



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

**NEWSLETTER** JULY / AUG '26

From St. Michael's Church Office on the St. Michael's Celebration Day '26

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

70 Sycamore Road  
Amersham HP6 5DR

Church Office: 01494 726680

[Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

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

(10 am—12.30 pm Monday—Friday)



## Ministry Team

Vicar

The Revd. Debbie Oades

[revdebbieoades@gmail.com](mailto:revdebbieoades@gmail.com)



Associate Priest

Fr. Peter Binns

[peter.binns166@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.binns166@btinternet.com)



## Church Administrator & Safeguarding Officer

Rachel Wilcox

[office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

&

[safeguarding@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

[@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)



## Churchwardens

Roger Leslie

[rogerleslie25@gmail.com](mailto:rogerleslie25@gmail.com)



Claire O'Beirne

[obeirne@gmail.com](mailto:obeirne@gmail.com)

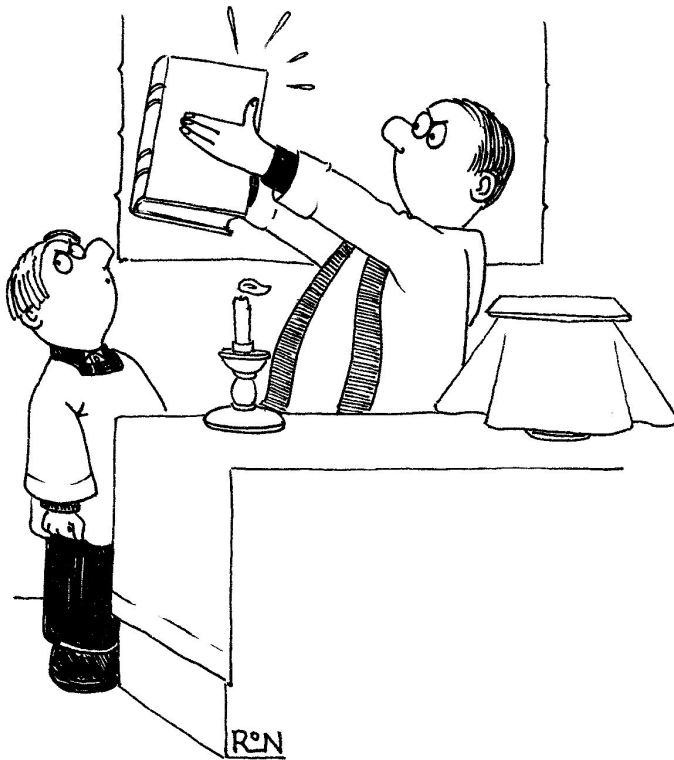


## Communications Officer

Rebecca Olsen

[communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

[@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)



*Fortunately it was a perfect mosquito,  
without spot or blemish*

## 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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**From the Editor...** June was an incredible month at St. Michael's, we celebrated Revd. Debbie's 10 years of service at St. Michael's and her 20th Anniversary of Ordination, and Fr. Peter's 50th Anniversary of Priesting. Alongside these special events we kicked off our bid for a Bronze La Rocha award and held the St. Michael's Community Celebration Day, the poster for which included one of the angels from the front doors. Suzanne, who created the stained glass windows has written a wonderful article, which you will start on page 3 and continues on page 6. If the article inspires you want to try making stained glass, please contact Suzanne on [www.suzanneraffellinigliassartist.com](http://www.suzanneraffellinigliassartist.com). During July we are looking forward to a United COTHA Service on Sunday, 5 July at 10.am with Amersham Free Church, at St. Michael's

## St. Michael's Community Celebration Day

By Neil Lynch

Right from the opening with the swell and might of the organ played by Stephen Wilcox, it was clear this was to be a "Celebration Day" packed with excitement and surprise. "A really lovely vibe" as one of our visitors put it. At various times the church was packed with visitors and relatives of those performing. We had haunting classical Hindustani music from Antardhwani and the more familiar songs from the shows delivered with obvious joy by Amersham Community Choir.

With doors flung wide open in the sunshine and the sound system broadcasting the performances to the world outside there really was an impression of a community having a good time together.

We hoped and prayed for good weather and we were blessed with just perfect conditions to allow performances to take place on the square outside. Katy's Little Learners of course captured our hearts with

songs, movement and rhythms, all delightful but also with essential learning objectives for the children.

By way of total contrast, the very talented pop music band Hi Gain (part of Bucks Music Trust) delivered a high energy performance which had us all moving with them and certainly stopped everyone who walked by in their tracks.

With yet another complete change of atmosphere the students of Amersham Dance Studio treated us to the most delightful and balletic dance routines with moments of calm at the close of a very exciting event.

Throughout our celebration, we entertained the children with Messy Church activities and the face painters never stopped from beginning to end.

The art group Simpatico continued their varied art exhibition as part of Bucks Art Weeks throughout our day and provided further interest and diversion for visitors between performances.

Our thanks go to Tesco Stores in Amersham who generously provided the refreshments for our visitors and all these exceptionally talented groups who gave their time freely in the interest of showing the breadth of talent we have in our community and sharing their love for their own particular artistry with us. They are all exceptional people and we thank them so much for their generosity and spirit.

There are so many people at St. Michael's who also gave their time, skills and energy to make this a momentous occasion. Thank you all - you made it such a pleasure and we should all take great satisfaction in what we accomplished.

## The Angels of St. Michael By Suzanne Raffellini

Fifteen years ago I took on what I thought was a fairly straightforward commission. It turned out to be the biggest and most meaningful project of my life.

St. Michael's and All Angels Church in Amersham got in touch about a stained glass panel for the light above their wooden entrance doors — roughly double the size of a large panel I'd made just six months before. I wasn't worried. I'd done big work before. I figured I knew what I was getting into. I really didn't, and I'm so glad about that.

As the conversations went on between myself and the church committee, and ideas started flying back and forth, the whole scope of the project kept growing. When the church mentioned they were replacing the wooden doors with glass ones, something clicked for me — I suggested we look at creating a stained glass surround for the whole doorway. They loved the idea. What had started as a single panel ended up reshaping the entire entrance of the building.

The brief itself was unlike anything I'd been given before. They wanted the glass to be virtually colourless — which is quite a request for a medium that's famous for its rich, jewel-like colours. They wanted the windows to feel welcoming, to draw people in off the street. They wanted a connection to the statue of St. Michael on the front of the church. And they wanted the design to somehow reflect the spirit of the congregation.

I spent a good while sitting with all of that.

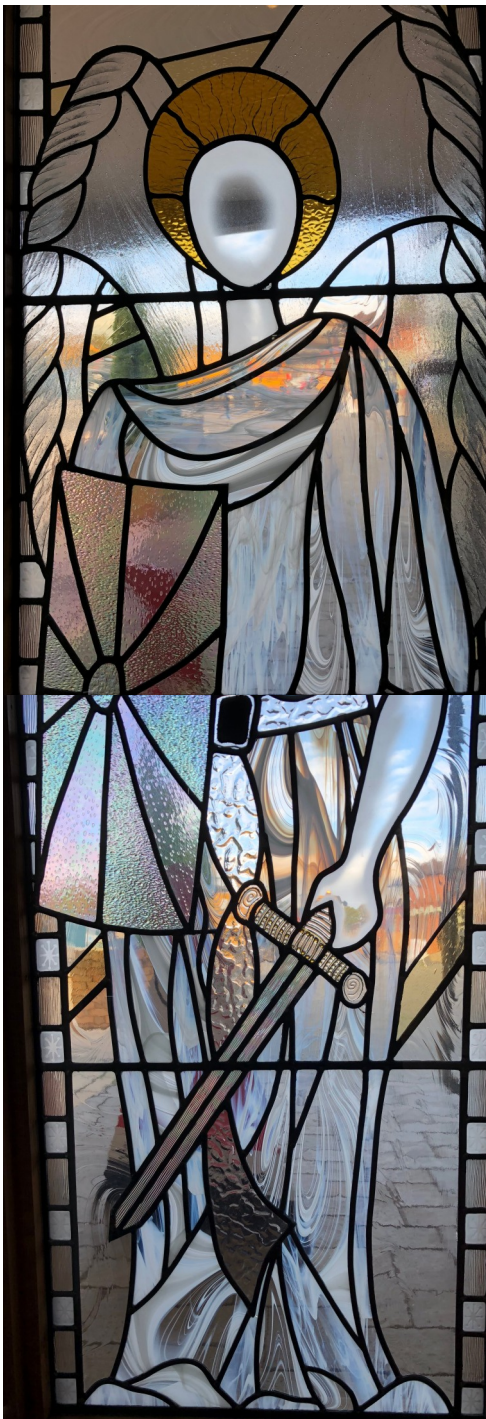
*Ctd. pg. 6*

**St. Michael's Community Celebration Day in Pictures (20 June 2026)**





The first thing to tackle was light. The entrance had always been quite dark — a rather gloomy first impression when the interior of the church is so beautifully lit. Without colour to play with, the glass itself had to do the heavy lifting, letting in as much light as possible while still giving the space some visual balance. Once the angel design had been chosen — from six different proposals — the next puzzle was how to make transparent, colourless figures actually look three-dimensional. How do you give something made of clear glass a sense of solidity and form?



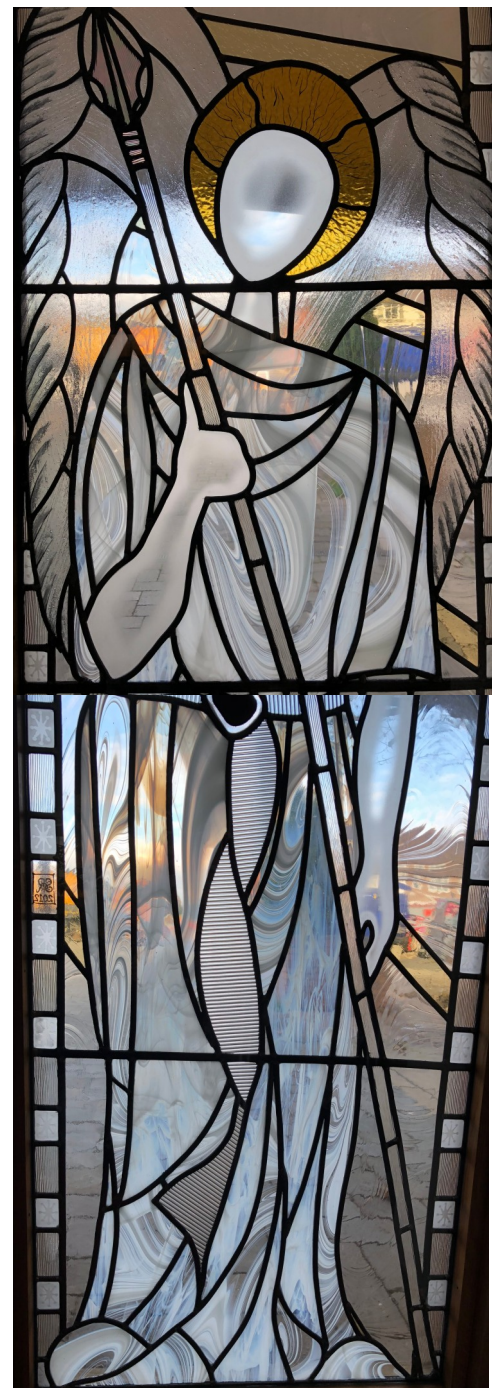
The answer was all in the choice of glass.

The background is clear Baroque glass, with its big swirling texture that gives the whole window a real sense of energy and movement — like the air around the angels is shifting. The gowns are a mix of white-on-clear Baroque and Whispy white glass, which gives the drapery a lovely soft flow. The sword blade and spear tip are Iridescent reeded glass, which catches the light beautifully and gives those edges a subtle shimmer. The bodies were the trickiest part — I used clear float glass and sandblasted it entirely by hand, carefully building up the shading to make the figures feel solid rather than flat.

The whole thing took five months to make. The finer details — the sword handle and the angels' sash buckles — were made separately as fused glass pieces in a kiln and then worked into the design. The windows are finished with a continuous border of alternating reeded glass and small sandblasted stars running all the way round.

The angels themselves are warrior angels — fitting companions for St. Michael — and they carry a spear and a sword. But they're not in battle mode. They're relaxed, at ease. One is leaning on his spear, the other has his sword pointing down at rest. The design is figurative but abstract enough that the angels are featureless and androgynous — they don't belong to any one person, which means they can belong to everyone.

Because the glass is so transparent, something lovely happens when you walk in. As you arrive at the church entrance the angels are facing you, at ease, welcoming you inside, then you step through the doors and turn around — and there are the angels again, but now they've turned and are



facing towards the church, standing at your back. The same figures that were inviting you in from the street are now watching over you, guarding you from behind. It's a really simple thing but it gives you this immediate, tangible feeling of being protected.

That moment is what I'm most proud of. It wasn't something I planned from the start — it was discovered gradually, through the back and forth between what the church wanted and what the work wanted to become.

I went in thinking I was making a window. I came out having made a threshold.

## 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:** COTHA United Service - 5 July at St Michael's.

**Messy Church: 18 July**

(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

5 July — Alan Bacon  
12 July — Roland Gillott  
19 July — Andy Connor  
26 July — Roger Leslie  
2 Aug — Alan Bacon  
9 Aug — Roland Gillott  
16 Aug — Roger Leslie  
23 Aug — Claire O'Beirne  
30 Aug — Alan Bacon

Please see:  
[stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)  
for more details

## ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

**POP IN & PAINT— Friday, 3 July & 7 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— Friday, 10 & 24 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.

**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, 17 July & 21 August – from 12.15p.m. – Amersham Free Church.**

Bring a packed lunch. The talk starts at 1p.m. Tea/coffee/water provided. In July Dr. Rebecca Eliahoo will give a talk on 'Overpaid and over here - Romans and the gift of Latin'. Suggested donation £3-£5 to cover costs.

**REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 4 July – 10.a.m.-1p.m.—St Michael's Church**

Come to Sustainable Amersham's pop-up Repair Café. Volunteer repairers will help you fix stuff for free.

**RED KITE CRAFT MARKET – Saturday, 4 July – 9a.m.-1p.m. – St. Michael's Church Hall.**

Handmade crafts, including, cards, woodwork, knitting, jewellery and much more.

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— Thursday, 3 September — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room**  
Tea, Coffee and Support.

**Mondays Stay Steady, Stay Strong 3pm-4pm (Tel: 07951 294178)**  
**Amersham Dance Studio** Children from 3+. 4pm-10pm  
(email: [emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk](mailto:emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk))

**Tuesdays Tuffney Performing Arts Academy 5pm-6pm**  
(Email: [office@tuffney.com](mailto:office@tuffney.com))

**Yoga with Shiv 5pm-7pm (Glover Rm) (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](mailto:emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk))

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

**Saturdays Dabble Art 9a.m-10.30am**

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, 18 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.



**Congratulations** to Jen Steele, who was very involved in St Michael's during the time of Brian Griffiths and later Philip Roderick, working especially with the children, for her ordination as Deacon on Sunday, 27 June in Exeter Cathedral.

**DIARY** JULY/AUGUST '26



## GREEN CORNER

Psalm 104.24

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

**Do you have any materials lying around that we could use to make a Bug Hotel at Messy Church on 18 July? If so please let the Church Office know asap. We are looking for bamboo, bricks with holes in them, well weathered wood, pine cones and any other natural materials bugs may like to hide in! We can collect if necessary at an agreed time.**

## Children & Families



## Seeds of Change

Scatter Kindness

A winnowing toss

Of seeds

Whittling in the breeze,

Landing in the stoniest,

Thorniest of places;

Expect nothing

Only that these tiny

Slips of promise

Will burst from their pods,

To warm a heart, and cheer

A hurting Soul;

And for seconds only

As they descend, may they

Awaken Hope –

To flower afresh

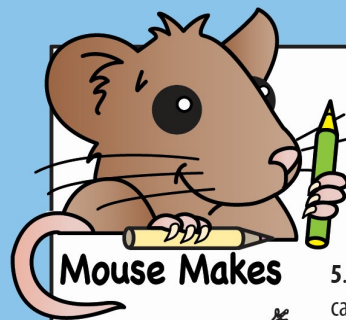
And yield, in time, a harvest

Fluttering on the

Wings of pure intention;

In gifting Kindness to

Another, change begins....



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes its nest on high?  
*Job 39:27*

2. What ate the seeds along the path?  
*Matthew 13:4*

3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?  
*Exodus 36:14*

4. What insect can we learn from?  
*Proverbs 6:6*

5. What plague came out of the River Nile?  
*Exodus 8:6*

6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?  
*Luke 18:25*

7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?  
*John 1:29*

8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?  
*Genesis 8:7*

9 across. In what creature's mouth was a coin found?  
*Matthew 17:27*

9 down. What lives in holes?  
*Matthew 8:20*

12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?  
*Luke 3:22*

15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?  
*Matthew 3:4*

13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?  
*Matthew 21:7*

14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?  
*Exodus 16:13*

16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?  
*Proverbs 30:30*

B I B L E

C R E A T U R E S

