

St Michael's News December 2020

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8HN

The church building is now open at certain times, please see our website, www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk, for up-to-date information.

PARISH OFFICE UPDATE

The office is still physically closed to visitors (including members of the church), but **Nicola Thompson** is now working in the Parish Office on **Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00am-12:00pm** and can answer enquiries about baptisms, wedding or hall bookings by phone or email:

T: 01252 873030

E: office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

Sunita McIntosh is continuing to work from home on **Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 10:00am-1:00pm**, and can be contacted about any matters to do with the churchyard, funerals or finance on mobile phone or email:

M: 07851 559771

E: office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

For pastoral matters you can phone the Rector, **Rev John Castle** on:

T: 01252 872168

OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH

*Knowing God for ourselves. Growing as individuals and as a church.
Showing God's love in the world.*

Advent – Response to God

Advent has started and this year I find myself reflecting on the annunciation – the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary.

Mary was a young woman who had plans, plans to marry Joseph, she didn't plan to have a child outside marriage – and in biblical times, this had the punishment of being put to death by stoning. But Mary's plans changed when the Archangel Gabriel came to Mary and told her she would be the mother of Jesus.

Mary's response is that she asked how it would happen, but her response was that she said YES! In saying yes, she put her trust in God, she trusted God to keep her safe and she knew that God would be with her throughout all the challenges that she would face.



This year we have seen our plans change, none of us have faced death by stoning due to having a child outside marriage but we have faced life changing situations, from health fears to redundancy.

How have we responded to our plans changing, have we trusted God or not? As Charles Wesley put it in his advent hymn 'Come thou long-expected Jesus', we should ask God:

'From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.'

**Emma Hodge,
Churchwarden**



Please pray for all those on the prayer board



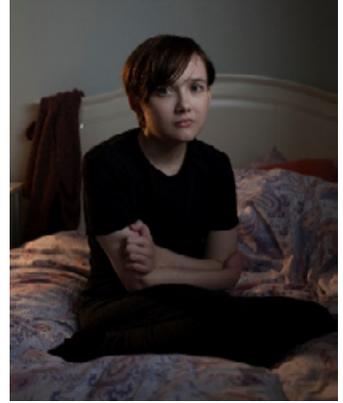
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society is the charity St Michael's regularly supports over Christmas

The Children's Society work with some of the most disadvantaged children in England. The past year has turned life upside down for millions of young people. They've missed out on school and been trapped in dangerous situations at home.

Right now, so many young people feel like they have no sense of purpose, and no one they can talk to about their problems. Millions of them are living in poverty or being pushed into it.

Shockingly, our latest Good Childhood Report (www.childrensociety.org.uk/good-childhood) found that UK 15-year olds are among the saddest and least satisfied with their lives in Europe.



No one can have good well-being when they're hungry, struggling with their mental health or being abused or exploited.

We know what needs to happen to make children's lives better – and we need your help, our communities, other charities and partners to overturn the barriers that hold children back. And we all need to speak with and listen to even more young people and keep providing the support that they tell us helps.

The difference your support has made in the last financial year:

- we worked directly with 11,513 young people, providing essential one-to-one support and advice in person and online. During lockdown we helped young people stay in touch by providing them with the technology to access therapy sessions and mental health support when they're struggling.
- we brought about changes that will improve life for 4.4 million young people after our successful campaign to end the benefits freeze.

From one of the many thousand young people supported by *The Children's Society* this year:

"I don't know where I would be without this support"

On behalf of these young people and *The Children's Society*, I'd like to say a big thank you for your ongoing support, through donation and fundraising activity to campaigning and prayer.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



How you can help?

- **Attend the Christingle Service on Sunday 13 December at 4.15pm** (particularly suitable for families with young children) – in church (pre-booked), or online (Please let us know so we can provide you with a kit)!
- **Make a donation** either via <https://thyg.uk/CUS024252>, by scanning the QR code below, or by putting it in an envelope marked for *The Children's Society* and given to Emma or Janet. Your financial support is even more crucial at this time, when traditional fundraising means (Choir carol singing etc...) have been curtailed. So, thank you!

Find out more about the work of *The Children's Society* at: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Janet Rogers,
Volunteer Speaker and Ambassador,
The Children's Society



SUPPORTING CHARITIES AT ST MICHAEL'S

You will be aware (I hope!) that St Michaels tithes, that is gives one tenth, of its income to charitable causes and that we highlight them in our intercessions on a monthly basis. The ones that we have focussed on this year are:

Jan	Rwanda appeal (Sandhurst School)	July	Compassion
Feb	St. Michael's Hardship Fund	Aug	Howard Stilliard Memorial Fund
Mar	Day Centre	Sept	St. Michael's School (prayed for)
Apr	Barnabas Fund	Oct	Foodbank – Harvest
May	Retrak	Nov	Tearfund
June	Church Mission Society	Dec	Children's Society

In January, the PCC will be deciding upon the charities for 2020 and 2021. They will be particularly interested in charities that are in line with and promote our values and beliefs, and those which have a specific connection with our church or one of its members, or inspire and engage church members. The aim is also to have a 'portfolio' of charities that work internationally, nationally and locally.

If you have suggestions of charities that you would like to promote or champion, please contact Sue Campbell, Emma or Di Taylor so that your suggestions can be considered. You can send them care of the Parish Office, office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk.

Sue Campbell, PCC member



'I'm dreaming of a green Christmas...' Part 2!

Since last month's article, we've found ourselves in lockdown #2 with all the challenges that it brought with it. Yet again we've had to adapt and change as restrictions are imposed and lifted, but maybe it's given us the chance to be a bit greener this Christmas.

Many people are shopping at online Christmas Fairs this year as an alternative to big online retailers, putting money into small and local businesses and reducing transportation costs. We held our first St Michael's online fair in November which has resulted in some happy customers.

My family have decided on a handmade Christmas this year, putting into place a rule that we only exchange gifts that we have made. It's a sort of skill swap that will undoubtedly see my sister baking and making preserves, and me at the sewing machine and craft table. Who else is doing something similar?

Don't forget to save your Christmas cards to be upcycled. Sarah Ashton will put a box at the back of church for these in the New Year. She says that any bits that don't get reused will be recycled.

Apart from cold turkey (which has a bad reputation!) perhaps with our new-found lockdown cookery knowledge there will be an outbreak of creative ways to use up the Christmas leftovers. My mother's turkey risotto was a highlight of post Christmas lunchtimes for many years, as was my Grannie's turkey and ham pie. Neither of

them would ever have wasted food, instead turning leftovers into more tasty meals. This trait has been passed on to me, and I know that we will be making 'Christmas dinner soup' on Boxing day. There is no recipe, just bung it all in the slow cooker in the morning, leave it, and eat in the evening.

Perhaps the most important gift that we can give this year is to share the real meaning of Christmas through our cards, emails, and social media posts, if not in person. We may be apart from family and friends this year in a physical sense, but the peace and love of Christmas has no boundaries.

Catherine Wilkins, Churchwarden



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst



If you have any comments, events, news or updates for the website, please email David Hunt at: david.hunt@bcs.org.uk

— GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE —

Kidz Church takes place on Sundays during the 9:30am Parish Communion Service.

Reach (year 6 and up) also takes place on Sundays at 9:30am.

Dream Big Youth Club on Sundays from 6:00-8:00pm.

Just to remind you that you need to wear a face mask for youth club, unless you have an exemption. Also that parents can not enter the building, please wait outside when dropping of and collecting.

Bible Bites (for children in years 5 & 6 at St Michael's School) runs on alternate Monday afternoons, 3:15-4:30pm in the church. Due to social distancing requirements, children will be in school 'bubbles'.



Please contact **Angela Harper** for details familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk, or tel: 07456 190201.

— THE FAMILY SERVICE —

Mornings & afternoons

Don't forget that the Christingle service will take place on 13 December (second Sunday) at 4:15pm, and there will be no Family Service on 20 December.

The schedule for the next two months will be:



SUNDAY	TIME	SERVICE	SUNDAY	TIME	SERVICE
6 December	11:15am	Family Service	3 January	11:15am	Family Service
13 December	4:15pm	Christingle Service	17 January	4:15pm	Family Service

— ON THE CRAFTY SIDE —

Sadly, the planned Autumn Fair on 15 November fell victim to Covid-19 but thanks go to Catherine Wilkins who ran an online version that day and sold about £50 of craft items. As they say 'every little helps'. We drew the winning number for the beautiful Advent Calendar made by Jennie Hulbert earlier than planned so it could be delivered before lockdown, and that winning number was 'owned' by George Castle. So thanks go to Jennie, congratulations to George, and thanks also to everybody who took part. The draw raised over £130 for church funds.

We are going to have one more try at running our Autumn Fair on Sunday 6 December, from 8:30 – 11.30am in the Pastoral Centre. We will have several craft stalls, Karen's jams & preserves, and Brandon's discounted stamps, so please do pop along and have a browse. Covid precautions will be in place. Payment will be by cash so please bring plenty!

Finally, as this is December, on behalf of the Social Committee I would like to thank you for your support during this difficult year and to wish you a safe New Year.

Chris Harris, Social Committee

CALLING ALL SHOPPERS!

Following the article in last month's Newsletter, here are more details of how you can help support *Sandhurst Counselling Service* by shopping at the *Co-op*.



You can become a member by applying online at: www.coop.co.uk/membership or by downloading their App.

If you live within about 15 miles of the Church you can select *Sandhurst Counselling Service* as your local nominated charity.

No computer? You can obtain a temporary card from a *Co-op* store and then ring

their help line 0800 023 4708 to complete registration.

We are seeking funding for workshops and training courses for our counsellors as detailed on this link: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/46246>

After your registration, and until the end of next October, from whichever store in the country you buy *Co-op* branded products and services, both you and the charity will benefit as detailed on the *Co-op* website.

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact me on: hulbertx@gotadsl.co.uk or 01344 775881.

Peter Hulbert, SCS Treasurer and Trustee

There's more to Advent & Christmas than Amazon and Eden!

As a result of our temporary closure during the latest Covid restrictions, much of our range has now been uploaded to our online shop. Items include a wide range of personal Advent items: calendars, candles, study and devotional books, DVDs for adults and children, cribs and Christmas stables etc... There are also many books, Christmas and others, altogether nearly 6,000 items!

If you are local, you can select Click and Collect, or you can send an email to order. One of us will contact you to arrange a collection or delivery time – suitably distanced of course!

Thank you all for your continued support. We are here to serve you and to serve the Lord in the community. God bless all of you and your families and friends.



Paul Taylor, General Manager
The Triangle Café and
Christian Resource Centre

Tel: 01252 519172

Mob: 07887 561298

Email: admin@thetriangle.org.uk
www.trianglechristianshop.org.uk

Volunteer Treasurer needed

SalGO Assist, a Wokingham-based charity supporting the rural poor in Andhra Pradesh in south India, are currently advertising for the voluntary position of Treasurer. For details of the role, please contact

The Revd. Clifford Smith via email at enquiries@salgoassist.org.

www.salgoassist.org



This month, the link is Mary the mother of Jesus.

Tell Out My Soul

<https://youtu.be/3E7QWLyDWe8>

This hymn was written by Timothy Dudley-Smith OBE and it paraphrases the Magnificat. The words are from *Luke 1:46-55* which Mary says when she visits her cousin Elizabeth. The Magnificat is part of the Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer which is the service of Evensong and it is sung in several different settings by our choir, or by our choir and congregation.

Timothy Dudley-Smith's father influenced his love of poetry. Timothy Dudley-Smith says:

"I did not think of myself... as having in any way the gifts of a hymn-writer when in May 1961 I jotted down a set of verses, beginning *'Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord.'* I was reading a review copy of the New English Bible New Testament, in which that line appears exactly as I have put it above; I saw in it the first line of a poem, and speedily wrote the rest."

In the Bleak Midwinter

<https://youtu.be/1OpTDiolMJI>

In the Bleak Midwinter was written by Christina Georgiana Rossetti (1830-1894). Christina also wrote other religious poetry and devotional books. From age 16 she suffered from ill-health and she found solace in writing which helped her faith.

In the Bleak Midwinter was first published as a poem '*A Christmas Carol*' in Scribner's Monthly in January 1872 and appeared as a hymn in 1906 to the tune set by Gustav Holst (1874-1934). The hymn is full of imagery and reflection. Christina was not the only person to associate snow with Christ's birth. John Milton (1608-1674), used this in his poem '*On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*' where the snow represents a pure layer hiding the sin of the world.

Two of Christina's brothers (Dante Gabriel and William Michael) gave birth to the nineteenth century movement known as the Pre-Raphaelites, and Christina often served as a model especially for portraits of the Madonna (another name for Mary, the mother of Jesus). Christina also wrote '*Love Came Down at Christmas*'.

100 CLUB DRAW

I am now up-to-date with the outstanding draws, **Rosemary Dobson**

August 2020

1st Prize: *Mr Brendan Ashton* No 13 £20
 2nd Prize: *Mrs Rosemary Steele* No 71 £10
 £30 has been passed to church funds.

September 2020

1st Prize: *Mrs Jennie Hulbert* No 63 £20
 2nd Prize: *Mr Ken Wilkins* No 56 £10
 £30 has been passed to church funds.

October 2020

1st Prize: *Mrs Ruth Eve* No 3 £20
 2nd Prize: *Mrs Sue Campbell* No 121 £10
 £30 has been passed to church funds.

November 2020

1st Prize: *Mrs Sue Campbell* No 121 £20
 2nd Prize: *Mrs Rosemary Steele* No 82 £10
 £30 has been passed to church funds.

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Charity : Children's Society

Sunday 6 December – 2nd of Advent

- 8:00am Holy Communion
Theme: A message of hope
Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-11* (p723);
Mark 1:1-8 (p1002)
- 9:30am Parish Communion (Traditional)
Theme: A message of hope
Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-11* (p723);
Mark 1:1-8 (p1002)
- 11:15am Family Service
Theme: Advent
Reading: *Mark 1:1-8* (p1002)
- 6:30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer
Theme: Waiting in hope
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Sunday 13 December – 3rd of Advent

- 8:00am Holy Communion
Theme: A message of liberation
Readings: *Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11* (p748);
Luke 1:46-55 (p1026)
- 9:30am Parish Communion (Informal)
Theme: A message of liberation
Readings: *Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11* (p748);
Luke 1:46-55 (p1026)
- 4:15pm **Christingle**
-

Sunday 20 December – 4th of Advent

- 8:00am Holy Communion
Theme: The Servant of the Lord
Readings: *2 Samuel 7:1-11,16*
(p310, 311); *Luke 1:26-38* (p1026)
- 9:30am Parish Communion (Reflective)
Theme: The Servant of the Lord
Readings: *2 Samuel 7:1-11,16*
(p310, 311); *Luke 1:26-38* (p1026)
- 7:00pm **Carol Service**
Theme: The Down-to-Earth God
-

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve

- 3:00pm **Nativity Service**
- 7:00pm **Carol Service**
Theme: The Down-to-Earth God
- 11:30pm **Midnight Mass**
Theme: The Down-to-Earth God
Readings: *Isaiah 52:7-11* (p739);
John 1:1-14 (p1063)
-

Friday 25 December – Christmas Day

- 8:00am Holy Communion
Theme: Finding the Saviour
Readings: *Titus 3:4-7* (p1199);
Luke 2:1-20 (p1027)
- 9:30am Family Communion
Theme: Finding the Saviour
Reading: *Luke 2:1-20* (p1027)
-

Sunday 27 December – 1st of Christmas

- 8:00am Holy Communion
Theme: The naming of Jesus
Readings: *Galatians 4:4-7* (p1170);
Luke 2:15-21 (p1028)
- 9:30am Parish Communion (Community)
Theme: The naming of Jesus
Readings: *Galatians 4:4-7* (p1170);
Luke 2:15-21 (p1028)
-

unto us
a child
is born



Contact us

Do you have something else you'd like to appear in the newsletter? Please send emails to: newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk. The deadline for entries in the January edition is **Monday 15 December**. If you would like to receive that version via email, please contact David Hunt at: david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.