

St Michael's News March 2021

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

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

PARISH OFFICE

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.

Hope

Lent is a time when we traditionally give things up, focus more on God and draw closer to him. This last year in many ways has been like one long Lent, with all the different restrictions and challenges that we have faced. At the end of Lent comes Easter, a time when God's only son, died and rose again, and as Lent progresses, from the ash used in the Ash Wednesday service, to the joyous celebration of proclaiming that Jesus is king on Palm Sunday, to the reflective time of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, then the focus of the Cross on Good Friday, we come to Easter and the empty tomb.

Easter is a reminder that death is not the end as Jesus rose from the dead and promised to all who believe everlasting life.

I'm not much of a gardener, but I do have spring bulbs, and through the winter, they are busy growing, unseen, under the earth and in the spring there is this wonderful explosion of colour. If this last year has seemed like a long winter, remember the spring bulbs, busy growing unseen, we may not have seen the growth that we have done, but each one of us has overcome the challenges faced by the Coronavirus pandemic.

After winter, the spring bulbs emerge in flower, I hope that each one of us will be like a spring bulb in the next few months. May we grow this Lent and bloom at Easter with hope.

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden



Please pray for all those
on the prayer board

CARE FOR THE FAMILY

our Charity for Lent



Since 1988, *Care for the Family* has sought to promote strong family life and help those who face family difficulties. Their work has been focused in the UK and the Isle of Man, but increasingly through digital technology, they are reaching a wider audience.

Focusing primarily on the following areas of family life: marriage, parenting and bereavement. Their aim is to be accessible to every family whatever their circumstances and to create resources and support that are preventative, evidence-based and easy to apply. Every family and marriage is unique. Parents may have one child or many, be fostering or adopting, be parenting a child with additional needs, parenting alone or apart from their children. Couples may have been together for many years or just beginning their marriage adventure. Whatever the context and circumstances we can do all we can to support both marriages and families to help them thrive.

However, we also know that on every journey we all experience difficult times as well as good. *Care for the Family* have a telephone befriending service to support you when the going is tough. In particular, we are aware that many are experiencing grief and loss. They want to help those who are living with loss to discover hope for the future, and the strength to rebuild their own lives and the lives of those that they love.

Care for the Family are motivated by their Christian faith, ethos and compassion and so are committed to supporting families of all faith or none, with outstanding services and resources. Please explore www.careforthefamily.org.uk to fully understand how they can support you and your family and perhaps donate or attend any of the FREE forthcoming [online events](#). Contact familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk if you need any local support.

Angela Harper, Family Worker



Angela Harper, Family Worker

After Easter we will sadly be saying goodbye to Angela, who will be moving away with her husband, Dave. Angela's last Sunday will be 18 April.

Please pray for Angela and Dave as they begin a new phase in their lives, and for the PCC as they consider the recruitment of a new Family Worker. More information to follow in the April newsletter.

Health and Safety Officer required

We are looking for someone who would be willing to take on this important role within our church. The duties would be to oversee the management of the health and safety aspects of our church although several aspects of actually carrying out the work is actually delegated to other people.

Would you be willing to take on this role? If so, please speak to a churchwarden.

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden

LENT SERMON SERIES

Counting the Cost: Heroes of the Faith

This month we continue our Lent series on variety of saints, not all of whom have had “St” written in front of their name. We can learn from, and be inspired by, the example of people who have gone before us, coming from all walks of life, who have put their faith into practice in their lives, whatever the cost.

Date	Heroes of the Faith
21 February	Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (martyred 155 AD)
28 February	Josephine Butler, social reformer (died 1906)
7 March	Perpetua and Felicity (martyred c.203)
14 March	Gladys Aylward, missionary in China (died 1970)
21 March	Thomas Cranmer, bishop, liturgical reformer (martyred 1556)



Perpetua and Felicity



Gladys Aylward



Thomas Cranmer

100 CLUB DRAW

January 2021

1st Prize - £20 : No.101 Mrs Joy Alexander

2nd Prize - £10 : No.109 Mrs Ann Harris

£33 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

100 CLUB DRAW

February 2021

1st Prize - £20 : No.92 Mrs Joy Alexander

2nd Prize - £10 : No.59 Mrs Sue Niblett

£33 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

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 April edition is **Monday 26 April**. If you would like to receive that version via email, please contact David Hunt at: david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.



Did you know that The Church of England's General Synod in February 2020 set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030?

This means that we have 9 years to get St Michael's to carbon neutral status. We have already made improvements by changing much of our lighting to low energy, and have a green energy supplier but need to look at other major areas such as heating in church and Pastoral Centre, and increasing our energy efficiency.

We have booked an energy audit (delayed from last year) which we hope will give us a clear idea of what we need to do, so watch this space for the key findings of this exercise.

In the meantime, we all have a part to play, whether it's remembering to shut the church door behind us in cold weather, wearing an extra layer in church in winter to keep warm (rather than expect the heating to be increased), and remembering to turn lights off when we leave.

As we emerge from lockdown again, and look towards the 'new normal', let's take time to reassess our energy needs at home and in church and make the new normal a greener one too.

Catherine Wilkins, Churchwarden

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Environment Programme

- 5550** Big Church Switch Campaign resulted in more than 5500 churches transferring to green energy. The Parish Bayning energy basket is 100% green.
- 37** Diocesan Environment Officers
- 850+** Eco churches
- "Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation."*
Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
- 18+** Eco Dioceses...
- Season for Creation**
1 Sept - 4th Oct
celebrated across the Anglican Communion
- Letters for Creation**
project will bring together young people in the global Church to pray, speak and act on climate change
- Green Health Awards**
celebrated use of church land to promote spiritual, mental and physical health

www.churchofengland.org/environment
©CoEEEnvironment

Sonning Deanery Synod : Flourishing Together

Wednesday 17 March 8:00pm on Zoom



Bishop Olivia of Reading will be leading a discussion to consider how we can encourage personal wellbeing and seek to live in hope and faith during these challenging times, especially as leaders of the local church. Please join us if you can – the evening is open to all Church members.

Email the **Area Dean** for details:
rector@spauls.co.uk

THE TRIANGLE BOOKSHOP

Thanks to you we are still here! We hope we will be open before Easter, but we still don't know, so please use us as much as you can – prices are competitive and our service is the best we can give including direct delivery in many cases.

Lent started on Ash Wednesday, 16 February, leading us to the sad, joyous and important part of our faith. It's not too late to find a good devotional or study title to use.

The Real Easter Egg 2021 will not be supplied by any supermarkets or *Amazon* this year, so order from us soon! There's also a new white chocolate version at the same price, with a small discount for bulk orders. Send an email via the online shop.

Easter Cards will also be on the online shop very soon!

We now have a wide range of bibles available, plus many more items – including three ranges of commentaries, puzzles, humour, prayer, devotionals and encouragement.

We will reopen at the earliest opportunity, not just for sales, but for our many customers who come for fellowship. Many see us a haven in the town, and we really believe it continues to be our role.

Yours with the Lord's blessings, and our prayers for you all in 2021.

Paul, The Triangle Café and Christian Resource Centre



Tel: 01252 519172, between 10:00am and 4:30pm on weekdays.

Email: admin@thetriangle.org.uk

Online shop: www.trianglechristianshop.org.uk

Josie Blunden R.I.P.

Josie Blunden, who was a regular member of our Evensong congregation, died on 25 February 2020, and has generously left the sum of £3,000 to St Michael's Church, for which we are very grateful. The following article about her has been written by her daughter, Margaret Robins, who is one of our bellringing team.

Josie Blunden was born in Yateley, married at St Peter's Church and worshipped there up until the fire on 5 May 1979 that almost destroyed it. During restoration, she moved to St Michael's Church and attended Evensong regularly along with her daughters, Joy and Margaret.

Josie, being a very friendly, generous and chatty person, went on to make many friends over the years while attending and supporting various functions held by the church. She was a keen gardener and a member of the Sandhurst Gardening Club where she received many trophies at the shows. Josie also loved to bake cakes and her house was always open to friends to sample them along with a nice cup of tea.

She is very much missed by her family and friends. Her ashes, and those of her husband's, have been placed in the grave of their granddaughter, Anna, in the churchyard.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Church spring clean

Our church spring clean will take place over a week from **Monday 22 March to Saturday 27 March**. During these days, please come down to the church between 10:00am and 3:30pm, look at the clipboard at the back of church for areas which have not been cleaned, decide which area you will clean and tick it off – then clean that area.

Please either bring your own supplies or use the supplies which are in the cleaning cupboard at the end of the south aisle.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Emma Hodge, Churchwarden



Could you help market the Pastoral Centre?

Our Pastoral Centre contains excellent facilities – a spacious hall with well-equipped kitchen, a self-contained upstairs suite and small meeting rooms. In 2019, lettings (including the 5-day nursery) generated nearly £50,000 before costs, and nearly a quarter of our total income. For the past 11 months income has been substantially less, due to the Covid-19 pandemic – just £18,000 before costs in 2020.

As society begins to open up after the pandemic, we will need someone, or a small team, to help us market our facilities as a venue for regular activities such as dance classes and clubs, and for one-off private functions, such as birthday parties etc.

If you have some experience and skills that could help with this, or know someone who has, please think and pray about this opportunity, and contact one of the churchwardens or email the church office on office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk. Thanks!

Rev John Castle

Thanks – Giving!

God is AMAZING! And God is generous – look at what He has given us – fresh air, a fantastic planet, hope, salvation, life itself. Let us all give thanks to Him for His bounteous provision to each of us! And with thankful hearts for who God is and what He has given us, let us reflect His generosity in our lives!

Giving just got easier in the parish. You can now sign up to give regularly through the *Parish Giving Scheme* online – no more cumbersome forms to fill in. You can also make one off gifts to the work of St Michael's via CAF online.

Just visit www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk/donations or scan the code with your phone to do so.

And as you give praise God with cheerful hearts for 'God loves a cheerful giver!' (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Dave Percival, Stewardship Officer



GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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

The Family service has reverted to the usual time of 11:15am on both Sundays in the month. The original idea of moving to 4.15 once per month was to help families who have sports or other activities on a Sunday morning, but none of that is happening at the moment! The Family Service is takes place in the church (socially distanced) and on *Zoom*:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/172324765?pwd=UThMMUNVS3V3dmU0ZU9LNkw5d3RsUT09>

Meeting ID: 172 324 765 Passcode: 616996

Bible Bites have been running these sessions via *Zoom* 2:00pm–3.30pm every Monday for Year 5/6. This may change to after school from Monday 8 March, either via *Zoom* or social distanced in church.



Please contact familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk for more information.

Reach (Year 6 and up) is being made available as a *Zoom* online session at 4:00pm on Sundays with sign-up information available from Liz and Mike via email or the church *Facebook* page.

Dream Big Youth Club is being run via *Zoom* online at 6:00pm on Sundays and sign-up details are available from Liz and Mike or the *Facebook* page.

Additional youth support services

XLM Mentoring is a free mentoring support, for young people in the Sandhurst area needing someone to talk and chat with. Contact **Mike Gower** for more information.

Youth line counselling service is available by phone, on: 01344 311 200 or via email at: ask@youtlineuk.com

Youngminds has a crisis messenger text service. For text support, text YM to 85258.

Kooth.com is a youth online support service.



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



SANDHURST PRIDE

Visit Sandhurst Pride at www.sandhurstpride.co.uk

for more information about local services and amenities.

MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

Charity: Care for the family

Sunday 7 March – 3rd of Lent

**Theme: Counting the cost:
Perpetua and Felicity**

Readings: *Daniel 6:10-23 (p891);
Mark 13:9-13 (p1019)*

8:00am Holy Communion
Psalm 121

9:30am Parish Communion (Traditional)

11:15am Family Service

Theme: Daniel and the lions

Reading: *Daniel 6:1-23 (p890-891)*

6:30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer
Theme: Lent

Sunday 14 March – Mothering Sunday

Theme: Counting the cost: Gladys Aylward

Reading: *Mark 10:13-16 (p1014)*

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (All Age)

6:30pm Ecumenical Service

Sunday 21 March – 5th of Lent

Theme: Counting the cost: Thomas Cranmer

Readings: *1 Peter 5:1-11 (p1228);
John 12:20-26 (p1080)*

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Reflective)

11:15am Family Service

Theme: A generous act

Reading: *John 12:1-8 (p1079)*

Sunday 28 March – Palm Sunday

Theme: The King on a donkey

Readings: *Mark 11:1-11 (p1016);
Mark 15:1-47 (p1022-1023)*

8:00am Holy Communion

Psalm 118:19-29

9:30am Parish Communion (Community)

6:30pm Music & Meditation

The 6:30pm Ecumenical Service (Sandhurst Churches Together) on 14 March will be run by St George's Church. They are hosting it on *Zoom* and the joining details are:

<https://zoom.us/j/95686686498?pwd=aWJmYndWYkZBRU0zL3lwNktKNVpoZz09>

Meeting ID: 956 8668 6498; Passcode: 144576

Mothering Sunday and Holy Week

With Covid precautions in place it will not be possible to give out posies on Mothering Sunday. But there will be an opportunity for any flowers, cards or other gifts to be blessed, whether you bring them physically to church or 'virtually' online. You can also bring a token to remember someone you have lost.

Our Holy Week Services will follow the usual pattern – full details will be on our website and on *Facebook*.

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been.
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)