

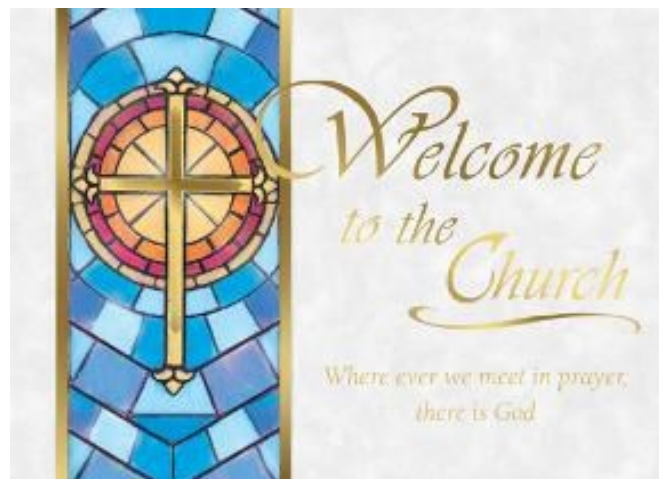


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

ISSUE 177

NOVEMBER 2024

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
PUZZLE PAGE CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

Matthew 24:6-13

You will hear of wars and rumours of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.



War benefits nobody. This has been my opening statement at all remembrance day services since being in ministry and although some would argue that war does indeed benefit the oppressed, as it is the greater outcome for the greater good that matters, in the very first instance, war benefits nobody.

Sadly, we live in a time where war and the growing threat of war is more prevalent now than in recent years as Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine all carry on their own conflicts whilst other countries become involved in various ways. On one hand I fear for the future of this world and for my own grandchildren, yet on another I know that God has this in hand fully.

Going back a few thousand years, we see that war (certainly in the Holy Land) is not something new and this is evident to those who visit Jerusalem as you can see clearly the various layers of brickwork and monuments destroyed by conflict. Take the city walls for example, written many times in ancient scripture about its battles, and also in more modern historic literature, evidenced by the early Jewish brickwork, underneath the Ottoman Empires Brickwork, the Crusader and more modern repairs. Jerusalem is no stranger to war.

In a couple of weeks, our focus turns slightly from the brickwork of Jerusalem to the trenches and battlefields of WW1 and WW2. Additionally, to the more modern conflicts of Afghanistan and Iraq. Yet more conflicts, more wars and more damage done. I reflect often upon war and the effects of conflict both on an international scale and more locally in our own country in recent riots.

The thing about war that hurts me the most is the children being caught up in all of this. I saw a really hard-hitting picture recently of a young child playing on her bike in what appeared to be Palestine. No green field, no friends, no sunshine, just debris, damage, and destruction. My heart bleeds for these children because let's be honest, they do not care one bit for land, wealth and political status, they just want to play on their bikes with their friends and go home for a cuddle.

My apologies for the first part of this message being quite "down" but the truth must be in the forefront always, now I want to offer you some light in amongst the darkness of War. Especially as we approach remembrance.

On this side we do not have the answers at all, though we do see Jesus words about "wars and rumours of wars" we know these things "must come to pass", my light is in Jesus Christ and his divine Mercy, a divine mercy that protects every innocent man, woman and child who dies caught up in conflict, that divine mercy who carries soldiers who have had no choice but to pull the trigger. The same divine mercy who will in the end write all of these wrongs as a thing of the past.

My light also shines through those I meet daily via general conversations, and via everyday ministry. It doesn't fail to surprise me that in amongst the world around us, in the darkness of the media doom and gloom, we have more people shining light (or ready to shine) than there are those who wish to press darkness. And this is my call to you all now.

As we approach remembrance Sunday, please do remember those who have fallen, please do wear your poppy with pride, please do pray for peace, though most of all never forget that though the conflict zones seem so far away and that the future seems like something we cannot impact, never forget the importance of becoming that light of Christ in a dark world, shining for those around. It makes no difference how old or young you are, or how heavy your personal circumstances, we can all take even the briefest moments to encourage one another.

I leave this vicars message with my own prayer for peace.

Father, in a world with so much conflict and so much threat of wars, we pray for a time when war is a thing of the past and that the future is one of peace. A time when every man lays down their arms, and every woman and child can exist and grow in safety and love.

Amen.

with every blessing, *Rev'd George*

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

BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd November

Wisdom 3: 1-9

John 11: 32-44

Sunday 10th November

Jonah 3: 1-5,10

Mark 1: 14-20

Sunday 17th November

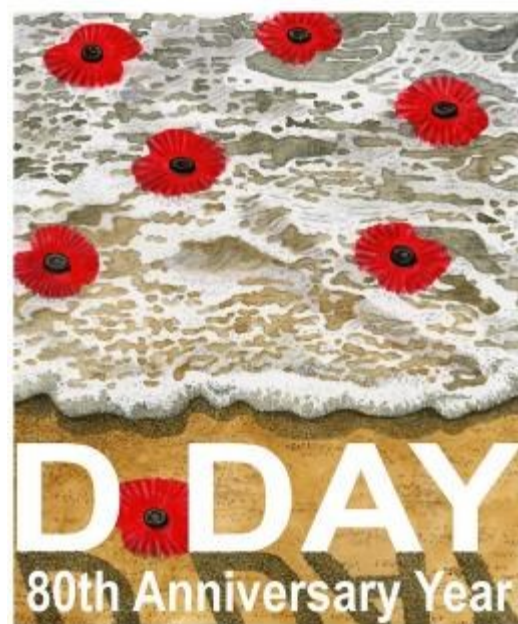
Daniel 12: 1-3

Mark 13:1-8

Sunday 24th November

Revelation 1: 4b-8

John 18: 33-37



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.

DECEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st December (1st Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 4th December

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 11th December

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th December(3rd Sunday of Advent)

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 18th December

10.00am Holy Communion

Friday 20th December (Christingle)

6.00pm for 6.30pm start

Sunday 22nd December(4th Sunday of Advent)

10.30am Holy Communion

4.00pm 9 Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

11.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8.45am Holy Communion

10.00am Family Holy Communion

Sunday 29th December(1st Sunday of Christmas)

10.30am Holy Communion

A Smile

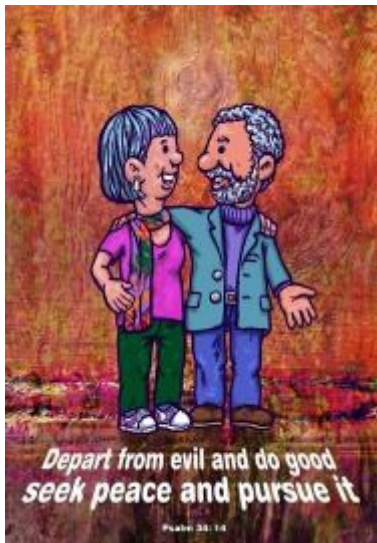
When grey skies hover overhead
And your general mood is vile.
You have the power to change all this
With just a little smile.

It does not take much effort
To put one on your face,
But the change is most remarkable
Its impact common place.

It drives away the noon-day frowns,
And turns the storm clouds blue.
Brightens up the darkest day,
-Infects all those around you.

So next time when you're feeling glum
And someone looks in pain!
Put a smile onto your face,
Maybe they'll do the same.

Dennis Gill



Prayer for November 2024

Dear Lord,
November can be a dreary month. Even the first syllable is negative and reminds us of all the things we are missing; the long light days, summer breaks, blossom and fresh green leaves.
As we walk through the dark days, help us to remember that You brought light into this dark world. You sent Jesus, who is that light in person, Your positive who overcame all negatives by His death on the cross.
November leads us closer to the time of celebration of His coming.
Lord, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for November!
In Jesus' name. Amen.
By Daphne Kitching

- **Activities at St Michael's Church**
- **St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee**
- Tea & Toast in the Church Hall
- **Next Tea & Toast is on 7th December & 4th January**
- @ 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.



What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the gospel of Luke

Luke is the third of the synoptic gospels. The gospel and Acts were both written for Theophilus, a Roman official, who acted as Luke's patron to ensure that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is and that the gospel is intended for the whole world. Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into 4 main sections: the coming and early life of Jesus (1:1-4:13); Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50); His ministry (mainly teaching) *on the road* to Jerusalem (9:51-24:53) and His final week in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53). For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to His ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself (a Gentile writer in the NT) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of His day. This includes women, the poor and *sinner*s (incl. tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!), as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit. A key verse which reflects this perspective is found when Jesus encounters the tax collector Zacchaeus, '*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*' (19:10). Whenever we find ourselves on the outside of God's life and love, as Zacchaeus, Jesus comes to find us and welcome us afresh into His kingdom.

Farmhouse Supper 2024

On **Saturday 21st September**, St Michael's Fundraising Committee held their annual Farmhouse Supper the Church Hall. Around **70 people** turned up to a marvellous buffet which was laid on, and donated by members of the committee and the congregation. We also welcomed back '**Kiwi Chorus**' as our entertainment for the night singing some new songs for us and again they did not disappoint the audience. On the night we raised over **£1005**.



HYMN: The story behind 'To God be the Glory!'

Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915), the American singer and musician, was blind from the age of six weeks. She married her music teacher, Alexander Van Alstyne, who was also blind. She was a prolific song-writer, and once signed a contract with a publisher to write three songs every week throughout the year. But in fact, she wrote thousands during her lifetime. Although American evangelists Moody and Sankey used this hymn on their missions, it did not become an immediate favourite. But after Billy Graham featured it in his Haringay crusade in 1954, Londoners were soon singing it on their way home, in streets and busy queues and underground trains. When Dr Graham took it back to the United States and introduced it at his crusade in Nashville, Tennessee, it soon took its place in the group of top favourites hymns.

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

By Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915)

Samaritans Purse

It is now time to fill a shoe box for 'Samaritans Purse' when children receive their box filled with goodies by you. Boxes are sent to all parts of the world as an expression of God's love for a child. You can also have a box filled for you at 'Samaritans Purse' headquarters by booking online. Collect a shoe box at the back of church and decorate a shoe box of your own. Take a leaflet which will give you ideas of what to put in the box. Last year we sent **23 boxes** with more being don online. So let us see if we can do better this year



Please return the box by Sunday 17th November.
THANK YOU Wendy

Good sermons need not be long, and bad ones ought not to be. – *CH Spurgeon*

Christmas Grand Draw Tickets

& Christmas Tree Festival

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 greatly appreciated. Please see Colin Keam for your tickets.



**Runcorn and Frodsham Soroptimists
Invite you to join them for
Coffee and Cake**



**In aid of
Runcorn Food Bank
Halton Christmas Toy Appeal and
the Mayor's Charity
Halton Foundation**



**Thursday 14 November 2024
10am - 12 noon
Meeting Room
St Michaels Church
Greenway Road Runcorn WA7 5BS
£3**



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

November Birthdays



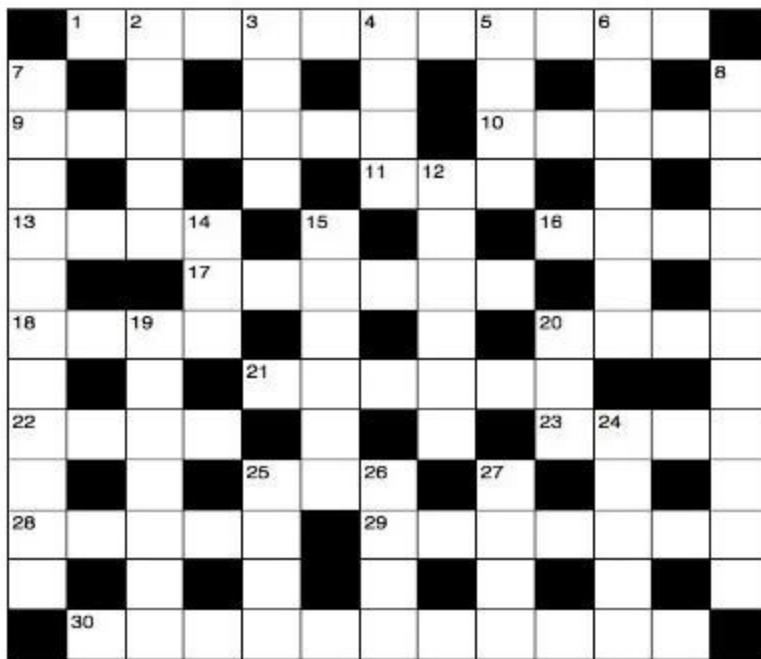
Congratulations to Kirsty Lowe who celebrates her birthday on **7th November**, to Timothy Aylett who celebrates his birthday on **10th November**, to Lynne Corker who celebrates her birthday on **25th November**, to Sandra Fisher and Barbara Done who celebrate their birthday's on **28th November** and to Norah Gamon who celebrates her birthday on **30th November**.

6th November Illtud – patron saint of NGOs?

Not many people have heard of Illtud, but perhaps we should make him the patron saint of all Christian NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) who work in emergency and famine relief. Illtud did not set out to be an action hero – he was a gentle and learned abbot heading up a monastery in Glamorgan. Illtud spent his days reading the Scriptures and philosophy. Yet the year that famine struck the coast of Brittany, Illtud put down his parchments and became a man of action. Illtud issued what must have been one of the earliest 'emergency relief appeals', and was able to collect a great deal of corn. Illtud loaded this corn onto several small ships, and set off across the perilous Channel in order to save the people of Brittany. Perhaps he had in mind the words of Christ: "I was hungry and you fed me..." (Matthew 25:35) Certainly, the people of Brittany never forgot Illtud's kindness towards them: even today some Breton churches and villages bear his name. Many churches in Wales are also dedicated to this compassionate man.



"...and don't forget we're coming into Nativity Play season – make sure we have extra tea-towels in stock!"



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

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

Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across



October
Crossword answer

ROLL OF HONOUR

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



November
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



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.

Words to Remember
(John 16:33)

"We will remember them"

The years of remembering go by,
Accumulating name after name
As wars and conflicts continue
In a world, deaf to the lessons of history.

But through the negativity of November
A different remembering brings hope and meaning.
Words of the world's Creator,
Words to make sense of chaos
And bring order and peace in the end.

"In this world you will have trouble,
But take heart!
I have overcome the world."
Words of Jesus.
We will remember them.

By Daphne Kitching



If you have ever been to a sing along put on by VML you know you will be in for a treat. So please come along, and if you wish you can come in 1940's style clothes or veterans can come in their regimental colours or even come dressed as an Air Raid Warden etc. This would add to the atmosphere and feel of the day. Tickets: £7 or pay on the door.