

St Michael's News *December 2018*

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst,
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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.

Waiting for Christ

We are now in the Advent season, where we, as Christians, wait in anticipation for the second coming of Christ. And while we wait for him to come we need to prepare ourselves. How are you preparing yourself for Christ's second coming?

Just over 2000 years ago John the Baptist told the Jews that just because they are Jews, members of the chosen race, was not enough for them to be saved. They also had to take personal responsibility for their own sins, to repent and turn to God, and, as a mark of their repentance and reliance on God, John baptised them.

Nothing has changed in the 2000 years since John the Baptist. Just because we call ourselves Christians, members of God's family through Christ, it is not enough to be saved. To be saved we have to take personal responsibility for our sins, to repent and turn to God, and, as a mark of our repentance and our faith in Jesus Christ, we will not only be saved but will be able to look forward to his coming with true and joyful anticipation.

John White



Please pray for those on the prayer board. Please pray for Freda Hunt and Ros Hendry, whose funerals took place in November, and for Philip Fencott, whose funeral took place in September.

Becoming a more Pastoral Church – Your Contribution?

In September we asked you to consider ways in which you could help us be a more pastoral church. Possibilities include giving lifts to church for those who have restricted mobility and no transport, which includes several elderly people in the community, and visiting people who are sick or bereaved, or who need to receive Communion at home due to poor mobility.

We received a small number of response forms, and are grateful to those who have offered to help in different ways. However, the response to date is nowhere near sufficient to meet the needs.

It may well be that you are reluctant to make a commitment that ties you down too much, or that you think you lack specialist skills. Let me reassure you that you will always be free to decide when and how often you will help, and that most pastoral work is simply about being friendly and caring. For those who'd like to improve their listening skills we will be running a two-session course in the New Year. This is open to everyone, whether or not you want to commit to visiting.

A new response form will be given out in December, and we hope very much that more people will offer to help. Our time is one of our most precious commodities, but even a few minutes having a friendly chat or picking someone up for church can make a difference to the recipient that is out of all proportion to the small sacrifice you have made.

John Castle

Youth update

These are exciting times in Sandhurst Youth! First of all, from the beginning of December, we are launching a new youth club, 'Dream Big', open to all 11–18 year olds in Sandhurst. It will offer a wide variety of activities and opportunities to build friendships, and will run for 6.00–8.00pm each Sunday evening in the Pastoral Centre.

In the new year we will also be starting a mentoring scheme for young people aimed at helping them develop their confidence, character and skills to achieve their dreams for life.

Both these need your support and involvement, whether it be in the simple tasks of setting up on a Sunday, through to coming alongside some of our fantastic young people to share your life experience and learning, and encouraging them on their journey – please chat with Mike Gower about all these opportunities.

And corporately there is change too. We have an application in to the Charities Commission to make Sandhurst Youth an independent charity serving the young people community and the churches – we expect to complete the process before Christmas, and the PCC has already set up all the resolutions to enable the transfers etc to take place. We plan that over the coming years Sandhurst Youth will be a strategic resource supporting church and community youth work. It's a key example of how, as a church, we can become 'mission shaped' and facilitate real engagement outside the church. Your continued active support, prayer, and, of course, financial support, will be much appreciated!

Dave Percival

Treasurer's report for the 9 months Jan to Sept 2018

Each quarter I 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.

| | Actual Jan–Sept 2018 | Actual Jan–Sept 2017 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Giving (and tax recovered) | 65,908 | 59,168 |
| Other income | 48,465 | 45,757 |
| Income | 114,373 | 104,925 |
| Expenses | -110,946 | -108,140 |
| Charitable giving | -6,807 | -3,579 |
| Expenses | -117,753 | -111,719 |
| Net income /-loss | -3,380 | -6,794 |

For the nine months January to September 2018 the actual results of the general fund are better in comparison with the same period last year. Our budget for 2018 is to break even so to have our income equal expenses.

As can be seen, income in 2018 is much better than last year. This is due to our collecting the tax we recover faster than last year. But, even taking this into account, we are slightly ahead of last year, however. So are expenses – so net we are pretty much the same but have given some of our charitable giving earlier.

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 9.25am 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!



Youth Activities

Sunday Dream Big Youth Club, 6.00pm to 8.00pm, in the Pastoral Centre, for any young people aged 11–18 years old. Sunday morning REACH is on the 2nd and 4th Sunday during the 9:30am service. Contact Liz and Mike 07591240161.

Windows Update

The west window is back! It was reinstalled by Salisbury Glass on 20th and 21st November. – photo on p16.

The window has been completely dismantled. Each pane has been carefully cleaned to the extent it can be without damaging the colour and the detail; specific heads and details have been enhanced, and the whole window has been re-assembled with new leading. It should now be good for the next 100 years.



Following the re-installation, a team of volunteers has made use of the scaffolding to put a fresh coat of emulsion on to the window surrounds, and above the window. The remainder of the wall will be done when the tower work is complete, as this includes fixing the leaks at the base of the tower.

The round window at the head of the North Aisle, and the lancet window from the tower will now undergo the same process, and we hope will be back in the new year.

Huge thanks to those who have contributed to WinSpire in so many ways to enable us to do this vital work.

Dave Percival

The WinSpire Project – What you can do to help?

You will be well aware that the WinSpire group has been working extremely hard on your behalf, raising funds to keep our beautiful church watertight and ready in 2020 for the 800th anniversary of our foundation. By the time you read this, the St Michael's west window will be back in place after a beautiful job of restoration by Salisbury Cathedral Stained Glass workshop. Two smaller windows are now being restored: phase one is nearly complete.

(Continued on page 7)

to say thanks so much

A BIG THANKYOU to everyone who
contributed at your Harvest Festival.
The generosity and kindness given will
help families struggling at this time
of year.
The total weight of your Church
donation was 70.20kg
From all at Cranthorne Foodbank
Thank you

Early in November, the office received this card from someone who felt that we were on the right track. It is nice to know that your efforts are appreciated.

The Children's Society

The Children's Society is the charity St Michael's regularly supports over Christmas – as it does this year.



We listen. We support. We act.

Right now in Britain there are children and young people who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope. The Children's Society works with these young people, step by step, for as long as it takes.

Cold, hungry and sleeping on the streets Amanda was a child in real danger – until a project worker from The Children's Society gave her the support she urgently needed. Amanda is now excited about Christmas for the very first time.

Sadly, there are so many children like Amanda who have never experienced a real Christmas. But by showing young people that they have hope and aren't alone, we can make this a Christmas full of hope and free from fear for vulnerable children across the country.

The Children's Society is a national charity that runs local services that help thousands of children and young people who desperately need our support. We also campaign to make sure laws are changed to make children's lives better. We work with some of the most vulnerable children and young people in this country who are facing terrible hardship, abuse and neglect.

Although the issues these children face are varied, the root problem is often the same – their needs are being ignored and their voices are going unheard.

For many children, having one of our project workers to talk to is the first time their voice has ever really been heard. Taking the time to listen to what children and young people say is what drives us to keep tackling the issues that prevent them from fulfilling their potential.

'[They] actually listened, there's nothing that someone needs more than someone will actually listen to them.'

During 2017/18

We directly reached 11,031 children and young people through our services and a further 13,492 through our awareness-raising work. 73 per cent of young people we worked with experienced positive changes

across key changes of their lives, including safety, relationship and mental health. We helped bring about 61 national and local policy changes, improving the lives of over 550.000 children.

There are no simple answers so we work with others to tackle complex problems. Only together can we make a difference to the lives of children now and in the future.

How you can help?

- Sign-up to join the new St Michael's A2C House Box Network. A2C means Advent (2nd Dec 2018) to Candlemas (6th Feb 2019). Basically the scheme is to get church members to take a 'house box' home on Advent Sunday to put in loose change and bring it back on Candlemas. The money will be used to make a big difference to children in need of help.
- Attend the Christingle Service and the celebrations to mark Christingle's 50th Birthday on Sunday 16th December 4.00 pm – particularly suitable for families with young children.
- Have fun Carol Singing around the streets Monday on 17th December, 6.30 pm (NB non-singing roles available).



Find out more about the work of the Children's Society at <http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/>.

Janet Rogers, Volunteer Speaker and Ambassador, The Children's Society.

(Continued from page 5)

In order not to lose momentum, the team now needs new members and new ideas to push the project forward. We need help writing grant applications and more volunteers willing to lead fundraising events. Is there anything you can do to help us? Can you organise a sponsored event? Run a car boot stall? Open your garden? Do you have contacts in business or the local community? All ideas and support will be welcome.

I cannot thank the WinSpire group enough for their commitment and effort so far. We have raised a staggering sum of £80,000. This will pay for the windows and leave a considerable sum towards the next stage. Can you help us complete the task? Do contact Sue Campbell with offers of help and support at: suecampbell2906@btinternet.com.



Gift Tree Project

A big Thank you to everyone who took a tag from the Gift Tree in order to buy a present for a needy child in Sandhurst. The 44 children have been selected by the Bracknell Forest Early Help Team, who will deliver the presents in time for Christmas. Your present needs to be handed in no later than the Christingle Service at 4pm on Sunday 16th December. Gifts can be brought to the Parish Office before that date. THANK YOU!

Sandhurst Counselling Service

Whilst the recognition of mental health issues makes slow progress in the public's mind, our counselling service continues to grow to meet unprecedented demand – it's exciting to be welcoming new counsellors to join the team.

But sadly it is also time for goodbyes! After more than 18 years of service as Clinical Manager, leading the service, Diana Taylor has decided that it's time to 'hang up her boots'! We as a church owe a huge debt of gratitude to Di for the way she has faithfully led the service since the earliest days, after its foundation by Sue Smith. She will be a hard act to follow, but the trustees have begun the process of recruiting a new manager to take the service forward – it has never been more needed.

Please thank Di for all she has done, and pray for the service, and the trustees, as we seek the new leader and the way forward.

Dave Percival – SCS Chair of Trustees



Photo: Mike Arthy

The pre-Advent Fair was a hive of activity. Karen's home made jam stall was a favourite venue.



*St Michael's School Foundation
Governors (4 needed)*



**St Michael's C of E
Primary School**

How much do you care that local children should have a great education within the context of a church school? St Michael's School is a Church Voluntary-Aided School, which means that half of the governors are appointed by the church, on the recommendation of the rector. At the moment we have three vacancies and will have another one soon, and if you would be willing to offer your time and the expertise you have acquired through your work and life experience (not necessarily in education), we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Governors come from a wide range of backgrounds and bring a variety of skills. You would need to be available for about 3–4 meetings a term. Attendance at other school events, where possible, is also appreciated. There is no financial remuneration, but there is plenty of training available from Bracknell Forest Council and the diocese.

If you are interested in exploring the idea of becoming a governor, please do speak to Sue Campbell, John Castle or Nicki Ray. You could also go to www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/governance/.

Listening Course

Many of us know the difference it makes when someone really listens to us. Being well-listened-to can be a life-changing experience, and yet sadly also one which is comparatively rare in our busy world.

Just Listen! is a course in two sessions on how to listen to others, to God and to ourselves. We will be running it in conjunction with St John's Crowthorne on two Wednesday evenings, 30th January and 6th February, 7.30–9.30 pm at St John's church, Crowthorne.

Carol Singing In The Streets

We will be carol singing in aid of the Children's Society in the evening of Monday 17th December from 6.30 pm. Venue will be announced and will be publicised on Facebook and on the church website. Please do decide to join in – it's much more fun in a larger group! Children welcome – they are great at collecting!



Giving – responding to God's call today

Two changes are afoot to make giving to St Michael's as easy and efficient as possible.

Firstly, those who give regularly are being asked to do so in future through the CofE 'Parish Giving Scheme'. This centralised direct-debit-based scheme will simplify our administration for gift aid, and also allows you to index link your giving. There is an information pack available at the back of church for all those who currently give regularly, or who would like to.

And for those who only give occasionally, and for visitors to the church, we shall shortly have in place a contactless-card—giving terminal – simply tap your credit or debit card on the machine and it will give £3, £5 (default) or £10 to the church. This is not intended to replace the opportunity to give through the plate in services, but as a convenience for those who do not carry much cash, as is the case with many visitors at weddings and baptisms.

If you would like more information on giving to the church, either regularly or occasionally, then do please speak with me. God loves a cheerful giver!

Dave Percival – Stewardship Officer.

Spire loft clearance

On Saturday 17th November a band of willing helpers assembled to clear out a three-foot high mountain of twigs that the birds had brought in over the last four years through holes in the cedar shingles. The birds' aim is to build nests behind one of the holes but the twigs drop to the loft floor. This year they did have one nest built where two beams cross in the spire.

We used five rubber tubs which in turn were filled with crushed twigs, passed to the shelf below, lowered on a rope to the floor in the room where the clock is situated, and then taken down the stairs, tipped into one of the big dumpy bags, which when full were taken in a wheelbarrow and emptied in the churchyard garden material pile. It was a good team effort with everyone playing their part. At half time we tucked in to bacon rolls, hot cross buns, and coffee provided by our excellent hosts, Nicki and Cliff.

In all, we filled over 140 rubber tubs and Lyn on the stair run very generously said if she weren't doing that she would be at the gym!

If you don't want to be press ganged into a team to repeat this task in four years' time then buy a few shingles!

Many thanks to all the team pictured here from left to right:

John, Mike, Alan, Rob, Lyn, Derek, Betty, Iain, and Cliff, plus not in the photo, Nicki, who was busy with the refreshments.



Christmas trees

For a donation, Christmas trees are available via Trish Dundas. Please contact the office for her telephone number.

TV for WinSpire

A 28-inch TV has been donated by Rosemary Dobson for sale in aid of WinSpire. It's made by LG (model LG28MT48S-PZ), is less than 2 years old, and has 1 x Scart socket, 2 x HDMI sockets, 2 x USB sockets and remote, with brackets for wall mounting. Offers in excess of £50, please, to Rosemary via the Parish Office.

On the social side

Twenty-five people came along to the parish lunch at the Bird-in-Hand on 4th November, which included one or two new faces and three small ones! Our pre-Advent fair on Sunday 18th November was notable for the number of bacon butties sold, though the mince pies and mulled wine did less well. At the time of writing, with some money still to come in and a stall at toddler time included, it is clear that the event will have raised over £650 for church funds, plus useful amounts for WinSpire and Traidcraft. So a big thank you to all those who produced such lovely craft items to be sold, helped on the stalls or cooked the butties. Equally, a big thank you goes to all of you who supported the fair and, more generally, have supported the various events that have taken place this year.

Finally, a reminder that our annual quiz is planned for Saturday 2nd March with Chris and Mike Blackman again acting as inquisitors. Tickets and more information in January.

Chris Harris, Social Committee

Christingle Oranges

Volunteers are needed to help make the Christingle oranges on Saturday 15th December – time to be confirmed. Please let the office know if you are able to help.

100 Club Draw November 2018

1st Prize: Mrs Jennie Rolfe No 22 £20

2nd Prize: Mr & Mrs Alun Grafton No 28 £10

£33 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

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.



The west window has been repaired and reinstalled. See page 5.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

House Groups meet each week at these houses:

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2nd and 4th Mondays | 1.00pm | Sara Kaufman & Karen Carter | 138 College Road 01276 31389 |
| Monday | 8.00pm | 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

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------------|
| 2 Dec | Jenny Piggin | Val Brown |
| 9 Dec | Betty Wilson | Wendy Grafton |
| 16 Dec | Anne Clough | Peter Clough |
| 23 Dec | Gill Robertson | Di Pullar |
| 30 Dec | Gillian Davies | Jennie Hulbert |

Newsletter. Please send emails to newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or leave written requests with the church office. The deadline for the January edition is **24th December**.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

| Date & Time | Venue | Event | Contact |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 30th January & 6th February, 7.30 -9.30 pm | St John's, Crowthorne | Just Listen! | See p10 |
| Sat 2nd March | Pastoral Centre | Quiz | More information in January |

DECEMBER CHURCH SERVICES
Charity: Children's Society

Sunday 2nd December – Advent Sunday – Theme: Be prepared

Jeremiah 33:14–16 (p796); 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (p1187); Luke 21:25–36 (p1057)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Traditional)
- 11.15am Family Service and Holy Communion
- 6.30pm Advent Celebration

Sunday 9th December – 2nd of Advent – Theme: The messenger

Malachi 3:1–4 (p961); Philippians 1:3–11 (p1178); Luke 3:1–6 (p1029)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Informal)
- 6.30pm No service

Sunday 16th December – 3rd of Advent – Theme: True repentance

Zephaniah 3:14–20 (p947); Philippians 4:4–7 (p1181); Luke 3:7–18 (p1029)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Reflective)
- 4.00pm Christingle

Sunday 23rd December – 4th of Advent – Theme: Blessed among women

Micah 5:2–5a (p933); Hebrews 10:5–10 (p1207); Luke 1:39–45 (p1026)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Community)

Monday 24th December – Christmas Eve

- 3.15pm Nativity Service
- 7.00pm Carol Service
- 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th December – Christmas Day

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family Communion

Saturday 29th December – Wedding

2.00pm Anthony Chalfoun and Alice Niblett

**Sunday 30th December – 1st Sunday after Christmas – Theme: The boy
Jesus in the Temple**

1 Samuel 2:19–20,26 (p273); Luke 2:41–52 m (p1029)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion
- 6.30pm No service

Church Office Christmas and New Year opening times

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed 24th–27th December. It will be open Friday 28th December 10am –1.30pm and will be closed on 31st December. The office will open again for church business on Thursday 2nd January 2019 10am–1.30pm.

Sandhurst Silver Band Christmas Concert



Friday 7th December, 7.30 in St Michael's Church

Tickets on the door or from

www.wegotickets.com/event/447785



Find us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst>



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.



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