

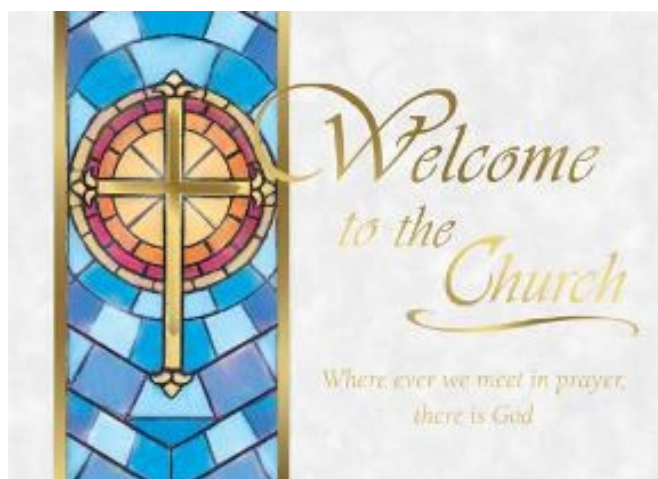


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.com

ISSUE 195

OCTOBER 2026

Growing Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:

HUMOUR

NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

A Patronal Thank You !

This past few months has been very busy here at St Michaels. A retreat to the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, walks in the outdoors (North Wales and local), the Farm House Supper, our Patronal festival and more. It truly has been a blessed time as a church, and I am grateful for everything we do here to grow in fellowship and faith. All of these things are made possible by the many volunteers who work tirelessly in the background to see this machine run smoothly, without whom the Vicar couldn't achieve anywhere near as much.



Yesterday was our Patronal festival where for one day of the year we give a special emphasis on the Archangel Michael and all other Angels. Additional to this we give thanks for and celebrate all volunteers past and present who contribute so much to the life of the parish church. I am however conscious that reading this there maybe those housebound or distant who have volunteered in the past, who perhaps have never received a thank you, or any form of recognition for what you did here during your time. Therefore, I want to extend the thanks of myself and the PCC to you who maybe reading this.

You who decorated the church with flowers, cleaned, fundraised, read from the front, lead prayers, attended meeting (many, many meetings!), you who stood at the Altar in whatever capacity, held the hands of the hurting and shared your finances with the poor. I could go on. If I haven't mentioned your role or situation then please still accept our thanks and be reassured of our prayers. In turn, please pray for us because prayer is the most important thing we can do here.

My friends, we are now heading into the busy season with Remembrance, Advent, Christmas and all of the other parts between. Volunteers will continue to do what they do best, and the Vicar will work with them, (guided by the Holy Spirit) in making miracles happen here. My ask for you all reading this whether near or far, housebound or able, young or old, is that you keep us all in prayer here at St Michaels.

With every blessing, *Rev'd George*

Prayer of trust in God's Word.

Father,
Thank you for your written Word to us in the Bible, inspired and interpreted by your Holy Spirit. Thank you that from beginning to end it reveals Jesus, the living Word, sent by you to rescue us from the mess of selfishness and disobedience. May we treasure your revelation to us and allow you to guide us by it through the confusion and pain of this world, confident that your Word is unchanging and powerful and trustworthy.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



On Sunday 25th October the clocks will go back by one hour at 2am, meaning we will gain one hour of sleep and it will be lighter in the mornings.

SO DON'T FORGET

The cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "It's not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."

800 years ago, on 3rd October 1226 that St Francis of Assisi, Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, and founder of the Franciscan Order.

300 years ago, on 28th October 1726 that Jonathan Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels* was published.

OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th October (18th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Café Church



Wednesday 7th October

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 11th October (19th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion



Wednesday 14th October

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th October (Healing Sunday)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 21st October

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th October (Bible Sunday)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 28th October

10.00am Holy Communion

Prayer for Harvest

Dear Lord,

As we give thanks for the harvest and pray for the farmers who have struggled through the summer's drought and heatwaves, we also give thanks and pray for those who work to share the good news of Your kingdom, to bring in Your harvest of people who are searching for You.

May we, who know You, join those workers and share the good news that Jesus brings. So many people are lost and without hope or direction. Help us to reach out to them, maybe with an invitation, or simply a smile, or an act of kindness. May they see Your love reflected in us and turn to You.

May they put their trust in Jesus, who alone is the answer to all life's great questions.

Lord, may we be workers in the harvest field where You have placed us, for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st November (Saints and Souls)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Café Church

4.00pm Service of Remembrance and Hope

Wednesday 4th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th November (REMEMBRANCE)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 11th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th November (24th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 18th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd November (Christ the King)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th November (1st Sunday of Advent)

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

BIBLE READINGS FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 4th October

Isaiah 5: 1-7

Matthew 21: 33-46

Sunday 11th October

Isaiah 25: 1-9

Matthew 22: 1-14

Sunday 18th October

Isaiah 35: 3-6

Luke 10: 1-9

Sunday 25th October

Psalms 119: 9-16

Matthew 24: 30-35



St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Upcoming Events for your diary

October 24th: Quiz Tickets £10 (inc refreshments @ Picture Quiz) (but bring own drinks)

7.00pm start

December 6th: Police Band Concert Tickets £15 (inc Mulled wine and mince pie) @ 5.00pm

December 9th—12th: Christmas Tree Festival and Grand Draw
(For this event more information nearer the time)

Reflected Faith Series – What's it worth?

Last time we reflected on the time of 'Receiving and sharing the Peace' within our service. This month, we consider what comes next. I say 'next' but actually, during that time of sharing the Peace, most of us multi-task! We move around saying hello and catching up on the latest news from folk we only see on a Sunday in church; we shake hands and say the words of 'The Peace'; and we also scrabble around looking for cash to put on the plate or in the bag. Our cash offering to the church is then processed up to the altar to be received by the priest who blesses it and prays over it. (Many years ago, when we were first able to give by standing order to the local church, I recall some people saying they would prefer to continue to give using cash, as the money in the bank was 'not blessed'!) In more recent years I have attended, and indeed been the incumbent for, churches where no plate or bag is passed around at this point, but rather that folk are both encouraged to give by standing order or, if by cash, then on a plate or in a box as they enter the building. Some churches today do not bring forward any financial collection, even if there is a plate on entering /leaving.

So what has changed?

It's a reflection of our understanding of the real meaning behind the 'collection'. A reversion to the original intention by the church fathers. It was never intended to be just a small percentage of our possessions or the leftover cash we have lying around. Instead, it was intended to be an offering of our whole lives. The money was just a visible token.

This month

Have a think about what you are 'offering' when this time comes in your next church service. Are you able to offer yourself and put yourself to God's use?

Activities at St Michael's Church

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Church Hall

Next Tea & Toast is on 7th November & 5th December

@ 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 & 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.



CONGRATULATIONS

to

**Robbie & Lisa
Littler**

**who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on October 28th**



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



September Birthdays

Congratulations 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**.

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

We are going to do the Mayor of Halton's Christmas Toy Appeal again this year, after a huge success with last years appeal. This appeal starts on **Sunday 4th October**. So please **"Could you buy an extra Christmas present this year for a Boy or Girl? any age range. New and unused in very good condition and unwrapped only please. Let's put some smiles on faces this Christmas"** Please bring them to church and put them in the box at the back of church by **Sunday 29th November at the latest**. Please see Colin Keam for details.



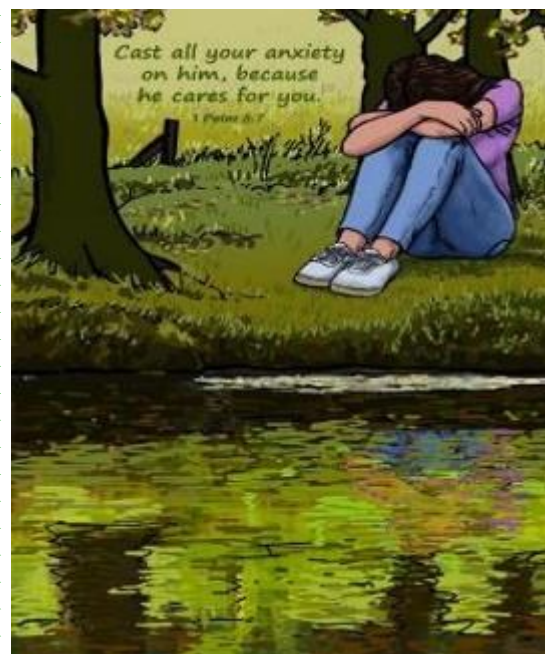
Christmas Grand Draw Tickets & Christmas Tree Festival

Again we are doing a Grand Draw this year in conjunction with Christmas Tree Festival. The tree festival will run from **9th to 12th December 3.00pm to 6.00pm Wednesday- Friday and Saturday 11.00am to 2.00pm**.

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 8th**. Also if you have any ideas for a hamper let these people know.



Be nice to your knees

Osteoarthritis is the main cause of knee pain in people over 50. Here are some tips that may help:

Be aware of the several major groups of muscles that support your knees. They include the quadriceps at the side and front of your thighs, the hamstrings at the back, and your calf muscles. If you can give these muscles regular exercise that keeps them strong, they will help protect your knees.

Be aware that your knees *like and need* to move. Using them less is one of the worst things you can do, because it only weakens them. If you have bad osteoarthritis, then ask your doctor for alternative ways of exercising them, instead of walking.

Be aware that knees do better when you lose weight. Just losing one kg of body weight will bring down the compressive force on your knees by as much as 4kg with each step. That will help preserve your knee cartilage.

It seems that doctors disagree over the value of taking supplements such as glucosamine or turmeric, but they say that if you find they work for you, then certainly keep taking them.

Samaritans Purse

It is now time to fill a shoe box for the '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. If you want fill a shoe box you can collect one from 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 also the is a cover charge of **£5** to cover the cost of sending it. 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 8th November, as they will be collected from church between 9th and 16th November

THANK YOU Wendy

FARMHOUSE SUPPER 2026

Again, the Maintenance Appeal Committee held the Annual Farmhouse Supper on Saturday 26th September in the Church Hall. It was another successful evening supported by around 70 people who enjoyed the hot and cold food and the 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 'KIWI CHORUS' and it was a really good night of songs, new and old, so again a huge 'THANK YOU' to them as well. The night raised £1150.



Be thankful for grandparents

Everyone seems to have their 'special day' these days, and this month brings us Grandparents' Day, on the 4th October. If your grandchildren are still young, why not keep at your house:

1. **A dressing up box** – of fairytale clothes, plastic crowns and cardboard swords. These will keep them busy for hours. Charity shops can be a great source of cheap costumes – and also tablecloths/sheets that can be turned into costumes. (Or you can help the church by getting to work on some early nativity costumes!)
2. **A craft supply box** – egg boxes, old magazines full of pictures, cardboard, cardboard tubes, a bit of glue, bits of ribbon and wool, some paper and scissors can work wonders.
3. **Colouring supplies** - crayons and any kind of paper – even the back of envelopes – will do fine.

If all else fails, you can always sit down for a rest and let them play 'musical statues', where the only rule is that whenever the music stops, they must 'freeze' in position.

There are lots of resources you can download for the special day – just go to:

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/grandparents-day>

Prisons Week – 11th to 17th October

Prisons Week is an annual initiative dedicated to prayer and raising awareness for those affected by the criminal justice system. **This year it runs from Prisons Sunday 11th October, to Saturday 17th October.**

It was begun in 1975 by Bishop Victor Guazzelli, an auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster. The bishop was a keen supporter of social justice and wanted to encourage Christians to pray for the needs of all of those affected by prison: the prisoners, their families, the victims of crime and their communities, and all those working in the criminal justice system.

These days Prisons Week provides a shared focus for Christian churches and individuals to minister to those in prisons. It also aims to inspire volunteers to give time to support affected individuals.

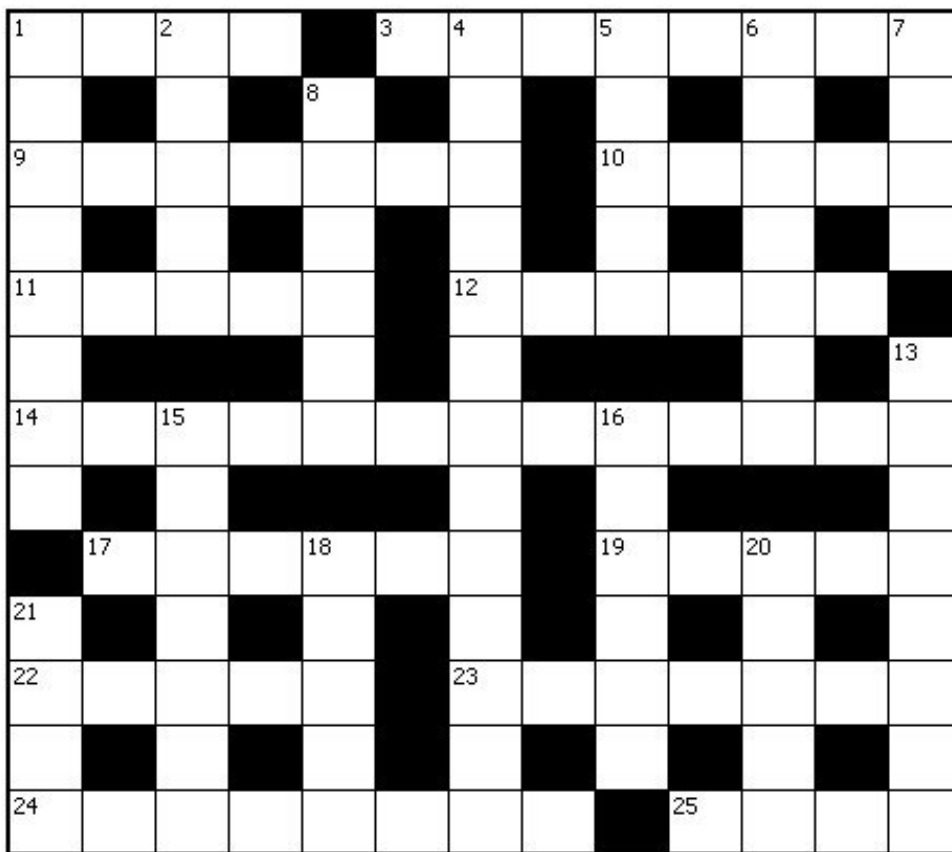
Do you feel drawn to some kind of prison ministry, but are not sure where to begin?

You might consider the Prison Fellowship's letter writing scheme, *Letter Link*. It enables volunteers to safely connect with those in prison, to encourage them.

Letter Link has been the foundation of many friendships. Prison Fellowship letter writers can become a strong support system for someone struggling behind bars. And these letters can often be the vital link that connects people in prison with the outside community.

Sadly, Letter Link is sometimes the *only* communication that someone in prison receives. In a place of isolation and darkness, regular letters can be a source of comfort and a reminder that people in prison are still loved and valued by God.

Many prisoners still seeking a pen pal. For more info: <https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/our-work/letter-link/>



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 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)



Crossword answer
September

ROLL OF HONOUR

Three people got the
crossword
answer and they were

Jim & Shelagh Goffin,
Wendy Sefton
& Margaret Myers



October
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

Light Parties – a happier alternative to Halloween

While many of us may buy Halloween-themed confectionary, pumpkins, decorations and even costumes this month, thousands of us have no intention of celebrating Halloween. Instead, we will be attending Light Parties hosted by our local churches, and our children will enjoy a positive and upbeat alternative to traditional Halloween celebrations. Scripture Union, the Christian charity that first pioneered Light Parties, reports that around 8,000 churches and youth organisations now request their Light Party Pack each year. And churches of all the major denominations are in full and active support. The C of E often sets up localised search engines on its website, specifically to help families track down local 'light and bright parties' in their dioceses. Meanwhile, Methodist, Baptist, and Elim Pentecostal churches also offer Light Parties, to which all are welcome. Just for the record, a Light Party is a family-friendly Christian event held on 31st October. Instead of featuring ghosts, ghouls and darkness, it celebrates the themes of light and hope in Jesus Christ. Children dress up in bright, colourful outfits, enjoy games such as glow-in-the-dark, eat party snacks and enjoy themselves without any element of fear or oppression. The organisers usually close with a simple, positive message of faith and light.

Monthly Bereavement Café



We hold a Monthly Bereavement Café in the Church Hall at St Michaels Church from **11.30am-12.30pm** every **2nd Friday of the month**. An informal, supportive space for those who have suffered a Bereavement to meet others with similar experiences and have a chat over a cup of tea and a slice of cake. It doesn't have to have been recent, it could have happened years ago, so please come along and everyone is welcome. This is done in conjunction with Davis McMullen Funeral Directors

INFORMATION

Revd George Roach

01928 832734

Email: vicar.smaaruncorn@gmail.com

Not on a Monday

Churchwardens

Emma Johnson

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

IN MEMORY

In October 2025, the following people had their funeral at St Michael's. They will never be forgotten, because we still have the memories of that person and they will be with you/us always. So please remember these people in your prayers and thoughts.

Robert Browne

Roy Johnson

