

St Michael's News April 2013

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A new family

Have you ever got fed up with your family? (I have!) The family is, at its best, the place where we can receive the support, acceptance and love that enables us to grow and develop our potential, and where we have the opportunity to offer these things to others. But family life also brings its stresses, hurts and disappointments, and we sometimes need to find strength from elsewhere in order to cope.

In the last episode of *Call the Midwife*, Chummy's friends and colleagues became her family in her hour of need, when her parents were distant, both geographically and emotionally. In the same way, Christians have a new family, the church, a community of fellow-pilgrims journeying through life with Jesus leading the way. The church community is the place where we should be looking out for each other – not just having cosy fellowship with those we already know and those who are like us, but making the effort to get to know others, welcoming newcomers and taking the risk of reaching out to offer support to someone who's going through difficult times. Family life is not always easy, and it's about give and take. I wonder what part God wants *you* to play in order to make our church family the community God calls us to be?

John Castle



Please pray for those on the prayer board and for those who died recently: Daniel Collins, Maisie Beckwith, Geoffrey Taylor, Betty Skinner, Joan Gray and Peter Higson.

Church Activities

April Coffee Rota Reminder

7th April	Rosemary Dobson	Alan Bunton
14th April	Val Brown	Ann Francose
21st April	Ann Harris	Wendy Grafton
28th April	Hilary Smith	Lesley Gutteridge

Prayer Meetings Prayers for Pastoral Care are on the second Wednesday each month (10th April), 7.30–8.15 pm in church.

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	7.45 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.

Crèche

A crèche facility is available for under threes in the Pastoral Centre. 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 share Holy Communion as a family. Otherwise, collect your children after the service at coffee time.

If you can help with the rota, please contact Caroline Bowles on tel. 07995 65850. You will need to complete CRB forms, which are available from the office. The crèche will not be available during school holidays.

Kidz Church is part of the 9.30 am Parish Communion service every Sunday for children aged 3–10. Please register your children at 9.20 am 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 for children in Year 6 and above, runs parallel to the Parish Communion service, at 9:30–10:45 am and starts in the Upper Room of the Pastoral Centre.

APCM = The Church's AGM

Do you consider St Michael's to be *your* church? If so, are you going to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)? This year's meeting will be held on the 28th April, starting at 11:00 am and finishing by 12:30 pm. Children's activities will be provided. Please let the office know the names and ages of children attending so that the activities can be properly planned.

This year we need to elect two churchwardens, four PCC members (each for a three-year term) and three deanery synod representatives (each for a one-year term).

In addition to electing the representatives, this is your opportunity to hear updates on the running of the church, and you will have a chance to ask questions. If you want to know more, please speak to a churchwarden or member of the clergy.



Toddler Time is for everyone under school age and their carers. It's on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, from 9.30 to 11.00 am in the Pastoral Centre (not school holidays). Come and join us for songs, craft activities, drinks and toast, a Bible story and prayers, and an opportunity for play (children) and chat (parents). NB: Dads also welcome!

The Link Scheme

The Link Scheme is putting together a list of congregation members who would be willing occasionally to offer a lift to one of our church members. If you would be willing to be called on for this, please contact a member of the Link committee: Hilary Smith (01252 872683), Stephanie Martin (01252 873316), Janet Pilbeam (01252 871386) and Linda Lemon (01252 874524).

Church groups

Please book all planned events through the office (01252 873030) to ensure there are no double bookings. The office takes private bookings most weekends, so it is essential that dates are checked and then entered into the office diary. A booking form should also be completed giving times required. Please do not ask clergy to take on this responsibility.

When times are hard

The PCC has a Hardship Fund so that we can assist those in such a financial crisis. The fund is intended to help those living within the parish of Sandhurst (who need not be churchgoers) or those who have an active and current connection to St Michael's Church, and is for 'emergency help' rather than on-

going support. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please don't hesitate to apply if you or someone you know could do with some short-term help.

Memorial Service, 21st April, 6.30pm

This service, which has been in June in previous years, gives an opportunity to remember loved ones who have died and to light a candle in their memory. The service will take the form of readings and music from the choir. Our guest preacher is Rev. Graham Theobald. Please write the names of those to be remembered on the list in church, and invite people to come with you.



Know someone who is off sick?

If someone you know is ill at home or in hospital, we can make sure they receive a phone call, visit or a card, whatever is appropriate. We have some experienced visitors, as well as the clergy, and we can also arrange to take Holy Communion to someone at home. All you need to do is to tell the church office (01252 873030) and they will arrange for someone to get in

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My journey – on sabbatical

As part of my own 'journey' this year I am taking a 3-month Sabbatical, the first I have taken since being ordained in 1995. The Diocese say that a Sabbatical should include a retreat, holiday, and some study. I am fortunate that with some grant money from the Diocese and (hopefully) a couple of other sources I will be able to do all of these. I will be starting my Sabbatical on 5th May with a retreat at the Diocesan retreat centre in southern Spain, and later having a holiday with George and her sister, and spending 2 ½ weeks in the Holy Land. The rest of the time I will be doing coursework for my MA degree in Biblical Studies, including a dissertation on one aspect of the book of Judges. I'm beginning to wonder how I'll fit it all in!

In my absence, John White will be assisted by visiting local clergy, as well as some preachers from our own congregations! The Family Service will be led by the current home team. I would like to thank the PCC for their support, and the churchwardens, office staff and everyone who will have to take extra responsibility while I'm away. It's a great opportunity for everyone to demonstrate the mutual help and encouragement which is what being a church is all about. Thanks to all of you, in advance, for your share in this!

John Castle

Fellowship through music

St Michael's believes in the importance of music in worship and is proud of its musical tradition. Here's a bulletin board with notices from the chief providers.

The Choir is a lively and enthusiastic group that participates in all the 9:30 am Sunday services, as well as the monthly Choral Evensong services, all the major festivals and, by arrangement, at weddings. Pub and street carol singing are also important fixtures in the busy church choir calendar. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays in church,



juniors (aged 8 to 16) from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm and adults (aged 16 to 90ish) from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm. The choir is always very happy to welcome new singers. Please contact the church office (01252 873030) in the first instance to be put in touch with our Choir Director.

The Bell ringers are an enthusiastic band of people, of age range 12 to 70+ years, who ring on Sundays for the 9:30 am and Evensong services and on special occasions. They meet in the bell tower on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm for practice. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to come and learn this ancient art.



Hand Bells. St Michael's Belles are a team of 12 ringers who ring before the Christmas Eve carol service and special functions. Last year they took part in the 'Ringing of All the Bells' to herald the Olympic Games. They meet every Thursday evening.

Richard, our organist

Can you believe that Richard has been with us 32 years; that's nearly half a lifetime by Biblical standards. He has worked with three rectors, three music-cum-choir directors and innumerable curates. He needs a rest.

On Palm Sunday, the choir said goodbye. We threw him a surprise party – and it really was a surprise. He thought he was going out to lunch with Brian, our *other* organist, and was just popping into Jan King's house to look over her piano. But there we all were. Surprise! Surprise! He was nearly speechless. He gave an impromptu speech. He told us about his interview with Roger Packer (rector no. 1) in 1981. Roger was a fellow of the Royal College of Organists and thought that that was a fact he had up his sleeve, but Richard had found out. Richard, to his credit, was offered the job on the spot. He also told us of the mice that used to live within the organ and how he accidentally played a chromatic run while trying to get rid of one from between the pedals. We are going to miss him.

Who else was there – Malcolm Hancock, who preached on Palm Sunday, Jane Knowles, our curate of fifteen years ago and more, and Lucy Wilson, the wife of the previous rector and now the wife of the Bishop of Buckingham. Choir members past and present were there in profusion.

Will we see, and, what's more to the point, hear Richard again? I would be very surprised if we didn't. We shall need an organist to fill in from time to time and Richard will still be in the business.

Jim Somerville



Photo: Sandy Pullar

'Richard, our organist' continued

John Castle adds: It has been a real pleasure working with Richard over the past 8 ½ years. In addition to his musicianship and unique sense of humour, he has shown a sensitivity to the spiritual side of church music which has made a real difference to the task of planning music and special services together. I wish him every happiness as he continues his own journey after St Michael's.

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touch. Please do make use of this service – it's part of caring for each other in our church community.

Winter Talks . Our last talk in the series, 'Making sense of the Bible in the Modern World' will be given by our own rector, Rev. John Castle in the church at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 16th April. Light refreshments will be served, and there will be a Q&A session at the end. If you missed a talk, or would like to hear one again, go to the website www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk/calendar and click on the audio file.

Family Service (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, including school holidays). The Family Service caters for families with primary-school and pre-school- age children. It is informal and child-friendly; there are action songs and an interactive talk. Refreshments (real coffee and pastries or cakes) are served before the service in the church from 11.00 am. The service starts at 11.15 am and lasts about 40 minutes. The Family Service is designed to be the place you *really can* come with your small kids and not worry how they will behave! Meet other families and make friends.

Help is always required for the family service with regards to refreshments, sides persons and technicians. If you would like to volunteer, please email me at kirsty@tcb-arrow.co.uk. Thank you, *Kirsty Dunlop*

CAP Money Course

CAP Money is a free money-mangement course that teaches people budgeting skills and a simple cash-based system that really works. This course will help anyone to gain more control over their finances so they can save, give and prevent debt.

We are running a course of three one-hour sessions at weekly intervals, on Wednesday 24th April, 1st May and 15th May, starting at 8:00 pm in the upper room of the Pastoral Centre. Please phone Rupert on 01344 777137 to



Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice is a charity that St Michael's supports. It offers specialist palliative care to adults facing the end of their lives and to those who love and support them. The hospice is centred in Farnham and is one of the oldest and largest in the southeast. It provides both in-patient and out-patient support, and every-day care for over 140 patients. It provides bereavement counselling for adults and for young people and children. The hospice also gives help with financial and legal matters, such as claiming welfare benefits and making a will. The hospice offers chaplaincy services through its own chaplain or through someone of a specific faith, if requested.

The NHS covers 12 per cent of the hospice's costs. It needs to raise around £15,000 per day to cover the remaining 88 per cent. You can support the hospice by cash donation or by donating goods to Phyllis Tuckwell shops, or by giving things to be recycled. Click [here](#) to go to the Phyllis Tuckwell donating page, or search for 'Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, ways to donate' on the Internet, or phone 01252 729400. The hospice is also pleased to hear from people who wish to donate their time as a volunteer.

find out more and to register your interest. Alternatively you can go on to the website www.capmoneycourse.org, where you can find more information and register your interest to join us or another church nearby.

The Social Committee

The social committee consists of John Martin, David Hunt, Jan King and Jill and John White. We attend either the 8.00 am or the 9.30 am service and because of that, the main social events tend to be organised around them.

New members. We are pleased to say Sara Kaufman, Ann Harris and Stephanie Martin have joined the Social Committee and have made a big contribution to recent events. We are, of course, always interested in hearing from people who would like to help us organise social events. If you would like to join us please make yourself known to one of the committee.

We are also pleased to report the Quiz Evening turned in a profit of £670.

St Michael's Churchyard

The grass is threatening to start growing again, which means that the grass-cutting team will soon be swinging back into action. Can you help us keep the churchyard trim and tidy by giving just a few hours of your time each month, during the growing season? For details please contact the Parish Office or Peter Hulbert on 01344 775881 (Email: hulbertx@gotadsl.co.uk). Thank you.

100 CLUB DRAW

February:

1st Prize: Mrs Ruth Eve No 3 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs George Castle No 9 £10

3rd Prize: Mrs Doreen Hallett No 79 £5

£34 has been passed to church funds.

March:

1st Prize: Mrs Rosemary Steele No 73 £20

2nd Prize: Mr Graham Steele No 82 £10

3rd Prize: Mr & Mrs David Bryant No 84 £5

£34 has been passed to church funds.

Rosemary Dobson

Fundraiser

Phoenix Trading Fundraiser leaflets will be given out or be available at the back of the church to buy greeting cards and stationery whilst helping us to raise money for St Michael's at the same time. St Michael's will earn 30 per cent commission on every pack of greeting cards and stationery sold. Prices range from £5 to £30, and there are 11 packs to choose from. Perhaps you, and your friends may find a selection pack to suit your needs or to share?

Please return completed forms in the 'Phoenix' marked box at the back of the church or to the church office by Sunday 28th April. Please make cheques payable to Sandhurst PCC. Thank you in advance for your support and participation. Angela Harper

Used Postage Stamps

Please keep collecting used stamps as this is a way we can easily help several charities. We currently support the British Kidney Patients' Association, the Star and Garter Homes, Research into Cot Death and The Leprosy Mission. Please cut round your stamps carefully to cut down on unnecessary weight. Many thanks, Doris Saunders and Jenny Thorn

Church Fundraising

If you would like to organise a fundraising event for the church, please contact John White (01344 774349) or Jan King (01344 750285).

Pastoral Centre

The Pastoral Centre facilities are available to hire at reasonable cost, special rates available for church members. Please ring the office on 01252 873030.

Food Bank

Thank you for the food donations so far. Please keep them coming. Collection boxes are located in the Church and in the Pastoral Centre.



The youth group eat together at the youth meal on Friday 22 March with Frank Long, St Michael's new youth worker (on the right).

Gift aid envelopes – new rules

If you are using gift aid envelopes, please check that the following statement applies to your donations before using the envelopes:

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and council tax do not qualify. I understand that Sandhurst PCC will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Thank you.

The Triangle Café and Christian Bookshop

The Triangle has a very wide range of great devotional and other material available for all. See some of them on our website at The Triangle Café and Christian Bookshop, 64 Kingsmead, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU147SL. www.thetriangle.org.uk or call 01252 519172.

Newsletter

Please email notices to William Lee (stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk) or leave written requests with the church office. Deadline for May edition: 20th April 2013.

To help the environment and save paper, 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 into this scheme please contact PCC member David Hunt (david.hunt@bcs.org.uk).

Regular Activities at the Pastoral Centre

Little Sandhurst Nursery. Daily! Phone Marian for details 07732 409095.

Line Dancing. Every 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: 5.00–6.00 pm (5–7 year olds).

3rd Guides meet on Tuesdays: 6.30–8.30 pm (10–14 year olds).

4th Guides and Rangers meet on Fridays 7.00 –9.00pm.

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

Zumbatomic after-school classes, 4.00 pm on Thursdays – the crazy-cool dance fitness workout for kids aged 4–12 years. 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.

Karate Club for Children. Fridays 5.45–6.45 pm. Phone Neil on 07816 163845.

Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Tue 16 April 8.00 pm	Church	6th Winter Talk: 'Making sense of the Bible in the Modern World' by Rev. John Castle	Church Office
Wed 24 April 8.00 pm	Pastoral Centre	CAP Money course starts (see p7)	Rupert Cremer (01344 777137)
Sun 28th April 11.00 am	Pastoral Centre	APCM	Church Office
Sat 8th June	Thriftswood	Garden party	David Ashworth + Social Committee
June/July date t.b.a.	Church	Organ/choral concert	Choir

April Church Services

Sunday 7th April – 2nd of Easter – Topic: Apostles before the Council

Acts 5:27–32 (p1097); Revelation 1:4–8 (p1233); John 20:19–31 (p1089)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

11.15 am Family Service – Topic: Picnic on the beach.

Readings: John 21:1–19 (p1090)

6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Friday 12th April – Wedding

12.30 pm Conrad Dally and Emma Bennett

Sunday 14th April – 3rd of Easter – Topic: Conversion of Saul

Acts 9:1–20 (p1102); Revelation 5:11–14 (p1237); John 21:1–19 (p1090)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

11.30 am Baptism of Samuel Norman and Lillian Woolner

6.30 pm Ecumenical Service at St Michael's

Sunday 21st April – 4th of Easter – Topic: The raising of Tabitha

Acts 9:36–43 (p1103); Revelation 7:9–17 (p1238); John 10:22–30 (p1077)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

11.15 am Family Service and Baptism of Dylan Maguire

Topic: The Good Shepherd.

Readings: John 10:22–30 (p1077)

6.30 pm Memorial Service

Sunday 28th April – 5th of Easter – Topic: Peter recounts his dream

Acts 11:1–18 (p1105); Revelation 21:1–6 (p1249); John 13:31–35 (p1082)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Said Evensong



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