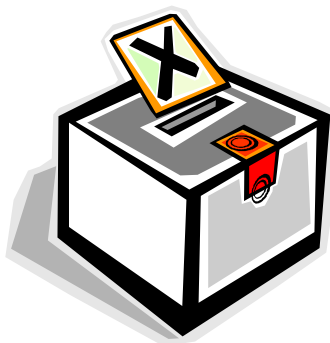




St Michael and All Angels
Amersham-on-the-Hill

Newsletter

March 2010



Election Forum

Thursday April 29 at 8 pm

Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre

The evening will bring together all the candidates standing in this constituency. Each will make a short presentation and for the rest of the evening will answer questions from the floor, allowing us to make an informed

judgement about which of them we wish to vote for. Do take this opportunity to hear from those who are seeking our votes.

The evening is being arranged by COTHA, the three churches of Amersham-on-the-Hill.

The date has been chosen on the assumption that the election will be on May 6. If that assumption proves to be wrong alternative arrangements will have to be considered.

Palm Sunday Silent Procession

As usual there will be a silent procession before the Palm Sunday service on March 28, starting opposite the station at 9.45 am, going up Hill Avenue and along Sycamore Road to reach the forecourt in time for the start of the service at 10 am. Do please take part if you possibly can; it's not very impressive if only a handful of people walk. And please bring a branch of greenery to carry if you can. The service will include a dramatised reading of the Passion story.

Details of the Holy Week and Easter services are on page 3.

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.
3.45 pm *Praise & Play Plus.

** 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.



St Michael and All Angels
Sycamore Road
Amersham HP6 5DR

Vicar

Diana Glover
diana.glover@btinternet.com

Curate

Alan Crawley
revd.alan@btinternet.com

Associate Priest

Peter Binns
peter.binns166@btinternet.com

Church Office:
01494 726680

Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

(Monday – Thursday
8.30 am – 12.30 pm)

Visit our web site

www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

Newsletter Editor

Kenneth Prideaux-Brune
01494 433871
pbrune@olcs.net

Life, Death and the Communion of Saints

Recent events have prompted these thoughts. During the last few weeks, we have been commemorating the earthly lives of various members of our St Michael's family, some well-known to us all, others less so, but all linked together by the baptism that marked each one. Baptism, as Paul reminds us in Romans chapter 6, unites us with Christ by our symbolic sharing in His death and resurrection. We commended them all to the love and mercy of our heavenly Father. I find a link here with Diana's sermon at a recent Tuesday Eucharist, when she spoke of Timothy and Titus, companions to Paul. She reminded us the word 'companion' is derived from two Latin words, and it means 'sharing bread together.'

Week by week the baptised meet at St Michael's to break bread together, and to find the strength and inspiration to live out their companionship with Christ, with each other, day by day, year by year. This life centred on God is called in the New Testament 'eternal life' or 'the Kingdom of God' (the terms are interchangeable). It begins now and continues through death into that other dimension in the nearer presence of God. This is a deep mystery lying at the heart of our faith and it is proclaimed in both word and sacrament.

At funerals we sometimes hear 'In my Father's house are many dwelling-places' and 'I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord'. So let us remember with joy and thanksgiving those companions we see no longer, but whose presence hovers about us, like 'that great cloud of witnesses' spoken of in the Letter to the Hebrews. In the early church all Christians were 'saints' so we can with confidence pray for the Communion of Saints, some of whom are listed in our greatly valued Book of Remembrance.

NOTE: Tributes to Dorothy May, Kathleen Smythe and Liz Heritage appear on page 5.

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.

Holy Week and Easter Services

**Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday March 29-31**
Compline Lady Chapel 7.30
pm

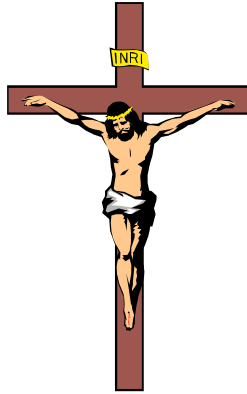
**Thursday April 1
Maundy Thursday. 8 pm**
Commemorating the Last
Supper and the washing of
the disciples' feet.



**Friday April 2
Good Friday 10 am**

The service will include
meditations from *I Thirst*, our
Inspiring Read for Lent (see
below).

*The Good Friday service will
be followed by the Churches
Together Walk of Witness,
starting at the Free Church
and ending on the St
Michael's forecourt.*



**Saturday April 3
Holy Saturday. 8 pm**

We gather around a fire on
the forecourt to light the
Easter Candle, keep vigil
within the church, renew our
baptismal vows and
celebrate the first Eucharist
of Easter.

**Easter Sunday
April 4. 8 am and 10 am**

**Celebrating the glorious
mystery of the
Resurrection.**



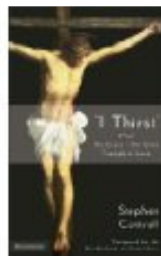
**What you may not
know about the
Hospice of St Francis**
*(From the Hospice
newsletter)*

The Hospice of St Francis is not just the 12 beds in its unit. The staff also care for some 300 people in their own homes, in local hospitals or in care homes. And care is given not just to people with cancer; about a quarter of its patients have other illnesses. Hospice staff don't just care for patients, they care also for the family and friends of the patient. Serious illness brings uncertainty and despair to the whole family and the hospice supportive care team help those close to a patient to adjust to change and voice their worries. And, although the hospice is based in Berkhamsted its patients come from a much wider area, as far as St Albans in one direction and Amersham, Chesham and the Chalfonts in another.

Do browse
the St Michael's bookcase and
especially

An Inspiring Read

Our choice for Lent is
I Thirst by Stephen Cottrell



This reflective, prayerful, thought-provoking book follows the Passion story in John's Gospel, penetrating the deep mystery of a God who loves humanity no matter what the cost. In his foreword, Rowan Williams writes: "A movingly personal book, and a practical one ... so readable, so compelling and so helpful; the fruit of much deeply meditated sharing of the Good News with people of all sorts. Reading it is a real rediscovery of the fresh waters of faith."

In addition, extracts from the book will this year form the meditations used at St Michael's Good Friday service.

Our Persecuted Family in COLOMBIA



Colombia, in South America, is a country at war with itself, where paramilitary and guerrilla groups fight amongst themselves and against the government armed forces, financed by the drug trade and extortion. Churches stand in the middle of the conflict, often as mediators, and for this they are targeted. Many pastors and church leaders have been summarily murdered or 'disappeared' without any given reason. Kidnapping of children and forcing them to be soldiers is also a big problem. Rehabilitating rescued children after they have been brutalized and forced to kill without a

second thought is hugely difficult.

Colombia is also home to a number of indigenous groups who still follow their ancient way of life. One such is the Kogui tribe. Many of them became Christians about 20 years ago but are paying a heavy price (imprisonment, murder) for just wanting to follow Christ in their normal Kogui way of life.

Pray that the Kogui Christians will be allowed to live as believers in their own community. Pray for government efforts to end the ongoing warring of factions, and that Christian pastors would remain firm in faith as they lead the church in walking the path of peace.



Sycamore Club

The Sycamore Club, which provides lunch, tea and activities at the Free Church every Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm to people with mild dementia (as well as offering respite to their carers) can only take nine people at present, rather than the maximum of 12, because of a shortage of helpers...If you could offer regular help (not necessarily every week) to this valuable inter-church activity do please phone, email or talk to Peter Binns (01296 330836).

Quiz Night

Another special St Michael's social event. Cost: £10 for Fish and Chips, £9 Sausage and Chips, and £1 less for concessions. Prizes for the raffle needed - please contact Ann Beattie. (725333).

Tickets available shortly.

**Saturday April 10
7 for 7.30 pm**

Spring Clean Working Party



Can you help to give the church and grounds a pre-Easter spring clean? Details from Martin Elliston (726016) or Maureen Meeks (433820).

**Saturday March 20
From 9.30 am**



Sale of Fairtrade Produce St Michael's Forecourt Saturday March 6 9.30 am – early pm

- To set up tables
- To sell for an hour (or even half hour)
- To box up remaining items at the end and return the tables.
- And if anyone could lend, erect and take away a gazebo that would draw attention to the stall and look attractive.

Any offers of help to Jo Harrington (763471)

We give thanks for the lives of...



Elizabeth Heritage

Liz was one of the most remarkable charismatic characters I've ever known. Over recent years, and particularly since her accident, we had become very close, and our shared interest in the Drama Groups at St Michael's cemented a firm friendship. She was highly intelligent, stimulating, with a deep Christian conviction, and a great sense of humour - we shared our regular Friday afternoon tea parties with great enjoyment. In extreme pain at times, her immense courage led her to continually work to improve her voice production, and her mobility, and she taught herself to write and draw impeccably using her left hand. It was a year almost to the day since she lost her beloved John upon whom she had depended greatly. We first lost Liz on March 5 2005 but, after having been on life support, she miraculously recovered. Thankfully she was given another five years with us, but we lost her finally on January 28 2010. She will be so greatly missed but heaven will be the richer for this amazing and sparkling Star.

Heather Haddock

Dorothy May

Dorothy May will be remembered as a faithful member of St. Michael's who, in her active days, was a forceful member of the PCC. She was a practical person e.g. as Chairman of the Buildings Committee personally going up

the ladder to inspect the sacristy roof when there was a problem. When she was no longer able to do committee work she came into the Sacristy weekly to polish the silver. Dorothy attended the Tuesday Eucharist until well into her nineties and always maintained her dignity and commanded affectionate respect.

Joan Macnab

Kathleen Smythe

Kathleen Smythe and her husband, Henry, attended St. Michael's from the mid 50s to 1972 when they moved to Cornwall. Kathleen had a long spell on St Michael's Committee and on St Mary's PCC, when we were still a

daughter church, and later on St Michael's PCC. She also played a part in shaping our present premises as a member of the Buildings Committee. For, apart from helping with the overall planning, she designed the working vestry and the church hall kitchen. Kathleen returned to Amersham more recently to be near her daughter, Mary, and for a time again shared in our worship.

Judy Redpath

And also the lives of

Chris Bowden.

Shuna Biggs.



Millennium Lecture
Thursday March 18. 8 pm



'Til Faith Us Do Part
Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain

What happens when people fall in love across the religious divide – be it Jew and Christian, Hindu and Muslim, believer and non-believer? What are the issues such couples have to face, along with their family and also their community? As Britain grows increasingly multi-faith Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, an expert in this field, explores both the trends and the myths of mixed-faith families.



You are warmly invited to a
FUNDRAISING MEAL
to support a very special
education and welfare
project in Bangladesh.

At MANGO LOUNGE (alongside St Michael's)
on MONDAY MARCH 22 7.30 for 8 pm.

A 2 course meal will be served.

Tickets: £18 (of which £9 goes to Friends of
Khasdobir) from Ken Prideaux-Brune (433871)



DIARY

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

March 2010

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, Fridays.		10 am – 12 noon. Wheeler Coffee Pot. Wheeler Room.
<i>The Church is usually open each morning from 8 am for anyone who wishes to meditate or spend time in quiet.</i>		

Other Activities in March		
Tuesday	March 2	Tuesday Club AGM. Lady Chapel. 11.30 am LUNCH BREAK. The Fair Trade Story. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	March 3	<i>Praise & Play.</i> Lady Chapel. 10.45 am Healing and Wholeness. Lady Chapel 4 pm – 6 pm
Saturday	March 6	Fairtrade Sale. Forecourt. From 9.30 am. <i>Saturday Slot.</i> Lady Chapel. 3 pm
Sunday	March 7	3rd Sunday in Lent Praise Plus (contemporary service). Free Church. 5.30 pm LUNCH BREAK. Music for prayerful reflection. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Tuesday	March 9	LUNCH BREAK. Music for prayerful reflection. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	March 10	<i>Praise & Play Plus.</i> Lady Chapel. 3.45 pm.
Sunday	March 14	Mothering Sunday. 2gether. Communion. Free Church. 6 pm
Monday	March 15	Not One for Lunch. Lady Chapel. 12.45 pm
Tuesday	March 16	LUNCH BREAK Living for Today. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	March 17	<i>Praise & Play.</i> Lady Chapel. 10.30 am.
Thursday	March 18	MILLENNIUM LECTURE. Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain. 8 pm
Saturday	March 20	Spring clean of Church and grounds. From 9.30 am
Sunday	March 21	5th Sunday in Lent
Tuesday	March 23	Anointing and laying-on of hands offered at the 10.30 am service LUNCH BREAK. Dr Challoner's Boys in recital. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	March 24	<i>Praise & Play Plus.</i> Lady Chapel. 3.45 pm
Sunday	March 28	PALM SUNDAY. 9.45 am silent walk from station to forecourt, Junior drama group. Planet Earth. Hall. 2.30 pm
Tuesday	March 30	LUNCH BREAK. On the way to the Cross. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	March 31	<i>Praise & Play.</i> Lady Chapel. 10.30 am
<i>Compline will be said in the Lady Chapel at 7.30 pm March 22 - 26 and 29 - 31.</i>		

Our next issue . . .
Our next issue will appear on **Sunday March 28**. Please get your contributions to us by Sunday March 14.