

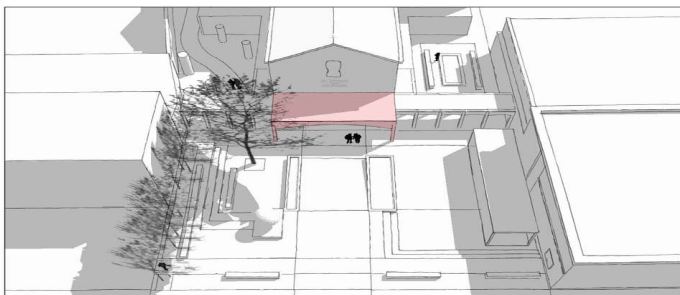


**St Michael and All Angels
Amersham-on-the-Hill**

Newsletter

February 2012

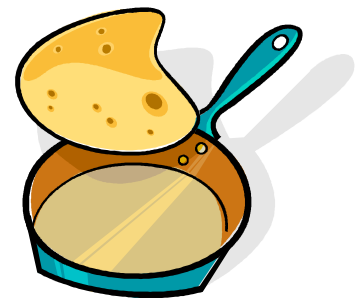
Forecourt Improvements Start This Month



It is expected that work on the redevelopment of the forecourt will start in mid-February. From the start of work, there will be no access to the church via the forecourt and the main doors; instead access will be via the side doors next to the Lady Chapel or the rear door opposite the church hall. The route to the church will be via the road next to Domino's Pizza, and the

Vicarage car park. There are disabled parking spaces available in the vicarage car park for those less mobile, and it is intended to provide level access to the church buildings. **All members of the congregation are asked to leave the vicarage car park free for those who need to use it, and park instead in the main church car park.**

Join us for pancakes



COTHA (Churches on the Hill Amersham) warmly invite you to join us for pancakes any time between 12.30 and 2 pm in St Michael's on **Shrove Tuesday, February 21**. There'll be activities for children and a pancake-tossing competition.

Worship – Sundays

8 am **Said Eucharist**
10 am **Sung Eucharist** (*Coffee afterwards*)
'2gether' 2nd Sunday.

Tuesdays

10.30 am Said Eucharist

Alternate Wednesdays

10.30 am *Praise & Play.

* see diary (page 6) for details

Mondays - Saturdays

8.30 am Morning Prayer

Saturdays

3 pm Saturday Slot 1st Saturday

The Church is usually open each morning from 8 am for anyone who wishes to meditate or spend time in quiet.

Instead of Praise & Play Plus we will in future be offering children's activities and worship at the 2gether services on the second Sunday of the month.

Congratulations

Warmest congratulations to Diana and Ray Glover on the birth of their first grandchild, Timothy Philip, on Sunday January 8.



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Diana Glover

Turning the Church Inside Out

Mission is about turning the church inside out. Church goers are encouraged to think of ways of being church in their community; and what goes on in church buildings is designed to break stereotypes that prevent people from entering.

We've had a good example of "inside-out-church" with Churches Together in Amersham and Chesham Bois' use of the shop in Sycamore Road. Over Christmas many people in Amersham took part in a Nativity scene, dressed up as characters in the story and were perhaps encouraged to ask themselves: "What does all this mean to me?" During January, there has been a remarkable exhibition on Creation, featuring embroidered and painted tableaux by Sue Symons. Churches Together have hosted the exhibition offering it as a free gift to the community. I found it exciting and fulfilling to be in the shop and to chat to the people who came in.

And within days, we shall start the long-awaited work on the forecourt. Thanks to the patient steering of Nigel Roberts, and all who are involved with this project, our vision to turn St Michael's inside out will soon become a reality. The refurbished St Michael's Square (or whatever we decide to call it) will act as a bridge between the church and the community. The glass doors and panels will encourage and remind us of our mission, stated at every Eucharist, to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord". The area in front of the church with the quiet garden and labyrinth each side will become an attractive place of hospitality and stillness. Through the glass doors and thanks to the stained glass panels people will feel encouraged look and to enter.

To celebrate all this, we have invited the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Reverend John Pritchard, to open the forecourt on the morning of Saturday 4 August. Plans are underway to make this a real community event with worship outside and food and exhibitions inside. Please feel encouraged to be part of the preparations for this exciting event and to ask yourself: "In what way can I turn the church inside out?"

Our Vision Statement

As a Christian community, we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.

Our Lent Appeal

Supporting Sam Ndimbo

As usual we are invited during Lent to contribute to St Anne's Hospital in Liuli, Tanzania and the work of the remarkable Rev Dr Sam Ndimbo.

Those who heard Sam speak at St Michael's last summer will know that there are exciting opportunities for St Anne's Hospital. There is a real possibility that the government will assume responsibility for the hospital, providing a degree of stability and financial security. But this will only happen if the hospital buildings and equipment can be brought up to a reasonable standard first. Already the Friends of St Anne's Hospital have provided a new pump to ensure a reliable supply of water and are completely re-doing the plumbing so that each ward will have a toilet. The operating theatre must be completely re-designed to ensure that it is

sterile, rather than being open to any passing insect. Much of the equipment is old and no longer fit for purpose. We were horrified to learn from Sam that the x-ray machine dates back to the Second World War and leaks radiation. It does more harm than good.

The hospital has to look to the Friends to provide the funds to bring it up to modern standards. Two substantial legacies have enabled the Friends to pay for the water pump and the plumbing but they will need the support of all of us who feel committed to Sam and the hospital to complete the job. Please give what you can this Lent.

This Year's Lent Course

In May 2011 we ran a course on four Tuesdays following the Eucharist. It was called *Dying Matters*. This was well-attended as well as provoking much interest and discussion, and has resulted in the planning of a course for Lent this year, designed to pick up of some of the same themes. The sessions will take place in the Lady Chapel at 11.30 am for an hour: - the dates and titles are as follows:-

Tuesday February 28 - *Grace, Glory and a Work in Progress.*
led by Peter Binns

Tuesday March 13 - *What Does It Mean To Be Saved?*
led by Alison Woodnutt

Tuesday March 20 - *Is There Such a Thing As Eternal Punishment?*
led by Sharon Roberts

Tuesday March 27 - *The Ongoing Journey*
led by Diana Glover

Attending last year's course is NOT a condition for coming to the 2012 sessions! All are welcome.

Please place your contribution in the envelope attached to this newsletter (or available on the letters table) and put it in the collection bag on Easter Sunday. Or, if you will be away at Easter please give the envelope to Marjorie Redpath.

And if you are a taxpayer please complete the Gift Aid form so that the tax man can make his contribution. The Friends can claim an extra 25p on every pound that you contribute.

If you wish to pay by cheque please make it payable to 'Friends of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli' (not to St Michael's).

Fundraising Meal



In aid of Friends of Khasdobir which supports a remarkable educational and welfare project in Bangladesh.

At Mango Lounge (almost alongside St Michael's).

On Monday February 27, 7.30 for 8 pm.

Cost £18 (of which £9 goes to the charity).

To book: Phone Ken Prideaux-Brune (433871). Or email him on pbrune@olcs.net.

Free First Aid course offered



St John Ambulance offer free First Aid training to members of Churches on the Hill, Amersham.

As part of the Government scheme to promote the Big Society, St John Ambulance Amersham has received funding from Chiltern District Council to enable us to provide some free First Aid training to local charities or not-for-profit organisations. We therefore propose to run a *free* three-hour course for members of COTHA.

Subjects the course will cover include; severe bleeding, chest pains, choking adult, primary survey, resuscitation adults and

unconscious casualties. The date and location has yet to be decided, and will depend on the response to this offer.

Students will be provided with course booklets and will be given a certificate of attendance by St John Ambulance which will be valid for 3 years.

For more details, or to register your interest, please contact Alan Jarvis (e-mail: alan_jarvis@sky.com or telephone 726078).

Collection for Hackney Charity Shop

Following the recent visit by a group from St Michael's to Gualter de Mello at Prideaux House in Hackney we invite you to contribute items for sale in the charity shop which is their main source of income. They particularly welcome good quality adult and children's clothes and non-electrical household items and ornaments.

Please bring any items to church

on Saturday morning February 4 between 9.30 and 11.30 am or phone David Beattie (725333) and he will arrange for items to be collected. Over the years Prideaux House has become our special inner-city project, as Liuli has become our special overseas project.

Saturday February 4.

And if you would like to accompany the items to Hackney in order to see Prideaux House do please contact David.

Don't miss

The Musicathon

Calling all performers or secret talents! Could you contribute to an afternoon of fun with a musical theme? Play, sing, or read as solo, duet or group. Or just come along and enjoy what others offer and meet other members of the wider St Michael's family. Tea and cake will be available.

There's no charge but there will be an opportunity to make a donation towards the cost of refreshments and to the transformation of the forecourt.

If you'd like to perform please contact Susannah Christou on 07973 184497 by the end of January.

**Sunday February 26
3 pm – 4.30 pm**

Brain Injury Sufferers Help Workaid

From Workaid's Winter Newsletter

Patients volunteer at Workaid as an integral part of the assessment and vocational rehabilitation for adults who have suffered a brain injury and are looking to return to work. Each week a group attend Workaid in a voluntary capacity prior to exploring their own ideas of work. By attending Workaid the clients have the opportunity to practice, learn or re-learn work skills in a friendly, supportive and non-pressured environment.

Over the years they have worked in a number of different areas.

These have included cleaning tools, refurbishing typewriters, the shop stock room and the haberdashery and knitting machine sections. In addition they have been responsible for taking the drink orders and making the drinks for all the volunteers at the mid-morning break. Attending Workaid has enabled clients to work on a wide range of work related skills. These have included planning and pacing, organisation, social skills, team work, initiation, motivation and

fatigue management. Comments made by these volunteers include: 'Workaid has helped me to organise tasks and plan what I do'; 'Workaid has helped me with my fatigue. Here I am able to stand up and walk around'; 'I'm not intimidated to ask questions'; 'Workaid has helped me to go out again'.

We give thanks for the lives of:

**Mary Burton
Elsie Pendry
Albert Jeffery
Patricia Dale
Joan Fletcher
Mary Haswell**

Could You Join PCC?

There are vacancies for up to three new members of the PCC, to be elected at our Annual Meeting on Sunday April 29. Is this something you might consider? Ian Miller explains what's involved

A PCC member is part of the Committee which has the responsibility of running the Church in consultation and in co-operation with the Vicar. PCC members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for a period of three years, and in law are regarded as Trustees, as the Church is a charity. They must be on the Electoral Roll. St. Michael's PCC consists of the Vicar and other clergy, two Churchwardens, two Deputy Church wardens, the Treasurer, the PCC Secretary and a maximum of 6 others. The Deanery Synod representatives

are ex-officio members of PCC. No elections are necessary this year for Deanery Synod.

Meetings are held in the Lady Chapel at 8.15 pm (finishing no later than 10.00 pm) usually on the first Wednesday of the month. There are no meetings in August, October or December, unless some urgent matter arises. The Standing Committee will usually deal with matters when there is no PCC Meeting. Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, the two Churchwardens, the two Deputy Churchwardens, the Treasurer

and the PCC Secretary.

Inevitably there is paperwork to be read before the Meeting; but this is circulated at least a week in advance. Regular attendance is encouraged. There are a wide range of topics discussed, as we fulfill the vision of St. Michael's and the Church in its widest context, such as prayer, worship, finance, pastoral care, the building, legal issues, mission and the governance of the Church. At St. Michael's we are blessed in having so many who devote their time and energies to all these, through the appropriate Committees, which all report to PCC – hence some of the paperwork.

Further information about being a PCC member can be found on the Diocesan website,

<http://www.oxford.anglican.org/pcc-and-dcc-support/general-information/being-a-member-of-a-pcc-dcc.html>.

Nomination forms for our vacancies are available on the table by the letter racks. Please hand in to the Parish Office when completed.

If you want any more information, please ask the Vicar or one of the Churchwardens

Alleluia, the service has ended!

(Sung to "Hyfrydol")

*At the end of a ten a.m. Eucharist
Please feel free to get up and go.
When the clergy have entered the corridor
There's no need to stay sitting, you know.
Yes, our organists are great musicians
But they don't expect the applause.
They're not performers nor we an audience
We all worship the Lord of Lords!*

DG

Simplicity

**Jordans Meeting House
Friday February 10, 9.30 am – 4 pm**

What is a simple life and why should we want to lead one? Explore what simplicity means and what some of the steps to it might be.

The day will be led by Jennifer Kavanagh. Bring and share lunch. Cost: £35 (or what you can afford). Advance booking essential. Phone 876594 or email: office@newjordans.org.

Faith? I don't believe I know anything about faith. Jesus is my God. I don't think I have any faith except that. But I have a love for men; somewhere in me I have love. I hang on to that.

**The Rev Dick Sheppard
One-time Vicar of
St Martin-in-the-Fields**



**St Michael and All Angels
Amersham-on-the-Hill**

DIARY

February 2012

Regular Weekly Activities

Sundays	8 am	Said Eucharist
	10 am	Sung Eucharist
Mondays	8.30 – 8.55 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
Tuesdays	8.30 – 8.55 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
	10.30 am	Said Eucharist. Lady Chapel
Wednesdays	8.30 – 8.55 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
	7.00 – 8.15 pm	Choir Practice
Thursdays	8.30 – 8.55 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.
Fridays	8.30 – 8.55 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel
Saturdays	8.30 – 8.55 am	Morning Prayer. Lady Chapel.

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays. 10 am – 12 noon. Wheeler Coffee Pot. Wheeler Room.

The Church is usually open each morning from 8 am for anyone who wishes to meditate or spend time in quiet.

Other Activities in February

Wednesday	Feb	1	<i>Praise & Play.</i> Lady Chapel. 10.30 am
			Extended Quiet Healing. Lady Chapel. 3 pm – 5 pm
Friday	Feb	3	Film Club – <i>Open Range.</i> Wheeler Room. 1 pm
Saturday	Feb	4	<i>Saturday Slot.</i> God’s Family. 3 pm
Sunday	Feb	5	3rd Sunday before Lent. Baptism at 10 am service
			Junior Drama Group. Rehearsal for Musicathon Hall. 2.30 pm
Tuesday	Feb	7	LUNCH BREAK. Challoners Boys in Recital. Free Church. 1.10 pm
			Tuesday Club. Evening concert at Cadogan Hall, London.
Sunday	Feb	12	2nd Sunday before Lent. 2gether – Jesus our Light.
Tuesday	Feb	14	Tuesday Club. Ken Prideaux-Brune – Visit to Burma. 11.30 am
			LUNCH BREAK. Music for St Valentine’s Day. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Sunday	Feb	19	Sunday before Lent. Healing offered at 10 am service.
Monday	Feb	20	Not One for Lunch. Lady Chapel. 12.45 pm
Tuesday	Feb	21	Shrove Tuesday – pancakes served in church. (no 10.30 am service).
			LUNCH BREAK. Free lunch (local authority emergency). Free Church.
Wednesday	Feb	22	Ash Wednesday. Services at 10.30 am and 8 pm
Sunday	Feb	26	1st Sunday in Lent
			Musicathon. In Church. 3 pm – 4.30 pm
Tuesday	Feb	28	Lent Course. <i>Grace glory and work in progress.</i> Lady Chapel. 11.30 am
			LUNCH BREAK. Thought for the Week. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Feb	29	<i>Praise & Play.</i> Lady Chapel. 10.30 am

Our next issue . . .

Our next issue will appear on **Sunday February 26**. Please get your contributions to us by **Sunday February 12**.