

St Michael's News October 2011

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No Harvest this Year?

I used to wonder why churches made such a fuss of Harvest Festivals. In terms of church attendance, it seemed to be up there with Christmas and Easter – and yet Harvest is not really a Christian festival at all. And in any case, how many of us 'townies' have even seen any farmers harvesting, let alone taken part? Does it make any sense to us to 'raise the song of harvest-home'? Suppose we dropped it altogether?

Meanwhile, in East Africa, millions of people are suffering as you read this from the lack of a harvest. While British supermarkets reject Kenyan beans which are the wrong size for their packaging, Kenyans, Somalis and Ethiopians abandon their homes and flee to refugee centres to escape starvation. The contrast is reminiscent of Jesus' parable about a rich man who feasted sumptuously while a beggar named Lazarus lay at his gate covered with sores (Luke 16:19f).

Perhaps it's not a bad thing to set aside one Sunday a year to count our blessings and get some perspective on our lives. Whatever difficulties we may be struggling with, we also have so much to be grateful for. And the best way of showing gratitude is to give generously from the blessings we have received.

John Castle



Prayer Requests: Edith, Denis, Bill, Ken, Rosalind, Dorothy Crow and those on the prayer board. Also, for those being baptised and married here this month.

Church Activities

October Coffee Rota Reminder

2nd October	Stephanie Martin	Di Taylor
9th October	Jenny Piggin	Ruth Eve
16th October	David & Iris Bryant	
23rd October	Joy Alexander	Marion Blackmore
30th October	Val Brown	Ann Francose



The new coffee rota for November–March 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 (15th October) at 9.30–10.15 am in the Church and the 4th Wednesday (26th October) at 8.00–8.45 pm.

House Groups meet each week at these homes:

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

If anyone would like to join a group, please ring John White on 01344 774349 for more details.

Young Church is part of the 9.30 Parish Communion Service every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month, for children aged 3–10. Please register your children at 9.20 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 9:30–10:45 am.

Toddler Time is on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 9.30–11 am.

Our new Youth Worker

Dear Readers,

My name is Kylie Garrill; I was born into a Christian family, attending The Salvation Army in Bedford, where I grew up. Appointed as your new Youth Worker at St Michael's, I am taking this opportunity to provide a few details about my life and experiences so far...



Since the age of 16, I have worked with children from early years through to young adults in both formal and more relaxed settings, most recently at two youth groups that provided opportunities for personal development using activities that engaged and challenged individuals.

In the past, I studied Educational Studies at University, however, recently I felt the calling to apply to Moorlands College of Christian Training and Teaching, where I have started a degree in Applied Theology and Youth Work. In addition to my formal education, I have qualifications in music, including Grade 8 Piano.

Although I grew up in a Christian environment and have always known God, I fully gave my heart to Him only a few years ago. As a practising Christian, I am still young; although I wish to leave you with an encouraging thought...Whilst studying Acts 3:1-12, I prayed:

'I have no silver or gold to share, I cannot heal sickness and pain, but what I can do is share the knowledge and love of you Lord! Amen!'

See you soon, and God Bless, Kylie x

2nd Saturday Club Please can you spare some time to join us, 9:30-12:00, on the second Saturday of the month, for maintenance of the church and Pastoral Centre? We have a number of jobs to do on the church, Pastoral Centre and in the churchyard; the next meetings are 8th October, 12th November and 10th December.



Contact myself, John Campbell, on 01344 776655 or Rupert on 01344 777137.

Harvest Festival, Sunday 9th October

As in previous years the gifts of food will be donated to **Feed the Children**, which has a depot in Twyford. Please will you bring dried pasta, pulses (peas, beans, lentils), rice, salt, sugar, dried fruit instead of fresh produce.

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Living Faith

St Michael's Church, Sandhurst, is part of the Church of England Diocese of Oxford

We subscribe to the Diocese of Oxford's **LIVING FAITH VISION**, which seeks to express the priorities of the church at the parish level.

Please take a few minutes to think about these different priorities, and consider how you as an individual and we as a church can live out this vision more effectively.



Do you care about marriage?

The Berkshire branch of Explore began in this parish ten years ago and seeks to enable young people in local schools to explore how marriage really works, so that they are better equipped to make their own choices about family life in the future. Volunteers can help in a number of ways, including being willing once or twice a year to go into schools (not their local ones!) and be interviewed about their own experiences of married life. If you would like to know more please come along to an informal and informative evening looking at the work and future of Explore in and around Berkshire on Friday 14th October 2011, 7.30 pm–9.30 pm at Wokingham Town Hall. The evening includes: light refreshments, presentations on our work and some fundraising.

RSVP: 07786 704473 or theresa.explore@yahoo.co.uk or Liz Percival 01344 779658.

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Janet and Peter Pilbeam have once again kindly offered to deliver the food to the depot. Any fresh produce that we receive will be given to Sandhurst Day Centre. There will also be gift-aid envelopes available in church for donations to Feed the Children.

Children Receiving Communion

It is no longer necessary for children to be confirmed before they can receive holy communion. We have a scheme in place, approved by the Bishop of Reading, for children to be prepared to receive communion, if that is their wish and their parents and the parish priest agree that they are ready to do so. Preparation includes ensuring that they have an understanding of the Christian faith and of the meaning of holy communion appropriate for their age, and in practice this will involve some teaching and the use of a workbook.

The first step is to have a word with the Rector, John Castle. Several parents have recently enquired, and it would be useful to undertake the preparation of all children concerned together. You are welcome to register an interest by e-mail to rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk, or phone 01252 872168.

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

Stamps

We still value *your* used stamps which *do* raise money for good causes! Keep them coming – Thank you.



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!

100 Club Draw

The winners of the August 100 Club draw held on 4 September 2011 were:

1st Prize: Mrs C Pocock No 119 £20

2nd Prize Mrs J Kaye No 69 £10

3rd Prize Mrs J Hulbert No 63 £5

£34 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

Sandhurst Silver Band in concert at St Michael's, 22nd October

Our very own town band, which is now a Championship Section band, will be giving a concert at St Michael's on Saturday 22nd October at 7.30 pm. A varied and interesting programme will include a solo by John Castle and will last two hours, including a refreshment interval. All proceeds will be split between St Michael's and the Band fund. Tickets will be £7.50 (adults) and £4 (concessions), available from the Parish Office.

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, via the Parish Office, 01252 873030.

The Coffee Spot needs help

The Coffee Spot in Sandhurst is run by the Sandhurst Churches and provides a unique opportunity to meet people from across the area and from all different backgrounds. The initiative is made possible by volunteers working with a staff member each day. Each volunteer is asked to help for just two hours at a time of day that suits them, serving at the counter, washing up, and being a friendly face for the customers.



To remain effective, the operation needs more people to be available – either on a regular basis or able to be called upon when gaps appear on the normal rota. If you are interested please contact Janet Pilbeam on 01252 871386, and Janet will happily discuss with you what commitment is expected.

There are also opportunities for some paid hours for students and young people, for example, a couple of hours after school in the week.

The Coffee Spot is a great resource shared between the churches, and presents a friendly space for people to enjoy some good refreshment. Yet it is more than

that – it is a place where people are genuinely valued and relationships are important. We pray that in this place the love of God is manifest and time will seem to stand still; that people will have the opportunity to encounter God.

Fairtrade Christmas Market. We are having a 'Taste of Christmas' on Friday November 11th in the evening, with lots of Fairtrade stalls. The stalls will be selling gifts for all ages, clothes, wooden toys, jewellery, and even some new ready-made meals which use Fairtrade products. Sam Hunt, deputy head of Sandhurst School, is bringing a stall of goods from Malawi, which the school supports. We will also have information on Fairtrade Gold. The RISC shop in Reading is having a stall. There will be chocolate and wine tasting. Too good to miss! Home-made mincemeat and miniature Christmas cakes will be on sale. Entrance just £1. Time 7.30-9.30 pm. Refreshments will be available.



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](mailto:David.Hunt@bcs.org.uk).

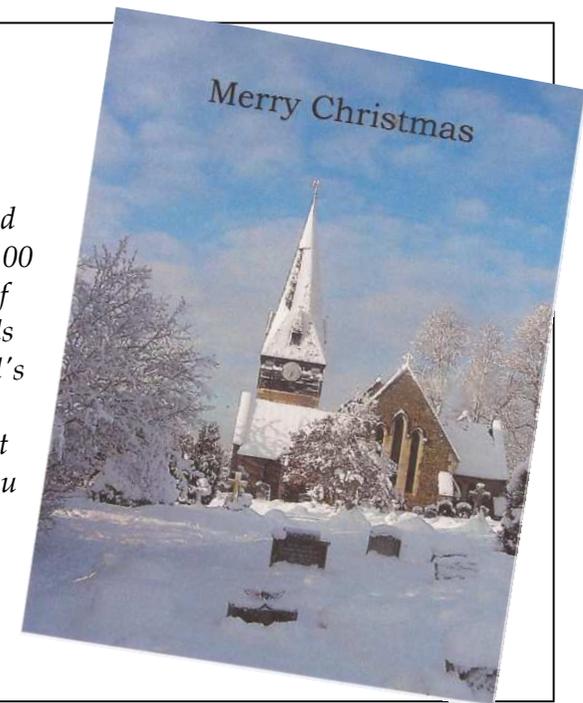


"That cloud looks like Mrs. Cheezeeder complaining about my hymn selections. That cloud over there looks like Mr. Barkwell complaining about the budget for youth ministry. That other cloud looks like Mrs. Lintcatcher complaining about the women's fellowship meetings ..."

Courtesy, Christianity Today

Christmas Cards

Derek Palmer has made some Christmas Cards depicting a wintry scene of the Church and these are available to buy at £3.00 for a pack of ten. All proceeds of sale are donated to church funds for the benefit of the St. Michael's Church and its supported charities. Look out for the list at the back of the church where you can order your cards or alternatively call in at the parish office or ring Derek Palmer 01344 772678.



Newsletter Deadlines. Please send your items for the November Newsletter to the church office (Admin_Support@StMichaels-Sandhurst.org.uk) by 17th October. 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 with Tiffany, Wednesdays, 6.00–7.00 pm, Seeby 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!

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CMS update

Each month the Church Mission Society (CMS) – <http://www.cms-uk.org/> – sends out an email about its work throughout the world. This is taken from the September email.

Uganda – in Kiwoko, northern Uganda, CMS worked with the local hospital to equip it to deal with a potential outbreak of the highly contagious disease ebola. As it turned out, the outbreak did not materialise, but the experience was very valuable.

Also in **Uganda** – 23 young women were rescued from the effects of war and given the chance of education and employment in the future. Janet, who serves as provincial children’s worker for the Church of Uganda, helped raise enough funds to pay for a year of school fees for these young women. They had all suffered trauma from pointless war, but now have hope.

Bangladesh – Thanks to CMS partners at the Ekota project (a Bangladeshi social support organisation), a young women in Dhaka was rescued from an abusive marriage and given the resources to start a new life away from her abusers. Her husband had throw her out of the house when he had been unable to extract more dowry form his wife’s family.

Nepal – more than 40 people living with HIV were given the skills and tools they need to earn a living in a society where HIV sufferers are widely feared and rejected. The work in Nepal was led by a CMS mission partner, Bhibin S, who has worked to make AIDS awareness and ministry a priority for the churches in Nepal. Through his efforts, people with HIV have been trained in candle making, sewing, animal husbandry and small shop management, all in partnership with local churches. ‘People living with HIV are not only looking for love and compassion, but for equal opportunity and dignity,’ he said. Bhibin is head of Grace Community Services (GCS) at the National Churches Fellowship of Nepal.

Photo: Church of Uganda



Twenty-four young women in Uganda now have hope.

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Zumbatomic after-school classes, 4.00 pm on Thursdays – the crazy-cool dance fitness workout for kids aged 4–12 yrs. Packed with choreographed routines to music like hip-hip, reggaeton and cumbia, Zumbatomic classes increase focus and self-confidence, boost metabolism and improve coordination. For more information contact Beth on 07976 231896 or go to www.zumbawithbeth.co.uk.

Zumba with Beth. Latin America’s dance craze is so infectious you won’t realise you’re exercising! Easy-to-follow dance moves to energising music, you can tone your body and lose weight in no time! Suitable for all ages and fitness levels – 6.30 pm on Thursdays, £5 a class! Contact Beth for more information on 07976231896 or go to www.zumbawithbeth.co.uk.

Church finances

This Month, **August**, we had an overall income of £8,093 against expenditure of £13,307, which is not good. Year-to-date income is £100,412 against expenditure of £114,203, which is not good. Our monthly budget income is less than planned. Our monthly budget expenditure is less than planned. We have a current Notable Operating Loss of -£13,792. Our overall position for the year is of serious concern, action is urgently required.

Income indicators		Expenditure indicators		Overall
Planned Giving	↓	Ministry expenses	↑	X
Collections	↓	Operating expenses	↓	
PCC Fees	↓	Property costs	↑	
Property Income	↑	Staff costs	↓	

Note: This represents current cash flow and excludes the Gift Day giving which has now been allocated designated fund totalling £10,948. We still need to address committed regular giving.

Key: income and expenditure

- ↓ Significantly less than planned (>=92% >=.5% target)
- Slightly less than planned (<98% >=92% target)
- ↑ On target (>=98% of target)

Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sun 2 Oct	Pastoral Centre	Home produce stall	Jan King
Sun 9 Oct 9.30 am	Church	Harvest Festival	Church Office
Sun 9 Oct Meet there at 3.00 pm	Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford	Cathedral visit + Evensong,	John White
Sat 22 Oct 7.30 pm	Church	Sandhurst Silver Band Concert	John Castle
Sun 30 Oct 6.30 pm	Church	Memorial Service	Church Office
Fri 11 Nov 7.30–9.30 pm	Pastoral Centre	A taste of Christmas (a Fairtrade market)	Fairtrade Commit- tee & Jill White
Sun 20 Nov	Bird In Hand	Sunday Lunch	Jan King
Sat 3 to Tue 6 Dec	Church	Christmas Tree Festival	
Sat 3 & Sun 4 Dec	Pastoral centre	Christmas Fayre & refreshments	Soc com+ Jenny Thorne + Janet P.

October Church Services

Sunday 2nd October – 15th After Trinity – Topic: Knowing Christ

Readings: Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 (p77), Philippians 3:4b–14 (p1180), Matthew 21:33–46 (p990).

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

11.15 am Family Service & Baptism of William Cannon – Topic: First things first

6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 9th October – 16th After Trinity – Topic: Harvest Thanksgiving

Readings: Deuteronomy 28:1–14 (205) Luke 12:16–30 (p1045)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion – all age

11.30 am Baptism of Cameron Green, Evie Wilkins and Matthew Wright

6.30 pm Ecumenical Service taken by St George's.



Sunday 16th October – 17th After Trinity – Topic: A Christian attitude to life

Readings: Exodus 33:12–end (p92), Philippians 4:1–9 (p1180),

Matthew 22:15–22 (p990)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

11.15 am Family Service

6.30 pm No Service

Saturday 22nd October – Wedding

2.00 pm Rebecca Warender & Andrew McDade



Sunday 23rd October – Last After Trinity – Topic: Loving your neighbour

Readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18 (p121), 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 (p1186),

Matthew 22: 34–46 (p991).

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

11.30 am Baptism of Kaitlyn Woolner

6.30 pm No Service

Sunday 30th October – All Saints Sunday – Topic: All Saints

Readings: Revelation 7:9–17 (p1238), 1 John 3:1–3 (p1226),

Matthew 5: 1–12 (p968).

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Memorial Service

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

Early morning services – You may find it useful to come to these services, if you are going out for the rest of the day!