



# St Michael's Messenger

September 2020

## Looking Forward.

Before writing this, I was looking through some old Messengers, and I realised the last time I wrote the front sheet was February. And it reminded me of how things have changed.



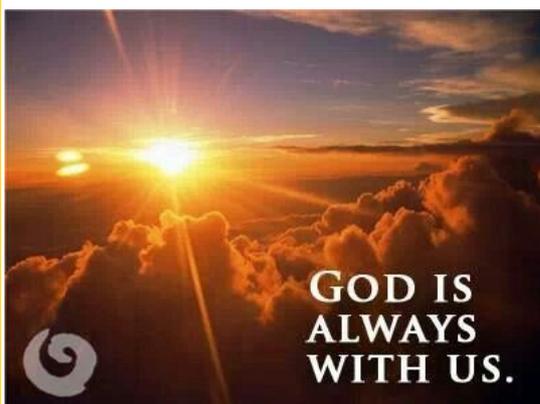
In that I mentioned the outbreak of Corona Virus in China which had then, only recently become known to have started. Little did we think of all the consequences of that, throughout the world, or even imagine it would still be so active today.

There has been a great impact on life at St Michael's, we had to miss so many important services, Easter and Pentecost to name just two. Gibertstone School were unable to hold their usual end of year service, something that I personally have missed.

But now we are starting to get a bit of normality back into our lives, even if it is with social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. The schools have gone back, and many people have returned to work, but we must remember those who have been, and still are, affected by Covid 19.

We have many things to look forward to. Our Patronal Festival this month, will be rather subdued, but we especially look forward to the arrival of Fr Alex, and we have to thank our reps, Faith and Paul for their hard work in this, along with the Archdeacon and the reps from St Cyprians.

Despite all these changes there is still one constant, the love of God, He has been with us and will always be with us, that will never change



Yes, we have much to pray about over the next few weeks. **AMEN**

**Jane Clarke, Reader.**

St. Michael and All Angels Web Site :

[www.smaaa.church](http://www.smaaa.church)



We hope to have a date for the Licensing Service for Fr. Alex French very soon. In the meantime the following cover has been arranged :

Priestly Cover for the Next few weeks.

Day	Date	Time	Priest
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	Rev. Prof. Hugh Houghton
Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	Private Prayer
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	Rev. Nicholas Ball
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	10am	Private Prayer
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	Venerable Paul Taylor (Patronal Festival)
Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	Private Prayer
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> October	10am	Rev. Canon Brian Hall
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup> October	10am	Private Prayer
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> October	10am	Rev. Prof. Hugh Houghton
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup> October	10am	Private Prayer
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup> October	10am	Venerable Paul Taylor

## *A Sad Farewell to Peggy Colbourne*



Many of us at St. Michael's will remember with great affection Peggy Colbourne. Peg, as she was known made a great contribution to the life of St. Michael's. She was PCC secretary for many years whilst Roy was Church Warden. Peg also ran the Sunday School, and my children will remember the times Peg and Roy invited the children to their home, Peg doing activities with the girls and Roy with the boys, and they all sat down to lunch, usually a home cooked casserole.

Peg and Sheila Price also put on the Sunday Tea, a tea for local housebound people. They sat down to home made cakes and sandwiches, the older Sunday School children waited at table, and then after tea, most of them went into the Evensong Service (except Raymond who would slope off home after eating his tea !)

There is much more to say about Peg, she made many of the Vestments which are used today, and St. Michaels has been a special place for the Colbourne family. We hope to hold a Memorial Service for Peg when Covid 19 conditions allow.

*Faith Smith.*

### **Simon, Peg's son writes .....**

*After moving to Manor House Lane in 1959 the whole Colbourne family – Peg, Roy, Simon, Jane and Andrew - joined the congregation at St Michael's which was then housed in what is now the church hall. The boys joined the newly formed church choir in 1962 and Jane joined some years later when the membership rules were changed to allow girls. Peg and Roy got involved with the running of the church - Roy became a Church Warden and Peg the Parochial Church Council secretary. Peg was an active member of the congregation for the best part of fifty years getting involved not only with the PCC but also the Sunday School, Sunday tea for the elderly and fund raising for the RNLI. In later years she also encouraged her grandson Edward to become actively involved with St Michael's.*

*In her spare-time she was very active knitting, sewing and jam and cake making. Two of her lasting legacies are the priest's vestments she spent months making and which are still in use today and also the jam, mincemeat, cakes and, at the*

*Christmas Fair, roast turkey (which was converted into turkey baps by Roy). She moved to Tandy Court Care Home in 2010 when she could no-longer manage on her own and then to Glenfield House Nursing Home in October 2016 where she was very well cared for until she passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at the age of 94.*

**Simon Colbourne**

***Our congratulations and prayers go to those with Birthdays in September :***

***Ainhoa Vargas, Jenny Smith, Joyce Field .***

*Please let me know if there are any I don't include or for any news items etc. for the Messenger  
faitheron@yahoo.co.uk.*



## ***Tuesday Breakfast ( as it was , and hopefully will be again !)***

One of the most popular gatherings at St. Michaels is the Tuesday morning service which is followed by a tea and toast breakfast. This service has taken place every week for decades and shows no sign of declining!

In recent years an annual meal out has been arranged for the Tuesday congregation and invited partners. This year it took place on the last Monday in February and a hungry group gathered at Miller and Carter, Solihull, for fellowship and fine food. Our thanks to Brenda for organising the meal again. Don't forget, if anyone wants to see what goes on each Tuesday morning, just turn up and see for yourselves ! (Photo David Simons )

Paul

(This was written before that unbelievable event called Lockdown ! Little did we know that Tuesdays were to undergo such a huge eruption so soon after this event.! Hopefully once we have Fr. Alex Licensed to St. Michael and St. Cyprian the Tuesday service at least can resume. FS)



## *A Day Out for the PCC!*

### *( or The Good Old Days , Life Before Lockdown !!!)*

Last Autumn the Venerable Paul Taylor ( retired Archdeacon) invited the PCC to visit his fathers farm in Redditch to see the new lambs and hear his father speak about his experience of farming.

On 7th March 2020 the PCC invited others to join them in this visit. Mr Taylor senior is a remarkable man. In his nineties he keeps eighteen sheep , who have all given birth to new lambs , and a number of chickens, on his small holding in Redditch .(Astwood Bank to be more precise.)

We were all made most welcome in the beautiful dormer bungalow for delicious refreshments and a talk outlining Mr Taylors experience over the years.

In his working life he had been a Headmaster , keeping bees, chickens , geese, ducks at one time , all of which eventually evolved into keeping sheep. His talk was entertaining and outlined the hard work he and his wife had put in, to produce honey and eggs to sell at his gate. His previous house , a 5 bedroomed property had become too much for him after the death of his wife , and a move to the dormer bungalow was necessary. He had branched into sheep keeping by this time , and he had sold off the bees and ducks and geese. In what seemed amazing serendipity someone had come along just at the right time to enquire where he could buy bees , then chickens , making a fortuitous opportunity to pass these creatures on to someone wanting to start up !

The sheep are Jacobs breed , a piebald variety with four horns. Most of the sheep had given birth , some lambs only 2 weeks old , and one ewe expecting any time when we were there. We went into the barn with the sheep and even were allowed to hold the lambs. It was wonderful to see them all so close , with Meg the sheepdog watching from above , and a great show of awards all set out above the pens. Two brave souls held the sheep !

Mr Taylor has help from two of his neighbours who come in daily, and of course his son Paul Taylor helps out as well.

After strolling around the garden to see the hens , several different varieties , we went on to Feckenham Church where Paul Taylor celebrated mass for us. A beautiful church in the heart of the countryside.

Some of us then went on to the Rose and Crown for a meal , all of it a most enjoyable day ! We owe a big THANKYOU to the Venerable Paul Taylor and his wonderful Father for making us so welcome and giving us such an enjoyable time.

Faith Smith

**In the light of present times this day such a short time ago seems an amazing memory !**



Jacobs Sheep with their distinctive piebald markings , and Meg the sheep dog looking on. Meg is a very exuberant dog , bounding around in excitement when we were there. You can see all the ribbons of the awards hanging in the barn.

