

# CENTREPIECE

## October-November 2025

Free but donations are helpful

Beginning and Ending of Life Concerns

Battle of Britain Service

Children's Choir  
Awards

Gratitude,  
Opportunity  
and Hope

Harvest Appeal

Musing Ministers  
- Save the Parish

Hello from Monica and Paul



The Collegiate  
Church of

*Saint ⊕ Mary*  
*in Stafford*

# **Stafford Churches**

Saint Chad : Collegiate Church of Saint Mary : Saint Leonard

## **RECTOR**

### **ASSOCIATE PRIEST & TOWN CENTRE CHAPLAIN:**

Rev. John Davis ..... 01785 661382

Email:john\_davis19@sky.com

### **ASSOCIATE PRIESTS**

Rev. Preb. Michael Newman

01785 660158

eileenandmichael@outlook.com

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01889 881030

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### **LAY MINISTERS**

Mr Philip Taylor

01785 780717

philip21taylor@gmail.com

### **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR /PARISH OFFICE**

Mrs. Samantha Sagar ..... Tel: 01785 223600

Email: parishoffice@stmarysstafford.org.uk

For Baptisms and Weddings:  
Please contact the Parish Administrator

Monday 11am—3pm  
Tuesday 11am—3pm  
Wednesday 11am—3 pm  
Thursday 11am—3pm  
Friday 11am—4pm

## **SERVICES IN STAFFORD CHURCHES**

**Usual weekly services**

**The three Parishes Eucharist on Sundays**

**8.30am at Saint Chads**

**10.00am at Saint Mary's**

**Tuesdays at noon in St Mary's**

**Wednesdays at 11.00am in St Chad's**

**Fridays at noon in St Chad's**

**First Sunday of the month at 10.00: a service at Saint Leonard's, Marston**

There is a weekly newsheet sent out by email. If you are not receiving this and would like to, please contact the Parish Office.



## From the Editors

In the last edition we announced that Fr. Michael Newman would be celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry at the end of September so we decided to feature him and Eileen on the cover of this edition.

Preparations are well underway for Christmas celebrations—do get involved if you can, helpers are always welcome. We kick off with St Chad's Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 29th November.

But before that we have the more sombre services around remembrance - both personal remembrance as in All Souls Day, and remembering the war. More details in this edition.

*If you have something interesting to share with us —please do.  
It's always nice to hear from different people.*

**Steve and Dee Turner**

*steveanddeeturner@yahoo.co.uk*

## From The Musing Ministers

As I was beginning to think about writing this, a few weeks ago now, all the windows in the house were open and temperatures outside were positively Mediterranean. As I sat by the open window I could hear the sound of combine harvesters cutting the large acreage of wheat in the field over the road.

This sound was followed by the rumble of the vast tractors and equally vast trailers which all day long were transporting the grain to granaries somewhere down the lane.

This to-ing and fro-ing carried on all day long as the workers laboured to keep the big machines going.

In previous years this had taken several days to complete, with work going on well into the evening, even by headlights at times. This year it was all over much more quickly and I wonder is this because of the very dry weather having reduced the yield or whether the modern varieties of wheat have lower quantities of straw to process from shorter stems on the plants?

But this talk of harvesting is very early and seems particularly premature since our church celebrations of Harvest-time this year are not going to be until early October. Harvest Festival at St Leonard's always involves an

auction of lots of apples and damsons and I hope that in a month's time there will be some fruit left to sell!

In the meantime we carry on with our task of maintaining our usual schedule of services and activities to maintain our parish life while we are searching for a new incumbent as Rector of Stafford.

Indeed today while I am writing this our three Churchwardens for the three Stafford parishes are meeting with the Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent while she inspects all the documentation that needs to be in place for us to be a viable benefice. We can only hope that this goes well and we can proceed with the seemingly interminable process of finding and appointing a new priest. If, as seems the case at the moment, we are allowed to remain as three parishes together in the Stafford benefice, we should count ourselves very lucky. Many other parishes in other dioceses around the country, are facing the prospect of being amalgamated in large groups, or 'hubs' to use a current term, in order to deal with a shortage.

I recently received an email from 'Save the Parish', which as it's name implies, is an organization focused on preserving the parish system of the Church of England, which seems to be very seriously under threat.

The C of E has always reckoned that an important feature of the church in England is the presence of a Christian community in every parish. In recent years due to the shortage of available clergy and the syphoning off of finance from local communities to dioceses and the National Church, supposedly for the good of all, funding of local ministry has come severely under threat. We are now in the position where there is money going to support infrastructure nationally while parish ministry is in decline, especially in rural areas.

'Save the Parish' had been set up to draw attention to this unsatisfactory situation. It now has supporting representatives on the General Synod and they are beginning to get noticed after a few years in existence.

The email I received was asking me to take part in their protest at a 'reorganization' that is being proposed in Cornwall.

In an area of the country where travel in the summer is difficult it is proposed that 23 churches, 3 C. of E. primary schools and 9 care homes will be placed in one single benefice with one Rector, one Vicar and maybe a curate!

These sort of proposals are being made in many dioceses in the country, though we are fortunate that Lichfield Diocese isn't doing too much of this sort of thing.

At a time when we are being actively encouraged to be mission-centred and

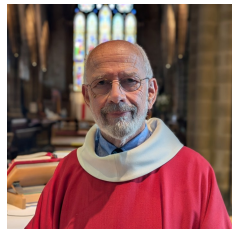
to grow our congregations, these ideas are quite obviously counter-productive. We can't increase our numbers if there is nobody to provide the clergy care that is needed.

The Save the Parish movement is doing a good job in letting people know that these things are going on and provoking discussion.

If you are interested in this movement and would like more information, please do ask me for details. It is vital that this important aspect of our ministry in the whole of England is preserved as far as possible.

Well, I think here my ramblings must cease. I look forward to a fruitful Autumn with calm process through the daily and weekly church liturgies and activities.

With very best wishes,  
*Philip Taylor*



**Dates for next  
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at Shallowford House**

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9:45 am to 3.30 pm**

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***Further information about these Quiet Days from Sheila Young***

## **Lofty Visitor**

Churchwarden, Paul Milgate-Scarrott, was quick to snap this visitor to St Mary's when he spotted him on top of the tower. The peregrine falcon is the fastest bird in the world, achieving speeds of over 200 mph (320 km/h) during its hunting dive, called a "stoop".



Peregrine falcons are no longer considered rare in the UK; their population has made a significant comeback from a <1960s low point due to the banning of harmful pesticides and increased legal protection.

# Beginning and ending of life concerns

*This article is a slightly abridged version of Bishop Michael's Presidential Address to July 2025's Diocesan Synod. As Parliament resumed on 1 September after summer recess, it is timely to revisit this issue now before the Bills continue their Parliamentary journey and with the Second Reading of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill imminent on 12 September.*

Two Bills await scrutiny in the House of Lords: The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, providing for 'assisted dying' in some circumstances, and the Crime and Policing Bill, removing criminal liability from women who end their own pregnancies.

Both Bills affect vulnerable groups, who have had a bad few weeks what with these two Bills plus the debate over meaningful yet cost-effective support for people with disabilities. Vulnerable people are Christians' first call for compassion and advocacy, but here I am specifically addressing beginning and ending of life issues.

Increasingly, there are concerns being expressed about the end of life Bill. The Third Reading majority of 23 in a (free) vote in the Commons was significantly lower than the Second Reading majority of 55.

Some of those concerns are shared widely. Following the abortion decriminalisation vote, the Bishop of London helpfully pointed out that, '*Women suffering from coercion, or those who are victims of sexual or domestic abuse, would be the most vulnerable to the proposed change.*' Paradoxically, making those women free from legal sanction could make them more at risk.

In the case of assisted suicide, vulnerable people could, in their last months, feel themselves to be a waste of bed-space or a financial burden on their families, and then avail themselves of this way out. Over the past few weeks, several people who have been in situations of medical, psychological or social vulnerability have written to me to describe thoughts exactly like this. Sadly, in some cases there could be temptations for overburdened hospital administrators, or for fatigued families, to reinforce those inward feelings by their outward attitudes or words, so that people really do end up feeling coerced. The statutory inquiry into the COVID pandemic has recently heard evidence of the effective abandonment of residents of care homes to the ravages of a deadly disease because they were seen as more expendable than others. It is also hard to believe that there will not, over the years, be a relaxation of restrictions on who may avail themselves of assisted dying procedures. That has been the consistent experience of other jurisdictions.

As a Christian, I believe in the God-given sanctity of every human life, resting on the biblical truth that we are made in the image and likeness of our Creator. To take away God's gift of life is to choose to go against God's good purposes, whatever might be the circumstances in which that happens. That immediately raises a host of complex questions, particularly at the beginning of life. What if the life of a woman is endangered by a pregnancy, might not the imperative to save life point to abortion as the lesser of two evils? At what point does an incipient life become truly a human being and who has

responsibility for the unborn life until that point? These complexities are addressed in this Church of England statement on abortion:

*The Church of England combines principled opposition to abortion with a recognition that there can be strictly limited conditions under which it may be morally preferable to any available alternative. This is based on our view that the foetus is a human life with the potential to develop relationships, think, pray, choose and love. Women facing unwanted pregnancies realise the gravity of the decision they face: all abortions are tragedies, since they entail judging one individual's welfare against that of another (even if one is, as yet, unborn). Every possible support, especially by church members, needs to be given to those who are pregnant in difficult circumstances and care, support and compassion must be shown to all, whether or not they continue with their pregnancy.*

At the other end of life, it is sometimes argued that no clear distinction can be made in borderline cases between assisting somebody to die, on the one hand, and on the other hand administering palliative drugs for pain control that will hasten the end of their life, or stopping intrusive medical interventions that artificially sustain a vegetative state. Many of us will have experienced issues like these in the dying days or hours of those we love. They can be bitterly difficult to decide. Nevertheless, there is a world of difference between acting to alleviate suffering in someone's dying hours and purposefully seeking to bring about death. Intentionality matters.

At the beginning and the ending of life, and at every point in between, as a Christian I affirm in wonder and gratitude that all human lives belong to God, and that every human life is to be treated with reverence and awe as an image of his glory and a temple of his spirit. Many people of other faiths or beliefs would share in that view, even if expressed in different language. In public as in private we must be free to bear witness to our strongest convictions; it is chilling to hear calls to exclude people from bringing their religiously grounded values to the debate because they are not 'neutral.' Faith or belief is not like a coat to be taken off and left at the door as we enter into the house of public debate.

Finally, at the most practical and immediate level, the Assisted Dying Bill currently before Parliament is good neither in content nor timing. The safeguards it stipulates are viewed by many as woefully inadequate and it seems to me quite extraordinary to be proposing a fully-funded suicide service when palliative care is dramatically under-resourced often left reliant on charitable resources, and when the NHS in general is under such strain.

So, the Lords will now engage with the Bill. Please pray for all members of the House of Lords, and particularly for the bishops who sit there, as we deliberate. Please also pray for debate about disabled people's provision. Every day the chamber begins its business with prayers led by one of the bishops. On the last day of each week these include Psalm 121. I put my hope in the final words of that psalm: 'The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.'

**+Michael**

# Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope

## **If money talks, let's listen together to what it's saying to Lichfield Diocese**

Ever noticed? People who are at ease about big money talk about 'a sum north of ...'. Although confusingly mixing compass and currency, it reveals a deep truth: a large sum of money might bring a polar chill: the burden of choices and the risk of temptations and dissension. It needs skilled handling to bring blessing.

The additional £400 million extra over three years across 42 dioceses being released from the Church of England's historic assets, an amount of arctic proportions according to the popular yardstick, could, rather should, bless us. A good first response might be gratitude, caution and reaching for a calculator. Caution is valuable because it stops us from falling into two traps: imagining where we would spend the money for our own benefit rather than for the Kingdom, and, worse, imagining where we would spend the same sum twice. Thankfully, the calculations are being done by Lichfield Diocese's very skilled finance team.

Gratitude to God is the gateway to asking God what divine and loving purpose it is there to fulfil, because money calls us into a future plan. This money also comes with wonderful timing. The ten goals of Seeking the Kingdom can guide our efforts, there is the opportunity to use the extra money to fund new activities, especially in parishes where there are identifiable possibilities for growth but resources are short. Much of our focus in Seeking the Kingdom is rightly on our parishes.

We are relieved of some choices but have to make others. To ease the costs of a substantial 11.1% increase in clergy stipends to support the well-being of clergy and their families in every parish, part of the extra money is specifically for our 25% least well-off parishes. We can all warm to this proposal: well-being, financial and otherwise for clergy, is our collective responsibility. Better still, the whole church family and all those who contribute so generously the lion's share of the costs of clergy, buildings and mission will benefit too: more funding for less prosperous parts of the diocese gives us the opportunity to reduce the amount of mutual support needed. Well-being is at the heart of the direction and goals of Seeking the Kingdom, our plan for 2025-2030. Churches that flourish and people that flourish do so because they are immersed in the common activity of building the Kingdom of God and building the Kingdom brings more flourishing: it's a virtual circle.



Questions will arise about how the rest of the money that we will receive is to be used and our diocesan decision-makers will be taking a look at next year's budget starting this Autumn with consultations in each Episcopal Area, taking proposals to Synod in October. The additional money over which we have a choice has the power to call us all into a new future. It is tapered over nine years, so we can't simply spend it on business as usual as it won't last. Can we all gather round the idea that it is there to give us hope in a sustainable future and to address the challenge posed afresh that we are sustaining ourselves at present using a diminishing pot of reserves?

**Arun Kataria**

*Arun Kataria is the Diocesan Director of Communications, helping share news around the diocese and working closely with colleagues on staff and synods to promote our diocesan goals – [www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision)*

*Over the next few months, the whole diocese - parishes, clergy, lay leaders... everyone - is invited to explore attitudes to money together, looking at 'Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope'.*



## Macmillan Coffee Morning Appeal

Saturday 20th September's coffee concert was a special one held in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

St Mary's Miscellany entertained us with a mix of different performances and of course there was coffee and lots of lovely cake!



Donations made at the Coffee Concert and after the 10am service on the 21st came to just under £500. Once Gift Aid is taken into account the total raised will be approximately £540! An excellent effort all round!

Your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of those affected by cancer. Thank you very much to everyone who donated, brought cakes, performed in the concert or helped in any other way.

# Battle of Britain Service

On Sunday 14th September we marked the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. This was the first major battle of World War II to be fought entirely in the air - in which the Royal Air Force defended the country from attacks by the German Luftwaffe.

The event began with a poignant service in St Mary's Church attended by The Mayor of Stafford Borough, Councillor Jenny Barron.

We gathered to honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought valiantly during this pivotal moment in history. The service included readings, reflections, and hymns, providing a space for remembrance and gratitude.

The service was followed by prayers and wreath laying at the war memorial in Victoria Square and then The RAF Tactical Supply Wing, exercising their right of Freedom of the Borough, marched through the town centre.

A selection of photos of the event by Paul Milgate-Scarrott





# **Stafford Churches Harvest Appeal 2025**



Hospice Care Kenya (HCK) is a charity dedicated to improving access to palliative care for people facing life-limiting illnesses throughout Kenya. They work to ensure that everyone who needs palliative care can receive compassionate and dignified support.

**It costs an average of just £27 to provide care to each of those helped by HCK, giving compassionate care, pain relief and emotional support.**

Please consider making a donation this harvest, enabling HCK to reach more adults and children in need of life-changing palliative care. Donation envelopes, available here, can be returned during October.

Cheques payable to **St. Mary's Church Stafford**

A card reader is available in St. Mary's

To pay direct to the bank use these details:

Account name: The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Stafford St. Mary

Ref: HCK Account No: 00032434 Sort Code: 40 52 40

Further details of the work of HCK on the One World Group noticeboard in the North Transept in St. Mary's and in the HKC Summer Newsletter

Or see the website: [Hospice Care Kenya Charity](http://Hospice Care Kenya Charity)

## **House of Bread and Christian Food Help Stafford**

Supporting homeless and vulnerable people and those struggling with the rising cost of living.

*Please help if you can by donating any of these:*

**Tinned meals and puddings**

**Tinned vegetables, including potatoes**

**Toiletries, new underwear and socks**

**Tea and coffee**



***Please bring items for the harvest appeal to St. Mary's on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> October***

**All donations will be sent to the charities.**



# Children's Choir Awards

The Children's Choir have been working towards their Royal School of Church Music 'Voice for Life' awards. There are five levels ranging from White to Yellow and at each level choristers are tested on their singing ability, music theory, listening skills, repertoire and also about the church and church year. In September, two choristers were presented with their White level, eight with their Light Blue level, one with their Dark Blue level and one their Red level.

In addition, Maggie from the Children's Choir and Sarah from the Adult Choir were presented with their RSCM Bronze awards. This is externally examined and for the exam they had to sing a hymn, an unaccompanied song, a psalm and an anthem. In addition they were tested on their knowledge of music theory, sight-singing and aural ability and they had to discuss with the examiner their chosen psalm, the typical layout of a church and one of the church seasons.



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# Saturday Morning Coffee Concerts at St Mary's



Oct 11th Tim Sagar (piano)

Oct 25th Imogen Garner (mezzo soprano)  
John Gough (piano)

Nov 15th Peter Martin (lute/theorbo)

Nov 22nd Magnificent Mezzos

**All concerts begin at 11:00am**

Doors open 10:30am when tea and coffee will be available  
All are welcome Admission free but donations very welcome!



**Tuesday 14 October 2025**

**Gender and 20th Century British Sculpture:  
The Lives and Times of Hepworth and Frink**

Lecturer Raymond Warburton

*Explore gender in modern British Sculpture through the lives and times of Barbara Hepworth and Elizabeth Frink.*

**Tuesday 11 November 2025**

**All About Icons**

Lecturer Brian Healey

*Reveal the fascinating language of icons.*

**Venue is Stafford Gatehouse Theatre at 1.45pm.**

Membership for the year starting on April 1st costs just £60 for 10 lectures.

Guest attendance fee is £10

**For more information please see our website: [www.theartssocietystafford.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietystafford.org.uk)**

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### **Stafford Calendars and Christmas Cards**

The Friends of St Mary's will again be producing a Stafford Calendar using images from local photographers. Always popular, the calendar will soon be available to buy. (It makes a great Christmas gift!)

Local Christmas cards featuring St Mary's and Stafford scenes will also be available soon.

We'd like to thank the local shops who sell them for us:-

**Magic by Candlelight**

**Mews Music**

**Snapdragon cards and gifts**

All proceeds go to St Mary's.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

This year's Christmas Tree Festival, will take place from Wednesday 3rd December to Tuesday 9th December.

We have started collecting good quality bric-a-brac for our stall so if you have any items you'd like to donate just let us know. Alternatively you could take them to the Parish Office for us to collect.

Perhaps you would like to help us on the stall? We are looking out for volunteers who would help, if you can spare a couple of hours please let us know [friendsofstmary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstmary@gmail.com)

### **Festival Night Concert**

Our usual concert with St Mary's Singers in the magical setting of the Christmas Tree Festival will take place on Thursday 4th December. This has become one of the highlights of the festival with traditional Christmas music, superb soloists and harmonies plus some carols for everyone to join in with.

We have held the price at just £6.

The AGM of the Friends of St Mary's  
will be on Tuesday 14th October at 2pm in St Mary's Church

*R N Clarke*

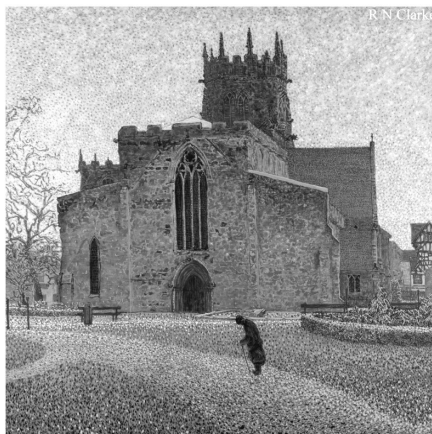
Paintings, drawings and  
watercolours of  
R N Clarke

Gallery address

R N Clarke Fine Art  
Suite No1, St Mary's Mews,  
St Mary's Place,  
Stafford ST16 2AP

The Gallery is **Open by Appointment**  
please telephone 07874 708372  
or email  
richard.n.clarke@outlook.com

The Gallery also holds occasional  
**Open Days**



**You're invited**

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**RUGELEY**

**3 Albion Street - 01889 583 871**

# Hello from Monica and Paul

Monica and Paul Srinivasan were faithful members of St Mary's for over 25 years, until for health reasons they moved to be near their son Rueben and his family in Nottingham. Tuesday 12th August was Monica's 82nd Birthday and her dearest wish was to return to St Mary's to celebrate the Eucharist.

After a rather tortuous journey with roadworks, Monica, Paul and Reuben arrived at St Mary's and were warmly welcomed home. The Eucharistic Service really was a celebration of their homecoming back in the church community they loved and served for so many years, and those present were able to celebrate Monica's birthday with her.

*Father John*



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# Some of the upcoming events at St Mary's

## Celebrating Harvest at

**StaffordChurches.uk**  
Stafford Church  
 Saint Chad · Collegiate Church of Saint Mary · Saint Leonard

### Harvest Festival Services

**Sunday 5th October**  
**Parish Eucharists**  
**8.30 am at Saint Chad's**  
**10.00 am at Saint Leonard's**

**Sunday 12th October**  
**Family Eucharist**  
**10.00am at Saint Mary's**

## Celebrating Harvest at

**StaffordChurches.uk**  
Stafford Church · Collegiate Church of Saint Mary · Collegiate Church of Saint Leonard

### Harvest Supper

**Saturday 11th October**  
**at Saint Mary's**

For tickets,  
see Ian  
and Claire  
Miller

**StaffordChurches**  
Saint Chad · Collegiate Church of Saint Mary · Saint Leonard

## Remembrance Sunday

**Traditional Church  
 Service Followed by a  
 Civic Service at the  
 Stafford Borough  
 War Memorial in  
 Victoria Place**

**9:45am** (One week only)

**Sunday 9th November**

**St. Mary's Church  
 Stafford**

Join us to remember and pay  
 tribute to those who served  
 and died for our country.



## ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025

**Wednesday 3rd - Tuesday 9th December**

St. Mary's Church will be open to visitors every day from 10am  
 until 4pm throughout the festival. Everyone welcome!

**Thursday 4th December - 7:30pm (Entry £6)**  
**Festival Night Concert**

**Saturday 6th December - 7pm (Entry £10)**  
**Fish from Oblivion Festive Concert**

**Sunday 7th December - 2pm (Free Entry)**  
**Carols around the Christmas Trees**  
**With the Salvation Army Band and Stafford**  
**Grammar School Choir**

**Monday 8th December - 7pm (Entry £10)**  
**Christmas with Voca Bella & Rock Choir**

**StaffordChurches**



# The Soup Kitchen



This beautiful 16th Century eating house offers the ideal place to meet your friends and is described in The Times as "Stafford's hidden gem". Visitors from all over the world regularly return and comment 'there is nowhere else that compares in atmosphere, traditional old-fashioned service and genuine warm welcome which is unique to Stafford's Soup Kitchen.

## Church Lane Antiques



A wide selection of antiques for sale, including furniture, pictures, pottery, glass, silver and jewellery.

We are always interested in buying; from single items to house clearance.

32 Mill Street  
Stafford ST16 2AW

Tel: 07770 870140 or 07795 023857

Email: [lizlyd@googlemail.com](mailto:lizlyd@googlemail.com)

Open Friday & Saturday  
10am-4pm

## CHURCH CONTACTS

### *St. Mary's*

Churchwardens.....Sue Savage .....  
Paul Milgate-Scarrott  
Bellringers Selwyn Jones..... 242116  
  
One World Group.....Pauline Roycroft .. 244556  
  
Julian Meeting.....Sheila Young..... 252023  
  
Director of Music.....Margaret Outen....253182  
Email: margaretouten@hotmail.co.uk  
Planned Giving Secretary....Chris Bown..... 229192  
..... Email: chrisbown@btinternet.com

### *St. Chad's*

Churchwardens.....Ian Carr .....07714913079  
Gary Webster

### *St. Leonard's*

Churchwarden .....Gail Wray .....01889 271176

### WEBSITES:



Website for StaffordChurches: [www.staffordchurches.uk](http://www.staffordchurches.uk)  
St Mary's Website: [www.stmarysstafford.org.uk](http://www.stmarysstafford.org.uk)  
St. Chad's Website: [www.stchadsstafford.co.uk](http://www.stchadsstafford.co.uk)  
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# ALL SOULS' REQUIEM MASS



Music of Maurice Durufle  
*Sung by the Collegiate Church Choir*

**Saturday 1st November - 12 Noon**  
**St. Mary's Church, Stafford**

**This is more than a service; it's an act of worship and a heartfelt opportunity to honour and remember our loved ones who have passed. We invite everyone, including those from outside our parish, to join us in lighting candles of remembrance during this poignant service.**

 **Remember Together:** As you enter the church, we encourage you to write down the names of your loved ones. These names will be read aloud during the service, allowing us all to share in the spirit of remembrance.

 **Welcoming All:** We aim to create a warm and inclusive atmosphere, welcoming those who may not typically attend St Mary's. Let's embrace this opportunity to come together as a community in memory of those we cherish.

**Stafford Churches**  
Stafford Choir • Collegiate Church of Saint Mary • Stafford Levensay

*'Remembering Our Departed'*

## **Contributions to Centrepiece:**

*If you would like to advertise an event, comment on one you have attended or just share something interesting with us – then please do so.*

*Email us at: [steveanddeeturner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steveanddeeturner@yahoo.co.uk)*

*Deadline is about 10 days before the first Sunday of the month.*