

St Michael's News

March 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



What is it to be a Christian?

Views vary and there are many very clever and learned theologians out there to help, but they often differ leaving us lesser mortals still wondering. As one of those lesser mortals, this is just my view: *To be a Christian is to follow Christ as best we can. More specifically, Jesus Christ.*

What does Jesus require of us?

When asked by his disciples, Jesus replied:

“ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” and

“ Love your neighbour as yourself.”

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

How do we love God?

A good place to start is by listening to God and we thus move to *‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’*

What is love?

We are helped by that wonderful definition given by Paul in a letter to the Corinthians, beginning:

“ Love is patient, love is kind...”

Who is our neighbour?

Jesus answered this with the parable of the Good Samaritan. From that we learn our neighbours are not only those people who we like, are like us and of our heritage.

So what is it to be a Christian?

I suggest it is to walk through life acknowledging God and being kind to others. Nicely summarised by the prophet Micah in approximately 700 BC:

“ ...what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? ”

Jon Toohey

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, for Alfie Pole & Jacob Hayle and Cassidy & Esther-Rae Shaw who will be baptised here this month, and for Paul Rowse & Rebecca Djemai who are getting married here on Sunday 24 March. Please also pray for the family and friends of Cora Lewis Palmer whose funeral was held here last month.

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](#)



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

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

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.

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



Important safeguarding rules

PLEASE NOTE : ANYONE volunteering at, or visiting, the Pastoral Centre during *Redwood Early Years Nursery* opening hours (weekdays 8:30am-3:15pm) is now required to wear a lanyard to identify themselves, and access to the kitchen should be kept to a minimum. If you need to visit the building **at any time**, you should contact the Parish Office first to ensure that the time is suitable and that there isn't a clash with a hall booking.

Any problems or queries, please call 01252 873030, or email office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk.





**You are invited to Messy Church
in the Pastoral Centre
on Sunday 17 March at 12:30pm
(after the Family Service)**

Bring and share lunch, followed by
Messy Church activities for all ages

If you are able to help at this event, please email:
familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

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



Bishop Olivia at St Michael's

Bishop Olivia will be speaking at the next Deanery Synod meeting on **Tuesday 5 March at 8:00pm** here at St Michael's church.

All are welcome to attend (visitors do not need to stay for the business part of the meeting).

Sonning Deanery

The Church of England in the Wokingham Area

www.sonningdeanery.com

Used postage stamps

Many thanks to all those who saved stamps over the busy Christmas period. I'm pleased to say that the *RNIB*, the *Lullaby Trust* and *Against Breast Cancer* have all received parcels of stamps from us. Luckily the *RNIB* will provide a free address label, so they have had the bulk of the collection this time. They can get £20 for a kilo of stamps.

I had to check all the stamps to make sure none were damaged and also to cut off the excess paper. A margin of less than a centimetre all round is all that's required, and I'm most grateful to those people who made the effort to trim their stamps accordingly.

I was interested to find a few snippets of names and addresses attached to the envelopes and postcards, one of which was 'Thorn'! There was Mr and Mrs P. Thorn, S. Thorn (my son is Stuart) and Caroline Thorn (my daughter-in-law's name). I don't know of any other Thorns outside our family, so this is intriguing. If you know of any, please get in touch as they may be long lost relatives.

Jenny Thorn
01344 775805



Fundraising for the Spire

We are going to fix this spire – including restoring the bells and the clock. A lot of preparatory work has already been done in getting quotes from contractors and researching avenues for grant funding.

We are particularly grateful to all who have put their shoulders to the wheel, including Miranda Frary, our Project Manager, Martin Thomas and the Stewardship and Fundraising Working Party. Grant funders expect us to cover a good proportion of cost of such projects, and we need YOU, the members of our church and the wider community to play your part too!

The spire with its peal of 6 bells and clock is an iconic part of our church building, reminding people that this is a place where they can meet with God in worship, pray for loved ones, celebrate significant life moments through baptisms, weddings and funerals, and enjoy Christmas services, concerts and learning about local history. We want this mission to Sandhurst to continue, and we need you to be part of it.

Your donations of money – small or large (and we need some very large ones!), and participation in our forthcoming fundraising events will all help to achieve this.



Cecilia Singers Concert



“Lighten our Darkness”

On Saturday, 23rd March 2024

**St John the Baptist Church, Waterloo Road,
Crowthorne, RG45 7NY.**

at 7.30 pm

**An evening of music and readings
to prepare for Easter,
including works by**

**Maurice Greene, Gregorio Allegri,
Gabriel Fauré and Eric Whitacre**


**Admission is free but there will be a retiring
collection in aid of St John's Church**

INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS



On the social side

The Skittles Event held on Saturday 4 February went very well, raising over £400 for church funds. The afternoon session was particularly busy, with nearly forty children and adults present, not just 'Skittling' but also Fishing for Prizes (thank you Denise) and trying to Splat the Rat! A big "Thank You" to Pat & Martin Johnson who ran the event.

 **Now for details of the forthcoming Ceilidh.** This will take place in the Pastoral Centre on **Saturday 11 May**, starting at 6:30pm (doors open at 6:15pm).


Our caller will be John Fletcher, who some of you will remember from a similar event that he ran here in 2022.

Tickets will be available after Easter and will cost £10 for adults, £2 for under 16s and £22

for a family (2A + 2C). They will be available from the Social Committee, by calling 01252 871881 or via email: cræharris@outlook.com.

Please bring your own nibbles, drinks, glasses and some change!

 **Sunday Lunches** - there has been a fair amount of support for re-starting the Sunday Lunch get-togethers at the Bird in Hand pub. The responsibility for arranging these has been taken on by Rosaria Toohey so if you would like to join in and haven't yet mentioned it please let her know. **Look out for a date in late April!**

 Finally, there will be a **Plant & Preserves Sale** in the Pastoral Centre on **Sunday 5 May**, from 8:30-11:30am.

Chris Harris, Social Committee



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>

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.

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



Lighthouse Service

Sunday 3rd March 2024

4pm

Jesus in the desert

Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of all-age worship, prayer and fellowship



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

Sebastian's Action Trust - events & challenges



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

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>



Praying together for Sandhurst 5@5 on Thursday 14 March

If you can, please pause and pray for 5 minutes at this time.

Easter is approaching. Let us pray that our proclaiming and celebrating the death and rising again of Jesus will reach and bless many in our community.

We might pray for • those who 'pass by' to 'draw nigh' to Jesus

- for many to discover the 'amazing grace' of God
- for people and places to find peace.

We might consider words from one of Charles Wesley's hymns:

*All ye that pass by, To Jesus draw nigh: To you is it nothing that Jesus should die?
Your ransom and peace, Your surety He is: Come, see if there ever was sorrow like His.*

Gracious God,

Thank you for the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

We praise you for His triumph over death.

We pray that the good news of your grace and love will reach far and wide in this season.

May the Easter light of life, hope and joy live in us so that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

Amen

"An Adventuring Spirit"



English music from the 20th century
evoking travel, adventure and enquiry

Vaughan Williams - Five Mystical Songs

Elgar - From the Bavarian Highlands

Stanford - Songs of the Fleet



Ed Bonner - conductor Geoff Tuson - accompanist

Saturday 23 March 2024 at 7pm

St Peter's Church, Frimley GU16 7AQ

£16 from members or online at SurreyHeathSingers.org.uk

£10 for Students and Friends

Retiring collection in aid of the Mayor's Charity 'Sight for Surrey'

Registered Charity Number 1179358 (Surrey Heath Choral CIO)

Supported by

Con brio

**The Humphrey Richardson Taylor
Charitable Trust**

www.hrtaylortrust.org.uk



EASTER EVE ECO-CHURCH EVENT

SATURDAY 30 MARCH
11AM-5.30PM

A day of activities to promote the care of our planet, with any money raised or donated going to *A Rocha*, our Lent Charity.



Activities will include:

- ♥ Clothes, toys & games swap
- ♥ Churchyard nature walk with a mini-beast hunt
- ♥ Eco-friendly crafts and things to make
- ♥ Ending with Easter songs & hymns around the fire pit
- ♥ Refreshments available.

Please contact Catherine Wilkins, Clare Hardy, or George Castle for more details, or if you would like to help on the day.

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



**CROWTHORNE & SANDHURST
ART SOCIETY**

SPRING ART EXHIBITION

**Saturday 13th &
Sunday 14th April**

**10.30am
4.00pm**

**St. Michael's Pastoral
Centre, Lower Church
Road, Sandhurst, GU47 8HN**

Proudly supported by



**HAT
AND
HOME**

*An opportunity to
support your local
artists and buy an
original work of art!*

REFRESHMENTS

ENTRY FREE



St Michael and All Angels Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 28 April, 11.45am in the Pastoral Centre
(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 four 3-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



Easter flowers donation

Donating to buy flowers that are arranged in Church at Easter is a beautiful way to remember loved ones, and the memories of loved ones.

If you would like to donate towards the purchase of our Easter flowers, it is very easy to do. Please sign the form at the back of church and note your commemoration. Take an envelope for your donation, which can be returned to the Parish Office.

The suggested amount is £4. The flowers that we have all contributed towards will be arranged by members of the Flower Rota ready for Easter Day.

SPRING...."the..earth
is warm with spring
and with green grass
and bursting trees.."



CEILIDH..."a social
event with.....folk
music and traditional
dancing"

What do you get when you put Spring & Ceilidh together?

You get our Springtime Ceilidh on.....

Saturday May 11th

6.30 to 9.30

in the Pastoral Centre. Lower Church Rd., GU47 8HN

Tickets: £10 Adults; £2 U16s; Family (2A + 2C) £22

Available after Easter from the Social Committee

See Page 8 for more details.



Meet the artist: An evening with Tom Butler

Tom Butler is a local professional artist whose paintings sell for sums up to £20,000 a piece. He has kindly agreed to talk about his career and his art, with examples to view, at a special presentation on **Saturday 18 May at 7:00pm** (exact timing t.b.c.).

Tom specialises in street scenes in cities around the world, including London, New York and Venice, as well as coastlines and harbours. He is also a devoted family man, and proficient guitarist!

Check out his website: www.tombutlerartist.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 Sarah Bishop on 07764 548714, by email at: familyworker@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk or the via 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 25 March.

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

MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

Including Holy Week and Easter

Lent Charity: A Rocha


Sunday 3 March – 3rd of Lent

Theme: Cleansing the Temple

8:00am Holy Communion

Readings: *Exodus 20:1-17* (p77-8);

John 2:13-22 (p1065);

9:30am Parish Communion (Traditional) 

11:15am Family Service & Holy Communion

Reading: *John 2:13-22* (p1065);

6:30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Theme: Lent


Sunday 10 March– Mothering Sunday

Theme: The cost of motherhood

Readings: *Exodus 2:1-10* (p58-59);

John 19:25b-27 (p1088)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (All-Age) 

Reading: *Exodus 2:1-10* (p58-59);

11:30am Baptism of Alfie Pole & Jacob Hayle

6:30pm Ecumenical Service at St Michael's


Sunday 17 March – 5th of Lent

Theme: Dying to bring life

Readings: *Jeremiah 31:31-34* (p793);

John 12:20-33 (p1080)

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (Reflective) 

11:15am Family Service and Baptism
of Cassidy & Esther-Rae Shaw

John 12:20-33 (p1080)

Sunday 24 March – Palm Sunday

Theme: Palm Sunday

Readings: *Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29* (p616-617);

Mark 11:1-11 (p1016)

8:00am Holy Communion 

10:30am Church Together Service

Reading: *Mark 11:1-11* (p1016)

2:00pm Marriage of Paul Rowse
& Rebecca Djemai

7:00pm Stainer's Crucifixion

Monday 25 March

8:00pm Holy Communion (Said)

Readings: *Isaiah 42:1-9* (p727);

John 12:1-11 (p1079)

Tuesday 26 March

8:00pm Holy Communion (Said)

Readings: *Isaiah 49:1-7* (p735);

John 12:20-36 (p1080)

Wednesday 27 March

8:00pm Holy Communion (Said)

Readings: *Isaiah 50:4-9a* (p737);

John 13:21-32 (p1081-1082)

Thursday 28 March – Maundy Thursday

8:00pm Holy Communion

Readings: *Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14* (p68-69);


John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (p1081-1082)

10:00pm Compline

Friday 29 March – Good Friday

11:15am Family Service

12:45am Meadows Service

2:00pm Passion Service 

Readings from Mark


Sunday 31 March – Easter Day

Theme: The Easter mystery

Readings: *Isaiah 25:6-9* (p708)

Mark 16:1-8 {p1024}

8:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Parish Communion (All-Age) 

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 March.