

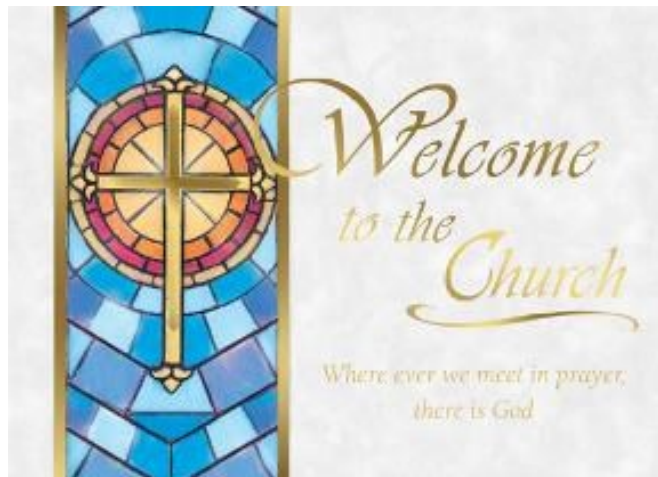


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE  
PARISH CHURCH OF  
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.  
[www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk](http://www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk)

ISSUE 175

SEPTEMBER 2024

# Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:  
HUMOUR NEWS

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER  
PUZZLE PAGE CELEBRATIONS

## Vicars Message

Let Peace Be your Quest and Aim !

~ Rule of St Benedict



I write this Message with only one word in mind – Peace. Or in Latin, Pax. Peace is the motto of the Benedictine Order, it is the blessing we share with each other before we take the Holy Eucharist, and it should be the foundation of our lives as Christians. And it is the word we absolutely need to hear more now than ever.

On 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 the country was devastated to hear of the stabbing and murder of innocent little children at a concert in Southport. This loss of life, this senseless suffering was bad enough but what followed afterwards added further to the pain as a minority in the country used this tragic event as an excuse to riot against Muslim and immigrant communities. The original source of this rioting was senseless social media posts sharing the supposed race and religion of the person responsible for this atrocity. We should be ever grateful for the Emergency Services who responded to the initial devastation and the riots that followed.

Interestingly, prior to this we had the controversial opening of the Olympic Games where a supposed portrayal of the last supper was used and “mocked” by the LGBT community. The exact background to this remains unclear, however, again, what didn’t help was social media misinformation and backlash against minority groups.

The thing that concerned me in these two situations was those who proclaimed to be “Christians” that have taken part in spreading misinformation and have been an active part in online threats to minority communities and even frontline violence. This is not acceptable for any true Christian to be a part of.

Christianity is a beautiful religion with a spiritual depth and meaning that transcends thousands of years. We have a God who is not unreachable, but who is rather fully tangible in the image of Jesus. We have the sacraments which link us directly with the Holy Spirit, and we have centuries of devoted and dedicated Christian teachers and Martyrs who all carry that flag of peace. However, history teaches us that we have gotten it wrong many times with the crusades, the witch trials, and other sad events. If we would only have listened to Christ's words a lot closer when he says in Matthew's Gospel...

**“Blessed are the peacemakers; they will be called sons of God”**

things may have been different. It is important that we follow this teaching as close as possible, certainly now more than ever.

You and I have a charge given to us by Jesus Christ, this is a charge to defend the innocent, feed the hungry, protect the homeless and be people of peace. We can not do this by spreading gossip, misinformation or inciting violence at any level. This is not the way of Christ.

My prayer for you all is that we become active people of peace, spreading peace, speaking of peace, and only ever, in very exceptional circumstances, using limited force to restore peace.

One of my favourite quotes in the Rule of St Benedict is as follows...“May peace be our quest and aim”. May this be true now and evermore, for each of us.

Amen.

*with every blessing,*

*Rev'd George*



# SEPTEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st September (14th Sunday after Trinity)  
8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 4th September  
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th September (15th Sunday after Trinity)  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 11th September  
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th September (16th Sunday after Trinity)  
10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 18th September  
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd September (17th Sunday after Trinity)  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th September  
10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 29th September (Patronal Sunday)  
10.30am Holy Communion

## Bereavement Café

Do you or anyone you know have a friend or family member who has died? You are warmly invited to our monthly Bereavement Cafe here at St Michaels [first Friday of the Month at 12.00noon](#)

Come and join others who are on the same journey and talk with professional who are of faith or no faith at all. A safe space with cake and refreshments provided. Our Pastoral team can be contacted via the Vicar on 01928 832734.

## BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1st September  
Genesis 6: 9-13 7: 17-24  
Matthew 28: 16-20

Sunday 8th September  
Isaiah 35: 4-7a  
Mark 7: 24-37

Sunday 15th September  
Isaiah 50: 4-9a  
Mark 8: 27-38

Sunday 22nd September  
Jeremiah 11: 18-20  
Mark 9: 30-37

Sunday 29th September  
Genesis 28: 10-17  
John 1:47-end



**Prince of Peace**  
**The Most High God**  
**The LORD is peace**  
**Father Son Holy Spirit**  
The LORD who provides  
**The God of Eternity**  
**Wonderful Counsellor**  
**THE ANCIENT OF DAYS**  
**The LORD of hosts**

# OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 2nd October  
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 6th October (19th Sunday after Trinity)  
8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 9th October  
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th October (20th Sunday after Trinity)  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 16th October  
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th October (21st Sunday after Trinity)  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 23rd October  
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 27th October (22nd Sunday after Trinity)  
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 30th October  
10.00am Holy Communion

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



Recently we welcomed **one child** Dylan Alan Wain Comer (18th August ), and **three adults** Bethany Saskia Wain, Declan Anthony Wain and Adelle Denise Wain (18th August ) into the Church Family. Please pray for Dylan that he may grow up to love and follow Christ. Please pray for his parents and Godparents, and pray that he may seek to know Christ and to worship.

Also please pray for Bethany, Declan and Adelle that they may seek to know Christ and to worship him.



The baptism on August 18th

## Farm house Supper

This years Farmhouse Supper is on **Saturday 21st September, 7.00pm to eat at 7.30pm**. Again the entertainment will be **'Kiwi Chorus'** who have given us excellent Entertainment in the past. Make sure you have your tickets as these go fast. The ticket price is **£12 and bring your own drink**. See Lynne Corker for your tickets.

## The coming of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer

Some 75 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1949, the Christmas song *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was released. It was sung by the American movie-star and singer Gene Autry, nicknamed the "Singing Cowboy". The song was adapted from a poem/story written by Robert L May for a children's colouring book: it was an assignment given him by his employers, the Chicago-based Montgomery Ward retail group. It was published in 1939, and 2.4 million copies were distributed free in its first year. May initially considered the names Rollo or Reginald for his 'ugly duck' reindeer, but eventually settled on Rudolph. Concerned about how to make the reindeer distinctive, he was looking out of his office window when a thick fog blocked his view. This gave him the idea for Rudolph's bright red nose, enabling Santa to see where he was going. Robert May's four-year-old daughter was used as a sounding board while he created the story, but it was initially rejected, partly because of the unfortunate associations of a red nose with chronic drunkenness at the time. However, May's friend and colleague, Denver Gillen, drew 'cute reindeer', which persuaded the managers to go for the idea. The story-poem was turned into a song by May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks. Several popular singers rejected it, but Gene Autry took it on, and his recording reached No 1 on the Billboard chart for pop singles in the week of Christmas 1949. It sold 2.5 million copies in the first year. Up to the 1980s it was the second best-selling record of all time. The United States Postal Service issued a series of postage stamps featuring Rudolph on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

### CONGRATULATIONS

to  
**Chris & Ruth Lawton**  
whose Wedding Anniversary  
was on August 14th

to  
**Roy & Ada Barlow**  
whose Wedding Anniversary  
is on September 20th



### Activities at St Michael's Church

#### St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Meeting Room

Next Tea & Toast is on 7th September & 5th October

@ 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.



## 26<sup>th</sup> Sept Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army

Wilson Carlile was born in Brixton in 1847, and did not set out to become an evangelist. Instead, he was brilliant at both languages and music, and excelled as a businessman. That is, until an economic recession and serious illness brought him crashing down and finished his career, aged only 31. Not surprisingly, a serious breakdown followed, when Carlile questioned everything that he had been attempting in life. This search for a new meaning brought him to faith in Jesus Christ, and so turned his world upside down. He later wrote:

*I have seen the crucified and risen Lord as truly as if He had made Himself visible to me bodily sight. That is for me the conclusive evidence of His existence. He touched my heart and old desires and hope left it. In their place came the new thought that I might serve Him and His poor and suffering brethren.*

Wilson approached two Christians whose passion for ministry was already well known: the Americans evangelists Moody and Sanky, who were at that time in England. Wilson attended their meetings and supplied music via his harmonium. In return, he learned a lot about effective outdoors evangelism. Carlile then prepared himself for a life of ministry. He was confirmed into the Church of England, studied at the London College of Divinity, ordained in 1880 and served his curacy at St Mary Abbots in Kensington. But Carlile wanted more than comfortable parish life, and soon began outdoor preaching again. He wanted to reach the poor, unchurched, of the community. Carlile left Kensington to work in a slum mission, and by 1882 he was busy uniting the local Anglican parish missions into one organisation. Here his business skills in planning and organising proved invaluable, and soon he had founded the 'Church Army.' He then founded two training colleges, to train both men and women evangelists. After slight hesitation, the Church of England agreed to incorporate the Church Army into its structure, and even created the office of Evangelist for the Church Army captains and sisters. In the years that followed, Church Army has done great work in evangelism, as well as in social and moral welfare. It helped support the troops during World War 1. Carlile remained honorary chief secretary until retirement in 1926. He died in 1942.

## Summer Fayre

We held a successful Summer Fayre on Saturday 20th July. Due to the weather forecast and we didn't know if was going to rain the majority of the stalls were put in church and church hall. The BBQ of course was outside with the star stall 'Soak the Vicar' and some games. The Vicar and the Maintenance Appeal Committee would like to give huge **THANK YOU** to the people who gave up their time to set up the stalls and also to the people who volunteered to

run the stalls. It was nice to see quite a few new faces from or church volunteering to run stalls it was greatly appreciated. On the day we made the grand total of **£802** which will help the church. Here are some of the photographs from the day.



## Prayer for September 2024

Lord, here we are in September – a beautiful month at the end of the summer, but before the autumn has taken hold. A month of excitement and new starts for many, a month when courage is needed for our children and young people. And Lord we pray for courage, compassion and integrity for our new Prime Minister and our new government. We pray for justice and peace in our country and in the world. Help us Lord, to know that you are Lord of September; you are Lord and giver of every new month, every new day, every new minute. Help us to put our trust in you for our adventures and for our mundane everyday routines. You are our generous, loving Father and promise that you will never leave us or forsake us when we trust in you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen.

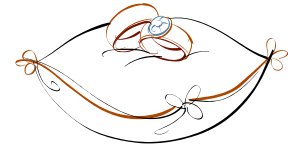
*By Daphne Kitching*



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

July 27th

**Daniel Goodall &  
Caron Michele Hughes**



## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



**September Birthdays**

Congratulations to Terry Oke who celebrates his birthday on **September 16th**, and to Wendy Sefton who celebrates her

birthday on **September 26th**

Walter Yules daughter, Tracey, who in her early years was a Sunday School Teacher at St Michael's and was also active in many Rose Fetes has been Head teacher at Long Houghton Primary C o E School, just outside of Alnwick for the last 16 years but is retiring at the end of this school year. She has just sent Walter this message "Just finished my last School Church Service & the Vicar got me to ring the Church Bell 16 times - once for each year of my headship

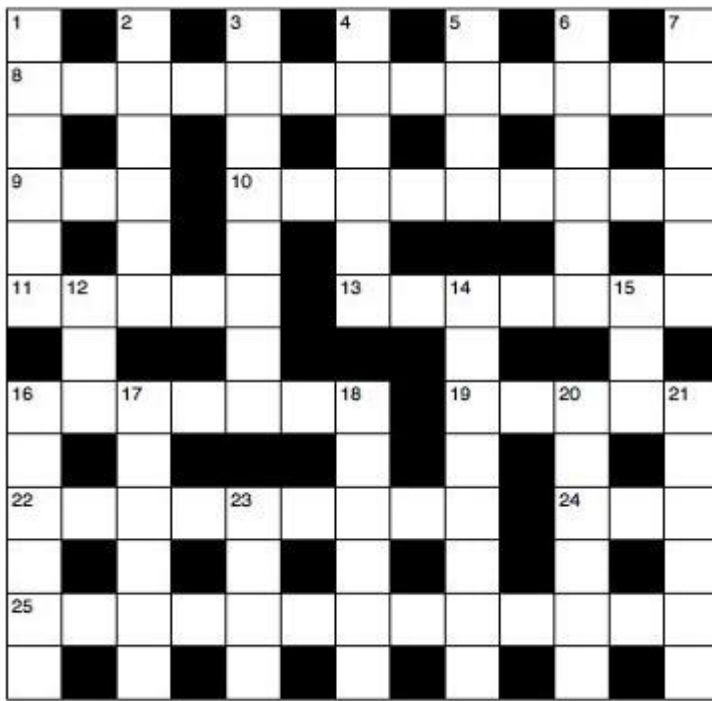
The new birth is a change of direction and change of affection. It's a union of the soul with Christ. Christ comes to you through the Holy Spirit, and you become a partaker of God's life. – *Billy Graham*



## What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

This month we turn to the New Testament and look at Matthew, the first of the gospels. Although linked to Matthew the apostle, it is generally believed that the author used oral tradition, written fragments, eye-witness accounts, as well as common material in the other synoptic gospels (Mark and Luke). Matthew, in writing for Jews, sets out to prove that Jesus is the true Messiah. He connects Jesus' birth, life death and resurrection with the Old Testament Scriptures. In fact, he quotes the Old Testament more than any other New Testament author. This is reflected in the opening genealogy which traces Jesus back to Abraham; in his use of the terms *kingdom of heaven* and *Father in heaven*, reflecting a Jewish reluctance to use God's name; and in the way he portrays Jesus as the *Son of David*. The whole gospel is structured around five blocks of teaching (chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25). This fivefold division reflects the structure of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament). Matthew provides a comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all parts of our lives (work, family, friends and future) completed in Him. At the end of his gospel, Matthew records Jesus' commission to His disciples share this good news, promising to be with them:

*'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'* (28:18-20)



## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

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

### Across

- 8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)  
 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3)  
 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have' — (Malachi 1:3) (5)  
 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)  
 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)  
 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)  
 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)  
 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)  
 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

### Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)  
 2 See 24 Across  
 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)  
 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)  
 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)  
 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)  
 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)  
 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)  
 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)  
 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)  
 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)  
 17 Braved (anag.) (6)  
 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)  
 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)  
 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)  
 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)



July/August  
Crossword answer

### ROLL OF HONOUR

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



### 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

Cyril Wilkinson

John Worthington



Robert (Bob ) Hallsworth

### INFORMATION

Revd George Roach  
01928 832734

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

#### Churchwardens

Robbie Littler 07722 470940  
Rosemary Lunt 01928 569863

e-mail:

warden@runcornstmichaels.org.uk

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

07731677693

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 Monday 30th September @ 7.30pm. Tickets : £16.50

### Synod backs increase in statutory minimum rest time for clergy

The General Synod has backed moves to introduce a statutory entitlement to 36 hours rest a week for clergy office holders, in an effort to encourage Church of England priests to take sufficient time off work. Members of the Synod meeting in York voted in favour of plans to amend church regulations to introduce a statutory right to a minimum of 36 hours rest - a day and a half a week - for clergy office holders, covering most clergy. The new right would include an uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours. The Synod heard that as office holders, rather than employees, clergy already have the right to arrange their work to take time off to rest without seeking permission. In addition, the current regulations for most clergy specify a minimum of 24 hours uninterrupted rest a week. But in practice they are not taking enough rest, Canon Alison Coulter, from the Diocese of Winchester, told the Synod. She called clergy "a precious resource" who "have given up much to serve us, so our priority needs to be to care for you." Under the plans backed by the Synod, draft regulations to enact the changes will be brought before the General Synod for approval at a later date.

