

St Michael's News February 2014

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Time spent planning

Let's face it – drifting through life is unlikely to be the best policy. Planning for the future – whether it be financial planning for your retirement, choosing your child's next school or organising your diary commitments – helps us to avoid being the victims of chance and live according to the priorities that are important to us. The PCC and its subcommittees have been looking strategically at how we can help each of us grow in our Christian faith and living, and engage better with certain groups within our congregations, as well as address the long-standing issue of the St Mary's site.

But Psalm 127 reminds us that 'unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain'. James warns us against arrogantly making plans without reference to God (James 4:13-16), and Jesus reminds us that our heavenly Father knows our needs and will supply them if we seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness (Matt 6:33).

So let's plan well, but pray first – and during and afterwards!

John Castle



Please pray for those on the prayer board and for Kenneth Lovell-Smith and Gwendoline Paternoster, whose funerals took place in January. Please also pray for Cameron Lee (see p.4).

Church Activities

February Coffee Rota Reminder

2nd February	Ann Clough	Peter Clough
9th February	Kate Bettison	Jennie Rolfe
16th February	Ann Weston	Betty Wilson
23rd February	Lesley Gutteridge	tbc

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 is available for under threes during the Parish Communion Service on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays in the Pastoral Centre. Collect your children after the service, at coffee time. Earlier collection can be arranged if you wish to share Holy Communion as a family.

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 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.

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.

Love, Sex and Marriage at St Michael's

'Whoa! Hold on!' (Or, 'No Sex Please, We're Church of England'.) Well, this aspect of life is something that we all have an interest in, because God has made us that way. This month we are hosting *The Big Promise* on 8th February, where married couples can renew their vows. Actually, we also do individual ceremonies, and several couples are having special services of Thanksgiving for Marriage with Renewal of Vows this year.

But we'd like to do more to support marriage. Modern life puts huge strains on marriages, but taking time out to review your relationship together and sort out unresolved issues could bring huge benefits. There is a great evening for married couples run by Care for the Family at Guildford on 13th February (see p.5). Dave and Liz Percival are also involved in running weekends away for couples with *Marriage Encounter*. But we'd like to know if there would be a demand for the occasional marriage enrichment evening (or weekend session) to be run in-house. Please let me know if you might be interested in something like this.

Our sermon series on 1 Corinthians will also address sex and marriage, with guest speaker Sarah Percival on 16th February as well as myself on 23rd. Sarah now works for Romance Academy, helping young people to see sex and marriage from a Christian point of view.

Please also be aware that the clergy and others are available for confidential, non-judgemental discussions if you'd like to chat over anything. It's a mistake to leave a problem unaddressed because you're afraid to admit you have one. We all have problems, and I've listened to lots of other people's in my time!

John Castle, rector@stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk

toddler time

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!

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!



Family Service

The Family Service is held on the first and third Sundays of the month, including school holidays. It caters for families with primary school and pre-school-age children. It is informal and child-friendly and includes 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 children 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**

Over 18 and looking for some fellowship?

Funky is a social group for 20–30's and stands for 'Finished University No Kids Yet', although you need not fit into any of these categories as it's just a name. University students welcome. Our core activity is a Wednesday evening Bible-based study, which focuses on bringing your ideas and exploring them. The group is really aimed at investigating ideas and therefore we welcome all viewpoints – that's what makes it interesting. Alongside this we also meet every Sunday for a pub lunch and do a pub quiz Monday evening. Generally, it's just a place to make some new friends and get to know people. So if your age is anywhere from 18 to 30 (and over if you're really keen), give me a call and get involved. **Frank**, 07540 933852

Youth Emmaus

The youth Emmaus course provides an opportunity for young people, usually in years 7–9, to explore their faith. A 12-week course, led by Jan Herd and members of the Youth Team, is running on Thursday evenings, between 6.00 and 7.00 pm. If you are interested, please contact Frank (franklong150@gmail.com) or Liz Percival on 01344 779658.

Please pray for Cameron Lee (aged 10) – update.

We would like to thank everyone for their kind support and prayers for our son Cameron. For those who aren't already aware, Cameron suffers from the most severe form of atopic eczema. Symptoms include cracked, sore and bleeding skin. The exact cause of atopic eczema is unknown. However, it often occurs in people who get allergies – atopic means sensitivity to allergens. Atopic eczema can run in families and often occurs alongside asthma, which Cameron also suffers from.

Twice a week, Cameron attends Frimley Park Hospital for treatment for his skin condition, as well as taking regular prescription drugs, including steroids, which have very serious and damaging side effects, both physically and mentally. He is also under the specialist care of a wonderful team of doctors at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

He has been responding very well to treatment and his skin has improved tremendously. His skin has stopped weeping and bleeding for now, but he will still need continuous long-term hospital treatment.

We are extremely grateful for everyone's support. We ask that you all continue to pray to our Lord for help and healing, in faith and confidence that Christ our Lord can continue to help heal him.

God bless you all. Aisha, William and Lauren (Cameron's Mum, Dad and little sister).

Marriage Unlocked

Marriage Unlocked is a marriage event organised by Care for the Family, a Christian charity that aims to promote strong family life and to help those who face family difficulties. Care for the family has been working to strengthen family life since 1988. Their aim is to promote strong family relationships and to help those who face family difficulties.

About Marriage Unlocked, Care for the Family says:

'Whether your marriage is in good shape or things are tough right now; whether you've been married a few months or for many years, you can discover the keys to unlock the potential of your relationship at this great event.'

Marriage Unlocked is hosted by Catherine and Richard Hill, who have been married for 27 years and have advised thousands of couples.

At this event you will discover how to:

- Communicate more honestly,
- Understand your partner's love language,
- Resolve conflict in healthy ways,
- Build greater intimacy,
- Continue dating when you are married.

The event will take place at five places in the South of England. There are tickets left at Oxford on Tuesday 25th February – tickets are £5, and £4 each for a booking of four or more. If you are interested, please search the internet for Marriage Unlocked, or click [here](#), or telephone 029 2081 0800.

Preparing for Lent

Lent begins this year on 5th March, when our Ash Wednesday service at 8pm will provide an excellent opportunity for quiet reflection and for making resolutions about how we will use Lent to grow closer to God and get some control over our lives!

We are also planning to have a special course for Lent, on a weekday evening. Please look out for publicity about this, and consider whether you could commit to five evenings that will help you make the connection between God and your everyday life!

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), 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.

Crowthorne foodbank – figures:

In December 2013, the foodbank fed 289 people (142 adults and 147 children). In total, it provided 2601 meals.

From its opening in December 2012 to the end of December 2013, 1347 people were fed, of which 837 were adults and 510 were children. In total, it provided 12,123 meals.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who supports the Crowthorne foodbank in any way – without your help the Crowthorne foodbank would not be able to support so many people in crisis in our community. God bless.

Fairtrade Fortnight

This year Fairtrade Fortnight is from February 24th to March 9th. Why not try and spend £2 on our St Michael's Fairtrade stall during that time? We stock a variety of foods from dried fruit to rice and sugar. We also have sweets, gifts and Fairtrade chocolate Easter Eggs. We have our stall after the 9.30 service.

Jill White

The Annual Quiz

The Quiz is on Saturday 15th March 2014. Please make a date in your diary. No brains required, only a sense of humour. Tickets are now available. We shall be delighted to receive your *unwanted Christmas presents* for the raffle. Unwanted presents are always very welcome, as the raffle makes quite a bit of profit for the church.

Christmas Tree Festival

For several years we have had a Christmas Tree Festival in the church, which has been of great interest to lots of people in Sandhurst. It has been organised so far by Jenny Hulbert, but she is stepping down this year and we are looking for someone to take it on. She is willing to pass on her organisation notes and give tips as to how it all came together. We are asking you early, as schools and clubs tend to plan a year in advance. It is quite possible that Jenny's team will help you out. If you think you could take this on or would like to learn more about it, please speak to Jan King, or Jill White.

St Michael's AV project

Here's an easy way to raise funds for an improved AV system in church by using your phone to text and give, just choose an amount and follow the instructions to support. You can also give by conventional means, but please make sure you identify the gift as for the 'AV system designated fund'.

**St Michael's Church
Audio-Visual Project**

Upgrading our facilities to enhance our
worship

**Making a donation is so easy using
your mobile phone
– follow the instructions below.**

Text: MICH40 £2 / £5 / £10 to 70070 to donate now

A better AV system will enable us to make presentations easily, support talks and sermons, and make a big difference to services with lots of children (and noise!), such as Family Services and Christingle and Nativity services.

The next CAP Money course: March 19th 2014

CAP Money is a free money management 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.

The course consists of three one-hour sessions, starting on 19th March at 8.00 pm. It will be held in the Pastoral Centre Upper Room. Phone Rupert on 01344 777137 to find out more and to register your interest or go to www.capmoneycourse.org, register your interest to join us, or another church nearer to you.

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 (01344 750285).

Nifty Needles

Do you like knitting, crocheting, sewing and making new friends? Please do come along on the first Monday afternoon of the month, 1.00–3.00 pm, in the Pastoral Centre lounge, and get creative! Please bring your own knitting, crotchet, sewing or project to enjoy creating in the afternoon, or have a go at a knit for one of the charities we are supporting. There are lots of experienced knitters to help beginners, so just come along. Please contact Rebecca Brown (01344 775185) or Rosaria Toohey (01344 773617) for more details.

TWAM – Tools with a mission. Revive and thrive.

We require any unwanted item for education in remote places, such as Africa, Kosovo and other parts of the world where we can help. We need tools for motor vehicles, wooden tools, sewing machines, knitting machines, wool and sewing items. Please see leaflets and posters at back of church. Please contact David Ragan on 01344 779176 or 07831 515783.

Sonning Deanery Workshop On Christian Giving

This is a workshop led by Canon John Edwards and Robert Alder, 'Giving Co-ordinator' at St James, Finchampstead.

Date: Tuesday 4th February

Time: 8.00pm (prompt) – 9.30 pm

Coffee served from 7.45pm

Venue: St Mary the Virgin, Winnersh RG41 5NA

The workshop will be interactive and participatory – an opportunity for people from all the churches in the Deanery to come together to share problems and successes in the area of Christian giving and to learn from one another. All welcome!

100 Club Draw November 2013

1st Prize: Mrs Rosemary Steele No 54 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Ann Weston No 129 £10

£29 profit has been passed to church funds.

100 Club Draw December 2013

1st Prize: Mrs Chris Pocock No 118 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Rosemary Dobson No 29 £10

£29 profit has been passed to church funds.

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 (large, small or foreign) carefully to cut down on unnecessary weight, which means we can transport or post them more easily and cheaply. The gold labels from the post office are not suitable. If possible, please trim the stamps, leaving a small margin round each (see the stamp jar label for examples). Many thanks, Doris Saunders and Jenny Thorn.

Food Bank

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

The Triangle Café and Christian Bookshop

64 Kingsmead, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU147SL. Tel. 01252 519172.

www.thetriangle.org.uk.

Newsletter

Please email William Lee at stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk or leave written requests with the church office. Deadline for March edition: 21st February 2014.

e-Newsletter. 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.



Alison Wren, a greatly valued member of St Michael's choir and of the bell-ringing team, became a mum in the new year. Daughter Eleanor Rosalie was born on the 5th January.

Regular Activities at the Pastoral Centre

Little Sandhurst Nursery Group. Daily! Contact Karen on 07730 340734 or email: enquiries@LSNG.co.uk for details.

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 7.00–9.00 pm.

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

The Rock and Pop Foundation

Guitar tuition sessions – Thursdays. For further information please call 0844 879 3305 or visit www.rockandpopfoundation.com.

February Church Services

Sunday 2nd February – The Presentation of Christ – Topic: A light to the nations

Malachi 3:1–5 (p961); Hebrews 2:14–18 (p1202); Luke 2:22–40 (p1028)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Family Service
- 6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 9th February – 4th before Lent – Topic: Exercising true Judgement

Isaiah 58:1–9a (p744); 1 Corinthians 4 (p1146); Matthew 5:13–20 (p969)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Thea and Daniel Gater
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical Service at the Methodist Church, Scotland Hill

Friday 14th February – Wedding

- 1.00 pm Hayley Purser and Iain Liming

Sunday 16th February – 3rd before Lent – Topic: Sexual purity

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 (p209); 1 Corinthians 5:9–13, 6:9–20 (p1147);

Matthew 5:21–37 (p 969)

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

Sunday 23rd February – 2nd before Lent – Topic: Marriage and singleness

1 Corinthians 7:1–16,25–40 (p1148); Matthew 6:25–34 (p971)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Jack Steel and Lucan and Zachary Dines
- 6.30 pm Sung Evensong

Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sat 8 Feb from 3.00 pm.	Pastoral Centre and church	Big Promise	Karen Allen & Rebecca Brown
Sat 15 Feb 7.30 pm	Downshire Golf Club	Valentine's Ball in aid of new AV system.	Louise Tooze
Tue 25 Feb 7.30 pm	St Aldate's Church, Oxford OX1 1BT	Marriage Unlocked	See p.5
Sat 15 March	Pastoral Centre	Quiz Night	Jill & John White
Sun 23 March 6.30pm (tbc)	church	Choir Concert	
Sun 27 April 11.00am	Pastoral Centre	APCM	Church office
Sat 17 May	Pastoral Centre	Swing Band fundraiser	Social committee
Sat 14 June (tbc)	Thriftswood	Garden Party	Social Committee



Pictures: Mike Arthy

The Burns supper to end all Burns suppers took place in the Pastoral Centre on the 25th January. The food was delicious, the speakers were on form and the piper was magnificent. It was a pity that it all had to end!

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If you have any comments, events, news or updates for the website or the Facebook page, please email Louisa on louisaww@yahoo.co.uk.