

St Michael's News August 2012

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Maintaining the life of the church

I can remember as a teenager people saying that unless we get younger people in the church will die; but of course it didn't. Every generation since the beginning of Christianity has probably said the same thing.

The July/August *Door* had an article entitled 'Church prays for elastic walls as attendance quadruples'. The article relates the experience of St Mary's in Buckinghamshire, where they concentrated on increasing their family service attendance, with great success. Our family service under John's leadership has grown considerably from a service that used to be seated in the choir stalls to a packed church in 2012. It is these young families that will take the church forward to the next generation.

Schools are not teaching the Christian faith these days. So family services are not just good ways to get younger people into church, they are a vital source of Christian teaching, which otherwise children may well not get.

In the last few words of Matthew's gospel Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations. So let us pray continually for all our lay people, whose help is so crucial in the running of the services and Sunday schools, because they are the people fulfilling Jesus' great command.

John White



Please pray for those on the prayer board; for Michael Pendleton; for those married here recently: Laura Anderson and Paul Linsell.

Church Activities

August Coffee Rota Reminder

5th August	Chris Pocock	Rosemary Dobson
12th August	Ann Harris	Jenny Thorn
19th August	Wendy Grafton	Val Travers
26th August	Gillian Davies	Jo Arthy

Prayer Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month (18th August) at 9.30–10.15 am in the church and the 4th Wednesday (22nd August) at 8.00–8.45 pm.

House Groups meet each week at these homes:

Monday	8.00 pm	11 Sylvan Ridge (Rupert & Sheridan)
Tuesday	10.15 am	6 Crowthorne Rd (Doris Saunders)
Tuesday	8.00 pm	28 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne (Elizabeth Ritchie)
Tuesday	8.00 pm	2 School Hill (John & Sue Campbell)
Tuesday	8.00 pm	34 Albion Road (Linda Lemmon)
Tuesday	8.00 pm	25 Templar Close (John & Stephanie Martin)

If anyone would like to join a group, please speak to John White (01344 774349) for more details.

Young Church is part of the 9.30 am Parish Communion Service every Sunday, for children aged 3–10. Please register your children at 9.20 am in the Pastoral Centre. The children join the adults towards the end of the church service. Parents interested in their children receiving Holy Communion are asked to speak to Rev. John Castle.

Crèche. A Crèche facility is now available for under threes in the Pastoral Centre Lounge area. Please arrive prior to the 9.30 am service to settle your children, signing them in on arrival. Earlier collection can be arranged if you wish to be together to share Holy Communion as a family. Otherwise, collect your children after the service at coffee time. Initially Angela Harper and Caroline Bowles (Ofsted Registered Childminders) shall be caring for your children, although we would like to get a Crèche rota in place to share the load. If you are interested in helping out please contact Angela on 07932 333619 for further details. (CRB checks will be required)

REACH runs parallel to the Parish Communion Service, at 9:30–10:45 am.

Farewell to Kylie

It's a sad time for us, especially the young people and youth team, as Kylie Garrill moves on this month. Kylie has been our part-time youth worker, while studying at Moorlands College, Christchurch, since October last year. During that time she has let loose her considerable enthusiasm, creativity and bubbly personality with considerable effect, starting a Bible-study meeting for older teens, and running two highly successful Messy Church events, as well as continuing to oversee weekly Reach and 'The Forge' meetings and speaking at assemblies at our local primary schools. She has also been running Youth Emmaus this last term with Jan Herd. The big new milestone for Kylie will be her marriage to Martin on 22 September, after which she will be supporting Martin in his role as Families Worker at Epsom Baptist Church. We thank her for all that she has put into the life of our church, and wish her well in the future. It is hoped that we will be able to give Kylie a proper send-off in September.

Toddler Time is on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 9.30–11.00 am. Except during school holidays

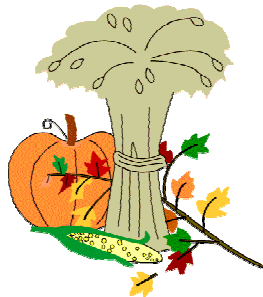
Church Flowers. Please ring Jennie 01344 775881 for information if you wish to help arrange the church flowers. Thank you.

Guest Preacher, 5th August

Rev. Kris Kramer is our guest celebrant and preacher at the 8.00 Holy Communion, and will be preaching at the 9.30 Parish Communion service. He will be speaking on the theme of Equipping the Church from Ephesians 4:1-16, kicking off a mini-series on the last three chapters of that letter. Kris is chaplain at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, but is originally from the USA. You can read his blog at <http://frkris.wordpress.com>.

Harvest Supper

We are arranging a Harvest Supper on Saturday 13th October 2012 at 7.00 pm. We need some help to plan it, and to give us ideas. We would also like offers from people to cook various parts of the meal. Janet Pilbeam has offered to organise the meals but we need someone to organise some games for adults and children. It must be at least 15 years since we last had a Harvest Supper and it will be great to get it going again.



Please speak to John or Jill White if you would like to help. There will be a list at the back of the church in September.

Church groups

Please book all planned events through the office (01252 873030) to ensure there are no double bookings. The office takes private bookings most weekends, so it is essential that dates are checked and then entered into the office diary. A booking form should also be completed giving times required. Please do not ask clergy to take on this responsibility.

Blue Envelopes

Please use the gift aid envelopes for even small amounts of cash if you are a taxpayer and have paid enough tax to do so. This is free money from the government and worth doing because it all adds up!

Volunteers required!

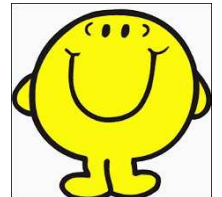
Churchyard Maintenance. With mega growth and rain-restricted-maintenance activities in the churchyard, we need to mount a major jungle clearing operation.

We plan to have a working party in the churchyard on Saturday 8th September, starting at 9.30 am. We need to tackle the hedges, surroundings and any other wilderness areas needing attention. Please help if you can (all necessary equipment will be provided). Contact Peter Hulbert on 01344-775881, or leave a message in the Church Office. Many thanks. Peter Hulbert

Family Service. Help is urgently required for the family service with regard to refreshments, sides persons and technicians. I organise the rota for the family service and therefore would like any volunteers. Please email me kirsty@tcb-arrow.co.uk Thank you, Kirsty Dunlop.

Share the vision

Our vision at St Michael's is to be a vibrant community of Christians, growing in our faith and making a difference in the world. As part of that vision we support good causes locally and worldwide. If you consider St Michael's your church and share our vision, we'd like to invite you to get involved by making a commitment to give regularly to the work of our church. If you are already a member of the Pledged Giving Scheme, THANK YOU! If not, we really need your support. Please pick up a yellow card in church and join up.



Making sense of the Bible evening

Why do most churchgoers not open a Bible from one week to the next? Perhaps it seems daunting – too long, too obscure, too much effort? Perhaps you think that you need a degree in theology to begin to make sense of it? Are you uncomfortable about some Bible passages, or sceptical about whether the Bible can be squared with modern science?

Do you dare face these questions, these fears? If so, come along to the first of our Winter Talks, where John Castle will tackle the question of interpreting the Bible. Tuesday 16th October at 8.00 pm in the church. Refreshments will be served.

The Social Committee

The social committee consists of John Martin, David Hunt, Jan King and Jill and John White. We attend either the 8.00 am or the 9.30 am service and because of that the main social events tend to be organised around them. We desperately need to cater for the younger age group, those who attend the family service for example. We are by definition a very social bunch of people and would be pleased to welcome new younger members to our team. We meet about six or seven times a year, usually over a cup of coffee, starting at 8.00 pm and invariably home by 10.00 pm. If you would like to join us please make yourself known to one of the committee.

Visit of Maggie Crewes, 15th July

If you missed the visit of Maggie Crewes on 15th July, you can hear more about her work with street kids in Addis Ababa by watching some YouTube clips. Be humbled and inspired!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdUqt-xcz0Q&feature=relmfu>

You can also give to Retrak, the organisation she works for – pick up a form in church or go to their website: www.retrak.org.

Winter Talks

These are being arranged with some very interesting people. So far we have Andrew Bishop of Reading, The Area Dean David Hodgson, the newish Minister of the Methodist Church Keith Lowder and our very own Rev. John Castle.

Please keep the third Tuesday of the month in October, November, January, February, March and April free.

Messy Church

If you came along to either of the Messy Church sessions that Kylie did, you will have an idea what the Messy Church concept is all about – worship, Bible teaching and fellowship, but in the context of painting, making, exploring, and eating (!) – in a word, doing church in a way that is creative and fun. It is also very accessible to children and their parents/grandparents/carers, who might not think of coming along to a 'traditional' service, so can be a great form of outreach.



If you think you could help run a Messy Church event once in a while, please get in touch with John Castle (rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk). There are already some people interested!

Bring & Share Lunch on Sunday 16th September from 12.00 noon

Everyone is invited to the next bring and share lunch which is being held on the 16th September in the Pastoral Centre. This is a great opportunity to meet people who may go to a different service from you and find out about what goes on at St Michael's.

For more information please contact Angela Harper or Emma Hodge.

Empress Gardens

Another lunch is being organized at the Empress Gardens. Ching Tang will again generously give the church £2 for every meal enjoyed there on a Sunday lunch. It is being arranged for Sunday 23rd September. Please ring Jan King to book your place.



Verger needed

We urgently need a new verger one weekend per month for any weddings on the Saturday (paid), and Sunday 9.30 service (unpaid).

Please speak to Jenny Thorn on 01344 775805 if you would like to discuss what is involved. Thank you.

Silver Band

The concert with the choir planned for September will not now take place. An event for next year is being considered.

Church Fundraising

If you would like to organise a fundraising event for the church or make a suggestion, please contact John White (01344 774349) or Jan King, via the Parish Office (01252 873030).

Food Bank

Thank you for the food donations so far. Please keep them coming. Collection boxes are located in the church and in the Pastoral Centre.

Home Produce – Sunday 14th October

Jan King would love to make jam for the stall but doesn't have enough jam jars. Please can you give empty jars (with lids) to her ASAP. If you are unable to make jam or chutneys yourself for this event, she would like donations of sugar, please.

Thank you.



August Ramble

David Hunt is arranging another of his enjoyable rambles on August 17th in the evening. He is starting at the main car park at the Memorial Park at 6.30 pm. If walkers would like, he will round off the evening at a pub. Dogs, of course, are welcome.

David says: 'Summer weather has arrived at last and, hopefully, will still be with us for our evening walk on Friday 17 August. Meet in the main car park at the Memorial Park at 6.30 pm for a stroll of an hour or so along the riverside and perhaps into the edge of Yateley. Trainers or strong shoes suggested.'



Newsletter

Please email William Lee at stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk or leave written requests with the church office in the Pastoral Centre. Deadline for September's edition: 20th August 2012.

To help the environment and save paper, you can now receive future editions of this newsletter by email? These are in colour and are normally sent out a few days before the paper copy is available. To opt in to this scheme please contact PCC member David Hunt david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.

Regular Activities at the Pastoral Centre

Little Sandhurst Nursery. Daily! Phone Marian for details 07732 409095

Line Dancing. Every Monday evening in the hall from 7.00 pm, £5 includes raffle. Just come along and have fun. Tea and coffee available or bring your own drinks. Ring Sue or Arron on 01344 485097 for information.

Rainbows meet on Tuesdays: 5.00–6.00 pm (5–7 year olds).

Guides meet on Tuesdays: 6.30–8.30 pm (10–14 year olds).

Pilates takes place in the large upper room, most days and evenings. For more information ring Carl on 01344 762712.

Zumbatomic after-school classes, 4.00 pm on Thursdays – the crazy-cool dance fitness workout for kids aged 4–12 yrs. Packed with choreographed routines to music like hip-hop, reggaeton and cumbia, Zumbatomic classes increase focus and self-confidence, boost metabolism and improve coordination. For more information contact Beth on 07976 231896 or go to www.zumbawithbeth.co.uk.

Karate Club for Children Friday's 5.45–6.45pm. Phone Neil on 07816 163845

Finance

For the year to **June** our monthly giving was £7,770 compared to our budget of £8,106 – so behind budget. At end June we had £32,523 in the general fund bank account, which represents 2.3 months of our budgeted annual expenses. This is worse than the previous month, when we had 3.6 months and were behind our target of 3 months.

Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Fri 17 August 6.30pm	Start: Memorial Park	August Ramble	David Hunt
Sun 16 Sept from 12.00 noon	Pastoral Centre	Bring and Share lunch	Angela Harper Emma Hodge
Sun 23 Sept 12.30pm	Empress Gardens	Lunch	Jan King
Sat 13 Oct 7.00pm	Pastoral Centre	Harvest Supper	Social Committee
Sun 14 Oct 8.30-11.00am	Pastoral Centre	Home produce stall	Jan King
Tue 16 Oct 8.00 pm	Pastoral Centre	First winter talk	Church Office



Church picnic in the Rectory garden, 1st July.

August Church Services

Sunday 5th August – 9th after Trinity – Topic: The equipping of the Church

Readings: Ephesians 4:1–16 (p1175); John 6:24–35 (p1070)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Family Service
- 6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 12th August – 10th after Trinity – Topic: A worthy manner of life

Readings: 2 Samuel 18:5–9 (p323), 15:31–33 (p320); Ephesians 4:25–5:2 (p1176); John 6:35, 41–51 (p1070)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am No Service
- 6.30 pm No Service

Sunday 19th August – 11th after Trinity – Topic: Wise living

Readings: 1 Kings 2:10–12 (p336), 3:3–14 (p338); Ephesians 5:15–20 (p1176); John 6:51–58 (p1071)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Family service
- 6:30 pm No service

Sunday 26th August – 12th after Trinity – Topic: Spiritual Welfare

Readings: 1 Kings 8:22–30 (p345), 41–43 (p346); Ephesians 6:10–20 (p1177); John 6:56–69 (p1071)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Lily Dugmore, Lexie Walton and Aurelia Stevens
- 6:30 pm No Service

Weddings

- 3rd August David Guillaume and Kate Higgs
- 24th August Stuart Houghton and Jessica Ginn
- 25th August Paul Whitaker and Jessica Secchiati
- 25th August Stephen Gale and Gemma Turner

Sandhurst Day Centre

Communion 11.30 am on the 1st Wednesday, and Songs of Praise 11.30 am on the 3rd Wednesday on the 3rd Wednesday each month.

Early morning services. You may find it useful to come to the 8.00 am service if you are going out for the rest of the day!



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<https://twitter.com/#!/StMichaelShurst>

The Parish Office August Opening Hours

Mon–Fri. 10.00am–12.00pm

(Except Friday 10th August – Closed)