

Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

www.fromsidechurches.org.uk

www.salemchurch.org.uk



December 2024

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE

Rector: Rev Malcolm Strange, 70 High Street, Winterbourne
Phone: 01454 775529
Email: m.strange@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Assistant minister Rev Julia Chard - contact via Benefice Office

Churchwardens Chris Greef 01454 774479
Derek Andow 01454 775024

BENEFICE AND PARISH OFFICE

95 High Street, Winterbourne, BRISTOL, BS36 1RD

Administrator Nessa Jarman Phone: 01454 776518

Email: office@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Opening hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1pm

WEDDINGS/BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION/FUNERALS

Enquires should be made to the Benefice Office - 01454 776518

PASTORAL VISITING

If you need a pastoral visit or know someone who does, please contact Jo on 01454 775529 or Pearl on 01454 314184

St Michael's Room Bookings Contact the Benefice Office!

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

Factory Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1QL

Minister Rev Leigh Maydew, 31 Quedgeley, Yate, Bristol, BS37.4JJ
Phone: 07388 083488
Email: leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk

To whom enquiries for Weddings, Baptisms, or Funerals should be made.

Senior Steward Margaret Johnston Phone: 01454 773626
Email: 123margaretjohnston@gmail.com

Hall Bookings Jayne Glass Phone: 07935 377790
Email: jaglass103@gmail.com

A message from Revd. Malcolm Strange



When choosing the carols for this year's Christmas services I began reflecting on the 19th Century writer Christina Rossetti's poem, 'In the Bleak Midwinter' which is now a well-known and much-loved Christmas Carol. I can assure you we will certainly be singing it at all the Carol Service held in the five Fromside Benefice churches this year for sure.

It seems many years since we had a crisp and frosty winter on the scale of 1947, 1962, 1976, 1982, 1996 and 2010 and even more years since we had a proper White Christmas. The last substantial one was 2010, although 2022 is officially the last one we had as it only needs one flake of snow to land on a UK weather station for it to be officially called a white Christmas.



I guess at the time that Rossetti wrote her poem people were used to harsher winters, after all the Thames used to freeze over, with the Frost Fairs being held on the ice, well into the 19th century, during a period that was known as the 'Little Ice Age'.



Whilst global warming is rightly forcing us to reflect on the impacts of severe weather patterns caused by, amongst other things, our excessive use of fossil fuels, the truth is that the real **focus of Rossetti's poem is not really the weather at all, but an exploration of the story of Jesus birth, the meaning of the Incarnation and more importantly how we should respond to this eternal truth.**

In a world that is in such a mess, with conflicts raging, politicians and leaders taking up extreme and somewhat uncaring positions, with increased poverty and large numbers of people struggling on the margins of society, this carol does bring an extra challenge to us all this Christmas in how we respond and care for each other.





For me the required response is so beautifully captured in the carol's final verse. 'What can I give him poor as I am? If I were a Shepherd I would give a lamb; If I were a Wise Man I would do my part, yet what I can give him, give my heart'.



At the heart of Christian Values is the call for us to love one another, which is not a bad aspiration for us all whatever our faith, and for the believer, living our lives this way is how we can best give Jesus our hearts.

Happy Christmas Everyone
Fr Malcolm

Together 4 Fromeside Mutual Aid Trust
2024 Appeal

Comfort & Joy

'Loving Our Neighbours In Need'

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 BACS: Account Number 16658662 Sort Code 30-99-50
 Cash/cheques: 'Comfort & Joy' c/o Zion Church Office,
 Woodend Road, Frampton Cotterell, BS36 2HY.
 *Cheques to 'Together For Fromeside Mutual Aid Trust'

Registered Charity 1209519

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

1st Sunday 4pm St Michael's Community Centre

ST MICHAEL'S PRAISE

2nd Sunday 10.30

St Michael's Church
PARISH COMMUNION



3rd Sunday 10.30

St Michael's Community Centre
CELTIC WORSHIP

4th Sunday 10.30

St Michael's Church
PARISH COMMUNION



Also in St Michael's Church

2nd Sunday at 4pm - Pause for Thought or Healing Service

1st & 3rd Sunday at 8am - Holy Communion

See pages 13 & 17 for details of Christmas services
www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

Recorded services are available on 2nd & 4th Sundays
on the Benefice website
www.fromesidechurches.org.uk
where details of all services in the Benefice can be found.

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30

1st Dec Rev Leigh Maydew (Holy Communion)
8th Dec Mr C Leese
15th Dec Miss N Sharp
22nd Dec Carol Service (at 4pm)
29th Dec United at Badminton Road



Further details on the website www.salemchurch.org.uk

SALEM PAGE

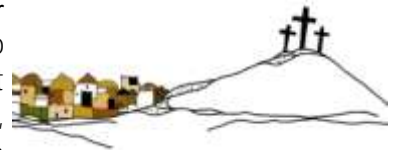


December's issue of the joint magazine always confronts me with a dilemma. I want to say something about Christmas, but also something about the ensuing Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, from 18th to 25th.

This year, I see a chance to link the two together. At Christmas, we remember the coming of the eternal Son of God into our world in all its sad messiness, of which the current troubles in the Holy Land have so vividly reminded us. Born in poverty in a land which was a place of conflict then as now, Jesus also died in it, the victim of its sin and rivalries. And yet, to use Paul's teaching, we believe that 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself'. We celebrate that life in Charles Wesley's words, 'our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man'. We join in Charles' request to 'give

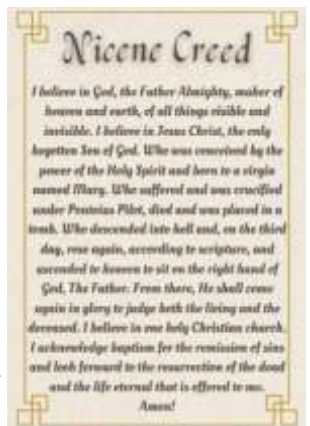


us eyes to see the man transfixed on Calvary and know thee, who thou art, the one eternal God and true'. And we remember that God has come all the way to meet us and to take our vulnerability to Himself in the most extraordinary act of sacrifice proving that, indeed, 'his mercy is over all his works' (Psalm 145, v9)'.



Next year, 2025, sees the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a meeting of three hundred bishops of the early Church, convened to settle complex arguments about the nature of Christ as truly one with us as a human being and also one with God, as partner of the Father and the Holy Spirit from all eternity.

After lengthy discussion, they drew up a document, ever since known as the Nicene Creed (named after the town, now in Turkey, where they had met). This set out the basics of Christian faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit plus an affirmation of the four characteristics of the Church of Christ as one, holy, catholic and apostolic.



Ever since then, this document has been seen as an agreed statement of the faith of all Christians. Though there have been divisions within the Church since, they have not affected the value placed on this statement of common faith. It is often

recited in the services of the Church, particularly at Communion, but even in those churches where it is not often recited in services, its authority is still respected. The amazing thing is that, despite all the more recent differences, particularly in the fifth, eleventh and sixteenth centuries (this last the period of the Protestant Reformation), we are all still agreed on the absolute basics which are that we believe in the triune God who envelops us in his all-redeeming love.



If anyone queries this, they will find that they would get the same affirmation, both from the Vatican and from a strict Baptist church of these glorious truths revealed to and believed by the faithful, also, in a myriad of other places

God is the all-forgiving Father who, 'as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103, v12). He is a father who has compassion on us as his children and his steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting over those who respect his awesome kindness (Psalm 103, vv13,17). He is also the Son, the captain of our faith, our advocate and intercessor with the Father and in the one in and through whom we receive the fullness of abundant life. Finally, He is the Holy Spirit in and through whom we receive the supreme **privilege of adoption, whereby we can pray with the Son, 'Abba, Father', and may know the truth of our call to be the adopted brothers and sisters in Christ of the one Father.**



All the churches, Catholic and Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant and free church, Pentecostal and 'new' churches, that accept this same faith are members of **the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church, 'built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets' (Ephesians 2, v 20). Currently, we may be divided on some secondary issues but we all agree on the ultimately key ones.**

It is thus our duty to share with each other in fellowship, to learn from each other, to enrich each other in receiving from the one Christ and the one Spirit. It is in the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that we particularly seek God's guidance as to how, together, we can become most fully the one holy, catholic and apostolic church that He wants us to be.**

With love from all of us at Salem and wishing you a most blessed and peaceful Christmas,

David.

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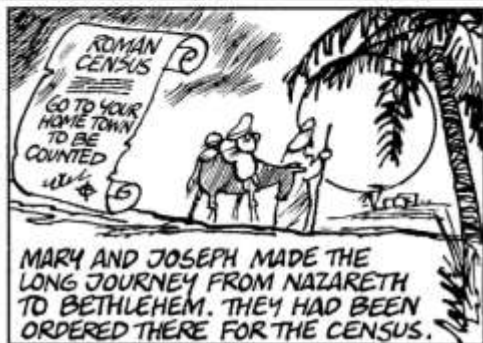
A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.

...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



SORRY... I'VE NO ROOM!

THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

Advent – the season for hope



Advent is the season of hope. For the Jews the hope was for the expected Messiah and for Christians the hope is for the coming of Jesus to transform our lives and the world in which we live. Sometimes this hope seems forlorn, with so many things wrong in our world. There are wars, poverty, injustice and, looming over them all, climate change and the associated environmental degradation threatening the extinction of many species including our own.

The evidence for climate change is piling up. 2024 is on track to be another record breaking year for the average global temperature. Wildfires, hurricanes and flooding are increasingly severe. The ice caps are shrinking, forests are disappearing, deserts are spreading. And the list goes on....



Against this background what hope is there and what can we do about it? In spite of all the difficulties I believe there is hope. Around the world people are waking up to the realities of climate change and becoming increasingly vocal, demanding that their governments take action to deal with the challenge. Recognising that local action is also a powerful way of influencing change and persuading others to get involved, many individuals and organisations are doing practical things to get the message across and make real improvements in our environment. It is particularly encouraging that more young people are getting involved and in many cases taking the initiative – I have always believed that it might not be possible to change the views of the older generation but you can educate the younger generation to do the right thing.

So, this Advent let us as Christians look forward to the coming of Jesus again with hope in our hearts and with the following prayer:

Creator God;

You sent your Son into the world to teach us the Way to live,

You are the source of life and light and love,

Your wisdom makes its home in all creation,

And your spirit flows through the cosmos.

Bless us all as we wonder at the beauty of the world you made and love.

May we know your presence throughout our planet home.

Give us grace to treasure and care for your creation,

Neither hoarding it as possession,

Nor abusing it as worthless,

But sharing it as a sacred gift,

An outpouring of your love.

Amen

(adapted from A Prayer in Response to Gaia, Bristol Cathedral 2024)

Chris Greef

Perry Almshouses
Reg Charity No 203141

Almshouse Vacancy



A residence has become available within the Perry Almshouses in Winterbourne, Bristol for anyone who is in need within the Fromeside Benefice (Parishes of Winterbourne, Winterbourne Down, Frampton Cotterell, Iron Acton and Coalpit Heath).

The house is single occupancy and comprises of a lounge, small kitchen and bathroom, an upstairs bedroom with communal laundry and gardens. The successful applicant will be required to pay a monthly maintenance contribution and must be able to live independently.

In accordance with the Trust Deed, applicants must be unable to afford a home of their own; should be 60 years old or over (or if younger, are unable to maintain themselves through ill-health, accident or infirmity); if born within the Parish should have been resident there for not less than five years or if born elsewhere should have been resident for not less than 10 years prior to application; with preference being given to those who are actively involved in a Christian denomination.

For further information and/or an application form please phone 07535433987

The deadline for completed applications is midday on 2nd December 2024

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CHRISTINGLE

**Monday 2nd December
5pm**



St Michael's Church
Church Lane, Winterbourne, B536 1SE



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CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

followed by mulled wine & mince pies

**Friday 20th December
6pm**



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CROSSWORD

Across

1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)

3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)

8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)

9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)

11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)

14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)

15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)

17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)

20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)

21 Rite (anag.) (4)

22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)

23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)

5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)

6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)

7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)

10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

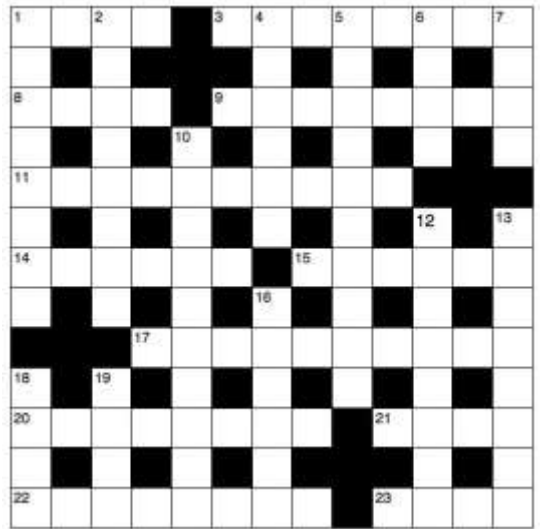
12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)

13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)

16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)

18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)

19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)



Answers on page 27

SALEM DIARY

Christmas is rapidly approaching and everyone - including the church - is getting very busy.

As is our custom , we will be holding a Gift Day for Turnaround Bristol, formerly called the Bristol Methodist Centre, which serves the homeless and vulnerable people in the city centre. Gifts for the centre will be collected in church on Sunday December 1st

December 8th is when we hold our “Remembering Service” - a quiet service to remember loved ones with a time to reflect. Christmas for many is a happy time, but for those who have faced bereavement, there is a sense of loss. In this service there is the opportunity to light a candle and place a name on the tree. All are welcome to join us.

As part of our Outreach we are giving “Christmas bags “ to children in the local area with the Nativity story and activities. This will be followed up with a “Nativity Trail”. If you know of children who would appreciate a bag, please contact a steward

Our regular events will continue

The Coffee morning on Wednesday December 4th at 10 a.m.

The next film afternoon - Tuesday December 10th at 2 p.m.

Bacon Butty morning Saturday December 21st from 10 a.m.



The Carol service is on Sunday December 22nd at 4 p.m.

Nativity Service on Christmas Eve - at 4 p.m.

Christmas morning service is at 9.15 a.m.

There will be NO SERVICE at Salem on December 29th

Special events in & around St Michael's

Monday 2nd December at 5pm
CHRISTINGLE
see page 13



Saturday 7th at 3pm
& Sunday 8th at 3pm & 6pm
CAROLS IN THE BARN
see page 21

Friday 20th December at 6pm
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
see page 13



Follow The Star
CALM and BRIGHT

Christmas Eve at 4pm
4pm CRIB SERVICE

9pm BETHLEHEM MIDNIGHT MASS
All Saints Church, Winterbourne Down

Christmas Day at 10am
FAMILY COMMUNION
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Sunday 29th December at 10am
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Further information from Edna Snaith 07789 662694



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The Colours of Christmas

There are several colours that we traditionally associate with Christmas. They are green, red, and gold, and to a lesser extent, white and blue.



Green: Evergreen plants like holly, ivy and mistletoe were used for thousands of years to decorate buildings during the long dark winters. The Romans exchanged evergreen branches in January to wish each other good luck. The ancient Egyptians brought palm branches into their home during the mid-winter festivals. In Europe during the Middle Ages, the 'Paradise tree' which figured in plays about the loss of Eden, was normally a pine tree with red apples tied to it.

Red: This is the colour of holly berries, and it reminded people of Jesus' blood when He died on the cross. Red is also the colour of bishops' robes, which is how St Nicholas came to be portrayed wearing red. Red is also the colour of fire, which keep you warm during cold dark nights.



Gold: This is the colour of the Sun and light. It was the present of one of the Wise Men, and traditionally, was the colour of the star over Bethlehem.



White: This is the colour of purity and peace. It is the colour of the altar cloth at Christmas.

Blue: This is the colour of Mary's robe. It is also the colour of the sky and heaven.

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**Tuesday 3rd December
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All events can be booked online at Ticketsource or via the Barn website www.winterbournebarn.org.uk. If you want to book in person at the Barn please ring 0117 403 1536 to arrange a time (office is open part-time).



Celebrate
the festive season with
St Michael's Church

CAROLS IN THE BARN
Saturday 7th December at 3pm & Sunday 8th December at 3pm & 6pm
Adults £5 Children £1
Tickets: www.winterbournebarn.org.uk

Winter Family Crafts - Sunday 29th December, 10am or 1pm
A range of winter themed crafts will be available, or children are welcome to use the materials provided to get creative with their own projects! Seasonal fun aimed at children aged 5 - 11 (£3.75 per child). Activities last 1.5 - 2 hours. A responsible adult must remain with under 18s at all times.

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE
For further details about Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust
see www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk
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MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

When you're told you have dementia, you may feel a range of different emotions. These often include fear or loss of confidence as well as uncertainty about the future.

You might feel you no longer want to go out or stay involved with the activities you usually do.

You may challenge your faith and not want to attend church services as you always used to.



However, it's important to keep enjoying the things you did before your diagnosis, to keep active and try to remain positive about the future.

I have purchased a few copies of a book entitled 'A Bucketful of Patience' which was written by a colleague and founder of Bristol Dementia Action Alliance Tony Hall, about his personal journey with his wife Barbara when she was living with dementia.



In my view it is a MUST READ for carers, for people living with dementia, family and friends who walk the path with them – *if you would like a free copy* please contact Mary on 07887 558079

Kintsukuroi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with costly gold and silver, making it more beautiful and of greater worth than before. The art of Kintsukuroi is a wonderful picture of how God pours his love and grace into our lives to hold it together, making it more beautiful and giving it greater value. *Extract from another book 'Dementia from the Inside' by Dr Jennifer Bute – a Christian medic diagnosed with dementia at a young age and a spiritual role model.*

People think God doesn't care, but He is there with us, watching over us.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU – WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS OF IMPROVING YOUR EXPERIENCE IN CHURCH. If you would like a pastoral visit or know someone who does please contact Jo on 01454 775529 or Pearl on 01454 314184



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Mouse Makes

"Jesus said,
I am the ___ Y
and the ___ U ___
and the ___ I ___.
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H ____, the
___ of ___"
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a
S ___
who is
___ R ___
the ___ R ___"
Luke 2:11

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

and the life."
John 11:25

B L I G H T L O
R A Y W O J J R
E M M A N U E L
A B Y J E S O
D S A V I O U R
S A V R J S D

O H O L Y O R C R T U
S O N O F M A N H A R T
N L S H E P H E R D U
O Y A E P E R G I F T G
C H R I S T M A S T H S
R E S U R R E C T I O N

JESUS
THE
GREATEST
GIFT
OF ALL!

P R O P H E T I
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
S R M E G F T
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G
K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U

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St Michael's C of E Primary School

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Linden Close, Winterbourne
Headteacher Mrs. Kirsty Robson
Phone 01454 867105

Last term, we had the joy of welcoming over 100 grandparents into our school for a special afternoon. The children were thrilled to introduce their grandparents to their school world, sharing activities and laughter.

The children and grandparents engaged in lots of art and craft activities as well as joining in with Science and Geography lessons. **Grandparents' Day** was a reminder of the importance of family and community, **and the values we hold dear at St Michael's Primary.** Thank you to every grandparent and family who joined us. Your presence and stories made a lasting impact, and we look forward to welcoming you again in the future!



As well as grandparents' afternoon, our junior-aged children were invited to St Michael's Community Centre for a special day exploring prayer spaces—a unique experience that brought a deep sense of calm and spirituality to our pupils. The children engaged in a series of thoughtfully designed activities, each focused on different aspects of prayer, reflection, and mindfulness.

Each prayer space offered a chance for children to pause **and reflect in a calming environment.** From “thankfulness stations,” where pupils wrote notes of gratitude, to quiet “listening corners” encouraging peaceful contemplation, the activities inspired thoughtful engagement.

It was wonderful to see the children take part with such focus and openness. The atmosphere in St Michael's Community Centre felt truly special, allowing everyone to connect on a deeper, spiritual level. Teachers noted how much the children gained from the peaceful atmosphere, commenting on how it gave them valuable time to consider their thoughts and feelings in a different, meaningful way.

We're so grateful to St Michael's Church for hosting us and providing our students with an experience that will stay with them as a wonderful memory.

More photos on the back page

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St Michael's C of E Primary School

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.



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Grandparents'
Day
at St Michael's
School



St Michael's School
Prayer Space
in
St Michael's
Community Centre



Please send contributions for the February Newsletter by email to Gill Greef (gill@gillgreef.com) or deliver them to the Church Office St Michael's Community Centre, 95 High Street by Weds 15th January.