



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

# Newsletter

September 2010



During September you are invited to share with others how creation inspires you. Share a photograph of a place that inspires you. Share the words that the place evokes. Prizes offered. You'll find details of how to take part on: [www.earthingfaith.org/inspired](http://www.earthingfaith.org/inspired).

<b>Worship – Sundays</b>		
8 am	<b>Said Eucharist</b>	
10 am	<b>Sung Eucharist</b> ( <i>Coffee afterwards</i> )	
	'2gether'	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday.
<b>Tuesdays</b>		
10.30 am	Said Eucharist	
<b>Alternate Wednesdays</b>		
10.30 am	*Praise & Play.	
3.45 pm	*Praise & Play Plus.	
* see diary (page 6) for details		
<b>Mondays - Saturdays</b>		
8.30 am	Morning Prayer	
<b>Saturdays</b>		
3 pm	Saturday Slot	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday
<i>The Church is usually open each morning from 8 am for anyone who wishes to meditate or spend time in quiet.</i>		



At this year's Harvest Festival, on Sunday October 3 we are invited to contribute to the Harvest of Hope appeal by the charity Send a Cow.

Each year Send a Cow helps thousands of families in Africa grow enough food to eat, sell their produce or develop small businesses. .

They provide training, livestock, seeds and ongoing support. They also help families make the most of the resources they already have. Send a Cow is convinced that Africa *can* feed itself.

This year's Harvest of Hope will give thousands more African families a better future. It will not only help families have enough food to eat and sell, it will literally plant seeds of hope, which will grow and spread from family to family and village to village through Send a Cow's 'pass on' system.

An envelope is attached (or available on the letters table) enabling you to Gift Aid your donation



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**01494 726680**

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(Monday – Thursday)

8.30 am – 12.30 pm)

**Visit our web site**

[www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

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## Learning to receive

Two days before going on holiday this summer I pulled a muscle in my back. That experience has only happened to me once before and, significantly, it was two days before I was going on holiday! If you're like me, you rush around when a holiday is coming up, trying to finish last minute tasks so that you can go away feeling that everything is in control and organised ready for your return from holiday. But sometimes, your body tells you to slow down.

Being far more immobile than usual at a time when I wanted get everything sorted, taught me some important lessons. The first was how difficult I find it to receive from others. I was overwhelmed by the offers of support from people at St Michael's. Here are just a few of them (without mentioning any names!):

- The person who took the services that I was due to take
- The person who offered lifts to those whom I was picking up
- The person who attended a residential home communion to help out in my place
- The person who took me to the doctors, the chemist and the bank
- The person who lent me a cushion for my back
- The person who drove me to Amersham Station
- The person who accompanied me into London at the start of my holiday
- The person who recommended a bus route to ease the journey
- The person who offered to pray that I would be able to get away for my holiday

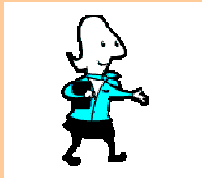
At first, I was apologising to people and feeling guilty that I was putting extra burdens on them. But then I reflected on my role as a vicar, which is primarily about enabling the ministry of others. Here was that ministry offered to me with love and concern and I was overwhelmed by the love, generosity and practical expression of Christianity in action.

The experience of pulling a muscle in my back also put me in touch with those who have to depend on others every day. What a hard and humbling experience that must be. Of course, one would love to be independent and self-reliant but learning to receive from others is perhaps the greatest expression of our openness to receive God's grace through the ministry of others.

I thank God for that ministry at St Michael's and the love and care that was shown to me.

### 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.*



## “WELCOME TO YOUR CHURCH....”

An evening in July, arranged by Sharon Roberts, explored the needs of those with Autism and Asperger’s Syndrome and also those for whom church is an unfamiliar experience.

The first session looked at some of the common characteristics of autism and Asperger’s Syndrome which might make a church service stressful.\* However, it was recognised that it is impossible to generalise, because autism isn’t one disorder but a wide and complex ‘spectrum’.

A different challenge of the evening was to ‘put ourselves in other people’s shoes’. A sketch enacted how someone with autism might react to what is said and done within a Sunday service, and an imaginative exercise invited people to ‘get into the role’ of someone who hardly ever went to church, and then to respond to a series of situations. These gave an opportunity to better understand their needs at a church service and help them feel as relaxed and welcomed as possible.

Some detailed but important points also arose and have been acted upon. For example, unless the weather is exceptionally cold, the front

door will always be open before the service starts and during the warm summer weather the door has been kept open during the service too, so that people passing on the pavement may see in and, in a sense, share in the worship. **And the congregation are asked not to linger in the entrance (Narthex) on arrival, so that the Welcome Team are free to greet everyone as they arrive.**

But the crucial point to grasp is that for very many people church isn’t a normative experience. In the past, Bishop John has tried to convey how bewildering going to church can be to some people by comparing it to his own experience of walking into a betting shop and not knowing what to do or where to go! But what is a ‘dead cert’. is that welcoming is something which St Michael’s takes very seriously.

\* for further information see <http://www.oxford.anglican.org> and search “autism”.

## God beyond church

That’s the title of our next Millennium Lecture, to be given by Sheila Cassidy on Thursday September 16.

Sheila Cassidy became internationally famous following her imprisonment and torture for treating a wounded revolutionary in Pinochet’s Chile. Her book *Audacity to Believe* was an international best-seller. She is currently writing *Confessions of a lapsed Catholic*.

Tickets - cost £10 (concessions £7), to include a glass of wine or juice - are available from the church office.

*Lifits can be arranged. Please phone Jo Harrington (763471).*

**Thursday September 16  
8 pm**

### Where are we going?

There’ll be an Open Forum, chaired by Hazel Miller, over coffee following the 10 am service on Sunday September 12. The subject will be introduced by Martin Elliston. Do stay and share your views if you possibly can.

### Bible Study Course

Alison Woodnutt’s course will run for an hour on four Tuesday mornings from September 14 – October 5. It will be based on passages from the Gospels, Acts and St Paul’s letters contrasted with Philip Pullman’s *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ*. Copies of the NT passages to be explored, together with the relevant Philip Pullman extracts, will be available in church a week before each session..

### Archdeacon to Preside and Preach

Our church is dedicated to St Michael and All Angels so Michaelmas Sunday (the Feast of St Michael and All Angels) is always an important date for us. This year it falls on September 26 and we are delighted that the Venerable Karen Gorham, the Archdeacon of Buckingham, will be presiding and preaching at our 10 am service.

As usual there will be a bring-and-share lunch that day. Please sign up on the list in church to say that you are coming and to indicate what food you will contribute.

**Sunday September 26**

# Hew Motion

## March 23 1940 – July 4 2010

We first met Hew when he came down from Scotland in 1977 to teach two of our children at the Beacon School. At the same time Hew and his first wife Ellen joined the St Michael's community. They soon started participating in the life of St Michael's, Hew serving a term on Amersham Deanery Synod and contributing to Foreign Office from its inception in the early 80's. Very sadly Ellen died of cancer in 1987 leaving Hew to bring up three young children on his own. Ellen's funeral service was one of the most moving in the life of St Michael's.

### Tuesday Club

Over the years Hew contributed widely to many of our activities, most notably as chairman of the Tuesday Club. When our founder, Barbara Payne, had to relinquish the running of the club eight years ago she said that Hew was the person to take it on and nobody would dispute how right she was. Who can forget the travel and wild life videos he showed at our Tuesday morning meetings? These came from his keen membership of St Michael's Video Club and won him several awards. To this and many other activities he brought an enthusiasm and dedication that was an example to all. Now the Tuesday Club has a new chairman in Peter Binns and Hew said how pleased he was that we had clearly found the right successor.

### Third World problems

Among other contributions to the life of St Michael's were his short addresses at the 10 am Sunday services. Always concise and to the point, full of information, they often dealt

with the problems of the third world, following on from his membership of CCOW (Christian Concern for One World) and WDM (World Development Movement).

How pleased we all were when Hew found happiness again in his marriage to Jenny in 1995 and the delight he took in the wider family he thus acquired. The wonderful memorial celebration in St Michael's on July 15 was attended by over 500 relatives and friends. Sadly it would have been Hew and Jenny's 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He and Jenny participated widely in the work of Pastoral Care particularly in 'Not One for Lunch' and in the Healing Team. Hew also served a term as churchwarden in 2001.

Just knowing Hew was a privilege in itself. To those lucky enough to work with him the memories will remain with us always.

David Beattie

### Chiltern Walk In aid of Brain Tumour UK Sunday October 3

The Walk will start from the Cock Inn, Church Lane, Sarratt at **2.30 pm sharp**. Entry fee - £5. Further information available from Kiki Connor (723561).

### Affirming Liberalism

A Day Conference, organised by Affirming Liberalism, will be held at Wellington College, Crowthorne on Saturday October 30, 10 am – 4 pm. Speakers will be Dr Peter Vardy and Canon Professor Keith Ward, both of whom have delivered Millennium Lectures at St Michael's.

Details are on the letters table. Speak to Diana if you would like to go with a group from St Michael's.

### Saturday October 30

## Our Persecuted Church family in Sri Lanka



The majority of Sri Lankans are Buddhists, with Christians making up 9% of the population. Christians suffer persecution at the hands of Hindus, Muslims and especially Buddhists, including attacks on church leaders and buildings.

Neil was one such pastor, shot dead on his doorstep in February 2008. His wife Shiromi was critically injured but survived along with her two year old son who is still severely traumatised. Despite great hardship Shiromi continues to preach and live the

gospel.

In May this year Sri Lanka experienced unprecedented monsoon rains, leading to massive flooding and devastation in an area inhabited by half the country's Christians, who were then denied aid given to other religious groups.

**Pray that Sri Lanka's Christians will remain firm in their faith despite so many hardships and attacks; and that the witness of their lives will draw others to our Saviour.**

## The Sacred in the Human

Jo Harrington reports on the stimulating Millennium Lecture *Communicating Across Divides* given by Harvey Gillman in June.

Abandoning his prepared text, Harvey Gillman set off with us on an adventure, to reflect on the idea of replenishing the soul in a holy place, where human beings love each other.

As a Manchester Jew, Harvey had travelled through Christianity to Buddhism and atheism, finally setting on the Quaker form of Christianity. "I have not ceased exploring" he said. "I am an explorer, trying to find the sacred in the human and the human in the sacred."

His search for truth, for "a sensitive awareness to how things may be", has no time for division. "Real communication takes place when there is an element of communion." People of love allow themselves to be a channel for prayer which has no words, which is "caught with a burst when I looked up to the sky."

The best words have minimum definition and maximum meaning, such as "love." The value of images such as music or the kissing of icons goes beyond words. Religion itself is a language in which individuals in community learn to express themselves and discover that they belong. What a pity that religious language also has a rich vocabulary of exclusion. What a blessing that religion itself is subverted by spirituality which speaks to the soul. The soul defies definition but Harvey knows when something speaks to it. Similarly, "I can't define love but I know when I am in love." What makes love real? The encounter of human beings beyond divides.

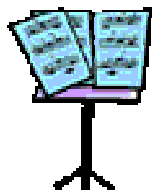
When we really listen, something of the divine is being

expressed. The Spirit of the incarnated God is in solidarity with human beings, in their lack of justice, in their suffering. Our holy place is the world, where the Word became life. It may be a silent Word, a whispered Word, but it has authenticity.

**We give thanks for the lives of  
Hew Motion  
Rose Lazaro  
Doris Drewett**

**We welcome in Baptism  
Robbie Mackay  
Alexander Lad**

**We celebrate the wedding of  
Steven Alderson & Linda  
Maruskova**



On Friday September 24 international harpist Robin Ward will be performing again at St. Michael's, as part of his 2010 tour. The programme, entitled *Music from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic Periods*, contains a wide variety of music from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, and will be different from last year's programme.

The concert starts at 7:30 pm and tickets are £8 for adults, £2 for young people under 18 and will be available from Brian Hall, or from the church office (726680).

Originally from New Zealand,



## Historic Churches Cycle Ride

David Rafferty (433269) will once again be taking part in this annual event and would welcome your sponsorship (in aid of the Historic Churches Trust and St Michael's).

St Michael's will this year be an official check-in point. Volunteers are needed, willing to give half an hour or an hour to signing in participants.

**Saturday September 11  
10 am – 6 pm**

## Harp Concert

**Friday September 24  
7.30 pm**

Robin is currently based in the United Kingdom. He is a unique musician, in that he both builds and plays his own instruments, and is one of only a handful of people in the world who play the Triple Harp. In February 2009 he released his first solo CD, *No Pedals Attached*.

The art of playing the Triple Harp is so rare that Robin had to start off by building his own instrument and ultimately teaching himself how to play it. He completed a Masters Degree in Baroque Harp in 2005, making him the first and only New Zealander to hold such a degree.



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## DIARY

**September 2010**

### Regular Weekly Activities

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>8 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
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.

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

### Other Activities in September

Wednesday	Sept	1	Extended Quiet Healing. Lady Chapel. 4 pm – 6 pm
Saturday	Sept	4	<i>Saturday Slot.</i> Lady Chapel. 3 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Summer party at the Gillott's. 12.30 pm <b>Living Water – a time of stillness. Lady Chapel. 6 pm</b>
Tuesday	Sept	7	Tuesday Club. Lady Chapel. 11.30 am LUNCH BREAK Recorded music (Shostokovitch) Free Church 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Sept	8	<i>Praise &amp; Play.</i> Lady Chapel. 10.30 am
Saturday	Sept	11	Historic Churches Cycle Ride.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. 2gether. Open Forum after 10 am service.</b> <b>Communion Service. Free Church. 6 pm</b>
Tuesday	Sept	14	Bible Study course. Lady Chapel 11.30 am LUNCH BREAK. Army Scripture Reader. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Sept	15	<i>Praise &amp; Play Plus.</i> Lady Chapel. 3.45 pm
Thursday	Sept	16	MILLENNIUM LECTURE. Sheila Cassidy. 8 pm
Saturday	Sept	18	Tuesday Club visit to Hackney.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. Healing offered at 8 am service.</b> <b>Junior Drama Group. Hall. 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm</b>
Monday	Sept	20	Not One for Lunch. Lady Chapel. 12.45 pm
Tuesday	Sept	21	Bible Study course. Lady Chapel 11.30 am LUNCH BREAK. Top of the Pops Hymns Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Sept	22	<i>Praise &amp; Play.</i> Lady Chapel. 10.30 am
Friday	Sept	24	HARP CONCERT. 7.30 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Michaelmas. Archdeacon of Buckingham presides at 10 am.</b> <b>Shared lunch in the Hall.</b>
Tuesday	Sept	28	Bible Study course. Lady Chapel 11.30 am LUNCH BREAK. Cally Foster poetry & prose. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Sept	29	<i>Praise &amp; Play Plus.</i> Lady Chapel. 3.45 pm

### Our next issue . . .

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