



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

Please take one

# Newsletter

## NOVEMBER 2021



### Remembrance Sunday, November 14

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow,  
Among the Crosses, row on row  
That mark our place...*



*If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields.*

Our thanks to Liz Grammenos for this painting of poppies, which she showed at the Simpatico exhibition at St Michael's during Bucks Arts Weeks in June. It is lovely to be able to include an original work of art.

The lines are from the poem *In Flanders Fields*, written by Canadian army doctor John Macrae while working at a forward dressing station near Ypres—at a place christened by the Tommys Essex Farm. The poem was first published in *Punch* magazine in 1915.

On Remembrance Sunday, November 14, the service will be paused and the two minutes silence will be observed at 11 am, Poppies will float down into the Sanctuary as the Last Post is played.

On Thursday November 11 the British Legion will lead an Act of Remembrance on St Michael's Square, which will start at 10.55 am

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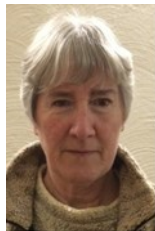
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**St Michael's Vision Statement**

*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 November 1. Material for inclusion should please be emailed to the Editor on [pbrune@olcs.net](mailto:pbrune@olcs.net) by October 20.**

## COMMENT

### Just Who Was St Michael?

At the end of September every year we celebrate our Patronal Festival. As a church dedicated to St Michael his feast day, Michaelmas, is always a special occasion for us. But who was St Michael? Michael is a one-off among saints. Other saints were human beings, however little, or vague, or confused our knowledge of them, but Michael is not a creature of flesh and blood; he is a mythical being, an angel.



He is mentioned in various places in the Bible. In Daniel he is referred to as “one of the princes of the heavenly host” and the letter of Jude is the only time in the Bible that he is referred to specifically as the Archangel Michael, placing him above ordinary angels. In Revelation he becomes the general of the angelic army, leading them in battle against the army of the devil (Satan). Michael is victorious and Satan is driven out of heaven. Which is fine for those already in heaven but not so good for us “for the devil has come down to you with great wrath”.

So, it may seem slightly strange that we should celebrate Michael for setting the devil loose among us. But he is seen as a healer and protector and as the commander of the army of God, fighting the forces of evil. Martin Luther and other early Protestant theologians even identified Michael with the pre-incarnate Christ. His cult has been popular in the British Isles from very early times. By the end of the Middle Ages nearly 700 churches were dedicated to him. Artists, of course, had to invent a way of depicting him. For many, this meant showing him killing a dragon, like St George. In other cases, like the sculpture on our church, he is shown killing a serpent, which, in the light of the Genesis creation story, makes more sense.

So, our Patron Saint is not a human being but a poetic, mythical creation. Poetry and myth are powerful things, conveying deeper truths than mere prose; and a mythical being represented as a leader, a healer and a protector seems like a pretty good Patron to have.

**Ken Prideaux-Brune**

“

# Anniversaries

## The Royal British Legion is 100

As the British Legion celebrates its centenary Ken Prideaux-Brune sketches a few of the highlights of its history.

At the end of the First World War over a million men returned home suffering from wounds, half of them with physical or mental disabilities that would be with them for the remainder of their lives. And many of those who returned unscathed faced unemployment. The Legion was formed in 1921, by bringing together four ex-service organisations, to care for wounded or unemployed veterans and to campaign for fairer treatment for them. But it also saw its role as helping the nation to remember the sacrifice of those who didn't return. In Flanders, wherever the shelling ceased, red poppies sprang up again and so the Legion adopted the Flanders poppy as the symbol of remembrance. The first Poppy Appeal took place in Novem-

ber 1921 and ever since has been the Legion's major annual fundraising campaign as well as being the way in which the nation remembers the fallen.

In 1922 the Legion's first poppy factory opened on London's Old Kent Road, where 40 wounded veterans manufactured 1,000 poppies a week. And so the Poppy Appeal not only raised the funds that the Legion relies on; it also provided employment to wounded veterans. The Legion also took over a hospital as a home where wounded veterans could be cared for.

The very first Festival of Remembrance took place at the Albert Hall in 1927. It has, of course, since become a regular fixture on the BBC television schedules. And the fol-



*At work in the poppy factory*

lowing year the first Field of Remembrance appeared on the lawns outside Westminster Abbey.

As well as providing employment in its poppy factory the Legion provides training and start-up loans to help veterans set up their own small businesses. In the five years after the Second World War the Legion provided 4,000 loans to help veterans to set themselves up as chimney sweeps, steeple-jacks, dentists, cosmetic manufacturers and rug makers.

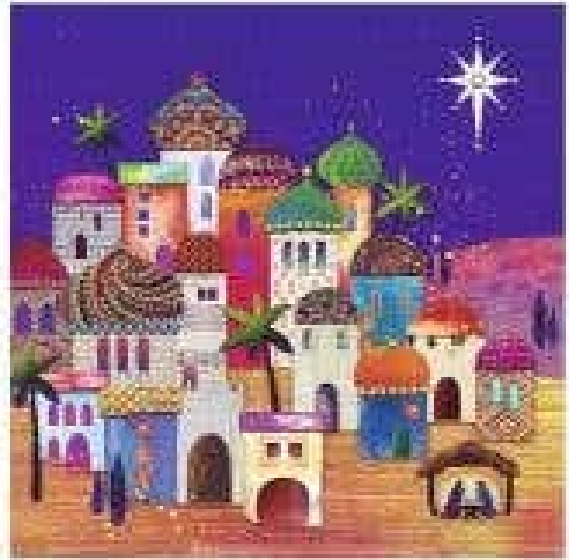
In 1963 the Legion, thanks to a legacy from a Greek businessman, opened Galanos House, in Warwickshire, their first care home to offer single bed-sitting rooms instead of the dormitories which had been standard accommodation up to then. In 1973 the Legion proposed that the wording of the ceremony at the Cenotaph should be changed to include: "All who have died in the service of their country"; a change that was accepted in 1979.

In the 1990s the Legion successfully campaigned for the revival of the two minutes' silence at 11 am on November 11. And in 2019 the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day was commemorated by a Channel cruise with 255 veterans, followed by a service of thanksgiving on the beaches of Normandy.

For 100 years the Legion has cared for wounded veterans of the many wars, small and large, in which British forces have been engaged. And it has led the annual commemoration of those who gave their lives for their country.

## Christmas Cards

Sadly, Cards for Good Causes are not able to run their usual pop-up shop at St Michael's this year but worry not! The Traidcraft stall after the 10 am service on Sunday November 14 will have a full range of Traidcraft Christmas cards available (see just one example on the right) so you can still buy your Christmas cards at St Michael's. There are also a number of St Michael's own cards available from the office. And, of course, the charity shops in town will have their own charity Christmas cards for sale.



## Christmas Tree Festival

Sat December 5—Wed January 5



## Music on St Michael's Square

Saturday December 11

9.45 am Knights of Harmony

11 am Amersham Jupiter Singers

12.15 pm Amersham Rock Choir

1.30 pm St Michael's Choir

2.15 pm Amersham Band

**Both events in aid of Wycombe Homeless Connection**

If you can help with setting up, on Thursday December 2. and/or dismantling, on Thursday January 6, the Christmas Tree Festival, please contact Kiki Connor. And if you are able to help with the Music on St Michael's Square event, either manning the Angel Tree in the Narthex or by holding a collecting bucket, please also contact Kiki.

[kiki@akipl.com](mailto:kiki@akipl.com) 01494 723561

## Urgent Action Needed

Britain's faith leaders unite to demand action at the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, November 1—12

Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, and lead Bishop on the Environment for the Church of England, signed the letter alongside leaders of every major Christian denomination and representatives from Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities.

The declaration states: "We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity.

"We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

"Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our



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CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
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ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations.

"To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26."

The Glasgow Declaration pledges a response to the challenge set by the climate emergency through being "advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future."

### Wise Choices Film Club

Friday November 5. 2 pm

Wheeler Room

This Month's Film

*He Named Me Malala*

An affectionate, touching and revealing portrait of the teenager who was attacked by a Taliban gunman in Pakistan. Rather than be silenced she emerged as a global voice for the education rights of all children.

*Running time: 84 minutes*

**We welcome in baptism  
Riley Alan Smith  
Tessa Sarah Smith and  
Quinn Jordan Crosby.**

**And we give thanks for the life of  
Anita Walton  
Andrew (Ernie) Wise**

### COThA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Churches on the Hill Amersham will take place on:

**Tuesday November 9 at 8 pm**



This is your opportunity to learn more about the joint activities of the three churches of Amersham-on-the-Hill—

The Free Church, St John's Methodist Church and St Michael's—and to discuss the plans for the future.

The meeting will be via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Please contact the office of your would like the Zoom link.



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

**DIARY**

**NOVEMBER 2019**

**Eucharists will be celebrated each week**  
**Sundays 8.30 am and 10 am**  
**Tuesdays 10.30 am**

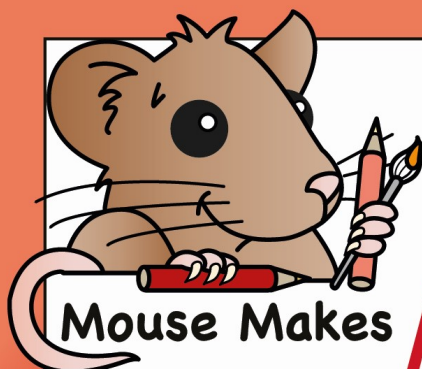
The church is open for private prayer until 4 pm on Tuesdays, following the 10.30 am service, and on Wednesdays and Fridays until mid-afternoon. The votive candle stand has been moved into the Lady Chapel, which has been set aside as a place of quiet.

**Weekly Activities in the Hall**

Sundays	Tae Kwando.. Hall. 10 —11 am
Mondays	Mature Movers. 1.45—2.45 pm (from September 20) Dance Studio. Hall. Children from 3+. Afternoon.
Tuesdays	Pilates Health Physiotherapy. 7.15—8.15 pm. (from September 7)
Wednesdays	Karate Club. Hall. Beginners/Junior 6 —7 pm. Intermediate/Senior 7—8 pm
Thursdays	Dance Studio. Hall. Children from 3+. Afternoon.
Fridays	Stay Steady, Stay Strong.. Hall. 1.30—2.30 pm Karate Club. Hall 6.30—8 pm

**Other activities in November**

Tuesday	Nov 2	LUNCH BREAK. The church in 100 objects. Free Church 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Nov 3	Nappy Days.. 1.30—3 pm
Friday	Nov 5	Crafty Cuppa. 10.30 am—12.30 pm Wise Choices Film Club. <i>He Named Me Malala</i> Wheeler Room 2 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov 7</b>	<b>Third before Advent. Warden: Alan Bacon (774870)</b>
Tuesday	Nov 9	LUNCH BREAK. Bite-sized Service. Free Church 1.10 pm COTHA AGM (via Zoom) 8 pm
Wednesday	Nov 10	Nappy Days.. 1.30—3 pm
Thursday	Nov 11	Remembrance. 10.55 am. St Michael's Square.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov 14</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday. Gathered Round.</b> <b>Traidcraft stall after 10 am service. Warden: Ann Jarvis (726078)</b>
Tuesday	Nov 15	LUNCH BREAK. Peter Wilkinson. Free Church 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Nov 17	Nappy Days.. 1.30—3 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov 21</b>	<b>Christ the King. Warden: Roger Leslie (726362)</b>
Tuesday	Nov 23	LUNCH BREAK. Challoner's Boys in Recital. Free Church 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Nov 24	Nappy Days.. 1.30—3 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov 28</b>	<b>Advent Sunday. Warden: Hazel Miller (773189)</b>
Tuesday	Nov 30	LUNCH BREAK. Free Church Chiltern Singers in Recital. 1.10 pm



Mouse Makes



I AM  
THE

Read John 10:11 and 14



I AM  
THE

Read John 15:1 and 35



I AM  
THE

Read John 6: 35,51



AND THE

Read John 11:25

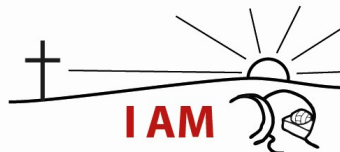


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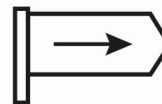
Read John 18:12

# I AM

Seven times in John's Gospel Jesus calls Himself "I AM" - the same name that God calls Himself when He speaks to Moses in Exodus 3:14 Jesus is telling us who He really is.



I AM  
THE



I AM  
THE

Read John 10:9



I AM  
THE

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

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search