



St Michael
and All Angels
Parish Church
of
Amersham-on-the-Hill

Please take one

Newsletter

JULY/AUGUST 2021



A Community Post-lockdown Service



St Michael's Church & Square*
on
SATURDAY JULY 31, 11 AM

All Welcome

(*weather permitting)

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St Michael and All Angels
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Amersham HP6 5DR
Church Office:01494 726680
Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk.
(Monday – Friday
9.30 am – 12.30 pm)

Clergy

Vicar
The Revd Debbie Oades
vicar@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk.



Churchwardens

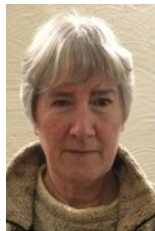
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St Michael's Vision Statement

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.

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

The Newsletter is published monthly (except January and August).

The next issue will appear on Sunday August 29. Material for inclusion should please be emailed to the Editor on pbrune@olcs.net by August 20.

COMMENT

We Remember Them

Like many of my holidays these days, my most recent one, based in what used to be Westmoreland, included catching up with family and friends; an opportunity to share memories and to roll back the years.

But it is not just the living I wanted to relate to, but also those who have gone before. I have been interested in family history since my student days when I listened eagerly when older relatives shared memories or passed on stories they had been told by their own grandparents. To visit places where my ancestors lived helps to make them real people not just a series of names and dates.

This time, I had spent a 'family day' with a second cousin. We looked at photographs and documents she has accumulated, and I learned more about her. By the end of the day, I felt we had become a lot closer, sixteen years since we first met.

I had something else on my agenda – to visit some of the places where one branch of my ancestors lived in the 17th and 18th centuries before moving across the Pennines to Yorkshire. When I visited, everything looked very picturesque in the sunshine of a 21st century June day, but what must it have been like in mid-winter 300 years ago?

I am sure that we all hope we will leave some form of legacy when we depart this world. St. Michael's, like many churches, has a Book of Remembrance on permanent display, with the pages turned regularly so the names of loved ones are visible on the anniversary of their deaths. There are now almost 200 names recorded in it. All of these were someone's mother or father; husband or wife; son or daughter; friend. Recording their names is a way of ensuring they are not forgotten. Even if there is no one left who knew these people personally, they continue to be remembered before God. They are part of St. Michael's family, whatever their connection with the church. As with the quest to be seen by forebears in context, it would be nice to know something more about these people so that they are not just a line of writing, but real people whose lives continue to have some meaning for future generations.

As the nation and the world start to slowly recover from the devastating loss of life caused by the pandemic, more people are recognising the importance of holding on in some way. The Community Post-Lockdown service, to be held at the end of July, will include the opportunity to remember, as does our annual All Souls' service held around November 2. That such occasions are valued is shown by the numbers who attend them, or ask for a candle to be lit in their absence.

Hazel Miller

Anniversaries

The Amersham Martyrs

This month Ken Prideaux-Brune commemorates a local anniversary—500 years since the burning of the last six of the Amersham martyrs

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the burning of the final six (five men and one woman) of the Amersham martyrs, at the top of the field above Tesco, near where the Martyrs Memorial stands. The seventh had been burned 10 years earlier. They were all Lollards (a derogatory term possibly meaning ignorant, illiterate people, or, others have suggested, mutters).

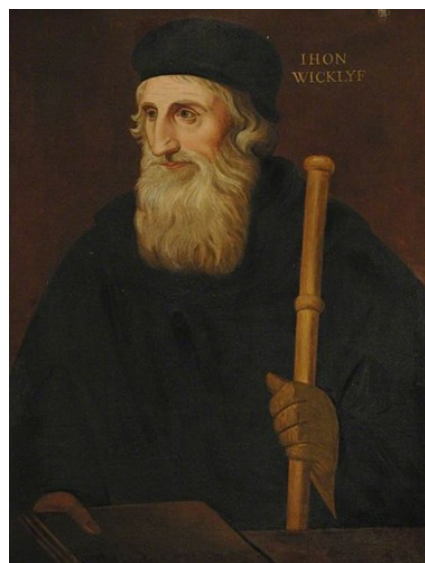


The Martyrs Memorial

The Lollards were followers of the Oxford University theologian John Wycliffe, who had died back in 1384. Wycliffe believed that lay people should be able to read the Bible in their own language, studying the Word of God for themselves rather than having it mediated through a priest. He sponsored the first translation of the Bible into English. He also challenged the doctrine of transubstantiation (the belief that at Communion the bread and wine were changed literally, rather than purely metaphorically, into Christ's body and blood). He also claimed that the Church had become far too wealthy, had moved far from the simple life of Christ and

his disciples. All these views challenged the authority of the priesthood and the Church. His views were pronounced heretical and his books were burned, though he himself died

and read the Wycliffe Bible in a number of places, including Amersham.



John Wycliffe

before the ecclesiastical authorities burned his body. But his views didn't die with him. Small groups of Lollards continued to meet together

Wycliffe was a precursor of the Protestant Reformation but Henry VIII, prior to his desire for a divorce, was a loyal supporter of the Pope. He wrote a tract condemning the doctrines of Martin Luther and as a result was granted by the Pope the title 'Defender of the Faith', a title which, rather bizarrely, has been retained by every successive British monarch.

And so the early years of the 16th century were not a good time to be a Lollard. In 1511 William Tylesworth was burned at the stake (his daughter was forced to light the faggots). And in 1521 Thomas Barnard, James Morden, John Scrivener, Robert Rave, Thomas Holmes and Joan Norman were burned near to where the Martyrs' Memorial stands.

But that, of course, is not the end of the story. Not long afterwards William Tyndale produced his translation of the Bible and Henry enforced the break with Rome. And by the end of the 1530s Thomas Cromwell ordered the Great Bible (so called because of its great size), translated into English by Myles Coverdale, to be displayed in every parish church in the land. The Amersham Martyrs were, unfortunately for them, a little ahead of their time.

Tuesday Club Holiday 2022

Peter Binns describes the plans for a return to Sudbury in Suffolk



Suffolk is a beautiful county with relatively quiet roads and charming small towns and villages with painted houses in various colours. Sudbury is a

Owing to the pandemic, our Tuesday Club holiday in Sudbury has been postponed twice. We have now arranged to go to Sudbury from Friday, May 20 to Wednesday, May 25, 2022. Let's hope that this will be third time lucky!

pleasant small market town, the birthplace of the painter, Gainsborough, whose museum is well worth a visit. We shall be staying at The Mill Hotel, a converted water mill, which is pleasantly situated by the water meadows, ideal for a stroll after the evening

meal. Watch out for the cows, which every evening edge their way down the meadow and end up by the hotel. Perhaps they are expecting a meal!

Outings have been arranged for each day to give a variety of places to visit. We are very fortunate to have as our driver Mr Brian Davis, who must be the best coach driver in the UK! He manages to turn coach driving into an art form! We have such a pleasant ride that it isn't surprising that the chairman manages to fall asleep in the coach every day at about 14.00!!

The places, which we shall be visiting are set out in the programme below, a stately home, a vineyard, a windmill, two castles, a visit to the seaside, a river boat trip, and, to end our holiday, a delicious lunch in a super place, where you can buy all sorts of gifts, plants, paintings, corn dollies, you name it! We are also hoping to attend the Sunday Eucharist at St. Gregory's Church, Sudbury, as we have done on our holidays in Halifax, when we have been to the Minster there.

We always have a lot of fun on our holidays, and the last time that we went to Sudbury, everyone enjoyed it so much that they wanted to go again. So, here's your chance! At the moment, we have 36 people coming. Anyone else, who would like to come, would be very welcome. The holiday is open to everyone, not only members of St. Michael's. I am sure that we shall have a great time again.

Email Peter on:
peter.binns166@btinternet.com

Friday, May 20

Depart St. Michael's at 10. Buffet lunch at the Mill Hotel, Sudbury on arrival.

Afternoon outing to Melford Hall, Long Melford. Evening meal at the hotel.

Saturday, May 21

Excursion to Shawsgate Vineyard, including buffet lunch, Saxtead Mill and Framlingham Castle. Evening meal at the hotel.

Sunday, May 22

Eucharist at St. Gregory's Church Sudbury (next door to the hotel), followed by buffet lunch at the hotel.

Afternoon, outing to Lavenham. Evening meal at the hotel.

Monday, May 23

Excursion to Blythburgh Church (the Cathedral of the Marshes) and Southwold

Evening meal at the hotel.

Tuesday, May 24

Cruise on the River Deben and Orford village and Castle. Evening meal at the hotel.

Wednesday, May 25

Check out of the hotel. Morning at leisure in Sudbury. Lunch at Corncraft, Monks Eleigh (super place!!). Depart for Amer-sham in the afternoon.

Traidcraft Update

“We have only been able to resource three deliveries to the food bank since my update in May,” writes Margaret Dykes, “providing some of those items that they need the most. The principal reason is a reduction in donations from a slowly shrinking group of supporters. This is hardly surprising as we have been relying on the generosity of you all for more than 15 months. If anyone has any ideas of how we could expand our supporter base we would really appreciate your

ideas.”

The Food Bank follows a number of important guidelines:

- 1 All clients must present a voucher from one of their ‘referral partners’.
- 2 These include: CAB, Job Centre, Christians Against Poverty, mental health charities and social workers.
- 3 The requirement for a voucher is to ensure that they get the help they need in meeting the challenge that led them to need food

parcels in the first place.

The main reasons for needing parcels from the Food Bank remain: debt, sickness, benefit delays, low income and job loss. “Many of their clients,” says Margaret, “work very hard but still find it difficult to cover their expenses”.

“The people at the Food Bank,” adds Margaret, “are really grateful for your ongoing support as are we. The current running total including last week’s delivery is £37,500. A truly outstanding achievement which is entirely down to you all”.

COTHA United Service Sunday July 18 Free Church 10.30 am

In line with the covenant between St Michael's, St John's and the Free Church the three churches meet together for Sunday worship on two occasions during the year—in January and July. This month's united service will be at the Free Church on Sunday July 18. As is our usual custom the service will start at 10.30 am.

Due to ongoing social distancing regulations, seating capacity will be less than usual, so if you wish to attend this service you are asked to contact Janet Reid, the AFC Church Secretary:
(janet Reid1@btinternet.com)

Communion will not be administered from the altar. Instead there will be a small cup and small plate with bread, on the back of the chair in front of where people are sitting. This is the 'safe' system AFC have been using throughout the pandemic.

APCM Sunday July 11

The church's annual meeting will take place in church at 10 am on Sunday July 11. This is an important occasion when we review the past and look forward to the future.

The meeting will be followed by a short Eucharist.

We give thanks for the lives of:

Fay Green

Fay was the sister-in-law of former vicar, Brian Griffiths. Her artistic gifts were demonstrated in the hangings, in the four liturgical colours, that are hung on the glass screen behind the altar in the appropriate season.

And John Beardsmore

John had a distinguished career in education, latterly with Ofsted.

**St Michael and All Angels
Amersham-on-the-Hill**

DIARY

JULY/AUGUST 2021

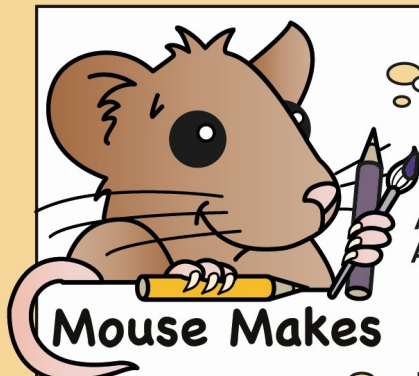
Said Eucharists will be celebrated each week
Sundays 8.30 am and 10 am
Tuesdays 10.30 am
The church will remain open for private prayer until 4 pm on Tuesdays, following the 10.30 am service

Worship in July

Sunday	July 4	Trinity 5 Warden: Roland Gillott (722674)
Sunday	July 11	Trinity 6. APCM and Eucharist. Warden: Ann Jarvis (726078)
Sunday	July 18	Trinity 7. COTHA united service. Free Church. <u>10.30 am</u>. Warden: Roger Leslie (726362)
Sunday	July 25	St James. Warden: Roland Gillott (722674)
Saturday	July 31	Community Post-lockdown service. St Michael's Square. 11 am Warden: Roger Leslie (726362)

Worship in August

Sunday	Aug 1	Trinity 9. Warden: Alan Bacon (774870)
Sunday	Aug 8	Trinity 10. Warden: Ann Jarvis (726078)
Sunday	Aug 15	Blessed Virgin Mary. Warden: Roger Leslie (726362)
Sunday	Aug 22	Claire Sinclair (07591 954701)
Sunday	Aug 29	Trinity 13. Warden: Andy Connor (723561)



Read the full story in
Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead.

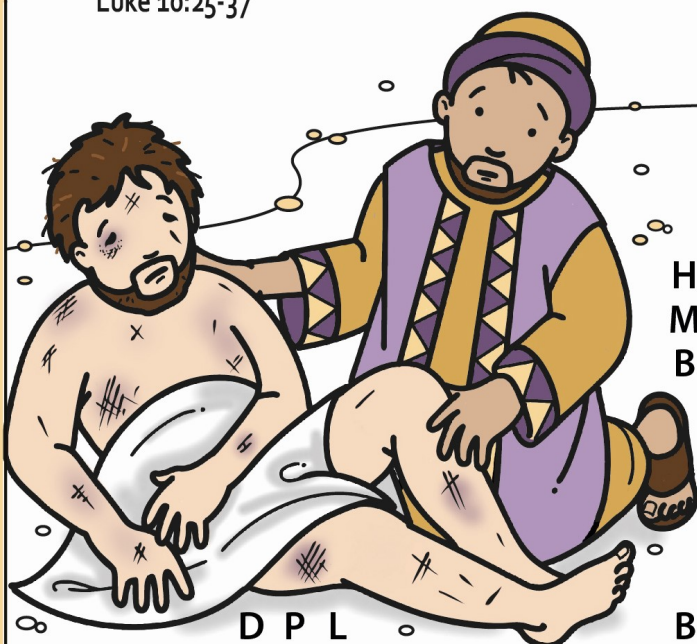
A priest saw him but walked by on the other side.

A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side.

A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



C L O T H E S P
H N J E S U S R A
M E R C Y S L O S
B I R O B B E R S
G J M P W V A E
H E P A O I J D
B R A R U T E C
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JESUS • PARABLE • JERUSALEM • JERICO • JOURNEY • MAN • ROBBERS • SAW
CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE
GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL
WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO