

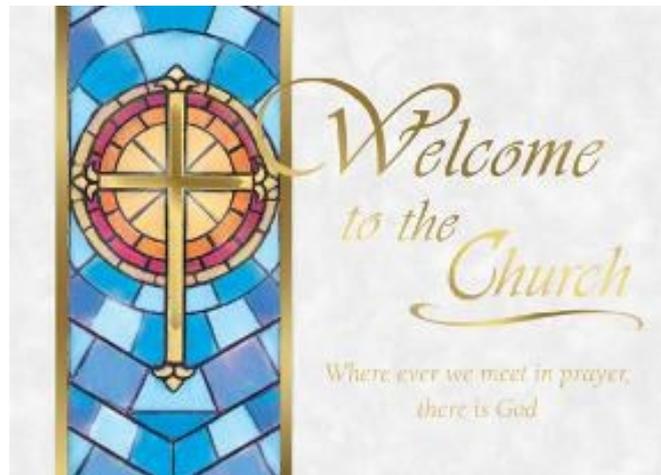


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

ISSUE 191

APRIL 2026

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

SERVICES FOR APRIL/ MAY
CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

Never underestimate the knowledge of a child.



This week I have been visiting local primary schools to talk to them about the upcoming season of Easter and as part of this I have done a couple of presentations in assemblies and smaller classes. Now as much as I enjoy working with people of all ages and I'm not shy of experience with primary school age children (having had seven kids at home!) there are challenging elements towards delivering an Easter talk to children of a very young age.

The main challenge that I find is being able to put across what is quite clearly a very traumatic and graphic death to children of a young age, in a way that they can understand and yet still go home and sleep at night! This is a very delicate balance of ensuring that the PowerPoint presentation, props used and the storyline itself is given over in such a way that children clearly take something away from what is the most difficult to understand, yet life changing event that has happened in human history. Interestingly there is also the background thoughts of presenting the Christian faith to schools, of which the general national census is that we are living in a country which is watering down the Christian message towards its children. I often find myself wondering if I'm going to be met with the same response that I did during Christmas at another assembly, when I held up the once world-famous Christingle, only to be met with shaking of heads and silence from a large percentage of a school assembly.

All this said, the assemblies that I've taken this week have left me deeply warmed by what is clearly evidence of the input of the schools towards a lot of the children who were open to learning about the Christian faith. Indeed I must admit that I did smile when I asked one assembly what the real message of Easter was about, to which a little child (she must have been about 8 or 9) put a hand up and replied ***"The message of Easter is about Jesus' journey, his crucifixion and his resurrection for us all!"*** Now that little girl, was not the only one, as many other children contributed towards similar thoughts of the Easter journey and the blessing of the resurrection of Christ in their own unique and innocent little way.

At this time of writing we are only a few weeks away from Easter being celebrated in our churches around Runcorn, and amongst all the preparations for lent, the many conversations over mission and ministry, all the services that we have planned, I can't help but think that, as beautiful as the church is in its widest context we may have overcomplicated what is essentially a very beautiful and basic message. This has been my reflective thoughts for these past few days which has been inspired certainly by that first little girl I mentioned, but also by many others from the local schools. Jesus tells us in the gospels many times to approach the Kingdom of heaven with the innocence of a little child. It is in light of this that I want to encourage you as Easter gets closer, please try not to overcomplicate your faith, please try not to be distracted by other worldly affairs, please try and approach the Easter season with the innocence, excitement and the devotion of a little child. This is how we will connect with God at a level that is far deeper than our earthly adults understanding.

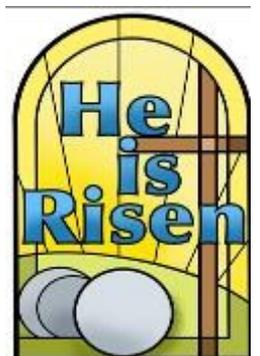
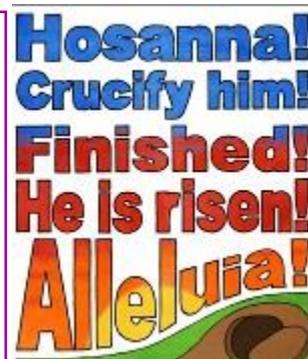
Amen.

with every blessing,

Rev'd George

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you." On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.



APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 1st April
10.00am Holy Communion



Thursday 2nd April (Maundy Thursday)
7.30pm Holy Communion & Vigil

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday)
3.00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 4th April (Easter Eve)
8.00pm Service of Light

Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 8th April
NO SERVICE TODAY

Sunday 12th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th April
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th April (3rd Sunday of Easter)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd April
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th April (4th Sunday of Easter)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 29th April
10.00am Holy Communion

BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

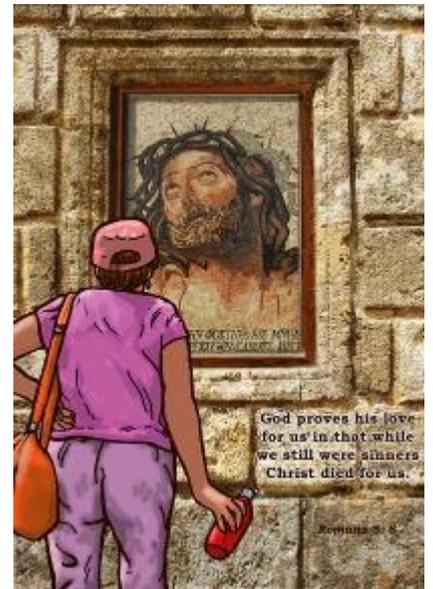
Wednesday 1st April
Matthew 26: 14-27, 66.

Sunday 5th April
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 28: 1-10

Sunday 12th April
Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
John 20: 19-end

Sunday 19th April
Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
Luke 24: 13-35

Sunday 26th April
Acts 2: 42-end
John 10: 1-10



MAY CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3rd May (5th Sunday of Easter)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Style Church



Wednesday 6th May
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th May (6th Sunday of Easter)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 14th May (Ascension Day)
10.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Holy Communion



Sunday 17th May (7th Sunday of Easter)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 20th May
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 24th May (Whit Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 27th May
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 31st May (Trinity Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

National Gardening Week - 27th April to 3rd May

Led by the Royal Horticultural Society, this annual premier UK celebration encourages everyone to experience the joy of gardening. Aimed especially at beginners, events and activities are run up and down the country, offering tips, events, and resources to promote the health, wellbeing, and environmental benefits of cultivating plants. The RHS provides expert tips, how-to guides, and fun, easy gardening challenges to build confidence in new gardeners



More at: <https://www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk>

The Seven Deadly Sins: Anger

'Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one.' (Benjamin Franklin).

Who or what makes you angry? In the third of our 7 Deadly Sins, we are looking at *anger* (or *wrath*). It describes uncontrolled feelings of hatred and resentment, and it can lead to resentment and grudges, quarrelling and damaged relationships. Jesus warns us about the consequence of anger: *'I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.'* (Matt 5:22).

Jesus Himself got angry, notably when He saw the Temple being exploited by the money changers (Matt 21:12-13). Such *righteous anger* is a measured response to injustice or evil, motivated by love not vengeance. However, it is important for us to deal with unrighteous anger in our lives: *'In your anger do not sin; do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.'* (Ephesians 4:26,27). What practical steps can we take to do this?

Acknowledge your anger: What are the root causes of our anger? Often it comes from deeper feelings like fear, inadequacy, or the desire to control.

Control your anger: Stepping back before reacting can prevent anger from controlling us: *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19,20).

Seek to forgive: Practising forgiveness, not seeking revenge or holding grudges, will enable us to overcoming anger: *'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.'* (Colossians 3:12,13). Christ died to take the wrath of God we deserve, that we might know God's forgiveness.

'People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing' (Will Rogers).

Activities at St Michael's Church

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Church Hall

Next Tea & Toast is on 2nd May & 6th June

@ 10.00am to 12.00 noon Admission: £2.00

Community Café

In the Church Hall every Wednesday from 11.30pm—2.30pm. A place to relax, have a natter, try some crafts and of course a cup Tea or Coffee.

Knit and Natter Group

Knit and Natter 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.



Recently in **March** we welcomed **one child** into the Church Family through Baptism. Please pray for this child that he may grow up to love and follow Christ. Also please pray for his parents and Godparents, and pray that they may seek to know Christ and to worship. Also we welcomed **one adult** into the Church Family through Baptism, please pray for him they may grow up to love and follow Christ.

There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet on which Christ hath subjected death and the devil. – *John Calvin*.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

April Birthdays

One of our loveable members of this congregation hits a huge milestone on April 7th and he turns 90yrs old and it's **Ross Bullock**.

Lets wish him a Happy Birthday

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY 90TH

That Day

That day was a day like never before
As the Saviour died and the darkness grew,
Earth shuddered and rocks were split apart
As the veil of the temple was torn in two.

The centurion who witnessed all these things,
The earthquake, the One who was nailed to the wood,
Seeing Him die could only say,
'Surely this man was the Son of God'.

Death was defeated, the stone rolled away –
And man was released from all his bonds,
Christ rose as victor that glorious day.

The Light had pushed the darkness back,
He now stands resplendent for all to see,
Forgiveness, redemption all wrought on the cross,
The eternal fruits of Calvary.

By Megan Carter

The Cross of Jesus

*The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;
a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;
a picture of death, yet the key to life;
a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;
a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;
a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;
a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.*

The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of God's love and peace. On the cross Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love. As Peter writes, *'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed'* (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order *'to bring us to God'* (1 Peter 3:18). The idea of substitution lies at the heart of understanding what Jesus did on the cross: *'For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.'* (John Stott).

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



April Birthdays

Congratulations to Daniel Ratcliffe and Helen Browne who celebrate their birthdays on April 1st, Jean Oke who celebrates her birthday on April 5th.

Commandment

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

SIDESPERSONS

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THEIR ROLE



PEOPLE WHO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS FROM THE SIDE AISLES



FRIENDS WHO ONLY ORDER CHIPS AT A RESTAURANT

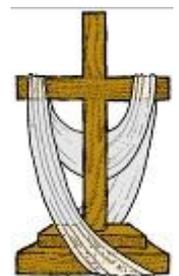


PERSONS MADE UP ONLY OF SIDES



BACKING DANCERS FOR LITURGICAL ROUTINES

CartoonChurch.com



St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Upcoming Events for your diary

April 17th : **Would I Lie to You** Tickets £8 (Bring your own Drinks and Nibbles) 7.00pm start

May 16th: **Quiz Night** Tickets £10 (inc refreshments @ Picture Quiz) (but bring own drinks)

7.00pm start

June 26th: **Organ Recital** Tickets £10 (inc light refreshments) @ 7.00pm

July 18th: **Summer Fayre** 12.00noon to 4.00pm

September 26th: **Farmhouse Supper** Tickets £15 (inc Hot & Cold Buffet and 'Kiwi Chorus)

6.30pm to start at 7.00pm

December 6th: **Police Band Concert** Tickets £12 (inc Mulled wine and mince pie) @ 5.00pm

December 9th—12th: **Christmas Tree Festival and Grand Draw**

Watch this space for more upcoming events

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Lamentations

The Book of Lamentations consists of five laments over the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of Judah's leading inhabitants to Babylon. Tradition ascribes the book to Jeremiah, who witnessed Jerusalem's destruction in 586 BC. Each lament is an *acrostic* i.e. each verse begins in order with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet (except the fifth).

The themes of the laments can be summarised as follows: Jerusalem in Agony (1); the Lord's Anger (2); Judah's complaint against Adversity (3); Jerusalem's Anxiety (4); and Judah's prayer to the Almighty (5). Lamentations portrays the overwhelming sense of loss that accompanied the destruction of the city, along with its Temple with its worship and sacrifices. However, the book is not simply concerned about Jerusalem's destruction, but for the lessons that can be learned from it. Jeremiah sees the Babylonians as human agents of God's judgment upon Judah's sin. It was God Himself who destroyed the city and temple. However, God's action was not arbitrary, for the people had deliberately sinned against Him and broken their covenant with Him.

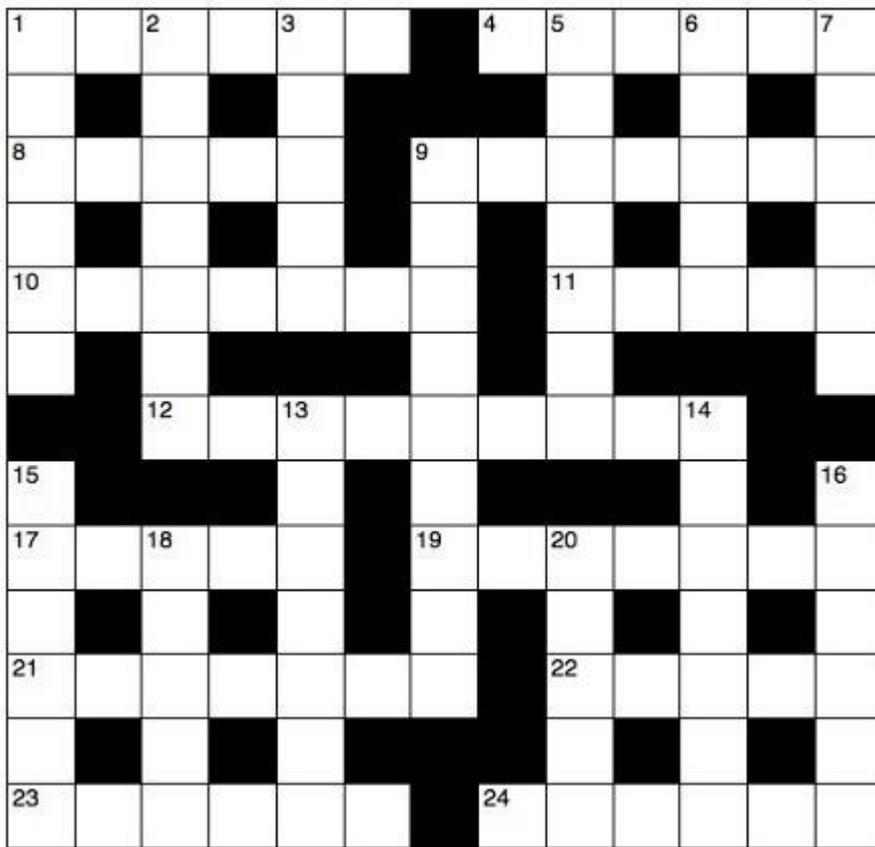
Although the people's tears and cries for vengeance are understandable, God looks for a sincere heartfelt sorrow from the people. The book begins with lament, *'How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she who once was great among the nations!'* (1:1), but finishes with repentance, *'Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old'* (5:21).

However, in the middle of the book there is a reminder of God's goodness and faithfulness: *'Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'* (3:22-23).

Your Easter chocolate can be good for you

It all began in ancient Peru over 5,000 years ago. They liked to sip cacao, the purest form of chocolate. It took many centuries to find its way to Europe, but when it did arrive, it was a big hit. Now, with sugar added, chocolate is one of the most popular treats we know. In the UK we munch our way through about 4.5kg of it, per person, per year. Dark chocolate is soaring in popularity. If it is of good quality, it will have less sugar and more beneficial plant compounds such as polyphenols and flavanols, which can help protect your brain, your heart and your gut from inflammation, among other things.





CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

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

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

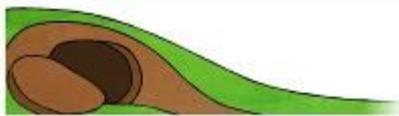


Crossword answer

ROLL OF HONOUR

Four people got the crossword answer and they were

Jim & Shelagh Goffin,
Wendy Sefton,
Chris & Sue Challoner
& Margaret Myers



April
2026



Please Pray

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

Graham & Nicola Aylett

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

Dr Ursula Leiser

Robert Withington

Ada Dunbebin



INFORMATION

Revd George Roach

01928 832734

Email: vicar.smaaruncorn@gmail.com

Not on a Monday

Churchwardens

Chris Challoner 01928 761704

Robbie Littler 07718 133018

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

Why do Christians wash feet on Maundy Thursday?

At the Last Supper Jesus shocked His
disciples by washing their feet. He did this
as an example, to demonstrate to them
that they should serve others with
humility. Over the centuries, some
churches have recreated this act of
humility at a special service on Maundy
Thursday.

Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all
things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever
with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you
for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know, even in our darkest
times, by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us. In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour
you this Eastertime. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Peaceful mind in Eastertide

Easter is a time of rejoicing over what Christ has done for us. The following may be helpful.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we
might live through him. - *1 John 4:9* You see, at just the right time, when we were still
powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though
for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love for
us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - *Romans 5:6-8*

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit
gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is
living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because
of His Spirit who lives in you. - *Romans 8:10,11*