

## 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

**NOVEMBER 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

### ST PAUL'S LIST OF READERS AND INTERCESSORS FOR NOVEMBER...

Date		Reader	Intercessor
7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Third Sunday before Advent	Margaret Merry	John Woolley
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Second Sunday before Advent	Rose Jefferies	Margaret Merry
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Sunday before Advent	Sue Ganley	Yasmin Johnson
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Advent	Jaz Byrd	Clergy

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – after the Mass there will be prayers and Fr Phillip will lay a poppy wreath at the Calvary east end of the church grounds.

# All Saints Day

## Every Saint has a Past and Every Sinner a Future

A sermon by Revd Richard Carter.

Have you ever met someone who you thought was holy or even a saint? Following this last week in British political and national life it seems hardly surprising that we have all grown a little wary of those who set themselves up as role models or representatives of virtue. One of the marks of our celebrity culture today is that nothing makes for a better scoop than a scandal in which a famous person's sins and failures are exposed on a front page and nothing more newsworthy than the lurid details of how someone of fame or reputation, or standing has messed up or caused scandal and such hurt. But it can take on the quality of a witch hunt- with a media frenzy which has smelt blood. While this may indeed hold people to account for their actions and bring about change for the better- it often feels like trial by fear, and rumour where no one is willing to defend the accused for fear that they too will also be accused. The argument is that this brings transformation but these trials often leave one feeling deeply uneasy- like becoming the spectator of a public flogging. One remembers Jesus at the side of the woman taken in adultery: "Let the one who is without sin throw the first stone."

A frequent theme of the psalms is the prayer  
"O lord do not let me be put to shame  
Do not let my enemies exult or gloat over me."

At the very centre of our Gospel is the realisation of our need of God's mercy- Lord Jesus Christ son of God have mercy on me a sinner. The knowledge we all have feet of clay and that we all, every single one of us stand in need of God's redemptive love and forgiveness whether accused or guilty bystander. That it seems to me is the starting point for All Saints. Not human infallibility but human fallibility- the saints not as those who set themselves up as celebrities of righteousness. But those who deeply knew their need of God's saving grace. I am reminded of the first response of Peter. The saint on whom Jesus Christ is to build his church- he says to Jesus "Get away from me for I am a sinful man." And yet this is the very man who Jesus chooses, even though he knows there will be other failures and betrayal along the road. It is the ability to admit our need of God that allows God's love to inhabit and change us. Think of Christ's words when he was eating at the house of the Pharisees and a woman who was a sinner washes his feet with her tears and dries them with her hair and anoints his feet with oil, everyone is outraged and then Jesus says: "her sins which were many have been forgiven: hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little."

How counter to the ways of the world this is- that it is not our strengths that bring us close to God, – not our sense of our own righteousness, but our realisation of our need of mercy. Notice that Christ is not in any way excusing the sin but he is saying that here in the brokenness of our humanity his love must born. How often have you noticed that someone's real humanity is not so much revealed in their successes and achievements but in the moments of their lives when they are broken open by loss tragedy or failure, or even shame. "Could we start again Lord? Could we start again?"  
And that hope is the very heart of today's Gospel

Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are the persecuted for righteousness sake. They are not blessed because of their poverty, or mourning or persecution. Who wants to be poor or meek or powerless or in grief- but the blessing comes because it is here in this place of poverty and need that God breaks in and fills with his presence. Because when everything else has failed it is only love and mercy that remains. Remains even when you may yourself feel that you have been utterly abandoned. "Blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God." These Beatitudes are at the very heart of our

Gospel. Christ calls those who are willing to admit their need of God- to come with him- to sit around him, not in a hierarchy of righteousness but as those called into community with him- ready to listen and to be filled by his truth and grace. The realisation that the blessings of God come when we are stripped down- when there is room for God because the space is no longer taken by own reputation, or self-sufficiency or pride or self-justification. Here is the place where a new honesty is born. It is then we meet the one willing to carry the cross of shame and never ever give up on us. It is here in humility like those first disciples and saints we can become inheritors of a new kingdom and truth. His death and resurrection in us.

Think of it-so many of these we call Saints- they discover God not in the moments they triumph but in the moments of desolation and abandonment. Think of Saul on the road to Damascus realising that he is persecuting- putting to death- the God he claims to serve- blinded by that light of Christ he has to be led by the hand. Think of St Augustine who has cared so much for his own reputation and fame, who has been unable to leave behind his wants and desires and addictions yet finds himself haunted and pursued by his sense of failure and sinfulness. There is a scene in the Confessions of St Augustine where he looks through into a room where he sees Saint Ambrose writing at his desk- he notices the peace and quietness of Ambrose's demeanour which is in such contrast to his own inner turmoil and restless. Augustine is envious for a peace that he cannot seize or gain for himself despite his brilliance and erudition. It is only later that he will discover that "God makes us for himself and our hearts are restless until we rest in God." Or think of St Francis who goes off to fight in battle for his hill town of Assisi but returns broken by imprisonment and despair and discovers Christ when he leaves everything behind, literally stripping himself naked of the clothes he wears and in poverty kisses a leper in whom he sees Christ. Indeed think of our on St Martin who discovers Christ not in the glory of battle but when he gets down from his horse and though laughed at by his fellow soldiers shares his cloak with a vulnerable beggar.

I am blessed to have known 7 men who have now become modern martyrs of the church and who have even been given a place in the Anglican calendar of martyrs and saints of those who have excited others to holiness –remembered each year on 24 April. The Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood who died in 2003. And the thing I remember most about them was not their holiness but their humanity. Or I should I better say the holiness of their humanity. Brother Tony who I remember staying awake all night to keep a fire burning so that mosquitoes would not bite me to pieces while I slept. Tony whose father was lost when he was young and came to our community in search of belonging and the love of God. Brother Francis my dear friend, who walked the road with me with bare feet as together we shared our hopes and fears- he showed such gentleness and courage and a refusal to allow others to be victimised. Nothing was so strong as his gentleness and nothing so gentle as his strength. Or Brother Robin whose hand-shake used to almost break my fingers, who sometimes used to sleep late for Morning Prayer but was always there when you needed him as reliable as a rock- or Brother Alfred who I prayed for to give up smoking and who cared for the sick with devotion and whom the children loved. These were the human friends who through their love and faithfulness and courage as Peacemakers the whole of our church now remember and even have an icon in Canterbury Cathedral. Human fallible saints, capable of sin capable also of becoming the bearers of God's grace- men who knew their need of God's mercy and because of that mercy incarnated that mercy themselves in their own lives and death.

What is it that excites us to holiness? It is this simple grace often born in struggle- often revealed by God in the wounds of our lives. A love which is much greater than us and our agendas- which breaks through the facades and the dishonesties and the desire for reputation but says I love you as you are while you are still a sinner- I have called you be my witness.

And of course many of those who share the life of the saints in light would be very different from the kind of stereo types we might imagine on all Saints Day. Perhaps there are prophets like Manuela Sykes up there in heaven who everyone else wishes would keep silent but still she keeps on asking in a voice like thunder "What about the women, or women like Cecelia Gilmour who have the courage to leave everything behind and cross the world in the strength of their faith and in the knowledge that despite all

the adversity they face- "I know my redeemer liveth." Or perhaps Marjorie Wilkinson who will be trying to take over from Martha to make the sandwiches of heaven or maybe trying out some of her sandwich fillings on the angels. Or blessed Brian Mears as steady as a ship in a storm who is already just as at home in heaven as he was on earth because for Brian there was actually no difference- you live the life here on earth that you will be invited to live in heaven- without fanfare or trumpet. I better not talk about him just in case he's listening in for all saints and souls- he wouldn't want to hear himself praised for he always believed to God be the glory.

You see we have this great cloud of witnesses. And we too can become one of them when in the depths of our need and brokenness we discover the love and grace of our servant God who comes to save us and blinds us with his grace.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Parish Notes

- 1 We were sorry to hear that the Rt Rev Bp Jonathan Gledhill, former Bishop of Lichfield has passed away. If you would like to read more about him you can go on the Diocese of Lichfield website and click this news story.
- 2 The Ecclesiastical Insurance are doing an inspection of the church on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- 3 **OPERATION SHOE BOX** - The collection date for the shoe boxes to be brought to church is the last Sunday in November (ie 28<sup>th</sup>), if you are unable to get to church, Tom Foster will collect it from your house.
- 4 The Historian Society will again be hiring the hall on the second Saturday of the month
- 5 Deanery Synod: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at St Mary's, Stretton
- 6 We have had a clock for the church hall kindly donated by one of the yoga ladies
- 7 Michael Thompson will be tuning the organ on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November

\*\*\*\*\*

## ST PAUL'S HARVEST



What a treat we had at our Harvest Festival – thanks to Fr Robin for a wonderful 9.30am Mass – thanks for all the gifts which have been donated to Reconnect - and a delicious breakfast to follow. It was a truly fantastic social event. The breakfast had a “French theme” having appropriate music played softly as we ate.



My immediate thoughts of a “French theme” was “Allo, Allo” and told him not to expect a rendition of Edith and that all we needed was a string of onions! Lo and behold, Colin did not disappoint and I was very impressed – he presented me with a string of onions which I wore throughout the breakfast – thank you Colin. Many thanks to Colin and Pat for spoiling us with lots of breakfast choices and their hard work was very much appreciated.

Good news – our next breakfast after the service is on Advent Sunday. List will be out shortly. We were very fortunate to have donations for the cost of the previous breakfast, and to break even this time the price is £4 – still very good value for money. Maureen

Coffee Morning and sale of jigsaws, books and homemade preserves (shallots, plum chutney and pickled onions which Colin and Pat have made). Tuesday morning 16<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am – 12 noon. Please come and support this event if you can.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BEETLE DRIVE** – many thanks to those who attended the Beetle Drive. Fun was had by all. Winner was Colin Dawson. More games afternoons to come in the future.

\*\*\*\*\*



**All Souls table.**

The table looked lovely when first lit, but by the end of the service the candles were getting rather hot and the flames were out of control so they had to be put out.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FROM THE BUSY BEES ...**

As regards to busy bees we continue with the cleaning .the all souls has been throughly cleaned with Olwen cleaning all the pews again . She and Alan work really hard and I'm very grateful for their support . Mike continues to polish the candle sticks and the thurible making them look like new again .Outside bulbs , cyclamens and winter pansies have been planted in the tubs . Other good news we've had the offer of a mower for free from a gentleman we got chatting to whilst outside clearing the memorial garden of leaves . It's surprising just how much we can accomplish in the couple of hours we are at church . It's true what they say many hands make light work .thanks the busy bees

\*\*\*\*\*

We have a new and exciting Quiz Sheet coming out this month called "Beyond Humpty Doo". Grateful thanks for St John and his team for compiling it. Spread the word to your friends...

## The Covid-19 pandemic, the loss of congregational singing and its return

### The Covid-19 pandemic, the loss of congregational singing and its return

After several months of being prevented from attending public worship and then from congregational singing, owing to the possibility of spreading the Covid-19 coronavirus, what a delight it was to raise the spirits when we were able to sing together again at St. Paul's on 1<sup>st</sup> August! We began with three hymns, an introit, offertory and final hymn, but adding a gradual hymn from 29<sup>th</sup> August, alongside the setting by Gregory Murray. Many of the congregation have said how pleased they are to be singing again: a return to some sort of normality and very uplifting.

The first hymn we sang was *Immortal, invisible, God only wise* a much-loved traditional hymn. When I was Director of Music at Barton under Needwood, this was the favourite hymn of one of the young choristers. When the juniors were asked each year to name their favourite hymn Kate chose it every time! It was interesting that several of the youngsters chose a 'traditional' hymn although various new hymns were introduced most years. One Sunday in Trinity each year the junior choristers chose the hymns: it was an eye opener to many of the congregation.

Many of us 'of a certain age' were introduced to some different hymns during school assemblies even if we attended church or Sunday School. Father Phillip referred to the hymn *Glad that I live am I* during a recent sermon: I mentioned to him after the service, I remember that as one of the first hymns I sang at infant school! It came from the hymnal *Songs of Praise* whereas at church we used the *English Hymnal* where it did not appear! Sadly, this is not the case today with few 'religious' assemblies taking place in schools and this is one factor in the demise of many hymns and their tunes.

We have been very fortunate at St. Paul's to have an organist each Sunday and the music has added greatly to the majesty of the services even when we were not allowed to sing. Music is a powerful force which can heighten the emotions: as the hymn states *When in our music God is glorified*. I would like to thank all the organists who have played at St. Paul's for their skill and dedication.

The choice of hymns can be controversial and while many traditional hymns have a great value and meaning, I often wonder how many of us really think about what we are singing? In every new hymnal the editors often alter words or remove verses in the most traditional of hymns to make them 'all inclusive'. This is nothing new: I have a hymnal of 1904 that provides seven verses for the hymn *Abide with me* but we only know it as having five verses! But change is inevitable: when did you last sing a psalm or canticle to an Anglican chant? In the older hymnals every hymn ended with a sung *Amen* but not today - just a few exist where it is part of the whole.

There are now an increasing number of 'worship songs' used in many churches. Some are good others not so, but the 'good' ones will possibly become part of 'traditional church music' in years to come! Some churches have no organ, few have a robed choir, while others have adopted music groups: music in churches is changing.

Over the past few years, a number of 'modern' hymns have been sung at St. Paul's (for example: *There is a Redeemer; As the deer pants for the water; Longing for Light; and O God, you search me and you know me* to name a few) and I know that many of these have been appreciated as I have received requests for their inclusion.

One 'new' item which will appear at St. Paul's very soon (and is included in the relatively new hymnal *Ancient & Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship*) follows here. It emphasises that **all** are welcome in our church and we all have a part to play in welcoming newcomers and visitors as a means of proclaiming the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## All are welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built on hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
all are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
all are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
all are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
all are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
pray'rs of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
all are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Words and music (*Two Oaks*): Marty Haugen (b.1950)

There is a splendid rendition of this on *You Tube*: may I suggest you have a listen to familiarise yourself with it? It is sung by choirs and congregation at the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick (and appears to have been initially broadcast on the BBC's *Songs of Praise*).

Enter ***Let us build a house*** in the search engine to locate this item. I hope you will find it meaningful and a 'good sing'!

Dr Stephen Taylor

\*\*\*\*\*

## WORDS TO LIVE BY...

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord (Isaiah 54 :17).

The Lord...is with you; never again will you fear any harm...he is mighty to save. He will....deal with all who oppressed you...(Zephaniah 3: 15-19NIV).

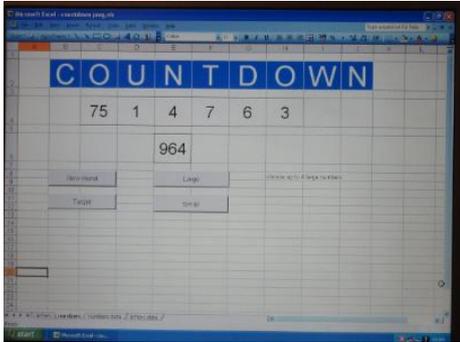
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king...With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us...fight our battles....(Chronicles 32 :7-8 NI).

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my....fortress, I will never be shaken' (Psalm 62; 1-2 NIV)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand...(Philippians 4; 6-7 TLB)

Submitted by Ann Burston

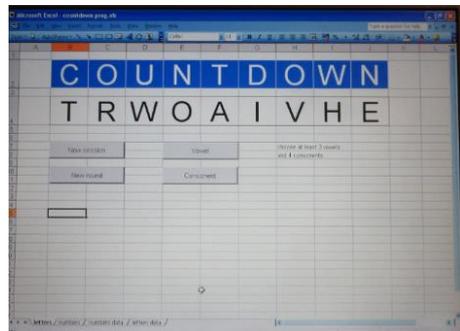
## FROM THE WOOLLEY HOUSEHOLD...



We managed to get away for a few days, visiting John's brother in Upper Quinton. A nice relaxing time. We did go to Evesham for a short while – unfortunately the weather wasn't great so we decided to head back to Mick's and have an afternoon of "Richard Osman's House of Games" and "Only Connect". We didn't manage this time to go to the Four Alls Pub for lunch - we had our fill of food and drink at Mick's.

John has been busy with his electronics. He has made me a fantastic "Countdown" machine for our games afternoon and an electronic game for Ali's Open Day at school. He is also still doing jobs at Ali's house.

Have a go at the numbers and word game below!



### Two acts of kindness ...

John's brother Mick was on his way to have his flu jab when a lorry flashed him down and he realised that the driver was not at all well, looking very grey and having chest pains. Mick rang 999 and unfortunately the operator told him that the driver was not sick enough to have an ambulance but that he should get to a hospital as soon as possible. As the driver was not in a fit state to drive, Mick said that he would take him to Banbury hospital which was 15 miles away.

James' son Callum was on his paper round one morning when he witnessed a van crashing into a parked car then driving off. Callum wrote the registration number of the van down on a piece of paper and placed it on the car windscreen. The owner of the car was delighted that Callum had done this.

Two good deeds of the day!



**Sale of jigsaws, books and  
Homemade preserves  
Coffee and cake**  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November in the  
Church hall  
10.00am - 12 noon

**COUNTDOWN GAMES  
AFTERNOON**  
in the Church hall -  
**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
2.00pm  
Price: £3

**ADVENT SUNDAY  
BREAKFAST AFTER THE  
9.30am MASS**  
List will be available shortly  
Price: £4

**Christmas Coffee Morning**  
In the Church Hall  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> December  
(date to be confirmed)

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
**TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**  
7.30pm  
With the Tutbury Band

**QUIZ SHEET**  
**"BEYOND HUMPTY DOO"**  
Available shortly  
Price £1

### **Puzzle time**

#### **Plants of the bible quiz answers:**

1. Gopher
2. Almonds
3. Fig
4. Grapes
5. Bitter herbs
6. The water was made sweet
7. Olive
8. Mustard
9. Wheat
10. Corn
11. Mandrakes
12. Crown of thorns
13. A potage of lentils
14. Lilies
15. Vine

## Advent Quiz:

(Answers will be given next month)

1. When does Advent start?
2. Advent has a set number of days – True or False?
3. The first purple candle on the Advent wreath symbolises what?
4. The second purple candle on the Advent wreath symbolises what?
5. The pink candle on the Advent wreath symbolises what?
6. The last purple candle on the Advent wreath symbolises what?
7. What is the meaning of Advent?
8. What is the traditional liturgical colour for the season of Advent?
9. What is not sung or recited at mass during Advent?
10. What do evergreen branches symbolise on the Advent wreath?
11. Which feast follows Advent?
12. Which Advent hymn did Charles Wesley write?

Thanks Colin for this quiz.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A CALENDAR OF SAINTS FOR NOVEMBER

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

Starting with the letter 'C' can you find 15 saints in this PATHFINDER. Answers next month.