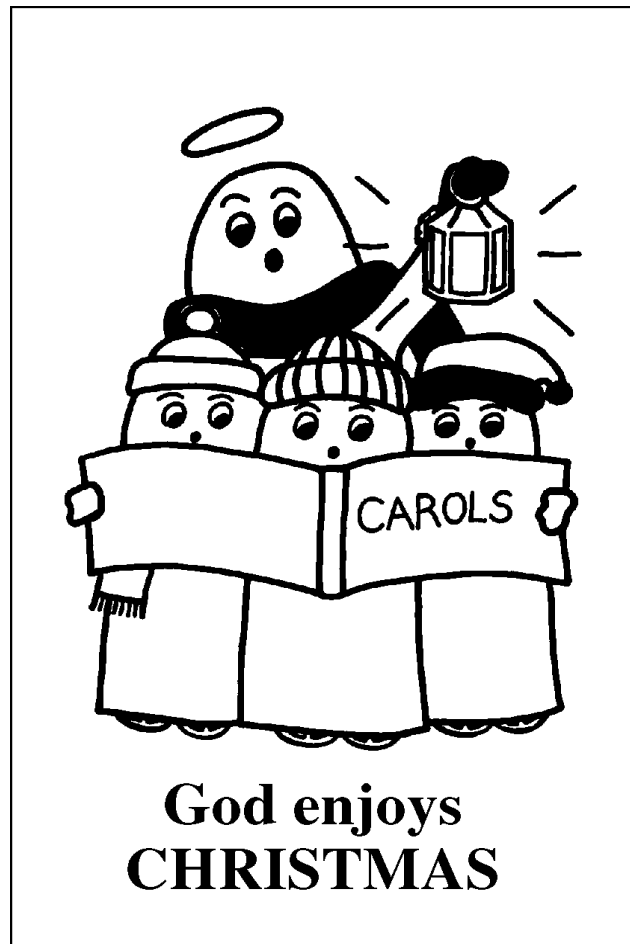


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

December 2021



Sunday 19th December

Carols and Christingles at St John, Wall

Lessons and Carols at St Michael, Lichfield

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

85p

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<p>SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN Maureen Brand 01543 264880 For advice about safeguarding or to raise a concern please contact Maureen.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED</p>	<p>St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS</p>

Reflection.....

Christmas is coming

I suspect many people have a favourite Christmas carol or poem (and an 'unfavourite' one too!). My favourite carol is 'In the bleak midwinter', partly because of the haunting melody, and partly the words of the last verse:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

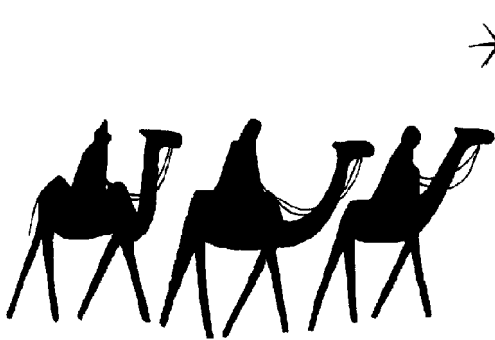
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

(Christina Rosetti)

Perhaps allied to this is my favourite 'Christmas' poem, 'The Journey of the Magi' by T.S.Eliot, printed next to this article. It is a monologue, by one of the Wise Men, an imaginative depiction of their journey bearing gifts for the mysterious child whose birth was foretold.



We too are on the journey towards Christmas, a journey sometimes dominated by gifts and cards and wrapping and decorations and lights and glitter – and incessant Christmas carols far too early (bah humbug!). In truth, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with these preparations (apart from the carols) and like all things in moderation they have their place, as we seek to show our love and care for others, and shine a light in the winter darkness. Yet by

themselves they do not satisfy, and that may be why the Christian calendar has Advent, a season of spiritual waiting, reflection, anticipation, and preparation as we journey towards the unwrapping of the mystery of the nativity.

For me, the poem speaks into that sense of spiritual anticipation and journey. For the Magi, it is uncharted territory, far from the familiar sights and sounds they long for and regret leaving. It is a hard journey, amongst hostile strangers. It is a journey during which the internal voices of doubt whisper 'folly'. It is hard for us to imagine, to walk in their shoes and remember that they had no idea of what their destination might bring or mean.

In Advent, as we take stock, perhaps look back over our own life and faith journey this year, we may find ourselves saying 'a hard time we had of it' as we have each made our own journey through the previously uncharted territory of Covid, and other significant life events. Perhaps that is why there are three Magi – to support, cajole, encourage, weep and rejoice through the doubts, sorrows and joys of their pilgrimage. That is why to live in community, and to build community – whether the amazing community of faith, of the street, the village, the social club or whatever – is so very vital to our journey. We give thanks for all who accompany us, and have accompanied us, in the journey of the community of faith that is the United Benefice, with their generous love, prayer and encouragement.

The Magi finally reach their unknown destination, and witness the Birth of the Christ-child, the divine taking human form. They comprehend the enormity of this Birth, God's gift of Godself to humankind, given to reveal the generosity of God's love for God's people. The Magi bow down, worship, and offer their gifts. Yet for

them, this Birth also felt like a Death because they had to go back to what they now saw as ‘an alien people clutching their gods’, a place where they no longer felt at ease, having witnessed the revelation of God in the Nativity. They are changed. The old ways are not sufficient.

Once more, we too journey with them through Advent to the joy, wonder and revelation of the Nativity. We offer our gift of a heart and mind open to the transforming love of God, and we continue to be changed, and to pray, speak and work for the transformation of all God’s creation.

Linda

The Journey of the Magi by T.S. Eliot

“A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.”
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.

At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued

And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down

This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

Christmas Services at St. Michael's

Sunday 12th December

4.30pm Messy Church for Christmas

Sunday 19th December

4.00pm Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 24th December

4.00pm Christingle Walk

11.15pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 25th December

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Carol Communion



Christmas Services at St. John's Wall

Sunday 19th December

4.00pm Carols and Christingles

Christmas Day 25th December

9.00am Carol Communion

LESLEY ALLEN.



After many years of Reader ministry at St Michael's and St John's, Lesley Allen's licence has come to an end and she has decided not to renew it. She feels that now is the time to step back. We thank her for all she has done over the years and we will miss her preaching and leading of services.

We will be marking her retirement in due course.

Deadlines!

For **January** Magazine: Deadline is

MONDAY 6th December

Contact David Shiel

shielfamily@gmail.com

Pew Sheet:

every Thursday 7:30am

Contact Parish Office

LARGE COPIES of the magazine are available on request

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

First Steps



Monday 6th December

10am St Michael's

Family Praise

Sunday 5th December

10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



SUNDAY 12th December

4.30 – 5.30pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome

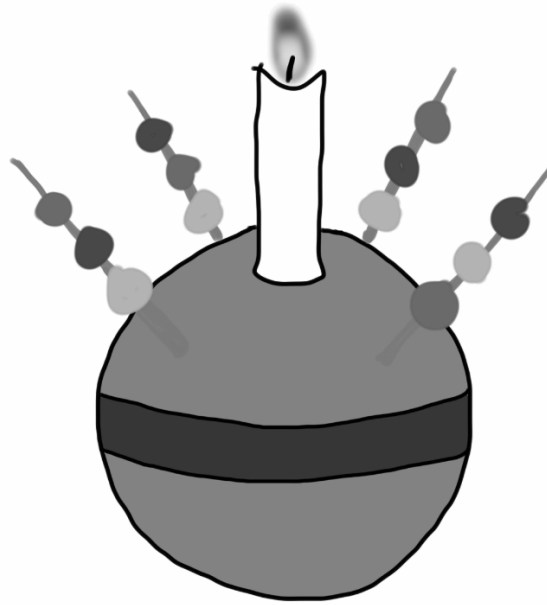
News from the Hawksworth Family in Hong Kong:



The Hawksworths are currently in the process of moving from Hong Kong to Chengdu in China. We wish them all a safe and smooth move and look forward to hearing all their news when they are settled in.

In the meantime,
Peter, Rowan, Milo, Ellie, Gabriel and Rupert
wish you all a
VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Christingles



Join us on **Christmas Eve**,
between **3pm and 6pm**
for a Christingle Walk
in St Michael's Church.

Activities as you walk through the church;
follow the Christmas story and visit the crib.

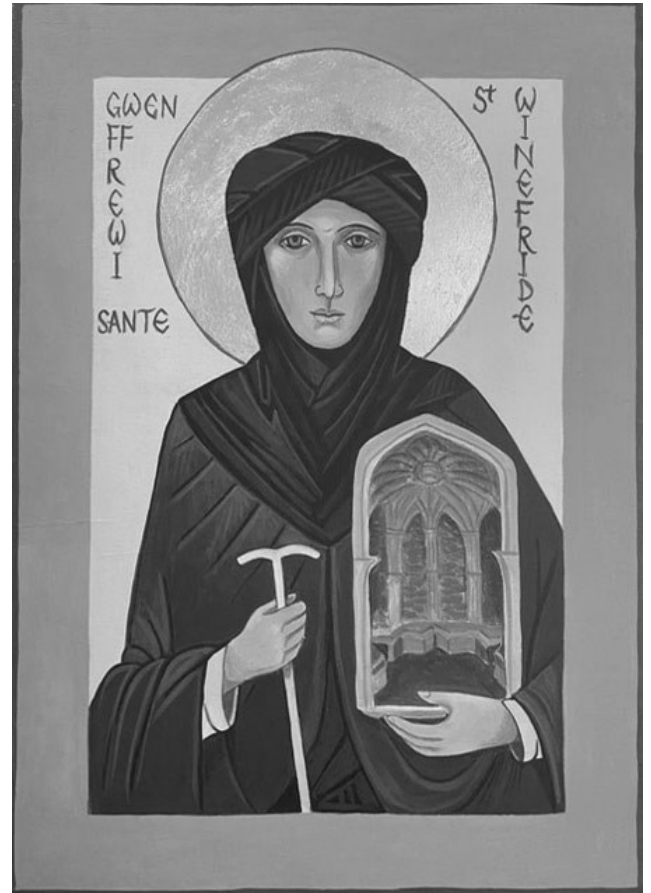
Collect a Christingle to take home.

(Donations to the Children's Society)

The Chad Blog

'The Christian creeds, our statements of what we believe, affirm that 'we believe in the communion of saints' – holy women and men who have been faithful followers of Jesus Christ and who have often lost their lives through persecution because of their faith.'

*('Ancient Wisdom, Modern Mission'.
Mission Theology Advisory Group)*



In the Diocese of Lichfield we are invited to 'Follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Chad', the first Bishop of Lichfield, a man noted for his passion for the gospel and his travelling pilgrim ministry. In this diocese we are currently in a 'Season of Pilgrimage', looking towards St. Chad's Day on March 2nd, 2022 when we will mark 1,350 years since the saint's death in 672.

As a part of that season you are also warmly invited to join the St. Winefride's Pilgrimage, a 70 mile journey (don't worry, it's not all in one go!) from Holywell in Wales, to Shrewsbury between Easter and Pentecost next year.

St. Winefride is thought to have been the daughter of a 7th century Welsh noble family, living in what is now the border country between England and Wales. Her mother, Wenlo, was sister to Beuno (St

Beuno). Winefride was a faithful Christian, keen to learn about Jesus and to follow him, encouraged and taught by her uncle, Beuno. Dedication and commitment to her faith resulted in Winefride's violent death, by decapitation, when she tried to escape the insistent advances of Caradog, a man from an aristocratic family who threatened to sexually attack her if she did not agree to marry him. At the place where her head fell to the ground, now called Holywell, a well of pure water sprang from the earth. Beuno, who was praying nearby, picked up her head, replaced it on her body, and she lived. Winefride continued to live a life of great holiness and became abbess of a nunnery at Gwytherin, North Wales. Her remains were brought to Shrewsbury Abbey in 1137.

This account of Winefride's dedication and faithful following of God's call, even to the point of courage in the face of threat and death, is also a story of restoration, transformation, healing and blessing. I hope that you will join us in giving thanks for this remarkable life of faith and in sharing the good news of God's love, shown to us in Jesus, as we reach out into the communities through which we will travel together.

*You call us, Lord,
to leave familiar things and to leave our places of security.
May we open our eyes to new experiences,
may we open our ears to hear you speaking to us
and may we open our hearts to your love.
Grant that our time spent on pilgrimage
may help us to see ourselves as we really are
and may we strive to become the people you would have us be.*

Amen.

+ Sarah Shrewsbury

Find more on the St Winefride Pilgrimage including downloadable resources on our website page on <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/pilgrimage>

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION DAY

for the

JANUARY EDITION

will be on

FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER

PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022

The annual subscription from January issue (delivered at Christmas) will be **£10** for 2022 and £1 for individual copies. Subscriptions will be collected before **Monday 10th January**. Exact money in cash is preferred this year because the bank charged us so much to bank cheques in 2021.

Please put your cash in a envelope with your name and address clearly written on the front.

If a cheque is really necessary please make it payable to "P.C.C. of St. Michael and St. Mary".

Thank you to our teams who help to deliver the magazine through the year and those who collect the annual subscriptions.

If you are reading this magazine for the first time and would like to have it delivered monthly please contact the office on 01543 262211 or email me at brian@britcave.co.uk

Many thanks,

Barbara Homewood

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The flower team will be decorating St Michael's Church on the morning of **Thursday 23rd December at 9.30.**

Flowers will be provided, but if you would like to bring extras, greenery or other items for your display, that would be great. If you would like to help please contact Anne Lingwood 01543 255265.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please put the money in a **BLUE** envelope marked "Christmas flowers" and fill in the front if you would like to gift-aid. Please put the name or names of your loved one/s inside the envelope.

Many thanks

Anne



The floodlights at

St Michael's will be lit on

December 24th 2021 in

loving memory of

3 generations of the

Barnes Family

1884-2013

FLOODLIGHTING

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

Your donation will brighten up the skies

over Lichfield for the night.

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



St. Michael's Churchyard

Following on from my Churchyard item in last month's magazine concerning Johnson's Willow, Lichfield District Council have now taken out the previous unhealthy willow tree and replaced it with a new Willow Sapling, complete with stake and a very sturdy tree guard. This is the fifth generation from the original willow of Johnson's time. It is very attractive and we look forward to seeing it growing with its new leaves in the Spring.



The newly planted willow tree next to Stowe Pool. Photo taken by Ron Plimmer.

Trees are very much on our minds as we listen to the pledges of leaders of countries gathered at the COP26 Conference to plant billions of trees around the World over the next 20 to 30 years. Let us hope their worthy aims come to fruition.

Of course one tree stands out above all others this month and that is the Christmas Tree. We have some evergreen trees in the Churchyard but not the traditional Christmas Tree or Norway Spruce. This tree was introduced to the UK by Prince Albert in 1848. Every year Norway donates a Christmas Tree to London to thank the UK for the support we gave their country during the 2nd. World War. This tall tree is positioned in Trafalgar Square, giving pleasure to the many thousands of people who go there each day. This year it will be there from this month until the end of the Christmas season in January.

Here are 10 more facts about this beautiful tree, so popular in homes, towns and cities at this time of year:

- * The Latin name for the tree is *Picea abies*.
- * It is a Non-Native but it has now been naturalised here.

- * The tree can grow to a height of 40 metres. If yours is a rooted tree and you have the space, you can plant it after the festivities.
- * Norway Spruce trees can live for 1,000 years.
- * They grow very tall, straight and triangular.
- * These trees have dark, purple bark with cracks and small plates.
- * Once pollinated the female flowers turn green and become red-brown cones with diamond-shaped, rounded scales.
- * The needles are square-shaped and pointed with fine white speckled lines and a rich sweet smell.
- * The tree is of great value to wildlife providing a habitat for beetles, weevils, hoverflies and moth caterpillars. Cones are eaten by red squirrels.
- * To stop needles falling, buy a fresh tree, trim the stump, keep it away from heat and feed and water it regularly.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches.

Your boughs go green in Summertime,
Stay bravely green in Wintertime.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches.



Whichever tree you choose have an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ray Allen251654

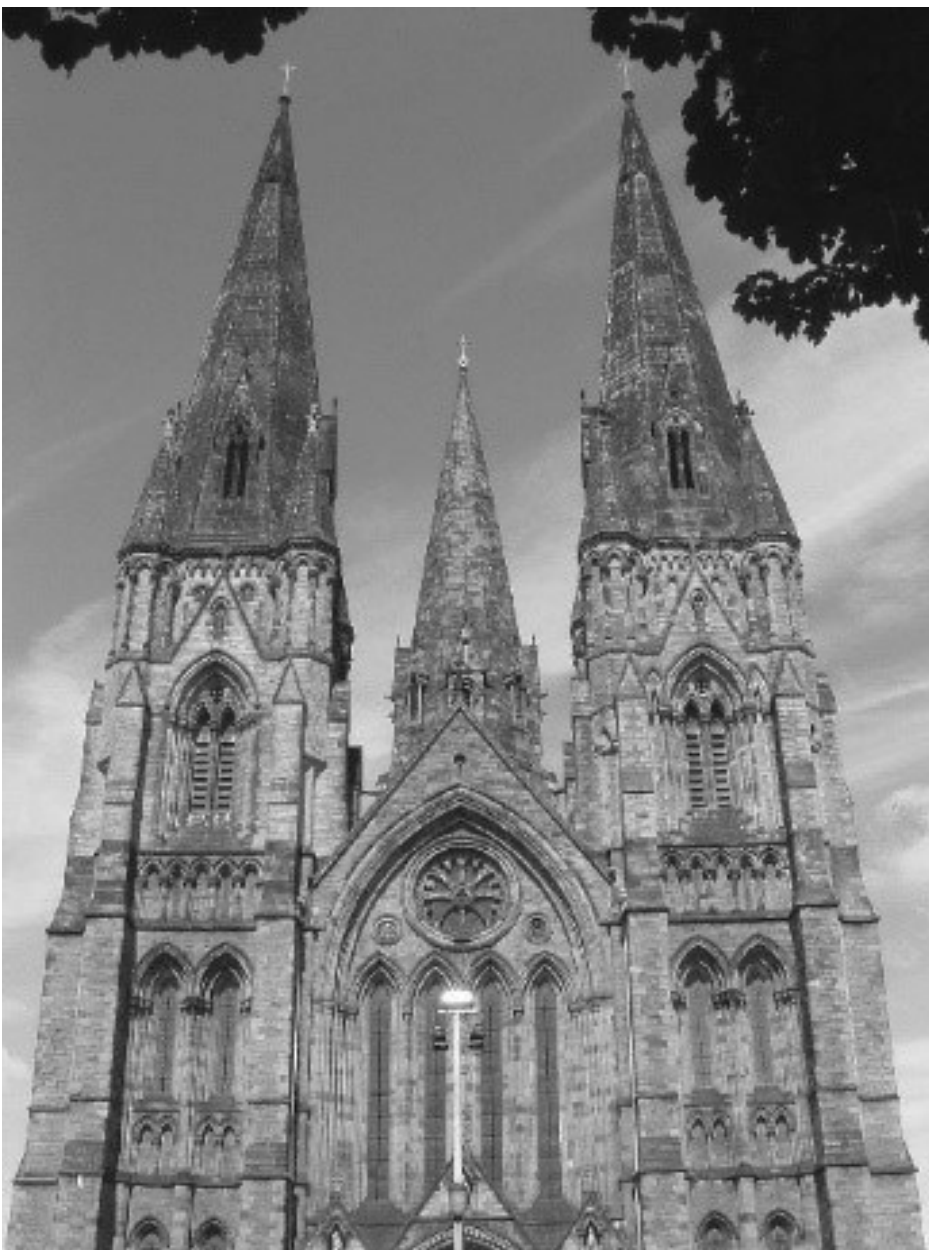
Photo Competition

Can you name these three spired cathedrals?

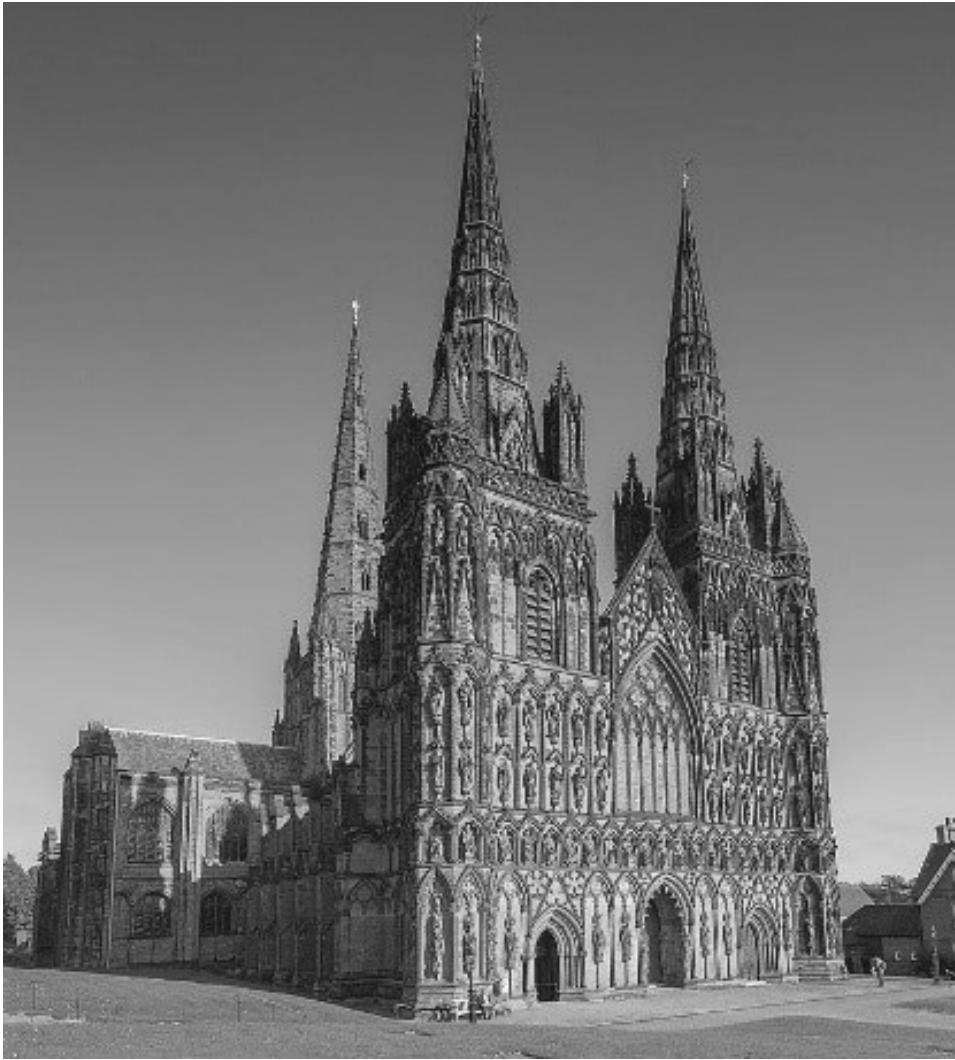
All entries to editor by third Saturday in December,

Saturday 18th December.

The prize for the winning entry is a copy of Time Team artist Victor Ambrus's "Illustrated Journey Through History" entitled - **"Drawing Somerset's Past"** with a foreword by Sir Tony Robinson



NO 1



No 2

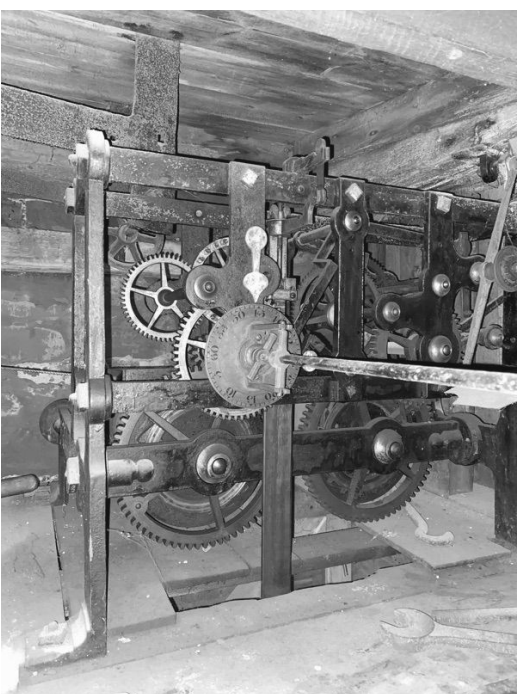
No 3



St Michael's Historic Church Clock

One of the under-stated treasures of St Michael-on-Greenhill Church is its turret clock. Understated because it is seen as part of the fabric of the church building and not conspicuously part of everyday worship but it should not be underrated or under-valued.

It was installed in 1814 and it was funded by the Conduit lands Trust as a public clock. The mechanism reveals that it was designed and manufactured by the legendary clock designers Whitehurst of Derby, whose founder was one of Erasmus Darwin's intellectual 'circle' at Derby when he moved there in the late eighteenth century. Since the 1820s the clock has been maintained by Smith of Derby, a business formed by former apprentices of John Whitehurst, so we have continuous link with the manufacturers of over two hundred

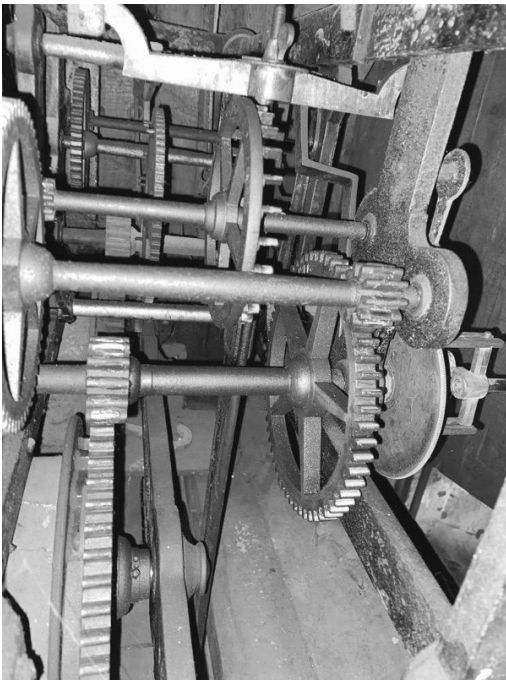
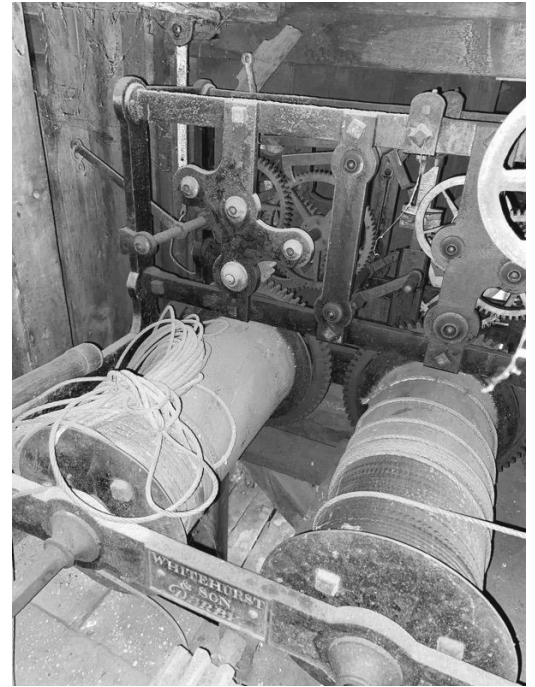


years.

By any yardstick this is an important historic turret clock and, with two hundred years of continuous service, it has survived well. The St Michael's PCC have now resolved to have it overhauled, with the intention of enabling the possibility, because of the inaccessibility of the winding mechanism, of it becoming automated, in other words being

electrified, at some point in the future.

The technical description of the clock is that it is a two-train armchair clock with pinwheel escapement. The clock drives the hands on one five-inch copper convex clock dial. Its face was completely repainted in its striking blue as part of the church tower restoration programme in the 1990s.

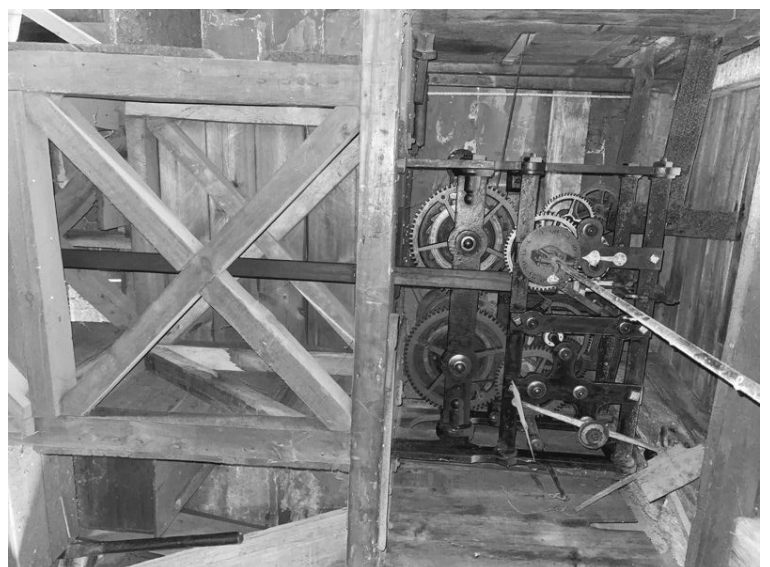


The historic St Michael Church Trust has funded the first payment of £2,500-00 to enable the work to commence and a further personal donation of £1,000-00 [+Giftaid of £250-00] has already been received. Fund-seeking has commenced to enable the completion of the financing of the first stage of the overhaul, and to seek the funding for the automation which may

become possible in the future.

Anyone who would like to discuss this project is invited to speak with Trevor James and if you would like to see the inspection report by Smith of Derby that can readily be made available

Trevor James



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

APPLES of GOLD Angie Jones shares a moving story about the power of words

They are more important than we know. 'Words fitly spoken are apples of gold in a setting of silver', says Proverbs 25:11. Whereas Proverbs 18:21 tells me that 'death and life are in the power of the tongue'. And James 3 has plenty to say about the need to control what we say.

Have you, like me, said a hasty word, only to regret it later? Or perhaps someone has spoken unkindly and you're still hurting deep inside. Or have you managed to say the right thing at the right time, perhaps giving encouragement or empathy when it was needed?

One morning when I was teaching mathematics in school, a little boy said something to me that both challenged and changed my teaching practice. His name was Kevin Shelley. He found some things hard to understand and was in the bottom set in my class (Set C).

When I taught a new concept (long multiplication, for example), I wrote sums on the board at three levels: Really hard. Not so hard. Easier. The brightest (Set A) tackled the really hard, and so on. It seemed a good system for me. Differentiation!

That morning I looked up to see Kevin standing awkwardly in front of me. 'Please miss, can I try the harder sums today?'

I was taken aback, I looked into his eyes, paused and gave the right answer: 'If you think you can do them, have a go'.

That evening I thought long and hard. My good intentions had set a limit, a barrier to that little boy's progress, to his self-belief, to his achievement. I had put him in the bottom set when he wanted to fly.

The next day saw a change in my classroom. Yes, there were still three levels of work, but I had become a different teacher. 'Children, you decide which level you work at. Tackle the hardest ones if you feel confident'. That was about 30 years ago. I never set limits again.

A few years later during the spring, my neighbour had the painters and decorators in. There was a van outside: Kevin Shelley. No Job Too Small. I walked by. Hmm, I wondered, could it be...?

I found myself face to face with the grown-up version of that little boy who'd unknowingly had a profound influence on my teaching. The same freckles, the same shy manner. I told him how much his words had impacted me. He looked surprised. Then grinned. 'I don't even remember saying that', he said, with a shrug of his shoulders. And that was that.

The Word of God How often do we speak words that change things for other people, without even realising? Maybe for good, maybe for bad.

'The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, so I would know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary (Isaiah 50:4)

The words of God always precede his actions. He tells people first, then he moves and when God speaks, things happen. Extraordinary things!

'The heavens were made by the Word of the Lord' (Psalm 33:6a)

'And God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light' (Genesis 1:3)

How often do we read of God speaking to his people?

To newly appointed Joshua: 'Now therefore rise. Go over this Jordan, you and all this people to the land which I am giving you' (Joshua 1:2)

To a trembling old man: 'Don't be afraid, Zechariah, for I have come to tell you that God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son' (Luke 1:13)

To a nervous Jeremiah, 'Before you were born I appointed you as my spokesman to the world' (Jeremiah 1:5)

In Isaiah, God announced an event to come. The time of waiting, or Advent, really began: 'The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold the virgin will conceive and bear a Son and she will call his name, Emmanuel' (Isaiah 7:14)

Hundreds of years later an angel came, unexpectedly, to Mary's house: 'Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive and bear a Son and will call his name Jesus' (Luke 1:30-31)

Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas is all about waiting for a baby, waiting for God to fulfil his spoken word.

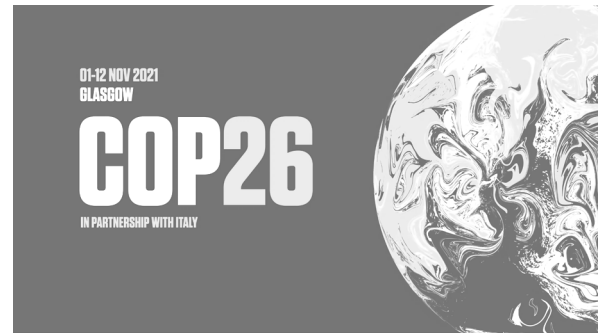
'And the Word became flesh and lived among us and we saw his glory' (John 1:14).

This year, perhaps more than ever, we need the presence of our Lord as Emmanuel, God among us.

But remember, Jesus also said these words, 'Until I come again...'

The story is not over.....

CLIMATE CHANGE PRAYERS



Shopping in the Spirit

Living God
thankyou for the quiet campaigners
who vote with their shopping trolleys,
who choose what they buy
who read the labels, count the wrappers
and speak to Customer Services.

Thankyou for their commitment,
their undiminished vision
their belief in the power to change.

Bless us when we swell their ranks,
when the power of the consumer
is the power of your Spirit.

John Polhill

‘Living flame of love’
so touch our hearts with your bright fire,
that we of tepid, even chilly faith,
may be alight with your passion,
and warm the globe with your love,
reflecting your care
for all of your creation. Amen

Chris Polhill

Forgive us

For the reservoirs that drowned people's homes;
forgive us Lord.

For wasting water without thought;
forgive us Lord.

For the many who still have only dirty water to drink;
forgive us Lord.

For forgetting that water is a gift;
forgive us Lord.

Bless those who will have to carry water to their home;
today, and every day, may we treasure each drop. Amen.

Chris Polhill

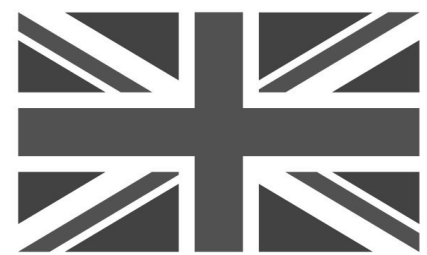


Donate to WaterAid UK

The UK's dedicated water charity. Give before 15 February 2022 to have your donation doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million.

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>

Matching your
donations with



UKaid

A PAUSE FOR A THOUGHT.

As I pause for a thought, maybe you will pause for a thought also, to remember a fellow Parishioner, my Father, William Thomas Hill, better known to most as “Bill”, who sadly passed away last December, having achieved the grand age of 96 years!

St. Michael-on-Greenhill Church had always been a very special place for my Dad and for many generations of his family. It was an extremely important and significant part of all their lives, including Worship, Christenings, Marriages, Funerals and Sunday School.

St. Michael’s School also played a very important role in his life and that of all of his family. It gave him great pleasure for his Son Gerald, myself, his Grandchildren Stephanie & Stuart and Great Grandson Fynlay, to continue that tradition.

Bill’s lifelong commitments to St. Michael’s Church included being a Choir Boy (as was Gerald), which led to him becoming a Chorister at Lichfield Cathedral. Also, he was a “Sidesman” at the Church’s Sunday 8am Communion Service for many years and, in fact, he was still in the role when he was 90!

Ordinarily, if not for the Covid Pandemic, I would have respectfully arranged a very necessary and deserving Funeral service for him. Obviously this would have meant that we all could have celebrated his life, acknowledged his commitment to the Church and bid “farewell” to him, as he so deserved and would have desired.

Wishing everyone connected with St. Michael’s Church success, happiness and good health.

Kind regards,

Maggie Rolls

Bishop of Durham's speech on the Assisted Dying Bill

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, has spoken during the Second Reading of the Assisted Dying Bill in the House of Lords.

The full transcript is below:

"My Lords, I'd like to begin by noting the simple courtesy that has been expressed so far during the debate today.

"We know that humanity at its best always wants the best for the people we love, and we act to protect them where we can.

"It is natural to want to ease hardships and burdens for our loved ones especially in a time of pain but also in a time of rising care costs and stretched health services. But human beings do not always act in the best way. We are flawed creatures.

"There is a very real danger that individuals feel they have become a burden, and thus think that the dutiful option to their families is to end their life. In Oregon and Canada where assisted dying has been legalised, fear of being a burden to their families actually frequently accompanies the requests.

"The scope for abuse and pressure from this for people to end their lives is significant. It is not a giant leap but a small step. The practice of weighing the value of lives against emotional and financial cost simply is dehumanising.

"The consequences of this bill to the most vulnerable do have to be deeply considered. If the value of people's lives is called into question, it is likely that those who have been historically undervalued and overlooked will be again.

"Those with disabilities, mental health issues and other minorities are already vulnerable, and the difference of experience between those groups and others has again been evident during the pandemic. This bill acts on the principle that people should have the ability to act upon their will to end their lives.

"But what we have seen over the pandemic are instances, as reported by the Care Quality Commission, of Do Not Attempt CPR decisions that have been made either without, or against the will of the vulnerable.

"Perhaps even more troubling was the aspect of the report by CQC that those decisions 'were being applied to groups of people'. In a stretched and overwhelmed health service that has supported us over a long pandemic, safeguards against oversight cannot be guaranteed. What would have been the outcome of the pandemic if the medical stakes had been higher?

"We must not overlook the cultural implications of passing a bill that leads anyone to measure the worth of someone else's life. Who are we to put a value on human life, or determine that in some instances, the person is not worth the cost? Let us not abandon the imperative principal that is innate to us, of valuing every human life and protecting and caring for the vulnerable.

"I'd like to add to Lord Vinson just a reminder, if I may, 'when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead they did not break his legs, and then His side was pierced'."

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:	

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From the Registers

Baptisms			

Weddings		

Funerals			
St Michael's	9th Oct	Kath Kershaw (interment of ashes)	85
St Michael's	28th Oct	Henry Chamberlain	88
St Michael's	31st Oct	William Hill (Bill) (interment of ashes)	96

PROVERBS

9.1-6



“Woman Wisdom’s” invitation

- ⁹ Wisdom built her house;
she has carved out her seven pillars.
- ² She slaughtered her animals,
mixed her wine, and set her table.
- ³ She sends out her female servants;
she issues an invitation from the top of the
city heights:
- ⁴ “Whoever is naive turn aside here,”
she says to those who lack sense.
- ⁵ “Come, eat my food,
and drink the wine I have mixed.
- ⁶ Abandon your simplistic ways and live;
walk in the way of understanding.”

Related readings

Luke 14.12-14

Romans 12.13-20

1 Peter 4.8-9

Common English Bible

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your invitation to me, through the writings of Solomon. Jesus has taught me that your greatest commands are to love you and to love others. Being hospitable is a genuine way for me to show my love for others. Help me to share with people who are in need and to forgive those who have upset me, so that I can share my hospitality with them too. Guide me so that I may walk in the way of understanding. Amen.



Angie King

Bible Readings

Sunday 5th December

Advent 2

[Purple]

Malachi 3.1-4

Luke 3.1-6

Sunday 26th December

St Stephen

[Red]

Acts 7.51-end

Matthew 10.17-22

Sunday 12th December

Advent 3

[Purple]

Philemon 4.4-7

Luke 3.7-18

Sunday 2nd January 2022

Epiphany

[White]

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday 19th December

Advent 3

[Purple]

Zephaniah 3.114—end

Luke 1.39-45 [46-55]

Sunday 9th January

Baptism of Christ

[White]

Acts 8.14-17

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

Friday 24th December

Midnight Mass

[White]

Isaiah 9.2-7

Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]

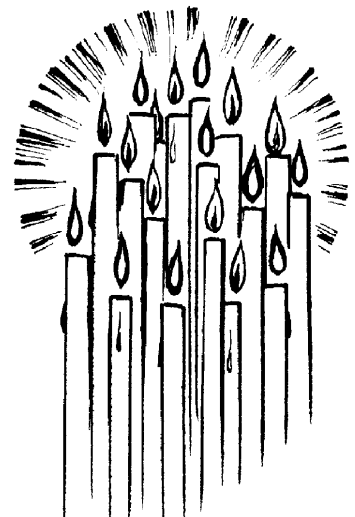
Saturday 25th December

Christmas Day

[White]

Isaiah 52.7-10

John 1.1-14



Prayers for celebrating the season of Christmas.

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.
Amen.

Loving Jesus,
you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels.
Be with (N. and) all who are lonely,
and with all who feel distant from celebrations.
Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts.
Amen.

Jesus, as you healed the sick,
bring healing to those in our families who are ill today.
Jesus, Lord of love,
in your mercy, hear us.

Christ born for us,
Son of God, given for us,
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you.
Amen.

The kings, Lord,
brought myrrh, frankincense, and gold.
Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring;
we bring you what you have given:
our lives for your life.

Amen.

Jesus, Saviour, son of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever.

Amen.

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.

Amen.

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

Full page £280

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Quarter Page £85

Eighth Page £50

Please contact the office  01543 262211

 office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

.....**AND FINALLY**

To help us all to kickstart the coming festive season, Lichfield Cathedral is hosting two **FREE** concerts in early December.

The first concert entitled “**A THRILL OF HOPE – a Concert for Reflection**” will be performed by the *Lichfield Cathedral Chorus* who, after two concertless years, return with a bumper programme of choral classics with a distinctly seasonal flavour.

This concert will be under the expert direction of Musical Director: Benjamin Lamb with Organist Liam Condon and soloist Josie Sim (the Highly Commended BBC Young Chorister).

Secondly, the ever-popular Cannock Salvation Army Citadel Band will perform their annual Carol Concert on Tuesday the 7th. December at 7.30pm.

There is **NO CHARGE** for either of these splendid concerts, However, donations will be more than welcome and will be shared between Lichfield Cathedral and *Lichfield Cathedral Chorus* {Registered Charity 509833} funds.

Doors open at 6.30pm and early arrival is strongly recommended to prevent disappointment. Two wonderful ways to give a joyful start to the season of Advent 2021.ENJOY!!



[Editor]

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