

St Michael's News March 2018

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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.*

Plan Ahead

I write this in the middle of Marriage Week – and the theme this year is ‘Plan Ahead’ – the message is simple: if we are intentional and plan ahead in life we are more likely to succeed! Indeed, an old maxim from my days of project management said: ‘Failing to plan is planning to fail!’

The story of Lent, and Jesus’ journey up to Jerusalem, clearly demonstrates that Jesus had a plan – he knew where he was going, he’d organised the resources, notably the donkey for his arrival and the upper room for their meal. He regularly told his disciples that he was going there to die, which, of course, they didn’t want to hear, but Jesus plainly told them!

This is God’s Word on the subject: ‘... I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.’ (Jer 29 10–11. The Message)

We wouldn’t dream of setting off on a journey without first consulting the map and having an idea of what we will need. And in the Bible God has given us the map – we need to look at it regularly to be sure we are on the right path.

Perhaps we could use some of Lent to reflect on what God’s plan is for us as individuals and as a church, and to align ourselves with it – after all, his plan is likely to be a good one, well thought out, and fruitful!

David Percival



Please pray for those on the prayer board, for those being baptised here this month and for Valerie White and Fraye Potter, whose funerals took place here in February.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sandhurst Youth

We're really excited to announce that we have a new Youth Worker, Mike Gower, coming to lead Sandhurst Youth, our joint project with the council to engage with the young people across Sandhurst and ensure every young person is 'Equipped with a dream!.' Mike will be starting on 12th March and will be introduced to you all on Sunday 18th March.

So, in his own words, who is Mike Gower?

'Well what can I tell you about myself? To start with I have about 26 years of experience working with young people. This has ranged from youth clubs, schools, young offenders' institutes, YMCA hostel, and street work. I have worked with local authorities, YMCA, prison chaplaincy, and Salvation Army. I have experienced working with young people who have had issues from homelessness, drugs, antisocial behaviour, gangs. I am a south Londoner and have moved from north to west London. I have lived on a narrow-boat. I have two older brothers. My dad passed away with leukaemia and my mum is in a care home in Maidenhead with Alzheimer's and dementia.

'So, with my experience and passion to see young people get the best provision. I am moving from Ashford in Kent to be your youth worker. I am game for a laugh and have done things such as dressing in drag and attempting to run around Windsor for charity. I am a Chelsea FC supporter as well as following cricket and rugby. I also enjoy fishing and a good curry. So, I look forward to the next adventure, being part of your community and congregation.'

Centenary of Women Getting the Vote!

100 years ago, the first women got the right to vote. As well as being part of the Heritage Open Days in September, this theme is also going to be explored at the Ecumenical Service which will be held at St. Michael's on the 11th March at 6.30pm. Come along and explore this theme in hymns, readings and prayers as well as having a chance to meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the other churches in Sandhurst. If you would like to help, please let me know.

Emma Hodge

The Ecumenical Service on the 11th March at 6:30 pm will be at St Michael's. The theme is Equality, marking 100 years since women received the vote. The reading is Numbers 27:1-11

Recording a new CD

On a cold damp Saturday in early February, the choir gathered in the church to record a new CD in response to requests from members of the congregation. In a marathon day that lasted from 9.30am until 6.30pm with several breaks (including a bring-and-share lunch), 21 pieces of music were recorded.



Before recording started, everyone was made aware of the need to keep their music from rustling as pages were turned, and to keep absolutely still at the end of each take. Our juniors did an amazing job, and many sang their pieces from memory rather than risk making a noise turning pages. As the day went on, we found that we needed fewer takes to get a piece right, and in the afternoon we found that we were able to record several pieces at the first attempt! The final piece recorded, suitably enough, was the Hallelujah Chorus, which was a great way to end the day.

Thank you to everyone who took part, our soloists and instrumentalists, and of course to Karen Phillips, who did an incredible job of organising the day in addition to conducting us and keeping us focused, and thanks also to our organist, Stuart McSweeney.

We are hoping to have the CD, priced at £10, ready for release near Easter, and are already taking pre-orders.

Catherine Wilkins

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.

Mount Moriah Trust. It was good to welcome Tony and Kathy on February 18th to speak about this charity, which supports churches and projects in Israel, Gaza and the Left Bank. If you would like to know more, there are a series of short videos (3–5 minutes each) about some of their projects on the Mount Moriah web site: <https://mountmoriah.org.uk/dvd-videos/video-messages-from-the-pastors.html>.

Easter Lily Donations. Your donations are now invited for Easter Lilies. Please sign the form at the back of the church and take an envelope for your donation. This can be returned to a church warden or the church office. The suggested amount this year for each lily is £3.50. Thank you, Jennie Hulbert



QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 10th March at 7.00pm
***FISH and CHIP SUPPER (*veg option)**
Puzzling Questions and Raffle

**at St Michael's Pastoral Centre
Lower Church Road, Sandhurst**

Tickets £12 adults (£6 children under 18 & 'no food')
Available from Social Committee & Pastoral Centre Office
Bring your own drinks and glasses

St Michael's Hardship Fund

Hard times can hit any of us at any time is the. Historically, the church has always been the place to which people could turn in times of trouble, and at St Michael's we have a small fund to assist people struggling with financial hardship. Beneficiaries must either live within the parish of Sandhurst or Owlsmoor, or have an active and current connection with St Michael's Church.

In general, requests are only considered for 'emergency help' and not for ongoing deprivation etc. Both the need and the potential benefit of any proposed help has to be clearly identified. Grants are limited in size and no beneficiary may receive more than one grant in any year.

If you, or someone you know, hit really hard times do please speak to the clergy or the church wardens, who will be pleased to talk through the possibility that the church can help financially, as well as with prayer and practical help. All requests are treated confidentially.

Calling all children aged 3-10 years

The Children's Spring Workshop takes place at the Pastoral Centre on Saturday 24th March 2018, 10am-3 pm. The workshop includes lunch, crafts, puzzles, quizzes and games. Tickets at £15 per child are available from the church office. Please note that on this occasion we are not able to accommodate accompanying siblings/parents/carers. Any enquiries please call Abby Coleman on 07771 652425.

Photos: Clare Hardy



The **Burns supper**, in January, organised by Catherine and Ken Wilkins, was again a great success, with a piper, haggis and dancin'.

The Diocese would like to know about the Door

The Door is the monthly Diocesan newspaper, which used to be delivered to St Michael's. For some time this has not happened, although the newspaper can be read on the Diocesan website. The Diocese are conducting a survey of readers, which is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ENreadersurvey>.

On the Social Side....

With Burns' (incomprehensible) poetry recited, clothes swapped and Christchurch Cathedral visited – all very successful events – just a reminder that there is still time to get tickets for our Quiz Night, which will be held on Saturday 10th March. There were just a few left at the time of writing so you will need to be quick. Tickets cost £12 for adults, £6 for a child or 'no-food' option, and are available from the social committee or the office. The cost includes a fish & chip supper (alternatives available) but please bring your own drinks and glasses. Doors will open at 7.00 pm so we can start sharp at 7.30.

On Friday 23rd March there will be another evening of John's Jazz in the Pastoral Centre starting at 8.00 pm. Bring your own drinks and nibbles and just pay at the door – £5 will get you a great evening!

Two events in support of WinSpirie will follow. Firstly, on Saturday 28th April we will be holding a Barn Dance with dancing to the Aldbrickham Band. Tickets will be available shortly from the usual outlets and will cost £14 adult, £7 child, with a family ticket at £40 (2A + 3C). This includes a ploughman's supper, which will be served from 7.00 pm. Dancing will start from about 8.00 pm and, with a short break, will continue to 10.30 pm, by which time you will all be exhausted! Secondly, will be a Flower Demonstration evening, on Thursday 28th June. This will be hosted by Annette Urquart, who is a very well known local NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) demonstrator. Tickets for this event will cost £12; they will include a glass of wine and will be available in April.

I will try and arrange another Parish Lunch in May or June, date tba. As there have been no alternative venues suggested, I propose to book the Bird in Hand again. And, finally, thank you to all who have donated raffle prizes. We have a really nice collection of items for the next few events – but that doesn't prevent us from accepting more. Thank you.

Chris Harris, Social Committee

Sidespeople

We urgently need at least one more person to help at choral/sung evensongs by handing out service sheets etc. If you attend that service regularly and would like to help please have a word with me or one of the churchwardens. You would only be 'on duty' about four times a year.

Chris Harris

The Clothes-Swap Evening on the 3rd of February raised over £500 in support of WinSpire.

Tackling dementia, depression and loneliness through Sporting Memories

The Sporting Memories Foundation supports older people across the UK by engaging them in social activities, helping them to recall memories of watching or playing sport. Sharing memories and tapping into a passion for sport helps people to connect with others and with their past, reawakening positive thoughts and feelings that otherwise remain hidden away. It has been described as tackling dementia, depression and loneliness, and the foundation has received awards from medical and social institutions as well as being recognised by major national charities, including Comic Relief.



A branch is being formed to serve the local area, and will meet weekly in Sandhurst. The first meeting is 2–4 pm on Tuesday 6th March and will take place in the church hall of the Immaculate Conception Church, 63 Yorktown Rd, Sandhurst GU47 9BS. The group will then meet every week at the same time.

Aimed primarily at over 50s, all are welcome to join the chat, quizzes, games and very gentle physical activities to help keep body and mind active. For more information contact Gareth on 07803 855337, or if you are a silver surfer, email Angie on angie@sportingmemoriesnetwork.com.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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.

Coffee Rota

4 March	Gillian Davies	Joy Alexander
11 March	George Castle	Ruth Eve
18 March	Ann H-Davies	Jennie Rolfe
25 March	Dorothy Hill	Rosaria Toohey

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 for more details.

100 Club Draw February 2018

1st Prize: Mr Ken Wilkins No 56 £20

2nd Prize: Mr John Kenward No 23 £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 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 10th Mar 7.30pm (prompt)	Pastoral Centre	Quiz Night	Tickets available from the Social Committee
Fri 23rd Mar 8.00pm	Pastoral Centre	John's Jazz (see p 12)	Tickets £5 Pay at the door
Sat 24th Mar 10.00–3.00pm	Pastoral Centre	Children's Spring Work- shop (see p6)	Tickets £15 available from church office
Sat 30th Mar (Good Friday) 9.30–11.15am	Pastoral Centre	Messy Church	Messy Church is timed to end at the start of the Family Service.
Sat 28th April 7.00pm	Pastoral Centre	Barn dance	Tickets available from the Social Committee
Thur 28th June	Pastoral Centre	Flower arranging demonstration	Tickets: £12

MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

Charity: St Michael's Hardship Fund

Sunday 4th March – 3rd of Lent – Theme: Keys to Happiness (2)

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 (p194); Matthew 5:1-10 (p968)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Traditional)
- 11.15 am Family Service and Baptism of Amelia Guillaume
- 6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Saturday 10th March – Wedding

- 12.00 noon Adam Bennalick and Kandace Webber
- 2.00 pm Danny Tweed and Megan Varndell

Sunday 11th March – Mothering Sunday – Theme: Mothering Sunday

1 Samuel 1:1-28 (p271); Luke 7:11-17 (p1035)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion (Informal)
- 11.30 am Baptism of Bethany Black
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical service at St Michael's,
Reading: Numbers 27:1-11 (p167)

Sunday 18th March – 5th of Lent – Theme: Keys to Happiness (3)

Jeremiah 1:4-11 (p755); Matthew 5:1-10 (p968)

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

Sunday 25th March – Palm Sunday – Theme: Palm Sunday

Philippians 2:5-11 (p1179); Mark 14:32-15:39 (p1021)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion. Reading: Mark 11:1-11 (p1016)
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Poppy Kleiran and Thomas Dolan
- 6.30 pm Music and Meditation

Monday 26th March

Hebrews 9:11-15 (p1207); John 12:1-11 (p1079)

- 8.00 pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 27th March

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (p1144); John 12:20-36 (p1080)

- 8.00pm Holy Communion

Wednesday 28th March

Hebrews 12:1-3 (p1210) ; John 13:21-32 (p1081)

- 8.00pm Holy Communion

Thursday 29th March – Maundy Thursday

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (p1152); John 13:1–17 (p1081), 31–35 (p1082)

8.00pm Holy Communion

Friday 30th March – Good Friday

6.00 am First Light Service

11.15 am Family Service, The story of good Friday, Mark 15 (abridged)

12.45 pm Act of Witness (at the Memorial Park)

2.00 pm Passion Service, Reading: Isaiah 52:12–53:12 (p740)

An Evening of Jazz

with



the John Castle Jazz Band

Friday 23rd March at 8pm

Tickets: £5 on the door, under 18's free.

**St Michael's Pastoral Centre. Bring your own alcohol and glass,
other refreshments will be available.**



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



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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.