

St Michael's News February 2019

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.

Caring for Creation

Climate change, plastic pollution, palm oil plantations etc – who cares? Well, according to the Bible, God does. And so as Christians we should too.

Psalm 24 says that 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'. Psalm 104 describes the variety of God's creation and his provision for all his creatures. Genesis 1:26 describes how God has given human beings dominion over the earth – but does that mean we can exploit it and trash it to suit ourselves?

Science helps us to see how the whole of nature is integrated – our very survival depends on the wellbeing of tiny organisms that we never see. But even on the surface we can see how climate change affects the poorest communities most, as droughts hinder food production and hurricanes sweep away people's homes and livelihoods.

In March we'll be looking at the theme of 'Caring for Creation' in our services and in house groups, using material from our Lent Appeal charity, A Rocha. Meanwhile, look out for information in the media that you can bring to the table as we explore these issues together, and listen for God's guidance as you pray about these issues. **John Castle**



Please pray for those on the prayer board. Please pray for the families of Peter Pilbeam, Colin Nash and James Underwood (RIP), and for divided and troubled families in our community.

Winspire Progress and how you can help

I am delighted to announce that the major restoration of the St Michael Window is now complete and the window was returned to its place in plenty of time for Christmas. The window now glows in the sunshine and the faces of the saints can clearly be seen again after the careful restoration work by Salisbury Cathedral Stained Glass Workshop. Two smaller windows, also at the west end of the church, are away for restoration and will be returned in February. I want to thank the St Michael's community for their support in raising the approximately £25,000 it has cost to complete the project.

We are now working hard to raise the funds for the repair of the spire, clock and bells, all of which need substantial work if they are to be safeguarded for the future. We are applying for grant funding, but continue to welcome any support that our community can offer.

Smith of Derby came to assess the clock in December and told us it needs a complete overhaul and restoration of the face, which is very faded. This will cost approximately £10,000. Derek wrote in the January newsletter about the work needed on the bells. There is also the cost of the spire repair!

If anybody would like to make a specific donation toward the repair of a bell or the clock, perhaps in memory of a loved one or for a specific event, please do talk to me or any of the Winspire team.

Sue Campbell (suecampbell2906@btinternet.com)

St Michael's Health and Safety Review

We recently completed a health and safety review at St Michael's and we need volunteers to help us in these areas:

A Health and Safety Officer. We need someone who can keep an overall eye on Health and Safety. The policy has been updated and several actions taken – so now is a good time to take it on!

First Aiders. If you have an up-to-date first aid certificate and wouldn't mind occasionally being the designated first aider at events or services. I have some names already, but more volunteers would be good.

Health and Hygiene Certificate. we are offering training to those who are involved in food service at church activities and socials. If you help at these activities and would like to do the training please speak to me.

If you can help with any of these, please contact me on:

suecampbell2906@btinternet.com. Sue Campbell



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM will take place on Sunday 28th April from 11.00am to 12.30pm. We are looking for new members of the PCC, Deanery Synod members and a new Churchwarden.

Annual Review

Each year we compile a document which contains reports from all the different groups in St Michael's. This year it will be available from the beginning of April. If you are involved in leading a group please send your groups submission to Emma Hodge (emma.l.hodge@outlook.com) by 10th March. Late entries may not make it into the report! If you are in a group but not a leader, why don't you offer your assistance as many hands make light work. If your group hasn't been included before, it doesn't matter, it can easily be added – the more the better! Any photos also welcome (but please ensure that permission of those in the photos is obtained first).

Emma Hodge

Church Membership and the Electoral Roll

Every six years, we start again with a fresh electoral (membership) roll. This is the year for a new one, so even if you have been on the roll before you need to get the new form to complete. Membership enables you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and, if you wish, to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), to the Deanery Synod or as Churchwarden. Parents who are considering sending a child to Ranelagh School should also be aware that membership of the church roll is a criterion for admission.

To join or to continue as a member, you will need to fill in a new 2019 application form. **Please note that if you don't fill in a new form, you will cease to be a member of St Michael's Electoral Roll.** We are not allowed to automatically transfer your name from the old roll to the new one. The forms will be available in February and need to be returned to the Parish Office no later than 4th April.

If you regularly worship with us, are baptised and consider yourself a member of the Church of England, you should fill out a form. Any questions, please contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Claire Clay, or one of the churchwardens.

Charities

As many of you will be aware, each month we focus on a different charity, this year there is also a display about the charity on the boards on the

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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 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.

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parish chest, please do take a look and learn more about the charity. Many thanks to Thea Parker for organising the displays. In February we are focussing on Sandhurst Counselling Service (see below), while in March, our Lent appeal 'A Rocha' will be the focus of our prayers.

St Michael's School Foundation Governors (4 needed)

We are still looking for Foundation Governors for our Voluntary-Aided School. 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. If you are interested in exploring the idea of becoming a governor, please do speak to Sue Campbell, John Castle, Samantha Wilkins or Nicki Ray. You could also go to www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/governance/.
Emma Hodge, Churchwarden



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

This month's charity – Sandhurst Counselling Service

Twenty years ago, when Sandhurst Counselling Service (SCS) was born to support those going through relationship break down, Sue Smith and her team probably had little idea of where the Lord might take their work. From that humble birth, the development of the service has been overseen by Di Taylor, with great skill and dedication, to the point where now SCS is an established part of the support network for those struggling with mental health issues in our area – much needed and respected. We are hugely grateful for the ongoing support from St Michael's.

So it was a real challenge when Di told the Trustees in the autumn that the time had come for her to step back! We are, however, delighted to say that we have been successful in recruiting a new Clinical Manager, Malgorzata Milewicz, who will join us in March to continue to ensure we offer a highly professional service to all those who need it.

As St Michael's charity focus this month, we covet your prayers through this important transition; prayers for Di as she starts her 'retirement' from the service, Malgorzata as she picks up the reins, and for all involved that we may see God's leading and hand in all the change.

Dave Percival

Parish administrator for All Saints Church, Wokingham

All Saints Church Wokingham is looking for a Parish Administrator. This is a permanent-salaried part-time post (20 hours a week) based at the parish office in The Cornerstone Community Centre, Wokingham. Full details of the role and person specification are on the church website

www.allsaintswokingham.org.uk.

Pews

Over the past 14 months, a trial arrangement to create more space at the front and back of the church has been trialled and different people have been consulted and have provided their comments. The February PCC meeting will be discussing the proposals. Please let any PCC member know your views prior to the meeting.

Emma Hodge



QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 2nd March at 6.45pm

****CHICKEN and CHIP SUPPER (*other options)***

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

Children's Society Boxes – Reminder

As a reminder, the Children's Society boxes should be returned on 3rd February. Otherwise, please bring them back as soon as possible. If you would like to take another one, then please speak to Emma Hodge. The next time the boxes will be taken in/given out will be Advent so please watch for information later this year.

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden

On the Social Side

Tickets for our Annual Quiz are now on sale from the social committee or the office – the quiz is on Saturday 2nd March in the Pastoral Centre. Doors will open at 6.45pm so we can start the question rounds promptly at 7.00pm. Tickets are £12 for adults, £6 for children under 18, which will include a chicken and chips supper (or fish or sausage or a vegetarian cheese and onion pasty) or £6 for a 'no-food' option. Please bring your own drinks and glasses and park at the school. Teams will be of eight people but, please, no more or we shall have to devise a handicapping system! If you can make up your own team please do so, or we can put teams together on the night.

Our next Parish Lunch will be on Sunday 17th March at the Bird-in-Hand. Meet from 12.15pm to be seated by 12.30pm. I have reserved 24 places, so if you would like to join us please let me know asap.

On Saturday May 18th there will be a Band and Bells Concert in the Pastoral Centre, featuring the Camberley and District Silver Band and our own Belles Team. More information to follow but please do put the date in your diaries now. Proceeds will be shared, with some going to WinSpire.

Chris Harris, Social Committee

9:30 service

Do you come to the Parish Communion Service? If so, would you be willing to help. We are desperately in need of people to help as a server – to help serve coffee before the informal service, to help with the logistics of setting up the projector/screen at the beginning of the informal service and also as needed during the service. There is still a need for people to join the intercessors, or as a sidesperson. Please speak to John Castle or a churchwarden if you can help.

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden

A gentle nudge

I'm aware that it often takes some time for a message to be heard, sink in, be considered and then responded to. So, in hope, I am giving a gentle reminder that the opportunities to do your little bit for others are still there. There are people who would love someone to pop in from time to time for a cup of tea and a chat. There are people who would come to church if someone could offer them a lift, and so on ... The *Faith Into Action* forms are still at the back of the church, or have a chat with Steph Martin or myself to see whether what you could contribute to making our church a more caring community.

John Castle

100 Club Draw January 2019

1st Prize: Wendy and Alun Grafton No 19 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Ann Weston No 129 £10

£32 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

Exploring faith for adults, teens and children

Would you like to be closer to God at the end of the year than you are now? Here are some of the opportunities that our church offers us to explore faith more deeply, in addition to the usual weekly house groups and Sunday activities for young people and children.

Adults The *Start Course* is a 6-week course about basic Christian beliefs, using short DVD programmes and discussion.

The *Moving On course* looks at what being a Disciple of Jesus means in all aspects of our lives (same format as *Start*).

Teenagers *Youth Emmaus* is a discussion-based course in 13 units that enables young people of secondary school age to get to grips with what it means to be a Christian. For some, the journey may include Confirmation.

Children *Welcome to the Lord's Table* is a course for children of primary school age to prepare them for receiving Holy Communion (NB this is NOT a preparation for Confirmation).

All of these courses are run as and when there is sufficient demand. Please contact the Rector or the Parish Office to express interest, or speak to one of the youth or children's leaders regarding *Youth Emmaus* or *Welcome to the Lord's Table*. For those adults and teens who are ready to make the step of

Confirmation, there will be a Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Oxford at St Michael's on Sunday 14th July.

Discovery Meetings!

What's St Michael's Church all about, then? What's the vision? Who's who? What goes on? Where could I fit in? If you have any of these questions, we'll be trying to answer them at our informal, low-pressure Discovery Meetings. You'll get to meet a few key members of our church over drinks and hear a short presentation about our vision and activities: **Sunday 24th March 3.30 pm; or Wednesday 3rd April at 8.00 pm**, both upstairs in the Pastoral Centre for about an hour and a quarter.



Future Fundraising activities:

If anyone has items which are suitable for sale at a car boot sale or on Ebay, please let Sue Campbell know. The church is planning some fundraising car boots this spring. If you have yet to return our flyer asking for support, please put it in the box at the back of the church.



Thank you, Sue Campbell

Mothering Sunday is 31st March this year!

As it's the day the clocks go forward, we are going to have a Joint Parish Communion/Family Service at **10.30am** for about an hour, with breakfast and tea/coffee beforehand (not afterwards). Put it on your calendar now (and underline the time) and please come (with or without your mother!) The 8.00am Holy Communion will run as usual.

Altar Frontals – Update

Many thanks to all who voted in the consultation about replacing the green and ivory frontals for the high altar. At the January PCC meeting, the embroidered superfrontal option (this is the narrow top band) was selected and now a faculty is being prepared and will be submitted shortly.

Emma Hodge, Church Warden

Chaos, Chance and the Character of God

On the 12th of February there is a talk with this title given by Professor Paul Ewart, Head of the Department of Atomic and Laser Physics at Oxford University. The talk is sponsored by the Surrey Heath branch of Christians in Science and will take place in St Paul's Church, Camberley. For more information search the internet for cis.org.uk/groups/surrey-heath.

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
Until 6th February, 7.30–9.30 pm	St John's, Crowthorne	Just Listen!	
Sat 2nd March	Pastoral Centre	Quiz	Social Committee
Sun 17th March 12.15 for 12.30pm	Bird-in-Hand	Parish Lunch	Chris Harris
Sun 28th April 11.00–12.30pm	Pastoral Centre	APCM	Emma Hodge

Newsletter. Please send emails to newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or leave written requests with the church office. The deadline for the March edition is **Monday 25th 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.

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

3 Feb	Sheridan C-Evans	Rosaria Toohey
10 Feb	Ann Harris	Chris Harris
17 Feb	Janet Pilbeam	Ann Weston
24 Feb	Steph Martin	Alan Bunton

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 [Follow us on Twitter \(@StMichaelShurst\)](https://twitter.com/#!/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.

————— FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES —————
Charity: Sandhurst Counselling Service

Sunday 3rd February – The Presentation of Christ – Theme: The Presentation of Christ

Malachi 3:1–5 (p961); Luke 2:22–40 (p1028)

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

Friday 8th February – Funeral

- 1.30pm Peter Pilbeam

Sunday 10th February – 4th before Lent – Theme: The Calling of the Disciples

Isaiah 6:1–8 (p690); Luke 5:1–11 (p1032)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Informal)
- 6.30pm Ecumenical Service at the Methodist Church

Friday 15th February – Wedding

- 1.00pm Matthew Owen and Kirstie Murray

Sunday 17th February – 3rd before Lent – Theme: The Blessing of the Kingdom

Jeremiah 17:5–10 (p776); Luke 6:17–26 (p1034)

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

Sunday 24th February – 2nd before Lent – Theme: Loving your enemies

Genesis 45:3–11 (p50), 15 (p51); Luke 6:27–38 (p1034)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Community)
- 11.30am Baptism of Bonnie-Blu and Memphis-Cash Kelly
- 2.00pm Thanksgiving for Imogen Phipps
- 6.30pm Sung Evensong – Theme: The providence of God
Readings: Job 28:1–11 (p529); Acts 14:8–18 (p1109)