

Church Open for Private Prayer - Update

It's been lovely to welcome so many of you into church for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays. We'll continue to open from **10am to 12 noon on Sundays, but from 15th July we'll only be open for 1 hour on Wednesdays, from 10am to 11am.** We look forward to seeing you.

Rev Karen Brady

Church Opening for Services – coming soon!

We'll be opening our church for gathered worship from **Sunday 9th August.** This first Sunday will be **Holy Communion at 8.30am** followed by **Holy Communion at 10.00am.** After this the 8.30am service will be on the first Sunday of the month for a short time, which then will be followed by Morning Celebration. The other Sunday's will be Holy Communion. All of this means our services will look, feel and sound very different (due to the restrictions on singing). But let's all look forward to **9th August** when we'll be able to meet together and worship together in joyful fellowship and in safety.

Rev Karen Brady

**Any queries please contact our
Vicar: Rev Karen Brady
on 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**

Update from our Vicar

Thank you everyone for your very warm welcome and for your prayers as I settle into my new role. But please keep praying for a smooth move into the vicarage. The building work is almost finished, but it's all the little snagging details that are now taking up a lot of time. I still hope to be moving into the vicarage at the end of July, but I'll keep you posted.

With every blessing, Karen



**Parish Church of
St Michael and All Angels
Sunday 19th July 2020
6th Sunday after Trinity**



Readings

Romans 8: 12-25

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Reflection on the Wheat and the Weeds Parable

In this parable, Jesus is talking of a weed called 'Bearded Darnel' which looks very similar to wheat. To look at, the two are easily confused, but in reality they're very different. The seeds (or ears) of wheat provide food and sustain life. But the seeds of Bearded Darnel are poisonous and bring death. If the farmer tried to pull up the weed, their roots are so entangled with the wheat – it would pull up the wheat too. So the farmer must wait patiently, he must allow the wheat and weed to continue growing together until harvest time.



This story teaches us that evil is often hard to recognise and it's often so deeply rooted, it's impossible to eradicate. Two recent examples in our society are climate change and plastics in our oceans. How many other examples can you name? We live in a world that is not yet God's kingdom, the time for harvest is not yet here. But we must continue to be patient and resilient but also vigilant in our actions, in our kingdom values and in our prayer. When we pray for 'thy kingdom come' and 'thy will be done' (on earth as it is in heaven), we pray that God's love for us and God's love growing in us will thrive, blossom and flourish. We pray that it will not be overcome by the poisonous weeds in our world.

Collect & Readings

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Romans 8: 12-25

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.

¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. ¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will

join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

²⁴ Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. ²⁷ "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?' ²⁸ "An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed. "Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked. ²⁹ "No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'" ³⁶ Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of

who plants the weeds in the field."

³⁷ Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. ⁴⁰ "Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!



PRAYERS DURING THE OUTBREAK

For you to pray at home

A prayer for the church

May your love that never fails strengthen the weak encourage the fearful calm the anxious heal the sick through your church – your washed hands and feet on earth – distant but still present virtual but still connected apart but still helping. God in your mercy, hear our prayer. AMEN

A prayer for God's guidance

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we ask you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.