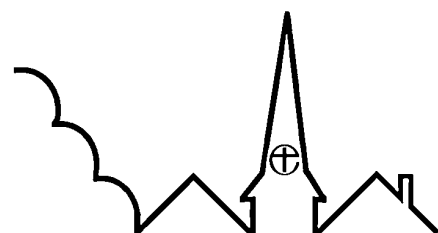




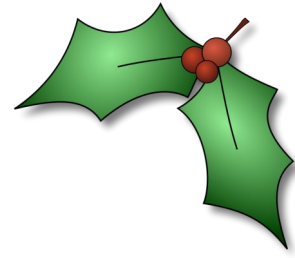
September 2021

50p



St Michael's Boldmere

Dear People of St Michael's,



We are hoping to have a Christmas market on

Saturday 4th December about 3.30 – 7.00.

It will be on a smaller scale, a different style, partly inside and partly outside at the church.

Stalls so far will include:

Our St Michael's crafters

Toys

St Michael's pictures / photographs.

Inspired Christmas gifts

Hopefully cakes

Simple food and hot drinks.

Mulled wine & mince pies.

Woodwork crafts.

A visit from 'Uncle Holly'

Plus any ideas from you all.

Communal carol singing will also feature.

If you have any helpful suggestions please do get in touch.

Many thanks.

**Responses to me please: Jan Peel text, email or
phone 07929 971 820**

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this we will have been out of lock down for about six weeks. How are you coping with the new normal; the normal where all the rules we have lived by for the last 18 months have all gone and we have to live by our own discipline again?



How are you managing without a mask, or are you still wearing them at certain times? How is social distancing? Do you find yourself trying to keep that 2 metre rule? Have you been to the theatre, the cinema, to a restaurant, a café or a pub? How is the new normal?

Going from a time of mandatory rules to the relaxation of them all can be difficult for us. We felt safe following the rules, we knew where we were, where we stood in the fight against Coronavirus and now it's all gone. Now we have to make the decisions. Difficult? Yes!! And no!! And Yes!!

I can imagine that the Early church also found the "new rules" difficult. Many of the early church were Jewish who decided to follow the words and actions of Jesus. But these were people who were brought up by the Law, who lived by the Law, in-fact their whole lives were the law. There were 613 laws to follow. Now how difficult was that?

Then Jesus came along and said that there were two great commandments that people should live by: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like this: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the law and prophets hang on these two commandments. (Matthew 22:36-40).

How must the early church have pondered and thought about losing those 613 laws and finding they have only two?

They must have felt that all they knew, all that was important to them had gone, their protection blanket had been stripped from them - all that made them feel safe and secure removed. Sounds a little similar, does it not? But eventually the church moved forward, losing the 613 laws – moving forward and taking on the new.

So perhaps in a matter we too will all be happy to move on to our new. Moving back to what was a more normal world prior to COVID19 and prior to March 2020.



Something else that will have happened by the time you read this; is that Ian and I will have been on an aeroplane. My – that is something special! So why have we been on an aeroplane? Well with relaxing of Lockdown, we have been able to travel to a wedding. We travelled to Derry to celebrate

the wedding of the daughter of a friend of ours. It is so special that we can celebrate together. I cannot think of a more wonderful way of celebrating the easing of Lockdown than by being with friends for something as special as a wedding. What a wonderful time we had, the coming together of two families.



So however you feel about the easing of Lockdown, how you feel about losing all those rules, take care of yourselves and enjoy your new found freedoms. You never know what you may get up to next.

Yours in Christ
Elaine Riley

September Prayer Page



September
Golden in the garden,
Golden in the glen,
Golden, golden, golden
September's here again!
Golden in the tree tops,
Golden in the sky,
Golden, golden, golden,
September's going by!



By Annette Wynne

September to me always feels like the start of a new year. I think this goes back to my many years as a teacher and September was the beginning of the new academic year. It was a fresh start, wipe the slate clean and let us all begin anew. It feels a little like that for us all this September. We are still getting used to the fact that Lockdown is over. We are all able to go out into the world, without restrictions. We are allowed to use our common sense and we have a big new world – well Boldmere, Birmingham and this country really – to go and explore. Some of us may not feel that we can quite do that yet, so I have chosen a variety of prayers this month to help us wherever we are.

Prayers for Church Congregation



Father God,
It is wonderful - Church doors opening again completely. We pray for service attendance as the doors open yet again. May people feel a peace in coming together and celebrate the joy that comes from the fellowship you gift us with. We

know that the Church is not merely a building, but the Body of Believers in Christ Jesus. Help us to connect in person once again and feel secure in doing so.

Bless the interactions, the prayers, and the reunions. Bless Rev Gary and Rev Simon and all those who serve in the Church as they make adjustments as well. Lord, we truly pray that our Church Services will be flooded with those ready and eager to worship You. In Jesus Name, Amen

Written by Cally Logan

Prayers for the New Normal

Father God,

The World as we knew it is gone, and for what feels like such a long time we have experienced so much hardship during this Pandemic. As we prepare to walk into the future we pray for the "new normal" to come. May our hearts be unified in You more than ever. May the tender moments of seeing someone again in person be all the more rich and treasured. May the reunions, interactions, and moments ahead be held in such intentionality and may we turn to You in sincere gratitude. Help us to come out of this Pandemic better, not bitter. Help us to become more considerate of others, more mindful of how we can help one another, and how we can serve You and Your children well. We thank You that no matter how dark the night may get, there is the hope of the dawn to come.

In Jesus Name, Amen

Written by Cally Logan

As we come out of Lockdown, let us remember those around the world who are still suffering and finding life very difficult:



Creator God, we pray for the people of our world who are less fortunate than we are, especially those who live in the third world, in countries where there is very little governmental stability and in countries where there is drought or famine and where there is a shortage of Covid vaccine. Help us to remember those who are weary with the relentless struggle to keep alive; for those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed, and those who barely have the necessities of life, much less so many material luxuries which we so often take for granted.

In a moment of silence, we bring before you those countries and communities that you have placed on our hearts.
Amen.

Nikki Firth St Andrew Holy Cross.



September is also the month when we remember St Michael, who our church is named after. St Michael's day is September 29th and we will be having a patronal service around that time to remember him.

I have chosen the Collect for Saint Michael and All Angels, 29th September, from the Church of England, Common Book of Prayer.

Collect:

O EVERLASTING God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Send-Off

As the lights begin to come back on in the world it can feel nerve-racking at the unknowns to come.

Rest in knowing that we are truly all in this together, and stepping into the light of a new day can be peaceful for we know who created that new day to come.

Cally Logan

Compiled by Elaine Riley.

INstep Mens Group (visit instepmen.org.uk) by Mick Walsh

Who Are We ?

We are an interdenominational Christian men's group with members from various churches in Sutton Coldfield and the surrounding area, who meet together to encourage each other in our Christian faith.

INstep (Walking In step with Christ)

We began in 1997 with the purpose of bringing men from local Christian churches together for friendship, prayer and Bible teaching. The founder members consisted of just a handful of committed guys, including Peter Howell-Jones (then Vicar St Michael's) and Ted Roberts from Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church. Mick Walsh (St Michael's) and Rev Simon Cox then of Duke St Church.

We have seen God at work building the group from those early beginnings to now 15 or so churches

The work continues to develop as men meet together through regular breakfasts on Saturday mornings and an annual residential weekend sharing Christian fellowship, worship and teaching at various rural locations around the Midlands.

INstep 2021 Planning Team is organised by a group of 11 volunteers from various local churches. They meet regularly to plan the year's events and pray for the work of **INstep** and for the men who attend the events.

The ethos of **INstep** seeks to encourage men on their 'daily journey' whilst challenging lifestyle and expectation in the light of Jesus' example and teaching. **INstep** endeavours to remain sensitive to the needs of men who are experiencing difficulties on that 'daily journey'.

We trust God to continually equip each of us to be the men He wants us to be and to keep **INstep** with Jesus.

After 15 months of being unable to meet together due to Covid19, we kicked off 2021 in July by inviting ladies to our annual breakfast for men and women, at the Hollyfields Centre in Erdington; our speakers, Dr David Drew and his wife Janet giving an enthralling life testimony.

Further men's breakfasts are being planned, the next will be at St. Johns Walmley on September 18th and a programme for 2022 will be released soon (Check out our website **instepmen.org.uk**)

All bookings for events can be made through the website or contact Mick Walsh on 01213554128 for information.

Residential Weekends

INstep , since the early years, has enjoyed an annual weekend away in many locations in Derbyshire and the Peak District. Last year was obviously ruled out, but we are celebrating this our 24th year with a visit to Launde Abbey in Leicestershire on October 22nd to 24th

Accommodation

We will have our own lounge & meeting room and we will use the dining room for meals. Numbers will be limited so that we will be able to meet in a way that is safe and meets the requirements for social distancing.

You can book and pay for your place through the website or ring Mick for further info.

(Please see the flyer for this weekend overleaf and a note from INstep below)

We are delighted that Carl Slezacek will be leading our ministry during the Launde Abbey weekend when his chosen theme will be: **'It is not optional'**

We will have a speaker to bring to us our early morning meditations and our very talented Instep musicians will lead us to worship in a mixture of contemporary and traditional styles.

The Saturday walk is a time for fellowship and for a time to renew friendships and build new ones.

Don't forget to check the website **instepmen.org.uk** for everything you need to know about INstep

Instep Men's Weekend 22nd – 24th October
2021

We are happy to be able to welcome
Carl Slezacek To lead our Weekend



Launde Abbey Conference Centre

Launde Abbey, East Norton, Leicestershire LE7 9XB

Telephone: 01572 717254

Laundeabbey.org.uk

Still with the spirit of Jim Carr

Saturday 5th June 2021

This is an auspicious day, two years since you left us, Jim, and my Mom and Dad's 73rd Wedding Anniversary. In 1948 June 5th was Derby Day and so is today. The Derby winner was 'My Love', which was very apt. Some years later I found my Mom and Dad's wedding reception guest list which threw up some ancestral surprises!



Well the domestic football season is over. Because of the pandemic a limited number of fans were admitted to the final two games. Also a limited number of people are being admitted to professional cricket games. This is a period of anticipation, it is hoped that after June 21st all restrictions will cease and sport will get back to some normality.

Friday 18th June 2021 – Tuesday 22nd June

We had a pleasant week in Tywyn (Mid-Wales). England had started their football Euro 2020 (Yes the competition had been delayed) with a 1-0 win against Croatia the previous Sunday. Wembley was full of Scottish supporters and the match finished 0-0. England was fortunate to escape with a draw. The next day we travelled home via our son's house at Whitchurch. We finally got to see our granddaughter after ten months. We stayed in Whitchurch and we went to see Amelia again on the Sunday morning, then travelled home via our daughter's house in Burntwood. It was Father's Day. The following Tuesday England played the Czech Republic at Wembley and ran out winners 1-0. So England had won their group. Owing to a surge in covid infections the final easing of government restrictions were delayed until 19th July 2021.

Tuesday 29th June – Wednesday 7th July 2021

By then the nation had started to take notice of England's footballing progress in the European Championships. England won their semi-final against Denmark so the scene had been set for the final on Sunday 11th July 2021 against Italy.

Monday 12th July 2021

Woke up with a feeling of disappointment. It's a feeling we have experienced, Jim, too many times with football. We had lost the final on penalties. I read somewhere that with the loss of a football match there is a period of mourning. It lasts till approximately lunch time the following day. This was the case here but I felt immune; maybe it's what we had been through with the pandemic. Or maybe it was suffering disappointments with our own football teams. Life goes on, and life these days seems more precious than ever.

Monday 19th July 2021

The pandemic government restrictions were eased today. We came out of lockdown. Confusion reigned because we felt alone as covid infections were on the rise again.

Tuesday 27th 2021

Another word has entered the covid vocabulary, 'pinged'. Apparently when a person has been in close contact with an infected person they are contacted via their smart phone app to self isolate. This is causing a 'pingdemic' with key workers having to stay away from work even though in many cases they have not been infected.

The number of people testing positive has reduced considerably over the last few days. Is this a blip or is there room for optimism.

The Olympics are being held in Tokyo and skateboarding is being included for the first time. We have local interest here in Bombette Martin. (I will explain her first name further on) 'Bombette' was born in Manhattan but has decided to 'skate' for GB because she has dual nationality. Get this, her father was a boxer known as 'Bomber' Martin, hence her first name. 'Bomber', used to train at his father's gym next to the Rose and Crown pub in Gravelley Lane just over the Chester Road in Erdington. Bombette has reached the grand old age of fifteen. She joins our youngest ever Olympian, Sky Brown. Sky is thirteen (only just; her birthday is 7th July). Good luck to them both when they appear in the park event of the female skateboarding on August 4th.

Monday 2nd August 2021

Had a spooky experience today. I found out that Boldmere St. Michaels Football Club is playing in the same league as Whitchurch Alport FC this season.

Guess what, our son lives in Alport Road Whitchurch, Shropshire. Not only that but the Mikes are playing there the same weekend as we are there celebrating our granddaughters second birthday. Spooky eh!

Wednesday 4th August 2021

I woke up at five and switched my radio on. Bombette (who by the way is ranked 27 in the world) hadn't reached the final. Our girl Sky Brown was in bronze medal place. By the time I had walked downstairs Sky was in fourth place with one run to go. She absolutely 'nailed it in her final run' and her score was good enough to creep into third place. As this thirteen year old held her arms aloft so did I. Jim, why is this seventy one year old with an eight year old great grandson so excited? I don't really know. Though 'Bombette' did have a claim to fame, she was the first skateboarder to take part in the first Olympic 'Park' competition in Tokyo.

Sunday 8th August 2021.

Generally a good start from our football teams. Birmingham won at Sheffield United. Burton Albion won at Shrewsbury. The only loss came at Rugby where the Mikes lost 1-0 in the first round of the FA Cup. By the way Jack Grealish has been transferred by the Villa to Man City for 100 million pounds. Yes £100 million. 'Crazy Money'

Sunday 15th August 2021.

Midweek saw some of our teams in the League Cup competition. Birmingham won 1-0 against Colchester. Burton Albion lost at home to Oxford United on penalties. Yesterday saw York City play their first game in the National League Northern Section at home against Kidderminster. Not a good start for York, they lost 1-2. The Blues also hit the buffers with a 0-0 draw at home against Stoke. I went to the Mikes and they won against Wolverhampton Casuals 3-1. Already a topsy-turvy season!

Graham Jennings

(The photo at the start of this article shows Jim and Graham at the last Burns Night celebration).

The Cover Photograph - Benjamin Britten Memorial Window

We recently holidayed on the Suffolk coast and took the opportunity of viewing the Benjamin Britten memorial window by John Piper, in Aldeburgh Parish Church (St Peter and St Paul).

Britten developed a new style of opera that he called 'parables for Church performance'. He wrote three of these: *Curlew River* (1964), *The Burning Fiery Furnace* (1966) and *The Prodigal Son* (1968). Although all three 'Church Parables' were first performed in Orford, they are evoked in Aldeburgh Parish Church in the window designed as a memorial to Britten by his long-time collaborator, the artist John Piper.

Together with his partner, Peter Pears and the librettist and producer Eric Crozier, Britten founded the annual Aldeburgh Festival in 1948, and he was responsible for the creation of Snape Maltings concert hall in 1967. In his last year, he was the first composer to be given a life peerage.

Benjamin Britten was adamant that he did not want any memorial sculpture of himself in Aldeburgh, the Suffolk coastal town where he lived for 30 years. He died in 1976 and he is remembered there by the Britten-Pears music school and Snape Maltings concert hall, by John Piper's magnificent window in the church, and at the Red House, where Britten lived, which contains his entire library, art collection and musical archive.

A bronze bust standing on the seafront was neither needed nor wanted. But the Suffolk artist Maggi Hambling was greatly inspired by Britten's music, and especially his opera *Peter Grimes*, and in 2002 she had the idea of designing a tribute. Its form — that of a scallop shell divided into two parts and standing upright, came to her immediately.

And now there it is, rearing up from the shingle on the stretch of beach between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness along which the composer walked almost daily.

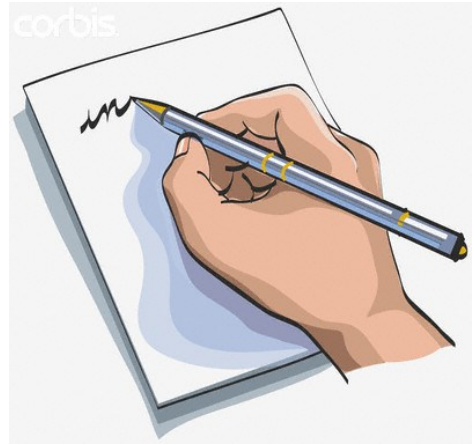


(The opera 'Peter Grimes' is based on the 18th C narrative poem in George Crabbe's book 'The Borough'.)

READERS' LETTERS

Thank you to Peter Baker.

I would like to thank Mr Peter Baker for his kind phone call that I received concerning the Church magazine. I have passed your kind thoughts and comments onto the Editor, Penny Jennings.



We are so pleased that you enjoy the magazine and that you feel it is a first class production. As you must realise it does take time and energy to produce and it is lovely to hear it is appreciated and enjoyed.

We are also glad that you enjoyed the Holy Week Retreat reflections. I hope you have enjoyed the Ascension Day to Pentecost Retreat that has been published in the July/September magazine and will continue during the autumn. We feel that it is important to bring aspects of St Michael's to all, even if you are unable to access the internet.

We hope you will continue to enjoy the Church magazine. Once again many thanks for your positive comments.

Elaine Riley

You can send letters to my email address:

jenningspenny@aol.com until I get a new

'magazine address'.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

The Editor

The height of summer

In 2020, during the first months of spring and summer, when the weather was so lovely, it seemed as though nature just carried on, despite our life being turned on its head. In 2021 however, our weather seems to have reflected the unpredictable nature of our lives. Dry, wet, cold, hot; all at unseasonal times, both in this country and across the world, with devastating effects as we have seen and making us think about our very fragile planet with greater urgency.

All these unseasonal weather features have had an impact on what has thrived in the garden this year, and what has not. Despite the early spring cold, a dry May and a wet June, our garden probably looks the best it has looked and plants I grew in the spring have put on much greater growth than expected.



The plants that have given us most pleasure and excitement this year are the Dieramas. I knew that they were fussy plants as far as positioning goes, but mine have simply refused to flower over the last few years. However two or three years ago we treated ourselves to a number of new plants from the nursery at Arley Gardens and along with our original

plants, moved them to a new position near the patio. This year they have rewarded our patience in a lovely way.



The plant's natural home is the mountainous grasslands of South Africa, which is a difficult environment to recreate in a British garden. In order to make numerous flowers, they need full sun in compost rich but well-drained soil. They will not flower in shady spots and the corms, which form year on year above each other, will rot and die if planted in wet conditions. They are not fussy about soil type but will take two to three years to become established and encouraged to flower.



Any disturbance after this can set them back so some advice suggests that division is best avoided as re-establishing them will take time.

The variety most commonly sold is *Dierama pulcherrimum*, which is pink and is the most reliable, being hardy to –10°C once established.



Another good form is *D. Blackbird*, the



flowers being wine-red. Once established they require little maintenance, just tidying the leaves in spring. The gardens at Arley in Cheshire have an area with large clumps of this lovely plant with their graceful and dainty wands of flowers, demonstrating the common name of Angel's Fishing Rods.

Being able to visit exhibitions again has given us renewed pleasure in the arts and crafts that this country has produced in the past and continues to do today. Those who have visited Compton Verney this summer for their spring/summer exhibition will have been lucky enough to have seen the installation 'Seasons' by Rebecca Louise Law.

This is the most beautiful experience of walking amongst garlands of dried flowers suspended from the ceiling in great profusion, the lighting of the room creating shadows on the walls which make you stop and just take in the beauty. As many as 100 thousand flowers can be used in her installation: every one individually wired with such care that they have been used many times over the past 20 years. Some of the flowers, particularly tiny daffodils, were picked this spring on the Compton Verney estate by children from local schools and dried in readiness for the exhibition.

Her work reflects her love of nature and asks us to think about the beauty that is all around us that many have lost sight of.

Her diary and those of the local children, kept during the pandemic, focus on the beauty of our environment but also on her thoughts on the way we live our lives and our relationship with nature. A video of images collected around her home in Wales during the first 12 months of the pandemic accompanies the exhibition and makes a visual impact on just how much we take for granted.

The exhibition will have finished by the time this magazine goes out, but you can watch a video of Rebecca setting up her installation on her website. Worth a watch as you see her family and team create the garlands of flowers and how they are hung within the exhibition room.

A summer of beautiful flowers in all their different forms.

Angela Grudzinski

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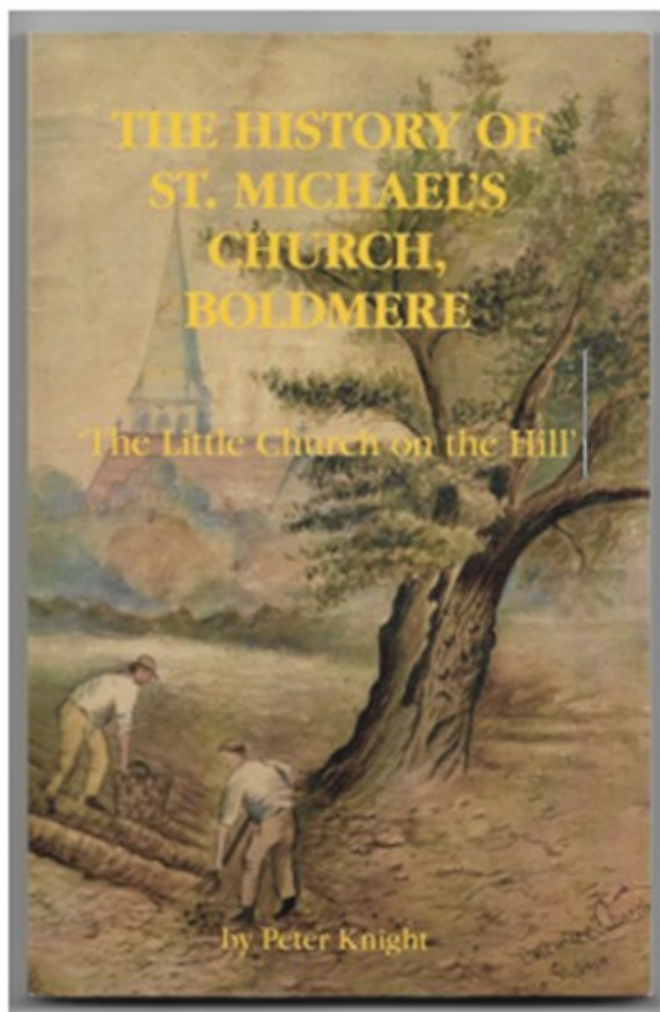
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A way forward for the worship of St Michael's Church, Boldmere

On Thursday 5th August, St Michael's PCC (Parochial Church Council) came to a decision on the worship pattern for St Michael's Church that will begin from Sunday 5th September. The PCC took into account what was emerging in our worship before Lockdown in March 2020, our experience of worship together in the church building and online during the months since then, and what we were hoping for in the time to come. This decision was come to through a thorough and careful process that gave everyone on the PCC time to reflect on what the key questions were, express how they felt, offer their opinions, to listen to each other and to ask questions. The meeting lasted almost two hours and the question of what our worship together would be from 5th September was the only item on the agenda. Two decisions were made. The first one was passed unanimously.

There would be one Sunday Morning Service on Sundays at 10.00am.

This would replace the pattern of worship prior to Lockdown in March 2020 of a 9.00am service and a 10.30am service. The second was passed with four abstentions.

There would be a weekly Sunday evening service at 6.00pm

We would like to invite you to read the attached document carefully which gives the reasoning behind this decision. Please get in touch with Rev'd Gary Birchall if you have any questions or anything you would like to clarify.

A way forward for worship at St Michael's

We have been thinking and praying hard about the way forward for St Michael's Church. As part of our Transforming Church Action Plan produced on request by Birmingham Diocese, we included looking at our worship provision from the Autumn onwards.

Generosity

'I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace'. (Ephesians 4.1-3)

This will require generosity of spirit from all those involved. This is vital in order that we don't become a community of moaners but a community of encouragers building each other up in faith. This generosity of spirit will lead to a deepening of relationship across the whole church.

The value of younger Christians learning from older Christians' wisdom, the delight of older Christians experiencing the spiritual insights of younger Christians. This can be so dynamic. There will be times of great celebration together, sharing of troubles together, times of quiet and reflection, times of great noise and rejoicing.

Pastoral Considerations

'Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you'. (Ephesians 4.31-32)

I have always found it frustrating not to be able to have time to chat with the 9.00am congregation after the service because I always had to get ready for the 10.30am service. One service would mean that I and Rev'd Simon would have the time and space to be available to anyone who wanted to chat or for us to listen to something they wanted to share. One service would mean that everyone would be able to chat with people if they wished and there would not be the stressful toing and froing of two congregations coming and going in the same space.

Capacity

'...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ'. (Ephesians 4.12)

Before Lockdown we were starting to be stretched to provide enough people to do all the things that were needed to sustain two morning services. We had already begun to take action to reduce the number of Bible readers needed. However, we were becoming stretched to find welcomers, people to make coffee and tea, operate the AV system. When a recent request for people to be Duty Wardens and Welcomers was put out, only ten people responded. This is not enough to operate a fair rota for two services. I believe we should put all our human resources into one resourced morning service rather than two under-resourced services.

Parking

Due to increased usage of Church Road and recent increased parking restrictions, parking has become much harder outside Church. This has always been a problem for people coming to the 10.30am service due to people at 9.00am still being parked outside whilst chatting over coffee in the South Aisle.

We would continue to encourage people to walk or cycle to church, to use the Church Hall parking, and to park a little further afield if at all possible.

Evening Services

These would give an opportunity for a range of different kinds of service, for example Breathe, Memorial Service, Advent Service, Carol Service, Evening Prayer.

Night Prayer

We will also consider the continuation of Night Prayer on Zoom at 8.00pm on a Sunday evening.

Mid-week Wednesday Zoom Morning Prayer

This would be able to continue as an offering to the Deanery hosted by St Michael's.

Afternoon Service

There could be a place for an occasional service in the Church Hall at 4.00pm on Sundays involving crafts, worship, and food, with groups gathered around tables like the Christingle Service in December 2020.

Retreat at Home

There will be an Advent Retreat at Home online. This is also part of our Transforming Church Action Plan.

Corona Virus

The PCC recognised that anything could happen regarding Corona Virus in the autumn and winter and our plans may be all turned upside down once again.

Pulling Together

The PCC recognise the importance of us all working together to build up each other, the life of the church and the kingdom of God. The PCC is committed to this, and we hope that will be too.

'I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.' (Ephesians 3. 16-17)

Rev'd Gary Birchall and the PCC of St Michael's Church
10th August 2021

The ordination of Rev'd Simon Cocks as Priest



Rev'd Simon Cocks was ordained priest by the Right Rev'd David Urquart, Bishop of Birmingham, at Birmingham Cathedral on Sunday 27th June 2021 at 4.00pm. He was ordained alongside three others and a total of ten people during the day. Attendance at the service was limited to a small number of guests for each person being ordained, but the service was available to watch live online. The service was a peaceful, dignified and profound experience. Rev'd Becky Stephens, the Bishop's Advisor for Women's Ministry and Vicar of St Peter's Maney was the preacher. Simon was supported by family and friends and Rev'd Gary Birchall, as his training incumbent, was able to attend to support and pray for Simon. The whole service was undertaken with careful adherence to Covid 19 restrictions and health precautions, and yet the whole service had a deep joy to it. Here is a photo of Simon with Bishop David after the service. Simon will continue to serve at St Michael's and in the parish of Boldmere.

Rev'd Gary Birchall

A Message of Hope and Love in Dried Pasta and Baked Beans!

The first day arriving at the depot in Ladywood felt like entering a war zone given the intensity of purpose, the number of people and the scale of the logistics! This feeling was heightened by having just emerged from a period of isolation after my



wife, Jane, had experienced Covid symptoms. So suddenly we had gone from the start of the first Lockdown and a period of isolation to this frenetic activity! It was 15th April 2020, the whole country was in Lockdown and we had begun volunteering with the rather quaintly named *Birmingham Active Wellbeing Society*. This is an organisation that in normal times encourages exercise and seeks to build community. Almost overnight they had repurposed and staff, many of them young, who had previously organised park runs, community cycling events or street closures, were now running a major logistics effort to distribute food parcels across the city of Birmingham. They mobilised an initiative called *#BrumTogether* a consortium of over 70 voluntary and statutory organisations, churches, mosques, gurdwaras and other faith groups. Food was being taken out to people who were clinically isolating or who had a whole range of vulnerabilities; physical disability; age; mental health; isolation; poverty. They had been referred by social services, health professionals, community and support workers or were self-referrals.

We had arrived at Ladywood Community Centre which was then the Hub for food distribution. 4 tons of food had been brought in by the city council and were expected to last only 4 days, the foodbank was providing food from it for those who lived around the community centre, (one of Birmingham's most deprived communities), the rest was being made into food parcels for volunteers like us to take to people all over the city.

On that first day someone told us that they thought this distribution would continue until the end of June. We recall thinking that felt a very long time! We actually distributed our last parcels, 15 months later, on 1st July this year, distribution have gone on continuously throughout that time.

We are so grateful to have had this opportunity, not only did it keep us very occupied, introduce us to some extraordinary people, but it heightened our awareness of the current state of our society and its inequalities. Having spent nine years living and ministering in the then Aston Deanery, in what was at that time one of the poorest deaneries in the country, we are no strangers to poverty and deprivation. Yet it was still a shock to discover some of the poverty hidden in plain sight in our communities, sometimes in 'Houses of Multiple Occupancy' (HMOs) on some of Sutton's smarter streets. I delivered to one flat above a shop. To get to the iron staircase to reach the flat I had to wade through rubbish, dirt and used syringes. It was like an episode of *'Call the Midwife,'* which is ironic because it was very close to the convent where the sisters moved after they left Poplar, (although they have recently left there too).

We visited asylum seekers and the homeless in hotels, couples with toddlers accommodated for months in a single hotel room. People isolated through lockdown and spiralling mental health. We discovered HMOs that appeared to be ordinary houses, with a young woman coming to the door her arms scarred with self-harming. Trying to locate one address, the particular house appeared to be derelict and yet bearing the right number. The front door was open, so we went in to discover a series of single rooms accommodating asylum seeker families.

It has made us very aware of the impact of loneliness. The health impact and life-expectancy caused by loneliness is the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Last summer, as things started to open up a bit (before the next Covid wave), I delivered a parcel to an old lady in Kingstanding. She told me she had not slept the previous night. When I gently asked her why, she told me it was because she was so excited that her (church run) lunch club was opening up again! If ever evidence was needed of the importance of churches like St. Michael's finding new ways to reconnect with the lonely.

There was John (not his real name), *living alone on the 6th floor of a towerblock in North Birmingham. Although only in his early 40s, a chronic lung condition leaves him like an old man and means that when he comes to the door he is on a long oxygen pipe that stretches right to his front door. "It's like a dog's lead," he quipped the first time I met him! "It follows me around the flat!" Isolating because of his extreme clinical vulnerability, awaiting a lung transplant, he's constantly in and out of hospital. Yet without fail, however sick he was that week, he would ask how we were and wish us a good weekend.*

*The statistics for all of this are impressive: over the course of the last 15 months TAWS's Food Distribution Centre provided 45,300 households with 76,951 food parcels, plus 95,675 food parcels packed for bulk orders for other organisations. TAWS prepared 35,471 cooked meals through a network of Community Cafes and helped 2,332 people by providing donated clothing through the *Wear & Share* scheme.*



The experience for us has not only shone a light on the hidden and isolated, but it shows clearly when the political will is there not only can the homeless be accommodated (as there were throughout the pandemic under the '*Everyone in Scheme*'), but the hungry can be fed and the lonely visited. In future elections we need to demand from our politicians (of

any hue) that the homeless no longer need to live on our streets or families struggle in food poverty and refuse to accept their excuses.

As I have reflected further on the experience, it seems to me that the lesson for the Church is to be found in *TAWS* willingness to respond flexibly and fast in repurposing to serve the great need of the moment. A lesson that we need to be willing to learn if the Church is to continue to be a bearer of the hope and love we know in Jesus Christ in the community we are called to serve.

Taws produced a great video about #BrumTogether:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=py9k8SwGeC4>

David Newsome

(Photos Courtesy of the Active Well Being Society)

Ascension to Pentecost Retreat at Home, part 2

Tuesday 18th May: Ann Richardson

Acts – Stoned Witness

Not received this reflection.

Wednesday 19th May: David Newsome

Acts 9:10-19 – Blinded by the Light

The setting for this next story from the book of Acts is a familiar one. Saul fresh from presiding over the death of the first Christian Martyr, Stephen, now turns his attention on the fledgling Christian community in Damascus. But on the road he experiences a vision of Jesus that felled him to the ground and left him blinded.



Today's reading takes up the story from there, with a Christian called Ananias. Ananias experiences a vision, a kind of dream, in which he believes God is calling him. So his is a simple prayer, prayed by many before him in scripture, characters like Abraham, Jacob, Moses and Samuel, for example, who all responded to the call of God, with '*Here I am, Lord.*' It's a prayer used by countless Christians ever since. Ananias answered the Lord saying: '*Here I am, Lord.*'

It is, as I say, a very simple prayer in its structure and words. But it is the response of servants, placing themselves at the disposal of their mistress or master, '*Here I am, Lord.*' They are words that some have used as a prayer to begin their journey when they first became a follower of Christ. For some they are words of the prayer they used in offering themselves for a particular ministry or vocation '*Here I am, Lord.*'

Such simple words, yes, but we do not know where they may lead us, how we might be challenged, or where we may be taken. '*Here I am, Lord.*' Former Archbishop, Rowan Williams, once said: "*So often we offer to God the vocation we think we can do, and find the vocation God wants us to do.*"

When Ananias expressed his prayer, he did what most of us, I suspect, do when we think we know what our faith requires of us without even realising it, we think we have the measure of God. We think we know what is expected of us. And yet what each of the figures in the bible who pray this prayer discover, including Ananias, is that when we make ourselves available to God, when we seek to be obedient, saying: *'Here I am, Lord.'* We suddenly find, the Gospel requires more of us than we expected, that God's plans are different to ours and we can be led in all sorts of unexpected directions.

For Ananias obedience required him to go to the Church's deadly enemy, Saul, and minister to him and heal him. Obedience to God can turn our assumptions on their head, it can overturn our prejudices and those of our culture and lead us in all sorts of unexpected directions as we find *"the vocation God wants us to do."*

But Ananias' obedience, enabled the transformation from Saul to Paul and set the Church and its mission ablaze.

Thursday 20th May: Simon Cocks **Acts 9:32-43 – Prayer without delay**



So, there we were, sitting around talking about Paul, I mean Saul, well I mean Paul but at this point he was still called Saul, we were talking about his conversion you see. We just got to the really interesting bit when Saul after he had heard from God and been blinded, turned to God, and proclaiming Jesus as the son of God, well, we were talking about how he had talked so boldly about Jesus Christ, even to the Hellenists.

Then Luke jumps in and tells us all about Peter, remember Peter don't you, he's that great big fishermen, one of the apostles. Well, we couldn't get our heads around it. He started to tell us about how Peter was in Lydda and then went to Joppa. Once we understood what he was talking about, we could understand how important the story was, because it was all about the power of prayer.

Well anyway, Peter had gone out to see some of the believers, the ones that believed in Jesus, and in amongst them there was this poor guy called Aeneas, he had been really sick for a long time, had to stay in his bed he was that bad. We know that the name of Jesus Christ is really important, but what he was saying showed us how much power it had. I don't know if you remember the story where Jesus heals the paralytic, do you remember he tells him to "take-up his bed and go home" it's a story that Luke told us too. Well, Peter does just the same thing, but in this case uses the name of Jesus Christ with real authority. You know what happened just like when Jesus healed the paralytic, when Peter told this poor ill guy to take up his bed, in the name of Jesus Christ he just did. Amazing how the name of Jesus Christ has such authority.

Then he goes on to tell us about our friend Tabitha who lives in Joppa. Tabitha was really great, she helped lots of poor people, made them clothes, all types of clothes. Anyway, they were all really sad that she died, but somehow, they didn't just want to leave it, they knew Peter was around not far away, so they sent two people to go and get him.

When Peter was told, he didn't wait, he got up straightaway and went with them, I don't think he knew what he was going to do; he just followed. When they got there, she was upstairs, lying on the bed dead, surrounded by a whole group of women mourning, getting really upset.

So, what does he do? He only tells them all to get out; then closes the door. Now I think at this point what he was doing was trying to remember what Jesus did in the same situation.

So, he gets on his knees and just like Jesus, he faces up to the situation. He turns to Tabitha. He prays, but not those long-winded prayers, like you see the religious people doing in the synagogues. No, he prays a short prayer just like the one Jesus did.

He prayed just the same as Jesus did, you remember the one? The daughter of Jairus' who died, he used almost exactly the same words you know, he said "Tabitha, get up". Words that even a small child could understand such a simple beautiful prayer.

Can you imagine their faces, when Peter, holding her hand in his, walked out, showing to all the believers and the widows who had been crying, well they were still crying, but these were tears of joy! He didn't appear to be looking for anything for himself, he wasn't after any praise or thanks, he just wanted to show what had happened.

I could understand now why Luke told us these stories. Jesus gave us some really good ways of praying, we forget sometimes but it's really simple.

Friday 21st May: Jane Newsome Acts 12:1-17 – Opening doors.

I wonder what it felt like for the members of the church in Jerusalem when news of the violent death of James, one of their number reached them. When they heard that one of their leaders, Peter, had been arrested, was being held in what must have been the equivalent of maximum security conditions, very probably destined to face the same fate as James.



They must have been terrified. They must have wanted to run away. And honestly who could have blamed them.

After all, that's what Jesus's disciples did, his so-called friends. On the night of his arrest, they couldn't even stay awake long enough to pray with him, and then, when things got too dangerous, they all ran off. Scattered. Leaving Jesus to face his trial and death alone.

But maybe those believers in Jerusalem had heard what the risen Jesus said to those same disciples, just before his Ascension -Stay in the city- Stay together and wait for the coming of the Spirit.

This passage from the book of Acts tells us that when Peter was arrested many of the believers were at the house of Mary, John's mother, probably the place where their church met regularly, and that they had gathered there to pray.

That must have been a pretty tense prayer meeting. They must have been devastated, grief stricken at the death of their friend James, fearful for their leader Peter, and for the future of their church and afraid for themselves and their families. Their prayers must have been urgent and raw. But they stayed together, they prayed together, they prayed earnestly for Peter, even though it must have felt hopeless.

Maybe some of them remembered the words of Jesus

Ask and it will be given to you

Search and you will find

Knock and the door will be opened

And while they were praying, chains were falling off Peter's hands, guards were turning a blind eye; gates were opening.

We don't know how it was that Peter walked free from his high security prison, breaking free from double handcuffs, and past four sets of guards, but we do know that those early believers were doing as Jesus had commanded them:

Take all your requests to God

Because

When two or three are gathered in my name I will be there.

As a church we are called to pray, to intercede for the world, because God graciously includes us in God's saving purposes.

The job of the church is to be a praying community, surrounding the world with our prayers, praying for those in need, praying for our communities our neighbourhoods, our world, praying by name for those who have no one else to pray for them. We are called to stay awake, not to run away from issues, situations, heartbreaks that are too hard to contemplate but to be present, as Christ is present, for those who need our prayer, for those who cannot pray themselves.


The passage we read ends with that comical picture of the maid Rhoda, being so excited at the sight of Peter on the other side of the gate that she forgets to open it for him.

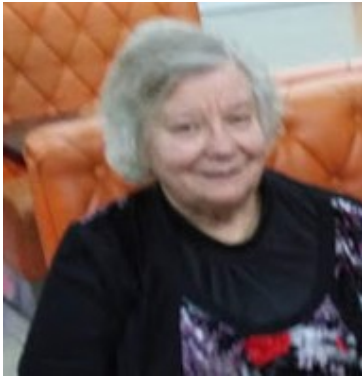
After a night of earnest prayer for the opening of doors in the remote prison they forget about the door that is closest to home and should be the easiest to open.

A church that honestly and earnestly prays for those in need will become a church that begins to open its own doors to offer hospitality. A church that prays for those facing prejudice, persecution and injustice will become a church that begins to open its own doors to those who will challenge our prejudices and practises.

We don't know what the outcome of our prayers will be -
But if we take seriously our duty to pray we will, like those early believers in Jerusalem be constantly surprised by the doors that open.

Compiled by Elaine Riley.

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a white wireframe grid of a building on the right side. In the top left corner is the Burley Browne logo, which includes the text 'BURLEY BROWNE' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'BURLEY' in white and 'BROWNE' in yellow. Below this, it says 'CHARTERED SURVEYORS' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the top right corner is the RICS logo, which consists of a circular emblem containing a lion's head and the letters 'RICS' to its right. The main headline is 'COMMERCIAL PROPERTY DONE PROPERLY.' in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the headline, the text 'Sales & Lettings, Lease Advisory, Property Valuations & much more...' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there are four lines of contact information, each preceded by a small icon: a telephone icon for the phone number '0121 321 3441', a globe icon for the website 'www.burleybrowne.co.uk', an envelope icon for the email address 'enquiries@burleybrowne.co.uk', and a Twitter bird icon for the social media handle '@BurleyBrowne'.



Report for June/July 2021 14th July 2021

Dear friends and prayer partners,

You will be happy to know that I have now received my new Australian passport so all documentary things are proceeding as necessary for renewal of my permanent residence status. There's still a lot of running around to gather necessary documents and standing in lines to have them checked and stamped and so on, but it's all in process. PTL!

Thank you for your prayers about this urgent matter, somewhat complicated by the coronavirus situation and closed consulates etc! [PS New residency already granted; picking up this week!] I have a couple of private students learning English with me and coming to my home, as I am having a couple of months break from the private school classes. I don't take part in their summer programmes as I am usually away overseas. So it's my time for holiday leave. Yura, whom I spoke about last report, is now wanting to come to learn English with me as he sees he needs it for his professional career. As a rule I don't work with beginners but in his case I know he is a serious student so I'm willing to give it a go!

My apartment is still a mess after the recent renovations in the kitchen, but gradually I am getting things sorted out again and restoring order! I really hate having mess all over the place! The new kitchen cupboards look great and when I have a couple more made to order for a couple of spots I will finally have exactly the kitchen I want! It's tiny but it will be possible to put everything inside cupboards and not keep things on the floor and stacked up on a table etc! IN the end I bought new appliances and maybe I will have to replace the fridge as it is far too cold and freezes everything, even in the fridge part! But that will wait till my finances have recovered a bit!

At present it's very hot with temperatures in the mid to high 20's and high humidity so everyone is complaining about not being able to sleep at night and so on.

But not as bad as they have had it in Canada and North Western USA!

Dasha celebrated her 16th birthday on the 10th and she and grandma came to my apartment for a meal. Grandma is looking very old and frail now, although she is only two years older than me. She and Dasha seem to be getting along quite well and I haven't had any complaints about Dasha for quite a while, so that's good news! She is entering a college near the children's home where she lives and they are supporting her in her studies. I promised her a computer for this some time ago so we will go and get this sometime this week or so, so she can do all her homework without having to wait for other children to use the Home computer. Her school results were excellent and she has won several awards for behaviour and for other achievements such as playing in the band at the home. They give small monetary prizes to the best student in the age group and she won this prize, so went and bought herself a very nice costume for more formal wear at the new college.

Slavic has been out in the villages and returned a few days ago after conducting several successful camps with the young people in three villages. His team of volunteers were all local as there wasn't any possibility of having a team from Moldova or Ukraine etc as he usually does, because of the Coronavirus. But they had good weather and great camps with everyone being very happy and no illness or accidents. Now he is busy doing some essential work on Liza's building so that she can have her camp there at the end of July. We are putting in a chemical toilet and fixing the plumbing in the kitchen so that they can have running water without it running all over the floor! We're also putting in a small hand washing stand that doesn't need to be connected to the water supply so that children can wash their hands after using the toilet without using the kitchen sink! Frankly, you would be horrified if you saw the property, as it is in a very poor state of repair, but it doesn't belong to her and isn't worth doing very much to, so we are doing just enough to make it function for them. Fortunately, the village children live in some horrendous home situations so they aren't shocked at the conditions! Pray for the camps to be safe and happy for all the children and staff and without any virus illness.

The Samuel Children's Centre is temporarily closed due to the virus. Jenya and all her family, had the virus last week so we decided to close the centre for two weeks. There are currently about 200+ new cases daily in our area with some deaths. Despite this, most people still ignore the rules about masks and social distancing! I only go out to do shopping and banking and essential business such as documents. It seems very strange that I haven't been to church for 18 months. They are still meeting regularly, but they ignore all the rules and it is a small badly ventilated hall so I don't want to be there! Tatyana Matveevna is still feeling well and continues to do her work with us although a bit less than before. She has been saving for an apartment so she can live separately from her son and his family. Pray for her to find a good place that she can afford, with reasonable transport links. So far she hasn't been able to find a suitable place and prices are rising very fast. Liza's work in the village continues well. Two members of the administration who work in the building where they meet, had Coronavirus last week so the children in the village have been in contact with the virus. Pray that the camp will be free from this illness. Update on Sponsor reports: I completed all the reports but don't have the photos ready yet so that I can start putting them into envelopes. I'm really sorry for the delays. It's not that I don't have time to work on it all but there are so many incidental things that interrupt and I am forced to sit at home waiting for someone to come to me when I need to go out to the photo shop to get the prints made and so on! I promise I will send them out before the end of this month. Thank you again for your continuing prayers and support for us. Making a real difference, together!

God bless you abundantly.

Much love in Him, C Joy McRae

My Email: joymcrae42@yahoo.com [alternate_joy@catchword.co.nz]

When is a church not a church?

The title sounds like one of those age old riddles with a really simple answer – and this just the same.....so “when is a church not a church?” – When it is a music venue.

While walking up Boldmere Road during June, our eyes were caught by a poster in the window of Psychotron Records – it was for a live music event – but what really caught our attention was the venue – St Michael’s church.



Of course we booked ourselves a place – and so on the evening of Friday 25th June we duly arrived and took our seats in anticipation.

Rev Gary showed people to their seating bubble and by the time the event began there were between 40 and 50 of us, all looking forward to an evening of LIVE music.

There was a compere who introduced the acts and also interviewed them for the local Sutton Coldfield Sounds App.

The first act up was a band called Ire-ish, well not quite a band, as there was only one of them, as the others were in isolation due to COVID. But what a talented young man he was. He played the Penny Whistle, the accordion, and even the church organ. Later he came back and accompanied the main act, Carrie Martin, on the violin.



The main act was Carrie Martin, a singer song writer and player of an array of guitars. She came down from Hull for the evening to perform. Psychotron records had released her album, Entity, on vinyl. She performed for well over an hour and boy could she play and sing. I loved “She Wore White” and “Wynter”. Her songs were a joy to listen to. She was accompanied by her bassist Jim Waltham.

Outside the heavens had opened and so all the acts were accompanied by the sound of heavy rain falling on the roof. But none of this distracted from a wonderful evening of live music and singing.

So when is church not a church – when it is a live music venue – and well worth it too!!.

Elaine Riley



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CHURCHYARD TALES

The Churchyard has been in the history of this Parish for over 160 years, and has become the final resting place to generations.

Here is one of its stories.....

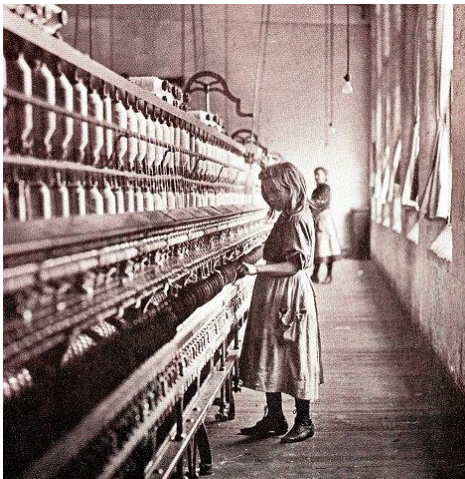
Elizabeth PAWSON (1828 – 1906) – aged 78 years

Julia Ann PAWSON (1860 - 1923) – aged 64 years

Elizabeth PAWSON nee LAWSON was born in the small village of Heywood in the County of Lancashire in September 1828. She was the daughter of Ann (b: 1793) and James (b: 1795) a weaver. Elizabeth had a sister Mary (b: 1816) both were also to become weavers.

The small town of Heywood was predominantly a weaving community and the majority of residents spun cotton on spinning wheels in makeshift weaver's cottages. The demand for cotton increased during the mid-18th century and by the late 18th century more industrial textile manufacture was introduced with the first spinning mill. In 1780 Sir Robert Peel (father of Prime Minister Robert Peel) converted his first mill in Heywood to cotton production and by 1833 there were 27 cotton mills in the town and less than 100 (from a population of 2,000) hand loom weavers still working.

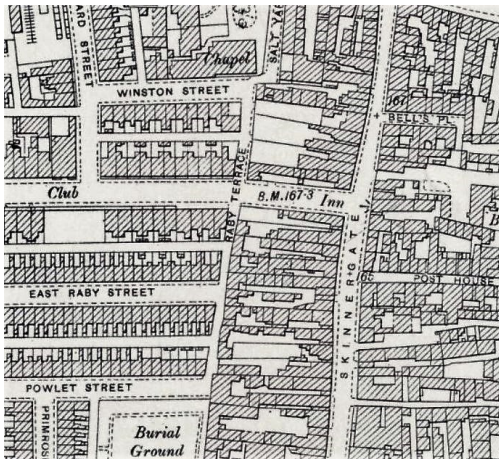
The family lived in the small area of Heywood called Heap and most likely worked at one of the nearby mills there.



By 1855 Elizabeth had met Charles PAWSON (b: 1831 in Ripon). Charles was a Joiner by trade, and they married in Darlington in September 1855.

Elizabeth and Charles moved first to Whitby where in the spring of 1859, daughter **Julia Ann** was born, then to Stockton, Yorkshire, where son Charles William was born in 1864, and then back to Darlington where they initially lived with Elizabeth's aunt Ruth and uncle George BINNS (also a joiner) and their family.

Elizabeth's aunt Ruth had died suddenly in 1871 and Elizabeth, Charles and the family moved to 22 Winston Street, Darlington where they lived for a number of years.



Winston Street, Darlington and local street party in 1919 showing the houses

In 1881 Julia, now 21, was living with another aunt in Hackney, North London. Julia's aunt on this occasion was Frances LAWSON who, although born in Sedgefield near Darlington, had moved to Hackney where she ran a Lodging House at 4 Warwick Terrace, Mount Pleasant Lane, Upper Clapton.



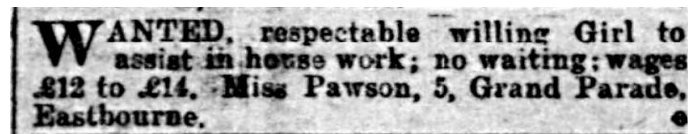
Maps and images of respectable Hackney in the late 1880's and an advertisement for the lodging house.



FURNISHED Apartments (superior)—For gentleman engaged during the day, or for gentleman and lady. 4, Warwick terrace, Mount pleasant Lane, Upper Clapton, N., references exchanged

Hackney and Kingsland Gazette 3/7/1882

The story was completely different in the census of 1901 and this recorded that both Julia and her sister Ruth were 'lodging house proprietors' of these premises, in Eastbourne, and an advertisement in the Kent and Sussex Courier dated 6th March 1903 confirmed this.

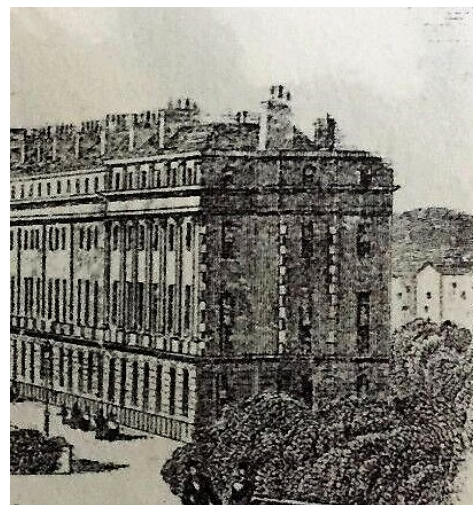
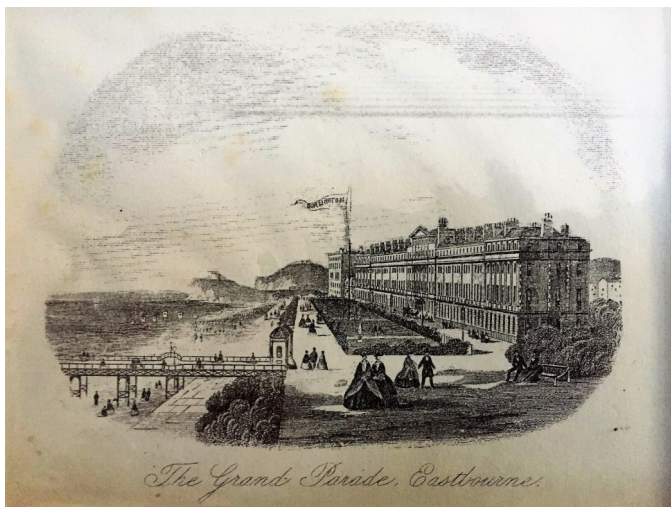


WANTED, respectable willing Girl to assist in house work; no waiting; wages £12 to £14. Miss Pawson, 5, Grand Parade, Eastbourne.

What led the two ladies to this location is completely unknown and to mystify matters further also resident at the lodging house was Elizabeth their mother. As far as Elizabeth was concerned, the 1891 census had recorded her living at 22 Winston Street, Darlington 'on her own means'. Her husband Charles was living alone nearby at 27 Biliams Yard, (aka Anchor Yard) Skinnergate. These were rooms built in the tight yards at the rear of high street premises accessible via a passageway at the side of the premises.

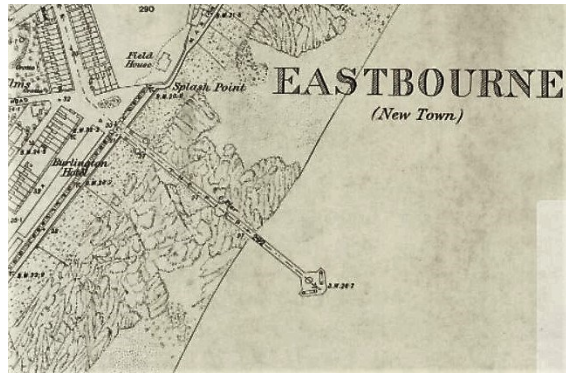
It is likely that by 1891 Elizabeth and Charles had separated. He lived on in Darlington and died there in 1904.

Number 5 Grand Parade was in a prime position for Eastbourne and was located right on the sea front and opposite and adjacent to the pier.



Situated at the end of the Grand Parade, the lodging house location now forms the last section of 'The Clarendon Hotel' formally 'The Burlington Hotel', Eastbourne, 5 – 23 Grand Parade, Eastbourne. The hotel was destroyed by fire and re-built in 2019/20.

The pier had been fully opened in 1872 but the landward end of the structure was demolished by the sea by 1877. This was rebuilt, higher than before with the ocean end dropping downward. Between 1899 - 1901, a 1000-seater theatre, bar, camera obscura and office suite was built at the pier end along with two saloons midway along the pier.



Grand Parade looking towards the pier and map of Eastbourne in 1890s



The pier at Eastbourne about 1910 looking from the roof of number 5 Grand Parade.

In the early 1900's Elizabeth had relocated herself to the Birmingham area (in 1901 she was 74), and was resident at 59 High Street, Aston. This was a Pawnbrokers shop. High Street, Aston was a street full of life and was situated between Aston and what is now Handsworth. The Barton's Arms at 152 High Street was at one end and still can be seen. The remainder was demolished with the road regeneration of the late 1950's/early 1960's.



The Barton's Arms with the High Street running off to the right and what is believed to be 59, shown in the 1950's as DEAN's 'loan office'

But why pawnbroking? Elizabeth's son Arthur, had since about 1890, been living in Wolverhampton where he had become a Pawnbroker's assistant. By 1901 Arthur was living at 21 High Street, Aston with his wife and was an independent pawnbroker. The shop at 59 High Street, Aston was likely a new addition to his empire, as it was previously an established similar business, allowing his mother to live over the shop. Arthur would later move to Boldmere where he lived with his family at 1 Mayfield Road, Boldmere. He went on to own pawnbrokers and goods stores at 59 High Street, Aston, 7 Alma Street, Aston, 272 Coventry Road, Birmingham, 38, 41, 98 and 100 Cape Hill, Smethwick and 63 Carter's Green, West Bromwich all by 1927.



SUIT CASES 2/11
 2 locks, also Better Makes; 3-plywood Trunks, tray, 2 Locks, from 14s. 11d.; Lunch and Attache Cases from 11½d.; Leather Briefs and Attache Cases, from 5s. 11d.; Splendid selection.—PAWSON'S, 69 High-street, Aston; 272, Coventry-road; 38, Cape Hill; 63, Carters Green.

Next 7 Stars. **PAWSON'S,** Next 7 Stars.
41, CAPE HILL.

SPECIAL LEVER KEYLESS WATCH AND CHAIN,
3/11 the Two.

Diamond Rings. Dress Rings. Signet Rings. Guinea Gold. Wedding Rings, from 21/-

Watches, Clocks, Gold Alberts, Silver Alberts, Gold Watch Bracelets, &c., &c.

Immense Selection at 20 per cent. below City Prices.

PAWSON's advertisements and Pawnbrokers and General Goods Store at Cape Hill, Smethwick

It is likely that the family became linked with St Michael's Church via Arthur and his family, and when Elizabeth died at 59 High Street, Aston in September 1906 she was buried in the churchyard here at St Michael's Church later that month. She was 78.

Julia and her sister Ruth continued to live in Eastbourne until 1909. In that year the lodging house was put up for sale.

5, GRAND PARADE, EASTBOURNE.
OAKDEN & CO.
 Have received instructions to **SELL BY AUCTION**, upon the PREMISES, as above, at an Early Date,
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND GENERAL EFFECTS,
 Auctioneers' Offices: 10, Cornfield-road, Eastbourne.

With the sale complete, Julia and Ruth moved to the newly built Frederick Road, Boldmere, having purchased number 50 which they named 'St Cuthbert's'. This was a short walk from brother Arthur and his family in Mayfield Road.

Julia and Ruth also became Pawnbrokers. They purchased a premise at 44 Denmark Street, Aston.



Denmark St in the 1960's the pawn broker's shop was situated on the left opposite the out-door.

Julia and Ruth lived together in Boldmere until Julia's death on 17th September 1923 aged 64. She was buried with her mother on 29th September. She left her home, property and a legacy of £606 (£37,600 today) to sister Ruth.

To conclude this family story, Arthur died on 5th May 1935 at his home at 1, Mayfield Road, Wylde Green aged 68 and left a legacy of £35,800 (£2.6 million today) in his will.

Ruth later moved to 1 Mayfield Road and died there on 24th April 1950 aged 84. She left a legacy of £4,337 (£151,500 today).

Peter Knight

God is not an emergency service

Groups & Organisations

MONDAY

Cubs	6.45	Scout HQ
Choir	7.00	South Aisle
Contact	Angela Grudzinski	373 1899

WEDNESDAY

Luncheon Club	12.30pm	Church Hall
Contact	Ruth Yates	354 4248
Rainbows	5.00 – 6.00	Church Hall
Brownies	6.15 – 7.30	Church Hall
Contact	Liz Claybrook	07906 958532
Email	veseydc@yahoo.com	
Guides	7.00 - 8.30	Church Hall
Contact	Hayley Bryer	07876 361952
Email	hayleydench@hotmail.co.uk	
Bellringers	7.45	Church Tower
Contact	Dave Reeves	354 6264
The Guild	See 'What's On' Page	
Contact	Angela Grudzinski – Chair	373 1899

THURSDAY

Little Lights	9.45	South Aisle
Knit & Natter	2.00—4.00	Church Hall
Contact	Ruth Murray	608 3599
Scouts	7.30	Scout HQ

FRIDAY

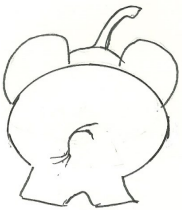
Flower Guild	Friday Mornings	Church
Contact	Chris Reeves	354 6264
Beavers	6.15	Scout HQ
For Beavers, Cubs and Scouts		
Contact	Bob Moore	07930 543747
Email	moorera@blueyonder.co.uk	

Visit our website at www.stmichaels.org.uk

Church Hall Lettings

For bookings ring:

Church Administrator 0121 373 0207



Tailing Off....

It's 'back to school' in a couple of weeks so the sun will probably start shining just in time for the return to classrooms.

As you can see we have another bumper edition this month so thank you again to everyone who sent in articles for the magazine.

We'd love to hear from you with memories, special poems, your favourite hymns or photos of church events. In fact anything which might appeal to our readers.

The Editor

Magazine articles please for the

OCTOBER

magazine to:

jenningspenny@aol.com

By 10th September 2021

WHO'S WHO AT ST MICHAEL'S

<p>Vicar: Rev. Gary Birchall</p> <p>Tel: 354 4501 Email: garybirchall1@gmail.com (off Tuesdays)</p>	<p>209 Station Road Sutton Coldfield B73 5EL</p>
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<p>Churchwardens:</p> <p>Pete Swaine Tel: 07846 401334 Email: peter@swaine.plus.com</p>	<p>Debbie Tye 07729923723 the_tye_family@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p>Lay Pastoral Ministers:</p> <p>Val Bryon 07886 397945 Liz Carr 354 3769 Kevin Hunt 313 2376 Margaret Smoldon 355 4226 Trudy Walsh 355 4128</p>	<p>Peter Edmonds 354 3200 Lin Benson 373 1227 Edwina Connell 354 9061 Fran Lumley 354 5490 Mick Walsh 355 4128 Helen Menniss 07814 911129</p>
<p>Stewardship Secretary Edwina Connell</p>	<p>Tel: 07717 239904 Email: edwinaconnell@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p>Church Administrator</p> <p>Liz Claybrook Tel: 373 0207 Email: stmichaelschurch- boldmere@gmail.com,</p> <p>Mon, Weds & Fri 9.30-2.30pm</p>	<p>Church Office St Michael's Church Church Road, Boldmere Sutton Coldfield B73 5RX</p>

St Martin's Nursing Home



St Martin's is a family run nursing home managed by brother and sister David Underhill (Home Manager) and Lorraine Holt (Nurse Manager). We provide modern facilities for twenty four residents in a comfortable and caring environment. Our small size means individual attention and a homely atmosphere.

Accommodation consists of 24 spacious single bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities, HD television and free Wi-Fi.

We offer a range of enjoyable activities to stimulate cognitive awareness. This includes animal visits, music recitals, puzzles, outings, hobbies and visiting entertainers.

Our professional training is rigorous and our C.Q.C. rating is good. We welcome enquiries and visits should you seek quality nursing care with family values.

51 Vesey Road Sutton Coldfield West Midlands B73 5NR 0121 321 1789
email enquiries@st.martins-nursinghome.co.uk
www.st.martins-nursinghome.co.uk