



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

Please take one

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021



Join Us For A Crafty Cuppa



Do you practise a craft—tapestry, model-making, knitting, whatever? Would you like company while you work, and a chance to share ideas and inspiration? Or would you just like a cup of coffee and a chat, a chance to get to know others?

If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions, join us at St Michael's on the 2nd Friday morning each month from 10.30 to 11.30

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 (Monday – Friday
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Churchwardens

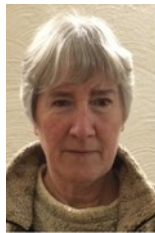
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St Michael's Vision Statement

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 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 by October 20.



COMMENT

Looking Out and Looking In.

On a holiday in North Wales in June we were looking out at the screeching seagulls who dominate Llandudno bay, with its distant view of the Great Orme Head , mentioned in weather forecasts; the nosy seagull, looking us in the eye, searching for food, was separated from us, but with a dynamic that held us briefly together. A time then to laugh and enjoy the moment. Nothing wrong, now and then, however, in finding the time also to look in at ourselves, similarly searching for sustenance; and also seeking honesty with ourselves, not hiding behind that pane of glass.

Teresa of Avila (whose saint's day is October 15) was an expert in "looking in." She was fed by contemplative prayer, what she described as " a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who loves us"; the "raising of one's heart and mind to God."



And the consequence of this dialogue with oneself and with the Divine is, of course, being fortified to get to the other side of that glass, to look out at and to respond to some of the screeching and hunger which is going on out there. For many of us, the " looking out" is an undramatic call to stay loyal to our present commitments and loves, staying perhaps unobserved, even unto death. For some it could be more vigorous involvement with the current debate about "push back", the demand by some for our borders , our windows, to be closed against refugees who are spending their all on illegal and dangerous Channel crossings.

Others might choose to legally "open up the window", by joining Martin Tett and the County Council* in his Helping Hand for Afghanistan Refugees initiative, part of a Government sponsored plan to integrate Afghan families into our communities. There is an ongoing need for skills, accommodation and, of course, money. Quite a challenge. So, whatever our response. thank you, Mr Nosey Beak, for your attempted visit . I'm glad we kept you out, but let us pray instead for the wisdom to know the right way to act towards all who do need the window to be open and a welcome from us.

Jo Harrington

*If you would like to donate please do so at: www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/helping-hand. In addition, there is a need for offers of other support such as accommodation, translation skills, community support etc. At present there is NO need for offers of second-hand clothing. You can offer your help or support via the dedicated pages on the Bucks County Council website.

Anniversaries

DANTE

The great Italian poet died in 1321

Dante was one of the greatest of European poets, standing alongside Shakespeare and Goethe, and he was in effect the inventor of the Italian literary language. He was the first Italian poet to decide to write in the vernacular, rather than Latin, but at the time there was no one Italian language, just a series of local dialects. Dante developed a language based on

the Tuscan dialect but incorporating words and phrases from other dialects. His was the language used later by Boccaccio and Petrarch and is the foundation of modern Italian. He was also the first to use the challenging poetic form known as Terza Rima.

This consists of three-line stanzas, with the first and third lines rhyming with the second line of the previous verse. The final stanza consists of one or two lines, rhyming with the second line of the previous verse.

His most famous work is *The Divine Comedy*, a profoundly theological epic poem, possibly more read about than read nowadays. It describes his journey from Hell, via Purgatory to Paradise, guided by the Latin epic poet Virgil through the

first two and then, in Paradise, by Beatrice. In Purgatory he “must be disabused of harmful values that somehow prevent him from rising above his fallen world” (in the words of the Encyclopaedia Britannica). His meetings with some of the characters in Hell, including the “virtuous pagans” and several scandalous Popes are among the most dramatic episodes in the poem.

It was from Virgil that Dante borrowed the concept of the epic poem. Virgil wrote about Aeneas, expelled from Troy and seeking another city, eventually founding the city of Rome. Dante had been expelled from Florence and was seeking another city, in his case a heavenly one. But when Dante travels on to Paradise he has to part company with Virgil and Beatrice takes over as his guide. Paradise “gives expression to those figures from the past who seem to defy death. Their historical impact continues and the totality of their commitment inspires in their followers a feeling of exaltation and a desire for identification” (Encyclopaedia Britannica). At the heart of the poem is a philosophy of love.

WB Yeats called Dante “the chief imagination of Christendom”. Like Shakespeare, he created universal types from historical characters. *The Divine Comedy* remains one of the most profound expressions of our earthly pilgrimage as Christians. “The poem,” comments the Encyclopaedia Britannica, “amazes by its array of learning, its penetrating and comprehensive analysis of contemporary problems, and its inventiveness of language and imagery.”

Ken Prideaux-Brune





REMEMBRANCE

Our Annual service of celebration of the lives of those who have died (especially during the past year) will be on

**Sunday October 31
At 4 pm**

Come and light a candle in memory of someone you have lost as part of this moving, yet uplifting, service.

Harvest Festival

Sunday October 10

Our Harvest Festival will be celebrated at our first revived Gathered Round all-age service at 10 am. We are invited to contribute to the work of the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted.



We have supported the Hospice of St Francis for many years through our Missionary Giving. Jenny Burley, a fundraising volunteer with the Hospice, spoke to us about their work during our Patronal Festival service on September 26.

Like all charities they have had a very difficult time during the pandemic, unable to run their normal fundraising activities yet facing continuing (indeed increasing) demands for their services.

Hospices have developed innovative ways

of caring for patients through their final days and of supporting their families. It's good to have this opportunity of contributing to our local Hospice.

Envelopes with Gift Aid forms were available at the Patronal Festival service (or can be picked up in church). Please bring your envelope to the Harvest Festival service on October 10, or on the previous Sunday, and hand it in in the Narthex when you arrive.

Cheques should be payable to the Hospice of St Francis (NOT St Michael's).

Congratulations to

Judy and David Redpath

Who celebrated their Diamond Wedding in September. Judy headed up our Pastoral Care Team for many years and David edited the Newsletter for almost as many years as his successor.

He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me", and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.

Albert Schweitzer

Getting Back To Something Like Normal



Gathered Round, our informal all-age Sunday morning service resumes this month. It will be our Harvest Festival, when we give thanks for the good things we have received and will be on Sunday October 10.

Gathered Round services will take place on the second Sunday of every month.



Pop in and Paint resumed in September. Your artistic talent will be encouraged by Liz Grammenos and Jenny Thompson (part of Simpatico, who exhibit in the church every year). Sessions take place on the last Friday of the month, from 10,30 am to 12,15 pm.



Wise Choices Film Club, after a year in which no films could be shown, resumed in September. Films are shown in the Wheeler Room, at the back of the church, at 2 pm on the second Friday of every month. This month's film, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, will be shown on Friday October 1. The full programme for the winter is shown below (these are the films planned for last year before the pandemic intervened).

Friday November 5

He named me Malala

An Affectionate, touching and revealing portrait of the teenager attacked by the Taliban.

Friday December 3

Downton Abbey the Movie

The Crawleys and their staff prepare for a Royal visit.

Friday January 7

The Vice

An audacious and darkly comic look at former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Friday February 4

The Personal History of David Copperfield

Bringing to life one of Dickens's cherished characters. Incredibly funny. Stars Hugh Laurie.

Friday March 4

Frantz

A young German woman, whose husband was killed in WW1, visits his grave and finds a Frenchman laying flowers.

Friday 8

Judy

Celebrating the later life and sheer pizzazz of the world's 'greatest entertainer'.

And Lunch Break has resumed at the Free Church. Every Tuesday at 1.10 pm (tea, coffee and soup available from 12 noon). An inspiring 20 minutes in the middle of the day. (For this month's programme see the Diary on Page 7.)

We give thanks for the life of

Elsie Biermann



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

DIARY

OCTOBER 2021

Said Eucharists are celebrated each week
Sundays 8.30 am and 10 am
Tuesdays 10.30 am

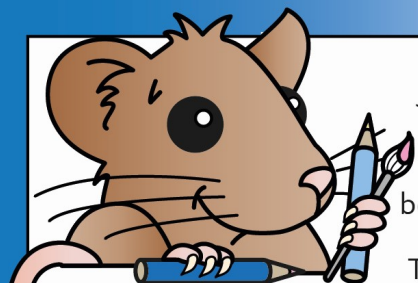
The church is open for private prayer until 4 pm on Tuesdays, following the 10.30 am service, and on Wednesdays and Fridays until mid-afternoon. The votive candle stand has been moved into the Lady Chapel, which has been set aside as a place of quiet.

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 Beginners/Junior 6 —7 pm. Intermediate/Senior 7—8 pm

Church activities in October

Friday	Oct	1`	Wise Choices Film Club. Wheeler Room. 2 pm
Sunday	Oct	3	Trinity 18. Warden: Claire Sinclair (07591 954701)
Tuesday	Oct	5	LUNCH BREAK.. Challoner's Boys in Recital. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Oct	6	Nappy Days. Drop-in for new parents and babies. North Transept.1.30-3pm
Friday	Oct	8	Crafty Cuppa. North Transept. 10.30 am—11.30 am
Sunday	Oct	10	Trinity 19. Gathered Round. Warden: Ann Jarvis (726078)
Tuesday	Oct	12	LUNCH BREAK. Bite Sized Service. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Oct	13	Nappy Days. Drop-in for new parents and babies. North Transept.1.30-3pm
Sunday	Oct	17	Trinity 20. Warden: Roger Leslie (726362)
Tuesday	Oct	19	LUNCH BREAK. The Chiltern Singers in Recital. Free Church. 1.10 pm
Wednesday	Oct	20	Nappy Days. Drop-in for new parents and babies. North Transept.1.30-3pm
Sunday	Oct	24	Last in Trinity Warden: Andy Connor (723561)
Tuesday	Oct	26	LUNCH BREAK. Second Wind in Recital. Free Church. 1.10 pm.
Wednesday	Oct	27	Nappy Days. Drop-in for new parents and babies. North Transept.1.30-3pm
Friday	Oct	29	Pop in and Paint. 10.30 am—12.15 pm
Sunday	Oct	31	All Saints. Warden: Roland Gillott (722674) 4 pm Service of Remembrance for those who have died. Warden: Roland Gillott (722674)



Mouse Makes

"Come with me across the lake,"

Jesus said to his disciples, so they got into a boat and set out. While they were sailing Jesus slept.

A big storm *blew* across the lake and the boat began to fill with water. They were in **great** danger.

The disciples went to Jesus and woke him.

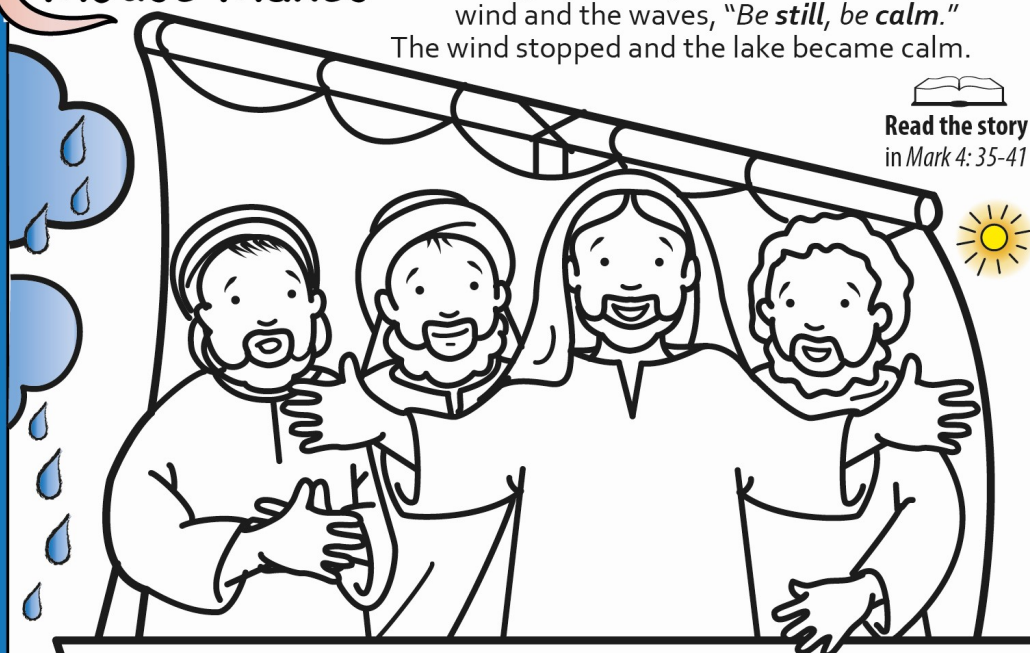
They said, *"Master, mater, we are going to drown!"*

Jesus got up and gave a command to the wind and the waves, *"Be still, be calm."*

The wind stopped and the lake became calm.



Read the story
in *Mark 4: 35-41*



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

EVENING • JESUS • DISCIPLES • CROWD • LEFT • OTHER SIDE • LAKE • BOAT • SAILED
 ASLEEP • WAVES • BROKE • OVER • SWAMPED • DANGER • WOKE • DROWN • QUIET
 STILL • WIND • STORM • WATER • SUBSIDED • CALM • FAITH • FEAR • OBEY • WHO