

Patronal Party



Saturday 30th September

2.00-4.00 pm

St Michael's Church, Aynho

Please Pop in if you Can

Some Festival Facts

“What is a Patronal Festival?”

- The festival of each church's own patron saint held on or near its anniversary date
- In Aynho the patron saint is Saint Michael the Archangel and his anniversary is the 29th September
- Festivals were celebrated by all villagers in the parish from the early Middle Ages; guests were invited from nearby villages (in the hope there would be return invitations!)
- End of September is a great time for a festival – the harvests would be in (and be celebrated) and it is a time of plenty – to be enjoyed!

“What is St Michael the Archangel known for?”

- Saint Michael is an archangel, a spiritual warrior in the battle of good versus evil. He is considered a champion of justice, a healer of the sick, and the guardian of the Church. In art Saint Michael is depicted with a sword, a banner, or scales, and is often shown vanquishing Satan in the form of a dragon.

“Where is St Michael the Archangel seen in our Church?”

- He is seen in the magnificent stain glass window on the far right of the Nave – spearing a red dragon.
- The remains of a statue, probably of St Michael slaying the dragon, may be seen above the West door. All that is remaining is just a dragon's tail. The damage was most likely done by soldiers in the Civil War in the 17th century.

“What is the prayer of St Michael the Archangel?”

- "Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls."

The Feast

The great thing about having St Michael the Archangel as the patron Saint of the Church was the anniversary date at the end of September.

All the villagers would have been involved in the Harvest – week after week with all women and children helping the menfolk in the fields get in the harvest for the landowners – in Aynho's case mainly on the Cartwright family land.

The corn would have been gathered, the straw and hay stacked; the pigs and cows fattened on the land; the apricots gathered; and the hedgerows scavenged for all the wild fruit and nuts.

Geese were fattened on all the corn which fell to the ground – and then they were eaten at the Feast. Similarly as September came to a close so did the picking of blackberries – and so much was made of them in the Feast.

Home made brewed ale would have been brought along to supplement that provided by the Cartwrights – and a lot of fun would have been had.

We recognise these parts of our history by enjoying some delicious eats at our party this year:

Smoked goose with brioche bites

Goose pate

Blackberry and apple ripple fool

with

Lots of other snacks and drink (but not home brew!) to enjoy

whilst meeting with friends

And hoping the children have success with their dragon hunt in the churchyard!

Please pop for 5 minutes or more and share the celebration

