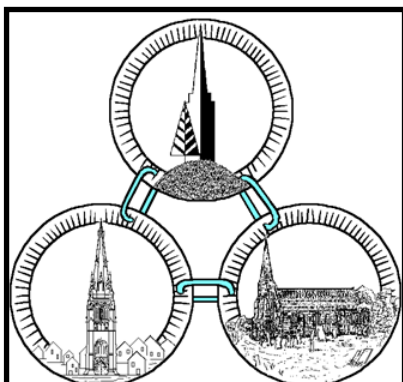


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2018



Pentecost: 20th May 2018



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

75p

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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

Reflections for May

Ascension Day - 10th May

Pentecost - 20th May

If you are of “a certain age” you will remember the Whitsun holidays, perhaps you went to the sea-side during Whit Week. Whit was the old name for Pentecost. Years ago it was a time for Baptisms and Confirmations, the candidates would wear white for purity so the festival was called Whit from white. Nowadays we refer to its original name of Pentecost, and our holiday is the fixed Spring Bank Holiday.

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival celebrated 50 days after Passover, the name Pentecost referring to the 50 days. Many people regard Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Disciples, as the birthday of the church, and it is a significant part of the church's Liturgical Year.

The Church Year, which begins with Advent, gives structure and meaning to the way we celebrate the wonder of God's love for us through the life, teaching, death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Originally based on the Jewish religious year, with its main festival of Passover, the Christian Liturgical Year developed slowly over the centuries, and is still being reviewed. Easter replaced Passover, Christmas was introduced by the Romans, and so on. The Year is divided into a series of Seasons, such as Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost, each with its own mood.

The dates of the festivals may vary between different Christian denominations, but the sequence is largely the same.

Different colours of robes and altar hangings visually lead us through the Year. A simple guide is - Purple for Advent and Lent; White for Christmas and Easter; Red for Holy Week and Pentecost; and Green for Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is for weeks which do not belong to a

particular Season of the Church Year.

The flow of the Church Year can enrich our faith. Each time we revisit a festival we have an opportunity to understand it afresh, focussing our attention on a particular aspect of God's nature – grace, mercy, salvation, generosity, and so on.

The month of May sees the commemoration of Ascension and Pentecost. In these we see the beginning of the Christian Church. What does it mean to be the church ?

St Paul viewed the church as the body of the Risen Christ, showing how Jesus is alive through the worship and work of the Christian community.

Paul said, “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

(1 Cor 12. 27)

This famous prayer of St Teresa of Avila (1515 – 1582) continues the theme :-

“Christ has no body on earth but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which he looks
compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which he blesses the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body on earth but yours”

Wonderful words to think about at Pentecost.

Lesley

Thy Kingdom Come:

Ascension to Pentecost 2018

Each weekday and Saturday from **11th to 19th May** there will be Morning Prayer in church at 9.00am. Everyone is welcome to come and pray together for the coming of God's Kingdom and the needs of the world.

On **Wednesday 16th** the **Holy Communion service will be at 9.00am** (not the usual 9.30am) so that we have a consistent pattern.

Each service will be followed by refreshments and a chance to meet and talk.

On **Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th** we hope to hold a coffee morning starting at 9.30. We hope that these two occasions will draw in passersby as well as those who respond to our advertising. This will be a good chance to offer hospitality in church.

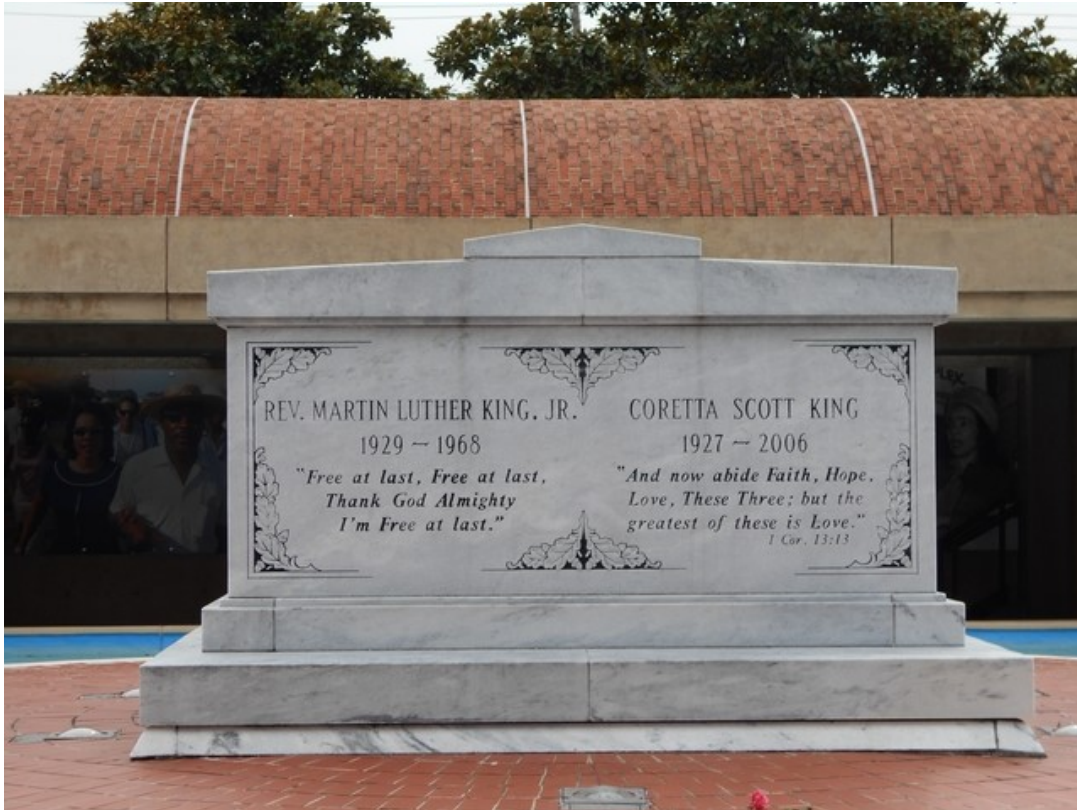
From **Tuesday 15th to Friday 18th** different classes from St Michael's School will come up to church at about 9.45 to join in five prayer stations which will be set up around the church. We hope that people will stay on to welcome and join in with the children in their prayer activities. This will end at 11.00am.

When Thy Kingdom Comes ends this year we intend to continue with an open invitation to join in Morning Prayer from **Monday to Thursday each week at 8.15am.**



A King's Legacy

The Chad Blog, 4 Apr 2018, Lindsey Hall



One of the most poignant moments in the whole drama of Holy Week and Easter is Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' (Mark 14:6). Everything else that follows hangs on this moment. If Jesus had decided otherwise – that it was too much, too scary, too costly, too painful, too inconvenient, that he just wasn't going to do it – our story would be very different. And our call to do likewise would not be the same.

Following the path of Jesus, taking up the cross and doing God's will has shaped the lives of many throughout Christian history. In lots of cases, we have never heard of them; their Gethsemane moment is private, and the life offered to God part of the patchwork of life in

community where we don't always notice the signs of the kingdom among us. For some the cup is a much more public one and the impact of their choice even more far reaching.

50 years ago Martin Luther King Jr was killed in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was shocking but not surprising. He had already survived attempts on his life and received numerous death threats. There was not one Gethsemane



moment, but many. King could have backed away from the civil rights campaign, he could have lowered his profile, he could have left others to take up the cross, but his sense of being called to that work outweighed his fear. King's vision of how the world could be was powerful enough to risk his comfort and stability, his reputation and even his life.

King's legacy is immense and his death was part of changing the world. We still await the full fruits of that change, but as with all things kingdom, we live with the tension of it having been begun but not yet fulfilled. Vocation is not always easy. The temptation to back away from that which seems unpalatable, costly, painful, is strong and we can find many, many reasons to justify not drinking those particular cups. But our vocation is bigger than us and backing away from it isn't just about a set of personal, private choices. Calling is how God

works through us, how the kingdom grows and the world changes.

In this Eastertide as we celebrate Jesus' sacrifice once and for all and remember what it cost Martin Luther King Jr to do God's will, the challenge is for each of us to risk praying as Jesus did: . 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'



Parish Surgery

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 or email office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk to make an appointment.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

First Steps



Monday 14th May

10am St Michael's

Family Praise

Sunday 13th May

10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...

MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food on



Sunday 20th May

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 5th May

Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, give us a heart for simple things: love and laughter, bread and wine, tales and dreams. Fill our lives with green and growing hope, make us a people of justice whose song is Allelujah and whose name breathes love. Amen.

(South Africa; From Shore to Shore, SPCK)

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

Baptism

Preparation First Tuesday at
8:00pm at 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

Bellringers' report for 2017-2018

Bellringing isn't as easy as it looks. It takes determination, effort and a lot of support from those who can already ring. We have a steady little band though, of myself (Tower Captain, Teacher), Jennifer (17), Jan, Mary, Laura, Nick, Ray, Paul and Dave, regular visitor Tayeed, who helps us when we ring on a Sunday morning, and Rachel when she has been home from University. Rachel is coming back to Lichfield this month so will be a regular band member again but Jennifer will be moving on to start at University in September.

Unfortunately it doesn't take a lot for us to have to cancel ringing. This is mainly down to health and safety, which is really important. Someone has to be able to take responsibility in the tower and if we don't have someone with enough experience to assist in an emergency then we have to cancel. The weather in the winter can also be an issue as can peak holiday times. That said we do meet most Thursdays and everyone is continuing to make progress and we ring for as many Sundays as we can. We now generally ring for weddings with a local band instead of being reliant on visitors from other towers so this is positive progress.

This year marks the centenary of the end of World War I and there is a ringing project "Ringling for Peace - Armistice 100". On 11 November 2018 bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals across the country. During the war, bells were generally silent and only rang freely after the declaration of Armistice on 11 November 1918. The ringing this 11th November will celebrate 100 years since the Armistice and remember those who died, including 1400 bellringers who lost their lives during the First World War. There is also a campaign to recruit new ringers, hopefully to recruit 1400 ringers in honour of the 1400 who died in WWI. I don't

know if we had any ringers at St Michael's who lost their lives during the war, but we will make an effort to ring for this occasion. We might also try to ring a quarter peal or a peal to remember those who died from our parish.

We'd be happy to start teaching again, so if you or someone you know would like to be one of the 1400 new ringers this year across the country please get in touch with me. As I said at the start, ringing isn't as easy as it looks. It's physical. It can take between one month and a year to learn to ring a bell on your own, without assistance, with other people and that requires commitment from the new ringer and the people supporting them learning. After that you can take ringing as far as you like. It opens up a world of towers to visit, friends to make and learning challenges.

I'm an approved teacher with the Association of Ringing Teachers and we're a welcoming band so we do our best to make everyone welcome and keep the practices sensibly busy rather than exhausting. We follow the "Learning the Ropes" scheme with new ringers so you will learn all the skills you need to ring at St Michael's, but then you will be made very welcome at other towers. You need to be free regularly on a Thursday night from 7pm - 9pm and on Sunday mornings from 9.30am - 10am. I'm happy to teach under 18's but would ask a parent to attend with them for the first two or three weeks at least so that they can get to know what is involved as well as knowing the band. We would also welcome back anyone who has been a ringer in the past and would support them getting back into ringing.

Gillian Eastwood

gillieastwood@gmail.com

01543 480017



First Steps



(Annual Report)

First Steps, our group for pre-school children and their carers, has now been running for two years and is going from strength to strength. We have a wonderful group of helpers who do a great job making everyone, both children and carers, feel welcome and cared for.

There is quite a turn-over of members at times because of children moving on to nursery or school and parents going back to work, but whenever we fear that numbers may fall, new members arrive. We are delighted that we have recently had a number of babies joining us and we welcome children from birth to school-age.

We meet in the Fellowship Corner in St Michael's Church, once a month on a Monday morning, from 10am to 11.30am.

Our sessions begin with play and chat. Older children have the chance to do a craft activity and colouring, linked to the Bible story we are having that month.

After refreshments, which include home-made cake, we have a story and some songs before we finish with a prayer.

We are always pleased to welcome new members. If you would like any more information please contact Rev Ruth Bull at dkbrlcb@hotmail.com



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

May 2018

On yet another wet and miserable Monday evening in April about half our members attended a Lady Day service at Christ Church, Burntwood. Outside was darkness and rain but inside was bright and warm for this special Deanery communion service which focussed on the role of the virgin Mary. We were also reminded of the bravery and support of Joseph in the face of what was regarded as an outrage to public decency. Following the service, we enjoyed tea, cakes and a lot of socialising with members of the other M.U.'s. Christ Church now has members from St. Anne's, Chasetown and St. John's Chase Terrace and has been re-named Burntwood Chase Benefice Mother's Union.

On May 14th we invite you to the Church Hall to hear John Polhill speak about the role of Environmental Officer. Later that Month we join our Deanery friends again, this time at Yoxall.

Betty Lyne

IDEAS FOR REDUCING WASTE AND USE OF PLASTIC

At the Women's World Day of Prayer Service in March we were presented with different ways we might reduce waste and our use of plastic. Here is a list of the ideas we were given. I am not endorsing them, but they should give you plenty to think about. At the service we were asked to try to incorporate just one of them into our lives.



- * I will use a local milkman to get my milk delivered in bottles to reduce my plastic and support local farmers.
- * I will knit my own dishcloths rather than buying sponges which have plastic in them.
- * I will use cloth bags for my shopping rather than plastic bags.
- * I will use bars of soap rather than buying dispensing soap in a plastic container.
- * I will become a member of my local library and borrow books rather buying them.
- * I will become a member of my local library and download free electronic magazines, rather than buying magazines.
- * I will walk to the shops rather than get in my car, whenever possible.
- * I will go one month without buying anything new.

- * I will look to use alternative homemade cleaning products rather than use chemicals.
- * I will select fruit and vegetables that are not in plastic, in my weekly shopping.
- * I will make my own yoghurt rather than buying yoghurt in plastic tubs.
- * I will have a go at growing my own vegetables; they taste better and I get outside in the fresh air.
- * I will donate good quality items I no longer need to charity shops rather than throwing them in the bin.
- * I will look to repair something rather than just throwing it away.
- * I will only buy what I need, rather than what's on special offer at the time.
- * I will buy local if I can; farm shops are close.
- * I will sign up to stopping junk mail through my door, by asking my postman or online.
- * I will tell my bank I would only like to receive electronic bank statements rather than paper copies.
- * I will use my washing line to dry my clothes rather than a tumble dryer to reduce energy demand.
- * I will use washable cloths rather than paper towels in my home, to reduce how much I need to throw in the bin.
- * I will take my own transportable mug to get a hot drink at take-away outlets, rather than use a plastic cup.
- * I will look in my bin to see what I frequently throw away and see if I can reduce it.

Alison James

St. Michael's Churchyard

We were very pleased to receive the news at the end of March that we were successful in our application for an Awards For All Grant for our Churchyard Project. The National Lottery have awarded us a Grant of £10,000 which will help us a great deal in the work we are planning for our Churchyard Management Plan.



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**



We are also receiving a Grant of £1,500 from South Staffordshire Community Energy Fund. This award is given on condition that we obtained an Awards For All Grant.

The Project begins at the start of June and is to be completed by the end of May, 2019. Details of the work we are planning to do will appear in the June Magazine.

I would like to thank all those who have supported the Churchyard Project- The Church Congregations; St. Michael's PCC; Queen's Croft School; The Churchyard Working Party; Nick Burton, Lichfield City Council Open Spaces Officer; Robin Taylor and his colleagues from South Staffordshire Community Energy Fund; Siane Morgan and The

Community Payback Team; Caring For God's Acre; Lichfield Diocese; Mitch Payne from Support Staffordshire; and all those who completed the initial Churchyard Survey.

The Working Party continue to meet each month. Our meeting in May is on Saturday May 19th., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided during our Mid-Morning Break. Please join us if you are able and help with the continuing work in our beautiful Churchyard.

Ray Allen 251654

Ray Allen 251654

FLOODLIGHTING

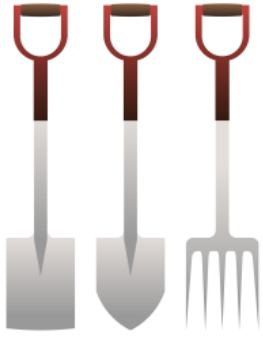
Sponsor St Michael's floodlights to mark a special occasion or remember a loved one!

Your donation will brighten up the skies over Lichfield for the night.

Contact the United Benefice Office

on 01543 262211





More Churchyard Helpers



As you walk along the path from the church door round the tower, you may well have noticed how much of the undergrowth has been painstakingly removed. The graves are much more visible and the nettles and brambles are much more under control.

This is thanks to a dedicated group of young helpers from **Queen's Croft School** who work there on Wednesday mornings as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

If you are passing through the churchyard on a Wednesday and see them working there, do say hello as they are doing a tremendous job and we are very grateful for all the work they are doing to help improve the churchyard.



St Michael on Greenhill CAMAS Fundraiser

SPUD & PUD LUNCH and CAR WASH

Handbags, jigsaws & bric-a-brac also for sale

**Saturday 5 May 2018
in the Church Hall
at 12 noon - 2 pm**

Adults £6, Children £3

Family (2+2) £15, Car Wash £3

Tickets from Ted Green on 262342 or at the St Michael's 10 am service. Also from Camas parents.



THY KINGDOM COME



Pray for five friends

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives.

Consistently praying for others takes discipline, and there are many ways that we can build up habits that will help us to pray for our friends and family.

Choose five people you would regularly like to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on 5 names, commit to praying for them regularly by praying the following:

**Loving Father,
in the face of Jesus Christ
your light and glory have blazed forth.
Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends [here, name your friends]
the life of your Son and your love for all.
Strengthen me as a witness to that love
as I pledge to pray for them,
for your name's sake. Amen.**

Here are five easy ways to pray for five people regularly. Choose the one that suits you best.

1. PIECE OF STRING

Take a piece of string or cord, and tie five knots in it to represent each of the five people you have committed to pray for. You could carry the knotted string in your pocket, tie it round your wrist or place it somewhere that you'll see it regularly. Use the knots to remind you to pray for each person on your list of five.

2. SMALL STONES

Find five small stones (light coloured ones are best) and write each of the people on your list onto each of the stones. Place them on your desk, bedside table or fireplace as a reminder to pray. Alternatively, you could place each stone in a different room of your home and pray for each person as you enter or leave the room.

3. BUSINESS PRAYER CARD OR BOOKMARK

Grab a piece of card that will easily fit inside your wallet, purse or book. Write your list of five names onto the card before putting it in your wallet or book. Use this card as a daily reminder to pray for them.

4. PRAYER ALERTS

Add your list of five people to the alerts section of your phone and set reminders to pray for them. You could choose one name per day, or pray for all five across your day. Remember to set alerts for a suitable time where you can stop to pray for your list.

5. POST-IT NOTES

Use five post-it notes and write one name onto each. Stick them onto your mirror, above your bed or somewhere that you'll see them regularly and will be reminded to pray.

You might like to use the following prayers as you pray for others:

Loving Lord,

Please work in me so I can share your love, life and message with...

Reveal your love to them, that they might know, follow and witness to you,

for Your glory.

Amen.

Loving Father,
Send your Holy Spirit so I can share your love, life and message with...
Reveal Jesus to them, that they might know, follow and love him,
for Your glory.
Amen.

You build your church through the power of your Spirit.
By the same Spirit enable me to witness to... your love, beauty and
grace,
that they may come to the fellowship of the faithful
for Your glory.
Amen.

Lord, I pray that you will lead... to you.
Thank you that you love them. I pray that you would break into their
life and show them your love, grace and peace,
for Your glory.
Amen.

*Using the BLESS acrostic can help us to focus on all of the felt needs of
those we are praying for:*

Body – health, protection, energy

Labour – employment/unemployment, retirement, adequate
income

Emootional – inner peace, joy, wisdom, insight, patience

Social – healthy relationships between spouses, parents, children,
friends, reconciliation; love

Spiritual – repentance, salvation, obedience, faith

Why not visit the website and pledge to pray. There are lots of useful
resources and suggestions, so why not join millions of Christians
around the world and join the global wave of prayer.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



Thank you all so much for your support of the **Next Stop Symi** charity. During the talk to the Tuesday Club from one of the trustees and founder members of the charity, Philip Flagg, we learnt that we are supporting a learning and education centre which is helping up to two and a half thousand refugees (squashed into a camp for 700) of all ages. It is run by volunteers and aims to help with art, education, sewing knitting etc

The items required for the charity Symi are as follows.

- Fabric, if possible 2 metres long.
- Whole balls of wool
- Sewing needles, Knitting needles , crochet hooks 3 and 3.5 especially useful.
- Toys for young children i.e. duplo, dolls, large easy puzzles, large cars etc.
- Supplies for art classes
- oil and water paints, brushes, artist pads, pencils
- New packaged underwear i.e. boxer shorts (small, medium), packs of ladies and children's pants

The van will be leaving in the middle to the end of May.

St Michael's Hall will be open to collect items for three mornings the week before. Exact times will be available and in notice sheets soon.



United Benefice Walking Group

From Chesterfield Farm to Chesterfield Barn / From old to new Saturday 17th March. With a weather warning of Yellow and 0 degrees the brave walking group assembled at Chesterfield Farm dressed in layers of clothes to combat the cold. The walk in snow showers was on road, fields and woodland ending at the building site of Chesterfield Barn for coffee. Such a pity we did not take a picture of Lynn and Brian sitting on garden chairs in amongst the builders tools.

We invite you to join us for our May Walk. This will be a **Springtime Walk through the Woodland Trust site, Pipe Hall Farm.**

To find out more about the site before we go, you could visit the Woodland Trust's website.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/4527/pipe-hall-farm/>

We will meet at St Michael's at **10.00 A.M. on SATURDAY 26th MAY.** Or you can join us at the free car park at Pipe Hall Farm. The postcode is **WS13 8BW** for satnav users.

Before coffee we will be walking around this woodland site which has a mixture of ancient and young woodland and mature plantations. There is an extensive network of paths, some of which are rougher than others. We will also explore the open wildflower meadows sown with a colourful mix of native grasses and flowers.



We will then drive to the pub, **The Star in Burntwood** (Lichfield Rd, Burntwood WS7 0HJ) for coffee.

After coffee, we will have a short walk around Burntwood Green, visiting Prince's Park and seeing the site for the proposed housing development in Burntwood.



We will then return to **The Star pub for lunch.** (I will be asking for pre-orders nearer the time but you will also be able to order your food on the day.) A good variety of meals is available to choose from at The Star, which we have visited previously on our Hammerwich Walk.

NB—The pub have asked us to not wear walking boots inside. Please bring a change of shoes with you.

The walk around the wood will last about an hour and is on a mixture of paths and trails through the woodland. The walk after coffee is on tarmacked footpaths. Altogether the walk is about **3 1/2 miles long.** It is completely flat, with no stiles and should be mostly dry with the possibility of a little mud in parts of Pipe Hall Farm, if the weather has been rainy.

Join us if you can for this walk around one of our local Woodland Trust sites.

Ray Allen 01543 251654



St. Michael's Film Club

1. A Dog's Purpose

(Cert PG. 100 min. Comedy 2017.)

A dog looks to discover his purpose in life over the course of several owners.

Monday 14TH MAY

1.30pm start

Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm.

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

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

2. The Greatest Showman

(105 min. Musical 2017.)

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

Monday June 4th.

1.30pm start

Film Club April 2018

Paddington Bear 2



More than 50 years ago I

was on a train journey, intrigued by the young boy sitting opposite. He was reading a book and occasionally laughing at the content. (Memo to anyone under 40 reading this. People in those days took a book or newspaper to while away the journey time. Some were even known to do their knitting or write letters. Happy days of peaceful travelling). Now and then he showed his mother something in the book to share the joke. I was interested to see the title. It was “A Bear Called Paddington” My introduction to the ever youthful, accident prone but well-meaning young bear who is as popular as ever with all ages.

The first film showed his arrival in London, adoption by the Brown family and his various mishaps as he accustomed himself to human ways. Paddington 2 brought back many of the original characters with a few additions such as the deliciously hammy failed actor, Phoenix Buchanan played by Hugh Grant as a typical pantomime villain. There was also a prison full of desperate criminals who eventually succumbed to Paddington’s charms and naïve faith in the ultimate goodness of everyone. As Aunt Lucy taught him “ Mind your manners and be polite to everyone and they will be good to you”. His marmalade sandwiches also increased his popularity.

Paddington desperately wanted to buy an unusual pop-up book of London scenes from Mr. Gruber’s second hand shop and send it to Aunt Lucy in Peru. It was, however rare and valuable but he took on several jobs—not very successfully—to earn the money to pay for it.

Unfortunately, Phoenix Buchanan found out about it and realised that it held clues to a treasure. He stole the book and set about finding the clues always disguised in costumes from his acting career. Paddington was in the wrong place at the wrong time and was charged with the theft and subsequently jailed. The Brown family and friends set about proving his innocence and thus ensued many chases by steam train and sea-plane, even a little breaking and entering. Eventually,--we were never in doubt but it was exciting to watch—all was resolved. Paddington was reunited with his family, the prisoners repented and even Aunt Lucy made an appearance. It was the ultimate feel good film. Let us hope for a Paddington 3.

Betty Lyne

LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP

The Lichfield Wildlife Group and the SE Staffs Bat Group
Will be holding a bat walk

At Fisherwick Lakes, Fisherwick Wood Lane, Whittington WS13
8QF

On Saturday May 26th

At 9:00 pm

There is no charge for this event

Non members welcome.

Peter Norbury (Programme Secretary)



LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP



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**

Saturday 9 June

Cost: £20 per person

Pick up at Boley Park Community Centre, 8:00 a.m.

To book, please send a cheque, made out to 'Lichfield Wildlife Group', to:

Lichfield Wildlife Group, 21 Charnwood Close,
Lichfield, SW13 6BU

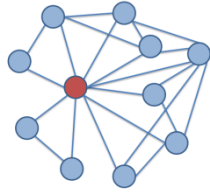
(Please include email so that confirmation can be sent.)

Under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Contact (01543) 257812



www.facebook.com/lichfieldwildlifegroup



Network: Church

(Annual report)

Network: *Church* is a group for younger adults (pretty well anyone pre-retirement!) who come to St Michael's or St John's Church, or who may have some sort of link with the church and might like to deepen that attachment.

This includes, among others, people married at the church, those who have had their children baptised there or those who come to First Steps or Messy Church.

Being part of a church today, does not necessarily mean being at a service every Sunday morning and this can lead to people not being aware of who else is linked with the church and how to explore faith further.

Network: *Church* provides an opportunity to meet other people in an informal social setting (usually at Beerbohm in Tamworth Street). We invite people to get a drink and join us upstairs where we have a good chat and share cheese and biscuits.

We have met several times over the past year and although numbers remain small, it seems to be enjoyed by those who come along. It would be great to welcome a few more people. We meet about 4-5 times year. If you are not on our circulation list and would like to hear when we are meeting, please let me know.

Ruth Bull :- dkbrlcb@hotmail.com

WALL NEWS

Ramblings May 2018

The weather recently has not encouraged us to ramble anywhere! I happened to be in Shrewsbury one Sunday morning when I received a phone call to ask if there was still a church service at Wall. I did not know - my daughter was scraping the layer of snow from the car at the time so that we could drive home! We had had a great weekend in Shrewsbury exploring churches and the Abbey, and enjoying the shops – there is an excellent Christian Bookshop there! Once upon a time long ago those churches were all no doubt full of worshippers. Now some of them are still alive but some are preserved as monuments to the past. They have a fascinating history but are no longer alive. The problem seems to be widespread – congregations are growing older and the younger people do not always have the same priorities; there are too many other things happening on Sunday mornings – football, family outings to the shops (I can't think of anything worse!) and so it goes on. At St. John's we are struggling to find folk to take on new positions of responsibility to ensure that we survive as a worshipping community in to the future. We are so thankful to all those who have given of their time and effort until now. We pray that God will call others to take on the baton in the future that we may continue to be a place of worship and prayer for all and not just a monument to the past.

Knowle Lodge Open Garden

It's amazing how many visitors return to see the Millennium garden at Knowle Lodge year after year.

Sunday 8th April was fortunately a dry day following weeks of rain.

Although the day wasn't particularly warm, visitors were able to sit and enjoy the view of the garden whilst drinking tea and eating cake. The two-acre garden was ablaze with yellow daffodils still at their best before the bright tulips take over and compete in the display of colour.



Over 150 visitors came through the gate, some saying they would return when the next opening will be on Sunday, May 20th 1-5pm.

The cost of admission once again is donated to the Macmillan Nurses and we as a church benefit from the sale of refreshments. We have Kate Cooper to thank for inviting us to be a part of event which gives a lot of pleasure to visitors and benefits worthwhile charities.

A big thank you to those who helped on the day and also to the ladies who bake the excellent cakes.

Hilary

Bible Readings

Sunday 6th May

6th Sunday of Easter

[White]

Acts 10.44-end

John 15.9-17

Thursday 10th May

Ascension Day

[Gold or White]

Acts 1.1-11

Luke 24-44

Sunday 13th May

7th Sunday of Easter

[White]

Acts 1.15-17, 21-end

John 17.6-19

Sunday 20th May

Pentecost

[Red]

Acts 2.1-21

John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Sunday 27th May

Trinity Sunday

[Gold /White]

Romans 8.12-17

John 3.1-17

Sunday 27th May

Trinity Sunday

EVENSONG

[Gold /White]

Ezekiel 1.4-10, 22-28a

Revelation 4

Sunday 3rd June

1st Sunday of Trinity

[Green]

2 Corinthians 4.5-12

Mark 2.23-3.6

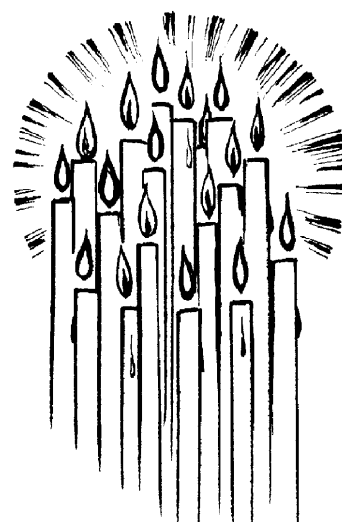
Sunday 10th June

2nd Sunday of Trinity

[Green]

2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1

Mark 3.20-end



St Michael's Rota - May 2018

Sunday 8.00 am	6 May	13 May	20 May	27 May
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith	Martin Dewes	David Bull

Sunday 10.00 am	6 May	13 May	20 May	27 May
		Family Praise		Bower Service
Welcomers	Alison Anketell	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Brenda Eley	Maureen Brand
Sidesperson	Joan and Ken Sharman	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Lynn and David Edge	Barbara Homewood David Rock
Reader	Angela Burgess		Caroline Green	
Servers	Maggie Easton Elizabeth Salt		Elizabeth Allen Kay Martin	
Communion Assistant	Maggie Easton		Sheila Vaughan	
Intercessor	Caroline Green		Ted Green	
Coffee	Judy Godfrey Angela Burgess	Alison Anketell Pam Towle	Shirley Trelfa Brenda Liptrot	June Frayn Betty Lyne
Junior praise	TBA		TBA	TBA
Healing				
Transport	Martin Dewes	Elizabeth Allen	Ray Allen	Betty Bradbury
Flowers	TBA	TBA	TBA	Kate Bellamy

Sunday 27 May 12.30 pm	Reader	Intercessor	Server
Baptism	June Frayn	Caroline Green	Maggie Easton

Thursday 7.30 pm	10 May Ascension Day	Sunday 6.00 pm St Michael's	13 May Communion	27 May Communion
Sidesperson/ Reader	Brenda Liptrot	Sidesperson	Margaret Freat	Ray Allen
Servers	Kay Martin Rowan Hawksworth	Reader	Margaret Freat	Ray Allen
Communion Assistant	Kay Martin	Server/ Communion Assistant	Elizabeth Allen	Phil Clayton
Intercessor	Stephen Barton			

From the Registers



Baptism

St. Michael's	1st April	Louisa Mary Kate Revell	4 mths
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Wedding

St. Michael's	31st March	Christopher Judson & Monica Arnold
St. Michael's	2nd April	Martin Dann & Hannah Taylor



At Rest

St Michael's	21st March	Dennis Philips	94
St Michael's	28th March	David Shuck	39
St Michael's	28th March	Pam Morris	95
St John's	3rd April	Geoffrey Woodhouse	39
St Michael's	3rd April	Alan Beardshall	90
St Michael's	5th April	Vera Allen	73
St Michael's	10th April	Marion Molloy	53
St Michael's	20th April	Dennis Sutton	75

And Finally:

Only in the darkness
can you see the stars.

Martin Luther King Jr

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<p style="text-align: center;">St Michael's Church</p> <p>Verger: <i>Lynn Rock 252634 or 07765 312411</i></p> <p>Sacristan and Head Server: <i>Maggie Easton 255308</i></p> <p>Organist and Choirmaster: <i>Peter Hawksworth 251938 or 07771 986538</i></p> <p>Music Group: <i>Richard Brooks 07918 906 350</i></p> <p>Transport Rota: <i>Brenda Liptrot 251863</i></p> <p>Pastoral Care: <i>Peter Salt 250723</i></p> <p>Flowers: <i>Diana Baker 01543 416232</i></p> <p>Safeguarding: <i>Maureen Brand 264880</i></p> <p>Junior Praise: <i>Viv Oliver 258054</i></p> <p>Bellringers: <i>Gillian Eastwood 480017,</i> Thursdays, 7:30pm to 8:55pm. gillieastwood@gmail.com</p> <p>Mothers Union: <i>Caroline Green 262342</i></p> <p>PAWS: <i>Lesley Allen 251654 or Kath Bird 253306</i></p> <p>Social Team: <i>Contact via the office 262211</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John's Church, Wall</p> <p>Verger: Hilary Barker 480220</p> <p>Pastoral Care: Christine Gilbert 07821 987999</p> <p>Safeguarding: Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p>Magazine Distributer: Eileen Carson 254107</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Useful Numbers</p> <p>St Mary's Centre: 256611</p> <p>St Michael's School: 227425</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Magazine</p> <p>Magazine Distributor: <i>Barbara Homewood 255909</i> E-mail brian@britcave.co.uk</p> <p>Magazine Editor: <i>David Bull 07525 012272</i> or email: dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk</p>
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