

St Michael's News September 2012

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Are we for real?

Every day I get junk e-mail offering me, *inter alia*, fake Rolex watches and fake doctoral degrees to enhance my CV. (I suspect the Viagra I'm being offered is fake too!) The ads on Hotmail, Facebook and other web pages offer happiness through 'hot dates', special offers for gambling and miracle cures and plastic surgery promise to make us new people.

So what's real and what's a fake? Christians say that Jesus is the answer. But is our faith real or a sham? A tough question, but one which those outside the church have a right to ask. It's all too easy to take a 'pick & mix' approach to religion – keep the bits we like (such as the promise of heaven when we die, and the familiarity of Sunday worship) and conveniently ignore the tough bits that question our worldly lifestyle and challenge us to make changes to the way we spend our money or treat people. Pick & mix is very 'postmodern', but low on integrity.

The apostle James, whose letter we will be considering this month in our sermon series, is tough on hypocrisy. There's some good advice, but also challenges. Are you up for that? You have been warned!

John Castle



Please pray for those on the prayer board and for those married here recently: Jessica Ginn and Stuart Houghton, Jessica Secchiati and Paul Whitaker, Gemma Turner and Stephen Gale.

Church Activities

September Coffee Rota Reminder

2nd September	Janet Pilbeam	Sheila Rees
9th September	Kate Bettison	Jennie Rolfe
16th September	Lesley Gutteridge	Betty Wilson
23th September	George Castle	Hilary Smith
30th September	Joy Alexander	Marion Blackmore

Prayer Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month (15th September) at 9.30–10.15 am in the church and the 4th Wednesday (26th September) 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 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.

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 child-minders) 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 is running.

St Michael's Belles Join 'All the Bells'

The morning of 27th July dawned dry and sunny and all around Sandhurst alarm clocks were ringing at an unusually early hour, rousing handbell ringers from their slumbers. The reason for this awakening was, of course, 'All the Bells', Martin Creed's idea for as many bells as possible around the country to ring for three minutes at 8.12 am to herald in the Olympics.

As the day drew nearer interest increased. The event was featured on Chris Evan's Breakfast Show, on Radio 2, and BBC1's Breakfast programme. Large groups and organisations promised to take part, and the crowning glory was the news that Big Ben would chime for three minutes, joining in this great ding dong.

Our chosen position was in the car park of St George's Church. The event had been advertised extensively locally and we hoped others would come and join us, and they did. From 8.00 am around 60 people listened as we



rang three short pieces in the build up to the designated time. With watches synchronised to ensure an accurate start, bells were distributed to those who had arrived empty handed and we all rang with gusto.

The event was followed by tea and toast in the church, where everyone had an opportunity to chat about being part of such a unique event, and it was well worth the early start!

Our thanks to St George's for hosting us and providing much needed refreshments. *Jennie Hulbert, St Michael's Belles*

REACH 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 9.30–11.00 am, except during school holidays.

Church Flowers. Please ring Jennie (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!

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.

Volunteers required!

Churchyard Maintenance. With the mega-growth and rain-restricted maintenance activities in the churchyard, we need to mount a major jungle-clearing operation. We plan to have a working party in the churchyard on Saturday 8th September starting at 9.30 am. We need to tackle the hedges, surroundings and any other wilderness areas. Please help if you can (all necessary equipment will be provided). Contact Peter Hulbert on 01344-775881, or leave a message in the church office. Many thanks. Peter Hulbert

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Young Church

Jan Herd has been heading up our Sunday children's work for several years, assisted by Liz Lord. They have both now stepped down from leadership, and we owe them a big vote of thanks for the work they have done keeping the show running week by week. The Christmas Nativities have been a particular highlight, with home-written material and the participation of lots of children, and huge congregations!

The Young Church leaders are keen to expand Young Church to appeal to more children and their families. They will be holding a training session on Monday 10th September at 8.00 pm. Please contact Kirsty Dunlop (via the office) for more information.

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Family Service. Help is urgently required for the family service with regard to refreshments, sides persons and technicians. I organise the rota for the family service and therefore would like any volunteers. Please email me kirsty@tcb-arrow.co.uk . Thank you, Kirsty Dunlop.

Verger needed

We urgently need a new verger, one weekend per month, for any weddings on the Saturday (paid), and the Sunday 9.30 service (unpaid). Please speak to Jenny Thorn on 01344 775805 if you would like to discuss what is involved. Thank you

Winter Talks

These are being arranged with some very interesting people. So far we have Andrew, Bishop of Reading; the Area Dean, David Hodgson; the newish Minister of the Methodist Church, Keith Lowder and our very own Rev. John Castle. Please keep the third Tuesday of the month in October, November, January, February, March and April free. Watch out for the first talk on October 16th. The complete list will be available soon. Please also see John's notice (Making Sense of the Bible) on page 6. Thank you.

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. We desperately need to cater for the younger age group, those who attend the family service, for example. We are by definition a very social bunch of people and would be pleased to welcome new younger members to our team. We meet about six to seven times a year, usually over a cup of coffee, 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.

St Michael's Heritage Day

St Michael's Heritage open day is on Friday 7th September 2012 at 12.00 noon –2.00 pm with belfry tours and refreshments available in the Pastoral Centre lounge. Please could we have volunteers to help serve drinks between 12.00 noon and 1.00pm. Lesley will set up and do 1.00 pm–2.00 pm but unfortunately is unable to do the first hour. Please ring Lesley in the Church Office if you can help on 01252 873030.

Making Sense of the Bible – 16th October

You've been told many times that reading the Bible is good for you – but somehow getting the thing off the shelf seems a bit daunting. Where shall I start? What do I do if I can't understand it? Who wrote it anyway, and what relevance has it got to my life? On Tuesday 16th October at 8.00 pm I'll be giving a talk that will hopefully answer some of your questions and help you make sense of some of the difficulties. It would help me if you would write down any questions you have so I can cover them for you. There will be an opportunity for open questions – no question is too stupid or too controversial (although I don't promise to have an answer for everything!) John Castle

Home Produce – Sunday 14th October

Jan King would love to make jam for the stall but doesn't have enough jam jars. Please can you give empty jars (with lids) to her ASAP. If you are unable to make jam or chutneys for this event, she would like donations of sugar



Harvest Supper

We are arranging a Harvest Supper on Saturday 13th October 2012 at 7.30 pm. We need some help to plan it and give us ideas. Would anyone like to make a Cottage Pie? We would also like offers from people to cook various parts of the meal. Janet Pilbeam has offered to organise the meals but we need someone to organise some games for adults and children. It must be at least 15 years since we last had a Harvest Supper and it will be great to get it going again.



Please speak to John or Jill White if you would like to help. There will be a list at the back of the church in September.

Empress Gardens

Another lunch is being organized at the Empress Gardens. Ching Tang will again generously give the church £2 for every meal enjoyed there on a Sunday lunch. It is being arranged for Sunday 23rd September. Please ring Jan King to book your place.



100 CLUB DRAW

The winners of the May 2012 draw, held on 17 June 2012 were:

1st Prize: Mrs Ann Homfray-Davies No 18 £20

2nd Prize: Mr J Pendleton No 23 £10

3rd Prize: Mrs Ann Homfray-Davies No 5 £5

£32 has been passed to church funds.

The winners of the June 2012 draw, held on 22 July 2012 were:

1st Prize: Mrs Chris Pocock No 119 £20

2nd Prize: Mrs Ann Homfray-Davies No 18 £10

3rd Prize: Mr G Steele No 52 £5

£34 has been passed to church funds.

The winners of the July draw:

1st Prize: Mr Adrian Cox No. 41 £20

2nd Prize: Mr Pete McKean No 93 £10

3rd Prize: Mrs Joan Stevens No 38 £5

£34 has been passed to church funds.

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 via the church office (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.

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.

Newsletter

Please email William Lee at stmichaelschurch@hotmail.co.uk or leave written requests with the church office. Deadline for August's edition: 17th September 2012.

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 in to this scheme please contact PCC member David Hunt david.hunt@bcs.org.uk.

News from Maggie Crewes

Maggie visited St Michael's on 15th July and spoke at all three morning services. Having founded the project for street children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2005, she has now handed over the work there and is now advising Retrak on expanding into other countries in Africa. Here are extracts from her recent prayer letter.



Despite two separate weeks in hospital this past month, my dad is back home again. Please also pray for my mum caring for him. It's not easy to be so far apart at this time. Give thanks for encouraging times of speaking about Retrak to UK churches and a youth camp over the past month.

Give thanks for answered prayer – some very encouraging news through from donors DFID (Department for International Development – British) and CORDAID (Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid – Dutch) who have agreed to give grants! The DFID grant is a matching grant where Retrak now has to raise 100K in three months as part of the deal, and they will match it pound for pound!

Please pray for God's wisdom as I put together an options appraisal for the Retrak board which will help make decisions around which country we might work in next – the needs are vast.

Over August and September I'll be on the move! Ethiopia for three weeks to pack up my house, store a small amount of stuff and move the cat to the Rubie household (who have just arrived in Addis, and are in desperate need of a beautiful puss!). Please pray for Retrak staff and friends as I say goodbyes a bit more definitely this time! (and the cat to cope with the move!)

I will be working with the Retrak social workers in Uganda and Ethiopia over this time to review our child-protection work and do some training. Please pray this will have a positive impact on how we care for kids. Also doing some supervision work and attending a workshop on how Retrak might respond when there are natural disasters etc. in our operational areas, as well as visiting a Retrak partner in Kenya!

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Please pray for safety in travel, good times with staff and that all these efforts boost the work we do with street children so that many more of them know God's love and hope.

Thank you all for joining us in prayer for the ministry of Retrak.

Love Maggie

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).

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

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-hop, 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.

Goodbye to Kylie!

We say goodbye to our Youth Worker, Kylie Garrill on 2nd September, as she leaves us to marry Martin Jewson, who is the Children's, Youth and Families Worker at Epsom Baptist Church. Their wedding will be on 22nd September. Please pray for Kylie and Martin as they begin their married life together. We reported on some of Kylie's achievements in the August newsletter. She will be missed!



Confirmation July 2012

Kirstein McNamara and Andrea Tallamy were confirmed by Bishop John Bone on Sunday 1st July at Crowthorne, and Fiona Whitley (who was already confirmed) made a Renewal of Baptismal Faith. All three took part in the Emmaus course from March to July this year. Please pray for them and for the other members of the group, and the 11 young people who have been taking the Youth Emmaus course that they would all continue to grow in their faith and life of Christian service.



Kirstein McNamara and Andrea Tallamy and Fiona Whitley with Bishop John Bone and John Castle at the confirmation at St John's Crowthorne

Church Calendar

Date & Time	Venue	Event	Contact
Fri 7 Sept 12 noon – 2.00pm	Church & Pastoral Centre	St Michael's Heritage Day	Church office
Sun 16 Sept from 12.00noon	Pastoral Centre	Bring and Share lunch	Angela Harper Emma Hodge
Sun 23 Sept 12.30pm	Empress Gardens	Lunch	Jan King
Sat 13 Oct 7.00pm	Pastoral Centre	Harvest Supper	Social Committee
Sun 14 Oct 8.30–11.00am	Pastoral Centre	Home produce stall	Jan King
Tue 16 Oct 8.00 pm	Pastoral Centre	First winter talk: Making Sense of the Bible	Church Office

September Church Services

Sunday 2nd September – 13th after Trinity – Topic: Practical religion

Readings: Song of Songs 2:8–13 (p679); James 1:17–27 (p1213);

Mark 7:1–8,14–15,21–23 (p1010)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion. Baptism of Eva & Jonathan Souris
- 11.15 am Family Service. Baptism of Violet Symes
- 6.30 pm Contemplative Evening Prayer

Saturday 8th September – Wedding

- 2.00 pm Amy Saunders & Clark Digby

Sunday 9th September – 14th after Trinity – Topic: The test of faith

Readings: Proverbs 22:1–2,8–9,22–23 (p657); James 2:1–10 (p1214);

Mark 7:24–37 (p1010)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Leo Birch, Joshua Crutcher
- 2.00 pm Wedding of Kiri Baker & Andrew Freeth
- 6.30 pm Ecumenical service

Saturday 15th September – Wedding

- 12 noon Michelle Wonham & Colin Brady

Saturday 15th September – Renewal of Vows

- 2.00 pm Louise & Chris Tooze

Sunday 16th September – 15th after Trinity – Topic: The power of the tongue

Readings: Proverbs 1:20–33 (p635); James 3:1–12 (p1214); Mark 8:27–38 (p1012)

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

Saturday 22nd September – Wedding

- 12 noon Nanette Hoy & Daniel Higgins

Sunday 23rd September – 16th after Trinity – Topic: Wisdom from above

Readings: Proverbs 31:10–31 (p667); James 3:13–4:3,7–8a (p1215);

Mark 9:30–37 (p1013)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Alfie Brewer-Peck, Amelia Sharpe
- 6.30 pm Sung Evensong

Friday 28 September – Wedding

- 1.00 pm Laura Hellewell & Karl Wharton

Sunday 30th September – 17th after Trinity – Topic: Taking responsibility for each other

Readings: Esther 7:1–6,9–10 (p506), 9:20–22 (p508); James 5:13–20 (p1216);

Mark 9:38–50 (p1013)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 11.30 am Baptism of Jenson Jones, Kaysie & Layla Shaddock
- 6.30 pm Said Evening Prayer

Sandhurst Day Centre

Communion 11.30 am on the 1st Wednesday, and Songs of Praise 11.30 am on the 3rd Wednesday each month.

Early morning services. You may find it useful to come to the 8.00 am service if you are going out for the rest of the day!



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