

This Week's Diary

MONDAY 3rd March
7.30 pm Bell Ringers Practice
7.00 pm Linedancing in hall - Beginners (all welcome)
8.00 pm 'Dancenergy' Linedancing in Hall - Intermediate
8.00 pm House Group at 11 Sylvan Ridge (Rupert & Sheridan Cremer-Evans)
8.30 pm Bell Ringers AGM in the Large Upper Room

TUESDAY 4th March
9.00 am Morning Prayer
6.30 pm 3rd Sandhurst Guides in Hall (Karen: 01276 33601)
7.00 pm The Vibe at the Coffee Spot

*HOUSE GROUPS:

8.00 pm 28 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne (Elizabeth Ritchie)
8.00 pm 25 Templar Close (John & Stephanie Martin)
8.00 pm 2 School Hill (John & Sue Campbell)
8.00 pm 34 Albion Road (Linda Lemmon)

WEDNESDAY 5th March
9.00 am Morning Prayer
11.30 am Communion at the Day Centre
7.30 pm Band Practice in hall

THURSDAY 6th March
9.15 am Stroke Club
7.00 pm Choir Practice
7.30 pm Handbell practice in hall

FRIDAY 7th March
8.30 pm Salsa in hall

SATURDAY 8th March
9:30 - 12:30pm 2nd Saturday Club - for maintenance of the church

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This list is updated on 1st Sunday of each month

Please Pray for: Petra, Roger, Mark, Alison, Callum, Tony, Roger, Ken, Edith, Catherine, Lilian, Rosalind, Eileen. For those on the prayer board. For those who mourn at this time, especially for friends and relatives of Stanley Douglas-Cooke, whose funeral took place this 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).

Mothers Sunday

2nd March 2008

Newsletter

St Michael's Church, Sandhurst

SERVICES TODAY

Theme & Readings: The Blind Man
1 Sam 16:1-3 (p 287), Ephesians 5:8-14 (p 1176),
John 9 (p 1075)

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

9.30 am **Parish Communion**
Reach in the Upper Room

Please join us for coffee in the hall after the service

11.15 am Family Service

6.30 am Contemplative Evening Prayer

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Sunday 9th March

Theme and Readings: The Raising of Lazarus
Ezekiel 37:1-4, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Ecumenical Service @ the Coffee Spot



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

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT, FEBRUARY 25th – MARCH 9th

It's the middle of Fairtrade Fortnight. New catalogues have arrived. Lots of new gifts on sale today. New FairBreak caramel bars special offer 2 for 1 (25p).

HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK?

The festivals of the Church are there both for the worship of God and for our spiritual benefit. Many Christians miss out on opportunities for blessing through missing these special occasions. Holy Week, in which we remember Christ's suffering for us all, provides such an opportunity to come face to face with the most profound events of human history. If you have primary school age children, plan to come to our Family Service on Good Friday at 10.00 am. Other key opportunities for worship and reflection are the Palm Sunday evening service (see below), Maundy Thursday celebration of the Last Supper and All-night Vigil (8pm), and the 2pm Passion Service on Good Friday.

YOUNG CHURCH AND CRECHE

Young Church will be starting again on **Sunday 9th March** during the 9.30 a.m. service. We are trying a different format whereby children will go straight to Young Church at the Pastoral Centre at 9.25 a.m. and will be brought by the leaders into the church for the final part of the service. The crèche will now run in the Seeby Hall alongside Young Church. We are consulting on how to make St Michael's better for children and families, so please pick up a questionnaire and return it with your comments.

EMMAUS COURSE AND CONFIRMATION

The Emmaus course is an introduction to the basics of the Christian faith: what Christians believe, how Christians grow spiritually, and how Christians live. It is suitable for those who are unsure what they believe and for those who would like to look afresh at things they have taken on trust for some time. It also counts as preparation for Confirmation (there will be a service of Confirmation here on Sunday 8th June). Please pick up a green leaflet at the back of the church, and return the form to register your interest.

CHILDREN AND COMMUNION

As part of our exploration of the subject of children being admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation, there will be a sermon on the subject on Sunday 30th March at the 8.00 and 9.30 services, followed by an open discussion after the 9.30 service. Bishop Stephen's paper on the theological basis for this is available at the back of church. THANK YOU to those who have written to express their opinion on this subject. So far all letters received are *against* the idea! If you are *in favour*, please will you also write to say so, and why. The PCC will be considering whether to go ahead with this proposal on 14th May.

PALM SUNDAY MUSIC AND MEDITATION

On Palm Sunday (16th March) there will be a service of music sung by the choir, hymns and readings from biblical and non-biblical sources for the beginning of Holy Week at 6.30 pm. Put it in your diary now!

EASTER LILY DONATIONS

Your donations for Easter Lilies are now invited. The suggested amount this year is £3.50. Please sign the form at the back of Church and take an envelope for your donation. This should be returned to the Parish Office or a Church Warden, thank you.

MARRIED AND WILLING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The local charity *Explore* is looking for married couples who would be willing to give a few hours once a year during the day to help in a project in schools. Couples are asked to share their experience of the ups and downs of married life by answering the questions of a group of students with the support of a trained facilitator. No training necessary, just a willingness to be open and honest with the young people. The young people really appreciate the opportunity to talk to you and couples also find the experience a really positive one. You will not be asked to go into local schools where you might be known. Next event is March 13th. Please speak to Liz Percival, 01344 779658.

living faith

is a day of inspiration and encouragement for anyone who wants to help others on their journey to faith and discipleship

living faith is happening because we want to see congregations grow.

Come and enjoy worship, teaching, seminars and resources.

Saturday 7th June 2008, 9.30 am – 3.30 pm in Oxford

Cost £10 - including lunch - before March 31st

£15 thereafter

See www.oxford.anglican.org for more details.

Please let one of the clergy know if you're interested.

FAMILY FUN MORNING, 8th MARCH

This Saturday there is a morning of fun activities at St Michael's School, run by Bracknell Forest Borough Council. Come and take part in craft activities, messy play, a drumming workshop, K'nex challenges etc. To book a place please phone Natalie at the Open Learning Centre, 01344 457427.