

St Michael's News August 2017

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst,
Berkshire, GU47 8HN www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

Office open: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10.00am–2.00pm; Thursday
9.45am–1.45pm. Open for counselling: Wednesday 9.45am–1.30pm.
E-mail: office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk
Tel. 01252 873030

Rector: Rev. John A. Castle
Email: Rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk
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.*

Consider the birds (Matthew 6:26)

Bats may be very comfortable inside a church building, but birds aren't, as the choir realised when rehearsing for the July Evensong! A swift was flying up and down the church between the two large end windows, desperately hoping to get out. We felt sorry for the bird, but there was little we could do to help. When we locked up, I left a dish of water in the church for it. Fortunately, the following day I found it had got itself into a cardboard box, and I was able to release it.

In reflecting on this incident, the first parallel I drew was to some baptism guests who couldn't wait to get out of the church as soon as the service ended! But then I thought about people trapped in cities in the middle of war zones in Syria and elsewhere. We may not be able to help them, but we do have the power to make a huge difference to millions who have fled from wars, or who live in poverty, through our prayers and our regular giving. What is your response?

John Castle



Please pray for those on the prayer board and for those being baptised here this month. Please pray for Vivien Jackson, whose funeral took place in July.

We need a Tech Team

Since we have introduced the new four-Sunday pattern to the 9.30am service, we are making greater use of AV and this needs a team of people willing to:

- switch on the projector and screen and setup the laptop at the beginning of the service;
- put away the screen and switch off the projector when it is not needed;
- put away the technology at the end.



It is a straightforward job and may suit some of the younger members of the congregation looking for a role in the service. However, all volunteers are welcome.

Please talk to myself, John Castle or Emma Hodge.

Sue Campbell

Interfaith News

Bracknell Forest Faith and Belief Forum brings together people from different faiths in the Borough. At present we have Muslims, a Buddhist, a Jew, two Baha'is, some Christians and a Hindu. Inspired by a visiting speaker at our recent AGM, we have decided to organise a programme of visiting different places of worship, and in 2018 we plan to visit a synagogue and a mosque.

On **Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm** (time t.b.c.) we will be holding a public meeting on the topic 'What should be the place of faith in modern Britain?', with speakers from the different faiths giving their perspective. How, and even whether, people are allowed to express their faith in places of work or public life, has become a controversial matter, and I hope some of our congregation will come along to listen, ask questions and maybe share your opinion.

On the social side...

August is a quiet month on the social side but I would like to remind you about two future events in aid of WinSpire. First, the concert by the **Cecilia Singers**, supported by the St Michael's Belles, which will be held on Saturday

23rd September at 7.30 pm in church. Entry will be free – there will be a retiring collection. Second, the **Indoor Bowling Evening**, provisionally on Saturday 21st October. There will be only around 50 tickets available for this and it will be a b.y.o. drinks and nibbles evening.

(Continued on page 5)

Treasurer's report for the six months January to June 2017

Each quarter of the year I will give a brief update of the church's general fund. The general fund is the key fund for the church's activities. All our donations and gifts go to this fund unless the donor very specifically asks for them to go to a restricted fund, such as WinSpire, Youth Worker, Family Worker, etc. All the running expenses of the church are paid from the general fund.

For the six months January to June 2017, the actual results of the general fund are as below with a comparison to the same six months last year. Our budget for 2017 is to break even, so to have our income equal expenses.

	Actual Jan–June 2017	Actual Jan–June 2016
Giving (and tax recovered)	39232	40114
Other income	32792	34296
Income	72024	74410
Expenses	-73378	-73385
Charitable giving planned	-3923	-4011
Expenses	-77301	-77396
Net income /loss	-5277	-2986

As can be seen, total income is down three per cent, but expenses are almost the same. So, overall, that means our loss has increased compared to last year on the general fund. So it is a concern that in the first six months we are so far behind. That said, people have been very generous in giving money to a number of restricted funds, but please don't forget the general fund!

Jon Toohey

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 about 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 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 for more information.

(Continued from page 3)

We are planning to hold another **Parish Lunch** early in October, probably on Sunday the first but, again, that date is provisional. Full details about the Indoor Bowling Evening and the Parish Lunch will be given next month. Looking further ahead, we will be holding our usual **Advent Fair** early in December, in conjunction with the **Tree Festival**. If you would like to have a stall at the Fair please will you let me know asap. In preparation for the fair, Karen Allen is busy producing jams and chutneys and would welcome donations of suitable produce. Just have a word with her first.

Now, a few random notes. Our stock of **Raffle/Tombola Prizes** has become rather denuded of late so if you have any items to donate please leave them in the box at the back of the church. We would particularly welcome small prizes suitable for children that we can use at a tombola at the fair. Our **Book Stall** continues to tick over and we are grateful for the donated books. But, please, can you ensure that books are in clean, in and in newish condition – paperbacks are preferred as they sell more easily – thank you. Finally, the coffee rota for September to December has been sent out. If you normally receive a hard copy you will find one at the back of the church.

Chris Harris, Social Committee

Church Garden

Is there anyone out there who loves gardening? Forget garden knowledge, you just need enthusiasm! As I have to retire from tending the small garden adjoining St Michael's through bad back problems, I do hope there is someone agile and able, of any age, who would like to take it on. It has easy-maintenance shrubs at the back – just trim them, when you like, to keep them neat! The rest is yours to command. (You can even remove the shrubs if you don't like them!) Give it a go! Please do volunteer! Contact me through the Church Office or email me.

Betty Wilson (wilsonbetty@btinternet.com)

Signs and Wonders – Part 2

(For part 1, see the May newsletter, page 4.)

Having reorganised the internal boards in the Pastoral Centre and updated the sign by the lamppost, I have moved on to making it clear



Cecilia Singers & St Michael's Belles

Invite you to



Late Summer Ringing & Singing

Music old and new for



Handbells and Choir



Saturday 23rd September

at 7.30 pm

St Michael's Church, Sandhurst

Retiring collection in aid of the

WINSPIRE appeal

ADMISSION FREE



what activities take place at the Pastoral Centre. To this end our Pastoral Centre sign has two additional signs underneath: one for the Counselling Service and one for the Nursery.

Now I have PCC approval, I would like to move on to erecting an external lockable sign board (as illustrated) to the left of the path to the north porch, near the Pastoral Centre at the bottom of the slope. It will cost approximately £387.60 to buy (and an extra £52, if we want it in black, not anodised aluminium). I am looking for donations to fund this project. So, if anyone is interested in making a contribution, please come and have a chat, or contact me on suecampbell2906@btinternet.com.



Sue Campbell

Sandhurst in the 17th Century

Come to St Michael's Heritage open days in September and find out why St Michael's was Royalist in the Civil War, what else happened and how their legacies are still lasting today. Saturday 9th, 10.00 am–4.00 pm, and Sunday 10th, 2.00–5.00 pm.

Emma Hodge

Retrak

A vision of a world where no child is forced to live on the street.

Our charity for August is Retrak (www.retrak.org). This is a Christian charity that works with street children, and has grown so it now works in seven countries, in both Africa and Latin America. We have supported the charity for several years and have often heard from Maggie Crewes, who set up the Retrak project in Ethiopia and is now the Africa Director. John and George Castle met Maggie when they were working in Uganda. Last year, Retrak worked with 24,000 children. Children living on the streets are regularly beaten, robbed and criminalised just because they live on the streets.



Retrak does not only look after the street children, a vital element of their work is also prevention, looking at the underlying reasons why many children feel they have to live on the street. Retrak works in areas where

children are particularly vulnerable and works to strengthen families both economically and socially through self-help groups.

Please pray for:

- strong, safe families in the midst of many challenges, especially in the self-help groups;
- the team in Uganda, for wisdom and grace, and opportunities to encourage spirituality.

Retrak's newsletter summer 2017 can be found by ctrl-clicking [here](#).

Emma Hodge

The WinSpire Project,

Val Goodwin-Higson writes:

Smarty Challenge at St Michael's School

Thanks to the children and families, who raised £480 and enjoyed visiting the church to hear about WinSpire.

Forthcoming Events Autumn 2017

- Activities for Heritage Weekend – 9th and 10th September.
- Singing and Ringing with Cecilia Singers and St Michael's Belles, Saturday 23rd September at 7.30 – free entry, retiring collection.
- Skittles Evening – Saturday 21st October at 7.30. Tickets on sale.
- Christmas Tree Festival – Saturday 9, Sunday 10, Monday 11 December.

Total received now is £51,445 towards £150,000 needed. Thank you

Local Business 'Michelle Travel' is supporting WinSpire

Michelle Piff and her family, have long-standing connections with St Michael's Church and local schools. Michelle is an independent travel agent with established company InteleTravel. Bookings made through Michelle Travel (UK: 44157816, mobile: 07940 506785, email:

michelletravelexpert@gmail.com) enable customers to request a donation of between 10 and 20 per cent (depending on size of booking) to be given to Win Spire. This is fully effective from 1st September 2017. Browse the web for michelletravelexpert.inteletravel.uk or click on the link.

Do you want to support or help the project? Contact one of the WinSpire team on 07557 965747 (winspire.project@gmail.com).

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Coffee Rota

6 August	Betty Wilson	Jenny Thorn
13 August	Gill Robertson	Rosemary Dobson
20 August	George Castle	Joy Alexander
27 August	Gillian Davies	Ruth Eve

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 for more details.

100 Club Draw June 2017

1st Prize: Mr Ed Berridge No 90 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Rosemary Steele No 73 £10

£34 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

Newsletter. Please send emails to newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or leave written requests with the church office. Deadline for the September edition is **28th August**. 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.

ACTIVITIES AT THE PASTORAL CENTRE

Little Sandhurst Nursery Group. Daily! Contact Karen on 07730 340734 or email: 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sat 9th (10.00 am–4.00 pm) & Sun 10th (2.00–5.00 pm) September	Church	St Michael's Heritage Open Days	Catherine Wilkins and Emma Hodge
Sat 23rd Sept 7.30 pm	Church	Concert by the Cecilia Singers	See page 6
October. Date and time t.b.a.	t.b.a.	Parish lunch	See information on pages 2/3, 5
Sat 21st Oct time t.b.a.	Pastoral Centre	Indoor bowling evening	

AUGUST CHURCH SERVICES

Charity: Retrak

Saturday 5th August – Wedding

12 noon Cameron Smith and Clare Symons

Sunday 6th August – 8th after Trinity – Theme: Joseph and his brothers, part 1

Genesis 37:1–4,12–28 (p41); Matthew 13:54–58 (p980)

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion (Traditional)
11.15 am Family Service
6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 6th August – Wedding

1.30 pm David Hawley and Bethany Deakin

Saturday 12th August – Wedding

2.00 pm Brett Hughes and Sarah Bax

Sunday 13th August – 9th after Trinity – Theme: Joseph and his brothers, part 2

Genesis 45:1–15 (p50); Matthew 20:20–28 (p988)

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion (Informal)
11.30 am Baptism of Eliza McFarland and Logan Allen
6.30 pm No service

Sunday 20th August – 10th after Trinity – Theme: The Canaanite Woman

Isaiah 56:1,6–8 (p742); Matthew 15:21–28 (p982)

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion (Reflective)
11.15 am Family Service
6.30 pm No service

Sunday 27th August – 11th after Trinity – Theme: Peter gets it right

Isaiah 5:1–6 (p681); Matthew 16:13–20 (p983)

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion (Community feel)
11.30 am No service
6.30 pm No service



The Songs of Praise Service at the Memorial Ground on 23rd of July



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<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.



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