

St Michael's News July 2012

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Going for growth!

One of the exciting things about church work is seeing people grow and develop. Right now we have 11 young people on the Youth Emmaus course, and six adults on the adult course. Over the past seven-and-a-half years I have been here I've seen a number of people pass through Emmaus and leadership courses and move on in their faith and service. They are the reason I'm hopeful for the future of St Michael's. I've also seen people drop out of church and many others just 'coasting' in their faith.

Jesus' Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1ff) speaks of different ways people respond to the Word of God. Some never get started. Some start off with great enthusiasm and then drop out when the going gets tough. Others grow a bit but never reach their potential because they're too occupied with the cares, pleasures and busyness of life. Others produce lots of fruit.

How about taking some time this summer to reflect on your own response to God, and apply the parable to yourself. Which category are you in? Is there anything you'd want to change in order that you can grow and bear fruit for God's kingdom?

John Castle



Please pray for Kirstein McNamara, Andrea Tallamy and Louise Tooze, who are being confirmed at St John's Crowthorne at 6 pm on 1st July, and for Fiona Whitley, who will be re-affirming her baptismal vows. Please also pray for others on the Emmaus and Youth Emmaus courses. Please pray for those who have recently passed away: Katherine Trickey.

Church Activities

July Coffee Rota Reminder

1st July	Ann Weston	Di Taylor
8th July	Val Brown	Ann Francose
15th July	Dorothy Hill	Alan Bunton
22th July	Di Pullar	John Albinson
29th July	Stephanie Martin	Gillian Davies

Prayer Meetings are held in the church on the 3rd Saturday of the month (21st July), at 9.30–10.15 am, and the 4th Wednesday (25th July), 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 Parish Communion Service every Sunday for children aged 3–10. Please register your children at 9.20 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.

Keeping the faith on holiday

Are you going away on holiday this summer? Why not make your holiday a time of spiritual as well as physical and/or mental refreshment? Here are some ideas:

- † Reading material: in addition to taking a novel, why not pack your Bible and daily notes (available from the back of church for free) and find 10–15 minutes a day to keep in touch with God with a little reading and prayer? If you'll have internet access you can access daily Bible readings at www.wordlive.org or www.rejesus.co.uk. There are also some Christian books – biographies and other material – available for borrowing on the bookshelves in the Pastoral Centre.
- † Find a church near your holiday location: if you're in the UK, you won't be far from a church. If you have children with you, try one that looks like it will be welcoming to them – even if it's not Anglican! The website www.churchofengland.org.uk can help you find an Anglican church; www.findachurch.co.uk for other churches. If you're holidaying abroad, there are a lot of English-speaking churches or services. Just visit the website www.ics-uk.org/churches/ for details of your nearest, or look in the Directory of English-Speaking Churches Abroad, a copy of which is at the back of our church. (Please don't remove it – copy down the details for your use later.)

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.

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!

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.

Volunteers required!

Churchyard Maintenance. Help is always welcome during the spring and summer months to cut the grass and maintain the flower border next to the Pastoral Centre. If you are available to help and would like to know more, then please contact Peter Hulbert on 01344 775881, or leave a message in the Church Office.

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.

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.

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.

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).

Finance

For the year to **May** our monthly giving was £8,116 compared to our budget of £8,106 – so, on budget. At end May we had £50,176 in the general fund bank account which represents 3.6 months of our budgeted annual expenses. This is better than the previous month, when we had 2.8 months, and ahead of our target of 3 months.

A Sporting Chance

I expect most of us will be watching the Olympics this month. You will notice athletes from African countries such as Kenya, Zimbabwe Ethiopia, and Nigeria, to name but a few – all Third World countries.

John and I have been to Kenya and seen the lack of even the simplest facilities; we certainly did not see any sports stadiums or running tracks. So how do their athletes manage to train to such a remarkable standard and be able to compete with world-class athletes? The answer is that they were given a chance, someone gave them the opportunity. We all need opportunities to make the best of ourselves, and poor people need the opportunities more than most. Think back on your life. I am sure someone gave you a helping hand at some point.

The poorest in the world desperately need to be given a chance in other ways. I am now thinking about Traidcraft. By buying Fairtrade you can give people a chance. Traidcraft gives Third World farmers the true price of their produce. They don't haggle with them and go somewhere else where it is cheaper. They help train and support people in developing skills so that they can then support their own families, send their children to school and give them simple health care. Schools and health care have to be paid for. They are not 'free' as they are for us in our rich country. The difference is that Traidcraft actually does the hard work of setting up fairtrade businesses, and the supermarkets take advantage. Yes fairtrade is more expensive, but the reason is that a fair price has been paid.

Jill White

Visit from Maggie Crewes (Retrak, Ethiopia)

We're very fortunate that Maggie Crewes, the founder of the project for street children in Addis Ababa, will be visiting us on 15th July, speaking at all services. Please do your best to get along to church on that day – it will be inspiring!

Have you made a Pledge?

We are looking for more people to join the Pledged Giving Scheme, to enable our church to meet its financial commitments. Last year we closed with a deficit of £14,000. If we could recruit another 28 people or families giving an average of £10 a week, or 56 giving £5 a week, we would be clear! Please pick up a leaflet in church and sign up as soon as possible! Thanks.

West Africa Food Crisis: An appeal from Tearfund

Tearfund is a Christian relief and development agency which is supported by St Michael's Church. Please read their appeal below and respond directly if you can.



Photo: Richard Hanson/Tearfund

Niger: people queuing to receive millet from a Tearfund partner grain bank.

Food Bank

We have set up a Food Bank collection and wish to ask everyone, if you can, to buy an extra tin or packet when you go shopping, or make use of the buy one get one free offers. There is a large box in the church and in the office for any donations and when they are full they will be taken to the Bracknell Food Bank. On the boxes and around the church are lists of the types of food needed. It would be good if we could keep this going for several months so that we can make a difference and help those in our community.

Thank you so much for the donations so far; the people from the Bracknell Food Bank are very grateful. Karen Symons

All the Bells

On Friday 27th July at 8.12 am as many bells in the UK as possible will ring out to mark the start of the Olympics.

Millions of people face starvation in West Africa after a severe drought had a disastrous impact on harvests and livestock. Countries affected are among the poorest in the world and include Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger, which have all declared states of emergency.

Tearfund's Mark Lang writes:

'Recently I went with a small team from Tearfund to a remote part of Niger. We visited communities worst hit by the food crisis that has left over one million children at risk of starvation across West Africa.

'Drought is ravaging the land. Families who usually harvest 900 kg of millet in a year are harvesting as little as 15 kg, if any.

'People are forced to roam for miles to find any vegetation that can be eaten. Families are living from day to day on just one meagre meal, slowly ground down by the lack of nutrition.'

A life-saving gift of £65 can provide enough millet to feed a family of ten for one month. Or a donation of £35 could purchase 25 tree saplings to help stabilise the soil for planting.

Go to www.tearfund.org and click on Emergency Appeal, phone 0845 355 8355 or post your cheque to: Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE

Many thanks!

This initiative entitled 'All the Bells' encourages anyone and everyone to ring a bell of any description at the designated time. This can be a doorbell, bicycle bell, school bell, church tower bell, handbell or any other bell you can think of. St Michael's Belles are planning to ring their handbells in front of St George's Church in Owlsmoor. Please stop to listen, if you're passing, or come and join us with a bell for a massed ring at the end of our short performance. We look forward to seeing you.

Summer Beach Day – revised information

The beach day is on 14th July at Durley Chine Beach, Bournemouth, BH2 5JF. We plan to meet at 11.00 am, by the ice cream stall on the beach. We are hoping, of course, for a lovely sunny day. If the weather is miserable and people want to contact us to find out if it is still happening, please phone Emma 07500868972 or Rosaria 07508816484 or Kylie 07586252620.

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Everyone to bring their own picnics and supplies, swimmers and sun cream and money for ice creams! Everyone welcome to join us and bring any friends.

Harvest Supper

We are trying to arrange a Harvest Supper on October 13th. We hope lots of people will come, including young families. It would be in the early evening. We need some help to plan it, and give us ideas. We would also like offers from people to cook various parts of the meal, or maybe we could just have fish and chips? If young children come we could have one or two games.



It must be at least 15 years since we last had a Harvest Supper and it would be great to get it going again. Please speak to John or Jill White if you would like to help.

Christian Aid Lunch. £625.00 was raised at the Christian Aid lunch in Maybrick Close. Many thanks to those who donated. Dorothy Hill

Announcement

Bob and Jenny Oakley are pleased to announce that their youngest daughter, Victoria, is engaged to Edward Williams. The proposal was made during the Jubilee weekend. They plan to marry at St Michael's church next year.

Newsletter deadline

Please email William Lee at stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk or leave written requests with the Pastoral Centre office. Deadline for August's edition: 16th July 2012.

Newsletter by email

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 into 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.

Sandhurst Freedom March

St Michael's was well represented at the Freedom March celebrations: we helped to 'man' the Churches Together stall and, with three tenors, the choir and friends contributed towards the evening's entertainment.



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

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

Zumbatomic after-school classes, 4.00 pm on Thursdays – the crazy-cool dance fitness workout for kids aged 4–12 yrs. Packed with choreographed

Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sun 1 July 12.30pm	Rectory Garden	Church picnic	John & George Castle
Sun 1 July 6.00pm	St John's, Crowthorne	Confirmation	John Castle
Sat 14 July From 11.00am	Durley Chine Beach, Bournemouth	Girl's Group summer beach day	Rosaria Toohey
Fri 17 August time tba	Start: Memorial Park	Evening walk	David Hunt
Sun 16 Sept 12.30pm	Pastoral Centre	Bring and Share lunch	John Castle
Sun 23 Sept 12.30pm	Empress Gardens	Lunch	Jan King
Sat 13 Oct time tba	Pastoral Centre	Harvest Supper	Social Committee
Sun 14 Oct 8.30–11.00am	Pastoral Centre	Home produce stall	Jan King

routines to music like hip-hip, 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.

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).

July Church Services

Sunday 1st July – 4th after Trinity – Topic: David mourns Saul and

Jonathan

Readings: 2 Samuel 1:1 17–27 (p304), 2 Corinthians 8:7–15 (p1163)

Mark 5:21–43 (p1007)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Family Service & Baptism of Cameron Black
- 6.00 pm Confirmation @ Crowthorne
- 6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 8th July – 5th after Trinity – Topic: Bible Sunday

Readings: tba.

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion – All age
- 11.30 am Baptism of Thomas Double, Lily–Mae Cullimore, Oliver, Samuel & Amber Binks
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical Service

Sunday 15th July – 6th after Trinity – Topic: David and the Ark

Readings: 2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12–19 (p309), Ephesians 1:3–14 (p1173);

Mark 6:14–29 (p1008)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion. Baptism of Rosie Joseph
- 11.15 am Family service.
- 6.30 pm No service

Sunday 22nd July – 7th after Trinity – Topic: David and Bathsheba

Readings: 2 Samuel 11:1–15 (p314), Ephesians 2:11–22 (p1174);

Mark 6:30–34 (p1009), 53–56 (p1010)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Baptism of Benjamin & Lola Bloomfield, William and Eadie Champion
- 6.30 pm Sung Evensong

Sunday 29th July – 8th after Trinity – Topic: Nathan confronts David

Readings: 2 Samuel 11:26–12–13a (p315), Ephesians 3:14–21 (p1175);

John 6:1–21 (p1069)

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

Weddings Saturday 21st July 2012, 2.00 pm – Wedding of Laura Anderson and Paul Linsell

Sandhurst Day Centre. Communion 11.30 am on the 1st Wednesday (4th July), and Songs of Praise 11.30 am on the 3rd Wednesday (18th July) 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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