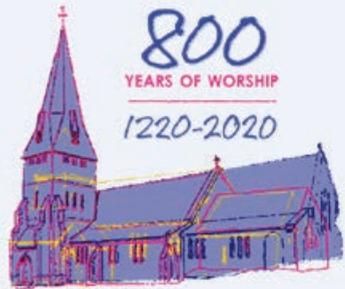


St Michael's News February 2020

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst,
Berkshire, GU47 8HN www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

Office open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
and Friday 10:00am–1:30pm
Open for Counselling: Wednesday
10:00am–1:30pm
E-mail: office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk
Tel. 01252 873030

Rector: Rev. John A. Castle
Email: Rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk
Tel. 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.*

Saying it with words

Have you ever felt angry or disappointed with God? Or wanted to express your thanks for answered prayer or the blessings of life? Have you struggled to understand injustice in the world, or wanted to find encouragement to trust God for the future? Millions of people down the centuries, both Christians and Jews, have found that the book of Psalms addresses all of these situations and more, and gives expression to our prayers as individuals, as a church and nationally.

Take some of these snippets, for example:

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

God is our strength and refuge, a very present help in trouble.

Why not take the opportunity of our sermon series on the Psalms, beginning 16 February, and the Psalmathon (see p6), to find out more, and maybe open your bible and use the psalms in your own prayers?

Rev John Castle



Please pray for all those on the prayer board, and for Holly Jean Lee and Arthur Oliver Bampton who are being baptised here this month. Please also pray for Joan Clarke, whose funeral took place last month.



*To everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under the heaven*

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 is familiar to many, reminding us of the changing seasons and phases of life, and has relevance today for the stewardship of our planet and God's creation. For too many years in the name of 'progress' humankind has plundered, exploited and shown little regard for the delicate balance of the world's resources. This seems like the time for change

The Eco-church team are aiming to gain *A Rocha Eco-Church* status, working through Bronze and Silver to achieve Gold standard. All our church properties (church, Pastoral Centre, Rectory, churchyard and St Mary's site) will be covered, and policies (many of which are already in place if only as a verbal agreement) will be formalised so that *A Rocha* can inspect them when we go for Gold. Much of what we do is already heading in the right direction, or is in place. For example, we are a fair trade church, we use recycled paper in the office, and we have been replacing lighting with low energy bulbs. There are other easy fixes such as moving to eco-friendly cleaning products and encouraging wildflowers in the churchyard, and longer term initiatives such as investigating the possibility of using solar power.

There are many ways in which we can all help ourselves in reducing household waste, increasing our recycling or decreasing our energy consumption. To get you thinking, here are a few of the Eco-church team's tips for a less wasteful lifestyle:

-  Use sustainable kitchen equipment, rather than buying cheap plastic ie. instead of plastic sieves which break, buy stainless steel to last a lifetime
-  Use glass storage containers, instead of buying plastic ones
-  Think about getting lifetime-use lunch boxes made of stainless steel, or wheat ones which are biodegradable at the end of their lifespan
-  Take your own refill bottles to shop at places like the Handy DIY store in Crowthorne to refill your laundry, washing up liquid and shampoo which saves on plastic more being used
-  Swap cling film for beeswax wraps

Help Needed

The church is looking for someone to become our Health and Safety officer. This would involve helping the Churchwardens coordinate health and safety issues in the church and Pastoral Centre. Please speak to **Catherine Wilkins, Churchwarden**.

toddler time is for everyone under school age and their carers. It's on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 9:00-11:00am 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 (9:30am)

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 9:25am 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 Katy Robson-Malone at: malonekaty@hotmail.com if you'd like to volunteer!

Youth Activities

Sunday Dream Big Youth Club, 6:00-8.00pm, 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 on: 07591 240161.

Help Needed

We are looking at ways we can improve our external communication. Do you have a background in marketing, communications, or any of the associated careers? If so, would you be willing to help us? If so, please contact **Emma Hodge, Churchwarden**.

FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE



Have you wanted help to find out how to apply your faith and beliefs in your everyday life? Then come and join us on an 8-session journey, every other Thursday from 5 March, to explore what God has planned.

You are most welcome to join us for this course or even just a few weeks if that is all you can make.

When	What
Thursday 5 March 9:15-11:30am	Session 1: The Big Picture To start, we explore the big picture of what being fruitful for God might look like and how we might already be fruitful in our daily contexts.
Thursday 19 March 9:15-11:30am	Session 2: Modelling Godly Character On our frontline godly character is both developed and displayed. How do we model the fruits of the Spirit where we are day-by-day?
Thursday 2 April 9:15-11:30am	Session 3: Making Good Work There is dignity and value in the everyday tasks that we do. What would it mean if we saw how our tasks and work can be done with and for God?
Thursday 30 April 9:15-11:30am	Session 4: Minister Grace and Love In the light of the grace that God has shown to us, how might we minister grace and love to those we interact with on our frontlines?
Thursday 7 May 9:15-11:30am	Session 5: Moulding Culture What can we affirm about the way we 'do life round here'? How can we influence the culture on our frontlines so people flourish more?
Thursday 21 May 9:15-11:30am	Session 6: Being a Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice How might we become champions of right living and fair dealing on our frontlines and courageous enough to speak up when necessary?
Thursday 4 June 9:15-11:30am	Session 7: Being a Messenger of the Gospel How might we grow in confidence in talking about Jesus with people on our frontlines? Can we see pathways for sharing the Gospel where we are?
Thursday 18 June 9:15-11:30am	Session 8: The Journey On How has this journey helped us see our frontlines, ourselves and God with fresh eyes? How will we continue to grow in fruitfulness.

For more information, contact Angela Harper at:

familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or on: 07456 190201

Help Needed

Volunteers required to work alongside Angela, your Church Family Worker, in various new ventures in our local community. Can you spare an hour a week to help, with either **St Michael's School Bible Bites** lunchtime sessions with Year 5/6 children, or running a **Family wellbeing** morning at the Alders Children's Centre?

I would really appreciate your prayers and help with these sessions. If you can help, and would like more information please email: familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or call: 07456 190201.

Angela Harper, Family Worker



Firstly, congratulations to Steph and all the team on the success of the **Community Buffet Lunch** held on 29 December. A real 'outreach' event, we had guests who had hardly seen a soul over Christmas and really appreciated the invitation. Plenty of food, good company, great entertainment...

Our **Burns' Night Supper** last month proved as popular as ever with over ninety people joining in with this strange (?) Scottish event. Thankfully, our hunting party managed to bag enough haggis (or should that be haggii or haggises?) so we were all well fed and entertained. Another triumph for Steph and the team – and over £1000 raised for church funds. An amazing result.

Equally popular is our **Annual Quiz** which will be held on Saturday 14 March. Tickets

are now on sale priced at £12 to include a fish & chip supper (other options available) or £6 for children or 'no food'. Mike & Chris will again be acting as inquisitors! Teams of no more than eight please, and if you are not already in a team we will find you a place on the night. More details on the poster.

Two events in support of *WinSpire* are also in the pipeline. On 25 April we are planning a **Curry Evening** – full details to follow. And if you fancy something a bit more traditional you can find it at the **Afternoon Tea**. Originally set for 1 February, this has been rearranged to Saturday 2 May. Once again, look out for posters with full details.

Chris Harris, Social Committee



Contact us

Do you have an event coming up, or something you'd like to appear in the newsletter? Please send emails to: newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or leave written requests with the Parish office. The deadline for entries in the March edition is **Monday 24 February**.

You can view or download a colour copy of the newsletter on the website. If you would like to receive that version via email, please contact David Hunt at: david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.

100 CLUB DRAW

January 2019

1st Prize: No 21 £20

Mr & Mrs Gill and Ken Ostler

2nd Prize: No 25 £10

Mrs Catherine Wilkins

£29 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

Roger Packer Rector of St Michael and All Angels Church 1970-1991

Sadly, Roger died on 8 January this year, following a long illness. Roger was Rector of St Michael's from 1970 to 1991, some 21 years.

During his incumbency as Rector, Roger started house groups, a significant initiative in the improvement of the discipleship of the congregation at that time. In 1980 Roger, together with David Bryant, organised the Sandhurst Voluntary Care scheme which gives lifts to elderly people who have no transport of their own to hospital or doctor's appointments. This scheme, which is now being run successfully in the community of Sandhurst, has helped hundreds, if not thousands of people over the last 40 years.

It was Roger who also instigated the building of the Pastoral Centre, which was opened by her Royal highness Princess Ann. The Pastoral Centre is used by the church and by the wider community for a wide range of events, which helps to bring the church and the wider community together.

Over the 21 years of his incumbency, Roger also oversaw the training 6 curates one of whom is now the bishop of Southwark and 1 non stipendiary priest. Roger left our parish to be Rector of St Mary's church in Bridgewater and retired to Harwich Essex.

Rev John White

Lent Series – Psalms

This Lent we will be focusing on the Psalms in our sermons. The Psalms are poems and songs. Some were written as part of private prayer while others were written for communal worship.

The Psalms express a range of topics and emotions from fear, despair to praise and joy. The Psalms were well known by the first Christians and they are quoted by the devil when he tempts Jesus. King David wrote a lot of the Psalms.

For more information on the Psalms, visit: www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/bible-book-club/psalms

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden

Psalmathon

Our next *800th celebration* is on Saturday 28 March and is a **Psalmathon**. We will be going through each one of the 150 Psalms in a variety of ways. We will start with Psalm 1 and finish with Psalm 150, but will not be doing the others in order.

We need people to join in, either by coming along, offering to read a Psalm, join in with the choir, join us for lunch as we look at the Passover Psalms, or taking part in Messy Psalms.

Please see the list at the back of church and sign up as to when you can take part.

Emma Hodge and Catherine Wilkins, Churchwardens

LENT APPEAL

Our Lent appeal is the Sandhurst Day Centre. The Day Centre provides support to older people which includes transporting them from their homes to the centre, meals, activities and most importantly companionship. The Day Centre has a long history of a connection with St. Michael's including people serving as trustees.

Please look out for more information in the March newsletter about this valuable community service.

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden



**Sandhurst
Day Centre**

HYMNS OF THE MONTH

How do we respond to life's challenges?

This month, the two hymns were written by people who suffered with personal challenges. One of the authors was blind and the other suffered through ill-health. Both women did not let their physical limitations stop them in their faith. God gives us all challenges, but the question is how do we respond to them?

Just as I am without one Plea

'Just as I am' was written by Miss Charlotte Elliott. Miss Elliot suffered from ill-health but longed to serve God by helping her brother (who was vicar of St. Mary's in Brighton) and she drew on the foundations of her faith, in four key areas:

- *Her Lord*
- *His Love*
- *His Power*
- *His Promises*

Each verse in the hymn ends with the line 'O lamb of God, I Come', a statement that indicates whoever we are, whatever challenges we are facing in our life, we come to God who 'has broken every barrier down'.

The hymn was written while a church bazaar was going on and she was frustrated that she couldn't help due to her ill health, instead she wrote the hymn.

To God be the Glory

'To God be the Glory' was written by Fanny Crosby, who died in 1915 aged ninety-four, and was a descendant of one of the families who went to America on the Mayflower and settled in Boston (one of her descendants was Bing Crosby). She wrote a wide range of poems and hymns and this is one of her best known hymns even though she was blind from the age of six-weeks.

She became an activist, the first woman to address the Senate, where she recited a poem calling for the provision of education for the blind.

Although she was blind, she believed in God and she received a vision of His kingdom and purposes in the shades and confusions of this world.



Mattins

Do you like:

- services with the choir?
- a service where there is not communion?
- services from Book of Common Prayer (1662)?

If you answer YES to one or more of these questions, then on the 29 March come along to the 9:30am service for our Mattins service.

Help Needed

We need cleaners for the south aisle. If you can help, please let me know, thank you.
Emma Hodge, Churchwarden

Can we trust the Gospels?

Friday 7 February at 7:30pm, St Mary's Church Centre, Wargrave

On Friday 7 February we will have the third of our important questions evenings, this time asking 'Can we trust the Gospels?'

This is a crucial question to ask because these documents form the foundation of Christian faith. We often hear in the media or from individuals that we cannot rely on the records we have of Jesus' life, miracles and teaching.

Our speaker, Jacob Rodriguez, is an expert in how the early church came to trust that the four Gospels form a reliable, fourfold

collection of authoritative Scripture. Currently based in Oxford, but having lived in Ethiopia and the US, Jacob is a researcher, speaker, teacher and academic writer. As before, the evening will consist of a presentation followed by the chance to ask questions. The evening will begin at 7:30pm in the St Mary's Church Centre, Wargrave, with drinks and nibbles served.



The Rt Revd Hall Speers and Mrs Sarah Speers are coming to Sonning Deanery

Breakfast - Saturday 8 February at 8:30am, St George's Church, Owlsmoor

Lunch - Saturday 8 February at 1:00pm, Parish Centre, St Paul's Church, Wokingham

Sermon - Sunday 9 February at 9:30am, St Michael and All Angels Church, Sandhurst

I first met Hall Speers at the Anglican church in Grand Canaria in 2003. He had just taken up the appointment as Team Rector in Chipping Barnet. Little did either of us know that some 4 years later we would be serving together. Hall moved on in 2013 to serve in Chelmsford Diocese and then 'retired' with Permission to Officiate in Lincoln.



Prior to this Hall had served for a number of years as a priest in Madagascar but, on his return to England, he continued to have strong links with the Anglican Church of the Indian Ocean. Nevertheless, it was a surprise when in 2018 he received an invitation to become the Bishop of Mahajanga back in Madagascar. He accepted this call and he and his wife Sarah returned there in 2019 for his consecration on 31 March that year.

Bishop Hall and Sarah are coming to stay for the weekend in Owlsmoor on Friday 7 February.

On Saturday 8 February, both he and Sarah will be speaking at a Breakfast meeting at St George's Church, Owlsmoor, which begins at 8:30am, and at a 1:00pm Lunch meeting at the Parish Centre at St Paul's Wokingham. Both events are open to all who would like to come, but the organisers at St George's would like to know numbers for catering purposes. Please contact Catherine Vaughan know if you would like to attend, by Thursday 6 February, on: 01344 771286.

The Rector has also invited Bishop Hall to preach at the 9:30am service in St Michael's on Sunday 9 February.

Rev Jane Kraft

*Quiz evening
with fish & chip supper*

Saturday 14 March

Doors open at 6:45pm for a 7:00pm start
St Michael's Pastoral Centre, Sandhurst

Puzzling questions and raffle

Tickets available from the Social Committee
and the Pastoral Centre Office.

Adults **£12.00**

Children (under 17) & 'no food' **£6.00**

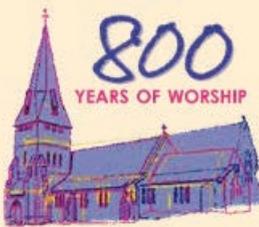
Sausage & chips or vegetarian option also
available. Please bring your own drinks
and glasses. Parking at St Michael's School.



Music through the ages

St Michael's Church Choir and Friends
with organ and small orchestra

Saturday 6 June, 7:30pm



A concert of varied musical pieces ranging
from *Byrd* to *Haydn* and *Rutter* to *Grafton*,
as part of our 800th celebrations

The evening will include a premiere
of a specially commissioned piece of
music by local composer Alun Grafton

Tickets will be on sale from April
from St Michael and All Angels Church

Adults **£12.00**
Children **£6.00**

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

THANK YOU

on behalf of the Children's Society

Collections at Carol Singing and Christingle raised £546.23 for the Children's Society. Thank you to all who helped. The money goes to their work to help children and young people. The works includes supporting children and young people with mental health problems, children and young people

who are refugees, and those who are in danger of criminal exploitation, to name just a few areas of work that the Children's Society is involved in.



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

CELEBRATING 800 YEARS OF WORSHIP



Date	Time	Event	Details
Sat 28 Mar	All day	Psalmathon	All Psalms will be read, chanted or sung during this time. Come along to join in or just to spend some time reflecting on this amazing book of the bible.
Sun 29 Mar	9:30am	Mattins	Our Parish Communion Service this Sunday will be replaced by a service of Choral Mattins. Mattins is a form of morning prayer and has the beauty and majesty of the Book of Common Prayer.
Sat 6 Jun	7:30pm	Music through the ages concert	Featuring the premiere of ' <i>...and the Angels Sing...</i> ' A range of musical styles featuring our own choir as well as outside musicians. Tickets will be on sale from April 2020.
Sun 28 Jun	Afternoon Evensong at 6:30pm	West Gallery Workshop & Evensong	Join us for an afternoon workshop on West Gallery Music which was the music of the 16th and 17th centuries where local musicians used their skill for church music
Fri 25 Sept	7pm	Flower Festival Preview Evening	'800 years of...' Flower festival containing entries from several different groups within Sandhurst.
Sat 26 & Mon 28 Sept	All day	Flower Festival	On the Monday, the flower festival will be open only to groups/special needs.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Coffee rota

2 Feb Anne Clough & Peter Clough

9 Feb Wendy Grafton & Di Pullar

16 Feb Jennie Hulbert & Rosemary Dobson

23 Feb Ann H-Davies & Joy Alexander

House groups meet each week at these houses:

If anyone would like to join a group, please speak to Karen Symons on 01252 872161 or email karen@2symons.com for more details.

Day	Time	Group leaders	Venue	Contact
2nd & 4th Mondays	1:00pm	Sara Kaufman & Karen Carter	138 College Road, Sandhurst	01276 31389
Monday	8:00pm	Rupert & Sheridan Cremer-Evans	11 Sylvan Ridge, Sandhurst	01344 777137
Tuesday	7:30pm	Elizabeth Ritchie	8 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne	01344 762147
Tuesday	8:00pm	John & Sue Campbell	2 School Hill, Sandhurst	01344 776655
Tuesday	7:30pm	John & Steph Martin	25 Templar Close, Sandhurst	01252 873316

ACTIVITIES AT THE PASTORAL CENTRE



Little Sandhurst Nursery Group is open 5 days a week, during term-time.

Contact Karen on 07730 340734 or email: enquiries@LSNG.co.uk for further details.



Line dancing takes place every Monday evening in the hall from 7:00pm, £5.50 includes raffle. Just come along and have fun.

Tea and coffee available or bring your own drinks.

Ring Arron on 07727 012375 or email ahkarar1@gmail.com for more information.

3rd Sandhurst Rainbows meet on Tuesdays: 5:00–6:00pm (5–7yr olds).

3rd Sandhurst Guides meet on Tuesdays: 6:30–8:30pm (10–14yr olds).

Pilates takes place in the large upper room most days and evenings.

For more information ring Carl on 07976 429227.



Guitar tuition sessions are on Thursdays.

Please call 0844 879 3305 or visit www.rockandpopfoundation.com for more information.

FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES

Charity: Hardship Fund

Sunday 2 February – The Presentation of Christ

Theme: A light to the nations

Hebrews 2:14–18 (p1202); Luke 2:22–40 (p1028)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Traditional)

11:15am Family Service

Theme: The light of hope

6:30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 9 February – 3rd before Lent

Theme: Salt of the earth and light for the world

Isaiah 58:1–9a (p744); Matthew 5:13–20 (p969)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Informal)

11:30am Baptism of Holly Jean Lee and Arthur Oliver Bampton

6:30pm Ecumenical Service at St George's, Owlsmoor

Sunday 16 February – 2nd before Lent

Theme: The Goodness of God

Psalm 34 (p561); Matthew 6:25–34 (p971)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Reflective)

Sunday 23 February – Sunday before Lent

Theme: The Anointed King

Psalm 2 (p543); Matthew 17:1–9 (p984)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Community)

6:30pm Sung Evensong

Theme: The Ascension of Elijah

2 Kings 2:1–12 (p369);

Matthew 17:1–23 (p984)

Wednesday 26 February – Ash Wednesday

Theme: A plea for mercy

Isaiah 58 (p744); Psalm 51:1–18 (p573),

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18 (p970)

8:00pm Holy Communion

Gluten-free wafers are available if required, please let one of the priests or sidespeople know on your arrival.

Hardship Fund

One of the messages that is repeated throughout the bible is to care for the poor. This includes those in Sandhurst.

The Hardship Fund is set up for people who either come to St Michael and All Angels Church (any service, including Toddler Time), or who live in Sandhurst town (including Owlsmoor parish), and are

experiencing a one-off financial difficulty. In her role as Family Worker, Angela Harper often spends times with families who are need; however there are others in our community. If you know of anyone who needs help, please speak to John Castle or a Churchwarden.

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden



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Find us on Twitter @StMichaelShurst

www.twitter.com/#1/StMichaelShurst

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