

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

FEBRUARY '25

NEWSLETTER



Trees from the 2024 Christmas Tree Festival for Wycombe Homeless Connection

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

katherine_hyde@yahoo.co.uk



Church Administrator

Rachel Wilcox

office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

Churchwardens

Roger Leslie

rogerleslie25@gmail.com



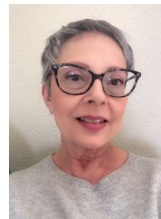
Roland Gillott.

roland.gillott@btinternet.com

Safeguarding Officer

Cathy Franklin

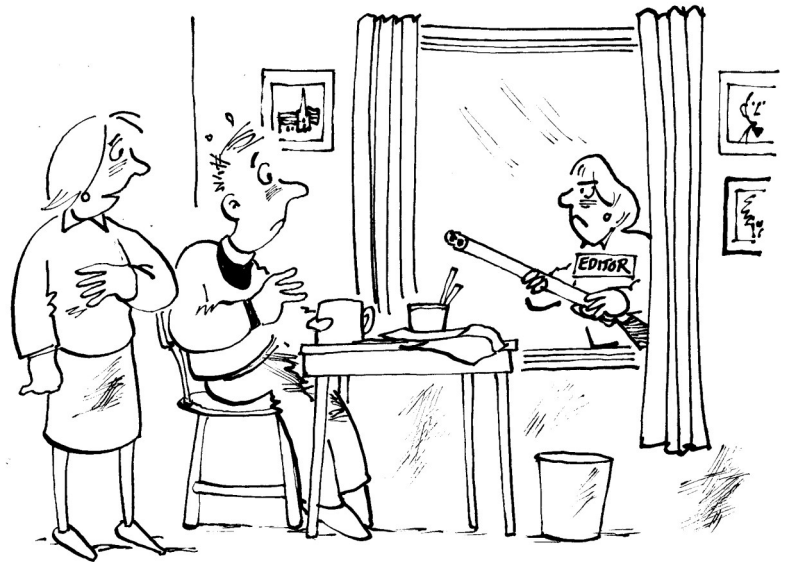
cathy.stmichaels@outlook.com



Communications Officer

Rebecca Olsen

communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?

****2025 ELECTORAL ROLL REVIEW****

The big 6 yearly review of the Roll is happening! Everyone currently on the Roll must reapply in order to be included! Emails with links to the new form will be sent out to everyone on the current Roll and forms will be sent to those not on e-mail and available to those who would prefer to apply offline.

NOT ON THE ROLL BUT WOULD LIKE TO ENROL? Please speak to myself or Rachel via the Church Office (email: office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk or Tel: [01494 726680](tel:01494726680)) with your contact details and we will get a form to you.

Chris Leslie
Electoral Roll Officer

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, by 23 January 2025.

In this issue...

In this issue...	Page
Who's Who at St. Michael's	2
From the editor	3
Jo Harrington on Hazel's leaving do	3
A big thank you from Wycombe Homeless Connection	4
Choirs, Coffee and Cake	5
Advent Prayer Swap	5
A look back at the past 10 years as Church Administrator	6
Diary	7
Kids Page	8

From the Editor... It's been a busy January at St Michael's. We've welcomed Rachel Wilcox as the new Church Administrator and as a consequence the office is undergoing several inspired changes.

If you've been into the church recently you will not have failed to notice the paper plate doves (representing the Holy Spirit) that have descended on St Michael's. These were created by members of the congregation during the January Gathered Round Service to celebrate the Baptism of Christ. On one wing is the name of the person who made the dove and on the other is the approximate date they were baptised. The youngest person to be baptised who was at the service, was baptised in 2024 and the oldest—well, I wouldn't like to say!

Then, on Sunday, 19 January, we all bundled over to the Amersham Free Church for a COTHA United Service, during which we were reminded in one of the hymns how we walk together on the road we follow towards God:

We are pilgrims on a journey, and

companions on the road; we are here to help each other walk a mile and bear the load.

It's lovely to remember that we are not alone on this journey.

The theme of unity continued on from the Messy Church activities the day before, during which the children and their adults painted, coloured, created with clay and pipe cleaners an array of crosses before talking about how we are united in God's love, and sitting down to eat together.

Coming up, on Sunday, 2 February, we will celebrate Candlemas together at 4pm and so there will not be any service at 10am that day.

The **LENT COURSE will take place on Wednesday, 12, 19 & 26 March at 7P.M. on Zoom.** This year Lent will run from Ash Wednesday on March 5th. to Good Friday on April 18th. We are proposing to study another book by Paula Gooder, *Women of Holy Week*. As with the book, which we studied in Advent, there are nine stories in a similar format. Everyone en-



Photo by Chris Lesley

joyed the Advent course, which produced some good discussion, so it seems appropriate to look at Paula Gooder's other book. The price of the book is in the region of £10. If you would like to join the course on Zoom, or simply study the book privately, please contact Rachel in the church office, so that we can make up a list and order the right number of books.

Happy reading! Rebecca

Jo Harrington on Hazel's 'leaving' do

A few days before Christmas, in true St Michael's style, a large group of us stood around chatting, with celebratory drinks and nibbles. Suddenly, there was a wave of applause as Hazel Miller joined us. For the very last time, she had come down those stairs from her all-seeing eyrie which is the Parish Administrator's domain.

This was "A happy day", said Revd. Debbie, "to say thank you to Hazel" and to mark her retirement from the job which she had developed over more than ten years.

She was presented with a huge card full of "thank you" comments, a cheque from the congregation and two books of her choice:

England's Cathedrals by Simon Jenkins and *The Archers Unseen: a secret history of Ambridge* by Julie Beckett.

Hazel says that the Jenkins "will provide ideas for days out and to re-visit places I got to know in my SPCK days when [as part of her job] there was usually time to do no more than visit the shops in the cathedral cities around the country."

She admits to having listened to the Archers for sixty years .

"Reading the book while I was away", she says, spending Christmas with

family in Austria, "triggered a lot of memories."

When she started Hazel took over from Rae Gillott the detailed task of managing bookings of the rooms which contribute significantly to the church's income. With IT development and the outreach possibilities which have grown as part of the world of St Michael's Square, the job of Parish Administrator has grown under Hazel's tenure and this is much appreciated. We wish every success to Rachel Wilcox, as she takes over, continuing the long line of those who give so much to the life of our church.



WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

A very BIG thank you to our friends at St Michael and All Angels for your wonderful support this winter!

We were so pleased to be part of the Christmas Tree Festival again in December and to hold our hot drink and mince pie stall on the day of the Christmas Lights switch on. Together with the Choirs, Coffee and Cake event over £4,000 has been raised towards our life-saving work, which is incredible!

The particularly cold start to the year, with snow on the ground for several days, is a stark reminder of how dangerous it is for people to be sleeping on the street.

On 6 January our winter night shelter opened its doors. Hosted by seven churches for one night each every week, it will be open for three months over the bleakest months of the year. On the first night one of our guests came in exclaiming "I'm so hungry". He was delighted to be served a hot meal shortly after arriving, and to find that there was plenty left for seconds!

A team of 300 volunteers from across the community have come together to make it happen. Guests are greeted with a warm welcome. A hot meal is served and volunteers sit together with the guests which creates a feeling of community. Hot showers are available at some of the venues and guests can have fresh warm clothes if they want them. And most importantly, they have a safe and warm place to sleep.

All of this is happening alongside our Support Centre and homelessness prevention work to bring about God's love in action to end homelessness in our community. If you would like support us please give to our winter appeal. Gifts of money unlock life saving and life-changing possibilities for our clients.

Here's what your gift towards our winter appeal can do*:

£24.50 can go towards a welcome pack for a guest in our winter shelter.

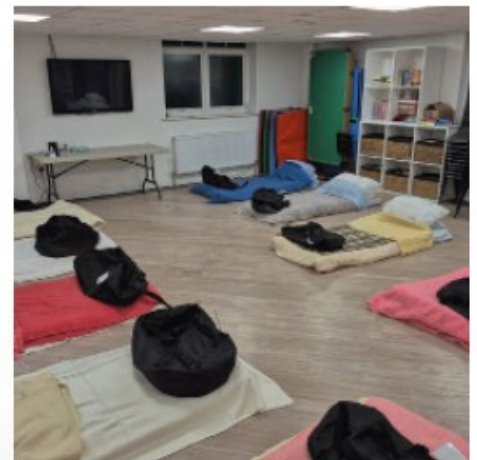
£49.00 can help keep our homelessness helpline open for a day.



AUSTYN AND SUSAN AT OUR STALL



THE WHC TREE



BEDS ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE SHELTER

*your gift will be used where the need is greatest



Reg. charity no. 1156211

'Choirs, Coffee and Cake'

A huge thank you to the choirs who braved the elements to perform so wonderfully at the 'Choirs, Coffee and Cake' fund raising event to raise money for the Wycombe Homeless Connection.



Amersham Community Choir



The Heatherton Singers



Anchor

ADVENT PRAYER SWAP



Thank you to all those who joined the Advent Prayer Swap. Those who joined were asked to pray daily for somebody else who had also requested to join the prayer swap throughout Advent. In return somebody prayed for them. During this time candles were lit in St Michael's Church and prayers said for all who took part in the swap.

A look back at the last ten years as Church Administrator

By Hazel Miller

When I started working as the Church Administrator in September 2014, a few months after completing my term as a churchwarden, I had not expected to still be there 10 years later. Looking back at the annual report for 2013, much has changed since then, but I was fortunate to have Mike Harris and Richard Hornby, who look after the building, as supportive colleagues throughout my time in the Office.

Six months into my tenure, Rev. Diana Glover retired, and the church entered an interregnum which lasted for a year until Rev. Debbie joined us. Further changes to ways of working were necessitated by the COVID lockdown when I worked remotely for some months with a lot more emphasis on the website as a means of keeping the church community together.

My appointment coincided with a decision by Rae Gillott to relinquish responsibility for hall bookings and maintenance of the website, so these tasks were added to my job description. Managing a website was not something I had done before. It was hosted by the Diocese but that arrangement ended soon after I started, so one of my first tasks was to find an alternative host, and then a programme for managing it. A visit to the Christian Resources Exhibition led me to Church Edit, run by a Christian company and designed to meet the requirements of churches.

Initially, a paper diary was used to record activities taking place in the church, but it soon became clear that something more was needed. I Know Church, from the same company, was introduced in 2017, primarily to help with the bookings diary, as the number of users of both Church and Hall had increased. It has proved to be an invaluable communications tool as well, doing away with the need to send newsletters and notices in batches, which could take a whole morning.

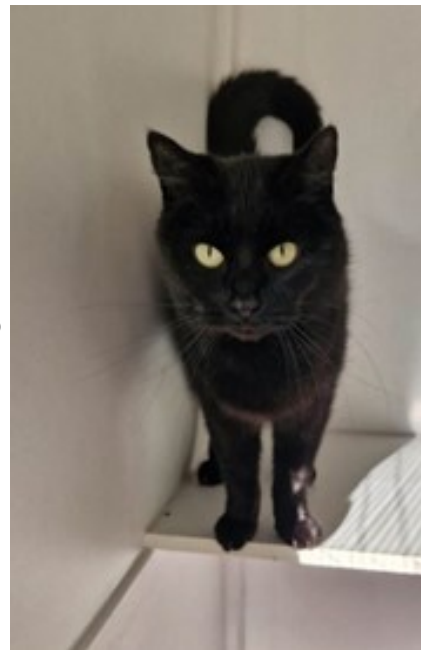
There were changes outside the Office as well. The creation of the Glover Room behind the Hall, replacing the redundant stage, provided an extra room to hire out. More clients followed.

Prior to the pandemic, Michael's flower stall was a fixture on the Square, as it had been for many years. One of my weekly tasks was to collect the rent – in cash. The space it occupied was close to where the church noticeboard is now. One of the reasons for erecting that, was the discovery that some people did not realise the building they could see from the pavement was a church, as there was nothing at ground level to say so.

If asked to pick out my high points, one of them must be the exhibition we put together in 2016 to mark 50 years since

the dedication of the current church building. I learned a lot about the history of St. Michael's while preparing for this, from the archives and from talking to many people, some of whom remembered worshipping in the original building, now the church hall. During the two weeks the exhibition was open, over 1000 visitors passed through.

However, there is no doubt about what has made the most difference to my life – the discovery of a cat with a litter of kittens in the vicarage garden during the interregnum. One of them, christened Raff by Sharon Roberts, curate at the time, after I expressed a wish for him to take the name of an archangel in deference to his birthplace, has been part of my feline family for nearly 10 years and will hopefully continue to be so for many more.



Raff now



Raff when he was young

WORSHIP

Eucharists:

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

Tuesdays 10.30am

Candlemas on Sunday, 2 February will be at 4pm. There will not be a 10am service that Sunday.

Morning Prayer:

Tuesdays 9am in the Lady Chapel.

Messy Church: 15 February '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.

WARDENS

2 Feb Roland Gillott 4pm
9 Feb Claire Sinclair
16 Feb Roger Leslie
23 Feb Andy Connor

Please see:
stmichaelsamersham.org.uk
for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

POP IN & PAINT— 7 February —10.30am-12.15pm, St. Michael's, Main Church

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

A CRAFTY CUPPA—14 & 28 February — 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.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB— 7 February —2pm-4pm—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room

THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY This is the story of an unremarkable man, who sets off on a remarkable journey to visit his old friend Queenie who is dying. Running Time 1hr 43mins

LUNCHEBREAK – Amersham Free Church

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

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)

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, 15 February, 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:

**Welcome to
Wren Barraclough**

**RIP
Peter East
Jack Fisher**

Pancake Recipe

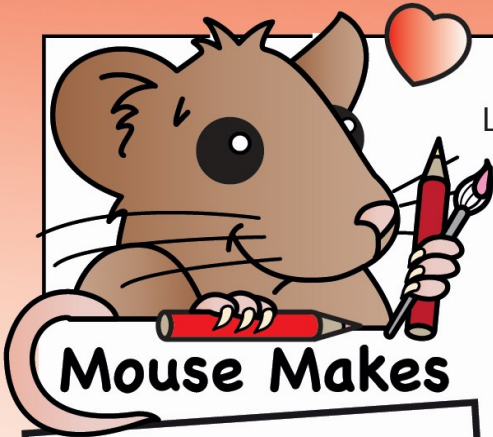
100g plain flour— 2 eggs—
300ml semi-skimmed milk— 1
tbsp sunflower oil— pinch salt

Method

• Put 100g plain flour and a pinch of salt into a mixing bowl. • Make a well in the centre and crack 2 eggs into the middle. • Pour in 50ml of milk and 1tbsp sunflower oil. Whisk. • Add milk while continuing to whisk. • Heat pan then wipe with oiled kitchen paper. • Ladle some batter into the pan and tilt the pan to make a thin even layer. • Pour out excess batter. • Cook on each side for about 30 seconds.

BBCgoodfood.com

DIARY FEBRUARY '25



Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is _____
 It does not, _____
 it does not _____
 it is not _____
 it does not _____

others, it is not self - _____

it is not easily _____

it keeps no record of _____

Love delights in _____

it always _____

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;
 His _____
 never come to an end;
 they are new every _____

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____
 and how _____
 and how _____
 that **love** is.

Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.

whoever _____
 in **love** _____
 in God, and God _____
 in them.

1 John 4:16

Give _____
 to the Lord, for He is _____
 his steadfast **love**
 endures _____

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

God sent me a saviour:

He sent His one and only
 Son into the world so
 that we might have
 eternal life through Him.

1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:

He has given you the
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
 with His **love**.

Romans 5:5

God called me His child:

See what great **love** the
 Father has for us that He
 would call us His children.

1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

LOVE the Lord your God with
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**
 and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the
 same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

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

GOD • **LOVE**
 PATIENT • KIND
 GRACIOUS • PEACE
 JUST • TRUTHFUL
 TRUSTING • LOYAL
 HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERES
 ENDURES
 HUMBLE
 SELFLESS
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS