

# St Michael's News January 2014

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## God with us – on Monday

So, the wrapping paper has been cleared away, the season of goodwill begins to fade and we'll soon be taking down the Christmas decorations. A New Year dawns, and normal life returns.

Or does it have to be like that? We have just been celebrating an amazing truth – God became one of us, so that he could share in our day-to-day lives and make them different. As Mary and Joseph started caring for their new son they knew life would never be the same. *Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.* (Luke 2:19).

Following last year's theme 'My Journey, Our Journey', we will be taking for 2014 the theme 'God in the Everyday' (at this stage, a working title), with the aim of seeing how we can experience God with us *every* day of our lives, not just on Sunday or at Christmas.

So as you set off for the office, or the shops, or wherever you go on a Monday, why not offer your day to God and ask him to be with you in all you do and with all the people you meet?

**John Castle**



*Please pray for those on the prayer board and for Jack Hayward and John Jubb, whose funerals took place in December.*

## Church Activities

### January Coffee Rota Reminder

6th January	Di Pullar	Joy Alexander
13th January	Jenny Thorn	Jennie Piggin
20th January	David Bryant	Iris Bryant
27th January	Janet Pilbeam	Marion Blackmore

### 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 3s during the Parish Communion on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays 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 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.

## toddler time

Toddler Time is for everyone under school age and their carers. It's on the second and fourth 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!

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

### Youth Emmaus

The Youth Emmaus Course provides an opportunity for young people, usually in years 7–9, to explore their faith. A new course lasting about 12 weeks is being planned to start in January on Thursday evenings from 6.00–7.00 pm. It will be led by Jan Herd and members of the Youth Team. If you are interested, please contact: Frank ([franklong150@gmail.com](mailto:franklong150@gmail.com)) or Liz Percival, on 01344 779658.

### Over 18 and looking for some fellowship?

Funky is a social group for 20–30s and stands for 'Finished University No Kids Yet' although you need not meet 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, as that's what makes it interesting. Alongside this we also meet every Sunday for a pub lunch and do a pub quiz on Monday

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## Maggie Crewes writes

*Maggie Crewes, whom we as a church support in her work with the Church Mission Society in Malawi, asks for our thoughts and prayers as we enter 2014.*

Dear All,

- It is a *very* busy time – we are recruiting new staff, repairing and renovating the centres and trying to prepare a myriad of things ready for the project to re-establish all its key activities in 2014 to reach out to street children and give them a hope and a future.
- Pray that God would bring us keen, active Christian workers skilled in the specific areas we need. Especially pray for the more senior staff – we need three good managers!
- Please pray for the current small staff team – there are lots of adjustments and changes to cope with. Please pray for them in this.
- Pray for the children (pictured here helping to identify what needs repairing). Pray that many children would come to know life and hope through Jesus as we grow this work.
- Please pray also for the Chisomo\* board – there are extra demands as we scale up operations. Pray for good relationships with the chair.



Children 'helping'

- Please pray for the funding gap we have from January to March, before the new grant kicks in, and resolution of some past financial issues around tax and severance pay and contracts. The organisation needs to be free of these chains as we move forward.
- MC [Maggie] needs a temporary work permit – please pray for visits to immigration over the coming week and that this could be granted without too much hassle.

Thanks everyone! We serve a great big God. Pray we would entrust all these things into his hands, the hands that can do the impossible, bring life from death, and transform even the hardest, most seemingly impossible situations!

Love Maggie

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We also pray that Maggie, who was planning to be at home in England over Christmas, had a good break and is now well rested.

\* 'The Chisomo Idea is a global grassroots movement that connects the young and young at heart to issues of poverty in Africa and provides them with a framework for action.' *Chisomo* means grace in the Chichewa language. For more information go to <http://chisomoidea.com/who-we-are/> or search for The Chisomo Idea.

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evening. Generally, it's just a place to make some new friends and get to know people. So if your age is anywhere from 18–30 (and over, if you're really keen) give me a call and get involved. Frank, 07540 933852

### 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

## *The Big Promise – A Reminder*

Marriage vows are the most long-term promises we ever make – to love and care for someone else for the rest of our lives! They are a commitment to make someone else's interests equal to our own. They are life changing – and have a huge impact on the way our lives work out. For those that make them, they are 'the BIG Promise'.



In 2014 the national plan is that on 8th February, at 5.15 pm, as part of marriage week, every couple in the UK will have the opportunity to re-affirm their BIG Promises to each other. To draw attention to the BIG Promise those venues that wish to be invited to take part in setting a new Guinness World Record for couples re-affirming their vows.

St Michael's PCC have agreed to be part of this exciting event and to offer all couples, who wish to, the opportunity to re-affirm their marriage vows and be part of the Guinness World Record, at a service on Saturday 8th February 2014.

*All married couples are invited to take part.*

To re-affirm your vows you will need to be able to prove you are married, either in church or civil ceremony.

To be eligible to take part in the Guinness World Record you will need to prove you are married, be registered in advance of the event and be photographed as proof of your participation.

The ceremony at 5.15 pm will be the centre of a full afternoon and evening of the celebration of marriage, with refreshments available before and after the service.



If you would like to be part of this exciting and meaningful event, please contact St Michael's parish office for further information and a registration form.

*All couples wishing to take part are asked to register by 31st December 2013.*

office diary. A booking form should also be completed giving times required. Please do not ask clergy to take on this responsibility.

### Churchyard maintenance and Second Saturday Club get-together

All grass cutters, and everyone else involved with churchyard maintenance and Second Saturday Club activities, are invited to a reception in the Upper Room at the Pastoral Centre on Friday 31st January, from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm, when drinks and light refreshments will be served. This will be a chance to get together with other members of the churchyard team, who we may meet only occasionally, and also to raise any queries or make comments regarding the work we do in the church grounds. To help with the planning of the catering, we'd greatly appreciate it if you can let us know whether or not you are able to attend, by advising the church office, John Martin or Peter Hulbert

### 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.

### The Annual Quiz

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

### 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.

### 100 Club Draw September 2013

1st Prize: Mr Graham Steele No 75 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Ann Harris No 109 £10

(There was no 3rd prize)

£29 profit has been passed to church funds.

### 100 Club Draw October 2013

1st Prize: Mrs Rosemary Steele No 77 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Janet Menhinick No 7 £10

(There was no 3rd prize)

£29 profit has been passed to church funds. Rosemary Dobson.

### 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 01344 779176 or 07831 515783.



### 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 Patient 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, 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

### 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).

### 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 is at 64 Kingsmead, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU147SL. Tel. 01252 519172.

[www.thetriangle.org.uk](http://www.thetriangle.org.uk)

## Syria!

We must all have seen the terrible pictures of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, enduring appalling winter weather. These unfortunate people live in tents with no running water or sanitation and have no winter clothing, as we would understand it. How parents care for children in conditions like these is beyond comprehension. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has a web site where you can make a donation. Either ctrl-click [here](#) or search for 'UNCHR Syria Crisis'.

## Newsletter

Please email William Lee at [stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk) or leave written requests with the church office. Deadline for February edition: 24th January 2014.

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)

## Regular Activities at the Pastoral Centre

**Little Sandhurst Nursery Group.** Daily! Contact Karen on 07730 340734 or email: [enquiries@LSNG.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.rockandpopfoundation.com).



## Youthful 'Sounds of Faith'

*On 27th November Oliver Young, Jonny Banister and William Dunlop sang with the choir in 'Sounds of Faith', a multi-faith event that took place at St Michael's. Janice Devine conducted and took this photograph.*

## Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sat 25 Jan 7.00 for 7.30 pm	Pastoral Centre	Burns Night	Catherine & Ken Wilkins + social committee
Sat 8 Feb		Big Promise (see p6)	Karen Allen & Rebecca Brown
Sat 15 Feb	Downshire Golf Club	Valentine's Ball in aid of St Michael's new AV system.	Louise Tooze
Sat 15 March	Pastoral Centre	Quiz Night	Jill & John White
May (date to be announced)	Pastoral Centre	Swing Band fundraiser	
Sat 14 June (to be confirmed)	Thriftswood	Garden Party	Social Committee
Sun 20 July (to be confirmed)	Rectory Garden	Picnic	

# January Church Services

## **Sunday 5th January – 2nd of Christmas – Topic: Epiphany**

Isaiah 60:1–6 (p746); Ephesians 3:1–12 (p1174); Matthew 2:1–12 (p966)

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

## **Sunday 12th January – 1st after Epiphany – Topic: The foolishness of God**

Isaiah 42:1–9 (p727); 1 Corinthians 1 (p1144); Matthew 3:13–17 (p967)

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

## **Sunday 19th January – 2nd after Epiphany – Topic: The wisdom of God**

Isaiah 49:1–7 (p735); 1 Corinthians 2 (p1145); John 1:29–42 (p1064)

- 8.00 am; Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.15 am Family Service and Baptism of Harry Chapman
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical service at St George's

## **Sunday 26th January – 3rd after Epiphany – Topic: The work of the leader**

Isaiah 9:1–4 (p693); 1 Corinthians 3 (p1145); Matthew 4:12–23 (p968)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Baptism of Thomas Hill
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong

## Sermons in January and February

The Church today faces many challenges: disunity, questions about leadership, confusion about sexual morality and marriage, and disagreement over what the Christian message really is. St Paul faced exactly these issues in the 50s AD in Corinth. In the First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul faces these challenges head on – are we ready to do that too? John Castle



*...to everyone who put in additional work over the weeks leading up to Christmas to make all the services and activities run smoothly.*



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

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