

St Michael's News February 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 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



Christian Stewardship at St Michael's

In 1964, St Michael's held its first Stewardship Campaign. Many Church of England churches started looking towards Christian Stewardship as a way for people to plan their giving along Biblical principles, donating a set amount each week or month and so allowing the church more efficiently to plan the running of the parish from a more reliable income stream. It was accompanied by a brochure with photographs of the Rector visiting the sick, looking at a dodgy bit of guttering and damp patch on the wall, officiating at services, and attending to other aspects of parish life.

Christian Stewardship was a new concept to many 60 years ago, but how do we view it now?

► Is it something that we sign up to and then forget about, or do we review our giving as our circumstances change?

► Do we ever think about what our giving is used for, or does it cease to bother us once it's left our bank accounts?

► Do we ask ourselves why we should give, or do we switch off when anyone mentions giving?

As your new Stewardship Officer, I would like us all to explore Christian Stewardship and how it relates to the life and work of St Michael's over the coming months.

Catherine Wilkins,
Stewardship Officer

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, and for Charlie May, Cyril Pegg and George Archer who are to be baptised here this month. Please also pray for the family and friends of Stuart Harrison, who died on 22 January.

SANDHURST COUNSELLING SERVICE

FINDING YOUR WAY IN TROUBLED TIMES

OUR FEBRUARY CHARITY

St Michael's is an outward looking church and this led to the creation of *Sandhurst Counselling* in 1990. Now we are recognised as a charity in our own right but we are still part of the church's outreach into the community.

We are very grateful for the support we receive from the church as although we ask for a donation from clients our aim is to be available to all who need help and currently donations only cover 20% of the cost of a session.

Being a charity of the month gives us an opportunity to share our work with you as well as helping us financially. Thank you. The service operates with a Christian ethos and most of the counsellors volunteer their time as part of their training, but we do incur a lot of other expenses as assessments and supervision and extra training all have to be organised and paid for. We do receive some funding from Bracknell Forest and we apply for other grants to cover our costs. The gift of the room hire from the church and being a named charity is honestly a life line for us.

At any one time we have between 16 and 22 practitioners and as they complete their training they usually move onto paid work,

which we are rarely able to offer. This means we are regularly recruiting new trainees.

Over a year we provide over 1600 counselling sessions. That is helping a lot of people to be more comfortable with their own lives and cope with their daily life both within their family, their work place and our local community. Where do our clients come from? Most are from the local area, but sometimes people from further away seek us out on the recommendation of an ex-client.

Over the last year about 140 people have received our help. What an amazing number and this is part of St Michael's outreach into the community.

I can't pretty this piece up with pictures as counselling is confidential, it is a one to one therapy session, and our clients' confidentiality is respected at all times.

As a charity we are so grateful to the Church and people of St Michael's for their continued support and prayers. If you would like to support us in any way, or learn more about the service please make contact with Dave Percival, Peter Hulbert, Nicky Thomas or myself as we are all trustees.

Thank you
Sarah Ashton

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS



New / assistant Churchwarden



YOU...

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.

A ROCHA

Our charity for Lent

A Rocha UK is part of the international *A Rocha* family, a network of Christian organisations present in more than 20 countries in six continents. It is a Christian charity which aims to support groups in the UK Care for Creation, through:

- **Eco Church** welcomes churches from all denominations and none.

Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes. It provides a framework to support your church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth. It includes a toolkit of resources, an online award survey, a quarterly email update, online events, prayer forums and occasional conferences.

Their conferences, demonstration days, online events, and *Eco Church Connect* newsletter give inspiration and ideas to help churches progress in their aims to care for God's world in all areas of life together as a church.

- **Partners in Action**

A Rocha UK's 'Partner in Action' programme is taking action to improve biodiversity, address climate change and make a real difference to nature restoration in the UK.

Through a growing network of Christian land managers demonstrating active care for the natural world.

Across the UK, their Partners are caring for the biodiversity of their land, supporting the recovery of declining species and threatened habitats and engaging visitors with a message of hope for creation through practical action and demonstration of good conservation practice.

It is an active and practical way Christians can help support environmental action.

Please take a look at the website at:

<https://arocha.org.uk>

- Give directly via the website:

<https://arocha.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

or through the Parish Office by *Zettle*.



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



Visit Sandhurst Pride at www.sandhurstpride.co.uk
for more information about local services and amenities.

REDWOOD EARLY YEARS NURSERY

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: www.redwood-ey.com or scan the below QR Code, for more information.


Sarah Gresty, Early Years Teacher and Owner

sarahredwoodey@gmail.com




On the social side

Our next confirmed event is some way off:

 A Ceilidh ('kay-lee': a social event..... with folk music and traditional dancing), on **Saturday 11 May**, will be led by John Fletcher.

We hope this will be an event that everyone will enjoy, no matter how old or young they might be, as with last year's Barn Dance when we had people from eight to eighty! Full details next month but please do make a note of the date in your diary.

 We are also hoping to run a **Plant & Preserves Sale**, possibly on 5 May, but that is still to be decided.



Sunday Lunch at the Bird in Hand was a regular social event pre-Covid, and was held two or three times a year.

Please let me know if you would be interested in coming to a Sunday lunch at the pub, so I can assess how much support there might be should we restart these events (no commitment).

Either leave a message on 01252 871881, email cræharris@outlook.com or just have a word with me.

Chris Harris, Social Committee



Save the date... Easter Eve Eco-Church Event

On **Saturday 30 March** there will be an **Easter Eve Eco-Church Event** in the Pastoral Centre. We are hoping to hold a clothes and toy swap, have some upcycling ideas, craft activities, and look at ways that we can all help to care for our planet.



Wednesday, 14th February, is
Ash Wednesday
the beginning of
LENT



**Come along to St Michael's for
Holy Communion
with the Imposition of Ashes
8.00 pm**

Make this Lent a special time for getting closer to God!

**100 CLUB
DRAW**

November 2023

1st Prize - £20 : No.129 Ann Weston

2nd Prize - £10 : No.90 Ed Berridge

£33 has been passed to church funds.

Brandon Ashton

**100 CLUB
DRAW**

December 2023

1st Prize - £20 : No.22 Jennie Rolfe

2nd Prize - £10 : No.15 Richard Dobson

£33 has been passed to church funds.

Brandon Ashton

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY?



Praying together for Sandhurst 5@5 on Thursday 8 February

If you can, please pause and pray for 5 minutes at this time. Our focus this month is on care for our older residents:

- those in need of support • those who provide support
- Care homes • Sandhurst Day Centre

Churches Together

We might remember a promise of God to His people recorded in *Isaiah 46:4*

“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.”

And we might share this prayer:

Gracious God, bless those who, because of increasing years are struggling with daily tasks that would, not long ago, have been easily accomplished and without pain.

Bring healing and comfort. Ease frustration.

Grant peace. Use their gifts, knowledge and wisdom that younger lives might be touched and blessed by these, your older children.

Amen



A message from Ambario, Madagascar

Thank you for the donation of £108.75. This has been forwarded to Madagascar and is to be used to put a lectern and a font and a few pews in the new church at Ambario, which I hope to dedicate this month.

I pass on the thanks of the people of Ambario and myself to all involved in this gift.

The Rt Revd S. Hall SPEERS

Sebastian's Action Trust - events and challenges

Sebastian's Action Trust is a local charity, based in Crowthorne, for families of seriously-ill children. Below are two upcoming fundraising events:



Sebastian's Action Trust

Saturday 24 February - 6:30pm to midnight
at Royal Berkshire Hotel, Ascot

Thursday 21 March - 6:30pm start
at The Woodlands, Crowthorne



Get dressed up and enjoy a night full of fun and entertainment. A black tie event and something to look forward to after a dark, cold winter!



Can you stand the heat? Walk on hot coals whilst raising money for Sebastian's Action Trust, giving you an experience that you'll remember forever.

For more information or to book, call: 01344 622500 or visit their website:

<https://sebastiansactiontrust.org/support-us/events-calendar>

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SPRING RING WORKSHOP

Design a contemporary FLORAL SPRING RING

with

ANNETTE URQUHART

NAFAS National Demonstrator & Judge



Friday 15th March 7pm

**St Michael's Pastoral Centre,
Sandhurst GU47 8HN**

£45 includes materials and light refreshments
All profits to our church Flower Fund

Places limited. To reserve your place contact 01344 779731

Information: church office 01252 873030



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

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

The Crucifixion

by John Stainer

Palm
Sunday

24 March
7:00pm

ALL WELCOME • ADMISSION FREE

Refreshments served from 6:15pm

Retiring Collection in aid of St Michael's Lent Appeal

St Michael's Church Choir and Friends

Tenor: John Castle • Bass: Nick Allen • Organ: Jane Palmer

St Michael and All Angels Church

Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire. GU47 8HN

Your marriage is important!

Like a garden, it's easy to neglect your marriage, but it needs tending and nurturing. Why not book on a Marriage Encounter weekend, that gives you a weekend away from the pressures of life, to focus on each other and your relationship? The privacy of your relationship is respected and you will hear from couples who have faced some of the ups and downs of marriage as they share their stories and what they have learned. There is plenty of time to reflect on your own journey both past and future.

Suitable for couples who've been married for a couple of years, or 50. The weekend is free apart from a small booking fee and, if you wish to, you can pay it forward by making a donation to enable another couple to come on a weekend in the future.



If you want more information, please visit the website: www.marriageencounter.org.uk, or speak to us on 01344 779658.

Liz and David Percival

Forthcoming weekends:

12–14 April	Holiday Inn, Coventry
31 May – 2 June	Rydal Hall, Lake District
13–15 September	Bowden Hall, Gloucester



St Michael and All Angels Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 28 April, 11.45am in church

(After the Church Together Service)

Church Council Vacancies

Do you want to be part of steering the parish forward?

Do you want your voice to have a say in the future of St Michael's?

Then Join the PCC!

9 meetings a year on the second Wednesday of the month from 8:00pm

We have a four, three-year (usual term) vacancies;

one for a Churchwarden and one vacancy for the Deanery Synod.

Do talk to Karen, the Churchwarden or Sue Campbell (PCC Secretary)

suecampbell2906@btinternet.com

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.

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

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 March 2024 edition is Monday 26 February. If you'd like to receive a version via email, please contact David Hunt at: david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.

FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES

Charity of the month: Sandhurst Counselling Service
Lent Charity: A Rocha

Sunday 4 February - 2nd before Lent

Theme: Jesus heals the paralysed man

Readings: *Isaiah 43:18-25* (p729);

Mark 2:1-12 (p1003-1004)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Traditional)

11:15am Family Service

Reading: *Mark 2:1-12* (p1003-1004)

6:30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Theme: Presentation

Sunday 11 February – 1st before Lent

Theme: A glimpse of glory

Readings: *2 Corinthians 4:3-6* (p1160);

Mark 9:2-9 (p1012)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Informal) 

11:30am Baptism of Charlie May
and Cyril Pegg

6:30pm Churches Together Service
at the Methodist Church

Wednesday 14 February – Ash Wednesday

Theme: Caught in the act!

Readings: *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17* (p913);

John 8:2-11 (p1073)

8:00pm Holy Communion 



Love one another
as I have loved you

John 15:12

Sunday 18 February – 1st of Lent

Theme: Deeds of power

Readings: *Isaiah 40:21-31* (p724-725);

Mark 1:21-39 (p1002-1003)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Reflective) 

11:15am Family Service and

Baptism of George Archer

Theme: The key to power

Reading: *Mark 1:29-39* (p1003)

6:30pm Sung Evensong

Theme: Giving in to temptation

Readings: *Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7* (p4-5);

Romans 5:12-19 (p1132)

Sunday 25 February – 2nd of Lent

Theme: Taking up your cross

Readings: *Romans 4:13-25* (p1131-1132);

Mark 8:31-38 (p1012)

8:00am Holy Communion 

10:30am Church Together Service

Reading: *Mark 8:31-38* (p1012)

Live-streamed services

Services marked with the above icon are
being live-streamed on our Facebook page:
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 10 February.



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

