



MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

ISSUE 172

MAY 2024

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

SERVICES FOR MAY
CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

Rainbow Flags and the cross.

This edition of the Vicars message I have decided to reach out to you about the subject of the LGBT community here in Runcorn. Now, before I go any further I must stress to you that this is a subject which continues to divide and is one which I do not feel I have the definitive answers to, I do however feel given that we have an LGBT community around us, and indeed people using our building who identify with, or know someone who does identify with this, I am absolutely committed to ensuring we explore this subject, with the love and compassion of Jesus, and what this means for us here at St Michael and All Angels.



As you know the Church of England has invested a considerable amount of time and effort into exploring this very wide subject and it is no secret that it unites some and divides others. I myself prefer to sit on the fence with this subject as I see the arguments for and against, and this is what I hope we can explore as a church family over the months ahead.

Recently I wrote to Bishop Mark to inform him that we will from our Café church, be embarking on this journey, and I have informed him that I will seek to be led by the Holy Spirit through the congregation and PCC as to whether we begin to offer same sex blessings and a wider ministry to the LGBT community, I now hope you will join me on this journey, but it is important to note this maybe a journey with many ups and downs, as opinions vary. Compassion is key.

The more liberal opinion

This is the view that God is love, and no matter what, all people of same sex attraction who are in a stable and committed relationship are able to flourish within the Church. It is about a recognition that love, and relationships are not black and white, and that people are diverse. This view is against the idea of conversion therapy and that these people are living a life of sin based on their natural attraction. The rainbow flag to some is a very strong and deeply meaningful icon that promotes diversity and an end of suffering to this community. They are proud of who they are. Though on the flip side, I know of LGBT people who want nothing to do with flags, labels and just want to be known as normal people without all the bells and whistles. It really is that diverse.

The more conservative opinion.

The conservative view is that God has ordained one man and one woman to become one flesh (Matt 19:5). That Gods design is perfect in its essence and that the bible is the absolute word of God, without wiggle room on the subject. Praying for people to become released from sinful thoughts and attractions are common. And diversity in church encouraged as long as it does not violate the word of God as the word of God is final on the subject.

I get asked occasionally what my thoughts are on this subject and where I stand, and I have to admit that although I do have my opinions on this broad subject, I mostly prefer to keep them to myself at present, as I feel this is a decision for the whole of St Michaels to make, not just myself. But the one thing I do want to say is that as we explore our way forward as a church, whether or not we do expand our ministry here into these important pastoral areas, I am asking for everybody to be open to all people's opinions, sensitive to each other and compassionate at all times, which is indeed the correct way to be as followers of Jesus Christ.

With every blessing, Revd George



MAY CHURCH SERVICES


Wednesday 1st May
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th May (6th Sunday of Easter)
9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Style Church

Thursday 9th May
Ascension Day
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th May (7th Sunday of Easter)
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th May
10.00am Holy Communion

 Sunday 19th May (**Pentecost**)
10.30am Holy Communion
12.00noon APCM????

Wednesday 22nd May
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th May (**Trinity Sunday**)
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 29th May
10.00am Holy Communion



BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY

Sunday 5th May
Colossians 3: 11-15

Thursday 9th May
Acts 1: 1-11
Luke 24: 44-end

Sunday 12th May
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26
John 17: 6-19

Sunday 19th May
Acts 2: 1-21
John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

Sunday 26th May
Isaiah 6: 1-8
John 3: 1-17



Activities at St Michael's Church

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Meeting Room
Next Tea & Toast is on 1st June & 6th July
@ 10.00am to 12.00 noon Admission: £2.00

Crafters Group

Crafters Group meets in the Meeting Room
every Tuesday from 10.00am to 12noon.
Everyone welcome, especially newcomers.



VML

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

JUNE CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd June (1st Sunday after Trinity)
9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Style Church

Wednesday 5th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 9th June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 12th June
10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 16th June (3rd Sunday after Trinity)
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 19th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd June (4th Sunday after Trinity)
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 26th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th June (5th Sunday after Trinity)
10.30am Holy Communion

We have welcomed the following into the Church Family through Baptism



Recently we welcomed 3 children Isaac James Morgan (7th April), Amelia Oates, Rowan Dimelow (14th April) into the Church Family. Please pray for Isaac, Amelia and Rowan that they may grow up to love and follow Christ. Please pray for their parents and Godparents, and pray that they may seek to know Christ and to worship.

This is the baptism from 7th April of Isaac James Morgan



This is one of the baptism's from April 14th of Amelia Oates

Journey on !

Monday morning **Zoom** prayer group for all members of St Michael and All Angels.

9am Start
(Approximately 30 minutes)

Beginning on Monday 13th May

Please pass your email to Revd George to be added to the email link

Walking out

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Reverend," said an embarrassed woman after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon." "I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher admitted. "It's not a reflection on you, sir," insisted the churchgoer. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

May Birthdays



Congratulations to 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.

Prayer for May 2024

Dear Lord,

May, the loveliest of months – and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost. May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live. May people who meet us ask, "What does this mean?" May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand. Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing.

With Him living in us, we can do all things. Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,

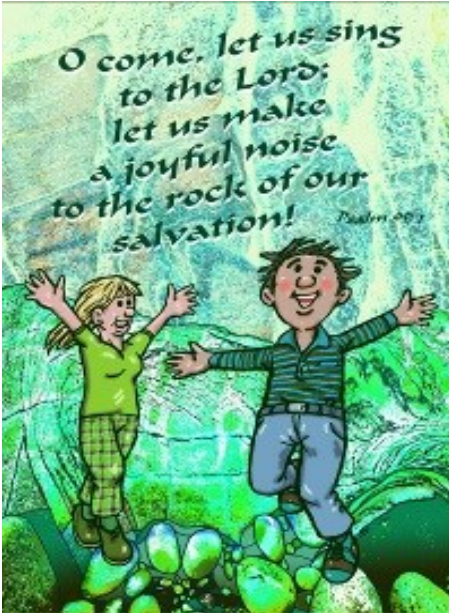
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

£8.5m for parish outreach

The Church of England has awarded nearly £8.5 million for projects to help churches spread the Christian faith, including parish renewal programmes and children's and youth work in rural and urban areas. Grants have been approved for mission from the north of England to the Kent coast, much of it in low-income areas, covering parish revitalisation programmes, 'hubs' for children's and youth work, church planting and the expansion of a model of family church that has grown 'exponentially' after it was set up in 2020. The awards, to Canterbury, Durham, Hereford and Southwark Dioceses, have been made by the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB).



THY KINGDOM COME - 9th to 19th May 2024

This year more than a million Christians worldwide will be joining in long-distance prayer between Ascension Day to Pentecost (9th - 19th May). What started in 2016 with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York inviting the CofE to pray, has grown into an annual international and ecumenical call to 11 days of specific prayer that more people will come to know Jesus. According to the organisers of Kingdom Come, the movement is now in nearly 90% of countries worldwide and spread among 85 different denominations and traditions. Kingdom Come explains that it encourages: "Every person, household, and church to pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. "Specifically, we again invite each Christian to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of five people whom they know, who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call." Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, you are invited to take part this year. Archbishop Justin Welby says: "In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of

Pentecost - not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun - 'White Sunday' because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we've even changed its name. It's now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining. Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience. They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old. As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church. Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.



Christian Aid Week – 12th – 18th May



Christian Aid is urging its supporters to “push back against poverty” this Christian Aid Week by bearing in mind the coming General Election. The charity says that “people hoping to represent us” in the next UK Parliament will soon be on our doorsteps, “vying for our vote”. Christian Aid says that these would-be MPs will: “be in listening mode, keen to hear what makes the voters in their community tick.” And so, urges the charity, Christians can use this opportunity to “show them that your church cares about poverty, and tell them that you expect them to act on poverty too, if they are elected.” This year the charity has launched the ‘70K Challenge for May’, encouraging its supporters to do a sponsored “Move 70km during May. Walk, run, cycle, however you move is up to you.”

Details at: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk>



Easter Experience

The week leading up to Easter, we had one of the local schools in Church, Victoria Road School Years 6 and reception for the Easter Experience. When they came into church for the Easter Experience they were led down St Peter’s Chapel aisle by horses head on a pole signifying a donkey for Palm Sunday, this led to the Last Supper in front of St Peter Chapel Altar. From there they went to the Altar Gates, which was the Garden of Gethsemane (Mount of Olives), then to in front of the Pulpit where the cross was. They then walked down to the baptistery where the tomb was. At each of the different stations they were told the story. After this they took part in some crafts, like painting stones for the Easter trail.

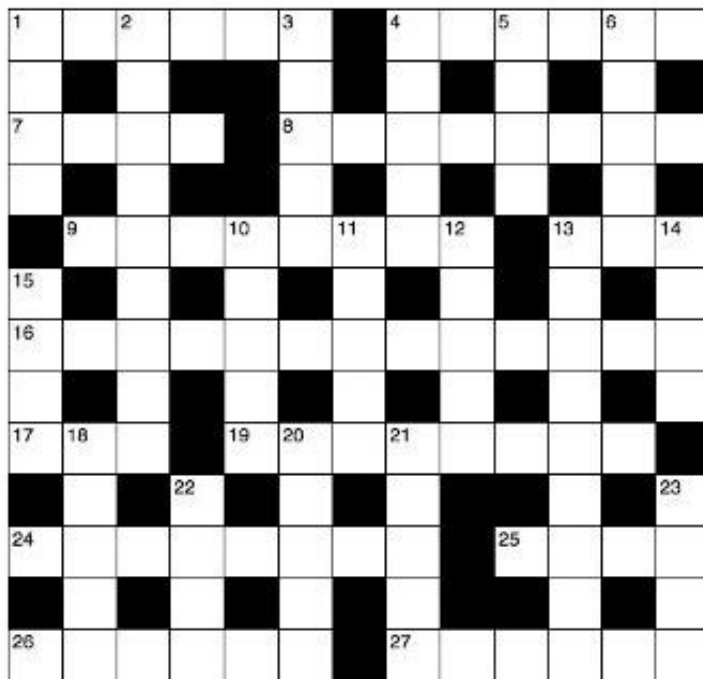


In appreciation of our nurses

The work of nurses is celebrated around the world on 12th May. That day was chosen to be International Nurses Day because it is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth. Here are some current stats on nurses in the UK: There are currently 731,058 nurses on the permanent NMC register. With midwives and nursing associates added, this figure rises to be 788,638. There are more female nurses than male nurses. 89% of registered nurses identify as female, and 11% identify as male. We need more nurses! Currently there are about 46,800 vacancies. Could this be a job for you?



Pentecost -Acts 2



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

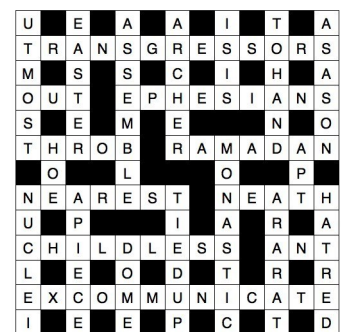
See how you get on with this crossword. There is no prize, but whoever gets it back to the Editor by May 22nd will be entered on a Roll of Honour in the next edition of *Growing Together*.

Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)



**April
Crossword answer**

ROLL OF HONOUR

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



May
2024



Please Pray



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

Graham & Nicola Aylett George Done

Gerald Cook Helen Browne

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

If you would like us to pray for someone close to you let the Pastoral Care Team know and they could visit someone at home don't hesitate to let them know.

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

Raymond Michael Handley

Lesley Peacock

Jean Henry

Arthur Clare

Marjorie Hughes



Bereavement Café

Davis McMullen in Runcorn and St Michael's Church in partnership with VML will be running a Bereavement Café on **Friday at 12.00noon**, initially once a month with a view to going weekly as the need grows. The idea is to provide a safe and secure space for people recently bereaved or grieving the loss of a loved one. Often it is hard for others to understand what the loss can do to people individually so this Café will be a place of support for anyone who needs it.

This year's café dates are as follows

10th May	6th September
7th June	4th October
5th July	8th November
9th August	13th December

INFORMATION

Revd George Roach
01928 832734

Email: vicar.smaaruncorn@gmail.com
Not on a Friday

Churchwardens

Chris Challoner 01928 715830
Rosemary Lunt 01928 569863

e-mail:

warden@runcornstmichaels.org.uk

If you want to book a wedding, baptism or funeral please phone this number

07722470940

and ask for Robbie

VML



If you have some time to yourself on a Tuesday afternoon, why not tune into the VML Radio Show on HCR 92.3 FM.

Upcoming Shows



At The Brindley from Wednesday 12th June to Friday 14th June @ 7.30pm.
Tickets: **£14.50**

Something different at Norton Priory Museum & Gardens Sunday 21st & Sunday 28th July



At The Brindley Monday 30th September @ 7.30pm. Tickets : **£16.50**