



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

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER '26



Photo of Bishop Dave, by Rob Oades

Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

70 Sycamore Road
Amersham HP6 5DR

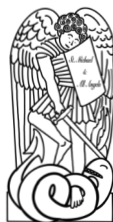
Church Office: 01494 726680

Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

(9 am-11 am Monday—Friday from 5-23 October)

(Usually 10 am—12.30 pm Monday—Friday)



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"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'-
attraction ratings guide, it's a Health
and Safety warning!"

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 in the next issue to
communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk,
for the attention of Rebecca.**

From the Editor... At Messy Church we sing, 'Thank you for
the world so sweet, boom, boom, thank you for the food we eat, yum
yum... it goes on. I'm going to start this edition of the St. Michael's
newsletter by thanking God for the donations yet to be given during
the Harvest appeal, for bringing the wisdom of Bishop Dave to our
congregation through his sermon, for the book 'Walking with Angels'
which will be used in different ways through Advent, and for the
many talents of people both within St. Michael's and beyond who
make St Michael's such a wonderful community to be a part of!
If you or someone you know would like to give your time to help
serve refreshments on Sundays or become part of the sound team
please contact the church office. In the meantime happy reading!

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2026 Harvest Appeal for Age UK Buckinghamshire by Joy Johns

This year's Harvest Appeal beneficiary is "Age UK Buckinghamshire". A presentation will be made by them at both the 8.30am and 10am services on Sunday 4 October. You can donate through our Harvest Appeal QR code, shown on the poster below, the card machine in the Narthex or at the Church presentation. Joy Johns explains why she gives them her wholehearted support:

It can be easy to think of Age UK only with reference to charity shops which support national "Age UK". However, there is a very powerful local organisation called "Age UK Buckinghamshire", which is an independent charity sharing a common ethos with national Age UK.

I first came across Age UK Bucks when I was working for another local charity and I became aware of the wide range of help that they organise and offer to older people and family carers. Specifically, they provide free, personalised support for people aged 65 and over living in Buckinghamshire, such as:

- Befriending volunteers who visit older people,
- Signposting correct places to find information, specifically offering a Welfare Benefit service to help maximise income.
- Handyman and Housekeeping services (and more) - at a fixed rate.

For their extensive list of services, see their website "www.ageuk.org.uk/buckinghamshire".

However, it was more recently that I benefitted from their help in a personal way when my partner became frail and I was helping him. I called Age UK Bucks several times to ask for support and advice. I unfailingly found them kind, helpful and able to provide useful information. If they could not help me

directly, they would make suggestions and signpost me to other services or organisations as needed.

The most important help for me came when I was advised by other sources to apply for "Attendance allowance" for my partner. Fortunately, I had a power of attorney so was able to act on his behalf.

The documents that I needed to complete were quite daunting. Over 20 pages of information was requested. I was quite stressed at the time and much to my relief (and disbelief) I was told a volunteer would help me.

Well, a lovely, kind, volunteer was introduced to me. He phoned and arranged to come to my house and sat with me while we went through the form. He was well versed in the information needed and asked me questions, for example, about the current situation of care, his needs etc. This kind, well trained volunteer sat with me for about two hours and completed the form on my behalf. When he left, I was able to review it carefully, sign it and submit it. To my great relief, it was all accepted and the allowance was approved. I was asked for feedback on his help by the Aylesbury HQ so was able to give an honest appraisal (which was very positive).

This is just one example, but showed me the care and range of help that this valuable local charity offers.

This charity provides good information, practical help, signposting and support at stressful times. Which leads to invaluable peace of mind.

Please join me in supporting **this charity by contributing to the St Michael's Harvest Appeal.**

St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS HARVEST APPEAL



A presentation about Age UK Buckinghamshire will be given during the St Michael's Church Services on Sunday, 4 October at 8.30am & 10am. (70 Sycamore Road, Amersham-on-the-Hill, HP6 5DR)

Please support this charity by making a donation via the QR code below, the card machine located at the entrance to the church, or by filling an envelope and handing it to the church office.



Creating a world in which every older person feels included and valued.



Bishop of Buckingham, the Right Reverend Dave Bull, Celebrates St. Michael and All Angels 60th Anniversary with the Congregation at St. Michael's Annual Patronal Service



Volunteers Needed:

Christmas Fayre at St Michael's – Saturday, 28 November

Volunteers requested please, to help collect donations for Wycombe Homeless Connection at our Angel Tree in the Narthex. Teams of 2 - 10am to 12pm / 12pm to 2pm / 2pm to 4pm. Please contact kiki@akipl.com

Carols, Coffee and Cake – Saturday, 5 December

A fun family event with 7 local Groups each performing for 30 minutes, raising funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection. We need meeters and greeters, coffee makers, and collectors inside and out. Ideally, teams from 9.45am to 1pm and/or 1pm to 3.30pm. Please contact kiki@akipl.com

Cakes for Saturday, 5 December

We would welcome any contributions of cakes and traybakes - homemade would be especially wonderful, but bought equally acceptable, and much appreciated. Please bring to the church kitchen on the day, or deliver to the Office on Friday, 4 December, between 10am and 1pm.

New Altar Cloth for St Michael's

A new altar cloth has been created by Rachel Wilcox, with the help and guidance of Liz Grammenos, Jenny Thompson, Christine Leslie, Ann Jarvis, Revd. Debbie and Hazel Adamson, as part of the 60th Anniversary celebrations of St. Michael and All Angels. The pictures to the right show some of the work in progress. Hours of thought and work went into the project. The star reflects the star on Suzanne Raffelini's angel windows, the rainbow was designed by one of the Messy Church children during a session on communion towards the end of 2025 and the beautiful lace cross was created by the late Fay Green, pictures of which have been used on the back of all the new service booklets and on the front of the All Souls booklet. The dove was based on the baptism doves we all made, and the candle picks up an Advent theme. Over 30m of bronze piping has been needed to outline all the elements, mostly sewn by hand. It is hoped that this new Altar cloth will continue to be enjoyed for the next 60 years!

The Shroud of Turin

When it comes to artefacts causing controversy the Shroud of Turin is high on the list. The 14 foot linen cloth bears the image of a crucified man that some people consider to be the authentic burial cloth of Jesus Christ and others a medieval forgery.

Those who consider the Shroud to be authentic include arguments such as, but not exclusively:

- The image on the cloth shows realistic blood flow and wound patterns consistent with Roman crucifixion, including wrist nail wounds (rather than palms, which medieval artists typically depicted) and scourging marks.
- Researchers have identified traces of pollen and flora from plant species native to the Middle East and the Jerusalem region.
- The bloodstains on the Shroud match the blood type (AB) and the pattern of facial stains on the Sudarium of Oviedo, a face cloth with a documented history dating back to 570 AD.

Arguments against the authenticity of the Shroud include, but are not limited to:

- Radio carbon dating carried out in 1988 in Arizona, Oxford, and Zurich dated the linen material to AD1260-1390, suggesting a medieval origin.
- There are no verifiable records or literature mentioning the Shroud prior to the mid-14th century.
- Modern digital and physical simulations - such as 3D rendering studies - suggest the visual characteristics align more closely with a cloth draped over a medieval bas-relief sculpture or artwork rather than a human body.

Whatever your personal opinion, you will have the opportunity to look at life sized copies of the Shroud in October at St. Michael's, and reflect on the pain our Lord Jesus Christ willingly suffered that we might be forgiven.

St. Michael's neither agrees nor disagrees with any of the above statements and has agreed to exhibit the Shroud on the basis that it provides an opportunity for reflection.

Thank you to award winning film maker David Rolfe (<https://whocanhebe.com>) for lending his copies of the Shroud to St. Michael's.



New Stole Commissioned for St Michael's by Elaine Bradshaw

My name is Elaine Bradshaw, I am a retired primary school teacher, wife, mother, grandmother and life long lover of all things sewn and embroidered. I have a small business called 'stole-my-heart' making bespoke stoles and vestments for the clergy and more recently, celebrants. I began this change in career about 7 years ago, shortly after I retired early from teaching, when my younger sister was finishing her training to become a minister in the Church of England. She asked me if I thought I could make her Ordination stole. "What's one of those?" I asked, and the rest is history, as the saying goes.



All of my stoles are bespoke 'one offs', I love the interaction between myself and the client, to see what it is they are looking for, what they are wanting to 'say' when they are wearing and using their stole and then the challenge of translating those ideas into a design that works on

two 15cm wide strips of fabric! When I was approached by St Michael's and saw the photographs of your wonderful doors I knew this was a commission I would love to take on. The simplicity, flowing lines and beauty of the angels created by Suzanne Raffellini really lent themselves to the way that I design and work. I was asked to not necessarily make an exact copy but to use the style of her figures and interpret them in my own way. The photograph to the left is of my working drawing. I was also asked if I could find a way to incorporate the liturgical colours of green, gold, red & purple, using some of the fabric that had been used to make other pieces in the church. The obvious answer was in the sashes of the two angels, which I think works really well. Also for the first time I chose to work with a new fabric. I usually work with Dupion silk but I had come across the beautiful ecclesiastical brocade when researching for another commission and knew it would be right for the

main body of the stole. Although tricky to work with I think it adds a rich, traditional feel to the finished piece.

I hope as a church family you are pleased with the way the stole will work alongside and complement your windows and give as much pleasure to you as it did me to create it for you. Many thanks to you for your faith in my work.



Eucharists:

Sundays 8.30am and 10am
(Gathered Round on the second Sunday of each month is especially designed for families)

Tuesday 10.30am

Morning Prayer:

Tuesdays 9am in the Lady Chapel.

Special Services: Talk about the Harvest Appeal - 4 October
Harvest Festival - 11 October

Messy Church: 17 October '26

(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.

Books for the Advent Study Group can now be requested from the Church Office. Further details will be issued soon.

WORSHIP

WARDENS

4 Oct — Andy Connor
11 Oct — Andy Connor
18 Oct — Roger Leslie
25 Oct — Claire O.Beirne

Please see:
stmichaelsamersham.org.uk
for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— Thursday, 1 October — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
Tea, Coffee and Support. This group runs on the first Thursday of each month.

POP IN & PAINT— Friday, 2 October —10.30am-12.15pm — St. Michael's Church
With Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

A CRAFTY CUPPA— Friday, 9 & 23 October — 10.30am-12 noon — St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
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 a short service.

FRIDAY LUNCH FORUM – Friday, 16 October – from 12.15p.m. – Amersham Free Church.
A meal is provided at 12.15pm. Then a talk starts at 1pm Tea/coffee/water provided.
Suggested donation £3-£5 to cover costs.

REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 7 November – 10.a.m.-1p.m.—St. Michael's Church
Come to Sustainable Amersham's pop-up Repair Café. Volunteer repairers will help you fix stuff for free.

RED KITE CRAFT MARKET – Saturday, 7 November – 9a.m.-1p.m. – St. Michael's Church Hall.
Handmade crafts, including, cards, woodwork, knitting, jewellery and much more.

Mondays **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** 5pm-6pm
(Email: office@tuffney.com)

Yoga with Shiv 5pm-7pm (Glover Rm) (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-7pm
(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Fridays **Stay Steady, Stay Strong** 1.30pm-3.45pm (Tel: 07951 294178)

Saturdays **Dabble Art** 9a.m-10.30am

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, 17 October

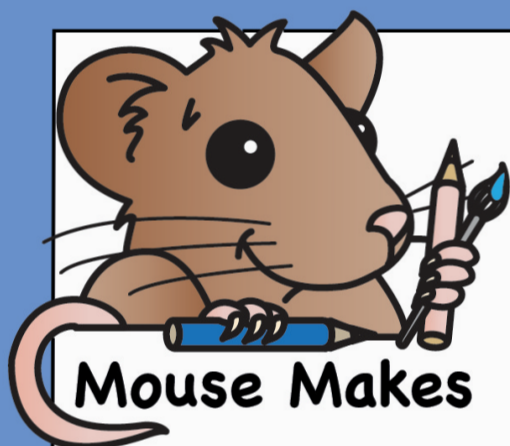
Messy Church will be on in St. Michael's from 11.30am to 1pm. Fun activities will be followed by a short interactive session about the story behind the activities, and lunch, which is

provided for all. No need to book, just turn up. All welcome. This activity is free but donations are welcome to cover costs.

Cards for Good Causes

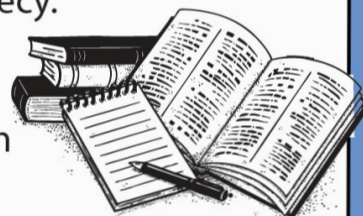
Bobbie, who managed the Cards for Good Causes stall in 2025 will be back at St. Michaels at the end of October 2026 with a new selection of cards and Christmas gifts for you to buy for your friends and family. Keep an eye on the weekly notices for exact dates. **7**

DIARY OCTOBER '26



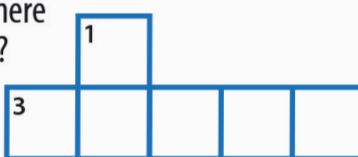
The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?



3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

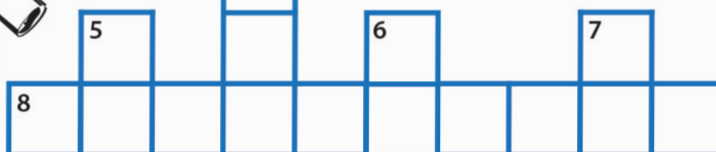
4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.

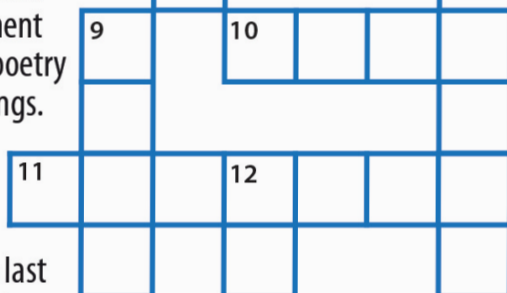


6. God's word is like? A _____ and a _____ Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

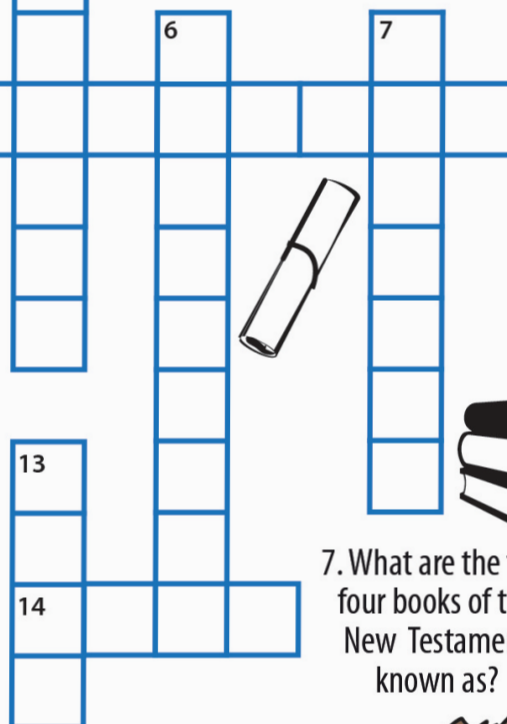


9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.



11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?



7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?



12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?



13. The Bible is also known as the _____ of God. Hebrews 4:12

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman

