

Temporary Closure of our Church

Due to the significant rise in Covid infection rates locally and our third national lockdown, I feel we must prioritise the health and safety of all our church members and close our church building temporarily.

Our worship will continue with a weekly online Sunday service and postings on our Facebook page. Our church fellowship will continue by various means, but it needs your help. Please continue to offer mutual support and prayer for each other through phone calls and messages – whatever you feel able to do. Despite the rising infection rates and despite the lockdown, God's love continues to be at work *within us, through us and in all we do.*

Please keep safe and well during the coming weeks and I look forward to when we can gather again in church as soon as it feels safe to do so.

Rev Karen Brady
Colin Keam & Rosemary Lunt Churchwardens

Prayers

Please remember Stan Sefton in your prayers as he is recovering, to Liz Adams in your prayers as she is now at home and also Trevor Mainwaring who is recovering at home.

CALL TO SERVE

The dioceses is holding an event 'Called to Serve' on Sat 23 January. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/called-to-serve-tickets->

If you want to join in with this event please register.

Kidney Care UK

It's a New Year, so please support and help this worthy cause. So remember to save your stamps and ask your friends and neighbours to do the same.

Remember to leave 1cm margin around stamp or stamps
Thank you for your continued support.

David Walker



Parish Church of
St Michael and All Angels
Sunday 10th January 2021
1st Sunday after Epiphany



Readings for Today

Acts 19: 1-7

Mark 1: 4-11

Reflection for this week's readings

What baptism means

Read the Bible passages printed on the next page. In the first reading, Paul finds some men in Ephesus who had been baptised, but whose understanding was incomplete. They only knew half the story. They knew about repentance; saying sorry and asking forgiveness. They didn't know about the Holy Spirit. In the second reading the crowds came to John the Baptist. They also repented and were baptised. They didn't know about the Holy Spirit either. Then Jesus arrived. There was no need for him to be baptised. He didn't need to repent. But he was fully human as well as fully God, and identified with us humans. The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus, and he heard God's voice saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we are also children of God, and have received the Holy Spirit.

Thank God that He is our Father and you are his child.

Ask for help in living each day as a child of God, becoming more like Jesus.

Pray for those who have been baptised at St. Michael's in the past, that they may continue and grow in the Christian faith.

Any queries please contact our Vicar: Rev Karen Brady on 01928 831795

or

07419820864

or email revkarenbrady@gmail.com

But not on a Friday.

or the Church Mobile

Bookings for baptisms and weddings

Tel: 07722470940 and speak to Robbie

Church website

www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

Facebook

Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Runcorn

Readings

Acts 19: 1-7

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Mark 1: 4-11

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie."⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will

baptize you with the Holy Spirit."⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace.

Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things, and when I have nothing. I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in Heaven. Amen.

A prayer to discern our gifts and our calling

God, shine your light on the most gifted areas of my life. Give me understanding of how to utilize my gifts effectively so that I can fulfil my calling and destiny. Make it my joy and satisfaction to be a helper to all, to lift and improve the lives of others. Lord, I ask you to release in me your creative spirit, so that people might be drawn to you through my life. Amen.

Easyfundraising

If you buy from companies like Boots, PC World, Amazon, Lakeland, to name but a few, please go to the Easyfundraising website and register. The website is <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causesstmichaelallangelschurchnorn/> All you need to do when you have registered is to go to the website and find the company you are buying from. That company will then donate a percentage back to St Michael's. If you have already registered and not used the site for a while please go through easyfundraising. If you want anymore information about this please see Brian Lunt or Colin Keam and they can explain the process.

Father God,

You are the ultimate Healer. Father, we come before You to pray for those infected with this virus. We pray for not only their healing but for them to be comforted while they heal. Lord, please eradicate every ounce of this virus from their bodies. Please heal every cell in their bodies, every infected part of their being. We pray for no lasting effects in their bodies from this illness. Father, please heal them inside and out and provide them with the medical care they need, with the medications they need, and with the healing not only physically but spiritually so that they may live life and life abundantly ahead. In Jesus' name, Amen