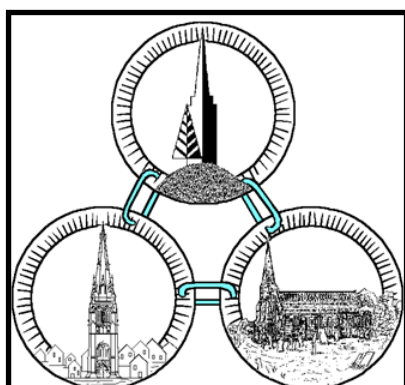


# THE PARISH MAGAZINE

## June 2018



Sadhu Sundar Singh, evangelist and teacher of the Christian faith  
19th June 1929—see page 12



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

**75p**

<b>Rector:</b> <b>The Venerable Simon Baker,</b> <b>Archdeacon of Lichfield</b> 10 Mawgan Drive, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9SD. Tel: 01543 416232 Email: <a href="mailto:simonbaker57@outlook.com">simonbaker57@outlook.com</a>  Day Off: Friday	<b>Associate Minister (Part-time):</b> <b>The Revd. Linda Collins</b> 17, Leyfields, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7NJ. Tel: 07915 091128 Email: <a href="mailto:lindacollins@hotmail.co.uk">lindacollins@hotmail.co.uk</a>  Days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
<b>Assistant Minister (NSM)</b> <b>The Revd. Dr. Stephen Barton</b> The Master's House, St John's Hospital, St John Street, LICHFIELD WS13 6PB Email: <a href="mailto:stephen@the-bartons.com">stephen@the-bartons.com</a>	<b>Associate Minister (NSM Part-time):</b> <b>The Revd. Ruth Bull</b> 36 Broadlands Rise, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9SF Email: <a href="mailto:dkbrlcb@hotmail.com">dkbrlcb@hotmail.com</a>
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<b>Reader: Alan Toplis</b> Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: <a href="mailto:alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk">alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk</a>	

## 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](mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk)

### St Michael's Church

Church Street,  
Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED

### St John's Church

Green Lane,  
Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS

# Reflections for June

*Where there's life there's hope. Hope springs eternal.*

There are many traditional sayings about hope. Hope is a word that we often use in everyday conversation, but how often do we consider what it really means and how important it is?

Recently, Simon, Linda and I attended the Diocesan Clergy Conference which took the concept of hope as its theme. We heard some inspirational speakers and had the chance to contemplate this word and theme. So it seemed that this would be an ideal opportunity to share some thoughts on this subject.

Hope can be thought of as being no more than wishful thinking – *I hope the weather will be nice on Saturday; I hope I win the lottery!* But hope, for a Christian, when combined with faith, is so much more. It is indeed closer to certainty. It is a belief in what will happen in the future.

In 1 Corinthians 13:13, St Paul wrote “And now faith, hope and love abide, these three...” How often does hope get overlooked? We talk a lot about faith and about love, but somehow hope gets squeezed out. These three go together and they all look forward to the future, to what God will do in times to come, and that future is assured by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So what prevents us from being people of hope? The greatest enemy of hope is fear.

The world today can seem a frightening place. There are so many areas of the world where peace is broken or threatened. Leaders of the most powerful nations of the world utter threats and dark warnings about the future. The media seem to revel in stirring up fear and anxiety in their audience. But for Christians this should not take away our hope for the future. Anxiety and fear must not be the motivation for what we do – hope should be.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote, “Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite the darkness”. As someone who experienced much darkness in the life of his own country, during the apartheid era in South Africa, this is a particularly poignant sentence.

Lighting a candle can be an immensely powerful symbol of hope. When first lit in a dark room, a candle flame can seem very small and insignificant, but as your eyes adjust, it seems to burn more brightly and to illuminate more and more dark corners, and so it is with hope.

It can be a challenge at times to remain hopeful, with all that is going on in our own lives and in the wider world but we have so much to be thankful for, especially if we think about other people around the world. Yet we can easily fall into the trap of being anxious and worried about the future. We should try to see the positives around us rather than concentrating on the negatives. We should always be looking for signs of hope.

As Christians we need to set an example by embodying hope in the way we live our lives. Lu Xun, a Chinese writer, wrote, “Hope is like a path in the countryside: originally there was no path – yet as people are walking all the time in the same spot, a way appears.” If we walk the way of hope, then the way of hope will open up for others to follow and to develop that way through life.

So let us all aim to be people of hope in a world of fear so that others may see that we have something that they too want to discover, that will give them hope too – the Christian faith.

Ruth





Seen outside a Methodist Church café in Cape Town,  
South Africa.....



## CHAD BLOG

About 15 years ago I was trying to make it as an academic theologian. This is a pretty niche area and others have written helpfully about some of the challenges of that world. (See this great blog from Lucy Peppiatt, <http://theologicalmisc.net/2018/01/female-principal-pastor-theologian/>)



My experience was of being around a lot of people who were different to me, but on first glance mostly seemed quite similar to each other. There still aren't all that many women in systematic theology and not everyone thinks that a distinct West Midlands accent is an inducement to take someone seriously. At a conference, at which I felt the lack of belonging to one of the dominant cliques, I chatted to a systematic theologian, Karen Kilby. I made some comment to the effect that there were so many impressive people around that I would never be as good as them. She looked at me a little surprised and said something like: "I don't really see it in terms of a competition". I am sure she doesn't remember the conversation, or me, but it stayed with me and in many ways I have spent the last decade or so trying to work out how she could be right.

Trying to get jobs, trying to get published, all feels very competitive. You aren't all going to get the job, only one of you is and when there are far more people who want them than there are jobs, it's easy to focus on the competition and it's easy for thoughts of winning and losing to sneak in. Academic theology was the world I knew, but it is the same in lots of other fields: my friend who is a journalist has reapplied for her own job several times and constantly has to demonstrate growing readerships. It's not enough for her to be in competition with others – she has to be in competition with herself! My brother is doing paramedic training and competed against hundreds of others to get a place on the course. And it's not just at work. There are loud voices persuading you that everything is a competition: getting married, buy-

ing a house, having a child, parenting, where you go on holidays ...and it goes on.

I am the same age as Ant McPartlin (the media savvy among you will know that he has been having some very much reported difficulties lately). The other day I commented to a friend that I am the same as age as him and for the first time, I am probably doing better. It was a joke, but their response was something along the lines of “are you keeping score?”. In his book *Status Anxiety*, the philosopher Alain de Botton says that we only compare ourselves to people we have reason to; so we don't look at the Royal Family and think that we have failed to travel as much as them, but we might well look at people we grew up with and wonder why their house is so much bigger or smaller. That's why school reunions are notoriously stressful!

Morrissey has a song that goes, “we hate it when our friends become successful, and if they're northern that makes it even worse...” I've never hated my friends' success or resented it, but I have measured myself against it. Life often *feels* like a competition and we are constantly being pitted against other people, and we are constantly measuring ourselves against others. Last year I saw a friend who I rarely see now on account of him being an important professor in the USA. He has published about a million books and is well known in his field. Back in the day I thought it might be my field too. We went for several of the same jobs – that's how I know him. At one time I wanted all of that. He has worked extremely hard for it and he has done what he set out to do. I have done something different. And I realised that it's ok. Because it's not about competition, it's about vocation.

The thing about vocation is that it really isn't a competition. And I have come to realise that this is immensely freeing. The only thing you need to be best at is being you. I don't have to have the income of Ant and Dec or the accent of an old fashioned radio presenter. I don't have to be as clever or well-read or as up-to-date on the latest debates in academic theology as my friend. I don't have to be as kind as my

sister or as fit as my brother and it's even possibly true that I don't have to be as funny as my favourite comedians. I don't even have to be as good a Christian as anyone else. I just have to be the best Christian I can be.

Vocation isn't about comparing yourself to others, it's about discernment – working out who it is that God calls *me* to be and having the courage to be that even when it's disappointing or unpopular or boring or not the thing I was expecting and had worked for. It's alright not to be as good as other people, because even the notion of asking 'where am I on the leader board?' is the wrong question to ask. There are far, far better questions. Martin Luther King said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'". That's a pretty good one. I think "what sort of presence do you want to be in the world?" is another good one and there are hundreds of other questions about what brings you joy, what your gifts are, who you want to champion, how people see Jesus through you, and what the point of you is, that are all better than comparing where you are in your life with where someone else is or where you thought you should be at this age or stage.

Vocation sets you free. Free from all the things you don't need to be and free to become the person God has called you to be. Free to know that the knocks and bumps and closed doors are about discernment more than they are about competition. Sometimes you might be called to batter that door down and sometimes it might be right to walk away as it's slammed in your face. Vocation sets you free to learn to enjoy your unique set of gifts and to accept that it might well not be the selection you had ordered. None of us are as tall/smart/quick/generous/pretty/rich /successful as the next person and accepting that frees us to work out what we *are* instead. Discovering your vocation is life giving. And yes, someone else is better at working out their vocation than you are. And that's ok.

*Dr Lindsey Hall, Director of Vocations*



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

## First Steps



**Monday 11th June**  
**10am St Michael's**

## Family Praise

**Sunday 10th June**  
**10am St Michael's**



Come and join us at our ...

## MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



## NEXT MEETING

**SUNDAY 16th SEPTEMBER**

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/>

## Prayer for the week:

May I be peaceful...

May I be happy...

May I be well...

May I be safe...

May I be free from suffering...

May all beings be peaceful...

May all beings be happy...

May all beings be well...

May all beings be safe...

May all beings be free from suffering...

*(From Martin McGonigle, Spiritual Care Lead on behalf of Douglas Macmillan Hospice.*

*He is himself from the Buddhist faith and adds: 'These words are repeated slowly, with pauses between phrases for contemplation and absorption of the intention. It is a common practice in some Buddhist traditions to "do metta" as a formal spiritual practice daily).*

# Regular Services and Worship in the Benefice

## Regular Services at St Michael's Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion  
10:00am Holy Communion

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

10:00am Family Praise

## Other Services at St Michael's Sundays

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 12:30pm

Holy Baptism

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 6:00pm

Holy Communion

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 4:30pm Church Hall

Messy Church

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 6:00pm

Choral Evensong

### Tuesday

School Service

### Wednesday

9:30am Holy Communion

## Regular Services at St John's

### Sundays @ 10am

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Holy Communion

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Holy Communion

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - Morning Prayer

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Holy Communion

5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



Should I worship Him from fear of hell,  
may I be cast into it. Should I serve Him  
from desire of gaining heaven, may He  
keep me out. But should I worship Him  
from love alone, He reveals Himself to  
me, that my whole heart may be filled  
with His love and presence.

— *Sadhu Sundar Singh* —

AZ QUOTES

## Sadhu Sundar Singh

**19th June**

Heralded as the formative voice of the Indian Christian Church's missionary agenda, Sundar Singh was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1889 in the village of Rampur Kataania.

He began life as a Sikh and after the death of his mother at fourteen, he took much of his anger out on Christian missionaries who taught at his school. Though their faith was the target for his anger, it truly came from the death of his mother and his own lack of direction and purpose. Soon after he decided to kill himself, asking the 'True God' to appear to him and stop him. That very night he was entrusted with a vision of Jesus and converted to the Christian faith.

This choice was met with unacceptance from his family who rejected him along with the rest of his village. Yet, Sundar Singh was not perturbed and continued to follow the Christian faith. He set about spreading the word of God, although he was dressed in the traditional

saffron turban and robe of Hinduism. He referred to himself as a Sadhu (a holy person in Hinduism) as he believed that India would not be converted unless it was in the Indian way.

He travelled through Kashmir to Afghanistan, and then into Baluchistan. On his journey he saw much of Western Christianity and felt that they had become too materialistic and lost sight of true Christian values. As such he was determined to forge an Indian identity for Christianity. This led him to reject the teaching of the Anglican Bishop Lefroy, whose college he stayed at for eight months in 1910, as it mixed too much of British culture with Christianity.

During his twenties Sundar Singh's mission spread greatly and by his thirties he had become a well-recognised Christian figure. His speeches were informed by meditation and contemplation of the Gospels and earned him a great deal of recognition. He travelled to Britain, America and Australia in 1920 and then more of Europe in 1922. However, the materialism and irreligion he found after World War One meant that he never ventured West again.

Instead Sundar Singh continued to travel around India, frequently to Tibet. After coming back from there in 1923 exhausted, he began writing instead to spread his beliefs. These books include: *With and Without Christianity*, *Visions of the Spiritual World* and *Reality and Religion: Meditation on God, Man and Nature*.

In 1929 Sundar Singh took his final trip to Tibet. He was last seen in Kalka on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1929. Where he went after that is unknown. What is unequivocal is the affect that he had on the Indian Church and the many hearts and minds his teachings were able to reach throughout his life.



This month we welcomed Christine Polhill and Mal Hawksworth who have transferred from other branches and also Julie Bass who was enrolled as a member of St. Michael's M.U.

John Polhill gave us an interesting talk on being an Environmental Officer for the diocese. Christine had first sparked their interest in leading a simpler, more environmentally lifestyle after reading a book by Ralph Nader. At first they thought about buying a farm or a plot of land and planting trees. John went on a number of courses to learn about tree care and management. Their plans changed and evolved over several years and eventually they bought the house and land on Cannock Chase, known to us as "Reflections". The house was in a poor state, needing a lot of renovations and John set himself the task of installing all new plumbing.

He was asked to become the Diocesan Environmental Officer and with his newly acquired plumbing experience contributed to a study of the heating systems in 64 churches. He advises on the most efficient and non-harmful ways of maintaining church buildings and their surrounding land. He developed a partnership with "Caring for God's Acre" which makes plans for churchyards and their upkeep, including St. Michael's. He is also helping to develop Faith and Nature trails and a green energy scheme.

John then set us into groups to discuss many environmental issues and their relevance to St. Michael's, deciding which were possible or not, which we already do and others we might manage.

In a few weeks we are going to visit "Reflections" and see how it has been respectfully developed **including areas which depict episodes in Jesus' life.**



## **QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 7.30pm  
in St Michael's Church Hall

**Teams of 4**

**Entry: £2-50 per person**

From the office 01543 262211 or on the door

**BYO drinks and nibbles**

A fun night out for everyone – come along  
even if you don't have a team and we can  
make up a team on the night!

*In Aid of 'Next Stop Symi'*



## Music Group Annual Report

The Music Group has continued to provide music at the Sunday morning Family Praise services, once a month, at St Michael's. In addition, we have now started to play for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. In particular, we play some of the more modern hymns from the hymn book. The group's instrumentalists offer an alternative to the more usual organ accompaniment heard on other Sundays.

We have a small band of regular instrumentalists but we are currently looking to recruit some new players. If you play an instrument (we have had almost every possible instrument over the years) and would like to have a go, please come along to a practice and give it a go. We can accommodate all levels of ability.

The singers, many of whom also sing in other church choirs, provide a good lead in the services. We are still keen, however, to recruit more singers.

Practices are on the Monday evening preceding Family Praise each month, (ie the day after the first Sunday of the month) in church at 7.30pm. Why not come along and join us?

If you would like more details please contact:-

Ruth Bull [dkbrlcb@hotmail.com](mailto:dkbrlcb@hotmail.com)

or

Richard Brooks

[richard.brooks@anthonycollins.com](mailto:richard.brooks@anthonycollins.com)



# ST. MICHAEL'S CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

Thankyou to everyone who has a box in their home. I have sent an excellent total of £686:46 to the society.

Thanks also to Sonia for her help collecting in boxes.

Anyone who would like to have their own box for spare change etc please get in touch.

*Maureen Duff ( 262037 )*

## **Deadlines!**

### **Magazine:**

Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday every Month.

Contact David Bull

### **Pew Sheet:**

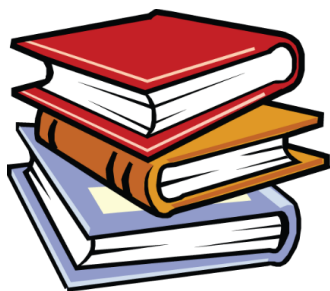
7:30am every Thursday Morning.

Contact Parish Office

## **Parish Surgery**

For Baptisms, Banns and Weddings, staff are available at the Parish Office in St Michael's Church, Church Street on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evenings in the month by appointment only.

Please telephone 01543 262211 or email [office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk) to make an appointment.



## Book Review

**50 Finds from Staffordshire: Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme**, Teresa Gilmore, Amberley, 2018, 96p, £14-99. ISBN 978-1-4456-7548-0.

Teresa Gilmore's book is valuable at three levels. Her **50 Finds from Staffordshire** provides a very helpful insight into archaeological discoveries within Staffordshire, largely over the last ten years, all reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

At one end of the spectrum, of course, the internationally significant 7<sup>th</sup> Century Staffordshire Hoard [displayed in the Birmingham and the Potteries Museums] and the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC Leekfrith Torcs [in the Potteries Museum] are included.

However the immense range embraces a range which extends from a quartzite hand axe [800,000-25,000 BC] from Alrewas [2010] to cigar-shaped ingots [800-1000 AD] from Lichfield [2013] and a Mary I groat from Swinfen [2013], along with the cross-reference to Mesolithic lithic scrapers found in St Michael's Churchyard, approximately 6,500 years old.

This reveals the extent of what is still being unearthed, all the time enriching our perspectives and awareness of exactly what was being achieved by previous generations. Each entry is very carefully described in a very accessible manner.

This is also a testament to the general integrity of metal detectorists



who have been faithfully reporting their finds to the Portable Antiquities Scheme and, thereby, adding to the national database of exactly what has been found, examined and recorded, even if the majority of the items ultimately remain in private ownership.

Its third merit is that the preface to the book contains a very informative and lucid introduction to how the Portable Antiquities Scheme emerged and how it functions, and therefore how it has evolved as a crucial contributor to our endlessly expanding awareness of the human achievements that had taken place in our landscape.

*Trevor James*

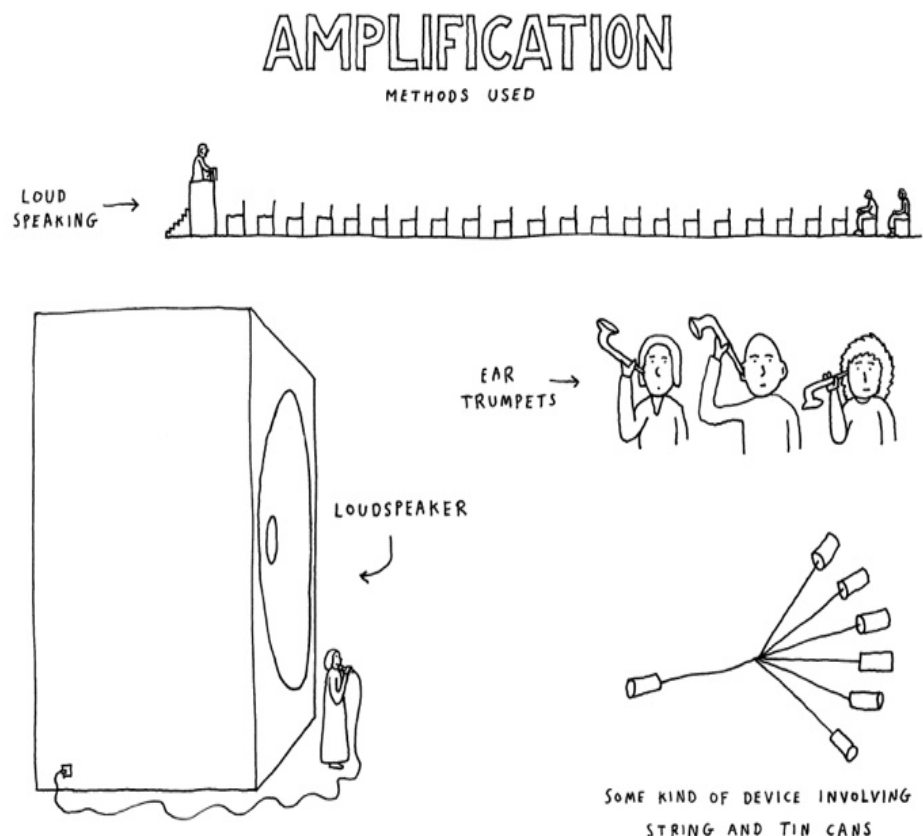
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## ST MICHAEL'S SOUND SYSTEM

The new sound system has now been installed and is working really well. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. We have raised **£3596 :22 gift aided and £155 in cash.**

We are still a bit short of the total, so we need to make one last effort to raise the full amount. If we have a surplus of funds, the money will be used for the further development of the church.

Thank you.



# St. Michael's Churchyard

As reported in the May Magazine we have been very fortunate in obtaining 2 Grants, totalling £11,500, to enable us to carry out our Management of the Churchyard during the coming year.

A number of tasks and activities have been planned and we will also be able to purchase some items to help us to carry out our work thanks to the generosity of The National Lottery and South Staffordshire Community Energy Fund.

The Project begins on June 1st., 2018 and ends on May 31st., 2019.

**Items** we will be obtaining include lawn rakes and other small tools to be used by The Working Party. The rakes are to take off lawn mowings to try to reduce the fertility of the land enabling more wild flowers to grow.

Later in the year we will be purchasing a shed for storage of the tools; and an Interpretation Board to teach people about some of the natural features in the Churchyard.

A number of **tasks** will be completed. A new Compost Area is to be constructed, a Tree Survey and Condition Survey will be undertaken by The Tree Officer; and many, but not all, of the brambles will be removed and tree saplings taken out.

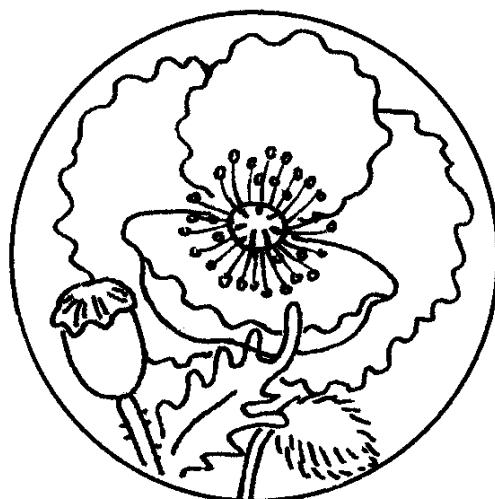
**Other Activities** are a Wild Flower Survey, led by an experienced botanist; and the creation of a new Meadow.

More details of all of these activities will be given in future editions of The Parish Magazine. We hope you will want to get involved with some of our work, especially The Wild Flower Survey.

This is an exciting project and we look forward to even more

improvements to our beautiful and historic Churchyard in the weeks and months ahead.

The poppy seeds that were sown in April to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of The First World War, have now germinated and we look forward to their flowering later in the year.



**The Churchyard Working Party** will be meeting on **Saturday June 30th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** We hope to plant more wild flowers and continue to make preparations for our new Meadow as well as completing other seasonal tasks.  
Do please join us if you can. You will be made most welcome.

Ray Allen 01543 251654

## **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**







## United Benefice Walking Group



We had an enjoyable walk in April, despite occasional drizzle. It was good to follow The Little City Tree Trail and learn about less familiar trees in the Centre of Lichfield and Beacon Park. For some it was their first visit to Pipe Green. A beautiful book **A Year on Pipe Green**, has been published. The book has photographs of this magnificent Reserve so close to the City Centre.

Although there were only a few bluebells out in Leomansley Woods, it was very calm and peaceful. The walk ended with a good lunch at The King's Head pub.

We invite you to join us for our **June Walk** to Hopwas Wood.

It was in 2013 that the walking group last visited Hopwas Woods and the surrounding area. It has therefore been suggested that we return to the area to enjoy woodland, canal and river views.

We will meet as usual at **St Michaels Church, Lichfield at 10.00am Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>**. We travel to The Tame Otter pub at Hopwas where we park prior to the walk.

There will be no coffee stop so if you would like to bring a drink with you we can make a refreshment break if necessary.

We start the walk through Hopwas woods. These are now once again used for Army training for firing practice. I have therefore checked that on this date the woods will have safe access, no firing practice to take place. We then walk along the Coventry canal with views of the River Tame. After leaving the canal we walk through Hopwas back to The Tame Otter pub for lunch.

The pub have requested that we lunch early as they have another group eating soon after us. Therefore lunch will be at 12.15-12.30. The pub have requested that we provide requests for meals in advance. I will therefore be asking for pre orders nearer the time. Please visit there website to view menu.

The walk will be approximately 3 miles long, no stiles. I advice walking shoes as the woods can be wet and path uneven in places.

*Hilary*

*Ray Allen 01543 251654*





# ***St. Michael's Film Club***

## **1. The Greatest Showman**

*(105 min. Musical 2017.)*

Hugh Jackman stars in this mesmerising musical inspired by the story of P.T. Barnum.

**Monday June 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**1.30pm start**

Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church Hall  
(behind Aldi). All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

## **2. Finding Your Feet**

*(111 min. Comedy 2018.)*

Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie, Timothy Spall find new life and romance in the dance class!

**Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup> .**

**1.30pm start**



This film purports to be a philosophical view from the dog's view - voiced by an actor- of the meaning of life. Bailey starts off as the pet dog of schoolboy, Ethan. The dog tells us in his own words that his life is for eating, smelling and playing. The setting is Middle America in the 1960s (identifiable by the sharp shapes of the cars) and there is a casual hint of some. Impending national conflict - the Cuban crisis?

Ethan grows into adolescence and becomes a star player in his school football team with hopes of getting into college on a sports scholarship. Bailey helps find him a girlfriend who rather than part from him determines to go to the same college on an academic scholarship. The story is complicated by the violent breakup of Ethan's parents' marriage. Ethan's plans go awry.

The plot becomes very complex with Bailey being reincarnated several times from being a retriever, a German Shepherd, Welsh Corgi, and a St. Bernard/Alsatian mix with different genders and different owners. Unbelievably the film has a happy ending when Ethan and his girlfriend are re-united in middle age thanks to another canine reincarnation.

Dog-lovers come in all shapes and sizes as do their pets. I like dogs but do not have one now, but have had several in the past. I am always interested to observe their behaviours on my regular walks across Darnford Park. Dog walkers are usually happy to stop for a chat and like to when you admire their pets. However I hesitate to subscribe to the philosophy "love me love my dog" especially after seeing the reaction of a resident in a local nursing home to a dog which was foisted on him by a well-meaning volunteer. Stroking is one thing but

placing the animal on the bed without asking is another. This film has lots of scenes of dogs on beds with their owners, as well as licking of faces and doing tricks to please. Dogs need as great a respect as humans and this film tries hard to get this over. I would not think it suitable for young children even though it has a PG rating.

*Margaret Freaan*



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## **Coach Trip to Powys, Mid Wales**



A visit to the **Elan Valley Visitor Centre** to explore the two nature reserves followed by a visit to nearby **Gigrin Farm** to see **Red Kites feeding**

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(Please include email so that confirmation can be sent.)

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Contact (01543) 257812



[www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup](https://www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup)

# WALL NEWS

## Ramblings June 2018

It is June already – or will be soon after you receive this magazine! I am writing this at the end of April when both our churches have had their Annual Parish Church Meetings, have duly elected Churchwardens for the coming year and members of the Parish Church Council. We have all considered the Report for last year and taken stock of our finances – or lack of them!

I am reminded of a couple of verses that those of us following the SACRED system of reading through the Bible will have come across at the beginning of May. They come right at the end of Psalm 78 (the second longest psalm in the Bible!). The writer of the psalm has recounted all that God had done in the past to save His people and how despite all that God had done, His people were still disobedient and unfaithful. Right at the end the psalmist writes...

*‘He chose David, His servant, and took him from the sheepfold. He brought him from minding the nursing ewes to tend His people, Israel, His very own. And David tended them with integrity of heart, with skilful hands he led them’.* Let us pray for all those with positions of leadership in our churches, that they may follow the example of the shepherd who leads and provides for his flock. May we serve God and others in humility as we follow the Good Shepherd and seek to live in Him.

*Christine Higgs*

## THANK YOU

Ben and Louise Venables from Wall completed 5k around a tough muddy course on 28/4/18 in aid of the British Heart Foundation raising £860. Following the life saving treatment their father Roger received at Heartlands hospital having suffered a heart attack in August last year. They would like to thank friends and family for all their donations also their employer Sika and Ever Build .

*Jackie Venables*

## OPEN CHURCH



Thanks to Margaret Russell, St John's Church is open daily throughout the summer months offering a warm welcome to all who are visiting the village. From the comments that we have been receiving in the visitors book, this

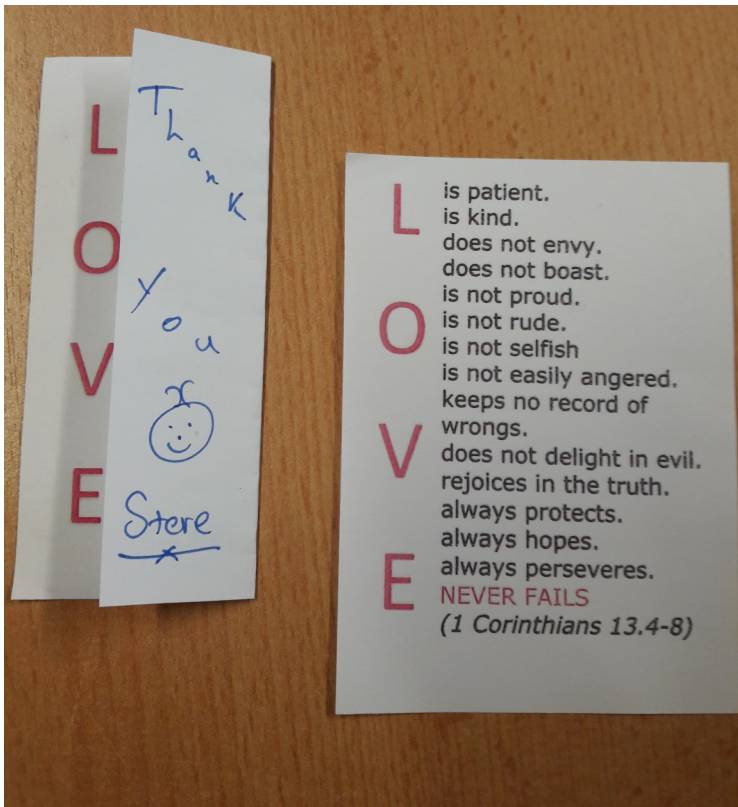
is very much appreciated by our visitors.

There are a range of activities and information available for our visitors including children's activity sheets, that send them on a treasure hunt around the church, short history booklets, an information booklet about our stained glass and a prayer table.

On the Prayer Table there are a variety of resources including, books to read while they are in church, leaflets, a prayer trail that will take them around the church and prayer cards to take home.







There are also copies of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. These are well appreciated, as this message from a visitor shows.

The Knitting Group have made hearts to accompany the 'Love is...' bible quote cards. These can be bought as keepsakes and reminders of this bible passage.

These have proved to be so popular this year that when Margaret locked up one week in May all of the hearts had been bought, so the group have been busily knitting some more.

It is nice to know that the message of God's Love is spreading to our visitors.

Angie





*will be singing  
a varied programme of songs on*

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
7.30pm**

**@ St John's**

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**In Aid of St John's Church, Wall**

# **Bible Readings**

**Sunday 3rd June**  
**1st Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**  
2 Corinthians 4.5-12  
Mark 2.23-3.6

**Sunday 10th June**  
**2nd Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**  
2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1  
Mark 3.20-end

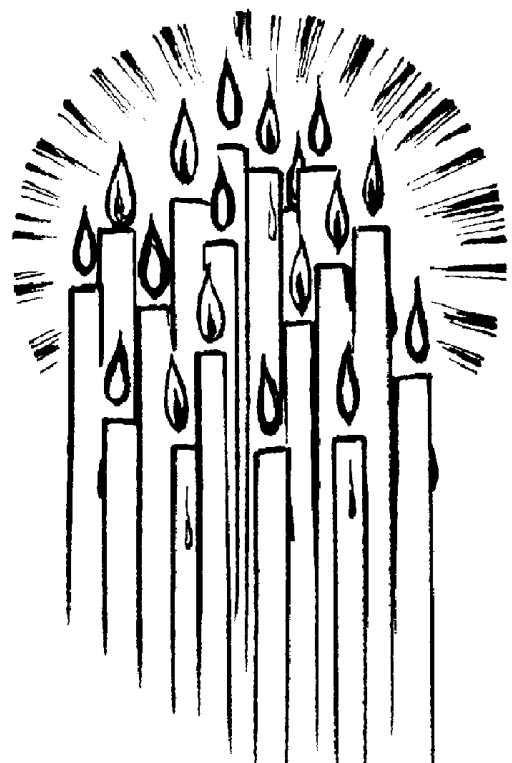
**Sunday 17th June**  
**3rd Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**  
2 Corinthians 5.6-10 [11-13]14-17  
Mark 4.26-34

**Sunday 24th June**  
**Birth of John the Baptist**  
**[Green]**  
Acts 13.14b-26  
Luke 1.57-66, 80

**Sunday 24th June**  
**EVENSONG**  
**Birth of John the Baptist**  
**[Green]**  
Malachi 4  
Matthew 11.2-19

**Sunday 1st July**  
**5th Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**  
2 Corinthians 8.7-end  
Mark 5.21-end

**Sunday 8th July**  
**6th Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**  
2 Corinthians 12.2-10  
Mark 6.1-13



## St Michael's Rota – June 2018

<b>Sunday 8.00 am St Michael's</b>	<b>3 June</b>	<b>10 June</b>	<b>17 June</b>	<b>24 June</b>
<b>Sidesperson</b>	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes	Brian Smith	David Bull

<b>Sunday 10.00 am St Michael's</b>	<b>3 June</b>	<b>10 June Family Praise</b>	<b>17 June</b>	<b>24 June</b>
<b>Welcomers</b>	Angela Burgess	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Shirley Trelfa	Maureen Brand
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Viv and Stephen Oliver	Joan and Ken Sharman	Barbara Homewood Pat Toplis
<b>Reader</b>	Mike Godfrey		Ted Green	Brenda Liptrot
<b>Servers</b>	Maggie Easton Kay Martin		Maggie Easton Elizabeth Allen	Phil Clayton Elizabeth Salt
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Ray Allen		Elizabeth Allen	Elizabeth Salt
<b>Intercessor</b>	Stephen Barton		Caroline Green	Phil Clayton
<b>Coffee</b>	Lynn and David Edge	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Caroline Green Brenda Eley	Anne Lingwood Brenda Liptrot
<b>Healing</b>				Sheila Vaughan Anne Whatson
<b>Transport</b>	Ray Allen	Brenda Liptrot	Betty Bradbury	Martin Dewes
<b>Flowers</b>	Kay Martin	Maureen Brand	Maureen Brand	Brenda Liptrot

<b>Sunday 12.30 pm St Michael's</b>	<b>3 June Baptism</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Server</b>
		Kay Martin	Lynn Edge	Kay Martin

<b>Sunday 6.00 pm St Michael's</b>	<b>3 June No service</b>	<b>10 June Communion</b>	<b>17 June Messy church at 4.30 pm</b>	<b>24 June Evensong</b>
<b>Sidesperson</b>		Lyn Shiel		Margaret Frean
<b>Reader</b>		Lyn Shiel		Margaret Frean
<b>Communion Assistant</b>		Elizabeth Allen		

# From the Registers



## Baptism

--	--	--	--



## Wedding

--	--	--



## At Rest

St John's	30th April	Rosemary Watson	87
St Michael's	1st May	(Interment of Ashes) Margaret 'Peggy' Marshall	88
St Michael's	15th May	Brian Vaughan	86
St John's	17th May	(Interment of Ashes) Diane Clarke	***

# And Finally:

Great minds discuss  
ideas,

Average minds discuss  
events,

Small minds discuss  
people.

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

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