

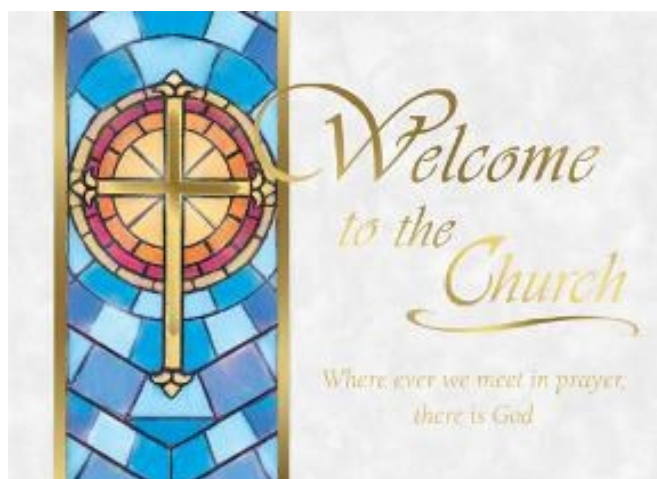


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

ISSUE 183

JUNE 2025

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

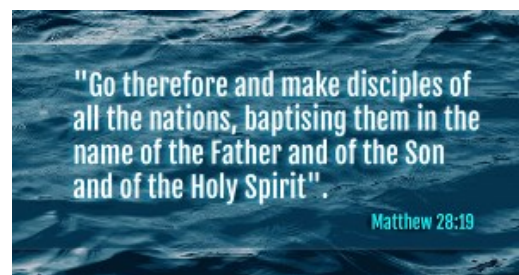
SERVICES FOR JUNE
CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

St Michaels is making Disciples!

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,



I presently type this message reflecting upon the progress we have made here at St Michaels over the past 12 months. It goes without saying that we have been blessed far more than expected and in ways nobody would expect. We have a lot to be thankful for by way of building projects, of outreach and of mission. But the one thing I want to talk to you all about today is the blessing by way of discipleship.

St Michaels is presently preparing for the bishop's arrival on the 20th July, all aimed at **Baptising 7 people and confirming 11**. Men and Women, young and Old, students, employed and others. This day is indeed going to be a massive undertaking however it is an honour and a privilege to be in such a position to be assisting new disciples.

Also, we have three people now on a ministry discernment route, at various stages. Monastic, ordained, licenced lay ministry, and though it is still very early days for these people I would ask that you really do hold them in prayer alongside those being confirmed and baptised. This really is a wonderful time for St Michaels!

Additional to this the PCC has new faces who are motivated and driven to seeing this church grow and be sustained for the future. The PCC is indeed looking to new horizons and projects.

Finally, we have a very motivated teens group who are, themselves asking, exploring, and growing, often with questions that challenge all the Runcorn Clergy that supports the group! Yet growing and exploring is not something we should reserve to our teens, those who are being confirmed or on a discernment path, rather something we should all be always doing to the best of our ability.

I want to ask you a question about your own discipleship, where are you up to and how are you growing as a follower of the Way of Jesus Christ? Are you still growing or do you think you are too old? Are you still hungry to learn more or are you so new you dare not ask. Are you eager to see what else God has in store for your walk of faith or are you content with where you are? No matter who you are or what stage of life, you are being called to grow closer to God in whatever way your circumstances allow. Never stop growing, never stop being a disciple.

Wishing you well on your own journey, and please do reach out if we can help. And please do keep praying for your Church!

Amen

With every blessing, *Rev'd George*

Ordination season is underway

Every summer the C of E ordains its new deacons and priests. The services are traditionally held during Pentecost (29th June), a feast day that remembers the martyrdom of Saint Peter. He was the fisherman who became a devoted disciple of Jesus, and who then went on to be an instrumental figure in the early Church in Jerusalem.

Although the ordinations this summer will be held in a variety of cathedrals across the country, those being ordained will have certain important things in common:

They will have felt called by God to serve as a deacon or priest.

They will have passed a rigorous selection process.

They will have completed a two-to-three-year training course (diploma or degree) at one of the theological education institutes (TEIs) based around the country.

And so here they are now – called, accepted, trained and soon to be set apart for this specialised ministry. If you know a deacon or a priest, pray for them and their families this month, as they begin a lifetime of public service to God.

JUNE CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st June (7th Sunday of Easter)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 4th June

10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 8th June (Pentecost)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 11th June

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th June (Trinity Sunday)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 18th June

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd June (1st Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 25th June

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

(Civic Service for the new Mayor of Halton)



Recently we in May welcomed two children into the Church Family through Baptism. Please pray for the children that may grow up to love and follow Christ. Also please pray for their parents and Godparents, and pray that they may seek to know Christ and to worship.

BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE

Sunday 1st June

Acts 16:16-34

John 17: 20-end

Sunday 8th June

Acts 2: 1-21

John 14: 8-17,25-27

Sunday 15th June

Romans 5: 1-5

John 16: 12-15

Sunday 22nd June

Galatians 3: 23-29

Luke 8: 26-39

Sunday 29th June

Galatians 5: 1,13-25

Luke 9: 51-62



PENTECOST



JULY CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 2nd July

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 6th July (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Café Style Church

(Sea Sunday)



Wednesday 9th July

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th July (4th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 16th July

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th July (5th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 23rd July

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 27th July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 30th July

10.00am Holy Communion

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Upcoming Events for your diary

July 12th: Summer Fayre

September 20th: Farmhouse Supper

November 29th: Police Band Concert Tickets £12 (inc: Mulled wine and mince pie)

Watch this space for more upcoming events

St Michaels APCM 2025

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on **Sunday 18th May** after the service in the Church. There were around **34 people** in attendance.

As usual the first part of the APCM is the Vestry Meeting, this is to elect the Churchwardens for the ensuing year.

Rosemary Lunt was standing down, as she has done her 6 years as Churchwarden. So there were two nominations (both Proposed and Seconded), they were Chris Challoner and Robbie Littler and both were elected as churchwardens.

The next part is the general part of the APCM, is where the reports from various groups were presented to the meeting along with Church Accounts and Maintenance Appeal Accounts. Next was the election of members to the PCC.

With our numbers on our Electoral Roll going **over 100**, we can have more people on the PCC. So there are 6 places and 6 nominations and these people proposed and seconded. They were Cath Wright, Rosemary Lunt, Trevor Mainwaring, Pam Rawal, Jo Thornton and Colin Keam. Thanks were given to certain people within our church, who have worked hard during the past year.

Before the meeting was concluded, there was a presentation to Bob Browne. Bob has retired after being St Michael's Treasurer for **38 years**; he has done a sterling job. Revd George presented him with an engraved crystal clock. .



125 years ago, on 25th June 1900, Louis Mountbatten 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was born.

He became Governor-General of India (1947-48), First Sea Lord (1955-59), and Chief of the Defence Staff (1959-65).

Assassinated in 1979 by an IRA bomb planted on his fishing boat.



Prayer for June 2025

Dear Lord,

June is the loveliest month, with long days and the beauty of summer all around us. Thank you that, in the church's year this month, we remember one of the loveliest of your followers Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement. He encouraged the believers in Antioch to *remain true to the Lord* with all their hearts. Through his ministry of encouragement, a great number of people were brought to know you. Lord, we all thrive when we are encouraged. And we, your people, so need to be encouraged today in this world which can seem so confusing and discouraging. So, thank you for those who have encouraged us in the past, and for those who encourage us now. Help us to read your living unchanging Word and to remain true to you with all our hearts. Help us to be a *Barnabas* to those we know who might be struggling. May we bear fruit in our discipleship. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Colin & Angela Keam
who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on
11th June



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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



June Birthdays

Congratulations to June Betton
who celebrates her birthday on
June 12th, to Charlotte
Freeman who celebrates her
birthday on 14th June and to

Olga Gregory who celebrates her
birthday on June 27th.

Sweets

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter
money for sweets and the church collection
plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of
sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she
hadn't also given some money to God in
church that morning. "No," she replied
sweetly, "He wasn't there."

Activities at St Michael's Church St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

• Tea & Toast in the Church Hall
• Next Tea & Toast is on 7th June & 5th July
• @ 10.00am to 12.00 noon
• Admission: £2.00

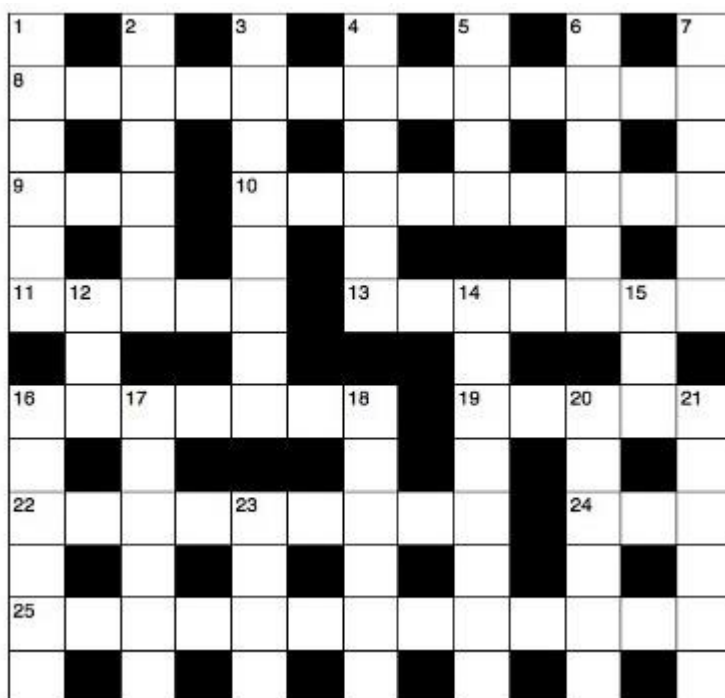
• Crafters Group
• Crafters Group meets in the
Church Hall every Tuesday from
10.00am to 12noon.
• Everyone welcome, especially
newcomers.

• 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.



Churches mark 80th Anniversary of VE Day with commemorations, bell ringing, and prayers for peace

Churches across England have played their part in the recent commemorations to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. The commemorations on 8th May provided an opportunity to honour the sacrifices made by those who served in the conflict. They also provided an opportunity to pray for lasting peace, echoing the spirit of unity that defined the end of the Second World War in Europe. Across the country, thousands of church bells rang out at 6.30pm on VE Day. This echoed the bell ringing that swept across the country in 1945, as churches and cathedrals joined in the national joy and thanksgiving. Thousands of parishes held their own services of commemoration, while people at home lit virtual candles online, in honour of loved ones who had taken part in the war. The Bishop of St Germans, Hugh Nelson, the lead Bishop for the Armed Forces, said: "The 80th anniversary of VE Day was a time to remember with deep gratitude the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today." He went on to say that in this "increasingly dangerous world", it was good "to offer prayers for peace. As we honour the past, so we renew our commitment to building a more peaceful and just world for all."



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

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

Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
 9 In favour of (3)
 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
 22 Holy Communion (9)
 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6-12) (4)
 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — —' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

B	A	B	Y		S	T	I	M	U	L	A	S
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L	I	A	R		F	O	R	S	A	K	E	N
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A		O		C		E				I		A
B	E	T	H	E	S	D	A		S	T	A	Y

Crossword answer
May

ROLL OF HONOUR

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

Fire of Pentecost

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8



We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire! For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the pain and uncertainty of what will happen in the war in Ukraine. So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Reflecting Faith: An Offer You Do Not Want to Refuse

For the last couple of months, we've been thinking about baptism, and last time we finished by saying that, even as late as the tenth century, only baptised people could stay in the church to watch, never mind actually consume, the celebration of the Eucharist. This tells me how highly regarded the consecration of the bread and wine actually were, and still are, within the Church. Even today this is still the 'highlight' of the main Sunday service. Everything we do within the service leads up to this special moment, when the priest offers the bread and wine to the people. Prior to this, we've said prayers of penitence and have been absolved. We have heard stories from the Bible and had them expanded upon in a sermon. We have stated our faith in response to this, and recognised God's awesome power by saying prayers of intercession for ourselves and others. We have acknowledged God's amazing gifts of love and peace by sharing this with those around us, and we responded by offering to Him our gifts as token of our whole lives.

And then – finally we get to the Eucharistic Prayer.

As soon as this is concluded and the priest invites the congregation to come forward to receive the consecrated bread and wine, we are 'so overwhelmed' by the enormity of what is being offered to each of us that we 'fall on our knees' with the Prodigal Son and say, "Lord I am not worthy'.

This month: When you next go to a Communion Service, take note of the pattern of it as a whole and then 'think' about how you feel as you are invited to take the bread and wine.

Are bananas really good for you?

On the one hand, bananas offer good things. They count as one of your five a day, carry only about 90 calories, and are packed with the essential mineral potassium (good in lowering blood pressure.) But they are not perfect...

So, here are some pros and cons of bananas:

Pro: High in potassium, good for heart health, lowers blood pressure, has Vitamin C, helps digestion, provides energy, full of fibre, cholesterol-free.

Cons: Can raise potassium levels too much (avoid them if you have kidney disease), can lead to wind and bloating, cause blood sugar spikes, weight gain, and disrupt sleep. Overall, experts recommend eating no more than two bananas a day.



Keith was very strict about confetti in the churchyard



June
2025



Please Pray



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

Graham & Nicola Aylett George Done

Barbara Done Helen Browne

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

If you would like us to pray for someone close to you then let the Pastoral Care Team or vicar know.

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

Joan Tate Joan Deakin

Evelyn Eldridge Bryn Knott



If you have any antiques or collectables that need valuing please call and see James at Bridgewater Craft and Garden Centre for a valuation. Also if you are into Antiques or Collectable call in and see what is there.

INFORMATION

Revd George Roach
01928 832734

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

Churchwardens

Chris Challoner 01928 715830
Robbie Littler 07718 133018

e-mail:
warden@runcornstmichaels.org.uk

If you want to book a wedding, baptism or funeral please phone this number 07718 133018 and ask for Robbie

Father's Day - what we most value in our fathers

Father's Day is 15th June - a day to honour and appreciate our fathers and father figures, such as grandfathers and fathers-in-law. Many of us will make a special effort to see them on the day. No two fathers are alike, of course, but various polls across the internet reveal some interesting similarities of what people have most valued in their dad. These traits include: being dependable, approachable, protective, patient, affectionate, honest, willing to listen, compassionate, and having spent time with them when they were young. That's quite a list! People whose fathers had even some of those strengths have a lot to be thankful for. Thankfully, our Father in Heaven certainly has all those traits. Jesus said the Father is totally dependable and protective of us, longs for us to turn to Him, and is full of compassion and love. And we are to call Him 'Abba' - Daddy!



VML

VML's next performance at The Brindley is the following. It is on **Friday 5th September @ 7.30pm** and **Saturday 6th September @ 2.00pm** and **7.30pm**.
Tickets: £16.50



Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: "I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression."