

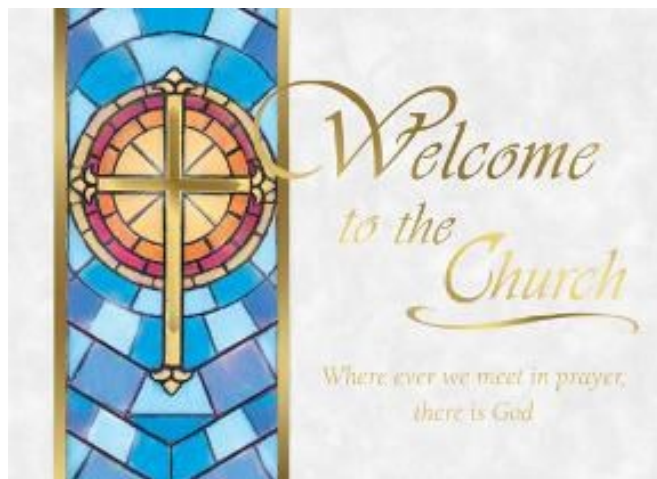


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

ISSUE 176

OCTOBER 2024

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
PUZZLE PAGE CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law – Galatians 5: 22-23



On Thursday 26th of September, the PCC met up together at Foxhill retreat centre to look at our Journey so far and our future together. This day involved much celebration for what God has done this year, much reflection on the time ahead, and of course that word that may as well be an unwritten 11th commandment in most churches, "Thou shalt not discuss CHANGE"

Partly, this discussion with the PCC was absolutely not needed, as I feel blessed more than ever by a PCC that is supportive, caring, outward looking and reflective of those words from Galatians above. However, the message and theme can not be revisited enough, and I need the PCC to reinforce this message to the congregation and people around.

We here at St Michaels need to change. Our Worship, mission, ministry, structures, and use of our building needs updating and modernising ready for a new future and a new generation. This is why I write to you today, to inform you that St Michaels has this past 12 months, and will be in the future, on a journey of change. Change that to some will be very uncomfortable.

Why change? Well, the hard truth is that the Church of England and the Christian faith is in decline here in the UK. People no longer HAVE to go to church, rather it is something they can now choose to do. With this choice comes decline, with decline this beautiful building on Greenway Road which cost **£1750.00 a WEEK** (not a month) to run is in very real danger of closing.

The truth of the matter is that we need to change, the building needs to be modernised too in order to attract people into St Michaels in as many ways as possible. A lovely Lady said to me recently "Do you know what you need to do to build up that church?...Get a Choir!" Oh how I really wish it was that simple in 2024.

The building itself has already begun to make some changes. For example, the very outdated Choir Vestry has been stripped, repainted and is awaiting a new carpet so that we can hire this room out for both missional outreach and to assist with income.

The Meeting room will hopefully soon have a new lease of life too, with a greater focus on this being very much a community hall open to all. Again reaching into a new beginning of missional outreach and further maximising our income.

Finally, at our PCC it was discussed to make some structural and positional changes in some of our roles and functions. All of the above uncomfortable to some, trust me I sympathise with you.

Change also comes in the form of ourselves by way of giving. Sadly, it is almost always the same people time and time again doing everything to keep this place going. This absolutely has to change. The church is not a Sunday club to attend where everything is magically put together by a vicar who only works one day a week, rather, The Vicar works 6 days a week with a wonderful team of very committed (mostly retired !) volunteers, who are going above and beyond. The polite reminder here for those able bodied is that we are all the Body of Christ, all separate parts making up that one body (1 Cor 12:27). Unfortunately whilst our finances are stretched, our volunteers are working tirelessly, to a level that is not sustainable in the long term future of St Michaels. Therefore, If you can spare even the most minor financial donation or increase to our work, it would be most appreciated. If you can spare 30 minutes at the end of the service to take your turn on the coffee rota, if you can join the fundraising team, or have an idea of where you would like to fit in, even in certain roles up front, **PLEASE** do come forward.

Most of all, in relation to the above, and that word, **CHANGE**, can I ask for your prayers, your patience and for the fruit of the spirit within us all as we navigate unknown territory, making Jesus known through St Michaels in today's very challenging generation.
Amen.

With every blessing,

Rev'd George

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

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.

And these are the following dates:-

Fridays-

8th November and 13th December.

Each session is 12.00noon to 1.00pm Please come along.

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 OCTOBER

Sunday 6th October
Joel 2: 21-27
Matthew 6: 25-33

Sunday 13th October
Job 23: 1-9, 16-17
Mark 10: 17-31

Sunday 20th October
Job 38: 1-7, 34-41
Mark 10: 35-45

Sunday 27th October
Psalm 19: 7-end
John 5: 36b-end



The earth is the Lord's
and all that is in it,
the world
and those who live in it.



Psalm 24: 1



NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3rd November (All Saints Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 6th November
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th November (Remembrance Sunday)
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 13th November
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 17th November (2nd Sunday before Advent)
10.30am Holy Communion
3.00pm Service of Remembrance and Hope

Wednesday 20th November
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 24th November (Christ the King)
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 27th November
10.00am Holy Communion

We have welcomed the following into the Church Family through Baptism



Recently we welcomed **Three Young Adults, Charlie Lloyd Thornton, Ray Rawlinson and Joshua James Ward Dutton (1st September), and one child Jayden Kyle Dalosa (22nd September)** into the Church Family.

Please pray for Jayden, 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 Charlie, Ray and Joshua that they may seek to know Christ and to worship him.

This is from the baptism on September 1st, which was a full immersion baptism. Afterwards there was a bring and share lunch to celebrate their baptisms.



This is the baptism from 22nd September of Jayden. After the service, the family invited the congregation to celebrate their child's baptism in the Church Hall by providing some traditional Filipino food.



- **Activities at St Michael's Church**
- **St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee**
- **Tea & Toast in the Church Hall**
- **Next Tea & Toast is on 2nd November & 7th December**
- **@ 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.**

Walkers could lose 40,000 miles of footpaths

Walkers in Britain could stand to lose thousands of miles of rights of way, because of the sheer size of the growing backlog of applications for footpaths to be recognised and protected. The Government has set a deadline of 2031 for public footpaths and bridleways to be officially mapped. But local authorities still have nearly 8,000 applications still waiting to be processed. This has caused concern that some rights of way could be lost forever. The Ramblers, the walking charity, reckons there are about 41,628 miles of missing rights of way. They are encouraging people to track these down, in their *Don't Lose Your Way* campaign.



How many church members does it take to change a light bulb?

What do you mean CHANGE??? That light bulb was given in memory of my grandmother! My father installed it with his bare hands! He donated his time AND the use of his ladder to do it, too! My family's been members of this church for four generations! And if you think you're going to come in here and make changes all of a sudden, Vicar, you've got another think coming!



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or we can't afford to service the boiler for the Winter season"

NO ORGANIST,NO CHOIR,.....NO PROBLEM

This is a story of Virtual reality and hymns by email ,with a twist in the Tale.

For some time here at St. Michael and All Angels in Runcorn, we have had neither a Church Organist or Church Choir. The hymns and other music have been played through the Church sound system.

At the outset of our year in Vacancy, from late 2022,one of our Church members, Sue, was tasked with sourcing both hymns appropriate to the lectionary, and the music, to then send on to our sound engineer, Brian. Our regular Sunday congregation numbered around 30 to 35 during the Vacancy. Now Sue was brought up in the Methodist Church, and Methodists do like a good sing, so she was blessed with a broad knowledge of Hymns and Religious music.

In September 2023 God blessed St. Michaels with a bright,shiny new Vicar, Revd George, who came overflowing with great ideas and much enthusiasm for developing the Worshipping Community and linking in with our wider Parish residents. Monthly Sunday Café Church was reintroduced by Rev.George which in turn brought a widening of the hymn choices embracing both traditional and not so traditional songs, so this gave Sue an additional challenge ! This desire for a wider choice brought another challenge. Some of the less traditional songs were not known by many of the Congregation.

Sue had a "light bulb " moment.

She invited just a few of the congregation to form a "Virtual Choir" and each week emailed them with a list of the hymns for the following Sunday, in some cases the words of the lesser-known songs and in a few cases downloads of the music. Emailing following strict GDPR guidelines of course. This resulted in at least some of the congregation being able to practice and "belt out " the hymns and songs for others to follow. Over the weeks, the aforesaid enthusiasm and great ideas for development started by Rev. George began to bear much fruit and the regular Sunday congregation has now swelled to between 55 and 60 which is remarkable. During this time, more of the Congregation have been invited by Sue to become part of the " Virtual Choir" ...encompassing both those who have only recently come to St Michaels to worship, and those who have worshipped in our wonderful Church for some time. The Virtual Choir is now 34 strong, so up to 34 folk come to our Sunday service in full knowledge of the hymns and music for that service which is fantastic.

The twist in the Tale.

It is well known how daunting it can be for anyone who plucks up the courage to come to a Church, or indeed any other organisation, for the first time. However, what we have found is that as well as receiving the usual friendly St Michaels welcome , when anyone new to our Church accepts the invitation to become a member of the Virtual Choir, they immediately feel "part of the Family", receive weekly emails about the forthcoming Sunday worship, and become involved in the chatter both before and after Sunday service about the music....in some cases making suggestions for forthcoming services.

One could say the Choir is Virtually Pastoral, and great fun for all.

Chris Challoner



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A Daily Prayer

Dear Lord, keep us from being like porridge
Slow to boil and hard to stir, and make us like
Cornflakes, always prepared and ready to serve. **Amen**

CONGRATULATIONS



to
**Robbie & Lisa
Littler**
who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on October 30th

Christmas Grand Draw Tickets

Again we are doing a Grand Draw this year in conjunction with Christmas Tree Festival which is from 11th to 14th December. The Grand Draw tickets will be at the back of church and if you could take 10 books that would appreciated. Please see Colin Keam for your tickets.

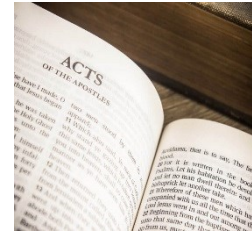
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



October Birthdays

Congratulations to Robert Withington who celebrates his birthday on **October 1st**, to Liz Crowther who celebrates her birthday on **6th October**, to Matt Roth who celebrates his birthday on **13th October** and to Joyce Dykes who celebrates her birthday on **October 18th**.

The Book of Acts



How much do you know about the Book of Acts?

Did you know that Acts is often considered one of the most important books in the Bible, aside from the Gospels?

Perhaps you are reading through Acts now and wish to know more about the themes and background?

Do come and join us for our Book of Acts bible study as we explore these questions.
All are most welcome!

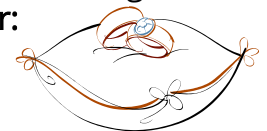
Monday 28th October 2024
14:00 and then repeated 19:00
in the Church Hall

Tea and Coffee Provided
Please Bring Notebook, pen and Bible.

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

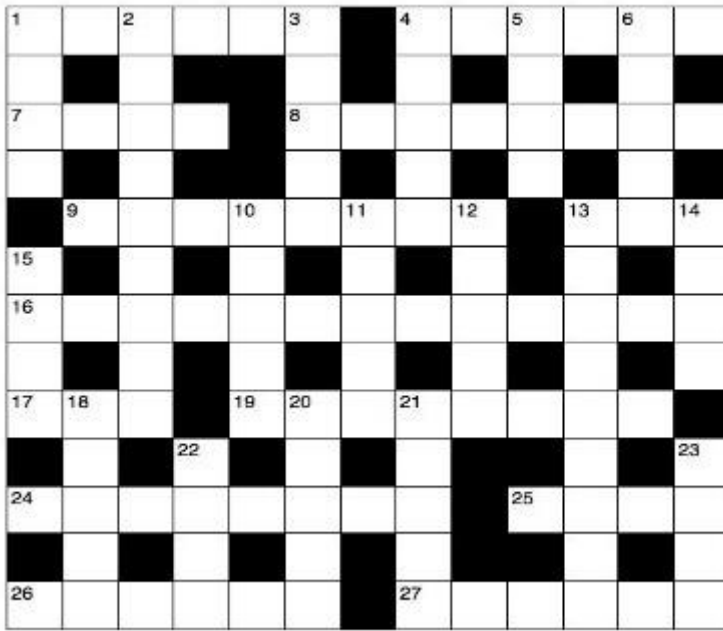
September 28th

**Glynn Derek Williams &
Suzanne Catherine Holding**



What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Mark

Mark is the second of the synoptic gospels, along with Matthew and Luke. Traditionally this gospel is ascribed to John Mark, a close associate of Peter. It was written for Gentile readers, probably in Rome during Nero's persecution of the church (c AD 64-7). Mark unveils Jesus' public ministry with the words: *'the beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God'* (1:1). The gospel provides a succinct and vivid account of Jesus' ministry, concentrating on what Jesus did rather than what He said. Mark moves quickly from one episode to another, often using the word *'immediately'* which is characteristic of his gospel. For Mark, understanding the true identity of Jesus is fundamental to his gospel. Jesus asks the disciples, *'Who do people say I am?'* (8:27), to which Peter replies, *'You are the Christ'*. This is evident in Jesus' role as teacher, the call for discipleship and the account of Jesus' death and resurrection, which occupies the last third of the gospel. A key verse which helps us to understand the nature of Jesus' mission and how we might live in the light of it is: *'Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'* (10:44,45). As the Suffering Servant, Jesus gave His life on the cross, that we might know and share his love. Mark is understandably in a hurry to tell us about Jesus: the one who reveals the truth of God to us, that we might live in reality not ignorance!



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

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

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)



September Crossword answer

ROLL OF HONOUR

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



October
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

Anthony Newman

Hector Harrington



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.

Parachute Jump

On Saturday 7th September, our vicar, Revd George Roach took to the air and did a parachute jump free fall from 15,000 feet, dropping from the aircraft at 137-140mph to the ground. He did this fundraiser for PAPHYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide and has raised over £1000 for this cause.



Prayer for October 2024

Lord,
As we move into autumn and the month of October, the normal seasonal changes are all around us, the beautiful colours, the falling leaves, the cooler days. And that is reassuring.
But, so much else in our world is changing so rapidly, often in ways we don't understand. And that can be worrying. Thank you that You never change. You are always the same, faithful, present and loving. And You tell us in Your Word, not to be anxious about anything, but to bring all things to You in prayer and to trust You. When we do this, You promise us Your Peace - a peace of heart that steadies us and helps us move forward.
Thank you that whatever comes, we are secure in You, when we put our trust in Jesus.
In His name, we pray.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching