

Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

www.fromsidechurches.org.uk

www.salemchurch.org.uk



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

Romans 10:15

October 2026

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE

Acting Rector: **Rev David Jones,**
Phone: 01454 605956 or 07737 529687
Email: david.jones@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 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 Leigh Maydew

As we enter into October and await the clock change on the 25 October, we know that the year is rapidly coming to a close, the evenings are getting darker and everything feels a little bit different, especially when we compare it to the incredibly hot summer that we experienced this year.



Before long the Christmas adverts will be plastered all over our TV screens (if they're not already), and we'll be focussed on that next big celebration.

In the life of the Church, and wider society, there are other things that happen before we get to December - for the end of October and into November is very much about a time of remembrance.



Whatever one might think of it, 31 October brings us Halloween, or to give it the more traditional title, All Hallows' Eve. Today, All Hallows' Eve is very much about dressing up, trick or treating and trying to scare folk, but traditionally it was a day of preparation in the life of the Church as we looked towards 1 November, which would bring us All Saints' Day.



In the Church, particularly in the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church, we celebrate the lives of Saints, people who have been recognised for having an exceptional degree of holiness, likeness, or closeness to God. Some Saints have their own day of celebration, we think of St Valentine, St Patrick, St George as some of the more obvious ones. For others though, 1 November gives us a chance to celebrate the lives of all the Saints.



2 November then brings us All Souls' Day, a chance to commemorate all those who have died and are now enjoying the life eternal that Jesus promises to us.

That then brings us to the perhaps more civic events of Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day itself. A time when we pause to remember the guns falling silent at the end of the Great War, the 'war to end all wars', which clearly it was not. Over time Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day has developed to remember all those who lost their lives in World Wars and conflicts since, and for those of you that have been to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, you'll see quite a long list of names of service personnel who have died since the end of the Second World War.



Remembrance, as a whole, means something different to different people. But whether it's on All Saints', All Souls', or Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, this year I encourage you to take a moment to pause and to remember all those that you have loved but see no longer.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace, and rise in glory.*

leigh.

The Revd. Leigh A Maydew CF
Salem and Winterbourne Down Methodist Churches

Did you know that you can now give from the
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directly to St Michael's church.

Any gift will go a little way towards enabling
our work in the community.



SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

4th October 4pm St Michael's Community Centre
ALL-AGE PRAISE

11th October 10.30 St Michael's Church
PARISH COMMUNION



18th October 10.30 St Michael's Community Centre
CELTIC WORSHIP

25th October 10.30 St Michael's Church
PARISH COMMUNION



4pm St Michael's Community Centre
CAFÉ CHURCH



Also Thursdays at 10.30 - Holy Communion in SMCC
& 1st Sunday at 8am - Holy Communion in St Michael's Church

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

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30

4th October Revd Leigh Maydew (Holy Communion)
11th October Revd Margaret Goodall (HARVEST)
18th October Mr John Creech
25th October Mr Chris Leese



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

A long hot summer

As the summer season has come to an end and we are now firmly into autumn we can reflect on what has happened in the last few months. We can hardly have failed to notice the record number of very hot days over 30C and even 35C, combined with weeks of virtually no rain. Everywhere the grass was parched yellow and other plants have suffered too, losing their leaves early or even dying back totally. Fortunately, we

have now started to get some useful rain and the grass has started to go green again but that doesn't mean it is all over and it's just another one of those memorable summers, like 1976.



It has been reported that crop yields are down markedly because of the lack of rain and a local farmer I spoke to had not been able to plant next year's oil seed rape on time because the ground was too hard and dry. Livestock farmers have had to use food usually reserved for the winter because the grass has not grown over the summer. And the effects cover most of western Europe: even the French grape harvest has been badly affected. All this is likely to have a marked impact on food prices over the winter.

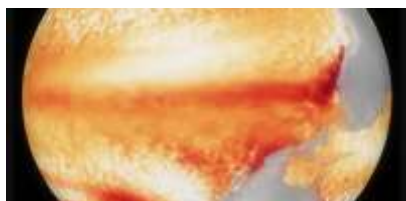
I would expect large trees with well established and extensive root systems to be more resilient in a drought. Unfortunately this is not necessarily the case. Many trees are shedding their leaves early this year and some may die. Apparently Kew Gardens lost 400 trees in the 2022 drought. In our own churchyard the yew tree



on the north side of the church has a large number of yellowing needles towards the tips of many branches. I just hope that this is a temporary set-back and that the tree will recover when we get some more desperately needed rain.

On top of this, El Nino, a natural weather phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean every few years, is predicted to be particularly strong this winter, potentially the strongest ever recorded. Although its

effects are most marked in the countries bordering the Pacific, it does impact on the weather world-wide. Our Met Office is warning that the autumn and winter here in the UK could be wetter and stormier than usual with an increased risk of flooding.



The evidence for climate change continues to mount, with the effects becoming more and more marked and having real impact on our daily lives. The most striking recent event is the disastrous flash flooding in Nepal, very likely to have been made more likely, if not actually caused, by a warming world.

The message is clear. Climate change is real and we must renew our efforts to tackle its effects. As Christians we have a duty to act as stewards of God's creation. We can pray, work even harder to reduce our personal impact on the climate, support initiatives to improve our local environment and lobby our MPs to press for government action. If we act together we can, with God's help, avert the looming disaster.



Chris Greef

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always
ready for his return at the end of time
by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here.



When the servants came for their food, he had it ready



He made sure everyone got their full amount every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in charge of everything I have



The bad servant



My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!



When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!



He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked.



Then his master came back



Jesus said



What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: 1 & 2 Kings

1 & 2 Kings is a single literary work telling the history of Israel's monarchy from the end of David's reign until the Babylonian exile following the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC). After Solomon's reign, Israel was divided into two kingdoms: Israel to the north and Judah in the south. In the north 20 rulers reigned over 210 years until the fall of Samaria (722 BC). In the southern kingdom there were also 20 rulers, spanning a period of 345 years.



This account is not like reading a modern history book. The author views the story through the lens of God's relationship with His people. The welfare of Israel depended on their leaders' trust and obedience in God, e.g. Solomon building the Temple, as well as listening to the prophets e.g. Elijah and Elisha. The kings who receive the most attention are those whose disobedience is greatest (e.g. Ahab and Manasseh) or those who truly follow God (eg. Hezekiah and Josiah).

The book ends with exile in Babylon, fulfilling God's warning of the consequences of disobedience for both kingdoms (cf Dt 28:64–68). However, this doesn't mean that there is no hope for the future. At the end of the book, Jehoiachin is released from prison in Babylon, and he is given a place of honour (2Ki 25:27-30). The future remains open for God to fulfill His promises to the house of David.



'We begin to realise that if God's sovereignty is never cancelled out by the so deeply sin-flawed leaders ('kings') in both our culture and our church, we can quite cheerfully exult in God's sovereignty as it is being exercised in all the circumstantial details of the actual present.' (E Peterson).



You are invited to the Installation of

David Jones

as

Rector of the Fromeside Benefice

Wednesday 21st October 7:30pm

St Saviour's Church, Coalpit Heath

and afterwards for light refreshments

in St Saviour's Church Hall



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BENEFICE PRAYER WALK

It was cloudy but warm as eight or so hardy souls set off on a Benefice prayer walk from St. Michael's, Winterbourne. We crossed the fields and the ancient stone bridge over Bradley Brook before going under the railway embankment through an archway giving a most striking view back to the church. Surely this must have been a deliberate choice by railway builders? Our first stop was All Saints', Winterbourne Down, where we were greeted with tea, coffee and cake. After prayer for All Saints', Bethesda and the local community we continued our walk via Salem, Watley's End, St. Peter's, Frampton Cotterell, St. Saviour's, Coalpit Heath, Zion and St. James', Iron Acton. We were greeted everywhere with plenty more tea, coffee and biscuits on offer. Walkers left or joined our group at various places but we finished at The Lamb in Iron Acton with about the same number we started with. What a wonderful fellowship the day provided us with and the opportunity to pray at each stop definitely made us feel more connected to the churches in our Benefice area.



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Further information from Edna Snaith 07789 662694

CROSSWORD

Across

1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)

3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)

9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)

10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)

11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)

12 Listen (anag.) (6)

14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)

17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)

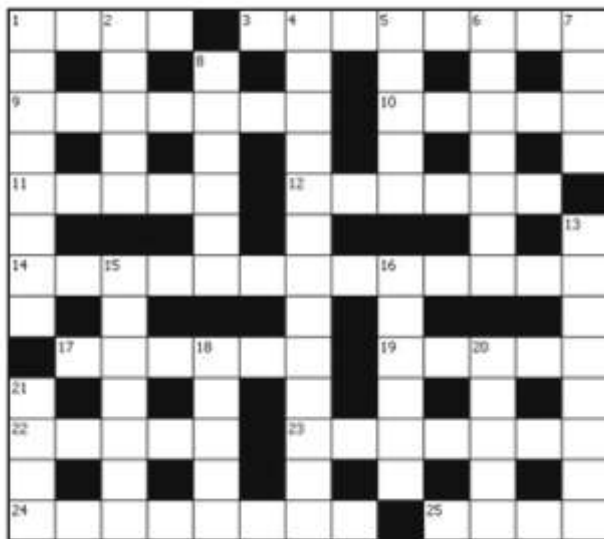
19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)

22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)

23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)

24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)

25 Note (anag.) (4)



Down

1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)

2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)

4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)

5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)

6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)

7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)

8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)

13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)

15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)

16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)

18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)

20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)

21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Answers on page 27

Salem Diary

In September we celebrated our church Anniversary and a former superintendent minister – Rev. Hilary Cooke, led our worship. We are also looking forward to next year when we it will be 240 years since John Wesley came to preach on the foundation of Salem.



In October a former member of Salem – Rev Margaret Goodall – and sister to Elizabeth --will come to help us celebrate Harvest on October 11th. We very much look forward to seeing Margaret again. She is now a superintendent in the Milton Keynes area.

There have been many changes in the circuit this year. One new minister has arrived in South Bristol and many ministers have changed/taken on new responsibilities within the circuit. We hold all our ministers and congregations in our prayers at this time

We will be continuing with our usual activities:

Every Monday evening from 7-8 p.m. is the **Prayer group**.



Coffee morning is on the second Wednesday of each month - October 7th at 10 a.m.

and the **Bacon Butty** morning on the third Saturday October 17th at 10 a.m.



The **Film Afternoon** is on the 2nd Tuesday of each month - October 10th at 2 p.m.

The ladies of **Women's Fellowship** meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month - October 24th at 2.30p.m.



All are welcome to join in these activities.

Special events in & around St Michael's

Saturday 3rd October from 3.30-5.15

MESSY CHURCH
in St Saviour's Church Hall



Friday 9th October
ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL
HARVEST FESTIVAL
9.30am

Wednesday 21st October at 7.30

**INSTALLATION OF
THE REVD. DAVID JONES
AS RECTOR
OF THE FROMESIDE BENEFICE**
in St Saviour's Church, Coalpit Heath
See page 11

CAFÉ CHURCH

looking at a theme using Scripture,
music, informal discussion
(with provision for accompanied children)
and tea/coffee, of course!



SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER
at 4pm

in St Michael's Community Centre

4th October – 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi

You'll have heard of Giovanni di Pietro di Bernadone, although he is more probably familiar as Francis of Assisi. On 4th October we will mark 800 years since his death; such was his fame, influence and holiness that he was declared a saint by the pope less than two years after his death.

Francis was born into a prosperous family of silk merchants in Assisi, central Italy, probably in 1181. As a young man he loved clothes, spent money lavishly, and enjoyed a reputation of a jack-the-lad, pleasure-loving and irresponsible. But experience both as a prisoner of war and of illness led him to think deeply about his life, although it took some time for this reappraisal to bear fruit.



Just outside Assisi was the ruined chapel of San Damiano, and it was here that he felt God speak to him, asking him to “repair my church, which as you can see, is falling into ruin”. Little did Francis know at that point that ‘repairing my church’ meant much more than repairing this simple chapel - a task he set about doing.

Francis became known for his devotion to Christ and also his commitment to the poor and bereft. Others were attracted to join him in preaching the gospel and serving the poor. Eventually this was organised into a congregation of poor men (friars), which today we know as the Franciscans.

He established a Rule of Life for these men, later revised as more joined them. A sister organisation, the Poor Clares, was founded for women who wanted to give their lives to God



and the service of the poor. Two years before his death, in a period of intense prayer, he is said to have displayed the *stigmata* - the wounds of Christ - in his hands and side. By then he was increasingly ill; blindness and malaria took its toll. He died aged just 45.



Simplicity was a hallmark of his life, which has come down to us in a number of ways. Care for the environment is one way; patron saint of animals is another. World Animal Day is the marked on the same day as Francis' death. Many churches will be holding a 'Blessing of the Animals' service, often a cheerful riot of barking dogs, hissing cats, rats and mice in cages, even a stick insect, and horses tethered outside.

We should see Francis as a visionary and inspirer, who, impelled by the love of Christ, was able to give himself to, and draw others to, a life of service to the poor, care for the environment, and prayer. By the time he died, there were Franciscan friars over much of Europe. Today, inspired by his legacy, his followers - friars, sisters and lay people - are found all over the world.

Do you have a Rule of Life which you try to live by, one which honours God and seeks the best for humanity? How do you inspire those around you? How do you mark your care for God's creation? You love your pets, but is it time to re-evaluate if you are doing the best by them?

One of Francis' prayers asks God 'to grant us the grace to do for You alone what we know You want us to do, and always to desire what pleases You.' That could be a good rule of life, a star to live by; could you make it yours?





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Autumn / Winter 2026

All information is correct at the time of printing but is subject to change. Please visit the website for the most up to date information.

OCTOBER

Sun 11 th	Winterbourne Harvest Day – 11am	£5 / £1
Mon 26 th	Halloween family craft session – 10:30am <i>Each child's ticket includes a biscuit and cup of squash</i>	£4.75

NOVEMBER

Sun 1 st	Lino print workshop – Medieval beasts – 10am Willow reindeer workshop – 10am	£60 £65
Sat 14 th	Wine Tasting Evening: Wines for Winter – 7pm	£30
Thurs 19 th	Festive fused glass workshop – 10am / 1pm	£55
Fri 20 th	Festive fused glass workshop – 10am / 1pm	£55

DECEMBER

Sat 5 th	Christmas wreath workshop – 10:30am / 2pm	£55
Sat 12 th	Carols in The Barn – 3pm	£5 / £1
Sun 13 th	Carols in The Barn – 3pm	£5 / £1

December events will be available to book from the end of September 2026.

For full details and to book, please visit www.winterbournebarn.org.uk/events

If you would prefer not to book online or want to book in person to avoid the booking fee, please contact us to arrange a time to come and book your tickets with the office team.

contact@winterbournebarn.org.uk 0117 403 15 36

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

Why AI is far from divine...

I wrote an email to my local councillor – and within three minutes received back a detailed reply summarising my concerns and promising action. A stunningly quick response.

I was impressed, and grateful for the speedy reaction. But then a thought came to me. Had this helpful, swift, reply perhaps been written, not by my councillor, but by Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

And, if so, did it really matter? It's hard to say, but it flagged up to me how AI is becoming such a key part of our lives, and often in ways that we take for granted. Like the algorithms that choose what we might like to watch next on TV or read on holiday.

Churches aren't immune to AI's increasing popularity. Pope Leo has advised his priests not to use it to write their sermons. He told them, "Like all the muscles in the body, if we do not use them, if we do not move them, they die. The brain needs to be used, so our intelligence must also be exercised a little so as not to lose capacity." To give a true sermon, the Pope explained, "is to share faith,"



something AI would never be able to do. He advised preachers, "people want to see your faith, your experience of having known and loved Jesus Christ."

That is so true. A sermon should be preached for that congregation, in that place, at that specific point in time, and be delivered by a preacher who has opened themselves to hear from God as they prepared their message.

AI is not human. It's been designed to trick users into thinking it has a personality and maybe opinions of its own. It will never know pain, hunger, disappointment or grief, or a whole range of other human emotions. And these are the emotions God experienced, living on earth as Jesus Christ. God with us, living and dying as we do. The Almighty came to live among us as human flesh, and not as computer code. Fully God, fully man.

Christ lived, and died, in frail human flesh, and rose from death, underlining the sacred value of every human being.

AI falls far short of that value, no matter how closely it can mimic human personality.

Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

WINTERBOURNE HARVEST DAY

11am - 4pm | 11 October 2026

Early Bird: **£1/£5** (Ends 4th October)

Join us as we bring back some of your much loved barn favourites for all the feel of a village harvest fayre.

The day will include something for all the family including Morris Dancers, wandering children's entertainers, live music and (of course) ferret racing!



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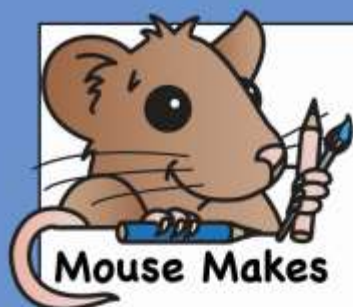
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The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.

6. God's word is like? A _____ and a _____ Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the _____ of God. Hebrews 4:12

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman





St Michael's C of E Primary School

Learn • Care • Enjoy

Linden Close, Winterbourne
Headteacher Miss Charlotte Harris
Phone 01454 867105

Spirituality at St Michael's

At St Michael's we have been doing a lot of work about spirituality – for all our pupils. We believe spirituality is our response to the experiences that shape our understanding of ourselves, others, the world and beyond.

Our School vision focuses on our aspiration for pupils to develop themselves, their relationships with others, their connection with their world and their meaning and purpose in life.

'Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these' Matthew 19:14

Enjoy the Present. Educate for the Future, Inspire with Love

We have introduced 4 lenses that support exploring these connections with ourselves, others, the world and beyond.



We are using these in our daily acts of Service to reflect on stories from the real word and the bible, as well as in our learning across our curriculum.

We have also introduced the language of ripples. A ripple is created by noticing or experiencing something deeply.

A ripple begins with ordinary drops in the water, not extraordinary events. A single experience—a question, a moment of beauty, an act of kindness, a time of stillness or an encounter with God—can begin a ripple that spreads through our thoughts, relationships and actions in everyday life.





We recognise that spiritual development is not linear or measurable. Like ripples on water, it is ongoing, sometimes gentle, sometimes transformative, and often difficult to see in the moment. Every child experiences and expresses spirituality in their own unique way.

Our ripple starts with our self – being self-aware, so that we can build strong positive relationships with others, notice the beauty in the world around us, so that we can express meaning, purpose and connectedness.

School Values

Ripples are connected explicitly to the school values, to emphasise the positive ripples we want to see in our school. We have new values images to help us think about our values lots in school.

Each week, children are awarded 'ripple of the week' certificates to celebrate the positive ripples they've been making across our school.



It's been lovely to see how this language has spread already and we are enjoying celebrating positive ripples across our school.

To find out more about St Michael's please contact the office.

Reception Open Sessions 2027 – 2028 will be held on:

Open Evening: 5-6pm on Wednesday 7th October.

Open Morning: 9.15 - 10.15am on Wednesday 14th October.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Miss Harris, Head of School

To see the images larger and in colour, see back page

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton

DOWN

1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA



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HOW MUCH ARE OUR LESSONS?
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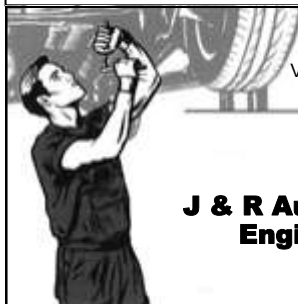
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St Michael's
School
provides
targets for
us all

See page 26



If we could
all live by
these
values, our
world would
be a much
better place



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 Thursday 15th October