

St Michael's News March 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.

Why giving up for Lent could help save the planet

Our focus this Lent will be on the work of the A Rocha charity.

Perhaps you are like me and need some achievable ideas to do during Lent – things we can do to help us as Christians live a more sustainable life on our planet. Here are some suggestions:

- What about giving up one of the following: alcohol, sweets/chocolate, sugar, snacking between meals? Not eating crisps won't save the planet on its own, but watching personal consumption will!
- We could be more unselfish: give away something every single day, be it time, money, or something you own to aid organisations that are promoting the green agenda.
- We could be less greedy of the planet's resources and not buy anything besides the essentials during Lent. We could make do and mend, reuse and recycle more efficiently. We could make a positive effort to use less energy by walking, sharing lifts, turning lights off etc.
- The focus of our Lent prayer could be for our planet and our world leaders and their efforts to stop global warming.
- Finally, we should stay close to the glory of God's presence in the world around us all day, every day, by enjoying and conserving all our natural world has to offer. **Sue Campbell**



Please pray for those on the prayer board and for those being baptised here this month and for the family of Peter Pilbeam, whose funeral took place in February.

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 are now available 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.

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 group's 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

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.

The Host Lent Appeal

Lent is traditionally a time of foregoing something, though there is also now a trend to mark the season by doing something extra thoughtful and special.

As we approach a time of joyful celebration in the Church calendar we ask if you might consider

doing something for international relation – making a small but significant contribution towards greater understanding worldwide.



Here at HOST our mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. Our volunteer hosts open their homes and offer the opportunity to their student guests to have a break from studies and the chance to discover a new part of the UK. They share meals and conversation and in so doing learn about each other's culture. We know from the feedback we receive that being a host can give every bit as much pleasure as being a guest.

Hospitality can be offered for one day (daytime only) or three days and two nights at the weekend. We operate all year round and would very much welcome more volunteer hosts to join us.

More information can be found on our website: www.hostuk.org; or email us at: info@hostuk.org or telephone us on: 020 7739 6292

Cleanliness is next to...

Two years ago, we gave the church a thorough *spring clean*. I am planning to hold another one on **Saturday 13th April**, from 9.00–12.00 am. We need as many people as possible to help us make the building ready for Easter. Bring brooms and dusters! Do come and join us. Refreshments will be provided.
Sue Campbell



Cricket

A message to all cricket lovers. The Howard Stilliard Memorial Fund, which helps fund projects for young people in Sandhurst, Olwsmoor and Collegetown, and which is supported by our church, have been challenged by Olwsmoor and Sandhurst surgeries to a cricket match on the afternoon of Saturday 22 June at the recreation grounds. In consequence the fund, which consists of only four trustees, has requested help from St Michael's church. We are looking for at least 11 people at this stage who need only to love playing. If you are aged 12 and above please contact John White. This is a

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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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fund-raising event so it goes without saying that spectators are very welcome. Entrance is of course free, but there will be an auction, a raffle as well as refreshments. John White

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.

Friends

I would just like to say thank you for your love and kindness and support which you have shown myself, Wendy, Trevor and the grandchildren at this time.

The congregation in the church on 8th February was overwhelming and showed how much Peter was thought of and also for the cards and letters which we received. 'Thank you' are such small words, but mean such a lot.

From us all, God bless, Janet Pilbeam

Easter Lily Donations

The list for Easter lilies will be in church shortly. If you wish to donate a lily or lilies in memory of loved ones no longer with you, please sign the form at the back of church and take an envelope for your donation. This can be returned to a Church Warden or the Parish Office. The suggested amount this year for each lily is £3.50. Many thanks, Jennie Hulbert

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.

Churches Together, Christian Aid Quiz

Here is a date to put in your diaries: the Annual Sandhurst Churches Together, Christian Aid Quiz will be held at St George's Church, Owlsmoor on Saturday 18th May 2019. We need teams, so start planning now!

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The environmental charity, A Rocha, is St Michael's March charity. A Rocha is an international Christian organisation founded in the UK, but with a Portuguese title. It was named after a field station set up in the

Algarve in the late 1980s. A Rocha says that it is an 'international conservation organization working to show God's love for all creation'.

The work of the field station attracted attention internationally and became firmly established in the late 1980s. In the 1990s the charity received requests from elsewhere to set up Christian nature-conservation projects. At the beginning of the 21st century, A Rocha found itself preserving wetlands in Portugal and the Lebanon, working in a Kenyan forest, teaching in France, the UK and Canada. By 2014, A Rocha was involved with 19 organisation working throughout the world.

A Rocha believes that 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,' (Psalm 24:1) and helps communities with ecological schemes around the world – whether or not they share the Christian faith. It believes that

we must understand the environment better and live in ways that enable wildlife to flourish.



Learning to farm snails in Uganda. The snails are used to protect local mangroves. This skill will provide a sustainable livelihood.

A Rocha involves itself in problems such as how we are to feed the world in the future. Presently, world population is about 7.3 billion; the UN estimates that world population will reach 9.7 billion by 2050. A Rocha and other environmental organisations say that we eat too much red meat, which uses far too much of the earth's resources to produce. It says that we must reduce our consumption by 50 per cent.

A large part of A Rocha's work is in education. An environmental education programme is being developed for use by local schools. A Rocha Ghana works to establish woodlands in the grounds of 15 schools around Kumasi.

To read more about A Rocha's work, search for: 'A Rocha International'.

More from A Rocha

Dave Bookless, director of Theology at A Rocha, the Christian charity we are supporting through our Lent Appeal, is giving a talk on this subject on **Tuesday 5th March at 7.30 pm at Newbold College, Bracknell**. This will be a very informative lecture that will help us get to grips with our topic for March and Lent. There is no charge for the talk. Lifts are available – phone John Castle 01252 872168 or the Parish Office. If travelling independently, the venue details are:

Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, St Mark's Road, Binfield RG42 4AN. The journey is about 20 minutes from Sandhurst and there is lots of parking. Directions are at the back of church.

Newbold Diversity Centre

Lecture by:
Dave Bookless
Director of Theology for the global
Christian environmental organisation
A Rocha International

**ENVIRONMENTAL
THREATS -
DO CHRISTIANS CARE?
SHOULD THEY?**

Tuesday
**05th
March
2019**
7.30pm
Smith Centre
Salisbury Hall
Newbold College
Binfield RG42 4AN

diversity welcome | all are welcome
newbold diversity centre
contact: John Castle 01252 872168

NEWBOLD COLLEGE
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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The doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Wilf and Pam are, as usual, our Quiz Masters and will certainly get the old grey matter working! There will be a fish 'n' chip supper/veggie burger 'n' chip supper or sausage 'n' chip supper included in the price. There will be cheaper entrance if you don't want a supper – prices to be confirmed later. There will also be a raffle. Absolutely all proceeds, after paying for the suppers, go to Christian Aid. More details later, just put this date in your diary now! Karen Glossop (Keg)

800th Celebrations

We are getting closer to the start of our celebrations of 800 years of worship on this site. The celebrations will start on the 29th September 2019 and will last until the end of December 2020. We are pleased to announce that Rt Rev. Dr Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham and former Rector of St Michael's and Rt Rev. Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark (who served as curate here) will be preaching at Michaelmas Evensong this year and next respectively.

We have several different events in the planning including a flower festival, a ladies craft evening and a Psalmathon. More details about specific events to follow. Many hands make light work so if you would like to be involved in one of the events, or have an idea for another event please do speak to us.

Emma Hodge and Catherine Wilkins

Faithful Grandparents: Hope and love through the generations by Anita Cleverly, 2019 (Bible Reading Fellowship)

What role can grandparents take in passing on the Christian faith to their grandchildren? This book explores the challenges that grandparents face in finding meaningful and appropriate ways of building relationships and sharing and nurturing the faith of their grandchildren in today's culture. Drawing on the scriptures and the experience of her own and other seasoned grandparents, this book helps us to navigate through the challenges and opportunities and to think through the ways we might do this better. Full of lots of wisdom, humour and practical tips, this book is eminently readable and led me to reflect deeply on the calling, responsibilities and privilege of being a grandparent. Liz Percival

On the Social Side

Just a brief piece this month. First, a reminder that our next Parish Lunch will be on Sunday 17th March at the Bird-in-Hand. Meet from 12.15 to be seated

by 12.30 pm. If you would like to join us please let me know by Sunday 10th March.

Second, on Saturday May 18th there will be a Band & Bells Concert in the Pastoral Centre, showcasing the talents of the Camberley and District Silver Band and our own Belles Team. Tickets will be on sale soon, and part of the proceeds will go to support WinSpire.

Finally, we are hoping to run another indoor-bowling evening in June – more details to follow. Chris Harris, Social Committee

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 March	Hilary Smith	Jo Arthy
10 March	Marian Blackmore	Val Brown
17 March	Jenny Piggin	Wendy Grafton
24 March	Betty Wilson	Di Pullar
31 March	Anne Clough	Peter Clough

Please note that the Parish Communion/family service on 31st March begins at 10.30 am

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.

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 **Monday 25th 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sun 17th March 12.15 for 12.30pm	Bird-in-Hand	Parish Lunch	Chris Harris
Sun 24th March & Wed 3rd April	Pastoral Centre	Discovery Meeting	See p5 for times & scope
Sun 28th April 11.00–12.30pm	Pastoral Centre	APCM	Emma Hodge
Sat 18th May Time tba	Pastoral Centre	Band & Bells Concert	More info to follow

CHURCH SERVICES
Charity: a Rocha

Sunday 3rd March – Sunday before Lent – Theme: Made in God’s image

Genesis 1:24–31 (p4); Matthew 6:25–34 (p971)

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

Wednesday 6th March – Ash Wednesday – Theme: Caught out

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 (p912); John 8:1–11 (p1073)

- 8.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 10th March – 1st of Lent – Theme: A wildly wonderful world

Psalms 104 (p606); Matthew 6:25–34 (p971)

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

Sunday 17th March – 2nd of Lent – Theme: Noah’s story

Genesis 9:1–17 (p10); Matthew 10:28–31 (p975)

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

Sunday 24th March – 3rd of Lent – Theme: Climate change

Isaiah 55:6–13 (p742); Luke 13:1–9 (p1046)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Community)
- 11.30am Baptism
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong – Theme: Loving God
Readings: Deuteronomy 6:1–9 (p185); John 17:1–19 (p1085)

Sunday 31st March – Mothering Sunday – Theme: Caring for others

Exodus 2:1–10 (p58)

- 8.00am Holy Communion. Reading: John 19:25–27 (p1088)
- 10.30am Parish Communion and Family Service
- 6.30pm No service

Caring for Creation – A prayer

'In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.' (Psalm 102:25)

Loving God, thank you for the gift of creation.

As we experience each day, may we take time to wonder and give you thanks.

From each sunrise to every sunset, in every season, and with every breath, may we celebrate our home in creation, and the glorious gift of life.

As the climate changes through our lifestyles, give us compassion to care deeply that people are suffering now, from drought, flood, wildfires and terrible storms.

Give us the imagination to see that many species, and future generations are in peril and may never know the beauty and diversity of creation that we enjoy.

Give us passion to act now, to pray for the changes needed within our communities, our churches, our nation, and among the nations, for climate change to be brought under control.

Guide us Lord, and guide our leaders, to act as you would have us act. May our prayer and our actions flow from our love for your creation, in all its beauty and diversity, a longing for justice for the poor, and our commitment to all future generations of your children on this Earth.

Amen.

from The Climate Coalition, *Show the love* campaign Feb 2019

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love/>



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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.



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