

St Michael's News March 2013

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Journeys

Journeys today are normal events; people journey to America or the Far East on holiday, but not every one goes on long journeys. My granddad saw the sea for the first time at 84; he didn't travel much. Not all journeys are pleasant; a lot of our soldiers are on journeys of recovery following injury in Afghanistan, and other people are on journeys following chronic illnesses. Journeys, of course, are very appropriate to us at the moment with our initiative 'My Journey: Our Journey', but this journey is of course a journey of faith, a journey exploring the true meaning of following Jesus Christ.

At Easter Jesus made a journey to Jerusalem and his journey, probably the worse one he ever made, was to lead to the greatest event in history, the salvation of the world.

The best journeys are made with other people. Going on long journeys on your own can be tedious, and recovering from illness is improved when you are with other people. Jesus was at least with his friends on his last journey to Jerusalem. Imagine going all that way alone with the knowledge of what was in store for him when he got there; nobody should have to make such journeys on their own.

'My Journey: Our Journey' recognises that while we are all on our individual journeys of faith. Nevertheless, as Christians we are all on the same journey and journeying together is the true meaning of being the body of Christ.

John White



Please pray for those on the prayer board and for those who died recently.

Church Activities

March Coffee Rota Reminder

3rd March	Chris Pocock	Di Taylor
10th March	Stephanie Martin	Gillian Davies
17th March	Di Pullar	Sheila Rees
24th March	Dorothy Hill	George Castle
31st March	Ann Harris	Jo Arty

Prayer Meetings. Prayers for pastoral care are on the second Wednesday each month (13th March), 7.30–8.15 in church.

House Groups meet each week at these homes:

Monday	7.45 pm	1 Spring Woods (Linda Lemmon & Christina Clayton) (1st & 2nd each month)
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	8.00pm	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 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. Ofsted registered childminder's will be caring for your children. If you are interested in helping, please contact Angela on 07932 333619 for details. (CRB checks will be required.) During school holidays, please check with Lesley in the Pastoral Centre that this will be running.

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.

LinkUp: Pastoral Care at St Michael's

Over the last year we have been looking at ways to revamp the pastoral care at St Michael's. As Christians we have a responsibility to God and to each other, as we are all members of the Church, the Body of Christ. As *The Message Bible* puts it in 1 Corinthians 12 :25-26:

'The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.'

One of the ways we have decided to do this is to get most of the congregation involved in a small way. We are calling this scheme 'LinkUp'. The first phase is to link the congregation across the different services so we can all be 'part of the Body of Christ', linked together and connected to each other. One image might be to think of this as the nervous system of the body, constantly checking that all the parts are OK.

To do this we are going to set up a network of volunteers, the 'Links', covering everyone in all the congregation. The Links will watch over those in their care, just by noticing if someone hasn't been to church for a few weeks and contacting them to see if all is well. Also, especially for people who aren't in any group, to say hello in church or to share an occasional cup of coffee after the service. More importantly, to make sure they feel part of the church and don't feel left out.

We are starting with all the different groups in church and asking for a representative of each group to be the 'Link', ensuring that all of the members of their groups are included. Then we will set up a group of volunteers to be the 'Link' for people not in established groups.

We will have an informal LinkUp meeting once a term. This is important as this is where we will link with people from the other services and groups, thus joining the congregation as part of one body, the part of Christ's body that is St Michael's.

I do hope and pray that most people will be willing to be part of this scheme, as it will be the minimum input for the maximum benefit. If you wish to become involved, please contact me.

Linda Lemmon
01252 874525
thirtyfour@btinternet.com
Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator



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 is on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 9.30–11.00 am, except during school holidays.

The LinkScheme 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.

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. Thank you, Kirsty Dunlop

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.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to care for those in need, and with this in mind the PCC has a hardship fund so that we can assist those facing financial crisis. The Fund is intended to help those living within the parish of Sandhurst (who need not be church-goers), 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.

Holy Listening

More and more ordinary people in the Church today are finding it helpful to have someone to talk to about their daily lives as a Christian; that someone may be referred to as a spiritual director, a soul friend or a companion 'on the way'. The person will not be a close friend and almost certainly not a member of your own church, so that they are able to listen to you impartially and non-judgmentally.

Members of the Spiritual Direction Network for Oxford, Berks and Bucks (SPI –DIR) are offering a choice of two sessions on Tuesday 12th March so that you can find out more: 10.00am–12.00 noon (coffee from 9.45am) or 8.00pm–10.00pm (coffee from 7.45 pm) at St John’s Church, Crowthorne. RG45 7NT (www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk). For further details and a brochure please contact Hazel Berry at Sonningdeaneryprojects@googlemail.com. Leaflets will be available in church.

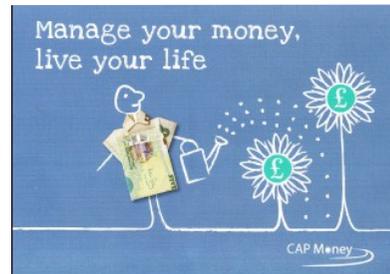
CAP Money Course

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a nationally based Christian charity that works with local churches to help people manage their money, and live a fuller life with the resources God has blessed them with. CAP has set up a course for anyone who is worried about money or is struggling to manage it effectively. Do you wonder how you are going to make ends meet this month? Do you wish you could save for a holiday or, even, for the future?

CAP Money is a *free* course of three one-hour sessions to get you in control of your money. You will learn a simple system to help you budget, save and plan for the future. All personal information is fully confidential to you.

A few of us from St Michael’s Church have decided to link with CAP and do something to help by being trained as CAP Money Coaches and to run a course in the local area. This will be held at the Pastoral Centre, St Michael’s Church. Phone Rupert on 01344 777137 to find out more and to register your interest.

Alternatively, if you go on to the website www.capmoney.org you can find a lot more information and register your interest to join us, or another church nearer to you.



‘Dire Straights’.

Why do you think I am writing this – about money? ‘Money’ is a word we don’t like to mention, a bit like bereavement. St Michael’s Church is our church, a place we come to most Sunday’s and other days, when other services take place. It will not be here for future generations if we don’t rally round and do something about it.

I have been thinking! What can we do? When we leave home to come to church, why not pick up a **ONE POUND COIN** to put into the silver tray as you come in, or in the offertory bowls when they come round, regardless of whether we give monthly through envelopes in church or through the bank.

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A Spiritual Spring Clean for Lent



In church on Ash Wednesday Linda Lemon told us how important it is to carry out a Spiritual Spring clean in preparation for Easter.

‘How do you feel if you have neglected your housework through being too busy to do it? Dust everywhere – not quite the picture Dickens portrays in Great Expectations – Miss Havesham jilted at the altar – still in her bridal gown with mountains of dust and cobwebs everywhere.

‘Great Expectations – this is what God has for each and every one of us. What he wants more than anything is a personal relationship with us. He wants to meet with us individually and collectively as a church. How are you fulfilling your obligations to your Dad in Heaven? We know you pop in to see Him on Sundays. Do you belong to a house group and have a chat with Him in the week? Do you try to check in with Him on a daily basis?

‘Lent is a perfect time to give your Spiritual House a spring clean.

Dust – have you opened your Bible recently or is it collecting dust?

Clutter – is your life filled with clutter, things you don’t use nor need? Is your spiritual life filled with things you have collected over the years or is it a moving, living thing; doing for others, helping God in looking after his world?

DIY – do you need to repair any broken relationships. Do you need to do some preventive work in your spiritual life to make sure it doesn’t rot or rust? Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19–21 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them. Store them in heaven, where nothing can destroy them. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

‘We need to do our DIY before our spiritual houses are too ramshackle and broken. Set your house in order. Lent is the perfect time to do this.’

(Continued from page 5)

We average 80 people at our two main services. One pound each x 80 = £320 per month, or £3,840 per year. What a difference that could make! Your £1 coin would be well used. Please read this and, hopefully, act on it.

Thank you. Janet Pilbeam (Verger).

Donutting Madness

This month, the junior choir teamed up with REACH at the Alpine Snowsports Centre in Aldershot to rocket down a slope in man-sized donuts! Everyone had a great time ... Can we do it again?

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 Real Easter Egg

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK, the Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the meaning of Easter. It's a fun and unique way to share the Easter story.



This year there is a free activity pack in the box that includes the Easter story, activity poster, free iTunes download and a sticker set. The resurrection text from Mark is also given inside the lid. Each Real Easter Egg consists of a 125g milk chocolate egg. A 15 pence donation is made to Traidcraft Exchange per egg sold. Get your egg from Traidcraft stall, and to be certain of yours, let them know. Jill White

Our Winter Talks Series

There are still two talks to come in our winter series 'Building up our Christian Faith':

- **Tuesday 19th March 2013.** Canon David Hodgson – Area Dean 'Living the Gospel of peace'
- **Tuesday 16th April 2013.** Rev. John Castle: 'Making sense of the Bible in the Modern World'

If you have missed a talk, or would like to hear it again, go to our website www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk/calendar and click on the audio file. It is usually available just a day or two after the talk is given.

The Social Committee

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. We meet every six to eight weeks to plan events. John White

Come and help. 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. 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 or seven times a year, starting at 8.00 pm and invariably home by 10.00 pm. If you would like to join us please make yourself known to one of the committee.

100 CLUB DRAW – January

1st Prize: Mrs Jennie Hulbert No 63 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Janet Pilbeam No 37 £10

3rd Prize: Mr Ed Berridge No 97 £5

£34 has been passed to church funds. Rosemary Dobson.

Tearfund support for 'scarred' Syria

It is estimated that 3,000 people per day are fleeing the conflict within Syria to neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. Most of those escaping are women and children, who leave with few possessions and are ill-equipped to cope with the winter weather. Tearfund and partners are providing cooking utensils, stoves, blankets, mattresses, hygiene materials and medical supplies to help cope with the conditions, as well as plastic and other materials to improve makeshift shelters.



According to the UN, 728,000 Syrians have fled their country, a figure that is expected to rise to a million within just a few months. Most refugees end up staying with local communities rather than in camps, but host families are feeling the strain.

David Bainbridge, Tearfund's International Director, said, 'As the conflict has intensified, the number of people leaving Syria has risen rapidly over recent months. Through our partners, we are looking to work in areas where refugees are receiving little, if any, outside help. These people, mostly women and children, are extremely vulnerable and need our support and prayers.'

Give to Tearfund's Syria Crisis Appeal on the Internet by clicking [here](#) or by searching for 'Tearfund Syria Crisis Appeal'.

St Michael's Churchyard

The grass is threatening to start growing again, which means 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 more details please contact the Parish Office or Peter Hulbert on 01344 775881 (email: hulbertx@gotadsl.co.uk). Thank you.

Easter Lily Donations

Your donations are now invited for Easter lilies. Please sign the form at the back of church and take an envelope for your donation. This can be returned to a church warden or the Parish Office. The suggested amount this year for each lily is £3.50.

Shopping in Waitrose? – support Toddler Time

Kirstein McNamara who runs Toddler Time would like your support to purchase new toys. As from 1st March, Waitrose will be collecting the green tokens for three chosen charity's one of which is Toddler Time. At the end of the month the tokens are converted into a donation. Please help by choosing us! Many thanks.

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 or make a suggestion, 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.

Finance

For the year to **December** our average monthly giving was £7,525 compared to our budget of £8,106 – so behind budget. At end December we had £25,731 in the general fund bank account which represents 1.9 months of our budgeted annual expenses. This is better than the previous month, when we had 1.4 months and behind our target of three months.

Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Sat 2 March 7.00 for 7.30 pm start	Pastoral Centre	Quiz Night	John and Jill White*
Sun 3rd March	Church	'Supermarket' Quiz launched.	Jan King
Sun 3rd March	Church	Bring and Share Lunch	Churchwardens
Tue 12th March 10.00 am and 8.00 pm	St John's, Crowthorne	Holy Listening (see p4)	Hazel Berry 01344 772578
Sun 17th March 8.45–9.30 am 10.30–11.15 am	Pastoral Centre	Home produce stall	Jan King*
Tue 19th March 8.00 pm	Church	5th Winter Talk by David Hodgson	Church Office

If you could help with a social event (* = helpers needed) or would like to make a suggestion, please contact John White (01344 774349) or Jan King (01344 750285 or king4kings@aol.com).

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 Triangle Café and Christian Bookshop

Sadly our sale has finished! But for those who missed some great bargains, we still have some available, such as CDs for as little as 99p, books and frames at half-price.

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

Newsletter

Please email William Lee at stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk or leave written requests with the Pastoral Centre office. Deadline for the April edition: 18th March 2013.

You can now receive future editions of this newsletter by email? These are in colour and are normally available a few days before the paper copy. To receive them, contact PCC member David Hunt (david.hunt@bcs.org.uk).

Regular Activities at the Pastoral Centre

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

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.

March Church Services

Sunday 3rd March -- 3rd of Lent – Topic: The hand of providence

Isaiah 55:1–9 (p742); 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 (p1151); Luke 13:1–9 (p1046)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

11.15 am Family Service (Topic: The Good Samaritan.

Reading: Luke 10:25–37 p1042)

6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday – Topic: The birth of Moses

Exodus 2:1–10 (p58); John 19:25b–27 (p1088)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion (all-age)

11.30am Parade Service

6.30 pm Ecumenical Service, Baptist Church

Sunday 17th March – Passion Sunday – Topic: Mary anoints Jesus

Isaiah 43:16–21 (p729); Philippians 3:4b–14 (p1180); John 12:1–8 (p1079)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

11.15 am Family Service

6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday – Topic: Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28–40 (p1054); Philippians 2:5–8 (p1179); John 18:28–19:30 (p1087)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Music and meditation

Mon 25th March 2013

Isaiah 42:1–9 (p727); John 12:1–11 (p1079)

8.00am Holy Communion

Tue 26th March 2013

Isaiah 49:1–7 (p735); John 12:20–36 (p1080)

8.00 am Holy Communion

Wed 27th March 2013

Isaiah 50:4–9a (p737); John 13:21–32 (p1081)

8.00 am Holy Communion

Thu 28th March 2013 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–14 (p68); 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (p1152);

John 13:1–17 (p1081), 31b–35 (p1082)

8.00 am Holy Communion

Fri 29th March 2013 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:12–53:12 (p740); Luke 22:40–23:49 (p1058)

6.00 am First light service

11.15 am Family Service

2.00 pm Passion Service

Sun 31st March 2013 – Easter Day – Topic: Easter

Acts 10:34–43 (p1104); Luke 24:1–12 (p1061)

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion (all age)

6.30 pm No service



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