



St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

Sunday 21st May 2017
Welcome to St. Michael's

Your prayers are asked for all those who are sick, bereaved or in need of God's special help, especially:

Sick:	Stephen Paterson, June Watson, John Eggleton, Philip Johnson	
Circle of Prayer:	Jean Rees, Sheelah Brown, Alf & Jean Cummings, Tam Moffatt, Tony & Mac Ballard	
RIP:	Nigel Baird	
Year's Mind:	Sheila Birtwistle	May 24th
	John Isom	May 27th
	Ethel Farnfield	May 27th
Prayer Diary:	Sure Start Centre Home Field & Prospect Place	

You are very welcome to add the names of people who are ill to the prayer list. Please be sure you have the person's permission and let us know if they would like a home visit.. Also please ask for the name to be removed from the list when appropriate.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Thursday:	7.30am	Hymns from the Church Tower
	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
Friday:	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 28th:	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW)

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Carol Wilson-Barker 01747 861859 e-mail: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	
Lay Minister:	Mrs Christine Marsh	01747 861212
Churchwardens:	Mrs Elizabeth Howden	01747 863424
	Mrs Lynette Elliott	01747 861646
Parish Administration:	Sherry Dixon	01747 861319
Parish Office e-mail:	office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	
Website:	www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk	

Thursday 25th May — Ascension Day: There will be hymns at the top of the tower at 7.30am, followed by a service of Holy Communion at 8.00am. After the service there will be bacon rolls with tea or coffee (£5) at the Butt of Sherry. Everyone welcome, if you would like to come please sign the list at the back of the church.

Fairer Share Membership Count: 30th April to 28th May 2017. Please complete the attendance forms on the pews each week you attend and hand in to the sidespeople at the end of the service. Thank you.

Flower Festival : Cake, scones and volunteers needed for the Pop-Up Cafe, 9-11 June. Cakes required: Chocolate, coffee, lemon drizzle, tea bread, Victoria sponge, carrot cake. Please call Sherry 861319 if you can help by baking or in the cafe.

Lots of Plants are needed for the plant stall at the Flower Festival. Please keep spares safely and bring on Sat. 9th at 9am, or let us have them in advance. Judith (860553) or Mary (229609).

Urgent — Sacristans required: This is not a very time-consuming job but it is an essential service for the Church. If you are able to help or would like more information please contact Isabel (860297).

Knit & Natter will meet again on Thursday 25th May at 2, The Fields, Mere from 10am-11.30am. Be lovely to see you.

Samara Appeal for Syrian Refugees: Please put any good quality clothes (no shorts or short skirts), new underwear, blankets, sleeping bags, towels, duvets in very good condition (see Samara Aid website) in the children's corner by Tuesday 6th June to be taken to Syria shortly. Heather (861642).

EASTER 6

Collect:

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Acts 17.22-31*

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Second Reading: *1 Peter 3.13-22*

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer

for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Reading: *John 14.15-21*

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹⁵'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Post Communion Prayer:

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Next Week's Readings:

Acts 1. 6-14: 1 Peter 4. 12-14, 5. 6-11: John 17. 1-11