

Food Bank

Now we are back in Church for our services, we have started collecting for the Food Bank. Remember the collection place is in the cupboard at the back of church for you to put your donations of food or money in. **The Foodbank warehouse currently need the following Biscuits, Tinned Fruit and Long Life Fruit Juice The food bank would prefer their regular donors to avoid giving beans if possible as they always receive plenty of these from supermarket donations. Please note that we are unable to take baby milk**

Opening Church for Private Prayer

Due to the Government's announcement, churches are to be closed for services for now, but can be open for Private Prayer. So with this, our church will be open for quiet, private prayer **on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10am to 11am.** If you have significant health problems or any concerns, our advice would be to stay safe and stay at home. But if you wish to come into church for prayer, we look forward to seeing you. Precautions including hand sanitiser, social distancing and a one-way route through the church will be in place for your safety, but also for the safety of our volunteers who will be waiting to welcome you.

**Rev Karen Brady
Colin Keam & Rosemary Lunt Churchwardens**

Operation Christmas Child

A big, big **THANK YOU** to the people who did a box for Operation Christmas Child. A total of **27 boxes** went to Leigh, the collection point and **5** were done via the link on their website. So a grand total of **32 boxes** went from St Michaels.

Wendy Sefton

Prayers

As it was announced in church last week, that Stan Sefton, one of our congregation is in Whiston Hospital. So please remember Stan in your prayers as he is recovering.

Information

One of our congregation Tim Nickson as produced something on You Tube. Please support Tim and watch what he has done.

The link is

<http://www.youtube.com/BACHBritishAutisticChef>

THANK YOU

On behalf of myself and my family a huge and heartfelt thank you to my 'St Michaels Family' for your prayers, love, cards, messages, phone calls and support during the past sad and difficult weeks. All of it has helped so much.

Thank you also to everyone who helped to make Ted's funeral something I will cherish for ever - special thanks to all who in this difficult time stood outside in the cold to pay your respects.

Bless you all
Helen Owen



**Parish Church of
St Michael and All Angels
Sunday 15th November 2020
2nd Sunday before Advent**



Readings for Today

John 1: 1-5

John 8: 12

These are the readings set for today

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Matthew 25: 14-30

Reflection for this week's readings

Reflection: living well in uncertain times

Read the two Bible passages on the next page. Both readings help us to know how we should live as Christians when we don't know what the future holds in store for us.

Our first reading reminds us that we are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. Thank God for this privilege and ask him to help you put on his armour of faith, love and hope today.

The first reading ends with an instruction to encourage one another and build each other up. Prayerfully consider how you can do this, even during lockdown.

Our gospel reading is the para-

ble of the bags of gold, often known as the parable of the talents. Jesus' story reminds us that he has entrusted each of us with gifts, skills and opportunities. What is important is whether and how we use them. How can you serve God today? Will this be a privilege or a burden?

Each of us at St. Michael's is an individual with unique gifts and experience, to use for God's glory. Spend some time praying for others in our church family, that we would each serve God gladly and know his approval as we do so.

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**

Readings for today

John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 8:12

¹²When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

These are the set readings for today

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.⁹ For God did not appoint us to

suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Matthew 25: 14-30

¹⁴"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.¹⁹ After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'²¹ His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'²² The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'²³ His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'²⁴ Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man,

gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'²⁶ His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'²⁸ So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the

darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Fundraising

We are holding a 'Spirit Raffle' to raise funds towards the running of the church. Tickets are **£5** and will be on sale after the 10.00am service in the Meeting Room. The draw will take place after the 10.00am service on **Sunday 29th November**.

Jars of marmalade (orange and lemon) and chutney will be on sale in the meeting room from **Sunday 22nd November**. Jars are individually priced.

Can you please let us know what fundraising events you would like us to do to raise funds for the church.

Candle Prayer

Loving Father, we spend this time to remember the special person we miss, the loved one we carry in our hearts but also entrust to your eternal loving care. We give thanks for the all the love they gave and inspired, the blessings they have brought and the memories they have left.

But we also come to mourn their loss. In the lighting of this candle and remembering them at this time, we ask to you to enfold them in your loving arms; but also, to bring comfort and peace to all who miss them and mourn them.

May the lighting of this candle, kindle in us the flame of healing in the midst of our tears and pain.

May the light of the flame remind us of your loving light which shines brightly in the darkness of unanswerable questions and into the shadows of unspeakable grief.

May the warming glow of the flame bring comfort and strength when we feel cold and empty inside; or simply overwhelmed by sorrow.

May the flickering dance of the flame remind us of the eternal life you promise when we trust in you. May it be a symbol of the hope we hold and the love we carry as we journey onwards in life.

Amen

