

## The churches of St Modwen, St Aidan and St Paul Burton upon Trent



Churchwardens:  
Geoff Brown : Tel. 01283 208781  
07989 647334  
Peter Halliday: Tel: 01283 568320  
07974 808966



Churchwarden:  
Lynda Cooper: Tel: 01283 539358



Churchwardens:  
Sue Ganley Tel: 07852 473250  
John Woolley : Tel: 01283 532748

Website address: <https://www.theburtonthree.com/>

REV DR ROBIN TROTTER – TEL: 07984 450761  
REV PREBENDARY PHILLIP JEFFERIES – TEL – 01283 544013/07964 892230  
REV HAMISH FERGUSON-STUART – TEL 01283 510447

AUGUST 2021  
NEWSLETTER

### SERVICES

<b>ST PAUL</b>		
SUNDAY	9.30am	Mass
FRIDAY	12.00 noon	Mass
<b>ST MODWEN</b>		
SUNDAY	11.00am	Matins or Mass
WEDNESDAY	10.45am	Mass
<b>ST AIDAN</b>		
SUNDAY	11.00am	Morning Service or Mass

## Easing of Restrictions

### St Modwen's

- 1. Post Pandemic Lockdown** - Following guidance from the Church of England and Lichfield Diocese and to ensure the well-being and safety of everyone, although not now a legal requirement, it was unanimously agreed by the PCC that anyone entering St Modwen's Church would be recommended to **1) Sanitise hands and keep socially distanced 2) Wear face covering whilst moving around 3) may remove face covering whilst in the pews 4) Receive Holy Communion in one kind only 5) Track and trace recording.**
- 2. Singing** - It was agreed that the singing of Hymns and liturgical items could now be resumed from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 with opening, offertory and closing.

## St Paul's

- a. Communion - still receive in one kind only. Usual distancing
- b. Social distancing to remain in place for the time being in church
- c. Hand sanitisers to be used when entering church
- d. Singing - hymns - opening, offertory and end. Sung Mass
- e. Sidesman's rota to be organised
- f. Wearing of mask - up to people's discretion
- g. coffee - will resume at the end of the service
- h. servers - Peter Cammack to ask for volunteers
- i. Abandoned the one-way entry system

## St Aidan's

Restrictions remain the same for the time being



## *Shaping for Mission*

What a transport of delight is the Church of England!

But what sort of *transport* is it?

At the moment it seems to hover between the proverbial Clapham Omnibus and the SS Titanic.

I can't remember all the different *strap-lines* our diocese has come up with over the years: *Growing the Kingdom*; *In the footsteps of S Chad* and, now, the latest, *Shaping for Mission* – but I don't suppose my memory matters too much, like the old *omnibus*, there will be another along soon enough.

*Shaping for Mission*, though controlled by a present participle, has a sense of the future about it – like *going for gold*: it's out there, in the future. But if you stop a second and reflect, you will know that the Church was shaped for mission from the beginning. Gregory the Great started off our bit of the Church with a mission led by Augustine, who founded the mother church at Canterbury in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century and ordained priests – and, of course, before that there was the Celtic mission from the north. So: a mission - shaped Church from the beginning – building churches and ordaining priests to nurture the flock with pastoral care, teaching and the eucharist – a necessary constant in the equation.

So we are already intrinsically *shaped for mission*. So what are we missing?

Well, I guess it's the lack of the whole truth, don't you? (I wonder why one Rural Dean I know uses the letters *SHAM* as a short-hand when filing stuff about *Shaping for Mission*...). What it is all about is the financial crisis facing the Church of England generally and this diocese specifically. Hence the allusion to the celebrated SS Titanic: *Shaping for Mission* cynically becomes a sort of code name for the rearrangement of the stern deck seating and a smoke screen against the ice.

A pity, really!

Not so much the financial crisis, the deep pity is that the powers-that-be can't level with the flock it purports in truth to serve.

So, this has all the hall marks of an attempt to handle a financial crisis. If that is so, why is the truth so difficult to share; most people have already had experience of the struggle to make ends meet in their

own lives and they are not stupid – they can detect the ice more tangibly from the decks than from the bridge; and, in general terms, we know the score.

And the sad irony is that the score will reveal a bias to the rich; steerage may be sacrificed...and the crowded bridge will survive.

Fr Phillip.



## Here be dragons...



Dragons are fantastic creatures and always popular with children and adults visiting the church. The dragon is just one of the creatures which commonly appear in mythology all over the world, they are usually serpent or snake like. In the east a dragon is often friendly and a sign of good luck, wingless, usually have four legs and can be intelligent even talkative. In western cultures dragons are usually seen as bad creatures, winged, four legged, maybe fire breathing. Red dragons are considered the most powerful. In churches they usually represent the evil of the world or the personification of evil, the devil. The word dragon possibly derives from the word for

serpent or snake. In the bible dragons may represent more specific threats of evil or paganism, for example the Roman empire.

There are several stories and references in both the Old and New testaments. In Genesis the serpent is the crafty creature that tempts Eve to eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden, causing the fall of man. In Numbers, poisonous serpents are sent by God because the people are angry with God and Moses for bringing them out of the Egypt into the desert. Moses is asked to intercede with God for forgiveness and healing. He commands that a bronze serpent is made and raised on a staff; anyone looking at the serpent will be healed. In John's gospel this story is interpreted as a type for the crucifixion and resurrection.

Moses is shown in the Great East window (with the decalogue rather than the bronze serpent).

Daniel is asked to worship a dragon in Babylon but he asked the king's permission to kill it instead. The priests of Bel were upset and threw Daniel into the lion pit. But Daniel was protected and after seven days the king saw Daniel was still alive and proclaimed, "you are great Lord God of Daniel", and had the priests thrown into the pit instead.

Daniel is depicted in the Great West window.

Dragons as serpents and sea dragons appear in Exodus, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Job and elsewhere.

### St George

St George is probably the one person that springs to mind when dragons are mentioned.

It seems that St George was probably an officer in the Roman army killed about 303. The Emperor Diocletian had St George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ. However, George did not deny Christ; he was later beheaded.

The legends surrounding St George are varied, including many versions of his martyrdom, but the most famous is St George and the dragon. This story appears in the Golden Legend, a compilation of histories and stories relating to saints. The book was compiled in about 1260, written in Latin and widely read in the medieval period and later added to and printed on the Caxton press in English about 1480. The story goes that a local dragon required to be fed sheep to keep it happy; but when the town ran out of sheep the local girls were selected by lot to satisfy its needs. However, when the supply of virgins also dried up the King's daughter was selected; oh dear. At this George came to the rescue and killed the dragon after dragging it into the village with the

princess's girdle. St George has been known in England from the 7th century, and it is likely that he was adopted as patron saint of England as early as the first Crusade. He represents a time of faithfulness and chivalry. During the middle ages St George was also adopted as patron saint of many other countries and areas including in Germany, Venice, Genoa, Portugal and Catalonia; however, in later times George became associated with England particularly. In art, he is usually shown dressed in armour with lance carrying a flag of St George for England; red cross on white ground.

In St Paul's you will find several images of St George.

In the Great East window, you will see him standing with a broken lance and just visible is a red dragon's claw under his feet. In a Lady chapel side window St George is shown standing on a red dragon, with a shield of the St George cross below.

St George is also patron saint of soldiers and is shown in a roundel on the 1914-18 war memorials on the east side of the church as a knight defeating the dragon and the words "St George for England".



### **St Margaret**

St Paul's Church has a close connection with St Margaret, which was the consecration of the daughter church in Shobnall St (demolished 1967). That church is very fondly remembered by the people who knew and attended services there.

St Margaret like St George appears in the Golden Legend and became most famous during the crusades, but she is entirely fictional. Also known as Marina, St Margaret, according to legend, was the daughter of a pagan priest, Aedisius of Antioch. She became a Christian but was thrown out of her home and became a shepherdess. The governor of Antioch, Olybrius, took her to the palace and tried to seduce her but she proclaimed herself a Christian and refused him. She was then tortured and swallowed by a dragon, but Margaret made the sign of the cross and burst out of the side of the dragon. She is patroness of childbirth, and because of many miracles associated with her cult there are many churches in England and elsewhere consecrated in her name.



In St Paul's there is a fine wooden statue showing St Margaret with a winged dragon on a pillar on the south side nave, originally on the reredos of St Margaret's church.

In the north transept west window St Margaret is shown holding a model of her church. The North chapel in St Paul's is now dedicated to St Margaret.

In St Paul's you will find a fine red banner from St Margaret's church showing St Margaret standing on a very good picture of a smiley dragon. "Ora pro nobis", calls on St Margaret to pray for us.



In the west porch, now in the gent's toilet, there is a fine window depicting St Margaret standing beside the river of life holding a lamb with sheep around her (no dragon this time).

## St Michael



The book of Revelation chap 12 describes a vision. "A woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, with twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and in labour. A huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns appears. It's tail drags stars from the sky and the dragon stopped in front of woman as she was having the child to eat it as soon as it was born. And now a war broke out in heaven and Michael and the angels attacked the dragon who was defeated and driven out of heaven. The great dragon known as the devil or Satan who has deceived the world was hurled down to the earth."

There is a splendid wooden statue of St Michael on the north side of the nave. It shows an armoured St Michael the archangel killing a wingless dragon.

In a west window, now in the kitchen, St Michael is shown with other archangels. He is standing on and killing a splendidly depicted winged green dragon.



## Powers

A super window now in the hall shows a hierarchy of angels called virtues, powers and dominations. An angel (power) in armour controlling the devil in the form of a dragon on a leash. The hall builder has cunningly cut off the head of one of the best windows in the church.

## St Mary the Virgin

Statues of The Virgin Mary often show her standing on a snake or dragon. Genesis chap 3, about Adam and Eve, says to the serpent "I will make enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike it's heel." Mary crushes the devil by being the mother of Jesus, she is a daughter of Eve, and her son Jesus by his resurrection, love and forgiveness destroys the evil.

There is a small statue of the Virgin Mary with snake in the north chapel.



## St John



St John is the writer of the fourth gospel, and the disciple that Jesus loved. His mission was probably long, and he was an early witness to the resurrection working with St Peter and at times being imprisoned with him. He was persecuted by Emperor Domitian and probably died in Ephesus. Mark's gospel ends with the commission to go out to the whole world; and believers will be recognised by gifts including being able to pick up snakes and drink poison. A legend has it that a high priest of Diana at Ephesus challenged John to drink a poison; so, in art St John is often shown holding a cup with a dragon or serpent.

St John with cup and serpent can be seen in the Great East window.

## Eagle lectern

One of the least expected dragons in St Paul's, but one of the most fun to look at, is under the talons of the eagle on the eagle lectern. It is a wingless, legless creature with a curled tail and a good set of teeth. Again, of course, it represents the evil or the bad of the world being overcome by the good news of the gospel.



## Hymns

I could only think of one well known hymn with a dragon in it. But after a little search of the internet I also found this original verse from Charles Wesley's "Hark how all the welkin rings", better known to me as "Hark the herald angels sing".

*Come, Desire of Nations, come,  
Fix in us thy humble home,  
Rise, the woman's conquering seed,  
Bruise in us the serpent's head...*

And here is the hymn I could think of. A fine 20th century song to an English folk tune arranged by R.V.W. I was surprised not to find it in the English hymnal; but it is in Hymns Old and New. The last verse a splendid prayer to end this article with.

*When a knight won his spurs, in the stories of old,  
He was gentle and brave, he was gallant and bold;  
With a shield on his arm and a lance in his hand,  
for God and for valour he rode through the land.*

*No charger have I, and no sword by my side,  
Yet still to adventure and battle I ride,  
Though back into storyland giants have fled,  
and the knights are no more and the dragons are dead.*

*Let faith be my shield and let joy be my steed  
'gainst the dragons of anger, the ogres of greed;  
And let me set free, with the sword of my youth,  
From the castle of darkness, the pow'r of the truth.*

JWW August 2021



## **Parish Notes**

- We are very sad to hear that Tom Corfield has accepted an Organist post at St Anne's Church, Derby and will no longer be coming to St Paul's to play the organ for us at the 9.30am service. He will be sorely missed on our rota. Thanks Tom for your help over these past months and we send our best wishes.
- It was lovely to see Chris and Carol in July at the 9.30am service. Both looked very well.
- St Aidan's will not be having their Coffee Morning in August



### **Notes from the Standing Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July**

- 1 **Current Staffing and Services** – The Burton Three are extremely grateful that Fr Robin and Fr Phillip are taking our services and also attending to pastoral needs. We are concerned that the Bishops are not communicating with us and they should not assume that having Fr Robin and Fr Phillip is a long-term solution. We are grateful too that Fr Robin and Fr Phillip organise the service rota. Both Fr Phillip and Fr Robin enjoy taking our services.
- 2 **Shaping for Mission** – Open meeting for the Deanery on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July at the Red Lion, Horninglow Road at 7.30pm.

- 3 St Modwen's PCC wrote to the Bishop regarding achieving a new post. The Bishop's reply was not really helpful, but he did state that parish mission/finances are an integral part of having a new position in advertising for a replacement.
- 4 **The way forward...** it was agreed that we would put together a profile and forward it to Lichfield as soon as possible.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August at St Paul's at 7.30pm



**From the Busy Bees...**



**AN UPDATE ON WORK DONE ON ST PAUL'S**

- Cleaned silt from soakaways and debris from drains
- Painted rails on disabled access and south entrance
- Mowed grass
- Memorial garden has been tidied
- Olwen & Alan have cleaned the pews on the south side
- Children's Area has been cleaned and ready for use
- Painting in the kitchen around the hatch area

**Gi'me an H**



The church gates (North, South & West) have been repainted, and the letters IHS, for Holy name of Jesus, repaired and repainted.



The Busy Bees meet on a Tuesday morning. Volunteers welcome.



**Chris Hill Update**

Hi Maureen,

*Thank you for getting in touch. I'm sorry I haven't contacted you lately but things have been much the same. This last month we have been living on the edge as the hospital has made several dates for Chris to return home but each one has come and gone due to Chris's needs and the lack of available care packages from social services. I have heard today that they will now be able to provide one from next week so I'm hoping that next Thursday Chris will get home with 2 carers calling 4 times a day. Chris is in the high dependency category as he is still unable to move his left side. The house will be like a railway station with people coming and going but we just have to get used to it and be thankful that Chris will be at home once again where we hope he will be able to make strides forward. His mood is good and he so much wants to see his family. Once we have settled into a routine I'm sure he would welcome seeing a few friendly faces. Give our best wishes to all at St Paul's and forgive the tardiness in my communication.*

Love Jane

## **Baptism Times Two**

As twin sisters Christine and myself, Wendy, took the decision to be Baptised together at St. Paul's Church in our teenage years as a result of joining the church choir.

We were living in the Parish but had been going to the Baptist Chapel since the age of 4 when we were living in Scotland. However, after the age of 14, we were not going to Sunday School any more, and were intent on concentrating on schoolwork and exams and having fun with friends, and involved with other activities.

One day, our little brother Alan came home from Cubs at St. Paul's Institute and asked our mother if he could join the choir at church.

The Choir Master had approached the Cub Leader and asked if he could recruit new choir members from the boys. She was so surprised, because he had resisted going to the Baptist Sunday School himself since his sisters had left. She was rather pleased, and encouraged him to join with his friends. Not long afterwards, he came home saying he had told the Choir Master that we would be coming to the next choir practice.

Adding that we were experienced at choir singing at school, and with stage performances around Burton. Not wanting to do it, thinking it would be boring, but not wanting to embarrass him by not showing up, we went along. Next thing, we found ourselves trying on a blue robe and a jaunty little hat. We had been roped in!

Every Sunday thereafter, we were taking part in a procession, and getting to like it. The music and prayers, the candles and incense, so foreign to us, became a beautiful and special experience. Then we were ceremoniously blessed as new choir members and received our lovely white collars. We began to explore more of the Book of Common Prayer during the lengthy sermon time, but our mischievous brother was in the choir stall opposite held our attention, always trying to blow out the Pascal Candle and giggling. However, what we did notice in that little book was a section devoted to Baptism of those of Riper Years.

This jumped out at us, because, we had resisted being Baptised by Full immersion at the Baptist Chapel, and not having been Baptised as an infant, we had mistakenly assumed that the opportunity had been lost.

No one had told us you could be Baptised at any age.

We took instruction from Fr Woolley and were subsequently Baptised at the age of 18 going on to be Confirmed in later years, Christine at St. Andrews Luton and myself at St. John the Divine Horninglow.

Our connection continued at St. Paul's with family occasions, such as weddings and funerals and another Baptism, this time of a grandchild Olivia, and we are indeed thankful to St. Paul's Church for having played such an important part in our lives.

Wendy Rees (nee Welch)



From Stanley

I'm a regular reader of, and occasional contributor to, the blog *Thinking Anglicans* (yes, I know there are very few of them ....). It keeps me up to date with the lamentable politics of the C of E.

There has been an interesting discussion about whether contributors should be allowed to use fake names, as some do. The consensus is that real names are ideal but some people must hide their identities for various reasons. For example, a cleric using his/her name might feel obliged to stick to an official church opinion.

That never bothered me for so much official church teaching is utterly bonkers and needs to be changed. I rather hoped that I might be hauled up before an ecclesiastical court - it would have been fun - but alas I seemed not to have been offensive enough. Must try harder.

Anyhow, back to names, I am William after father and his father, and Stanley after mother's father. Quite why my second name was routinely used I know not.

I wonder if there is such a thing as a "me" that can be adequately encompassed in just one name. You see, girls and boys, there are several "mes" living in my body.

There's adolescent me discovering things, 6 year old me playing in the sandpit, finger wagging me that gives out shoulds and oughts, 71 year old me that is angrier about injustice and more subversive than ever before (whoever said we get less revolutionary as we age was wrong), dutiful me that serves, eye twinkling provocative me, emotional me, fearful and inadequate me, depressive me that spends money as therapy, and more.

Add to these the millions of creatures that live in and on me, bacteria, viruses, symbiotes, even maybe parasites, many of which produce chemicals that affect my thoughts and behaviour - we're all at the mercy of circulating chemicals from whatever source, so is there really free will?

Having three official names to choose from I give different names to these various "mes": Stanley, Stan, Will, William, Billy, Willy, Monk, Monkey (inevitable school nickname), fat git (used by one of my sons with then some justification). I like all these "mes" and love them even though some cause problems. Interestingly, the "mes" with the problems tend to be creative and good fun, and I wouldn't be without them.

As I reflect on these "mes" I return repeatedly to the profound question "would the child I once was be proud of the adult I have become?"

I am put in mind of this profound exchange on *Life of Brian* between Stan and his mates.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFBOQzSk14c>

Stan wants to be a woman called Loretta so he can have children.

It is true that many men as they age and lose testosterone develop tits and become more female-like. Changing sex during the life cycle is not unknown in the animal kingdom.

I'm not there yet.



## **THE JIGSAW AND BOOK SALE**



It was a scorcher of a day – the gazebos came in very handy to shade us from the sun. Well over 100 jigsaws were on sale and plenty of books to choose from.



Delicious cakes and coffee were served outside.

Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported this event. It was a lovely social day when people were able to sit outside and have a chat.



## **Lunchtime Organ Recitals**

**at ST MODWEN'S CHURCH, BURTON UPON TRENT : SUMMER 2021**

**Melody, Rhythm & Whimsy**

**Wednesdays 12.30pm – 1.10pm**

1 <sup>st</sup> September	Alexander Binns	8 <sup>th</sup> September	Cathy Lamb
15 <sup>th</sup> September	Mary Cobbold	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	John Keys
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Martyn Rawles		

*Retiring collection in support of the organ restoration fund.*

*Please feel free to bring your lunch and enter or leave quietly during performances. Light refreshments available.*

**Jigsaw and Book Sale**

**Coffee & Cake**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 10.00am - 2.00pm**

**In St Paul's Church Grounds**

**UPDATE FROM THE WOOLLEYS**

We have spent another few days at Mick’s house in Upper Quinton. Again it was scorching hot weather!

We visited Hanbury Hall, a National Trust property in Worcestershire. The house belonged to the Vernon family. There were lots of portraits of past family members in most of the rooms which depicted them wearing extravagant costumes and I just love looking at them – they just fascinate me. The family obviously were rich. After looking in the house we went around the magnificent grounds. A good day out BUT unfortunately there wasn’t a gift shop.

The next day John and Mick went on a long walk whilst Ali and I played scrabble. I had to accept defeat as she beat me twice. We all, of course, had to go to the Four Alls pub again for lunch and sit by the river, there was a lovely breeze which cooled us down somewhat.

We are struggling with the sudokus at present, our grey cells are not tuning in to Mick’s cleverness. We have spent hours trying to crack them. Perhaps more wine and beer may be helpful!



**Huzzle time**

How well do you know your bible quiz answers:

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Acts of the Apostles   | 11. Exodus               |
| 2. Daniel                 | 12. Gospel of St John    |
| 3. Genesis                | 13. Gospel of St John    |
| 4. Book of the Revelation | 14. Gospel of St Matthew |
| 5. Genesis                | 15. 3 John               |
| 6. Exodus                 | 16. Daniel               |
| 7. Judges                 | 17. 1 Samuel             |
| 8. Jonah                  | 18. Joshua               |
| 9. Gospel of St Luke      | 19. Gospel of St Luke    |
| 10. Genesis               | 20. 2 Kings              |

Thanks Colin for the quiz. Did anyone answer all 20? It was quite tricky!



**Where did it happen?**

Can you name the places associated with the following?

1. Noah’s ark came to rest here. ....
2. Approximately 1,000 Zealots held out against Roman rule. ....
3. Where did Cain slay Abel? .....
4. Moses and the burning bush. ....
5. The childhood home of Jesus. ....
6. St Paul was shipwrecked. ....
7. Wedding where water was turned into wine. ....
8. Paralytic cured by Jesus by being lowered through the roof of a house. ....
9. Feeding the 5,000. ....
10. Where did Saul originate from? .....
11. Where were the 10 commandments given? .....
12. Where did Paul have to go to be cured of his blindness? .....
13. Jesus was baptized. ....
14. Where was St Peter crucified? .....

- 15. Where is St James tomb?
- 16. Where is the house of the Virgin Mary?
- 17. Where did the widow Dorcas live?
- 18. Where is the shrine of St Rita?
- 19. Where did Paul preach the Areopagus sermon?
- 20. Where is St George of England buried?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



**BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

S	O	M	H	N	A	S	E	S	G	S	S	U	N	A	B
E	H	I	A	I	H	T	K	I	N	A	R	M	K	K	A
A	H	C	A	E	P	H	L	E	U	M	E	B	U	K	H
E	A	J	H	Z	R	E	N	O	R	H	E	N	T	A	S
X	N	O	S	E	L	C	I	N	E	C	M	A	L	T	N
O	O	R	P	U	J	D	A	E	S	H	I	A	H	I	O
D	V	E	R	D	Y	E	U	G	I	T	R	A	H	Z	I
U	C	C	B	G	M	U	H	S	S	U	R	H	C	E	H
S	L	E	S	E	O	T	E	O	J	P	S	A	L	A	C
O	E	H	I	S	N	O	R	I	A	H	A	I	A	M	I
B	S	A	S	N	E	H	E	M	S	M	L	M	H	A	A
A	I	I	A	S	L	I	T	I	J	E	R	E	L	G	G
D	A	S	T	E	E	V	U	C	B	D	I	E	E	I	K
I	A	H	J	O	E	L	S	J	O	A	N	L	E	Z	E

Starting with the letter 'G' highlighted, there are 32 books of the Old Testament for you to find.

Answers next month



MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED  
TO THIS NEWSLETTER