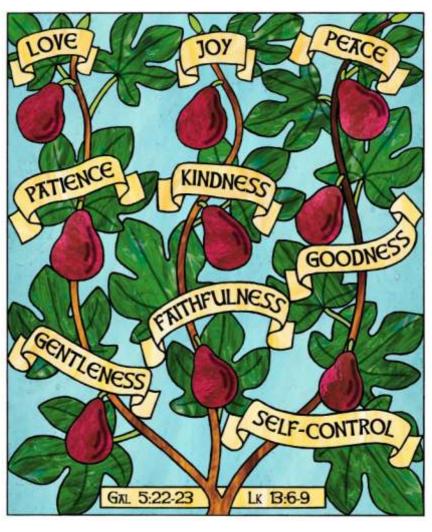
# Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

www.salemchurch.org.uk



June 2025

### ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE

Rector: Rev Malcolm Strange, 70 High Street, Winterbourne

Phone: 07792 275237

Email: m.strange@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Associate Priest Rev Joanne Hodge Phone: 07758 648264

Email: j.hodge@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Associate Priest Rev Julia Chard Phone: 07811 524533

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 07792 275237 or Pearl on 01454 314184

St Michael's Community Centre Bookings Contact the Benefice Office

#### SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

Factory Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1QL

Minister Rev Leigh Maydew

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 Jo Strange

I wonder if you like me find it almost irresistible whilst walking on one of the beautiful pebble beaches surrounding the UK not to pick up a beautiful smooth pebble, feel it and perhaps pop it into your pocket.

This reminds me of a trip many years ago when Malcolm and I took our youth group to a beach, cooked fish on an open fire and shared it whilst remembering the gospel story in which Jesus cooked a



breakfast of fish on a beach for his disciples. This was a very moving experience both for the young people and us. Afterwards we all found pebbles on the beach and built a cairn (a stack of pebbles) each pebble representing the thoughts or prayers of that particular young person.



Cairns can be very powerful reminders of us being in community with each other and God's presence with us on life's journey. Individual single pebble prayers or thought stones are of course significant but when lovingly stacked together into a cairn their significance increases greatly. They embody our collective thoughts and prayers, our working together to make the world a better place. Malcolm and I came across a wonderful cairn when we recently climbed Dunkery Beacon in Somerset. It was a tough climb, pretty steep on a very warm day but

absolutely worth it when we came across a huge cairn built of hundreds of pebbles each signifying the thoughts or prayers of those who had built it.

In the Christian tradition cairns can also mark particular times of divine encounter. Jacob built a Cairn to mark the place of Bethel where he had his dream of a stairway from earth to heaven and even made his cairn extra special by anointing it with oil as it marked a place of transformative encounter with God and life would not be the same again.



Maybe we will not have such a dramatic encounter with God but we all have those times or encounters when we sense in a very real way something or someone bigger than us directing and protecting our lives.

Whilst on holiday my 4 year old grandsons found a pebble, painted it with a heart and wrote 'thank you Granny for a lovely holiday, I love you'. I will treasure this as a reminder of special times spent with loved ones.





So next time you are on a beach maybe you will pick up pebbles and build a cairn representing your thoughts or prayers. As you do so I hope you feel a special presence with you and feel part of something much bigger.

Jo Strange – Licensed lay Minister



## 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 page 17 for details of special events www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

Recorded services are available on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 June T4F pulpit exchange

8th June Rev Leigh Maydew (Holy Communion)

15th June22nd June29th JuneMiss Naomi SharpMr Chris LeeseLocal arrangement



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



### Pope Francis

"The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth." These sound like the words of a radical climate activist. And surely a member of some extreme green group said "A selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and disadvantaged."



In fact both are quotes from Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday. His vision for human justice and equality was so entwined with nature that he even chose his papal name Francis to honour the patron saint of ecology. That belief, and how passionately he argued for it, has influenced the course of global climate and energy policy ever since.



Francis's 2015 papal letter or encyclical "Laudato Si" ("Praise Be to You"), was the first devoted to global warming. It tied together climate science, wealth inequality, consumption (what he lamented as a "throwaway culture") and technology in a 40,000-word missive shared with the world's more than 1 billion Catholics. It was a significant intervention made just a

few months before the Paris climate summit. Furthermore, he was involved in the diplomatic discussions which helped get most nations on side to sign the landmark Paris agreement, a legally binding treaty whose main goal was to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.

Sadly the Paris agreement was still filled with the exact sort of market logic and buck-passing — carbon credits, "emit now, clean up later", and so on — the Pope had criticised a few months previously. And climate change itself only got worse.



In the years following, Pope Francis spoke at the UN and continued to publish a series of other "exhortations" related to climate change.



So, did he make a difference? Clearly, he was a unique figure able to reach people who might not listen to a Greta Thunberg or an Al Gore. Surveys have shown that people of faith often quote Pope Francis as a key influence to get them involved in climate change advocacy. And his influence must have influenced the thinking of the Church of England as it developed its own approach to climate change. There is a long way to go to properly tackle the climate crisis and it will

take people of all persuasions to ensure that serious action is taken. Nevertheless, the actions of Pope Francis in getting so many people of faith involved is something we should be grateful for – Thanks be to God.

Chris Greef







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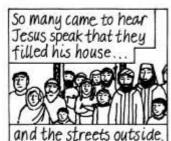




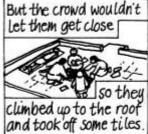
It can be read in the Bible in Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, LK5:17-26

## A short story from the Bible

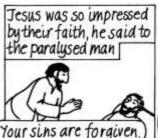
The Pharisees had come to Jesus'home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...



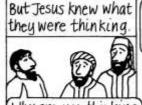


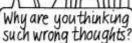












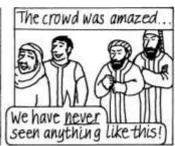
ls it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven'or 'Get up, [ take your mat, and walk?











## Happy 1700<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Nicene Creed!

1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea (now part of Turkey). It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.



The Istanbul gate to Nicaea



The bishops must have walked along this road!

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.



Haghia Sophia, Iznik (Nicaea)

#### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

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## Revd Leigh Maydew challenges us to think again...

As ministers in the church, we have the real privilege to be able to manage our own diaries, to decide (to an extent), what we do when and how this fits with the rest of our lives and ministries. It's this freedom that allows me the opportunity and the ability to undertake the Army Chaplaincy that I do alongside Circuit ministry.

This freedom can also sometimes be a real burden as there is little in the way of a fixed pattern to one's day. Even though I've always worked for the church, life pre-ministry was more structured, including time going into a physical office environment several times a week.



This freedom and flexibility also comes with its problems, such as days like today. Days when the 'to do' list is long, but the brain fails to engage into gear and doing anything more than making tea becomes a real challenge.

I'm sure we all get similar experiences, whether we work from home, go out to work, or whether paid work is behind us. There are days and times when trying to engage and 'get things done' just doesn't seem to work. There can be many reasons for days like this, and they are often enhanced by being at home where there are more distractions to win our attention, but often there is a sense that work, life, and play are out of balance for some reason.

It's times like this where you need to step back and to refocus, and Jesus often did this too. There are several occasions in Scripture when we see Jesus retreating, often to the hillside, and here we usually see him enter a time of prayer and contemplation. We might suggest that Jesus goes to his 'thin place' where he is able to encounter God.



I wonder if we too sometimes need to find our 'thin place', a place where we feel close to God, a place where we can reconnect and refocus, a place where we can settle.

I think it's time for me to switch off and attempt to refocus now, to rediscover that balance that we all need in life. I pray that you too might be able to find that balance that we all need in our attempt to be the people that God created us to be.



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#### **CROSSWORD**

#### Across

8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)

9 In favour of (3)

10 'The child's father & mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

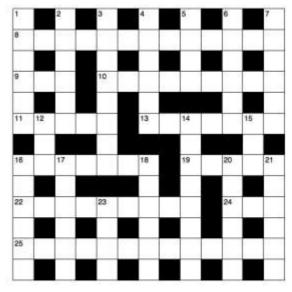
13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)

22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land,



Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land" (Joshua 18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Answers on page 25

#### Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, & the children's teeth are set --' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)

12 Ate (anag.) (3)

- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all . he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)

23 Diva (anag.) (4)

### SALEM PAGE FOR JUNE

Hopefully everyone has been enjoying the sunshine during May. It is surprising how a bit of sunshine lifts our spirits, but some rain would be good for gardeners and farmers—perhaps at night !!!

Christian Aid Week was held in May and we supported the work with a Cream Tea on Saturday May 24th. This was in addition to the retiring collection we held for the Myanmar Earthquake. With so many disasters around the world at the current time, we must do all we can to support such appeals

Back at home we continue to hold our monthly outreach events with our Coffee morning on the 1st Wednesday of the month - June 4th at 10 a.m.



and the Bacon butty/toasted teacake coffee morning on the 3rd Saturday - June 21st, also at 10 a.m.





The Film afternoons have stopped for summer months and will restart In September. We have been pleased to welcome many from the community and look forward to seeing everyone again in the Autumn.



Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday June 24th at 2.30p.m.

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN WITH US IN OUR REGULAR EVENTS.

## Special events in & around St Michael's



Sunday 1st June at 4pm ST MICHAEL'S PRAISE in St Michael's Community Centre with activities for children see page 4

Sunday 8th June at 4pm PAUSE FOR THOUGHT in St Michael's Church





Sunday 15th June at 10.30 CELTIC WORSHIP in St Michael's Community Centre

Saturday 21st June from 3-30-5.15 MESSY CHURCH in St Saviour's Church Hall





Sunday 22nd June at 3pm CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS at Elm Park School see page 21

Sunday 29th June at 10.00 BENEFICE EUCHARIST at St Peter's, Frampton Cotterell





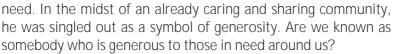
Sunday 29th June at 4pm TEA & CELTIC EVENING PRAYER in the Bishop's Garden

#### BARNABAS - June 11th



This month we remember St Barnabas, whose real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he was better known by his nickname, which means 'Son of Encouragement' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

Barnabas was an example of *generous* giving (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in





Barnabas later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and knowing his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?



Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he 'saw the evidence of the grace of God' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond the church; alongside strengthening people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Let's be prepared to ask the following questions: 'Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?' and 'How can we be encouragers to others?'

## Reflecting faith – The Meaning of Baptism

Before Easter, we considered the overall 'look' of a church building and how that often reflects the way faith is celebrated inside. One of the clearest visual symbols inside a church building relates to where the font, used for baptism, is placed.



We often think of Baptism as being uniquely Christian, but this is not the case. Most established religions have some form of rite to welcome a new person – regardless of their age – into their fellowship. If you think of Jesus being baptised in the river Jordan by John, it is clear that this was something within the Jewish practice happening before 'Christianity' came into being.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians in his first letter, he compares the Christian rite with baptism 'into Moses in the sea'. This comes from him being a rabbi who argued that as 'the Jews passed from slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea into Canaan, so the Gentile passed from heathenism through baptism into the "promised land" '.



Baptism was intended as a symbolic action of outward cleansing, meaning change, from not being part of the 'group' to being welcomed into it. It was accepted that the person's inside did not change! There was and still remains nothing magical about that (unfortunately).

In the Book of Acts there is an instance where one person chose to follow Christ, and the whole family was baptised.

The Early Church took baptism very seriously, and new believers had to spend a good length of time preparing for it. As the years passed, the babies of Christian believers came to be baptised shortly after birth.

#### This month

Have a think about your own Baptism. What value do you place on it? Do you feel it makes you part of the Christian Family, or was it so long ago that for you, it's become an irrelevance?





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Medieval Day - Sunday 8 June, 11am - 4pm

Enjoy some medieval festivities suitable for all the family at a genuine medieval site! Combat displays, demonstrations of life in the 1300s, have-a-go archery, music, jesters, games & competitions, Medieval-themed artisan craft stalls. Food stalls. Early booking online £5 (£1 children), on the day £7 (£2 children), . Free parking with free shuttle bus. Dogs welcome on a lead.

Talk: Remember Me Project - Monday 30 June at 7pm

Liz Ferguson tells stories of brave and talented local folk who are named on the Whiteshill War Memorial, and remembers those in our local villages who did so much on the Homefront during both WWI and WWII. Free parking.

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE For further details about Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust see www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk & facebook.com/winterbournemedievalbarn WMBT Registered Charity number 1112908



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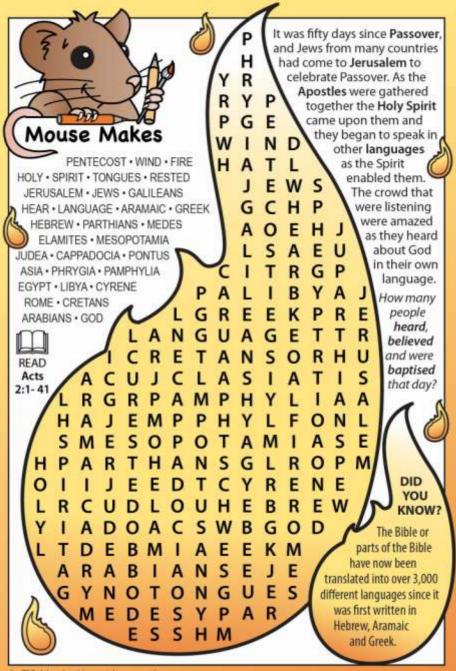
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## St Michael's Cof E Primary School

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## Year 3 at Stonehenge

Last week, the year 3 class at St Michael's primary went on an exciting trip to Stonehenge! We had the chance to explore this ancient monument, which was built thousands of years ago during the Neolithic period. When we arrived, we felt like real archaeologists as we stepped into the world of the Stone Age.



First, we joined a Neolithic workshop where we learned about how people used to live. Our friendly guide told us that Neolithic people were some of the first to farm and build settlements. We held replica artefacts like flint tools and pottery. The tools were very different from what we use today! Everyone took turns feeling the rough texture of the stones and imagining how the early people made them.

Next, it was time for some fun! We dressed up as Stone Age people. Everyone looked amazing in their costumes. It was great to run around and imagine being in that ancient time.

The best part of the day was standing near the giant stones of Stonehenge. The huge stone circles were built about 5,000 years ago, and no one knows for sure why they were made! Some say they were used for ceremonies or even as a calendar. It was a bit like stepping back in time.

Our trip to Stonehenge helped us understand how our ancestors lived. We all came back with stories to tell and smiles on our faces. It was a wonderful experience that we will always remember.

Jack Smith

## Dino fun in Reception at St Michaels

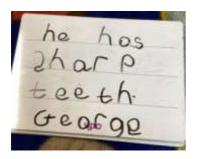
The youngest children were thrilled to find huge dinosaur footprints on the floor of the classroom when they came back to school on the first day of term 5. Could a T Rex have been in our classroom?

This term we are learning all about dinosaurs in Reception at St Michaels Winterbourne. As teachers, we like to follow the childrens' interests while planning our next topics and this cohort are dinosaur experts.



We have been learning how and when the dinosaurs lived, what they liked to eat, and what may have finally signalled the end for them. The children have had fun becoming palaeontologists; using a fine brush to sweep away the sand from various buried bones. We know that dinosaurs lived because huge skeletons have been found around the world.

The children have really impressed us with their descriptive writing with many of them able to write whole sentences independently now. They have come such a long way in their learning- this has been an exciting few weeks.





Jo Wilton

See back page for more photos

#### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 8, Grandchildren. 9, Pro. 10, Marvelled. 11, Strut. 13, Startle. 16, Babysit. 19, Orate. 22, Eucharist. 24, Map. 25, Commissioners.

DOWN: **1, Egypt's. 2, Favour. 3, Edomites. 4, Thorns. 5, Blue. 6, Armlet. 7, On edge.** 12, Tea. 14, Adoption. 15, Lot. 16, Breach. 17, Become. 18, This So. 20, Armies. 21, Expose. 23, Avid.



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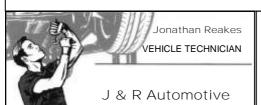
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Please send contributions for the July Newsletter by email to Gill Greef (gill@gillgreef.com) or deliver them to the Church Office St Michael's Community Centre, 95 High Street by Sunday 15th June.