

EASTER 2024

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PARISH CHURCH PELSALL



www.stmichaelspelsall.co.uk

PALM SUNDAY - MARKING THE FIRST DAY OF HOLY WEEK



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ANNIVERSARY

ST MICHAELS - 1844-2024

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“St. Michaels Church is maintaining a Christian presence in our community, serving the community, sharing the faith and offering a sanctuary for prayer and worship.”

SERVICES AT ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS PARISH CHURCH

St. Michaels has a planned church calendar of services with additional special services when appropriate. All of our services aim to be flexible to cater for the wide needs of the church and the community.

At present church services take place every Sunday at 10.00am Holy Communion. Fortnightly services include Wednesday Holy Communion at 10.00am and Tuesday Morning Prayer at 9.00am. All are welcome. (Please check the website for dates).

■ **FUNERAL, BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS** are taking place in church as usual.

■ **BAPTISMS** take place once a month at 4.00pm on Sunday afternoons. Bookings include a date for baptism preparation which is offered once a month.

■ **WEDDINGS** are being booked which automatically include dates for marriage preparation and wedding rehearsals.

For those interested in baptism and wedding bookings please see below for contact details or phone the Church Office to speak with the parish administrator - Jill Cumpston. Bookings for 2024/2025 are being taken.



To Contact the Church, the Vicar or one of the Church Wardens please use the information below:

PRIEST IN CHARGE

Rev. Alison M. Morris 01922 477734

LICENSED READER

Mrs A. Myatt 01922 692420

CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs S. Morris 01922 516847

Mr A. Chantler 07870 783614

CHURCH OFFICE

TELEPHONE 01922 685666

(if office closed please leave a message)

CHURCH E-MAIL

stmichaelschurchpelsall@gmail.com



We hope you are enjoying our magazine – if you have anything you would like to include please email:

stmichaelschurchpelsall@gmail.com

and we will do our best to include as many as we can.

Views expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the church.

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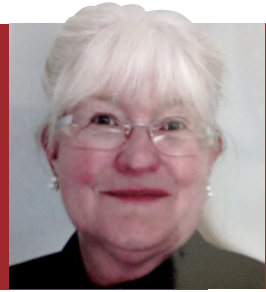
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FROM THE VICAR'S DESK



REV. ALISON

'Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia'

Easter is without doubt the most important season in the Church year and Easter Sunday is the most special day of the year. The resurrection of Jesus Christ – the Son of God – changed the world in an unprecedented way.

The timing and traditions of Easter are interesting to note. The timing of Easter is linked to the Passover festival which celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. This feast lasts for 7 days from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April. According to Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727), who used the Hebrew lunar calendar for his research, the resurrection is likely to have occurred on Sunday 5 April 33AD. Yet our dates for the celebration of Easter vary according to the moon. Officially, Easter Day falls on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring equinox. But the precise calculations are very complicated and involve something called an **ecclesiastical full moon** which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818 and will not happen again until 2285. The latest is 25th April which happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

The name **Easter** comes from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur-Monath'. Eostre's sacred animal was a hare – hence the link with the Easter bunny! Easter eggs are also a symbol of fertility and rebirth. They can portray the empty tomb of Jesus. Whatever the meanings or traditions associated with Easter, the resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. Our greeting of '**Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia**' is a time-honoured proclamation of this wonderful truth.

For 180 years from 1844 - 2024 St. Michael's church has steadfastly and faithfully proclaimed this wonderful truth in Pelsall. Our parish church has been at the centre at the spiritual and religious heart of the village community. It has served its

people and shared its faith. It has maintained a Christian presence in our community. Its aim has always been to reach out to the Pelsall community and the surrounding area enabling all ages to develop a closer relationship with God. It has been and continues to be a sanctuary for prayer and worship for all.

Once again this Easter we will be celebrating the Christian message of resurrection and hope. For while religious leaders have come and gone, the fact remains: Only One stepped forth from the tomb. Only One has risen from the dead. Only One has conquered death. Only One offers the promise of eternal life to those who follow him.

'I am the resurrection and the life,' Jesus said. 'He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'

This is our belief and our faith which we have proudly proclaimed for 180 years! And the church will continue to do so in the years to come. As a result, St. Michael's church has remained stable and strong so that discipleship has grown; mission has been encouraged; evangelism spread and community engagement has rapidly increased.

So in this historic year we offer to you an open invitation to please join us during Holy Week and Easter:

Come and celebrate the victory of life over death.

Come and help share your faith with children and grandchildren that Jesus is alive.

Come and declare that Jesus Christ is Lord indeed.

May the risen Christ lead and guide you as we seek to follow Him in our lives.

**With every
Easter blessing**
Rev. Alison

*Easter
Blessing*

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HOW THE CHURCH MARKS PENTECOST

So what is Pentecost? The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end.

It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations. Pentecost (which comes from the Greek word for 'fiftieth') has its roots in the Jewish Feast of Weeks. Jesus had promised his followers that, although they would not see him after his Ascension, they would receive the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire them. The Acts of the Apostles describes how the crowds gathered in Jerusalem – representing many nationalities and speaking many languages – were able to hear the disciples preaching in their own language.

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.'

Acts 2 Chp. 2

The colour most often associated with Pentecost is red, representing the tongues of fire which the Acts of the Apostles describes appearing above the heads of the disciples as a sign that they had received the Holy Spirit. With its focus on God's Spirit being poured out on believers, Pentecost is one of the most popular days for baptisms and confirmations in the Church's year.

St. Michael's will be celebrating Pentecost on 19th May at the 10.00am Holy Communion Service. On Saturday 18th May there will be a prayer walk around Pelsall Village. This will involve stopping at various landmarks to pray for the location and also the residents of Pelsall village. Come and join us as we pray, celebrate and give thanks to God for Pelsall, its residents and all that Pelsall means to us all.



CHARITABLE GIVING

At this time of year, we reflect on what has been donated to those in need over the last year. Although budgets have been stretched this year, through the generosity of the congregation and local community, we were able to make donations from events held.

£200.00 was donated to the Salvation Army after an evening of entertainment by the Salvation Army Band. Our annual Christingle Service raised £250.00 for the Children's Society and £100.00 was sent to the Red Cross from the Christmas Post Box appeal. We have continued to support the local foodbank and the Christmas Toy Sunday Service had a record number of Toys being donated to support Walsall Children's Charities.

Clergy introduced the principle that at least one chosen charity must be chosen from human, animal and environmental Charities. Helping those in need is part of the Mission of the Church both at home and overseas during 2023 the following donations were made:

OVERSEAS MISSION

Smile Train	£350.00
Sight Savers	£350.00
Brooke Animals	£339.55
Embrace the Middle East (Child Sponsorship)	£216.00

HOME MISSION

Centrepont	£500.00
Shannon Trust	£350.71
Assistance Dogs UK	£350.00
Pelsall First Responders	£100.00

A donation was also made to AROCHA UK (Eco Award) when the church bought a plaque on achieving Silver Status (Environment). During these difficult financial times St Michaels would like to thank all those who have donated within the Community, St Michaels School and our Congregation for their continued support.



Smile Train



Sightsavers



BROOKE
ANIMALS



EMBRACE
THE MIDDLE EAST



CENTRE
POINT

ENDING YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS



Shannon
Trust



Assistance
Dogs UK



FRFA
FIRST RESPONDER FIRST AID

Seasonal Reflections

When the snowdrops push their green spears through the earth, I know that spring has arrived, and each year I think what a miracle it is. No matter how long the winter, how hard the frost or how deep the snow, Nature triumphs. No season is awaited so eagerly or welcomed so warmly as spring. Each year I am astonished by the wealth of flowers the season gives us: the subtlety of the wild primroses and violets, the rich palette of crocus in the parks, tall soldier tulips and proud trumpeting daffodils and narcissi.

Sheila Pickles

.....
Thank you God for new life in the springtime, for flowers and birds, for bright green new leaves.

Thank you God for new life at Easter, for Jesus who is with us, right now and every day.

Amen



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is open to those living in the Parish, and reports on activities the Church has taken part in over the past 12 months and the plans for the future, to present the financial report and elect Church Officers, PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives for the coming year. In order to vote you need to be registered on the Church Electoral Roll.

The meeting will be held in Church on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11.30am

Everyone Welcome

GOD HAS CALLED YOU BY NAME AND MADE YOU HIS OWN

In the Church of England, the bishop says these words to everyone being confirmed. God is calling you and making you his own. Confirmation is a moving experience for both bishop and those being confirmed. But what is it all about?

Here are some of the meanings –

■ **Confirmation is a special way of receiving**

God's grace: the presence of God's gift of the Holy Spirit is confirmed in you through prayer and the laying on of the bishop's hands for the life of Christian faithfulness, service, and witness.

■ **A step of personal faith:** you confirm that you take on for yourself that which was taken on for you at your baptism as a child, confirming your faith and your membership of the body of Christ.

■ **Admission to Holy Communion:** you confirm your full membership of the community of faith as it is expressed in the Eucharist.

■ **A rite of passage:** an act symbolising the movement from childhood to adulthood in which the church

community confirms your intention to assume the privileges and responsibilities of being an adult member of the community.

All of this means that Confirmation is a sacrament. And because it is a sacrament it is a way to recognise, allow, welcome, and celebrate what God is doing, giving, and promising in your life. God calls each of us to participate in the ministry of the Church and gives the gifts we need for this. **If Confirmation is first and foremost about what God is doing for us and in us and with us and through us, what is needed from us?**

We need to be prepared: to expect to receive, to be open to God's calling, to be ready for his embrace, to want to experience his presence and power. We need to want and desire God, to long for him. Candidates are usually expected to take several weeks or months to prepare for Confirmation and explore what this might mean for them.

.....
If interested please see Rev. Alison as Confirmation classes will begin soon.



WHY DO PEOPLE EAT FISH ON GOOD FRIDAY?

Eating fish on Good Friday is an Easter tradition that Christians have observed for hundreds of years. Most people associate Easter with eating chocolate eggs, but the Christian festival begins on Good Friday when the tradition to eat fish dates back to biblical times.

Here are some explanations on where the tradition originated:

- Jesus sacrificed his own flesh on Good Friday which symbolises the day in the Bible that Jesus was killed by the Romans, so Christians abstain from eating meaty flesh.
- The medieval church decreed that meat of warm-blooded animals should not be eaten on Fridays, hence the replacement of fish instead.
- Fish were also used as a sign by early Christians to identify themselves, for example marking out and recognising designated meeting places. It was known as the ichthys and used alongside the cross in the early Christian community.
- In Jesus' time fish was viewed as an easily accessible everyday item of food and some of Jesus' disciples were also fishermen, fish is seen as a good substitute to meat and is regularly referred to in stories about Jesus.
- Nowadays eating fish and chips on Good Friday has become a tradition, even for those who are not religious, so if you are heading to the local chippy be prepared for a queue or why not try this delicious fish recipe.

COD PORTUGUESE WITH BOILED NEW POTATOES AND SIDE SALAD (serves 4)

Ingredients

- 4 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp thyme
- 2 cloves garlic crushed
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 cod fillets (150g each)
- 2 x 400g chopped tomatoes
- 125ml white wine
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 2 tsp oregano
- 2 bay leaves

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C / gas mark 4
2. Make the marinade by mixing lemon juice, half the olive oil, thyme, garlic and pepper in a dish. Add the cod, turning it over to ensure all the fish is coated. Set aside and marinate for 20 mins.
3. Lightly grease an ovenproof dish with the remainder of the oil, add the fish once it has marinated. Cover with foil and bake for 20 mins. In a saucepan, mix the tomatoes, white wine, tomato puree, oregano and bay leaves together and heat gently.
4. As the fish bakes and the sauce reduces, boil 600g small new potatoes, and prepare the side salad using salad leaves, cucumber, spring onion and cherry tomatoes.
5. After the sauce has cooked for 15 mins take the fish from the oven and pour the sauce over the fish. Place it back in the oven for 5 mins or until the fish flakes easily.

To serve, remove the bay leaves from the sauce and serve with potatoes and side salad.

Recipe Tips!

This dish also works well with haddock, hake or salmon. Use 3 tsp of mixed herbs and omit bay leaves, oregano and thyme. Serve with Crusty Bread instead of potatoes.



WHAT'S ON AT ST MICHAEL'S

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
APRIL - JUNE 2024

REGULAR SERVICES

WEEKLY SERVICES

Holy Communion
Sundays 10.00am

FORTNIGHTLY SERVICES

Holy Communion
Wednesdays - 10.00am

Morning Prayer

Tuesdays - 9.00am

Please check the web site for up-to-date information on fortnightly services



SEASONAL SERVICES AND FESTIVALS

HOLY WEEK

In the Christian church, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Day, is observed with special solemnity as a time of devotion to the Passion of Jesus Christ

MARCH

Palm Sunday
Sunday 24th - 9.45am
Blessing of Palms and procession to Church for the 10.00am Holy Communion including the Passion Narrative

Sunday 24th - 6.30 pm
Stations of the Cross

Holy Week Services
Monday 25th,
Tuesday 26th,
Wednesday 27th -
All 7.30pm

Maunder Thursday

Thursday 28th - 7.30pm
Holy Communion with foot washing, stripping of the Altar followed by The Watch

Good Friday

Friday 29th - 2.00pm - 3.00pm
An hour devotion at the foot of the cross

Easter Sunday

Sunday 31st
Jesus Christ is Risen
Today Alleluia!

6.30am
Dawn Mass lighting and procession of the Pascal Candle from the Church Hall followed by Easter Communion

10.00am
Easter Holy Communion

MAY

Ascension Day
Thursday 9th - 7.30pm
Holy Communion -
Cluster Service at St. John's Church Walsall Wood

Christian Aid Week
Sunday 12th - Sunday 18th

Joint Ecumenical Holy Communion Service
Sunday 12th - 10.00am

Pentecost Prayer Walk
Saturday 18th - 11am-12noon
Around the village

Pentecost
Sunday 19th - 10.00am
Holy Communion

Trinity Sunday
Sunday 26th - 10.00am
Holy Communion

Corpus Christi
Thursday 30th - 7.30pm
Holy Communion -
Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion

REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

Mothers Union Meetings
2.00pm in Church Centre

THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

LadiesDotCom Meetings
7.30pm in Church Centre

MONDAYS WEEKLY

Bellringing
7.30pm in the Bell Tower

WEDNESDAYS WEEKLY

St Michael's Singers
Practise 7.00pm in Church Centre

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY 6TH MAY 2024

EXTRAVAGANZA FAMILY DAY

Bouncy Castle, BBQ,
Food and Drink, Classic Cars

St Michael's Church Hall
12noon - 4.00pm

FRIDAY 19TH & SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2024

SPECIAL WEDDING WEEKEND

Wedding Fayre 19th October
Celebration Wedding Service
20th October
4.00pm

Times and Dates may change, for up-to-date information go to our Facebook page or visit the Events section of the Website at: www.stmichaelspelsall.co.uk



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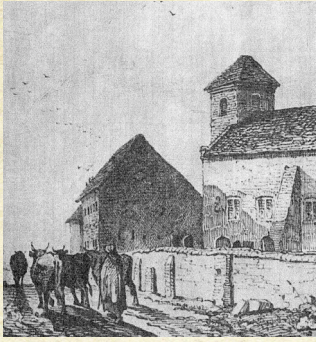
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KNOW YOUR CHURCH

CELEBRATING 180 YEARS AT ST. MICHAELS

180 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
ST MICHAELS - 1844-2024



994 A Saxon Lady Wulirun was endowing with land a monastery at Hamtun, hence Wolverhampton, this included most of Pelsall or Peolshale as it was then called.

1311 The Chapel known as St. Peters was in Paradise Lane.

1546 The church in Paradise Lane was quoted as having its possessions as, 5ozs of white plate worth £5-1s-0d; 4ozs of partly gilt plate worth 3s-4d; and TWO Bells in the steeple. Priest in charge had a salary of £4-3s-3d per year.

1763 1st October a consecration ceremony took place dedicating the Church to St. Michael and All Angels. 7th November, Edward Wiggin was the first person to be buried in the new graveyard at Paradise Lane, fee for burials at this time was 7p payable to the Mother Church at Wolverhampton.

1843 Wolverhampton Consistory Court papers record that the Rev'd William Jesse Perpetual Curate of Pelsall and Thomas Charles and James Birch chapel wardens applied for a Faculty to take down the Chapel of Pelsall and build a new one on a site on Pelsall Common approved and donated by the Dean of Wolverhampton as lord of the

Deanery Manor and by the Marquis of Cleveland as lessee of the Deanery Manor. June 7th the foundation stone of the new St. Michaels in Hall Lane was laid by Mrs Underbill of Mosely, Birmingham, who was the daughter of a former incumbent of Pelsall.

1844 Church erected being of plain brick fabric with a gallery but no tower.

1846 Until this time the Deans of Wolverhampton were Vicars of Pelsall. Pelsall was known as a Peculiar which meant that it was an ecclesiastical district set apart from the normal jurisdiction of the Bishop. Its Curate reported to his superiors at Wolverhampton, not to Lichfield. This system was discontinued upon the death of Dean Hobart and Pelsall appointed a resident Vicar for the first time, the Rev'd William Jesse.



1872 14th November, Pelsall Hall Colliery pit disaster, during the rescue work the Bishop of Lichfield arrived and took the morning and evening services in the Church on Sunday and also addressed workers and spectators on the pit bank. The Vicar of Pelsall was very ill at this time.

1877 St. Michaels Church Tower complete with bells and a clock were added through the generosity of Mrs Dickenson.

1889 St. Michaels was extended and renovated at a cost of £1,050 as a memorial to Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the Chancel was built of plain red brick with Hollington stone arches and windows, Alter rail and oak choir stalls, The new Organ was built by Nicholson and Lord of Walsall.

1897 Cemetery in Hall Lane was given to the Parish by the Walsall Wood Colliery Co. 20th June the gates of the new cemetery were given by the Mothers of Pelsall. The Pelsall Common entrusted to the Parish Council.

1905 Wednesday March 1st dedication of the East Window which depicts the Ascension.

1922 Present Altar Cross was presented to the Church in memory of Francis Taylor.

1936 Reredos dedicated to the memory of the wife and children of the Rev'd V. Armstrong.

1949 Major restoration work carried out on the Church, at this time the old lath and plaster ceiling below the roof was completely removed.

1954 April 25th the Church Hall was opened by Mrs S.A. Ward, QBE 'A rather expensive building costing £4,000 or more'

1980 The front pews were removed and replaced with chairs, a new segmental altar rail was added, made from the wood taken out of removed floor joists and a nave altar was added.

1984 Major overhaul of the bells, re-dedication on 16th December.

1985 10th February Church Centre opened by the Bishop of Wolverhampton.



1987 New stained glass window added to entrance of the new extension, it depicts St. Michael as a miner- suitably haloed, holding a pair of scales, his traditional emblem

1989 All the old pews were removed and a new floor laid.

1993 Major work is carried out on the Organ, it is completely stripped down, cleaned and rebuilt.

1994 Pelsall celebrates its Millennium and the present church building is 150 years old. Millennium tapestries hung in Church Centre.

2011 Work carried out on Church Tower, which included a new roof and addition of a flag pole.



ABOVE: Interior of St Michaels in 1939



ABOVE: In 1980 the front pews where removed and replaced with chairs. This picture shows the rear pews which were removed in 1989



ABOVE: Taken around 1930 of Rev William Armstrong and the choir sitting next to the vicar on the right is Mr Arthur Cotton, Organist and Choir Master



ABOVE: The Old Vicarage, which was sold in 1978, the last Vicar to live here was Fr. George Graham

Pelsall Hall



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CELEBRATING 180 YEARS AT ST. MICHAELS & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, PELSALL

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR SOCIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

Monday 6th May
Extravaganza Family Day
 Bouncy Castle, BBQ,
 Food and Drink, Classic Cars
 12noon - 4.00pm

Saturday May 18th
Pentecost Prayer Walk
 Around the village

Saturday June 29th
Band Concert
 With 'Doorknobs'
 Tickets £10 (food and drink
 included) 7.30pm in Church

June / July
Oral History Project
 Intergenerational
 Project, church and school
 pupils interview congregation
 members about church the
 history of the church

Saturday July 6th
St. Michael's Church
Float at Pelsall Carnival
 180th Anniversary theme

Saturday July 13th
Teddy Bears Picnic
 2.00pm - 4.00pm in Church

July
Deanery Synod Eucharist
 With Bishop Jan MacFarlane
 from 7.30pm

August
Historical Exhibition
 Produced by members of
 St. Michael's Church to be
 exhibited in local venues
 around the village

Sunday 1st September
Back Pack Sunday
 Holy Communion Service
 10.00am in Church

Saturday 28th -
Monday 30th September
St. Michael's Patronal
Festival Weekend
 Festival Holy Communion
 Service (more details to follow)
 from 10.00am

Sunday 6th October
Harvest Weekend
 Including the
 Harvest Service
 and the Pet Service

Saturday 19th October
Wedding Fayre
 In Church and Church Hall

Sunday 20th October
Wedding Celebration
 Special service for Married
 Couples 4.00pm in Church

Sunday 27th October
Candles of Remembrance
and Lament
 6.00pm in Church

Saturday 2nd November
Bonfire Party for Families
 6.00pm

Saturday 10th November
Remembrance Day
 Poppy installation on
 church tower by POPPRS

Saturday 23rd November
Christmas Market
 10.00am - 1.00pm
 in Church Hall



St. Michael's has been blessed with such generosity from the Pelsall Community.

Haywards Transport have given £500 towards the refurbishment of our church centre. This was a very generous donation which has helped with making our church centre useful for community and church use. *'Thank you Haywards.'*

Pelsall Garage with Mark Dickenson organized a community event on 23rd Dec in Pelsall High Street. 'A Pelsall Christmas Carol' was an opportunity for the residents and community to come together to experience some 'Christmas Spirit'. Pelsall Ladies Choir provided Christmas music while Santa was on duty with gifts for the children. Delicious mince pies and hot drinks

were available for all. The whole event generously raised a grand total of £431.60.

'Thank you to Mark and team plus those who attended and gave so generously to the bucket collection.'



CALLING ALL PELSALL HISTORIANS...

As you have read, the church is celebrating its 180th anniversary this year!

- Pelsall is a wonderful village with a depth of history, tradition and pride.
- We want to celebrate this and much more.
- So the church will be putting on an exhibition about the church and its history in Pelsall.
- Do you have any photos, records or memorabilia? Or do you simply have memories and experiences about the church?
- Would you like to get involved with this exhibition project? Or simply share your thoughts with our history group. If so please get in touch with the Parish Office on: **01922 685666** or email: **stmichaelschurchpelsall@gmail.com**



WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU. THANK YOU!



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Thy Kingdom Come

9th - 19th May 2024



Join the Global Wave of Prayer

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions - so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

It is our hope and prayer, that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call. Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part and join in.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Archbishop Justin Welby

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'MEET THE CONGREGATION' PAUL KEEN



HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE PARISH?

I was born in the Parish in 1946 on Norton Road and moved to where I now live in High Heath when I married Jan at St Michael's in 1967. We both decided that if we were going to make promises before God we should be committed to Him and have worshipped here ever since.

CAN YOU TELL US SOME OF YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES AT ST MICHAEL'S

They are many, from the meetings and visits with the Men's Fellowship (which was then the Church of England's Men's Society).

The times at Ilam with the Young Communicants. (I think we learnt more from the youngsters than they did from us).

The Old Time Musicals and Pantomimes in the Church Hall.

The Flower Festivals and Open Gardens.

Serving on the PCC and as warden.

All of which has added to the Fellowship and Worship over the years.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHANGES YOU HAVE NOTICED OVER THE YEARS?

Structurally the church has changed quite a bit with the pews being removed and the Altar Rail being brought forward into the congregation.

The addition of the Parish Centre on the side of the building and lobby area at the back of Church.

The pattern of worship changed with the introduction of the ASB.

I think St Michael's has been blessed with having Vicars who had a vision of future for the parish.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING OF ATTENDING ST. MICHAEL'S FOR THE FIRST TIME?

We all worship God in our own way, He wants you for who you are.

St Michael's has I think over the years of worship, witness and service offered by the people throughout the lifetime of our parish become a church where all, young and old can receive human love and fellowship.



'We decided that if we were going to make promises before God we should be committed to Him and have worshipped here ever since.'

FROM THE REGISTERS

OCTOBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

FUNERALS IN OCTOBER

Joan Duckett

FUNERALS IN DECEMBER

Malcolm Dallaway (CB),
Lesley Perry (SC), Betty Bailey (CB)

FUNERALS IN JANUARY

Jaki Chilton (CC),
Vera Cannell (CC), Nigel Broomhall (HT/BY)

FUNERALS IN FEBRUARY

Beryl Farmer (SC), Neville Trubshaw (SC)

FUNERALS IN MARCH

Stanley Broomhall (HY/BY)

ASHES IN NOVEMBER

Joan Duckett (SCT@SC),
Val Williams, James Henworth

ASHES IN MARCH

Olive Maddox, Paul Collett, Vera Cannell

BAPTISMS IN DECEMBER

James Joseph Styler, Isabella Jade Styler,
Sienna Lee Chapman,
Chloe Myvanwy Pitt (Adult)

BAPTISMS IN JANUARY

Rosie Belle Moore, Lottie Ella Moore,
Lydia Mary Adkins, Millicent Patsy Adkins,
Gemma Louise Smith (Adult)

BAPTISMS IN FEBRUARY

Jasmine Weston,
Jedi James Franklin Martin

BAPTISMS IN MARCH

Luca Eric Hatfield

CODES FOR FUNERALS

Streetly Crematorium (SC), Church and Burial (CB), Church and Crematorium (CC), Scattering of Ashes at Streetly (SCT@SC)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ST MICHAEL'S

- It with sadness that we announce that a member of our church congregation has sadly passed away since our last magazine. On 17th December **Vera Cannell** aged 96 passed peacefully away at Pelsall Hall Nursing Home. **May their souls rest in peace and rise in glory.**
- **Netta Horton** was 70 on 9th January 2024. We wish you God's blessings in the year ahead from your church family.
- **Gary Nicholls** celebrated his 90th birthday last December. Congratulations Gary love and blessings.
- **Mick Williams** was 80 on 24th December. We pray for God's blessings in the year ahead from your church family.
- Congratulations to **Anne and Mick Newport** on the birth of their first Grandson on 1st February. Baby **Max Sebastian Ernesto Parker** born to **Faye and Robert** on 1st February.
- Congratulations to **Andy and Dana Chantler** on the birth of another Granddaughter. **Lyra Clare Chantler** was born on 6th February to **Jose and Leah.**
- **John Maye** since our last magazine John has been elected as **Lay Chair of Walsall Deanery.** We are all delighted at this appointment and wish him well in this responsible post. Well done John.
- **Silver Eco Award** in late November AROCHA UK awarded our church the Silver Eco Silver Award. It tells us about how they are caring for God's earth in different areas of their life and work, such as worship and teaching; management of church building; management of church land, community and global engagement and lifestyle. So what an achievement. Now onto the Gold!



BOOKING FOR ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL



PLEASE NOTE THAT NEW ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW IN PLACE FOR ANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE BOOKING OF THE HALL.

For more information on booking the hall and availability please contact the Parish Office on **01922 685666** Monday to Thursday 1pm to 3pm or Friday 10am to noon (answerphone outside these hours, we will return your call as soon as possible) or email **stmichaelschurchpelsall@gmail.com**



Diddy Disciples

at St Michael's

**'Children are not just the church of tomorrow.
They are the church of today as well.'**



Prayers for Baby Jesus

A huge amount of prayers were written for Baby Jesus. Our own church families and school children took part. Prayers were presented at the Crib on Christmas eve. Well done!



Pancake Party Shrove Tuesday

Thank you to all who attended the event. A wonderful time was had by all with ashing and pancake races.



Easter Egg Hunt

Come and celebrate Easter at our 10.00am Holy Communion service followed with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and families.

**Will you find them?
Who will collect the most?**



Toy Service

Congratulations to our Christmas Toy Collection. Hundreds of toys were donated to the Black Country Toy Appeal. Mayor of Walsall was so pleased and says a big thank you to you all.

Diddies New Roles

Great to see some of our children helping out with the service. Welcomers on the door, helping with the collection plates and leading prayers and reading at some of our services. Well done and thank you.

A New Children's Song

Our Diddy Disciples have been learning a new song for Easter. We are looking forward to hearing 'A butterfly - an Easter Egg' on Easter Sunday.


'Advance Notice'
Get the dates in your diary!

Family Extravaganza

**Monday 6th May
12noon - 4.00pm**

Bouncy Castles, BBQ, fun and games for all. Free entrance.

Teddy Bears Picnic

Saturday 13th July

Get your bears ready for the big day!



Calling all
Diddy Disciples
Our numbers are growing at the 10.00am church service. Pop along to see what we do and to meet others! All welcome or contact the Parish Office on 01922 685666 for more details.



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Please contact our office for more information.

Price valid at time of publication but may be subject to change.



The Traditional Cremation Package includes:

Conveyance of your loved one from a local Hospital within working hours

Care of your loved one within our premises until the day of the funeral

Washing and dressing your loved one in their own clothes

Use of our Chapel of Rest

Arranging the funeral including all administration

The Wrexham coffin

Jaguar hearse

One Jaguar limousine

Funeral Director to oversee the funeral

Crematorium fee

Doctors fee for medical cremation papers

Officiant fee

To discuss any of our funeral packages please don't hesitate to contact us on 01922 493131.