



60th Anniversary



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

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY '26

## Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

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(10 am—12.30 pm Monday—Friday)



## Ministry Team

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## Churchwardens

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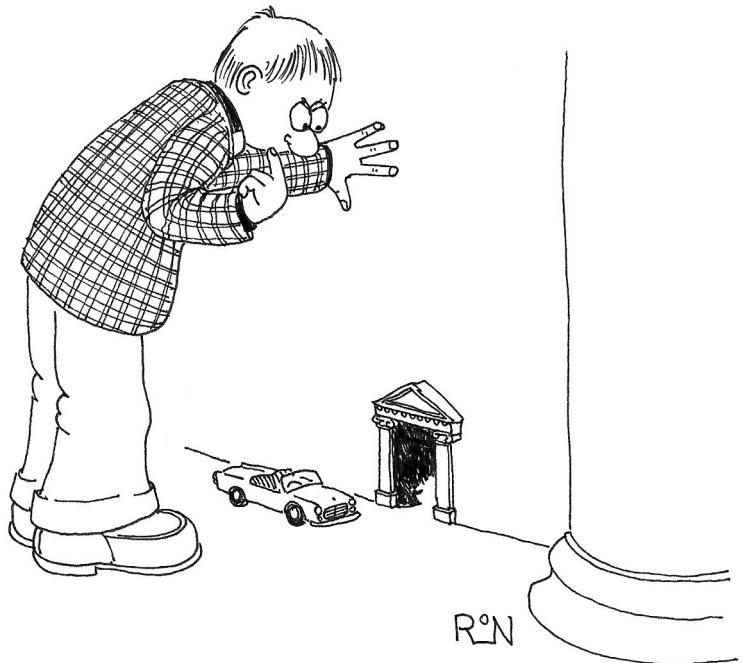


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## Communications Officer

**Rebecca Olsen**  
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*...and yet the Church Mice still put it about  
that they were poor*

## 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](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk),  
for the attention of Rebecca.

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# 2026 – St. Michael and All Angels 60th Anniversary!

This year's celebrations began with the signing of a new covenant between St. Michael's and Amersham Free Church on Sunday, 18 January, led by the COTHA clergy, Revd. Debbie Oades and Fr. Peter Binns, from St. Michael's, and Revd. Ian Green and Revd. Erna Stevenson from Amersham Free Church. Church leaders, The Revd. Deiniol Heywood, Interim Assistant Archdeacon of Buckingham Episcopal Area; The Revd. George Watt, URC Moderator of The Thames North Synod, and The Revd. Lisa Kerry, Regional Minister of the Central Baptist Association, led the intersessions and joined the COTHA clergy and Roger Leslie, Church Warden for St. Michael's and Beverley Underwood, Church Secretary for Amersham Free Church, for the signing of the covenant. The Revd. Tim Norwood, National Ecumenical Officer for the Church of England, preached the sermon.

The choirs from both churches joined forces and accompanied by organist Richard Brazier led the hymns, including *Summoned by God who made us, by Rachel Hewitt.*

Copies of the new covenant will be displayed in both churches once they have been framed.

In the spirit of togetherness both Revd. Debbie and Revd. Ian kindly agreed to answer some questions for all to read! (see pages 4 & 5).

(Photos by Amersham Free Church and Christine Leslie)



Other special events (for which full details will follow) that are lined up for our Anniversary Celebrations in 2026 include:



**PARISH BREAKFAST BETWEEN SERVICES AT THE APCM – Sunday, 26 April**

**COMMUNITY DAY - Saturday, 20 June 2026**

**PATRONAL – Sunday, 27 September 2026 – Followed by a light buffet**

**HARVEST – FISH AND CHIPS SUPPER & QUIZ – Event to be on Friday, 9 October 2026**

**TRIP TO NATIVITY ENACTMENT IN SURREY WINTERSHALL – December, Date TBC**

In addition to the above church events we also have some special occasions to celebrate with our clergy this year:

**VICARAGE GARDEN PARTY - Sunday, 7 June 2026** - to celebrate Revd Debbie's 10<sup>th</sup> year of being here at St Michael's and her 20<sup>th</sup> year of ordination.

**FR PETER'S 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF ORDINATION.- Date and details TBC**

Please do make a note of these dates as we would like to celebrate with you!

Our annual outing to **Pizza Express** will take place on **Shrove Tuesday, 17 February**. Please let the office know if you would like to join us! Further details will be available shortly.

Finally, if you feel you would like to help with the running of any these events or indeed with any aspect of church life please do let the office know.

# **Desert Island Discs**

## **with**

### **Revd. Debbie Oades**



#### ***What about your parish most warms your heart to think about?***

Its endeavour to be open, both physically and spiritually. Physically the building being open at the heart of the community serves to welcome all at the point of

need. Spiritually, engaging with those of other faith paths and being members of Inclusive Church seeing everyone as Gods loving creation.

#### ***What aspects of the United COTHA services do you most enjoy?***

The opportunity to share in one another's traditions, acknowledging and respecting our differences and seeing all this as opportunities for growth in our walk with Christ. Oh, and the singing is great!!!

#### ***Why did you become a minister?***

Prior to being ordained I had always lived out my faith via music, both by teaching and playing. Through leading a worship band at church I found myself being drawn more and more into the life of the church. Morning prayer and Mass became central to my being. Eventually this draw became so overwhelming that the minister Revd. Rod Cosh put forward the possibility that I was being called to ministry. I spent the next two years fighting against this possibility, I had given up performing because of nerves, being up front wasn't for me. But as we all find out at some point in our lives, we only find true peace when we *let go and let God*. So I became a minister because despite my fears and doubts, God never let go and walked with me down the path he set for me. I pray he always will.

#### ***Do you have a story regarding a spiritual encounter you have had that you would like to share to inspire the readers?***

The Reverend Canon Professor John Rodwell preached at

my ordination to priesthood, he also oversaw our retreat immediately prior. Each Deacon had the opportunity to step aside and spend half an hour with him over this period. My diaconate year had been a difficult experience and for much of this time I had been drawn to Psalm 42. On entering the small room that had been put aside for these sessions, there were several cards, booklets etc. on a coffee table, and Fr. John asked me to pick one at random. On the reverse of it was a text that spoke straight to my heart and was based on Psalm 42! Fr John then spoke with me of things only God and I knew about. Time seemed to stand still in an atmosphere of enfolding love as it seemed we lived together Psalm 42 and then walked into Psalm 43 through which a light shone to the future, one that now, with humility I felt able to step towards.

I have found when you are truly in need and are finally able to lay things before God with truth and humility He meets you where you are with loving compassion in places and through people that surround you in everyday life. Just be you, where you are and make space for God to come alongside. We are all called to be conduits of Gods grace; I truly believe Fr. John was a conduit of Gods grace that day for me, for which I will be eternally thankful.

Only later did I realise Psalm 42-43 is a prayer for healing in preparation for a pilgrimage and what a pilgrimage it is!

#### ***Without thinking, if Jesus were in his human form and sat down next to you, what would you ask him, or say to him?***

Good question.....but the answer to it will remain between me and Him!

#### ***And your eight records?***

1. Antonio Vivaldi – Gloria (The English Choir, The English Concert. Trevor Pinnock)
2. Alison Moyet – The Best Of
3. Vaughan Williams – The Collectors Edition.
4. Shania Twain – Still the One, Live from Vegas
5. Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki – Kleines Requiem Fur Eine Polka, Harpsicord Concerto, Good night. (David Markus Stenz, Dawn Upshaw, London Sinfonietta)
6. Richard Stoltzman – The Complete RCA Album Collection
7. John Tavener - The Essential
8. Edward Elgar – The Complete Works (Sir John Barbirolli) Book

Robert Macfarlane – Underland. A deep time journey.

*Cont. Pg. 5*

Cont. from pg. 5

And I know we get the Bible – could mine be The New Oxford Annotated Bible NRSV with Apocrypha please? And the Complete Works of Shakespeare would be wasted on me, other than using it for kindling (I know – shocking, sorry!) could I have the Complete works of Agatha Christie instead please? Thankyou!

#### **Luxury Item**

Luxury item - Perfume

## **Desert Island Discs with Revd. Ian Green**



#### **What about your parish most warms your heart to think about?**

I very much appreciate and respect the wonderful energy and faithfulness I've encountered at Amersham Free Church since I came in 2012.

#### **What aspects of the United COTHA services do you most enjoy?**

Whenever we come to St. Michael's I always enjoy worshipping in your tradition - the St. Michael's clergy are so helpful in 'leading' me through the service at the points where I'm officiating. Whenever we meet at Amersham Free Church it's such a joy to have the church full and be part of such hearty singing.

#### **Why did you become a minister?**

I felt God was 'nudging' me in that direction and my home church minister in Southampton gave me lots of

encouragement to explore the possibility. As I went through the many interviews that were necessary, doors opened, and so I went to theological college in South London between 1982-1987, became ordained on Trinity Sunday 1987 and have had the joy of serving in five parishes since.

#### ***Do you have a story regarding a spiritual encounter you have had that you would like to share to inspire the readers?***

I was leading a Retreat and the technology in the Retreat House chapel got the better of me, so we were unable to listen to a hymn (on which the whole session was based) recorded by an esteemed cathedral choir. Quick as a flash, one of the retreatants got up, found the hymn books, distributed them, and sang the hymn herself, with us all joining in the last verse. Her willingness to share the gift of her beautiful voice redeemed the whole session and became one of the highlights of our weekend away. We all felt it was such a precious 'God moment' - one totally unplanned but very much appreciated by us all - and doesn't God work that way so often in our lives?!

#### ***Without thinking, if Jesus were in his human form and sat down next to you, what would you ask him, or say to him?***

Well, if he had long enough, I'd ask him what was his take on 'The Trinity'!

#### ***And your eight records?***

1. God so loved the world - Bob Chilcott version
2. Theme tune from Ladies in Lavender by Nigel Hess
3. Hymn: There's a wideness in God's mercy, sung to Corvedale
4. Praise to the Holiest from Dream of Gerontius by Elgar
5. Somewhere - from West Side Story by Bernstein
6. Bridge over troubled waters - Simon and Garfunkel
7. Organ piece: Lieber Jesu, Wir Sind Hier by J.S. Bach
8. Easter hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana by Mascagni

#### ***Book***

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

#### ***Luxury Item***

My toasted sandwich maker - couldn't imagine life without it!!

**Keep your eyes on the notices and website for the next COTHA event!**

## Going Home by Rebecca Olsen

God knows me. He knows us all. He reads the truth in our hearts. There are moments I forget this though and in those moments I have even felt fear about *going home*. Sometimes when thinking about the words, 'Thy kingdom come' I feel this same resistance. What will His kingdom be like? Do we really need to change what we know? Of course there is bad within this world but there is also so much that is good. But we are loved and love melts away all fear, and we are made worthy to receive the right to enter the kingdom of heaven, on earth or in heaven, through Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

Going home at the end of 2025, to New Zealand where I was born, brought this all to light. After twenty seven years absent, what would I find? How would my family and friends react to seeing me? would they even want to?

I felt the Lord encouraging me as I got ready to depart.

On the airplane tears flowed down my cheeks, the journey suddenly felt real. They were not tears of sadness though, they were tears of relief. I was finally going home and even sharing it with my son, who had asked me to accompany him on the trip.

Once in New Zealand the visits to my huge family began. A 17 year old cousin I had never met contacted me, 'The walk you were going on [and which I was very nervous about] is closed,' she said, 'Can we meet?' We made our way across the North Island towards the west, stopping overnight on the way in an isolated campsite in the heart of the timber trail, with a public toilet about a kilometer away. In the isolation the birds called out confidently and we were treated to a native 'evensong' and a rousing dawn chorus. The next day my beautiful cousin introduced us to her Maori family with whom we shared fish and chips from an open packet on the middle of the kitchen table. After lunch a poi dance was performed for my son, then hugs that evaporated the lost 17 years were given and received. As we drove away my cousin and her friend stood on the doorstep chanting the Haka, a war chant usually chanted at rugby matches nowadays.

Every encounter with friends and family was filled with love that transcended time and space, instant connection and boundless joy, and I quickly realized I had been foolish to fear the trip.

I imagine this love magnified is the love we will receive when we go home to our father, a love within which we have always belonged and from which we have never actually been separated.

## GREEN CORNER

**A simple change to shampoo soap bars from bottles can save an individual roughly 12 to 24 plastic bottles! per year!**

## Do you know of someone looking for love?

Sadly, for many of us romance is an elusive thing. So, if you are single, and looking to at least meet other Christian singles, you may care to visit Christian Connection, at <https://www.christianconnection.com>.

It doesn't promise to find you the person of your dreams, but you never know!

By Parish Pump

## Prayer Corner:

### Political instability

O God, we pray for countries experiencing the turmoil of conflict and political instability. We ask for peace to be restored. Please grant wisdom and integrity to world leaders so that they will work for the good of the people they govern and serve. We pray that citizens everywhere would have their rights preserved, so they can live peacefully, free from fear. Amen.

### World peace

Lord, we pray for world peace in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between nations. We pray for wars to end. We give thanks for your promise that one day there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. Until that day, we pray for your continued grace and goodness to overflow in this world so that humans can live along side one another respectfully, allowing for mutual flourishing. Amen.

Prayers taken from <https://www.compassionuk.org/blogs/prayers-for-the-world/>

## 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.

**Special Services:** 1 February, Candlemas 4p.m.

**Messy Church:** 21 February '26

(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/@stmichaelandallangelsstreams>, will access live-streamed services.

## WORSHIP

### WARDENS

1 Feb — 4pm— Alan Bacon  
8 Feb— Roger Leslie  
15 Feb— Roland Gillott  
22 Feb—Andy Connor

Please see:

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

for more details

## ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— Thursday, 5 February — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room**  
Tea, Coffee and Support

**POP IN & PAINT— Friday, 6 February —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—Friday, 6 February —2pm-4pm, St. Michael's, Wheeler Room**

**THE LAST BUS**, Starring Timothy Spall and Phyllis Logan. From John O'Groats to Lands End Tom (Timothy Spall) is about to make a journey of a life time. One bus at a time using his bus pass. Running Time: 1hr. 20mins.

**A CRAFTY CUPPA— Friday, 13 & 27 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.

**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, 20 February – 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.

**REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 7 March – 10.a.m.-1p.m.—St Michael's Church**

Come to SustainableAmersham.org's pop-up Repair Café. Volunteer repairers will help you fix your stuff for free.

**Mondays** **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](http://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, 21 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.



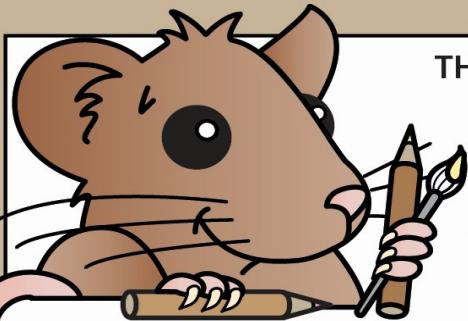
## Weddings, Baptisms and Deaths:

### RIP

Jean Reeve  
Sylvia Dollemore

**DIARY FEBRUARY '26**

# Children & Families



Read the story in  
Luke 4:1-13



## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?  
What did Jesus say? v3-4



What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him?  
What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do?  
What did Jesus say? v9



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



## SECOND TEMPTATION

### THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

**JESUS REPLIED:**  
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

**WE LEARN:**  
Put God first  
Worship only Him.

1

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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

## FIRST TEMPTATION

### THE DEVIL SAID:

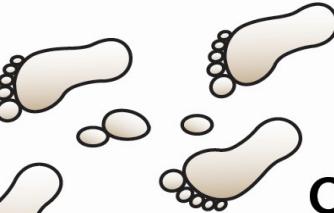
"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

**JESUS REPLIED:**  
"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

**WE LEARN:**

Read the Bible  
Learn God's word.



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

## THIRD TEMPTATION

### THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

**JESUS REPLIED:**  
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."  
Read Deuteronomy 6:16

**WE LEARN:**

God cares, trust  
Him do not test Him.

