



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

Please take one

Newsletter

JUNE 2021



We're A Little Closer To Normality



**Community Post Lockdown Service
Saturday July 10 at 11 am
On St Michael's Square**

A service of lament, thanksgiving and restoration; lament for all who died as a result of the coronavirus, thanksgiving for deliverance from the virus and for all who have worked hard (key workers, all who have voluntarily raised money or helped others), restoration (looking to the future and re-building after the pandemic). It will be a service for the community with an emphasis on love and working together.

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Church Office:01494 726680
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 (Monday – Friday
 9.30 am – 12.30 pm)

Clergy

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Churchwardens

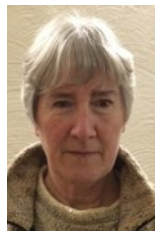
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St Michael's Vision Statement

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 Newsletter is published monthly (except January and August). The next issue will appear on Sunday July 4. Material for inclusion should please be emailed to the Editor on pbrune@olcs.net by June 25

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.

COMMENT

Looking Ahead

During this Covid-19 pandemic, we have been fortunate to have had service materials provided each week, and for some the opportunity to listen to the audio *Church at Home* service. In their sermons, Revd Debbie and Fr Peter have often referred to the existence of hope, and now that hope is being realised as we begin to return to normal life, albeit with some blips on the way.

Something else which Revd Debbie has said is that the glass doors of our church are not only for people outside to look in, but also for us to look out.

This connects with our role as a parish church which gives us a link with all those who live within the parish boundary. In Wikipedia, a parish church is referred to as the church which acts as a religious centre of the parish, one that may play a significant role in community activities, often allowing its premises to be used for non-religious community events.

Consistent with that central role, in May we hosted on St Michael's Square the Christian Aid Week Plant and Book Sale, this year concerned with the climate emergency, and its unequal effect on those already living in poverty. In a concert which, restrictions allowing, will take place in church on Sunday June 6, Chiltern Camerata are proposing to perform music composed by Mozart and Haydn in the year 1775. In the second half of June, Simpatico and Candida Hackney will be holding an exhibition of their paintings in church as part of Bucks Art Weeks. All being well, therefore, during this month there will be live music and real pictures in St Michael's to lift the spirits of those in our community of Amersham on the Hill.

A sentence which I have heard elsewhere at end of a Sunday morning Eucharist is: "Our worship is finished, let our service begin." With life improving again, we have the opportunity to find out what that might mean for us within the St Michael's community, and within the wider community of Amersham on the Hill.

Roland Gillott

More Services Resume

Both the early Sunday morning service (though now at 8.30 am) and the Tuesday morning service at 10.30 am have restarted.

As with the 10 am Sunday service, which has been running for some time, you will be asked to sanitise your hands, wear a mask, keep to the socially distanced seating arrangements and use the different exit when you leave.

To allow for social distancing both the 8.30 Sunday service and the Tuesday 10.30 service will be in the main church for the time being rather than in the Lady Chapel

as before.

Requests for confirmation of attendance (or otherwise) will be sent out by the office during the preceding week and it's helpful if you can reply to these. But if, for any reason, you fail to reply there is likely to be plenty of space so you will be very welcome anyway.

If you are not already on the list of those to whom these messages are sent but would like to be, please phone or email the office and let them know.

(726680/
office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

Anniversaries

The Start Of A Revolution

Five hundred years ago, in 1521, the Pope excommunicated Martin Luther, which convinced him that his task was no longer to reform the church but to found a completely new church. Ken Prideaux-Brune explains.

Martin Luther was a monk and a professor of Theology at the University of Wittenberg. One of his students said he was: "a man of middle stature, with a voice that combined sharpness in the enunciation of syllables and words, and softness in tone." On a visit to Rome he had been appalled by the luxurious lifestyle of the Pope and the Cardinals and by the grandiose plans for the rebuilding of the cathedral of St Peter. He was even more appalled by the fundraising methods of the church. Forgiveness, and with it a free pass to Heaven, was openly sold to the faithful. But Luther believed that God's Grace was freely given; it could neither be bought nor earned through good works. You simply had to accept it. Justification was by faith alone; there was no need for the intervention of a priest. And that, of course, was a direct challenge to the authority of the church.

In 1517 he published his 95 Theses – we don't know whether he actually pinned them to the door of the church in Wittenberg, as myth suggests. Luther didn't see the Theses as a call to revolution but as a way of starting an academic debate on what he saw as urgently needed reforms. Some of them, nonetheless, sounded more than a little provocative.

Thesis 86, for instance, reads: "Why does not the pope, whose wealth today is greater than the wealth of the richest Croesus, build the basilica of St. Peter with his own money rather than with the money of poor believers?" And, whether or not he pinned the Theses to the church door, the comparatively recent invention of printing meant that they could be widely disseminated.

Luther's views were condemned by the Pope as heretical but an academic debate took place in Leipzig, Saxony, in 1519. This was hardly neutral ground as Duke George of Saxony was an outspoken supporter of papal supremacy. Nonetheless Luther argued that even church councils can be in error when not pronouncing on matters of faith. His views on the authority of the church were condemned as heresy and proceedings were launched against him.

He was summoned by the new Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, to appear at the Diet of Worms in 1521, where he was ordered to renounce views he had expressed in a number of publications. He acknowledged that some of his language had been inappropriate but said he could not recant the views complained of unless



convinced by scripture or reason. He was. In effect, pitting himself against more than a thousand years of Christian tradition. Sadly, it seems that there is no evidence that he ended his statement with the famous words, "Here I stand. I can do no other."

Luther was condemned and his proposed excommunication confirmed. Charles V pronounced him an outlaw and ordered that his books be burned. Duke George of Saxony had by now been succeeded by Duke Frederick, who was more sympathetic to Luther's views and, in any event, felt that it was not the Emperor's right to condemn one of *his* subjects. He sent a group of soldiers to 'kidnap' Luther as he travelled back towards Wittenberg and they took him to Wartburg Castle, where he remained in hiding for the next year. While there, he worked on his translation of the Bible into the vernacular, a work as significant for the future of the German language as the King James Bible was for English.

From 1521 it was open warfare between Catholics and Protestants, a struggle which reached its nadir with the horror and bloodshed of the Thirty Years' War in the following century. It would be some time before the concept of toleration was accepted.

With thanks to Encyclopaedia Britannica

Reflections On A Zoom Discussion Group

A study course was suggested by the clergy as a way of marking Lent. It was based on the Church of England's campaign #Live Lent: God's Story, Our Story, which 'encouraged participants to take a fresh look at 'evangelism'. 28 families/individuals took copies of the study guide. Some preferred to work through it at their own pace while others signed up for a six week series of discussion groups focusing on the themes set out in the booklet. Some of them have shared their experiences below.

I found the course to be interesting, friendly, tolerant, thoughtful and challenging. Zoom is ideal for Bible study and discussion for smallish groups. It made it much easier for people to speak. It was a slow start but not surprising for a new venture. I learned much from other members and the booklet of Bible readings and commentaries.

All this made me think and led me to the conclusion that it is the responsibility of everyone to do what they can to draw others to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ, not an easy task for anyone. I think it was accepted that a suitable opening was needed to broach such a personal matter. So what to do? Probably not much until Covid relaxes its grip, but plans could be prepared, resources investigated and individual roles suggested both for younger members with energy and older ones with sympathetic listening



ears.

St. Michaels has many resources:- location; premises; churchwardens and many others who "run" the Church; the people who sit in the pews and most important of all, the clergy to lead the spiritual foundation and give guidance.

Esther King

I joined the Lent group to support the 'venture' but I found that I enjoyed it, as well as benefitting from, small discussion groups. They build relationships, give me understanding, and hope in all that I am and of God's purpose, which is a daily struggle for me in today's world. I am an emotional being, while I would call my husband, Antonis, who also joined us, logical.

It is a real gift to have a safe space to share your thoughts, opinions or fears and struggles, where you are not judged; I was heard, and supported, as everyone was, when sharing on the #Live Lent book. This little gem spoke into all of our hearts. One reflection was about how the shepherd left the flock to

go and find that one lost sheep. (Luke 15) How many times have I thought why, when the herd was the valuable asset, yet if you lose the key to the car, the car is useless. This made me truly think of the other side of the coin and see things differently The prayer was 'Lord I bring before you something I feel I have lost in my life. – be close to me in that place of loss.'

It was great to have an intimate group of confidants to share on what this book brought to each of us and with Rev. Debbie's, and Peter's wonderful guidance, we never had enough time each week. We talked about how to reach others with God's word in today's world, and that is a challenge for all of us, but I am so glad people did this for me years ago, or I would not have God in my life today, and this group helps me keep God in my life, reminding me of His will not mine be done.

**Nicola Petrou
-Amerikanos**

I enjoyed being part of the group, and found the different takes on the scripture enlightening, which expanded my understanding of the word of God. I would definitely be eager to join such groups within the fellowship of the church in the future.'

**Antonis Petrou-
Amerikanos**

Following the positive reception of this initiative, there are plans to arrange another course later in the year, providing a similar opportunity to draw people together to share ideas in a relaxed setting.

Simpatico Are Back!



Simpatico. L to r: Beverley, Liz, Cecile and Jenny

As part of Bucks Art Weeks Simpatico will once again be staging another of their wonderful exhibitions at St Michael's this month. They will be joined by Candy Hackney. We look forward to the usual collection of pictures in a variety of mediums and styles.

Wear a mask, sanitise your hands on arrival and follow arrows to the exit.

June 12—27
Weekdays: 9.30 - 5.30
Saturdays: 9.30 - 6
Sundays: 12—6

Workaid Re-opens—For The Third Time

The past year, for local charity Workaid, has been a matter of in, out; in, out; and now in again. “We have now re-opened for the third time,” writes CEO Adrian Hatch in the latest Workaid newsletter, “but I am cautiously optimistic that we can remain open this time!”

The pandemic meant that Workaid was only able to send two containers to Africa between March and December last year but they hope to send seven containers this year.

That’s an optimistic target but they have introduced a rota system to ensure that as many volunteers as pos-

sible can be on site at the same time and still maintain social distancing.

“While Workaid volunteers in the UK,” says Adrian, “will continue to play a vital role in servicing and repairing various tools and equipment, we are starting to place greater emphasis on providing young people in Africa with the skills to repair and service equipment. Initially this will be sewing machines but could be extended to other tools,”

In Zambia, working with the Vwila Foundation, a local organisation, Workaid supports the training of technical staff to service and repair sewing machines in

youth resource centres.

In Uganda Workaid “will build the capacity of our partners to improve the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of projects, with the aim of ensuring the work we support is of the highest quality.”

“I know”, writes Adrian, “that 2020 was the most difficult year imaginable and the beginning of 2021 has been equally tough. However, I am excited by the prospect of Workaid being able to get back to doing what we do best in 2021, enabling young people to learn vocational skills and providing them with tools to escape poverty.”



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

DIARY

JUNE 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

Other activities in June

Tuesday	June 1)	Chiltern U3A Information Event
Wednesday	June 2)	St Michael's Square
Sunday	June 6	Trinity 1. Warden: Hazel Miller (773189) Chiltern Camerata Concert. 6 pm
Saturday	June 12 -)	Simpatico
Sunday	June 27)	Art Exhibition. 9.30 am—5.30 pm
Sunday	June 13	Trinity 2. Warden: Ann Jarvis (726078)
Sunday	June 20	Trinity 3. Warden: Roger Leslie (726362)
Sunday	June 27	Trinity 4. Warden: Roland Gillott (722674)

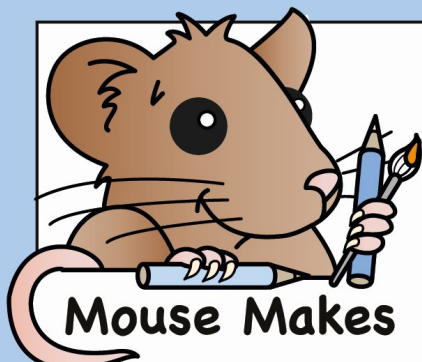
NOTE; Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) Sunday July 11. 10 am



Warmest congratulations to

Hazel and Keith Adamson

***Who celebrate their Diamond
Wedding on June 10. Both have
been very active members of the
St Michael's community
throughout their time in Amer-
sham and we rejoice with them.***



Mouse Makes



JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?
John 4:46-54

Who did Jesus heal from fever?
Mark 1:29-31

How was the the paralysed man brought to Jesus?
Mark 2:1-12



Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?
Mark 5:1-20

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?
John 5:1-15

What did Jesus say made the woman well?
Matthew 9: 20-22



"There are **many** things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."
John 21:25

How many men were healed from leprosy?
Luke 17:11-19

What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?
Mark 10:46-52



Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?
John 11:1-45

Jesus **healed** and made the...

SICK	ABLE
DEAD	WALK
BLIND	FORGIVEN
DEAF	ALIVE
CRIPPLED	SPEAK
SINNER	MOVE
MUTE	SEE
PARALYSED	WELL
DISABLED	HEAR