**29 September**

**Michael and All Angels**

The Lord commanded his angels to keep you in

all your ways.

There was silence in heaven while the dragon

waged war; and Michael and his angels fought

against him, and won the victory.

Then I saw an angel, soaring in the heavens, with

an eternal gospel to proclaim to all who live on

the earth.

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted

the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve

you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help

and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ your

Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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 Church of England

**29 September**

**Michael and All Angels**

Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel are the four named biblical angels, depicted as the beloved messengers of God. Michael, which means ‘who is like God?’ is described as protector of Israel and leader of the armies of God and is perhaps best known for his victory over the dragon, which is told in the Revelation of John. He is thus regarded as the protector of Christians from the devil, particularly those at the hour of death. Gabriel, means, ‘the strength of God’, is the one who, in the Gospel according to Luke, is sent by God to Mary to announce the birth of Christ. Raphael, which means, ‘the healing of God’, is depicted in the Book of Tobit as the one who restores sight to Tobit’s eyes. Uriel (‘the light of God’) appears in a vision to Ezra in 2 Esdras.

A basilica near Rome was dedicated in the 5th century in honour of Michael on 30 September, beginning with celebrations on the eve of that day and 29 September is now kept in honour of Michael throughout the western Church.

 *Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*