

St Michael's News December 2023

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8HN
The church building is only open at certain times, please visit our website:
www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk for up-to-date information.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Friday: 10:00am-1:30pm

For enquires about hall bookings, baptisms, weddings, funerals, the best way to contact us is by phone on a Monday or Thursday.

If you wish to visit the office in person, please contact us in advance to agree a suitable time.

T: 01252 873030 / E: office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

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

T: 01252 872168 or email him at: rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

A time for looking forward

The looking forward in Advent is twofold. It is a period of preparation for the time when Christ will return in glory to judge the world and a period in which to reflect on the importance of being ready to meet him on that day.

It is also an occasion for making ready to celebrate the events of the first Christmas, that moment in history when God took our humanity, and The Word became flesh.

The anticipation of Christmas looks forward to a moment of extraordinary happenings, the appearance of angelic hosts singing glory to God, and the announcement of the birth of the Saviour of the world God's Son. And yet all this happened in the context of very ordinary everyday events to very ordinary people.

The angels appear to shepherds, a group of people who were on the fringes of society, going about their daily tasks. The mother of the baby was a humble maid, far from home, camping out in a stable because there was no room for them in the inn.

On that first Christmas Day something extraordinary happened, the eternal entered time. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His Glory.

Rev'd Jane Kraft

BC:AD by U.A. Fanthorpe

*This was the moment when before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.*

*This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.*

*This was the moment when even
Energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.*

*And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect.
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven*

OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH

Knowing

God for ourselves.

Growing

as individuals and as a church.

Showing

God's love in the world.



Please pray for all those on the Prayer Board.

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

For many of us, Christmas is a time of coming together, of reconnection – and of huge anticipation. But while many children are writing Christmas wish lists, looking forward to seeing Father Christmas, and counting down the days until they celebrate with friends and family, far too many are struggling. Isolated and alone. Scared and unhappy. They're waiting simply to be heard.

1 in 6 children are likely to have a mental health condition and 52% of 17 to 23 year olds have experienced mental health getting worse in the last five years. Only a third of young people with a mental health condition can access NHS care when they need it.

The Children's Society is there for those who can't access mental health services and are at a high risk of developing a mental health condition if they don't get the support they need. For many, our services are the only places they have to talk to about their problems. We also campaign to make sure young people are listened to and that their wellbeing is top of the Government's agenda.



As a society, we're 'missing' too many children and young people. Children cannot afford to wait for professional support and are being left to struggle alone. In pain, isolated. Desperate to be heard, to be supported, to be helped. This Christmas, children can't wait any longer.

Christmas should be a time of connectedness and joy. We have the power to take immediate action for children today, so that every one of them can receive vital mental health support when they need it. Will you join us?

How you can help?

■ **Sign our virtual wall:** will you support young people facing mental health challenges by adding your name?

<https://act.childrenssociety.org.uk/page/137290>

■ **Attend the Christingle Service** on Sunday 17 December at 3:30pm (particularly suitable for families with young children)



■ **Make a donation at the service,** or by putting cash/cheque in an envelope, marking for '*The Children's Society*' and give to Emma Hodge or Janet Rogers.


**GIVE
HOPE**

You can also *Give Hope*: by donating a gift from the online store, you'll support a young person who is struggling.

<https://givehope.uk/shop>

■ **Join the choir Carol Singing** around the streets on **Monday 18 December**, (meeting place TBC), at 6:30pm and finishing with hot drinks at 8:00pm. Children welcome, and we need people to collect as well as singers.



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

On behalf of all the young people that inspire our work, "Thank you for all your support."



Janet Rogers,
Volunteer Speaker,
The Children's Society

Come and join St Michael's
CofE School Association at our

Registered Charity
Number: 1013785



Christmas fayre

Saturday 2 December
12-3pm

Silent Auction

Refreshments

Nail painting
& tattoos

• Colouring
competition

• Lucky dip

Choir performance

Hamper raffle



Beat the goalie

Santa's grotto

• Face painting

Tombolas

and so
much more...

Treasure
hunt

Trader stalls



St Michael's CofE Primary School
Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, GU47 8HN

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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



Cecilia Singers

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Saturday 2nd December at 7.30 pm

The Church of St Michael and All Angels

Lower Church Road Sandhurst GU47 8HN



A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Benjamin Britten

Harp: Charlie Davies



Plus music by Humphrey Clucas, Paul Manz and Philip Stopford

with Carols for All

Accompanist: Stuart McSweeney

REFRESHMENTS

***There will be a retiring collection
in aid of church funds***



YOUR CHURCH NEEDS



YOU...



New/assistant Churchwarden

It would be great to have someone appointed to assist Karen Allen. Please do speak to **Karen Allen, Catherine Wilkins** or **Rev John Castle** if you'd like to know more about the role and its responsibilities.



We are always looking for volunteers!

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at St Michael's. Please do speak the **Parish Office, Karen Allen**, or **Rev John Castle** if you'd like to know more.

Advent Celebration

The Choir of St Michael and All Angels Parish Church

Sunday 3 December, 7pm

Refreshments available
in church from 6:15pm



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Praying together for Sandhurst 5@5 on Thursday 7 December

The Christmas season should be a time of rejoicing, but it can be a time of strain, stress and loneliness. We pray that the good news proclaimed by the angels will be received and the message of 'peace on earth' will touch individuals, families and nations.

Churches Together

We might pray for:

- our churches' activities and witness
- those who serve others during the holiday season
- those for whom this a difficult time of the year
- peace in place of strife.

"Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." Isaiah 46:4

Jesus, in being born as one of us; in sharing the experiences of life with us; in being obedient to our Father's will,

you showed us how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love shine in our hearts.

Enlighten those in darkness.
May your love be born in many hearts at this time.
Amen

★ Gift Tree project 2023

Buy a gift for a child in need this Christmas

St Michael's Church and Bracknell Forest Family Hubs are working together offering the opportunity to support a child in Sandhurst, and the surrounding area, by buying them a Christmas gift.

How it works:

- ★ Take a tag from the Gift Tree at services from 19 November
- ★ Register your tag and details at the back of church.
- ★ Buy a gift for your child recipient with a value of £10-£20.
- ★ Wrap the present and attach the tag to the outside of the gift.
- ★ Return the gift during the Christingle Service at 3:30pm on 17 December, or earlier, to the Church Office.



Contact: **Katy Robson-Malone** by mobile: 07969 674545, email: malonekaty@hotmail.com or call the Church Office on: 01252 873030.



ECO-CHURCH



We are pleased to announce that in November we were awarded the *Bronze Award* as an Eco-Church, in recognition of our efforts to care for God's earth in the following areas:

- ♥ Worship & Teaching
- ♥ Management of Buildings and Land
- ♥ Community & Global Engagement
- ♥ Lifestyle

Are you interested in helping us become a Silver Award (and potentially a Gold)? If so please speak to Catherine Wilkins, George Castle or Clare Hardy.

Emma Hodge





SEBASTIAN'S ACTION TRUST SANTA FUN RUN

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER AT 10AM

A festive activity for everyone! Bring your friends and family, get in the festive spirit and make memories, whilst helping *Sebastian's Action Trust* to support seriously-ill children and their families this Christmas.

Put on your Santa suit and walk, dance, dash or prance along the 1K or 5K routes!

SANDHURST MEMORIAL PARK, YORKTOWN ROAD, SANDHURST GU47 9BJ

FREE Santa suit for everyone aged 14+ and a FREE Santa hat for those under 14s!



WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPER WITH PRIDE ON THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER!

Help us to continue to support our families of seriously-ill children, walking alongside them from diagnosis through treatment and beyond.

Whether you're a business, community group, school, nursery or youth group, donate at least £1 per person, get into the festive spirit and wear your Christmas jumper!

Find out more here:



Scan the QR code or visit

www.sebastiansactiontrust.org/events

Email: fundraising@sebastiansactiontrust.org

Call: 01344 622500




Sebastian's Action Trust



On the social side

Firstly, a big thank you goes to all who supported our (pre)Advent Fair, either as a stall holder or a purchaser. We made well over £700 for church funds and had a very sociable morning as well.

Plus, Jennie Hulbert sold lots of tickets for the Christmas Raffle which this year is for a set of eight beautiful and reusable Christmas Crackers which she has made. There is still (just) time to get yours.

 **Indoor Skittles Event** – we now have a new date for this event which won't clash with the Sandhurst Fireworks display – **Saturday 3 February**.

Full details and tickets next month though, apart from the date, the arrangements will be as previously advertised.



Ceilidh – now a more distant date for your diaries. We are planning to hold a Ceilidh on **Saturday 11 May** with John Fletcher as caller. Some of you may know him as he ran a most enjoyable Ceilidh for Karen Phillips about a year ago.

As with our Barn Dance last year, we hope to see folks of all ages so it will start early in the evening. Full details nearer the date but please do make a note of it now.

And finally – as this is my last piece for 2023, on behalf of the Social Committee, I would like to thank you all for your support this year. We hope that you will have a blessed and enjoyable Christmas and that we will see you at our events next year.

Chris Harris, Social Committee



St Michael's Belles

At the end of October, we joined *Breakaway Brass* at St George's church for a musical evening celebrating 30 years of their church building.

If you enjoy hearing the handbells, we will be ringing again before both **Carol Services** in our church on **17 December** and **Christmas Eve at 6:15pm**.

Jennie Hulbert





Sandhurst Silver Band presents

A Festive Christmas Concert

Featuring St Michaels Choir & The Brasshoppers

At St Michael's & All Angels Church, Sandhurst, GU47 8HN

Friday 8th December, 7.30pm

(doors open 7pm)

**Tickets available at
www.wagottickets.com/event/587663
or via the QR Code**



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE TOUR

Thursday 7th, Friday 8th, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December



Please come and join us for this new fundraising venture where houses in the neighbourhood will be fully decorated for Christmas and their front doors open to visitors.



A ticket enables you and your immediate family to tour the houses on days and times of your choosing within the opening period of each house. Return visits are fine. No family living nearby? Then please feel free to bring a friend.



Tickets £10 to include seasonal refreshments, available from the Church Office, Sarah Ashton, Karen Allen or Jennie Hulbert.



Exact locations and opening hours will be included with your ticket.



We need you!

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online you can raise
FREE donations for us!



• You shop

• 4,400+ Retailers **Donate**

• For **Free**

Register on easyfundraising



NEW SCOTLAND HILL PTA

CHRISTMAS FAIR

JOIN US FOR FESTIVE CRAFTS, MUSIC,
GIFTS AND DELICIOUS TREATS!

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER
11:30AM - 2:30PM

FREE ENTRANCE

NEW SCOTLAND HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRAMPIAN ROAD, LITTLE SANDHURST, GU47 8NQ

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Redwood Early Years Little Sandhurst

ENROLLING NOW

Explore, Believe and Achieve with Redwood Early Years, Little Sandhurst,
Opening 1st November 2023.

St. Michaels Church & Pastoral Centre,
Lower Church Street,
Sandhurst GU47 8HN



Contact us at:
RedwoodEYLS@gmail.com
for more information and to enroll
your child in time for opening.
www.redwood-ey.com



PARISH GIVING SCHEME



This Parish is registered with the Parish Giving Scheme which allows you to give to this Parish securely and safely online. This QR code will take you to the Parish Giving Scheme website:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/sandhurst-st-michael-berkshire>

Come along to our Open Morning on
**Tuesday 12th December from
10:00am-12:00pm.**

We are a brand new setting for children
aged 2-5 years, based at:

St Michael's Church and Pastoral Centre
GU47 8HN

Join us for toys, activities, tea/coffee and
biscuits!

Meet our friendly team to find out more
about our brand new setting and bespoke
curriculum!



Contact sarahredwoodey@gmail.com for any further information.

GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

baby & toddler TIME



Baby and Toddler Time is a friendly group for babies, toddlers and their parents/carers. It is held in the Pastoral Centre on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month during school term time, from 9:00am to 11:00am.

For the first hour and half we have lots of toys for children to play with, toast and fruit (with coffee/tea for adults) and a craft activity. Breastfeeding support is also available (please ask at the welcome desk). In the last half-hour we have a Bible story and lots of singing of nursery rhymes etc. Booking is not necessary.

Kidz Church takes place on Sundays during the 9:30am service. It provides age-related activities in the Pastoral Centre, for children aged three up to school Year 5, every week. There is something for the *Kidz Church* age group all year round.

The Family Service is held at 11.15am on the first and third Sunday. We are back to our all-singing, all-dancing norm. Family Service is a great Sunday morning activity, whether in the school holidays or in term-time.



Bible Bites is for children in Years 5 and 6, on Monday lunchtimes in school, under the leadership of Sarah Bishop. Please contact her for more information at: familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk.

Reach (Year 6 and up) is held in the Pastoral Centre during the 9:30am service. More information is available from Liz Percival on: 07950 690729 and Mike Gower on: 07591 240161, via email or the church *Facebook* page.

Additional youth support services

Dream Big Youth Club, held on a Sunday evening, is run by *Sandhurst Youth*. Contact Liz Percival on 07950 690729, or **Mike Gower** on 07591 240161 for more information.

XML 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 on 07591 240161.

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

Families booklet available online

A families booklet, with further information about activities for families at our Church, and includes resources for helping you to share faith at home, is available on our website:

www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk/families



Contact us

Do you have something else you'd like to appear in the newsletter? Please send emails to: newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk.

Please note: The deadline for entries in the January 2024 edition is **Monday 18 December**.

If you'd like to receive a version via email, please contact David Hunt at: david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.

Christmas

at St Michael's Church

Lower Church Road, Sandhurst GU47 8HN

There's something for everyone at St Michael's Church this Christmas, from services suitable for families and children* to our candlelight Carol Service to Midnight Mass

Saturday 2 December

7:30pm Cecilia Singers presents
A Christmas Celebration

Sunday 3 December

7:00pm Advent Celebration Service
with St Michael's Church Choir
Refreshments served from 6:15pm

Friday 8 December

7:30pm Sandhurst Silver Band presents
A Festive Christmas Concert
with The Brasshoppers &
St Michael's Church Choir

Sunday 17 December

3:30pm Christingle Service*
in aid of The Children's Society
6:15pm Handbell Concert
with St Michael's Belles
7:00pm Carol Service by candlelight
with St Michael's Church Choir

Christmas Eve

8:00am Holy Communion (1662)
10:30am Church Together Service
in the Pastoral Centre
3:30pm Nativity Service*
6:15pm Handbell Concert
with St Michael's Belles
7:00pm Carol Service by candlelight (repeat)
with St Michael's Church Choir
11:30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Communion (1662)
9:30am Family Communion (all-age)*
with showing of presents



www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst

DECEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Charity: The Children's Society

Sunday 3 December – Advent Sunday

Theme: Getting ready

Readings: *Isaiah 64:1-9* (p750-751);
Mark 13:24-37 (p1019-1020)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Traditional) 

11:15am Family Service

Reading: *Mark 1:1-8* (p1002)

7:00pm **Advent Celebration** 

Refreshments available in church
from 6:15pm

Sunday 10 December – 2nd of Advent

Theme: Preparing the way of the Lord

Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-5* (p723-724);
Mark 1:1-8 (p1002)

8:00am Holy Communion


9:30am Parish Communion (Informal) 

Sunday 17 December – 3rd of Advent

Theme: The testimony of John

Readings: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11* (p7690-691);
John 1:6-8, 19-28 (p1063-1064)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Reflective) 

11:15am Family Service

Reading: *John 1:6-8, 19-28* (p1063-1064)

3.30pm **Christingle Service**

7:00pm **Carol Service**

Theme: God came near

St Michael's Belles playing in church
from 6:15pm

Saturday 24 December – Christmas Eve

Theme: The servant of the Lord

Readings: *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16* (p310-311);
Luke 1:26-38 (p1026)

8:00am Holy Communion 

10:30am Church Together Service

Reading: *Luke 1:26-38* (p1026)

3:30pm **Nativity Service**

7:00pm **Carol Service (repeat)** 

Theme: God came near

St Michael's Belles playing in church
from 6:15pm

11:30pm **Midnight Mass**

Theme: God came near

Readings: *Isaiah 52:7-10* (p739-740);
John 1:1-14 (p1063)

Sunday 25 December – Christmas Day

Theme: The birth of Jesus

Reading: *Luke 2:1-20* (p1027-1028)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Family Communion

Sunday 31 December – 1st of Christmas

Theme: The name of Jesus

Reading: *Phillippians 2:5-13* (p1179);
Luke 2:15-21 (p1028)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Traditional) 



Coffee

Coffee will be served in the Pastoral Centre
after each 9:30am service and before the
Family Service in church. Bacon and
vegetarian sausage butties will be served
in the Pastoral Centre before the Parish
Communion Service on Sunday 10 December.

 **Live-streamed services**

Services marked with the above icon are
being live-streamed on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst.

unto us
a child
is born