



ANGELS & SAINTS

MONTHLY PARISH NEWS

Issue 38

September 2020

Thought for the Month

Two months in the year stand out for me as heralding new starts. The first is January and the second September. September, when the new academic year begins, when children join new classes and students are off to college and university, holds both excitement and trepidation. Even when we are beyond those years of education, many of us still harbour the memory of September being a month for new beginnings.

Even if we can't remember that feeling of anticipation in preparation for the new term, even if we are not empathising with children, grandchildren, or even great grandchildren, who are experiencing it for themselves, this year every one of us is involved. Having moved on for the time being from rows about exam results, we find ourselves in the midst of another dispute over the prerequisites for the safe return to education.

More than any other year this new beginning for our children, in September 2020, will have some sort of effect upon us all. None of us know for sure what the impact of this return will be for children, teachers, parents, or the local community. There is scientific data, there is research and there are trends to help with decision making, but mistakes have been made in dealing with this virus, and they will continue to be made because no one has all the answers. But it seems to me that everyone is doing their best. So, let's support the work of our local schools and focus on helping our young people prepare for the next phase in their lives with joy and anticipation and pray that this return to school will be a happy and a positive opportunity for everyone.

We are also preparing for new beginnings in Church. It has been lovely over the last couple of months to come back into the building with so many of you to worship together. From September we are planning to re-introduce some singing into the service. For now, sadly that does not mean for most of us, but members of the choir will be invited to come and sing during the service. I am sure that you will find this a great benefit to our worship, I know that I will, and we can look forward to being able to join in the singing when the regulations permit.

This new season brings an opportunity for all of us to put aside our negativity and our fears and embrace the future with hopeful expectation. There may be difficult times to come, but with faith and trust and sensible precautions, we will overcome them together. For now, let's make this September a brilliant new beginning.

God bless you and all of our children as they begin the new academic year.

With love, **Deborah**

Youth & Children's Work Update

In September we will be beginning our children's work on Zoom, this will be a weekly online meeting on Sundays for every child from 0 -11 years old. The aim of this is to partner with parents to see every child develop a strong and lasting relationship with Jesus and prepare our children for faith in the everyday.

The meeting will start at 10:30am on Sundays and last 30 minutes; this time will be filled with a bible story, a song and a game or two. We would love to welcome you on Sunday 6th September via Zoom. An email will be sent out a few days before with the Zoom meeting code. Zoom is very easy and accessible so please do contact Helen, our youth and children's minister, via email stmichaels.youth@outlook.com for a step by step guide of how it works.

We also have weekly videos on our [YouTube channel](#) for children to follow on with the church's readings. You can subscribe for free to the channel at any time, this way you will automatically be able to view all the videos at your own pace.

Our youth are meeting online every week for bible study, games and community - this is for school years 7 - 13. If you have a child within these school years and would like to engage them with our online youth ministry then please use the above email address where Helen would be happy to send you more information and a Zoom link so you can get started straight away.

We wanted to take the opportunity to wish Ben Gadsby well and pray for him as he takes his next step to university. I asked Ben if he could reflect on his time as part of the Genesis youth group and here's what he had to say:

"When Genesis started it really helped to engage the younger members of the congregation from the youngest kids all the way to the older teens like myself. Although there were only a few youth, it was still great when members of the congregation started a group where at times on a Sunday we would be able to go out into the meeting room and discuss and ask questions about a topic, usually relevant to that day's service but sometimes more general.

When our lovely youth leader Helen joined the church this brought in another element of experience and dedication that gave the chats a lot of educational purpose. Genesis also met up on a Thursday evening, where we had a dedicated youth centre with space and games to play alongside the teaching, - it was great to have this additional time. This also helped to make church and bible study feel more consistent and not for only a Sunday morning.

As we went into lockdown the community of Genesis carried on and communicated over Zoom and WhatsApp to share all kinds of topics, whether it's sermons on YouTube or passages of the bible we wanted to read.

Before the Covid pandemic arrived in our lives, Genesis had many ideas for how we could grow our youth group - I'm looking forward to when I return seeing those ideas materialise. I think it's important we try to build a relationship with anyone with young families and teenagers in order for Genesis to keep going and provide a comfortable place for young people curious about God.

Looking back at St Michaels, technically no longer a member of the 'youth' (though I still feel like one), I can still remember doing messy arts and crafts when I was little and playing bongos during worship not really knowing what was going on. I'll always be grateful for all the people in the church who encouraged us little ones to do things like that and take the time to organise activities to engage us in the church.

Not having the physical space and community of church in person during this pandemic makes you realise how much of a second home it actually is. Now as I plan for a move to Brighton for university I've realised how much I will miss the community and I know, when everything is back to normal, I'll be looking forward to my visits back." Ben Gadsby

We are so excited for the next chapter of Ben's life, please remember him in your prayers as he transitions to university. **Helen**

HOME GROUPS

There's a group waiting to welcome you!

Lockdown has taught us not only patience, but also that we can sustain and build our relationship with God in other places and ways, and maintain fellowship with other Christians, which is a vital part of church.

Our relationship with God is fundamental of course. We can't possibly have a proper relationship with someone if we don't know much about them, and don't talk with them. We converse in regular prayer, and we get 'to know Jesus' better by hearing from Him through his word – the Bible.

Our Home Groups are rooted in helping us with this, alongside the teaching we get in church, and are an excellent way to have fellowship as well as exploring Scripture with friends. Details of our usual groups are on our [website](#). Information on our current groups is below.— please call the organiser if you are interested in joining in.

Fellowship, Study and Prayer

Hosted by Duncan Moss. At present we are holding a Bible Study over Zoom every Monday and Tuesday evening, starting at 7.30pm and lasting approximately 45 minutes. We generally read and discuss the following Sunday's Gospel reading; and watch some relevant YouTube videos. If this interests you, please [contact the office](#) or ring 01202 827520

Food for Thought

A relaxed group to support each other in learning about and developing our relationship with God. Normally held at Rachel Tyler's home on Thursday evenings but, for the present (from 11 September), via Zoom.; there is also a WhatsApp group. If you would like to join in, please contact Rachel on 07941 012423

In-depth Bible Study

With Dr Andy Ostins, normally run at Andy and Caroline's home but at present via email. The next session is expected to be based on Colossians. If you would like to join in, please contact Andy via email at acostins@gmail.com or on 01202 814792

Youth Group

Run by Helen Jackson, our Youth & Children's Minister, At this time, the group meets via [Zoom](#) on Thursdays from 4pm-5pm for bible study and reflection. This is open for school years 7-13. Please contact Helen on stmichaels.youth@outlook.com

Prayer

There is a network of people who pray for and with those in need. If you or anyone you know would like prayer, get in touch with the [Parish Office](#) who will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

REST IN PEACE

Peter Roy Beale

Sunday Services in September

Sunday 6th September
Thirteenth after Trinity

10am

President: Revd Deborah Matthews
Preacher: Robin Morgan

5pm

Together on Zoom

Sunday 13th September
Fourteenth after Trinity

10am

President: Revd Ruth Wells
Preacher: Duncan Moss

Sunday 20th September
Fifteenth after Trinity

10am

President: Revd Norman Moulard
Preacher: Revd Norman Moulard

5pm

Together on Zoom

Sunday 27th September
Michael and All Angels
(Patronal Festival)

10am

President: Revd Deborah Matthews
Preacher: Revd Deborah Matthews

Meetings

Standing Committee 7.00pm via Zoom
Thursday 3rd September

PCC 7.00pm in Church
Thursday 10th September

Church Contacts

Rev. Deborah Matthews **01202 823707**
(Day off Friday)

The Parish Office
stmichaelsverwood@gmail.com

Sue Shier (Communications!)
07585 900810 suejshier@me.com

Sunday 10.00am Service.

Although we are now able to hold a service in church each Sunday, we need to restrict numbers attending to ensure social distancing.

If you have not already done so, please let the Parish Office know if you would like to attend regularly.

We will do our best to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to attend and you will be contacted each week to be advised if you have a place for the service that week.

If you cannot attend, the service will be live recording – this can be seen on Facebook on our '[St Michael's, Verwood](#)' page and will also be available on our YouTube channel via our [website](#) shortly afterwards

Privacy Notice

Live Streaming of Public Worship

Please be aware that there will be a camera in church to enable us to broadcast the 10.00am Sunday services.

Unless prior consent has been obtained, the camera will avoid children/adults at risk, and will therefore be angled away should there be any involvement of children/adults at risk during the service. We will ensure that we adhere to Safeguarding Practices at all time.

Please contact either a member of clergy, the churchwardens or the Parish Office if you don't wish to be filmed.

We will all need to adhere to the Government and Public Health England guidelines at all times. For the purposes of the NHS Track and Trace system, we will be keeping a written record of who attends the service each week.