



Easter Services 2025

St Michael & All Angels Church - Church of England, Inclusive Church

Ash Wednesday - 5 March, 10.30am & 7pm

Palm Sunday - 13 April, 8.30am & 10am

Maundy Thursday - 17 April, 8pm

(Includes washing of feet)

Good Friday - 18 April, 10am

& St Michael's Square at 11.30am

Holy Saturday - 19 April, Service of Light, 8pm

Easter Day - 20 April, 8.30am & 10am



All Welcome

St Michael & All Angels Church, Amersham, HP6 5DR. Tel: 01494 726680



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

NEWSLETTER APRIL '25

Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

70 Sycamore Road
Amersham HP6 5DR

Church Office: 01494 726680
Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

(10 am—12.30 pm Monday—Friday)



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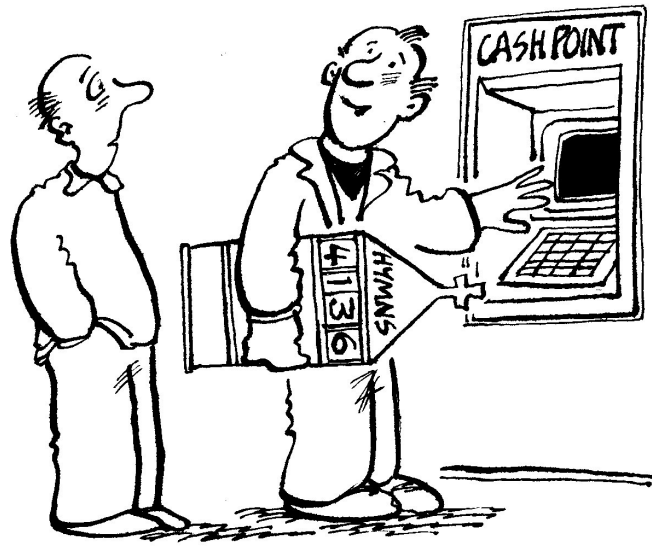


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*...between you and me, it's the
only way I can remember my PIN number!*

Lent Appeal: This year the St Michael's Lent Appeal is, once again, the **Friends of St. Anne's Hospital, Liuli, Tanzania**. More can be found about them on the charity's website <https://friends-of-st-annes.com/>. For reasons given in our March Newsletter, this will be the last time that this charity will be our chosen charity. Please give generously either through the card reader in the Narthex (to which gift aid is added), by cash or by cheque made out to "Friends of St. Anne's Hospital", placed in the envelopes in the Narthex with gift aid forms."

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.*

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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From the Editor... During Lent a group from St Michael's have been discussing the role of women during the Easter period, based on the book *Women of Holy Week* by Paula Gooder. The book consists of nine short stories, some based on real characters, others fictional, all grounded in Biblical text. If you have time on your hands and fancy a challenge, perhaps you could take a part of the Easter narrative, or another part of the Bible if you prefer, and spend some time imagining what you would see, hear, smell, what you think about what you are observing and how you would react. If you do this and happen to write down the story you create, please do submit it for inclusion in a future newsletter.

There is a lot to work with, from the fellowship of the disciples, to their division, tears, wonder, confusion—I could go on. Within the short time scale of Easter the whole range of humanity's virtues and failures are highlighted.

Of course, the Lent group is not the only thing that has been happening at St Michael's... Happy reading, **Rebecca**

Thank You

By Rebecca Olsen

A great evening was had by all receiving awards for volunteering from Countess Howe, Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, and Elizabeth Shepherd, Deputy Mayor of Amersham. Of course, neither the Messy Church team nor the Pop in and Paint team are involved in volunteering for recognition, but they were happy to attend the ceremony to draw attention to these incredible activities that take place within St Michael's.

As each team collected their award, Dominic Pinkney, Mayor of Amersham, read out the following:

'Messy Church is a welcoming space that invites parents and carers and their children to connect with each other and others through fun activities, talking, singing, and eating together. All are welcome to attend these inclusive sessions. This is a safe space in which we aim to allow the love of God in Christ to speak for itself through the love and kindness this group offers the community. Entrance is free, but for those who can, donations are welcomed. Messy Church is run by this dedicated team of volunteers, who have all completed a safeguarding course, lead by Cathy Franklin.'

'Pop in & Paint was started in 2012 at St Michael's Church by Jenny & Liz. It is a self funded group which is held monthly & they welcome anyone who would like to draw, paint & be creative in a supportive & encouraging environment. As well as enjoying the painting many friendships have been forged. All materials are provided & entrance is free, although voluntary donations are made towards refreshments, this is then used to replenish the art stocks when needed. Jenny & Liz are dedicated volunteers who run this popular community initiative.'

Of course, these are just two of the activities run by volunteers that take place at St Michael's, all of which are equally deserving of recognition. I started writing a list, but there are so many people doing different things around the church I feel bound to miss someone out. So to all those who volunteer within the church in any capacity, you know who you are, thank you.

Photos on pg. 6



Promise

This Easter Morn
My orchid leaps ahead, her
Buds flying free above
Twisting roots, that once

Dangled in humid jungles.
The promise she extends
Along her slender stem,
Like Jesus' invitation

From the cross – as He
Shows us how to travel –
Our Spirits all
A-fire with love, along

The tremulous branch
Of Hope, so that our
Elegant blossoms,
Can blush and

Bloom – without
Fear, far, far,
Beyond
The snapping jaws of death.

Janet Gibbs

From the Pain of Lent to the Glory of Easter

A CHASM OF SILENCE, A BOTTOMLESS ABYSS

By Patryk P.J

A chasm of silence, a bottomless abyss,
Where the sun never rises, and eternal night prevails.
Where words fail, and the echo is dead,
Tears like lifeless rain, that never cease to fall.
Dreams, driven by the wind, fall silently,
Like dried leaves that vanish in the darkness.
Love, which once warmed the heart,
Extinguished, like a candle blown out in an empty room.
Time does not exist to soothe the pain,
To turn sorrow into something that doesn't exist.
Only the bottomless void remains,
Where hope perishes, abandoned forever.



DON'T YOU SEE?

By Joy Tobler

Don't you see?
The marks are still here
but the nails are gone.

Don't you see?
The crown is still here
but the thorns are gone

Don't you see?
The robe is still here
but the homespun is gone

Don't you see?
The Crucified is now the Crowned.
The Broken is now the Beautiful.
The Gashed is now the Glorious.
The Risen is now the Resplendent.
The Ascended is now the Enthroned

The Man who was God is now
the God who was Man.

Don't you see?

Good Friday – a chance to reflect

By Rachel Wilcox

At St Michael's, our Good Friday service each year includes a period of reflection, focusing on different aspects of Christ's Passion, through art, music and words. We are very blessed in having talented people here to create something new each time, to enrich our worship but also to challenge us.

"Another day, another crucifixion. I was not to know that at its close, I would be a different man, my heart changed forever."

This year, Janet Lynch has written three reflections for us from the point of view of key bystanders: the Roman centurion, Mary the mother of Jesus, and John the beloved disciple. We will hear what they might have been thinking, how they might have reacted, and have our chance to ponder what we might have felt in their place.

"He was my best Friend. Now he is gone. So dear and so loved. My heart is broken."

"Slowly, so slowly my Son is taken down from the cross, the nails eased from his hands and feet, thorny crown cast aside."

Good Friday service, 10am April 18th, St Michael & All Angels

Life is full of surprises

By Dinah Reed

Life is full of surprises! But nothing prepared me for the surprises that 2024 brought me.

At the time I was living in Norfolk and, at the end of March, I travelled to Amersham to look after my three grandsons while their parents were at work. The day before the day I was booked in for childcare, I had a shock. I was physically unable to walk up the hill from Old Amersham to Amersham on the Hill. I felt breathless.

As it happened, being in Amersham saved my life. I saw a GP at Great Missenden hospital and an ultrasound doctor diagnosed a sarcoma 15cm in width. The GP contacted my home GP in Norfolk and I was referred straightaway to the Royal Marsden. They operated on May 7th by which time the tumour was 26 cm in width and weighed two and a half kilos. I lost a kidney and half my bowel and other 'bits and bobs'. My son offered me the annex of his house to recuperate in and I moved in for good in December.

Why is any of this remarkable? Liposarcomas are very rare and yet it was swiftly diagnosed. That diagnosis saved my life. The skill of the surgeons saved my life. The love and care of my family supported me through it all and saved my life. What better demonstration could there be of God's love for me than the miraculous coming together of such events!

So now, I live in Amersham and have been made so welcome by the Tuesday congregation at St Michael's. For me, I am reliving my past as I was brought up at South Heath and went to Dr Challoner's, Amersham when it was mixed. While I contemplate a happy past, I am mindful that my future may well be short. Quarterly scans check on any reoccurrence of cancer.

Having had some cancer support on-line, I have been seeking a local support group and have not found one. I have decided to set up a group to help others like me who live with the uncertainty that cancer brings. Revd. Debbie suggested I might use a room at St Michael's and Rachel and Rebecca have smoothed the way in the setting up of the group. A new friend, Barbara, gives me courage!

I am pleased to say that the first meeting of Amersham's Cancer Support Group will be on Thursday, 3 April, 10 'till 12 in the Wheeler Room at St Michael's. Coffee, tea and chat will be available, and I do hope you will encourage anyone whose life is affected by a cancer diagnosis to come along. Shared experiences and encouraging words can make all the difference to those going through diagnosis, treatment and radical life-changes that cancer brings.

For me, out of darkness and despair came hope and evidence of God's light in the world.

'The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27 v.1)

You Are Invited To

AMERSHAM CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

10 AM TO 12 NOON

1ST THURSDAY OF
MONTH STARTING
THURSDAY 3RD
APRIL

TEA | COFFEE | CHAT
DROP IN

St Michael's Church (Wheeler
Room through the church)
Amersham HP6 5DR

NEW

John 8:12 (NIV): "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

AMERSHAM VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2025

The Messy Church Team at St Michael's Church



AMERSHAM VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2025

Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos
Pop in and Paint- St Michael's Church



Foot-Washing By Roland Gillott

Normally at St Michael's there is an opportunity for foot-washing at the evening service on Maundy Thursday.

In a book which includes a chapter referring to Christ's feet, and the wounds which they received on the cross (*'Healing Wounds'* by Erik Varden, a Norwegian Catholic prelate, spiritual writer and Trappist monk who is currently Bishop of Trondheim), there is reference to a book by a chiropodist (Katja Oskamp) subtitled: *'Confessions of a Chiropodist'*. There "the writer reveals an interesting fact: all her patients (she insists this is a rule without exception) ask, when they first turn up, forgiveness for their feet - for the general state of them, their shape, their relative smallness or largeness."

Erik Varden comments that most of us, it seems, are ashamed of our feet. He goes on to say that perhaps that explains why so many people are reluctant to take part in the foot-washing on Maundy Thursday.

However he suggests that this "sheds light, too, on what went on that night, long ago, in the Upper Room. When Jesus took the feet of the Twelve, one by one, into his hands it was to say 'I know you as you are, I love you as you are.' It was an experience none of them was able to forget."

Photos from the Amersham Volunteer Awards 2025



Shrove Tuesday at Pizza Express 2025

Eucharists:

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

Tuesdays 10.30am

Easter Services: Please see the cover page.

Morning Prayer:

Tuesdays 9am in the Lady Chapel.

Messy Church: 19 April '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 (most 10am Sunday services are streamed, except the Gathered Round service on the second Sunday of each month)

WORSHIP

WARDENS

6 April Roger Leslie
13 April Claire Sinclair
17 April Roger Leslie (8 pm)
18 April Alan Bacon (10 am)
Roland Gillott (11:30 am)
19 April Roland Gillott (8 pm)
20 April Roland Gillott
27 April Andy Connor

Please see:
stmichaelsamersham.org.uk
for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3 April— 10am-12 noon—St Michael's, Wheeler Room

A drop in session with tea, coffee and chat

POP IN & PAINT— 4 April —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— 4 April —2pm-4pm—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room

THE MIRACLE CLUB Starring Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates. Winning a pilgrimage to Lourdes seems like an answer to prayer. However deep wounds from the past are re-opened and bitter truths exposed. 1hr. 26mins.

A CRAFTY CUPPA—11 & 25 April— 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.

Mondays **Tiny Talk—Baby Signing** 10.30am (Tel: 07809 157 428)

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)

Tuffney Performing Arts Academy 4.45pm-5.45pm

Thursdays **Badminton** 1.30pm-3.30pm

Amersham Dance Studio Children from 3+. 4pm-7pm

(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Saturdays **Popstars Academy** 9.30am-12pm (email: hazel@popstarsacademy.com)

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, 19 April, 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.

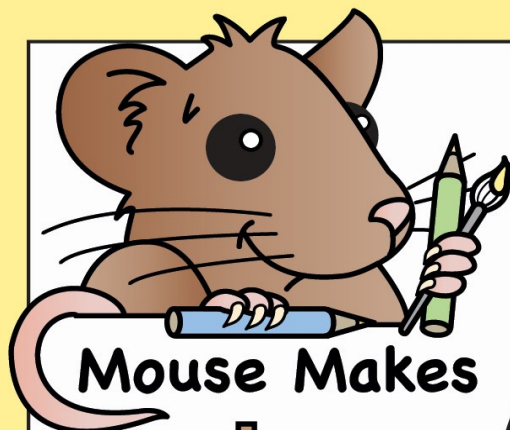


Weddings, Births, and Deaths:

RIP

David Redpath

DIARY APRIL '25



Mouse Makes



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and 21:1-14

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



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE
GO TELL • EASTER

