

This Week's Diary

MONDAY	17th December
1.30 pm	New Scotland Hill School Carol Service
3.45 pm	Funeral Service for Dorothy Pace at the Crematorium
7.30 pm	Bell Ringers Practice
7.00 pm	Linedancing - Beginners
8.00 pm	Linedancing - Intermediate
TUESDAY	18th December
9.00 am	Morning Prayer
11.30 am	Day Centre Christmas Service – All Welcome
7.00 pm	St Michael's School Carol Service
HOUSE GROUPS:	
8.00 pm	28 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne (Elizabeth Ritchie)
8.00 pm	11 Sylvan Ridge (Rupert & Sheridan Cremer-Evans)
8.00 pm	2 Primrose Way (Andy & Sue Dow)
8.00 pm	2 School Hill (John & Sue Campbell)
8.00 pm	34 Albion Road (Linda Lemmon)
WEDNESDAY	19th December
9.00 am	Morning Prayer
THURSDAY	20th December
9.15 am	Stroke Club
7.00 pm	Choir Practice
7.30 pm	Handbells
FRIDAY	21st December
8.30 pm	Salsa

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This list is updated on 1st Sunday of each month

Please Pray for: Roger, Mark, Alison, Callum, Tony, Roger, Ken, Catherine, Lilian, Rosalind, Eileen. For those on the prayer board.

Christ said "when two or three are gathered together in my name, I am with them"

Matthew 18 v.20

If you are new to this church please note there is a ministry team available to pray with you, at the back of the Church, after taking Communion (9.30 Service).

3rd Sunday of Advent

16th December 2007

Newsletter

St Michael's Church, Sandhurst

SERVICES TODAY

Theme & Readings: Waiting in Hope

Isaiah 35 (p 719), James 5:7-10 (p 1216), Matthew 11:2-11 (p 976)

8.00 am **Holy Communion**
Service from page 287

9.30 am **Parish Communion**
Young Church in Pastoral Centre
Reach in the Upper Room

Please join us for coffee in the hall after the service (crèche available)

3.00 pm Christingle Service
5.00 pm Christingle Service



Sunday 23rd December

Theme & Readings: Joseph & Mary

Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-end

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

18.30 am No Service

THE PARISH OFFICE

Open 9.30 am – 12.15 pm weekdays for all enquiries regarding Churchyard, Baptisms, Hall bookings, Weddings, Counselling or Clergy appointments – Tel. 01252 873030

E-mail: Office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

Website: www.StMichaels-Sandhurst.org.uk

St Michael's Pastoral Centre, Lower Church Rd, Sandhurst GU47 8HN

(Newsletter Items: lesley.simpson@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)

Rev John A. Castle (Priest-in-charge)

Rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

ANNUAL QUIZ EVENING FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Put a note in your diary for Saturday, March 1st. There will be a Fairtrade Supper and glass of wine. This is going to be even better this year, and the profits will go towards Church Funds. It falls in Fairtrade Fortnight (February 25th - March 9th).

CRECHE ROTA

We need a volunteer to organise the crèche rota from the end of this month. Please contact the office if you feel you can do this.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT STALL

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way, especially Gene Mathews, Sheila Rees and Janet Pilbeam. The grand total raised for church funds is £186.10!
Jenny Thorn

ORGAN MUSIC FOR TODAY

Prelude for Advent-tide, Opus 207 No 1 – Robert Fuhner
Chorale Prelude, From God shall naught divide me – J. M. Bach
Prelude and Fugue in B Minor – J. B. Peyer.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU

This last week has seen the UN conference on Climate Change in Bali. While we may be amazed at the head-in-the-sand attitude of the US Government, are we doing our bit to protect our children and grandchildren, the world's poor and endangered species and eco-systems from climate change? How many of our car journeys are really necessary? Do we unnecessarily print out e-mails we could read on the screen? Do we choose to buy food with less packaging, re-use carrier bags etc? The Rector would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in promoting awareness and behaviour change in our church. rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk, or write to him c/o the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS JOKES

Know a good one to liven up a sermon? Please e-mail it to rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

100 CLUB

The winners for the November Draw held on 2nd December were: 1st Prize – Michael Squire, £25, 2nd Prize - P Johnstone, £15, 3rd Prize – J Kaye £5. £48 has been passed to Church Funds. If you are looking for a Christmas present to give how about buying someone a number or two – I still have about 30 numbers I would like to re-sell. Rosemary Dobson 01344 779461

A WARM CHRISTMAS!

The Heating is now working again in church, so please spread the word that there will be a warm welcome at all of our services! Please take some handbills of Christmas services and give them to families, friends and neighbours.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve:	4.30 pm Crib Service
	7.00 pm Carol Service (Handbells from 6.15)
	11.30 pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day:	8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
	9.30 am All-Age Parish Communion – kids bring a present to show
St Stephen's Day:	10.00 am Holy Communion



INTRODUCTION TO MATTHEW

As of Advent Sunday we are in Year A of the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary which is used internationally and across denominations. Most of the Sunday Gospel readings in Year A are from Matthew's Gospel (next year (B) is Mark, last year (C) was Luke; John is spread over the 3 years).

Matthew's Gospel is considered to be the most Jewish of the 4 Gospels. Matthew uses quotations from the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the Messiah, and the fulfilment of God's revelation to his people. He also majors on Jesus' interpretation of the Law in the Sermon on the Mount. The conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees probably has resonances with Matthew's situation after the destruction of the Temple in AD70, when the Pharisees took the lead in the development of Judaism and there was conflict between Christian Jews and official Judaism. But Matthew also shows that God's purpose in Jesus is for the whole world. The Magi at the beginning of the gospel represent the nations coming to worship; the centurion who has faith is seen as the pattern for Gentiles coming into the Kingdom; and in the closing verses of the Gospel Jesus sends the disciples out to “make disciples of all nations”. Other features of Matthew include teaching on relationships in the church and on evangelism, and a number of parables and other sayings that are not found in other gospels (e.g. The sheep and the goats, the foolish virgins, much of the Sermon on the Mount). There is much to guide us as we seek to live the Christian life day by day.
Rev. John Castle