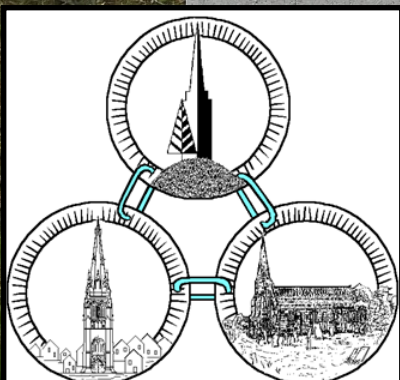


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

November 2017



The United Benefice of
St Michael on Greenhill,
Lichfield, with St John, Wall

*Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 12th November*

70p

<p>Rector:</p> <p>The Venerable Simon Baker, Archdeacon of Lichfield</p> <p>10 Mawgan Drive, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9SD. Tel: 01543 416232</p> <p>E-Mail: simonbaker57@outlook.com</p> <p>Day Off: Friday</p>	<p>Associate Minister (<i>Part-time</i>):</p> <p>The Revd. Linda Collins</p> <p>17, Leyfields, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7NJ. Tel: 07915 091128</p> <p>E-mail: lindacollins@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday</p>
<p>Associate Minister (<i>NSM Part-time</i>):</p> <p>The Revd. Denise Youngs</p> <p>10 Tame Avenue, BURNTWOOD, Staffs, WS7 9JQ. Tel: 01543 672646</p> <p>E-mail: deniseyoungs272@hotmail.com</p> <p>Days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday</p>	<p>Associate Minister (<i>NSM Part-time</i>): The Revd. Ruth Bull</p> <p>36 Broadlands Rise, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9SF E-mail: dkbrlcb@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Assistant Minister (NSM)</p> <p>The Revd. Jeyan Anketell</p> <p>7 Wissage Lane, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6DQ</p>	<p>Reader: Lesley Allen</p> <p>21 Boley Close, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9AR Tel: 01543 251654 E-mail: lesley.allen21@googlemail.com</p>
<p>Reader: Phil Clayton</p> <p>Glenridding, 7 Thacker Drive, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6NS Tel: 01543 263244 E-mail: phil@philclayton.net</p>	<p>Reader: Dr Trevor James</p> <p>36 Heritage Court, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9ST Tel: 01543 258434</p>
<p>Reader: Peter Salt</p> <p>7 Redlock Field, Lichfield WS14 OAB Tel: 01543 250723 E-mail: peter.salt@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Reader: Alan Toplis</p> <p>Streethay Lodge, Streethay, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 8LR Tel: 01543 414651 E-mail: alan.toplis@toplis.co.uk</p>
<p>Parish Surgery</p> <p>For Baptisms, Banns and Weddings, staff are available at the Parish Office in St Michael's Church, Church Street on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings in the month by appointment only. Please telephone 01543 262211 to make an appointment.</p>	<p>United Benefice Office</p> <p>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</p>
<p>St Michael's Church</p> <p>Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED</p>	<p>St John's Church</p> <p>Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS</p>

Reflections for November

Dear Friends,

November is a month for remembering. We have the festivals of All Saints, All Souls, and Remembrance Sunday.

Among the Saints commemorated in November are:

- St Martin of Tours, who famously cut his cloak in two and shared it with a beggar
- St Hugh of Lincoln who according to tradition had a pet swan that would eat out of his hand
- St Cecilia, patron Saint of Musicians
- St Edmund, King of East Anglia 855 – 869CE
- St Catherine of Alexandria - tradition says she was tortured on a spiked breaking wheel, early in the 4th century in Rome (don't forget your Catherine wheels on Bonfire night !)
- St Andrew, patron Saint of Scotland, who was a fisherman called by Jesus, along with his brother, Simon Peter, to be one of Jesus' Disciples.
-

Also we have the continuing Remembrance of the First World War. November 10th 1917 saw the end of the 3rd Battle of Ypres that we call Passchendaele. The Battle began on the 31st July 1917. It was characterised by the thick mud all over the battlefield. This area of South-West Belgium is very low-lying. Farmers coped with the rather damp area by digging drainage ditches, which criss-crossed the fields.

The battlefield was quickly turned into a quagmire due to unseasonable rainfall, and the destruction of the land drains by continual shelling. In places the mud was very deep, and acted like quicksand, so that some unfortunate soldiers who fell into this mud were drowned.

Captain Noel Chavasse was one of only three people to be awarded two Victoria Crosses. He was a Doctor serving with the Royal Medical Corps. Noel was awarded his first VC in August 1916 when he attended to the wounded all day under heavy fire, frequently in view of the enemy. His second VC, or Bar, was awarded posthumously during Passchendaele. Capt Chavasse was severely wounded whilst carrying a wounded soldier to the dressing station. Despite his injuries, for the next two days he went out repeatedly under heavy fire to rescue the wounded. But sadly this wonderful caring and brave man died of his wounds.

On a much happier note, on 11th November it is the 25th Anniversary of the General Synod voting to allow Women Priests. We have all really benefited from the ministry of our Priests - Christine, Linda, Denise, and Ruth; and Curates - Jenny, Kareen, Claire, and Debra!

And very importantly on the 19th November, it is the 70th – Platinum - Anniversary of the marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, in Westminster Abbey. We wish Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip a very Happy Anniversary!

Lesley Allen



**LICHFIELD
WILDLIFE GROUP**



Bugs and Bones



An opportunity to hear about and handle friendly live animals including Mrs Boo the tarantula and Camber the python!



Tuesday 14 November at 7:45 p.m.

**Wade Street Church
Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HL**

Admission: £3:00 (under-16s free)

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

Contact (01543) 257812

Magazine Deliverers

Delivery dates for the rest of the year will be, Nov 24th, Dec 15th

For questions about the delivery of the November magazine ONLY please call Mike Godfrey at 264 255.

Barbara Homewood 255909

R I P

Rev Derek Smith

Rector of the United Benefice

1986-1998

It was with great sadness that we received the news that Derek Smith, former Rector of this benefice, had died in the early hours of St Michael's Day, 29th September, after a short illness.

One of the first things that many people have recalled about Derek, was his sermons. He had been trained to be able to preach about anything – an object, a situation, and to use these to deliver the message of the Gospel.

Many of us have our own memories of this, whether it was of him recalling walking along an ancient path in Ephesus and realising that St Paul might have walked the same path; pretending to fall into the River Jordan at the start of a baptism sermon; being challenged by the choir to include, at the last minute, a chocolate model of St Nicholas in his Christmas sermon, which he duly did! He used to walk around the churchyard, engaging with the people he met and many of these encounters became the basis of sermons in due course.

He involved himself, not only in parish life but also in the city. He became a member of the Smiths, a guild of tradesmen, for which he qualified having been a mining engineer before being ordained. He attended their meetings and events and led their annual service at St Mary's.

He is remembered with respect and affection.

Family Praise

Sunday 12th November

10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...



MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food.

Sunday 19th Novemer

4.30 – 5.45pm

**in St Michael's Church Hall
Ages 0-11 yrs. welcome**

First Steps

A group from pre-school, children and their carers from 10am to 11.30am in St Michael's Church. Play, crafts, refreshments, Bible story and songs.

10th October

13th November

11th December

15th January

New members always welcome!



Ruth Bull

Water tap in the churchyard

People tending graves in the churchyard will have noticed that the tap near the new churchyard is no longer functioning and a new tap provides water where the path meets the drive. This is because when the work on the church toilets and kitchen was carried out, the old lead pipes had to be replaced with modern, safer ones.

If we had replaced the lead piping to the old tap, it would have cost almost £3000 pounds more – money we do not have to spare.

Some people have already said that they would like to donate towards the reinstatement of the old tap, close to the new churchyard as it is more convenient for them.

If you would like to pledge some money towards this, please contact the Parish Office on 01543 262211 or e-mail:

office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk

At this stage we would like pledges rather than actual donations, until we see if this is going to be feasible.

Many thanks,

St Michael's PCC

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



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 Messy Church
Church Hall

4th Sunday 6:00pm Choral Evening

Tuesday

School Service

Prayer Group, St Michael's

2nd Wednesday of the month

Contact June Frayn (264920)

Brenda Liptrot (251863)



Praise & Play

1st Friday 10.30am

St John's



Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

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

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

Benefice Diary

Wed 1 Nov 2017

09:30	Holy Communion	St Michael's
14:00	Prayer Group	St. Michael's
18:30	Choir Rehearsal	St Michael's
12:30	Darwin Singers Rehearsal	St. John's

Thur 2 Nov 2017

All day	OFFICE CLOSED	St Michael's
10:00	Knitting Group	St John's
19:30	Bell Ringing Practice	St Michael's

Fri 3 Nov 2017

10:30	Praise and Play	St John's
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Sat 4 Nov 2017

Sun 5 Nov 2017

08:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Holy Communion	St John's
12:30	Baptism Arthur Lewington & Hallie Yardley	St. Michael's
18:00	Candles of Remembrance	St Michael's
18:30	All Souls	St. John's
18:30	IONA Service	Lichfield Methodist Church

Mon 6 Nov 2017

12:30	Film Club	Church Hall
18:30	Parish Surgery	St Michael's
19:30	Music Group	
19:30	St Michael's Standing Committee	1 Aspen Close

Tue 7 Nov 2017

09:00	St Michael's School Service	St. Michael's
10:15	Beechfields Extended Communion	Beechfields
14:00	St. Michael's Reception Welcome to Church	St. Michael's
14:00	Sewing Bee	
14:00	Afternoon Tea	St. John's
20:00	Baptism Preparation	St. Michael's



Wed 8 Nov 2017

09:30	Holy Communion	St Michael's
18:30	Choir Rehearsal	St. Michael's

Thur 9 Nov 2017

All day	OFFICE CLOSED	St Michael's
10:00	Knitting Group	St John's
19:30	Bell Ringing Practice	St Michael's

Fri 10 Nov 2017

Sat 11 Nov 2017

Sun 12 Nov 2017

08:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Family Praise	St. Michael's
10:00	Holy Communion	St. John's
18:00	Holy Communion	St. Michael's

Mon 13 Nov 2017

10:00	First Steps	St Michael's
15:00	SACRED Book Group	St John's
19:45	MU Meeting	Church Hall



Tue 14 Nov 2017

09:00	St Michael's School Service	St. Michael's
14:30	Tuesday Club: The Luttrell Psalter	Church Hall
19:30	St. John PCC	St. John's

Wed 15 Nov 2017

09:30	Holy Communion	St Michael's
18:30	Choir Rehearsal	St. Michael's
20:00	Darwin Singers Rehearsal	St. Michael's

Thur 16 Nov 2017

All day	OFFICE CLOSED	St Michael's
10:00	Knitting Group	St John's
19:30	Bell Ringing Practice	St Michael's

Fri 17 Nov 2017

Sat 18 Nov 2017

10:00	Walking Group	National Arboretum
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Sun 19 Nov 2017

08:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Morning Worship	St John's
10:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
16:30	Messy Church	Church Hall

Mon 20 Nov 2017

11:30	Darwin Court Extended Communion	Darwin Court
18:30	Parish Surgery	St Michael's

Tue 21 Nov 2017

09:00	St Michael's School Service	St. Michael's
10:00	Sewing Bee	
19:30	St. Michael's PCC Meeting	St Michael's

Wed 22 Nov 2017

09:30	Holy Communion	St Michael's
18:30	Choir Rehearsal	St. Michael's
19:30	SMS Rehearsal	St. Michael's

Thur 23 Nov 2017

All day	OFFICE CLOSED	St Michael's
10:00	Knitting Group	St John's
19:30	Bell Ringing Practice	St Michael's

Fri 24 Nov 2017

All day	Magazine Distribution	St. Michael's
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Sat 25 2017

19:30	Wall Skittles Evening	Wall Village Hall
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Sun 26 Nov 2017

08:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Holy Communion	St John's
18:00	Evensong	St. Michael's
19:45	MU Meeting	Church Hall

Mon 27 Nov 2017**Tue 28 Nov 2017**

09:00	St Michael's School Service	St. Michael's
19:30	Deanery Synod	Yoxall Church

Wed 29 Nov 2017

09:30	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
15:00	Choir Rehearsal	St. Michael's

Thu 30 Nov 2017

All day	OFFICE CLOSED	St Michael's
10:00	Knitting Group	St John's
19:30	Bell Ringing Practice	St Michael's

ANGEL TREE 2017**Note for your diary:**

Present Buying: Monday 27th November, 10.a.m. outside B&M Stores in Market Street.

Present Wrapping: Tuesday 28th November, 10a.m.-midday, and 2p.m.-4p.m. in the Community Room, Holy Cross Church, Chapel Lane, Lichfield. If you would like to donate money towards gifts or postage of the presents, please contact Rita Thompson, tel: 253822 or Teresa Lennox, tel: 677389.

Thank you for your support. Caroline Green 262342



Photo taken by Romulus

Symi Collection

As you can see from the photograph, boxes full of your donated items ready to go into the van and then onto the islands of Symi and Kos. The picture shows Philip Flagg and two co drivers, who will be making their way across Europe with various donations from the churches and groups which support them.

Interestingly one of the groups has been collecting fabric, as the charity has gained some sewing machines and the refugees are anxious to get started making clothes etc. We have supported the elderly and the young with our donations of walking sticks and toys etc. and were thanked by Philip for our generosity.

There will be a further delivery in the spring, as to what we will be asked to collect? Well its a question of wait and see. The drivers and charity will assess the needs and let us know next year.

Thanks once again for all your donations. The teddy bear is the mascot called Charlemagne.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



On 4th October, we held a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, at St Michael's Church, following our regular Wednesday Communion Service. We had a wonderful array of cakes donated, so many in fact that we were able to have a cake stall after Sunday's service as well. Overall we raised £300.35, and with Gift Aid that will rise to over £360 – a wonderful achievement!

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes or came along to eat them!

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD PRAYER DIARY

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

Prayer for the Week:

Living flame of love,
So touch our hearts with your bright fire,
That we of tepid, even chilly faith,
May be alight with your passion,
And warm the globe with your love, reflecting your care,
For all of your creation,

Amen

(Revd Chris Polhill; A Heart for Creation 2010)

Out and About in the Midlands

BIRMINGHAM BACK-TO-BACKS

The Back-to-Backs is a collection of homes of poor 19th century working people in the centre of Birmingham. It has been saved by the National Trust so we can understand a little of what conditions were like in these cramped dwellings, home to many, often large, families between 1840 and surprisingly as late as 1970, when the last family moved out.



There is an interesting (pre-booked) one hour tour round the eye-opening living and working quarters, where such trades as clock and watch making took place. And if you like a bit of nostalgia, you can buy some old-fashioned sweets from the 1930s corner shop!

The quarters are of course very 'sanitised' compared to the real living conditions and a little imagination is needed, especially when viewing the outdoor privies! But a visit is well worthwhile, providing an enlightening journey back in time. And they are easily accessible, being in Hurst St., only a few minutes walk from New Street Station.

June Frayn

We hope that this will become a regular feature of your parish magazine. Where have you been locally that would be of interest to others? If you could write a short piece, no more than a paragraph or so and with a photograph if you have one that would be much appreciated. E-mail contributions to the Parish office or to me, David Bull, at dkbull053@hotmail.co.uk, or hand it in on paper.

CHRISTMAS - OR AT ANY TIME!

I have been stockpiling my home-made toys in anticipation of a church sale but, as that does not seem to be in the offing, I thought I would try a bit of direct marketing in the hopes that I could clear some stock and also keep myself busy.

Even if this is the FIRST Christmas advertisement you have seen, I do need to plan ahead!

Some of you will know that I make a variety of wooden hand-pulled toys; egg houses for the kitchen and Christmas stables. The latter are made to order as they need to match the size of your figures.

ALL proceeds go to Church funds and I welcome home-viewing or just grab me in Church.

Thank you all.

Peter Boggis



First Steps Baptisms

10th October

13th November

11th December

15th January

New members always welcome!

Ruth Bull

CHRISTMAS DAY TOGETHER

Churches Together in Lichfield are pleased to announce that the 'Christmas Day Together' lunch will be held again at Wade Street Church, Lichfield on Christmas Day.

This is a festive lunch followed by entertainment for local residents who will be on their own on Christmas Day and would like some company. Transport to and from Wade Street can be arranged.

Invitations will be sent out shortly to those who have attended the event in previous years.

If you have not attended before and would like to attend, or know anyone who you think would like to attend, please contact Maria Pavey by email to paveyfamily@googlemail.com or telephone 07505 129830.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the event, either with the preparations before the day, or on Christmas Day itself either at Wade Street or by providing transport, please also contact Maria by email to paveyfamily@googlemail.com or telephone 07505 129830.

Ten Years of the Walking Group!



Ray has written, in this magazine, about the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Walking Group, but we could not let this occasion pass without thanking the people who set up and run this very popular group.

It was Ray and Elizabeth Allen who started the group, with Ray Allen (Boley Close). Elizabeth's Ray had been walking with the St Chad's Walking group for some time and a casual conversation with the other Ray, came up with the idea of our Walking Group.

Since then many people have led walks all over the local area and it has provided not only health benefits but also a wonderful sense of fellowship. Over the past year, on average 26 people have attended the walks – a great turn-out!

Thank you to Ray, Elizabeth and Ray for founding the group and to all who have contributed to its success over the past decade.

Here's to many more years of happy walking!





United Benefice Walking Group

We had an enjoyable day to celebrate the 10th anniversary of The Walking Group.

We all met at Duffield Station in time for the 11.12 heritage diesel train to Wirksworth.

We visited the Parish Church where people were able to discover historical items by using Guides and Trail leaflets.

We then had a short walk around the town, followed by a delicious lunch at The Red Lion pub and a slice of celebration cake before returning to the station for our return train.



Our November walk is planned for Saturday 18th November 2017. We meet at St. Michaels Church at 10am and make a return visit to The National Memorial Arboretum 150 acre site at Alrewas.

The visit will be on the first Saturday after Remembrance Sunday service, therefore it is hoped that we will arrive promptly in time to attend the Daily Act of Remembrance held in the Chapel at 11am. It is asked that we gather in the Chapel at 10.50am as the Act of Remembrance two minute silence takes place at 11am.

Since we last visited a number of stunning sculptures have been added such as the memorial to WW11 Evacuees and Victory over Blindness. A major refit has also taken place of gardens, café and other refreshment areas.

Parking at the site costs £3 a car. There are places to have a coffee break and the catering area is excellent, providing a variety of foods.

We will be able to walk as a group or if preferred choose to visit areas of personal interest. The river walk for those who prefer to get walking rather than strolling connects with various points of interest.

Hilary

Looking forward to meeting ever one again.

Ray Allen 01543 251654





Their Finest Hour

This is a film about the efforts of the Ministry of Information in the Spring/Summer of 1940 when Britain stood alone against the might of Hitler, to give the evacuation of 338,226 soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk a positive gloss, instead of a defeat.

This multi-layered story is told through the eyes of young Welsh screenwriter, Catlin Coles, (played by Gemma Arterton) who is called on to provide a woman's touch to the feminine dialogue of the films. Her character is actually based in real life, that of Diana Morgan, a very successful writer of witty and satirical scripts, who worked for Ealing Studios.

It is also about the role of women in wartime in replacing men in factories and in driving buses etc. When told in the interview for her job, our heroine accepts the fact that she could not be payed as much as the men, with good grace. *(This was accompanied by sharp intake of breath by our Church Hall audience.)*

The film to be made tells the story of twin girls setting off in their father's fishing boat, (without his permission) to join the fleet of little ships rescuing the defeated troops pushed back by the Germans on to the beaches. After the propeller on their boat, *The Nancy*, gets snagged, they are taken in tow by another boat and succeed in their mission returning laden with troops. It is a double metaphor of turning disaster into triumph. Much is made of the bickering between

the directors, actors, and screen writers as each puts their own view of how the film should be made.

Bill Nighy plays a once famous actor, Ambrose Hilliard, past his prime, who feels that he cannot play roles that are beneath him. Another strand of the film follows Catlin's own love life. Her husband is a war artist who is unfit for military service due to injuries sustained in the Spanish Civil War. His paintings are thought to be too grim and negative for propaganda use. However, he finally has a successful exhibition of his work in London. Sadly their marriage breaks down under the strain of living apart. Catlin reveals that she bought the ring she wore from Woollies just to keep up appearances and that they were never really married.

The role of propaganda in times of national distress is important even though with hindsight some might disapprove of the use of what today we call "fake news". My formative years were spent in London, during the Blitz, when my father was away in the army. My mother and I went regularly to the pictures and we must have seen many of these short Ministry of Information films. I am sure they played an important part on the home front in maintaining our morale. My memory of the first year of the war when I was 10 years old was not one of doom and gloom but that we would eventually pull through.

It was not until later in 1942 with films such as Noel Coward's "In Which We Serve", also made under the auspices of the Ministry of Information by David Lean and Noel Coward, followed by "Mrs. Miniver," starring Greer Garson, which played such an important part in persuading the United States to take sides and join forces with us in fighting Hitler.

Margaret Freaan



WINTER IS ALMOST HERE!



Here are some useful tips from Age UK to help us prepare for winter. We may already be aware of many of them, but there may also be one or two we have forgotten!

- Get your heating system serviced by a qualified engineer to ensure it's running safely and efficiently.
- Never block air vents and if you have wood-burning, coal or gas heaters make sure there's adequate ventilation.
- If water pipes freeze they can burst. Make sure you know where the main stopcock is and check that it's easy to turn so you can turn off the water if you need to.
- Have your electric blanket serviced at least every three years.
- Make sure your smoke alarm is working. You can ask your local fire service to check your home for fire safety. It's free and you may be eligible to get free smoke alarms fitted.
- Install an audible carbon monoxide alarm in each room that has a gas appliance.
- Make sure you claim all the financial support you can to help with heating bills.
- Dress in plenty of layers and make sure you have warm shoes or boots with non-slip soles.
- Keep a mixture of salt and sand handy to put on steps or paths in icy weather.

- Consider fitting a grab rail if you have steps at your front or back door.
- Keep simple cold, flu and sore throat remedies in the house.
- Follow up your GP's invitation to have a flu jab.
- Order repeat prescriptions in plenty of time, particularly if bad weather is forecast and check if your local pharmacy offers a prescription pick-up and delivery service.
- Eat healthily – and keep basic food items in the cupboard or freezer in case it's too cold to go shopping. You could also do your food shopping online and get it delivered to your door.
- Keep a torch handy in case you lose power and keep battery operated items fully charged, so you can use them if there's no electricity. If there is a power cut you can call 105 for free. You'll be put through to your local network operator who can give you help and advice.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers, such as your utility companies, by your phone.



Mothers Union Report

Caroline Green brought two friends from the Prison Fellowship organisation and the three of them told us about their work with particular relevance to Swinfen Youth Offenders Institution. Caroline has been corresponding with prisoners for a few years and described how the system works. Training is given and she chooses a pseudonym as she must not give out personal details. She may refer to living in the Midlands but nothing more specific is allowed and certainly no mention of family which could enable people to trace them. Her letters and replies are sent via the Prison Fellowship and checked before delivery. Very few prisoners receive letters and so these are eagerly welcomed. The replies are not always literate but heartfelt.

Carolyn Williams told of The Sycamore scheme which introduces prisoners to their victims who describe the effect of the crime on their lives. In this way a prisoner can see the wide ranging damage caused by his act, often making people fearful of leaving their house or of being alone. After several meetings the prisoner may be asked to write to the victim or to send them a drawing showing their understanding and regret. Unfortunately this service is not currently available at Swinfen.

The Angel Tree facilitates provision of Christmas gifts from prisoners to their children. They are asked what their child may like and members of the Fellowship purchase and wrap the presents. Although the inmates of Swinfen are aged from 18 to 24 many of them are fathers, sometimes to as many as three children.

Fellowship volunteers help the Chaplaincy team with administration and attend services. Afterwards there is some socialising allowed. Prison visitors fill a gap for those whose relatives live far away or who have disowned them.

Sue Southall volunteers in the Creche which is situated within the visiting room. Two hours visiting time is far too long for little ones to sit at a table to talk to Daddy, especially as they are not allowed to put objects on the table. So they can come and go to the craft and toy area and play under supervision. There is also a tea bar where trusted prisoners can help out the volunteers.

Stepping Stones is a programme for vulnerable prisoners who are often too frightened to leave their cells and join in classes or of association. Volunteers take small groups and talk or play board games with them and encourage them to interact.

This was a serious subject but our three speakers had such enthusiasm for their work that we were very impressed and some members took away information, perhaps to join the fellowship.

Our next meeting promises to be more light-hearted though I am sure we will learn a lot when Diana Baker talks about gardens on 23rd October. How many of you realise that she has grown and provided most of the flowers we have admired in church for the past 3 or 4 months?

Betty Lyne

Guarding Letocetum Part Four

The rain didn't stop as night dragged into morning, and days folded in to one another. Marcus missed Italy, he missed the warmth on his skin, the cool ocean air, and even the overwhelming crowds were beginning to be a source of nostalgia in his mind's eye. Since the attack there had been air of bitterness hanging over the camp, both for soldiers and civilians alike. Losing their leader, a respected veteran to a thing of chance had been crushing. He hadn't deserved to die that way, and people were attempting to paint it as an honourable sacrifice for the good of the settlement. Some believed it too.

Neither Marcus nor Quintus had been removed from night duty, though they had been joined by several other guards as a reaction to the attempted raid. Quintus had scoffed at that, claiming it to be a "bloody stupid" idea, the rebels weren't going to come back after being so thoroughly trounced. It made no sense to, what would be better was moving onto another fort or settlement and trying to raid that while the rest of the army concentrated on the campaign in the west or fortifying Letocetum.

Another illusion shattered forever, that those in power were infallible and always knew what was right. They were mortal, just like Marcus and Quintus, the only difference was they had the right parents and lived long enough to ascend from fighting.

"Should be 'ere tomorrow," Quintus said, sidling up to Marcus as he so often did on their watch. There was something about the way he held himself that would prevent him from ever being looked at as one of the elite. No matter the garment, Quintus reeked of commoner. Marcus, who had come from a middling family and had always

been taught to strive for better, had hated that about his fellow soldier. “Who?”

“New commander,” his words ripped across the still night air, tearing open the scar their old commander had left behind. “can’t have Dodge doin’ it forever, can we?”

The aforementioned ‘Dodge’ had been named as such because he avoided every single promotion he could since he had found a cushy job, and not because he supplied people with questionable items that had fallen from the back of carts. (Dodgy Decius Calavius Surus, on the other hand, did and could always lay his hands on cheap merchandise when given the chance)

“It should be you.”

“Nah,” Quintus sniffed dismissively, “ain’t for me.”

“But what you did –”

“It was what had to be done, nuffin’ more.”

“I don’t believe that.”

“Think what you like, I’m no leader, me. ‘Appy as I am.”

“Really? You like this, standing out in this atrocious rain, doing nothing but follow someone else’s orders.”

“‘Spose you’d rather be off fightin’ the good fight, honour and all that crap.”

“No.”

“What ‘appened to wantin’ to be one of them loonies who come through goin’ off to fight war?”

“All my life I’ve been told it would be glorious, but it isn’t, is it? To die in a foreign land, fighting someone else’s war, it isn’t noble; just the

sacrifice of the unknown.”

“Yep, that’s what we are, lad. Unknown. But that ain’t why we do it.”

“If not for glory, then what?” It was a question that had been plaguing Marcus’s mind since the attack, he had been a soldier to pursue something bigger for himself.

“To give us and our own a chance at somethin’ better. Empire ain’t perfect, but it’s the best there is, so we fight to keep it goin’. We don’t, then the rebels win, you seen how they live, you know what their lives are like; you tellin’ me you’d wanna live like that?” Marcus’s silence was all the answer Quintus needed. “Thought not.”

“That’s why you do it?”

“Well, it was that or pottery, you seen these hands?” Quintus joked, the way he often did when the conversation strayed towards the serious. Marcus forced a smile, the sensation felt foreign to him. He remembered the grim face of his father, stoic and proud. He was a chiselled statue of a man and would never look out of place in a battle-field. Marcus had spent his life trying to live up to that legacy, trying to be his father. The raid, if anything, had proved that to be impossible. He couldn’t fight for himself, for stories and legends, but perhaps he could fight to try and make something better. Battle was ugly, and so was the world, it would be impossible to truly ever fix that.

But that didn’t mean Marcus couldn’t try.

Chris King

St. Michael's Film Club

1. My Cousin Rachel

(Cert 12A. 106min. Drama/Mystery. 2017.)

Rachel Weisz and Sam Claflin star in this classic and mysterious Daphne Du Maurier costume drama!

Monday November 6th

1.30pm start

Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church Hall

(behind Aldi). All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

2. A Street Cat Named Bob

(Cert PG. 103min. Drama/Comedy. 2016.)

An uplifting film based on the true story of Bob's role in changing the life of homeless James!

Monday December 4th

1.30pm start

WALL NEWS

Hello to our Christians friends at Wall, and throughout the Benefice, from both of us here in Redditch. We have lived here now for just over three years and truly believe we have finally settled into our routine and all the planned upgrading of bungalow and garden is completed. The garden of course is on-going [Val makes sure of that!!] and both front and back with its varied grouping of plants and shrubs gives us immense pleasure : fairly low-maintenance so not too much energy needed to keep on top it... not that, these days, we have an abundance of energy even if it was needed!! We live close enough to our eldest son (Evesham) and daughter (next village) for them to be on hand for help if required, which, apart from Val's accident last autumn, has been kept to a minimum. It is blissfully quiet where we live, at the top of a cul-de-sac, although the driveway up to the bungalow is steep enough for even the young-ish post lady to admit being out of breath when she reaches us!! A personal milestone was reached by me [Brian] towards the end of September when I 'got' to my 80th birthday, thus fulfilling God's promise in Psalm 90, verse 10 : Val follows me in around 6 months' time. I no doubt surprised some of our families at reaching this age as I announced, some years ago now, that "the Redmans are not long-livers"!! Evidently, some are!!

As is customary, we had a family get-together and it was particularly pleasing to meet up with my brother who lives in Birmingham, where we were brought up, and who himself is in HIS 85th year ... another long-liver!! We have settled well into the church of S. Philip Webheath, just a few miles away, and they have there warmly welcomed us into their fellowship. Val plays the organ once a month on a rota basis, CW Holy Communion (what else?), and also in recent weeks for an informal worship service, intentionally aimed to attract young families with children, which sadly it mostly fails to do so; the rector picks the hymns/songs and lately has got us singing words set to tunes such as

Greensleeves and Over the sea to Skye. With the crux of the congregation well into retirement age and traditionalist, it does not 'go down' terribly well, to say the least!! Apart from Sunday, there are events for young children during the week which are quite well-attended so perhaps the seeds sown here may be reaped later! One can but 'take it to the Lord in prayer'.

We both were absolutely thrilled to be invited to S. John's by Denise for the dedication of a plaque recording Val's period as organist here. We received a wonderful welcome from all our friends and enjoyed the Morning Worship service led by Lesley who also preached, and then continued fellowship in the Mott Room. Glad to say that I managed to compose myself by singing all the correct words on this occasion!! I was amused by being asked where we had stayed overnight, the person clearly not knowing where Redditch was (45 minutes by road) and that the cross-city railway line existed!!

By the time you read this we shall be close to the Advent season leading up to Christmas. Oh, the thought of it, some might exclaim!! We leave you with the following passage of Scripture to reflect upon, and as always send you our fondest love, blessings and prayers as we all perhaps remember when we welcomed Christ into our hearts to be our friend and Saviour:

***"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion ..."* [Philippians 1:3-6]**

God Bless from Val and Brian X

Bible Readings

Sunday 5th November

All Saints' Day

[Gold or White]

1 John 3.1-3

Matthew 5.1-12

Sunday 12th November

Third Sunday before Advent

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

[Red or Green]

1 Thessalonians 4.13-end

Matthew 25.1-13

Sunday 19th November

Second Sunday before Advent

[Red or Green]

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Matthew 25.14-30

Sunday 26th November

Last Sunday before Advent

[Red or White]

Ephesians 1.15-end

Matthew 25.31-end

Sunday 26th November

Last Sunday before Advent

EVENSONG

[Red or White]

2 Samuel 23.1-7

Matthew 28.16-end

Sunday 3rd December

First Sunday of Advent

[Purple]

Isiah 64.1-9

Mark 13.24-end

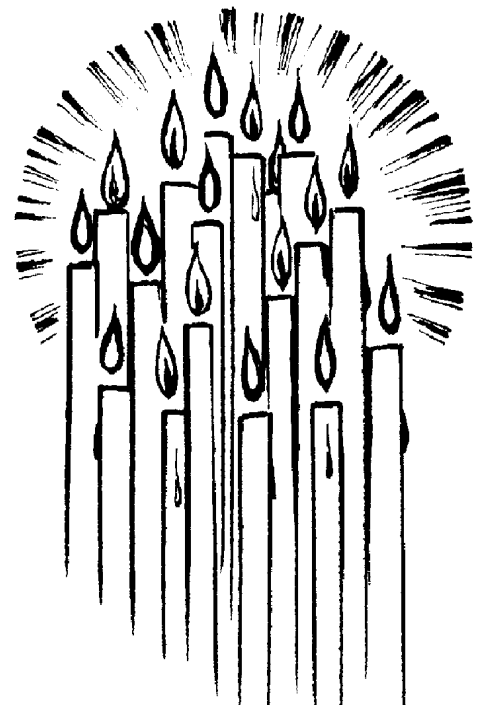
Sunday 10th December

Second Sunday of Advent

[Purple]

Isiah 40.1-11

Mark 1.1-8



From The Registers

Baptism



St. Michael's	1 st October	Annabelle Eliza Mayfield	11 mths
St Michael's	1 st October	Emelia Georgia Rock	1 yr
St Michael's	1 st October	Jude David-Dean Rock	1 yr
St Michael's	1 st October	Oakley Wilkinson	1 yr

Wedding



St Michael's	20 th October	Nathan Leigh Oldacres and Emma Kate Haynes
St Michael's	27th October	Paul Anthony Lilwall and Tina Joan Salt

At Rest



St Michael's	9 th October	Vartanus Sylvia Hampartumian	95
St Michael's	10 th October	Dennis Alfred Troth	85

St Michael's Rota - November 2017

Sunday 8.00 am St Michael's	5 Nov	12 Nov	19 Nov	26 Nov
Sidesperson	Brian Smith	Martin Dewes	Sandy Baker	David Bull

Sunday 10.00 am St Michael's	5 Nov All Saints	12 Nov Remembrance Sunday	19 Nov	26 Nov Christ the King
Welcomers	Maureen Brand	Margaret Goodwin	David Bull	Brenda Eley
Sidespersons	Lynn and David Edge	Judy and Mike Godfrey	Joan and Ken Sharman	Barbara Home-wood Brenda Liptrot
Reader	Alison Staines		David Bull	Kay Martin
Servers	Maggie Easton Elizabeth Salt		Phil Clayton Kay Martin	Kay Martin Peter Salt
Communion Assistant	Maggie Easton		Sheila Vaughan	Peter Salt
Intercessor	Stephen Barton		Phil Clayton	Trevor James
Coffee	Angela Burgess Judy Godfrey	Anne Lingwood Alison Anketell	June Frayn Betty Lyne	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones
Junior praise	TBA		TBA	TBA
Healing				Caroline Green Anne Whatson
Transport	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Flowers	Maureen Brand	Kate Bellamy	Lesley Allen	Lesley Allen

Sunday 12.30 pm St Michael's	5 November Baptism	Reader	Intercessor	Server
		June Frayn	Caroline Green	Maggie Easton

Sunday 6.00 pm St Michael's	5 Nov Candles of Remem- brance	12 Nov Communion	19 Nov No service (Messy Church at 4.30)	26 Nov Evensong
Sidesperson	David Rock	Ray Allen		Margaret Freat
Reader	Kay Martin	Ray Allen		Margaret Freat
Server/ Communion Asst		Elizabeth Allen		

HARVEST CODEBREAKER ANSWER

"The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest." William Blake

William Blake was an English poet and painter, although he is most famous for his poetry. He was born in London on November 28th 1757.

He was a highly influential Romantic Poet, his first collection was entitled *Poetical Sketches* and it was published in 1783.

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All Souls Service

Remembering



departed

loved

ones

Sunday 5th

November

6pm @ St Michael's Church



God is patient

Deadlines!

Magazine:
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every Month.
Contact David Bull

Pew Sheet:
7:30am
every Thursday Morning.
Contact Parish Office

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