

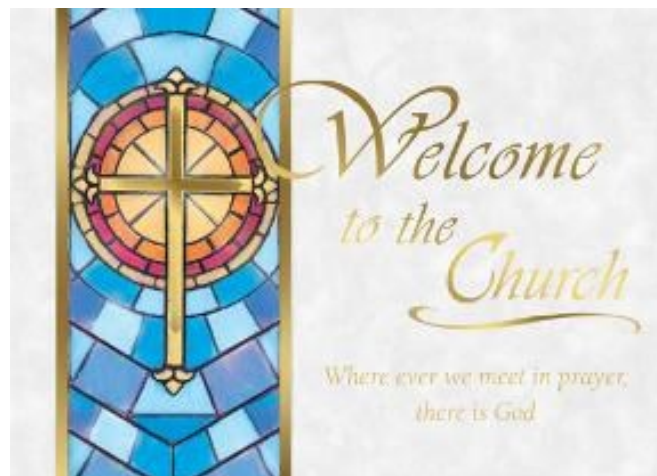


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

ISSUE 185

SEPTEMBER 2025

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"



Rest is one of the most important things we can do within life. Rest frees the mind, clears the head and relaxes the body, especially when work or family has been intense over a period of time. Rest is vitally important, though I feel it is something we all could learn to do a little better, **especially me!**

I write this message with my own personal Annual Leave pending in a weeks' time. It has been long coming and is very much needed of this I can be sure, because this past 12 months has been busy to say the least. Ministry is a privilege, but it is heavy and comes with a cost as any Ordained person will tell you. The cost is spiritual, mental and emotional, as you carry not only your own thoughts, feelings and emotions but also that of others too.

When I reflect upon the past 12 months since my last summer holidays we have come a long way as a parish church, so much so that we continue to grow and people continue to flourish within their own faith. We have trailed new types of service, new ideas have been explored, and pastoral ministry has moved into a new lease of life. Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment has made leaps and bounds too, and I remain eternally thankful for all of this and again thankful for such an amazing team and church by my side. I reaffirm though not resting on our laurels with church growth, reminding ourselves going forward there is still so much more to do within St Michaels, and there will be more celebrations ahead with also more challenges, I am sure. So this annual leave **(three weeks)** I will be using some of this time away to reflect upon our next phase in September and what this means for us, yet I will do so with both my phone and my laptop...Off!

So, what does your vicar do on his annual leave? Well, first and foremost I will spend time with my family, after all, I was a dad and a husband long before I was a priest. I will also spend more time in the Gym, get up a mountain or two and sit in front of the TV a little more. Most of all I will just breath and rest with Jesus, refreshing and replenishing the spirit within. I am now encouraging you all to do the same.

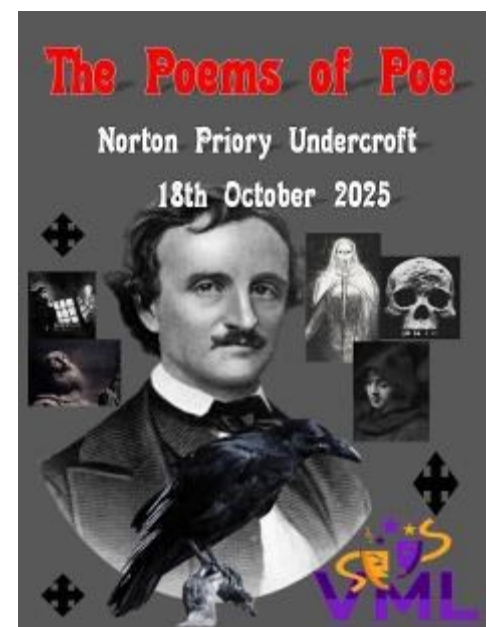
Weather you are in ministry or not, you should use this time ahead in August to breath, to rest and to retreat and above all else to spend time with loved ones or friends, maintaining those bridges of friendship and love that can often be lost during the business of life. Perhaps, spend time out in the gardens a little more, or on walks if you are able. Either way this August, I pray you too find time to rest, refresh and replenish your own lives.

Amen

With every blessing, Revd George

CONGRATULATIONS

to
Roy & Ada Barlow
who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on
September 20th



SEPTEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 3rd September
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th September (12th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Church



Wednesday 10th September
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th September (13th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th September
10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 21st September (14th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
12.30pm Baptism



Wednesday 24th September
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th September (15th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Patronal Service

Prayer for September 2025

Heavenly Father, September is the month of new starts for so many. New starts can be exciting, but they can also be daunting. We don't always know what to expect and sometimes we feel as if we are on our own in a strange new place, or situation. Help us to know that, as your people, we are never alone. You promised, through Jesus, to be with us always and You gave us Your Holy Spirit to empower us. In some ways every day is a new start – a new gift from You. As we unwrap the gift of each new day, this September, encourage us to receive it confidently and expectantly. Help us to know that we can do all things, through Christ Jesus, who strengthens us. We can! In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 1st October
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th October (16th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Church



Wednesday 8th October
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th October (17th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 15th October
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th October (18th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd October
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th October (19th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 29th October
10.00am Holy Communion

BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7th September
Isaiah 2: 1-5
Matthew 5: 1-12

Sunday 14th September
1 Timothy 1: 12-17
Luke 15: 1-10

Sunday 21st September
Amos 8: 4-7
Luke 16: 1-13

Sunday 28th September
Revelation 12: 7-12
John 1: 47-51



St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Upcoming Events for your diary

September 20th: Farmhouse Supper Tickets £12 (Bring your own drink) 6.30pm for 7.00pm

October 11th 'Would I lie to you' Tickets £7 (Bring your own drink and nibbles) 7.00pm

October 25th Quiz Night Tickets £8 (Bring your own drink) 7.00pm

November 14th Winter Bingo £1 entrance 7.00pm

November 29th: Police Band Concert Tickets £12 (inc: Mulled wine and mince pie) 7.00pm

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 10th to 13th December. The Grand Draw tickets will be at the back of church and if you could take 10 books, that would be greatly appreciated, please see Colin Keam for your tickets. We are looking for donations towards making up the hampers, like bottles of spirits, biscuits etc. If you can help to donate the items, please see Rosemary Lunt or Barbara Houghton. We need the items by November 16th. Also if you have any ideas for a hamper let these people know.



SUMMER FAYRE 2025

On Saturday 12th July, we held our Annual Summer Fayre to raise vital funds for the church. This year the weather was on our side and it was a really hot day. So we set up on the front lawn at church with the BBQ, various game stalls, face painting, tombola and the star stall

'SOAK THE VICAR'. It was quite nice to see a lot of strangers supporting this event as well as members of our congregation.

The Vicar, Churchwardens 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. On the day we raised a staggering amount of **£1215.00**



Sunday 20th July

On Sunday 20th July in the 10.30am Communion service, we welcomed Bishop Julie, Bishop of Birkenhead, who was here to confirm the Confirmation and baptism candidates. We baptised 10 candidates and we confirmed 17 candidates. Some of the Baptism and Confirmation candidates were being Baptised and Confirmed on the same day. The candidates being

Baptised

Belle Ivy Bartlett, Wendy Lynette Bartlett, Gareth David Bartlett, Alma Birch, Sarah Jane Ireland, Emma Johnson, Mariana Oria, Raj Rawal, Spencer James Peter Vaughan and Glynn Williams.

Confirmation

Belle Ivy Bartlett, Wendy Lynette Bartlett, Gareth David Bartlett, Alma Birch, Josh Ward-Dutton, Jon Fuller, Dave Hill, Sarah Ireland, Emma Johnson, Jonny Nuzum, Mariana Oria, Raj Rawal, Charlie Thornton, Jo Thornton, Glyn Williams, Jimmy Wright and Spencer Vaughan.

Please put all these candidates into your prayers.

Afterwards, in the Church Hall there was a Bring and Share Lunch to celebrate the candidates from the service, and a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supplied the food for the lunch.

As you can see from the photographs, these are 2 of the candidates from the immersion Baptism and the group of Baptism and Confirmation candidates in the centre.



The Nicene Creed part 3: The Incarnate Jesus

For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

We & Believe

In this study we are looking at what the Nicene Creed says about the ministry of Jesus on earth.

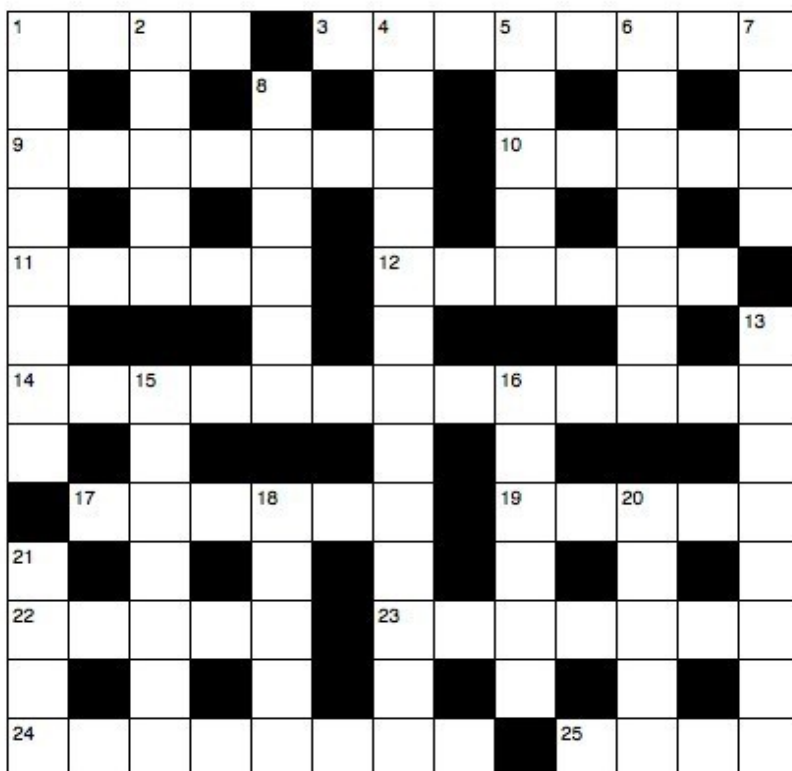
'For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven!' Jesus came down to earth to save us all. Salvation involves healing and rescuing us from the wrong things in our lives, which result in death itself. The Creed demonstrates the importance of having a proper understanding of Christ that safeguards the gospel of salvation. *'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'* (Luke 19:10).

'by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.' Although the word *'incarnate'* doesn't appear in the New Testament, it expresses the meaning of Jesus' birth. Heresies of the time included Adoptionism (i.e. Jesus became God's Son only at His baptism) and Docetism (i.e. Jesus appeared to be human, as a fully divine being). The incarnation affirms that the divine son, was conceived in Mary's womb by the power of the Spirit and born in time as a human being: *'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.'* (Luke 1:35). If Jesus was not conceived both fully divine and human, the Christian understanding of salvation is lost.

'For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.'

In the Creed we move straight from Jesus' birth to His death, which is the climax of His ministry. Jesus dying for our sins on the cross lies at the heart of God's plan of salvation. The mention of Pontius Pilate roots our faith in history and reminds us of the important part people played in God's plan. *'He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.'* (1 Peter 2:24).

What is the place of the incarnation in your understanding of the Christian Faith?



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

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27-28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)



Crossword answer
July/August

ROLL OF HONOUR

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



September
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

John Atherton

Jayne Southern



Did you spot many butterflies this past summer?

The wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is deeply worried about our butterflies. Or rather, the lack of them. It seems that more than 80 per cent of our species have declined sharply in number since 1970s. Each summer sees the Big Butterfly Count, when the public is encouraged to send in the number of butterflies they have seen over a short period of time. Last year saw the lowest number of butterflies spotted in the count's 14-year history. Even the familiar species like the small white, common blue and small tortoiseshell had their worst summer ever. And a record number of people saw no butterflies at all. Butterflies have been hit by climate change, the use of pesticides, and damage to their habitats. The drought this summer will have been bad news for their caterpillar offspring, which need growing plants to feed on. So, this autumn, why not plan a happier year for butterflies in 2026? As you prepare your garden for winter, go to <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/butterflies-in-your-garden> for some ideas of how to make your garden butterfly-friendly.



How to have a 'more healthy' heart

Gratitude may help you recover more quickly from a heart attack. So says a study by the University of California, who examined gratitude as part of an outlook that involves appreciating the positive aspects of life, and often goes hand in hand with spirituality. It was found that people who have a life attitude of being grateful are also likely to have a better mood, better sleep, less fatigue, and lower levels of inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiac health. Researchers said they were surprised to find that gratitude accounted for such beneficial effects. As one scientist put it, "It seems that a more grateful heart is indeed a more healthy heart." How can you express gratitude in an easy-to-remember and daily way? Why not bring back the habit of pausing to say a simple grace of thanks before each meal? And why not take a few minutes to say your prayers before bed each night?



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

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Email: vicar.smaaruncorn@gmail.com

Not on a Tuesday

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Robbie Littler 07718 133018

e-mail:

warden@runcornstmichaels.org.uk

Also if there is a Safeguarding issue at church please email Duncan Prince on safeguardingsmaa@gmail.com

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

Or can go to our website:
www.runcornstmichaels.com