

CHRIST CHURCH

CATHEDRAL, OXFORD.



Celebratory Eucharist

28 April 2024

2.30pm

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

NEWSLETTER **JUNE '24**

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

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revdebbieoades@gmail.com



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peter.binns166@btinternet.com

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Katherine Hyde
LLM@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



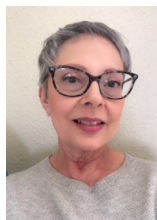
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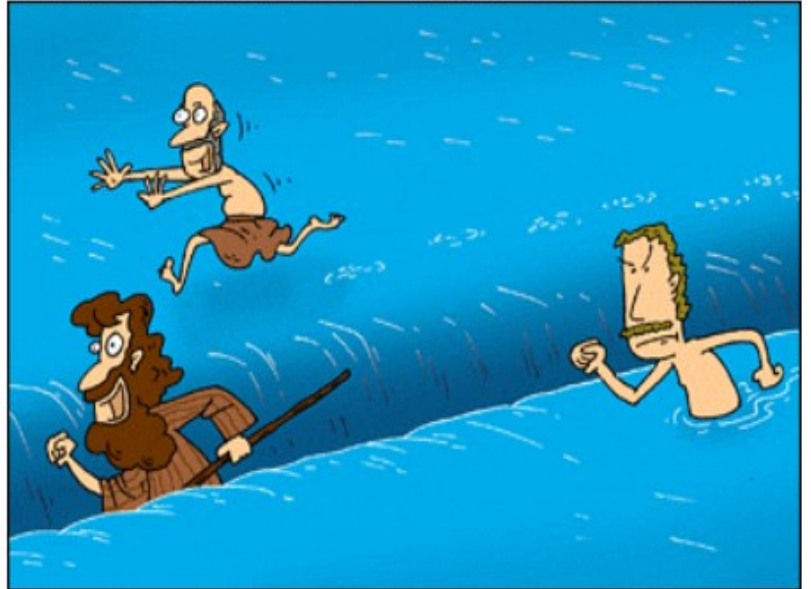
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Thanks to Colin Nelson 12-14-2009

HOZEKIAH FOUND THIS RACE WITH MOSES
AND PETER TO BE GROSSLY UNFAIR

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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, 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 to communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk, for the attention of Rebecca, by 20 June.

In this issue...	Page
Who's Who at St. Michael's	2
From the Editor	3
Celebrating 30 Years of Women's Ordination	3
Act of Lament from the Service of Celebration	3
A Reflection on The Life of Peter East	4
Books of the Old Testament Word Search	5
Welcome to Crafty Hive Club	5
An Interview with Roland Gillott	6
Diary	7
Kids Page	8

Celebrating 30 Years of Women's Ordination

by Katherine Hyde

This year the Church of England celebrates 30 years of the Ordination of Women. A service of Celebration was held at Christchurch Cathedral on 28 April 2024, and was led by Rt. Revd. Bishop Olivia of Reading. Both women and men were invited. Below is a photo of three who attended from our local area; Katherine Hyde (LLM) from St Michael and All Angels, Amersham; and Lisbeth Cameron and Jacque Rose (Churchwardens) from St John the Evangelist, Ashley Green (Gt. Chesham).



Besides celebrating the Ordination of Women for 30 years in the Diocese of Oxford, we were also celebrating the witness and work of one of those particular ladies who was part of that first contingent of Christian women who were determined to be heard by Parliament and the church; the Revd. Margaret Hall.

Margaret was at St John's for 10 years and at St Michael's for 9 years after retirement.

I knew Margaret for only three years before we left to work in Africa, but she made a great impression on me. When I said that I needed her guidance in order to write prayers for church, she gave me a stern look that seemed to say everything... I didn't need her help when I had already received God's direction to do that!! Margaret also visited me privately after the sudden death of my father and that was precious.

The Bishop of Dover has commended that women in ministry should no longer apologise for being women... in ministry. We must listen to God's calling in obedience and not remain silent.



From the editor... At St. Michael's we are blessed to be surrounded by inspiring people, both within the church and beyond. The pages of this edition give a small glimpse into just a few of these people.

This month the Church of England celebrates the inspiring St. Barnabas, on 11 June. An early apostle, he served God through his work with Paul at Antioch, where followers of Jesus were first called Christians. Find out more about St. Barnabas in Acts 4:36-7; Acts 11:25-6, and Acts 15:36-40. - Rebecca

Act of Lament from the Service of Celebration:

Dean: God, the maker of all things, has made each of us in his image and called us all to service.

Let us lament where God's image is marred.

All: Lord heal and forgive.

Dean: Let us lament vocations delayed and denied, voices silenced and ministries rejected.

All: Lord, heal and forgive.

Dean: Let us lament the bruises of ministry, those harmed where they should have been loved.

All: Lord, heal and forgive.

Dean: Let us lament those attacked and abused, those who have not been believed.

All: Lord, heal and forgive.

A reflection on the life of Peter East

by Kenneth Prideaux-Brune

Another remarkable person that I have been privileged to know was Peter East who worked for 16 years with young Bangladeshis in Tower Hamlets, in London, and then moved to Bangladesh where he initiated a project that still flourishes 40 years later.

Walking through the village on the edge of the town of Sylhet in Bangladesh Peter was like the pied piper, constantly surrounded by children clamouring to hold his hand. He had been a community worker in the East End of London for some 16 years, the first white person to work with the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets, but at the age of 60 he took early retirement and went to live for five years in Bangladesh. When he left for Sylhet he had no idea what he would be doing there. He simply felt called to go and he knew that until he had responded to that call, he couldn't know what he was called to do. In fact, he spent several months trying different things, none of which felt quite right, until he met, by chance, Harun, a local businessman, the 'head man' of his village and was immediately convinced that this was somebody he could work with; together they could build something that would last.

He moved into the village of Khasdobir (in reality a cluster of several villages with a population of about 30,000) where he and Harun realised that the most urgent need was education. Primary education was free and obligatory, but children nonetheless had to be able to recognise their letters to be accepted into primary school. So Children whose parents were illiterate had little chance of getting into school. Harun and Peter found pieces of waste ground in various parts of Khasdobir where they could run open-air schools (they called them Schools Under The Sky) for the poorest children.

They then realised that there were a considerable number of quite young widows with no means of support and so they started a sewing workshop, where young women could be trained to make clothes and enabled to earn their own living, either working from home or in clothing factories. And they made tiny payments to frail, elderly widows which, in a country with no government welfare support, literally meant the difference between life and death.

Peter himself died in 2004 and Harun died a few years earlier. but the project continues, 40 years after he arrived in Bangladesh, though now much more professionally managed and with each of the pre-schools now taking place under shelters so that they can continue through the rainy season. His dream lives on. There's more information on the website of the charity which supports the project, *Friends of Khasdobir*.

He was a convinced Christian who spent much of his life working with Muslims. While in London he once said: "It's not my job to make these young men Christians; it's my job to help them to become better Muslims". And in Bangladesh any attempt

at conversion would have had him thrown out of the country immediately. Yet, both in Tower Hamlets and in Bangladesh, he imparted his Christian values anonymously.

His work was based on friendship. The people he worked with, in London and in Bangladesh were his friends, never his clients. One of the young men in London said to him once: "What's your job? We know you spend your spare time with us because you like us but where do you work?" He never came across as 'the professional', simply a friend who offered help when needed.

He was known to everyone in Sylhet as Peter bhai (brother Peter) and he enjoyed walking through Sylhet town with one of the 'elite' and watching the consternation on his face as a rickshaw puller from Khasdobir came by and called out "Hello, Peter bhai". A rickshaw puller calling a white man brother! What was the world coming to?

When he arrived in Bangladesh every woman was totally submissive. None of them would look him in the face. When he returned for a short visit a year after leaving, a large gathering welcomed him and every woman there came up to him, looked him in the face and shook his hand. Quietly and humbly, he had transformed the culture of the village.



One of the original open-air schools



AMOS
CHRONICLES
DANIEL
DEUTERONOMY

ECCLESIASTES
ESTHER
EXODUS
EZEKIEL

JOSHUA
JUDGES
KINGS
LAMENTATIONS

LEVITICUS
MALACHI
MICAH
NAHUM
NEHEMIAH
NUMBERS
OBADIAH
PROVERBS
PSALMS
RUTH
SAMUEL
SONG OF SONGS
ZECHARIAH
ZEPHANIAH

Little Learners Nursery
Babies—5 years old
St Michael's Church Hall,
70 Sycamore Road, Amersham
<https://littlelearnersamersham.co.uk>

Welcome to Crafty Hive Club! By Lyndsey Nelson

After closing The Beehive Montessori School in December I have now opened up a brand-new Arts and Crafts club for children.

I will be offering in-person classes (In the Glover Room at St Michael's) and Arts and Crafts subscription boxes to order online.

Each crafting session will be buzzing with exciting projects that will have the children, creating, laughing and making new friends. They will stimulate their imaginations, develop confidence and problem-solving abilities and promote well-being.

They will dive into fun crafts that blend Science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM), often using recyclable items.

I've always felt that this is such an important aspect of children's education and can be overlooked. I love seeing the joy on their faces and observing how they relax so quickly whilst immersing themselves in their creations. I aim to create a happy haven for children to blossom!

So gather young crafters, unleash your imaginations and let the Crafty Hive adventure begin!



**NEW
CRAFTING CLASS**

by a Montessori teacher

**WEDNESDAYS
CENTRAL TOP
AMERSHAM**

4 to 6 Years old 3:45 pm
7 to 9 years old 5.00 pm

Making kids innovators through
creative problem solving

BOOK HERE >

CRAFTYHIVECLUB.CO.UK



An Interview with Roland Gillott Church Warden at St. Michael and All Angels by Rebecca Olsen



How did you come to Christianity?

I came to Christianity through growing up within a Christian family. Both my parents were church goers and so we went to church regularly as a family. My father was a sidesman and my mother was very involved in the Mother's Union.

The schools I went to had a strong Christian background, so it was very much part of my school life as well.

Do you recognize a time when your faith changed, from that you experienced growing up to it becoming your own?

I'd say it was an evolution. Through my time at school it was something that became important to me. My secondary school was a boarding school where chapel was a daily part of school life. I remember positively wanting to be confirmed so as to be able to take full part in Christian life.

Have you ever found your faith challenged and how did you deal with that?

I haven't. I've been fortunate with those I've known or worked with. Although enthusiastic, it's not been something I've talked about so I think in part I've not been challenged because of this. Also, it wasn't really unusual as potentially it was also part of the lives of other people with whom I had been in contact, so it wasn't out of the way.

When did you first come to St. Michael's?

1985. We had identified a house we wanted to move into which was more in St. Michael's parish. I wanted to be

involved in the parish in which we lived.

When we first came to Amersham, we lived in a house in Sycamore Road. Every weekday morning I turned left out of the gate to go to the station and to work. I wanted to go in a different direction on a Sunday, so we turned right out of the gate and went to St. Leonard's for some years before coming to St Michael's. I really related to the Rector at St. Leonard's, the Rev John Stanton. I was the secretary of the PCC there and I also took on the editorship of the parish magazine. Looking back, I regard this time as a training for the future. It gave me an understanding of how the church works. I've always felt that church is somewhere to come and be of service, as well as somewhere to worship.

Having said that, it is important that the church as an organization doesn't absorb too much of what we have to offer. Family is of major importance, and I enjoy being involved in community activities as well. As Revd. Debbie has included in the service for ordinary time, just before the end: "Our worship is finished, let our service begin".

Those who are in work have the opportunity to spend time with others, not to preach but to be an example in the way in which they deal with people, and with working life generally. That applies equally to any outside activity that we might become involved in.

How do you consider your work as a Church Warden supporting the clergy

and St Michael's?

It's complementary to the responsibilities which the clergy have. Hopefully at the same time it is supportive of what they are doing. The collegiate aspect of the role is important. It is something that is done together with other people. At St. Michael's there are so many people that take on the different responsibilities within the church. We are fortunate that they contribute their skills in the way they do. And it's good to be having fun while doing it as well!

The ecumenical side has been important for me. The relationship with other churches is something which I have enjoyed and learnt from. I also think that the relationship which St. Michael's, as the parish church, has with the community is enormously important. We do need to continue to look outwards and try to understand what the needs are, and how St. Michael's might meet them. In relation to this, I would be in favour of there being more opportunities for non-eucharistic worship; I think that attending non-eucharistic worship may be easier for those who are not used to going to church. However St Michael's tradition is a very eucharistic one, and that also needs to be respected.

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: 15 June '24

(The third Saturday each month 11.30am—1pm, except Aug)St

Michael's is usually open for private prayer from 10am—4pm Mon– Fri. <https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>, will access live-streamed services.

WORSHIP

WARDENS

2 June Andy Connor
9 June Claire Sinclair
16 June Roger Leslie,
23 June Roland Gillott
30 June Alan Bacon

Please see:
stmichaelsamersham.org.uk
for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

SIMPATICO ART EXHIBITION—8-23 June —St. Michaels

Weekdays, 10am-5pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 12 noon-6pm; Saturday 15 June, 1.30pm-6pm

A CRAFTY CUPPA—14 & 28 June — 10.30am-12 noon—St. Michaels

A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company. Bring a craft with you or come and find out more about International dolls and dolls clothes with Audrey and Katherine.

LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church

Every Tuesday – 12noon-2pm Tea, coffee and soup available 1.10pm-1.30pm Music, a talk, or short service.

Amersham Refugee Week – June 22nd 10am – 2pm – St Michael's Square

Music, Refreshments, Dancing, Stories

Mondays **Tiny Talk—Baby Signing** 11am (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** 4.30pm
(Email: office@tuffney.com)
Yoga with Shiv 6pm—8pm (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—10pm
(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)
Stay Steady, Stay Strong 1.30pm—2.30pm (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, 15 June, Messy Church

will be on in St. Michael's from 11.30am to 1pm, including fun activities from biscuit decorating to making pencil toppers, and much more. The session is based on The Prodigal Son, Luke 15: 11-32, and the theme: God is a loving parent. This promises to be another fun session. After all the making there will be a short interactive session about the story behind the activities, followed by 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, Births and Deaths

RIP

Barbara Shaffer

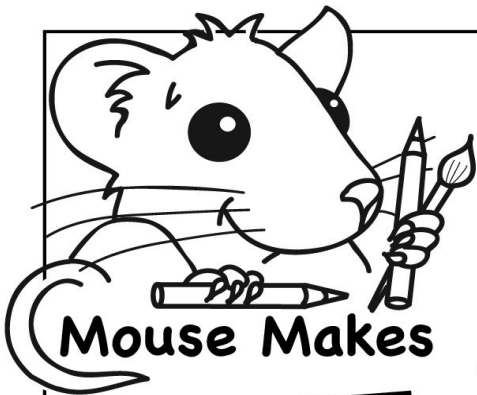
David Meeks



Bucks Art Weeks at St. Michael & All Angels Church, Sycamore Road, Amersham HP6 5DR. 8—23 June '24. Liz Grammenos, Jenny Thompson, Madeleine Fletcher and Barbara Spruytenburg invite you to their joyous exhibition.

259
Simpatico
Interesting, dynamic & varied work

DIARY JUNE '24



Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
MPWF UIF GBUIFS
IBT HJWFO UP VT
UIBU XF TIPVME
CF DBMMFE
DIJMESFO PG HPE
POF KPIO UISFF: POF

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

— — — — —
Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

— — — — —
Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

— — — — —
Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

— — — — —
Genesis 37:2-3

This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:
"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

R	O	T	A	S
O	P	E	R	A
T	E	N	E	T
A	R	E	P	O
S	A	T	O	R

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

— — — — —
1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

— — — — —
Mark 5:21



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

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
SON • DAUGHTER
JOSEPH • ISAAC
MOSES • JOB
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEBEDEE