their half term break. They are really enjoying their mandarin lessons as they know they'll be speaking mandarin when we live in Chengdu.

Rupert and Gabriel speak more Cantonese but continue to have Mandarin as part of their schooling.

Peter and myself have started to learn the language as well via an app called "Hello Chinese". It teaches you how to write the characters in Chinese and English as well as pronunciation and sentence structure. It's not as difficult as I thought it would be.

Preparations for leaving Hong Kong are well underway now. We leave in just over 3 weeks time. We're just waiting for the official letter of invitation to come through from the Chinese government. We won't be able to cross the border without it. Everything is very efficient here and I'm confident it will arrive soon.



We hope everyone is keeping well.

Much love,

The Hawksworths xxxxx

WALL NEWS

News from Wall

The other week I had the privilege of visiting the Knitting Group. The ladies were all busy knitting different coloured squares to make colourful blankets for the Children in Crisis Charity.

Chris Gilbert has led this group for some years now and it is a valuable and much appreciated activity. Chris has kept in close touch with everybody during the Covid restrictions and lockdown. The knitting went on at home and problems with stitches were sorted out over the phone!



I visited on this occasion because Chris was retiring, not from the Knitting Group, but from her role of Pastoral Care in taking Home Communion to those who needed it, a ministry which she has been doing for some 20 years. I have never forgotten when she visited me after the death of my husband. Her visit stands out in my mind because she prayed with me. We are very thankful for her faithfulness

and wanted to mark our gratitude as a church so she was given a planter which hopefully she will enjoy for some time and can be replanted in the future!

Although she has retired from taking Home Communion she will continue to lead the Knitting Group which in itself is a Pastoral ministry. We thank God for all those who work behind the scenes quietly showing the love of Christ to those they meet.

Christine Higgs



St John's Church: 12-hour Sponsored Organ Playing Marathon



Saturday 18th September was a bright autumn day, just right to encourage visitors to the 12 hour sponsored organ playing marathon undertaken by Paul Wright one of our organists. I needed to visit the church early that morning and was pleased to find Paul already had an audience of two ladies and a dog. It was pleasing that visitors continued to support the marathon all day and there was never a time when the church did not have someone sitting in the pews enjoying the music. I understand that approximately 50 visitors passed through the doors. Some visitors brought their dogs and at times we could have had a small dog show. Right up until the 8pm finish time there was someone around to give encouragement. One visitor from Shenstone requested to sing a solo and Paul was able to provide the music requested to accompany her. This event has helped the church enormously to open up our doors again to fellowship with others and provided a much needed boost to church funds. We thank Paul for all the work he put into organising the event and in undertaking such a marathon. *Hilary*

A massive 'thank you' to everyone who supported the Sponsored Organ Marathon on Saturday 18th September. I am very grateful to all those who sponsored me and also to the stewards on the day, those who baked cakes for the cake stall and the Knitting Group who provided knitted items for sale. The fact that there was a steady flow of visitors who came to listen and have a cuppa encouraged me throughout the twelve-hour session.

I am pleased to report that, with virtually all of the sponsorship money now collected, the **event has raised £2700.39**. This will help to significantly plug the gap in income due to lost fundraising opportunities over the past eighteen months.

Thank you.

Paul Wright

Harvest Festival at St John's

Our Harvest service was on Sunday 3rd October.

The church had been decorated with harvest produce from around the neighbourhood.

Maize, carrots, potatoes and wheat have all

recently been harvested from the fields around Wall. Rob, from Rose Cottage brought his creative style of decoration to both the inside and



outside of the church giving us a real feel for of our rural setting.

The service was taken Rev. Dr. Rebecca Lloyd who is Chaplain to The Bishop of Lichfield. Although we are very great full for the huge input provided by the Benefice leadership team it was good to welcome a newcomer in our midst.



Following the service we had a Baptism of Poppy Ava Yardley. The decorations were once again much appreciated by the family on such an important celebration in their family life.



On the Friday we had yet another celebration. The wedding of Victoria and Thomas Male. The family live in Shenstone and had requested St John's Wall for their important celebration as there was a previous connection to the church. The wedding service was undertaken by Rev. Liz Chamberlain from St John the Baptist, Shenstone. Therefore once again we had the pleasure of welcoming another vicar to the church. The harvest flowers continued to give the church a seasonal flavour to the service. The weather was just changing to autumn so the outside photographs from the elevated position should provide a beautiful reminder of such a happy event.

Hilary Barker



PROVERB PRAYERS

PROVERBS

8.12-14, 22-23, 32-36

Wisdom Speaks

¹² I am Wisdom —

Common Sense is my closest friend; I possess knowledge and sound judgment. ¹³ If you respect

the LORD, you will hate evil. I hate pride and conceit and deceitful lies.

¹⁴ I am strong, and I offer sensible advice and sound judgment.

²² From the beginning, I was with the LORD. I was there before he began ²³ to create the earth. At the very first, the LORD gave life to me.

³² Pay attention, my children! Follow my advice, and you will be happy.

³³ Listen carefully to my instructions, and you will be wise. ³⁴ Come to my home each day and listen to me. You will find happiness. ³⁵ By finding me, you find life, and the LORD will be pleased with you. ³⁶ But if you don't find me, you hurt only yourself, and if you hate me, you are in love with death.

From the Contemporary English Version

Creator God, I know that you are omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and omnibenevolent. I respect you and know that you are my creator and that you are in all things. You have the power to do anything, and only you are perfectly good. You gave human beings the responsibility of looking after your creation and in that we have failed. I'm sorry.



Help me to behave in a more respectful way towards your creation. Thank you for giving me Wisdom's advice and the Holy Spirit's guiding presence to help me as I strive to do better in future.

Angie King

Bible Readings

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

Sunday 21st November

Christ the King

[Red]

Rev 1.4b-8

John 18.33-37

Sunday 21st November

EVENSONG

[Red]

Daniel 5

John 6.1-15

Sunday 28th November

Advent Sunday

[Purple]

1 Thessalonians 3.9-end

Luke 21-25-36

Sunday 5th December

Advent 2

[Purple]

Philemon 1.3-11

Luke 3.1-6

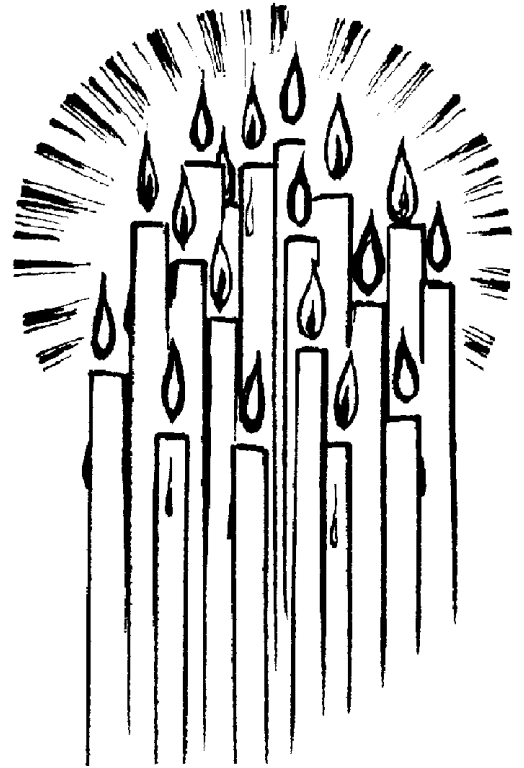
Sunday 12th December

Advent 3

[Purple]

Philemon 4.4-7

Luke 3.7-18



From the Registers

Baptisms			
St Michael's	26th September	Noah Morley	1 yr
St John's	3rd October	Poppy Yardley	2 yr
St John's	17th October	Abel Greaves	4 yr
St John's	17th October	Tadhg Greaves	7 mths
St Michael's	24th October	Henry Allen	11 mths
St Michael's	24th October	Dylan Leatham	7 mths

Weddings		
St Michael's	25th Sept	Blake Pardoe & Lucy Young
St John's	15th Oct	Thomas Male & Victoria Kelman
St Michael's	23rd Oct	John Buttery & Katie Reynolds

Funerals			
St Michael's	22nd Sept	Olive Thorpe (interment of ashes)	103
St Michael's	24th Sept	Valerie Hollier (interment of ashes)	69
St John's	25th Sept	Peter Marshall (interment of ashes)	90
St Michael's	4th October	Peter Harrison	73
St Michael's	15th October	Peter Barrett	70
St Michael's	20th October	Barbara Standley	90

..... And FINALLY!

A really massive THANK YOU to the year 3 pupils at St. Michael's school for the hard work and thought which they put into making the marvellous Jam-Jar Flower Arrangements which so brightened up our beautiful Church during the Michaelmas and harvest celebrations recently (see photo of the pulpit and flowers)

Their thoughtfulness really added that extra something to the occasions and were the subject of many conversations during the "*Angels events*" which took place during the week.

The Editor



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over Lichfield for the night.

Contact the United Benefice Office on 01543 262211



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