

# Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

[www.fromsidechurches.org.uk](http://www.fromsidechurches.org.uk)

[www.salemchurch.org.uk](http://www.salemchurch.org.uk)



**You abundantly water the ploughed fields,  
You settle  
its furrows and soften the earth  
with showers. You bless its growth. Ps 65:10**

April 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**

c/o The Rectory, 70 High Street, Winterbourne, BRISTOL, BS36 1JQ

Administrator Nessa Jarman Phone: 07594 976301

Email: office@fromesidechurches.org.uk

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

### **WEDDINGS/BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION/FUNERALS**

Enquires should be made to the Benefice Office - 07594 976301

### **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** Watch this space!

## **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. David Jones

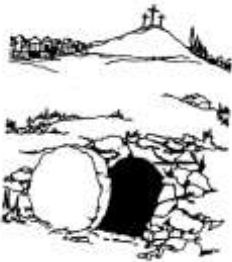
## People of Hope

As churches we have spent weeks on the journey to the cross with Christ and by the time of print we will have recounted his passion and now we will be trying to understand what the resurrection means for us.

Perhaps we need to get out of the fast lane and take life at a steadier pace. Some years ago, I took part in the London 100 bike ride. After what seemed like an eternity to start I found myself in a group of what felt like thousands of bicycles. The pace we were travelling at felt too fast for me, the **noise of the machinery was overwhelming. I couldn't slow down without causing an accident, I couldn't move to the side, I was stuck in my lane having to struggle to keep up, afraid of the consequences. Eventually the pack spread out and I was able to travel at my own pace.**



In the Yate and Fromeside churches we have been exploring how it would have felt to have been at the first Holy Week and the first Easter. Trying to place ourselves, our thoughts and feelings into a 2000 year old story and to gain a sense of how it is a reality for us 2000 years later. We have challenged our ideas about who the baddies and the goodies are in the story and we have realised that we too would most likely have been caught up with the crowd, too afraid to not be. We are all fallen people. So now we are seeking to find hope and joy as a result of being resurrection people as we are raised with Christ.



In a world where everything appears to be broken and all the news is bad it can be difficult to find any hope. Joy can be in short supply and when it is there, it can all too often be overshadowed by worry. Perhaps we need to spend a little time rediscovering how to find Joy, peace and happiness. That **won't be found by rushing around at everybody else's pace,**



that will be found by listening to God, trusting in him to safely help us to travel with him, to follow him. Jesus is there with us, through the Holy Spirit, leading and guiding us to the places of safety; we just need to be brave enough to trust! He longs to lead us in peace and hope.



We need to acknowledge the pain that Christ suffered for us and join in with the resurrection hope. Jurgen Moltmann, a 20<sup>th</sup> Century German theologian, in the shared shame of being a German soldier, caught up in a war without choice recognised this. He recognised that Christ was the only true source of hope and joy and although he had no choice he, through Christ, had hope.

The central theme of *Theology of Hope* is promise. The Christian faith is lived, Moltmann argues, in witness to the promises of a God who can and will make all things right.

These promises are offered most clearly in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As through death and resurrection alone, Jesus breaks the cycle of fear and despair and replaces it with joy and hope.

As Christians we share in the joy and the hope of the resurrection, as it is not just an old story, it is a reality for us, each and every day.

Fr Dave Jones



## Our God

- Our God is able – (Daniel 3:17)
- able to save (Hebrews 7:25)
  - able to help (Hebrews 2:18)
  - able to provide (2 Corinthians 9:8)
  - able to do far more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)

# SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

|            |       |  |
|------------|-------|--|
| 7th April  | 10.00 | Benefice Communion<br>at St Saviour's, Coalpit Heath |
| 14th April | 10.30 | Parish Communion                                     |
| 21st April | 10.30 | Celtic Worship<br>in St Michael's Community Centre   |
| 28th April | 10.30 | Parish Communion                                     |

also 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Holy Communion at 8am

See page 17 for details of special events

[www.fromesidechurches.org.uk](http://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](http://www.fromesidechurches.org.uk)

where details of all services in the Benefice can be found.

## SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30

|            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 7th April  | Mr P Jones                         |
| 14th April | Rev Leigh Maydew (Easter Offering) |
| 21st April | Mrs J Seward                       |
| 28th April | Mr D King                          |



Further details on the website [www.salemchurch.org.uk](http://www.salemchurch.org.uk)

## SALEM PAGE

Once again, we come to Easter, the most extraordinary event ever recorded. We all know that the dead do not rise again, but on that original Easter Day, a group of frightened and disillusioned disciples of Jesus had a unique experience, one that turned them totally around from utter despair to rejoicing and that sent them out to share their good news as far as they could spread it.



It was not that they had not already had an inkling of the uniqueness of Jesus, who had taught them with a degree of authority that other teachers had lacked. Far from bringing the sort of message of condemnation that earlier prophets had often preached, he had held out the very gift of his personal love to them. No prophet had even preached as he did, according to Matthew, when he said to those listening,



**‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke on you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden light’**

He had just previously spoken of his unique relationship with God, the Father. A week after the Resurrection, Thomas, who had somehow been absent before, was confronted with the risen Christ and made the first full

**confession of Christian faith, ‘my Lord and my God.’**

Thomas now knew that the master he had urged the disciples

to follow to Jerusalem (John 11:16) was more than just a prophet or even a messiah, he was God, the Eternal Son, the one who alone could make the burden of life bearable because He, Incarnate, had shared it with all its limitations, and now he had come through victoriously, raised in the Spirit, by the Father who had sent Him.



In all of this, we see just how far our loving and compassionate God goes to care for us and to rescue us.

We look at the Cross and with Charles Wesley say,

**'Vouchsafe us eyes of faith to see  
The Man transfixed on Calvary  
And know thee who thou art  
The one eternal God and true.'**

We also have that most wonderful of modern hymns, 'Meekness and majesty', a hymn that St Athanasius or Charles Wesley would have been proud to write. 'Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity, in perfect harmony, the man who is God' sums it all up. The God who comes to save us acts not from the outside but from the inside, along us, as one with us. What could give us more hope and courage in a world that continues to ignore the true God as much as ever? But we know that he has in fact won the victory for all who will accept him and at great cost to that human nature which he lovingly adopted. Truly, his meekness will eventually overcome and His will ultimately will be seen as the only yoke that is light and yet can transform life from a constant burden into being the kingdom of God's love.



Let us conclude with two verses of Charles Wesley's 'How do thy mercies close me round.'

**'Jesus protects: my fears be gone!  
What can the rock of ages move?  
Safe in thine arms I lay me down,  
Thy everlasting arms of love'.**

**'Me for thine own thou lov'st to take,  
In time and in eternity;  
Thou never, never wilt forsake  
A helpless soul that trusts in Thee.**

A very happy and blessed Easter to you all from all of us at Salem,

David.



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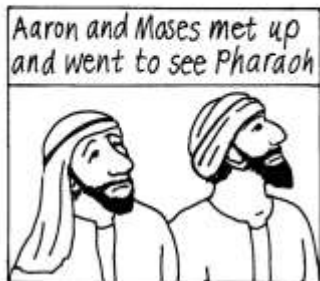
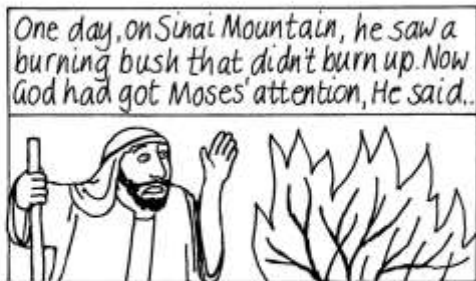
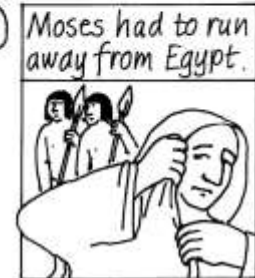
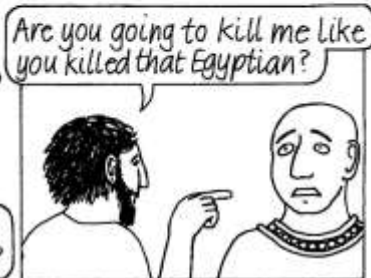


# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.





“There’s no such thing as a free lunch”, so the saying goes. It may seem that something has no cost but it’s rarely the case. Hidden away if you think about it carefully there is always some downside. A good example is IT (Information Technology) and the huge amount of growth in how much we and every organisation makes use of it. More and more of us depend to a greater or lesser extent on IT: we use computers at home to stream information from the internet (I am using one to type this) and the majority of us seem unable to be parted from our mobile phone in case we miss that important social media post (usually it’s a trivial comment about nothing in particular).

But surely the environmental cost of using a computer or mobile phone is tiny, you may say. After all, it’s not as if they use a lot of electricity. Doing an on-line search and then ordering what we want to have it delivered direct to our home must be better than getting in the car. That’s true of course but there is a big hidden cost to IT. There are vast banks of computers in big warehouses that store all the information so we can access it at the touch of a key, and the more information we store on-line (in the “Cloud”) the bigger these warehouses have to be.



And now Artificial Intelligence (AI) has appeared on the scene. It needs access to vast amounts of data and uses huge amounts of computer power to make its decisions (this tells us something about the miracle of the human brain, the fact that it takes so much computing power to come near to matching it). Just as one example, the Republic of Ireland acts as host to a large number of so-called data factories, which between them currently use about 20% of all the electricity consumed in the country.

So next time you switch on the computer or scroll through your social media texts on the phone, think about whether you really need to send that reply or have a look at that video that’s just been flagged up – “There’s no such thing as a free lunch”!



Chris Greef



Fromeside Benefice Prayer and Spirituality team  
welcome you to come and experience

# Creative Prayer Spaces

At: 10am-noon

On: Saturday April 13th 2024

At: St Michael's Community Centre  
95, High Street Winterbourne

***No booking required—simply come and enjoy the space***

*Refreshments available.*



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Further information from Edna Snaith 07789 662694

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When: Every Friday 9.30-10.30

Where: Fromside Gymnastics Club,

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Telephone: 01454 776873

Email: [office@fromsidegym.co.uk](mailto:office@fromsidegym.co.uk)



## FROMESIDE BENEFICE

### **'working towards being Dementia-Friendly' accreditation**

We are looking at ways of becoming more welcoming, friendly and helpful to everyone, especially people living with disabilities such as memory loss, dementia, impaired vision, age-related disabilities, and their families, friends and carers.

We want our churches to be a place where we can continue to feel completely included as valued members of the congregation and feel our faith is being kept alive and nurtured.

**We, at St Michael's, were accredited as 'working towards being dementia-friendly'** by South Gloucestershire Dementia Action Alliance in 2020 and are now working towards Bristol Diocese accreditation together with all churches in the Benefice.

This year Dementia Action/Awareness Week 2024 will run from 13 -19 May. This is a national event that sees the UK public taking action to improve the lives of people affected by dementia.....so we are supporting this week as follows:

A shorter service with readings, hymns and prayers, and Holy Communion, in a friendly atmosphere especially helpful to people living with dementia or supporting someone with dementia

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY

10.00am – **for St Michaels' and All Saints**

**at St Michaels' Church Community Centre, High Street, Winterbourne**

*(other services will be as normal at St Peters, St Saviours and St James)*

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY

10.00am – *for St Peters, St Saviours, and St James*

*at St Saviours Church Hall, Badminton Road, Coalpit Heath*

*(other services will be as normal at St Michaels and All Saints)*

NEXT MONTH - MAY NEWSLETTER

In our May newsletter we will publish details of dementia-friendly activities and events in our Benefice area

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## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)

9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)

10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)

11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)

13 Muslim holy month (7)

16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)

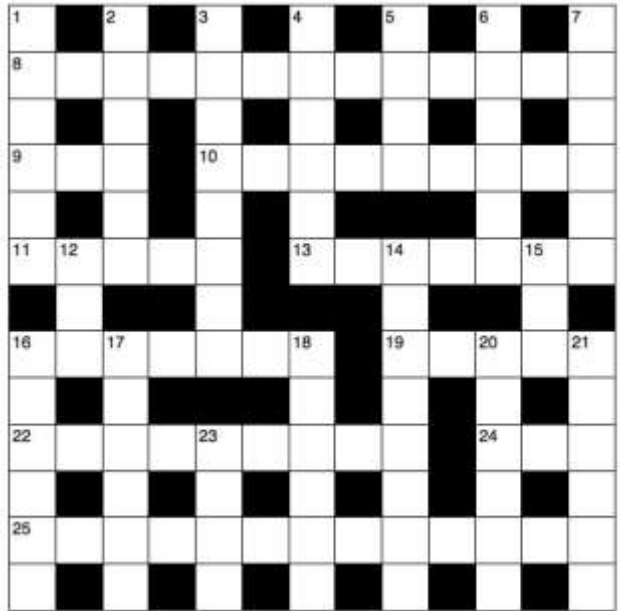
22 How Abram described

himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)

24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)

Answers on page 27

25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)



### DOWN

1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)

2 Festival of the resurrection (6)

3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)

4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)

5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)

6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)

7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)

12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)

14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)

15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)

16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)

17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)

18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)

20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)

21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)

23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)



## ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

THE MAIN HALL  
&  
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early May

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# Special events this month in & around St Michael's

Sunday 7th April at 10am  
BENEFICE COMMUNION  
St Saviour's, Coalpit Heath  
NB no service at St Michael's



Sunday 7th April at 4pm  
DEDICATION & OPENING  
of  
ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY CENTRE



Saturday 13th April  
from 10-12  
CREATIVE PRAYER SPACES  
in St Michael's Community Centre  
see page 11



Sunday 14th April  
at 4pm  
HEALING SERVICE  
in St Michael's Community Centre



Saturday 20th April  
from 3.30-5.15  
MESSY CHURCH  
in St Saviour's Church Hall



Sunday 21st April  
at 10.30  
CELTIC WORSHIP  
in St Michael's Community Centre  
part of our new pattern of worship



*Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers a very ancient feature found in some churches*

## Reflecting Faith: Easter Sepulchres

**Over the last few months we've been looking at churchyards, and memorials.** This month we are going inside the church building to find something somewhat different and only really found in older churches that have survived re-ordering and renovations: the Easter Sepulchre.

A sepulchre is essentially a place of burial – a tomb – but in churches it can also be a receptacle for religious relics. Easter Sepulchres can be very grand affairs. **I'm aware that many writers say that they are constructed in wood,** but I have only seen stone ones. They can be plain or intricately carved. They can be low to the ground or reaching up to the roof. Each style, of course, reflects both the richness and generosity of the patron, as well as their theology.



**Some have 'layers' of carvings, with the angels at the top, then the patriarchs, followed by the Fathers of the Church and so on.** Others are very simple and almost plain. They are normally set into or against the northern side of the sanctuary in which stands the altar, and which is traditionally considered to be **the 'holiest' place in a church building.**



Their use is given in their name – on Good Friday some consecrated bread and wine and often a crucifix (rather than an 'empty' cross) is placed inside it and people take it in turns to 'stand watch' until Easter Sunday morning, when it is taken out with great ceremony and often paraded through the building. The reason is to reflect the death of Christ, His being placed in a tomb and His subsequent resurrection.

**Today's ceremonies are usually less ostentatious, and whilst folk often take turns keeping watch on the Maundy Thursday, as happened this year at St James, Iron Acton, reflecting the disciples being asked to stay awake whilst Jesus went and prayed alone in the Garden of Gethsemane, less is made of the Sepulchre watch.**





The items are simply removed before any Easter resurrection service takes place, either on Easter Saturday evening or early Easter Sunday morning.

*This month*

See if you can find an Easter Sepulchre near you. Look at the decoration and consider all the different symbolisms it is trying to convey. If you cannot find one, then think what you would want to convey today?

*Editor: I've always wondered whether the "arch" over this effigy in St Michael's might once have been part of an Easter Sepulchre which was re-purposed after it was removed from the chancel! It still has some original colour on it.*



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The programme of events at the Barn is fully underway for the spring with several varied activities each month. Advanced booking is essential for all workshops, and strongly advised for other events as most sell out in advance.

### The Story of Our Barn : Medieval to Modern

Thursdays 4th April and 2nd May, 11.30am

Hear all about the history of Winterbourne Barn and St Michaels church in this new presentation for 2024. Our volunteer guides will show you round both buildings and answer your questions. Ticket price includes tea/coffee and biscuits in the Medieval Barn.

### Live Shows

Jazz in the Barn : UWE Big Band - Friday 26th April, 7.30pm

The award-winning band plays a laid-back evening of jazz and swing favourites from Nina Simone to Duke Ellington. The Barn and bar open from 6.45pm.

### For Children in the Easter Holidays

Fused glass for ages 8 to 18 - Thursday 11th April. Make an everlasting masterpiece, either egg-shaped or square, from pieces of coloured glass (no cutting required).

### Monthly Talks

Bristol's Lost City - Tuesday 16th April, 7pm

The Bristol International Exhibition of 1914, was part trade fair and part theme park, costing **£110m in today's money. It was an extraordinary venture that few local people are aware of.** Doors open 6.30pm. Talks also available live-streamed on Zoom.

### Save the Dates

Medieval Fayre - Sunday 9th June & Summer Barn Dance - Saturday 22nd June

Book for these events from the website:

[www.winterbournebarn.org.uk](http://www.winterbournebarn.org.uk)

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE

For further details about Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust

see [www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk](http://www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk)

and [facebook.com/winterbournemedievalbarn](https://facebook.com/winterbournemedievalbarn)

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*Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, considers driving....*

## Speed cameras and Moses

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (1 Timothy 2:2)*



It is not often you get Moses and the local police popping up in the same sermon. I was thinking about the Bible passage that **has Moses' second attempt at the Ten Commandments, one of God's greatest gifts to the world.**



God had given Moses the laws, but he broke them in disgust when he found the people were behaving so badly. God asked him up to the mountain again and then gave him a second set. **"Keep taking the tablets"!**

I was walking in my village and wondered why the traffic was driving so peacefully and slowly. When I got to the lay-by to catch a bus into town, I saw the explanation. There was a police van fitted with a speed camera. The cars were driving slowly, well within the 30mph limit. I nearly went up to the officer to thank them, and to ask if they could come every day.



It was a good illustration for the sermon I was preparing. We do not want to get caught ourselves! We expect everyone else to obey the law, but often find exceptions when we are late or have an important errand. We repeatedly make mistakes but have a loving and gracious God.

As Christians we should be good drivers, and in my case a good pedestrian and road user. We should take an interest in local affairs and find out how parish and town councils deal with these issues. We should pray for people in authority and the police-officer who spent a long Saturday morning looking at slow traffic!



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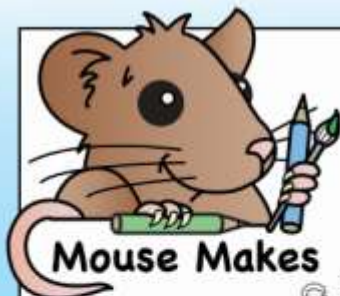
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## Mouse Makes

How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read  
John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



**READ**  
the story in  
**John 21**

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY  
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET  
RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

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## St Michael's C of E Primary School

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Phone 01454 867105

It has been another exciting few weeks at St Michael's Primary School. Year one went on a class trip for their history unit on Isambard Kingdom Brunel to see the SS Great Britain. They had a guided tour of the ship and a very exciting workshop where they dressed up to celebrate the launch of the SS Great Britain. They learnt how the ship was made and explored many different rooms including the magnificent engine room. There was even a bedroom where a guest was being sick!



Year 3 have also been becoming historians by launching their history unit with a Stone Age day! Year 3 spent the morning learning how to start a fire with flint and cotton wool and then they gathered round a roaring fire to roast marshmallows. The children then practised their Stone Age spear throwing at a pretend woolly mammoth and built shelters to protect themselves from the elements. Year three thoroughly enjoyed being outside all day pretending to live like Stone Age people and learning what it would have been like to use simple tools.



The children at St Michaels have also recently celebrated world book day! The theme for the day was around bedtime stories so the children were invited to come to school in their pyjamas for the day. During the day the children did many activities to celebrate reading and classes collaborated together to write, illustrate and share their own bedtime stories. The children were able to harness their creative writing skills and showcase their stories with their friends in other classes. Our school also hosted a 'Book in a Box' competition where the children were encouraged to create a scene from a book of their choice inside a box. There were many innovative creations such as a quiditch match and a scene from the tiger who came to tea.



*More photos  
on the back page*

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.



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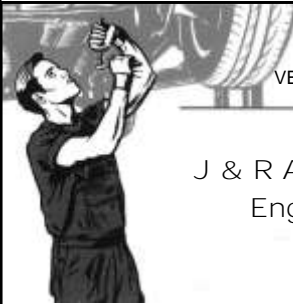
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On the SS Great Britain



## ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL ADVENTURES



Exploring the Stone Age



Please send contributions for the May Newsletter by email to Gill Greef ([gill@gillgreef.com](mailto:gill@gillgreef.com)) or deliver them to the temporary Office at the Rectory, 70 High Street by Monday 15th April