

# St Michael's News February 2017

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst,  
Berkshire, GU47 8HN [www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)

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## OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH

*Knowing God for ourselves. Growing as individuals and as a church.  
Showing God's love in the world.*

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## Sandhurst Youth – Mission in action

Sometimes people ask, 'Where's Esther?' The answer is, 'out there!' Sandhurst Youth is a great example of what being 'Mission shaped' means in practice. As a church we are working jointly with Sandhurst Town Council, and two-thirds of Esther's time is dedicated to meeting the young people of Sandhurst on their territory, and on their terms. Work in schools, and detached work, form the core of her weekly routine. Day by day she is meeting young people and helping them articulate their dreams for life ahead, and developing the skills and character they will need.

As Christians we are called to be in the world, but not of it – a call to be actively engaged in our community, our country, and the world at large. We start by seeing every individual through God's eyes with love and compassion, seeing the good in them, rather than the faults. Engaging in mission involves everything we have, our time, our talents, our resources, and putting them all in service of God. Mission comes from the Latin 'sent out' – it's engaging with people and issues where they are, not waiting on our territory for them to come to us.

Where is God calling you to mission?

Dave Percival



*Please pray for William Taylor, Timothy George Murphy, William Clark, and Lydia Denley, whose funerals took place in January. Please also pray for Phillip King, who has died.*

## Charities the church is supporting for 2017 and 2018

Supporting charities is a great way to put our faith into action both as individuals and as a church – it's a vital part of showing Christ's love to the world around us. Every two years the PCC agrees a list of charities which we as a church will be actively supporting over the next two years. Full details about the charities are available at the back of the church and on the website.

We support the charities in two main ways: by giving financially, and through prayer and active engagement. Financially, the PCC models the way we are each called to give – by committing a 'tithe' (in our case 10 per cent) of our regular income (the money we receive through the planned giving of church members and the collections at each regular service). This amounts to about £8,000 each year, which the PCC has decided should be allocated:

- one-third to International work (split equally between [Compassion Tearfund](#) and [Retrak](#));
- one-third to UK/International work (split equally between [Church Mission Society](#) and [Barnabas Fund](#));
- one-third to local charities – all of which originated in St Michael's Church ([Sandhurst Counselling Service](#), Howard Stilliard Trust, and the Hardship Fund). The allocation between them reflects their relative need.

Additionally each year we have a lent appeal for a specific charity. We will also continue to support two charities through activities: the local Foodbank through collection point and harvest donations; and the Children's Society through specific activities in December.

However, we wish to do more to show God's love to people through these charities. As a first step, each month we will highlight one of the charities with an article in the newsletter, and prayer points which can be used at home as well as in the church services. We are also looking at other ways in which we can develop our relationship with the charities. If anyone feels God calling them to champion one of the above charities within our church, then please speak to John Castle, Emma Hodge, or Clare Hardy.

The church carries out its review of our charitable giving every two years. When did you last review your personal giving? Would the model the church uses (a tithe, some additional specific charities, prayer and engagement) be a model you could follow?

### *Cleanliness is next to...*

One of the things I've learnt as church warden is that St Michael's doesn't keep itself clean. There is a devoted team of 18 cleaners who regularly give their time to keep the place as we would like to find it.

The rota works because everyone does a little bit, occasionally and I would very much like to support these ladies and gentlemen by getting a few more willing volunteers. Do speak to myself or Dave or contact me by e-mail ([suecampbell2906@btinternet.com](mailto:suecampbell2906@btinternet.com)).

I am having a Church Cleaner's Afternoon Tea on **Wednesday 1st March** from 2.30 pm for those who currently clean as a thank-you and for those interested in joining the team.

I am also holding a church 'Spring Clean' on **Saturday 8th April** from 9.00–12.30am. We need as many people as possible to help us make the building ready for Easter. Do come and join us – refreshments provided.

Sue Campbell



### *500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation*

Anybody who was intrigued by Emma's reference to Martin Luther and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in Sunday's Evensong sermon might like to read the announcement made by the Oxford Diocese in the 18th-January edition of the [E-news](#). The Diocese says:

A series of commemorations is taking place throughout 2017, including 'Stations of the Reformation' across Europe from the Irish Republic to Romania, with events in the UK in February. Canon Tony Dickinson will be gathering a group from this diocese to take part in the [Kirchentag](#).

More information can be obtained from the Oxford Diocese, tel 01865 208200.

# When times are hard

We live in uncertain times – and sometimes things can hit us, or our friends, quite unexpectedly, and very hard. The sudden redundancy, the hit-and-run accident to our car, sudden illness, or a child that needs our support many miles away. The causes are myriad – but the impact is often the same. We urgently need finances and they are not available!

In the Bible we have repeated exhortations to ‘love our neighbour’ in practical ways: many of the Old Testament laws were designed to make sure that those who found themselves in need in the community were provided for, and the New Testament describes how the Jerusalem church put this into practice so that ‘there was not a needy person among them’ (Acts 4:34). Several years ago the PCC set up a Hardship Fund within our overall framework of Charitable Giving so that we can assist those most in need in our own context.

The Fund is administered by the Rector and Churchwardens, and every request is treated in the strictest confidence. The Fund is for one-off grants for specific expenditure, rather than for on-going deprivation, and the beneficiaries would be people who either live within the parish of Sandhurst or have an active and current connection to St Michael's Church. They may well be referred by a friend or neighbour.

Although the funds are not abundant, they are there to be used, so if you know of anyone who is in need of some financial help to get them through a tricky situation, or need this yourself, please speak to the Rector, a Churchwarden or our Family Worker.

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## **QUIZ** **EVENING**



***Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm***  
***FISH and CHIP SUPPER***  
*(\*veg option)*

***Puzzling Questions and Raffle***

***at St Michael's Pastoral Centre***  
***Lower Church Road, Sandhurst***

***Tickets £12 adults***

***£6 children under 18 & 'no food'***  
*Available from Social Committee & Church Office*

***Bring your own drinks and glasses***

**toddler time** is for everyone under school age and their carers. It's on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, from 9.30 to 11.15am, in the Pastoral Centre (not school holidays). Come and join us for songs, craft activities, drinks and toast, a Bible story and prayers, and an opportunity for play (children) and chat (parents). NB – Dads also welcome!

**Parish Communion (9.30 am).** During term time, there are age-related activities in the Pastoral Centre for children aged 3 up to school year 5 every week, and for Year 6+ on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. They should come to the Pastoral Centre by 9.25am to be registered. The group leaders bring them into the church for the last part of the service.

**During school holidays** children should come into the church with their parents at the beginning of the service, and will be invited to join a leader after a few minutes of the service to watch a video in the Pastoral Centre. The group leaders bring them into the church for the last part of the service. A crèche is usually available for under 3s during the Parish Communion on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays in the Pastoral Centre. Please ask one of the welcome team.

For young children staying in the service there are play-bags – please ask one of the welcome team.

**The Family Service** is held on the first and third Sundays of the month, including school holidays. It is informal and child friendly, with action songs and an interactive talk, and is a place you really can come to with small children and not worry how they will behave! Refreshments are served in the church from 11.00am; worship begins at 11.15am and lasts about 45 minutes. Come and meet other families and make friends. We need help with refreshments and welcoming, so please email Kirsty Dunlop at [kirsty@tcb-arrow.co.uk](mailto:kirsty@tcb-arrow.co.uk) if you'd like to volunteer.



### **Weekday Youth Activities.**

Impact, for Years 7–9, is on Monday evenings, and a group for years 10–13 meets on Fridays. Contact our youth worker, Esther Bonsu, [esther@sandhurstyouth.org.uk](mailto:esther@sandhurstyouth.org.uk) for more information.

## Releasing Children from Poverty, in Jesus' name

*For 2017–18 we will be supporting Compassion International as one of our Parish Charities, who will receive 11 per cent of our total Charitable Giving budget. Here is some information about them.*



Compassion is one of the world's leading child development and child advocacy organisations. Working with the local church, they link a child living in poverty with a loving sponsor. Each sponsor gives their child access to education, health checks and the care of a local church-based Compassion project. They partner with churches in 26 of the world's poorest countries. These churches are able to meet the specific needs of their communities.

Money which is given by our church will go to further the work of the charity as a whole, but we would really encourage church members to consider prayerfully whether they might like to sponsor a child individually by making contact with Compassion direct. Here's an example of Compassion's work from their January 2017 magazine.

40-year-old Kadzo is the sole wage-earner for her family of 14 children, who range from seven months to 14 years old. Most of her children are school-age, but she cannot afford to keep them all in school. In many parts of the world, women are the main breadwinners, as well as the primary carers. Sadly, many women like Kadzo miss out on a decent education when young, preventing them from achieving well-paid employment.



But for Kadzo there is hope. Thanks to Compassion, her 13-year-old daughter Salama (pictured) is attending school. Education can empower girls for life. Children – especially girls – born to educated mothers are more likely to attend school themselves, resulting in opportunities that extend across generations, lifting them out of the cycle of poverty.

Salama has been sponsored since 2007, allowing her to pursue her dreams. She says, 'I want to become a teacher so that I can be a role model to girls who are not as lucky as I am.'

You can contact Compassion on <https://www.compassionuk.org/>.

In association with St Michael's Church WinSpire Project

# Valentine's Dance

Featuring Newtones Swing Band

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017

7.30pm – 11.30pm

includes live music, glass of fizz, nibbles, raffle,  
silent auction, bar and more...

£15 per ticket

Pastoral Centre, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, GU47 8HN

Tickets available from Abby Coleman, Nicki Ray and the Pastoral Centre Office

## *On the social side*

With the Parish Lunch and the Dance 'done & dusted', or nearly so, our next event will be the Parish Quiz Evening. This will be held on Saturday 4th March in the Pastoral Centre, starting at 7.30 pm, with Michael Blackman as quizmaster. Tickets cost £12 adult, £6 child, which includes a fish-and-chip supper or vegetarian alternative, or there is a no-food option at £6. This is always a popular event so do get your tickets early – they are available from Steph Martin, Ann Harris, Rosaria Toohey or the office. You will be able to park at the school. Proceeds will go to church funds.

After the successful Children's Christmas Workshop, a similar event is planned for Saturday March 18th, with the proceeds going to support the WinSpire appeal. Full details to follow.

Again in support of WinSpire, there will be a concert on Saturday 25th March, starting at 7.30 pm in the church. There will be a variety of music to enjoy, interval refreshments and free entry – just a retiring collection! Do come along – again, parking will be available at the school.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

Looking further ahead, on Sunday 7th May, we are planning to hold a 'Produce & Plants Sale'. So if you are a gardener please put a few plants aside for this, and if you are making marmalade at the moment please make a few extra pots for Karen`s Condiments Stall.

Our next parish lunch is provisionally set for 21st May. The last few get-togethers have been at the Bird-in-Hand, who always look after us well, but if you have any ideas for alternative venues please do let me know. Similarly, if you would like to be added to the e-mail circulation list for the lunches let me know.

Finally, we always welcome donations of items for use as raffle prizes – maybe a home for unwanted Christmas presents! Please put them in the blue box at the back of the church – and thank you in advance.

Chris Harris 01252-871881

### *100 club draw December 2016*

1st Prize: Mrs Jennie Hulbert No 63 £20

2nd Prize: Mr A Cox No 41 £10

£36 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

**Wheelchair.** There is one available in the Pastoral Centre for anyone who would like to borrow it. Please contact the office. It is also available for sale.

**LinkUp are holding a**



## **WINTER LUNCH**

**On: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Time: 12.30 - 2.30**

If you, a neighbour or friend would like to come please contact **Steph Martin** or the Pastoral Centre Office - **01252 873030**, with details, *before 12<sup>th</sup> February*, who will send a personal invitation.

**We can arrange transport if required**

# Home for Good

Home for Good is a UK charity that aims to make adoption and fostering a significant part of the life and ministry of the Church. It raises awareness of the need for foster and adoptive parents and encourages families to provide loving homes for the children in care.

Home for Good says: 'Every day more than 50 children are taken into care in the UK. They are removed from chaotic, traumatic, abusive, neglectful or desperate situations. Some of them need a home in an emergency. Some of them need a temporary home until they can return to their families. Some of them need an occasional home to give their families a break. Some of them need a permanent home with a new forever family.'

Across Bracknell, Sandhurst and Wokingham there are many church families that are adopters. Home for Good: Bracknell Forest and Wokingham, supported by the council post-adoption teams, now runs a monthly Saturday morning drop-in for all local adoptive families, with children up to year 6. Families meet other adopters, and build friendships while their children have fun playing. Contact Bethany Hare on [wokingham@homeforgood.org.uk](mailto:wokingham@homeforgood.org.uk) or Penny Lander on [bracknell@homeforgood.org.uk](mailto:bracknell@homeforgood.org.uk) for details

Penny Lander of Home for Good spoke about the work of the organisation at the Parish Communion and Family Services on 19th June last year. She would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like more information about their work or would like to support them in prayer or financially.



home  
for good  
Bracknell Forest



home  
for good  
Wokingham

**Monthly Stay & Play Drop-In**

**For all Bracknell and Wokingham adoptive families,  
and Special Guardians,  
with children up to Year 6 (older siblings welcome)**



**Fun ..... Safe .... Informal ....**

## ACTIVITIES AT THE PASTORAL CENTRE

**Little Sandhurst Nursery Group.** Daily! Contact Karen on 07730 340734 or email: [enquiries@LSNG.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@LSNG.co.uk) for details.

**Line Dancing.** Every Monday evening in the hall from 7.00 pm, £5.50 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).

**3rd 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.

### **The Rock and Pop Foundation**

Guitar tuition sessions are on Thursdays. For further information please call 0844 879 3305 or visit [www.rockandpopfoundation.com](http://www.rockandpopfoundation.com).

### **Coffee Rota**

|               |                |                 |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 5th February  | Gillian Davies | Rosemary Dobson |
| 12th February | Ann H-Davies   | Ruth Eve        |
| 19th February | Dorothy Hill   | Alan Bunton     |
| 26th February | Janet Pilbeam  | Joy Alexander   |

### **House Groups** meet each week at these houses.

|                     |         |   |
|---------------------|---------|---|
| 2nd and 4th-Mondays | 1.00 pm | 138 College Road (Sara Kaufman & Karen Carter)      |
| Monday              | 8.00 pm | 11 Sylvan Ridge (Rupert & Sheridan)                 |
| Tuesday             | 8.00 pm | 28 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne (Elizabeth Ritchie) |
| Tuesday             | 8.00 pm | 2 School Hill (John & Sue Campbell)                 |
| Tuesday             | 7.45 pm | 34 Albion Road (Linda Lemmon)                       |
| Tuesday             | 7.30 pm | 25 Templar Close (John & Stephanie Martin)          |

If anyone would like to join a group, please speak to Karen Symons (01252 872161) for more details.

## *Very productive youth workers!*

Spring has come early in the world of (ex) youth workers! We were delighted to learn that:

- Ben (and Lucy) are now the proud parents of Angus Joel David Askew, born 23rd January!
- Kylie (and Martin) are expecting their third in early March, and
- Frank (and Sarah) are expecting their first in July!

Must be something in the air around here!

**Newsletter.** Please send emails to [newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk) or leave written requests with the church office. Deadline for the March edition is **20th February**. You will normally be able to view or download a colour copy of the newsletter on the website a few days before it is distributed in church. If you would like to receive that version of the newsletter as an email attachment please contact David Hunt at [david.hunt@bcs.org.uk](mailto:david.hunt@bcs.org.uk).

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### CHURCH CALENDAR

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| Date & Time               | Venue           | Event                          | Contact                          |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat 4th Feb<br>7.30 pm    | Pastoral Centre | Valentine's Dance              | Abby Coleman<br>Nicki Ray        |
| Sun 19th Feb<br>12.30 pm  | Pastoral Centre | LinkUp<br>Winter Lunch         | Steph Martin or<br>Church Office |
| Sat 4th March<br>7.30 pm  | Pastoral Centre | Quiz Evening                   | See p4                           |
| Sat 18th March            | Pastoral Centre | Children's workshop            | Details to follow                |
| Sat 25th March<br>7.30 pm | church          | Concert in support of WinSpire | Details to follow                |

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### FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES

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*Charity: St Michael's Hardship Fund*

#### **Saturday 4th February – Memorial Service**

11.30 am In memory of Phillip King

## **Sunday 5th February – 4th before Lent – Theme: Salt of the earth and light for the world**

Isaiah 58:1–9a (p744); Matthew 5:13–20 (p969)

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

## **Sunday 12th February – 3rd before Lent – Theme: Radical discipleship**

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 (p209); Matthew 5:21–37 (p969)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Isabelle Costello
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical Service at St Michael's, Sandhurst

## **Sunday 19th February – 2nd before Lent – Getting our priorities right**

Matthew 6:25–34 (p971)

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

## **Sunday 26th February – 1st before Lent – The Transfiguration**

Exodus 24:12–18 (p82); Matthew 17:1–9 (p984)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Evelyn Kenward and Matthew Bond
- 6.30 pm Sung Evensong



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**Follow us on Twitter** (@StMichaelShurst)

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

If you have any comments, events, news or updates for the website, please email David Hunt on [david.hunt@bcs.org.uk](mailto:david.hunt@bcs.org.uk).



Go to Sandhurst Pride ([www.sandhurstpride.co.uk](http://www.sandhurstpride.co.uk)) if you need information about local services and amenities.