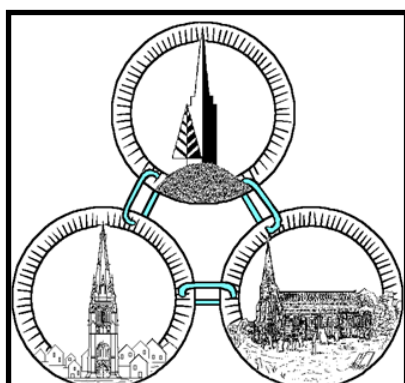


# THE PARISH MAGAZINE

## March 2018



Lent 14th February—24th March 2018



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

**75p**

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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)

# Reflections for March

Dear Friends,

On the fourth Sunday in each month we offer a ministry of Prayer for Healing as part of the sacrament of Holy Communion at St Michael's. During Lent and Advent this becomes a weekly offering.

Many of you might be a little curious about what happens in our newly refurbished prayer corner or you may be new to our church and not aware of what is offered to everyone who asks for it. My reflection is therefore aimed at helping you answer some questions about the healing ministry and how it can be of benefit to all of us.

Who do we pray for? People ask for all categories – for themselves, for their family, friends, neighbours and even the world we live in.

What sort of prayers are asked for? We are asked to intercede with God for personal needs, health issues, family and world crisis AND we are often asked to offer prayers of joyful thanksgiving for a prayer answered.

I don't know how to ask! Don't worry, the Healing team will listen carefully to your request and then shape it into a brief intercessory prayer and offer it up for you as you kneel or stand there. We cannot direct God and we never seek to instruct God to answer but we do ask that a prayer might be answered if "it be God's will". We always ask for God's healing power to be with the requester and offer a blessing for you.

But my problem is confidential! Our Healing team never disclose any prayer requested to anyone else and rarely even discuss it together after the service. The team are trained to offer your prayer, to pray for God's healing power and then, with you, to shed that burden.

Why is it after we receive Communion? God's healing is a natural outreach and outpouring of the blessing which each one of us receives in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Having received God's redemption in the sacrament it is a natural place for us then to ask for ourselves and others who we are concerned about.

Who are the Healing ministry team? Both lay and ordained people who feel called to intercede on your behalf are part of the team. Each receives some basic training and we always work in twos with at least one very experienced member.

Does it work? All prayers work! Not always as we want or expect but yes they do. Many who have made requests have felt an immediate lifting of their burden just in sharing their wants with God. Some feel nothing apart from a gentle hand but in the days and weeks after receiving a blessing they begin to find that things fall into place and then see God's will for them.

Why in the prayer corner? It's as far off the main isle as we can put it and by and large it's out of direct sight. As the candle stand is also nearby it's also a natural progression for those who may want to go to light a candle and offer their own prayer after receiving the healing ministry. We want you all to see the Healing ministry as a natural part of our corporate and personal worship.

So ,if you are in need of God's healing power in your life, pluck up your courage as you receive communion or a blessing, turn right as you leave the chancel and come and receive God's healing power into your life and the lives of others that you pray for.

You will experience God waiting there for you.

Alan Toplis

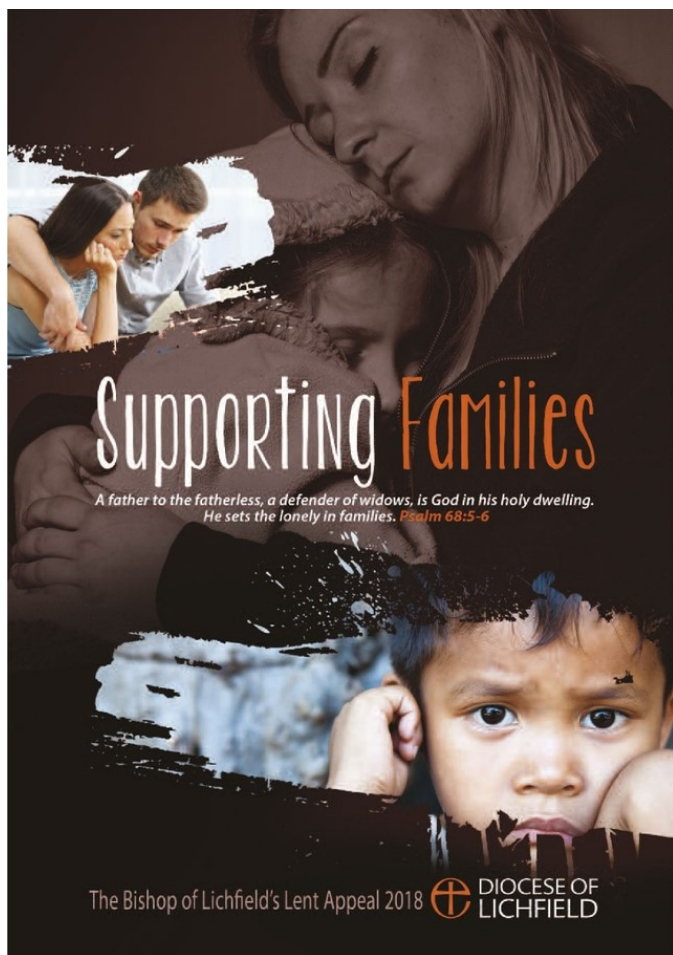
# INTRODUCING REV STEPHEN BARTON

I'm originally from Sydney Australia, and came to England forty years ago to study ... and stayed! I studied in Lancaster and London, then began lecturing in my specialism, which is New Testament studies. In the mid-



eighties I taught at Salisbury and Wells Theological College for four years. Then I taught in the Theology and Religion Department at Durham University for over twenty years, taking early retirement in 2010. I have four children by my first wife, Fiona, who died in 2002. I married Helen (who is also a 'Reverend'!) in 2004, and have accompanied her in ministry, first in Northumberland, and more recently here in the Midlands. We came to Lichfield in November 2016, and live at St John's Hospital where Helen is the Master. With the bishop's Permission to Officiate, I feel very privileged to be able to help out at St Michael's and occasionally in neighbouring churches, while continuing to do scholarly work.

Thank you for the welcome you have given me!



## BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL

This year's Bishop's Lent Appeal will focus on supporting families in need – both at home and abroad.

Times are hard for many. In our Diocese there are families who are struggling because of financial pressures, especially with the stagnation in wages and the introduction of Universal Credit.

Other families need to escape violence or abuse. Still others need support in building strong relationships and improving parenting skills, often in adverse circumstances. We will be looking to support families in difficulty in the Diocese and, through Let The Children Live!, in South America.

Bishop Michael says: "Families come in all shapes and sizes, from the simple unit of mother and child to complex networks of kinship and relation. They are the places where we find support and nurture but can also be places of struggle, pain, and brokenness. All relationships of love help bring us closer to the love that is God in Trinity. I believe that we need to support families as a way of helping others into that love that we as Christians have found for ourselves. Please do open your hearts and wallets this Lent to support families in need in this Diocese and beyond."



## **Let The Children Live!**

works with street children in Columbia's second-largest city, Medellin. It is a charity of last resort for children living and



working in the street and shanty towns, children with special needs and young mothers. The charity runs Casa Walsingham where children receive food, advice, support and, if they want it, Christian spiritual formation. A grant from Duncan Bannatyne enabled the opening of a residential centre where children participate in activities and stay in safety. Projects include school facilities for adolescent mothers and their babies and a choir which helps children therapeutically. These have enabled many children to escape the street and provided others with food, accommodation and support for their families.

We also intend to give small grants to a variety of local projects supporting families in need. These include the Pathway Project in Lichfield which offers help to those escaping domestic abuse. This story illustrates the difference they make:

“A young man contacted us 16 years after being in our refuge as a child with his mother and siblings. He wanted to thank us for looking after them all and said that thanks to our care and support he was a stronger more confident person, and that he now had a young son and wanted to make sure that he was a better father than his had been and was going to make sure that the mistakes of the past would never repeat themselves.”

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/documents/bishops-lent-appeal-2018-leaflet/>

## EASTER FLOWERS



We will be decorating St Michael's Church for Easter on **Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>** from 9am 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 in a blue envelope marked Easter Flowers. Please write the name of the person and any message on a piece of paper and also put that in the blue envelope. All donations must be received by Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## 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.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> March**  
**10am St Michael's**

## Family Praise

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
**10am St Michael's**



Come and join us at our ...

## **GOOD FRIDAY** **MESSY CHURCH**

for craft, story, song and food on



**Sunday 30th March**

**2.30 – 3.45pm**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

### **Prayer for the Week:**

Be with us Lord, as we seek to follow in the footsteps  
of your servant Chad,  
whose humility and prayerfulness attracted so many to  
your kingdom.

Let our lives, like his, reflect the light of Christ and the  
hope of faith.

In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

(Community Prayer of the Community of Saint Chad)

## **Deadlines!**

### **Magazine:**

Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### 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

# **BENEFICE LENT GROUPS**

The Lent Group this year will be  
looking at

## ***"Matters of Life and Death"***

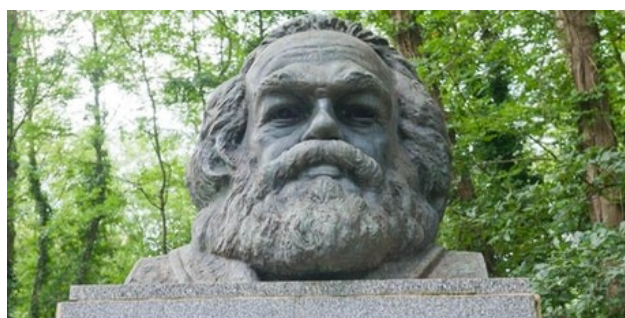
The workshops will take place in St  
Michael's Church  
at 7.30pm on

**Monday 5th March**  
**Monday 19th March**

The Lent Saturday Trip  
will be on **March 24th**

to Highgate Cemetery and the  
National Gallery

(both easily  
by public



accessible  
transport)

# LENT & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<b>Sunday 11th March</b> 10am	Mothering Sunday Service	St Michael, Lichfield
<b>Sunday 11th March</b> 10am	Mothering Sunday Service	St John, Wall
<b>Sunday 25th March</b> 10am	Palm Sunday Service	St Michael, Lichfield
<b>Sunday 25th March</b> 10am	Palm Sunday Service	St John, Wall
<b>Monday 26th March</b> 7pm	Compline	St Michael, Lichfield
<b>Tuesday 27th March</b> 7pm	Compline	St Michael, Lichfield
<b>Wednesday 28th March</b> 7pm	Compline	St John, Wall
<b>Thursday 29th March</b> 7.30pm	Maundy Thursday	St Michael, Lichfield
<b>Friday 30th March</b> 2pm	Good Friday Service	St John, Wall
<b>Friday 25th March</b> 2pm	Messy Church	St Michael, Lichfield
<b>Sunday 1st April</b> 6am	Dawn Service with the Bishop of Lichfield, +Michael	St Michael, Lichfield
<b>Sunday 1st April</b> 10am	Easter Sunday Service	St Michael, Lichfield
<b>Sunday 1st April</b> 10am	Easter Sunday Service	St John, Wall

## Farewell to Denise

After eight and a half years in the benefice, Revd Denise Youngs has now retired. Her last service at St John's, Wall, where much of her ministry has been focussed, was on 28<sup>th</sup> January. There was a very good turn-out for this event and Denise was presented with a very large olive tree for her own garden and an olive tree sent via Embrace to Palestine, a bay tree and £100 garden vouchers. (see Wall News for a report from Hilary Barker).





On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Denise presided at St Michael's for her last service. Again there was a good turn-out and the Ministry Team robed for the occasion.



Again Denise was presented with two large trees – fruit trees this time – and more garden vouchers. Denise is moving into a newly-built house with a bare garden and is looking forward to filling it with her trees and other plants.

We wish her well with her move and all she goes on to do in her new life in Cambridgeshire.



## **Thank you all so much.**

I am still completely overwhelmed by your generosity and good wishes for my retirement and move.

My blank canvas of a garden will have a good start with the trees and garden vouchers, they will bring to mind many happy memories.

It has been my great privilege to serve in the Benefice and walk with many of you on your spiritual journeys and at times of sorrow and of joy.

I leave at an exciting time for the Benefice with the expansion of the Parishes with the new homes proposed and being built. Also future plans for the new build at St. Michael's to replace the church hall.

So I wish you all well and pray for God's blessing on you all.

Much love Denise

**God's Blessing  
on you all,  
Go Well.**

# CAMAS 2018

This is a Camas year again and 20 of us (so far) will be heading off to Mull on Sunday 26 August, returning on Saturday 1 September, just in time for school. We have room for eight more people if you know of any youngster who might be interested. They need to be aged 10 – 17 and prepared to sign up to the Camas ethos of living in community, with everyone helping each other. Parents/guardians should contact me on [ctgreen@ntlworld.com](mailto:ctgreen@ntlworld.com).

Our three young leaders this year are Megan Wheeler and Tom Braddock, both Camas veterans, and Sean Adams from Wade Street Church, who came with us last time. There are six who are new to Camas, all from the Girls' Choir: Carley and Kathryn are both 15, while Billie, Gabri, Mollie and Natalia are all 10 or 11. Amongst the adults I'm delighted to have Beth Knox with me again; her Camas experience and time as a matron at the Royal Ballet School in Birmingham makes her invaluable in helping the younger girls. She will be assisted by Gabri's mum, Jules. It's always good, in Army terms, to see people 'coming through the ranks' and Reuben Tinsdeall, now at Cambridge University, will be an accompanying adult this year having started at Camas with us at age 10 and been a young leader last time.

So far we have two fundraisers planned, both very traditional: our Spud & Pud Lunch and Carwash will be at the Church Hall on Saturday 5 May between 12 noon and 2 pm and the Strawberry Tea and Grand Raffle will be held at 11 Willowsmere Drive on Saturday 21 July. Please come along to support us if you can.

*Ted Green*

## CHARLOTTE'S BLOG

*After many enthusiastic comments from readers, Charlotte Bull has written about her most recent foreign travel, this time to Slovakia.*

### Banská Štiavnica – Slovaki-yeah

Some of you may remember the classic game “Rostov-the-Great or Not-so-Great” where I objectively weighed up the pros and cons of my time there. Jumping to the present, I was happy to spend a few days for the first time in Slovakia, tucked up in a hut in the UNESCO-World-Heritage-status town of Banská Štiavnica. Sited on a rich seam of silver and gold that has been mined throughout its history, the town boasts beautiful architecture and is nestled in a valley amongst imposing (albeit foggy whilst I was there) mountains. I could well write a piece celebrating its virtues. Or I could play a silly game. We both know it was never a competition.

Thus I am pleased to present to you... Slovaki-yeah or Slovaki-no? with a special focus on the world of food and drink...

Often when arriving in a new country, there's that short hesitation before taking your first drink. Oh wait, is it safe to drink the tap water here? Thus ensues the internet search, before following either the official warnings/approvals from health websites or the advice of some very certain-sounding traveller on a random forum. As I carried out this routine in Slovakia, I was not only pleased to see that drinking water from the tap is perfectly safe to drink, but also that Slovakia has the second largest reserves of natural water in Europe after Austria. Water from the tap and a pub quiz question in one – you're welcome. Slovaki-yeah.

Once you've had your fill of delicious tap water, you might be in search of something a little sweeter. On this front, Slovakia and the neighbouring Czech Republic can offer up their own stellar alternative to Coca-Cola, namely Kofola. It was developed in 1959 by the Czechoslovak Research Institute of Medicinal Plants as a way of



gastronomical whizz through Slovakia. I hope you enjoyed it. using up excess caffeine. It has been massively popular ever since, throughout the communist period and to the present day. I even came across what I like to think of as an informal shrine to it on one of my walks...As for the taste, it's sweet, with definite coffee overtones and a darker colour than Pepsi or Coke. A solid Slovaki-meh.



After knocking back some Kofola, you may be tempted by something a little harder. The Slovak go-to for spirits is *borovička*, a juniper brandy. As my host in Slovakia told me, the drink should come with the same warnings you get when doing a school science experiment, “Don’t smell it, don’t taste it, just get on with it.” In my experience, it is best knocked back in the company of the local town’s ‘wise man’ who tells you about the book he has been writing on the meaning of civilisation which is, in short, “Atlantis”. Suddenly the *borovička* seemed necessary. Slovaki-no.

As we come into this final round, the scorecard is balanced. However, this final round is a game-changer. Passing through Bratislava bus station on my way home, I clapped eyes on a most magical thing – a cheese vending machine. Dreams do come true. For just a few euros, various smoked cheeses and other assorted dairy products were yours. Highly recommended to all turophiles (apparently that’s the fancy word for cheese lovers). A resounding Slovaki-YEAH.

Thus concludes my gastronomical whizz through Slovakia. I hope you enjoyed it.



# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH'S CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

March is our month for the annual collection of home boxes. We will be happy to receive them any time throughout March.

I will be at the Sunday 8:00am services, and Sonia will be at the 10:00am services.

If you would like your box collected I can arrange that too.

You could also leave your box at church with a member of the ministry team or churchwardens and ask for it to be kept in the vestry safe until I can collect it.

If you know of anyone who would like a box the Society would be very pleased; just let me know. Barclays Bank (who deal with the Society's money free of charge) will still accept old £1 coins in numbers.

Many thanks  
Maureen Duff

## **St. Michael's Churchyard Working Party.**

The Working Party and The Community Payback Team have recently been clearing the area around the Chancellor Law Monument and this is now much more attractive and visible. We shall next be meeting on **Saturday March 10th.**, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Refreshments (Tea/ Coffee/ Cake) will be provided. Do please join us if you can.

*Ray Allen 251654*



# NEXT STOP SYMI

We are very pleased to announce that on **Tuesday 10th April** at 2 o'clock in St Michael's Hall we will be offering refreshments followed by a talk and photographs from Phillip Flagg at 2.30pm.

Phillip is a founder member of Symi charity, who regularly takes the van to Symi. He will talk about the needs of refugees and what the charity is doing to address them with the aid of churches such as ourselves.

**Please save the date**



## 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. 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**

Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm.

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

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

## **2. Paddington 2**

*(Cert PG. 99 min. Comedy 2017.)*

The continuing saga of the bear from deepest, darkest Peru! Stars Brendan Gleeson, Hugh Grant, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent.

**Monday APRIL 9TH.**  
**1.30pm start**

# Victoria and Abdul



Well, after experiencing again the amazing ability of the catering team to provide a satisfying lunch for all-comers, we settled back to enjoy the film, 'Victoria and Abdul'.

I was intrigued to read in the Times 2 review (September 2017), that it was based on real events.

The film starts in 1887, Victoria's Golden Jubilee. In Agra, a young Indian clerk, Abdul Karim, is chosen to go to England to present the Queen with a special Indian coin, on the grounds that he is tall and that he works in the jail that has already sent carpets to London. Abdul sees this as a great opportunity, unlike the fellow Muslim chosen to accompany him, who is worried about the cold English weather and wary of the English ("eaters of pigs' blood")

In England, Victoria, recently proclaimed Empress of India, endures an unceasing daily round of presentations and entertainment, but appears sunk into loneliness, over-eating and apathy. I first saw Judi Dench playing Viola in Twelfth Night at Stratford in 1969, and was captivated by her. She is still such a powerful actress.

Abdul's presentation looks to be a minor event among the myriads made that year, except that in walking backwards away from her, he cannot resist a 'forbidden' look at the Queen and they make eye contact. He serves her again and kneels to kiss her feet.

Thus begins a curious but enduring relationship, with Abdul progressively promoted from servant to Urdu teacher (Munchi ) before being sent back to India by Edward VII as soon as Victoria's funeral is over. The film flits rapidly through the years and we are treated to a rain-drenched Scottish picnic, stories about the Taj Mahal, carpets and curry spices, mangoes and Durbar Rooms\*. The prejudices of the Royal Household against Abdul's class, religion and simply being Indian are constantly challenged by Victoria - he may indeed be pretending to be a devoted subject whilst trying to make all he can of the situation, but are any of them any different?

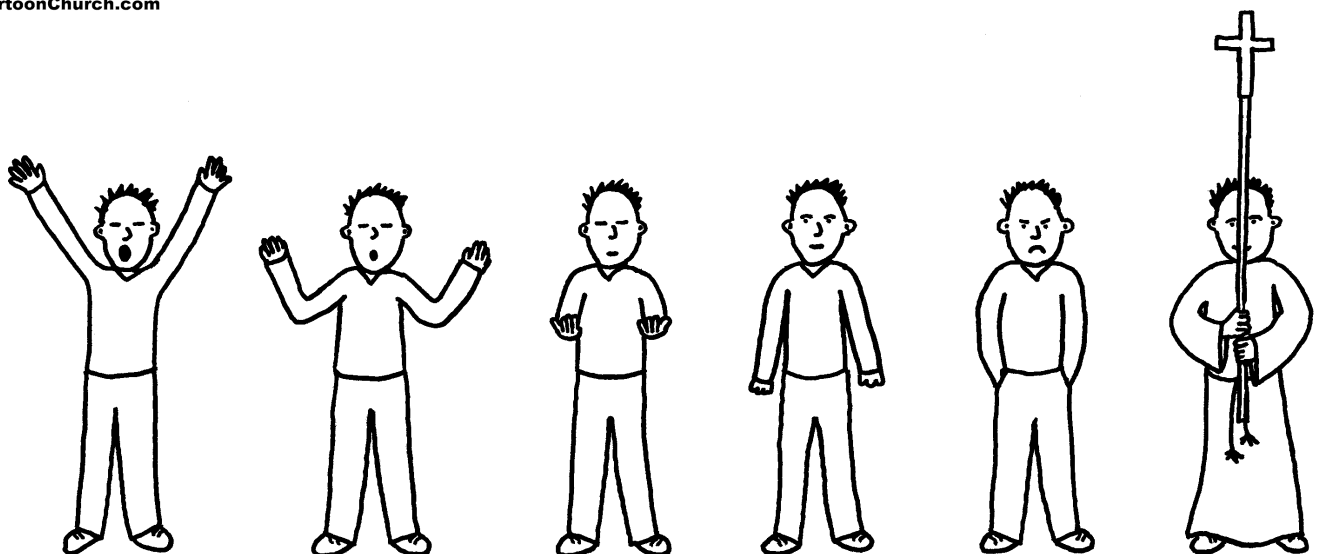
Thanks again to Ron and Linda for finding the sub-titles, especially as much of the embedded writing was too small to read comfortably.

Sandy Baker

\*The Durbar Room can be seen at Osborne House, Isle of Wight

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CartoonChurch.com



THE EVOLUTION OF A WORSHIPPER

[www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk)

## **Mothers Union March 2018**

At the end of January we held our A.G.M. In her leaders report Elizabeth gave us an overview of the previous 12 months and described how we had tried to remain faithful to the principles of our founder, Mary Sumner. In fact, our theme for 2018 will be “In Mary Sumner’s footsteps”.

Elizabeth thanked her committee who had all been so supportive and especially Lesley for the inspiring services which she leads at the start of each meeting. Angela volunteered to take on the duties of hostess. Lynn presented the financial report and was thanked for her efficient accounting.

This was Denise’s last meeting with us so we wished her much happiness in her new home near to her daughter. In true Denise fashion she had brought us home-made cakes. We will miss them--- and her, of course.

Plans were made for services with other Deanery members during the coming months and for our Lent Lunch in March. Several venues were suggested for outings (weather permitting) during the summer.

Our Christmas party had been postponed until January because Lichfield was experiencing so much snow. February 12<sup>th</sup> was the date for a meal out, so when it snowed in the morning it looked as if history was about to repeat itself. Fortunately, conditions improved and we were able to go to the Bowling Green for our planned dinner.

On February 26<sup>th</sup> we will have a meditation for Lent and on March 12<sup>th</sup> we welcome a speaker to talk about “The midwife, past and present”. Will it be anything like TV’s “Call the midwife”? You are welcome to come and find out.

Betty Lyne

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***





## United Benefice Walking Group



Walking Group about to set off for a walk around Kings Bromley today in rather 'inclement' weather!

Despite rain, sleet and a few snow flurries, we had an enjoyable January walk in King's Bromley, our first walk of 2018. The village is very old with an interesting history. It gets its name from the fact that it was owned by the monarch for 200 years. We looked at other features, such as the tower of

the old Manor House, which has been incorporated into the new Nursing Home. Our walk ended with a visit to the Church, part of which is Saxon. We were made very welcome at The Royal Oak pub, both for coffee and lunch.

The walk for March will be a local one around Chesterfield / Wall. We meet at St. Michael's at 10.00a.m. **on Saturday March 17th.**, and then drive to Chesterfield Farm, Wall.

Walking will be in fields, woodland and road. Coffee will be served at Chesterfield Farm.



The walk will be approximately 3 miles and adapted to the weather conditions on the day. The fields may be wet, therefore sturdy boots or shoes are advisable. There are no stiles.

A table has been booked at The Bulls Head, Shenstone for refreshment afterwards.

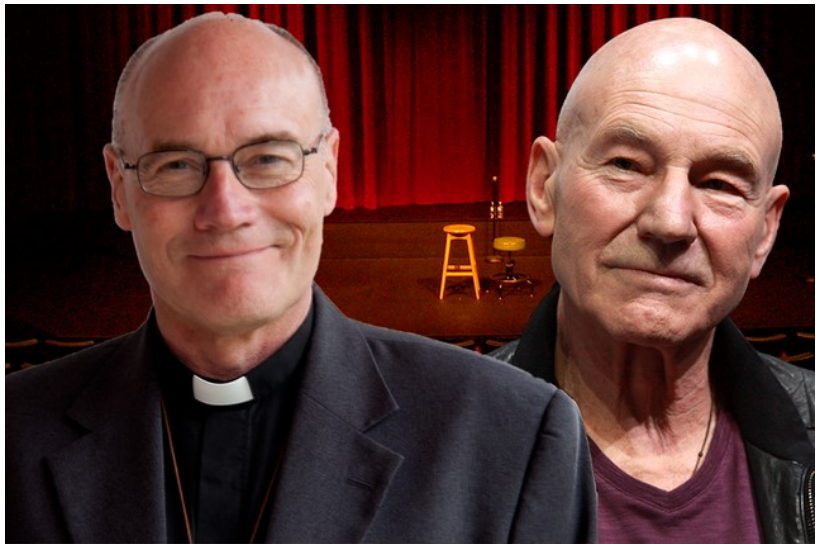
Do join us as this may be the last chance to walk the fields at Chesterfield.

*Ray Allen. 251654*



## FACE RECOGNITION

When I was a teenager and performing in the theatre I was once told by the makeup artist that my face had a really good bone structure. Clearly it is the kind of structure that is common because over the years I have often been mistaken for other people.



Frequently I am told that someone saw me while they were on holiday in places that I have never been to or else that I am the 'spitting image' of a vicar they once met in a village I have never even heard of!

I was quite flattered to be told by a number of people that I look just like the famous and talented actor Patrick Stewart (and I can see the similarities) but was a little bit abashed when I discovered he is ten years older than me! The most embarrassing mistake was made when I was a Curate in South London attending a Confirmation at which one of Southwark's Honorary Bishops was Presiding. The poor man came over to me in a fluster and apologised profusely for having got the wrong date, mistaking me for the then Diocesan Bishop, Ronnie Bowlby – who has now retired and is living in Shrewsbury. So if you are reading this Bishop Ronnie, at least you know your face has a good bone structure!

The month of February begins with a vital recognition as Simeon holds the infant Jesus in his arms as his parents present him in the Temple. This righteous and devout elderly man recognised this child as 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles' – destined for the falling and rising of many and a sign that would be opposed 'so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed'. He and the prophet Anna (who also worshipped in the Temple) were both right in recognising Jesus as the longed – for Messiah but as the child grew into a man, many others mistook him for John the Baptist, others Elijah and still others

Jeremiah or one of the Prophets. It was Simon Peter who recognised Jesus as the Messiah, the 'Son of the living God'. This year the month of February also takes us into Lent – those six weeks of preparation for that

day of ultimate mistaken identity when the people failed to recognise Jesus as anything more than a fraud who had failed to live up to their expectations and crucified him on the cross as a common criminal. Of course just three days later the events of the Resurrection showed just how wrong they were and it would be easy for us in a post-resurrection time to look back and judge them for being stupid in failing to recognise Jesus as the longed-for Saviour as Simeon and Anna had done. It would be easy – except that so many today continue to make the same mistake.

Assuming they have actually heard of Jesus they may see him as a good person and well-meaning but pretty ineffectual and certainly not someone who they are going to allow into their well-ordered lives. For them, Jesus is recognised as just another historic figure whose life may have had an impact on world history but has little impact on them. Life is complex enough without the extra demands of having a faith!

What a pity that those who fail to recognise Jesus also cannot understand the positive impact that following Him could have on their lives and the way his teaching and example can help them to deal with the very complexities that weigh them down.

We must not make the mistake of turning Jesus into some kind of 'Super Hero' who always swoops to the rescue and rights our wrongs for us, but those of us who do try to follow in His way recognise in Jesus someone who travels alongside us and ensures we never face our problems alone. In Jesus we recognise a person of great love and compassion who is always more willing to forgive us than we are to seek that forgiveness.

As we start our journey through Lent it is not a bad thing to ask ourselves if we truly recognise Jesus as our Lord and Saviour or whether we too have mistaken him for someone else.

Of one thing we can be certain – Jesus never mistakes our identity whatever our facial bone structure!

With love and every blessing,

*+Geoff*

*February 2018*

Image: incorporating images by [Rob Swatski](#) and [Gage Skidmore](#) under [Creative Commons](#).

# **TUESDAY CLUB LECTURES**

***TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018***



**SPEAKER:  
Jonathan Oates**

**Chancellor Law:  
local philanthropist  
and much more**

COMMENCING AT **2.30PM** FOR APPROX ONE HOUR

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**VENUE:**

**St Michael's Church Hall**

**PROCEEDS TO ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FUNDS**



# WALL NEWS

## **Rev. Denise Youngs**

The Sunday service on 4th February was the last one to be undertaken by Denise at St John's, Wall. The congregation was a good representation of the many people Denise had given ministry to. Among the congregation were representatives from Wall Parish Council, Wall Village Hall committee and the WI. Not only has Denise been a church minister she has supported our village life from the moment she came to us as a curate. She has been present at the majority of our social events adding to the fellowship of village life. Denise has supported us at times of celebration, baptism, marriage and in sadness at funerals and times of stressful change.

During the service, Denise had the pleasure of blessing the wedding ring of Oliver Beaumont. Oliver and Jennifer were married at St John's and their children Abigail and Finnley were both baptised at Wall. Oliver had unfortunately lost his wedding ring, so this was a replacement.

Amongst Denise's leaving presents was an Olive tree. Her new home has a blank canvas of a garden which will no doubt soon be filled with the garden gifts from both St Johns and St Michael's. The removal company will have quite a task loading the many garden items she has to take with her.

We wish Denise a very happy retirement,

*Hilary*



## **St. John's Points from the PCC**

The beautiful Copper Beech tree which has shaded the right hand side of the gate for many years has finally succumbed to a nasty disease which has affected the roots and has got to be removed. This will take place in early February and at a suitable time a replacement Copper Beech will be planted in the churchyard.

Once the tree has been removed, a new Notice Board will be erected which will enable passers by to read what is happening at St. John's more clearly.

We have two projects waiting to be done at the moment. Repairs are needed to some of the stonework and new lighting for the interior of church is being investigated. We are also hoping to undertake the conservation of the Enlistment Roll for WW1 which is at present in the entrance to the church.

We need to start thinking ahead to our APCM. We will certainly need more members on the PCC. Please consider carefully and prayerfully whether there are any ways in which you can contribute to the life of our church in Wall.

## **Ramblings**

I have been thinking about how often in life we don't appreciate something until we lose it. This can be true in all sorts of areas. We don't really know what it is like to become stiff in our joints until the day when we find ourselves suffering from it!

Sometimes we have something for years and don't realise its full value. I am sure you have heard of people who have ignored an item they



possess and then have had it valued only to find that it was worth a fortune!

We are not always aware of real gifts which we have so that we do not enjoy them fully. Have you ever found something in a cupboard which you had forgotten you had and is just what you need?

God's love for us can be a little like that. We know that He loves us – we frequently hear about God's love for us in church services and sermons but it doesn't have an impact on our lives somehow.

Sometimes something can happen to us and we can see the loving hand of God in it, maybe through the timing of an event, a chance meeting, the right person to visit or pray with us. Let us look out for God's hand in our lives this month in unexpected ways and let us be thankful for His love.

*Christine Higgs*

## **Knowle Lodge Open garden**

The two dates for this years Open Garden at Knowle Lodge are Sunday April 8th 1pm - 5pm and Sunday May 20th 1pm - 5pm

Once again we have been asked to assist with the afternoons fund raising event by providing the refreshments of tea and cakes. Therefore can I once again make the request for cakes on the day. Also help is always needed to help with serving the teas and cakes, washing up, collection of cups and plates.

Please phone Hilary on 01543 480220 if you can help in any way.

## Flowers on the Altar

On occasions it has been necessary to put flowers on the altar in a hurry prior to the service. It has therefore been suggested that we have a supply of silk flowers that will on some occasions complement the arrangement throughout the year. Therefore if you are having a spring clean of your flower arranging drawer and have some flowers that you think would help us in all seasons it would be appreciated if you could pass them on to St Johns.



CartoonChurch.com

*Hilary*

## 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

### LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP

There will be a talk:

*'Wildlife voluntary work in Africa' by Christine Bull.*

**At** Wade Street church

Frog Lane,  
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**At** 7:45.

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*Peter Norbury (Programme Secretary)*

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# Bible Readings

**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

**Sunday 18th March**  
**5th Sunday of Lent**  
**[Purple]**  
Jeremiah 31.31-34  
John 12.20-33

**Sunday 25th March**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**[Red]**  
Mark 11.1-11  
Mark 15.1-39

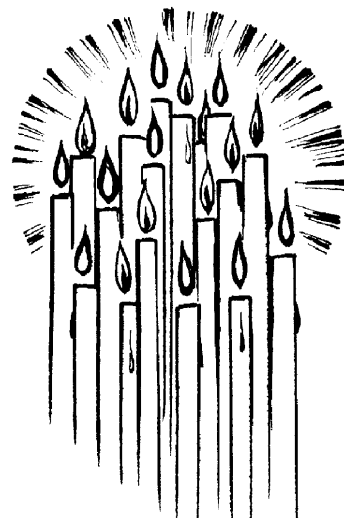
**Sunday 25th March**  
**EVENSONG**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**[Red]**  
Isaiah 5.1-7  
Mark 12.1-12

**Thursday 29th March**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
**[White]**  
Exodus 12.1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
John 13.1-15

**Friday 30th March**  
**Good Friday**  
**[no hangings]**  
Isaiah 52.13-end of 53  
Hebrews 10.16-25  
John 18.1-19.42

**Sunday 1st April**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**[Gold or White]**  
Acts 10.34-43  
John 20.1-18

**Sunday 8th April**  
**2nd Sunday of Easter**  
**[Gold or White]**  
Acts 4.32-35  
John 20.19-end



# From the Registers



## Baptism

St. Michael's	28th Jan	Ellie Louise Felicity Hawksworth	7 yrs
St. Michael's	28th Jan	Rupert William Hawksworth	5 mths
St. Michael's	4th Feb	Albie Arthur Caddy	3 mths



## Wedding

St Michael's	14th Feb	Peter Kevin Coleman & Dawn Marie Brown
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## At Rest

St Michael's	25th Jan	Joan Price	89
St Michael's	29th Jan	Margaret 'Peggy' Marshall	88
St Michael's	9th Feb	Baby Francis Allen	6 mths

# St Michael's Rota – March 2018

<b>Sunday 8.00 am St Michael's</b>	<b>4 March</b>	<b>11 March</b>	<b>18 March</b>	<b>25 March</b>
<b>Sidesperson</b>	Sandy Baker	Martin Dewes	David Bull	Brian Smith

<b>Sunday 10.00 am St Michael's</b>	<b>4 March</b>	<b>11 March Mothering Sunday</b>	<b>18 March</b>	<b>25 March Palm Sunday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	Alison Anketell	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Maureen Brand	Brenda Eley
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Joan and Ken Sharman	Lynn and David Edge	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Barbara Home-wood Pat Toplis
<b>Reader</b>	Kay Martin		Brenda Liptrot	Angela Burgess
<b>Servers</b>	Maggie Easton Kay Martin		Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen	Maggie Easton Elizabeth Salt Phil Clayton
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Maggie Easton		Sheila Vaughan	Elizabeth Salt
<b>Intercessor</b>	Stephen Barton		Trevor James	David Bull
<b>Coffee</b>	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones	Judy Godfrey Brenda Eley	Brenda Liptrot Shirley Trelfa	Anne Lingwood Angela Burgess
<b>Healing</b>				TBA
<b>Transport</b>	Martin Dewes	Elizabeth Allen	Ray Allen	Brenda Liptrot
<b>Flowers</b>	No flowers	Lynn Rock	No flowers	Lynn Rock

<b>Sunday 12.30 pm St Michael's</b>	<b>4 March 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>4 March No service</b>	<b>11 March Communion</b>	<b>18 March No service (Messy church at 4.30 pm)</b>	<b>25 March Evensong</b>
<b>Sidesperson</b>		Margaret Freaan		Ray Allen
<b>Reader</b>		Margaret Freaan		Ray Allen
<b>Communion Assistant</b>		Phil Clayton		





It's back to the biscuits, unless you fancy doing the baking!!

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## And Finally:

Our days are identical suitcases- all the same size- but some people can pack more into them than others.

**Be very careful, then how you live- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.**

***Ephesians 5:11,16***

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Michael's Church</b></p> <p><b>Verger:</b> Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</p> <p><b>Sacristan and Head Server:</b> Maggie Easton 255308</p> <p><b>Organist and Choirmaster:</b> Peter Hawks-worth 251938 or 07771 986538</p> <p><b>Music Group:</b> Richard Brooks 07918 906 350</p> <p><b>Transport Rota:</b> Ron Lewis 317448</p> <p><b>Pastoral Care:</b> Peter Salt 250723</p> <p><b>Flowers:</b> Diana Baker 01543 416232</p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p><b>Junior Praise:</b> Viv Oliver 258054</p> <p><b>Bellringers:</b> Gillian Eastwood 480017, Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. <a href="mailto:gillieastwood@gmail.com">gillieastwood@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Mothers Union:</b> Caroline Green 262342</p> <p><b>PAWS:</b> Lesley Allen 251654 or Kath Bird 253306</p> <p><b>Social Team:</b> Contact via the office 262211</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St John's Church, Wall</b></p> <p><b>Verger:</b> Hilary Barker 480220</p> <p><b>Pastoral Care:</b> Revd. Denise Youngs 672646</p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p><b>Magazine Distributer:</b> Eileen Carson 254107</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other Useful Numbers</b></p> <p><b>St Mary's Centre:</b> 256611</p> <p><b>St Michael's School:</b> 227425</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Magazine</b></p> <p><b>Magazine Distributor:</b> Barbara Homewood 255909 E-mail <a href="mailto:brian@britcave.co.uk">brian@britcave.co.uk</a> Magazine Editor: David Bull 07525 012272 or email: <a href="mailto:dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk">dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>
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