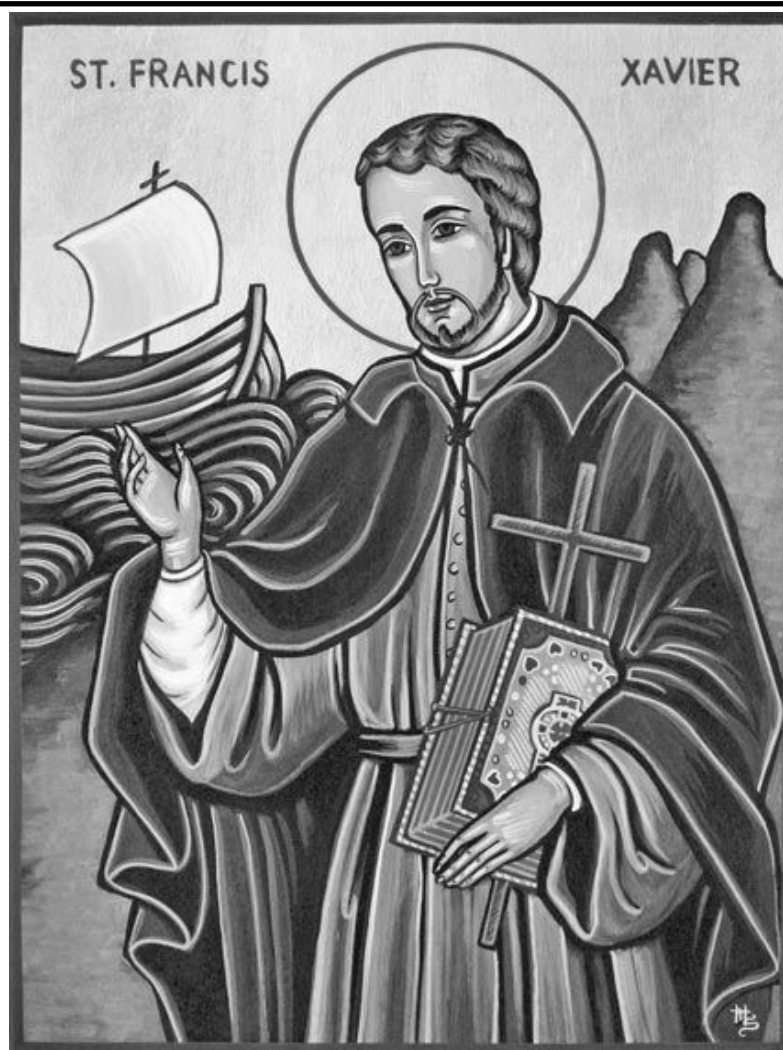


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

December 2020



*Francis Xavier,
Apostle to the Indies, 3rd December 1552*

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

85p

Rector: The Revd. Preb. Simon Baker, 10 Mawgan Drive, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9SD. Tel: 01543 253010 Email: simonbaker57@outlook.com Day Off: Friday	Curate: The Revd. Melanie Clark Tel: 07751 072332 Email: revdr.melclark@gmail.com
Associate Minister (NSM Part-time): The Revd. Ruth Bull 36 Broadlands Rise, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9SF Tel: 01543 252123 Email: dkbrlcb@hotmail.com	Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Jeyan Anketell 7 Wissage Lane, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6DQ Tel: 01543 268897 Email: jeyan.anketell@ntlworld.com
Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd Chris Baker 15 Saddlers Close, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 9ZW Tel: 01543 256320 Email: C.J.Baker@bham.ac.uk	Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd. Stephen Barton The Master's House, St John's Hospital, St John Street, LICHFIELD WS13 6PB Email: stephen@the-bartons.com
Assistant Minister (PTO) The Revd Christine Polhill Little Hayes, Beaudesert, Cannock Wood, Staffs WS15 4JJ Tel: 01543 674474	Reader: Lesley Allen 21 Boley Close, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9AR Tel: 01543 251654 Email: lesley.allen21@googlemail.com
Reader: Phil Clayton 23 Follows End, Burntwood, Staffs, WS7 3QZ Tel: 01543 682141 E-mail: phil@phil-clayton.uk	Reader: Trevor James 36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434
Reader: Peter Salt 7 Redlock Field, Lichfield WS14 OAB Tel: 01543 250723 E-mail: peter.salt@btinternet.com	Reader: Alan Toplis Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk
SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN Maureen Brand 01543 264880 For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.	United Benefice Office St Michael's Church, Church St, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6ED Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri CLOSED Thursdays 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Tel: 01543 262211 E-mail: office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk
St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED	St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS

Christmas with the Covid virus! (All very strange and all very inconvenient)

As I started to write this reflection we were just receiving the news that our government was on the point of embarking us on the second wave lockdown as the less punitive measures had failed to keep infection under control. To many of us the measures which accompanied the lockdown and prevented us from entering our beautiful church buildings for even socially distanced worship (without the opportunity to sing our praises) probably hurt more than the rest of the inconvenience.

As the reality of the lockdown set in we found ourselves with time to think through the likely implications of probably not even being able to return to any semblance of pre wave two lockdown normality and what all this might mean for our Advent and Christmas observance.

First came the questions about when we might be allowed back into our church buildings and then how were we to be able to mark Advent and Christmas without the ability to sing the well-known hymns and carols which are so much part of this season for us Christians. Could we really envisage how we might mark the popular Christmas eve Christingle service which attracts so many more than our normal congregation. And could we really celebrate our first communion of Christmas without any singing?

Then came the questions about the practicalities of Christmas at home when at best we will surely be still under the rule of six or something even worse. Suddenly the requirement for a large turkey disappears and practical questions about how we can distribute cards and presents whilst properly observing quarantine rules!!!

The whole thing is so alien to our “normal” way of thinking, it’s all very strange and all very inconvenient!!.

Now think back 2000 years to the first Christmas. As if the revelation from the angel Gabriel that Mary was to bear a child and all the heavy burden of responsibility that came with it was not enough to come to terms with there was an edict by Cesar Augustus that everyone was to go back to their own towns to be registered. The magnitude of that journey cannot be understated. Nazareth to Bethlehem is over 120 kilometres of rough undulating roads, not the best conditions for a pregnant woman to be travelling on. And then there were all the logistical problems of overnight stops on the journey and where to stay when they arrive as well.

Having arrived it was very clear that the sudden increase in the population of Bethlehem had stretched the town’s inns and lodgings well beyond normal capacity and the best they could find was a cattle shed. It was all very strange and all very inconvenient!!

Suddenly the inconvenience of the Covid pandemic and its impact on my life is put into sharp context. I do not underplay the seriousness of the virus and our continued need for strict observance on the instructions given to us by the health authorities but it does bring the true story and meaning of Christmas into very sharp contrast.

Like Mary we may have to rely more on the experiences of Christmas’s past which we will have stored in the treasury of our hearts and minds this year but at least the possibility of less commercialisation and the opportunity to reflect more on the first Christmas may be a great blessing to us all.

I wish you all a safe, happy (and probably socially-distanced) Advent and Christmas.

Christmas Charity Collection Dates 2020

@ St Michael's Church

Sunday December 6th

Morning Services

Donations to 'Angel Tree'

Collection of toys and gifts for women for Pathway
Food for the Food Bank.

Sunday December 13th

Morning Services

Collection of toys and gifts for women for Pathway
Food for the Food Bank

Christmas Eve Christingle

Open Church

Donations for the Children Society, white envelopes
and a collection plate will be available in church.

All the arrangements are subject to government
guidelines and may have to be changed . We will
keep you informed.

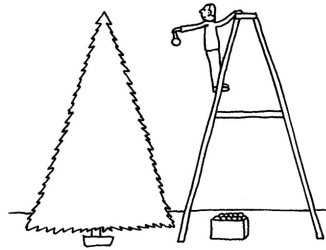
Brenda Liptrot

THE CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

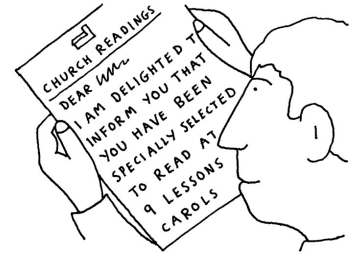
FOR CHURCHES



DIG OUT THE CRIB FIGURES ☐



DECORATE THE TREE AND CHURCH ☐



CHOOSE PEOPLE TO READ THE LESSONS ☐

ON ZOOM



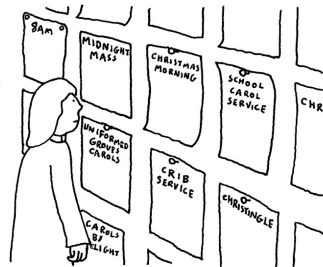
CLEAN EVERYWHERE ☐



DECIDE WHICH CLERGY DO WHICH SERVICES ☐



BUY PRESENTS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED HARD ☐



WRITE ALL OF THE SERMONS ☐

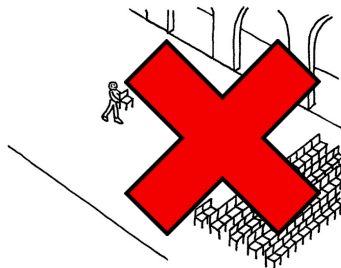


PREPARE THE CANDLES ☐

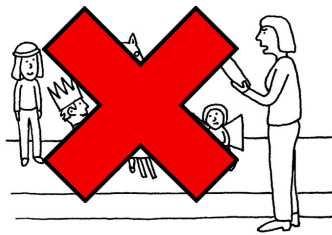


MAKE SURE THE CHOIR IS READY ☐

Stand 2m apart and wear masks



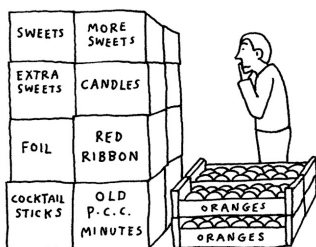
CARRY IN EXTRA CHAIRS ☐



REHEARSE THE NATIVITY PLAY ☐



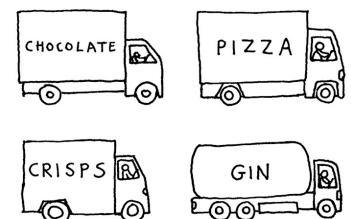
DELIVER THE CHRISTMAS PUBLICITY LEAFLETS ☐



MAKE THE CRISTINGLES ☐



COPY THE ORDERS OF SERVICE ☐



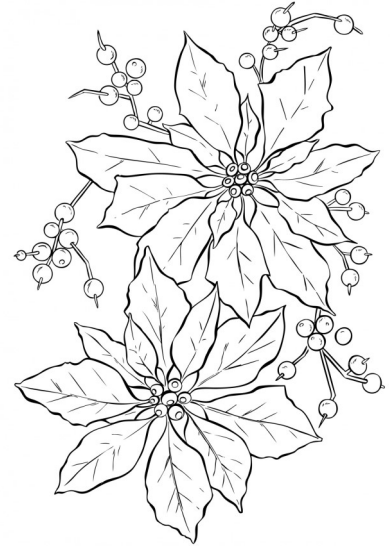
ORDER SUPPLIES FOR VICAR'S POST-CHRISTMAS BREAK ☐

CartoonChurch.com

We really hope we'll be able to do most of this this year,

although carrying in extra chairs in and doing a nativity play will be a no-no!!

Christmas flowers



The flower team will be decorating St Michael's Church on the morning of **Tuesday 22nd December at 9.30.**

The theme this year is red and gold. Flowers will be provided, but if you would like to bring extras or other items for your own display, that would be great. We always need greenery so please bring what you can and leave it at the back of church. If you would like to help with the flower arrangements please contact Anne Lingwood 01543 255265 beforehand so that we plan what we are doing within the current Covid-19 regulations

If you would like to make a donation towards the Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please put the money in an envelope marked "Christmas flowers" and include the name or names of your loved one/s.

Thank you.

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

Christmas Services

Below are the services that we hope to be able to offer this Christmas at St Michael's and St John's. All our plans are subject to government regulations regarding worship and access to church buildings. Please check the website before coming to church to make sure that the service is taking place and what special conditions there may be.

Christmas Services at St. Michael's

Advent 4 Sunday 20th December

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

6.00pm Carol Service on Zoom



Christmas Eve 24th December

3.00pm—6.00pm

Open Church and Distribution of Christingles

The church will be fully decorated for Christmas and there will be a one way path past the tree and the crib ending with a Christingle given to each family to take away

11.15pm Midnight Service

Christmas Day 25th December

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

Christmas Services at St. John's

Advent 4 Sunday 20th December

4.00pm— 5.00pm

Open Church and Distribution of Christingles.

Christmas Day 25th December

9.00am Holy Communion



PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2021

The safest way to pay will be the following:

By cheque payable to P.C.C. of St. Michael and St. Mary. The amount for 2021 will be £8.50

Please post to me:
Barbara Homewood
2 Wightman Close
Lichfield
WS14 9RR

Include your address on the back of the cheque , if possible.

Post this to arrive by the end of December. You can post this at the same time as your Christmas cards.

I hope this will avoid anyone having to collect money at your doorstep.

If there is a problem please phone me:
Barbara Homewood Tel: 255909

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Barbara Homewood

P. S. If you deliver by hand to 2 Wightman Close our letterbox is now in our garage door

FLOODLIGHTING

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

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

**Contact the United Benefice Office on
01543 262211**



a

The floodlights at
St Michael's will be lit on
December 24th 2020 in
loving memory of
3 generations of the
Barnes Family
1884-2013

The floodlights at
St Michael's
will be lit on
December 31st 2020
in loving memory of
Alan Mountford

Intercession for Christmas time

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,
give courage to all who are homeless;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fled into Egypt,
give comfort to all refugees;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fasted in the desert,
give relief to all who are starving;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross,
give strength to all who suffer;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord of the Church
**hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-christmas>

Care Homes In St. Michael's Parish.

Please remember in your prayers the residents, their families and all the staff who work in the Care Homes in our Parish at this difficult time. For a number of years members of the Pastoral Visiting Team and others from St. Michael's Congregation have visited Beechfields Care Home and Darwin Court Care Home regularly. I know from my own experience of visiting Darwin Court how much the staff and residents have enjoyed our monthly visits. We have a short Songs of Praise Service, followed by Holy Communion. It is good that St. Michael's has this valued link with these 2 Homes. However, as you will be aware, we have not been able to visit for most of this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A Prayer for all those in Care Homes.

We pray for all those in Care Homes, Lord, at this difficult time. We ask that You will make a way for families to be able to stay in contact with them. Father, please draw near to each person so they will know that they have a God in Heaven who loves them. We thank you for everyone who cares for and looks after them. Please bless each and every one of them and protect them all.
We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

We wish all residents of Care Homes, their families and friends and all those who visit and work there lots of love, joy and happiness this Christmas and always.

Ray Allen

CHAD BLOG

Published

1st November 2020

Bishop Clive peaks in his Pastoral Letter for November 2020?



A keen walker, I have ascended a fair few peaks over the years and am only too familiar with the ‘false summit’; the peak that you are sure is your destination, only to find, as you approach it, that it isn’t the summit at all. There’s a further, usually arduous, stretch to cover before you actually reach the top.

Psychologically, rather like a mirage in the desert, the false summit can be hard to cope with. Especially if you are being battered by wind and rain at the time. But the only thing for it is to dig deep and carry on...

I imagine that many of us had imagined during those relatively restriction free days of July and August when cases of Covid were low and deaths rare, that we had passed through our toughest challenge and were on the descent from our peak of adversity. There was confident talk of life returning to ‘normal’ by Christmas. But now it is clear that we are still slogging uphill, the weather is closing in and we have no idea where the summit is or when we shall get there.

Psychologically, emotionally and spiritually this is tough for us all. It’s only a question of degree as to how much we are struggling.

As Christians we have rich resources to draw on to sustain and strengthen us. We are part of a much bigger picture and a much longer story. The bigger picture is God's book of creation, of which we are just a chapter. Much of the natural world is thriving just as we struggle. Less economic activity is good for air and water quality and for the protection of animal habitats and the flourishing of species. Accessing a cleaner, quieter natural world as we venture outdoors to sit, walk, run or cycle is part of God's provision for us in these times.

The much longer story is revealed through our Scriptures and tradition. We draw particular inspiration from the faith journeys of individuals and nations (in the case of Israel) who had to endure those seasons when God's purpose was unclear and conditions were adverse. Faith journeys are always long and winding roads, and what the wisdom of our tradition teaches us is that it is precisely at those times when the going is toughest that unexpected blessings occur; food for the journey, manna from heaven. In these times, spiritual attentiveness is key. A posture of openness, hands outstretched to receive whatever blessings the day may bring.

Above all, we bring a conviction that God remains alive and active in this world, sustaining individuals, families and communities through endless manifestations of love and care. And we bring the gift of hope, that in these times God is bringing about a new thing, reshaping ourselves, our church and our world, in line with his sovereign purposes.

*+Clive Wulfrun
Bishop of Wolverhampton*

Francis Xavier

(1506-1552)

In art, St Francis Xavier is often depicted holding a crucifix aloft to represent the zeal he felt for bringing Christ's Gospel to



those who had not heard it. Like St Ignatius Loyola, he originally had worldly ambitions, but on meeting Ignatius in Paris at the age of 19, he realised the power of the Spiritual Exercises and studied instead for the priesthood. He became one of Ignatius' first Companions and took vows of poverty and chastity with Ignatius at Montmartre in 1534. He was ordained three years later.

Shortly afterwards, King John of Portugal asked Ignatius to send missionaries to India, and Francis was chosen for the task. He arrived in Goa in May 1542, from where he travelled to south east India and worked for three years among the pearl-fishers there. He visited the sick in the hospitals and preached, going through the streets ringing a little bell and inviting the children to hear the Word of God. When he had gathered a number, he would take them to a certain church and would there explain the Christian faith to them.

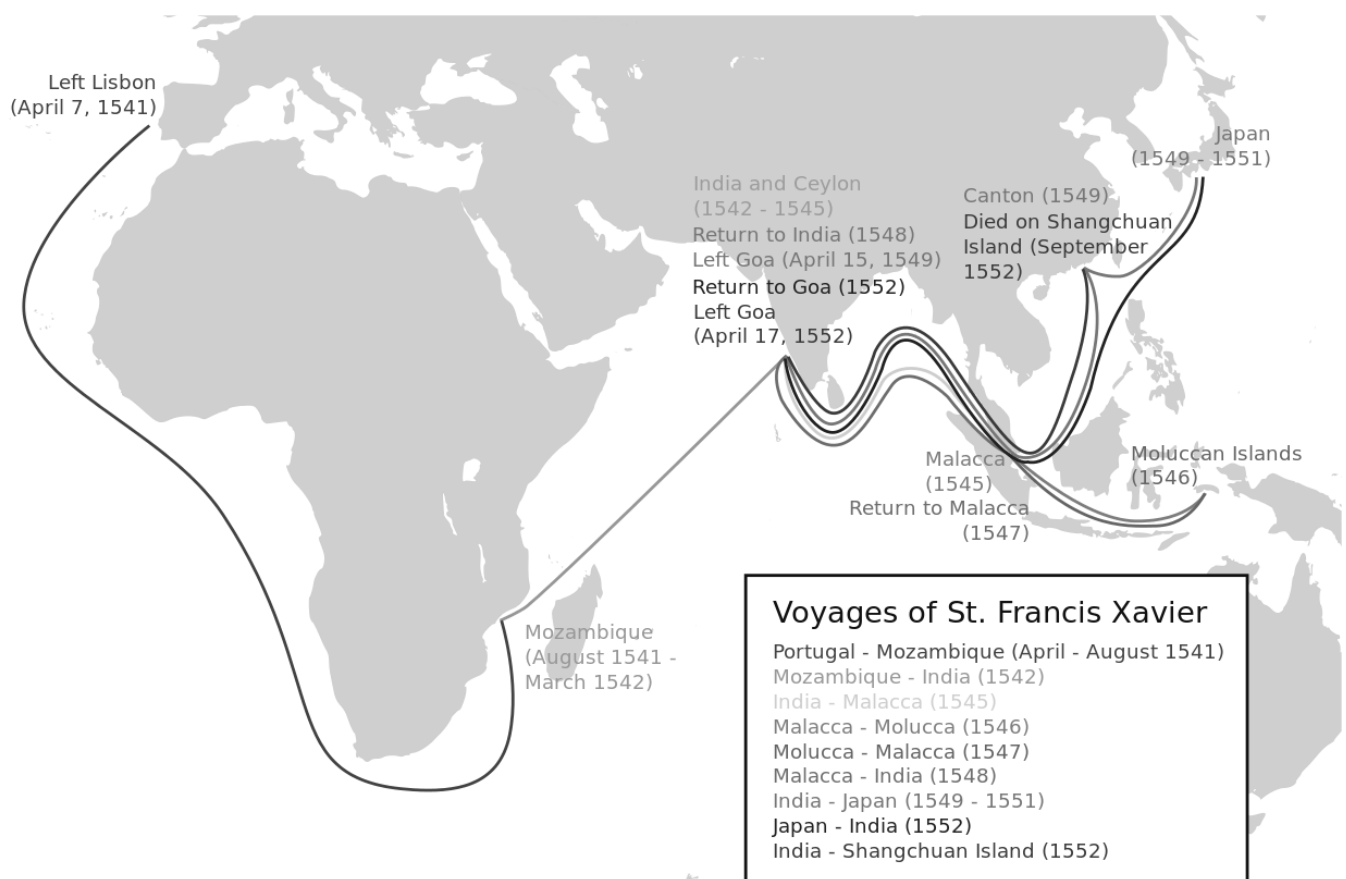
*Saint Francis
Xavier preach-
ing in
Goa (1610),
by André
Reinoso*



From India, Francis sailed to the East Indies, before deciding in 1549 to set out for Japan. In his first year there, he learnt Japanese and translated some basic documents about the faith into local dialects. Wherever he went in Asia, Francis left behind flourishing Christian communities which survive to this day.

In total, Francis spent ten years working as a missionary in Asia; some have called him the greatest missionary since Saint Paul. His final ambition was to preach the Gospel in China but this was not to be. He was taken ill and died on 3 December 1552, on an island off the coast of China. He was canonised with Ignatius in 1622.

<https://www.jesuit.org.uk/profile/francis-xavier-sj>



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

AFIA: Where people are able to find peace and rest

AFIA IS CHANGING LIVES UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY AND BEING RE-IMAGINED TO HELP MORE FAMILIES IN NEW AND EXCITING WAYS

In 2019, Away From It All (AFIA) holidays and days out benefited almost 2,000 individuals throughout Britain and Ireland. AFIA finds many different expressions, from, holidays in Mothers' Union-owned caravans to financial help for parents rebuilding relationships with their children by enabling them to go to the cinema or McDonalds. In whatever form it takes, AFIA provides a safe space to restore and rebuild relationships and to find peace and rest.

Re-imagining AFIA

Hilary is the AFIA coordinator for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway and, with a small team, has managed to re-imagine a way of doing AFIA that plays to the strengths and commitment of MU to support women and children. Mothers' Union is never too small to make a

difference and with just 400 members across the diocese, it was necessary to think differently and partner with other organisations to make the AFIA dream a reality.

Mothers' Union built partnerships with a local Women's Aid group, which put forward the women and children for the AFIA break, and a Field Study Centre, which provided food and accommodation, environmental-themed activities, and good health and safety. Hilary explained how, 'We enjoyed bringing all parties together and providing the means to do this. As well as MU resources, we accessed the Field Studies Centres Kids Fund Grant to enable 14 children and eight mums to enjoy a break together. This was an ideal number – enough to make up teams but small enough for everyone to get to know each other.

So what did the families think?

The children had a fun, educational experience of the outdoors which otherwise would not have been possible in their present situations. It taught them to share and work together. They made memories and friendships, which will hopefully continue to develop. The staff of the Field Studies Centre were friendly and able to develop a good rapport with the children, encouraging them to embrace wildlife and its natural surroundings in the day and night. 'My adventure was amazing,' recounts Ben, and 10year old Charlie reflected that 'the best thing was making new friends and the coolest thing was seeing the dolphin. My adventure was out of this world.'

The mums all had time to relax away from their daily stress, with meals and fun activities taken care of. One mum said, 'It has been a fabulous three days – no one wants to go home, and memories have been made that will last a lifetime. Thank you to all the staff at the centre – they were fabulous and kind. Thank you, Women's Aid, for your continued support. Special thanks to Mothers' Union – without you this would not have been possible. Please never underestimate the impact this break has had on all the families that have participated. No words can express our gratitude. It has been life-changing.'

Mothers' Union and Women's Aid volunteers were also around to help make sure the break was as relaxing as possible.

Mothers' Union hopes to be able to replicate this in a couple of years time, with money raised through members and others in the Scottish Episcopal Church in Glasgow and Galloway. 'This is an easier and a new way of doing AFIA and one which I think could be replicated in other dioceses too with Women's Aid groups, Field Study Centres and Kids Funds to add to our MU fundraising for AFIA.'

Finding peace and rest

Over 500 miles from the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, the Diocese of Salisbury have been offering space for rest and recovery through AFIA holidays for groups of families at the seaside. The impact of these seaside breaks, with organised activities and the

support of a large team of MU volunteers, is remarkable. Emma has been looked after by her grandmother Gloria since her mother died. Emma and Gloria got to know Ian at church, who runs the holidays and he invited them to apply.

The AFIA holiday gave Emma and Gloria some much needed rest and a place to find some peace. They were able to meet other people with struggles in their lives through shared meals, fun on the beach and other activities. Gloria commented, 'We made bonds quickly and nobody had to pretend about anything. Everyone knows by looking at each other that we're all just happy to be here. It's lovely to just stop struggling and help each other; we don't often have that chance. We so appreciate being here.'

AFIA in all its forms gives people a gift that is beyond value; space and time to rest, recover and build stronger relationships.

(article taken from the Summer edition of MU magazine Families First)



St. Michael's Churchyard

At this time of year, with most of the deciduous trees having lost their leaves, the evergreens really stand out and none more so than the holly. We have a lot of common English Holly Trees in many different parts of the Churchyard; and there is also a fine Variegated Holly. The leaves are dark green, with cream edges. Here are some facts about the holly tree which I hope you find interesting.

The holly is a well-loved neat, festive and prickly tree that shelters birds and gives hedgehogs a cosy place in which to hibernate. Mature trees grow 15 metres tall and can live for 300 years. The bark is, smooth and thin with small brown warts, and the stems are dark brown.

Holly leaves are dark green, glossy and oval. Younger plants have spiky leaves but the leaves of older trees are much more likely to be smooth. Leaves in the upper parts of the tree are also likely to be smooth.

The flowers are white with 4 petals and they bloom at any time between early Spring and the start of Summer. Once pollinated by insects the female flowers develop into scarlet berries which can remain on the tree throughout winter.

Look for fully grown holly trees and lots of holly seedlings in the Churchyard. To find 2 very well grown holly trees, walk to the outside

tap. From there walk along the brick path (also known as The Rector's Path) for about 20 metres. You will soon see the variegated holly on your right. Now return to the outside tap and walk down the Church drive. After a few metres you will see the common holly on your left.



One of the many
Common English
Holly Trees growing
in the Churchyard'

Holly is native to the UK. and is common in oak and beech woodland. It provides dense cover and good nesting opportunities for birds. The smooth leaves found at the tops of trees are a winter source of food for deer. The leaves are also eaten by caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly and by various moths.

Holly and another Evergreen shrub, The Ivy, form the words of a well-loved and very popular Christmas Carol, "The Holly and The Ivy." The holly is often referred to as "Christ's Thorn." It has had Christian symbolism since Medieval times. In the carol holly represents Jesus and Ivy stands for His Mother Mary. There is a wealth of symbolism in its form. The sharpness of the leaves help to recall the crown of thorns worn by Jesus. The red berries remind us of Jesus' blood and the shape of the leaves, which resemble flames, reveal God's burning love for His people.

The Holly and The Ivy

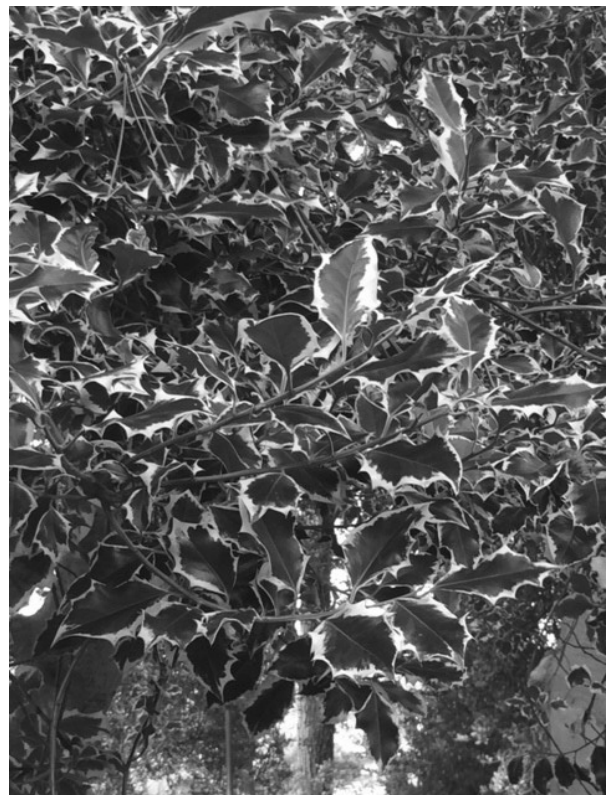
When they are both full grown.

Of all the trees that are in the wood

The Holly bears the Crown.

Ray Allen

The Variegated Holly growing by
the side of the Rector's Path.



Rowan Hawksworth shares more adventures in Hong Kong:

The babies and I have been doing some more sightseeing and exploring of Hong Kong.

We spent the day in Diamond Hill, home to the Chi Lin nunnery and Nan Lian gardens.



The main hall houses a statue of Buddha and various guards and guardians. It was founded in 1934 and built in the style of the Tang dynasty around the 9th century and was used as a retreat for Buddhist nuns. It was later rebuilt in 1998.



As you walk through and around the main hall, where people still use it as a place of worship, you can hear peaceful chanting being piped throughout the buildings and gentle wafts of burning incense really give the place a feeling of calm.

It's astonishing as once you're outside the nunnery, you're on a busy main road next to a shopping mall and MTR station. Well worth a visit though!

The garden, which is accessible by a footbridge from the nunnery, is a continuation of peace and tranquility.

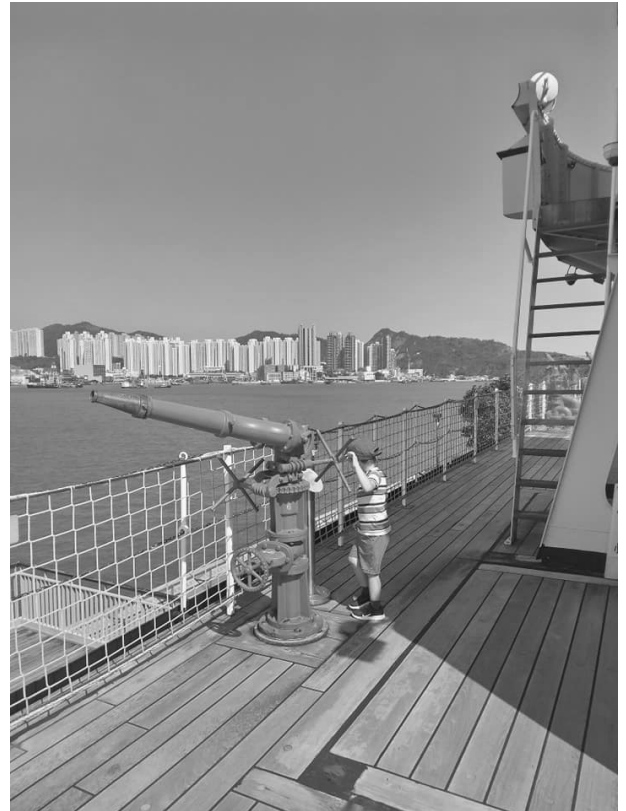


The garden has been designed using three elements: wood, stone, water. It is said that if a garden is designed with these elements it will achieve perfect balance.

The garden is also home to a large school of koi carp. The colours are beautiful and they can be seen swimming serenely through the water from several points in the garden. It was a pleasure to visit such a beautiful place.

Later the same week, the babies were in need of something a bit more stimulating. We ventured over to Hong Kong Island to a place called Sai Wan Ho. A short walk from the MTR station and along the promenade and you'll reach the, now decommissioned, fire boat. Hong Kong has some of the busiest waterways in the world, and

sometimes the quickest way to reach a fire was by using the fire boat. It's essentially a floating fire engine. As the boat, the Alexander Grantham, is in a dry dock, you can go onboard and explore the vessel. Underneath the hull of the boat was a small exhibition area, documenting the life of the Alexander Grantham and included some artefacts and photographs of the various missions, infamous and famous, that it was called out to assist with. The boys really enjoyed it.



Ever the culture vultures, we spent a sunny Sunday afternoon in Sha Tin with some friends and went to see the 10,000 Buddha monastery located on a hillside.

The walk up to the monastery is lined with depictions of one deity in many poses and during most stages of life. The statues themselves are plastic and have been sprayed gold. The maintenance of the statues isn't always as we might have expected, with some statues having some questionably repainted expressions. None the less, once you reach the top, there is a breath-taking shrine where you can buy incense to burn. Although you cannot go inside the shrine or take photographs (it's still an active place of worship for many) you are greeted with the sound of soft chanting and indeed, 10,000



(small) Buddhas all with a dim light at their feet. It's truly beautiful and I'm so glad we went.

As well as sightseeing we've also been privy to some of Hong Kong's lesser spotted wildlife.

On one of our afternoon walks to the local supermarket, the babies and I spotted a rather large golden orb spider. It was a female (they're often much bigger than the males) and she had made her web by the roadside. The web itself looked like it had been made from string, which, when we saw just how big the spider was, was a little frightening.



We continue to be treated to a nightly display by the 20 or so black kites that circle the mountain opposite our balcony. They are magnificent birds. We've seen the odd snake and continue to see wild boars and brown cows whenever we visit our nearest fishing village of Sai Kung.

We continue to sample the local foods. The dim sum is delicious and can be found quite readily in most shops, in some of the bigger towns. You can always get fresh sushi which all the children love.



We've also taken a liking to a Japanese favourite called Mochi. It's a small ball of ice cream wrapped in a thin layer of rice paste. It's delicious! Another hit with the children!

The children continue to learn Mandarin which they enjoy. I've started learning Cantonese. I'm far from fluent and there isn't really much need to learn as most people speak English, but it's useful to know some phrases when catching the local bus as none of the drivers speak English.

The beaches are now open again as the weather has turned cooler now. It doesn't get much above 27° most days and the humidity is around 45-55%.



We've heard that Lichfield is back in lockdown. We hope you're all keeping well. We think of you often and are in our prayers. Please look after yourselves.

The babies and I are off the park now to make the most of the warm afternoon sunshine.

Take care, and much love,

The Hawksworths xx

WALL NEWS

Ramblings

Little did we know last December what the year 2020 would bring! The journey through the year has not been easy and for many it has been very hard indeed. I wonder where the pathway through it has led you ? Many of us in Lichfield have had pleasant places to walk in and the community has been able to help those in need, by providing all sorts of innovative ways to deliver food and medicines to those who could not go out.

Life as we knew it came to a full stop, a chance to take stock of our lives and to make changes. For the first lockdown, there was hardly any traffic and the earth was able to breathe again. People discovered some of the advantages of working from home and will continue to do so when all this is over. For others the challenge of coping with working from home together with occupying young children was a huge pressure. I really felt for those families who were stuck in a flat in a high rise block where it was not easy to go out and walk in the countryside.

Life also brought many new avenues of opportunity. I was able to attend lectures which would have been impossible before the invention of Zoom which can bring together groups from all over the world as well as locally. Online courses were offered to fill lonely hours for those so inclined! The church was also able to take advantage of modern technology and we have enjoyed the sermons and services

from St. Michael's and St. John's and the printed sheets which were available for those who do not have the internet.

Christmas is a Festival of hope in the middle of the dark days of winter. It reminds us again of the birth of the Christ child, not in the warmth and wealth of a palace, but into an ordinary family, sharing a manger from which the animals would have fed. No fine wooden crib for this child! And yet, 2000 years on, we celebrate His birth with extravagant gifts and too much food! What will we have learnt from the year that is past? The value of families and friends? The ability to give a hug to those we love, the gift of touch without fear?

Let us move forward into the future with thanks for all the blessings of this year and of our lives, with prayer for all those who have suffered and lost those whom they have loved, and with renewed hope in the light and love of Christ.

Christine Higgs

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION DAY

for the

JANUARY EDITION

will be on

FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER

Memorial Book

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

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

Memorial Book

Name of Deceased (as you wish it to appear in the Memorial Book)	
Date of Death:	Age at Death:
Name of Contact (in case of any problems or queries)	
Telephone Number:	

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

Deadlines!

For **JANUARY** Magazine: Deadline is
MONDAY 7th December
Contact David Bull

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

From the Registers

Baptisms

25/10/2020	St Michael	Esme Violet Bentley	1 yr
1/11/2020	St Michael	Matthew James Clay	Adult
1/11/2020	St Michael	Theodore Robert Clay	6 mths

Funerals

27/10/2020	St Michael	Joanie Hall	76
28/10/20	St Michael	Kathleen Kershaw	85
11/11/20	St Michael	John Doidge	88
11/11/20	St Michael	Margaret Fellows	91
18/11/20	St Michael	Brenda Cross	91

Bible Readings

Sunday 6th December
2nd Sunday of Advent
[Purple]

Isaiah 40.1-11
Mark.1-8

Sunday 13th December
3rd Sunday of Advent
[Purple]

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end
John 1.6-8, 19-28

Sunday 20th December
4th Sunday of Advent
[Purple]

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16
Luke 1.26-38

Friday 25th December
Christmas Night
[White]

Isaiah 52.7-10
John 1.1-14

Friday 25th December
Christmas Day
[White]

Isaiah 9.2-7
Luke 2.1-14

Sunday 27th December
1st Sunday of Christmas
[White]

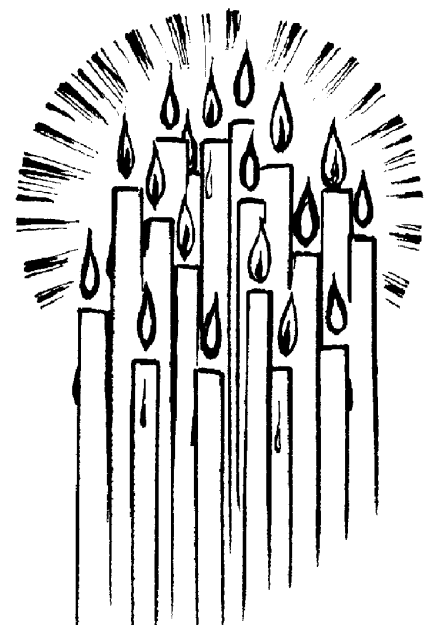
Isaiah 61..10-62.3
Luke 2.15-21

Sunday 3rd January
Epiphany
[White]

1 John 4.11-18
Mark 6.45-52

Sunday 10th January
Baptism of Christ
[White]

Acts 19.1-7
Mark 1.4-11





ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

If you would like to advertise here, the
prices per year are:

Full page	£280
Half Page	£150
Quarter Page	£85
Eighth Page	£50

Please contact the office ☎ 01543
262211

✉ office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk



IAN DERRY

***PROFESSIONAL PAINTING
AND DECORATING***

ALL TYPES OF PAINTING AND
DECORATING CARRIED OUT, TIMBER
REPAIRS AND CARPENTRY.

**FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION
QUOTE & FREINDLY SERVICE.**

CONTACT IAN ON:

07774 295236

thedecorator30@talktalk.net

**HILLCROFT
30 CUMBERLEDGE HILL
CANNOCK WOOD
WS15 4SB**



THE SPIRES

BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE



Celebrating Life

The Spires is more than a care home. It's a family home.
A friendly home. Your home. A home that provides tailored care,
beautiful environments and choice in every meal or activity.

A place that celebrates the little things that
mean everything – morning, noon and night.

Visit us anytime for friendly advice and to look around.

Call: 01543 330 751

The Spires Care Home, Stafford Road, Lichfield, WS13 8JD
www.barchester.com

Residential care • Dementia care • Respite care & short breaks
En-suite rooms • Café • Hairdressing salon • Wi-fi

P.J. NEVILLE MEMORIALS

Hand carved quality
memorials. Renewals.
Additional inscriptions.

House numbers.

Home visits and brochure at no
extra cost.

Willow Court, Tamworth
Road, Lichfield, Staffs.
WS14 9HD

Telephone and fax:

01543 263440

DECORATING BY JULIE

Your local
lady
decorator



Julie Parkinson

Home: (01543) 317258

Mobile: 07796268056

Email: travellergirl2000@yahoo.co.uk

JUDY BARBER

FOOT HEALTH
PRACTITIONER
since 2002



01543 416068

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

Corns, callus,
General foot care

Our family would like to
help your family.

We are an independent, family
business from Lichfield.

At your service 24 hours.



House of Minster Funeral Home,
26 Tamworth Street, Lichfield, WS13 6JJ

enquiries@jukesfuneralservices.com

www.jukesfuneralservices.com

01543 415050



ThreeSpires
PHYSIOTHERAPY

HOME VISIT PHYSIOTHERAPY

For ALL your physiotherapy needs, including:

- Post-Operative Rehabilitation
- Neurological Rehabilitation, for conditions
such as Stroke
- Improving mobility and fitness
- Relief from Musculoskeletal
injuries, such as back and
neck pain



T: 07884 281623

E: enquiries@threespiresphysiotherapy.co.uk
www.threespiresphysiotherapy.co.uk

CENTRAL GARAGE

(LICHFIELD) LTD

QUEEN STREET, LICHFIELD, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS13 6QD
info@centralgaragelichfield.co.uk

A family run business established for over 75 years.
We not only service your car, we can offer the following:

- **Quality Body Repair Work**
- **Engine Diagnostic Work**
- **MOT Testing Station**
- **Collection & Delivery Service**
- **Courtesy Cars**

FREE MINI VALET WITH EVERY SERVICE



01543 262826

G. A. CANNELL MEMORIALS

*Individual designs & personal
attention our speciality*

*Also : Memorial Revonvations and Repairs.
FREE QUOTE*

Home visits available at no extra charge - No oblication

Visit our Showroom at: Curborough Hall
Craft Farm, Water Lane, Lichfield Or
Telephone: (01543) 256395
Web: www.cannellmemorials.co.uk

Open: Wed-Sun 10.30am-5pm



The co-operative funeralcare

Locally owned by The Midcounties Co-operative

Our caring staff are here to listen and
advise you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**- Funeral Pre-Payment Plans
- Memorial Masonry**

1 Birmingham Road, Lichfield

Tel: 01543 416660

www.coopfunerals.co.uk



National Association
of Funeral Directors

Would you like to reduce your household bills?

Utility Warehouse could save you a huge amount
of money every year. They provide gas, electricity,
broadband, home and mobile phones.

Membership gives you access to the best value
utility services in the UK with everything on one
single monthly bill, and a host of money-saving
member benefits.

They also make a unique Price Promise:
Save money when you switch all your services to
them, or they'll give you back
'Double the Difference'!

As well as savings on your household services, Club
membership gives you access to lots of other
benefits.

If you would like to save money, contact me for
more information.

Frazer Sneddon

Lichfield

07974122710

w.midlands@tsrn.co.uk

<http://www.jointheclub.org.uk/futureproof>

Authorised Distributor

**UTILITY
WAREHOUSE**
The Discount Club



And Finally

The magic of Christmas is not in the presents
but in His Presence.....

Who's Who

<p>St Michaels PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: Lyn Shiel 320437 Sue Jones 415242</p> <p>Assistant Wardens: June Frayn 264920 Liz Clarke 268862 David Easton 255308 Brenda Liptrot 251863</p> <p>Treasurer: Viv Oliver 258054</p> <p>PCC Secretary: Phil Clayton 682141</p> <p>Stewardship Recorder: Sandy Baker 256320</p> <p>Electoral Roll Officer: Mike Godfrey 264255</p>	<p>St John's PCC</p> <p>Churchwardens: Christine Higgs 410351 John Alsop 480240</p> <p>Assistant Churchwarden: Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>Treasurer: Sheila Irvine 252982</p> <p>PCC Secretary: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p>PCC Lay Vice Chair: Christine Higgs 410351</p> <p>Electoral Roll: Angie King office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk</p>
<p>St Michael's Church</p> <p>Verger: Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</p> <p>Sacristan and Head Server: Maggie Easton 255308</p> <p>Organist and Choirmaster: Dudley Ray 07847 643373 dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Music Group: Richard Brooks 07918 906 350</p> <p>Transport Rota: Brenda Liptrot 251863</p> <p>Pastoral Care: Peter Salt 250723</p> <p>Flowers: Diana Baker 01543 416232</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p>Junior Praise: Viv Oliver 258054</p> <p>Bell ringers: Gillian Eastwood 480017, Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. gillieastwood@gmail.com</p> <p>Mothers Union: Elizabeth Allen 304938</p> <p>Social Team: Contact via the office 262211</p>	<p>St John's Church, Wall</p> <p>Verger: Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p>Pastoral Care: Christine Gilbert 07821 987999</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p>Magazine Distributer: Eileen Carson 254107</p> <p>Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> <p>Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: Barbara Homewood 255909 E-mail brian@britcave.co.uk Magazine Editor: David Bull 07525 012272 or email: dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p>Scouting and Guiding</p> <p>Group Scout Leader Carl Hall 07988 685378 chair@7thlichfield.org.uk</p> <p>Rainbows: Becky Bickley 07703 671568 Vicki Davies Friend 07970 549284 Hannah Heath 07854 824443</p> <p>Brownies: Julie Cragg 301098</p> <p>Guides: Lisa Webb 07900 164587</p>	

