



FELLOWSHIP

'St Michael's is a place where the love of God is quietly evident. There is always someone to share a joy and laughter; a hand to hold in sadness and a safe place to cry. A place where doubts are accepted, mysteries are explained and our differences are tolerated. Just like a family'

This reflects the experience of someone who has been part of St Michael's for over 50 years. Over that time, the community, like any family, has changed. Some members have moved on, and others have joined it but throughout those involved with the church have felt themselves to be part of a family. As well as coming together for worship and prayer, St Michael's people have enjoyed each other's company and had fun together.



Stars in Their Eyes - an evening of entertainment

All-Age

A constant pleasure at St Michael's has been the sharing of meals. In the 80s and 90s, all ages enjoyed the simple pleasures of the annual church picnic in Hughenden. Alongside this, there was a summer holiday social programme when members of the congregation offered their homes as places where people could get to know each other over supper. More recently, these became lunch, rather than evening parties, but the aim was the same. Any excuse for a party is enthusiastically followed up with special church services, such as the Patronal Festival (the Sunday nearest St Michael's Day on Sept 29th) being followed by 'bring and share' lunches.

In 2002, in a move to get the laity more involved in leadership, a Social Department was created. Over the years, its activities have included fish and chip suppers; quiz nights; showings of films put together by the Video Club, many of whose members were part of St Michael's. There were guided walks for those who wanted to do something more active, reviving an earlier tradition. There were also a series of pantomimes and variety shows at which some members of the congregation revealed hidden talents!



Church picnic at Hughenden



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Sharon's Ordination lunch



20s/90s party to celebrate 75 years since laying the 1919 foundation stone



Summer Party



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Women's Groups

A Young Wives group was set up in 1955, but as the members got older the name was no longer accurate. In 1970, a new women's meeting, The Thursday Group, was set up which ran for over 25 years. It offered a varied programme of talks supplemented by outings, to which spouses were also invited. At the same time, there were regular work parties at which ladies met to knit for a good cause – and no doubt a good chat as well!



THURSDAY GROUP - PROGRAMME 1991/1992
Meetings held at 8pm in Lady Chapel unless otherwise stated

Sep 5	ADULT PLACEMENT SCHEME - DAWN McNALLY
Sep 19	BUCKS COUNTY ARCHIVES - SARAH CHARLTON
Oct 3	TOUR OF WESTERN SICILY - LES MYERSCOUGH
Oct 17	TURKEY FARM - RON HOW
Nov 7	HANDBELL RINGERS - ALAN AINSWORTH & CO
Nov 21	BAZAAR EVENING
Dec 5	CHRISTMAS EVENING WITH A SURPRISE
Jan 9	RAILWAYS - RICHARD HARDY
Jan 23	NEW YEAR PARTY AT SHEILA JELLEY'S
Feb 6	WINE MAKING - GEORGE HANCE
Feb 20	21ST PARTY IN THE CHURCH HALL
Mar 5	WORK OF A METROPOLITAN STIPENDARY MAGISTRATE - GEOFFREY WICKS
Mar 19	CHAIR BODGER - STUART KING
Apr 9	AGM, PALM CROSSES
May 7	ART EVENING - BERT LONGHURST
May 21	MEMBERS' CHOICE
Jun 4	AMERSHAM MUSEUM VISIT - MONICA MULLINS
Jun 18	SUMMER FUNCTION - TOUR OF CHENIES MANOR + REFRESHMENTS
Jul 2	LACE MAKING - DOREEN ALDERMAN
Jul 16	COFFEE EVENING
Sep 10	MEDIA AWARENESS PROGRAMME - HEATHER HARRIS
Sep 24	DOLLS HOSPITAL - MRS. MOSLIN
Oct 8	OLD CHESHAM - GEORGE PIGGIN
Oct 22	40 YEARS ON QUEEN ELIZABETH VIDEO
Nov 5	DRIED FLOWERS - HAZEL BALLAH
Nov 19	MEMBERS EVENING
Dec 3	CHRISTMAS EVENING
Dec 17	LOCAL CAROL SERVICE



Mothers' Union banner

Women's Groups

There was a branch of the Mothers' Union at St Michael's until 1989, when it was put in abeyance due to falling numbers. The remaining members amalgamated with those of St Mary's, Old Amersham, where a merged branch continued for a number more years.



Thursday Group Canal Trip



Raffle Prize made by Michael & Barbara

St. Michael's Church
Amersham on the Hill

Christmas Fayre and Charities Stalls

From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday, 22 November 1997

Buy your
Christmas cards, presents,
cakes, bric-a-brac, books ...

Help your favourite charity ...

Lunches from 12:00 noon
Tea, coffee & cakes all day ...

ENTRANCE 30p

The annual Christmas Bazaar, which took place for many years with raffles, cake and craft stalls, gave members of the congregation an opportunity to use their creative gifts, and support good causes at the same time. Home made refreshments were served all day and Father Christmas always visited.





FELLOWSHIP



Holiday in Halifax



Holiday in Burgundy

Older People

The need of older people for fellowship has always been recognised at St Michael's. In the early 70s, afternoon teas provided an opportunity to meet informally, leading to a wedding in 1973. Later in the decade, there is mention in the newsletters of a monthly coach trip for the retired. In the 80s and 90s, the Youth Group hosted an annual party for the older members of the congregation. A 50+ group was started in the early 90s 'to enhance the social and cultural life of this parish' with a programme of indoor meetings and outings. In 2005, recognising that many of its members were well on the plus side of 50, it changed its name to the Tuesday Club, and as such, is still flourishing, with its outings programme extended to several holidays in Halifax and one in Burgundy.

Not One for Lunch, started by Jennifer Whittaker, one of the Community Workers employed by the parish, for those who would otherwise eat alone, has been taking place each month for many years, with some of the helpers now older than the people they are serving.



Tea in the Vicarage Garden



Not One for Lunch



Not One for Lunch & Tuesday Club annual tea



Not One for Christmas Lunch helpers