

THE PARISH MAGAZINE  
December 2022



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

**£1**

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### United Benefice Office

St Michael's Church, Church St, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6ED  
Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri **CLOSED** Thursdays  
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Tel: 01543 262211  
E-mail: [office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk)

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

# Reflection

Putting the “Christ” back in “Christmas”?

This phrase was so overused in my youth that I think we all lost touch with any sense of what it means – latterly it seems to have been reduced to making sure your chocolate advent calendar has a picture of the nativity on it.

But, ought we to bring back this catchy phrase, perhaps reinvented a little?

“Putting the Christ back in Christmas” means connecting *how* we celebrate with *why* we celebrate. This of course means finding ways to tell the Christmas story afresh for this time and for new generations, but it means more than that as well. It means celebrating in a way that is in-keeping with our vocation as Christians to care for the world we live in and all the people in it, and our calling to live simply and with self-control.

Even those of us who are usually striving to live lives that are environmentally friendly, generous and ethical can find ourselves tempted to abandon these principles in the festive season, as we seek to make things special for ourselves and our loved ones with lots of presents, excessive food and drink, and glitzy decorations. But, does that really do justice to what we’re celebrating? A saviour born to a poor family who would become refugees... a God who loved the world so much that he was born here to save it... ?

Perhaps a more Christ shaped Christmas means finding a way to celebrate it that isn’t at the expense of other people, or the earth. With that in mind here’s a few suggestions:

- Reuse your Christmas decorations rather than buying new ones

– especially plastic ones – plastic will be here for life not just for Christmas!

- Buy organic and local if you can – to reduce the impact your food has on the environment and the species that live in it. Cook a little less meat, and a few more local veggies.
- Try to resist the urge to buy new clothes, especially if you'll only wear them once or twice. The fashion industry is one of the biggest contributors to climate change and modern slavery!
- Choose recyclable wrapping paper (the less shiny stuff, with no sparkly bits), and send less Christmas cards.
- Look for palm-oil free mince pies!

An eco-friendly, ethical Christmas doesn't have to be more expensive! Simple can still be special. Consider one really thoughtful gift, rather than a shower of presents, or cooking only what you think might actually be eaten, rather than over-catering and wasting food.

If you're able to, please be generous to Churches and Charities this Christmas. Many are having a hard time at this time of year, and resources are needed to keep everyone safe, warm and able to rejoice.

This year be kind to the planet, give to the poor, cherish your loved ones, spend time with the lonely, embrace those who are grieving, pray for those you find it hard to get along with... because that's where you'll really find Christ this Christmas.

*Revd. Abbie Walsh*



## Deadlines!

For **January** Magazine: Deadline is

**SUNDAY 4th December**

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

# **SPECIAL SERVICES at St Michael's**

## **Sunday 18th December**

6:00pm Carol Service

## **Wednesday 21st December**

4:00pm Longest Night Carol Service

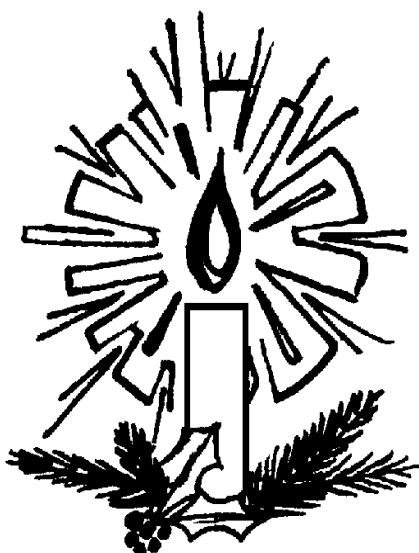
(For those finding Christmas difficult this year)

## **Saturday 24th December**

4:00pm Christingle Service

6:00pm Christingle Service

11:15pm Midnight Holy Communion



## **Sunday 25th December**

8:00am BCP Holy Communion

10:00am Holy Communion

with Christmas Carols

# SPECIAL SERVICES at St. John's Wall

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

3.00pm Carols and Christingles

Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December

9.00am Carol Communion



The floodlights at

St Michael's will be lit on

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 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**





# *"Longest Night"* Carol Service

**St Michael's Church**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 4pm**

**A service of remembrance and hope  
for those finding it hard to rejoice this  
Christmas**

**Prayer for healing and opportunity to light  
candles in memory of loved ones**

**All welcome**

**Refreshments served afterwards**

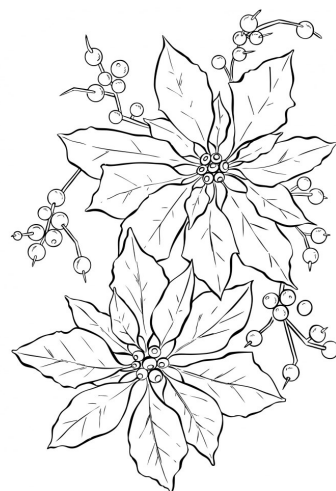
**Church Street, Lichfield, WS13 6ED**



# St Michael's Church Christmas flowers

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday December 23rd from 9.30am and would welcome all who would like to help

If you wish to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please put the money, the name of the person and your message into a blue gift aid envelope and mark it Christmas flowers



Many thanks

Anne Lingwood

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FILM CLUB**

**19 TH DECEMBER**

**THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**28 TH DECEMBER**

**THE LION KING**

**DOORS OPEN AT 10.30AM**

**FILM BEGINS AT 11AM**

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**NO CHARGE. DONATIONS WELCOME**

# 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

4th December

10am St Michael's



First Steps

Monday 5th December

10am St Michael's

Come and join us at our ...

**MESSY CHURCH**

for craft, story, song and food on

**SUNDAY 11th November**

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome



## CHAD BLOG

### *HOW STILL WE SEE THEE LIE*

Last week I was privileged to participate in a Study Tour in Israel / Palestine with the Council of Christians and Jews. My last trip to the Holy Land had been in early 2019 and had a very different feel. This time I was visiting the week before elections, the fifth in four years, and the air was live with political and religious debate. The tension between Israelis and Palestinians was heightened and there were daily changes to our schedule as areas became temporarily off limits and certain speakers became unavailable as travel restrictions were imposed.



In the midst of all the noise, bustle, traffic, travel and challenges of a rigorous and demanding schedule of visits and engagements, there were times when the world seemed to stand still as we were privileged

to listen to our speakers and guides, to appreciate the incredible beauty of the Holy Land and to visit some of the holiest sights of the three Abrahamic faiths. Some of the most moving experiences involved hearing the stories of those politically opposed to one another and who could easily have not taken steps to meet, who had made sometimes life-threatening decisions, to engage in conversation together, to take steps towards reconciliation and peace. The courage shown was humbling and a constant reminder of the need to:

*'Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.'*

(Psalm 34:14)

This verse might look like a straightforward and obvious option, but this is a challenging and demanding path and one to which we are all called, in the wider world and between and within our faith communities. We are called to be people with hearts and minds open enough to hear the voice of those who come to the conversation with different voices and experiences, who, as equally loved children of God, tell a different story. Between faith communities and within the Christian community we each encounter and experience God differently and might express our faith in ways that are not familiar or even understandable to one another. The ways in which we each express and live out our faith might be different, but we pray that:

*'...the eyes of (our) heart(s) may be enlightened in order that (we) may know the hope to which he has called (us), the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.'*

(Ephesians 1:18)

*Sarah Shrewsbury*

# 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.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.

***Liz Clarke***

# ***Film Club***

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

***FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS***

***Doors open at 2pm***

## **The Railway Children Return**

*(2022 PG, 1h 39m Adventure/ Drama/ Family)*

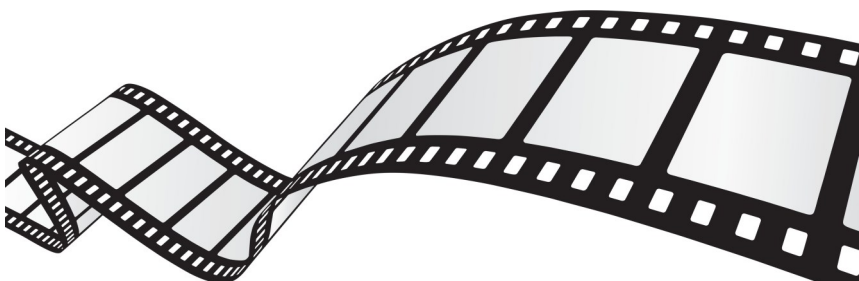
Follow a group of children who are evacuated to a Yorkshire village during the Second World War, where they encounter a young soldier who, like them, is far away from home.

**Mon 5th December 2.30pm start**

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

**at the interval**

**All welcome.**

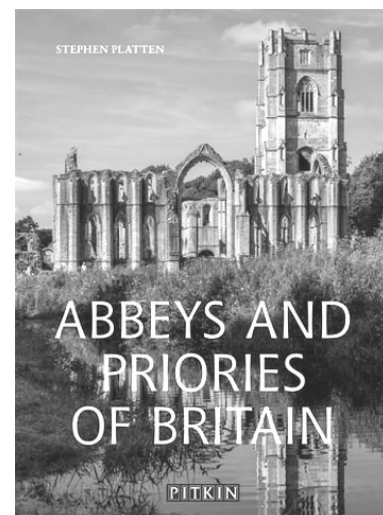


**Save the Date:**

**Next Film Club**

**January 9th**

# **Abbeys and Priories of Britain,** Stephen Platten, Pitkin, 2022, 96p [with 91 photos], £9-99. ISBN 978-1 -84165-938-1



It is very obvious that this is a book prepared by an enthusiast because at every turn Stephen Platten readily shares aspects of the architectural or the aesthetic reputations of such buildings. This means that works by Pugin, Comper and Turner are celebrated, as they should be, but other features at particular locations that have historical or social significance are not mentioned. My examples are that at Dorchester Abbey, where the importance of its place in the veneration of St Birinius is clearly conveyed, the rare presence of a memorial plaque to John F. Kennedy is not. Equally at Dryburgh Abbey the presence of the tomb of Earl Haig is recognised but the significant message conveyed that this much-maligned military commander is buried under a memorial exactly similar to those thousands that died under his leadership is missed.

The advertising material suggests that this is 'definitive guide to the best surviving examples of monastic buildings' throughout Britain. This is a very carefully composed, very accessible and well-illustrated introduction to this subject but the selection of entries reveals the special interests of the author. He does include St George's Chapel at Windsor, which is not linked to the monastic tradition, and equally he omits structures to which many of us are devoted. Here in the Midlands Croxden Abbey and Buildwas Abbey are deeply loved and extensive structures but they have not warranted inclusion. In Norfolk he explains the fragmentary remains of St Benet's Abbey but does not include the nearby Creake Abbey which closed as a result of a devastating plague outbreak, something that does resonate with us today in our shared experience of pandemic. In the north my list would inevitably have included Cartmel Priory and Howden Minster,



both of which provide such striking impressions to their many visitors but they are not included.

Despite my reservations, over the selection of examples, this will be a very helpful guide for those who wish to embark on a study of monastic structures. I have visited half of these structures that Stephen Platten has described but he has now given me a list of thirty more that should take their place in future fieldwork.

*Trevor James*

## **Environmentally Friendly Stuff**

### ***Going for the Silver Eco Award***

We all create lots of waste at Christmas time.

This year, let's all try and remember to...

**Reuse** As you make room in your home for the new gifts you have received you could give away, sell or swap items with friends and family, so that an old or unwanted thing can continue to be used, whether for its original purpose (conventional reuse) or to fulfil a different function (creative reuse/ upcycling or repurposing).

**Reduce** Try to create less waste. You could try sending ecards to all those you have emails for.

**Recycle** Be careful, lots of things contain plastic and glitter which is not recyclable. This website is full of really useful information about recycling [www.recyclenow.com/news-and-campaigns/recycle-right-this-christmas](http://www.recyclenow.com/news-and-campaigns/recycle-right-this-christmas)



*Angie King*

## Gold Award for St. Michael's Churchyard

In the early Spring I entered the Churchyard for the Lichfield Diocese Annual Churchyard Awards. At a Presentation Ceremony at Doxey Parish Church on Saturday October 29th., we were presented with the Gold Certificate and the Nature Friendly Award to recognise the work we do to continue to attract wildlife into the Churchyard. Also, we received a positive written report from the Award Coordinator, Alison Primrose.

I would like to thank all the many people who have regularly helped in the past and those who continue to help to look after our beautiful Churchyard. Your work is greatly appreciated both by the Church and the Community. We are really pleased to receive the Gold Award.

Ray Allen

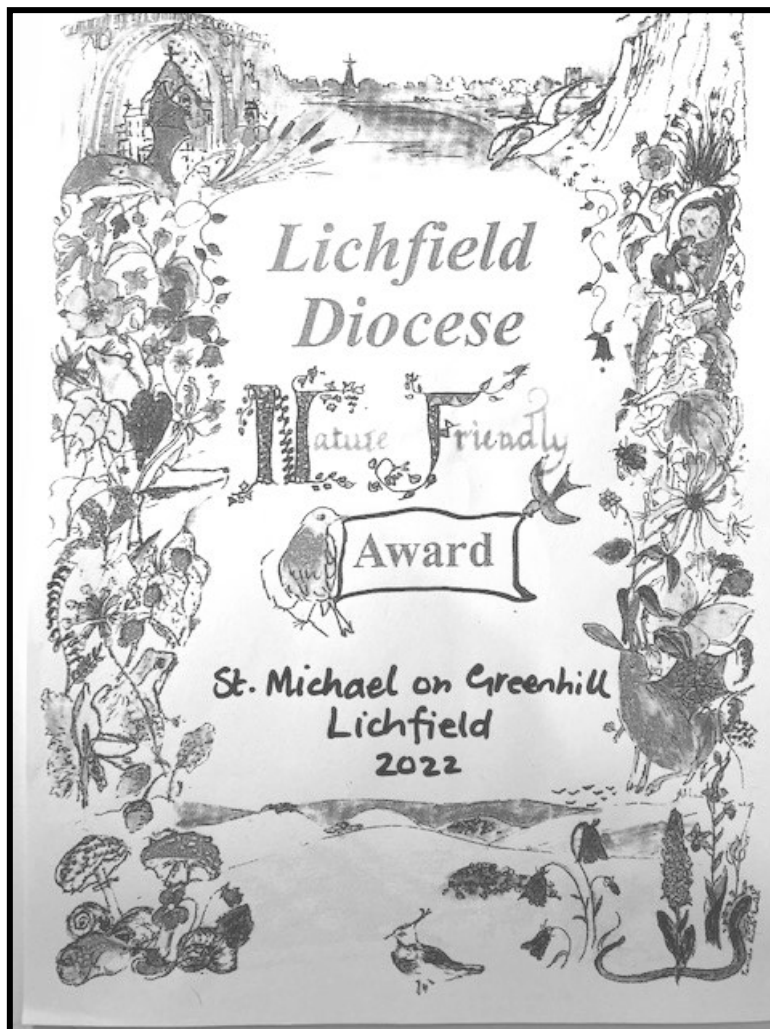


# St Michael on Green Hill, Lichfield

This churchyard - 9 acres in the centre of town - is very well cared for and provides a wonderful green space that is enjoyed by many visitors and people walking through. The noticeboards provide very good information including churchyard policies, a historical overview, wild life matters and details of specific graves. Further details are provided about the wild flower species that may be found and what to look for in the different seasons. The grass is managed effectively with areas designated for wild flowers and work is being done to relocate old graves into clusters which can be left 'wild'. The area of more recent graves is tidy and the graves are well tended, as is the area for the interment of ashes which has seating nearby. Bird boxes, bug hotels and bat boxes all supplement the range of habitats provided by the trees, shrubs and long grass areas. There is clearly good community engagement including exciting plans for a children's garden.

Well done to all for implementing a plan that manages this large churchyard so effectively - it is a pleasure to visit. Thank you for all your hard work.

*Alice Brincoe*  
Scheme co-ordinator



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## Millions in touch with church community action amid cost-of-living crisis

More than seven million people have had contact with their local church for community support services such as food banks, parent toddler groups and lunch clubs, new figures published today suggest.

Polling by Savanta ComRes for the Church of England shows that nearly half the population reports having been in contact with their local church – at 46% – with the most popular reasons for doing so being attending weddings, baptisms, and funerals (50%) worship and services (42%) and carol services (39%).

But the figures also show that 30% of those in contact with their local church – or 13.7% of all UK adults – have done so through community services such as a parent toddler groups, lunch clubs and food banks.

The figures also show that twice as many agree (47%) as disagree (23%) that the local church is an important part of their community and just over a half (52%) agree that the Church is an important part of British society.

The findings come after Church of England statistics from 2019 show its churches running or supporting 35,000 social action projects.

This includes 8,000 food banks and more than 4,000 parent/carer toddler groups. More than 5,000 churches run or support lunch clubs, coffee mornings or similar hospitality for older people.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the bishops in the House of Lords on welfare issues, said: “These figures show the extent to which the Church of England is providing not just spiritual and pastoral support but practical help to communities throughout the country.

“Jesus’s commandment to love your neighbour as yourself is evident in the care and service provided by churches in so many ways.

“The biggest source of practical support provided by Church of England currently is through running or supporting around 8,000 food banks throughout the country and many of our churches are now opening up as ‘warm spaces’ through the ‘Warm Welcome’ campaign, as people struggle to pay their energy bills. (see page 23)

“Sadly we anticipate that these services will come under increasing pressure this winter.”





# UNITED BENEFICE WALKING GROUP

## THERE WILL BE NO WALK IN DECEMBER

### January Walk

*Chasetown and the Wyrley & Essington Canal*

**Date:** Sat 21st January 2023

**Start Time:** 10.30 a.m.

**Meeting Point:** Chasetown Town Football Club Car Park WS7 3QL  
(drive past the club on your left to the end of the road and the car park is on the right)

**Walk Details:** From Chasetown FC, we will walk into Chasetown, past St Annes's Church and various other Burntwood Heritage Trail sites (with little bits of information from me at various points about the history of the area). We will then cross over the footbridge to walk through part of Chasewater to reach the canal and then make our way back to the car park. All of the walk is on level, well surfaced paths.

**Lunch:** The Star,  
Lichfield Road,  
Burntwood,  
Staffordshire,  
WS7 0HJ

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

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

01543 262211

Angie King 07907 691053



# Warm Place of Welcome

*Thursday afternoons*

1.30—3pm

until the end of March

## At Lichfield Fire Station



Join us for a  
hot drink and  
a chat in their  
lovely warm  
meeting room

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

# ST MICHAEL'S MU REPORT

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Diocese of Lichfield

At the end of September we held our first meeting after the summer break. This took the form of a service led by June with readings by Angela and Betty on the theme of caring for our neighbour.

We welcomed Lynn Washbourne who has transferred from St Michael's Penkridge M.U. to our branch. It was good to have Abbie with us again. She thanked those of us who took part in pastoral visiting, likening them to the good neighbour in the first reading. She encouraged us to speak to her or to Maureen Brand if we needed backup. Abbie is keen to connect with people who are unable to get to church themselves.

Finally we thanked God for the life of our patron Elizabeth the second and prayed for the Royal family especially King Charles.

Our founder, Mary Sumner's prayer was "May I touch as many lives as possible for Thee; and every life I touch, do Thou by Thy spirit quicken, Whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I lead".

At our October meeting which was led by Margaret Hawksworth with an emphasis on Prisons Week the prayer of our founder still influenced our discussions. M.U. head office asks us to engage with our community and we talked about the ways we do including film club, messy church, first steps, assisting in school and as baptism sponsors. We try to continue Caroline's connection with The Pathway Project and to support their work. Abbie has encouraged us to help in administering the warm place which the local council is setting up at the Fire Station during the winter.



In November we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Marion Standing about medieval herbs and flowers. Marion has long been interested in reading about herbal remedies and has a collection of books on the subject. When she and her husband moved to Lichfield she worked in the herb garden at Erasmus Darwin's house. Now she and her helpers are restoring areas around our Cathedral of St Mary and St. Chad with an emphasis on planting flowers connected with The Virgin. Think of marigold, rosemary, ladies mantle and Christmas rose.

In medieval times illness was regarded as a punishment for misdeeds and people would make pilgrimage to a shrine or holy place to pray for forgiveness and healing. Hence the many pilgrims to Lichfield to pray to St Chad or the Virgin. Healing herbs would be given to the pilgrims. How successful they were is not known.

Herbs provided remedies for all ailments, culinary use, dyes and cosmetics. Best known to us nowadays are borage for the heart, camomile for peace of mind, fennel for happiness, lavender promotes relaxation. Lemon balm is a tonic for melancholy and stress, marigold soothes skin, rosemary cleanses and stimulates and so many more. Interestingly Marion produced a box of various modern day remedies, easily available which contain many of the herbs she had talked about.

*Betty Lyne*

## **CHANGING HEARTS IN CHANGING TIMES**

Sheran Harper Worldwide President

*'the beauty of our members lies in their*

encourages us that we can adjust and

*unwavering faith to always find a way*

thrive in a turbulent world

*when there seems to be no way'*

It is never easy to look forward and adapt to new experiences, especially at perhaps the most difficult time this world has seen in 100 years. The three global crises - the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and war - allowed little time for deep reflection and preparation, making us feel disoriented and uncomfortable.

In a changing world, it is necessary for us to be willing to be open-minded and adaptive in order to survive and flourish. The changes made in our own lives have taught us to embrace new and immediate ways of coping, and the stories resulting from our timely response to challenges in our dioceses and provinces indicate that our work has been taken to a new level, ensuring we remain relevant to life's opportunities as they are now, and for what they will be in the future.

### **Claudia's story**

Claudia is a committed member in the diocese of Trinidad and Tobago. She shared her story with me of how she adapted to allow God to use her to transform the lives of others. Claudia lost her husband and, years later, her son. Both were dark and painful times in her life and, in the aftermath of it all, she could have allowed herself to be held captive to her own negative thoughts. Instead, in the midst of her grief, Claudia reached forward and grasped the great future that lay ahead of her by holding tight to God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you.' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

Claudia asked God to make her life in Mothers' Union meaningful so

that, through him, she could serve others. She began ministering in a male prison, where she found it fulfilling to listen and pray for penitent fathers. The men were eager to participate in the rehabilitation programmes offered, including the MU parenting programme and worship sessions.

Claudia then realised that God was calling her to minister to the boys and teenagers in her parish and community, who were victims of unstable homes and communities. As part of her work at the Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre, she wrote a programme on Attitudinal Skills Training for young men in detention under the age of 18. 'As the boys go through the programme and I talk with them, I could just feel the anger melting away from them as they start to listen,' she explained. 'If I change the heart of even one of these boys, I know God is working his purpose out.'

Claudia is also involved with the 'Boys to Men' programme in her diocese, helping boys emotionally, physically and spiritually to cope with past traumatic experiences and preparing them for the work environment and family life in the future. An MU Parenting Facilitator, she also engages with young teenage mothers, encouraging them to attend parenting sessions so they can enhance their skills.

## **Acts of love**

Like Claudia, members around the world have been called to adapt their ways of working and thinking to make contributions to a variety of difficult situations. These little acts of love all around the world makes the work of Mothers' Union purposeful. Together with the willing, open-minded and adaptive hearts of members, Mothers' Union is able to offer new and transformative ways of coping in times of difficulty.

## News from the Hawksworth Family in China

October was another busy month for us. The children went back to school on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It was great to see so many children in school. The primary school is almost full now with 2 intakes for each year apart from year 2. They have the largest class of 24 students. In Chinese schools, class sizes are usually 50 students to a class. You often see education centres in shopping centres or on the street. These are in high demand as children either have 1-2-1 classes or are taught in small groups of 4 or 5. The weekends are the time for them to catch up with work, making sure they have a good enough education so they can go to university. It's a lot of pressure.

The boys and I managed to get to the mountains again during October. We went to WenChuan. We got to explore 2 caves. Both natural. The first cave was called 'Five Dragons'. It had a large main chamber as you walked in. We climbed some steps to look back into the main chamber from above where we could see a carving of one of the dragons. As we continued through the cave it got narrow with low ceilings. As we came out the other side we were surrounded by the outer part of the cave. It was very tall with trees and plants growing on the walls. As you looked to the sky, it was an almost perfect circle shaped opening. The tour guide told me locals called this area, 'The frog in the whole'. I understood what he meant. We felt very small looking up at the sky.

We returned back through the cave to a little side building where we had lunch. The people who run these places usually live there themselves. You'll often find yourself talking to someone's relative or have pets at your feet. We were made to feel very welcome. Lunch was local dishes of pork and vegetables, with rice and hot water to drink. There's a belief here that drinking hot water will keep out the cold. It's very popular.

After lunch, we went to the second cave. It's the largest natural cave



in Sichuan. It was a steep climb up to the entrance as it's on the mountain side, but thankfully it had been dry for a few days so it was quite easy. There were rumours of monkeys but thankfully we didn't see any. Troops are often big with dominant males. It can be quite frightening if you have small children with you, which we did.

The walk through the cave was good. There is a river that flows through during the Autumn but that had pretty much gone by the time we arrived. The riverbed was slippery but the walk was manageable. We heard lots of bats but didn't see any. We were a large group and were quite noisy. We got quite muddy but that's all part of the fun!

We returned back through the cave, to our starting point of the restaurant. We were then bussed back down the mountain to a small village. It was founded by a French missionary years ago. The street signs of the village are in French and at the gates of the village is a church that still holds services. It was very beautiful. We walked around and stumbled upon the earthquake museum.

Wenchuan was hit by an 8.0 earthquake in 2008. It killed 90,000 people and injured many more across Sichuan province. Some of the buildings have been turned into monuments to those who died. It was very poignant. There is a photo of 2 buildings opposite each other. The building on the left rose over a meter whereas the building on the right didn't move.

It's a beautiful part of the country with high mountains and a river running through it. You'll often find egrets and herons fishing in them.

October finished with a Halloween party at school. It was the first big event we've been able to hold since the restrictions eased. It was a huge success and both the senior and junior school students have a lot of fun. Everyone dressed up!

In early November, Peter organized a concert for the general public that was held in school. It was a ticketed event with a maximum of 250 people. One of China's leading cellists, Zhao Ming Wei, played Elgar's cello concerto. The event was a huge success with over 1300 people watching it live online. The next concert will take place on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Peter will feature a violinist playing a Mozart concerto.

The children are now getting ready for their Christmas concert at school. Rupert is singing 'Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow' on loop! It's very cute.

We hope you're all well. Look after yourselves.



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## **Response to the publication of the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)**

The Church of England's Lead Bishop for Safeguarding, Jonathan Gibbs, said: "The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has today published its final report which covers 15 different investigation strands including the Anglican Church in England and Wales, and Child Protection in religious institutions and settings. During these public hearings the Inquiry heard evidence from 725 witnesses including 94 who gave evidence as victims and survivors.

This final overall report is a reminder of the purpose of IICSA, a wide-ranging, statutory Inquiry investigating where institutions, including the Church, have failed to protect children in their care, building the case for change and improvements in how these institutions must protect children. The Church was one of the first institutions to call for this Inquiry and we are taking its recommendations very seriously.

The 458-page final report makes 20 concluding recommendations about a range of issues including Mandatory Reporting, Redress and the introduction of new Child Protection Authorities for England and Wales.

The Inquiry recommends that mandatory reporting applies to those undertaking regulated activity and those in positions of trust (which includes clergy). A new Seal of Confessional Working Party has been commissioned by the House of Bishops building on the work of a



previous body and will now include this recommendation in its work. As we heard at the Church of England's IICSA hearings the Church is committed to the reporting of any concern that could lead to the harm of a child or vulnerable adult, this is enshrined in House of Bishops policy. The Archbishop of Canterbury also stated his support for mandatory reporting legislation for regulated activities.

The Church's main focus in response must first and foremost be recognising the distress caused to victims and survivors, we are truly sorry for the hurt caused by the Church and by our failures in safeguarding and we thank them for courageously coming forward to the Inquiry and sharing their experiences.

We support the comments by the Inquiry Panel, that victims and survivors of child sexual abuse must not be treated as invisible, and we must ensure they have a voice. They are victims of serious and lifechanging crimes and should have been protected by the state and by the institutions, including the Church, where the crimes were committed.

We acknowledge our poor response to victims and survivors. We must ensure that our response to victims and survivors is meaningful, compassionate and personal.

We have already responded in detail to previous recommendations and a major programme of work is underway addressing each of the specific recommendations for the Church.

We will now consider today's recommendations in detail and respond fully to the Inquiry in due course. This is part of our commitment to making the Church a safer place for all."

We would like to thank all those who worked on the Inquiry for their tireless dedication to ensure the process was robust and fair and one that encouraged survivors and victims to come forward."

## **St. John's Church, Wall – Charitable Giving**

Christians have always been called to give and to care for those in need. We remember those poignant words of Jesus in Matthew chapter 25: 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

Whilst St. John's has traditionally always given a portion of its income to mission and relief charities, it has, over the last few years felt the need to suspend this, due to the fact that its annual income did not meet its expenditure. This was partly due to the large Parish Share that the church was expected to pay to the Diocese, some of which went to support the work of less well-off churches. (In that sense, St. John's was able to support the wider Christian church and its work).

Recently however, the change in the way that the new 'Common Fund' (which has replaced the Parish Share) is calculated, has contributed to the fact that, for the first time in a number of years, St. John's should not end the year with a deficit.

At a recent meeting, the PCC agreed to resume its charitable giving. It decided on two Christian-based charities, 'Tearfund' and 'Christians Against Poverty'. Both of these help people in their immediate need but also give them the skills to improve their own lives in the future.

Should you wish to find out more about them, their web addresses are:

<https://www.tearfund.org/> and <https://capuk.org/>

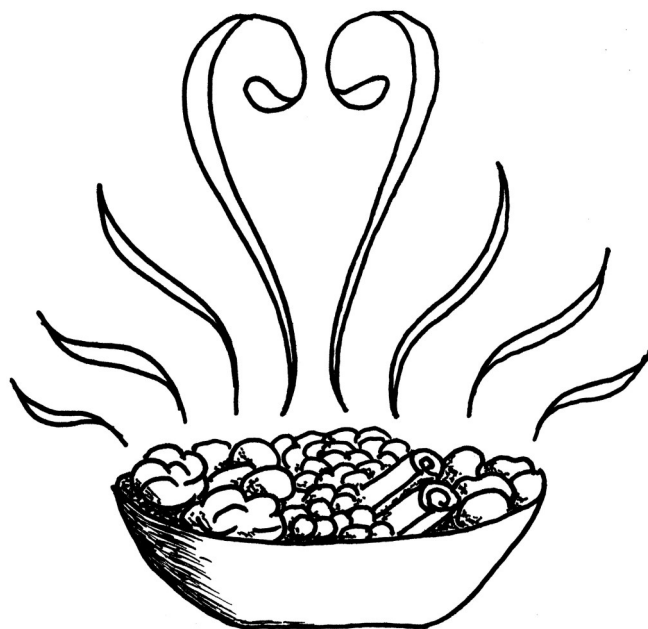
If you do not have access to the Internet, please feel free to contact me if you would like further information about our chosen charities.

Paul Wright

*Treasurer, St. John's Church, Wall*

## PROVERBS PRAYERS

Better a dish of  
vegetables with love



than a fattened  
calf with hatred

*( Proverbs 15.17—New International Version UK)*

Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by kings and angels. Be with all who are in need , especially during the cold winter months and at Christmas time. Be with those in pain or feeling lonely. Those who are struggling to make ends meet and with all who feel distant from celebrations. Help us to share your love with those who need it most. Amen.

*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>		
St Michael's	30th October	Kajetan Grzegozewski
St Michael's	6th November	Emelia Bacon

<b>Weddings</b>		
St John's	20th November	Stephanie Moore and Stephen Stanford

<b>Funerals</b>		
St Michael's	20th October	Ronald Pitt (interment of ashes)
St Michael's	17th November	Christine Doyle
St Michael's	21st November	David Turnell (interment of ashes)
St Michael's	22nd November	Beryl Hartley

# Bible Readings

**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

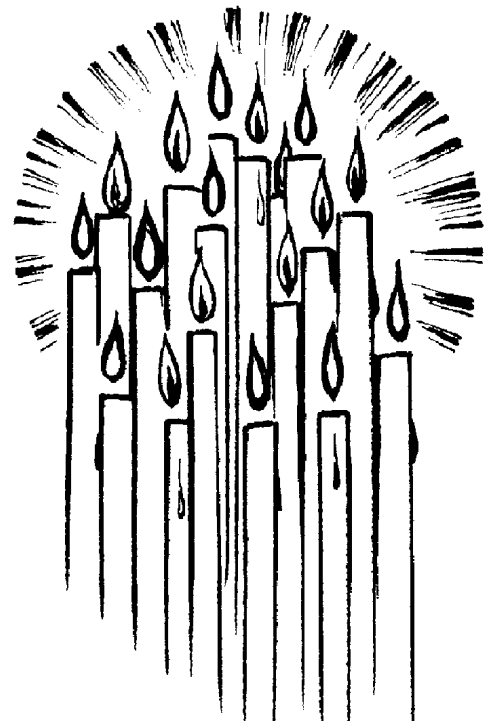
**Sunday 18th December**  
**4th Sunday after Advent**  
**[Purple]**  
Isaiah 7.10-16  
Matthew 1.18-end

**Saturday 24th December**  
**Midnight Service**  
**[White]**  
Isaiah 9.2-7  
Luke 2.1-20

**Sunday 25th December**  
**Christmas Day**  
**[White]**  
Hebrews 1.1-12  
John 1.1-14

**Sunday 1st January**  
**Baptism of Christ**  
**[White]**  
Isaiah 42.1-9  
Matthew 3.13-end

**Sunday 8th January**  
**Epiphany**  
**[White]**  
Ephesians 3.1-12  
Matthew 2.1-12



# St Michael's Rota – December 2022

<b>Sunday 8.00 am</b>	<b>4 December</b>	<b>11 December</b>	<b>18 December</b>	<b>25 December</b>
<b>Sidesperson</b>	Sandy Baker	David Bull	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith

<b>Sunday 10.00 am</b>	<b>4 December Family Praise</b>	<b>11 December</b>	<b>18 December</b>	<b>25 December Christmas Day</b>
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Maureen Brand Mike Jones	Pat Toplis Ray Allen	Enid Barry Brenda Liptrot	Viv and Stephen Oliver
<b>Reader</b>		Ray Allen	Angela Burgess	Kay Martin
<b>Servers</b>		Kay Martin David Shiel	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt	Kay Martin
<b>Communion Assistant</b>		N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Intercessor</b>		Ted Green	Elizabeth Salt	Kay Martin
<b>Coffee</b>	Angela Burgess Sonia Doidge	Judy Godfrey Lesley Allen	June Frayn Betty Lyne	

<b>24 December</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>23.15</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Christingle</b>	<b>Christingle</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Maureen Brand Ted Green	Maureen Brand Mike Jones	Pat Toplis
<b>Reader</b>			Alan Toplis
<b>Servers</b>	Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	Elizabeth Salt
<b>Intercessor</b>			Alan Toplis

<b>Sunday 6.00 pm</b>	<b>4 December</b>	<b>11 December</b>	<b>18 December</b>	<b>25 December</b>
<b>Sidespersons</b>			<b>Carol Service</b> Judy and Mike Godfrey	
<b>Reader</b>				
<b>Server/ Communion Assistant</b>				

## ..... and Finally

St. Michael's Film Club is certainly a Favourite with Sonia!!!

Having been asked to write a Review of the recent Film Club showing of "Dream Horse", I can do no better refer to the one given in the November edition of the Parish Magazine.

My two friends and I thoroughly enjoyed the film, many of the characters were well known on TV and the Silver Screen, which added to the enjoyment.

The film had that feel good factor, plus comedy, pathos, and excitement in spades.

With tea and cake served at the interval by the dedicated "Refreshment Team" what's not to like? I look forward to the December Film Club [see Page 15 ] .

***Sonia Doidge***

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Michael's Church</b></p> <p><b>Verger:</b> <i>Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</i></p> <p><b>Sacristan and Head Server:</b> <i>Maggie Easton</i> 255308</p> <p><b>Organist and Choirmaster:</b> <i>Dudley Ray</i> 07847 643373 <a href="mailto:dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk">dudleyrayuk@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Music Group:</b> <i>Richard Brooks 07918 906</i> 350</p> <p><b>Pastoral Care:</b> <i>June Frayn 264920</i></p> <p><b>Flowers:</b> <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> <i>Maureen Brand 264880</i></p> <p><b>Junior Praise:</b> <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p><b>Bell ringers:</b> <i>Gillian Eastwood 07568134115</i> Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. <a href="mailto:gillieastwood@gmail.com">gillieastwood@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Mothers Union:</b> <i>Elizabeth Allen 304938</i></p> <p><b>Social Team:</b> <i>Contact via the office 262211</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St John's Church, Wall</b></p> <p><b>Verger:</b> Hilary Barker 01543 482027</p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Maureen Brand 264880</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other Useful Numbers</b></p> <p><b>St Michael's School:</b> 227425</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Magazine</b></p> <p><b>Magazine Distributor:</b> <i>Liz Clarke 268862</i> <a href="mailto:liz.clarke@virgin.net">liz.clarke@virgin.net</a></p> <p><b>Magazine Editor:</b> <i>David Shiel</i> 01543320437" <a href="mailto:shielfamily@gmail.com">shielfamily@gmail.com</a></p>
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