

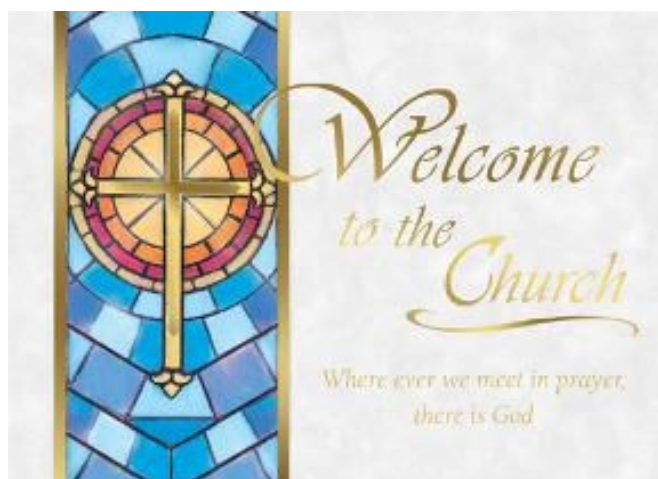


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

ISSUE 186

OCTOBER 2025

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message



Dear friends,

As I write this I do so joyfully looking towards the feast of St Michael and All Angels which is celebrated on September 29th every year.

This year I have asked our church to give this festival more of a “push” as I feel very strongly that the heavenly host of Angels needs a greater sense of recognition here at St Michaels, therefore, this year we will honour the Angles with not just the normal Mass, but also a Bring and Share Lunch, then a bible Journaling event run by Joan Claire, followed by our Patronal Bible Study at 4pm in the church hall. All of this has been built up in order to help the congregation grow stronger in their understanding and Theology around those unseen spiritual beings that pray for and support us.

It is interesting, to me, that the feast comes around a time when we are facing a spiritual battle here in the UK, and indeed the world over, and it is more important now than ever before that we are aware of the spiritual forces around us, for as St Paul says:

“We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against powers, principalities and dark spiritual forces in the world” – Ephesians 6:12

In other words, what we see in the flesh is merely a small part of that which is going on in the background and we as followers of the way of Jesus Christ should be increasingly aware that spiritual warfare is a very real subject for us all.

So for those who are isolated at home or in Hospital, how do you engage in the feast of St Michael and All Angels this Sunday? Well, there are a number of things you can do such as praying the prayer of St Michael, holding a small prayer group at home, or having a special meal at home in honour of Michael. But most of all praying for your parish church here in Runcorn and giving thanks for its mission and ministry over the past hundred years in proclaiming Jesus Christ to the world around.

How ever you honour St Michael this Sunday, I want to assure you of my prayers as the Vicar and on behalf of the wider congregation, I wish you a prayer filled day.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

with every blessing,

Rev'd George

Send your love with these flowers

A flower used by Victorians when they wanted to send a ‘hidden message’ of love is making a big comeback. It is the aster. Its popularity in bouquets has quadrupled in two years. Sales at Tesco alone have soared by nearly 350 per cent. And no wonder: asters are vivid, fast-growing British flowers with a good vase life. They come in blue, purple, pink, dark pink, red and white – all with a bright yellow centre. They originally came from Japan and are related to dahlias and chrysanthemums. The Victorians believed that asters symbolised love, patience, wisdom, elegance and grace. That made asters a sure winner for bearing discreet messages of affection. More than five million were grown in the UK this year, so there must be a lot of love about!



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 (Bible Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 29th October
10.00am Holy Communion



All Angels?

The slightly harassed minister stood on the railway station platform with a number of lively Sunday School children, while the two Sunday School teachers went off to buy tickets. A porter came up to him and asked: "Excuse me, are you St Michael and all the Angels?"



BIBLE READINGS FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 5th October
Genesis 1: 1-31
John 1: 1-3

Sunday 12th October
Psalm 111
Luke 17: 11-19

Sunday 19th October
Isaiah 35: 3-6
Luke 10: 1-9

Sunday 26th October
Psalm 119: 129-136
Luke 4: 16-24



Prayer for October 2025

Dear Lord,
In this autumn season, when the harvest is gathered, we thank You for Your provision for us. We have so much, and yet we see terrible images of starving children on our televisions and smartphones and in our newspapers. Lord, prompt us to do what we can to change things, whether that is by writing a letter or email to someone with influence, or by contributing in some way to aid agencies.
Lord, we ask You to touch the hearts of those leaders of nations whose decisions cause such hunger and suffering. Soften those hard hearts, Lord. Fill them with Your compassion. May there be a new harvest of love – and a kinder world. In Jesus' name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd November (Saints and Souls)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Church
3.00pm Service of Remembrance and Hope

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 (22nd Sunday after Trinity)
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

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Upcoming Events for your diary

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

The Nicene Creed part 4: The Ascended and Returning Jesus

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures:

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We Believe

This month we are looking at what the Nicene Creed says about the present and future ministry of Jesus.

'On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures' Jesus' resurrection is central to the Christian Faith, for as Paul says, without it *'our preaching is useless and so is your faith.'* (1 Corinthians 15.14). The Resurrection demonstrates the triumph of Jesus over sin and death, as well as recognising the breaking in of the new creation and Jesus as Lord over creation. The Creed affirms that it also fulfils the promises of Scripture, as Jesus explains on the Road to Emmaus: *'And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.'* (Luke 24:27).

'He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father' In the Creed, the Ascension is given equal weight to the Cross and Resurrection, as Jesus is restored to the place of honour alongside His Father. With Christ seated on the throne, there is now *a man* on the throne who is also God the Son. In His absence on earth, Jesus sends His Spirit to live in believers, *'Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.'* (Acts 2:33). He remembers His people, *'because He always lives to intercede for them'* (Hebrews 7.25).

'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end' Jesus will return in judgement as *'the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.'* (Acts 10:42). God will put all things right, punishing all evil and establishing His full reign over everything. In contrast to human judgment, which is always partial and subject to error, this final judgment will be utterly true and right, because God knows our hearts completely.

How much does the idea of judgment help make sense of the fate of evil in the world?



Community Café - Chat & Craft!

Are you looking for a place to meet new people?

A place to relax, have coffee and a friendly chat?

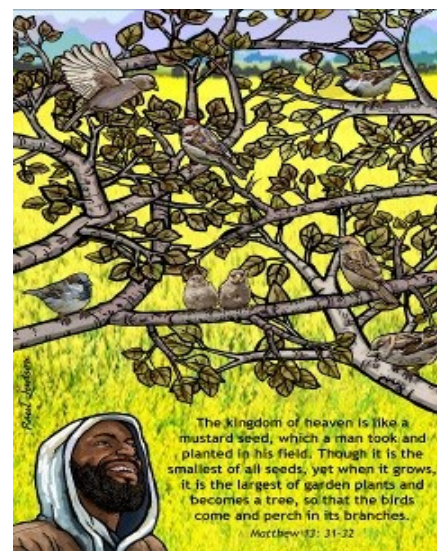
Perhaps try your hand at some craft activities too?

St Michael and All Angels will be open every Wednesday
for community coffee – craft & chat!

12:30 to 3:30

All are welcome at St Michael and All Angels, Greenway

Road, Runcorn!



CONGRATULATIONS

to
**Robbie & Lisa
Littler**
who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on October 28th



Theological colleges face critical drop in residential students

The number of C of E ordination candidates entering residential training has fallen from 218 to 65 in the decade to 2024. Seven of the ten colleges had fewer than ten new students at the beginning of the last academic year.

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.



Community
Christmas Tree Festival
2025
Wed 10th – Sat 13th December
Wed - Fri 3 - 6pm
Saturday 11am - 2pm

SPARKLING TREES

GRAND RAFFLE



St Michael and All Angels Church
Greenway Road,
Runcorn WA7 5BS
Admission: Adults - £2
Accompanied Children - Free

FATHER CHRISTMAS



TOMBOLA

QUIZ

REFRESHMENTS



Activities at St Michael's Church

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Church Hall

Next Tea & Toast is on 1st November & 6th December

@ 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.

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**.

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 buy an extra Christmas present this year for a Boy or Girl?, any age range, Unused in very good condition only please or New. 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.



The Iron Lady of Britain

One hundred years ago, on 13th October 1925, Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). Her father, Alfred Roberts, was a grocer and Methodist local preacher in Grantham, and she was brought up as a strict Wesleyan Methodist. At one point just before the Second World War, the family gave sanctuary to a young Jewish girl who had escaped the Nazis. Margaret later became a lay preacher herself, and was married at Wesley's Chapel in City Road, London, where her children were baptised. Afterwards she and her husband Denis (later Sir Denis) attended Church of England services and became Anglicans. She felt her policies as a Conservative aligned closely with Christianity. She was the longest-serving Prime Minister of the 20th century and, partly because of her resilience, aroused strong feelings both for and against, having to weather difficulties and misjudgements, such as the poll tax. Those opposing her described her policies as 'Thatcherism', but others put a positive slant on this. Her nickname of Iron Lady – first used by a Soviet journalist – aptly described her leadership style and lack of compromise. Before becoming Prime Minister, she had studied chemistry at Oxford, and then the law, qualifying as a barrister. She became an MP – for Finchley – in 1959 and progressed to Secretary of State for Education and Science before defeating Edward Heath in the 1975 Tory leadership election, making her leader of the Opposition and the first woman to lead a major UK political party. When she arrived at Downing Street, she adapted a prayer of St Francis beginning "Where there is discord, may we bring harmony". She died from a stroke while staying at the Ritz Hotel in London in 2013 at the age of 87, having been unwell for some years.

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

Paul's letter to the Galatians has been described as the '*Magna Carta of Christian Liberty*', because it emphasises the freedom that we have through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul vigorously defends the truth that people are justified (*'made right with God'*) by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Our standing with God is not determined by what we do, but by dependence on what Christ has done. It is generally believed that Paul wrote this letter in 48/9AD to the churches in the southern area of Galatia, which he wrote on his first missionary journey. It was written before the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), making it the earliest of Paul's letters. Paul is dealing with Jewish-Christians (or Judaizers) who were advocating ceremonial practices of the Jewish law, including circumcision, in addition to faith in Christ as the means of salvation. They were undermining Paul's authority as an apostle, by asserting that his gospel didn't agree with the apostles in Jerusalem. In response, Paul defends his apostolic authority and presents the true gospel, by emphasising the unique importance of Christ and His cross in salvation. He argues that *'a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ' (2:16)*. He appeals especially to the examples of Abraham (3:6-9) and Hagar and Sarah (4:21-31), who stand in contrast as being a 'slave' under the law and 'free' in Christ. *'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.'* (5:1). We are justified through faith alone and it is by faith alone that we live out our new life in the freedom of the Spirit.



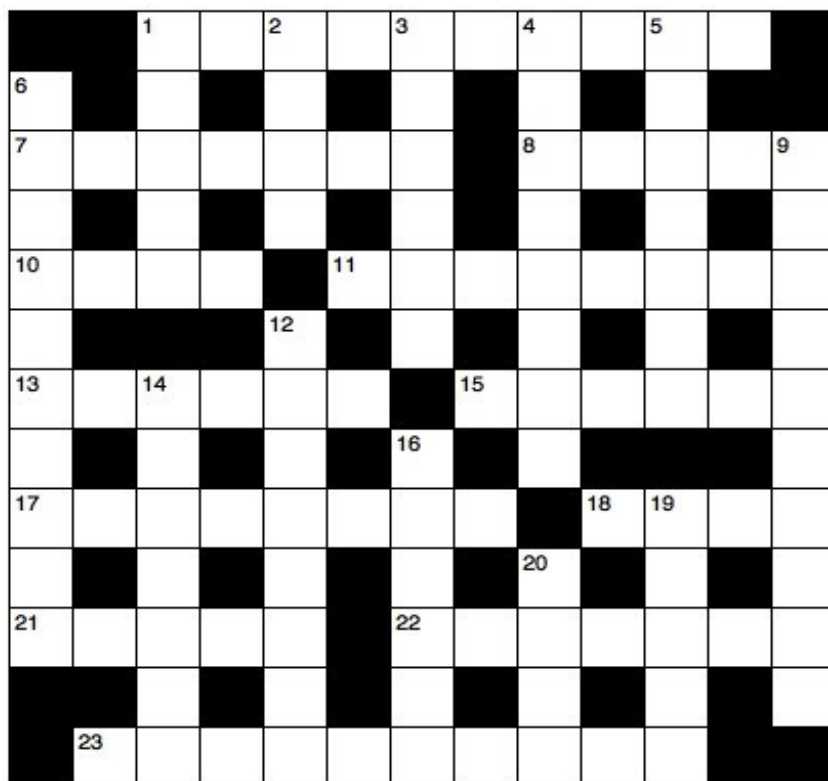
"Good news on the lottery-funding for the organ repairs, Vicar – three of our numbers came up for £25!"

19th October brings Health and Care Sunday 2025

Health and Care Sunday is an initiative of Christian healthcare organisations in the UK and Ireland. It aims to give local churches an annual opportunity to affirm and support the work done by the members of their congregation and local community who work in health and social care. Most churches include someone who is a doctor, nurse, care assistant, social care worker, occupational therapist, hospital administrator, porter, cleaner, ward secretary, laboratory staff or chaplain, as well as people serving in many other roles. This is an opportunity for our church to pray for them and encourage them as they work in health and social care in our community.

Health + Care Sunday is sponsored by the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) and held on the Sunday closest to St Luke's Day (18th October).

More info at: <https://www.cmf.org.uk/health-and-care-sunday>



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 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)

Crossword answer September

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | S | O | | O | F | F | E | R | I | N | G |
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| I | S | A | A | C | A | N | D | J | A | C | O | B |
| C | | R | | | | C | | A | | | | U |
| | S | C | O | R | C | H | | I | N | M | A | N |
| S | | H | | E | | R | | L | | I | | D |
| L | O | A | D | S | | I | N | E | R | T | I | A |
| A | | I | | I | | S | | R | | R | | N |
| V | I | C | I | N | I | T | Y | | B | E | L | T |

ROLL OF HONOUR

Three people got the crossword answer and they were

Jim & Shelagh Goffin,
Wendy Sefton
& Margaret Myers



October
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

George Perris

Margaret Aspinwall



Stewardship Sunday

Autumn brings Harvest, and with it, our gratitude to God for all that we have. Alongside this, many churches hold a Stewardship Sunday, the day when a church congregation can take time to commit their financial giving back to God. While specific dates vary by church, it's often the second Sunday of the month. Stewardship Sunday often involves prayer, reflection, and sometimes a Stewardship Fair to learn about parish organisations and ministries that need their support.

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

Annual Farmhouse Supper

Again, the Maintenance Appeal Committee held the annual Farmhouse Supper on Saturday 20th September in the Church Hall. It was another successful event supported by a lots of people who enjoyed the food and entertainment. The food was donated by the committee, some of the congregation and friends, so a huge 'THANK YOU' to them. This year the entertainment was provided by 'Robbie and Darren' and it was a really good night of songs, so again a huge 'THANK YOU' to them as well. The night raised £754



Remembering Bob Browne

In September we lost a dear friend and a long standing member of our congregation, Bob Browne. Bob was the treasurer of the church for 43 years, keeping a tight rein on the church's money. He was also licensed as Reader to our church taking various services, especially Morning Celebration on the 1st Sunday of the month with his wife, Helen. Bob had a friendly personality who you could approach and have a conversation with him about the church. We will all miss Bob, so please pray for Helen and the family.

