

# St Michael's News May 2017

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

**Office open:** Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10.00am–2.00pm; Thursday  
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Tel. 01252 872168



## 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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## Keeping Fresh

In the past few weeks we've seen nature renewing itself all around us: bluebells, daffodils and crocuses springing up, leaves and blossoms appearing on the trees. And, of course, the Easter message speaks of God bringing new life, and the Church's proclamation of God's unchanging love offers renewal of our lives and a fresh start.

Like the natural world, our spiritual lives need refreshment and renewal. Do you sometimes find yourself feeling stale and uninspired? Good resolutions fade, and our love for God grows lukewarm. As a church, we can also become stuck in a rut, allowing the familiar routines to blind us to the possibilities of experiencing God in new ways, or responding to fresh opportunities to serve him.

In the face of a fast-changing world, God is our security, and he will never change. But by his Spirit he does bring change in us, if we let him, enabling us to respond to a changing world with life and hope that comes from the renewal of our lives, our witness and our worship.

### John Castle



*Please pray for those on the prayer board and for those being baptised here this month. Please pray for Maureen O'Sullivan and Ronald Howlett, whose funerals have taken place.*

## *Church Prayer meeting*

Please come and join us to pray for our church. The next meetings will be:

- 15th May, 10.00–11.00 am, at 4 Dale Gardens.  
Rosaria Toohey is host.
- 30th May, 7.30 pm, at 11 Lamborne Close, Sandhurst.  
Dave and Liz Percival are host.

Everyone is most welcome, come and join us on the journey to see where God wants us to go and how we are going to get there. If you need a lift please contact me on 01252 872161.

Karen Symons

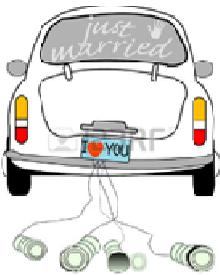
## *Parish Lunch*

As you may already have seen, the next parish lunch is on Sunday May 21st, at 12.30 pm, at the Bird-in-Hand. I have provisionally booked for 30 so if you would like to join us please will you let me know asap.

Cheers, Chris ([craeharris4@gmail.com](mailto:craeharris4@gmail.com))

## *Do You Like Weddings?*

One of the most important pieces of outreach we do at St Michael's are our weddings. Liz and Dave Percival provide excellent marriage preparation and our clergy provide meaningful and uplifting services. An important part of the team is our vergier, Janet. She has, for many years, supported couples on their special day, by making sure the organisation of the day runs smoothly.



I would very much like to support Janet by providing a team of three or four vergiers/wedding managers to work with her and take some of the load off her. It would involve an hour's rehearsal, normally on a Wednesday and two hours for the wedding, often on a Saturday. You would know well in advance when the weddings were and would need to commit to one wedding a month over the summer period. You would check that everything is ready for the wedding and check that the organisational side of it runs without a hitch. You would receive a fee for this service.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Refreshing the Parish Communion Service

In your home, do you sometimes move things round a bit, re-decorate a room or (if money allows) put in a new kitchen or bathroom?

Following feedback from regulars at our Parish Communion and from those more on the fringe, we undertook some experimental changes in autumn 2016, conducted an extensive survey of more than 60 participants, and then the PCC, helped by a representative working party, considered the views expressed and agreed a plan for refreshing the service, to start this May.

The ultimate aim of the service, of course, is to enable us to draw near to God in worship, so we may *Know God for ourselves, Grow as individuals and as a church Show his love in the world.* We wanted to find ways of incorporating some newer approaches while not losing the best of our tradition. It is hoped that introducing some more variety will not only bring refreshment to those who currently attend the service regularly, but will make it more accessible to new people, both those who would like to move on from the Family Service and others such as wedding couples – in other words, help the ‘9.30’ to be more ‘mission-shaped’.

The plan that has been agreed by the PCC is for a four-week cycle, in which each Sunday of the month has its own particular character, reflected in the styles of music, preaching and prayer. Two of the Sundays will be quite similar to the existing ‘feel’ of the service, and one will be considerably more informal. The 5th Sunday will be unchanged.

We hope you will make a point of trying out the new pattern (summarised below). We will be looking for feedback from you in the autumn so that we can make any adjustments to the pattern or content from January 2018.

## Sunday

## Special features

1st Traditional	Will include a presentation about the charity we are focussing on this month.
2nd Informal	Will include some modern worship songs led by the choir and the band; new service sheet; interactive sermon; Coffee/tea served before service in church (as well as afterwards in Pastoral Centre); a quiet space will be available before the service.
3rd Reflective	There will be space for reflection after the sermon and during the intercessions; psalm will be sung principally by the choir.
4th Community feel	Breakfast will be served in the Pastoral Centre between 8.00 and 9.30 services; service will include a short ‘Faith in Action’ interview; alternative music settings of the psalm; popular hymns.

*(Continued from page 2)*

So, if you would like to help be a part of someone else's special day, speak to Janet Pilbeam or myself and we can give more details.

Sue Campbell, Church Warden

### ***Saying Goodbye***

On the 20th May at 7.00 pm in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, [The Mariposa Trust](#), which gives support to people who have lost babies during pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy, is holding one of its Saying Goodbye services.

Stephanie Bianchi, the trust's Service Champion, writes:

'This is a service for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in early years, or who has been affected by a family member's or friend's loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend.

'We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility or for other reasons – but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their family, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all.'

### ***Signs and Wonders***

How we communicate as a church is very important to me. I am always surprised and a little upset when people say that they 'didn't know' about church decisions, events and changes. In these days of instant communication by electronic device, it is still important that we use all methods open to us. So, bearing that in mind, the PCC approved a 'Sign Strategy' which I have begun to implement.

I hope you will notice that in the Pastoral Centre, there are new sign boards and that each has a designated purpose. We now have our own board specifically for St Michael's activities and there are boards for community notices, the Counselling Service, Youth and Children's Work, and the Families Worker. The parish letter box is still in the same place, but I have moved the pigeon holes and mail centre to the lobby at the bottom of the stairs. I have also made the notice board in the north porch more user friendly and welcoming (I hope). I would also like to find someone to take over the management of the display boards at the back of the church. If you feel you

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**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. 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.

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

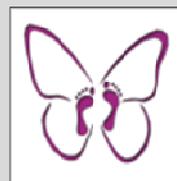
**The Family Service** is held on the first and third Sundays of the month, including school holidays. It is informal and child friendly, with action songs and an interactive talk, and is a place you really can come to with small children and not worry how they will behave! Refreshments are served in 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.

## CMS helps asylum seekers find faith



*Church Mission Society (CMS) is one of the charities we support. They work with churches both nationally and internationally to help them spread the news about Jesus to others. This is one of their recent stories.*

In a chilly church hall in Glasgow, tonight, up to 30 men who don't exist will be getting ready to sleep. They tell me the heaters will be on at Anderston Kelvingrove Church of Scotland by the time it fills up with mattresses, duvets and destitute asylum seekers. These are the people who can neither stay nor leave. Their claim for asylum refused, they have no right to benefits or accommodation, and are 'forgotten' by the system.

This happened to 27-year-old Aziz from an Afghan refugee family living in Iran. He wasn't a Christian when he left Iran but he was a young man with an urge to discover 'the true way', as he puts it. He put himself in the hands of a 'guide' and travelled by bus, car and on foot, to Turkey, on to France, and then to the UK and finally Glasgow. Here came the turning point in his story, when he met a group of Christians who treated each other well.

'My hairs stand on end when we come together like this and talk about Jesus.' Aziz has found a home and a faith in Glasgow.

Soon he was attending City of Peace, a service especially created for refugees and asylum seekers. He was able to sing in a familiar language, hear the gospel and ask questions about it with a fluent Farsi-speaking Christian.

Aziz arrived in Glasgow in July 2010. His initial claim for asylum was refused, after which he had to survive in the grey economy, with no official right to work. He eventually succeeded with a fresh claim for asylum in 2014, due to the fact that he had become a believer in Jesus and it would be dangerous to live in Afghanistan or Iran. All that time, a small group of faithful Christians, Andrew Parfitt of Church Mission Society among them, walked alongside Aziz.

***God is drawing people to himself***

'That's the way I view mission,' says Andrew, who has been living and working in Glasgow for six years. 'I know God is drawing people to himself and I want to be alongside him in that.'

'I think both my wife Faye and I want to use skills that God has given us to love people, to help, and also to use our experiences to come alongside people. Faye being from Iran, and me having spent time in Afghanistan – with a little bit of language, a little bit of cultural understanding – we want to use that and offer our gifts to the church.

'Our calling, our passion, our vision has been to come alongside Muslim people to love them, especially those coming from the Persian-speaking world.'

For the full story, please go to: <http://www.churchmissionsociety.org/our-stories/seeking-asylum-finding-faith>

### *The Call in Action: PRAY*

Pray for Andrew and Faye as they walk alongside asylum seekers.

Give thanks for how God is at work in people's hearts.

Pray for more Christians to show love and support to 'people who don't exist'.

*(‘Signs and wonders’ Continued from page 4)*

could do this, please contact me. We can all help manage these boards by making sure we put any notices we want to display in the appropriate place and removing out-of-date notices.

My next stage is to organise more space to advertise events and services outside. There will be a poster/sign board by the Pastoral Centre car park at the bottom end of the path, which will be lockable, and Angie Harper and I are looking at removable banners for specific events and services. I will keep you posted as the strategy progresses. Please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Sue Campbell ( Church Warden)

### *On the social side*

On Sunday 7th May we will be holding a **Produce & Plants Sale** in the Pastoral Centre, 8.30–11.30 am. A chance to stock up on plants for the garden and jams for the gardeners. Please bring donations of plants and cakes along on the day or contact Ann Harris on 01252 871881.

Our next **Parish Lunch** will be held on Sunday 21st May at the Bird-in-Hand at 12.30 pm. Please let me know if you would like to come asap.

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Hopefully, we will have another **family fruit picking** day soon – look out for details of that. Cream teas available back in the Pastoral Centre. Karen Allen, welcomes donations of fruit and vegetables suitable for making jam, chutney etc. Just have a word with her first.

On Sunday June 11th we are planning to hold a **Summer Garden Party** in the rectory garden, 2.30–5.00 pm, with games, music and, more cream teas. Tickets will cost £10 for adults if bought beforehand, £12 on the day, and will include a glass of summer punch. Children

under 16 will be free and will get a soft drink. Tickets will be available from Social Committee members or the office. Please do bring your own picnics, rugs, garden chairs etc. Donations of Pimms or suitable raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Looking further ahead, in prospect are another **Children`s Fun Day**, similar in format to the successful previous ones, an **Indoor Bowling Evening** and the **Harvest Supper**. Finally, if you have any ideas as to events that you would like us to run then please do have a word with one of the Social Committee.

Chris Harris 01252-871881

**christian aid** **Christian Aid Quiz**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017

St George's Church, Owlsmoor

Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start



£8 entry including a fish, vegetarian or sausage 'n' chip supper

There will be a raffle

All proceeds will go to Christian Aid

Please give numbers and menu choices to your church co-ordinator:

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## Welcome Evening

On **Wednesday 17th May at 8.00 pm** there will be wine and nibbles, and an opportunity to find out more about how St Michael's works, who's who, who makes decisions, who pays for it all, and how you can be involved.

This is especially for people who are new to St Michael's, but anyone is welcome. It will be upstairs in the Pastoral Centre, and will finish by 9.30.

## *Prayer Walks*

Would you like to pray for our local community?

Would you like to join in with people from other churches in a simple way?

Do you like walking?

If the answer is yes to one or all of these questions then please join in with the prayer walks that are starting from St Michael's and St George's on Thursday 25th May at 2.00 pm and Saturday 27th May at 10.00 am. The walks should last no longer than two hours, with plenty of stops along the way for prayer and will finish at the Baptist Church, where refreshments will be waiting. Dogs are welcome on the walks – and in the Baptist church for refreshments at the end! If you are unable to walk but want to join in, then please go to the Baptist Church between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm on 25th May and between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon on 27th May, where you can gather with other people who can't walk but want to pray for Sandhurst.

These walks are part of 'Thy Kingdom Come' a global initiative which was launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury to encourage people to pray between Ascension (25th May) and Pentecost (4th June), especially prayers for people to come to know Jesus. For more information on 'Thy Kingdom Come' please go to [www.thykingdomcome.co.uk](http://www.thykingdomcome.co.uk).

We also need people to help us prepare for the walks by approaching organisations and businesses in Sandhurst to find out what their prayer requests are. You would need to go in and give them a leaflet one day and collect it a few days later, once the responses are collected, then they need to be given to Emma Hodge or Liz Percival. We don't have to do all the different organisations and businesses as other churches are approaching some, but we need people to approach three schools (St Michael's, Uplands and New Scotland Hill) and the shops along the High Street, and the parade of shops by the Yorktown Road Doctor's surgery. The schools and businesses will have the opportunity to ask for specific prayers and it is a great way of engaging with them. The prayers that they submit will be used during the prayer walks and at the Baptist Church during this time. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact either Emma Hodge or Liz Percival.

Let's all work to pray for our wonderful town of Sandhurst!

Emma Hodge.

## 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).

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sun 7th May from 8.30am	Pastoral Centre	Produce & Plants Sale	Ann Harris
Wed 17th May 8.00pm	Pastoral Centre	Welcome Evening	Rev. John Castle
Sun 21st May 12.30pm	Bird-in-Hand	Parish Lunch	Chris Harris
Sun 21st May 6.30pm	Church	Memorial Service	
Sun 11th June 2.30–5.00pm	Rectory garden	Summer Garden Party	Social Committee

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## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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### *Coffee Rota*

7 May	Gillian Davies	Rosemary Dobson
14 May	Gill Robertson	Jenny Thorn
21 May	Ann Homfray-Davies	Ruth Eve
28 May	Sheridan Cremer-Evans	Joy Alexander

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

2nd and 4th Mondays	1.00 pm	Sara Kaufman & Karen Carter	138 College Road 01276 31389
Monday	8.00 pm	Rupert & Sheridan Cremer-Evans	11 Sylvan Ridge 01344 777137
Tuesday	7.30 pm	Elizabeth Ritchie	28 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne 01344 762147
Tuesday	8.00 pm	John & Sue Campbell	2 School Hill 01344 776655
Tuesday	7.45 pm	Linda Lemmon	34 Albion Road 01252 874525
Tuesday	7.30 pm	John & Steph Martin	25 Templar Close 01252 873316

If anyone would like to join a group please speak to Karen Symons (01252 872161) or email [Karen@2symons.com](mailto:Karen@2symons.com) for more details

**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 June edition is **22nd May**. 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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## MAY CHURCH SERVICES

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### **Sunday 7th May – 4th of Easter – Theme: The Christian Community**

Acts 2:42–47(p1094); John 10:1–10 (p1076)

8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Parish Communion (Traditional)
11.15 am	Family Service and Baptism of Christopher Lawrence Clayton
6.30 pm	Contemplative Evening Prayer

### **Sunday 14th May – 5th of Easter – Theme: A Royal Priesthood**

Acts 7:55–60 (p1100); 1 Peter 2:2–10 (p1218); John 14:1–14 (p1082)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Informal)
- 11.30 am Baptism of Elena Loveless and Sophia Johnson
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical Service at Sandhurst School

### **Sunday 21st May – 6th of Easter – Theme: Witnessing for Christ**

1 Peter 3:13–22 (p1219); John 14:1–14 (p1082)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Reflective)
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Family Service
- 6.30 pm Memorial Service

### **Thursday 25th May – Ascension – Theme: The Ascension of Christ**

Ephesians 1:15–23 (p1173); Luke 24:44–53 (p1062)

- 8.00pm Holy Communion

### **Sunday 28th May – 7th of Easter – Theme: Devoted to Prayer**

Acts 1:6–14 (p1092); John 17:1–11 (p1085)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Community feel)
- 11.30 am Baptism of Henry and Noah Wilding
- 6.30 pm No service



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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.