



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

NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST '25



Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

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(10 am—1 pm Monday—Wednesday & Friday)



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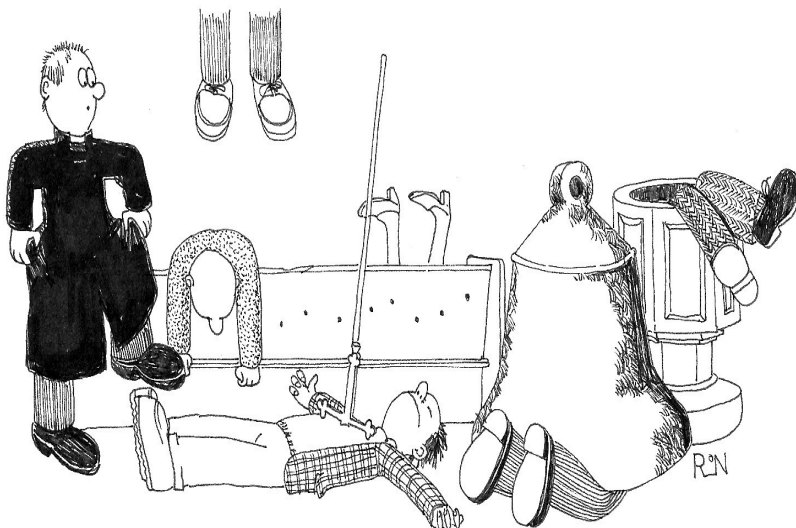


Communications Officer

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It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church

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... Messy Church in June included an activity based on the life of Jesus. One of the pictures the children could look at was of a young Jesus talking at the temple. So, when our Church Administrator, Rachel, pulled out a photo she had taken of a painting showing a rather (choose your own adjective) young Jesus talking with Mary after the 'event' and suggested we ask for funny captions to be submitted to the office it seemed like a good introduction to the July/August edition!



Janet Gibbs/Lynch closes the articles in the newsletter with a poem about washing billowing on a washing line, like sails. Surprisingly, there are quite a lot of references to washing clothes in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, linking the action to spiritual cleansing and renewal.

Numbers 31:24 *You must wash your clothes on the seventh day, and you shall be clean; afterward you may come into the camp.*

Revelation 22:14 *Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.*

I'll let you continue researching this at your own leisure. In the meantime we look forward to receiving your captions for the picture above!

What is truth?

By Jo Harrington

It's August 15th 1945. We are having tea in Mrs Webb's Blackpool boarding house. *The war in Japan has ended!*, says the wireless newsreader.

Why don't our parents shout out with joy?

In time, the whole world in shock realises why. Eighty years ago, humanity, in pursuit of peace and scientific knowledge, had taken an irrevocable step. Like Adam in the garden of Eden, and with apparently the best of intentions, we had eaten from the tree which gives knowledge and wisdom about moral issues.

With heavy losses on all sides, there was a bid to speed up the end of the world war which continued in the Asian Pacific around Japan.

On August 6th, the feast of the Transfiguration, many thousands in Hiroshima were transfigured in the blinding flash of the Atomic bomb dropped by the Allies' B29 pilot Paul Tibbets who honoured his mother in naming the aircraft Enola Gay. A second bomb fell similarly on the mainly Catholic city of Nagasaki on August 9th. So the Japanese Emperor surrendered on the 15th. Peace had arrived.

In earlier research about atomic power, Einstein had advised his colleague Oppenheimer to step away from military uses of that knowledge. Nevertheless, Oppenheimer led the Manhattan project which produced the bomb. However, he later quoted in regret the Hindu scriptures, where Vishnu the Destroyer says. "I have become Death, the destroyer of worlds."

Ironically, ten years on, when research had led to the much more powerful hydrogen bomb, Oppenheimer was accused by the USA of un-American activities for his reservations about Hiroshima.

It seems to be integral to humanity that we are challenged every day to make moral decisions, to ask ourselves "What is truth?" "What is the right decision?"

Unlike Francis Bacon writing in the 1590s, I don't think Pilate was "jesting" when, face to face with Jesus, he asked "What is truth?" Socrates probably got it right when he said the more he knew, the less he knew.

Every generation has to keep on asking. Are there truths universally acknowledged: that a young man in possession of a good fortune must be in need of a wife? That may have been relatively, rather than absolutely, true for Jane Austen's generation and class - but are there Absolute Truths regardless, for all generations, all areas of research? Should we pursue study and experimentation, wherever it might lead?

Or, like Einstein, should we consider sometimes stepping aside? With instant world communication, of a sort, and Artificial Intelligence opening up, should we heed the warning of Oppenheimer?

Should we, like my family, be thoughtful before shouting out with joy about the latest achievements, as in that boarding house?

How amazing is our ability to discover and learn. How awesome was that responsibility in 1945 and still is, in 2025.

BUCKS ART WEEKS

From 7 to 22 June, St. Michael's hosted the inspiring art work of Jenny Thompson, Liz Grammenos, Madeleine Fletcher & Barbara Spruytenburg, of Simpatico.

100 more visitors than last year attended, meaning that a total of 832 visitors came through the doors to look at the art on display.

Lots of paintings and cards were sold, and a total of £545 was raised for the church and over £600 (including the collection box) for the artists's chosen charity.

This year the charity donation went to *Project Possible* in memory of Beverly Parkin, a dear friend of the artists who is no longer here, but who was an integral part of Simpatico.

The artists loved making new acquaintances and greeting familiar faces.

The event was very enjoyable and full of laughter, creativity and happiness.



Looking at God

Taken from The Parish Pump

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the difference Jesus can make in our lives.

Mary Magdalene

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar (22nd July). What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed, and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Make Jesus the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest people for His purposes:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: *'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously. We shouldn't be quick to dismiss the things that don't agree with our expectations, as Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we allow Him, He can do it through us!

Celebrating Refugee Week in Amersham

By Briony Hudson
Director—Amersham Museum

On Saturday 21 June, St. Michael's Square hosted Amersham's third annual event to mark national Refugee Week and celebrate our diverse community, past and present. Organised by *Chiltern Welcomes* and *Amersham Museum*, with support from *Amersham Action Group*, *Bucks County Council*, *Rotary*, *Rotate* and *Tesco*, the proceedings were officially opened by Buckinghamshire High Sheriff, Pippa Kirkbride. Performances throughout the day from *Heatherton House School choir*, *St. Mary's Ukrainian School*, and a Bollywood workshop from *Jazzs Dance Company* created a vibrant buzz. There were activities for families provided by *Chiltern Welcomes* and *Amersham Museum*, with many children making superhero badges linked to the national theme of Community as a Superpower. People also enjoyed henna painting, the cake stall and tombola, as well as an opportunity to read stories of refugees to the local area from the 1400s to the present day, and share their family's own story. Visitors also tasted delicious Syrian, Indian and Ukrainian food. With the whole event broadcast live by *Chiltern Voice*, it was a joyous way to get to know our neighbours and have fun in the process.



Mission Action Day 2025

Today we welcomed the Parish Development Advisor for Buckingham Archdeaconry, Revd. Asa Humphreys, to St. Michael's to discuss our Mission Action Plan. The session was broken into four discussion points and followed by a short Eucharist, presided over by Revd. Asa.

After expressing what we do well, with answers ranging from welcoming people into St. Michael's for many diverse activities, including our weekly Eucharists, to Mission Giving, we were challenged to outline the boundaries of the parish on a map (we all missed out a few square miles) and guided to think about reaching out to the people in the areas we had not included in our outlines. The key word that was suggested to us was *invite*. Following a short lunchbreak we were encouraged to express our fears for St. Michael's and reminded that acknowledging these fears is good but that we should also remember to lean into God with our fears.

As we approached the Eucharist we were reminded that the Holy Spirit dwells within our hearts and remains with us when we leave communion. The feeling of the Holy Spirit present within the group was palpable.

Revd. Asa's closing words to us were, 'God is at work here'. Obviously this does not mean that we should rest on our laurels, but rather that it is time to move forward confidently in the knowledge that God is working through St. Michaels and through us, whatever our role within the church community.

PLEASE **SAVE THE DATE**, AND CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH THE 2025 ST. MICHAEL'S DAY EVENT.



Like Sails

By Janet Gibbs

Sheets on the line

Take on a different Life –

As the Wind shivers

And blows,

Rapturously they fill –

Vivid, prancing beasts,

Twitching and waving in

Fickle, pitching motion;

Pegs cannot hold them – as

With a vicious crack

one leaps over the line, torn

From snapping bedfellows

To sail across the garden

In tangled delight.

Now, pillows gape, fat cheeks

Full of whistling air,

Higher and higher they

Fly, like fluted pennants

On a boat.

The Wind dies. They sag and sigh

Before a crisp blow sends them

Off again, to flap afresh over

Billowing seas.



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.

Messy Church: 19 July '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.

WORSHIP

WARDENS

6 July (COTHA) Roger Leslie

13 July Alan Bacon

20 July Roland Gillott

27 July Andy Connor

3 August Roger Leslie

10 August Claire O'Beirn

17 August Alan Bacon

24 August Roger Leslie

31 August Roland Gillott

Please see:

stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP 3 July & 7 August — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
Tea, Coffee and Chat

POP IN & PAINT— 4 July & 1 August —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—11 & 25 July and 8 & 22 August — 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.

REPAIR CAFÉ—Saturday, 5 July — 10.a.m.-1p.m. Come along to SustainableAmersham.org's pop-up Repair Café. Volunteer repairers will help you fix your stuff for free. No appointment required. Free refreshments.

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, 18 July and 15 August — from 12.15p.m. — Amersham Free Church.
Bring a packed lunch. A talk starts at 1p.m. Tea/coffee/water provided.

Mondays **Tiny Talk** 10.30am-12 noon (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 (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)
Bachata (every second week. Email: bachatanjoy@gmail.com)

Fridays **Stay Steady, Stay Strong** 1.30pm-3.45pm (Tel: 07951 294178)

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

Please see stmichaelsamersham.org.uk if you would like to book the hall.

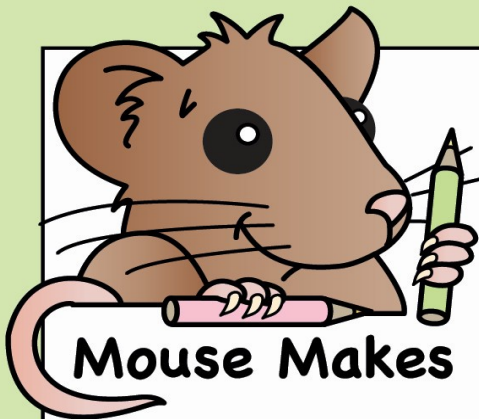
For information about **Little Learners Nursery** please see <https://littlelearnersamersham.co.uk>

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE HALL

Saturday, 19 July, 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. There will be no Messy Church in August.

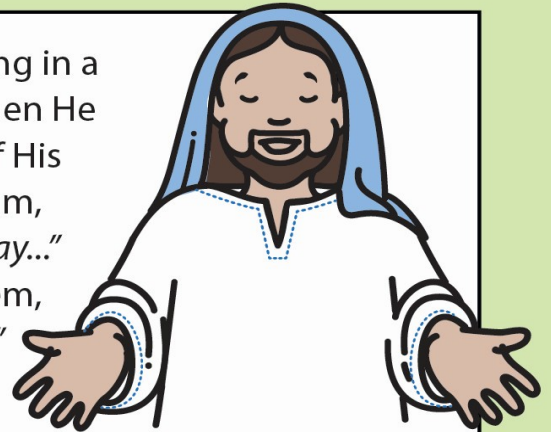


DIARY JULY/AUGUST '25



Mouse Makes

"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' And He said to them, 'When you pray, say...'"



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S_____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen

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



Fill in the
missing
words of
the Lord's

Prayer
then find
them and
these extra
words in the
word search:

LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer**
we say today come from the
Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you
use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4

