

St Michael's News August 2019

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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.*

Preparation...

August is upon us and for some it is a chance to prepare, to prepare for the next school year, possibly at a new school or university, but even if this doesn't apply, we may be using the summer holidays to take a break from some social activities which don't meet over the summer, or just to enjoy the lighter traffic when we drive to work! Preparation is important, both in the Old Testament and New Testament, people are encouraged to prepare, but do we prepare only at a practical level or do we also prepare on a spiritual level? Preparing on a spiritual level helps us to be ready for challenges and difficult times but it also enables us to grow in our faith. In July we saw people take the next step in their journey of faith, as they were either confirmed or received communion for the first time, but we are all on faith's journey and we all need to prepare to take the next step.

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden



Please pray for those on the prayer board. Please pray for Stanley Grove, whose funeral took place in July.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

St Michael's Hardship Fund

The August charity is the St Michael's Hardship Fund. The church has always been a place where people could turn in times of trouble. At St Michael's we have a small fund set aside to assist people who are suffering financial hardship. To be eligible, the recipients must either live within the parishes of Sandhurst or Owlsmoor, or have an active and current connection with St Michael's Church.

The Fund is intended to help with emergencies rather than for on-going financial difficulties. Grants are limited in size, and restricted to one grant per beneficiary in any one year. But we do want to use the fund to help those who are in need, so 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, and offer prayer and practical help. All requests will be treated confidentially.

On the social side

With the A Rocha concert now done and dusted, a great evening which raised over £500 for the charity, and the Parish Lunch also in the past, it's time to look forward to Autumn!

On Saturday September 14th we are planning to run a Heritage Weekend Community Afternoon Tea. This will be followed, on October 5th, by our Harvest Supper, which will feature 'John's Jazz'. Full details about both events to follow – look out for posters in church and on the website. Looking even further ahead, our (nearly) Advent Fair will be on Sunday 17th November, and we are planning a Burns Night Supper for Saturday January 25th 2020!

Finally, just a reminder that Karen Allen will welcome donations of fruit and other produce suitable for making jams, chutneys and the like. If possible, have a word with her first just to warn her they're coming.

Christian Aid Lunch

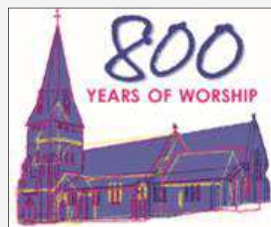
I am pleased to say that £510 was raised at our lunch this year. Many thanks to all who attended and donated.

Dorothy Hill

St Michael's 800th anniversary celebrations

Hymns of the Month

During the 800th celebration, each newsletter will have an article providing some information on one or two of the hymns which will be sung during that month at one of the services. Some months there will be additional information available on the website. Please take the opportunity to reflect on the hymns and the story associated with them; some months there will be questions in the story for you to reflect on. Thanks



Celebrations are starting!

Our celebrations to celebrate 800 years of worship at St Michael's are starting! Come and join us as we mark this milestone in our history.

29th September, 6:30 pm: Patronal Evensong

Our celebrations start with our Michaelmas (Feast of St. Michael and All Angels) Evensong, where our preacher will be Rt Revd Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, who was former Rector of St Michael and All Angels. Evensong will also feature a premier of a choral anthem composed by a member of our congregation.

13th October, 11:30 am: Bulb Planting

Come and join us as we plant spring bulbs in the churchyard. Please bring trowels, bulb planters, gloves etc. Donations of any spring flowering bulbs are welcome from mid-September. Please place bulbs in the bucket in the north porch.

22nd November, 7.00 pm (time tbc): Make and Mull

Come and join us for an evening of making Christmas-themed crafts. Cost £5 (time tbc)

800th Mugs

Special commemorative mugs are available to order for the price of £8:00. All profits go to the general funds. Please see Catherine or Emma to order.

Help!

Do you have any magnifying glasses or binoculars children could use at the heritage weekend? If so, please speak to Emma or Catherine.
Thanks

Emma Hodge

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.

Lost Property

There is an overflowing box of lost property at the back of church, please have a look to see if anything is yours, otherwise it will be donated to a charity shop in September. Emma

Sustainable Sandhurst

Vicki Alan-Smith has created a Facebook group called Sustainable Sandhurst to share tips and ideas about how to live more sustainably and how to care for the world for future generations. All are most welcome to join it.

Wanted: enthusiastic volunteers for a local community project

Sandhurst Baptist Church hold weekly English classes for Speakers of Other Languages (SOL) from 10.00 am – 11.30 am on a Thursday, term time only.

They use different approaches – relational, creative, written and conversational – to help non-English speakers (mainly Nepalese) improve their language and communication skills. At the moment there are 60 people on the books, with an average of 40 attending each week.

They would love to have two or three helpers per class to enable better learning opportunities and smaller group work. The work is challenging but very rewarding. If you have a heart for serving people in our community and helping them feel more part of Sandhurst life through this outreach work, Sandhurst Baptist Church would love to hear from you. Please contact Louise Ratcliffe on 07801 790580 or the Baptist Church office on 01252 879088.

There is a meeting on Thursday 5th September at 10.00 am to talk about the coming term, which begins on Thursday 12th September.

Confirmation Service, 14th July at 10.00 am

There was a full church for the visit of Bishop Steven to conduct our confirmation service in the context of our informal Parish Communion – four adults and four children were counted!

In the testimony slot, Brendan Watson read this statement on behalf of the four adult candidates.

‘My name is Brendan and I am speaking to you on behalf of my fellow Confirmation candidates, Corinne, Nicky and Martin. We wish to thank you for being here today supporting us at our confirmation by the Bishop of Oxford.

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'We four decided to be confirmed at this stage in our lives and make our commitment to God. All of us were very emotional when understanding the true significance of the Crucifixion and that Jesus died for our sins. It is of great comfort to us that He is always there, whatever happens in our lives.

'We particularly want to thank Revd John Castle and Sarah Ashton for their patience, understanding and guidance in preparing us for our Confirmation. We look forward to being part of this church family.'

Please continue to hold these members of our church family in your prayers as they grow in faith and discipleship.



Those confirmed:

(Adults) Corinne Smith, Martin Thomas, Nicky Thomas, Brendan Watson
(Young people) Matilda Shand, Rachel Tang, Ada Thorne, Abby Waters

First Communion:

Edith Shand, Jacob Clay, Jake Tang, Ewan Franklin, Nevaeh Pomroy

Saving the planet through music Concert: Saturday 13th July

This concert featured our Church Choir, the St Michael's Belles handbell team and members of the Castle family, John, Adam and Matt (pictured), in a variety of music from the Renaissance to the 21st century – classical, folk and jazz. Strawberries and wine also delighted the palate, and a total of over £500 was raised for the Christian environmental charity A Rocha International (<https://www.arocha.org/en/>). A big thank you to all who made this possible, performers, helpers and, of course, the audience!



Coming up ...

Here's a sneak preview of some of the delights awaiting you this autumn.

- A series of three sermons on *Who is God?* in September. Where do you get your ideas of what God is like? These sermons will open up some of the attributes of God revealed in the Bible: Creator and Father, King and Judge, and the Saviour. Be prepared to be awe-struck!
- The launch of our 800th Anniversary, with Choral Evensong on the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, Sunday 29th September, with guest preacher Bishop Alan Wilson, former Rector of this parish (see page 3).
- A seven-week Bible overview course that will take you through the story of the Bible with historical background and key theological issues (dates to be confirmed).
- The Start course – six weeks on the basics of the Christian faith.
- The Harvest Supper on 5th October (see page 2).
- A Bereavement Awareness course on 19th October (see below).

Bereavement Awareness Course

What do you say to someone who has been recently bereaved? Often we'd love to bring some comfort and support, but don't know where to start, or are afraid of saying the wrong thing and causing further upset. Well, help is at hand! On **Saturday 19th October** we will be hosting a visiting team from Care for the Family to give a day's training on Bereavement. This is open to

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anyone who'd like to be better able to understand bereavement and how to give the right kind of support. There will be further information about how to sign up in due course. Meanwhile, if you are at all interested, put the date in your diary, and talk to Steph Martin or Angela Harper.

Bible Society testimonials

On its website the Bible Society gives a series of testimonials from people describing how they found the Bible influential at important stages in their life. Here is a story from a lady for whom the Bible is central to her life. See

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/latest/mybible/i-have-the-words-from-ephesians-210-hanging-on-a-plaque-in-my-bedroom/> for other stories.

Reasons to believe in the power of the Bible

'There are hundreds of verses from the Bible that comfort me, but this one galvanises me. It's 1 John 5:12.

"God offers us eternal life and it can be found only in his son. So, anyone who has genuine contact with Jesus Christ has eternal life, and anyone who rejects him, rejects life."



'I feel that I have only 20 years left to do stuff for God and I don't want to waste a moment of it. This galvanises me to find out people who have leanings towards God and see whether I can encourage them. When I first heard this verse, I was shocked. I realised that my life was running about trying to prove that I was a good person, not helping people find God. We do a lot of prayer in the valley where

I live. We've been running a Bible study group for 10 years. We've built friendships over 10 years and then invited people to our home for Food-For-Thought suppers and we didn't have an agenda. We never expressed an agenda. They felt we were okay. My husband and I pray every night before we have a meal and usually the food is going cold on the plates! People in villages like this may have everything the world can offer: skiing holidays, horses, kids in public school and massive Range Rovers, but they need God as much as the person who's struggling in the food bank. This verse galvanises me and excites me. I know that, as I pray and trust, good stuff will happen.'

Bishop Steven's walk, Tuesday 3rd September

Bishop Steven will be starting his walk through the Diocese with Morning Prayer at St George's, Owlsmoor at 9.00 am on 3rd September. All are welcome to attend the short service, and, if you wish, walk with the Bishop to his next stop, in Crowthorne.

Through the Church Door...

This year, the Heritage Open Days at St Michael's will provide an opportunity to explore and discover more about St Michael's and a lot of 'hidden' things in church. As in previous years there will be opportunities for all ages. Come and explore on Saturday 14th September (9.00 am to 5.00 pm) and Sunday 15th September (1.00 pm to 5.00 pm). There will be tours at 2:30 pm each day. This is your chance to find out the answer to those questions you always wanted to ask – such as 'why is the nave called the nave?' Come along to find out the answer to this and more.



Emma Hodge

Ride and Stride...

A great way to enjoy local churches and to raise money for St Michael's and Berkshire Churches Trust is to take part in 'Ride and Stride'. This is a sponsored event and for more information please visit <http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride-2/>

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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 August	Sheridan C-Evans	Jennie Rolfe
11 August	Dorothy Hill	Jo Arthy
18 August	Ann Harris	Chris Harris
25 August	Janet Pilbeam	Rosaria Toohey

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	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.

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 takes place 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 Arron on 07727012375 or email ahkarar1@gmail.com 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
Tue 3rd Sept	Starts at St George's Owlsmoor	Bishop Steven's Walk	See p9
Sat 14th Sept	Pastoral Centre	Heritage weekend afternoon tea	Details to follow
Sat 5th Oct	Pastoral Centre	Harvest Supper with John's Jazz	Details to follow
Sat 19th Oct	Pastoral Centre	Bereavement Awareness Course	Steph Martin Angela Harper

————— AUGUST CHURCH SERVICES —————
Charity: Hardship Fund

Sunday 4th August – 7th after Trinity – Theme: A new way of life

Colossians 3:1–11 (p1184); Luke 12:13–21 (p1045)

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

Saturday 10th August – Wedding

2.00pm Gregory Crouch and Rebecca Oliver

Sunday 11th August – 8th after Trinity – Theme: What do you put your faith in?

Hebrews 11:1–16 (p1209); Psalm 33:12–22 (p561); Luke 12:32–40 (p1045)

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

Sunday 18th August – 9th after Trinity – Theme: The cost of faith

Hebrews 11:29–12:2 (p1210); Luke 12:49–56 (p1046)

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

Sunday 25th August –10th after Trinity – Theme: A prophetic calling

Jeremiah 1:4–10 (p755); Luke 13: 10–17 (p1046)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion (Community)

6.30pm No service



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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.