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# ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PARISH CHURCH PELSALL



**EASTER  
2026**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**COME AND CELEBRATE  
WITH US THIS EASTER**

See Page 07



**Air Fryer  
Recipes  
See Page 06**



**Church  
Fellowship  
See Page 08**



**Local Foodbank  
See Pages 10-11**

***“St. Michael's 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. Weekly services include Wednesday Holy Communion at 10.00am and Tuesday Morning Prayer at 9.00am. All are welcome. (Please check the website for dates).

### FUNERALS, BAPTISMS 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 2026 / 2027 are being taken.**

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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

### VICAR

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

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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.

Rev. Alison

# From The Vicar's Desk



## *Easter Love, Easter Mystery, Easter Hope.*

**Easter is fast approaching, the commercial side has been going since Christmas but that is what happens. It persuades people that to celebrate something is to spend vast amounts of money joining an increasing secular trend, which very few can afford.**

As Christians, however, what we celebrate at Easter is far beyond monetary value and our celebrations take on a variety of emotions as we travel through Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally that glorious Easter day. However hard we try to understand the mystery of the Easter story it's almost beyond our comprehension that Jesus, God the Son, should sacrifice himself to such a death on the cross of Calvary so that we can come forgiven into the presence of God.

As we come before the cross on Good Friday with hindsight we know the resurrection is only 3 days away. Jesus' disciples, however, didn't have that insight to the future; at the crucifixion their world fell apart. For them Jesus was dead and all hope for the future was gone. Just imagine Mary's delight

when she realised that the gardener she was talking to was actually the risen Lord Jesus. The joy of the disciples when Jesus appeared to them over the next 40 days. Suddenly they had a new view of life; from deep despair to hope. The promises Jesus had given them during his earthly ministry were unfolding and their excitement was plain to see, although until Pentecost the fruits of that excitement would be tempered with their human limitations.

Easter is a special time to reflect on God's love for His people but what is even more wonderful is that His love is personalised, His love is for you and that is something to really get excited about. After Jesus was crucified his disciples felt lost, without a purpose in life and so many people feel like that as well. Only through the resurrection power of

Jesus did the disciples find hope for the future and that same resurrection power is available to us today. There are people who are living in fear and oppression without experiencing the love of another human being. Jesus brings hope into lives full of despair; he renews damaged relationships and he heals broken hearts and he usually does it through the love and obedience of us.

So please remember this Easter those who are in desperate need of the love of Jesus. Please pray that they will find his love, hope and compassion in whatever situation they are in and that as we pray, God will reveal to us how we can help those who are suffering and are in need... Easter Love, Easter Mystery, Easter Hope.

*Easter Blessings*  
**Yours in Christ, Rev. Alison**

# Seasonal Prayer

*Springtime!*

*Your message of hope to a world tiring of winter's starkness, longing for that first crocus to push through snow's icy blanket and spread its leaves, like arms outstretched, to its creator.*

*Springtime!*

*Our yearly reminder, if we needed one, that to a world that was dark and cold, a world devoid of love's sweet warmth, you sent your Son to break through sin's icy blanket, and, arms outstretched on a cross, he brought us hope.*

*Thank you*



## CHARITABLE GIVING

A donation of **£413** was made to **The Salvation Army** raised at the Christmas Concert and the Christingle Service raised **£220** which was sent to **The Children's Society**. **£63** was raised from our Christmas Post Box and was donated to **USPG**. Donations of food were also made to our foodbank and the Christmas Toy Service was well supported with a large number of toys donated to **Lucy's Pantry** which is one of Walsall Charities.

## MISSION GIVING

**Helping those in need is part of the Mission of the Church.** The Church donates 10% of its yearly direct giving (i.e. collection monies) to home and overseas charities. Charities that benefitted from our Mission Giving included:

**HOME MISSION:** Pelsall Carnival Association **£400**, CRISIS **£400**, St Mungo's **£400**, RSPB **£400**, Year 6 School Leavers Books **£124**, VE Day Commemoration Books **£84**

**OVERSEAS MISSION:** Sightsavers **£400**, Embrace **£216** (Child Sponsorship), Tree Aid **£400**

*St Michaels would like to thank all those who have donated within the Community, St Michaels School and our Congregation for their continued support.*

Pelsall Hall



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## MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

On Monday 2nd March at the monthly branch meeting, Deb Tudor, Lichfield Diocesan MU President commissioned **Chris Miller** as Branch Leader and **Ruth Hodgkiss** as Deputy. **Pauline Evans** was admitted as a new member while **Val Taylor** one of the longest serving members at Pelsall branch celebrated 46 years membership. On 3rd March 1980 she was admitted to the branch by Rev. Andrew Bryant. What an achievement!

**Congratulations to all of you for your unstinting service to the Pelsall branch.**



## ART COMPETITION AWARDS

Awards were presented at the December Toy Service to the winners of the 2025 Art Competition for local nurseries and primary schools. Artwork was produced in various forms such as watercolour, oil paint, charcoal, pencil drawing, felt pen, collage and mosaic. Thank you to MAUNDS who sponsored the competition and provided prizes.

### Prizes were presented to:

#### NURSERY AND RECEPTION

1st: **Nayah Matthews** - Ryders Hayes

2nd: **Rosie Moore** - St Michael's

#### KEY STAGE 1

1st: **Isabella Quilt** - Ryders Hayes

2nd: **Molly Stackhouse** - Ryders Hayes

#### KEY STAGE 2

1st: **Cory** - Pelsall Village

2nd: **Macie Auty** - Pelsall Village

3rd: **Alfie Brassington** - Pelsall Village

4th: **Alexia Nicola** - Ryders Hayes

5th: **Daniell Holmes** - St. Michael's

***'Congratulations and well done to all those who entered, we will be announcing a 2026 competition soon!'***

## EASTER ECO IDEAS

### Sustainable Decorations:

**Natural Egg Dyes:** Use kitchen staples to colour your eggs. Boiled onion skins create rich oranges and browns, turmeric provides vibrant yellows, and red cabbage yields a beautiful blue.

**Upcycled Crafts:** Transform toilet paper rolls into bunnies & egg cartons into tiny chicks or flower vases.

**Plastic-Free 'Grass':** Instead of plastic shredded grass, use green craft paper, fabric scraps, or even fresh moss and flowers for a rustic look.

### Eco-Friendly Gifting:

**Ethical Chocolate:** Look for Fairtrade certified or organic chocolate to ensure sustainable production and better conditions for farmers.

**Living Gifts:** Swap candy for potted plants or wildflower seed kits that kids can plant and watch grow.

**Practical & Durable:** Consider long-lasting items like wooden toys, reusable babyino cups, or beeswax crayons.

### Low-Impact Activities:

**Sustainable Egg Hunt:** Use wooden or fabric eggs that can be reused for years. You can also hide dyed potatoes as a fun, biodegradable alternative.

**Nature Walks:** Go on a 'signs of spring' scavenger hunt to spot wildlife and flowers in your local area.

**Low-Carbon Feast:** Plan a meal using local, seasonal ingredients and more plant-based dishes to reduce your carbon footprint.



## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

***Held in Church - Sunday 26th April at 11.30am, everyone is welcome!***

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

# Easter Air Fryer Recipes



**Air Fryers are not just for chips and chicken nuggets, air fryers provide a healthier, faster, and more energy-efficient alternative to conventional cooking, reducing oil usage by up to 80% while creating crispier, evenly cooked food.**

They offer versatile, multi-functional cooking capabilities including roasting, baking, and reheating with minimal clean-up due to dishwasher-safe components and reduced splatter. If you have an air fryer why not try these recipes using your excess Easter treats, if not they can be baked in a traditional oven.

## Chocolate Cookies

**Make these simple cookies using Easter chocolate treats. Just smash into small pieces or roughly chop.**

### Ingredients:

- 125g unsalted butter softened
- 150g light brown soft sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 225g plain flour
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 150g chocolate any type roughly chopped
- Pinch of salt

### Method:

1. Beat the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Whisk in the egg and vanilla extract until smooth and creamy.
2. Add the flour, bicarbonate of soda, chopped chocolate and a pinch of salt and mix with a spatula to form stiff dough. Roll into 16 walnut sized balls, then pat each one down to flatten slightly. *(Dough will last for 3 months if frozen).*
3. Heat the air fryer to 160c and lay a piece of baking parchment in the basket. Air fry the cookies in batches, for 9 - 15 mins, until golden brown. Or Air Fry from frozen for 13 - 15 mins, depending on your air fryer. Leave 2 mins to firm up then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

*(Cookies will keep in an airtight tin for up to a week).*



Chocolate Cookies



## Hot Cross Bun & Butter Pudding serves 2 - 3

**Use up any leftover Hot Cross Buns. This Pudding can also be made using Brioche Bread or traditional Bread slices.**

### Ingredients:

- 2 - 3 Hot Cross Buns buttered and sliced
- 2 large eggs
- 300ml milk
- 2 tbsp caster sugar (plus extra for sprinkling)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

### Method:

1. Butter a heatproof container (metal or silicone works best in an air fryer) which fits in your air fryer basket.
2. Arrange the buttered Hot Cross Bun slices in the dish, repeat with a second layer.
3. Whisk the eggs, milk, sugar and vanilla extract together. Pour over the Hot Cross Buns. Let it soak for at least 30 mins for the best texture. Sprinkle the top with caster sugar before cooking.
4. Place the dish in the Air Fryer, cook at 160°C for 20 - 25 mins. The pudding is done when the top is golden brown and the custard is set. *(Serve warm with cream or ice cream).*

### Tips:

If you have a bake setting on your air fryer, use this setting rather than air fry to prevent the top from burning before the middle cooks.

Do not skip the soaking step as it ensures the bread is not dry in the middle.

To make a traditional Bread and Butter pudding, use 4 - 6 slices of buttered bread using a handful of sultanas or raisins between layers. Optional pinch of nutmeg or cinnamon could be added.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

See 'What's On' At St Michaels: April – July 2026

## REGULAR SERVICES

### WEEKLY SERVICES

**Holy Communion**  
**Sunday 10:00am**

**Holy Communion**  
**Wednesday 10:00am**

*Please check our Facebook page or the website for up-to-date information on our services.*

## REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS

**FIRST MONDAY**  
**OF EACH MONTH**  
**Mothers Union**  
**Meetings**  
**Church Centre**  
**2:00pm**

**THIRD THURSDAY**  
**OF EACH MONTH**  
**LadiesDotCom**  
**Meetings**  
**Church Centre**  
**7:30pm**

**MONDAY WEEKLY**  
**Bellingring Practice**  
**Bell Tower**  
**7:30pm**

**WEDNESDAY WEEKLY**  
**St Michaels Singers**  
**Practice**  
**Church Centre**  
**7:00pm**

## SEASONAL SERVICES AND FESTIVALS

### HOLY WEEK

In the Christian church, Holy Week is observed with special solemnity as a time of devotion to the Passion of Jesus Christ

### MARCH

**Palm Sunday**  
Blessing of Palms and procession from Church hall followed with 10.00am Holy Communion in Church  
**Sunday 29th 9:45am**

Stations of the Cross  
**Sunday 29th 6:00pm**

**MARCH - APRIL**  
**Holy Week Services**  
**Monday 30th March,**  
**Tuesday 31st March**  
**and Wednesday**  
**1st April 7:00pm**

### APRIL

**Maundy Thursday**  
Holy Communion Stripping of the Altar, Foot Washing followed by The Watch  
**Thursday 2nd 7:30pm**

### APRIL

**Good Friday**  
1 hour devotion at the foot of the cross  
**Friday 3rd 2:00pm**

**Easter Sunday**  
*'Jesus Christ is Risen Today Alleluia'*

Dawn Mass lighting and procession of the Pascal Candle from outside the Church followed by Easter Communion  
**Sunday 5th 6:00am**

Easter Holy Communion followed afterwards with Easter Egg Hunt  
**Sunday 5th 10:00am**

### MAY

**Christian Aid Week**  
**Sunday 10th –**  
**Friday 16th May**

**Ascension Day**  
Holy Communion at St. Johns Church Walsall Wood (Cluster Service)  
**Thursday 14th 7:00pm**

### MAY

**Pentecost**  
Holy Communion  
**Sunday 24th 10:00am**

**Trinity Sunday**  
Holy Communion  
**Sunday 31st 10:00am**

### JUNE

**Corpus Christi**  
Holy Communion  
**Thursday 4th 7:30pm**

### JULY

**Holy Communion Service and Confirmation**  
With Bishop Tim of Wolverhampton  
Anyone interested in Confirmation please see Rev. Alison  
**Sunday 12th 10:00pm**



*Times and Dates may change, for up-to-date information go to our Facebook page or visit the events section of the website: [www.stmichaelspelsall.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelspelsall.co.uk)*

## THURSDAY 30TH APRIL



### SPRING JAZZ JAMBOREE

with **Jazz @ 6 Big Band** and  
**St Michaels School Band**  
**St. Michael's & All Angels Church**  
**7:00pm**

**Tickets £6 each**

Available from St. Michael's Parish Office  
Contact **01922 685666** or  
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*Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Forest Foundation (Charity part of WMES) and St. Michael's Church.*



## SATURDAY 16TH MAY



**CHRISTIAN AID**  
**SPONSORED WALK**  
**AND COFFEE MORNING**  
**10:00am till 1:00pm**



**Sponsored Walk** from St Michael's Church to Walsall Arboretum, please see Sue Briggs for more information and sponsor forms. Families welcome.

**Coffee Morning** why not join us at St Michaels Church Hall for a coffee and cake with family and friends. Everyone welcome all proceeds to Christian Aid.



## Church Fellowship

**Fellowship in a Church context is the intentional, shared life among believers that fosters spiritual growth, mutual support and unity. It provides a secure environment for encouragement, accountability and practical expression of love through service. It is essential for strengthening faith, fostering deeper relationships and experiencing God's presence.**

*There are a number of ways to find Fellowship within the Church through:*

- **Encouragement:** To lift spirits, offer counsel and motivate each other.
- **Prayer and Unity:** To join together in prayer.
- **Growth:** To build one another up in faith, knowledge and maturity.
- **Bearing Burdens:** To share in the struggles, emotional needs and trials of others.
- **Accountability:** To help each other stay committed to their faith.
- **Service and Hospitality:** To meet the practical, physical and financial needs of others.
- **Worship and Praise:** To gather for collective adoration, singing and strengthening of faith.

Fellowship means being there for one another through thick and thin. It is about sharing joys and sorrow, offering encouragement when someone is struggling and celebrating victories together. It is the understanding that you are not walking this path alone.

**This mutual care and shared purpose are what defines Church fellowship.**

### Social Fellowship

There are groups at St Michael's who offer Social Fellowship to anyone who enjoys friendly association or with shared interests. Even if you are not a regular church attender you would be made welcome. Groups that are held for shared interests include a **Singing Group Mothers Union** and **Bell Ringing Team**. There is a **Maintenance Group** which helps to keep the Church and surrounding Church yard neat and tidy and good repair. **LadiesDotCom** is a **Ladies Fellowship Group** which meets once a month for companionship. The group was formed in 2011 to offer support and friendship, share common activities and support the Church and other Charities both local and overseas with fund raising events. During March they celebrated 15 years of shared friendship and activities.



If you would like more information on any of the Groups, please contact the Church Office on: **01922 685666** or e-mail: [\*\*stmichaelschurchpelsall@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:stmichaelschurchpelsall@gmail.com)

## A CALL TO ACTION: GETTING INVOLVED AT ST. MICHAEL'S

**Getting to know your church has many aspects, such as knowing about the buildings, the worship, the Bible, the prayer life, the history, the music tradition and so forth. In this magazine we are focussing on two different aspects – the fellowship of the church and 'Call to Action'.**

'Call to Action' is about getting involved in helping to ensure that this church operates on a daily basis, week by week and into the future.

There are many tasks split between a few people and it is much better if these are shared between more people. A church is an organisation the same as any other organisation but what makes it so different is that it is us that make it the Body of Christ.

At St. Michael's Church we value everyone, the gifts that you have and the time you can offer. We are all part of the Body of Christ and we read about this in *Romans 12 v 4-13*. Here we read that Christ's body is made up of many parts, all belonging to each other. Each one of us has gifts for doing certain things well, and when we are all

using our gifts and serving each other in humility, the Body of Christ is a blessing to be part of and a blessing to the community around us.

It does not matter how long you have been part of the church, getting involved in church life and serving at St. Michael's will help you connect and grow as Disciples of Christ. This is what God wants for everyone. Is there something you would like to do, but do not know how to get involved? Do you wish to know how the church runs as an organisation?

The various areas we are calling you to action are... **Hospitality, Intercessions, Maintenance, Welcome, Readers, Cleaners, Pastoral Care, Singing Group, Music** ...these are just a few!

Over the summer Rev. Alison will be exploring this more through various ways including our 'Call to Action' Sunday in June.

**Please pray about what God might be calling you to get involved with, and speak with Rev. Alison or the Parish Wardens to explore how your gifts and time can be used.**

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# THE WORK OF THE WALSALL NORTH LOCAL FOODBANK



## Introduction

**I was thrilled to be asked to pen a few words about the work of our local Foodbank in Pelsall, known as Walsall North Foodbank (WNFB).**

Why? Because it has been a time of transition in our little charity, as well as being a time of significant challenges for our communities here in Pelsall, as in wider Walsall, West Midlands, and the country as a whole.

So I will begin by describing some relatively modest and uncontroversial changes to the structure and governance of the Foodbank, which needs quietly publicising, before moving on to talk about who we serve, and some challenges we face in our Foodbank, which will also be familiar to you in your churches and congregations.

## Governance

When WNFB was established in 2013, it was founded by four local 'Churches Together' - St. Michael's; St John's; St Mark's and the Methodist Church in Pelsall. It was decided that the Methodist Church had the most appropriate facilities for operating a Foodbank, and that the Foodbank would be established under the charitable status of that church. But with the passage of time, aging congregation, and more rigorous regulation, Trussell advised us to strengthen our governance by adopting a smaller more focussed Board of Trustees.

After an extended gestation period, that was eventually achieved at Christmas 2025. We have been fortunate in having 3 Trustees, each with a

connection to 3 of the four founding churches, and 3 Trustees with operational experience of the Foodbank. We have an experienced chairman and have achieved a gender balance of 3 women and 3 men. So, we are well set, for now, to carry on with the work of the past 13 years. (As Operations Manager, it is best practice not to sit on one's own Board of Trustees. Well, someone has to do the real hard work).

Our final piece of transition work was to carry out a stock check - an all-day, tiresome, but necessary task. We have a stock level of just over 4.25 tonnes. This is historically low and demonstrates the impact of 'the rising costs of living', and a degree of 'compassion fatigue' amongst donors, which taken together, means we pushing out more food that we are getting in as donations. Something the new governance team will have to fix.

## Foodbank Work

We have two teams of volunteers for each of our sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays. Some attend both sessions, whilst others choose to do just one session. On average, we need a minimum of 5 or 6 persons for a session. If it's busy, volunteers sometimes stay-on to finish 'last orders'; if it's quiet, I am happy to let volunteers leave early. Flexibility and availability are key, as well as caring for each other, in addition to caring for our users / clients. That means teamwork - weighing, dating, sorting, and storing donations; and for preparation and packing parcels of every size, depending on size of the family unit seeking assistance. A few, more experienced volunteers talk to and counsel users as we prepare their parcels, but that can have an emotional fatigue impact, even on experienced volunteers.

Looking at the past two year's stats, we are providing around 800 parcels each year, to approximately 2,400 people, of which nearly half are children under 16 years. Given that we deliver 100 sessions p.a.; our average number of parcels is 8 per session, but in reality it can fluctuate between four and sixteen parcels per session, so flexibility in volunteering is essential.

We always ask users / clients to collect their parcels; however we are acutely conscious that for many people in dire straights, if we say you have to collect your parcel, without exception, that may mean having to explain their plight to another family member or friend, or if its some one elderly and infirm; or a mother with several children - it is impractical to travel on public transport with a



pushchair and kids and food bags. And no money for taxi.

So in extremis, we offer a delivery option, which I understand makes us the only Foodbank in Walsall to make such an offer; and that gives us our U.S.P. [Unique Selling Point]. I joined as a food

parcel Delivery Driver during COVID, and it opened my eyes to a level of poverty and hardship that one simply does not see inside the church hall, when clients visit to collect their parcels. My weekly voluntary delivery rounds give me my personal reminder and motivation to do this work.

It also enables me to validate whether a recipient is genuine, and not taking something that should otherwise go to someone else. Yes, I have seen a few instances of people seeking to take advantage of our / your generosity, and I / we will put a stop to it when I / we see it; but by and large, our referral agency analysis process, weeds out potential 'scammers'.

I have overrun my allotted word count, so I'd be happy to contribute to a future edition, and examine how we can work together more closely, to create the pressure to achieve the changes

to make our community fairer and more resilient; and to eventually remove the need for Foodbanks, which is a Trussell objective.

**Finally, a big, big THANK YOU, for your continuing support and regular food donations at Lent, Easter, Harvest Festival, Advent and Christmas.**

Easter Blessings to all,  
**Jon Maltman, Operations Manager**

## FASTAID WALSALL

We are a group of volunteer community first responders who deploy to jobs in advance of and alongside West Midlands Ambulance Service. We also provide training in how to respond to cardiac arrest (infants, children and adults) and catastrophic haemorrhage, two time critical conditions. This training is free of charge and everyone is welcome to join our open community training session (keep an eye on local social media / posters for upcoming dates).

Best wishes,  
**Rhea Green**



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## Catching Up With The Congregation

*Alison Maley*



### Tell us about your early life?

**I was lucky to have had a wonderfully happy and loving upbringing, My parents were amazing, I try to be like them in my parenting (not sure if Libby would agree!). I have one older brother, Alan. We grew up in Darlaston, hence the strong Black Country accent!**

I went to Hull University to study BSc Economics then to Warwick University to do a PGCE for teaching. My itchy feet meant I didn't want to get a proper job at that time so travelled backpacking for a while - USA, Canada, Mexico and Australia before settling down back at home. I joined West Midlands Police in 1995 which is where I met Gerry. We got married in 2005 and had Elizabeth (Libby) in 2007.

### What does a typical week look like for you?

**As I am now retired after doing 30 years as a police officer, my weeks look how I want them to look really - doing things I enjoy.**

Most weeks I have a music lesson with Abi at The Music Den (saxophone mainly but trying piano which I am finding difficult). I have rehearsals and practice with Pelsall Ladies Choir and Bell Ringing both of which are harder than they look but I really enjoy learning.

I volunteer to help out at church where I can - cleaning, bit of admin etc.

And, of course, spending time with my family. Although I am still getting used to Libby not being here all the time as she started at Aberystwyth University in September.



## What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

**Most of my hobbies involve music, saxophone, choir and bell ringing.**

I also love going to concerts, any form of live music, and the theatre whenever I get the chance.

I am also learning to knit and sew... very slowly and not very good yet!

I try to go to the gym and walk as often as I can.

I am very much enjoying the freedom that being retired gives you. To have time to do what you enjoy and learn new things.

Like most retirees say – I don't know how I found time to work!

## Do you have a favourite hymn and why?

**I have a couple:  
How Great Thou Art**

I think the melody is lovely and the words speak volumes. It is very uplifting.

The line: *'then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee...'* this is exactly how I feel when singing in church.

**The Old Rugged Cross**

This is personal as it was one of my mother's favourites and it was played at both my parents funerals. I feel connected to them when I sing the verses that they have sung in the past.

To me its about hope and faith in the face of sorrow, comfort in grief.

## Can you tell us about your Christian journey so far?

**I am not from a regular church attending family. As I was growing up, we went to church just for special occasions.**

I started coming to St Michael and All Angels because of my daughter Libby, she felt it was very welcoming when attending choir concerts here, so wanted to try it. I thank Libby for that little push. That was just over two years ago, so I am very new and continue learning.

Confirmation last December was very important for me. It was lovely to get to know the other candidates and really helped me feel more connected to my faith. It was even more special to share this with Libby and at our own church.

I have found that building a faith in my life has helped me to feel more at peace, hopeful and guided.

I feel that it is a privilege to be part of the bell ringing team, to call people to church each week.

## What would you say to someone who had never stepped inside a church?

**Do it. Just walk in! It will change your life for the better.**

If other churches are anything like St Michael and All Angels, you really will be welcomed and everything is explained so you don't feel uncomfortable. Very soon you will feel at home and part of the church family.



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# FROM THE REGISTERS

December 2025 – March 2026

## Funerals in December

*Georgina Froome (MFC)*

## Funerals in January

*Doreen Sedgwick (CB)*

*Patricia Aston (CB)*

*Ella Morris (CB)*

*Eileen Weston (CB)*

*Anne Swain (CB)*

*Hazel Talbot (CMFC)*

## Funerals in February

*Margaret Kidby (CB)*

*Daisy Latchford (CB@SC)*

*Edith Hudson (CMFC)*

## Funerals in March

*Ronald Richardson (CB)*

*Margaret Jones (CB)*

*David Spiers (MFC)*

## Ashes in January

*Lorna Yates*

*Irene West*

## Ashes in February

*Mavis Wallace*

*Gwedoline Hixon*

## Ashes in March

*Vera Goodall*

*Mary Millett*

*Doreen Bethell*

*Tom Bethell*

*Anthony Cattell*

## Baptisms in February

*Nikko Picciano*

*Luna Picciano*

## Baptisms in March

*Sally Parsley (A)*

*Rio Parsley*

## Memorial Service

*David Wright*

## Weddings in March

*Barry Moore and*

*Amanda Merrick*

*Church and Burial (CB)*

*Church & Mercia Crematorium (CMFC)*

*Church & Burial at*

*Streety Crematorium (Cb@SCST)*

*Mercia Forest Crematorium (MFC)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ST MICHAEL'S

**It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of three of our congregation:**

- **Eileen Weston** aged 100 passed away at Harden Hall on 14th December 2025. She was a dedicated and devoted servant to our church and the MU in so many ways.
- **David Eardley** who has been housebound for many years passed away on 31st January. He regularly received Holy Communion at home.
- **Edith Hudson** passed away at home on 27th January. Edie was faithful and steadfast to the Lord and to St. Michael's Church where she was also member of the MU.

**Our thoughts and prayers are for the souls of the deceased and their families.**

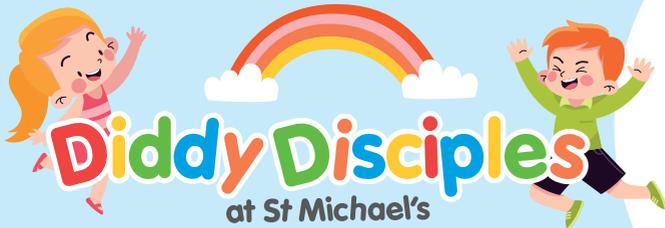
**'May they rest in peace and rise in glory.'**

- **Congratulations to Neil and Cally Timms** on the birth of **Baby Isabella** born on 23rd February at 11.30 am. A **sister to Sydney Rae. Mom, Dad and Baby** are doing well.
- **Happy 60th Birthday to Bill Ashmore** on 6th February 2026. Congratulations Bill, sending our love and good wishes.
- **Jackie Gee** will be **60** on 6th April, Blessings to you with our love. **Happy 60th Birthday!**

## 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 685 666** 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](mailto:stmichaelschurchpelsall@gmail.com)



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

## 'Question Corner'

**When was God born?  
How old is God?**

*'God always says he is eternal which means that he never had a beginning and will never have an end. God is older than the entire universe. God is someone who always was, always is and always will be. He was not born, he was not made; he just is. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, so he is not going to change. Ever... and that is really good to know.'*



## A New Diddy Disciple

**Another young 'Diddy Disciple'**

We welcome into our church family Baby Isabella who was born to Neil and Cally Timms on 23rd February at 11.30am. Congratulations to the whole family Neil, Cally and sister Sydney-Rae.

## Pancake and Ashes

What a morning of fun and learning for all. Thank you to all who made this possible.

## Toy Service

Congratulations to our Christmas Toy Collection which was donated to the Lucy's Pantry. A big thank you to all those who donated toys from the church and the community.

## St. Michael's Art Competition

Diddy Disciples and pupils from our 3 local schools will all be taking part! A record number of entries in 2025.

## Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday 5th April, 10.00am**

Come and celebrate Easter at our Holy Communion service followed with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and families. Will you find them? Who will collect the most?

## ADVANCE NOTICE

**Get these dates in your diary...**

## Sponsored Walk for Christian Aid

**Saturday 16th May**

Calling families to join in the walk on 16th May. For more details and sponsor forms please see Sue Briggs.

## Teddy Bears Picnic

**Saturday 11th July**

Get your bears ready for the big day! An afternoon of fun, games, activities and worship.

## Pelsall Wombles Litter Pick

Special event starting at church with our local schools. Watch this space for the Wombles!

## Family Church Sports Day

**Saturday 15th August**

A day of fun, laughter and skills for all. More details nearer the 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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*Chamberlains have been nothing but fantastic from  
start to finish!*

*I can't give enough praise to Chamberlains!*