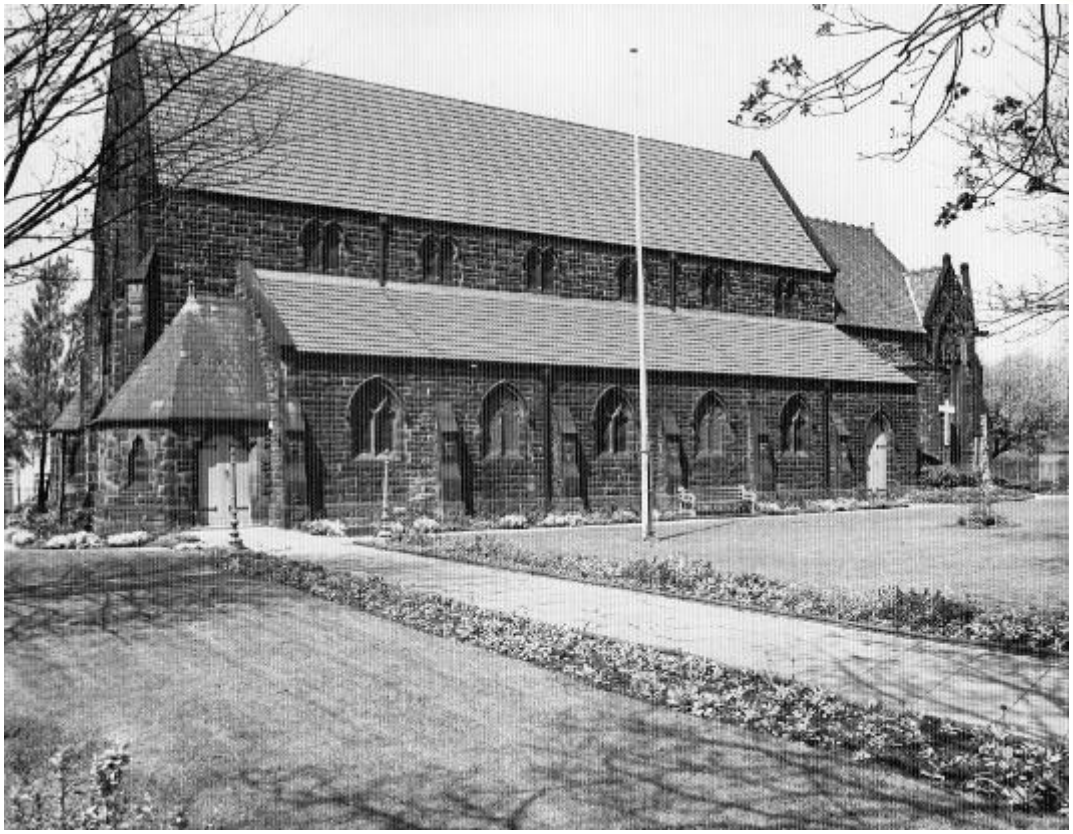
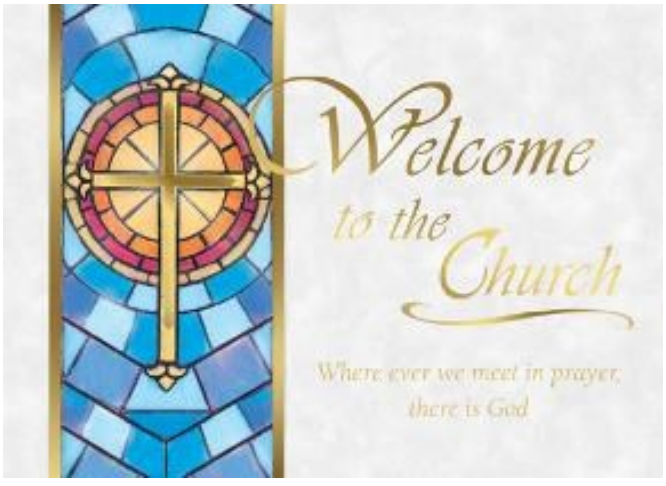
MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
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ISSUE 196 NOVEMBER 2026

Growing Together





In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS PUZZLE PAGE
SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
CELEBRATIONS

Vicars Message

Remembrance, Hope and Peace.



We are now at that time of year where the subject of remembrance is before us in many ways. Personally, I do love this season. It is everything from the services of Hope and Remembrance, where we remember those who have passed before us, right through to the Remembrance Day services where we remember those who have died during wars and conflict. Both of these examples are important; however, I feel strongly that we should be visiting the subject of War a little more given the global situation.

I have said this plenty of times, that war benefits nobody. Nobody truly wins, many people lose. Life is lost, land is lost, and people live in fear of the unknown and impending suffering war brings. Sadly, those who dictate who we go to war with rarely are at risk themselves, certainly not to the scale we common people are. I look for signs of hope regularly in today's world.

I remember a film I watched once, with a British soldier fighting his way through France whilst hiding and dodging German soldiers. At one point he found his way into a derelict house for a moment's rest only to find a young mother trying desperately to keep her new born baby quiet out of fear of the Germans hearing the child and killing them both. This mother was grateful for the soldier sharing his rations with her, and in turn offered him a place to stay clearly hoping he would protect both her and her child. The soldier had to decline and move on. Obviously this was a scene from a film, however the truth behind these moments would have been based on some reality at the time. The thing that stood out for me most about that scene was the fact all around them was destruction brought about by those in power causing war, yet in this derelict house was a moment of peace, with a small fire, mutual sharing and caring between two strangers. There was hope.

When we look at the world today we need to lean on that hope. Hope that although conflict is talked about at great levels, the majority of humanity doesn't want conflict at all and that peace may break through. Hope that if War does escalate again, this world will raise peacemakers. Hope that in amongst all of this we have a God of Love and peace who does not desire to see suffering, but each of us loving one another.

This remembrance season, let us hold onto the Hope that is Jesus Christ. Let us always look for hope and work for Peace.
Amen.

With every blessing, Revd George

Lest We Forget

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them? ***'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'*** **(Micah 4:3).** Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus. Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. ***'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'*** **(Micah 4:5)**. Let us ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

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
6.30pm BCP Evensong

Wednesday 11th November
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th November (2nd Sunday before Advent)
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 NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st November
Revelation 7: 9-17
Matthew 5: 1-12

Sunday 8th November
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Matthew 25: 1-13
Evensong
Psalm 82
Judges 7: 2-22
John 15: 9-17

Sunday 15th November
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30

Sunday 22nd November
Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24
Matthew 25: 30-end

Sunday 29th November
Isaiah 64: 1-9
Mark 13: 24-end

CONGRATULATIONS
to
Jim & Cathy Wright
who are celebrating their Wedding Anniversary on November 8th

DECEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 2nd December
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 6th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)
8.30am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Café Church



Wednesday 9th December
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th December (Gaudete Sunday)
8.30am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm BCP Evensong



Wednesday 16th December
10.00am Holy Communion

Friday 18th December (Christingle)
6.00pm for 6.30pm start

Sunday 20th December(4th Sunday of Advent)
8.30am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm 9 Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 23rd December
10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
11.00pm Holy Communion

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)
8.45am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Family Holy Communion

Sunday 27th December (The Holy Innocents)
8.30am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 30th December
NO SERVICE TODAY

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Upcoming Events for your diary

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)

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 Jo Thornton who celebrates her birthday on **14th 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.**

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 11.30am—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.**

Samaritans Purse



Don't forget to get your leaflet and box from the back of church, if you can fill one or go onto their website and they will fill one for you. Last year we sent **23 boxes** with more 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



All you need is love

Mother Teresa once observed: "We cannot do great deeds, but we can do small deeds with great love." That's something to remember in our daily life. What good are great public efforts if they are fuelled by personal ambition or a desire to rule? If you are not personally kind, what good does it do you? The Bible warns us that 'If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, and have not love, I gain nothing.' (1 Corinthians 13:2,3) Who can you show some love to, today?

Prayer for November 2026

Dear Lord,

At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down and our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits. Help us to adjust our perspective, to turn and look up, to focus afresh on You, to remember that Your name is above all names, above discouragement, above despair, above confusion. Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully. May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives – Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to remember your words,

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this November and always. In your name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

After the huge success with last years appeal, we are doing the Mayor of Halton's Christmas Toy Appeal again this year, . This appeal started 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 un-wrapped 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 by Sunday 29th November at the latest.**

Please see Colin Keam for more 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. Admission: £2 Adults, Children with a paying adult are free. No unaccompanied children allowed**

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 please**. Also if you have any good ideas for a hamper let these people know.

Sing-a-long-a scripture attracts one million song plays

This is listening to the Bible, but NOT as you've known it. For a new website which offers **38,048** individual recordings of chapters of the Bible being sung, in **16 different genres**, has become a smash hit worldwide. In only the first two weeks of its existence, it has seen one million song plays from its **3,600 hours** of produced scripture music. All in all, The Singing Bible offers the equivalent of five months of continuous listening, without repeating a chapter. It is free to use and does not need to be downloaded. Listeners in **194 countries** are enjoying the Bible in mix of musical styles, including country, hip-hop, hard rock, opera, sea shanty, barbershop quartet, Latin and reggae. The music has been described as "human-led and AI-assisted". The scripture is in an edition of the Berean Standard Bible. While the music plays, the full text of each chapter is displayed on screen. Thus, you can hear Jonah chapter 1 in sea-shanty style, while St John's Gospel is given in a thundering hard-rock style.

Visit: ***thesinging.bible/home***

I have been on the site and it gives the bible a different perspective, please see for yourself. *Colin Keam*

Christ the King

Christ is the King of all Creation
He is the King of all the earth;
Christ is the King of every nation
Lord of life, and death, and birth

On God's right hand our King is seated
Receiving praises for His worth!
He came from God to dwell with sinners
Sinners, including you and I

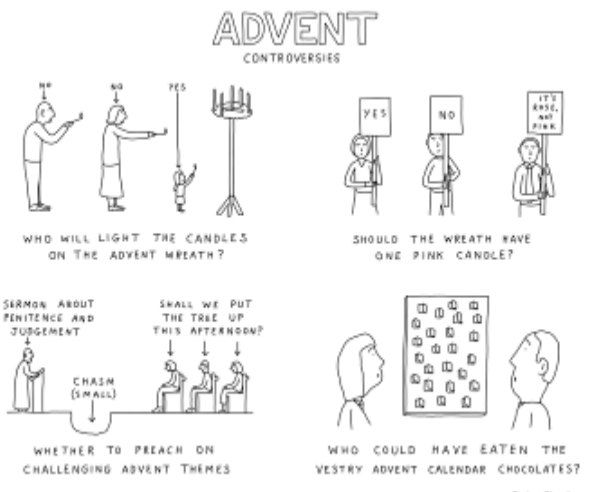
We know, with Him, we'll be the winners
Of life with Christ the King on High!
With all the angels we will praise Him
Who died and rose in victory!

Christ the King will come in glory
With trumpet blast – the glorious one!
All people then will know His story
All people bow before the Son!

No more death and no more sorrow
His Kingdom here on earth shall come!
Crown Him our King – His victory praising
God of all gods, and King of kings

Sing of His grace and love amazing
He is the King above all things!
Through all Heav'n and earth all voices
Our song of triumph ever rings!

By Nigel Beeton



Reflected Faith Series: Bread and Wine

Last time we reflected on the time of bringing forward our 'collection' money. In many churches at the same time the wine and bread are also brought forward by members of the congregation for use during the Eucharist celebration.
This bringing of the bread and wine during the Offertory Procession isn't just a practical matter as these are required, but is a symbolic act representing the people deliberately coming forward to the 'holiest' of places and offering their daily work and lives to God. In the earliest days of the Church, actual food and wine was brought from the peoples' homes for the service and to distribute to the poor afterwards. In orthodox churches there are often two types of 'bread.' One that is consecrated and given to communicants and another kept within the main body of the church, alongside plastic bags, for folk to take a piece home to share with their family and friends; which mimics this earlier action. In the Church of England, and in many other denominations, when the bread and wine have been consecrated, they are considered to be set aside explicitly for the purpose of human consumption and therefore all must be consumed, either during or immediately after the service. This is normally done by the priest but can happen by any communicant member that the priest has asked. Because of this it's important that the priest knows how many communicants there are likely to be. Too much wine consecrated can have a detrimental effect if one has to drive to another church! For myself, churches have communicated this to me in various ways: in a suburban church we had a board up high at the back of the nave with large numbers placed there by a Churchwarden who had counted folk as they entered. In a large village church the number was whispered to me by a person bringing up the elements, whilst nowadays in small local village churches you will often see me stop and count!

This month
Next time you attend a communion service have a look at how numbers are communicated and who brings forward the elements. What does the priest do when she/he receives them?

5th November - Guy Fawkes, an early terrorist

Guy Fawkes is not considered a saint by anybody, but he is remembered on this day each year. In 1570 he was born into a Protestant family, but on his father's death, his mother remarried and chose a Catholic husband. Guy Fawkes then converted to Catholicism, and became such an enthusiast for the Pope that he went on to join the Spanish Army, fighting for a time against the Protestants in Spain. Back in England, he decided to do all that he could to bring down the then Protestant government and restore a Catholic to the throne. And so, in 1605 he joined a plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament at the State Opening, with the intent of killing both James I of England and his parliament. Guy Fawkes' role was to light the fuse on several barrels of gunpowder which had been put under the House of Lords. Fortunately, the plot was discovered in time. Guy Fawkes was tortured and executed for his treason. No Church has ever acknowledged him as a saint.

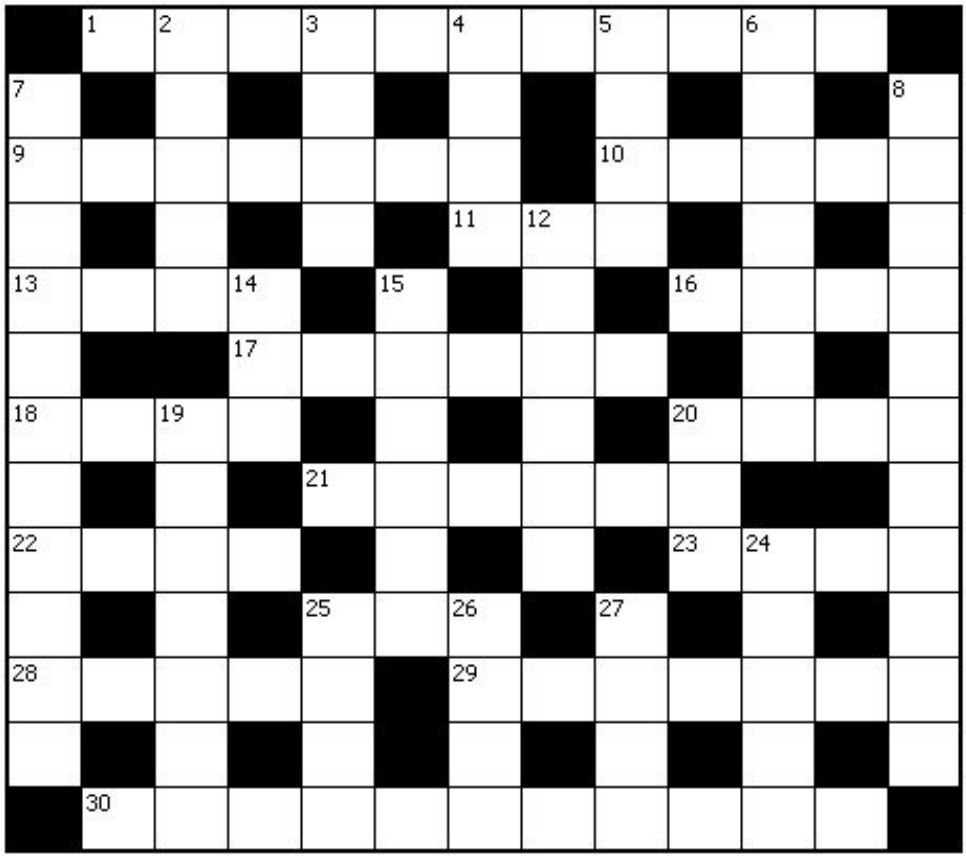


The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

What's the Big Idea? - an introduction to 1 Timothy

This month we look again at the books of the New Testament. Paul wrote to Timothy, *'my true son in the faith'* (2), as leader of the church in Ephesus. Timothy had a Greek father and Jewish Christian mother (Acts 16:1). Paul led him to faith during his first visit to Lystra and on his second visit invited Timothy to join him on his travels. He circumcised Timothy so that his Greek ancestry would not be a liability to working with the Jews (Acts 16:3). Although somewhat timid and often unwell, Timothy was a faithful servant of the Lord and Paul. Paul writes his letter to challenge false teaching and to give instruction on aspects of Church life, including worship, the appointment of leaders, and their attitude to money. Paul gave Timothy authorisation to challenge the false teachers in the Church. They taught a strong emphasis on Jewish myths and genealogies and were legalistic about Jewish laws. They also taught that the resurrection had already come and Christians no longer needed to look to Christ's coming, judgment, and resurrection of the dead. They were so immersed in speculative controversies that they neglected the very core of the Christian faith. Not an unfamiliar situation today!

Therefore, like Timothy, we are called to enable the Church to bring glory to God: ***'But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.'*** **(6:11,12)**



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 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)
11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
25 Tree (3)
28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
3 Way out (4)
4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
5 Done (anag.) (4)
6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
7 Concerning the study of God (11)
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
14 Frozen (3)
15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
20 See 1 Across
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
25 Time (anag.) (4)
26 Lists choice of meals (4)
27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)



Crossword answer October

ROLL OF HONOUR

Three people got the crossword answer and they were

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



November
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

Jamie Campbell

Reg Mottershead

Doreen Russell Roger Goodall

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

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.**

IN MEMORY

In November 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.

Betty Cartwright



Are vicars slowly disappearing?

There are certainly some worrying statistics out there. Such as:

There are **8,368 retired priests** holding permission to officiate. But there are only 6**,682 clergy are paid** (stipendiary) positions, and **2,440 in self-supporting**, unpaid roles.

Nearly half of the current **6,682 paid priests are aged over 55**. They all retire at 70. But numbers of new entrants in training dropped from **591 in 2020 to 442 by 2025**.

Where is this all headed? Worse case, **by 2033**, there could be only **5,400 full-time priests**. That is **40 per cent** of what the number was in **2000.**



These sobering predictions come in a recent report by the campaign group Save the Parish. It argues that the decline has left the C of E at real risk of no longer being "a Christian presence in every community." So, Save the Parish is calling on the C of E to "commit to a model that will support a young person in stipendiary ministry for their lifetime." It does not want a reduction in full-time paid clerical positions to save money, and it wants to lift the retirement age of 70. Also, the report says that the Church should measure ministers' success on the "numbers of lives touched, funeral by funeral, cup of tea by cup of tea".