

This Week's Diary

MONDAY 10th December
7.30 pm Bell Ringers Practice
7.00 pm Linedancing - Beginners
8.00 pm Linedancing - Intermediate



TUESDAY 11th December
9.00 am Morning Prayer
6.00 pm Uplands School Christmas Carol Service
7.00 pm Vibe @ the Coffee Spot

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 12th December
9.00 am Morning Prayer
11.30 am Communion at Sandhurst Day Centre - All Welcome
8.00 pm Rector's Council Meeting in Upper Room

THURSDAY 13th December
10.30 am Nursery Group Nativity Play in Church
7.00 pm Choir Practice
7.30 pm Handbells



FRIDAY 14th December
8.30 pm Salsa

SATURDAY 15th December
10.15 am Christingle making in the Hall

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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. For the family and friends of Elsie Hardy whose funeral took place last week.

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).

2nd Sunday of Advent
2007

9th December



Newsletter

St Michael's Church, Sandhurst



SERVICES TODAY

Theme & Readings: True Repentance

Isaiah 11:1-10 (p 696), Romans 15:4-13 (p 1141),
Matthew 3:1-12 (p 967)

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 pm Ecumenical Service at the Coffee Spot

Sunday 16th December

Theme & Readings: Waiting in Hope
Isaiah 35, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

3.00 pm Christingle

5.00 pm Christingle



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

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

Rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

TONIGHT – MEDITATION AND MINCE PIES!

Come and share with our ecumenical partners in a short service of reflection on Advent and the preparation for Christmas this evening (Sunday 9th Dec) at 6.30 at the Coffee Spot. Mince pies and mulled wine (and other drinks) will be served, and you can vote for your favourite carol!



CAROLS AND MINCE PIES

The choir will be singing carols at Sandhurst Lodge on Tuesday 11th December. All welcome. Also the usual selection of Christmas Trees will be on sale, price £2 per foot to church funds. Please ring Trish on 01344 772739.

URGENT! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTINGLE MAKING

We need volunteers to make the Christingles this year, on Saturday 15th December at 10.15am, in the hall. Please come and give a hand, we can't do it without you! Children are welcome to give a hand too.



BAG2SCHOOL

Angela Harper is organizing this recycling appeal to raise funds for St Michael's Primary School and the church. Bag2school is a unique opportunity to raise funds, assist the environment and create employment both at home and abroad. Bag2School is interested in collecting quality second hand ladies', men's and children's clothing, as well as bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts and handbags. All items are for **RE-USE**. No Bric a Brac Please. Simply fill the blue bags handed out this morning, or a black bin liner and return to St Michael's School on 10th December by 2pm. Bags2school will pay £200-£250 per tonne.

SANDHURST SILVER BAND CONCERT

Our local town band will be playing their Christmas concert on Friday 14th December at 7.30pm in Sandhurst Community Centre, featuring our Rector on Flugelhorn. Tickets on the door priced £7.50, children £3.00.



MORE SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS WANTED

We have vacancies for more people to take the role of crucifer and server at the 9.30 service, and servers at 8 am. No previous experience necessary, full training will be given, frequency to suit you. This is not reserved for the exceptionally holy! Please register your interest with one of the clergy or the office.

CHRISTIANS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Concerned about climate change and its effect on the Third World? Wonder what a Christian perspective on it might look like? Then don't miss the meeting at St Michael's Warfield, chaired by Bishop Stephen on Tuesday 11th December at 7.30. Speakers: Rev Prof Ian James (Diocesan Environmental Adviser), Sandeep Sengupta (Oxford University) and Paul Valentine (Christian Aid). Sign up on list at the back of church to join others going to this meeting. Or contact the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Do you enjoy seeing the Church decorated for Christmas? If so, would you consider making a donation towards the cost of the flowers? Any amount you feel able to give will be gratefully received. Please hand your contribution in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" to Jennie Hulbert or the Church Office.

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

