

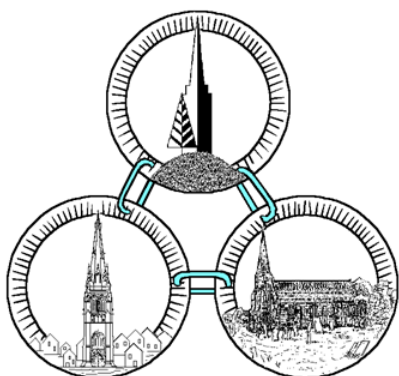
# THE PARISH MAGAZINE

October 2017



*Harvest Services*

*St Michael, Lichfield and St John, Wall on Sunday 8th October*



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

**70p**

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<p><b>Parish Surgery</b></p> <p>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 to make an appointment.</p>	<p>United Benefice Office</p> <p>St Michael's Church, Church Street, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6ED Mon, Tues, Wed &amp; Fri <b>CLOSED Thursdays</b> 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Tel: 01543 262211 E-mail: <a href="mailto:office@stmichaelymaryjohn.org.uk">office@stmichaelymaryjohn.org.uk</a></p>
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# Reflections for October

## Churches do have a role to play in world affairs

As I sit down to write this reflection every edition of the television news speaks of increasing numbers of Rohingya refugees fleeing across the borders from Myanmar (Burma) into Bangladesh from what is reported as systematic ethnic cleansing. Already by early September the numbers are around 270,000 and a UN estimate of well over half a million by the end of the September looks to be very realistic.

Amongst all this chaos it seems to outsiders that the country's leader Aung San Suu Kyi is doing little to intervene in the plight of the refugees or to influence the military who appear to be the instigators of the violence.

Conflict has broken out between three Nobel Peace Laureates. First it was Malala Yousafzai and now Archbishop Desmond Tutu have taken to task his friend Aung San Suu Kyi for her failure to condemn the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. Breaking his vow of silence from interference in public affairs Archbishop Tutu wrote an open letter saying "Your emergence into public life allayed our concerns about violence being perpetrated against members of the Rohingya. But what some have called "ethnic cleansing" and others "a slow genocide" has persisted – and recently accelerated. The images we are seeing of the suffering of the Rohingya fill us with pain and dread".

Archbishop Tutu goes on to say "My dear sister: If the political price of your ascension to the highest office in Myanmar is your silence, the price is surely too steep. A country that is not at peace with itself, that fails to acknowledge and protect the dignity and worth of all its people, is not a free country. It is incongruous for a symbol of

righteousness to lead such a country; it is adding to our pain.”

*“As we witness the unfolding horror we pray for you to be courageous and resilient again. We pray for you to speak out for justice, human rights and the unity of your people. We pray for you to intervene in the escalating crisis and guide your people back towards the path of righteousness”.*

Bishop James Jones, the retired Bishop of Liverpool speaking on the BBCs “Thought for the Day” added “As yet we don’t know her reply to the bishop, but we do know that she feels the situation has been misreported and misunderstood.

But by far the most startling comment came from a United Nations Representative, who’s reported to have said,

“What we forget is that she is a politician through and through. People expect her to have that big high moral voice but she’s a politician, and what’s the most important objective if you are a politician? Getting elected.”

That must rank as one of the most depressing quotes of the year. Not just that the UN representative sees politicians as the antithesis of morality but she also includes in her critique the ambition to be elected.

Down the centuries and across the world people including Aung San Suu Kyi have been imprisoned for such ambition – both to elect their own leaders and to be elected.

“”””2To hear such ambition pilloried as devoid of all virtue sucks the life out of democracy.”

That’s not to say that there aren’t some bad people that get elected, nor that some politicians don’t get corrupted by power. Clearly,

they should be called out. But to damn all politicians, which is the global mood of our times, and the democratic process feels to me like slamming dangerously into reverse all our achievements.

Men and women have died to have a voice and a vote over their lives. Personally, I believe that God is in the progress towards liberty – setting us free, as St Paul put it, “from bondage, to the glorious freedom of the children of God”.

Elected leaders may not be morally perfect and they need to hear the moral force of Desmond Tutu’s challenge, but I should think that each of the three Nobel Peace Laureates would agree, from their own experiences, that an imperfect politician is better than a perfect dictator!

Even the Dalai Lama has now waded into the pressure being heaped on Myanmar by church leaders saying “Buddha would have helped Muslims fleeing violence” as he condemned the attacks.

This terrible genocide and the plight of the refugees will not just fade away as it may from our TV screens. I ask you in your thoughts and prayers to join with the prayer of Archbishop Tutu to Aung San Suu Kyi.

*Alan Toplis*

### **Magazine Deliverers**

Delivery dates for the rest of the year will be, Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

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

*Barbara Homewood 255909*



## **The Bishop of Lichfield's pastoral letter for September 2017**

Earlier this summer, I led a group of pilgrims through Germany 'in the footsteps of Martin Luther', to mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, when Luther posted 95 theses on the church door at Wittenberg, protesting against the exploitation of people's faith through the selling of indulgences. We visited many remarkable sites in our travels, telling us the story of those extraordinary events which both renewed and divided Christian Europe. One of the most memorable for me was a park in the Rhineland city of Worms, on the site of the building where the 'Diet' or parliament of the Holy Roman Empire assembled in 1521 to hear Luther's defence of his teachings as he faced charges of heresy. Set into the ground in the park are two enormous metal shoes, marking the spot where he is supposed to have declared defiantly: Hier stehe ich; ich kann nicht anders, 'Here I stand, I can do no other'. Whether he actually uttered these actual words is open to question, but they have resonated through five centuries, and well express Luther's conviction that he had no choice in the matter, because he felt that his conscience was 'captive to the Word of God', and he knew that he could not act against conscience.

In asserting the primacy of conscience in this way, Luther was in one sense simply repeating the unquestioned teaching of the church throughout the ages before him and since. But he was also ushering into the world a new and extraordinary force, which allied with the recently developed power of mass communication (on the morning of our Worms day, we also visited the site Gutenberg's pioneering printing press in the nearby city of Mainz) to destroy the unity of medieval Christendom and bring a powerful sense of personal conviction and an unwillingness to compromise into religious disputes. The appeal to individual conscience in defiance of established authority remains potent in our own time. Our German guide, who had grown up in the anxiously totalitarian state of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) told us how the officially sponsored celebrations of the 500th anniversary of Luther's birth in 1983 had gone badly wrong from the GDR's point of view. The East German government had wanted to portray Luther as a proto-Marxist hero of the common man against an alliance of religion and capitalism, but demonstrators in the city of Leipzig had turned Luther's reported words against the authoritarian regime. Asserting the primacy of a free conscience over against the forces of the communist state, they had chanted in the streets 'Here we stand, we can do no other'; so the seeds were sown for the Peaceful Revolution which in 1989 led to the destruction of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the GDR, and eventually German reunification.

Marking in this and the coming years our own very different history of the English Reformation, we will be very aware that in this country too politics and religion were closely intertwined, and religious language remains a powerful inspiration for many conscientiously involved in our own political life too. Yet at heart Luther's message was rooted in the claims of faith: it was the Word of God which held his conscience captive, not any secular ideology, and it was for what he saw as Gospel truth that he contended, particularly in his insistence that sinful humans can only be justified by faith in Jesus Christ.

Equally, while there was a political motivation to the Catholic reaction to Luther, many sincere Christians were also deeply distressed by the divisions which they saw the inflicted on the Body of Christ, and conscientiously resisted the Reformation as a result. Five hundred years later, we must recognise and honour the integrity of followers of Jesus on every side of the myriad Reformation disputes; and the growth of an ecumenical spirit has seen substantial agreement reached between different Christians over issues where they once seemed irrevocably divided – including the doctrine of justification.

It is that spirit that I will be joining with Christians of several different traditions – including Roman Catholics, Methodists, Pentecostals, Reformed, Baptists, Orthodox and Lutherans as well as Anglicans – on 23rd October walking from the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Birmingham our Cathedral in Lichfield. The two are of course linked by the gentle and generous figure of St Chad, whose relics are enshrined in Birmingham and whose shrine in Lichfield remains a place of pilgrimage. From an age before the great Reformation division, Chad reminds of the primary calling which we share as Christians: to live as Jesus' disciples and share with the people of our own time the good news of his kingdom. I hope that many of you will be able to join us as pilgrims on this shared walk, and that many more of you will be praying with us and for us. For myself, I will be wearing a pair of socks that was given to me at my installation by Bishop Gotthard of our companion diocese of Nordkirche in Germany, and at every step between Birmingham and Lichfield I will remember the message printed on those socks: Hier stehe ich, ich kann nicht anders – I can do nothing other today than to stand alongside my fellow Christians of different churches as we follow Christ together in Chad's footsteps.

*+Michael*

*September 2017*



## ***Family Praise***

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

**10am St Michael's**



Come and join us at our ...



## **MESSY CHURCH**

for craft, story, song and food.

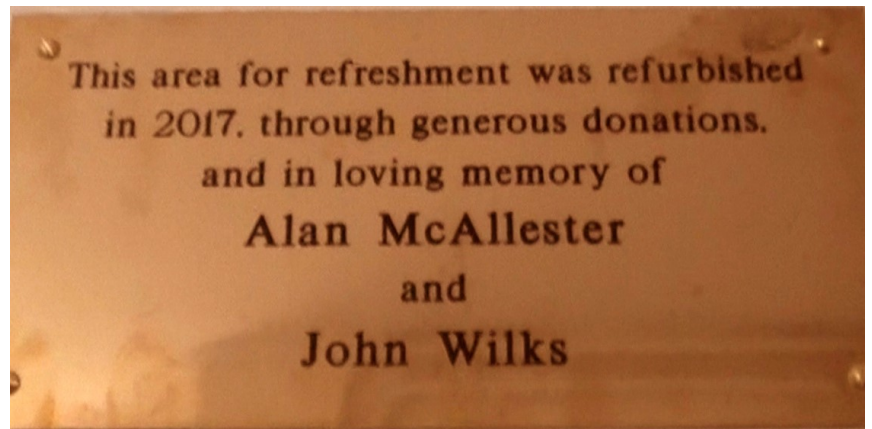
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

**4.30 – 5.45pm**

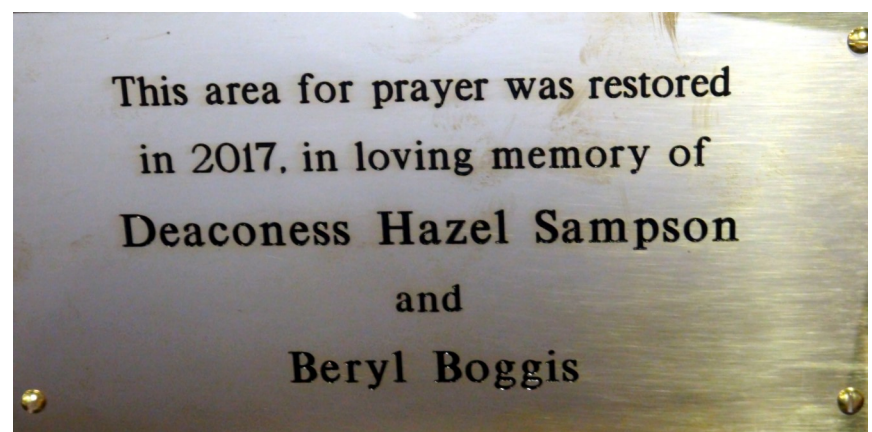
**in St Michael's Church Hall**

### **Brass Plates:**

These brass plates have been put up in the newly refurbished kitchen and the prayer corner. They are dedicated to Alan McAllester, John Wilks, Deaconess Hazel Sampson and Beryl Boggis



*In the Kitchen*



*In the Prayer Corner*

## 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](mailto: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

### 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 Messy Church  
Church Hall  
4<sup>th</sup> 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

1<sup>st</sup> Friday 10.30am  
St John's



## Bells Practice

Every Thurs 7:30pm, St Michael's

## 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

## Baptism

**Preparation** First Tuesday at  
8:00pm at 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

# Benefice Diary

## Sun 1 Oct 2017

08:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Holy Communion	St John's
10:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
12:30	Baptism	St Michael's

## Mon 2 Oct 2017

13:00	Film Club	Church Hall
18:30	Parish Surgery	St Michael's
19:30	Music Group	St Michael's

## Tue 3 Oct 2017

9:00	St Michael's School Service	St. Michael's
10:15	Extended Communion	Beechfields
14:00	Afternoon Tea	St John's
20:00	Baptism Preparation	St Michael's



## Wed 4 Oct 2017

09:30	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:30	Macmillan Coffee	St Michael's
18:30	Choir Rehearsal	St Michael's
20:00	Darwin Singers Rehearsal	St Michael's

## Thu 5 Oct 2017

All day	OFFICE CLOSED	St Michael's
10:00	Knitting Group	St John's
13:00	Y8 KE School Visit	St Michael's
19:30	Bell Ringing Practice	St Michael's

## Fri 6 Oct 2017

10:30	Praise and Play	St John's
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## Sat 7 Oct 2017

19:30	Harvest Supper	Wall Village Hall
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## Sun 8 Oct 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 9 Oct 2017

10:00	First Steps	St. Michael's
15:00	SACRED Book Group	St John's



## Tue 10 Oct 2017

9:00	St Michael's School Service	St. Michael's
09:30	St Michael's KS1 Harvest	St. Michael's
11:00	St Michael's KS2 Harvest	St. Michael's
14:00	Tuesday Club	Church Hall

## Wed 11 Oct 2017

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

## Thu 12 Oct 2017

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

## Fri 13 Oct 2017

## Sat 14 Oct 2017

15:00	Wall WI Show	Wall Village Hall
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## Sun 15 Oct 2017

ALL DAY	Charity Sunday	St Michael's
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 16 Oct 2017

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

**Tue 17 Oct 2017**

9:00	St Michael's School Service	St. Michael's
14:00	Sewing Bee	
19:30	PCC Meeting	St Michael's

**Wed 18 Oct 2017**

09:30	Holy Communion	St Michael's
13:30:	Y8 KE School Visit	St Michael's
16:00	Wedding Rehearsal Oldacres/Haynes	St Michael's
18:30	Choir Rehearsal	St. Michael's
20:00	Darwin Singers Rehearsal	St Michael's

**Thu 19 Oct 2017**

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

**Fri 20 Oct 2017**

12:00	Wedding Nathan Oldacres and Emma Haynes	St Michael's
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**Sat 21 Oct 2017**

19:30	Race Night	Wall Village Hall
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**Sun 22 Oct 2017**

08:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Holy Communion	St John's
10:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
11:30	Baptism	St John's
18:00	Evensong	St Michael's

**Mon 23 Oct 2017****Tue 24 Oct 2017**

19:00	Wedding Rehearsal	St Michael's
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**Wed 25 Oct 2017**

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

## **Thu 26 Oct 2017**

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

## **Fri 27 Oct 2017**

All Day	Magazine Distribution	St. Michael's
15:00	Wedding	St. Michael's

## **Sat 28 Oct 2017**

10:00	Walking Group	Brownhills
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## **Sun 29 Oct 2017**

08:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Wall Praise	St John's

## **Mon 30 Oct 2017**

## **Tue 31 Oct 2017**

9:00	St Michael's School Service	St. Michael's
14:00	Sewing Bee	
14:00	St Michael's Reception Visit	St Michael's



# HARVEST SERVICES

**St John, Wall**  
Harvest Service  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 10am**



**St Michael, Lichfield**  
Harvest Family Praise  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**  
10am@St Michael's Church



**Harvest Supper**  
**Saturday 7th October**  
7.30pm@ Wall Village Hall  
Tickets £10

**Bring your own drinks and glasses**  
Contact the Office 01543 262211

**Email:** [office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk)



## **Harvest Flowers @ St Michael's**

We will be decorating the church for harvest on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October** from 9.30 am.

Gifts of fruit, vegetables flowers, seed heads, wheat and foliage would be greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off in church on Friday or Saturday

Up to 11.00am, or I can collect. Anyone who would like to help, just come along, or phone me on 01543250351.

*Thanks. Anne Watson*



## LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP

**Event:** Fungal Foray led by Beverly Hughes  
**On:** Sunday October 15th at 10:00 a.m.  
**At:** Reserve car park, the continuation of Horsey Lane,  
approx 1 mile off the A51 between Rugeley and  
Lichfield, WS15 4LW. Map reference SK 067 133.  
**Admission:** £3:00, under 16s free.

Those of us who have been lucky enough to attend Beverley's field visits in the past, will know that not only does she have a deep understanding of wildlife, but has a gift of conveying her knowledge in an entertaining and understandable way. A good morning out for all the family.

*Pete Norbury.*

(Programme Secretary, Lichfield Wildlife Group)  
*01543 257812*

## DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD PRAYER DIARY

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

### Prayer for the Week:

Here together, we bring our struggle for change.

**Praise God who never leaves us.**

Here together, we own our connection with all things.

**Praise God who never leaves us.**

Here together, we listen for God's word.

**Praise God who never leaves us.**

Here together, we pledge ourselves to action.

**Praise God who never leaves us.**

*(Revd Chris Polhill; A Heart for Creation 2010)*

## Out and About in the Midlands

It is often said that we do not visit the places that are on our doorstep, so when we had a visitor recently, we found ourselves wandering into **Darwin House**, entered by an alleyway from opposite the Cathedral's West End and through its pretty garden.



Darwin House was once the home of Charles Darwin's grandfather. Entrance is free of charge, although donations are always welcome. The elegant Georgian house itself is full of interesting items not least a voice machine and many other inventions.

Certainly Erasmus Darwin was a man of considerable intellect and curiosity. He was a founder member of the Birmingham Lunar Society which was a powerful stimulus behind England's Industrial Revolution and included among its members many industrialists, such as Josiah Wedgwood, James Watt and Joseph Priestley. There are many other things to discover about this interesting man and certainly it is worth an hour or two of anyone's time to have a mooch through this hidden gem in the heart of our city.

*David Bull*

*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](mailto: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



**Mum Rachael with Summer and Mum Noa with Sophia.**

At the beginning of October I was delighted to baptise three children, two of whom are regulars at First Steps, our group for pre-school children and their carers. It was a joyous occasion and all the children were beautifully behaved!

First Steps is held on a Monday morning from 10am to 11.30am and the coming dates are:

**10<sup>th</sup> October**

**13<sup>th</sup> November**

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

**15<sup>th</sup> January**

**New members always welcome!**

**Ruth Bull**





The World's Biggest Coffee Morning, in aid of **Macmillan Cancer Support** is just on the horizon and this year we are joining in at **St Michael's Church.**

Our coffee morning will be on **Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10am,** following the 9.30am service, during which there will be special prayers for the work of Macmillan Cancer Support and also for people with cancer. Bring a cake along or come and buy a slice and enjoy the company.

Everyone welcome!



## United Benefice Walking Group

We had a very enjoyable walk in August. Several came along to enjoy the walk around Cresswell Green and along part of the Heart of England Way.

The group discovered brooks and a green lane they never knew existed! The walk ended with a delicious lunch at the Drill Inn.



We invite you to join us for our October walk at Brownhills Common.

We meet at St. Michael's at **10 a.m.** on Saturday the **28th of October** and then we drive to the Hussey Arms, Chester Road North, Brownhills, WS8 7JP for the start of the first part of the walk.

We shall be completing a walk across the whole common which will be split into two sections, the first half will take us through the heather heath land. There will then be a break for coffee at the pub and the chance to order food. The walk will then continue by following parts of the Beacon Way and a Walsall Countryside Services Nature Trail.



There are no stiles, but there are seven steps and various sections of wooden board walks (see stairs on the right).

We will return for lunch at the Hussey Arms at about **1.15 p.m.**

The walk is about **3 1/4 miles** in total, and depending on the weather some of the sections may be a little muddy.



Therefore, we advise **boots or strong walking shoes.**

We should be back at St Michael's by **3 p.m.**

We look forward to seeing you on our October walk.

*Ray Allen 01543 251654*





## **The Viceroy's House**

The film aims to show the events and discussions leading up to Britain's withdrawal from India and the disastrous partition of the country into separate areas for Muslims and Hindus. The director had knowledge of the time as her family had been displaced by partition, one ancestor dying of starvation on the trek to their new home. Mountbatten's daughter Pamela was with her parents in India and has been consulted by the film makers so we can believe it to be a faithful representation of the time.

The Mountbattens arrived in India, determined to see that all negotiations were carried out properly and fairly, leading to a peaceful transition of power. However, they came up against ambitious, self-serving leaders of the different faiths and a nation mainly steeped in the old caste systems. Lady Mountbatten wanted to encourage friendship and tolerance between faiths but found this well nigh impossible. When her cook was asked to prepare a banquet for guests including Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs with their varying dietary rules his expression was absolute horror.



In some villages Muslim and Hindu existed happily side by side and did not want partition but it was forced upon them which meant that some had to trek miles to the newly designated separate lands. Towards the end of the film Mountbatten began to realise how little influence he had as decisions had been made by his predecessors with the British government.

Woven into the film were a seemingly doomed love affair of a couple from different faiths and the friendship of two members of staff who had been friends since childhood but now had to live in widely distant parts of the country.

There were excellent performances from a stellar cast of actors although Hugh Bonneville seemed to be reprising his role as Lord Grantham from Downton Abbey. Fair minded and well meaning but sometimes out of his depth. Here he had fewer daughters but many more servants and changes of uniforms. Pamela Anderson as his wife Edwina had captured the cut glass vowels, manners and posture of Lady Mountbatten as was illustrated by the old newsclips which were shown throughout the film. The servants may have been invisible to their masters but they overheard everything, passed it on outside the palace provoking yet more riots which then led to more consultations with diplomats and Indian leaders.

In conclusion this was not Great Britain's finest hour and we really should have done better.

*Betty Lyne*

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

## **1. Their Finest Hour**

*(Cert 12. 117min. Drama.)*

British romantic comedy drama starring Gemma Arturton and Bill Nighy. During WW2 a young woman struggles to put together a propaganda film

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

**1.30pm start**

Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church Hall

(behind Aldi). All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

## **2. 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 6<sup>th</sup> .**

**1.30pm start**

## **St Michael's Mothers' Union**

**St Michael's Mothers' Union** is holding two Open Meetings in October

### **Monday 9 October**

- Prison Fellowship in Swinfen HMP YOI
- Carolyne Williams, Sue Southall and Caroline Green

### **Monday 23 October**

- Diana Baker – Transforming Gardens

The meetings will be held in the Church Hall at 7.45 pm. For catering purposes, could you please phone Caroline Green on 01543 262342 or email [ctgreen@ntlworld.com](mailto:ctgreen@ntlworld.com) if you would like to attend. A donation of £1 from non MU members would be appreciated.

## **PRISONS' WEEK EVENT 11TH OCTOBER**

### **"A Prisoner's Journey"**

You are invited to come to hear Tim Gurrey, senior prison officer at HMP Swinfen, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October in College Hall, The Close. Tea and coffee from 7pm, talk at 7.30 followed by Q and A, and ending at 9pm. This forms part of our support for the annual Prisons' Week.

All are welcome, but it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers - RSVP to [theresa.willmore@lichfield-cathedral.org](mailto:theresa.willmore@lichfield-cathedral.org)

Canon Pat Hawkins

Canon Chancellor (Pastoral Development & Mission)

# HEAR TO HELP!

Action on Hearing Loss (A.o.H.L.) is respected charity (established in 1911 as the Royal National Institute for the Deaf) working for a world where hearing loss doesn't limit or label people, where tinnitus is silenced and where people value and look after their hearing.

Unaddressed hearing loss can have a serious impact on health and wellbeing. People with hearing loss are more likely to experience emotional distress and loneliness, and the risk of developing depression is doubled. Additionally people with hearing loss are at least twice as likely to develop dementia.

There are more than 10 million people in the UK with some form of hearing loss (1 in 6 of the population). It's estimated that, in 2014, there were 20,500 people in Lichfield District and 23,000 people in South Staffs District with a hearing loss and this set to rise to 23,500 and 25,500 respectively by 2019.

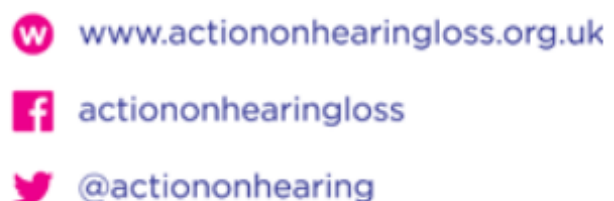
A.o.H.L. has received some funding to run hearing loss awareness sessions/talks within Lichfield and South Staffs Districts, with a particular focus on people over 65, as hearing loss is more prevalent in this age group, with 70% of older people having a hearing loss.

In the sessions, for which there is no charge, we will provide advice and information on managing hearing loss well as basic hearing checks for anyone concerned about their hearing.

We are seeking groups or organisations, within Lichfield and South Staffs districts, who feel their members might benefit from one of these sessions/talks. We are also looking for venues, such as village halls, community centres etc, that we could use to run sessions open to the community.

If you would like to discuss this further or could help in any way, please contact the Staffordshire Community Support Officer, Gill Wyatt, for an informal chat –

[gill.wyatt@hearingloss.org.uk](mailto:gill.wyatt@hearingloss.org.uk), 07960 407595



11 million people in the UK have hearing loss – that's one in six of us.

Read our landmark Hearing Matters report  
and **take action** today.

## Guarding Letocetum Part Three

It *should* have been glorious.

That was the only thought which kept reverberating around Marcus's spinning head. He knew what it should have been, but he hadn't been expecting what had really happened. For one thing, Drusus shouldn't have died. He should have led the battle, stood strong against the oncoming horde and emerged victorious. The man had been a hero, a veteran, a legend. He deserved better than a farmer's spear.

Marcus had heard all about battles, his father had told him the stories as a child and it was all he had dreamt of. This hadn't been the battle of his dreams, it had been a nightmare.

"You alright, lad?"

Quintus, mud smeared across his cheek and blood speckled against his boots, asked from above Marcus. It hadn't been Drusus who had led the battle, nor any of the other officers, not truly. They would get the credit later, it would be their victory against the cowardly rebels. But it had been Quintus, the man who didn't want to be a soldier, the man whom Marcus had looked down for living without noble dreams and honour, who had saved them. He had rallied the men, formed a vague sort of plan and been a part of the *testudo*.

"It wasn't meant to be like this."

"It never is. Mind, could've been worse."

Marcus didn't say anything, he couldn't. It would just come out as a whimper. He was a Roman, he didn't whimper. Quintus muttered something under his breath, glancing over his shoulder to check on the others.

Most of the men were carolling the women and children back to their houses, some were getting more thanks than they should have done from the kind of women that Marcus as a man of honour tried to avoid.

“They’ve sent word to another legion,” Quintus told Marcus as he joined him on the ground, their backs leant against the wall that had protected them. It hadn’t been a battle, not really. The rebels had been, well... repelled. Marcus had found himself atop the wall, notching arrows into his bow and praying for his life. The gods had smiled down on him, but they hadn’t smiled on Drusus.

“And?”

“Probably send some our way, can’t ‘ave a loada rebels knacker the supply chain.”

“You think that’s what they were attempting?”

“That’s what they’ll think, ain’t it?”

Marcus didn’t need to ask who *they* were. Men like Quintus didn’t see officers as people, just expensive uniforms and orders they didn’t agree with.

“What about you?”

“Nah, ain’t nuffin’ like that. Just folk bein’ angry and lashing out, it ‘appens.”

“We bring them peace.” Marcus tried. Romans marched across the globe, spreading peace and prosperity, bringing civilisation to the savages, everyone knew that. Or, at least, everyone told themselves that.

“Funny lookin’ peace,” Quintus sniffed and Marcus couldn’t help but agree with him. This wasn’t what these people wanted, it wasn’t noble or glorious or any other lie his father had told him. “C’mon, on your feet, lad. Night ain’t done yet.”

“It shouldn’t have been like this.”

“No,” Quintus agreed, pushing himself out of the mud and blood-soaked puddles.

“How do you cope?”

“Simple,” Quintus said, offering a hand to Marcus, who gladly took it. He feared that left to his own devices then his legs would fail and the wall would become his home. A grunt escaped the smaller man’s lips as he yanked Marcus to his feet. “I ain’t been killed by no screaming nutters.”

Despite himself, Marcus felt the shadow of a smile on his face, remembering the conversation the two of them had had at the top of the wall. It seemed an eternity ago. Then Marcus had thought Quintus a coward, but it was he who had been the coward, too scared to see reality for what it was, that he’d lived in a dream world.

A dream that was well and truly over.

*Chris King*



**Charlotte Bull**, *currently studying in Berlin, recently went with some fellow students to Georgia and Armenia to carry out research for a project. This is an account of her Armenian travels, at the end of her time there.....*

I had a couple of days, before flying home, to enjoy a bit of travelling. I thought I might like a little retreat in the Armenian mountains – a couple of quiet days with a bit of walking, not much talking and some beautiful views. I decided on Stepanavan, a small town in the Lori region in the north of Armenia. What now follows is a story of that town, nestled amongst the mountains, and the ways in which my chilled retreat went somewhat awry...

The bus pulled into Stepanavan's central bus station/layby(!) in the shadow of a huge statue in honour of the man the town is named after, Stepan Shahumyan. (More to come from him later) I had found a B&B with a decent website online and set off in the direction my map suggested, away from the town centre. I quickly found myself walking alongside a rough road through rows of blocks of flats without any street signs. Thinking I must be in the wrong place, I made a quick U-turn to return to the centre. I was interrupted however by a woman shouting across the road "ARE YOU TOURIST?!" Not in a position to deny this fact, I went over to her.

She asked me if I was looking for 'Laura's B&B' and it transpired that this was her mother's guesthouse and she would take me there. We arrived at the block of flats, home to the promised B&B. We waited and around the corner, very slowly, came Laura, the elderly owner. We negotiated a price for full board and I paid for two nights straight off. With hindsight, this was a rash move.

The 'B&B' was on the third floor of the building. Together Laura and I set off up the stairs, one of us needing to pause for breath at every

landing. Eventually we made it and I was welcomed into the 'B&B', which really put the home into homely, in that it was indeed her home. Upon entering, I noticed the most incongruous TripAdvisor sticker that I have ever seen, on the bathroom door.

My host ushered me into her bedroom, which for these two nights would be mine, whilst she would sleep on a camp-bed in the living room. I started to feel a little guilty for having arrived unannounced to this woman's one-bedroom flat. This feeling was compounded as she started to shift her laundry off the bed and change the sheets. I offered to help, but Laura, still significantly out of breath, refused my offers, so I awkwardly stood in the corner of the room, thankfully distracted by the view offered out of the window.



Bed eventually made, tea drunk, I decided to go out for a little walk in the late afternoon sun. This was not before a short negotiation regarding that evening's dinner. I tentatively suggested that I would prefer a veggie meal, which was met with a simple, 'No. Meat is good'!

I set out to explore the tourist delights of Stepanavan. Judging by the state of the occasional run-down tourist sign, there was investment to try and boost the tourist infrastructure 10 or so years ago, but not much since. One sign I'd caught sight of pointed down a path to 'Communist Caves'! I made my way down the path, past abandoned Soviet farms until the path took a left down to a gorge carved by the river, which splits Stepanavan in two.

A rusty handrail quickly fell away down the cliff and I had to weigh up my love of living against my love of communist caves. The latter won out and I continued along the narrow path, somewhat gingerly, eventually reaching the promised Caves of Communism.

The reason for their name is to do with Shahumyan (told you he'd be back) He supposedly founded his Marxist circle in these caves and, with it, communism in Armenia. He would come out to these caves with his comrades to hide from those pesky anti-communists, to chat proletarian revolutions and to enjoy a nice picnic. Although from what I saw, the revolutionaries must have got pretty wet whilst munching on their Marxist sandwiches (assuming they had sandwiches; I've not looked into what constituted a good Bolshevik brunch), since there was a substantial waterfall running through the caves.



After such Soviet excitement, I thought it time to head back for dinner at my dear 'B&B'. I was greeted with a huge portion of lamb stew, and whilst I tucked in, I was also treated to some entertainment. Laura sat watching a series of Indian telenovelas, which are apparently very popular in Armenia. She would shout her disapproval or approval of what was happening and would then turn to me, explain in a few words of broken Russian the dramatic plot development, to which I sensed I had

to react in fervent agreement with her judgement. After dinner, and after Laura had checked that I'd eaten all my stew like a good girl, I was duly summoned to sit next to her to watch the next instalment of the show. After another hour or so, I felt it time to retreat to my (her) bedroom for an early night. I was just drifting off when Laura burst in to pick up some ironing she had left in there. eventually got to sleep wondering what delights the next day would bring.

**Episode 2 coming soon....**

## **Mother's Union October 2017**

We ended our summer meetings with a strawberry tea in the Hall where we were joined by our friends from Wiggington M.U. They are hoping to invite us to one of their forthcoming meetings. In August we had another visit to Elford Walled Gardens. It is always impressive to see how much has been developed between visits. The rose garden is a picture, the allotments are very productive and some more out-buildings have been restored.

For our first October meeting Denise conducted a service of communion. We formally welcomed Angela who has transferred from Dawlish M.U. and Margaret from Yoxall.

Elizabeth had received letters of thanks from a prison chaplain at Swinfen for the books and puzzles we had sent and from Pathway for our continuing supply of cakes. She had attended a Diocesan M.U. meeting and told us of various projects which we will discuss later in the month.

# From The Registers

## Baptism



St John's	27 <sup>th</sup> August	Sophie Elizabeth Wright	3 yrs
St Michael's	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Alfie John David Kennedy	7 mths
St Michael's	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Summer Ricks	2 yrs
St Michael's	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Sophie Kanoko Tidey	8 mths

## Wedding



St Michael's	26 <sup>th</sup> August	Richard James Lee Howes & Laura Jayne Brazier
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## At Rest



St Michael's	18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Barbara Davis	81
St Michael's	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Dorothy May Grant	101

# St Michael's Rota - October 2017

<b>Sunday 8.00 am St Michael's</b>	<b>1 October</b>	<b>8 October</b>	<b>15 October</b>	<b>22 October</b>	<b>29 October</b>
<b>Sidesperson</b>	Sandy Baker	Brian Smith	Sandy Baker	David Bull	Martin Dewes

<b>Sunday 10.00 am St Michael's</b>	<b>1 October</b>	<b>8 October Harvest Family Praise</b>	<b>15 October</b>	<b>22 October</b>	<b>29 October</b>
<b>Welcomers</b>	Angela Burgess	Maureen Brand	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones	Anne Lingwood	Margaret Goodwin
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Caroline and Ted Green	Brenda Lip-trot Ray Allen	Viv and Stephen Oliver	Joan and Ken Sharman	Judy and Mike Godfrey
<b>Reader</b>	Angela Burgess		Brenda Lip-trot	Ray Allen	Mike Godfrey
<b>Servers</b>	Maggie Easton Peter Salt		Kay Martin David Shiel	Elizabeth Allen Phil Clayton	Kay Martin Elizabeth Salt
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Maggie Easton		Kay Martin	Ray Allen	Elizabeth Salt
<b>Intercessor</b>	Ted Green		Trevor James	Phil Clayton	Caroline Green
<b>Coffee</b>	June Frayn Betty Lyne	Alison Anketell Pam Towle	Brenda Lip-trot Shirley Trelfa	Lynn and David Edge	Caroline Green Brenda Eley
<b>Junior praise</b>	TBA		TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>Healing</b>				David Easton Sheila Vaughan	
<b>Transport</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>Flowers</b>	Lynn Rock	Harvest flowers	Harvest flowers	Anne Whatson	Anne Whatson

Sunday 12.30 pm St Michael's	1 October Baptism	Reader	Intercessor		Server
		Sonia Doidge	Rita Athersmith		Kay Martin
Sunday 6.00 pm St Michael's	1 October  No service	8 October  Communion	15 October  No service	22 October  Evensong	29 October  No service
Sidesperson		Margaret Frean		David Shiel	
Reader		Margaret Frean		Lyn Shiel	
Communion Assistant		Elizabeth Allen			

### **Foxy Lady's Flower Plot Blog: Down on the allotment**

At the start of the 2017 gardening calendar Diana Baker taking on another half plot at the allotment, her goal was to grow flowers for church decoration and sell any surpluses 'All donations going to church funds.' With a lot of help from David Bull in preparing the ground, in the early spring, Foxy's greenhouse bulging at the seams with seedlings, the plants had to go out. Then disaster struck, Foxy suffered setbacks with late frosts sweeping down the plot, lots of the plants were damaged. That did not discourage Foxy; more determined than ever she replanted and we can all see in church the end result.

**The Lichfield and District Allotments Society's Held their Annual Flower and Vegetable Show at the Curborough Community Centre on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017.** Foxy being very competitive entered her flowers in the competition, **winning two first and two second Prizes.** Well done Diana and David for all the hard work you have put in.

Do you have a computer? Then look at 'our videos' on the website, Foxy Lady's fourth Blog and you shall see the prize winning flowers

*Romulus*

# **Bible Readings**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

Philippians 2.1-13  
Matthew 21.23-32

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

Philippians 3.4b-14  
Matthew 21.33-end

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

Philippians 4.1-9  
Matthew 22.1-14

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

1 Thessalonians 1.1-10  
Matthew 22.15-22

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**  
**EVENSONG**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

Proverbs 4.1-18  
1 John 3.16-4.6

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Last Sunday after Trinity**  
**[Green]**

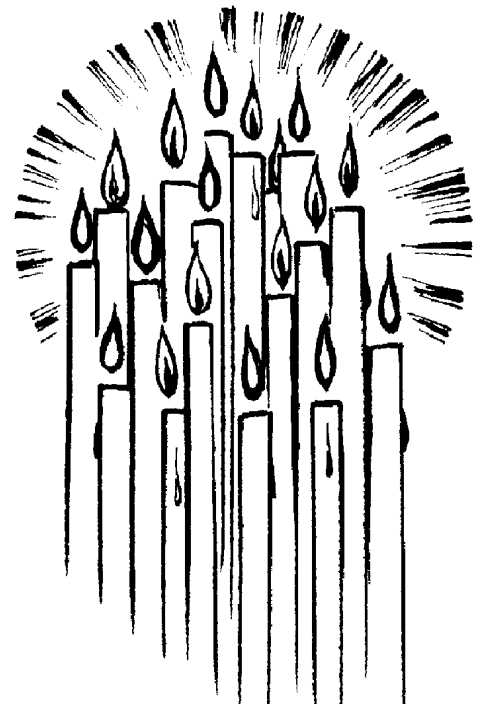
1 Thessalonians 2.1-8  
Matthew 22.34-end

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November**  
**All Saints' Day**  
**[Gold or White]**

1 John 3.1-3  
Matthew 5.1-12

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Third Sunday before Advent**  
**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  
**[Red or Green]**

1 Thessalonians 4.13-end  
Matthew 25.1-13





# Harvest Codebreaker

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
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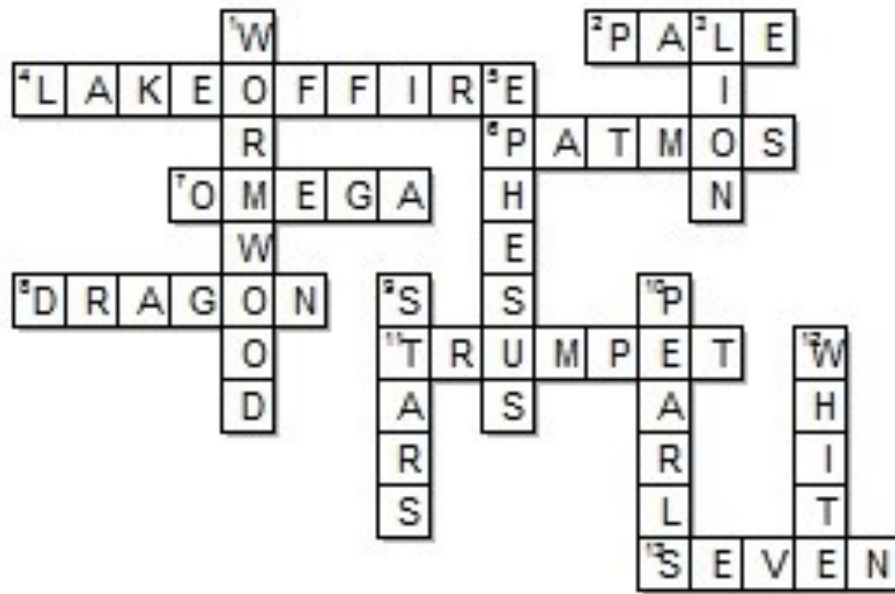
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## Last Week's Answers

## Revelation

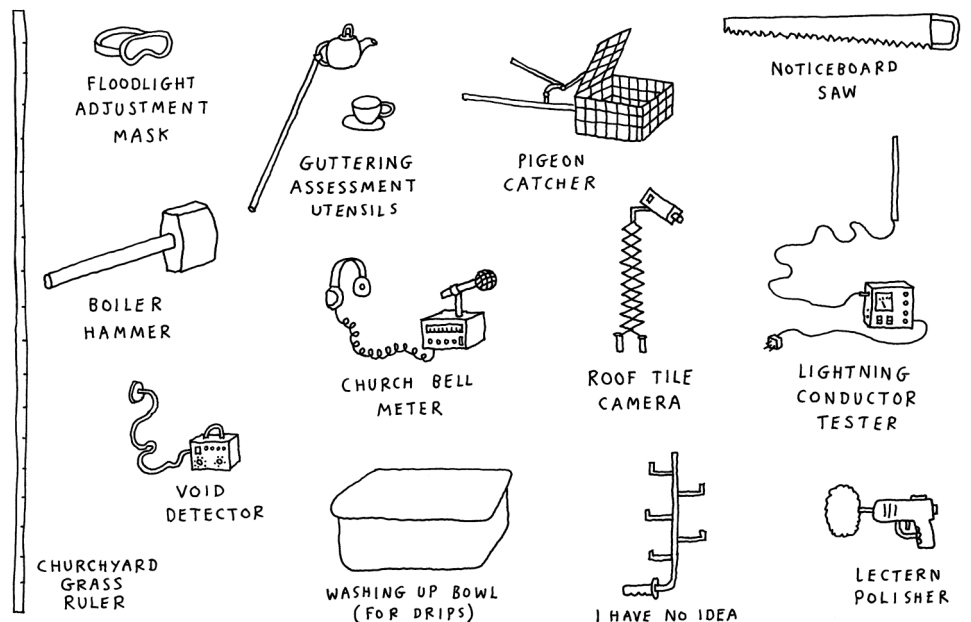


# The Big Clean

Thanks to Sue  
Jones and team for  
the clean up at St.  
Michael's!!!

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## And Finally

I never lose. I either win or learn.

*Nelson Mandela*



**God is patient**

## Deadlines!

**Magazine:**  
Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
every Month.  
Contact David Bull

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

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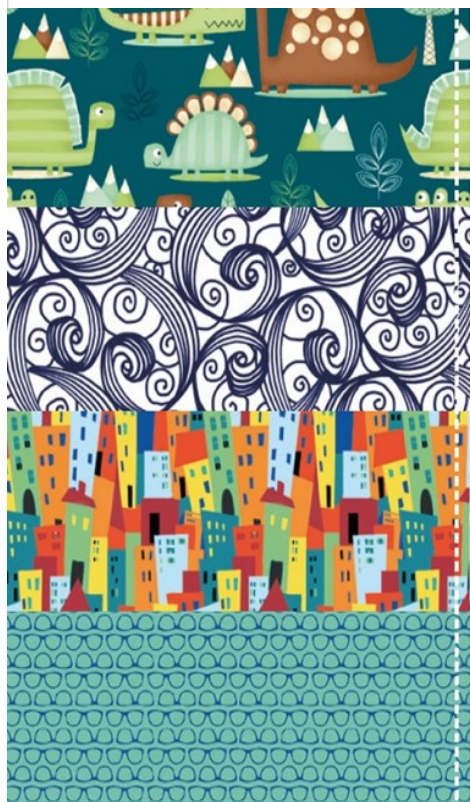
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# **01543 262826**

# Who's Who

<p align="center"><b>St Michaels PCC</b></p> <p><b>Churchwardens:</b> Lyn Shiel 320437 Sue Jones 415242</p> <p><b>Assistant Wardens:</b> June Frayn 264920 Caroline Green 262342 David Easton 255308</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Viv Oliver 258054</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary:</b> Phil Clayton 263244</p> <p><b>Stewardship Recorder:</b> David Athersmith 255979</p> <p><b>Electoral Roll Officer:</b> Mike Godfrey 264255</p>	<p align="center"><b>St John's PCC</b></p> <p><b>Churchwardens:</b> Christine Gilbert 07821 987999 John Alsop 480240</p> <p><b>Assistant Churchwardens:</b> Pat Owen 410826</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Sheila Irvine 252982</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary:</b> Angie King 07785 988716</p> <p><b>Assistant Treasurer &amp; Electoral Roll:</b> Linda Rubisch 481294</p> <p><b>PCC Lay Vice Chair:</b> Christine Higgs 410351</p>
<p 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 align="center"><b>St John's Church, Wall</b></p> <p><b>Verger:</b> Hilary Barker 480220</p> <p><b>Pastoral Care:</b> Rev. Denise Youngs 672646</p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Maureen Brand 264880</p> <p><b>Magazine Distributer:</b> Eileen Carson 254107</p> <p 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 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> <p>Deadline for articles usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month</p>
<p align="center"><b>Scouting and Guiding</b></p> <p><b>Group Scout Leader:</b> Adrian Grew 07980 886787 - <a href="mailto:adrian.grew@tesco.net">adrian.grew@tesco.net</a></p> <p><b>Rainbows:</b> Becky Bickley 07703 671568 Vicki Davies Friend 07970 549284 Hannah Heath 07854 824443</p> <p><b>Brownies:</b> Julie Cragg 301098</p> <p><b>Guides:</b> Lisa Webb 07900 164587</p>	