



Photo © Rebecca Olsen

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



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER '23

Who's Who at St Michael & All Angels

70 Sycamore Road
Amersham HP6 5DR

Church Office: 01494 726680

Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk
www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

(10 am—1 pm Monday—Wednesday & Friday)



Clergy

Vicar

The Revd. Debbie Oades

revdebbieoades@gmail.com



Associate Priest

Fr. Peter Binns

peter.binns166@btinternet.com



Church Administrator

Hazel Miller

office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



Churchwardens

Roger Leslie

rogerleslie25@gmail.com



Roland Gillott.

Roland.gillott@btinternet.com



Safeguarding Officer

Cathy Franklin

cathy.stmichaels@outlook.com



Communications Officer

Rebecca Olsen

communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

Saturday, 21 October, Messy Church brings fun activities to young people in the community. Around 12.30pm the story behind the activities is discussed, grace is said and lunch is provided for all. No need to book. All welcome. Just turn up. The session runs from 11.30am-1pm; it is free but donations are welcome.



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).

The next issue will appear on Thursday 2 November. Please email material for inclusion to communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk, for the attention of Rebecca, by 22 October.

In this issue...

Who's Who at St. Michael's	2
Top Secret Prayers	3
But What about Hunger?	3
Gamekeeper turned Poacher	4
Harvest Appeal Medic to Medic	4
Inviting New People to Join the Prayer Link Group	5
Serving	6
Sometime Somewhere	6
Crossword Puzzle	6
Diary & September Crossword Puzzle Answers	7
Kids Page	8

Page

Top Secret Prayers - a message from the editor

The organists at St. Michael's often use an iPad to play the hymns from. To turn a page they are required to swipe, nod or blink at the iPad. It's really quite amazing that we don't end up skipping from one hymn to the next. I wonder what would happen if we were all required to follow the hymns using tablets or smartphones, as the cartoon on page 2 suggests!

On the subject of technology, I thought it might be fun to produce a special edition of the newsletter called *AI and God*. If you have any questions you would like discussed in that edition, or that you would like answered by AI, please do let me know. Likewise, if you are welcome

to contribute a comment, a poem or an article that addresses the issues of AI and God. The special edition will be released at the beginning of 2024.

You are also invited to take part in **THE BIG ADVENT SECRET SANTA PRAYER SWAP**. St. Michael's and the Amersham Free Church will collect the names of all those who wish to take part. The week before Advent all those who have submitted their name will be given the first name only of somebody else who is taking part, to pray for daily throughout Advent. So, if you decide to join in, you will pray for someone and someone will pray for you. To take part, please email me your name in an email titled 'The Big Advent Secret

Santa Prayer Swap', by 26 November, (Your participation will be kept top secret). If you are reading this and attend Amersham Free Church, please contact Amela Munro on amela@amershamfreechurch.org.uk to submit your name. If you don't attend either church and would like to join in, you are very welcome to contact us too.

After agreeing the Advent prayer swap with Revd. Debbie and the Amersham Free Church I was delighted to be asked by Joy if she could write something for this edition of the Newsletter, about a secret prayer group that already exists at St. Michael's - A group so secret that I had not heard of it until that moment! Turn to page 5 to find out more! -by Rebecca - communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

But what about Hunger?

By Jo Harrington

Harvest... home... happiness.

All comforting words. But what about hunger... hunting for food scraps... health problems... homelessness... the have-nots...?

They are all part of the interwoven life experiences which we are aware of in St Michael's when we celebrate Harvest at the beginning of autumn.

Perhaps we remember the "old days" of processing in to church with offerings of tinned goods, to be arranged around the altar steps. Having a good sing and then helping one of our number load them up for her nightmare journey of traffic and parking at St Botolph's church crypt to feed the homeless in Bishopsgate. (closed in

2004).

Harvest, homelessness and hunger continue to be intertwined.

These days, the emphasis is on providing financial help, short term shelter, and also support for the volunteers who provide medical or emotional advice to people in desperate need. New Hope, a Watford based charity which we have helped, says they support "local homeless and vulnerably-housed individuals" by providing short term accommodation.

Wycombe Homeless Connection, a past Harvest time recipient whom we continue to support via our Christmas Tree Festival, say this:

"We are totally committed to there being zero tolerance to leaving people on

the street."

Our emphasis on giving help to charities with whom we have local connections continues. Two years ago, our Harvest offering went to the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted. In 2022, Diane Rutter spoke about the Chiltern Food Bank, based in Chesham.

Our 2023 Harvest, to be celebrated at Gathered Round on October 8th is for Medic to Medic. This was described in church on September 24th by Kate Lillie. Her doctor daughter Tamsin, working in Malawi, says that her medical charity aims "to guarantee tuition fees for health care students who have academic potential but are in financial need." Between 80 to 100 students are currently helped. Health care there involves a sharing of expertise and equipment from one professional med-

ic to another in a range of medical disciplines.

Also invited to Kate's talk were Marcelle and Stuart Siddall, local to us, whose charity, Aid for Ingwavuma in Natal we helped at our 2019 Harvest.

It seems that, however hard or long the physical Harvest journey is, whether to Bishopsgate in the City or to Africa; to Watford, Wycombe, Amersham or to the Bank; whatever star or vision we follow when we lay our gift of gold at the feet of the homeless Christ-child, the outcome is always a mutual benefit. The giver gains at least as much as the recipient in the exchange of understanding and awareness of needs and aspirations.

Indeed, who is giving? Who is receiving? All! And may that understanding be our Harvest song of Thanksgiving at this Harvest time.

GAMEKEEPER TURNED POACHER by Hazel Miller

When Rebecca first asked me to write about the Folk Music Day which took place in the Hall earlier in the summer, the plan was to draw attention to a particular event which might interest readers of this magazine. But, as time went on and I missed my first deadline, memories of the day started to fade so I began to think that maybe I could look at it from two angles - as user in my role of Chair of the Chiltern Folk Association who put on the event, and as hirer through my job as Church Administrator.

The first step was to liaise with the person organising the event in order to select a date when the Hall was available and tell him the cost so that he could budget accordingly. Once that

was done, the next step was to add the booking to the diary, which is kept on the IKnow church database. With as many as 8 different activities on the premises on a single day, the programme prevents double bookings. The formalities in place, and payment duly made ahead of the booking, it was almost time for me to switch hats. Normally I issue whatever keys are required to the hirer, but in this case I already had them! It also meant I was able to steal a march on most other users and start preparing the afternoon before!

On the Saturday morning, 12 musicians, with a variety of instruments, gathered in



the Hall for a 10.00am start. Over the following six hours, allowing a break for lunch, they worked their way through a pre-set repertoire with which they had been able to familiarise themselves in advance. The aim of the day was to help them become more adept at playing for dancing. The opportunity to put into practice what they had learned came after a break for tea and fresh air, when people from local folk dance clubs arrived for the evening session. Perhaps the old building remembered similar occasions

Locking up at the end of the evening was another job I normally tell other people to do, rather than undertake myself. It's only when you are responsible that you realise just how many doors and windows there now are in the Hall and Glover Room, all of which needed to be checked that they were secure, and lights switched off before we departed.

If anyone reading this feels inspired to hold their own event in the Hall, please get in touch with the Church Office. St. Michael's is conveniently situated not far from the railway station, with parking on-site and just across the road. Or, if you would like to give folk dancing a try (good exercise for the body and the mind) there is a club in Amersham which meets on Tuesday evenings at the Community Centre.



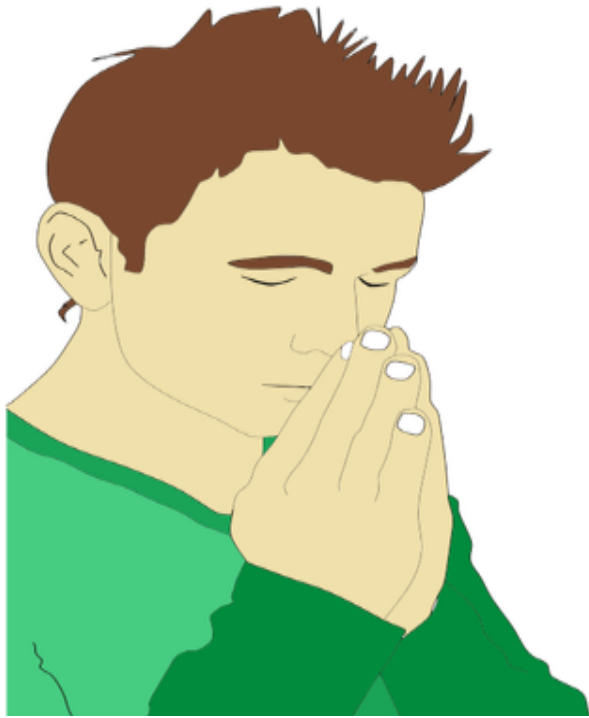
many years ago when it regularly hosted church Barn Dances – and one not so far in the past when I celebrated a 'significant birthday' in a similar manner!

2023 Harvest Appeal—Medic to Medic

Founded in 2007, Medic to Medic addresses the problem of training and retaining medical students in some of the world's poorest countries. Visit www.medictomedic.org.uk for a deeper understanding of the work they are doing, and to find out more about how you might be able to support their work.

If you would like to support the 2023 Harvest Appeal in raising funds for Medic to Medic click on the QR code shown here, or alternatively, please contact the church office.





Inviting new people to join St Michael's confidential Prayer link group by Joy Johns

What is the Prayer Link?

A small group of St Michaels members who pray at home, by themselves for those who have requested prayer. This may be for a member of St Michaels or a friend or family member or from the wider community. This is in addition to the main church prayer list.

How did it start?

Many years ago, one of the ministers at St Michaels visited an older member of the congregation in her home. She was housebound but still an active member of the church. She could no longer run the Sunday school, but she still had a vital role to play in people's lives. She prayed. She prayed at home, in her own way, with quiet and dedicated love.

This gentle, confidential ministry is now welcoming new members. So please contact me if you would like to join or find out more.

How does it work?

You can pray in your own way and in your own time for those who have requested prayer. This is such a blessing. As a guideline we pray for a person or situation for the one month. In some situations, we pray for longer.

We pray for people who request prayer directly or who are mentioned to one of us. (This may be anyone, a St Michael's member or family member or friend. Sometimes it is someone with only a remote connection with St Michael's in the wider community). I check with the contact person that their referred person wants to be prayed for.

Once a month, you will receive an update by telephone or email – and this will include any new requests and, where possible, updates on people for whom we have prayed. This often includes heartfelt thanks from the person or family involved. Sometimes just knowing that others are directly praying for you can be so comforting.

Confidentiality and Permission

As a group member, your name will not be mentioned to others (either to other people in the group or to the people being prayed for). Similarly, we ask that members do not talk about the prayer requests or mention to others the people for whom we are praying.

All on going contact with the prayed for person or situation goes via the coordinator – who is currently myself.

A current Prayer link member recently told me that ' As ever it is always encouraging to hear good news about the people we are supporting in prayer. I find it a very rewarding aspect of my own spiritual journey as well as being of help to members of St Michael's and the wider community in their times of trouble or stress.

I look forward to talking to you, if you wish to explore this opportunity.

joymjohns@googlemail.co.uk



Sometime, Somewhere

Poet: Mrs. F. Browning Burroughs

Unanswered yet, — the prayers your lips have pleaded
 In agony of heart these many years?
 Does faith begin to fail? is hope departing?
 And think you all in vain those falling tears?
 Say not the Father hath not heard your prayer;
 You shall have your desire, — sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? though when you first presented
 This one petition at the Father's throne,
 It seemed you could not wait the time of asking,
 So urgent was your heart to make it known;
 Though years have passed since then, do not despair,
 The Lord will answer you, — sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? nay, do not say ungranted;
 Perhaps your part is not yet wholly done;
 The work began when first your prayer was uttered,
 And God will finish what He has begun.
 If you will keep the incense burning there,
 His glory you shall see, — sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? faith cannot be unanswered, —
 Her feet were firmly planted on the Rock;
 Amid the wildest storms she stands undaunted,
 Nor quails before the loudest thunder shock, —
 She knows Omnipotence has heard her prayer,
 And cries, "It shall be done, — sometime, somewhere."

Serving by Margaret Everett

I was invited to be a server about 15 years ago. I felt nervous and unworthy, but wanted to accept. The privilege of being able to take a practical part in the Communion service meant that there was no way that I could say no. Let me tell you a bit about the various roles of servers.

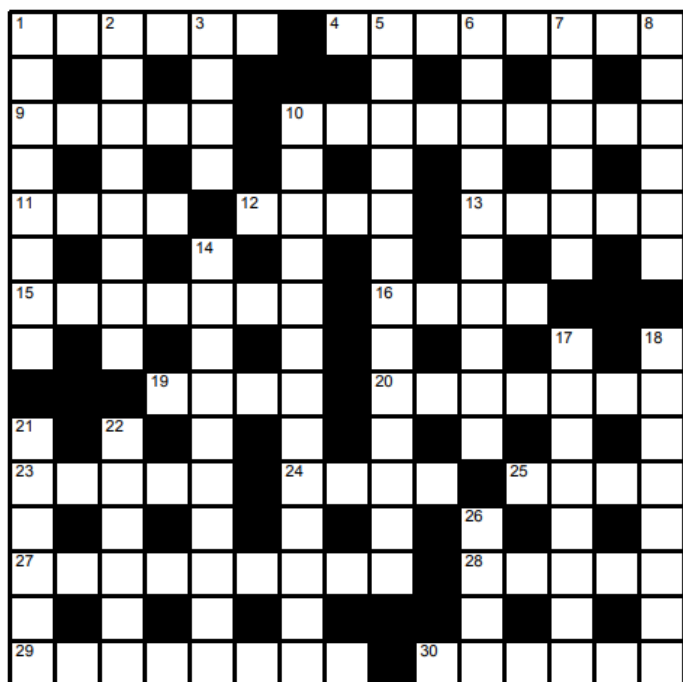
The Crucifer. Besides carrying the Cross in the procession, the Crucifer has many duties before the service starts. They are responsible for providing enough seating for the Sanctuary party, as well as service books, hymn books and glasses of water. They also light the candles, and double up as an Acolyte if there is only one present.

The Acolytes (preferably two). They carry candles during the procession and the Gospel procession. They are responsible for ensuring that all necessary items for Communion are placed in the Sanctuary before the service, and assist the priest in the preparation of the Altar before the prayer of Consecration. During that prayer they stand at either side of the Altar, and raise their candles at the moment of Consecration.

The M.C. Before the service, the M.C. finds the readings for the day in the Lectionary and the Gospel book, which they carry in the entry procession. The M.C. is responsible for the smooth running of the service, and to aid the presiding priest in any way necessary during the service.

Thurifer. A Thurifer is needed on days when incense is used.

The tasks of the servers have become easier over the years, and especially since returning after the pandemic. Our small team is a joy to be a part of, and I think I speak for us all when I say that we feel so privileged to be serving God, and the community of St, Michael's, in this way.



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Crossword Puzzle

Answers in the November edition

Across

- 1 Silenced (6)
- 4 Allocated (8)
- 9 Kingdoms or domains (5)
- 10 Babylonians (9)
- 11 Left behind when Peter and Andrew followed Jesus (4)
- 12 Lame man's entrance to the house where Jesus healed him (4)
- 13 Depart (5)

- 15 Stamens of a crocus (7)
- 16 New thought (4)
- 19 Unhearing (4)
- 20 Absconded (7)
- 23 Enticed (5)
- 24 The coldest of the ten plagues (4)
- 25 Insult rendering the giver in danger of hell fire (4)
- 27 First visitors to the baby Jesus (9)

Ctd. on page 7

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: 21 October '23

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

The church is open for private prayer from 10am until 4pm Mon– Fri.

This link, <https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>, will access live-streamed services.

WORSHIP

Sunday WARDENS

1 Oct—Roger Leslie (726362)
8 Oct —Hazel Miller (773189)
15 Oct — Andy Connor (723561)
22 Oct — Roland Gillott (722674)
29 Oct — Claire Sinclair (07591 954701)

Please see
stmichaelsamersham.org.uk
for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

POP IN & PAINT— 6 October—10.30am-12.15pm

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB — 6 October— 2pm-4pm—Wheeler Room— Operation Mince meat

A CRAFTY CUPPA—13 & 27 October — 10.30am

A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company.

LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church

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

Mon-Fri **Montessori Nursery** (Tel: 01753 891613)
9.15am—12.15pm + Wednesday afternoon until 2.45pm

Mondays **Tiny Talk—Baby Signing** 10am (Tel: 07809 157 428)
Mature Movers 1.45pm—2.45pm
Amersham Dance Studio Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm
(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Tuesdays **Tuffney Performing Arts Academy** 4.30pm office@tuffney.com
Yoga with Shiv 5.30pm-7pm (Science based approach, open to all. Tel: 07815132157).

Wednesdays **Karate Club** 7pm—8pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)
Badminton Club 8.15pm—10.15 pm (Tel: 01923 264791).

Thursdays **Amersham Dance Studio** Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm
(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Fridays **Stay Steady, Stay Strong** 1.30pm—2.30pm & 2:45pm—3:45pm Tel: 07951 294178)
Karate Club 7pm—8 pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)

Saturdays **Popstars Academy** 9.30am—12pm (email: hazel@popstarsacademy.com).

Please see stmichaelsamersham.org.uk for more details.

IN THE HALL

DIARY OCTOBER '23

Ctd from page 6

28 Twinkle (5)

29 Sin (8)

30 Physical state after absence of food (6)

Down

1 Written on the Priest's headband (8)

2 To set apart for sacred use (8)

3 Wise men's domain (4)

5 Location where Jesus met the disciples for breakfast (3,2,8)

6 Greediness (10)

7 Cured of leprosy by washing in the River Jordan (6)

8 Crockery (6)

10 Worn by Jesus on the cross (5,2,6)

14 Amity between David and Jonathan (10)

17 Against (8)

18 Forbidden in the seventh commandment (8)

21 A place to pray (6)

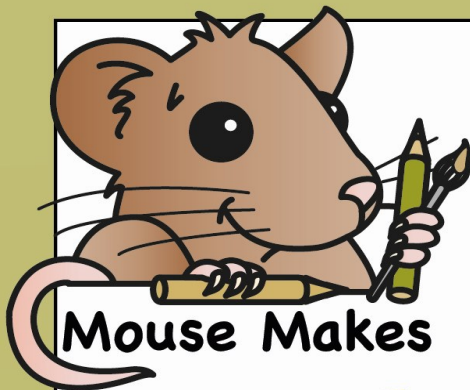
22 Country visited by Paul (6)

26 Hairy Old Testament hunter (4)

September Crossword Puzzle Answers

1	B	E	M	O	A	N	4	F	O	R	E	K	N	E	8
2	R	O	T				5	P	P	A	E				
9	E	Q	U	I	T	Y	10	S	E	N	A	T	O	R	S
	A	N	A				11	R	N	P	M	T			
12	D	E	T	A	I	N	E	D	13	T	H	R	I	C	E
	T	A	N				14	R							
15	H	E	I	R			16	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I
							17	O	N						
	N						18	D	N	P	S	N			
19	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	S	20	S	T	I	R
	U										21	M	E	E	
23	R	I	B	B	O	N	24				25	T	O	M	O
	R	O	L				26	H	F		27	U	S		
27	A	S	S	U	A	G	E	D			28	E			
	I	O	T								29	E	E	E	D
29	N	U	M	B	E	R	E	D			30	P	L	A	T

Created by BiblePuzzles.com



CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

MANNA	HONEY
OIL	WINE
WATER	FISH
LOCUSTS	QUAIL
LOAVES	FLOUR

What drink ran out at the wedding?

and what did Jesus use to make more?

John 2:3 and 7

What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?

_____ and _____

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?

_____ and _____

1 Kings 17:14

What food did the ravens feed Elijah?

_____ and _____

1 Kings 17:6

What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?

_____ and _____

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?

Five _____

and two _____

John 6:9

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

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

NBO TIBMM OPU
MJWF PO CSFBE
BMPOF, CVU PO
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU
DPNFT GSPN UIF
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4

DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

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

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

OLIVES • CHEESE
FIGS • DATES
MUSTARD
RAISINS • WHEAT
SALT • GRAIN
FRUIT • GRAPES
VEGETABLES