



MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE  
PARISH CHURCH OF  
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.  
[www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk](http://www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk)

ISSUE 182

MAY 2025

# Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:  
HUMOUR NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

SERVICES FOR MAY  
CELEBRATIONS

## Vicars Message

### Jesus Has Risen!

You and I, my friends, are called to believe in the unbelievable. Think about it, we are called to believe a 2000-year-old message about a man who was crucified, then came back from the dead. I wonder if any of you have ever had something happen to you that is so unbelievable that it leaves you in absolute shock? Well, would you believe I had one of those moments last week here at St Michaels.



I held up, this Easter Sunday, in my hand a medal of one of my Patron Saints, St Benedict. The Medal came from The Holy Shrine of Walshingham many years ago and is mounted on a special unbreakable chain I ordered from the states. This medal was last seen when I was training for Ministry back on the Wirral round about 2019. I confirmed this date recently by looking at the last photo I had whilst I was wearing it. This medal went missing pre pandemic on the grounds of CCHB, on the Wirral. And it has always left me baffled as to its location, I had finally given up on it.

Last week, whilst returning to my car here at SMAA in Runcorn I spotted something shining on the Car Park Floor, by the grass. Upon approach it finally sunk in that it was sitting there just tucked next to the grass. Now, the interesting thing about this story is that between 2019 and 2025 we have gone through about 4/5 cars (Not by my driving standards!), my robes are used regularly with very limited pockets, they are the same robes and the bag I use now was not the bag I used at the beginning of my training. So, I remain eternally confused as to how this has suddenly arrived here in Runcorn. Yes, you can say it is obviously not the same medal; however, I know that it is the exact one.

Now, you can believe me or not, to me this does not matter, what matters is that I witnessed it, and I know the events to be True.

Why have I chosen this medal to highlight our Gospel Story, well, simple really, what we have in the case of My Medal is something of a miracle, which is unbelievable. What we have as our Gospel reading and our Easter Message is the same, though my medal has impacted but a moment, this Gospel and the events have impacted humanity for centuries. The Crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Trying to explain the crucifixion, resurrection and the reason for Easter is often a big challenge for Christians, because how do you condense thousands of years of scripture prophecies and the events of Easter day all into the short space of a sermon or conversation. SO, let us have a go...

Nothing unholy can stand in the presence of God, now it does not matter what religion or belief system you are from, this makes absolute sense, because how can we with our brokenness close our eyes this world and stand in the presence of a holy God? We cannot take our brokenness and make it pure ourselves, so essentially, we must be reconciled to God.

On this side of existence we have our human brokenness, all the things we have ever said or done wrong, now when my eyes close to this world they will open to the other side when I will face God. Now the other side is God, he is pure, he is a Holy God, he is love. Now I need to get from this side to that side and the only way that can be achieved is going over the arms of the cross, and that's what the cross did, it bridged the gap between this side and the other side without that cross there is a void in the middle now through that cross, that sacrifice, Christ's resurrection, I am able to be reconciled to God.

That is probably the easiest way I can describe it, just try and remember it nice and simply, I do things wrong, I full short of G-d's standards, I need to get over there and be reconciled to G-d, and the only way that I can get over there is by walking across the arms of the cross with Christ, his passion, death and resurrection. Unbelievable really is not it, but just as my medal was found after many years, the resurrection was made possible through God.

This Easter, reflect and recall the impossible made possible through Jesus Christ. Done all those years ago. For you and me.

Amen

*with every blessing, Revd George*



# MAY CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th May (3rd Sunday of Easter)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 7th May

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 11th May (4th Sunday of Easter)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 14th May

10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 18th May (5th Sunday of Easter)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 21st May

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th May (6th Sunday of Easter)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 29th May (Ascension Day)

10.00am Holy Communion



## BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY

Sunday 4th May

Acts 9: 1-6  
John 21: 1-19

Sunday 11th May

Acts 9: 36-43  
John 10: 22-30

Sunday 18th May

Acts 11: 1-18  
John 13: 31-35

Sunday 25th May

Acts 16: 9-15  
John 14: 23-29

Thursday 29th May

Acts 1: 1-11  
Luke 24: 44-53



Church in the community Matt 5:14-16, Acts 2:41-47, Phil 2:3-5

# JUNE CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st June (7th Sunday of Easter)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 4th June

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th June (Pentecost)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 11th June

10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 15th June (Trinity Sunday)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion



TRINITY SUNDAY

Wednesday 18th June

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd June (1st Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th June

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

## St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

### Upcoming Events for your diary

May 10th: Quiz Night Tickets £7 (inc refreshments) (but bring own drinks)

July 12th: Summer Fayre

September 20th: Farmhouse Supper

November 29th: Police Band Concert Tickets £12 (inc: Mulled wine and mince pie)

Watch this space for more upcoming events

### Looking Back last 18 months

Looking back to **September 2023**. when we got our new vicar, Revd George Roach. In the time since he came, St Michael's has gone from strength to strength. Lets have look what has been done with his help and spiritual guidance. The congregation has gone from **36** (an average Sunday service before George) to an average of **65** on a Sunday, an increase of **55%**. He has introduced 2 bible study groups, a youth group, he has reintroduced Café church, (which is well attended) and he has done a number of talks on different aspects of the bible and their meanings. These are just a few of the things that has happened and there more to come. These wouldn't have happened without the marvellous support from the congregation.

### Organ Recital

On Saturday 5th April in the evening we held a successful Organ and Singing Recital. We had the pleasure of Tony Green, who played the organ and Jenny Wheatcroft the Soprano singer. Tony played an excellent variation of music for the organ, whilst Jenny sang an excellent selection of songs. On the night we had around **70** people attending, helping us to raise just over **£800** which are vital funds for the church. A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who came in helping us to raise these funds.



### *St Michael's*

We have a really thriving Church  
The congregation's growing,  
Perhaps it's down to everyone  
The seeds that we've been sowing.

The beauty and the majesty,  
Is there for all to see,  
And what makes it really special is,  
It belongs to you and me.

There's a warmth and genuine friendliness  
For all who worship there.  
A feeling that you're in God's house,  
And He is everywhere.

So every Sunday morning  
Let us all our voices raise,  
And thank God for St. Michael's,  
With prayers and hymns of praise.

*Dennis Gill*

This was published in the first magazine back in May 2007 and how true the first verse reads.

### Christian Aid Week – 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May

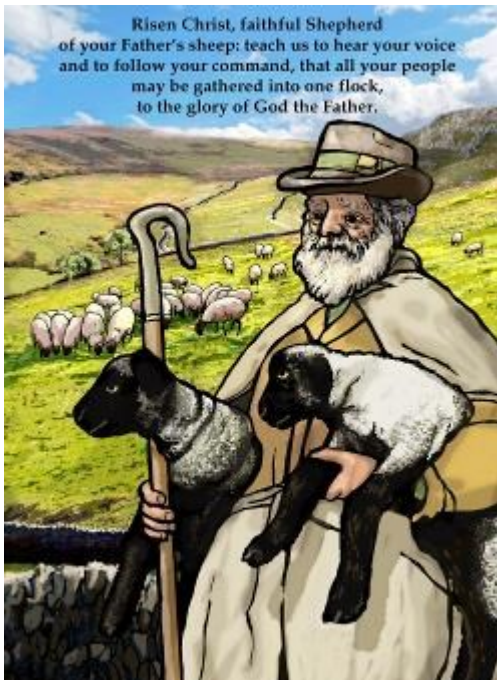
For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has been working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. This annual week invites Christians in the UK to help fundraise for the work by holding community events and taking on individual challenges. It has been called 'seven days of fundraising fun – your way'. This year you might like to consider taking on the '70k in May Challenge'. It is simple to do: just travel 70k during the month of May, in whatever way you want. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you.

More info at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>



## An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Ecclesiastes

*'Meaningless! Meaningless!'* This is how the book of Ecclesiastes begins (1:2), as it examines the futility of human experience *'under the sun'*. The author is named as *'The Teacher'* (1:1, Hebrew *qoheleth*), traditionally identified with King Solomon. Although focusing on life in the physical world, the book ends with, *'Fear God and keep his commandments'* (12:13). Ecclesiastes reminds us of the limitation of human wisdom, which cannot find meaning and purpose without God: Our strivings *'under the sun'* can only lead to disillusionment (1:5-11). Therefore, we need to accept the life God gives us and enjoy it to the full. Wisdom is given to those who please God (2:26). Such wisdom cannot solve all problems (1:16-18), or secure enduring reward (2:12-17). We cannot control our immediate future, resulting in uncertainty (6:12), and there are difficult questions about life and death itself (9:1-3). In response, we need to understand our human limitations before God. God has ordered all things in their time; things we cannot change or fully anticipate: *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven'* (3:1-15). However, the world is not fundamentally chaotic or irrational, as it is ordered by God: *'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'* (3:11). We should remember our Creator when we are young before the infirmities of advanced age stop us from enjoying the good things of life (12: 1-8). In summary, Ecclesiastes shows us how to live meaningfully and joyfully by placing God at the centre of our life, while trusting and obeying our Creator.



## We have welcomed the following into the Church Family through Baptism



Recently we welcomed **one child Benny Knowles (20th April)**, into the Church Family. Please pray for Benny that he may grow up to love and follow Christ. Please pray for his parents and Godparents, and pray that they may seek to know Christ and to worship.

## LENT LUNCHESES and PRAYER TIME 2025

This years Lent Lunches was a huge success with an increase in people coming to the prayer time and lunch. A huge **THANK YOU** goes to Revd Helen Browne for leading the prayer time, to VML and their volunteers and also to the people who provided some excellent soups for the lunches. This year we raised **£352** from the lunches, and this is going to the **Runcorn Food Bank** this year.

## Activities at St Michael's Church

### St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Church Hall

Next Tea & Toast is on 7th June & 5th July

@ 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Admission: £2.00

### Crafters Group

Crafters Group meets in the

Church Hall every Tuesday  
from 10.00am to 12noon.

Everyone welcome, especially newcomers.

### VML

Sing-along sessions on Tuesday nights @  
7.00pm in the Church Hall. So come along  
have a cuppa and a sing-along for just £2.



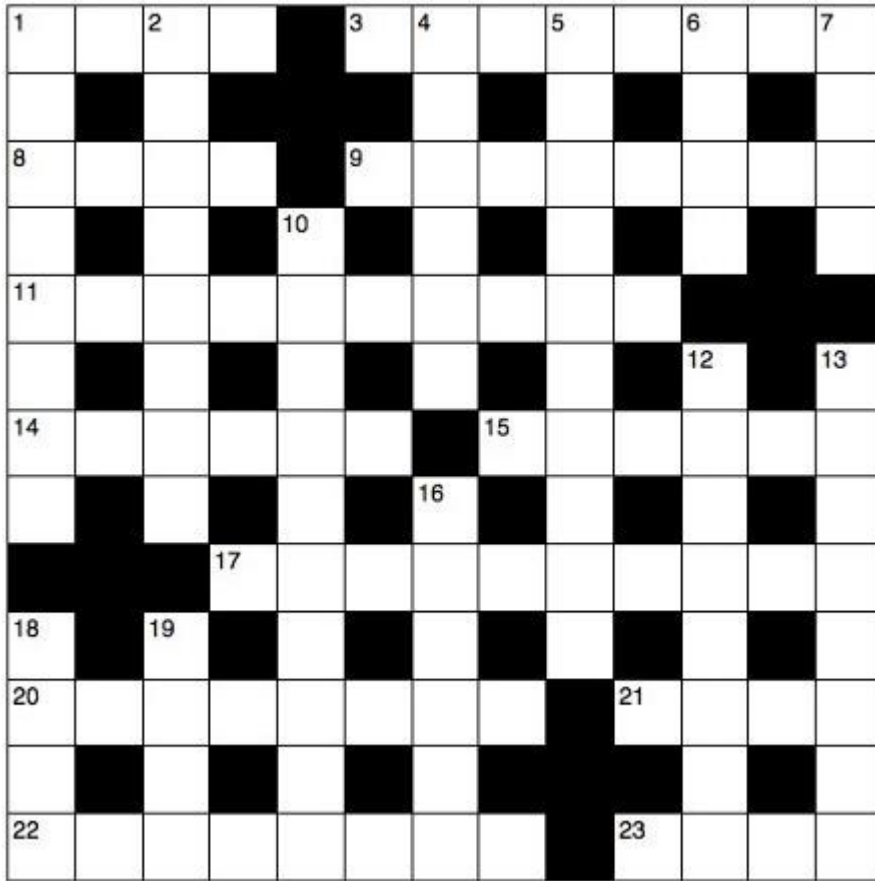
## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

### May Birthdays



Congratulations to Jean Oke who celebrates her birthday on May 2nd, Rosemary Lunt who celebrates her birthday on May 6th, to Matt Roth who celebrates his birthday on May 13th, to Claire Roth who celebrates her birthday on May

17th, to Duncan Prince who celebrates his birthday on May 20th, to Sue Challoner who celebrates her birthday on May 22nd and to Brian Lunt who celebrates his birthday on May 23rd.



**CROSSWORD CHALLENGE**

See how you get on with this crossword. There is no prize, but whoever gets it back to the Editor by May 22nd will be entered on a Roll of Honour in the next edition of *Growing Together*.

**Across**

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

**Down**

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30-31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)



Crossword answer  
April

**ROLL OF HONOUR**  
Two people got the crossword answer and they were Jim & Shelagh Goffin, & Wendy Sefton

## Prayer for Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father, Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.

Lord, in these strange, topsy-turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

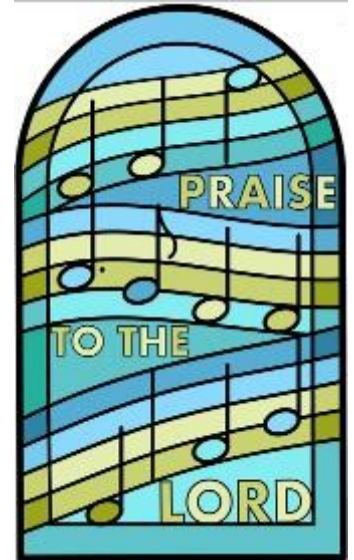
*You, our God and Father, truly reign.* We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus *every* knee shall ultimately bow – and we pray, thankfully in His name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

### The story behind the hymn:

#### 'Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord'

Not many university students are able to write Christian songs which become worldwide hits, but Don Emry Fishel managed it with his Alleluia No. 1. Nearly 50 years on, it is loved and sung by millions of Christians worldwide. Fishel wrote it in 1971, while he was a student at the University of Michigan and also music leader of a Roman Catholic charismatic community based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. These were the days of folk songs and guitars, and Alleluia No. 1 fitted the prevailing mood perfectly. Written in E Major, it is ideal for guitar accompaniment. Mr Fishel became a freelance flutist, flute instructor and composer. He was publications editor for the Word of God and Servant Music for a number of years and then worked in computers for 25 years. In 2008 he moved to Nashville and returned to music, teaching the flute. Alleluia No 1 was Fishel's first song, written "rather quickly, in about an hour." It had four verses to begin with, but a fifth verse (which became the third verse) was added later, as he prepared for baptism. As Fishel explained, he wanted the line 'We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever' "to be the centre of the song." Alleluia No. 1 was first published in the UK in Sound of Living Waters, in 1974.



### Reflecting Faith: where to hold a Baptism

This month, let's look at the actual font where baptisms usually take place.

Over the years Christians have used a wide variety of 'fonts': the sea accessed from the beach, a swimming pool (hired for the occasion), an especially built permanent baptistry, many varied stone fonts, a stainless steel portable font and even the beach in Philippi, Greece where Paul is said to have baptised Lydia and her household. Imagine the sunshine, warmth, flowing clean water and a gathering of your family and friends from your local church who have all travelled there together to celebrate this special moment, and themselves renewed their baptismal vows! Baptism is not only a personal acceptance of Christ, but a huge celebration for Christian family and friends. Think back to a time of success in your life such as passing an exam or getting a new job. Didn't everyone around you also celebrate? So it is when a new person wants to follow Jesus. Baptism for older children and adults have always followed a period of instruction. People as far back as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century weren't just grabbed off the street and immediately baptised and able to join in all the services. Rather, they were carefully taught about Jesus and what being a Christian means. They were allowed to take part in the Sunday service up to the 'Peace' and then they had to leave and went to a separate building for teaching. In other words, they couldn't even watch the Holy Communion part of the service until they had been baptised. Baptism symbolised their public acceptance of the Christian faith, and it was quite literally their first step in their life as a member of the church, as the actual baptism was carried out in a special building, outside but attached to the main church building. Baptisms were done by the Bishop on a certain day or days each year.

*This month:* Where were you baptised? Do you have any photos of that day? This month have a look at the fonts in some local churches and see what shapes they are and any decoration they may have.





May  
2025



## Please Pray



Please remember the following people in your prayers throughout this month.

Graham & Nicola Aylett      George Done

Barbara Done      Helen Browne

Also please remember in your prayers anyone that you know who are housebound or in hospital.

If you would like us to pray for someone close to you then let the Pastoral Care Team or vicar know.

....and the recently bereaved, especially any families known to you



If you have any antiques or collectables that need valuing please call and see James at Bridgewater Craft and Garden Centre for a valuation. Also if you are into Antiques or Collectable call in and see what is there.

## INFORMATION

Revd George Roach  
01928 832734

Email: [vicar.smaaruncorn@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.smaaruncorn@gmail.com)  
Not on a Friday

### Churchwardens

Robbie Littler 07718 133018

Rosemary Lunt 01928 569863

e-mail:

[warden@runcornstmichaels.org.uk](mailto:warden@runcornstmichaels.org.uk)

If you want to book a wedding, baptism or funeral please phone this number 07718 133018 and ask for Robbie

## Measuring success

After the local Churches Together meetings had concluded, the four ministers were discussing the results with one another.

**The Methodist minister** said, "What a success! We gained two new families."

**The Baptist pastor** said, "We did better - we gained three new families."

**The URC minister** said: "That's nothing - we gained five new families!"

**And the Anglican vicar** smiled gently. "And we just said goodbye to our 10 biggest troublemakers."

## The bells rang out in England

The bells rang out in England  
And songs of heartfelt joy,  
But 'midst the cheers were bitter tears  
For each lost man and boy.

The six long years of fighting  
Had such a dreadful cost  
In blood and sweat and mortal threat  
And countless lives were lost.

It now, at last, had ended -  
In Europe's shores at least;  
Our people brave feared not the grave  
To slay the Nazi beast.

The lessons learned stayed with us  
For eighty peaceful years.  
Yet now, again, some brutal men  
Are raising wartime fears.

We should be celebrating  
This coming VE Day;  
Yet not at ease, but on our knees  
For lasting peace, we pray.

*By Nigel Beeton*

## VML

VML's next performance at The Brindley is the following.

It is on Friday 5th September @ 7.30pm and Saturday 6th September @ 2.00pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets: £16.50

