

St Michael's News November 2018

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

Office open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10.00am–1.30pm

Open for Counselling: Wednesday 10.00am–1.30pm.

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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.

Lest we Forget

100 years ago the First World War ended. In the past month I have made two visits that brought home to me the devastating consequences of all wars. The first was to the Imperial War Museum in Manchester, where I saw letters and other artefacts belonging to ordinary families in WW1. The other was to the bombed-out shell of St Nicholas' church in Hamburg, kept as a memorial to the 35,000 victims of the July 1943 'firestorm' unleashed by Allied bombers, and, as the display board put it, 'to the victims of German atrocities in Europe'. Fair's fair.

Unfortunately, the same destruction of lives, homes and property continues today in many war zones, of which Syria and Yemen are salient examples. We may feel helpless, but I believe God calls us to venture out of the comfort of our indifference, pray earnestly for peace and justice, support those charities that bring aid to the needy, and be people of peace in our own families, workplaces and communities. We can all make a difference. **John Castle**



Please pray for those on the prayer board, for those being baptised here in November and for Jack and Kelly Symons, married here on 3rd November.

Sides-people needed

We are increasingly in need of more sides-people to help 'meet and greet' at the 9.30 Parish Communion and also at Evensong. And, in addition, new helpers at the Family Service are always welcome. Sides-people are the first people that most members of the congregation meet on a Sunday morning, so the impression they make and the welcome they give is really important.

Sides-people at the 9.30 Service help out about ten times a year, at the Family Service and Evensong rather less. Rotas are published well in advance, holidays being taken into account, and we will make sure you know what to do. It's really not difficult. If you feel able to join the team for any of these services please do give me a ring on 01252 871881. Chris Harris

Introducing Ruth

In November we will be having a three-part sermon series on the book of Ruth. This is an unusual story for the Old Testament, for several reasons. Firstly, it's not about kings, leaders, prophets etc, but about an ordinary family. Secondly, the hero of the story is not only a woman but a foreigner (a Moabite). Yet she is commended for her loyalty and diligence, and becomes the ancestor of King David, and therefore, much later, of Jesus (and she is one of four women mentioned by name in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew's gospel). The story has appealed to people over the centuries, and explores themes that are highly relevant today: migration, bereavement, and the age-old question of where is God when things go wrong. And, of course, love and marriage are central to the plot. There's something for everyone in Ruth!

John Castle

Marking the end of WW1

On Sunday 11th November, in addition to the civic Act of Remembrance at 10.55 am at the town war memorial, our church will be hosting the monthly ecumenical service at 6.30 pm, which will give space to reflect on the significance of the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1. Please see if you could make a special effort to attend this, to add your prayers for the peace of the world and for the victims of war and violence.



Wanted: A Volunteer with good handwriting!

We are looking for someone who can give a couple of hours a month during office hours to write Baptism certificates and godparent cards, and entries in the Baptism register. If you think you might be able to help, please contact the Rector or Nicola Thompson in the Parish office (01252 873030 or office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)

100 years since the end of World War 1

This November marks 100 years since the end of World War 1, the war that was supposedly to end all wars. Families and communities were torn apart with the loss of loved ones, Sandhurst lost 69 people, the town was a lot smaller then and several areas of what we consider Sandhurst, were then part of Crowthorne. St Michael and All Angels are marking the sacrifice that was made in several ways

- 1. Poppy Cascade.** The cascade of poppies continues to grow. Please continue to bring your donations in (they can be made any size, shape or of any material). So far we have fabric, knitted, crocheted, tissue paper, painted rocks, mosaic tile, foam.
- 2. Remembrance Day.** The church will be open (with volunteers to meet visitors) from after the morning service until the Ecumenical service.
- 3. There but Not There.** With the help of donations from both individuals and from Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust there are Perspex silhouettes which represent the hole left by those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. In front of each of them is a world war 1 devotional book (hymn book, prayer book etc.)
- 4. Ecumenical Service.** On 11th November at 6:30 pm, St Michael's and All Angels will be hosting the monthly ecumenical service.
- 5. Tour of the churchyard,** including two World War One war graves and other graves of people who fought in World War One can be arranged upon request; please speak to Emma Hodge.
- 6. Remembrance Sunday.** A peal of half-muffled bells will be rung from 10:30 am.
- 7. Poppy Candles.** There are poppy candles on sale at the back of church. Money from the sale of this helps both the church and the Royal British Legion.

toddler time is for everyone under school age and their carers. It's on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 9.00am to 11.00am 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, including half-term breaks, there are age-related activities in the Pastoral Centre for children aged three 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 9.25 am to be registered, except on the 2nd Sunday of the month, when we all meet in church to take part in the beginning of the service. The group leaders bring the children into the church for the last part of the service every week. Our crèche is not currently running, but arrangements can be made at short notice to care for children under three years. Please ask one of the welcome team.

During the main 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 Christian story based DVD in the Pastoral Centre. The group leaders bring the children into the church for the last part of the service. For young children staying in the service there are play-bags for them to enjoy – 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 if you'd like to volunteer!



Weekday Youth Activities.

Youth group on Monday evenings from 7.30–8.30 at the Pastoral Centre. Separate activities for Years 7–9 and Years 10–13. Contact Liz at dave.percival@btinternet.com for more information.

Bracknell Faith and Belief Forum trip to Slough Mosque, 24th October

Ten members of St Michael's Church took up the invitation in October to visit Slough Mosque. First of all, we were all invited to remove our footwear, and women were asked to cover their heads. The evening then continued with an introductory talk. Firstly, the speaker used scholarly arguments to dispel untruths about Islam reported in the media. I was reminded that Allah is the Arabic term for God: the same God who unites all Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Also, it was interesting to hear that the Quran is written in Arabic, which means that all worship is uniform across the world. We were told, however, that only a small proportion of worshippers in Slough were fluent in Arabic, so we assume that they have means in place to overcome this obstacle.

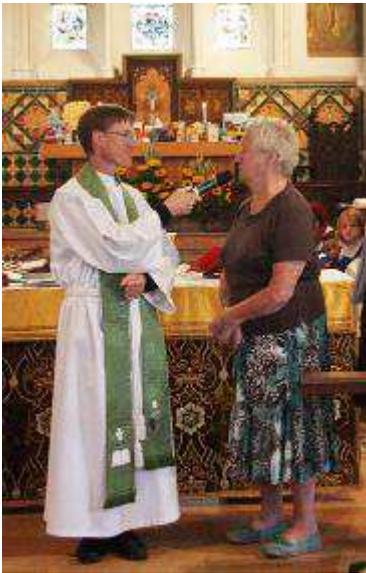


Further interesting general information was the basis of the faith on five pillars: faith, prayer, charity, fasting, and pilgrimage. Islam is based on the ministry of Mohammed. Jesus is recognised as a prophet, but not as the Son of God. Prayer time is segregated, and we observed men praying downstairs. During the call to prayer, it looked like there would be many empty spaces ... little did I know about the great last-minute rush! The Imam (priest) led the prayers, which lasted about 15 minutes, and all

(Continued on page 6)

Trip to Slough Mosque (continued from page 5)

actions in response were in unison. The room was very minimalistic, with no images or icons, but we could see patterns and scripture on the walls. Believers performed their ritual in rows, and all worshippers faced Mecca. Finally, we were treated to refreshments with many homemade goods, open conversation, and questions freely answered. I left with the impression that Slough Mosque is a very out-facing pillar of the community, with a strong focus on young people, the homeless, and those in need. And, their values reminded me of ours at St Michael's. All in all, an evening well spent! **Jo Arthy**



Photos: Mike Arthy

On Sunday 7th October Doreen said her good-byes. Doreen is moving away to be nearer her family.

On the Social Side

The Harvest Supper, held on Saturday 13th October, was a real success and seems to have been much enjoyed (see p12). Sadly, the Belles were unable to play their full programme because a team member was ill, but Adam Castle stepped in to help, having never played a handbell before – so they became Belles & Beau! All in all, a great evening and thanks go to the Belles; the choir; John, Matt and Adam Castle; Mike Gower, who compèred; Steph and all the team who worked so hard in the kitchen; and to everybody else who helped. We had hoped to raise £300 or £400 for church funds but, in the event, we raised £987, an astonishing amount. So thank you everybody who came.

Our pre-Advent Fair will be held on Sunday 18th November from 8.30 am to noon in the Pastoral Centre, a chance to do a bit of early Christmas shopping in (relative) peace! There is still room for stalls, so if you would like to run one please let me know asap. We would also welcome donations of cakes and/or mince pies.

For those who like to get dates in their diary good and early, our Annual Quiz is planned for Saturday 2nd March with Chris and Mike Blackman again acting as inquisitors – tickets and more information in January.

Finally, as ever, we would welcome donations of raffle prizes suitable for adults or children. **Chris Harris, Social Committee**



The Barnabas Fund works in aid of the persecuted church throughout Africa and Asia. Most of the Barnabas Fund's aid goes to Christian churches in predominately Muslim countries. The fund concentrates on helping existing local Church and Christian communities to maintain their presence and witness rather than the fund setting up its own structures or sending out missionaries. Barnabas Fund also aids the persecuted Church by providing comprehensive prayer material. The fund believes that Christians should treat all people of all faiths with love and compassion, even those who seek to persecute them.

The Barnabas Fund believes that they should be on hand to help feed Christians who are temporarily in need. But sometimes their support is needed long-term. For example, Christians in Pakistan and Egypt are often trapped in poverty because of discrimination. Receiving regular food parcels transforms their lives. Barnabas Fund says; 'when they know where their next meal is coming from, they can use what they would have spent on food to pay for school fees or start a small business, so that they can lift themselves out of poverty and hunger for good.'

Barnabas spends a lot of effort in encouraging supporters to sign petitions, to lobby governments and write to MPs. Barnabas says that many MPs write in support of Barnabas' work because supporters in their constituency have written. Barnabas' website gives useful points to make when writing letters of this sort – go to: [write to your representative/barnabas aid](https://www.barnabasfund.org.uk/write-to-your-representative/barnabas-aid)

Light party, 25 October

55 children and lots of adults attended the Light Party (alternative to Hallowe'en) organised by Angela Harper and her enthusiastic team. There were party games, a pumpkin trail in the churchyard, craft activities, singing, dancing and a bring-and-share lunch. The message was about shining our light in our community (Matthew 5:14–16). A big thank you to everyone who helped to run this!



Interfaith Dialogue – you are invited

On Thursday 15th November the Bracknell Forest Faith and Belief Forum, of which I am a member, will be holding a meeting to share insights from our different faith traditions on the matter of Wealth and Money. The meeting will be at St Joseph's RC Church, Bracknell at 7.30 pm, refreshments from 7.00 pm. All are welcome to attend, listen and ask questions. More information at the back of church and on our website. **John Castle**

In association with St Michael's Church WinSpire Project
Calling all children aged 3–10 years

Children's Christmas Workshop

Saturday 24th November 2018, 10am–3pm

Includes lunch, crafts, puzzles, quizzes, games, and more

£15 per child

Pastoral Centre, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst GU47 8HN

Tickets available from the Church Office

Please note that on this occasion we are not able to accommodate accompanying siblings/parents/carers. So perhaps use this opportunity to do some Christmas shopping or enjoy a grown-up lunch!

Any enquiries please call Abby Coleman on 07771 652425

Postage Stamps. Once again, discounted stamps will be available at the Pre-Christmas Advent Fair on 18th November. 1st class stamps will be available at 60p each (67p in the Post Office) and 2nd class stamps at just 50p each (58p in the Post Office). As usual 10 per cent of proceeds will go towards church funds. So, remember not to buy stamps for your Christmas cards before then and grab a bargain.

100 Club Draw October 2018

1st Prize: Mrs Janet Pilbeam No 37 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Jenny Hulbert No 63 £10

£33 has been passed to church funds.

100 Club Draw September 2018

1st Prize: Mrs Rosemary Dobson No 29 £20

2nd Prize: Mr Michael Sherren No 117 £10

£34 has been passed to church funds.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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	8.00 pm	Rebecca Brown	Arcum Lodge, 130 High St 01252 878747
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.

Coffee Rota

4 Nov	Janet Pilbeam	Rosaria Toohey
11 Nov	Marian Blackmore	Ann Weston
18 Nov	Hilary Smith	Alan Bunton
25 Nov	Steph Martin	Jo Arthy



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

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
Sun 4th Nov 12.30 pm	Bird-in-Hand	Parish Lunch	Chris Harris
Sun 18th Nov 8.30 am–12.00 noon	Pastoral Centre	Pre-Christmas Advent fair	
Sat 2nd March	Pastoral Centre	Quiz	More information in January

Newsletter. Please send emails to newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or leave written requests with the church office. The deadline for the December edition is **26th November**.

You will normally be able to view or download a colour copy of the newsletter on the website. If you would like to receive that version as an email attachment please contact David Hunt at david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.

NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES
Charity: Barnabas Fund

Saturday 3rd November – Wedding

1.00pm Kelly Mckinnon and Jack Symons

Sunday 4th November – All Saints Sunday – Theme: Ruth’s story (part 1)

Ruth 1 (p267); Psalm 9:1–2,9–14,18 (p546); Matthew 5:1–12 (p968);

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

Sunday 11th November – 3rd before Advent – Theme: The things that make for peace

Micah 4:1–5 (p932); Luke19:37–48 (p1054)

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion (Traditional)
10.55am Remembrance Parade at Sandhurst War Memorial
6.30pm Ecumenical Service at St Michael’s

Sunday 18th November – 2nd before Advent – Theme: Ruth’s story (part 2)

Ruth 2 (p268); Luke 6:27–28 (p1034)

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion (Reflective)
11.15am Family Service and Baptism of Aria Digby
6.30pm No service

Sunday 25th November – Christ the King – Theme: Ruth’s story (part 3)

Ruth 3:1–18, 4:1–6,13–17 (p269); Mark 12:28–34 (p1018)

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion (Community)
11.30am Baptism of Harper Stevens, and Darcey and Declan Hopkins
6.30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer



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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.

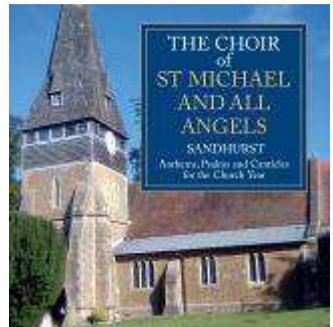
Harvest Supper



At the harvest supper, the choir sang, the band played, Mike compèred and the rest of us ate and socialised.

Choir CD.

Looking for an interesting Christmas present ? How about giving someone a CD of music from St Michael's to see them through the new year. £10 each from the office, or see Ken Wilkins after the 9.30 service.



Traidcraft is ready to receive your orders for Advent calendars, Christmas cards and various tree decorations. The Christmas catalogue will be available for inspection. All the usual items are still available. Please see the stall after the 9.30 service or contact me directly on kenwilkins52@hotmail.co.uk.