

St Michael's News July 2011

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Are we a welcoming community?

It's holiday season, and many of us will be visiting one or more restaurants, staying at a hotel, or visiting friends or relatives. What makes us want to go back to the same place again? It could be the setting, the food, the ambiance, the welcome, the friendships renewed.

There are lessons to be learned from these experiences for our church life. Our mission, given to us by Jesus, is to invite others to find God and become members of the Christian community. In biblical language, this is called 'making disciples' – the theme for this year in the Living Faith vision of Oxford Diocese. Every month we welcome new people into membership of the church through baptism, and there are often new faces in our main services. On 10th July we will see six of our church members confirmed by Bishop Andrew.

But our job is not just to get people in through the door. A pub had this mission statement: 'Your next visit is our success'. What would make newcomers want to keep coming back to our church? How can we help them become integrated into our community? As you visit new places this summer, please use your experience to help you make St Michael's a community that others will want to belong to.

John Castle



Prayer Requests: Jan Benfors, Sophie Monroe (Packer), Sarah Harrison, Denis, Bill, Ken, Rosalind and those on the prayer board. For those who mourn for Paige Sayers, Ethel Dowle, Eileen Child and Edith Stoll. Also, for those being baptised and married here this month.

Church Activities

July Coffee Rota Reminder

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------|
| 3rd July | Dorothy Hill | Ann Weston |
| 10th July | Lesley Gutteridge | Betty Wilson |
| 17th July | Alan Bunton | Carol Hughes |
| 24th July | Ann & Peter Clough | |
| 31st July | Kate Bettison | Jenny Rolfe |



The new coffee rota for July to October, is available to collect from the back of church. Please ensure you swap if you are unable to do the date allocated as there are now only two volunteers making coffee each Sunday, and it is difficult for just one person to manage.

Prayer Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month (16th July) at 9.30–10.15am in the Church and the 4th Wednesday (27th July) at 8.00–8.45pm in the Crèche.

Young Church is part of the 9.30 Parish Communion Service every Sunday, except during school holidays, for children aged 3–10. Please register your children at 9.20am in the Pastoral Centre. The children join the adults towards the end of the church service. Parents interested in their children receiving Holy Communion are asked to speak to Rev John Castle.

REACH runs parallel to the Parish Communion Service at 9:30–10:45am.

House Groups meet each week at these homes:

| | | |
|---------|---------|---|
| Monday | 8.00pm | 11 Sylvan Ridge (Rupert & Sheridan) |
| Tuesday | 10.15am | 6 Crowthorne Rd (Doris Saunders) |
| Tuesday | 8.00pm | 28 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne (Elizabeth Ritchie) |
| Tuesday | 8.00pm | 2 School Hill (John & Sue Campbell) |
| Tuesday | 8.00pm | 34 Albion Road (Linda Lemmon) |
| Tuesday | 8.00pm | 25 Templar Close (John & Stephanie Martin) |
| Tuesday | 8.00pm | 10 Ryder Gardens, Yateley (Jen & Jez Daines) |

If anyone would like to join a group, please speak to John White (01344 774349) for more details.

2nd Saturday Club. Please can you spare some time to join us: 9:30–12:00 on the 2nd Saturday of the month for maintenance of the Church and Pastoral Centre?

Keeping The Faith On Holiday

Are you going away on holiday this summer? Why not make your holiday a time of spiritual as well as physical and/or mental refreshment? Here are some ideas:

Reading material. In addition to taking a novel, why not pack your Bible and daily notes (available from the back of church for free) and find 10–15 minutes a day to keep in touch with God with a little reading and prayer? If you'll have internet access you can access daily Bible readings at www.wordlive.org and other sites. There are also some Christian books – biographies and other material – which you can borrow for a bit of inspirational reading. (See the bookshelves in the Pastoral Centre – if possible, leave a note with the office to say which book you've borrowed.)

Find a church near your holiday location. If you're in the UK, you won't be far from a church. If you have children with you, try one that looks like it will be welcoming to them – even if it's not Anglican! The website www.churchofengland.org.uk can help you find an Anglican church; www.findachurch.co.uk for other churches. If you're holidaying abroad, there are a lot of English-speaking churches or services. Just visit the website www.ics-uk.org/churches/ for details of your nearest. Or look in the Directory of English-Speaking Churches Abroad, a copy of which is at the back of our church. (Please don't remove it – copy down the details for your use later.)

Gift Day – A Big Thank You!

The PCC wish to thank everyone who contributed to the Gift Day appeal in May. We have exceeded our target of £10,000 and a total of £10,923.44 was raised, of which 10 per cent will be sent to the charities we support in addition to the 10 per cent of income from Pledged Giving. Gift Aid will also add to the value of the amount received.

Now that we have refilled the tank, we need to try to avoid depleting it again, and we are still looking for new people to make a commitment to giving regularly to the church through the Pledged Giving Scheme. Information is situated on the 'black box' at the back of the church, or can be obtained from the office.

Sale of Used Postage Stamps

One of the charities which benefits from the sale of used postage stamps is FSID (Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths). This organisation is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and is keen to let people know of its successes. The following statistics are taken from a recent letter:

- Over 900 bereaved families have been offered practical support and advice on caring for their next baby.
- Over 900 teenage parents have sought advice as babies born to these young parents are four times more likely to succumb to cot death than infants of older parents.

A huge thank you once again, as none of our projects or programmes would be possible without your invaluable support www.fsid.org.uk.

It's good to know that collecting seemingly worthless stamps can have such important consequences.

The Bracknell Area Foodbank

The Lent collection this year was made in aid of the Bracknell Area Foodbank, located in Kerith Community Church, Bracknell

The Bracknell foodbank is part of a national network of foodbanks, that give out nutritionally balanced emergency food to people in crisis. These people often have nowhere else to turn. The foodbanks also offer help to break the cycle of poverty by putting people in touch with relevant agencies that can offer further support.

Over the past 19 months the Bracknell foodbank has distributed over 900 food-vouchers, supplied 15 tonnes of food (the equivalent of 15,000 meals) to 2,100 adults and children. Projections show that over the next 12 months, the Bracknell foodbank needs to plan for a doubling of people needing assistance within Bracknell Forest Borough.

Items that go into food packs are: milk (UHT or powdered), cereals, tinned soup, fruit juice (carton), pasta sauces, baked beans, rice/sponge pudding (tinned), tomatoes (tinned), pasta/rice (1kg), tinned vegetables, tea bags, instant mashed potato, tinned meat/fish, tinned fruit and biscuits.

When the foodbank was launched in September 2009 it helped a total of 71 people; in May 2011 it support over 2,000. Looking at trends last year the foodbank believed that requests for help would double in 12 months. However graphing current trends the foodbank now believes that demand for assistance will double in eight months.

The foodbank needs more funds and more helpers. If you would like to help, email: foodbank@kerith.co.uk or fill in the form on the Kerith Community Church's foodbank page

There is more information about the food bank in the [BBC's News Berkshire article of 4th March](#).

Toddler Time is on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 9.30–11.00am, except during school holidays.

The Bellringers practise from 7.30pm each Monday evening, please ring Derek Palmer 07947 822951 if you are interested.

Choir practice is every Thursday beginning at 7.00pm for juniors and 7.30pm for adults.

Church Flowers. Please ring Jennie 01344 775881 for information if you wish to help to arrange the church flowers. Thank you.

Foodbank: The Lent appeal for the Bracknell Foodbank raised £764.00. Thank you very much.

Soft Fruit

If anyone has a surplus soft fruit this year – especially cherries, berries and rhubarb – please, could I have them to turn into jam for the Home Produce Stall to raise funds for the church. I may well be needing good, clean jam jars with lids too if there is a good harvest (no pickle jars thanks)! Jan King

Day Centre

Please, could you help set up for 11.30 Wednesday Communion at the Day Centre once a month?

Confirmation, Sunday 10th July at 6.30pm

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Andrew, the new Bishop of Reading, to confirm candidates from St Michael's and St John's, Crowthorne. The candidates from St Michael's as we went to press are:

- Adults: William and Aisha Lee, Sarah Squires, Graham Jennings
- Young people: Daniel Brown, Emily Evans

Please pray for these candidates, and come along to support them if you can! There will be a reception afterwards in the Seeby Hall, with an opportunity to meet Bishop Andrew and his wife Janice

Ride & Stride 10th September

Ride & Stride formerly known as CRoW, has become one of the most successful and popular annual fundraising events to help restore and protect historic churches across the U.K.



By taking part you will help preserve both church buildings and the unique landscape that we all take for granted. You can explore beautiful Berkshire and discover more about these buildings. Many churches are manned by volunteers who can provide you with information and refreshments. If you wish to take part please ask the Parish Office for information and sponsorship form. All you need is a bike or your walking boots. Do take part and have fun for this great cause: the Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust

Safari Supper: Saturday 17th September

The next Safari Supper is on **Saturday 17th September**. This is an excellent way to socialise with friends and enjoy good food.



The 'safari' bit entails moving to a different home for each course. Everyone can agree to cook a course for six to eight people in their own home. But you can opt not to cook. It works best if most people offer to cook but you can decide not to cook and pay more instead. You'll meet different people for each course and the whole group at the start, for aperitifs, and again at the end. The twist in the tail is that you don't know who your guests will be or where you will be going until the night! Couples and singles are welcome.

We'll need to finalise numbers at least a week ahead. Please get your name on the list as soon as you can. The price is £5 per head for hosts or £10 per head if you are not hosting a course.

There is a list at the back of the church on which you can enter your details or let Steph and John Martin know (01252 873316 or johnc.martin@btinternet.com)

Blue Envelopes

Please use the gift aid envelopes for even small amounts of cash if you are a tax payer and have paid enough tax to do so. This is free money from the government and worth doing because it all adds up!

Baptisms at St Michael's

This summer is proving to be a busy time for baptisms, and it seems that we are seeing more and more of the children and parents in church (usually at the Family Service) both before and after the baptism, which is evidence of the parents' genuine desire to have more of God and church in their family life.

We welcome those recently baptised into membership of the church:

May: Isabella York, Phoebe Phillips and Emily Steel

June: Harry Lincoln, Freya Wharton, Leon Tooze, Tabitha Card, Logan McNeill and Harrison Bates.



Phoebe's baptism

Lost for Words

A book for all who think evangelism is NOT for them

Have you ever sat and chatted to someone on the bus, at work or in a doctors' waiting room and thought afterwards, 'If only I had had more courage I could have encouraged that person with a word about Jesus or invited them to church'. Well, this issue has been troubling my mind for some months. Why do I find it so difficult to share my faith and, yes, I've made lots of excuses. I'm not an evangelist, that's for others who have the gift. Nobody would take any notice of me, etc. If any of this rings true for you, then *Lost for Words* by James Lawrence (published by CPAS) is worth reading.

I could immediately relate to the doubts, fears and stories the author recounts, but gradually I found myself being led into an understanding that there were ways in which I could introduce others to Jesus in a gentle and non-threatening way.

Lost for Words is easy to read, grounded in reality and in bite-sized chunks. It's easy to take a chapter a day and I found myself wanting to pick it up again and read more.

It's so easy to confine our faith to church on Sunday, but God is calling us to take our faith out into our daily lives and to learn how to talk about Jesus and what our faith in Him means to us and could mean to others. The book is just one of many that you can find in the library in the Pastoral Centre lounge. If you borrow the book, please return it as soon as possible for others, or order your own copy through [Quench](#) (formerly St Andrews bookshop) at Holme Grange craft village, or from [High Cross](#), Camberley, or on-line from [CPAS](#). **Liz Percival**

Air Ambulance Gardens Open on 29th May

A big thank you to the many people who visited the gardens opened in Sandhurst in aid of our Air Ambulance. Five were open and just over £2,000 was made on the day, and with further donations. The total was £2,048.50p. Well done everyone! Betty.



Coffee Rota

More volunteers for the coffee rota please. Approximately once every four months. Please ring the office 01252 873030.

Church Fundraising

If you would like to organise a fundraising event for the church or make a suggestion, please contact John White (01344 774349) or Jan King at king4kings@aol.com or by phoning 01344 750285

Internet Safety Update

Parents whose children use Facebook may like to be aware of the recent introduction of a facial recognition photo-tagging feature as a default setting. This means that Facebook now recognises your face if you appear in photos that are uploaded to other people's accounts. For more information, and how you can opt out, see www.pcworld.com/article/230656 and www.saferinternet.org.uk/news.

Bracknell Forest have also drawn our attention to anti-bullying apps. which are for children who use Smartphones:

Bully shield – iPhone <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bully-shield/id363952291?mt=8>

- Bully Block – Android <http://www.booyagadget.com/2011/05/android-apps-bully-block-review.html>
- Block'em - Android & Blackberry (to block unwanted callers)(does cost but a high percentage goes to NSPCC) <http://blockem.co.uk/>
- A Thin Line - iPhone (launched by MTV) <http://www.athinline.org/>

Christian Aid Week 2011: Round Up

Overall, Christian Aid Week in Sandhurst and Yateley was a great success. The result – nearly three per cent up on 2010 – was as follows.

The Quiz Night, hosted by St George's, went from strength to strength; Women's World Day of Prayer lunch, held at St Swithun's, raised more than in 2010. However, church collections were down by £150. This was offset by house-to-house collections, which raised nearly £300 more. The ecumenical Christian Aid Week service collected £76.

Now, can we do better next May? Many people are depending on us .

Winter talks

The last series of winter talks were popular and very thought provoking. We had an excellent set of speakers. We'd like to hold more talks but the challenge is finding speakers who are available and will be as interesting as the previous ones. We'd like some ideas. If you have suggestions for speakers or topics please talk to John White or any member of the Social Committee.

Newsletter by email

Did you know that you can receive future editions of this newsletter by email? These are in colour and are normally sent out a few days before the paper copy is available. To opt in to this scheme please contact PCC member David Hunt david.hunt@bcs.org.uk

Wanted: someone to type the Newsletter

As I have been typing the monthly Church Newsletter since 2008, I should now like to take a break; especially as I think someone younger and sharper could bring fresh energy to this project. Someone with computer skills is needed and who has the time to come into the church office on weekday mornings, mostly when you feel like it – specially near the end of the month – to complete and print it. You do not have to compose things yourself, but put in the emailed articles from others and do lists of events. Then there are the services, weddings, baptisms etc. to put in. Quite enjoyable really! Then you email the whole lot to John Castle, who sends it on to our Editor, Jim Somerville, who puts in the middle pages with photos etc. and sends it back to print and fold. Please let the church office know if you wish to take this on. Betty Wilson

Newsletter Deadlines Please send your items for the August Newsletter to the Church office by 18th July Admin_Support@StMichaels-Sandhurst.org.uk. Many thanks. Betty.

Regular Activities at the Pastoral Centre

Rainbows meet on Tuesdays: 5.00–6.00 pm (5–7 year olds)

Guides meet on Tuesdays: 6.30–8.30 pm (10–14 year olds)

Line Dancing takes place each Monday evening in the hall from 7.00 pm, £5 includes raffle, just come along and have fun. Tea and coffee available or bring your own drinks. Ring Sue or Arron for information (01344 485097).

Pilates takes place in the large upper room, most days and evenings. Ring Carl on 01344 762712 for more information.

Zumba. Latin America's dance craze is so infectious you won't even realise you're exercising! Suitable for all ages and fitness levels, Zumba consists of easy-to-follow dance moves to energising pulsating music with the added benefits of burning calories whilst toning and sculpting your body. What are you waiting for? Ditch the workout and 'Join the Party' now! Thursdays at 6.30 pm – £5 per class. Contact Beth for further information on 07976 23186 or Bethan.Coldwell@hotmail.com

Also, Zumba with Tiffany: Wednesdays, 6.00 till 7.00 pm, Seebly Hall. £5 per class. Latin inspired dance fitness class, Feel the music and let loose! No need to book just come along and join the Party!

Church Calendar

| Date & Time | Venue | Event | Contact |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Sun 3 July | Rectory garden | Church Picnic | John Castle |
| Wed 6 July | Pastoral Centre | Leadership Course Open Evening | Sarah Ashton & John Castle |
| Sun 10 July 6.00 pm | Church | Confirmation Service | John Castle |
| Sun 17 July 3.00 pm | Memorial Park | Sandhurst Churches Together Songs of Praise | Janet Pilbeam |
| Mon 22 August 8.00 pm | The Old Coach House | Social Committee meeting | Jan King |
| Sat 17 Sept | Around the parish | Safari Supper | John and Stephanie Martin |
| Sept/Oct (tba) | Complete at home | Next quiz | Jan King |
| Sat 1 October | Church | Sandhurst Silver Band Concert | John Castle |
| Sun 9 October 9.30 am | Church | Harvest Festival | Church Office |
| Sun 2 or 16 Oct (date tbc) | Pastoral Centre | Home produce stall | Jan King |
| Sun 16 Oct | Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford | Oxford Cathedral visit + Evensong | John White |



The Youth Band made music at Thriftwood: Ben, guitar; Matt, vocals; Adam, keyboard; James, drums.

Courtesy, Mike Arthy

Church finances

In **May** we had an overall income of £12,731 against expenditure of £17,343. Year-to-date income is £67,403 against expenditure of £67,794. We have an operating Surplus/Deficit of -£391 against an expected budgeted amount of -£7847. The current position is Good for the current month and Good overall for the year to date against the planned budget.

| Income indicators | | Expenditure indicators | Overall |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|---------|
| Planned Giving | ↓ | Ministry expenses | ✓ |
| Collections | ↓ | Operating expenses | |
| PCC Fees | → | Property costs | |
| Property Income | ↑ | Staff costs | |

Key: Expenditure and income indicators

↓ Significantly more or less than planned (>=92% >=0.5% target)

→ Slightly more or less than planned (<98% >=92% target)

↑ On or ahead of target (>=98% of target)

July Church Services

Friday 1st July – Wedding

1.30pm Lisa Dulieu and Mark Tottle



Saturday 2nd July – Weddings

2.00pm Shane Conlon and Danielle Hill

Sunday 3rd July – 2nd after Trinity – Topic: A wife for Isaac

Readings: Genesis 24:34–67 (p24), Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30 (p976)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion and Baptism of Alice Hardy

11.15am Family Service and Baptism of George Harris

Topic: A wife for Isaac. Reading: Genesis 24:34–67 (p24)

6.30pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Saturday 9th July – Wedding

2.00pm James Fraser–Murison and Nicola Crowder 2.00 pm

Sunday 10th July 3rd after Trinity – Topic: Bible Sunday

Readings: Nehemiah 8:1–12 (p492), Luke 4:16–24 (p1031).

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion – all age

11.30am Baptism of Abigail Cornock, Sophie Johnson and Evelyn Thumwood

6.00pm Confirmation. There will be a reception afterwards in the Seeby Hall, with an opportunity to meet Bishop Andrew and his wife Janice.

Friday 15th July – Wedding

1.00pm Gary Dowling and Jenna Bull

Saturday 16th July – Weddings

12.00 noon Mark Bond and Sarah Greehy

2.00pm Amy Blog and Mark Luca



Sunday 17th July – 4th after Trinity – Topic: Jacob's Dream

Readings: Genesis 28:10–19 (p30), Romans 8:12–25, Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 (p979),

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.15am Family Service. **Topic:** Jacob's Dream

Reading: Genesis 28:10–19 (p30),

3.00pm Songs of Praise – Memorial Park

6.30pm No Service

Saturday 23rd July – Wedding

2.00pm Greig Anderson and Rachel Barrett

Sunday 24th July – 5th after Trinity – Topic: Jacob's wives

Readings: Genesis 29:15–24, Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52.

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.15am Baptism of Tyeem and Jahmari Anthony and Oliver Bruce–Reed

6.30pm Sung Evensong



Saturday 30th July – Wedding

4.00pm David Carpenter and Jill Bentley 4.00 pm

Sunday 31st July – 6th after Trinity – Topic: Jacob wrestles with God

Readings: Genesis 32:22–31, Romans 9:1–5, Matthew 14:13–21.

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.15am No Service

6.30pm No Service



Each Wednesday there is Communion at the Day Centre at 11.30am.