

St Michael's News April 2012

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Love in Action

For a definition of love we need to go to the Bible, or more specifically to chapter 13 of St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, where St Paul defines love as an action rather than a feeling. St Paul writes that love is kind, kindness is an action; that love is patient, patience is an action; and that love forgives, and forgiveness is an action.

So it is in what we do for other people, that we express our love. As many of you will know, I have been suffering from a trapped nerve in my back, and it has only been possible for me to fulfil my church commitments through the help that John and others have given me, and I am confident that there are many other people who could say the same. But there are times when people are sick and are not cared for and so a more formal approach is needed to care for them. To fill this gap, we at St Michael's have teams of visitors who visit the sick, the bereaved, and others in our congregation. But these teams were formed many years ago and we now need more people to visit and befriend. So, if you would like to put love into action and you have an hour or so to spare then please speak to John, Linda or myself.

John White

Please pray for: our deanery synod members – Emma Hodge, Kathryn Barton and Jan Herd; people who may fill the vacancies to represent our church on the deanery synod; for those who were recently married here – Felix Cash and Montana Ball; for those who recently passed away – Basil Newcombe, Dorothy Crow, Baby Farley Giffin, Molly Lewis.



Church Activities

April Coffee Rota Reminder

1st April	Chris Pocock	Rosemary Dobson
8th April	Dorothy Hill	Jo Arty
15th April	Wendy Grafton	Val Travers
22nd April	Gillian Davies	Di Pullar
29th April	Ann Homfray	Jenny Thorn

Prayer Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month (21st April) at 9.30–10.15 am in the church and the 4th Wednesday (25th April) 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)

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

Young Church is part of the 9.30 Parish Communion Service every Sunday 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.

Crèche. A crèche facility is now available for under threes in the Pastoral Centre lounge area. Please arrive prior to the 9.30 am service to settle your children, signing them in on arrival. Earlier collection can be arranged if you wish to be together to share Holy Communion as a family. Otherwise, collect your children after the service at coffee time. Initially Angela Harper and Caroline Bowles (Ofsted Registered Childminders) shall be caring for your children, although we would like to get a crèche rota in place to share the load. If you would be interested in helping out please contact Angela (07932 333619) to arrange this and receive CRB forms for clearance.

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 9.30–11.00 am, except during school holidays.

Pastoral Care at St Michael's

In the rhythm of life things are constantly changing and, if we as a church do not change, we run the risk of stagnating. The pastoral care in this church has been done for many, many, years by the same team of people. The job they have done over the years has been excellent, very much appreciated by the clergy and by the people who have benefited from it.

John White has looked after the co-ordination of pastoral care for many years and now he has handed it over to me and asked me to re-vamp it. We need more people to become involved. In its basic form, pastoral care is just about looking after one another. How can we obey Jesus' command to 'love one another as I have loved you' if there is a need to be met and we ignore it, thinking there is always someone else who will do it? We don't actually mean to ignore it, we think 'I'll help when this is finished or that has happened...'. Time goes by and then, during the confession in our service one Sunday, we ask for forgiveness 'for what we have left undone' and are reminded, always meaning to help next time...

We do not need a lot of your time and hour here or there, a phone call made, a card sent. Sit next to someone else in church, or move out of your pew to share the peace. Or, if you notice that the person who usually sits in front of you hasn't put in an appearance for several weeks, mention it to John, John or myself and we will contact them to see if everything is okay. This is all part of Christ's love: looking after one another in church as well as outside.

I will be arranging a meeting soon to discuss the pastoral care for our church. What I would like is for people to attend and discuss where we may have let people down, what we could do better, what we need to start doing etc. to be part of the decision making process, but not necessarily committing ourselves to helping – if you want to though that will be great! We need 'new blood'; we need people from all the different services in order to be able to 'look after' everyone.

Please make a positive decision to attend the meeting when it is advertised or let me know NOW by phone or email that you will attend and I will make sure that we will arrange a mutually agreed date.

I would also like to remind everyone that if anyone has a pressing need, or a desire to talk to someone in full confidence, John, John and I are always available to talk with you.

Linda Lemmon

Phone: 01252 874525. Email: thirtyfour@btinternet.com

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

Blue Envelopes

Please use the gift aid envelopes to give cash, if you are a taxpayer. This is free money, and worth doing for even small amounts. It all adds up!

St Michael's Churchyard

Help is required on Saturday morning 14th April from 9.30 am. Now that the growing season is on us, we would like to tackle work around the churchyard before the new growth gets out of hand, and are organising a working party on *Saturday 14th April* to do this. If you can help with cutting hedges, trimming the surrounds, chopping down brambles and doing further work in the newly cleared area behind the Pastoral Centre, we would very much like to hear from you.

On-going help with grass cutting. We are just about keeping on top of the grass cutting in the churchyard (so to speak!), but more help is always welcome during the spring and summer months. If you would be happy to help or would like to know more, then please let us know and we can give you further details. We are also looking for someone to take on the maintenance of the flower border next to the Pastoral Centre

In both cases, please contact Peter Hulbert on 01344-775881, or leave a message in the church office. Many thanks, Peter Hulbert.

How to have your say in our church, and help us fulfil our vision

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place on Sunday 29th April at 11.00 am. We need people to stand for the position of Churchwarden, and for membership of the Deanery Synod and the Parochial Church Council. Please think and pray about whether you, or someone you know, might be the person to stand for one of these positions.

Sandhurst Gardens open in aid of our Air Ambulance April 15th

Four local gardens (including Betty's) are open on Sunday 15th April, 2–5pm, to raise funds for the Air Ambulance covering Berks, Bucks and Oxon

The gardens are:

- 20 Oaktree Way (off Mickle Hill), Little Sandhurst – plant sales;
- 26 Harts Leap Close, Little Sandhurst – wildlife garden;
- 66 Crowthorne Road, Sandhurst – renowned gardener John Negus will visit to answer all your gardening problems;
- 40 Beech Ride, on the Longdown Lodge Estate – plant sales and tea.

One payment of £4 gains entry to all four gardens. Children enter **free**. Many thanks to all who supported us by visiting last year. Please note the Air

Ambulance helicopter is not government funded and so relies on you. We hope you will enjoy these varied local gardens – at a slightly earlier time of year than last year, therefore with different plants and shrubs and also with this year’s colourful bulbs to see. Betty Wilson

In the Quartermaster’s Store ...

Every Sunday candles are lit, communion wafers or bread are used, wine is drunk. But someone has to source these and manage the supplies. A big THANK YOU is due to Ant Peter, who has been our Quartermaster and Bread Co-ordinator for a number of years, for his work behind the scenes to ensure we have the necessary supplies for worship.

Ant has now stepped down from these roles, and we are looking for volunteers with suitable organisational skills to take over as Quartermaster and Bread Rota Co-ordinator. Neither role is onerous and training/briefing will be given, but we do need to be able to rely on the people who take them on to ensure in advance that we’ll have the supplies we need. Please speak to, or e-mail, one of the clergy, the office or a church warden. Suitable for someone who’d like to serve without being noticed!

Youth Emmaus. This is a course on the Christian faith for young people who want to go deeper, and could lead to confirmation. Any enquiries to Kylie Garrill or Rev John Castle a.s.a.p., please.

The Social Committee

The social committee consists of John Martin, David Hunt, Jan King and Jill and John White. We attend either the 8 am or the 9.30 am service and because of that the main social events tend to be organised around them. We desperately need to cater for the younger age group, those who attend the family service, for example. We are by definition a very social bunch of people and would be pleased to welcome new younger members to our team. We meet about six to seven times a year, usually over a cup of coffee, starting at 8 pm and invariably home by 10 pm. If you would like to join us please make yourself known to one of the committee.

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 (king4kings@aol.com or 01344 750285).

Bring and Share Lunch

Come along to our 'Welcome' Bring and Share Lunch on Sunday 15th April, from 12 noon in the Pastoral Centre, where there will be representation from all areas of St Michael's Church. We can then learn more about what goes on behind the scenes and discover activities we might want to get involved in.

Enjoy a relaxed lunch, mixing with friends and welcoming newcomers. Help them discover what St Michael's Church is all about.

Please bring a savoury or sweet plate of food to share. If further information is required, please contact Angela: 07932 333619/ Emma: 07505 622142.

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

Redefining Marriage

The government is conducting a consultation from now until 14th June about its plan to allow same-sex couples to marry. This is a major step that goes to the heart of what we understand about marriage and family life, and I strongly urge all members of our church to think and pray about this, and to make their views known. I have written a short leaflet to help you understand the issues, called 'What is Marriage?', which is available in the Pastoral Centre and at the back of the church, or you can e-mail me for an electronic copy. Rev. John Castle rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

St Michael’s School needs Governors

To be precise, we need two Foundation Governors to join the team. Recently two of our foundation governors, Janice Devine and Ivan Myles, retired after several years’ service. They have worked very hard for the school and we are grateful for all that they have done. However, it means that we need to find two new faces to help support the school as governors.

Governors are often thought of as a ‘school’s critical friends’ but a better description is that our role is to ‘support and question’. Because St Michael’s is a Voluntary Aided school the majority of our governors are foundation governors, appointed by the Diocese of Oxford, but we also have governors representing parents, the local authority and the school staff. What they have in common is a strong commitment to the school and some spare time!

The actual selection and nomination of foundation governors is done locally, and we have an agreed procedure for this that involves the Rector, the Chair of Governors and one other governor. This team seeks to match the skills that interested people have to offer with the needs of the governing body and the school, and then nominate the most suitable applicant.

Interested? Would like to know more? Please have a chat with Rev. John Castle, or give me a ring on 01252-871881 or e-mail me at crgeharris@waitrose.com. The appointments will not be made till June, but if you are interested we do need to hear from you by May 6th.

Chris Harris, Chair of Governors

St Michael's School Anniversary Celebrations

On 9th and 10th March the school had a very successful start to the celebrations of its 150th anniversary, attended by Bishop Alan Wilson. Please read the report in the church Annual Review and see the display in church.

Sidesmen wanted

The Annual meeting is the time at which we elect (unopposed!) our sidesmen. As you will know, the sidesmen are usually the first people that you see when you come to a service, and they have a very important role to play in welcoming and helping people, particularly newcomers. But the job is not difficult, you are only 'on duty' about ten times a year, and we will train you fully – it doesn't take long!

We could do with a few new faces, so if you are interested please have a word with me or one of the churchwardens.

Chris Harris

Home Produce

There will be a home-produce stall will be on Sunday 20th May. Please bring donations of cakes, jams, plants, seedlings, cuttings etc. to the Pastoral Centre before the 9.30 service. We look forward to seeing members of all three congregations for coffee and cakes between the communion and family services and hope you will support the stall in any way you can.

Thanks, Jan King

Sandhurst Voluntary Care

Providing a 'helping hand' within our local community.

For over 30 years Sandhurst Voluntary Care (SVC) has been helping members of our local community who have problems with transport. We take clients, usually more senior, to doctors, dentists, hospitals and occasionally elsewhere. Currently we have around 80 volunteers, helping either as drivers or duty officers, but we do need to recruit some new faces.

Duty officers take requests from clients and then arrange for a driver – the commitment averages one afternoon a month.

Drivers average about one trip a week, which may be only be to the local surgery but could involve a rather longer trip to Frimley or Farnham, for example. Drivers are able to claim expenses for their vehicles, and are always able to refuse a booking if it is not convenient or perhaps for a greater distance than they wish to travel.

SVC is funded by donations from our clients and provides a service without which many local residents would have real problems in getting to surgeries

(Continued on page 8)

Newsletter deadline. Please email William Lee at stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk or leave written requests with the Pastoral Centre office. Deadline for the May edition to reach me by 20th April 2012. Thank you, William

Newsletter by email. To help the environment and save paper, you can now 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

(Continued from page 7)

etc. It can be very rewarding for the volunteers and be a way of meeting some very nice people!

If you feel you could spare some time to help others as one of our volunteers we would like to hear from you. Please contact Sue O'Sullivan 01344-774357.

Christian Easter Eggs

The Christian Easter eggs are here again. Last year we sold about 40 through the Traidcraft stall. The 2011 eggs included a donation to charity, which amounted to a staggering £25,000! They will cost £3.99. If you can't get to the Traidcraft stall, phone me, Jill White, on 01344 774349 or email jill-a-white@tiscali.co.uk They are selling fast!

Jan's Jams

If anyone has any spare fruit this summer that they would like to donate for me to turn into jam to sell at church, I would be very grateful (especially for rhubarb). Any donations of Tate and Lyle Fairtrade sugar would also be gratefully received. If you like homemade jam and don't have time to make it – here is one small way of supporting your church! A little nearer the time I will also be collecting empty jam jars with lids (no pickle jars please).

Thank you, Jan King

Sunday Lunch at the Empress Gardens, on 22nd April 2012. If you haven't already let me know that you would like to join us for Sunday lunch at the Empress Gardens you may be too late! But do contact me by email at king4kings@aol.com and I will let you know if there are any places left. The cost will be £12 plus a service charge of 10 per cent, per head. Children will be half price. The restaurant will donate £2 per head to the church.

Thanks, Jan King

100 Club Draw

The winners of the March 2012 draw held on 18 March 2012 were:

1st Prize: Mr Richard Dobson No 15 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Iris Bryant No 33 £10

3rd Prize: Mr Pete McKean No 93 £5

£34 has been passed to church funds. Rosemary Dobson

Regular Activities at the Pastoral Centre

Little Sandhurst Nursery. Daily! Phone Marian for details 07732409095

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 on 01344 485097 for information.

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

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

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

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!

Continued overleaf

Finance

As you are probably aware, the church faces financial challenges. Our treasurer, Jon Toohey, has provided figures for the first two months of the year, which places the problem in perspective. We intend that 'Finance' will be a regular newsletter feature.

For the year to **February** our monthly giving was £6,920 compared to our budget of £8,106 – so 15% too little. At end February we had £51,735 in the general fund bank account, which represents 3.7 months of our budgeted annual expenses. This is better than the previous month, when we had 2.1 months and ahead of our target of 3 months.

For **January** our giving was £6,422 compared to our budget of £8,106 – so 20% too little. At end January we had £28,531 in the general fund bank account, which represents 2.1 months of our budgeted annual expenses. This is better than the previous month, when we had 1.7 months but short of our target of 3 months.

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.

Meditation and relaxation class on Saturdays: 3.00–4.00 pm (alternate weeks). For further details: ring Samantha 07944-953485.

Karate Club for Children. Friday's 5.45-6.45pm. Phone Neil on 07816-163845

Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sun 1 April	Church	Hand in literature quiz	Jan King
Tue 3 April 7.00 pm	Pastoral Centre	Passover meal	Social Committee
Sun 15 April 12.30 pm	Pastoral Centre	Bring and share lunch	John Castle
Sun 15 April 2–5 pm	Sandhurst gardens	Air Ambulance open day (see p4 for details)	Betty Wilson
Fri 20 April 8.00 pm	Pastoral Centre	'Beside the Thames'	David Hunt
Sun 22 April 12.30 pm	Empress Garden, Sandhurst	Sunday Lunch	Jan King
Sun 29 April 11.00 am	Pastoral Centre	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Emma Hodge
Sat 12 May	Church	Musical Extravaganza	Jan King
Sun 20 May 10.30–11.30 am	Pastoral Centre	Home-produce stall	Jan King

April Church Services

Sunday 1st April – Palm Sunday – Topic: Palm Sunday The Passion

Readings: Philippians 2:5 (p1179), Mark 11:1–11 (p1016)
Mark 14:32–15:39 (p1020).

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Family Service and Thanksgiving for Aaylah Wild
- 6.30 pm Music and Meditation

Monday 2nd April

Readings: Hebrews 9:11–15 (p1207), John 12:1–11 (p1079)
8.00 pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 3rd April

- 7.00 pm Passover Meal in the Seeby Hall

Wednesday 4th April

Readings: Hebrews 12:1–3 (p1210), John 13:21–32 (p1081)
8.00 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 5th April – Maunday Thursday

Readings: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (p1152), John 13:1–17, 31–35 (p1082)
8.00 pm Holy Communion
10.00 pm Compline

Friday 6th April – Good Friday

- 6.00 am First-light service
- 11.15 am Family service
- 2.00 pm Passion service

Sunday 8th April – Easter Day – Topic: Easter

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 (p1155), Mark 16:1–8 (p1024)
8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion All-age
11.30 am Baptism of Lucy Stonestreet Ellie Johnson, Leo Hannaway
6.30 pm No service

Saturday 14 April – Wedding

- 2.00 pm Zoe Hutt and Adam La’Frenais

Sunday 15th April – 2nd of Easter – Topic: A message of life

Readings: Acts 4:32–35 (p1096), 1 John 1:1–2:2 (p1225), John 20:19–31 (p1089)
8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion & Baptism of Clara Bennett *
11.15 am Family service
6.30 pm No service

**Please come and join us to celebrate with cake and bubbly in the hall after the service*

Saturday 21st April – Weddings

- 12.00 pm Charlotte Cole and Michiel Von Wielligh
- 2.00 pm Nicola Morris and Jonathan Bartlett

Sunday 22nd April – 3rd of Easter – Topic: Children of God, Messages for the churches

Readings: Acts 3:12–19 (p1095), 1 John 3:1–7 (p1226), Deuteronomy 7:7–13 (p186), Luke 24:36b–48 (p1062), Revelation 2:1–11 (p1234)
8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
11.30 am Baptism of Amy & Summer Hellewell, Erin Weaving, Ella Symes
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 29th April – 4th of Easter – Topic: Love in action

Readings: Acts 4:5–12 (p1095), 1 John 3:16–24 (p1227), Exodus 16:4–15 (p74), John 10:11–18 (p1076), Revelation 2:12–17 (p1234)
8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
11.15 am No service
6.30 pm Said Evening Prayer

Sandhurst Day Centre. Communion 11.30 am on the 1st Wednesday, and Songs of Praise on the 3rd Wednesday each month.

Early morning services. You may find it useful to come to the 8 a.m. service, if you are going out for the rest of the day!