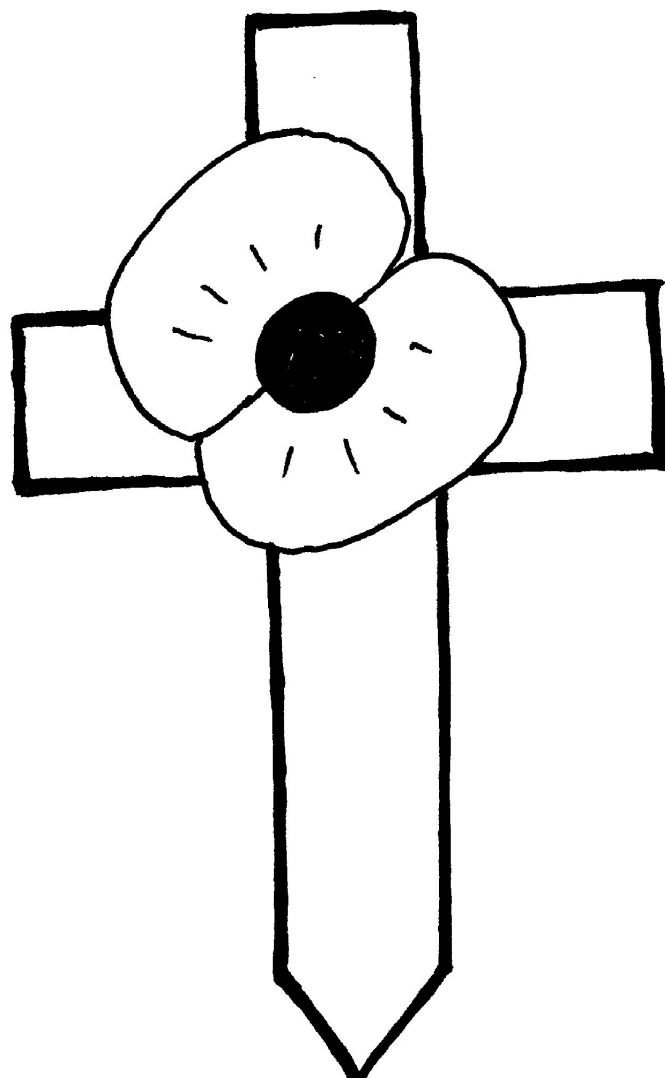


# THE PARISH MAGAZINE

## November 2022



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

13th November 2022

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

**£1**

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

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

# Reflection

As with our faith we all experience our feelings individually but we share our faith together as a church community as we have been taught to do. The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has left us with a myriad of individual feelings but it is clear that there is huge shared sense of gratitude and appreciation for her devotion to the people of these islands and the wider Commonwealth. Seventy years of commitment is an amazing contribution.

The juxtaposition of the pomp and reverence of her state funeral and the publication of Simon Armitage's extraordinary poem – *Floral Tribute* -to celebrate her life and contribution in his role as Poet Laureate has set me thinking.

When Winston Churchill died, his State Funeral, very much to his own specifications, was modelled on that of the Duke of Wellington in 1852. That event was memorialised by Lord Tennyson in his *Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington*. In that poem there is a point where a voice cries out from within St Paul's Cathedral where the Duke was to be buried, complaining that he had not had similar public celebrations of his life. The complainant was Horatio Nelson, who had been buried there in 1805. The inequality of treatment cannot be set aside. Nelson died during his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar but Wellington had lived on after his wonderful victory at Waterloo in 1815 for another thirty-seven years, with a further illustrious career as international statesman, twice prime minister and as valued adviser to three monarchs. Tennyson understood why the Duke had been celebrated in this elaborate way but he was subtly reminding his readers that Nelson had rather importantly made a contribution to our national security, which by then had given us superiority at sea for almost fifty years.

My instincts are that in rightly expressing our appreciation for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, we have, in many ways, not fully celebrated the life and contribution of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Whilst the Queen diligently dealt with her daily 'red boxes of state papers' and carried out many other public and diplomatic duties, for many of us Prince Philip was almost a more conspicuous public figure. Apart from an astonishing programme of public duties, his role in environmental issues, such as the World Wildlife Fund was extremely important, and young people in our parish and beyond have gained life skills through the challenges of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. His commitment public duties into his nineties was extraordinary and exemplary. The onset of the pandemic prevented the public from expressing their appreciation for what he had give to this country in ways that would otherwise have been possible. This is not to say that there would have been massive floral offerings or indeed anything akin to a State Funeral or indeed a Lying-in-State as we have offered to the Queen - indeed we know that this would not have been what he wanted because we all saw at his pandemic-affected funeral service in St George's Chapel that he had personally commissioned and designed a landrover to carry his coffin. This rather confirmed that this extraordinarily thoughtful and creative figure did not want a huge fuss but we should still vigorously celebrate what he brought to us. This man, who was also a great-great-grandchild, like the Queen, of Queen Victorian and Prince Albert, contributed enormously to our public life.

My prayer is that we should thank God for the service to this country of both Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip because they were an astounding team in what they have given us as a nation.

*Trevor James*

## NEW EASTER GARDEN CROSS

Thank you to John Polhill for making the replacement Easter Cross for St Michael's. The old one had become rotten and dangerous. The new one has a concrete base so hopefully it will not rot as easily. Thanks also to Ron and Stephen Plimmer for helping to erect it.



To see more photos visit

[www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/our-photos-2022.html](http://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/our-photos-2022.html)

### Deadlines!

For **December** Magazine: Deadline is

**SUNDAY 13th November**

Please send articles to David Shiel  
AND the Parish Office

[shielfamily@gmail.com](mailto:shielfamily@gmail.com)  
[office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk)

**Pew Sheet:**  
every Thursday  
7:30am  
Contact  
Parish Office

## **Committing afresh to unity**



Bishops from the Diocese of Lichfield took part in a special summit that drew leaders from across the region to pray together and commit afresh to working in unity.

The two-day gathering at the Woodbrooke Centre in Birmingham saw senior figures from a variety of denominations and networks, including the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave; the Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Rt Revd Sarah Bullock; and the Bishop of Stafford, the Rt Revd Matthew Parker.

Sessions between leaders saw them share the challenges and opportunities offered by issues including Covid-19, the Ukrainian War and the cost of living crisis.

Bishop Michael said: “It was rewarding to spend focused time at the summit with a genuinely diverse group of church leaders in both

ethnicity and religious background. The church is facing significant challenges but there are also wide-ranging opportunities to share the love of God with our communities, including working together to offer warm spaces for those who cannot afford to heat their homes this autumn and winter.”

The day was organised by Robert Mountford, Ecumenical Officer for Birmingham, the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Following the event, attendees issues this joint statement:

*We met together in Birmingham to pray and encourage one another. We represent a range of traditions and ethnicities and rejoice in that diversity. We gathered united by our faith in Jesus Christ, the hope that he inspires in us and the love which motivates us to love in response. We sought in prayer to discern God’s word to us and the West Midlands area we love and serve.*

*We rejoiced in stories of growth, whilst realistic about the challenges of sustainability post-Covid.*

*We want to build our unity through prayer and mutual understanding so we more faithfully reflect our faith in Jesus Christ. Our call is to be more effective in blessing our communities in his name and sharing the reason for the hope that is in us. We encourage all our churches to engage locally and internationally, working with all of good will to contribute to the common good. In these challenging days of the cost of living crises, wars and climate crisis, we long to be a transforming presence, creating warm and safe spaces and living sustainably.*

*In a world that often seeks simplistic answers, we are called to hold the space for complexity and conversation across difference. We want that for our churches and we seek to be facilitators of that respectful dialogue in the wider community.*

*Published— Friday 7th October*

# Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

## Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion

10:00am Holy Communion

### 1st Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

## Thursdays

9.30am Morning Prayer

## Regular Services at St John's Sundays

10am Holy Communion

### Baptism @ 11.30am

Last Sunday of the month

## Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

*1st Monday 10.00am*

First Steps

*2nd Sunday 4:30pm*

Messy Church

*3rd Sunday 6:00pm*

Choral Evensong

*Last Sunday 12:30pm*

Holy Baptism

## Music in the Benefice

St Michael's Church

### Wednesdays

6.30pm Choir Rehearsal

### Friday before 1st Sunday

7:30pm Music Group & Choir  
Rehearsal

## Baptism Preparation

First Saturday 10:30am

at St Michael's

## Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Family Praise

Sunday

6th November

10am St Michael's



First  
Steps

Monday 7th

November

10am St Michael's

Come and join us at our ...

## MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on

**SUNDAY 13th November**

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome



## SPECIAL SERVICES

St Michael's

Sunday 27th November, 6pm

**ADVENT CAROLS**



# Magazine Subscriptions 2023

May I start by thanking you all for subscribing to the magazine in 2022. I am sure you will agree that the magazine just keeps getting better and better!

Now for some good news!.....for the third year in a row, the subscription is held at the special price of £10 for the year (£1 per copy for non subscribers!) Subscriptions will be collected from December onwards and we would like all subscriptions paid, please, by **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Please try to **avoid paying by cheque**, as we have to pay a significant banking charge.

May I ask you, please, to **pay via your distributor** who will come to collect the money from you. With the December magazine, you will receive an envelope with your name, address and name of your distributor. Please put your subscription into this envelope and hand it back to your distributor when asked.

**For those few subscribers who collect their magazine from church**, you, too, will get a personalised envelope. Please use this for your subscription and place on the collection plate at the back of church.

**For those subscribers who worship at St John's**, please use your personalised envelope and hand to Paul Wright, treasurer.

We welcome new subscribers. Please contact me, if you would like to subscribe.

***Liz Clarke***

# ***Film Club***

***at St Michael's Church***

***FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS***

***Doors open at 2pm***

## **Dream Horse**

*(2020 PG, 1h 53m Biography/ Drama/ Comedy)*

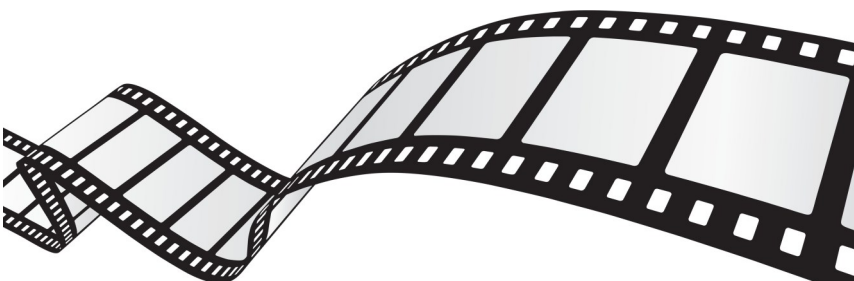
Dream Alliance is an unlikely race horse bred by small-town Welsh bartender Jan Vokes. With no experience, Jan convinces her neighbours to chip in their meagre earnings to help raise Dream in the hopes he can compete with the racing elites.

**Mon 7th November 2.30pm start**

**Tea/Coffee and Cake will be served**

**at the interval**

**All welcome.**



**Save the Date:**

**Next Film Club**

**December 5th**

**Clarke, Petit and St Mark's: A 19<sup>th</sup> Century journey on the Isle of Man**, Philip Modiano, RPS Publications, 2022, 44p., £9.00 [plus postage]. ISBN 9781916493117. Contact via [enquiries@revpetit.com](mailto:enquiries@revpetit.com)

In this extraordinary booklet Philip Modiano explains the architectural and personal relationship built up between the notable water-colourist, the Revd John Louis Petit, and an Isle of Man clergyman, the Revd John Thomas Clarke, over a considerable period of time.

Modiano reveals how Petit supported this clergyman in his remote parish in the development of the church and its wider provision.

He then reveals the circumstances in which Clarke ceased to be vicar of St Mark's and then how he moved, at what would be judged to be a considerable age, to Caerdeon Chapel in North Wales. In doing this he was then to devote his later ministerial years to developing the only church which Petit himself had designed, and he did this with the active financial and personal support of Petit's sister, Emma Gentile Petit.

Modiano feels that these were 'two good men' who had come to be erased from history, effectively forgotten. Just recently, based on the author's energetic work and effort, John Louis Petit's importance has now been clearly recognised in his home town of Lichfield in tangible and developing ways; and on the Isle of Man Clarke's contribution and achievement is now significantly celebrated within St Mark's Church.

For the emerging audience of enthusiasts for the water-colours of Petit, this booklet offers an additional delight because it contains over twenty of his paintings, some of which may be hitherto unknown to the reader.

*Trevor James*

**Victorian Stained Glass**, Trevor Yorke, Shire Publications, 2022, 64p, £8-99. ISBN 978-1-78442-483-1

This is an extraordinarily helpful introduction to the art and manufacture of stained glass. Its extra attraction is that it offers much more than the title suggests.

Trevor Yorke provides a very succinct but clear explanation of the history of stained-glass provision from medieval times, helping me to understand the stages through which it has developed and the science behind how the glass has been prepared at various stages. This then enables us to appreciate exactly what was provided to English churches as the nineteenth century progressed.

At the core of this book, we are introduced to the skills of the greatest Victorian stained-glass artists, such as Augustus Welby Pugin, Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and Charles Eamer Kempe. Very strong illustrations enable us fully to appreciate what they created and the designs that they adopted. Being guided to explore, for example, for the wheatsheaf symbol, the hallmark of the work of Kempe, is part of how we are being prepared to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of their art. Because he continues his survey into the first half of the twentieth century, he also equips us to appreciate the stained-glass provision of more recent times, with the emergence of women artists such as Mary Lowndes and Mabel Esplin.

From a personal perspective, he discusses how stained glass began to be provided in public settings, beyond the confines of church buildings, but also how it became, however standardised, a feature in many private houses built between the two world wars. This gave context to my own experience growing up in a terraced house, built in that era, which had a stained-glass panel in its front door.

This book concludes with a very carefully selected gazetteer of thirty-six possible locations where it will be possible to see the very best examples of this type of artist work from the Victorian era and more recently.

*Trevor James*

Two very interesting book reviews from Trevor James. The second review gives an excellent insight into an architectural feature, much ignored, of many of our English churches, namely Stained glass, some fine examples which can be found here at St. Michael-on-Greenhill *Editor*

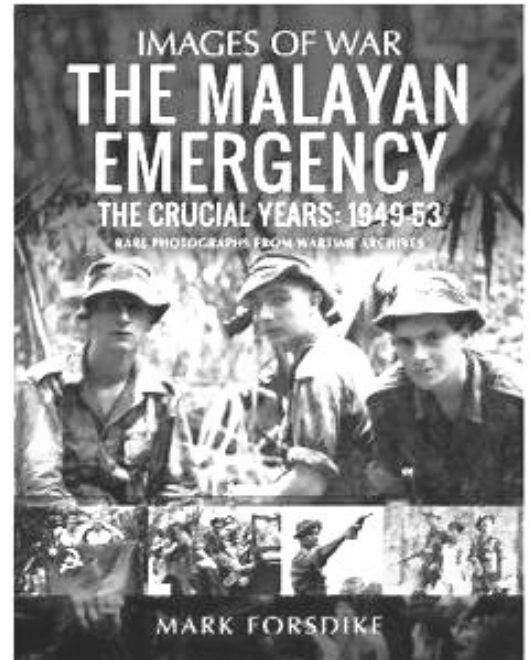
## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Steve and Viv Oliver are delighted to announce that Rosie and Seb's son, Jacob Stephen Peter Nichols, was born on 29 September 2022. Jacob was 9lb 1 oz at birth. Mother and baby are doing well and 3 year old Phoebe is enjoying having a little brother



## Book Review

**The Malayan Emergency: The Crucial Years 1949-53**, Mark Forsdike, Pen and Sword, 2022, £18-99. ISBN 9781399082242.



This book on the Malayan Emergency seventy years ago has a very telling by-line because its cover boldly indicates that it contains ‘rare photographs from wartime archives’.

Mark Forsdike is to be complimented on assembling the material for this work. It arises from his strong family connection with the Suffolk Regiment and focuses on its involvement in this distant Cold War conflict. His devotion to the Suffolk Regiment has enabled him to tell the story of their involvement in the Malayan campaign with most helpful and readable clarity. However, his persistence in finding and assembling a huge collection of informative photographs about the military campaign in Malaya is an enormous bonus.

The particular reason for this review is that on **8 November at St Michael's Church Lichfield [at 2.30pm]** Ted Green will give our annual Remembrance Lecture with the focus on this largely forgotten chapter in our military history.

## National report on Church of England's second past cases review published

News from



The Church of England has completed a review of more than 75,000 files, some dating back to the 1940s, with the publication today of its national Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) report.

The purpose of PCR2 was to identify both good practice and institutional failings in relation to how allegations of abuse have been handled, assess any identified risks and respond to these where appropriate, and to provide recommendations to the Church that will lead to improvements in its safeguarding work

PCR2, believed to be the most extensive file review undertaken by the Church, was commissioned after an independent scrutiny team concluded that the original Past Cases Review (PCR) in 2007 was not a thorough process with particular criticism of lack of survivor engagement. PCR2 was carried out by independent reviewers across all 42 dioceses, as well as Lambeth and Bishopthorpe Palaces and the National Safeguarding Team (NST).

The review has found 383 new cases which are now all being actively managed by local safeguarding leads under the House of Bishops guidance. These are cases that were identified by independent reviewers as requiring further assessment by today's safeguarding standards and, where necessary, further action.

These cover a range of cases, from those resulting in referrals to statutory authorities, to failures to carry out best practice. Reviewers found allegations were often dealt with informally, without appropriate investigations or records or referrals to the appropriate diocesan safeguarding professionals



The independent reviewers found that of the 383 new cases 168 related to children, 149 to vulnerable adults, with 27 recorded as both and 39 with no recorded data.

Data on the alleged perpetrators shows 242 cases related to clergy, with 53 relating to church officers and 41 relating to volunteers whose role included engagement with children.

The report lists 26 national recommendations, developed from the 800 plus recommendations in the 45 local reports. These have been set out thematically and are prioritised under three headings: “Keep doing well”, “Continue to do, but more effectively and consistently”, and “Must improve”.

A survivor and victim centred approach was adopted with the guidance for reviewers compiled from trauma-informed safeguarding practitioners and feedback, both positive and negative, from those previously raising concerns and complaints about their abuse allegations

The recommendations include a charter to ensure the voices of children are heard and for the NST to develop a charter to set out the minimum standards of service and timescales that should be delivered following a safeguarding disclosure or referral.

An overarching area for improvement was more consistency across the Church’s safeguarding work.

The National Safeguarding Steering Group has accepted the report and is committed to implementing the recommendations. Dioceses, both Lambeth and Bishopthorpe Palaces and the National Safeguarding Team are publishing their own report summaries and actions.

**In a foreword, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York said:**

“It is always with great sadness and profound shame that we, again

and again, come face-to-face with the brokenness and failings of our church in its day-to-day interactions and in its processes and leadership.

“There are no possible excuses, no rationalisations for our church’s failure to share the love of God and value each and every person.

“PCR2 was our next step in extending our search for the truth and being satisfied that past abuses and the misery suffered by survivors, victims and their families was uncovered. As a matter of priority, we took immediate action to manage concerns with procedures in place to best support the needs of the victim. This was the very least that children and vulnerable adults who have experienced such abuse deserved and was at the heart of our approach.

“Our aspiration is for a church where children, young people and the vulnerable can worship, learn, socialise and develop in a safe and caring environment, with the knowledge they have a voice and can confidently raise concerns.

“We sincerely apologise for our failures and want to reach out to those who are still suffering from the pain and misery they endured. We extend this apology to wider family members affected from this past abuse. We are so sorry that this ever happened. It was not your fault and you are not to blame. We should have been better at listening and responding to survivors’ and victims’ concerns. Our faith compels us to take safeguarding with the utmost seriousness; to prevent abuse from occurring; responding appropriately where it has in support of our undertaking to making church communities and institutions safer places.

“We want to extend our thanks to all those who have been involved in the PCR2 process. It has been a huge undertaking throughout the Church – in parishes, chaplaincies, religious communities and

theological colleges. It has taken many people in many different places to be able to do this, safeguarding advisers, administrative support staff, National Safeguarding Team, safeguarding professionals, drafters, diocesan staff, clergy and lay people, the National Safeguarding Steering Group and Project Management Board, and the Church Commissioners who made funding available. But most of all, thank you to all survivors and victims who trusted us with their stories and shared their experience. What you have shared is invaluable, and we hold it with gratitude, sorrow and prayer, as we commit ourselves to continue to work to make our churches safer places.”

**The Church’s Lead Bishop for Safeguarding, Jonathan Gibbs, who is Bishop of Rochester, and chairs the National Safeguarding Steering Group said:**

“I want to add my voice to the Archbishops’ apology for the Church’s failures, and for all who have been affected by what we have not done well enough or failed to do. We are indebted to the contributions of survivors, victims and those with a lived experience of abuse within the Church of England who come forward to speak to the PCR2 independent reviewers, acknowledging the cost to them in supporting this work.

“The evidence, particularly the case studies, shared by the independent reviewers makes harrowing reading and is a reminder that we still have much work to do. The report highlights a Church too willing to believe its own or to take matters in their own hands without consulting professionals.

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and like all institutions we must continue our development at every level to ensure this is part of our DNA, not an add-on, and to see this as a fundamental part of our Christian witness.

“I have been assured that all the new cases, whether failure to follow

due process or take professional advice, or allegations of abuse that should have been referred to the statutory authorities, are all being managed.

“Working with survivors and victims is a key part of our ongoing safeguarding work and one of the national recommendations, particularly highlighted by the reviewers, is for a survivor and victims charter to ensure the voices of children are fully heard and understood.

“Our safeguarding practice has improved since the original PCR, and the report clearly sets out examples of good practice. But as a Church it is vital we continue to learn and work together as we implement the national recommendations which have all been accepted by the National Safeguarding Steering Group.”

**John Bakker, an Independent member of the PCR 2 Project Board who has lived experience of abuse, added:**

“I have found the PCR2 process a very positive one. As a person with lived experience of abuse (“survivor”) and as an independent advisor I have been listened to, my contribution valued, and my perspective taken seriously. My view is that the PCR2 process has been robust and has been conducted, with rigour and thoroughness.

“I believe that this national report, summing up the findings and recommendations of each diocese has real integrity and goes a very long way to correct the deficiencies of the first PCR process, and overall means that the Church will be a safer place as the recommendations continue to be implemented.

“Survivors are a rich and valuable resource who can assist the Church enormously in its endeavour to be safer. It is therefore

essential that they are part of proposals regarding implementation of the recommendations. This will mean full and proper engagement, not just being consulted or asked for their views and will be essential if safeguarding within the Church is to be properly trauma-informed.

“Support, information, advice and other services must be available now that the report has been published. Some have already been put in place but survivors need assurance that further support will be available; this must be on-going and adjusted according to need and demand.

“This report will be seen by many of those who have been affected and traumatised but who were not previously aware that the report is to be published. This adds to the urgency of developing these services.

"Overall the church must demonstrate towards survivors, in tangible and living ways, its Christian values and actions.

"These include repentance, justice, compassion, caring, love, forgiveness, respect, honesty and truth. It has so often failed in many of these and as a result the abuse that many survivors have suffered has been compounded by the response (or lack of response) of the Church, both as an institution and by individuals at all levels within the church.

“I trust that this report will be received by survivors as reason for confidence that the Church has carefully addressed its past failings in terms of culture and specific cases. However only time will tell whether this is the case. And to the bishops, other church leaders, and the safeguarding teams both nationally and locally, I reiterate the message that safeguarding work is never complete, and this report must serve as the foundation for action, learning and continued improvement.”

# Fungi in The Churchyard

Fungi are plant-like organisms that do not make chlorophyll. Yeasts, moulds and mushrooms are all examples of fungi that we see in our everyday lives.

They can be found in almost any land habitat but never in the sea or fresh water.

Fungi are important because they convert organic matter that is hard to digest into forms that other organisms can use.

This year as in other years, we have interesting fungi in the Churchyard. The fungi can be seen growing on grass, on logs or decaying wood; and on dead or dying tree trunks.



We have had some very attractive fungi this year, including shaggy ink cap and field mushrooms growing in the grass; and the most amazing bracket fungus growing on the trunk of a recently felled tree.



It is important to stress that most of the fungi we see are inedible. In fact it can cause serious illness or even death if eaten. Please look at the fungi and enjoy photographing it but **DO NOT EAT** any fungi you see here in the Churchyard or elsewhere in the countryside.



These photographs taken by Maureen Brand, of some of fungi growing in the Churchyard. Do go for a walk and search for beautiful fungi in our Churchyard.

# **SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY**

We will be meeting on

**Saturday November 19th  
from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.**

Do please join us if you can as we continue to make improvements to our beautiful Churchyard

Our main tasks will be

**Planting Grape Hyacinth Bulbs  
and preparing the Churchyard  
for Winter**



All Gardening Tools are provided.

**Refreshments (Tea/Coffee/Cake)  
will be served during our Mid-Morning Break**

For more information please contact Ray Allen

01543 251654

email: [lesley@existenz.org.uk](mailto:lesley@existenz.org.uk)



# UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

## Alrewas

**Date:** Sat 5th November

**Start Time:** 10.00 a.m.

**Meeting Point:** Alrewas Church Car Park, which is next to The Vicarage, Church Road, Alrewas, Burton-on Trent, DE13 7BT

These photos show the view of the entrance to the carpark viewed from both directions. It is accessed from Church Road. It is quite concealed. Look out for house no. 13 and it is on the opposite side of the road.



**Walk Details:** From the car park we will walk along the Trent and Mersey Canal and then return to the church. We will then walk into the village to look at the black and architecture.

**Lunch:** The George and Dragon Main Street, Alrewas DE13 7AE serves food. [www.georgeanddragonalrewas.co.uk/menus](http://www.georgeanddragonalrewas.co.uk/menus)

*Trevor James*

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO COME SO THAT WE DON'T SET OFF WITHOUT YOU.

Thanks , *Angie King*

[beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:beneficewalkinggroup@gmail.com) 01543 262211





## **Walking Group – Ray's Retirement as Group Leader**

Ray's first walk was on Saturday 29 September, 2007, St Michael's Day! At that time, St Michael's was closely linked to Christchurch, so a circular City Centre walk was enjoyed, by 18, from St Michael's to Christchurch via Stowe Pool, Beacon Park with coffee and a show round being provided at Christchurch. In the early days, no lunch was arranged.

The format settled into Ray leading monthly, mid week, walks similar in style and length to now, with Elizabeth and husband Ray leading monthly Saturday walks which tended to be more robust cross country affairs but we were all much younger then!

Unfortunately when Ray lost his sight, he and wife Elizabeth were no longer able to continue organising these walks. The Wednesday walks became the Saturday walks which were always better attended due to mid week work commitments.

Ray's contribution has been outstanding! Each walk has been meticulously planned, researched and walked in advance with consideration made for coffee, lunch stops and suitable toilet breaks. Many planned walks were rejected, too many stiles or catering not up to scratch!

We have walked:

- in rain to Fradley along the canal when it poured all day and many arranged a lift home from the lunch stop!

- in snow at Carsington Water

- in extreme heat to Fauld Crater

On our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we travelled on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway from Driffield to Wirksworth and had a surprisingly delicious lunch at a charming but faded Regency Hotel where a presentation was made to Ray.



a presentation was made to Ray of a garden token. A lovely walk through woodland on an early autumn day, followed by lunch for which most stayed, thus ending with a thoroughly enjoyable social occasion!

We have also had guest group leaders inviting us to enjoy their favourite walks. Our thanks go to Neil Whyte, Sheila, Brian, Trevor, Angie and Hilary.

Our walks (detailed in advance in both Parish Mag and Pew Sheet) will continue with

October being led by Angie and November, by Trevor. Please join us both as a walker and group leader. We would love to explore your favourite walk.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this article.

***Liz Clarke***



*At Mailbox taking part in The Archers*

## LNL report, Sat 24th September 2022

The first thing to say, prior to this report is how shocked and saddened we all are at the recent untimely and completely unexpected death of Sue Southall, one of our very long-standing Late Night Listeners. Sue was due to be on team on this particular shift, however, we were informed on Thursday evening of her sad passing. Her buoyant and positive character will be very much missed by the teams. Our prayers, thoughts and sympathies are with her surviving sons and their families at this very sad time.



Our team of four were bolstered by last minute stand-in (thanks Erica) and headed into what turned out to be an interesting evening... On one of the teams 'walkabouts' they came across a lady (Sheila) who was very upset as she had lost a loved one very recently and was still grieving, the team members listened to her and offered their comfort and said they would pray for her. She said she was going to go home.

A lady and her friends stopped by to thank us for what we were doing as she explained how her job was looking after young people in a care facility over in Pype Hayes, Erdington and was expressing how needed roles like ours were.

There were plenty of flip flop opportunities this night and we dispensed with three or four pairs to some very grateful barefooted ladies

A gentleman furtively approached our table and laid down paper money telling us we were to 'have this' towards what we do and walked off before we quite realised what he had done and how much he had left us with.

We dispensed drinks to some of the regular security men at the Kings Head (their own personal takeaway service) we had our regular homeless person (D) visit us a few times, he is always polite and grateful. There was a seemingly homeless gentleman who was not someone we had seen before who had positioned himself opposite the taxi rank. We offered him drinks and food which he politely refused... It is sad to imagine what the stories of these people's lives are that has gotten them to this stage of existence.

Towards the end of our shift two Police cars, lights flashing furiously came haring around the corner into the pedestrian area where we are and pulled up outside Walkabouts. We did not go to interfere with whatever they had been called to deal with but could just see from a distance that someone was on the floor with people around them. A Police van arrived a little later and parked itself in the middle of the Pedestrian area. We did not see any ambulance and were praying that there was not a need for one...A young man stopped by for a drink and made the comment about how Lichfield was not a nice place at night as his football team mate had been assaulted some weeks back for protecting some ladies ( see previous report 2nd Sept) and another friend of his had been attacked recently. He was saying ow it has made him and some of his friends not want to come out into the City too often at night

Our security friend for the Millenium Chicken takeaway, Bobby came over and we had to inform him about Sue's death as she was a great favourite of his... he was very shocked about this news and came back when we were clearing up saying that he could not believe that she had gone.

We closed up shop just after 1 am and headed back to base just as the temperature seemed to drop quite significantly... gently reminding us that Winter is not that far away.

David W-M

# News from the Hawksworth Family in China

September saw us spend the best part of 3 weeks in lockdown. News came through late on the evening of September 13<sup>th</sup> that the soft lockdown would end the following day. You could hear people cheering and shouting for joy!



*Chengdu City in lockdown*

We had 12 hours to get messages to parents that school was reopening and get organized to open the school again. Most of the preparation had been done prior to the lockdown as we'd received a tipoff that lockdown was coming.

The children then spent 2 weeks in school, learning their new routine and making new friends. We've just had our October holiday. It happens early in China to coincide with Golden week and National Day. This is celebrated every year from October 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and is a celebration of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

We had planned to go back to Emei but had to cancel. Although we are out of lockdown, we still cannot leave Chengdu. We currently have 1 case of covid here. This number is expected to rise as we currently have the national table tennis competition happening here. The venue is next door to our compound.

We're expecting to be put into quarantine after the competition as we

think the case numbers will rise again. We're trying not to dwell on that thought too much though!

Our week at home has been a mix of meeting friends, bike rides and the usual daily chores. Milo and I did manage a trip to the mountains though!

I'm part of the Panda Discovery group. It's a hiking group that operates in Chengdu and does trips to many parts of China, pre Covid of course!

Our trip was to a place called DiYan. It's not far from XiLing snow mountain. The hike up the mountain should have taken us 5 hours with 3 stops on the way to see temples, rock carvings and statues. Unfortunately, it took a lot longer than that as there had been a small earthquake in the early hours of the morning, felling trees, as well as heavy rain fall over night. We didn't know any of this information prior to our hike. We managed to navigate through the trees safely and got to the first stop. On our way we saw Horse chestnut trees! I didn't know they grew here. We have a lot of Norfolk Island pine trees, just like in Hong Kong. We saw some wild blackberries, a wide variety of mushrooms, some poisonous, and squirrels!

It was lovely to be back in the mountains. It was incredibly peaceful, if a little cold and wet. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> stop was at a Taoist temple. It was an operating temple with monks at worship. You could hear the chanting from up the mountain. The view backdown into the valley was incredible. It's a mix of trees and bamboo, interspersed with tea terraces. We had lunch outside the temple and then made our way to the final stop, a cave, at the top of the mountain.

Due to the weather, and the number of people climbing the mountain, the path became churned and very slippery. Only 6 people from our group of 23 made it to the top. Milo was one of them. He said the cave was beautiful and he was glad to have seen it.

We then made our way back to the second meeting point as we all descended the mountain via different routes and made our way back to the coach together. The walk back was long and we lost the light quickly. We managed to avoid a landslide, thankfully, and were back on the coach just as the heavy rain moved in.

It was quite an adventure, and we had a lovely time with our fellow hikers. We found out yesterday that snow has fallen on the top of the mountain! It was the last hike of the season before the ski season begins. We're planning to go to XiLing snow mountain over Christmas with some friends to ski. There are some hot springs lower down the mountain to relax in afterwards! It's a very beautiful part of the world.

School resumes tomorrow (11<sup>th</sup>) and then our next break will be for Christmas. My friends tell me Christmas is very big here! The children are looking forward to it! I was very surprised to find Brussel sprouts in the shop a few weeks ago! We eat a lot of local vegetables and it's unusual to find things like sprouts or parsnips here.

The weather here is much cooler and wetter now. Daily temperatures range from 12-18c. It's set to get a little warmer the following week with highs of 23c! It feels very autumnal most mornings. It can get warm during the afternoon, but we lose the light quickly in an evening. The seasons are changing quickly now.

We hope everyone is well. We miss you all.

With love,

The Hawksworth family xxx



## PROVERBS PRAYERS

# UPRIGHT

<sup>14.32</sup> The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

<sup>15.8</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

<sup>15.9</sup> The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

<sup>15.21</sup> Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

<sup>15.28</sup> The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

<sup>15.29</sup> The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

<sup>16.8</sup> Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

<sup>16.17</sup> The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

*(King James Version)*

*Righteous God, I seek you with all my heart. Help me to stay on the right path and not stray from your commandments, either through ignorance or by making the wrong choices. I pray that when I do fall short you will guide me, and help me to learn from my mistakes*

*Jesus, help me to follow your teaching and focus on doing what is right for myself and for others. Help me to remain steadfast in my faith and continue to develop the living hope I have you.*

*Lord, your Word says that the righteous will find refuge in you even in death . I pray for all of those you have lost loved ones and that they may be comforted by the knowledge that Jesus died to save those who believe in him.*

*Jesus, I pray this in your 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 the pages are turned twice a week, so that names are visible through the glass on the date of their death. It costs £10 to insert a name.

Please complete this form and return it to

✉ Parish Office, St Michael's Church, Church Street, Lichfield, WS13 6ED

✉ office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

Name of Deceased (as you wish it to appear in the Memorial Book)

Date of Death:

Age at Death:

Name of Contact (in case of any problems or queries)

Telephone Number:

Please make cheques payable to 'PCC of St Michael and St Mary'

If you wish to pay by bank transfer the details are

Bank: Lloyds

Sort Code: 30 95 04

Account Number: 00114488

Please label your payment: **MEMBOOK** follow by your surname

# *From the Registers*

<b>Baptisms</b>		

<b>Weddings</b>		
St Michael's	8th October	Charlotte McCann & Andrew Dickinson

<b>Funerals</b>		
St Michael's	3rd October	Francis Cheng (interment of ashes)

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# Bible Readings

**Sunday 6th November**  
**3rd Sunday before Advent**  
**[Red/Green]**  
Job 19.23-27a  
Luke 20.27-38

**Sunday 13th November**  
**2nd Sunday before Advent**  
**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  
**[Red/Green]**  
2 Thessalonians 3.6-13  
Luke 21.5-19

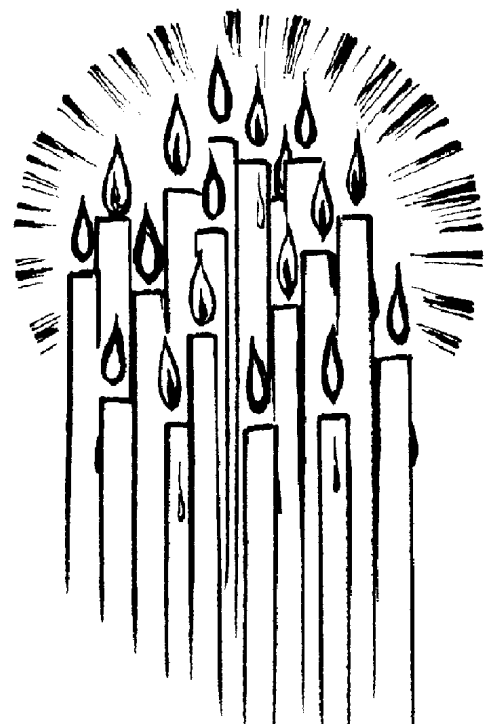
**Sunday 20th November**  
**Christ the King**  
**[Red/Green]**  
Colossians 1.11-20  
Luke 23.33-43

**Sunday 20th November**  
**Christ the King**  
**EVENSONG**  
**[Red/Green]**  
1 Samuel 8.4-20  
John 18.33-37

**Sunday 27th November**  
**1st Sunday of Advent**  
**[Purple]**  
Isaiah 2.1-5  
Matthew 24.36-44

**Sunday 4th December**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**[Purple]**  
Romans 15.4-13  
Matthew 3.1-12

**Sunday 11th December**  
**3rd Sunday after Advent**  
**[Purple]**  
Isaiah 35.1-10  
Matthew 11.2-11



# St Michael's Rota – November 2022

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

<b>Sunday 10.00 am</b>	<b>6 November Family Praise</b>	<b>13 November Remembrance Day</b>	<b>20 November</b>	<b>27 November Advent Sunday</b>
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Pat Toplis Ted Green	Enid Barry Brenda Liptrot	Viv and Stephen Oliver
<b>Reader</b>		Maureen Brand	Brian Rostill	Elizabeth Salt
<b>Servers</b>		Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin David Shiel	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
<b>Communion Assistant</b>		N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Intercessor</b>		Ted Green	Brian Rostill	Kay Martin
<b>Coffee</b>	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Angela Burgess Sonia Doidge	Veronica Morris Betty Lyne	Brenda Eley Audrey Dudley
<b>Healing</b>				TBA

<b>Sunday 12.30 pm</b>	<b>27 November Baptism</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>
		TBA	TBA

<b>Sunday 6.00 pm</b>	<b>6 November</b>	<b>13 November</b>	<b>20 November</b>	<b>27 November</b>
			<b>Evensong</b>	<b>Advent Carols</b>
<b>Sidesperson</b>			David Shiel	Margaret Freaan Ray Allen
<b>Reader</b>			Lyn Shiel	
<b>Server/ Communion Assistant</b>				

## ALL BAR NONE

Who knows the author of this parody on old Lichfield Pubs ? It was originally found by a Mrs. May Murphy resident of Wade Street, amongst some old documents of her Mother's. Unfortunately there was no other information with it.

" Strolling into Lichfield one morning in company with the Prince of Wales, Duke of Wellington, Duke of York, Earl of Lichfield and Lord Rodney, we saw by the light of the Seven Stars, Little George picking up Acorns from under the Royal Oak, and the little Turks Head was decorated with Feathers, picked up from near the Fountain, cast off by the Swan, and his brother George, carrying a Malt Shovel, walking to the Railw via Trent Valley Hotel, for the purpose of unloading Three Tuns, which, after passing the Scales correctly was to be taken and Spread Eagles on the Bowling Green.

" Going further into the City, we called for the Crossed Keys and entered the Castle, where we saw King George IV who had put on one of his Old Crowns for the purpose of seeing a fight between George and the Dragon. Sitting by his side we could just notice the Queen's Head, and in her hair was the Staffordshire Knot, and also visible we saw Levett's Arms around her. After the fight we proceeded over the Bridge towards the Smithfield, where we were overtaken by a Greyhound chasing through the Bluebell, after which we dropped across Robin Hood and his favourite Horse and Jockey ( who by the way was drinking at the King's Head ) while his master taking cover behind a Holly Bush was undecided whether to let fly at a Bald Buck rushing past or at a Goat's Head which has just come into sight.

" Evening arrived and the expert samplers being beaten as to which house supplied the best beer, and where civility was best served, the Angel of this trip decided to go with the Marquis of Anglesey, who, being tired, tripped up, and was prevented from falling by Strong Carpenter's Arms. This was proved to be a Chequered visit"



## The Nature Recovery Network

**A talk by Dave Cadman of the SWT**  
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**Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HL**

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

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 **office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk**

## ..... and Finally

It was lovely to welcome the year 2 children from St Michael's school into church with jam jars which they filled with beautiful flowers adding to our Harvest display.

They were a credit to their teachers and school.







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