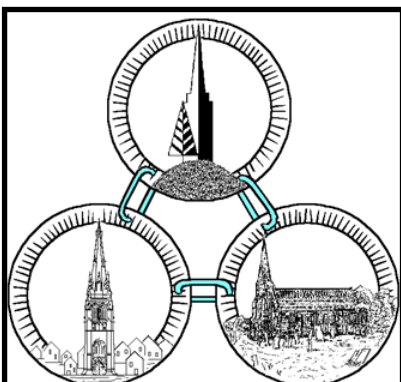


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2018



Ash Wednesday 14th February 2018



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

75p

<p>Rector: The Venerable Simon Baker, Archdeacon of Lichfield</p> <p>10 Mawgan Drive, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9SD. Tel: 01543 416232</p> <p>E-Mail: simonbaker57@outlook.com</p> <p>Day Off: Friday</p>	<p>Associate Minister (<i>Part-time</i>): The Revd. Linda Collins</p> <p>17, Leyfields, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7NJ. Tel: 07915 091128</p> <p>E-mail: lindacollins@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday</p>
<p>Associate Minister (<i>NSM Part-time</i>): The Revd. Ruth Bull</p> <p>36 Broadlands Rise, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9SF E-mail: dkbrlcb@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Assistant Minister (NSM) The Revd. Jeyan Anketell</p> <p>7 Wissage Lane, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6DQ</p>
<p>Reader: Lesley Allen</p> <p>21 Boley Close, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9AR Tel: 01543 251654 E-mail: lesley.allen21@googlemail.com</p>	<p>Reader: Phil Clayton</p> <p>Glenridding, 7 Thacker Drive, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6NS Tel: 01543 263244 E-mail: phil@philclayton.net</p>
<p>Reader: Dr Trevor James</p> <p>36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434</p>	<p>Reader: Peter Salt</p> <p>7 Redlock Field, Lichfield WS14 OAB Tel: 01543 250723 E-mail: peter.salt@btinternet.com</p>
<p>Reader: Alan Toplis</p> <p>Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Surgery</p> <p>For Baptisms, Banns and Weddings, staff are available at the Parish Office in St Michael's Church, Church Street on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings in the month by appointment only. Please telephone 01543 262211 to make an appointment.</p>
<p>St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED</p>	<p>St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 OAS</p>

United Benefice Office

St Michael's Church, Church Street, 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

Reflection February

Is it really eight and a half years since you all welcomed me into the Benefice at the start of my curacy - places and people I have come to love?

You all indeed made me feel very welcome and helped me along the way. I learnt such a lot from the Ministry Team, with their wide and differing skills. Church wardens, vergers and other church officers offered much support, helping me to find my feet in the life of St. Michael and St. Mary, and at St. John's.

Linda outlined the many aspects of church life I have been involved in during my time with you all, in last month's magazine so I won't repeat them here.

So what, in my time here with you, has been most important to me?

I think it is our church family, often seen in our "Occasional Services".

At baptisms we welcome children and adults into the family of God, the beginning of their life-long journey with and towards God. A journey we can accompany them on; we are family.

Again at weddings, the couples by marrying in church are inviting God to be part of their relationship.

And at the farewells of our loved ones, we commend them into God's loving care; we ask for his comfort and strength for those who mourn.

It does not stop there. Our prayer and pastoral work is another aspect of our church family, an aspect we all participate in.

We pray privately and corporately for those in need of our support; the Pastoral Visiting Team work incredibly hard, in visiting the sick and the nursing homes; many of you visit as friends, all taking the care and love from our churches.

Others do the “housework”, the “Big Clean”, the regular cleaning of the brasses and church, the beautiful flowers at special times and more recently the development of the churchyards. All these are part of our varied family life.

St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 talks about being one body composed of many parts, no part being more important than another and all needed for the whole to function properly.

When you look around our church family and see the gifts that we have each been given to use for the good of others we are indeed blessed.

In giving we receive, but there are times when we also need to accept and be thankful. We share times of both joy and sorrow because we are family.

That joy extends to our worship, when we gather to sing God’s praises, to listen to his word and receive his grace; this strengthens our “family” ties.

But the time has come to say goodbye. I shall miss you all and what you have brought into my life. I journey on elsewhere but you will always be in my heart and prayers.

Thank you all for your love and support, my sisters and brothers in Christ.

Denise

“And now faith, hope, and love abide,
and the greatest of these is love”

1 Corinthians 13.13





CHAD BLOG

Variety enables enrichment

I have over the last months been watching the quite sudden physical decline of somebody I have known well for many years. From being a very active and agile 83.6 year old, she has become an 83.9 year old who finds mobility difficult, who experiences almost constant pain, and who needs daily help to perform quite ordinary daily actions. It has been an awkward and testing period for her and for those who know and love her, and uncertainty about the future has compounded the difficulty. Probably you may know somebody going through a similar experience, or possibly this is where you yourself are in your own life now.

My friend has been remarkable for the cheerfulness and resilience with which she has mostly greeted this, and she has been well supported by family, neighbours and fellow church members.

Sometimes, though, the realisation of what she has lost and is losing must make her want to cry, and I think that things have been made all the harder for her by the way she has always thought of health and well-being as a moral issue. What I mean is, that for most of her life she has regarded it as an ethically good thing to be active and busy, a clear duty to walk far and exercise hard, and even a conscientious obligation to go swimming before breakfast each day.

Certainly this is no bad set of values, and it has kept her well for decades. But now that her body will no longer allow her to do the things she once did so easily, there is the danger that she will think of herself as a moral failure, a burden on others, and generally useless. In fact, her strong Christian faith has helped her to get to the point where she can see through the temptation of worthlessness to realise that she still has worth and value in her new condition, but it has not been easy for her to get there.

The kind of physical disabling which I have described in her later years is something that any of us could experience at any point in our lives, whether for a while or indefinitely. And for some people it is, in one way or another, a condition which marks the whole of their lives. We label these people as 'the disabled', but the deeper reality is that they are women, men and children like ourselves, differing from us only in that they are encountering constraint and limitation in a more comprehensive or permanent way. Because they have lived for years in this way, there may well be truths which we can learn from them about the living of our lives; in any case, whatever our differing abilities, we can be mutually enriched through our companionship, mutual service and prayer within the church. Nor we should we forget that the church itself is the Body of Christ, the fellowship of One who won our healing through his physical wounds.

In the autumn, I licensed The Revd Zoe Heming as Enabling Church Adviser for our diocese. Herself needing to use a wheelchair for much of her daily life and work because of chronic pain, Zoe not only knows

the reality of disability in practice, but has also reflected and prayed about its meaning for Christian discipleship. She has written: 'God walks with us and can help us be less afraid of not being who we were aged 20 - faith and gifts can still grow even as our bodies decline. There are so many simple, inexpensive ways to worship together and embrace one another's gifts to make sure that no one is isolated from church life or left feeling like a "bad Christian"'.

All of us want to be kind to those who have to cope with disabilities in their lives, but we also need to realise how much we can learn from one another. All of us want our churches to be places of welcome for people of differing abilities, but there are many practical issues which we need to look at to make that welcome a reality. Zoe will be available to work with all of us through the coming years, and she would be glad to hear from you. She can be contacted by email - enabling.church@lichfield.anglican.org - and by phone - 01952 810942.

+Michael

January 2018



<http://churchesforall.org.uk/>

Magazine Subscriptions

At the end of our annual collection of subscriptions there is always someone we are unable to contact - either because of illness, holidays or inability to answer the door. You can still subscribe by sending a cheque payable to P.C.C. of St. Michaels and St. Marys for £7.50 to [2 Wightman Close Lichfield WS14 9RR](#)

Many thanks to those who persevere to collect subscriptions at this time of the year. *Barbara Homewood 255909*

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

First Steps



Monday 12th February

10am St Michael's

Family Praise

Sunday 11th February

10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



Sunday 18th February

4.30 – 5.45pm

in St Michael's Church Hall

Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD PRAYER DIARY

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/documents/category/prayer-diary/>

Saturday 3rd Feb

Prayer for the Week:

Child of our longing,
hope of ancient days,
comfort for the lowly,
challenge for the proud,
you come to challenge our established structures of power,
you come for the falling and rising of many.
Come now and open our hearts to your presence in our
midst.
Amen.

(Candlemas prayer – Dreamers and Stargazers; Chris Thorpe 2017)

Deadlines!

Magazine:

Usually 2nd Sunday every Month.

Contact David Bull

Pew Sheet:

7:30am every Thursday Morning.

Contact Parish Office

Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion

10:00am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

1st Sunday 12:30pm

Holy Baptism

2nd Sunday 6:00pm

Holy Communion

3rd Sunday 4:30pm Church Hall

Messy Church

4th Sunday 6:00pm

Choral Evensong

Tuesday

School Service

Wednesday

9:30am Holy Communion

Regular Services at St John's

Sundays @ 10am

1st Sunday - Holy Communion

2nd Sunday - Holy Communion

3rd Sunday - Morning Prayer

4th Sunday - Holy Communion

5th Sunday - Wall Praise

Baptism @ 11.30am

4th Sunday

Music in the Benefice

St Michael's Church

Wednesdays

6.30pm Girls Choir

7.15pm Other parts &
St Michael's Singers

Monday before 2nd Sunday

7:30pm Music Group

Prayer Group, St Michael's

1st Wednesday of the month

Contact June Frayn (264920)

Brenda Liptrot (251863)



Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

Parish Surgery

Every 1st and 3rd Monday by Appointment from 6:30pm at the Parish office in St Michael's Church. Please call 01543 262211

Baptism

Preparation First Tuesday at
8:00pm at St Michael's

BENEFICE LENT GROUPS

The Lent Group this year will be
looking at

"Questions of Faith"

The workshops will take place in St
Michael's Church

at 7.30pm on

Monday 19th February

Questions of Life and Death,

Dying and Funerals

Monday 5th March

Monday 19th March

The Lent Saturday Trip
will be on **March 24th**
details to follow!

LENT & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday	St John, Wall
7.30pm		
Sunday 11th March	Mothering Sunday Service	St Michael, Lichfield
10am		
Sunday 11th March	Mothering Sunday Service	St John, Wall
10am		
Sunday 25th March	Palm Sunday Service	St Michael, Lichfield
10am		
Sunday 25th March	Palm Sunday Service	St John, Wall
10am		
Monday 26th March	Compline	St Michael, Lichfield
7pm		
Tuesday 27th March	Compline	St Michael, Lichfield
7pm		
Wednesday 28th March	Compline	St John, Wall
7pm		
Thursday 29th March	Maundy Thursday	St Michael, Lichfield
7.30pm		
Friday 30th March	Good Friday Service	St John, Wall
2pm		
Friday 25th March	Messy Church	St Michael, Lichfield
2pm		
Sunday 1st April	Easter Sunday Service	St Michael, Lichfield
10am		
Sunday 1st April	Easter Sunday Service	St John, Wall
10am		

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40-day season of fasting that is preparation for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter.



The name comes from the tradition of putting a small cross of ash on peoples forehead as the words from Genesis 3:19 are spoken:

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The Ash comes from palm branches that were burned after the Palm Sunday service the previous year.

Attending the Ash Wednesday Service is a way for Christians to mark the start of the period of Lent. Many Christians will ‘give up something’ for Lent, which could include anything from giving up chocolate, vowing not to gossip, or being less selfish. Others will make a vow to do more for others including volunteering and working for social justice. All Christians are expected to spend more time in prayer and reflection as Lent is considered by many to be an opportunity for spiritual transformation.

This year’s Ash Wednesday Service for the Benefice will be held on **Wednesday 14th February , 7.30pm at St John’s Church, Wall.** Everyone from St Michael’s and the parish are welcome to attend.



CHRISTMAS AT ST MICHAEL'S

Our church looked magnificent this year. The choice of silver and white was inspirational and really enhanced the stonework and when the Christmas angels arrived, it was just perfect! Thank you so much to all those involved for giving me and others so much pleasure.

Liz Clarke

LENT

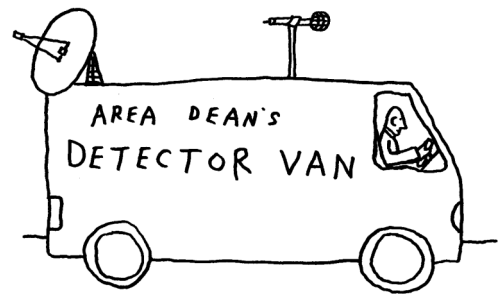
ACTIVITIES THAT ARE FROWNED UPON

EDUCATIONAL
LEAFLETS

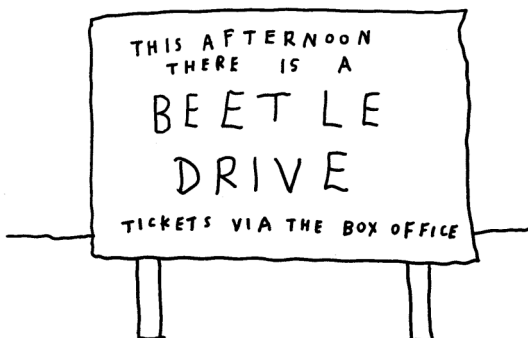
FREE
SAMPLES



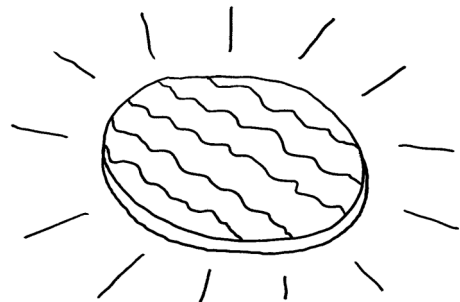
PARISH BREWERY TRIPS



FOUL LANGUAGE ANYWHERE IN THE DEANERY

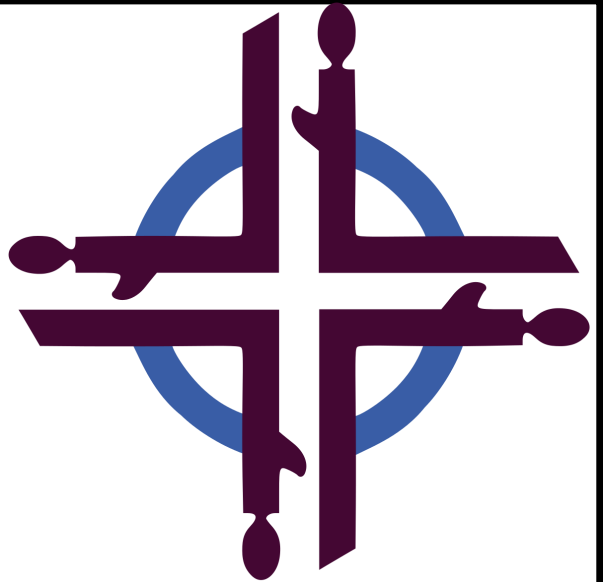


HAVING TOO MUCH FUN



CHOCOLATE BISCUITS AFTER THE 10 A.M.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



“All God's Creation is Very Good !”

by

the women of Suriname

Friday 2nd March 2018

At Life Church Lichfield
Netherstowe

Morning Service – 10.30 am

Evening Service – 7.30 pm

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY.

We had our first Working Party of 2018 on Saturday January 13th. The morning was quite cold, but dry, so it was ideally suited to working outdoors. A good number of people came along, and we were able to remove large numbers of brambles, holly saplings and ivy plants, creating a big open area at the bottom of the Churchyard. It was interesting to see quite a lot of bulbs coming up, especially bluebells, so we shall move away from this area now to allow the bulbs to grow.

Do join us if you can for our **Working Party sessions in February and March.**

We meet on Saturday February 3rd., and Saturday March 10th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on both days.

Tea/Coffee and Cake will be provided at each session!

Ray Allen 01543 251654.





Somewhere to turn when someone dies

LOCAL VOLUNTEERING IN RETIREMENT

We are a vibrant group of around 50 volunteers providing support and advice to locally bereaved people in the Lichfield, Tamworth, Rugeley and Cannock areas.

We are currently looking for Administration volunteers who will provide support to the Bereavement volunteers but who do not, themselves work with clients. Would you be interested in volunteering a few hours per week to support Cruse Bereavement Care in South Staffordshire?

You would join an experienced team who provide core admin by checking emails, booking meeting rooms, checking & responding to voicemails. You would help with the planning and minuting of meetings which take place locally once per month and undertake various duties which provide support to both the Area Committees and Bereavement team.

Some experience of Microsoft Word or Excel would be an advantage for report writing and obtaining statistics. Full training would be given by working alongside the current Admin Coordinator

All of our volunteers work flexibly from home, with attendance at occasional meetings which usually take place in the evenings. Out-of-pocket and travel costs are reimbursed. You will need to have your own laptop or PC with Internet access.

For further information please contact Lynn on 01543 433479
(voicemail) or email southstaffordshire@cruse.org.uk

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 Film Club

1. Victoria and Abdul

(Cert 12. 107 min. Drama. 2017.)

The unexpected true story of an unusual friendship
in the later years of Victoria's reign.

Stars Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Eddie Izzard.

Monday February 5th.

1.30pm start

Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church Hall

(behind Aldi). All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

2. Gifted

(Cert 12. 101 min. Comedy/Drama. 2017.)

Frank Adler, a single man (Chris Evans), is dedicated
to raising his young niece Mary (Mckenna Grace), a
child prodigy. But her grandmother (Lindsay Duncan)
– has other plans for her granddaughter.

Monday March 5th 1.30pm start

MOVIE REVIEW

In spite of the bitterly, near freezing weather outside, the church hall was full to bursting point for the first St. Michael's Film Club of 2018. Our own caterers came up trumps with a choice of two deliciously home-made soups, plus the usual tasty buffet lunch which preceded the film screening. Where else in Lichfield could you get better value for money - refreshment and a film for just £2.50?

In case you wondered the original team of four volunteers who prepare and serve the lunch so well, came together ad hoc, but just like Topsy has grown. They have recently been joined by a gentleman, a former chef, who has contributed various delicacies including lemon drizzle cake and mince pies. It is amazing what goodwill and talent we have in our midst.



The film we saw was "Hampstead" which we "noticed" but did not critically review in last month's magazine. Idyllically sunny scenes on Hampstead Heath, a picnic on Karl Marx's grave in Highgate Cemetery, combined with unlikely opposing protest movements to tell a touching story of love between two dissimilar people. There were some memorable laugh-out-loud moments for example the appearance at the surprise birthday party for our heroine (Diane Keaton) by the Hampstead Ukelele Orchestra. A happy but somewhat quirky ending sent our audience out into the cold with happy and warm feelings.

Keen readers of this page will have noticed over time that our films have been reviewed by a number of different writers - each giving their own "take" on the films shown. We are very keen to enlarge this pool of talent and would invite anyone who interested in joining ranks by making themselves known to Linda or myself. You do not have to be a genius to join our us but it may help if you have a literary bent and are able to send your offerings electronically to the editor. If you happen to be on a creative writing course or have ambitions here is a golden opportunity to get in some practice.

Many thanks are due to Linda for the work that goes into choosing the films, many of which are new releases, and also to Ron our faithful projectionist.

We all appreciate the sub-titles whether our hearing is good or impaired.

Margaret Frean



United Benefice Walking Group

This month we invite you to join us for a canal walk in **Handsacre and Armitage**.

We meet at **10.00 a.m.** at **St. Michael's on Saturday 24th February**.

We begin by parking at **The Olde Peculiar**, The Green, Handsacre WS15 4DP . We will start with the main part of our walk along the Trent and Mersey canal to St John the Baptist Church, Armitage. From there we will return along the canal to the pub for coffee at 12 noon. The pub have asked that we pre-order our food, so could you please contact the office for an order form if you intend to join us—office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

After coffee, we will have a short walk around Handsacre before lunch which includes walking along a public footpath through an area of **trees and shrubs, which may be muddy depending on the weather in the weeks prior to the walk. There is one wooden barrier to duck under.** We will then return to the pub for our lunch.

The walk is **3.75 miles long** and is mainly on the canal towpath. . Walking shoes or boots are advised. There are no stiles in the section of the walk after coffee.

We should be **back at Lichfield at around 3.00 p.m.**

Join us if you can for the February walk along the canal and around one of Lichfield's local villages.

Ray Allen. 251654





St Michael's Mothers' Union
will be holding a

Lent Lunch

**on Saturday 3 March 2018
from 12 noon – 2 pm
in the Church Hall**

***Soup, bread, tea/coffee
Cakes for sale***

Tickets £3.50p or £10 for family of 4

***Available at the 10 am service
at St Michael's
or from Elizabeth Allen
01543 304938***

Mothers Union

At the end of November we held an Advent Meditation led by Lesley and Kath. We listened to the song “The Impossible Dream” from “The Man from La Mancha” in which the singer sang of following the star to reach his dream. Lesley pointed out that there were similarities to Mary who had lived out a seemingly impossible dream.

We thought about our dreams and wishes for the future which included a cure for cancer, peace in the Middle East and religious tolerance. Clean water for all and a fairer share of amenities between the haves and the have nots. One amusing but heartfelt wish was for a gigantic mobile phone crash.

Discussions followed on ways we could follow the star and make a difference, locally and by supporting national charities.

We sang a version of “The Lord’s my Shepherd” with its beautiful chorus,

“And I will trust in you alone, And I will trust in you alone,
For your endless mercy follows me, Your goodness will lead me home”

The most important word being TRUST. We made cards to remind us to trust in God when following our star.

Our meeting in December should have been a Christmas party but the weather put paid to our plans and we held our celebrations in January instead. Lesley had prepared a quiz which was won by

Marjorie who revealed an admirable knowledge of Biblical characters and we enjoyed a shared supper. Why is other people's food so much more enticing than one's own? It was another chilly evening but we had Sonia's fruit punch to warm us (non-alcoholic but delicious). We normally sing carols at the Christmas party but that seemed out of place in January and we chose some hymns for Epiphany instead.

The next meeting will be the AGM and in February we plan to have a meal out. Let's hope there is no snow to spoil our plans again.

Betty Lyne

GAMES

SUITABLE FOR CHURCH PARTIES

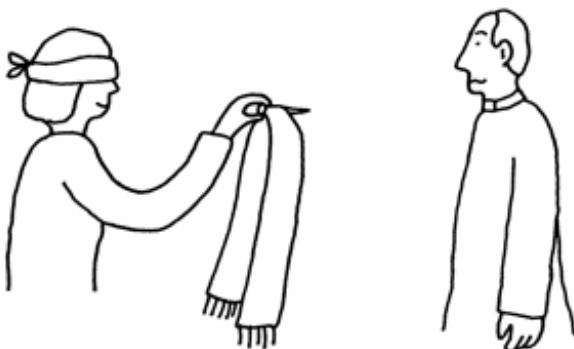
MUSICAL PRAYERS



PASS THE COLLECTION PLATE



PIN THE STOLE ON THE VICAR



THAT ONE WHERE YOU DRESS UP IN A CASSOCK AND BIRETTA (AND EAT CHOCOLATE WITH A KNIFE AND FORK)



MOTHERING SUNDAY WITH MOTHERS' UNION



One of Mothers' Union's objects is to help families around the world, especially those who are in particular need. For Mothering Sunday, members give practical gifts to needy mothers and families as an alternative to (or as well as!) giving Mums flowers or chocolates. These gifts include materials to start small businesses, and projects such as literacy and parenting skills, all to promote independence and the ability to feed and educate their families.

If you would like to join us in this witness you can either give towards our joint Branch collection which will buy one or more gifts, or

Take one of the leaflets at the back of church and send off for your own gift in thanks for, or in memory of, your Mum.

For more details, or to donate via our branch, please speak with our Treasurer, Lynn Rock or June Frayn (264920).

LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP

There will be a talk:

'The history of tracking bird movements' by Colin McShane of Brewood Ringers.

At Wade Street church

Frog Lane,

Lichfield WS13 6HL

On **Monday February 12th**

At 7:45.

Admission £3:00, under 16 free.

The talk will be followed by a demonstration of bird ringing

At Birches Valley Forestry Centre, Cannock Chase WS15 2UQ.

On **Saturday Feb 17th at 9:30**

The event depends on reasonable weather.

Donations to Brewood Ringers to help with their vital conservation work would be appreciated.

Many Thanks

Peter Norbury (Programme Secretary)

PRISON FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP

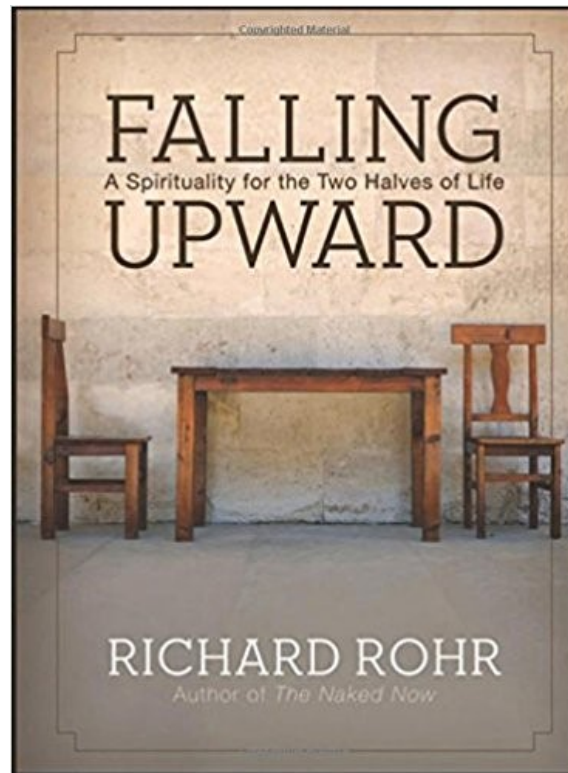
As a member of the Lichfield branch of Prison Fellowship I have been going to these meetings for the last few years since I began writing letters to serving prisoners in other prisons. At the moment there are about seven of us from different churches around Lichfield and we support each other and talk about the general situation of the governing bodies of prisons, the prisoners, the chaplaincy teams and, in particular, what is happening in Swinfen. Then having this information we pray. If you would like further information please contact me. **Caroline Green** Tel 01542 262342 Email ctgreen@ntlworld.com or directly with **Angie Lovell**.

The HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall Prison Fellowship prayer group uphold and support in prayer the chaplaincy team, the staff and the residents of our local prison. Where possible we offer practical support too. **Do you have a heart to pray for or volunteer with us, for those incarcerated and for those who serve them?** We are always looking for new members to join our team. We meet at 9.30 a.m. for one hour on the last Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is therefore **Thursday 25th January 2018** at 7 Falcon Drive, Whittington, WS14 9PF.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Angie Lovell (PF area leader) angelovell@aol.com or
mobile 07866 195187

BOOK REVIEW



Falling Upward by Richard Rohr

This is a book about the spirituality for the two halves of life and the differences between them. Using insights from myth, psychology and faith, Rohr explores the changes that can come in the personality and life of faith, in particular the growth of wise elders for the community.

It fascinated me that the qualities necessary for the first half of life he sees as needing to be substantially changed, if not reversed, in the second half, that we don't just stay still if we ignore the growth God offers, but risk going rigid and fixed in our attitudes.

So Rohr describes the 'loyal soldier', very necessary for the first half of life but not the second. He describes a ritual in Japan for when soldiers return from battle but cannot fit into the community again,

where the community thanks them for all they have done and celebrates it, then a wise elder stands and tells him things to free him for life back among them.

Rohr begins with the Odysseus myth explaining some of the stages of the journey illustrated by the second journey that Odysseus undertakes. Odysseus starts by sacrificing a bull, a breeding boar and a battering ram, three symbols of immature male energy. Rohr leaves it to women to come up with their own symbols and I'd be fascinated to learn what other women think of.

He expects the change to start around 40, or from a difficult experience like serious illness, or the death of someone we value. However it is not a sudden change, and grows slowly over the years if we choose to allow it space. So Rohr also talks of the attitude differences between being 50 and 70. The change is an invitation from God, so never forced on anyone.

The book is structured in such a way that you could read on through, or you could stop at the end of the short sections within each chapter. I read it the latter way through Advent to the first week of Christmas, so it would work well for Lent, and maybe into the beginning of the great 50 days. I found it gave me a great deal to reflect on, and I plan to read it again in Lent. So I recommend this book as an option this Lent.

Chris Polhill

TUESDAY CLUB LECTURES

TUESDAY 13th February 2018



SPEAKER:

Dr. Trevor James

The Dark Ages: a Local History Perspective

**This is a last minute change of
programme due to the illness of the
planned speaker.**

COMMENCING AT 2.30PM FOR APPROX ONE HOUR

EVERYONE WELCOME

**ENTRY FEE £3.00 PER PERSON ON THE DOOR
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

VENUE:

St Michael's Church Hall

PROCEEDS TO ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FUNDS

WALL NEWS

Community Carols in Wall Village Hall

January 2018 already and still writing about events at Wall over the Christmas period.

This was the last time that Rev. Denise Youngs was to lead our carol singing in the village hall. Denise has undertaken leading the social event from a while back starting when she was a curate with the Benefice. It has continued to be a pleasant event as a lead up to Christmas, and the informality of the evening adds to the relaxed atmosphere.

Chris Dewhurst was good enough to play the music, essential to leading the singing. We thank him for not only playing the music but bringing all the necessary equipment to providing sound.

With carols to be sung, readings, refreshments and the making of angels we had a pleasant time. The weather had been particularly harsh prior to that evening and some events had needed to be cancelled. We were therefore fortunate that the evening could go ahead.

The traditional raffle of two gorgeous Christmas cakes were won by Chris Dewhurst who had a very pleasant surprise when he realised how special the prize was and Joy Chittock a member of our congregation. Looking back to last year's winner I note that the winner was Rupert who played the music last year. Maybe it pays to come and play the carols just to be in with a chance of winning the Christmas cake.

Hilary Barker

Ramblings, February 2018

It is some time since I wrote a contribution for the Parish magazine and a lot has happened in my life during that time. Before we realise it, change comes upon us, sometimes for the good and sometimes bringing difficulties which we had not expected. As I write I think of the Christmas period which has just come to an end with the frantic spending and shopping. How often do we try to show our love by the size, cost and number of the presents we buy. How the world has changed since the Christ child was born in poverty to bring a message of hope and resurrection in a life of hardship and suffering. Somehow we get swept along by the world around us. Let us take time this year to reflect and to pray for wisdom as we live in our world of change.

Change also comes to our churches. Here at St. John's we have had the privilege of Denise's ministry in our village and church for the last 7 years. We thank God for her, for her commitment, her enthusiasm and hard work, for the time she has given to us as individuals and as a church and for her spiritual leadership of our community in Wall. We pray for her in her retirement as she moves to live near her daughter, Emma and her son in law that she may have a rich and full life as she continues to serve God in her new home and community.

Our village and our world has changed. I feel privileged that I have been able to experience something of village life since I came to church in Wall. Nowadays new folk have moved into the village with different lives. As we cope with change in our communities how will we bring the Good News of Christ to a new generation who maybe no longer

relate to the old ways of doing things? I am reminded of the well known poem....

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East

Christine Higgs

WALL WI

There will be a Quiz and Puds Night on **Saturday 24th March**, 7.30pm at Wall Village Hall. Tickets £6, contact Aleen on 481096

Bible Readings

Sunday 4th February
2nd Sunday before Lent
[Green]

Colossians 1.15-20
John 1.1-14

Sunday 11th February
Sunday next before Lent
[Green]

2 Corinthians 4.3-6
Mark 9.2-9

Wednesday 14th February
Ash Wednesday
[Purple]

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10
Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Sunday 18th February
First Sunday of Lent
[Purple]

Genesis 9.8-17
Mark 1.9-15

Sunday 25th February
Second Sunday of Lent
[Purple]

Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16
Mark 8.31-end

Sunday 25th February
EVENSONG
Second Sunday of Lent
[Purple]

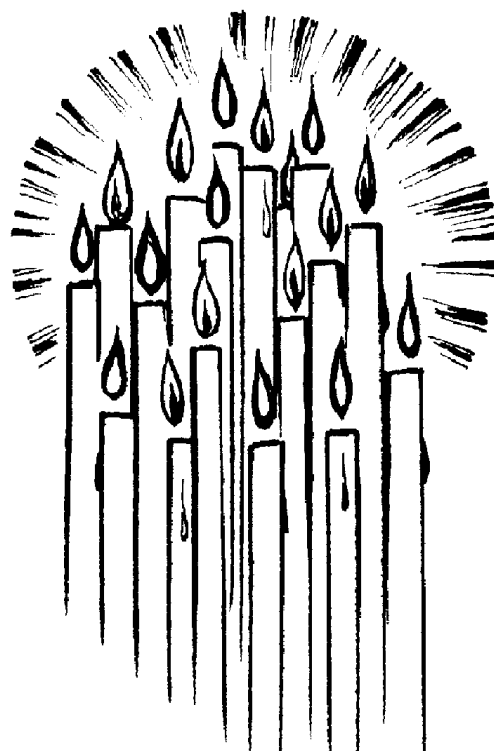
Isaiah 31.1-11
Galatians 3.1-9,23-end

Sunday 4th March
Third Sunday of Lent
[Purple]

Exodus 20.1-17
John 2.13-22

Sunday 11th March
Mothering Sunday
[Purple]

1 Samuel 1.20-end
Luke 2.33-35



From The Registers

Baptism



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Wedding



St Michael's	16th Dec	Mark Scott Mullarkey & Rebecca Ashleigh Sutton
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At Rest

St Michael's	18th Dec	Doreen Dutton	83
St Michael's	20th Dec	Rena White	84
St Michael's	22nd Dec	Maurice 'Moe' Tweed	70

St Michael's Rota - February 2018

Sunday 8.00 am St Michael's	4 February	11 February	18 February	25 February
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith

Sunday 10.00 am St Michael's	4 February	11 February Family Praise	18 February	25 February
Welcomers	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Maureen Brand	Shirley Trelfa	Anne Lingwood
Sidespersons	Pat Toplis David Bull	Viv and Stephen Oliver	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Barbara Home-wood Ray Allen
Reader	Brenda Liptrot		Mike Godfrey	Elizabeth Salt
Servers	Maggie Easton Peter Salt		Elizabeth Allen Phil Clayton	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
Communion Assistant	Peter Salt		Elizabeth Allen	Kay Martin
Intercessor	David Bull		Phil Clayton	Stephen Barton
Coffee	Brenda Liptrot Brenda Eley	Alison Anketell Pam Towle	June Frayn Betty Lyne	Lynn and David Edge
Junior praise	TBA		TBA	TBA
Healing				TBA
Transport	Martin Dewes	Elizabeth Allen	Betty Bradbury	Brenda Liptrot
Flowers	TBA	TBA	No flowers	No flowers

Sunday 12.30 pm St Michael's	4 February	Reader	Intercessor	Server
Baptism		June Frayn	Caroline Green	Maggie Easton

Sunday 6.00 pm St Michael's	4 February No service	11 February Communion	18 February No service (Messy church 4.30 pm)	25 February Evensong
Sidesperson		David Rock		Margaret Frean
Reader		Phil Clayton		Margaret Frean
Server/ Communion Assistant		Phil Clayton		

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