

# St Michael's News December 2012

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8HN [www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)

Office open 9.30 am – 12.15 pm weekdays  
E-mail: [office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)  
Tel. 01252 873030

Rector: Rev. John A. Castle  
Email: [Rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk](mailto:Rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk)  
Tel. 01252 872168



## Pastoral Care

Those who came to church on the 18th November will know that we are discussing Pastoral Care and how we can keep in touch with each other, an essential ingredient for all families, especially the Christian family, if we are to care of each other.

St Matthew in chapter 25 sets out pastoral care when he wrote, 'When I was hungry you fed me, when I was sick you visited me'. Most people will now know that for several months we have been collecting food for the food bank in Bracknell, which is doing a vital job for those unable to buy enough food for themselves. I urge those who don't at present buy a tin of something for the food bank when they do their weekly shop to start doing so.

Years ago I worked with a man who hated Christmas; it was because he had no family or friends to share Christmas with him. We need to visit people who are lonely or sick and who need human contact to stimulate them back to full health. Jill has been encouraged with her illness by the number of cards and flowers she has received, but Jill with her Traidcraft is in the forefront of people's minds, and it is those who are not so prominent that we also need to take care of.

### John White



*Please pray for those on the prayer board and for those who died recently: Peter Hodge, Hugh Davies and Rita Humphries.*

## Church Activities

### December Coffee Rota Reminder

2nd December	George Castle	Rosemary Dobson
9th December	Ann Harris	Jo Arty
16th December	Wendy Grafton	Val Travers
23rd December	Ann Homfray Davies	Jenny Thorn
30th December	Stephanie Martin	Gillian Davies

Prayer Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month (15th December) at 9.30–10.15 am in the church and the 4th Wednesday (26th December) 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 are interested in helping out please contact Angela on 07932 333619 for further details. (CRB checks will be required.)

During school holidays, please check with Lesley in the church office that the crèche will be running

### Advent Fayre – Sunday 2nd December, 8.30am–12.30pm

(between and after services)

Alongside Jenny's traditional craft stall this year, there will be a tombola stall and home-produce stall. There will be refreshments in the form of mulled wine and mince pies. Any donations of bottles and other tombola prizes will be gratefully received by Jan, and can be left at the back of the church or in the office, please. If anyone would like to have a stall or donate mince pies, please let Jan know (01344 750285).

Thank you for your support - don't forget to come and join us on the day!

REACH, a youth group for everyone in Year 6 and above, 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, except during school holidays

## Public Consultation on Health Services changes

The NHS is asking for your views on changes to three services: minor injuries, rehabilitation, maternity. These services are currently provided at Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot. The proposed changes could affect you if you live in east Berkshire or south Buckinghamshire. A Public consultation on these changes will be held in Bracknell as follows:

Thursday 6 December	The Grange Hotel Charles Square Bracknell RG12 1DF	2.00–5.00 pm
Thursday 10 January	Bracknell Leisure Centre Bagshot Rd. Bracknell RG12 9SE	7.00–10.00 pm

We are asking people to register in advance to help us make the events run well. To book your place, call 0800 148 8572 or visit [www.berkshire.nhs.uk/shapingthefuture](http://www.berkshire.nhs.uk/shapingthefuture), where more information is available (including the venues). For a copy of the consultation document: call 0118 982 2709 or email [STFteam@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:STFteam@berkshire.nhs.uk).

## 2013 Budget

*We need to increase our planned giving by seven per cent.*

At the PCC meeting on 14 November the proposed 2013 budget was discussed. It was agreed that for 2013 we should aim for a 'balanced' budget so that our cash income should equal our cash outgoings. As a charity we should not be making surplus profits but, equally, we should not be spending more than we earn. So a balanced budget, no profit and no loss, is felt right. However, to achieve that we need to increase our planned giving by seven per cent – this is both to cover an expected increase in our costs of two per cent but is mainly needed to cover all our costs (which we have not done this year and thus made a loss).

In the current climate it is recognised that a seven per cent increase in giving will be very challenging to achieve. A working party has been set up under Dave Percival to look into ways of achieving this and he is currently looking for volunteers! So please do contact him.

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

### Blue Envelopes

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

### 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. If possible, trim the stamps, leaving a small margin round each. Many thanks, Doris Saunders and Jenny Thorn

### Traidcraft

Are you stuck for ideas for presents? Have a look on the stall or take a catalogue home with you. I can take orders over the phone or you can email them to me (01344 774349, [jill-a-white@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jill-a-white@tiscali.co.uk)). Some Christmas cards and wrapping paper are reduced, and do try our chocolate spread – it's half price. Jill



## Church groups

Please book all planned events through the office (01252 873030) to ensure there are no double bookings. The office take 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.

## Do you go to the 11.30pm (midnight) service on Christmas Eve?

None of the usual sides men are able to help at this service so we need to find some members of our congregation who can. I suspect that this is a service that is attended by many who do not often come to church, and so it is

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Charities for 2013 & 2014

Firstly, a thank you to all who responded to the Charity Review article in last month's newsletter. The responses were varied and often contradictory. If one person suggested a charity should be dropped then another person suggested that charity should be retained!

Several responses indicated that they would like to see more information about our charities and the PCC agreed that there would be articles in the newsletter about the charities which we support; please see the article on the St Michael's Hardship Fund in this newsletter (p9). They also agreed that information would be put on our social media sites ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).

Following the talk given by Canon Andrew White in October, it was suggested that we support [St George's Church in Baghdad](#) for our Lent Appeal in 2013 – the PCC agreed. Please look out for more information about the work of St George's Church in the February Newsletter.

A large percentage of people commented that they would like to see the same charities remain on the list and the PCC therefore agreed that the list would remain unchanged. However, the PCC carefully reviewed the amount each charity should receive and made some minor changes to the percentages.

Thank you for your prayers, responses and understanding in this area.

*Emma Hodge, Churchwarden.*

## The Barnabas fund

*St Michael's supports the Barnabas Fund, which gives help and encouragement to marginalised Christian communities throughout the world.*



Barnabas declares its mission to be: 'to support Christians where they are in a minority and suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith'. Barnabas has some 100 projects currently running. For example...

In the **Middle East**, Barnabas addresses the difficulties that the [Syrian Christian minority](#) faces. The government of Bashar al-Assad protected their freedom of worship, in line with Syrian law, and therefore the Christian population is assumed to support the al-Ashad government and is therefore victimised. Barnabas points out that the atrocities committed by the al-Ashad regime are well publicised but little known about the abuses committed by the opposition forces, which the Christian population, among others, suffers.

In **Africa**, [floods have ransacked Chad and Cameroon](#). Barnabas has appealed for £186,000 to provide food and basic medical aid for several thousand Christian families. In parts of Chad and Cameroon heavy rain falling since August has devastated the land, and homes made of mud bricks have been



Rising water has left many tens of thousands of people homeless.

swept away. The money will be used to rebuild houses and churches in a more sustainable fashion. Although the Christian population is only slightly smaller than the Muslim one, political power is concentrated in Muslim hands and as far as government aid is concerned the Christian population takes second place.

**Southeast Asia** has the country with the world's largest Muslim population – Indonesia. Here the [Christian minority is under pressure](#). The government is promoting Muslim settlement in Christian areas and extremist factions wish to eliminate Christianity and bring the country under sharia law. There have

been violent incidents and examples of intimidation and worse, apparently sanctioned by the government. Barnabas is appealing for money to fund basic ministry expense for new churches at the rate of just £340 per year per church.

**Barnabas Fund's Christmas appeal** this year is headed: 'Hungry and vulnerable. Millions of Christians around the world go to bed hungry every night'. Barnabas say that those living under pressure and persecution are likely to be more vulnerable to food shortages than others. They ask us for our [help](http://barnabasfund.org/UK/Donate/) (<http://barnabasfund.org/UK/Donate/>).

The links can be followed by ctrl-clicking them on the email version, which can be found on our website (<http://www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk/>).



A family promoting church seeding.

*(Continued from page 5)*

particularly important that we have helpers around to 'meet and greet', give out the service sheets and generally make visitors welcome.

The duties are not onerous and will be fully explained to you beforehand. And of course there will be at least one churchwarden present to give you any help you need on the night. **Can you help?**

Please give me a ring on 01252 871881, or speak to Emma or David, our churchwardens. I look forward to hearing from you, *Chris Harris*

### Christingle Service 16th December

The Christingle Service is at 4.00 pm on Sunday 16th December. We need lots of volunteers to help make the Christingles at 3.00 pm on Saturday 15th December in the Seeby Hall. Please ring Kirsty on 07880 540710, or Jane on 07851 345263, if you can help. Thank you.

### Family Service

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](mailto:kirsty@tcb-arrow.co.uk) Thank you, *Kirsty Dunlop*

### Family Carol Service

Sandhurst Churches Together Family Carol Service will be held on Sunday 9th December at 5.00 pm in Sandhurst Community Centre. All are welcome. The event is free and seasonal refreshment will served after the service

### Newsletter

**Deadline.** Please email William Lee at [stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk) or leave written requests with the church office. Deadline for January's edition: 10th December 2012.

**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 into this scheme please contact PCC member David Hunt [david.hunt@bcs.org.uk](mailto:david.hunt@bcs.org.uk).

### The Social Committee

The social committee members 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. We desperately need to cater for the younger age group – those who attend the family service, for example. We would be pleased to welcome new, younger members to our team. We meet about six to seven times a year, starting at 8.00 pm and invariably home by 10.00 pm. If you would like to join us, please let us know.

**From John White.** As some of you may know, Jill has to have further treatment and so we may not be around so much to take a very active role in the social committee. We would like someone, or even two people, to help out for six months, until we are over this. Please speak to Jan King or myself about what is involved. *John White*

### The Triangle Café and Christian Bookshop

Don't forget – come to The Triangle for your Christmas gifts; nativity sets; advent candles; advent books; Fairtrade gifts and so much more! If you can't visit us, then email [admin@thetriangle.org.uk](mailto:admin@thetriangle.org.uk). We have a terrific range of goods, many at bargain prices too!

Our address is: The Triangle Café and Christian Bookshop, 64 Kingsmead, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7SL. 01252 519172. [www.thetriangle.org.uk](http://www.thetriangle.org.uk)

### Annual Quiz March 2nd

In previous years the Fairtrade Committee have produced an excellent supper for our quiz. However, the committee has folded, as we felt that we had introduced Fairtrade to enough people. So we need *you* to help us to produce a supper for the quiz. Can you help? Please speak to John White.

## 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.

## Pastoral Centre

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

## Church Fundraising

If you would like to organise a fundraising event or make a suggestion, please contact John White (01344 774349) or Jan King (01344 750285)

## American-themed evening

On 26th January at 7.30 pm there is an American-themed bring-and-share evening in aid of St Michael's and Sandhurst Counselling Service in the Pastoral Centre. The music is by the Newtones Big Band. Admission prices

## When times are hard

For many people these are hard times financially – many are facing uncertain futures, with redundancy or cuts in income compounding the pressures all of us face from rising prices on many fronts.

While most of us find ways of managing, sometimes a personal crisis (e.g. illness, redundancy, bereavement, homelessness etc) can leave an individual or a family in a situation of severe financial crisis, especially while waiting for medium or long-term solutions to be put in place.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to care for those in need and, with this in mind, the PCC has a Hardship Fund within our overall framework of Charitable Giving 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.

People are often reluctant to seek help, through pride or fear that others will know their situation. But if you, or someone you know, are facing really hard times, do please speak with the clergy or the church wardens who will be pleased to talk through the possibility that the church can help financially, as well as with prayer and other practical help. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

paid in advance are adults £8 (£10 on the door) and children under 16 £4 (£5 on the door). Tickets will be available from the office or in the church.

## Winter Talks series

The talk on **Tuesday 15 January**, entitled '**Fully Alive – in the Image of God**', will be given by our bishop, the Right Rev. Bishop Andrew. He was ordained priest in 1981 and in 2007 relocated to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia as Chaplain at St Matthew's church. Between 2007 and 2011 he was the Area Bishop for the Horn of Africa in the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East in the Diocese of Egypt, based in Addis Ababa .



The next talks after that are.

**Tuesday 19th February:** '**New Testament – is it a reliable witness?**' is given by Rev. Keith Lowder (Methodist Minister).

**Tuesday 19th March:** '**Living the Gospel of Peace**' is given by Canon David Hodgson, Area Dean.

---

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

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

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 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](http://www.zumbawithbeth.co.uk).

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

## Finance

For the year to October our monthly giving was £7,684 compared to our budget of £8,106 – so, behind budget. At end October we had £15,360 in the general fund bank account, which represents 1.1 months of our budgeted annual expenses. This is worse than the previous month when we had 1.3 months, and behind our target of three months.

## Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sun 2 Dec	Pastoral Centre	Advent Fair	Jan King
Tue 15 Jan 8.00 pm	Church	3rd Winter Talk, by Bishop Andrew	Church Office
Sat 26 Jan 7.30 pm	Pastoral Centre	American-themed evening	Social Committee
Fri 1 Feb 8.00 pm	Upper Room Pastoral Centre	Churchyard workers thank-you party	Church Office
Tue 19 Feb 8.00 pm	Church	4th Winter Talk, by Keith Lowder	Church Office
Sat 2 March	Pastoral Centre	The Quiz Evening	John & Jill White

# December Church Services

### Sunday 2nd December – 1st of Advent – Topic: Be prepared

Jeremiah 33:14–16 (p796); 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (p1187); Luke 21:25–36 (p1057)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Family Service
- 6.30 pm Advent Celebration

### Sunday 9th December – 2nd of Advent – Topic: The messenger

Malachi 3:1–4 (p961); Philippians 1:3–11 (p1178); Luke 3:1–6 (p1029)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Ayva Dodd, Hughie Chard and Eleanor Yellowlees
- 5.00 pm Churches Together Family Carol Service (Sandhurst Community Centre)

### Sunday 16th December – 3rd of Advent – Topic: True repentance

Zephaniah 3:14–20 (p947); Philippians 4:4–7 (p1181); Luke 3:7–18 (p1029)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 4.00 pm Christingle Service

### Sunday 23rd December – 4th of Advent – Topic: Blessed

#### among women

Micah 5:2–5a (p933); Hebrews 10:5–10 (p1207); Luke 1:39–45 (p1026)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 6.30 pm No Service

### Monday 24th December – Christmas Eve – Topic: The Incarnation

Isaiah 9:2–7 (p693); John 1:1–14 (p1063)

- 3.15 pm Crib and Nativity Service
- 7.00 pm Carol Service
- 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

### Tuesday 25th December – Christmas Day – Topic: The Incarnation

Hebrews 1:1–4 (p1201); John 1:1–14 (p1063); Luke 2:1–20 (p1027);

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Family Communion

### Sunday 30th December – 1st of Christmas – Topic: The boy Jesus in the Temple

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26 (p273); Colossians 3:12–17 (p1184); Luke 2:41–52 (p1029)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am No Service
- 6.30 pm No Service



Find us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst>



Follow us on Twitter (@StMichaelShurst)

<https://twitter.com/#!/StMichaelShurst>