

# St Michael's News February 2018

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  
9.45am–1.45pm. Open for counselling: Wednesday 9.45am–1.30pm.  
E-mail: [office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)  
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**Rector:** Rev. John A. Castle  
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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.

## What's on your fridge?

The fridge door can be a useful place for messages and reminders: 'Put the bins out' or 'Your dinner is in the oven' (or 'in the dog!'). When our children were small we had magnetic letters that they could use to create words - feeding the mind as well as the body!

In Deuteronomy the Israelites were told to write God's commandments on their doorposts and teach them to their children. So if you would like a simple task for Lent to help your spiritual growth, what about memorising some Bible verses or helpful prayers? A sticky note on the fridge or the back of the loo door could be a great way of reminding yourself (and others in your house) that God is with you, and an easy way of learning some key Bible verses that could prove very useful in the future. Some suggestions will be found on our prayer page.\* After all, 'man does not live on bread alone, but on every word from God's mouth.' Happy snacking!

**John Castle** \* <http://www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk/prayer.html>.



*Please pray for those on the prayer board, for those being baptised here this month and for Sian Greenbury, whose funeral took place in January.*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### *Bell Ringing at St Michael's*

The evocative sound of church bells means so much, whether it be to celebrate joyous occasions, to mark more sombre events, or as a welcome before church services. How would it be if you were one of those bell ringers giving so much to the outside world?

Here is an opportunity to learn and keep this four-hundred-year-old art alive for future generations to enjoy. We are holding an open morning here at St Michael's on Saturday 24th February from 10am to 11 am, where you can have an insight into ringing and have a little taster if you wish, under full instructor supervision of course.

Ringers are any age from 10 to 80+ and there is so much to being part of the ringing community, with the opportunity to visit many amazing places once you have mastered the basics and can ring as part of the band. You will never run out of things to learn and there is always support to ring at every stage of learning. It's a great mental workout with concentration a key factor.

If you are inspired by your experience we hold practices most Mondays from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm where you can learn with one-to-one tuition until you can handle a bell rope confidently. Joining in with everyone else will then open up a whole new experience which will last a lifetime.

Ring Derek Palmer (01344 772678) for encouragement or more details.

### *This year's Lent appeal*

The Mount Moriah Trust is the charity for our Lent appeal and we will be praying for it during February. On February 18th, the founders, Tony and Kathy Stewart, who live locally, will be coming to speak at the 9.30 service. If you want to do something special for Lent, why not give something up and set aside £1 a day for the charity.

God has established the Mount Moriah Trust (MMT) to provide needy believers in the Holy Land with prayer and financial support. Isaiah 40:1 says: 'Comfort, comfort my people,' so we are called to stand alongside the believers and comfort them during difficult times.

The charity provides needy believers and their families with regular financial support together with prayer support that is focussed and tailored to individual needs, working with and through pastors in the Holy Land. They identify the needy families and monitor changing circumstances so that support continues to be channelled to those in most need. All gifts go to those in need. Charity costs are financed separately.

Today MMT works with over 40 Pastors of Messianic Fellowships and Christian Arab Churches throughout God's Land. It funds a number of monthly food-parcel programmes for the neediest families – mainly the elderly, widows and single-parent families, and a baby-food and nappy programme in the Ethiopian community, as they are the poorest ethnic group in Israel. It also helps to fund medicines and transport to and from hospital and with the purchase of children's clothes, shoes and school-work books. It supports congregations' children, youth and young-adult programmes, including those building reconciliation between Jewish and Arab believers. Many Pastors receive little or no income, so grants for MMT enable them to support their families and give maximum time to their ministry.

MMT supports the Home of New Life, a Christian Children's Home in Ramallah and the Christian House of Hope in Bethlehem, which cares for the blind and children with special needs, and an outreach centre to drug addicts – more information from <https://mountmoriah.org.uk>.

Liz Percival

### *Reminder*

Reports for the Annual Review need to be in by 20th February. If you are the leader of a group in the church, please make sure that your group's reports are with Emma Hodge by 20th February so that they can be included in the Annual Review. Thanks, Emma Hodge

### *Real life stories*

Do you sometimes feel discouraged in your Christian faith? Or wonder if the secular world is really right after all, and you're just kidding yourself by holding on to some make-believe theories from the past? Does Christianity really work in practice?

There's nothing like hearing from other people who have found that God is real in their lives. To read about how God and the Bible have made a difference to lots of very different people, go to this web page and be encouraged! <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/latest/mybible>

### *St Mary's Project*

Briefing meetings were held on 13th January for neighbours and on 14th January for members of the congregation to give an update on the project. Over the past few months we have consulted with our architect and Bracknell Forest planners and after considering various possibilities we are about to

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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 9.00am 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](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 Liz Percival at [dave.percival@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.percival@btinternet.com) for more information.

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submit a planning application for the building of three houses. The purpose of this is to enable us to establish the value of the land so that the PCC can make a decision about how the land and the existing St Mary's Fund can be turned into a sustainable source of income to fund the ongoing mission of the church. We are grateful to John Martin and his team for all the work which they have done to get us to this point. John Castle

### *WinSpire*

Following the Christmas Tree Festival and many other fundraising events we are now in a position to move to the next stage of the project. We are currently involved in the lengthy process of consulting the relevant authorities and getting a faculty (approval from the Diocese) for making repairs to the windows in the west wall of the church. Programming the work will also depend on the availability of the specialist repairers, who are very busy. In the meanwhile, the work of applying for grants for repairing the spire and further fundraising are ongoing. A big thank you to all those individuals who have worked so hard to get us this far!

John Castle

### *On the Social Side*

First, there is just time to book for the clothes-swap evening being held on Saturday 3rd February, in support of WinSpire. Full details can be found in the January Newsletter (p6), and elsewhere, or contact Angela Harper, our family worker. Tickets cost £8 from the office. Coming soon is our annual, and ever-popular, Quiz Night, which will be held on Saturday 10th March with Chris and Mike Blackman again acting as inquisitors. Doors will open at 7.00 pm so that we can start sharp at 7.30. There will be a fish and chip supper, with cheese and onion pasty and chips as a vegetarian alternative. Please bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses. Tickets will cost £12 for adults, £6 for a child or no-food option, and will be available from the social committee or the office shortly. Proceeds (if any) will go to general church funds.

Two events in support of WinSpire will follow. Firstly, on Saturday 28th April we will holding a Barn Dance with dancing to the Aldbrickham band. More details next month. Secondly, there will be a Flower Demonstration evening on Thursday 28th June. This will be hosted by Annette Urquart, who is a well known local NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) demonstrator – more about this event in May.

## Wall-banner Competition

We have a series of wall banners which hang on part of a wall in our church, and as part of the preparations for the celebrations for the 800th anniversary, in 2020, we are launching a competition to design a new banner (see details on the notice below). The text on the notice is taken from Genesis 28:16. Text from Genesis 28:17: 'This is the House of God, This is the Gate of Heaven,' is engraved on the lych gate. Both are part of Jacob's dream (Genesis 28:10–22).



**St Michael and All Angels Church**  
Sandhurst

# 800 years - Banner Competition

To celebrate 800 years since our Church was first built in Sandhurst you are invited to submit a design for a **fabric hanging banner** based on the text:

***'Surely the Lord is in this place'*** Genesis 28:16

*This competition is open to all ages, submissions from children and groups most welcome:*

- ⊕ Your colour design is to be drawn to **A4** size
- ⊕ The finished banner size will be **1200mm wide x 1700mm long** plus hanging loops
- ⊕ The design must be drawn to scale and include the above text, a clear visual outline and all colours required
- ⊕ If you have suggestions for stitching, quilting or other making techniques include details of your ideas, and whether you would like to assist in the making of the winning banner
- ⊕ Include your name and full contact details on your submission

Your design may be completed on a hard-copy A4 sheet or on-line and returned **before Easter Day 1<sup>st</sup> April to:**

**'Banner Competition'**, St Michael & All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, GU47 8HN or email: [office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)

All designs will be displayed in church for judging and the winning design to be made will be announced in church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## Called to be Christ-like

Bishop Steven asks what kind of Church are we called to be and what are the marks of a Christ-like Church.

‘Our world faces many challenges and as such, the world and our nation need us to be the best Church we can be in such a time as this.

‘During my deanery visits I have found an appetite for a fresh vision and strategy across the diocese and a desire to work together to create that vision in the coming months. As our communities change we must decide where our new priorities lie.

‘I’ve met over 2000 people who have shared their thoughts with me, and I have spoken of my hope that we can become a more Christ-like Church. This has resonated very deeply with people. The Beatitudes in Matthew’s gospel speak to us very clearly about what it means to be a Christ-like Church: we are called to be contemplative, compassionate and courageous in all we attempt together.

‘In May 120 people from across the diocese came together for a conference: Towards a Common Vision where we started the process of developing ideas about what kind of church we are called to be and what we are called to do together.

‘At the conference, I gave three reflections based on the story of the raising of Lazarus on what it means to be a contemplative, compassionate and courageous Church.

‘Please continue to pray with me that we continue to become more contemplative, compassionate and courageous and that we put Christ at the heart of everything we do as we move forward together.’

You will find the links to ‘Contemplative’, ‘Compassionate’ and ‘Courageous’, by going to <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/projects/towards-a-common-vision/#an-introduction> . and selecting Beatitudes Study, then scrolling down and clicking on the relevant buttons.

This link will also give you the opportunity of reading Bishop Steven’s thoughts in depth and finding out about a three-part course on the Beatitudes that Bishop Steven has created. This is available with accompanying audio and video material at £2.50. There is also a 32-page study guide suitable for small groups .



CHRISTIANS-IN-SCIENCE



SURREY HEATH  
GROUP

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them - Ps 111:12

# Science and Christian Faith

Encouraging informed discussion on science and Christian faith issues

## God in the Lab:

### When Curiosity Leads to Wonder, Awe and the Big Questions of Life

Dr. Ruth Bancewicz

Ruth will explore beyond the usual debates about science and religion by celebrating scientific discoveries and engineering achievements, and appreciating the intricacies and fruitfulness of the living world. She will focus on how these revelations can hint at questions of meaning that go beyond the limits of science by referencing the work of successful scientists who are also people of faith. Audience dialogue will be encouraged.

Tuesday 20th February 2018, St Peter's Church, Frimley. FREE Admission  
Doors open 7.00pm, Illustrated talk begins at 7.30 pm followed by Q&A and refreshments

For more info visit [www.science-faith-issues.org](http://www.science-faith-issues.org) or contact Dr John Russell at [chvnoweth.jw@gmail.com](mailto:chvnoweth.jw@gmail.com), phone 01276 66565

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Finally, I will try to arrange another Parish Lunch in May, date tbc. As there have been no alternative venues suggested, I suggest we go for the Bird in Hand again. Chris Harris, Social Committee

**Newsletter.** Please send emails to [newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk) or leave written requests with the church office. The deadline for the March edition is **19th February**.

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](mailto:david.hunt@bcs.org.uk).

### **Coffee Rota**

4 February	Betty Wilson	Jennie Hulbert
11 February	Gill Robertson	Jenny Thorn
18 February	Marion Blackmore	Rosemary Dobson
25 February	Gillian Davies	Joy Alexander

**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	7.30pm	Elizabeth Ritchie	28 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne 01344 762147
Tuesday	8.00pm	John & Sue Campbell	2 School Hill 01344 776655
Tuesday	8.00pm	Rebecca Brown	Arcum Lodge, 130 High St 01252 878747
Tuesday	7.30pm	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.

### **100 Club Draw November 2017**

1st Prize: Mrs Janet Pilbeam No 37 £20  
2nd Prize: Mrs Catherine Wilkins No 25 £10  
£36 has been passed to church funds.  
Rosemary Dobson

## 100 Club Draw December 2017

1st Prize: Mrs Rosemary Steele No 82 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Jenny Hulbert No 40 £10

£36 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](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
Sat 3rd Feb	Pastoral Centre	Clothes swap evening	Angela Harper 07456 190201
Sat 10th Feb	Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford	Cathedral visit	John White
Sat 10th Mar 7.30pm (prompt)	Pastoral Centre	Quiz Night	Tickets available mid-January
Sat 28th April	Pastoral Centre	Barn dance	Details to follow

# February Church Services

## Charity: Mount Moriah Trust

### **Sunday 4th February – 2nd before Lent – Theme: Love in action**

Amos 5:21–24 (p920); James 2:8–17 (p1214); Luke 10:25–37 (p1042)

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

### **Sunday 11th February – Sunday before Lent – Theme: Seeing the Glory of Jesus**

2 Kings 1:1–12 (p368); 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (p368); Mark 9:2–9 (p1012)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Informal)
- 11.30 am Baptism of Finley Coffey and Dexter Giles
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical service (church to be announced)

### **Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday – Theme: True religion**

Isaiah 58:1–12 (p744); Matthew 6:1–6,16–21 (p970)

- 8.00 pm Holy Communion

### **Saturday 17th February – Wedding**

- 2.00 pm Dale Smith and Elizabeth Hicks

### **Sunday 18th February – 1st of Lent – Theme: The Covenant of Baptism**

Genesis 9:8–17 (p10); 1 Peter 3:18–22 (p1219); Mark 1:9–15 (p1002)

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

### **Sunday 25th February – 2nd of Lent – Theme: Keys to happiness (1)**

Deuteronomy 8:1–10 (p187); Matthew 5:1–10 (p968)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Community Service)
- 11.30 am Baptism
- 6.30 pm Sung Evensong – Theme: Abraham. Readings: Genesis 12:1–9 (p13); Hebrews 11:1–3,8–16 (p1209)



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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.