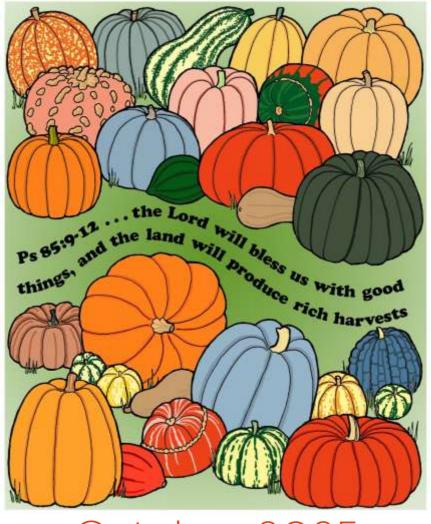
Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

www.salemchurch.org.uk



October 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 Revd Malcolm Strange

This September I have been away with Jo in Northumberland which is a beautiful part of the United Kingdom. Generally, it is unspoiled by the trampling of too many tourists and it has been described by some as 'England's best kept secret'! It has beautiful rolling hills, long sandy beaches, mountains, lakes, rivers, historic villages and a number of premier league National Trust properties to visit as well. A wonderful place all-round in which to spend a restful break.



As a Christian, Northumberland is significant as one of the cradles of Christianity in England, with the establishment of a 'Celtic Spiritual tradition' by monks from Iona in Scotland making missionary journeys to bring the faith to the Northeast; among their number were two of the great English saints Cuthbert and Aidan. The centre piece is Holy Island where they set up a monastery which formed the base for their missionary forages onto the mainland.

Jo and I love to visit Holy Island, which is one of the great places of pilgrimage with people flocking to cross the sands when the tide is low, making their way to the abbey church and the historic parish church of St Mary's.

Twice a day when the tide is in, the Island is cut off from the mainland and there is nothing better than being on the island when all the tourists have departed, leaving the die-hard pilgrims to embrace the true spiritual wonder of this holy place.





I always think that it is a wonderful metaphor for our lives, where there is the wonderful balance of being connected by the causeway when the tide is out and yet having quiet moments of seclusion when the tide is in.

For us as human beings to be fully whole and for our general well-being, we need to have in our lives times of connectivity with others, after all we are generally social creatures and being in communication with others is really important for us. However, we also need times of quiet reflection, a chance to recharge our batteries and assess who and what we are, as spiritual beings this should be a critical part of life.

The Celtic Saints were superb at getting this balance right and rooting it at the heart of their very existence. I encourage you in your lives whether you are of faith or not, to strike this balance if you can. You just may discover it helps in ways you never imagined and in a strange way you will engage with what is at the essence and heart of Holy Island and become even more rounded and whole as a person than you already are.



God Bless Fr Malcolm



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

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30

5th Oct Rev Leigh Maydew - HARVEST

12th Oct Mrs Joy Harris19th Oct Service at Zion

26th Oct Rev Leigh Maydew (Holy Communion)

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



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

in the footsteps of St Francis

Sunday 12th October at 4pm

St Michael's Church, BS36 1SE

A short reflective service using music, poetry, readings and silence followed by tea & cake

Expressions of Prayer Day

A spiritual gathering at
St Peter's Church, Frampton Cotterell
Saturday 1st November

Experience a day of prayer and reflection with activities to inspire & connect 10am-2pm (9.45 for tea & coffee)

BYO lunch

office@fromesidechurches.org.uk



As I write this we are getting what seems a never ending stream of torrential showers. In my garden there has been 8 inches of rain in the fortnight since the beginning of September, more than the whole of the six months from March to August. Not only was the



summer dry but the Met Office has confirmed it was the hottest on record, with four heatwave

periods. The five hottest summers have now all occurred since 2000. Even the very long hot summer of 1976 is no longer on the list: it had more days with high peak temperatures but the overall average was lower.

So how did you cope with the long hot summer? Are you amongst those who enjoy being out in the heat, or do you take shelter the moment the temperature starts to rise? Sadly, hot weather is life-threatening for elderly people in particular. It seems likely that there were several thousand excess deaths in the UK due to this year's heat.





The natural world has felt the effects of the hot dry summer too. Harvest was early, but yields of many crops were down because of the absence of water to swell the grain. The grass stopped growing, so animals had to be fed the fodder usually reserved for

the winter months. Some

things have thrived in the warmer weather: butterfly numbers have bounced back after last year's poor season. As always, there are winners and losers. In the garden, I didn't mow the lawn, the tomatoes, grapes and sweet corn have done particularly well, whereas some of the soft fruit definitely suffered from the lack of moisture.



As the climate continues to warm, we are going to have to adapt in order to survive. Much of the natural world is unable to respond rapidly to changes and ultimately losses in the natural world will threaten our survival too.

Chris Greef





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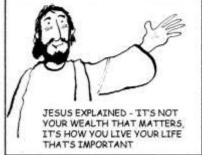












The Revd. David Jones considers

FLAGS

When I returned from my holiday, I was greeted with a hero's welcome: all these flags run up the lamp posts for my return. Of course, I know they were not for me; they were not a welcome home. No, they were a message that said you are not welcome – Go home.



I have spent some time thinking about what I am proud of this nation for and I've thought about those aspects that bring shame and embarrassment. On balance, I would say we have more to be proud of than ashamed of.

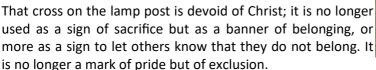
I am aware that I had no influence over the luck that I was born free, in a safe land, a land of prosperity and opportunity, a land with a Christian heritage. And luckiest of all in the world's greatest city.



The reality is - the flags do not fill me with national pride! Why? Because those who have put them up have taken videos using foul and offensive language, with the message highlighting that they are intolerant, inhospitable and xenophobic. There are some claiming it is about patriotism but for the majority it is clearly

nationalism. By the blessing of where they were born, they are more entitled than those who did not win the lottery of circumstance.

The flags are a distraction from our Christian heritage. The flag is formed from the shadow of the cross. The cross of Christ which St George pledged allegiance to, when he chose heaven over empire. It is a sign of faith over force, truth over tyranny.





There is nothing wrong with flags - in the right place, at the right time and for the right reasons. But now they have been hijacked for a cause that Christ would not recognise. They have become divisive and dangerous. They have become

symbols of hate and not love and sacrifice. They are asking you to decide who belongs and who does not.

Jesus said "if you want to be my disciple take up your cross and follow me". He never said "take up your flag". He never said "take up your tribe". He didn't say "take up your nation".

The flag is a symbol of barriers between them and us. The cross is a symbol of breaking down barriers for all tribes and nations.



Take up your cross and follow Christ. Show love, care and compassion to those for whom he came. Be a peacemaker not one who causes division.

I hope this piece has enabled you to reflect on what it means to be a Christian in the world today. May you know God's peace in your life.

> Blessings Dave





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St. Francis - and the Life of Simplicity



Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Church-goers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix, he renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his home-town, Assisi.





For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart, St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires, this meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling

lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, overcrowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that he came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.





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Further information from Edna Snaith 07789 662694

CROSSWORD

Across

1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)

7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)

8 Relieved (5)

10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)

13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)

15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)

21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an - , - the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)

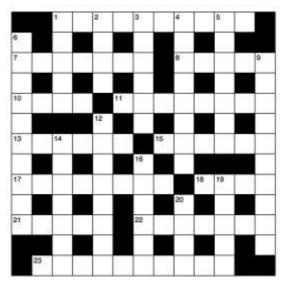
22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am - go with you to prison and to death" (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down Answers on page 25

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this the whole of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)

20 See 18 Across



Salem Diary

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Heritage Open Day and our anniversary service on the Sunday. The Heritage Day is part of our Outreach programme and we hope that those in the community will venture through the doors.



We are proud to be the oldest Methodist church in the district after the new Room in Bristol. It is 238 years since John Wesley preached on the foundation of a "new preaching house". His journal records that "there was much rain and violent wind" - not much change there with the weather we are experiencing at the moment.



On October 5th we celebrate our Harvest. The harvest gifts will be donated to Turnaround Bristol, (formerly Bristol Methodist Centre) the charity in the centre of the city helping the vulnerable and/or homeless.

Our regular monthly sessions will continue as usual.

The coffee morning on Wednesday October 1st will be a MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Your support would be appreciated



The Film afternoon be on October 14th , Bacon Butty morning on Saturday October 18th and Women's fellowship on Tuesday October 28th.



All are welcome at any of these events

Like several of our cluster churches we are exploring the possibility of starting an Alpha course. It is hoped that this will start in the new year and we are excited about this new venture.





Special events in & around St Michael's

Saturday 4th October from 3.30-5.15 MESSY HARVEST in St Saviour's Church Hall see page 4





Sunday 5th October at 4pm ST MICHAEL'S PRAISE in St Michael's Community Centre with activities for children

Sunday 12th October at 10.30 HARVEST FESTIVAL at St Michael's Church see page 11





Sunday 12th October at 4pm PAUSE FOR THOUGHT in St Michael's Church see page 6

Saturday 1st November from 10-2 PRAYER DAY at St Peter's Frampton Cotterell see page 6





Sunday 16th November at 10am
MALCOLM'S RETIREMENT SERVICE
in St Peter's Church, Frampton Cotterell

The Nicene Creed: Who is Jesus?

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.

This month we are looking at what the Nicene Creed affirms about the person of Jesus Christ.

'We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God': Jesus is presented as the unique Son of God. This reflects the big debate at the time, which was to counter the teachings of Arius, who taught that Jesus was the first and greatest of God's creatures, but not the same as God the Father.

Today we can be more concerned about Jesus' authority as a moral teacher, neglecting that Jesus the man is also truly God. 'We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father' (John 1:14).

'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': These words affirm the divinity of Jesus. The phrase 'begotten not made' is crucial in understanding Jesus as the unique Son of the Father, who existed eternally of the same divine nature as the Father.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning' (John 1:1,2). It is a powerful reminder that our belief revolves around trusting a person, not simply in a set of beliefs and moral teaching.

'through Him all things were made': The Creed affirms that Jesus the Son cannot be made, because through Him all things were made and only God can create from nothing.

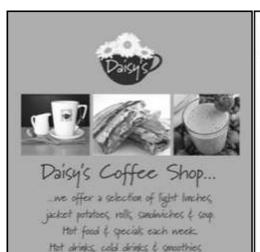
'Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.' (John 1:3). This implies that our world was made good, with a purpose in which we can share.

Also, Jesus has the last word in promising to bring everything in heaven and on earth together at the end of time under His Lordship (Ephesians 1:10). This makes a real difference to how we see and treat God's Creation and those created in God's image.

In response to this, can we say that Jesus is Lord of every area of our life?

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September at Winterbourne Medieval Barn

Tuesday 7th October at 7pm Filton in Space - 65 years and counting

To coincide with World Space Week we are delighted to welcome Terry Ransome to The Barn to tell us the story of the local area's involvement in design and building spacecraft. Of the many achievements of the local aerospace industry, the spacecraft and satellites are perhaps not so well known. The British Aircraft Company, at Filton, entered the 'space race' in 1956, providing part of the first British rocket to reach space in November 1957, just a few weeks after Sputnik 1.

Friday 17th October at 7pm Cider Tasting

We welcome back David from Bushel+Peck to guide us through the aromas and flavours of a range of cider and perry in this informative but fun workshop. With many years experience in managing his own orchards and producing his own products our expert host will be able to tell you all about the ciders you are tasting and will welcome any questions; it is guaranteed to be a merry evening!

Thursday 30th October from 10.30-12.30 Halloween Family Craft Session

Join us for some family friendly craft time! We will have a range of "junk modelling" materials available to get creative with. Our friendly craft volunteers will have some ideas to help inspire you, or you can help yourself and come up with your own project(s)! There will also be a small selection of building blocks and medieval figures to play with for younger participants / those who need a little break from crafting. Recommended for ages 5+

Free parking at the Barn for all events. The Medieval Barn is fully accessible for wheelchairs. More information and booking details on the Barn website

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE

For further details about Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust see www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk & facebook.com/winterbournemedievalbarn

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Those magnificent men in their flying machine...

It was 125 years ago, on 20th October 1900, that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills in North Carolina.

This was a key moment in the history of aviation, although their first powered flight of a heavier-than-air aircraft came three years later, on 17th December 1903, also at Kill Devil Hills, which is near Kitty Hawk.

Orville and Wilbur Wright, who lived in Dayton, Ohio – more than 600 miles from Kitty Hawk – were the sons of a bishop in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and were both named after clergymen. However, they became inventive mechanics and owned a bicycle shop at a time when cycling was becoming safer and popular. They chose the Kitty Hawk area for flight attempts, based on advice from the US Weather Bureau.

There had been many unpowered glider flights in Europe before, and the Wrights, who were in their thirties, were particularly impressed by the successful German pioneer Otto Lilienthal, who had been killed in 1896. The Wrights' big leap forward, however, was a system of three-axis controls that made fixed-wing powered flight possible. It enabled the pilot to steer the aircraft and maintain its equilibrium. It remains standard on aircraft today.

Flying changed the world for us all. It had long been a dream, dating back at least as far as the Greek legend of Icarus and Daedalus, and including kite-flying in China and ballooning in 18th-century France, with the Montgolfier brothers. A small piece of the Wright Flyer is now on Mars — a piece of cloth attached to a small but active reconnaissance helicopter called *Ingenuity*.





Reflecting Faith: Saying 'Farewell"

Last month we considered how we are welcomed at the beginning of a church service, as we come together to enter into the real presence of God.

This month let's consider how we say 'goodbye' at the end of the service.

For the leader of the service doesn't just say something like, "Thanks for coming, lovely to see you - have a great week." Rather, there's a promise and a blessing for each of us as we take what we have 'received' from the service into the world.



So the crunch question is: what do you get out of coming to a church service?

The ideal is: You have been met with a friendly welcome followed by music you love, played at the perfect speed with no squeaky singers in the congregation.



Then, an inspiring sermon which gives you something to think about for the coming week. After that, prayers that speak of what is on your heart and what you have heard on the news that week. Finally, good fellowship and a cuppa after the service, where you can feel part of 'them', rather than ignored because you are only visiting.

Following all that good stuff, you go out of the church with a spring in your step!

Of course, in the real world not all those boxes get ticked.

But still we can go to church with hope, and ideally, we leave it in peace. The time that we spend together is the 'easy' bit. The real challenge begins when we go out the door and back into the daily round of home life and work. But we can be sure that we do not leave God at the church door. He always comes home with us, and He is there to help us throughout the coming week. That is why we can indeed 'go in peace'.



This month

When you next go to a church service take note of the leader's closing words and your expected responses to them. How heartily can you agree with them? How do they make you feel?



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St Michael's C of E Primary School

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As we begin another academic year at St Michael's Primary, I have been reflecting on the achievements of our children last year. Their dedication and hard work have led to great outcomes, once again showing the potential within every child in our care.



Looking ahead, we have planned a range of opportunities and initiatives to continue developing our educational offer. It was the end of our first year working with eleven other schools as part of the Mosaic Partnership Trust. This collaboration marks an important step for our school, creating new opportunities for staff development and shared learning.



Our focus on reading and teaching and learning approaches has already made a noticeable difference in the classroom, helping to shape better learning experiences. Working with other schools in the trust has allowed us to share ideas and learn from colleagues who are equally committed to high standards.

We're also looking forward to a number of exciting events this term, including

our much-loved Grandparents' Afternoon, which is always a highlight of the school calendar. Children will also have the chance to enjoy a trip to the panto at the Bristol Hippodrome, offering valuable cultural experiences beyond the classroom. We continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that includes music, PE, and the arts—ensuring that every child has the chance to explore their talents and develop as a whole person.





As we continue this journey with our partner schools, we remain committed to giving every child a strong and supportive education, helping them grow and reach their full potential. It is a privilege to lead our committed team at St Michael's and work with such fantastic children.

For anyone that would like to visit our school we have some open events for prospective parents of Reception children starting in September 2026. These will take place on Wednesday 8th October at 5pm and Wednesday 15th October at 9:15am. Alternatively, individual tours can be booked through the office on 01454 867105.

Kirsty Robson

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DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19. Egypt. 20, Hair.



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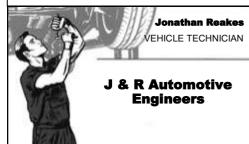
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Please send contributions for the November Newsletter by email to Gill Greef (gill@gillgreef.com) or deliver them to the Church Office St Michael's Community Centre, 95 High Street by Wednesday 15th October.