

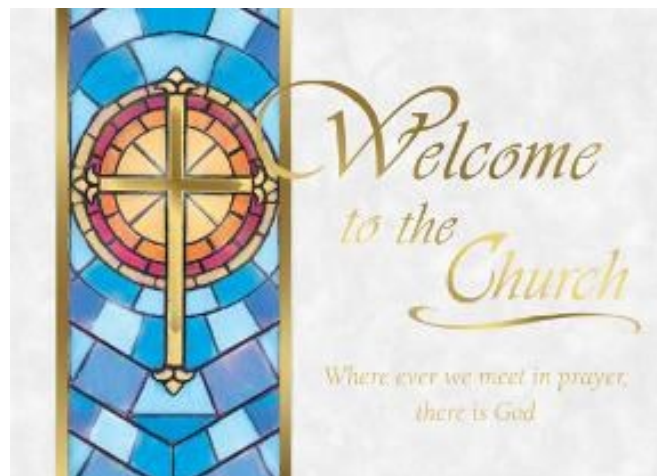


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
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ISSUE 187

NOVEMBER 2025

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER
CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

"Blessed are the Peacemakers for they Shall be called Children of God"

~Matthew 5:9

I write this message looking ahead to Remembrance Sunday, that day in the year where we bring to mind those who have served and lost their lives for their country in both the First and Second World Wars, as well as all other conflicts in recent times.



Remembrance is a time where we reflect on all that the people of this country fought so hard to defeat by way of an enemy threat, along with trying to live just a normal life (or as normal as possible) in a climate with rationed food, limited health care and the ever looming threat of bombs falling. Yet with all of the challenges and tasks of life in times of War, the overall aim remains the same, this is the aim of Peace.

Peace is one of the most important things we can pursue as followers of the way of Jesus Christ. Peace brings stability, it brings order and most of all it brings forward a world where all ages can flourish and grow safely to their fullest potential. Isn't it a shame that as I write this our country is looking more and more unstable day by day, with political factions, religious hatred and division over the place of flags. Peace indeed seems to be a distant vision for our modern world. But there can be peace, it doesn't have to be a distant Vision at all. And that peace begins with you and me.

As we move towards Remembrance, it is my prayer that we most certainly allow our flags to remain high and proud, as long as the intention is not racist motivation. Also It is my prayer that we

remember that we are indeed a Christian country, whilst recognising that during WW2 an **estimated 5.5 Million Muslims, 1.5 Million Jews, 100,000 Sikhs** fought for the Allied powers. It is also my prayer that War and the discussions of wars pending are ended with all powers recognising the inherent worth of each and every human life the world over. I pray actively for peace day by day.

So as we approach Remembrance, I ask you to join with me in praying for peace and where at all possible, in your own lives, to work for peace because after all Jesus words are more important now than ever before when he says...

"Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"

Amen.

With every blessing,

Rev'd George



The boiler only worked if the
Verger switched it on



"Goodness! is it time for Christmas
Fair organising, carol service planning
and nativity play rehearsals already?!"

NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd November (Saints and Souls)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Café Style Church

4.00pm Service of Hope and Remembrance



Wednesday 5th November

10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 9th November

(Remembrance Sunday)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 12th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th November (2nd Sunday before Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 19th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd November (Christ the King)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 26th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th November (1st Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion



BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 2nd November

Daniel 7: 1-3,15-18

John 11:17-27

Sunday 9th November

Job 19: 23-27a

Psalm 17: 1-9

Luke 20: 27-38

Sunday 16th November

Malachi 4: 1-2a

Luke 21:5-19

Sunday 23rd November

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Luke 23: 33-43

Sunday 30th November

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 36-44



DECEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 3rd December

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 10th December

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th December (3rd Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th December

10.00am Holy Communion



Friday 20th December (Christingle)

6.00pm for 6.30pm start

Sunday 21st December (4th Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

4.00pm 9 Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

11.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8.45am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Holy Communion

Sunday 28th December (The Holy Innocents)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 31st December

NO SERVICE TODAY



St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

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 are at the back of church and if you could take 10 books, that would greatly appreciated. Please see Colin Keam for your tickets. When sold please return them to Colin Keam with the monies and stubs and any unsold books.



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 done online. So let us see if we can do better this year



Please return the box by Sunday 9th November. **THANK YOU Wendy**

Toy Appeal

You might not know, but St Michael's last year ran a successful Toy Appeal for the Mayor of Halton. So this year we will be running a Toy Appeal again. The appeal will start at the beginning of October and the last time to drop your present is **Sunday 7th December.**

So if you "Could you buy an extra Christmas present this year for a Boy or Girl?, any age range, New and unwrapped. So let us put some smiles on faces this Christmas" Please bring them to church and put them in the box at the back of church

Please see Colin Keam for details.



'All are welcome'

The Methodist Church has released a new recording of the hymn 'Let us build a house where love can dwell', known to many as 'All Are Welcome'. More than 140 Methodist churches contributed their voices to the project. The hymn is intended as a response to the recent protests in London, the disorder outside the accommodation of those seeking asylum and the 'Raise the Colours' campaign. Ben Lawrence, Digital Content Producer at the Methodist Church commented, "Many people have been made to feel not just unwelcome, but frightened and intimidated by what is happening. We want this to be a song of reassurance, friendship and understanding."



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 Charlie Thornton who celebrates his birthday on **17th 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**.



Recently in September we welcomed **one child** into the Church Family through Baptism. Please pray for the child that she may grow up to love and follow Christ. Also please pray for her parents and Godparents, and pray that they may seek to know Christ and to worship.

Activities at St Michael's Church

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Church Hall

Next Tea & Toast is on 6th December & 3rd January

@ 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Admission: £2.00

Community Café

In the Church Hall every Wednesday from 12.30pm—3.30pm. A place to relax, have a natter, try some crafts and of course a cup Tea or Coffee.



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.

The Nicene Creed: The Person of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

This month we are considering what the Nicene Creed says about the Holy Spirit.

'We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life': The original version of the Nicene Creed ended simply *'We believe in the Holy Spirit.'* However, the phrase *'the Lord, the giver of life'* was added to counter the teachings of Macedonius (Bishop of Constantinople), who viewed the Holy Spirit as a creation of the Son. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity who shapes us, according to Christ's image, through His fruit and gifts: *'the Spirit gives life...we are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'* (2 Corinthians 3:6,18).

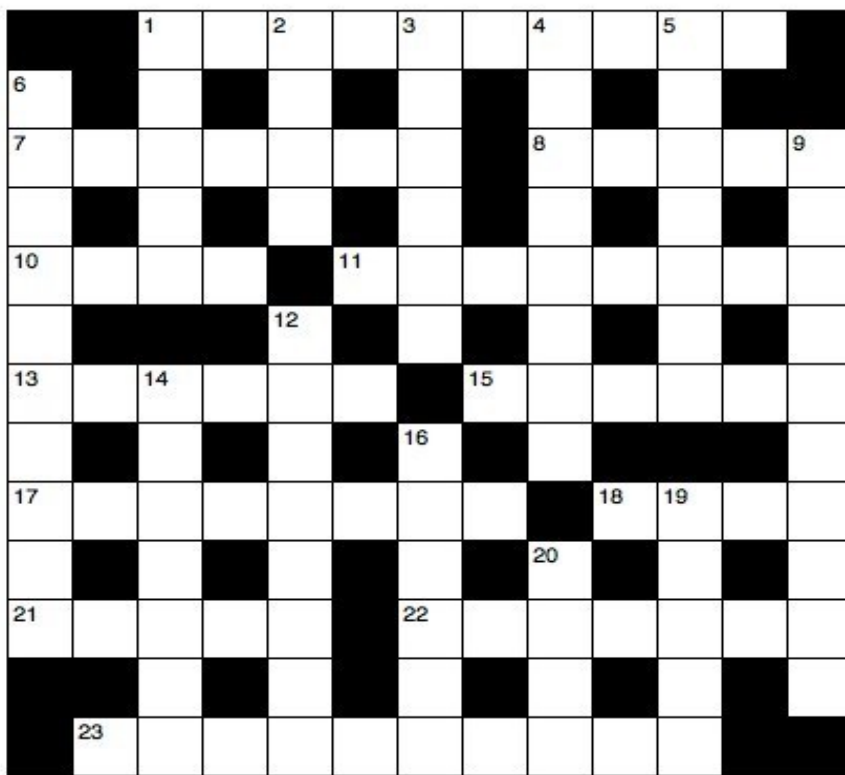
'who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified': In the late 6th century the Latin churches added the phrase *'and the Son'* (the Filioque Clause), which was rejected by the Orthodox Churches. Augustine described the Spirit as *'love proceeding'* from the Father and the Son, so we can know God: *'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me.'* (John 15:26).

The Creed is clear that the Holy Spirit is due equal status and worship with the Father and the Son, as a distinct divine person: *'May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.'* (2 Corinthians 13:14).

'He has spoken through the Prophets': Why does the Creed include this activity of the Spirit? It is not just referring to the OT prophets, but the whole of Scripture. He has inspired Scripture, so that we have God's word communicated by human writers: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness'* (2 Timothy 3:16). When we read the Bible, the Spirit enables us to hear what God is saying to us.

In what areas of life have you felt the Holy Spirit at work in you?

Nearly half of parishes across the Church of England will be able to benefit from £11m of investment in partner organisations dedicated to sharing the Christian faith, new figures show. A range of traditions, activities and organisations will be supported through the funding, from expanding an Anglo-Catholic mission network to using social media content to share the gospel message. The partnership aims to strengthen local mission by equipping the Church in five ministry areas. These include outreach and engagement with children, young people, and their families; establishing new worshipping communities; enhancing the effectiveness of digital evangelism and discipleship; addressing pressing missional challenges; and collaborating with networks to extend their reach and share learning and resources. The investments made by the Church's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) are expected to strengthen mission in around 45 per cent – 5,500 – of Church of England parishes.



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 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across

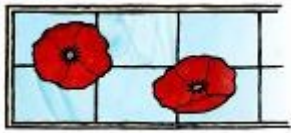


Crossword answer
October

ROLL OF HONOUR

Three people got the
crossword
answer and they
were

Jim & Shelagh Goffin,
Wendy Sefton
& Margaret Myers



November
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

Robert 'Bob' Browne



13th November:

Frances Xavier Cabrini

first 'saint' of New York City

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on America in 2001, many Americans were seen to be 'saintly' in their brave attempts to help save lives. But Frances (1850 – 1917) was the first citizen of the United States to be officially canonised as a saint – by Pope Pius XII in 1946. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and worked among orphans, children and the sick of New York

INFORMATION

Revd George Roach

01928 832734

Email: vicar.smaaruncorn@gmail.com

Not on a Tuesday

Churchwardens

Chris Challoner 01928 761704

Robbie Littler 07718 133018

e-mail:

warden@runcornstmichaels.org.uk

Also if there is a Safeguarding issue 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

For how many minutes can you concentrate?

Most of us can watch television for only about 15 minutes, or read a book for about 14 minutes, before we lose our concentration. Most of us blame our social media notifications as the reason. A recent survey by Perspectus Global for Lingo by Abbott, found that Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and message alerts were named as the main culprits. Overall, it seems we can focus for only

11 minutes on a virtual work call, or 13 minutes in a face-to-face meeting, or 12 minutes writing a work email. We even seem to lose concentration at family gatherings, after only 14 minutes. Overall, four in five of us say that we get distracted easily, and that we lose our focus around eight times each day. What about you? Why not take up the challenge, and 'time' your losses of concentration for a day?

Prayer for November 2025

Heavenly Father, Here we are in November – the month of short, dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have a birthday! Lord, it seems as if the world is permanently in November at the moment. So much is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of their own. And it seems to go on and on. Lord, would You bring your healing light into the world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion and a softening into the hearts of those with responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that they might work for peace for all people. We know that nothing is impossible for you, Lord, so we pray in faith – and in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching