

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Saturday 16 December
Messy Church - 11.30am-1pm
Nine Lessons & Carols - 5pm

Sunday 17 December
Advent 3
Eucharists - 8.30am & 10am

Saturday 23 December
Family Crib Service - 4pm

Sunday 24 December
Christmas Eve & Advent 4
Eucharists - 8.30am & 10am
Sung Christmas Mass - 8pm

Monday 25 December
Christmas Day
Said Eucharist - 8.30am
Christmas Mass & Carols - 10am

Sunday 7 January
Epiphany
Eucharists - 8.30am & 10am

Sunday 28 January
Candlemas
Eucharists - 8.30am & 4pm



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

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

NEWSLETTER

DEC '23/JAN '24



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—1 pm Monday—Wednesday & Friday)

Ministry Team

Vicar

The Revd. Debbie Oades

revdebbieoades@gmail.com



Associate Priest

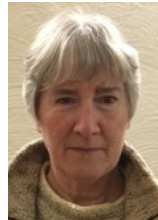
Fr. Peter Binns

peter.binns166@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Katherine Hyde

LLM@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



Churchwardens

Roger Leslie

rogerleslie25@gmail.com



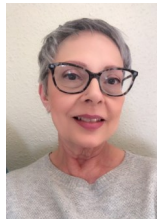
Roland Gillott.

roland.gillott@btinternet.com

Safeguarding Officer

Cathy Franklin

cathy.stmichaels@outlook.com



Communications Officer

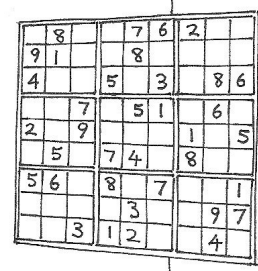
Rebecca Olsen

communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



Saturday, 16 December and 20 January, Messy Church will be on in St. Michael's from 11.30am to 1pm, including lunch, which is provided for all.

In December the focus is on Christmas. Activities will include making nativity crowns, Christmas tree garlands, nativity wreaths, star baubles, Christmas cards, and snowballs (with rice crispies!). No need to book. All welcome. Just turn up. This activity is free but donations are welcome.



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

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).

The next issue will appear on Thursday, 1 February. Please email material for inclusion to communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk, for the attention of Rebecca, by 15 January.

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December marks the beginning of the new Church calendar. This issue of the newsletter very much reflects this as we welcome Katherine Hyde once again, this time as a fully Licensed Lay Minister, and we look with fresh eyes at how we can support charities, and the new beginnings they offer the people they help. Sadly, alongside new beginnings there are often goodbyes, and after thirty three years of welcoming the Beehive Montessori into St. Michael's Church Hall we say goodbye and wish Lyndsey Nelson and her staff well in their future endeavours.

Radio Christmas is back in Amersham this year, and from Monday 4 December at 7.20am a thought of the day will be offered by various people from local churches. Joy Johns, from St. Michael's, has kindly agreed to speak. You will be able to catch her on 11 December; tune in early to avoid missing out! There are various ways to access Radio Christmas; to find out more go online at <https://radiochristmas.co.uk/>.

Whatever you are doing this Christmas, remember to keep Christ at the centre of the festivities! **From The Editor**

Welcome to Katherine Hyde, our new Licensed Lay Minister By Roland Gillott

Katherine Hyde, who has been with us at St Michael's since the end of August, was licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) at a Licensing Service at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on Saturday 4 November, 2023. The service was led by the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Revd. Gavin Collins. Katherine was presented to Bishop Gavin by Archdeaconry Advisor Peter Flory, and supported for the Parish, on behalf of Revd. Debbie, by Fr. Peter Binns. Katherine was also supported at the service by Robin, her husband, by her immediate and wider families and by friends.

The following day, All Souls Day, Katherine preached at both the 8:30am and the 10am Eucharists, and there was a drinks celebration for her after the latter service.

Before her licensing, Revd. Debbie agreed with Katherine that she would not be involved in St. Michael's work on Mondays and Wednesdays, so please leave her in peace on those days. Potentially a good time to catch her around St Michael's may be on Tuesday mornings, and she has taken on *A Crafty Cuppa* on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, which she is very much enjoying.

Katherine will also be leading the Advent Course (based on the book: *Stick with Love* by Arun Arora) on Zoom on Tuesday evenings: 28 November, 5 December and 12 December. Details of how to access the course are available from the Church Office.



Wycombe Homeless Connection



By Heather Stanley

Wycombe Homeless Connection's vision is to see South Buckinghamshire transformed into a place where no one is homeless and that there is suitable housing and housing security for all – because we believe that is what God wants for our community.

We believe that every single person who is homeless, or in fear of losing their home, has worth, is loved by God, and should be given help and hope and a home, no matter what their situation.

Our first winter night shelter opened in Wycombe in 2008, and immediately people who were sleeping rough had a safe, warm place to stay and could be helped to find a home for good. Since then we have opened a support centre in the town, started a homelessness prevention service and in the last few years, including during the pandemic, we have stretched across the county to areas where we are needed most. Our homelessness help drop-in in Chesham has been running since 2019 and one in six of the people we help come from the town.

We serve people like Tony, who came to our door cold and hungry, having slept on the streets for a number of nights.

Struggling with his mental health and addiction, he had been sleeping on the sofa at a family member's house, but relations had broken down and he was left with no choice but to leave. He didn't know what to do or who to turn to, but a local resident who saw him sleeping rough suggested he

come to our door.

Within minutes of arriving, Tony was given hot food and warm clothes. We organised emergency accommodation so he was safe that night.

We then began working with him to find longer term solutions. We helped Tony register with a GP and access other support including regular parcels from a local foodbank; we connected him to local addiction support services and helped him apply for the benefits he was entitled to.

Tony's story isn't over yet, and whatever it takes we want our door to be open to more people like Tony this winter.

How do we do this? Only with the support, prayers and help of God and our community.

We provide a range of free services, to help people who are homeless as well as to help people avoid homelessness, including emergency accommodation.

Our support centre and homelessness helpline is open every weekday so people can get wide ranging help and advice. We provide additional accommodation in the winter and drop-in sessions where people can get food, a shower, laundry and companionship and hope.

At our housing legal advice clinic people facing a housing crisis can get specialist support to avoid illegal and unfair eviction and assistance to negotiate with their landlords and housing providers. We help people fight unfair and illegal evictions, to talk with their landlords and housing providers and we help people understand their rights, and can accompany them to court. In fact just last week we helped six people at court hearings and all six cases were decided in favour of our clients – everyone

got to stay in their home or were given breathing room to find a better option than being made homeless!

How can your fellowship help people who are homeless or facing homelessness in Amersham?

Pray: Please pray for the people we serve, our staff and volunteers and that God continues to bless us with the resources we need to do God's work. Please pray for Tony and the hundreds of people who we meet or come to us every year for help to find and keep a home.

Tell: We would love for you to tell people we are here for them if they are in a housing crisis. Word of mouth, personal connection, is by far the most effective way of making sure people know what we do and through your ministries we are sure you will know and meet people who could benefit from our help.

Sleepout: Our Big Sleepout will be on Saturday 2nd March 2024 and we need people to join us at Adams Park football stadium, in Wycombe, to sleepout 'at home' or host their own mini-Sleepout at a Guide or Scout hut, at church, in the school or work playground or somewhere similar. Not only will you raise much needed money but you will act in solidarity with the people we serve. You can find out more on our website.

Thank you for all you do and have already done for the people we serve.

www.wyhoc.org.uk



Cards for Good Causes By Laura Evans

Cards for Good Causes are delighted to announce that their pop-up shop has returned to St. Michael's this year! With beautiful greeting cards, advent calendars and gifts galore, a visit to the Amersham Cards for Good Causes shop helps to raise much needed vital funds for all of our charities. We also have wrapping paper, gift bags and tags that both help you get ready for the festive season and help support all our charities. We are so thankful to the local community that supports us and our charities by coming back year after year.

As the UK's largest multi-charity Christmas card organisation, Cards for Good Causes has opened shops around the UK each year since 1959, raising over £40 million for local and national charities in the last decade alone. Charities that will be supported by the money



raised this year include a new addition of the Terrence Higgins Trust, as well as Cancer Research UK, Samaritans, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Shelter, Dementia UK, and Mind as well as many more national charities.

The Amersham shop is also proud to support local charity Thames Valley Air Ambulance by stocking their Christmas cards. See if you can spot the air ambulance that features on some of their designs! We also have cards that support the RNLI Lifeboats charity with many delightful Christmas and sea

themed designs.

We aim to source a range of quality, environmentally friendly, ethically-sourced products. Our cards and envelopes are recyclable, glitter- and plastic-free, as well as being FSC certified. We also ensure that our cards are produced in the UK, and our providers have sustainable credentials too.

Please do pop in to see us in St. Michael's on Sycamore Road sometime soon. We would be so happy to see you and welcome you to the shop. With a whole range of charity cards on display, we feel certain that you will find designs you love and that you will enjoy sending on to your loved ones this Christmas.

Cards for Good Causes is open daily until 22 December. 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday (16 December 2pm-4pm), and Sundays 11.30am-4pm.

The Heart of the Beehive by Michela Homer

Once upon a time, a young student fresh out of Montessori training joined a small Montessori childcare centre in St. Michael's Church Hall, Amersham. As an eighteen-year-old, she was terrified of not meeting the expectations of this school, called the Beehive, which was run by an amazing lady called Lyndsey Nelson. From day one, she noticed that children were treated with warmth and respect as they came into the school, shaking a teacher's hand and saying, "good morning!" Children then came into the school and were given the freedom of choice to choose their own learning. It felt peaceful and calm and I don't think parents really knew the amount of work that went into setting that space up every day, and ensuring teachers were ready and prepared to provide the best of themselves every day.

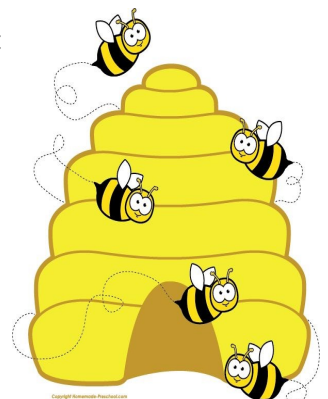
Lyndsey worked tirelessly to make sure the learning materials were beautiful, well presented and always exciting. Whenever she went anywhere, she bought things for the children and the centre. She had this fundamental belief that children are wonderful, curious learners and a regular part of the curriculum was going out for walks in nature, way before this was even popular.

As you can imagine, this young teacher was in awe of Lyndsey. She was allowed to grow and develop and explore her teaching. Every day was filled with laughter, fun and enjoyment. Lyndsey knew her staff well, and had a wonderful sense of humour, bringing out the best in each of them. By the time this young person left the Beehive, not only was she a better teacher, but she'd also developed a

rich friendship with an incredible lady that will forever stay in her heart.

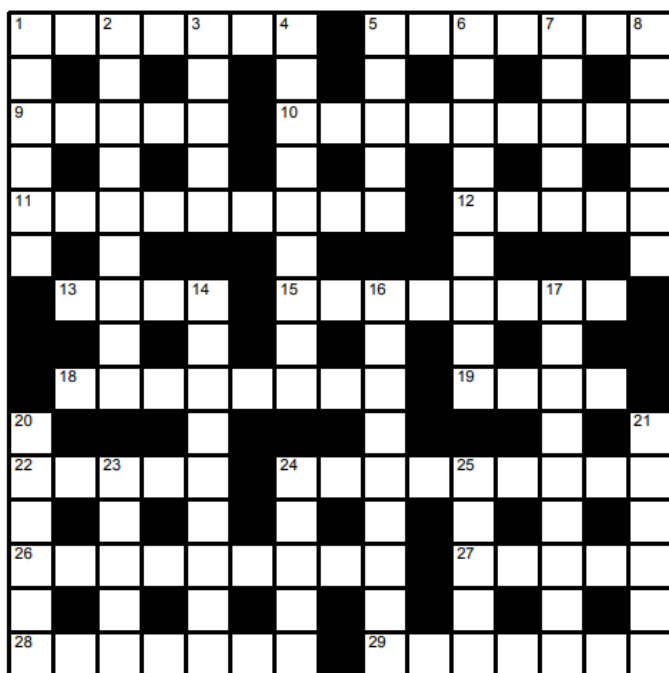
Now, as we hear that the Beehive is closing its doors, she (and many others) can't help but feel sad that such a unique special place and part of the community will be lost. Lyndsey, truly touched and enriched the lives of many many children, parents and colleagues, and the stories we shared glued the foundations of my teaching, for which I'm forever grateful.

This little centre in the heart of the community may be gone but will forever stay in the hearts of those who loved it.



Crossword Puzzle (VII)

Answers in the January edition



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Across

- 1 Wife of Isaac (7)
- 5 Resplendencies (7)
- 9 Stories (5)
- 10 Judges, elders, tax collectors, for example (9)
- 11 Catastrophies (9)
- 12 Father of Ahiam (5)
- 13 Hades (4)
- 15 Eunuch from here was baptised by Philip (8)
- 18 A sound of joy (8)
- 19 Vessel (4)
- 22 Up on high (5)
- 24 First meal of the day (9)
- 26 Hard (9)
- 27 Solomon made a throne out of this (5)
- 28 Furious (7)
- 29 Decorated (7)

Down

- 1 Repair (6)
- 2 David committed adultery with her (9)
- 3 Barrels (5)
- 4 Propitiation (9)
- 5 Jesus was given three as a child (5)
- 6 Times (9)
- 7 Father of Esau and Jacob (5)
- 8 Killed by Jael (6)
- 14 Heavenly flash (9)
- 16 Reaped (9)
- 17 Copycats (9)
- 20 Horse rider's seat (6)
- 21 Remained (6)
- 23 Tender (5)
- 24 Tied (5)
- 25 Abraham was going to kill his son with this (5)

Cut along the line and use the poem in your Bible as a bookmark



Christmas Tidings

On wings of Light He came, to *nestle*
In a crib, a bed of straw, a humble
Stable – His *gentle* Mother
Watching.

Ox and Ass stamp, their breath
Steaming on the *Midnight* air;
A sheet wraps Him round –
Simple clothing.

Curious shepherds on their watch
Dazzled by an Angel's prompting,
Set off to find this miracle, this
New-Born King.

On *rolling* camels, other Kings
Of more *Exotic* stamp
appear, their *golden* capes
A-gleam, *reverently*

Bearing *gifts* of frankincense and
Myrrh, to rouse the senses.
No-one could foresee this child's
Wise *Kingship*, years ahead.

Not shaped by palaces, jewels
Or fawning courtiers but *gilded*
By a message far *Sublime*, of loving
Neighbours, (as oneself!),

With *kindness* and respect. That's all.
This *Christmas*, let tidings of Joy
Shine out across our streets
And homes –

So we can show our *King*, that
Like a sparkling jewel,
His *Gift of Love*, in chalice Hearts,
Embedded deep, *forever* lies.

By Janet Gibbs (also known as Janet Lynch)

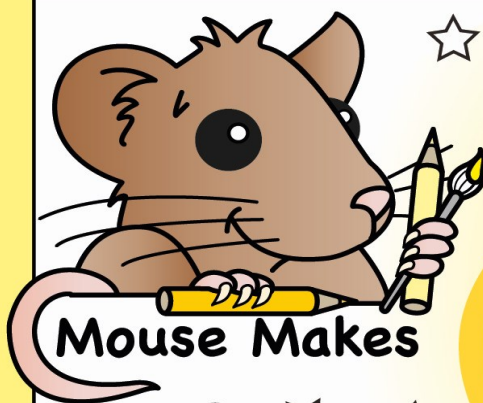
'CHOIRS AT ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS' - Saturday, 9 December - 10.30am to 2.30pm - **Choirs, Coffee & Cake.** An informal family friendly event with local Choirs, The Heather-ton Singers, Amersham Rock Choir, Chilterns Jukebox Singers and The Knights of Harmony, singing in the Church, in separate 45 minute performances. Entry is free, with donations requested for Wycombe Homeless Connection. There Refreshments will be available. Well worth popping in, for as long as you wish, for Choirs, Coffee and Cake.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST MICHAEL'S

Raising funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection. From Saturday 2nd December and running up to the end of Christmas Eve. This year we have 28 illuminated Christmas Trees, inside and outside the Church, sponsored and inspiringly decorated local Community Groups. Well worth dropping in any day between 10am and 4pm Free entry, with donations requested for **Wycombe Homeless Connection.**



7



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

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

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE