



Lest We Forget

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

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER '25



Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

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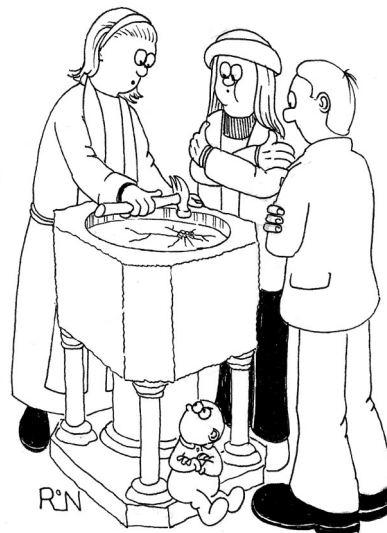
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Communications Officer

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The boiler only worked if the
Verger switched it on

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.

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**GREEN
CORNER**

**The Lord God took the man
and put him in the Garden
of Eden to work it and
take care of it.**

~Genesis 2.15

From the editor...

November at St. Michael's promises to be a busy month. Fr. Peter will be presiding over a short remembrance service on St. Michael's Square at 10.55am on Tuesday, 11 November. This means that the usual 10.30am Eucharist will be held at 10am that day so that anyone wishing to attend both services may.

Later in the month the Christmas Tree Festival will be set up, ready for the grand opening on Saturday, 29 November, at the annual Amersham Action Group Christmas Fayre.

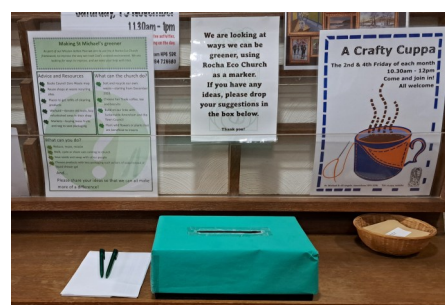
Money raised from the Christmas Tree Festival and from anyone who donates to put a bauble on the Angel Tree at the entrance to St Michael's during the Christmas Fayre, will be donated to the Wycombe Homeless Connection.

As well as being full of Christmas Trees, St Michael's will also be buzzing with charity stalls each supporting different charities. Please do drop in!

Don't forget to keep Saturday, 6 December free so you can come and enjoy Choirs, Coffee and Cakes, during which a further collection will be taken for the important work the Wycombe Homeless Connection carries out.

An *Eco suggestion box* is now situated in the Narthex. As you know from the previous newsletter, we are looking at ways we can be greener at St Michael's, using Rocha Eco Church as a marker. If you have any ideas, please drop your suggestions into the green box.

There is also a poster with a few



suggestions about areas we can start looking at.

A new feature within the newsletter from this issue is a Green Corner. If you have anything you would like included in that corner please do let us know.

The toilet has now been renovated. Thank you to Ray from R2 for carrying out this work and to all those who enabled this to happen. You might also have noticed that the pipes around the church have been re-painted and windows resealed, thank you to Pawel the painter, and that St Michael's Square has been cleaned up, thank you to Alan and his grandson, Jackson.

The Advent course this year will be based on the book, *God of Surprises*, by Gerard W. Hughes, who was a Scottish Jesuit priest and spiritual writer who served as the Chaplain of the University of Glasgow from 1967 to 1975. Google describes the book as,

'One of the most widely read and highly acclaimed religious books for over twenty years, *God of Surprise* takes readers on a spiritual journey of discovery and change. Gerard Hughes encourages us to realize the truth of Jesus' words -- "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field" -- and suggests ways to find that treasure within ourselves.'

If you are interested in joining the course please let the Parish Office know. A donation to cover the cost of the books would be welcome. In line with our eco

endeavors we have bought previously used copies.

Finally, do make sure to look at the recycled sculptures in the North Transept. These sculptures are the result of a creative collaboration between Amersham Town Council, local artist Colin Pells, and young artists from The Beacon (bat sculpture) and Heatherton School (blue tit sculpture). They are designed to shine a spotlight on the importance of protecting bats and other native wildlife.



Photo by Rachel Hill

Amersham Toy & Book Swap – help your pocket and the planet!

Text taken from <https://sustainableamersham.org/our-first-toy-swap-in-amersham>

As a parent with young children, do you ever feel as if toys are taking over your home and your life?

With all the gifting during the Christmas period, on birthdays and all throughout the year, we all end up with a house so full of books, Lego, cars and teddies that they spill out of every drawer and cupboard. We constantly fight to declutter, only to end up buying new ones later on. Each one of these precious books and toys are expensive and take a lot of energy and resources to build and mostly end up in landfill.

In comes the Toy Swap movement!

Sustainable Amersham's Toy & Book Swap will be at St. Michael's Hall (or on St. Michael's Square if the weather is fine) on Saturday, 15 November from 10am-1pm.



St Michael's Celebration Day 2025

In Pictures

By Rachel Hill





Lest We Forget

By Kenneth Prideaux-Brune

The number of people who lost their lives in two world wars and all the conflicts since is just too large to contemplate, so on Remembrance Sunday I prefer to think instead of a few specific people. This year I will be thinking of three people whose graves I have visited on many occasions.

Nurse Nellie Spindler



Nellie Spindler was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire in 1891. She trained as a nurse in Leeds and joined Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service in 1915 and by 1917 she was working at the large field hospital near Poperinge. On August 21 she completed her night duty and went to her tent to rest when a German shell fell on the tent. Some of her colleagues rushed immediately to the tent to find a scene of total devastation. Nellie lay among the shattered fragments of her possessions. She died 20 minutes later, having never regained consciousness. She is buried in the large military cemetery of Lijssenthoek, the only woman buried in a military cemetery in Flanders (though others are buried in France) and hers is the most visited grave of the more than 10,000 in this cemetery. More than 30 countries are represented here, including a section of Chinese graves. It was indeed a *world* war.

Captain Noel Chavasse.

Noel Chavasse was the only man to win the VC twice during World War One

(around half a dozen others have won the VC twice but in other conflicts). A gifted athlete both he and his twin brother Christopher represented Britain in the 400 metres



at the 1908 Olympic Games. He trained as a doctor and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1913. He was posted to the Liverpool Scottish regiment as their medical officer. He won his first VC in 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, treating wounded men in no man's land under German fire. At one point he was within 25 yards of the German trench. His father, who was the Bishop of Liverpool, said to him: "Up to now you have been the son of the Bishop of Liverpool; now I will be known as the father of Noel Chavasse VC". His second VC was won in similar fashion in August 1917, in the early days of the Battle of Passchendaele. Though wounded himself he continued to treat others in no man's land until eventually the stretcher bearers insisted on taking him away. He died on the way to the field hospital and his much-visited grave is in Brandhoek cemetery.

Gilbert Talbot



Gilbert Talbot was educated at Winchester and Christ Church, Oxford.

While at university he was successively secretary, treasurer and president of the Oxford Union. At the outbreak of war, he joined the Rifle Brigade. Commissioned as an officer he had his first stint in the front-line trenches at Hooze in July 1915. When his platoon was relieved, they started to march back for rest and recreation, dreaming no doubt of a hot bath and a proper night's sleep. After about an hour they stopped to brew up a cup of tea and while they were sitting by the roadside a message arrived telling them the trench they had occupied had been overrun and they were to return and try to recapture it. Giving up those dreams, they marched back the way they had come. And then they received the order to launch an attack across open ground in the face of German machine gun fire. They must have known such an attack was suicidal but they obeyed the order, nonetheless. Gilbert was among those killed. That night his older brother, Neville Talbot, a senior chaplain, accompanied by the platoon sergeant, 'Appy Nash, crept into no man's land to try to identify the body. By the time they had done so the first glimmers of dawn were appearing and they had to return the following night to recover the body. When Neville and Tubby Clayton launched Talbot House they named it in memory of Gilbert, who stood for all the young subalterns killed within weeks, or in some cases days, of reaching the front. His story seems to underline both the courage of the soldiers and the futility of so many of the deaths.

Just three very different individuals but thinking of them rather than the hundreds of thousands whose lives have been cut short by war seems to me to bring a sharp reality to the remembrance.



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.

Special Services:

Remembrance Service 10.55—11 November—St Michael's Square

Messy Church: 15 November '25

(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.

WORSHIP

WARDENS

2 Nov— Alan Bacon
9 Nov— Claire O'Beirne
16 Nov— Roger Leslie
23 Nov— Roland Gillott
30 Nov— Andy Connor

Please see:

stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— 6 November — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
Tea, Coffee and Support

POP IN & PAINT— 7 November —10.30am-12.15pm, St. Michael's, Main Church
Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB—7 November —2pm-4pm, St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
GREEN FINGERS Starring Clive Owen and Helen Mirren. Based on a true story, Colin Briggs (Clive Owen) is serving a sentence for murder. After being transferred to an open prison in the heart of the Cotswolds, life takes on a whole new meaning. Running Time 1hr. 26mins.

A CRAFTY CUPPA—14 & 28 November — 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.

LUNCHEBREAK – 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, 21 November – from 12.15p.m. – Amersham Free Church.
Bring a packed lunch. A talk starts at 1p.m. Tea/coffee/water provided.
Suggested donation £3-£5 to cover the cost of speakers.

Mondays **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)

Tuesdays **Tuffney Performing Arts Academy** 5pm-6pm
(Email: office@tuffney.com)
Yoga with Shiv 5pm—7pm (Glover Rm) (Science based approach, open to all. 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)

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, 15 November, Messy Church will be on in

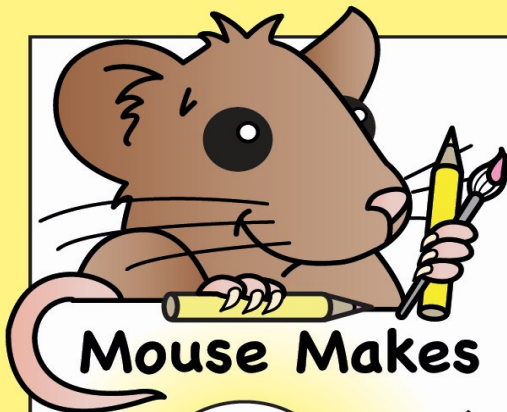
St. Michael's from 11.30am to 1pm. Fun activities followed by a short interactive session about the story behind the activities, and lunch, which is provided for all. No need to book, just turn up. All welcome. This activity is free but donations are welcome to cover costs.



Weddings, Baptisms and Deaths:

Congratulations
Ted Robin Lothwell,
baptized on 26 October.

DIARY NOVEMBER '25



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour.

We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.

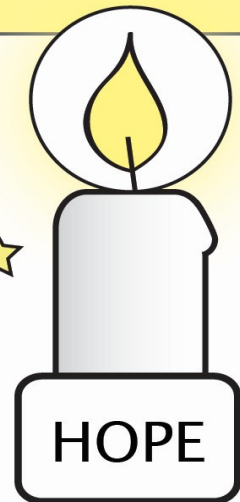
Mouse Makes



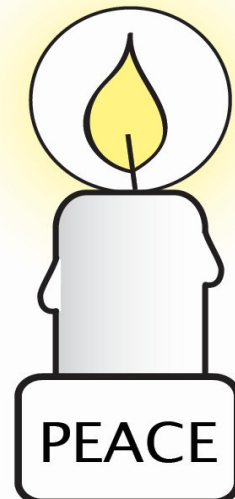
Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

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

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT

