



**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)



**Ministry Team**

Vicar  
The Revd. Debbie Oades  
revdebbieoades@gmail.com



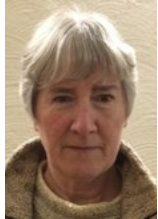
Associate Priest  
Fr. Peter Binns  
peter.binns166@btinternet.com



Licensed Lay Minister  
Katherine Hyde  
katherine\_hyde@yahoo.co.uk



**Church Administrator**  
Hazel Miller  
office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



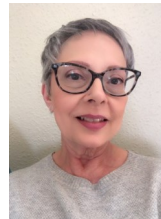
**Churchwardens**  
Roger Leslie  
rogerleslie25@gmail.com



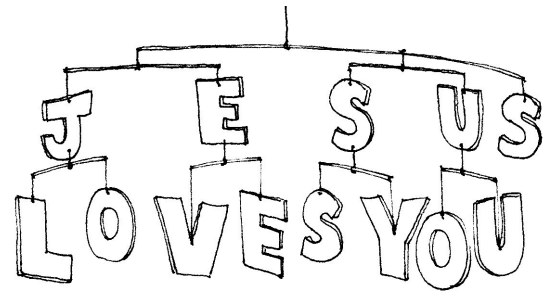
**Roland Gillott.**  
roland.gillott@btinternet.com



**Safeguarding Officer**  
Cathy Franklin  
cathy.stmichaels@outlook.com



**Communications Officer**  
Rebecca Olsen  
communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



Wendy checked the message on her mobile

**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 19 September.

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**FROM THE EDITOR...** Early in July St. Michael's hosted a joint service with the Amersham Free Church. It was a wonderful uplifting occasion. Thank you to all those who joined us to celebrate the Eucharist together and especially to Revd. Ian Green who led the service alongside Fr. Peter.

A special thanks also to all the ministers who have presided over the services throughout August.

The first article in the newsletter, written by Kate Reed speaks of the warm welcome given to those who walk through the doors at St. Michael's, a warmth that will be widely extended to the whole community later in September, when we host the St. Michael's Day Celebrations.

The main St. Michael's Day Celebrations will be held on Saturday, 28 September, preceded by a special wet felt session on Friday, 27 September, lead by wet felt artist Marjorie Brown. More details about this event can be found on the back cover. The celebrations will highlight many aspects of what St. Michael's offers to the community both as a place of worship and also as a busy centre for community activities.



## AN UNCONDITIONAL WELCOME

- Reflections on the warm embrace of  
church community

BY KATE REED

St. Michael's has, I like to think, a unique sense of community. It's tangible. And it's unconditional. When I walk through the glass doors flanked by Suzanne Rafellini's (niglassartist.com) beautiful angels, it's a small homecoming for me.

As a mother of two still young children, balancing family commitments often means that attending church regularly can be a challenge, especially in the past year when we've been lucky enough to do an extension project.

But whenever I manage to carve out the time to attend the Sunday 10am service - and, even better, sing again robed in the choir - I am overwhelmed by the profound sense of belonging that our church offers.

From the moment I step through the glass doors or the wooden door of the choir vestry, I am met with warm smiles as though it was only last week and not several months since I was last there. I understand a little of how the Prodigal Son must have felt, and in some way, perhaps we all do when we return to worship God.

Since I grew up singing in the choir with my family at St. George's Church in Newbury, I've always gravitated to an Anglican Church to root myself in a new place and make friends. For a time, this was the rather beautiful part-ruined Howden Minster, in East Yorkshire, where I also sang in the choir and where, on a stone bench outside, I spoke to my future husband for the first time, over our lunchtime sandwiches.

When I walked into St. Michael's for the first time in early 2011, having recently moved to Amersham, I was seated behind the late Jane Denny, whom many will remember fondly, and she immediately turned around to welcome me to the church.

I joined the choir led by the incomparable Rachel and Chris, formed a firm bond with Heather and was able to attend most weeks, slowly getting to know more people. Later, our banns were read at St. Michael's (we married at St. George's and were serenaded

by the choir) and our son Ollie was baptised here by Reverend Diana.

Despite my infrequent attendance in more recent years, I have never once been made to feel like an outsider and I am full of admiration for all the people that make that possible. I've watched in awe as Reverend Debbie's Messy Church Saturday sessions have grown in popularity - and don't think I've ever known a more inclusive church. Every aspect of church life is designed to make everyone feel valued and connected.

It's the warmth and community spirit of our church that always draws me back. It's a place where I feel supported, loved, and part of something greater than myself. For this, I am profoundly grateful.

Stained Glass Angels by Suzanne Rafellini



**St. Michael's Day Celebrations**  
**Saturday, 28 September**  
**PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME**

**10.00 OPENING MUSIC**

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH ORGAN

Organist: Stephen Wilcox

**10.40 ANTARDHWANI Hindustani Classical Music**

(Bansuri, Tabla and Vocals)

**11.20 POPSTARS ACADEMY**

Modern dancing to the latest chart toppers

**12.00 JIVE TIME with Rebecca and Franco**

Jive demonstration and your chance to join the action

**12.40 GEETANJALI ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (GAOFAL)**

Hindustani Classical Music and vocals

from GAOFAL Performing Arts Conservatory

**13.20 AMERSHAM DANCE STUDIO**

Performing Ballet, Tap, Modern and Street Dance routines

**14.00 CLOSING MUSIC**

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH ORGAN

There will also be activities organised by our Crafty Cuppa group, our "Pop in and Paint group", and from the charities we support. Activities for children, organised by our "Messy Church" team will also be available (please note that parents must stay with their children during these activities).

Throughout the day there will be an exhibition of vestments and other items used during services.

Light refreshments will be available and The Lady Chapel will be open for those who wish to place a prayer on our prayer tree, look at the Book of Remembrance (which is available to anyone within the community to record the passing of a loved one), or find out more about St. Michael's.

## AMERSHAM DANCE STUDIO By Emma Culmer

Amersham Dance Studio is one of the longest-established dance schools in Amersham providing high-quality training in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Street Dance and Progressing Ballet Technique. Students attend from the age of 3 and many stay with us until they leave to go to University or Vocational Training. Classes take place after school or on a Saturday in one of our two Amersham locations; St. Michael's Church Hall and Barn Meadow Community Hall.

Classes at ADS are fun and energetic, with a structured approach to ensure progress. We follow the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus for Ballet and ISTD syllabus for Tap & Modern and regularly enter students for examinations. The highlight for all our students is our show which is held at a professional theatre every two years – the next one will be in July 2025.

At ADS we offer a nurturing, supportive and inclusive environment where students can develop their skills and passion for dance, whether they are dancing recreationally or wishing to pursue a career in dance. Dance is not only great exercise it also has so many other benefits, including enhancing creativity and expression; refining motor skills and coordination as well as developing musicality, social skills and self-confidence! If you would like to find out more about ADS or book a free trial class please head to our website [www.amershandancestudio.co.uk](http://www.amershandancestudio.co.uk) or email [ema@amershamdancestudio.co.uk](mailto:ema@amershamdancestudio.co.uk).

-ADS will be performing at 13.20 on Saturday, 28 September.



### FREE MODERN JIVE CLASSES By Rebecca Olsen

Modern Jive is one of the easiest partner dances on the dance scene. Come along on Saturday, 28 September and watch or join in with a free class which will be open to all.

Under the JiveTime brand, Franco and Rebecca have run jive classes and events since way back in the 1990s and were the first to take huge groups of jive dancers away for jive dancing holidays. At the beginning of 2024 they taught free classes on Saturday nights in St. Michael's Church Hall. The classes were a huge success with all those who attended succeeding in picking up the jive moves that were taught each week.

New free classes will run every Friday, from 4 October to 22 November 7.30pm in St. Michael's Church Hall. Voluntary donations are welcome to cover costs. No need to book, just turn up!

### ST. MICHAEL'S ORGAN By Stephen Wilcox

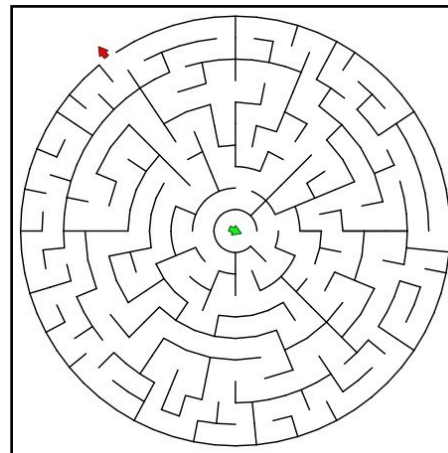
St. Michael's has a fine small organ, very well suited to its main function, of leading the congregation in worship. It was originally built by JW Walker in 1895 for a private house in Coleshill, and was bought by the new parish on the Hill in 1945 for what is now the church hall. When the present church was built in 1967, the organ was installed in its current location and slightly enlarged. It speaks directly over the heads of the congregation into the nave – we are lucky that the original idea, of tucking it away in what is now the church office, was rejected!

The organ has two manuals (keyboards), one of which controls pipes tucked in a swell box so that the volume can be controlled by a pedal. It also has a pedal-board to produce the bass notes. There are 12 stops (types of sound) ranging from a very quiet Dulciana and Salicional to a loud Trumpet, and a number of additional stops which couple the two manuals together or sound the swell manual at a different pitch. These all make it very versatile for solo music as well as services.

If you are a pianist or keyboard player and would like a tour of the organ, or to try it out, please get in touch with the church office.

steadfast; I will sing and make music. Psalm 57:7

My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is



# Antardhwani and Hindustani Classical Music

By Sunil Joshi

India has two classical music traditions, each with its own distinct character yet closely connected: Hindustani (North Indian) and Carnatic (South Indian). These traditions trace their origins back to the sacred Vedic scriptures over 6,000 years ago, where chants evolved into a system of musical notes and rhythmic cycles.

Antardhwani is a non-profit setup that has been offering Hindustani Classical music lessons for the past 3-4 years at St. Michael's Church in Amersham. These weekend classes, available during school terms, cater to all skill levels in Vocals, Tabla, and Bansuri.

Tabla are pair of small drums which provide rhythmic support and embellishment, enhancing the overall musical experience.



Bansuri is an ancient wind instrument, a transverse (side-blown) flute made from a single hollow shaft bamboo.

We also prepare students for graded music exams to track their progress.

Come and listen to us at

10.40am on 28 September or contact Dev on 07507 643618 for more information.



## Celebrating the success of our COTHA link church, The Amersham Free Church...

### An Eco Church By Liz Waumsley

Eco Fair at Amersham Free Church Saturday, September 14th, 10am-2pm. AFC's Eco-Church Group has invited organisations and groups working locally to help the environment and encourage more sustainable living, to come and let us know about the work they do. Amersham in Bloom, (with pollinator friendly plants to sell) the local branch of Bucks, Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, Sustainable Amersham, Wild Amersham, Little Green Adventures and Repair Café will all be there, together with others. The Repair Café will bring information on what they do, but will not be doing repairs on that day. There will be interactive displays and a chance to ask questions, fun for children, and coffee and tea served with homemade cake – as well as lunch mostly made from locally sourced produce. We hope to organize a Toy Swap and a Book Swap – so watch this space. The Mayor, Councillor Dominic Pinkney, will say a few words. Amersham Town Council representatives will showcase their work in this area, and Buckinghamshire Council will explain the Energy from Waste project. Back by popular request will be Richard Winter, with his videos of local wildlife caught unawares, often lapping up the much needed water he leaves out. Our Hands Together group, who usually concentrate on knitting and sewing lovely items to send overseas to those who need them, became aware of the Loving Earth Project, which encourages exhibitions of art and craft on this theme – so there will be a Loving Earth Exhibition, together with children's art with the title "Something in Nature which I love" All primary School aged children will be very welcome to join in. We want pictures on A4 sized paper with a name on the back. Contact me on 07927 008513. Do come and join us.

Amersham Free Church is delighted to announce that we have been awarded an A Rocha Eco-Church Silver award. We have attained this level or higher for our environmental involvement in 5 areas. These are Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Global and Community Engagement, and Lifestyle.

You can find out more about Eco Church and the awards at <https://arocha.org/en/theology-churches/eco-church/>.

# This Temple

This Temple, this  
Hallowed Ground,  
This Body of Mine – a chamber  
Wherein my Soul

Keeps watch –

At a window, softly lit,  
A little set apart.

We share a memory of  
Whirling Suns and

Glittering Snows,

A different sense which  
Hums behind the turbulence

Of Days –

A Song that weaves a rhythm  
And a Joy when Quietness  
Comes,

To which I'll turn when

Sleep lets down

Her silver net,

As I step into a

Crowd

Of

Stars.

By Janet Gibbs

## WORSHIP

### 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 September '24

(The third Saturday each month 11.30am—1pm, EXCEPT AUGUST)

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

### WARDENS

1 Sept Alan Bacon  
8 Sept Roger Leslie  
15 Sept Roland Gillott  
22 Sept Claire Sinclair  
29 Sept Roland Gillott

Please see:  
[stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)  
for more details

## ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

**POP IN & PAINT— 6 September —10.30am-12.15pm**

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

**A CRAFTY CUPPA—14 & 28 September — 10.30am-12 noon—St. Michael's**

A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company. Feel free to bring a craft with you.

**LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church**

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

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](mailto:emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk))

Tuesdays **Tuffney Performing Arts Academy** 4.30pm  
(Email: [office@tuffney.com](mailto: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** 7pm—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](mailto: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](mailto:hazel@popstarsacademy.com)).

Please see [stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://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, 21 September, Messy Church

will be on in St. Michael's from 11.30am to 1pm, including fun activities from whipping cream to jigsaw making, and much more. The session is based on, 'Feeding of the 5000', John 6: 5-14, and the themes: Count our blessings & Sharing what we have with others. 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.



### WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB

Held in The Wheeler Room  
St. Michael's Church

2.00pm. – 4.00pm  
Friday 6th September

**SAVE OUR CINEMA**—Starring Samantha Morton. When a local cinema in Wales is threatened with demolition, the local community do everything in their power to keep it open. Running Time 1hr. 45mins.

### Weddings, Births and Deaths

#### RIP

Judy Redpath

#### A warm welcome to

Cassius Stone,  
baptised on 21 July;  
Annabelle Grace Gurr,  
baptised on 1 September;  
Lyra Corrie,  
who will be baptised on 15  
September.

DIARY SEPTEMBER '24

# ST. MICHAEL'S 2024 HARVEST APPEAL

By Jenny Baker

This year's Harvest Appeal charity is *Carers Bucks* [www.carersbucks.org](http://www.carersbucks.org) supporting unpaid carers of all ages and backgrounds and in all caring roles. This includes young carers, young adult carers, parents of children with a physical or learning disability, older carers, carers from diverse communities, LGBTQ+ carers and those looking after someone with a mental health condition.

The charity offers a range of information, support and advice covering: carers' rights and entitlements, health and social care issues; creation of an emergency plan; opportunities for meeting other carers via local support groups and in other ways; a regular newsletter; and a listening ear and someone to talk to in confidence. *Carers Bucks* also provides support for unpaid carers and the person they care for while in Stoke Mandeville, Amersham, Wycombe and Wexham Park hospitals.

Beth Sawyers, Fundraiser at Carers Bucks, has agreed to come to St. Michael's on Sunday, 22nd September for the 10am service to speak about the charity and its work. Please come and support Beth and the charity then. The Harvest Appeal will continue until our Harvest Festival on 13 October.

If you would like to learn more about what Carers Bucks does or make a direct donation to the charity, visit their website [www.carersbucks.org](http://www.carersbucks.org). If you decide to donate directly to Carers Bucks do please mention your gifts association with our St. Michael's Church Harvest Appeal.



**A Crafty Cuppa**  
Join experienced wet felting artist Marjorie Brown and learn the artistic techniques at St Michael's on **27 September** from **10.30am - 12pm**



Donation of £1.50 per person requested for felting materials and refreshments.

Please confirm your attendance by leaving a message on 01494 726680

St. Michael & All Angels, 70 Sycamore Road, Amersham HP6 5DR



## Children & Families





**Mouse Makes**

**"AND WHEN YOU PRAY, PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."**

Where does Jesus say to go to pray?  
*Matthew 6:6*

What does God know before you ask Him?  
*Matthew 6:8*

What can we ask God to deliver us from?  
*Matthew 6:13*

If you forgive others what will God do?  
*Matthew 6:14*

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

ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS  
 LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED  
 NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE  
 EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS  
 SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN

**"Always be full of joy. Never stop praying. Whatever happens, always be thankful!"**  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*