



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS — Parish Church of Amersham on the Hill

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER '25



Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

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(10 am—1 pm Monday—Wednesday & Friday)

Ministry Team

Vicar

The Revd. Debbie Oades

revdebbieoades@gmail.com



Associate Priest

Fr. Peter Binns

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Church Administrator & Safeguarding Officer

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St. Michael's 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 Ruth!



Hi everyone

I'm Ruth and I am currently involved in the discernment process for ordination. Just before the summer I went to a selection panel and they suggested that I would benefit from a further placement in a church of a different tradition and end of the Church of England to my current church and experience. So, over the next 3 months I will be attending and getting involved at St Michael's, mainly on a

Sunday and Tuesday, but with other services and activities aswell. The aim is to see and experience how you at St Michael's connect with God in a different way to what I am used to and hopefully take away a broader experience and engagement with God personally. So please do chat with me and share with me.

A little about me – I am married to Chris and we have 3 children, Hannah (17yrs), Timothy (15yrs), Benjamin (13yrs) and a labradoodle called Lily. In my spare time I like to do exercise classes, read and spend time with friends and family.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Vicar, PCC or the official policy of St. Michael's Church.

The Newsletter is published monthly
(with the exception of January and August).

Please email material for inclusion in the next issue to
communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk,
for the attention of Rebecca.

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St. Michael's Day Celebrations

Saturday, 4 October 2025

PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

10.00 OPENING MUSIC

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH ORGAN

Organist: Stephen Wilcox

10.15 MUSIC STUDENTS (NELUKA SENEVIRATNE)

10.30 LITTLE LEARNERS

11.00 –11.45 GEETANJALI ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (GAOFAL)

Hindustani Classical Music and vocals

from GAOFAL Performing Arts Conservatory

12.50 ANTARDHWANI Hindustani Classical Music

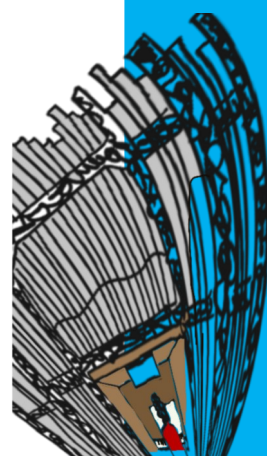
(Bansuri, Tabla and Vocals)

13.50 CLOSING MUSIC

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH ORGAN

There will also be activities organised by our "Pop in and Paint" group, and Karibuni Children, the charity which St. Michael's is supporting for our Harvest Appeal.

Light refreshments will be available and The Lady Chapel will be open for those who wish to place a prayer on our prayer tree, look at the Book of Remembrance (which is available to anyone within the community to record the passing of a loved one), or find out more about St. Michael's.



From the Editor...

October is going to be a busy month at St. Michael's, with the St. Michael's Day Celebrations on Saturday, 4 October, followed by Harvest Festival at the Gathered Round service at 10am on 12 October. Perhaps you could bring a tin of food with you to the Celebration day, to add to the Harvest goodies that will be given to the Chesham Food Bank.

The Harvest Appeal is well underway now. Please donate via the card reader in the Narthex or by using the QR code on one of the leaflets or posters, to Karibuni Children, a charity providing education in Kenya, if you can. Many of you heard Nigel Roberts talking about this charity, but if you didn't, please pick up one of the leaflets from the Narthex for more information.

Also in the Narthex you will find copies of the Mission Action Day document which discusses the recent meeting led by Asa, who was so impressed by what we are doing at St. Michael's that he has said he will be using our church as an example in other such meetings.

Rachel Wilcox has stepped into the role of Safeguarding Officer. Please contact the Church Office if you need to contact her.

Cont'd on pg4

On another note, the PCC has decided that St. Michael's will start working towards one of the A Rocha UK "Eco Church" awards, in the hope of achieving an award in our Diamond Jubilee year (2026). For more information on this programme, please see <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>. If you have any suggestions regarding this, or if you would like to lead on this in some way, please do contact Rachel in the church office.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who gives so much to make St. Michael's such a wonderful place to be a part of, including those who have kindly submitted articles and poems for this Newsletter.



ANTARDHWANI Hindustani Classical Music

Antardhwani, a non-profit setup, has been offering Hindustani Classical music lessons for the past 3-4 years at St. Michael's Church in Amersham. These weekend classes, available during school terms, cater to all ages & skill levels in Vocals, Tabla, and Bansuri. We also help prepare students for graded music exams to track their progress.

For more information, please contact Dev at antardhwani23@gmail.com

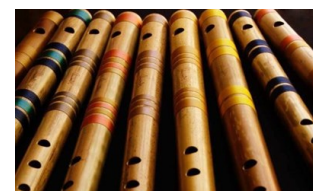
About Hindustani Classical Music

India has two classical music traditions, each having their own distinct characters, yet being closely connected: Hindustani (North Indian) and Carnatic (South Indian). These traditions trace their origins back to over 6,000 years ago, when Vedic chants evolved into a system of musical notes and rhythmic cycles. Hindustani classical music emphasizes improvisation within melodic frameworks called ragas and rhythmic cycles known as talas.

About the instruments

Tabla, a pair of small hand drums, is the principal percussion instrument in Hindustani classical music. The high-pitch small drum, and the lower-pitched bigger drum provide rhythmic support and embellishment enhancing the overall musical experience.

Bansuri is an ancient wind instrument, a transverse (side-blown) flute made from a single hollow shaft bamboo.



Growing up in a Vicarage by Andy Connor

What was it like to be a clergyman's son and grow up in a vicarage? That was the question put to me by our energetic editor after she had read a praiseworthy piece of journalism on this subject in the *Church Times* written by a 20-year-old vicar's daughter, just out of biblical studies at Edinburgh University. I also studied in Scotland and lived in a vicarage, but there the similarities cease!

The first memories I have of my vicarage life were when I was six and, with my Mum and Dad, we moved from a tiny flat in a large town to an enormous Victorian mansion in a small village. It had eight spacious bedrooms (four blocked off as an attic to save council tax), a grand lounge, a dining room, a book-lined study, a kitchen, a scullery and a pantry above a spooky cellar with access down steep steps only through a locked half door. The garden was over an acre deep with another acre alongside comprising an orchard with plum, cherry and apple trees. The house was approached by a steep drive, which gave access neither to ambulance (two attempts) nor fire engine (one attempt).



How magnificent you might think. However, there were drawbacks. There was no central heating and indeed there was no heating at all unless an ancient boiler in the kitchen was lit or individual open fireplaces in each room were prepared with paper, kindling and coal before matches and bellows got them started. We lived mainly in the kitchen where, on one wall, there was a long line of little bells looking down on us marked L (lounge), D (dining room) etc. In former times a bell would ring if a button was pushed anywhere in the house, thus summoning a servant. Originally the house had been built by the owner of the nearby cement factory, who had had many servants at his beck and call; he had subsequently built his family another mansion and donated this one to the church. My father's stipend was hardly sufficient to pay for coal and the only servant was my mother.

But for a child, it was a wonderland. The attic was reached by a rickety loft ladder and, once up there, the very top of the roof could be reached with an amazing view over fields and houses; away in the distance you could see the spires of Harrow on the Hill. In the other direction lay the wooded countryside of Buckinghamshire and the Chilterns.

Four levels below lay the cellar – long neglected. It was 3 foot deep in dank dark water throughout; it was sealed off from

me and my tiny friends to prevent us drowning but, of course, we did get in and explore. It was eventually drained out so that Mum and Dad could store apples and pears from the orchard; later on, they grew mushrooms in boxes in such quantities that they became part of our regular diet. I can still smell the soup pan simmering in the scullery!



The garden was a jungle when we first moved in. The grass of the “tennis court” was two feet high and the vegetable patch long unattended until Dad, with help from parishioners, got to work on it so that it became the main source of our vegetable supplies. Dad even managed to win second prize in the best marrow competition held annually in the village. Once the potatoes, sprouts, beans, cabbage, spinach and lettuce

were established pigeons became a threat to this food supply and prize money, so Dad borrowed his farmer church-warden’s shotgun to scare them off, sometimes permanently. I note that this gentleman is still Church Warden Emeritus today having just reached his centenary.

As I got older, I became chief grass cutter with a self-propelled Allen motor-mower, which could demolish bushes as well as long grass and almost anything else that got in its way! The tennis court was resurrected, not for tennis, but mainly football for Dad to referee and me and my mates to play there. However, there was a downside because after every match me and my mates were put to work by Dad cutting the undergrowth and weeding the vegetable patch.

The supply of mates began to diminish so I joined the Wolf Cubs, then the Boy Scouts, through which I established a bond with a great group of like-minded lads, many of whom I still see today. Dad was Chaplain to the Scouts and would ensure that we were present at church parade once a month. We had to assemble at the Village Hall and sort of march down the hill to the Church. There was competition from the Boys Brigade, who had bugles and drums and marched in step, but we had more fun.

Attempts to get me into the choir failed mainly because of alternative pursuits like football and rugby. Dad used to referee village football matches on occasions, weddings permitting, and it was alleged that he often wore his referee kit (not the boots) under his cassock while officiating at ceremonies so that, as soon as the marriage certificate was signed and handed to the bride (never to the groom), he would head for the football ground, whistle at the ready.

The Vicarage was a homely place despite the challenges of heating and upkeep. There was always something that needed fixing and Dad was hopeless at DIY. One particular parishioner handyman called Harry became a regular at the house – I’m sure he was unpaid or paid only with eggs, spinach and potatoes. He could fix anything having been a carpenter in the East End Docks before the container revolution. He taught me how to saw wood accurately: “Never let ye bottom stop ye” he would say when cutting two pieces of wood to join each other so that only the edge you saw needed to fit perfectly.

Home it was, and home it seemed to be to everyone passing by at all times. On one occasion a posh car drove up the drive and a well-dressed gentleman stepped out and strode over to my Dad, who was dressed in his shabby working clothes, and asked to see the Vicar, assuming he was talking to the gardener. Dad, as mischievous as ever, played along saying “I’ll see if he’s available” and went inside, put on his clerical collar and returned with a smile: “He’ll see you now”.

We were not a high church, but with triple pulpits and a stunning altar, we were not too low either: very C-of-E - somewhere in-between. Looking back, I can now see how much freedom my brother and I had, although he did not escape the choir! Mother Church did surround us both, but Mum and Dad didn’t let it restrain us. The connection remains today and I cherish it. Kiki and I have been able to find Christian fellowship and congregations to worship with in the different places we have lived, even abroad and, of course, here in Amersham.

Cuillin Mystery

And God said, ‘Let there be
Mountains of burnished grandeur,
Under whose shadows,
My sheep can muster.’

It pleased Him to see
This eerie range
Where mounds rise
 high and steep
Streams rush in
 gullies deep –
Sparkling silver gleams
Accentuating a mystery that
Round them
 brooded long.

From grey-massed clouds
Sunlight peeps,
Illuminating purples, moss-greens
Reds, staining scraggy moleskin pelts,
Draping ancient shoulders,
Till slanting rain comes in
Drifting
 Mists of Gold.

All, all becomes a joyful
Paeon of Praise
To a Benevolent Father
Who, for our enjoyment,
Endows Nature with
 such magic –
Arousing awe and wonder,
Across each Season’s watching –
 may it never end.

Janet Gibbs

Eucharists:

Sundays 8.30am and 10am
(Gathered Round on the second Sunday of each month is especially designed for families)

Tuesdays 10.30am

Morning Prayer:

Tuesdays 9am in the Lady Chapel.

Messy Church: 18 October '25

(The third Saturday each month 11.30am—1pm, EXCEPT AUGUST)

St. Michael's is usually open to **ALL** for private prayer from 10am—4pm Mon—Fri.

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>, will access live-streamed services.

WORSHIP

WARDENS

5 Oct	Alan Bacon
12 Oct	Claire O'Beirne
19 Oct	Roger Leslie
26 Oct	Andy Connor

Please see:

stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— 2 October — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
Tea, Coffee and Support

POP IN & PAINT— 3 October —10.30am-12.15pm, St. Michael's, Main Church
Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB—3 October —2pm-4pm, St. Michael's, Wheeler Room

MR HOLMES: Academy award nominee Ian McKellen, takes on the iconic role of Detective Sherlock Holmes.
Running Time: 1hr. 40mins.

A CRAFTY CUPPA—10 & 24 October — 10.30am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company. Feel free to bring a craft with you.

LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church Every Tuesday – 12noon-2pm
Tea, coffee and soup available **1.10pm-1.30pm** Music, a talk, or a short service.

FRIDAY LUNCH FORUM – Friday, 17 October – from 12.15p.m. – Amersham Free Church.
Bring a packed lunch. A talk starts at 1p.m. Tea/coffee/water provided.
Suggested donation £3-£5 to cover the cost of speakers.

Mondays **Mature Movers** 1.45pm-2.45pm
Stay Steady, Stay Strong 3pm-4pm (Tel: 07951 294178)
Amersham Dance Studio Children from 3+. 4pm-10pm
(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Tuesdays **Tuffney Performing Arts Academy** 5pm-6pm
(Email: office@tuffney.com)
Yoga with Shiv 5pm—7pm (Glover Rm) (Science based approach, open to all. Tel: 07815132157)
Amersham A Capella 7pm-11pm (<https://www.amershamacappella.com/>)

Wednesdays **Karate Club** 6.30pm-8pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)
Badminton Club 8.15pm-10.15 pm (Tel: 01923 264791)

Thursdays **Badminton** 1.30pm-3.30pm
Amersham Dance Studio Children from 3+. 4pm-7pm
(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Fridays **Stay Steady, Stay Strong** 1.30pm-3.45pm (Tel: 07951 294178)

Please see stmichaelsamersham.org.uk if you would like to book the hall.

For information about **Little Learners Nursery** please see <https://littlelearnersamersham.co.uk>

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE HALL

Saturday, 18 Oct, Messy Church will be on in St. Michael's from 11.30am to 1pm. Fun activities followed by a short interactive session about the story behind the activities, and lunch, which is provided for all. No need to book, just turn up. All welcome. This activity is free but donations are welcome to cover costs.



Weddings, Baptisms and Deaths:

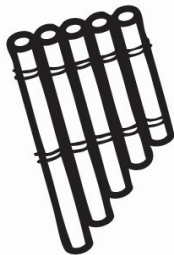
On 26th October we will welcome Ted Lathwell for baptism

DIARY OCTOBER '25



Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*



Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!

P	K	G	C	Y	M	B	A	L	S	A
O	L	R	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	B
W	T	E	M	P	L	E	T	U	A	R
E	T	A	M	B	O	U	R	I	N	E
R	H	T	L	U	T	E	U	A	C	A
D	A	N	C	I	N	G	M	P	T	T
R	R	E	P	I	P	E	P	R	U	H
U	P	S	F	L	U	T	E	A	A	H
M	D	S	G	O	D	E	T	I	R	O
S	T	S	T	R	I	N	G	S	Y	R
O	Y	L	E	D	L	Y	R	E	Y	N

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD