



ISSUE 153

JUNE 2022

GROWING TOGETHER

The Spirit & the Sovereign

The first weekend in June (when you may be reading this magazine) is very special this year. We have two Bank Holidays, celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Our Queen has now been on the throne for more than seventy years, longer than any other English monarch. In addition, for Christians, we are celebrating Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit as a gift for all Christians through the ages.

At St. Michael's, we know that both events are important. On Thursday 2 June we hosted a VML community event 'Jubilations', celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. On Sunday 5 June we celebrate Pentecost, with a special Holy Communion service. Both events have needed careful preparation. Robbie and his team have worked hard to ensure that 'Jubilations' is an enjoyable community event, and a fitting tribute to Her Majesty. We have prepared for Pentecost by joining in with 'Thy Kingdom Come', a global prayer network that uses the nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit upon ourselves, our friends and family, and the church. Many of you will have received 'Thy Kingdom Come' Novena and Prayer Journal booklets, and will have used them to reflect and pray.

Both events, the Platinum Jubilee and Pentecost, are important, but they are also connected. Prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit was a significant part of the Queen's Coronation service in 1953. The choir in Westminster Abbey sang the hymn 'Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire', the first verse of which is quoted on the first page of the Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journal. The Archbishop of Canterbury anointed the Queen with oil, praying:

Strengthen her, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost the Comforter; Confirm and establish her with thy free and princely Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and government, the Spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill her, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever.

(These days, we usually say 'Holy Spirit' rather than 'Holy Ghost', and 'spiritual' rather than 'ghostly'.)

It was recognised in that service that the Queen would need the help of the Holy Spirit in order to carry out her royal duties, and she has served our country faithfully ever since. The prayers of the Archbishop, the congregation in Westminster Abbey, and the whole country, have been answered. The Queen still needs our prayers now, as she battles with increasing frailty in her old age. But each one of us also needs the Holy Spirit now. In the words of the introduction to the Novena, 'Without the Spirit's empowering presence it is impossible to be a faithful witness to Christ. We need this gift of the Father to be the people Christ is calling us to be.' Therefore we continue to pray:



Come, Holy Spirit.

with every blessing,

Helen

JUNE CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 1st June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th June Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion



Come Holy Ghost
Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Wednesday 8th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th June (Trinity Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion



Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Wednesday 15th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th June (1st Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion



Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of Thy grace;
Keep far our foes; give peace at home:
Where thou art guide no ill can come.

Wednesday 22nd June
10.00am Holy Communion

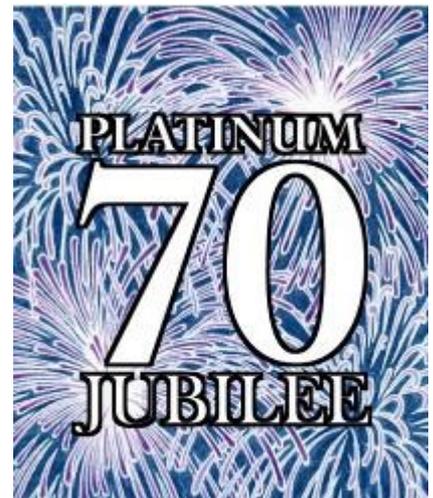
Sunday 26th June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And Thee of both, to be but One,
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,

Wednesday 29th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Praise to Thine eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Anonymous prayer, 9th century,
translated by John Cosin*



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

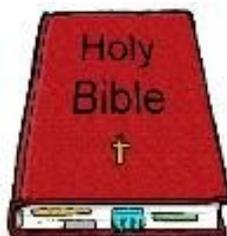


June Birthdays

Congratulations to Daphne Withington who celebrates her birthday on June 7th, to June Betton who celebrates her birthday on June 12th, to Bryn Knott who celebrates his birthday on June 22nd and to Olga Gregory who celebrates her birthday on June 27th.

BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE

5th June
Acts 2: 1-21
John 14: 8-17, 25-27



12th June
Romans 5: 1-5
John 16: 12-15

19th June
Galatians 3: 23-29
Luke 8: 26-39

26th June
Galatians 5: 1,13-25
Luke 9: 51-62

*Come Holy Spirit,
ignite in us
your Holy Fire
strengthen our Faith,
increase in us
your Gift of Love,
and revive
your Church
to live out
your message
of Love and Hope.*

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JULY

Sunday 3rd July (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Celebration

Wednesday 6th July

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th July (4th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 13th July

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 17th July (5th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 20th July

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 24th July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 27th July

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 31st July (7th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion



Please remember the following people in your prayers who were married at St Michael's during the months of May:



May 6th
David James Freeman
& Charlotte Dacia McKelvie

May 14th
James Edward Cooper
& Stacey Michelle Alderson

REMINDER

A reminder has been issued to the public regarding the use of £20 and £50 notes. Cash users have been warned that in six months time they will become void. The deadline for people to use the banknotes is **September 30th**. However, the Bank of England will allow you to exchange £20 and £50 notes following the cut-off point.

Two prayers for her majesty Elizabeth our Queen

Your Servant Elizabeth

Gracious God, we give You thanks for the reign of Your servant Elizabeth our Queen, and for the example of loving and faithful service which she has shown among us. Help us to follow her example of dedication and to commit our lives to You and to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we give You thanks for Your servant Elizabeth our Queen. May she ever be provided with all she may need for her ministry among us, strengthened to meet every demand which her office may make, and in all things nourished by Your word and example, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, world without end. Amen.



On this day on **June 19th 1887** St Michael's was opened for Divine service, though not yet consecrated. Only the nave was completed and closed by a temporary brick wall at the east wall. This date will fall on a Sunday this year.

CONGRATULATIONS

to



Chris & Sue Challanor
who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on
6th June

to

Matt & Claire Roth
who are celebrating
their
Wedding Anniversary
on
8th June

George & Barbara Done
who are celebrating
their
Wedding Anniversary
on
18th June

CONGRATULATIONS

to

Colin & Angela Keam
who are celebrating their
Sapphire (45th) Wedding Anniversary
on 11th June



Reflected Faith Series: The Meaning of Colours Pt 2

Last month we looked at the changing of colours in the church's vestments and altar cloths during March, April and May this year. This month of June sees them changing again, but this time for around 20 weeks.

We start the month still in the season of Easter; strictly speaking, in the time after the Ascension. The first Sunday in June is the feast of Pentecost. This was and remains a Jewish Festival. At the time of Jesus, it was a joyful celebration of the first fruits of the Harvest, which was why all the apostles were gathered together in Jerusalem, as was expected of all Jewish men. As they gathered following Jesus' Ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon them. This is what Christians celebrate at Pentecost, and therefore the colour is red. The following day the colour changes to green, and remains green until the 30th of October, the Feast of All Saints' which will be white. This gives us approximately 20 weeks of 'green' with the occasional day in between of white or red to celebrate an apostle, saint or a specific feast day.

So the question is 'Why?' Why so long?

This time is often referred to as 'Ordinary' time. So what is 'ordinary' about it? I don't know about your life but mine tends to go along fairly steady with just the odd up or down time. Most of my days are 'ordinary'. In church lectionary terms this period of 'X Sunday after Pentecost' follows one main gospel's teachings and miracles of Jesus. It's almost like He gathers us together for a summer school and takes us up a mountainside and teaches us there. It's a time for learning and growth.

This month

Like the green grass feeds the animals, this month spend some time just looking at a patch of grass or the leaves on trees from a distance. See the different shades and hues and when you next hear the gospel reading imagine sitting under those trees on that grass with Jesus Himself.

Activities at St Michael's Church

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Meeting Room

Next Tea & Toast is on 2nd July & 6th August
@ 10.00am to 12.00 noon Admission: £2.00

Crafters Group

Crafters Group meets in the
MeetingRoom every Tuesday
from 10.00am to 12noon.

Everyone welcome, especially
newcomers



DATE FOR THE DIARY

I know we have just had Easter and Summer and the warm weather is about to start. We had a meeting the other day and we decided that we will be holding our Annual Christmas Tree Festival again this year.

So here are the dates for your diary, it will run from Wednesday 7th December to Saturday 10th December. More information will follow in the coming months

VML

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



Another great show from VML. This is taking place at The Brindley on Monday 26th September @ 7.00pm. Tickets: Full price **£15.00**, Concessions: **£12.00**. To book your tickets for this extravaganza go to www.thebrindley.org.uk.



The VML Radio Show
Every Tuesday 2-4pm
Online and On Your
Radio Dial
HCR 92.3 FM
Presenters...
Rob Littler, Mike Carroll
And
Darren Gibbons

Hear our Prayer

O hear our prayer, dear Father
To us incline Your ear!
O righteous, loving Father
Allow us to draw near;
With heartfelt supplications
We seek Your loving grace
With earnest intercessions
We come to seek Your face.

Your kindness ev'ry morning
We trust we'll find in prayer
We lift our hands before You
We reach out for Your care;
O teach us, Father, teach us
Your gentle, loving way,
For You alone are able
To guide us every day.

By Nigel Beeton

VML

Over the past weeks on a Saturday afternoon in the Meeting Room for a couple of hours, Robbie Littler and some members of VML have been working with a group of Asylum seekers. They provided a meal for them, chatted with them through an interpreter and a good time was had by all. Well done to Robbie and the members of VML for doing an excellent job.

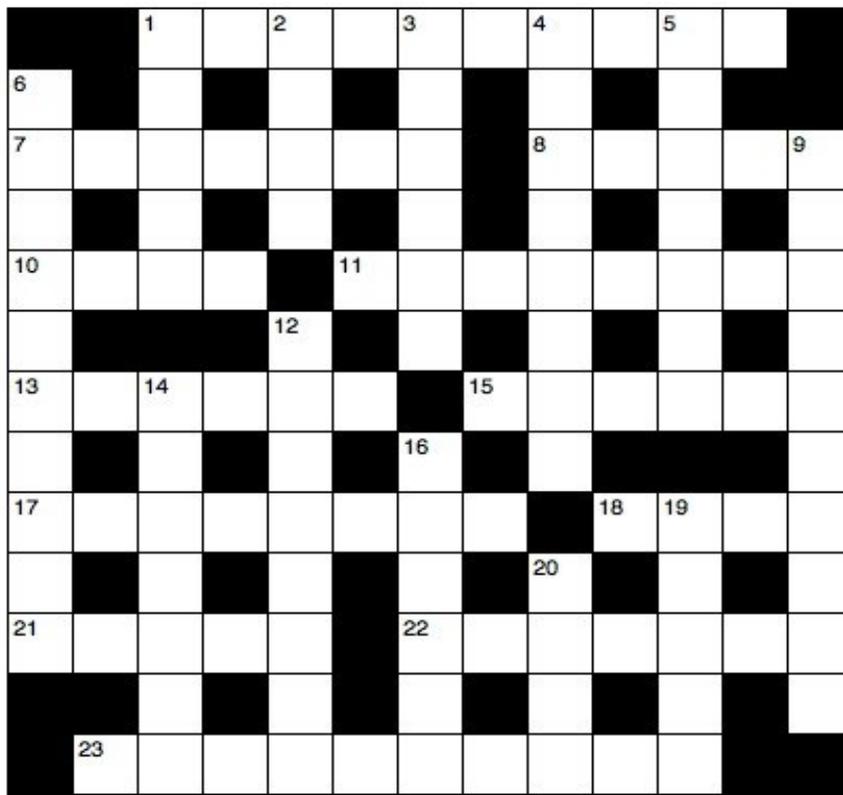


Up to 500,000 children's story books on faithfulness distributed for Platinum Jubilee

Up to half a million story books are being given to primary school-aged children for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by the Church of England and Thy Kingdom Come, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's global prayer movement. The book, 'Queen CJ and the Bouncy Castle', is the latest development from the Cheeky Pandas, a children's online cartoon series. The free storybook, based on the theme of faithfulness, helps children understand the faithfulness of God – in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years of faithful service. The book is part of plans for this year's Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which unites Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide to pray for evangelisation from Ascension to Pentecost. It is also an official Church of England schools resource for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Alongside the book, similar in size to Mr Men and Little Miss books, there will be a brand new five-part online TV series of the Cheeky Pandas, based on the Fruit of the Spirit and inspired by the Bible.

More details at: <https://cheekypandas.com/product/queen-cj-and-the-bouncy-castle/>





CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

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

Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
- 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!(Revelation19:7)(4)



May Crossword answer

ROLL OF HONOUR

Three people got the crossword answer and they were

- Wendy Sefton,
- Jim & Shelagh Goffin
- &
- Margaret Myers

St Michael's APCM 2022

It doesn't seem that long that we held our APCM. The APCM was part of the Morning Service again. The first part of the meeting was the Vestry Meeting, where we vote in the Churchwardens. There were 2 nominations, those were Rosemary Lunt and Chris Challoner and were voted in as the Churchwardens. The next part of the meeting was the general part of the APCM, where the reports and accounts from the church and the Maintenance Appeal Committee were put to the meeting. The next item on the agenda was elections to the PCC, and there were 3 places to fill and there were 3 nominations Bryn Knott, Trevor Mainwaring and Helen Owen were duly elected. There were 37 people in attendance for the APCM.



What 6000 steps a day can do for you

A recent study has found that doing 6000 steps a day can reduce your risk of an early death, if you are aged over 60. People *under* the age of 60 should aim for between 8000 and 10,000 steps a day. However, taking more than 8000 steps a day has no particular benefit, and the oft-repeated mantra that everyone should take 10,000 step a day has no grounding whatever in science. (The 10,000 steps idea came from a 1964 Japanese marketing drive to sell pedometers!) Researchers from the University of Massachusetts Amherst point out that: "Steps are very simple to track, and there is a rapid growth of fitness-tracking devices." The major thing to remember is that there is a "lot of evidence suggesting that moving, even a little more, is beneficial, particularly for those who are doing very little activity."

Christian Basics No 6: What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Pt 1)

As we celebrate Pentecost this month, it's appropriate to ask the question: what does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? Everybody who has committed their life to Christ possesses the Holy Spirit, *'if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.'* (Romans 8:9). It is the Spirit who brings us new birth into the family of God. The Spirit assures us of God's love and acceptance, despite our fears, doubts or failures. As adopted children we can address God as our father: *"God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"* (Galatians 4: 6). By using the same word used by Jesus, we can grow in intimacy with our Father and pray to Him, especially when we struggle to find the right words. The Holy Spirit is committed to producing a family likeness in those who follow Christ. This Jesus likeness enables us to live as Jesus would in our place, ie: work, family, time, interests etc. Paul describes this as the fruit of the Spirit: *'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22,23). He talks about fruit not fruits! We can't pick and choose, as they come as a total package to be developed over a lifetime! The Spirit is committed to producing new desires for God: reading the Bible and praying, forgiving others, meeting with other Christians and sharing our faith. He will also give us the motivation to overcome wrong habits, attitudes or lifestyle in our lives. *'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him'* (Andrew Murray).

Prayer cards for comfort and hope

More than a million free prayer cards are being delivered to cathedrals and churches of all denominations to help people find comfort and hope. The cards, which will be available for visitors in cathedrals and other churches, are designed to help people discover prayer whether to express grief, loneliness, fear or worry, or simply to say thank you. They are among resources produced by the Explore Project, an initiative shaped by people's experience of the pandemic.

More details at: <https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/prayer-cards-for-comfort-and-hope/>





June
2022

INFORMATION

Vicar

Revd Karen Brady
01928 831795

Mobile: 07419820864

e-mail: revkarenbrady@gmail.com

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

Techie trouble

The vicar had technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he muttered: "There's something wrong with the microphone." Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."



Please Pray



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

Graham & Nicola Aylett

George Done

Liz Adams

Gerald Cook

Norah Gamon Vincent Whitehead

Also please remember in your prayers anyone that you know who is at home or in hospital.

If you would like us to pray for someone close to you please let the Vicar know. Or if you would like the Pastoral Care Team to visit someone at home don't hesitate to let them know.

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



Stephen Droughton

David Room

We have welcomed the following into the Church Family through Baptism



Recently we welcomed **Ten children:**

Emilia-Rose Edie McLaughlin, AJ Ross Sefton-Rawson, Theo Andrew Sefton-Rawson, (8th May), Isla Jorgie Rae Williams, Amber Thea Mae Williams, Ivy Kathleen Crowther (15th May), Ellie Jo Cairns, Lucie Sophia Dunham, Luke Andrew Moss (22nd May), Martha Grace Thomas (29th May),

Please pray for Emilia-Rose, AJ, Theo, Isla, Amber, Ivy, Ellie, Lucie, Luke and Martha 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.



Emilia -Rose Edie



Ellie Jo, Lucia Sophia Luke Andrew



Martha