

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8HN
The church building is only open at certain times, please visit our website:
www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk for up-to-date information.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10:00am-1:30pm

For enquires about hall bookings, baptisms, weddings, funerals, the best way to contact us is by phone on a Monday or Thursday.

If you wish to visit the office in person, please contact us in advance to agree a suitable time.

T: 01252 873030 / E: office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

For pastoral matters you can phone the Rector, Rev John Castle on:

T: 01252 872168 or email him at: rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk



Heroes of the Faith—Are you one?

In April and May we've been learning about people whose work and witness made a huge difference to the lives of others, through the different ways they put their faith into practice. I hope their stories have been inspiring, leading us to feel gratitude for their legacy, and even to imitate their example in some way. There's always a danger, though, that we keep these saints on a pedestal, thereby excusing ourselves from the responsibility God has given to each one of us to make a difference in the world by putting our own faith into practice. Being a follower of Jesus is a privilege, as he has chosen us and calls us his friends, and desires that our lives will bear fruit and thereby bring glory to God (John 15:8,14-16).

We can make a difference through our daily witness at home, at work and at leisure. But we are also called to make a difference corporately as a church. And here we need all our members to grasp the vision of the role St Michael's can play in the community, and to see how the contributions each of us make with our time, talents and money enable this to happen. In our Stewardship Campaign next month we'll be sharing the vision and encouraging everyone to see how they can play their full part (whatever that is) in our mission.

Rev John Castle



Prayer Requests: Please pray for the sick: Alison Wren, Ruth Eve, Sylvia Honiwell; for those being baptised: Leo Tolkien (5th May), Arla Pinnock and Oliver Eales (12th May) and Jude and Maeve Brown (26th May)

OUR MAY CHARITY: REACHING RWANDA

Samantha Hunt will be speaking during our 9.30am service on **Sunday 12 May**. Please take this opportunity to hear and see slides about the work and achievements of the charity.

Samantha will talk about the recent challenges which have limited the hours of teaching and number of children permitted to attend the present Philly's Place. This has brought the opening of the New Philly's Place urgently to the fore.

The new building is structurally complete with external walls, roof, windows and access doors, all set in a secure walled compound. However, to be complete for occupation, the building requires additional internal walls, electrics and internal finishes to floors, walls and ceilings and decorating. Plus, external steps and ramps to access the building. **The cost of this work is £21,000.**



Clearly Samantha is finding this challenge daunting and she surely has sponsors who she can approach and we are one of those. I believe we as a church community we cannot let this challenge pass without giving our full spiritual and financial aid to such a deserving cause.

Brendan Watson – Charity Champion

HEROES OF FAITH SERMON SERIES

Date	Saint	Sunday Readings (8:00am & 9:30am Services)
7 April	Ambrose, Bishop of Milan	1 Timothy 3:1-7 (p1192); Psalm 146 (p632); Luke 22:24-30 (p1058)
14 April	Patrick, missionary to Ireland	Isaiah 49:5-7 (p735); Luke 10:1-12 (p1041)
21 April	Julian of Norwich, mystic	Ephesians 3:14-21 (p1175); Psalm 148 (p633); John 15:7-15 (p1083)
5 May	Florence Nightingale, nurse and social reformer	Isaiah 61:1-4 (p748); Psalm 119:1-8 (p617); Mark 1:40-45 (p1003)
12 May	Martin Luther King junior, human rights activist	Isaiah 40:1-5 (p723-724); James 2:1-7 (p1214)

If you miss hearing one of these sermons, don't forget you can read it later on the services page for that month on our website, www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

ON THE SOCIAL SIDE – NEWS for MAY

There is still (just) time to get your tickets for our **Springtime Ceilidh** by phone (01252-871881) or e-mail craeharris@outlook.com The Ceilidh will take place in the Pastoral Centre on Saturday May 11th, starting at 6.30 (doors 6.15). Tickets are priced at £10 for adults, £2 for under 16s and £22 for a family (2A + 2C). Please bring your own nibbles, drinks, glasses, some change and the whole family! At our last similar event we had folks from under eight to over eighty dancing, tapping their feet to the music or just enjoying watching others. And some very tired kids at the end of the evening! **Sunday Lunches** - the Sunday Lunch get-together at the Bird-in-Hand on April 21st proved very popular with some twenty people going along. Thanks to Rosaria Toohey for organising it – it looks as though the lunches are back as regular social get-togethers!

No social committee events now till September, when we will be holding our Annual Quiz on **Saturday 21st**. An important date for your diary. *Chris Harris*

SPRING.... "the..earth
is warm with spring
and with green
grass and bursting
trees.."



CEILIDH... "a social
event with.....folk
music and traditional
dancing"

What do you get when you put Spring & Ceilidh together?

You get our Springtime Ceilidh on.....

Saturday May 11th

6.30 to 9.30

in the Pastoral Centre, Lower Church Rd., GU47 8HN

With John Fletcher calling for us

Tickets: £10 Adults; £2 U16s;

Family (2A + 2C) £22

from the Social Committee

or ring 01252-871881 or email craeharris@outlook.com



- When?** Monday 13th May, 2024, from 7.45 for 8.00 pm.
Ends 9.30 pm.
- Where?** St Michael's Pastoral Centre, Seeby Hall,
Lower Church Road, Sandhurst GU47 8HN
- Cost?** Free, voluntary donations welcome
- Contact:** Sarah Bishop to book your places
familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

What's it about?

Primary Parenting is a light-hearted event about the ups and downs of raising under twelves. We will be showing the video of this talk by Rob Parsons and Katharine Hill, in which they present insights and top tips gathered from their combined experience of working alongside thousands of parents for over thirty years. You may laugh, you may cry, but we hope to leave you feeling uplifted and inspired.

There will be refreshments from 7.45 pm, and 15 minutes or so at the end of the video for discussion.

If you are in a couple, please get a babysitter and both come!

The common cup at Holy Communion

As a church, we are concerned for everyone's physical as well as spiritual well-being. During the Covid pandemic, we carefully followed Government and Church of England guidelines, including the practice of the priest intincting (dipping) communion wafers in the consecrated wine, rather than the usual practice of everyone drinking from the chalice.

Most churches have now gone back to using the 'common cup', recognising that the alcohol in the wine, and the anti-germ properties of silver, provide sufficient protection for most people. At the same time, however, we recognise that there are some people with particular health vulnerabilities who may prefer to continue to receive a wafer intincted by the priest (from a separate chalice). We also recognize the difficulties for some people of kneeling at altar rails, which used to be part of our practice.

The PCC will be discussing the way forward on **8th May**, and would like to hear your views. An email would be the easiest for us, but please feel free to speak to Karen Allen or any of the PCC members (see p6) to share your views.

MEET THE ARTIST - an evening with Tom Butler

Saturday 18th May, 7-9 pm at St Michael's Church



Tom is a local professional artist whose work is sought-after nationally. He specialises in painting scenes from major cities around the world, as well as coastlines and harbours, using mixed media/collage. He will be speaking about his career, technique and work, with examples on display.

Entrance (including complimentary glass of wine) **£12 adults, £6 under 18/students**. Win a limited edition print worth £475 or colour book of Tom's work in our prize draw (£5, tickets available now). All proceeds to the **St Michael's Church Spire Appeal**.



For more info, and to buy tickets, visit www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk/tombutler, email office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or phone Rev John Castle 01252 872168

The PCC – your representatives!

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 28th April was relatively well attended (38), and finished in under 55 minutes (this must be a record!). Particular topics covered at the APCM included the forthcoming Stewardship Campaign, fundraising for the repair the spire, bells and clock, and proposed changes to the administration of communion (see p.4).

Karen Allen was re-elected as the sole Churchwarden in the absence of other candidates (*where are you?*), Diana Taylor and Clare Hardy were re-elected to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for a further 3-year term, James Mason

joined for a 3 year term, and Denise Yeomans boldly stepped up to the plate to fill the empty Deanery Synod space (making her, with John & Steph Martin, ex officio members of the PCC). We are very grateful to those who have now stepped down after fulfilling their 3-year term: Rupert Cremer-Evans and George Castle.

Your PCC reps are now: Karen Allen (Churchwarden), John Martin, Steph Martin and Denise Yeomans (Deanery Synod), Abby Coleman, Alun Grafton, Brendan Watson, Catherine Wilkins, Clare Hardy, Diana Taylor, Emma Hodge, James Mason, Jon Toohey, Nicky Thomas, Sue Campbell.

Stewardship Sunday, 16th June

Stewardship is a joyful attitude towards our talents, time, opportunities, money and material possessions that seeks to use them to the glory of God. It's taking on board the idea that "All things come from you, and of your own do we give you".

It means when thinking about our free time, we assume that we'll use some of it to help others, for example by checking on a neighbour or volunteering for the church. When we plan our finances, we make sure we've allocated a percentage of our income to charity and the work of the church. It means seeing if the skills and experience we have gained could be offered in a voluntary capacity.

Once we start thinking this way, it sets us free from selfishness, and enables us to experience the joy of generosity, as we thankfully recognise God's blessings and share them.

Rev John Castle

A Word from our Stewardship Officer

Since taking on the role of Stewardship Officer, I have been looking at how many people give regularly, and the ways in which they give. There are 3 ways to give regularly to St Michael's.

1: Parish Giving Scheme. There is a form to fill in, or people can join online, with an opportunity to opt in to an annual inflationary increase. Parish Giving do the admin for us, including claiming GiftAid which saves us time and workload.

2: Envelopes: for some this is still the preferred method. But as online banking has increased and the use of cash and cheques has decreased, many people have moved from envelopes to Parish Giving, which saves time and effort for the giver and the church.

3: Standing Order. A number of people give via standing order direct from their bank. Again, some have moved from this method to Parish Giving, saving the church the time and effort required to claim GiftAid.

However you give, if you pay tax and gift-aid your giving, St Michael's will benefit from a 25% tax rebate, which amounted to an extra £17,278 in 2023.

16th June this year will be Stewardship Sunday, where we will be asking everyone at each of that day's services to make a pledge of time, talents or money to St Michael's, write it down and put it in a box.

Do you review your planned giving as regularly as you do your online subscriptions? Could you move over to Parish Giving and opt in to a regular yearly increase?

Perhaps you could pledge a one-off donation this year, or include a legacy to the church in your will.

If you would like to talk about planned giving, please get in touch.

For now though I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who gives their time, talents and money to St Michael's without which we would not be able to achieve anything. As the old corny old saying goes 'CHRCH is not CHURCH without U'.

Catherine Wilkins, Stewardship Officer

— GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE —

baby & toddler TIME



Baby and Toddler Time is a friendly group for babies, toddlers and their parents/carers. It is held in the Pastoral Centre on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month during school term time, from 9:00am to 11:00am.

For the first hour and half we have lots of toys for children to play with, toast and fruit (with coffee/tea for adults) and a craft activity. Breastfeeding support is also available (please ask at the welcome desk). In the last half-hour we have a Bible story and lots of singing of nursery rhymes etc. Booking is not necessary.

Kidz Church takes place on Sundays during the 9:30am service. It provides age-related activities in the Pastoral Centre, for children aged three up to school Year 5, every week. There is something for the *Kidz Church* age group all year round.

Reach (Year 6 and up) is held in the Pastoral Centre during the 9:30am service.

More information is available from Sarah Bishop on 07764 548714, by email at familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or the via church *Facebook* page.



The Family Service is held at 11.15am on the first and third Sunday. We are back to our all-singing, all-dancing norm. Family Service is a great Sunday morning activity, whether in the school holidays or in term-time.

Church Together is an informal Intergenerational service in which people of all ages mix during the Zone Time to explore the topic of the service through craft, word puzzles, discussion or quiet reflection. It takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month at 10.30 am in St Michael's Pastoral Centre, with drinks and cake from 10.00 am.



Bible Bites is for children in Years 5 and 6, on Monday lunchtimes in school, under the leadership of Sarah Bishop. Please contact her for more information at: familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk.

MAY CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th May Topic: Florence Nightingale, nurse and reformer

6th of Easter Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4 (p748), Mark 1:40-45 (p1003)

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

9.30 am Parish Communion 

11.15 am Family Service & Baptism of Leo Tolkien

Topic: The Good Shepherd, John 10:1-18

6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer. **Topic: The Holy Spirit**

Ascension Day 9th May

Readings: Acts 1:1-11 (p 1092); Luke 24:44-53 (p1062)

8.00 pm Holy Communion

Sunday 12th May Topic: Martin Luther King, human rights activist

7th of Easter. Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5 (p723); James 2:1-7 (p1214)

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

9.30 am Parish Communion 

11.30 am Baptism of Arla Pinnock and Oliver Eales

6.30 pm No Ecumenical Service


Sunday 19th May Topic: The Gift of the Spirit

Pentecost Readings: Acts 2:1-21 (p1093); John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15 (p1083)

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

9.30 am Parish Communion 

11.15 am Family Service

6.30 pm Memorial Service 

Sunday 26th May Theme: Jesus and Nicodemus

Trinity Sunday Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8 (p690),

John 3:1-21 (p1065)

8.00 am Holy Communion (said) 

10.30 am Church Together

6.30 pm No service

Coffee, etc will be served in the Pastoral Centre *after* each 9:30am service, *before* the Family Service in church (except on 5th May), and *before* the Church Together Service on 26th May.

Bacon and vegetarian sausage butties will be served in the Pastoral Centre *before* the Parish Communion Service on Sunday 12th May.

Services marked  are live-streamed on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst.

Don't forget to potter down to the Pastoral Centre for our

Plants, Produce & Preserves Sale

Sunday 5th May

 **8.30 - 11.30** 

We would welcome donations of cakes & plants to be sold.

Please bring them to the pastoral centre on the day or contact Ann Harris (01252-871881)