

This Week's Diary

MONDAY 24th December
Christmas Eve
4.30 pm Crib Service
7.00 pm Carol Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

TUESDAY 25th December
Christmas Day
8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Family Communion

WEDNESDAY 26th December
St Stephen's Day
10.00 am Holy Communion



Christmas Day Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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.



////////////////////////////////////
This list is updated on 1st Sunday of each month

Please Pray for: Beryl, Edith Cumner, 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).*

4th Sunday of Advent

23rd December 2007



Newsletter

St Michael's Church, Sandhurst



SERVICES TODAY

Theme & Readings: Joseph's Story
Isaiah 7:10-16 (p 692), Romans 1:1-7 (p 1129),
Matthew 1.18-end (p 965)

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)

6.30 am No Service

Sunday 30th December
Theme & Readings: The Holy Innocents
Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-end,
Matthew 2:13-end

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
18.30 am Said Evening Prayer



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

RICH AND POOR

A Christmas carol says “Thou who wast rich beyond all measure, yet for our sakes becamest poor”, paraphrasing words of St Paul (2 Cor 8:9) who was urging the church to give to the poor. It is difficult to find presents to give to some of our loved ones, who seem to have everything; why not give a special gift to someone who has many needs, through a charity this Christmas? If you are internet-friendly, look up a charity you trust and give online – it will only take 5 minutes, but could make Christmas somewhere else a little happier.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

John & George Castle and John & Jill White wish to thank everyone who has sent them cards this year. We hope you will understand that we can't manage to reciprocate, but do wish everyone a very happy Christmas!

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).

THANK YOU

A number of people in our church work extra hard at Christmas. In particular, thanks are due to our flower arrangers, the choir, vergers and churchwardens, bellringers and handbell ringers, and the office staff, but others also deserve our thanks. On behalf of everyone in the church, thanks to all of you!

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU

The UN conference on Climate Change in Bali, took place recently. 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.

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

A radio station told us earlier this year that a child laughs on average four hundred times a day and an adult only fifteen. I do hope many adults will laugh a bit more at Christmas, and in particular laugh at the wonderful enigma of a God who comes as a human being.

But don't we need him! The world is hard pressed. Wars in the Middle East, terrible violence in Africa, relative and abject poverty in many countries, and climate change stalking us all.

If ever we needed good news it's now. The extraordinary ordinariness of the birth of Jesus is a light shining from the past and illuminating the future. It persuades millions of people that their lives are significant and they don't enter the future alone.

That's worth at least a smile this Christmas. And the determination of each one of us to make a difference to a struggling world this untouched New Year.

+ John Pritchard



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

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

Thank you to everybody who helped to raise money for the Children's Society this year. So far we have raised about £800 from St Michael's Belles (Handbells), carol singing (Choir and others), the Day Centre and the Christingle Services. This money will go to help children in this country who are less fortunate than us.

OFFICE HOURS

The Office will be closed from Friday 21st December to Wednesday 2nd January.