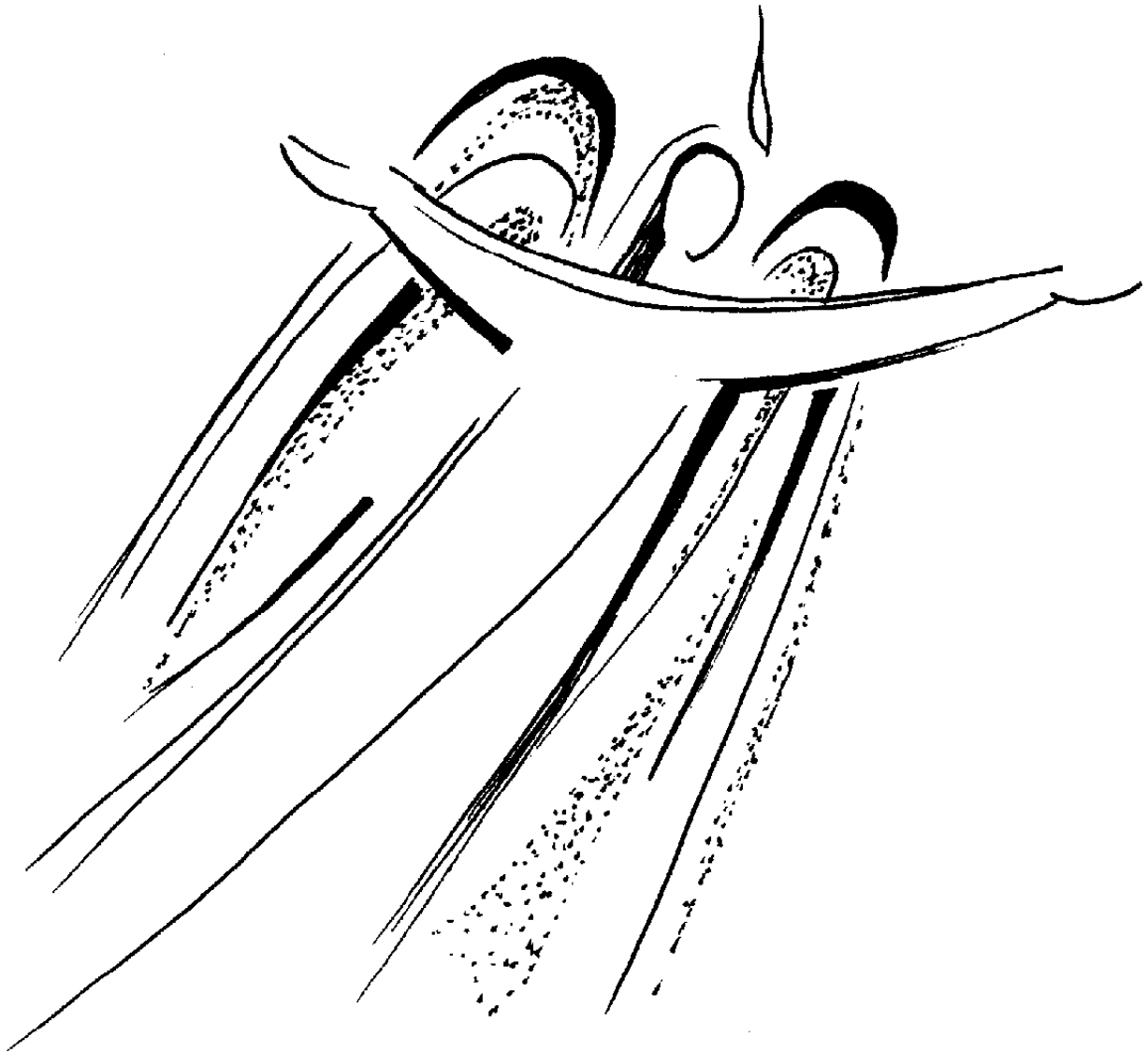
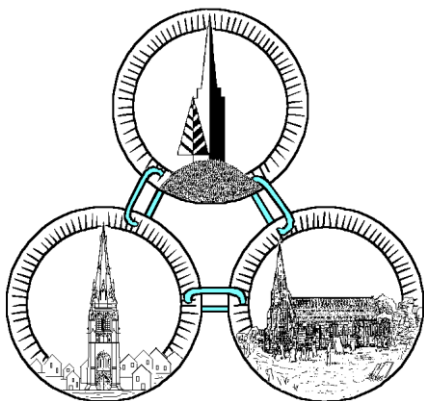


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

September 2017



29th August – Michael and All Angels



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

70p

<p>Rector: 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>): 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>): 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) The Revd. Jeyan Anketell</p> <p>7 Wissage Lane, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS13 6DQ</p>	<p>Reader: Lesley Allen 21 Boley Close, LICHFIELD, Staffs, WS14 9AR Tel: 01543 251654 E-mail: lesley.allen21@googlemail.com</p>
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<p>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 to make an appointment.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>St Michael's Church Church Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6ED</p>	<p>St John's Church Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire, WS14 0AS</p>

Reflections for September

Guy Elsmore (Archdeacon of Buckingham and formerly General Secretary of Modern Church) wrote a series of three articles asking, “Can liberals embrace the Growth Agenda?” This summary of his second article is a belated follow-up to the summary of his first article in the September 2016 Parish Magazine. This looks at some recent research on church growth and what it may tell us about the ways in which liberal churches might approach the task of seeking growth, reflecting back on some of the liberal strengths identified previously.

An early report *From Anecdote to Evidence* commissioned by the Church Growth Research Programme (CGRP) has been applauded by many as offering reasonably reliable and robust conclusions regarding churches in the UK; and the Faith Communities Report (2010) from the Hartford Institute for Religion Research (HIRR) drew similar conclusions in the USA context.

Growth is not limited by tradition --- liberal churches can grow. The CGRP is clear that church tradition is not a predictor of growth. There are stories to be told of liberal churches around the country that are growing strongly. The HIRR report drew exactly the same conclusion in the USA context.

Churches that have a clear mission tend to grow. Again, both reports show that churches which do not clearly identify their uniqueness are less likely to grow than those which are able to express their identity with focus and clarity. How can liberals present a clear mission statement to the world, when our mission is contingent on an encounter with the world when that encounter might even change us as much as it changes the world? Perhaps the answer is to point clearly to those liberal values (listening, openness, inclusivity, flexibility, humility etc) and being very clear about them. There is a real and creative challenge for liberal churches and PCCs to work on in beginning to articulate this with real clarity. For instance, how

about a strapline like 'St Blog's, the listening church'? There are ways of being clear about liberal identity, and this is a challenge for us all.

Churches that are intentional about growth tend to grow. There are authentic ways of speaking of the growth that God brings to the church, without selling our soul either to the market or to ways of being church that violate our integrity. Another linked finding from HIRR is that while CGRP is correct in that there is no correlation between theological identity and growth, there is a concentration of growing churches at the extreme ends of all theological traditions. ie for liberals, those churches which adopt a very clear 'progressive' agenda are more likely to grow than those at the milder end of liberalism. However Guy's experience suggests that this effect may be more strongly linked to the issue of clear identity rather than the attraction of the extreme. Those at the extreme ends of all traditions automatically have a very clear position. This makes it all the more urgent that those who don't find themselves comfortable on the extreme, become comfortable with the uncomfortable task of being clear about their identity.

Churches whose leaders and congregations adopt change tend to grow. Both CGRP and HIRR have shown that liberal churches are just as likely to grow as other churches. They show that clarity about our mission and purpose is a very important factor in growth, and that naming growth as part of that identity helps the process of growing: so is the capacity of leaders and people to be open to change, and to continue reflecting on experience such that change becomes part of their continuing life together.

Another linked finding is that churches which innovate, creating new opportunities for people to join through Fresh Expressions, will tend to grow. Examples of liberal Fresh Expressions include groups offering experimental spirituality, Christian approaches to mindfulness, LGBTI worship communities and many more. Alongside innovation is also the sharing of leadership beyond the professional clergy and into a much wider group of people.

Churches which welcome and nurture disciples, young and old, are more likely to grow. The message from both CGRP and HIRR is that people will grow in faith and stay with their churches and hence their churches will grow, if there is more on offer for them than Sunday alone. Perhaps home groups/nurture groups will be excellent places to explore some of the liberal creativity, flexibility and openness to the presence of the work of God in the world.

According to CGRP we need to be more than just being friendly and good with newcomers. Being intentional about the experience newcomers get when they come along, follow up, recent arrival gatherings, invitation to events, all these things really make a difference. If we can do more to make those who join us feel welcome and included, then there will be a big impact. Perhaps a peculiarly liberal insight on this is that we should expect our welcome process to include an element by which the newcomer, their talents/needs/identity will have some real impact on the rest of us, rather than their being simply being absorbed by the existing group.

Some of us will recognise many of these recommendations in much of what we already do. Can we do more?

Perhaps there will be room here for a prayer from the Society of St Francis:

**Give to your church, O God,
a bold vision and a daring charity,
a refreshed wisdom and a courteous understanding,
that the eternal wisdom of your Son
may be acclaimed as the good news of the age;
through him who makes all things new,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jeyan Anketell.

Family Praise

**Sunday 11th
September**

10am St Michael's



Come and join us at our ...



MESSY CHURCH

for craft, story, song and food.

Sunday 24th September

4.30 – 5.45pm

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

Magazine Deliverers

From the end of August, the magazine will be ready for collection on a Friday before the last Sunday of the month NOT Thursdays.

Delivery dates for the rest of the year will be

Sept 22nd

Oct 27th

Nov 24th

Dec 15th

Barbara Homewood 255909

St Michael's Church Greenhill Lichfield

PATRONAL FESTIVAL 2017

Come and join us to celebrate our Patronal
Festival

The Feast of St Michael and All Angels
Sunday 24th September

President and Preacher
The Bishop of Wolverhampton



10.00am Coffee, croissants and Sunday papers
11.00am Patronal Service
followed by Drinks and Lunch (no charge)

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 Angie King, 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
Evensong

Tuesday

School Service

Prayer Group, St Michael's
1st 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

7:30pm Music Group

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

Benefice Diary

Fri 1 Sept 2017

10:30	Praise and Play	St John's
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Sat 2 Sept 2017

Sun 3 Sept 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 4 Sept 2017

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

Tue 5 Sept 2017

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



Wed 6 Sept 2017

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

Thu 7 Sept 2017

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

Fri 8 Sept 2017

19:30	Quiz Night in aid of Sympathy	Church Hall
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Sat 9 Sept 2017

10:00	SHCT Ride and Stride	St. Michael's
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Sun 10 Sept 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 11 Sept 2017



10:00

First Steps

St. Michael's

15:00

SACRED Book Group

St John's



Tue 12 Sept 2017

9:00

St Michael's School Service

St. Michael's

14:00

Tuesday Club

Church Hall

Wed 13 Sept 2017

09:30

Holy Communion

St Michael's

18:30

Choir Rehearsal

St. Michael's

Thu 14 Sept 2017

All day

OFFICE CLOSED

St Michael's

10:00

Knitting Group

St John's

19:30

Bell Ringing Practice

St Michael's

Fri 15 Sept 2017

Sat 16 Sept 2017

15:00

Wall WI Show

Wall Village Hall

Sun 17 Sept 2017

08:00

Holy Communion

St Michael's

10:00

Morning Worship

St John's

10:00

Holy Communion

St Michael's

Mon 18 Sept 2017

11:30

Extended Communion

Darwin Court,

18:30

Parish Surgery

St Michael's

Tue 19 Sept 2017

9:00

St Michael's School Service

St. Michael's

Wed 20 Sept 2017

09:30

Holy Communion

St Michael's

18:30

Choir Rehearsal

St. Michael's

20:00

Darwin Singers Rehearsal

St Michael's

Thu 21 Sept 2017

All day

OFFICE CLOSED

St Michael's

10:00

Knitting Group

St John's

19:30

Bell Ringing Practice

St Michael's

Fri 22 Sept 2017

All day

Magazine Distribution Day

Sat 23 Sept 2017

All Day	Reformation Pilgrimage Visiting St John's	
	Walking Group:	
11.00	Samuel Johnson's Birthday (Choir)	
19:30	Wall Race Night	Wall Village Hall



Sun 24 Sept 2017

08:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00	Michaelmas Said Holy Communion	St John's
11:00	Patronal Festival with +Clive	St Michael's
11:30	Baptism	St John's
12:30	Patronal Lunch	St. Michael's
16:30	Messy Church	Church Hall
18:00	Choral Evensong	St. Michael's

Mon 25 Sept 2017

19:30	Deanery Synod	St Chad's
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Tue 26 Sept 2017

9:00	St Michael's School Michaelmas Service	St. Michael's
19:30	St John's PCC Meeting	St. John's

Wed 27 Sept 2017

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

Thu 28 Sept 2017

All day	OFFICE CLOSED	St Michael's
10:00	Knitting Group	St John's
17:00	Wedding Rehearsal	St. Michael's
19:30	Bell Ringing Practice	St Michael's

Fri 29 Sept 2017

Sat 30th Sept 2017

10:30am	Walking Group 10 th Anniversary Walk	Duffield Station
13:00	Wedding	St. Michael's





QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 8th September 7.30pm
in St Michael's Church Hall

Teams of 4

Entry: £2-50 per person

From the office 01543 262211 or on the door

BYO drinks and nibbles

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

In Aid of 'Next Stop Symi'



Old Mobiles For New Lives

Old unwanted mobile phones are needed now to raise funds to help save lives in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is one of the worst places in the world for a women to give birth or for a child to be born, because of a shortage of midwives. Because of a lack of female education, not enough midwives are trained - and male doctors are not allowed to attend births.

This means that thousands of women and children die who might not otherwise if there were enough midwives in Afghanistan.

To raise funds to help, we recycle the old unwanted and even broken mobile phones that so many of us have lying around. The recycling company we use is also utilised by one of the largest international aid agencies.

If people can find that mobile at the back of a drawer gathering dust, it can make a big difference and help save lives - recycling is good for the planet too - and we know it's possible for one person to collect anything up to 17 old phones if they ask family & friends.

A local church ran an appeal for us too with a collecting bin which enabled us to send off over 90 old mobiles for recycling - and we need others to do the same also!

You can read more at www.afghanmotherandchildsupport.org or www.amcs.help - and our website has lots of information about how anybody can help.

So please drop your old mobiles in our collecting bin - or for more information or to obtain a collecting bin, telephone Philip Cooper on 07866 805229, or contact us as below.

..... and thank you!

~ Afghan Mother & Child Support ~
14 The Meadows, Bromsgrove, B61 0NN, UK
Telephone: 0121 288 1648 ~ Fax: 0121 285 1648
Email: mail@amcs.help Web: www.afghanmotherandchildsupport.org



OLD MOBILE PHONES FOR NEW LIVES

Doug Little has organised this collection through a personal contact. Please support this charity by placing old phones in the marked bin near the recycling boxes at the back of St Michael's Church.

Many Thanks

Linda

LICHFIELD WILDLIFE GROUP

Event: a Talk 'Field Mice' By Derek Crawley (Mammal Recorder for Staffordshire)

On: Tuesday September 12th at 7:45 pm

At: Wade Street Church, Frog Lane, Lichfield, WS13 6HL.

Admission: £3:00, under 16s free.

Pete Norbury.

(Programme Secretary, Lichfield Wildlife Group)

01543 257812

PATTERN OF PRAYER

A few weeks ago, when I took the theme of prayer for my sermon at St Michael's, I included a poem which I had come across some years ago. After the service, many people asked me for a copy of the poem and so we decided that printing it in the magazine would be the easiest way of sharing it with people.

It is a poem which I saw embroidered in an exhibition in Bristol Cathedral. There was no information about who had written it and I have since endeavoured to find the author, but with no success. So, sadly, I cannot acknowledge the author. Ruth

PATTERN OF PRAYER

no choir of angels
no round of applause
no hip-hip–hallelujahs
no song and dance

be still
in secret

draw with words and silence
the shape of your heart

this is prayer

within this framework lay down
the fragile pieces of your life's tapestry
some beautifully made
some tattered
torn
frayed

some precious beyond measure
some worthless rags
the intricate designs
the random scraps
they are the patchwork of who you are

every piece sewn together
by the unbreakable golden thread
of forgiveness
mercy
grace

woven from the love of God

put aside the shadows of the future
unseen, uncertain, unknown and unknowable

live in the shining light of the present
and find peace in eternity

be still
in secret

draw with words and silence
the shape of your heart

touch the power and the glory
for ever and ever
now

this is prayer



OCCASIONAL HELP REQUIRED FOR DOG SITTING

Are you able to give my well trained cocker spaniel a minimum of a 15 minute toilet break in either your own home or mine during an eight hour day? Mainly this is on Bank Holiday Mondays (not Christmas/New Year) and other random days. Ideally you are a dog owner and this arrangement would be done on a reciprocal basis. However I am perfectly happy to enter into a cash arrangement if this is preferable. My dog is very sociable, fully house trained and known to members of the Walking Group. We live on the Boley Park within 5 minutes walk of the CO-OP. **Please contact me either at St Michael's or Mobile 07900 827761. Many thanks, Liz and Dotty Clarke.**

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD PRAYER DIARY

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

Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, share with us your heart for creation.

That we may cherish all life

Working together to heal the damage we have done.

Knowing that in all our struggles you are beside us, to inspire, strengthen and transform us.

Amen

Chris Polhill; A Heart for Creation (2010)

BRIDGE BUILDERS

Bridge Builders was set up in mid-2016 as a project of the Lichfield Christian Schools Work Trust. Its explicit purpose is to raise the understanding of the world of work for Years 10 to 13 students in the Lichfield area. This is achieved by the delivery of employability workshops and mock work interviews using the skills of adult volunteers.

The sessions provide students with a better understanding of what to expect in the workplace and how to prepare for an interview for college, university or work. Feedback from volunteers to students enhances their understanding and develops self-confidence and self-esteem.

Volunteers have found the sessions have dispelled media inspired myths about schools and have helped them to understand the different pressures young people face in comparison to their own school experiences.

Next steps

Dates have already been confirmed with 2 schools in the coming academic year and 4 new local schools have expressed interest in the programme. Provisionally, Bridge Builders can deliver about 10 sessions per year – the main facilitator is Rick Hill.

A wider base of volunteers from all backgrounds would enhance the current skills base – an experience of ‘work’ is the main criteria for volunteering. References are taken up for each volunteer.

If you would like to take part, just contact Rick Hill by email swimrick1@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01543 411543.



United Benefice Walking Group

We had a very good local walk in July. A large number of people came on the walk, and, after a leisurely stroll around the Darwin Park Estate, we paused to look at Sandfields Pumping Station, where we were given interesting information by members of the group.



After coffee, we walked along the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal Trust's Heritage Towpath where we were met by Peter Buck, from the Trust, who told us about the work that has been done, the support received and plans for the future, including the establishment of a new wetland centre. The walk ended with a fine lunch at The Saxon Penny.

There are 2 walks in September. On **Saturday September 23rd.** at around **2.00 p.m.**, the Walking Group will be joining **The St. Chad's Pilgrimage Walk at St. Peter's Church, Little Aston.** From there we will be walking to **Lichfield Cathedral**, going via **St. John's Church, Wall.** The complete Pilgrimage Walk starts from **St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Birmingham** and is to mark the **500th Anniversary of The Reformation.** The Bishop of Lichfield will be doing the whole of this 18 mile walk.

There are no more places left for this walk.

Happy Anniversary

This month sees the

10th. Anniversary of The United Benefice Walking Group.

Our very first walk was on **Saturday September 29th., 2007.** We walked from St. Michael's and continued around the City eventually arriving at Christchurch, where we had coffee; and then walked a different route back to St. Michael's.

To mark the Anniversary we have arranged a special Event for **Saturday September 30th.** We are going to Derbyshire for a **Heritage Train trip from Duffield to Wirksworth.** This will be followed by coffee on the station platform and then a walk around this attractive historic town. After the walk we will be enjoying a **Buffet Lunch at The Red Lion Pub** in the centre of Wirksworth.

This walk is a bookable event and all the places for the walk have now been taken.

We look forward to both of these walks in September and to continuing our monthly United Benefice Walks.

Ray Allen. 01543 251654.





Celebrations!

July was a month for celebrating wedding anniversaries in the St Michael's family, with two Golden Weddings Anniversary (50 years) and one Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years)!



Gloria and Ron Spencer celebrated their Diamond Wedding



Betty and Arthur Lyne celebrated their Golden Wedding,
as did Anne and Peter Whatson



Congratulations to them all!

Beauty and the Beast



The small, but appreciative, audience at the August film club's showing of the well known fairy

story were well rewarded by the technical expertise and imaginative production of this film.

Just to remind you, a cold hearted prince in a castle is turned into a Beast by an enchantress for his act of unkindness in refusing a rose in payment for lodging. The whole castle is put under a curse which will not be lifted until the Beast shows love for another and his love is returned. Many years pass and eventually a girl finds her way to the castle in search of her lost father, she is imprisoned by the Beast as he lets the father go. Eventually the bravery and kindness of the girl towards him wins him over and they discover their love for one another. The curse is lifted as the last petal on the rose falls with their kiss and they all live happily ever after.

In the film all the castle guests and servants are imaginatively turned into household objects and furniture. The castle and surrounding forest are turned into a snowy landscape, although it is summertime in the nearby town.

Emma Watson (Hermione in the Harry Potter films) takes the role of the heroine, Belle, Dan Stevens (from Downton Abbey) is the Beast and Kevin Klein is Belle's father, Maurice. Ian McKellan's voice comes from an ornamental clock, called Cogsworth and Euan McGregor is Luminiere, a gold candelabrum. Emma Thompson becomes a teapot, Mrs Potts, and her small son, Chip, is a chipped teacup.

This version of *Beauty and the Beast* is in musical form and there are many delightful songs. It was great fun to watch, there were also times to shed the odd tear and altogether it was most entertaining.

Caroline Green

St. Michael's Film Club

1. The Viceroy's House

(Cert TBC. 106min. Drama.)

The story of Lord Mountbatten in India, at the time of partition. Stars Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson, Simon Callow.

Monday September 4th.

1.30pm start

Refreshments £2.50 from 1.00pm.

St. Michael's Church Hall

(behind Aldi). All welcome.

Contact: Parish Office 01543 262211

2. 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 2nd .

1.30pm start



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, 4th 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!

WALL NEWS

Children's Society Boxes

For those kind people who have a Children's Society box, please remember that the old "round" £1 will cease to be legal tender on 16th October 2017.

Our boxes at St John's are due to be emptied after this date. If you have a box with £1 coins in, let me know and I will gladly bank the money before.

Many thanks

Rachael

Churchyard Maintenance

On Saturday 29th July Michael Toplis and his team visited St John's churchyard to help our regular gardener John to tame the churchyard after a very lush growing season this year.



After a lot of strimming, sweat and toil the churchyard is now looking neat and tidy once more.



Thank you to everyone who contributes in whatever way they can to help us keep our churchyard so beautiful. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

The Gate

Some of you may have noticed that the gate was repaired and re-varnished on Tuesday 15th August.

This should mean that it will stand up to the wear and tear of a lot more years to come.



KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group have finished their Ecclesiastical Competition Entry and sent it off.



The winners of the competition will win £10,000 and the runners up will win £2,500. The rest of the chosen entries will be joined together to make a mural that will be toured around the nation's cathedrals. We are all hoping that our entry at least gets chosen to be part of the mural. We'll let you know when we hear any news.



Hymns and Pimms



As Simon told us, as he welcomed us to the service this year, 'If you do something once and it is a success, then everyone wants you do it again the next year. When you do it again the next year and it is a success again, so a tradition is born!'

A new tradition appears to have been born at St John's with the introduction of the summer Hymns and Pimms Service. The range of hymns suggested meant that we learnt about a wide variety of composers and styles of writing and we all thoroughly enjoyed raising our voices in worship and praise, helped with a glass or two of Pimms to 'oil the vocal chords'.



Thanks to everyone who helped to make this a very special service, especially Denise and Chris G for sponsoring the Pimms and the refreshments and Michelle, Hilary, Angie and Pat for helping to make the evening run smoothly.

Afternoon Tea

Afternoon Tea this month will be served on **Tuesday 5th September.** between 2-4pm.

Denise

Dates for your Diary

23rd Sept - Race Night

7th Oct – Harvest Supper

8th Oct – Harvest Festival

12th Nov – Remembrance Sunday

25th Nov - Skittles Night

8th Dec – Beatus Concert

19th Dec - Wall Carols

CONGRATULATIONS



Families from Wall and the congregation of St John's have had an exceptional year for University graduation results.

Congratulations to proud Grandma, Pat Crowe and her grandson Edward who graduated from the University of Birmingham with a 1st class honours degree in Nuclear Physics. He will be returning to Birmingham in the Autumn to study for an MA in Nuclear Physics.

Congratulations to proud Grandma, Sheila Shelley and her granddaughter Zoe who graduated from Southampton Solent University with a 1st Class Honours Degree in Art and Fashion

And congratulations to proud Mum and Dad, Rachael and Alan Evans, on the occasion of their son Lewis's graduation from Nottingham Trent University with a 2:1 Honours Degree in History and International Relations which means that he has secured his place to study an MA in International Relations.

We are all very proud of each and every one of them. Very well done!

Angie

Congratulations to proud Mum and Dad, Phil and Angie King, on the occasion of their son Chris's graduation: 1st class honours degree in History from Keele University and on winning the Wedgewood History Dissertation Prize. Very well done Chris

Liz Clarke

Guarding Letocetum Part Two

The disgruntled band of vicious natives had caught the small Roman town, as the saying goes, with its trousers down – some of them, literally.

Drusus Turullius Arcadius, the *Praefectus castrorum*, commander of the auxiliaries, was a man of distinguished military service and like all men who had risen through the ranks and enjoyed a long and healthy life in the army, was no hero. After twenty-five years fighting for the Empire, all he wanted was a nice cushy job, fine company and good wine. He thought he'd managed at least two of those; but as the rain battered against his hastily acquired helmet and his sandaled feet splashed through the mud, he very much wished, he realised, it had only been one.

"Sir, up here!" called a voice from on high. Squinting through the bloody awful British weather, Drusus could make out a figure in armour waving at

him. He looked positively eager. It took everything the old commander had not to turn around and walk away.

Arcadius climbed the wooden steps, it could not be said that he exactly hurried; he was a commander after all, it didn't do to look unprepared.

"What is it?" He barked when he had joined the two guards, he vaguely recognised them. A young man filled with hope and excitement and an older legionnaire who knew better.

"The Britons, sir," the younger one said, whipping off a salute and earning an eye roll from his partner.

Arcadius looked out into the darkness, he'd struggled with distance for years. Even as blurs and vague blobs, he could still make out the various shapes moving with purpose towards them. It wasn't a horde, as such, there were too few of them for a horde. It was enough to send a message, though.

"I can see that!" Arcadius barked bitterly.

"Right, sir. Sorry, sir."

"Damned rebels!" Arcadius shouted, claspng a hand onto his sword and squinting into the darkness. He liked shouting, it gave him a sense of reassurance. He'd gotten through most of his military career shouting. It would be said later on that the old commander was deaf, and so shouted to make up for it. Then again, it would also be said later that his death was honourable. What it actually was, was a spear flying out the darkness and poor reflexes.

Marcus Tanicus Gellius screamed as the commander fell backwards.

"Bloody hell," Quintus breathed. Another spear whistled past them and the two men dived. One from fear and the other from experience.

"You're a bleedin' jinx, all that talk about dyin', what you gotta do that for?"

“He’s dead.”

“I know that, Mars have mercy on us. C’mon, we gotta warn the others. That’s what he’d ‘ave done.” Marcus didn’t move. “C’mon!”

Marcus was dimly aware of being grabbed by Quintus and hauled bodily down the stairs. He could hear the sound of shouting and people barking orders. Armoured feet splashed through the mud. The gates were dragged shut. The alarm had been sounded. People were running, women and children were being pushed deeper into the small town as the soldiers took up arms.

“Ere, take this,” Quintus said, as kindly as it was possible to whilst fearing for his life. A bow was shoved into Marcus’s hands, arrows quickly followed them. “Gods, he ain’t...” Marcus didn’t look at him, he couldn’t look anywhere but the commander. “It ‘appens, alright. It’s not fair, it ain’t good, but it’s how it is. We gotta ‘elp, stop it ‘appening to everyone else.”

Marcus stayed silent, Quintus sighed.

“You’re a soldier, lad. Time to be one.”

Chris King

From The Registers

Baptism



St John's	23 rd July	Emily Elizabeth Lunn	7 mths
St Michael's	6 th August	Ryan Rife Cleary	9 mths
St Michael's	6 th August	Douglas Andrew Proctor	3 yrs
St Michael's	6 th August	Otilie Jenifer Proctor	6 mths



Wedding

St Michael's	5 th August	James Dunne & Charlotte Cope
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At Rest

St Michael's	25 th July	Christine Broughall	95
St John's	27 th July	Raymond Hoskins (interment of ashes)	79
St Michael's	27 th July	Irene Prosser	95
St Michael's	4 th August	Harry Barton	68
St Michael's	8 th August	David John Pratt	90
St Michael's	23 rd August	Hazel Marjorie Snell	93

Bible Readings

Sunday 3rd September
12th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Jeremiah 15.15-21
Matthew 16.21-end

Sunday 10th September
13th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Ezekiel 33.7-11
Matthew 18.15-20

Sunday 17th September
14th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Genesis 50.15-21
Matthew 18.21-35

Sunday 24th September
Michael and All Angels
[White]

TBC

Sunday 24th September
EVENSONG

Michael and All Angels
[White]

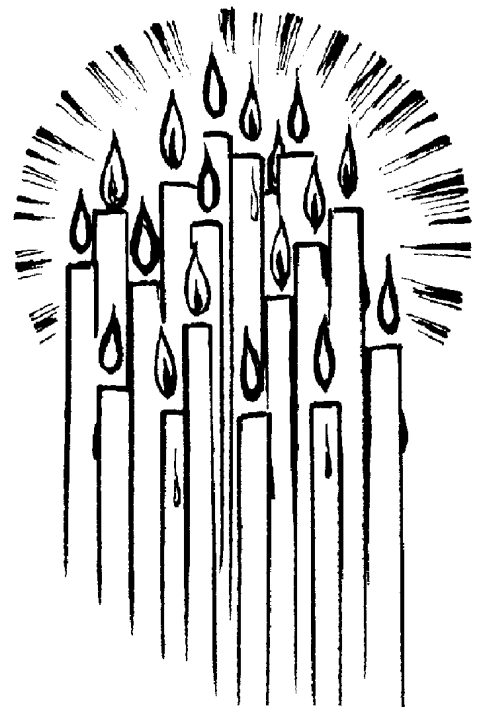
Daniel 10.4 - end
Revelation 5

Sunday 1st October
16th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Philippians 2.1-13
Matthew 21.23-32

Sunday 8th October
17th Sunday after Trinity
[Green]

Philippians 3.4b-14
Matthew 21.33-end



St Michael's Rota – September 2017

Sunday 8.00 am St Michael's	3 September	10 September	17 September	24 September
Sidesperson	Sandy Baker	David Bull	Martin Dewes	Brian Smith

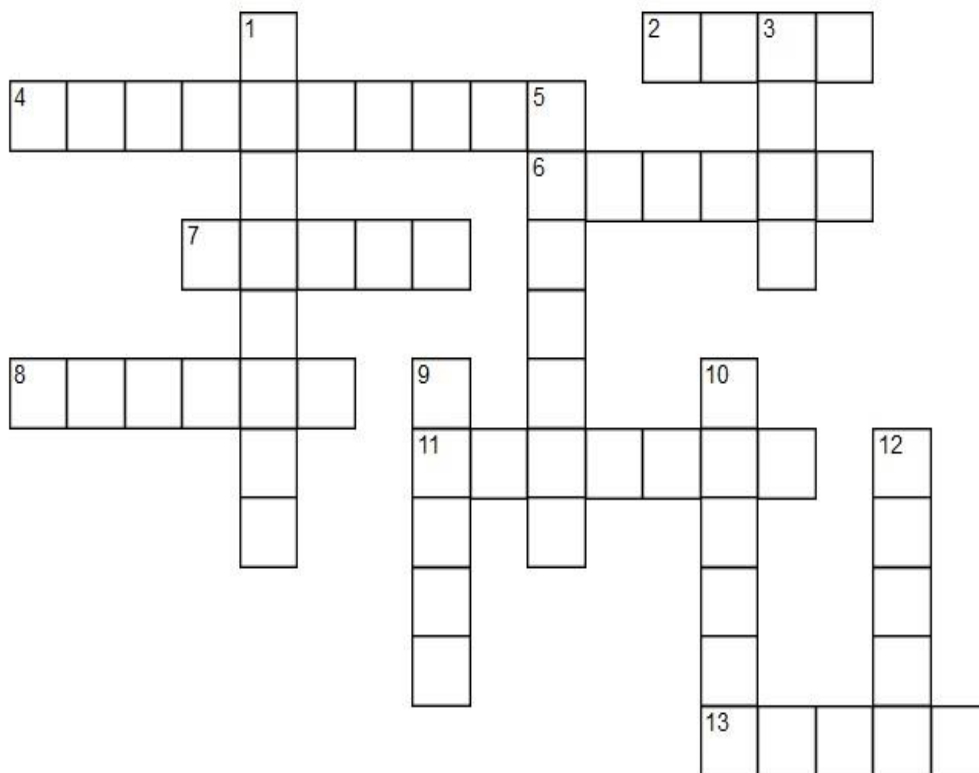
Sunday 10.00 am St Michael's	3 September	10 September	17 September	24 September
		Family Praise		Michaelmas
Welcomers	Brenda Liptrot	Maureen Brand	Margaret Goodwin	Mary and Robert McAllester Jones
Sidespersons	Barbara Homewood Ray Allen	Lynn and David Edge	Pat Toplis Lynn Rock	Judy and Mike Godfrey
Reader	Kay Martin		Ted Green	Mike Godfrey
Servers	Kay Martin Elizabeth Allen		Maggie Easton David Shiel	Elizabeth Salt Kay Martin Phil Clayton
Communion Assistant	Elizabeth Allen		Sheila Vaughan	Elizabeth Salt
Intercessor	David Bull		Caroline Green	Phil Clayton
Coffee	Caroline Green Brenda Eley	Judy Godfrey Angela Burgess	Anne Lingwood Shirley Trelfa	Elizabeth Allen Trish Jones
Junior praise	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Healing				Caroline Green Alan Toplis
Transport	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Flowers	Brenda Liptrot	Cynthia	Cynthia	Lynn Rock

Sunday 12.30 pm St Michael's	3 Sept	Reader	Intercessor	Server
	Baptism			
		Kay Martin	Lynn Edge	Kay Martin

Sunday 6.00 pm St Michael's	3 Sept	10 September	17 September	24 September
	No service	Communion	No service (Messy Church at 4.30 pm)	Evensong
Sidesperson		David Rock		Margaret Frean
Reader		Phil Clayton		Margaret Frean
Communion Assistant		Phil Clayton		

REVELATION CROSSWORD

St Michael appears in the Book of Revelation. So, here's a crossword based on this bible book.



ACROSS

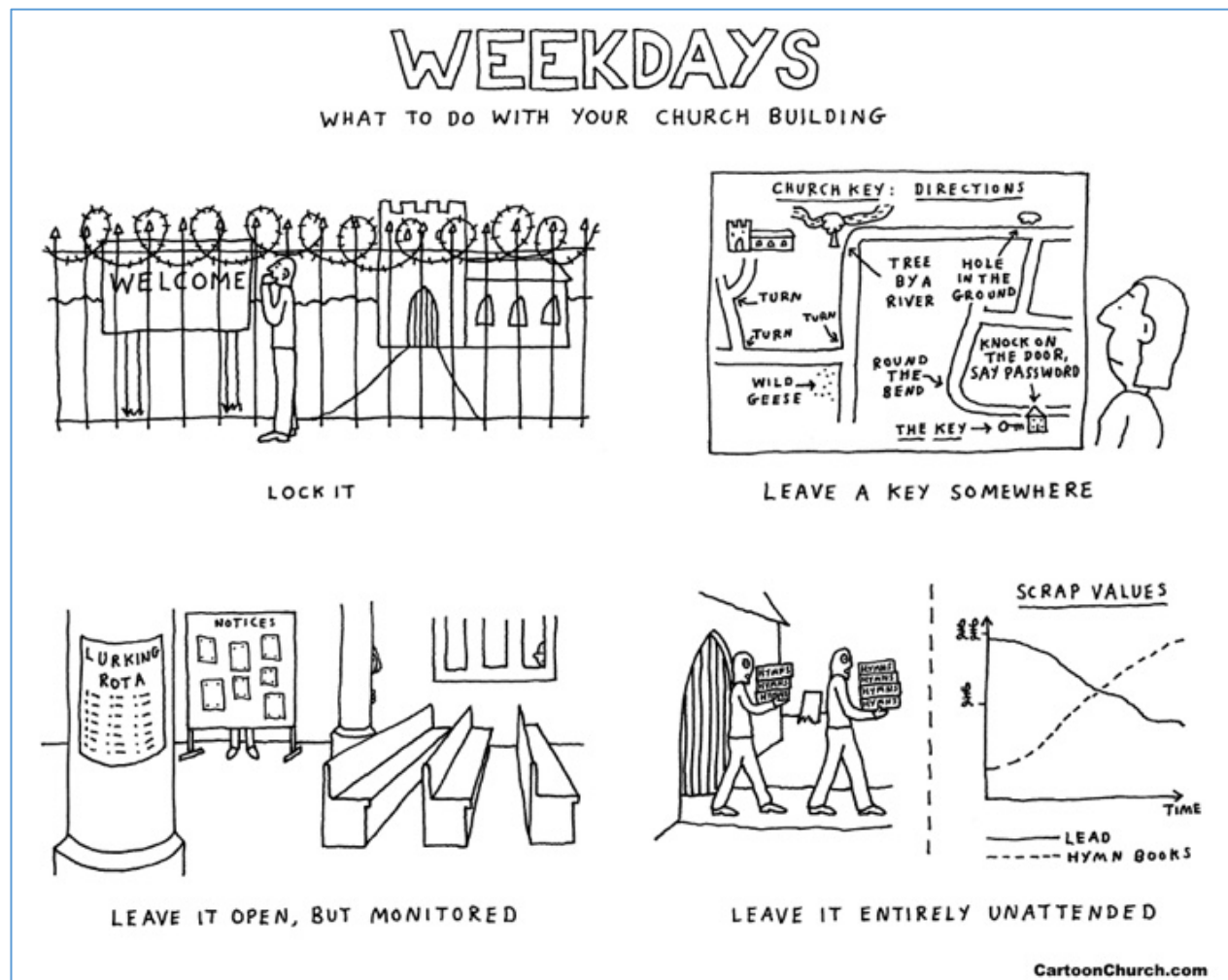
- 2 What colour horse did Death ride? (Chapter 6)
- 4 Those whose names were not written in the Book of Life were cast where? (Chapter 20)
- 6 What island was John the Apostle on when he wrote Revelations? (Chapter 1)
- 7 'I am the Alpha and the' says the Lord God. (Chapter 1)
- 8 When war broke out in heaven, Michael and his angels fought what? (Chapter 12)
- 11 What musical instrument did the angels play?
- 13 How many churches of Asia was the book addressed to? (Chapter 1)

DOWN

- 1 What was the name of the star that fell on the waters which made them bitter?(Chapter 8)
- 3 There were four beasts around the throne. They were like a flying eagle, a man, a calf and a (Chapter 4)
- 5 Which church is said to have left its first love? (Chapter 2)
- 9 When he first appears Jesus has seven of these in his right hand. (Chapter 1)
- 10 What were the gates in the new city made from?
- 12 What colour was the horse from the first of the four seals? (Chapter 6)

Mary Mother of Jesus

- 1.) carpenter
- 2.) Judah
- 3.) Gabriel
- 4.) He hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
- 5.) visited Elisabeth.
- 6.) The child she was carrying leapt in her womb.
- 7.) 3 months
- 8.) To be registered in the census and be taxed.
- 9.) Passover
- 10.) Whatever Jesus told them to.
- 11.) until after Jesus was born.
- 12.) blessed art thou among women.



And finally:

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Martin Luther King Jr.



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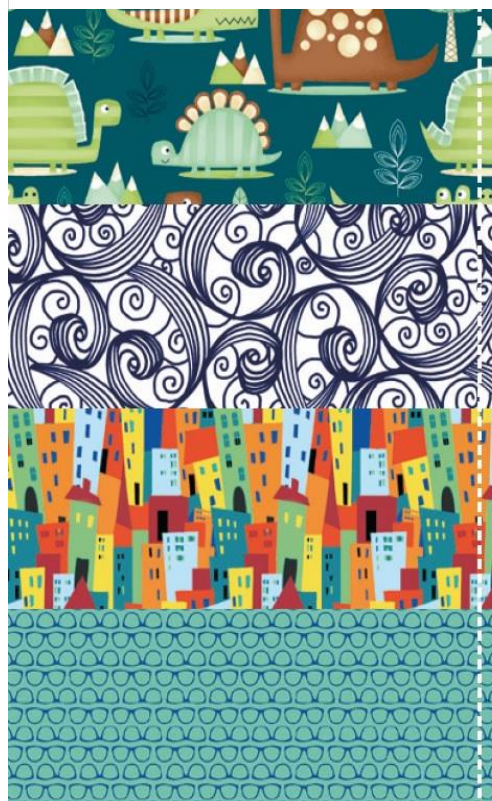
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