

# St Michael's News January 2024

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)**



## What word(s) will you choose?

Have you given up on New Year resolutions? Sometimes a fit of enthusiasm, or guilt, can lead us to set ourselves worthy but over-ambitious targets, leading to failure and despair – or resignation. On the other hand, aiming at nothing will undoubtedly lead to achieving it – but what's the good in that?

Here's an alternative, which I heard on the radio: choose a word that sums up the focus you will choose for your life this year. One person chose 'connection' – describing her aim to rebuild relationships with friends. What would be your word – or maybe a motto?

Can I suggest you spend some time over the next few days reflecting prayerfully on where your life is going, and where God is in it, and seek his guidance as to what your word, words or motto should be? And then set yourself a reminder in your diary, online calendar or a card on your fridge, to review in a week, and then a month, how well you're putting it into practice.

I'm thinking of taking our three church words:

Knowing, Growing and Showing.

What about you?

**Rev John Castle**

## 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.

## HARDSHIP FUND

### Our charity for January

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 *Baby and 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, Sarah Bishop 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 **Rev John Castle** or **Karen Allen**.



### On the social side

So, welcome to 2024 and our first event of the year: **Indoor Skittles Sessions on Saturday 3 February**.

This event will be hosted by the Johnsons in the Pastoral Centre.

There will be two sessions:

**In the afternoon from 2–4:30pm**

intended for families and younger children (though anyone is welcome);

**In the evening from 7–10pm**

and intended for adults and older children.

In addition, Denise will be running her 'Fishing Game' during the afternoon and you will have a chance to test your hand/eye co-ordination by trying to 'Splat the Rat'.

Tickets (per session) will cost £8 for adults, £4 for U16s, and £20 for a family ticket (Max. 2A + 2C).



Please bring your own drinks, snacks & glasses to both events.

Tickets will be available early in January from the Social Committee or you can leave a request on 01252 871881 or email [craeharris@outlook.com](mailto:craeharris@outlook.com). Numbers will be limited to ensure you get plenty of turns so if you would like tickets don't leave it too late!

And a couple of updates:

The winner of the Christmas Raffle (for the very clever, and beautiful, re-usable crackers made by Jennie Hulbert – thank you Jennie) was Sarah Ashton. The raffle raised over £150 for church funds.

The 'Open House' visits also did well with over £400 raised so a big "Thank You" to those brave souls who welcomed people in to see their decorated homes.

**Chris Harris, Social Committee**

## 100 CLUB DRAW

### September 2023

**1st Prize - £20 :** No.22 Gill Ostler

**2nd Prize - £10 :** No.19 Alun Grafton

£33 has been passed to church funds.

**Brandon Ashton**

## 100 CLUB DRAW

### October 2023

**1st Prize - £20 :** No.113 Jenny Thorn

**2nd Prize - £10 :** No.28 Alun Grafton

£33 has been passed to church funds.

**Brandon Ashton**



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

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



*All things come from you, and of your own have we given you* (1 Chronicles 29 v14)

At St Michael's, we give thanks to God for all his gifts so freely given.

Members of St Michael's are encouraged to give generously and regularly in the context of KNOWING God better, GROWING in faith, and SHOWING our love in action.

Every gift given to St Michael's will be used to further the work of the church:

- in our community, including our Family Worker and Youth Worker;
- in the church nationally through our 'parish share';
- and more widely as 10% of each gift goes to support our nominated charities every year.

Regular gifts through Parish Giving Scheme help us plan confidently for the future. They can even be index-linked to the cost of living if you wish.

Thank you for giving through the Parish Giving Scheme.

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



### Praying together for Sandhurst 5@5 on Thursday 11 January

If you can, please pause and pray for 5 minutes. Our focus this month is on local health care services: • doctors, nurses, therapists... • dentists  
• opticians • administrators • resources



We might be challenged by this quotation:

*"Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things 'above all that we ask or think'."*

And we might share this prayer:

God of healing and compassion,  
we thank you for the services available to us  
and for the dedication of all who work in them.  
Give skill, sympathy and resilience to all  
who care for the sick, and give wisdom

to all those who provide support.


Strengthen all in their vocation through your Spirit,  
that by their work many will be restored to health  
and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*



### The Holly and the Ivy... ...and a lot more grows in the churchyard!

We are indebted to the team of helpers, numbering several dozen, who do so much work in the churchyard during the year (but particularly in the growing season!) keeping everything under control.

 By way of thanks, we are once again holding a **Grass Cutters Ball** in the Pastoral Centre on **Friday 16 February**. We look forward to a convivial evening with everyone involved, who should already have been notified of this date.

Please let me know if you would like further details, and thank you all again.

**Peter Hulbert**



### Save the date... 'Spring Ring' Workshop

Come and join us on **Friday 15 March from 7pm**, for a 'Spring Ring' workshop in the Pastoral Centre – for any budding flower arrangers, no previous experience necessary! More details to follow in the February newsletter.



### Stewardship – heads-up!

Part of our call to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted us with is to be generous in giving our time, talents and money to the work of God's Church. Early this year we are likely to be having a *Stewardship Campaign* – more info in due course!

In addition to this, we will need to be raising significant funds to repair our spire and secure the future of our mission work. We are currently getting quotes for the work on the spire, clock and bells, in preparation for this fundraising.

**Rev John Castle**



# DO JOIN US FOR A SESSION (or two) OF SKITTLES



IN THE PASTORAL CENTRE, LOWER CHURCH RD.

## SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

Afternoon session: 2pm to 4.30pm

Evening session: 7pm to 10pm

**TICKET PRICES (per session)**

**Adult £8 U16 £4**

**Family (2A + 2C) - £20**

Tickets are limited so you get plenty of goes!  
They are available from the social committee  
or call 01252-871881

or e-mail [craeharris@outlook.com](mailto:craeharris@outlook.com)

Please bring your own nibbles, drinks & glasses

## 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.

# We need you!

Every time you shop  
online you can raise  
**FREE donations** for us!



• You shop

• 4,400+ Retailers Donate

• For Free

**Register on easyfundraising**

## baby & toddler TIME

9 - 11am

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays term time

Suggested donation: £2 per family

A friendly group for  
babies, toddlers and  
their parents/carers.

Join us for Bible stories,  
songs, craft, play  
and snacks.

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT  
AVAILABLE



Future Session Dates

2024

11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January

8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February

14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March

St. Michael's Pastoral Centre,  
Lower Church Road, Sandhurst

Tel: 01252 873030

[www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst)



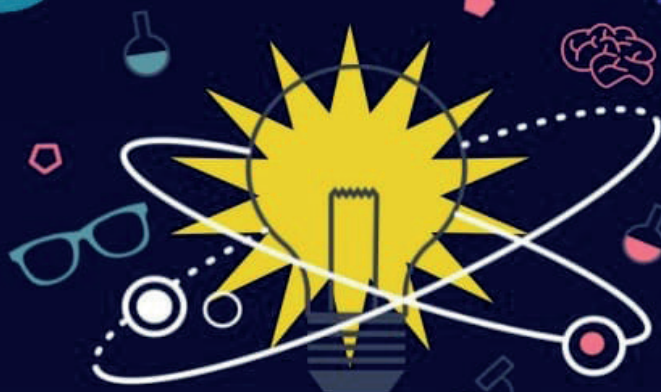
Baby and Toddler Time at  
St. Michael's Church Sandhurst.





CHARITY FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT

Pancreatic  
Cancer  
UK



# QUIZ NIGHT

FRI 9TH FEBRUARY

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS/NIBBLES  
RAFFLE PRIZES

DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM QUIZ STARTS AT 7:00 PM  
£10 ADULTS £5 CHILDREN / TABLES OF 8 PLAYERS

Contact Katy Robson-Malone for tickets: Mobile 07969 674545 /  
malonekaty@hotmail.com

## Open Now!

*Redwood Early Years* is now accepting applications for our new setting, for children aged 2-5 years, based at St Michael's Pastoral Centre, GU47 8HN.

## About us...

At *Redwood Early Years*, we are passionate about early years education and care and pride ourselves on our unique curriculum. Visit our website at [www.redwood-ey.com](http://www.redwood-ey.com) or by scanning the below QR Code, for more information.

**Sarah Gresty, Early Years Teacher and Owner**

[sarahredwoodey@gmail.com](mailto:sarahredwoodey@gmail.com)



### PLEASE NOTE: Access to the Pastoral Centre

The new nursery, *Redwood Early Years*, is now running in the Seeby Hall, also using the kitchen, and a Childminder is using the upstairs rooms during the week.

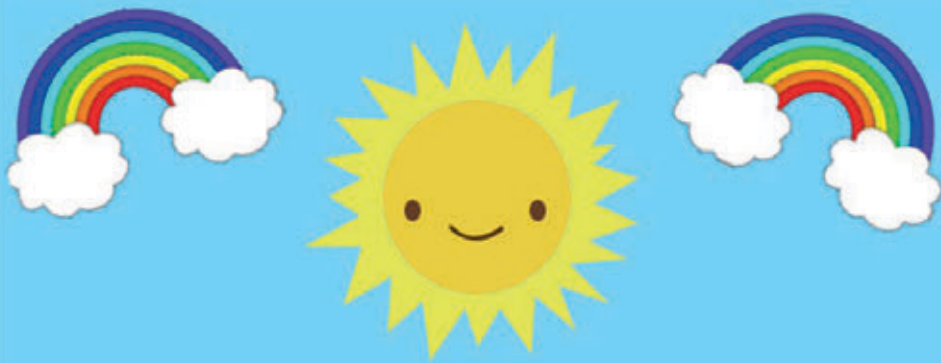
Safeguarding children is a very important issue, and we therefore ask that if you want to access the Pastoral Centre for any reason at all during weekday working hours, you phone or email the office in advance, to check when would be a good time.

This also applies to weekends and evenings, as hirers may be using rooms and we shouldn't presume that they won't mind people 'popping in'. The Pastoral Centre is a major source of income for our church, so we must show respect to our hirers who help us to pay for the costs of running our church!

Thank you for your co-operation.

Rev John Castle





Come along to our Stay and Play session on  
**Tuesday 30th January from 9:30-11.30am**

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

St Michael's Pastoral Centre  
Lower Church Road, Sandhurst 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, including British Sign Language.



Contact [sarahredwoodey@gmail.com](mailto:sarahredwoodey@gmail.com) for any further information.

## Christmas Open House Tours

Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets and visited some, or all, of the houses decorated for Christmas. Thanks also to the four couples who were prepared to open their doors for four days to help raise over £400 for Church funds.

If you weren't able to take part, the photos below will give you a taste of what you missed. We would welcome any feedback regarding this event as we decide if it can be repeated.

**Jennie Hulbert**



## ★ Thank you!

St Michael's Church and *Bracknell Forest Family Hubs* worked together again in December, offering the opportunity to support a child in Sandhurst, and the surrounding area, by buying them a Christmas gift. The *Gift Tree* project began in 2018 with 27 presents, and has grown considerably each year.

Our superb St Michael's community truly embraced the initiative in 2023 and donated a whopping 184 dedicated gifts along with a few extra gifts as spares! Wow! I'm blown away with such kindness and effort which has gone into supporting local children and their families. Thank you again for your generosity.

**Katy Robson-Malone**



## 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](mailto: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.

**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 on 07591 240161.

**Youth line counselling** service is available by phone, on: 01344 311 200 or via email at: [ask@youthlineuk.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk).

Please note: The deadline for entries in the February 2024 edition is **Monday 22 January**.

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

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## JANUARY CHURCH SERVICES

Charity: Hardship Fund


### Sunday 7 January – 1st of Epiphany

**Theme: The Baptism of Jesus**

Readings: *Acts 19:1-7 (p1115);*

*Mark 1:4-11 (p1002)*

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Traditional) 

11:15am Family Service

Reading: *Mark 1:4-11 (p1002)*

6:30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

**Theme: Epiphany**


### Sunday 21 January – 3rd of Epiphany

**Theme: The transforming power of God**

Readings: *Revelation 19:6-10 (p1247-1248);*

*John 2:1-11 (p1064-1065)*

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Reflective) 

11:15am Family Service

**Theme: What a party!**

Reading: *John 2:1-11 (p1064-1065)*

6:30pm Ecumenical Service at St George's

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### Sunday 28 January – Candlemas

**Theme: Simeon and Anna**

Readings: *Hebrews 2:14-18 (p1202);*

*Luke 2:22-40 (p1028)*

8:00am Holy Communion 

10:30am Church Together Service

**Theme: Simeon and Anna**

Reading: *Luke 2:22-40 (p1028)*

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### **Live-streamed services**

Services marked with the above icon are being live-streamed on our *Facebook* page:  
[www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst](http://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst).



### **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 14 January.



### **Volunteer needed for Second Sunday refreshments**

We are looking for a new volunteer (or ideally several volunteers to go on a rota!), to take over from Lynz Robson-Malone in the kitchen, on the second Sunday of each month. Thank you Lynz for the fabulous job you have done over the past couple of years.

Please speak to **Rev John Castle** or **Karen Allen** if you would be able to help.



Find us on Facebook

**[www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst](http://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](mailto:david.hunt@bcs.org.uk)

