
ST. MICHAEL'S

✧ 70 SYCAMORE RD, AMERSHAM HP6 5DR ✧

EASTER SERVICES 2026

Palm Sunday – 29 March – 8.30a.m. & 10a.m.

Maundy Thursday – 2 April – 8p.m (Includes washing of feet)

Good Friday – 3 April – 10a.m.

& St Michael's Square at 11.30a.m.

Holy Saturday – 4 April – Service of Light at 8p.m.

Easter Day – 5 April – 8.30a.m. & 10a.m.

**INC. MUSIC
FROM
TAIZE**

**ALL
WELCOME**



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

NEWSLETTER APRIL '26

Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

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Amersham HP6 5DR

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Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

(10 am—12.30 pm Monday—Friday)



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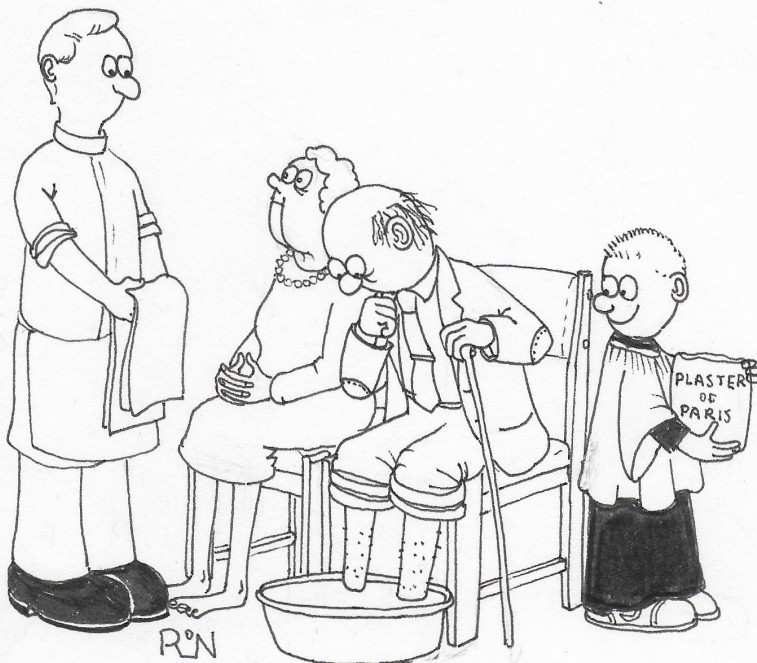


Communications Officer

Rebecca Olsen

Communications

@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk



Maundy Thursday on April 1st - the last temptation of Eric

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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From the Editor... On Mothering Sunday we celebrated Revd. Debbie leading us at St. Michael's for 10 years and thanked her for walking beside us!

Through Covid, she took the difficult decision that if services needed to be virtual and people could not take the Eucharist, she would not join in the communion either.

In the years she has been at St. Michael's, she has strengthened connections between the Church and the local community, introducing new groups such as A Crafty Cuppa and Messy Church.

St. Michael's is one of only a handful of inclusive churches and Revd.

Debbie, guided us through deeper understanding of what Living in Love and Faith actually means for us.

Recently Revd. Debbie has been overseeing changes to the service booklets.

And, perhaps more importantly than all of the above, she has challenged us to seek to connect more deeply with every aspect of the Holy Trinity—the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ and God.

On a practical level much has changed over the years Revd. Debbie has been here, from the upgrades to the Church Hall, including the floors being refurbished, the stage removed, the Glover Room fitted out, and the outside

renovated. In the carpark there are now charging points for electric cars and at the front of the church work has taken place to upgrade St. Michael's Square.

Renovations to the glass doors took place during March - see the pictures to the right, and the wooden side doors. Now all are opening beautifully and over the summer months both front doors can now remain open during church opening hours to welcome all into the space for quiet prayer, services and activities.

Mysteries of the Heart

By Janet Gibbs

Some things there are that
We shall never know,
Why one child leaves early
And another lives to grand old age.

Why, with such ecstatic song,
Birds nest in Spring, fashioning
Slender cradles
For their young.

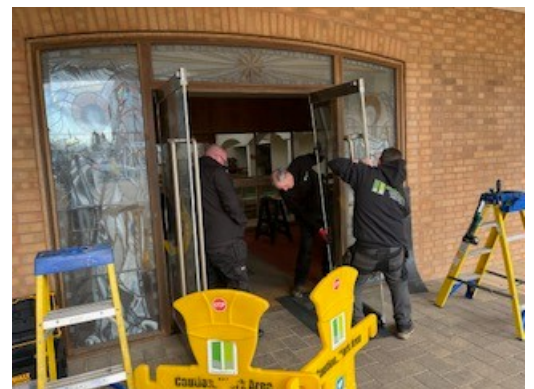
How, across continents, intuition
Glides, with gasps of surprise,
Transcending
Coincidence.

Or how a thief, before light died,
Asked in penitence to be remembered
By Christ, who replied, 'Today you shall
Be with me in Paradise.'

Perhaps it's simply Grace
Which holds each mystery in place,
To line each nesting Heart
With kindling soft and kind.



Photos by Alan Jarvis



APCM— Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Sunday, 26 April at 10.00a.m. in church. It will be preceded by breakfast, to which all are invited, after the 8.30a.m. service and followed by a short Holy Communion Service.

Attendance at the APCM is limited to those on the electoral roll of the parish. The agenda and other papers relating to the meeting will be circulated to those on the roll.

The meeting agenda includes elections for vacancies on the PCC. In order to be eligible to take on any roll within St. Michael's please check you are on the electoral roll and that you have been attending St. Michael's for more than 6 months.

Sound, Silence, Life

By Jo Harrington

Perhaps we all have special moments that stir us deeply. For me, it's the silence in church created by our triple ringing of the bell at the Consecration. There seems then to follow a tangible quality of total silence that holds us all together in that moment. It's more than a lack of sound. It's a collective sense of listening to the Divine Presence, the "still, small voice" such as Elijah experienced.

I am also stirred by musical moments such as choirs singing the Latin Credo of Bach's B minor Mass. Almost in a whisper, we hear that Jesus was buried. "Sepultus est." There's a split second of silence. Then we almost jump in shock when, in full forte, they sing "Et resurrexit!"

Of course, in contrast, we all know times when we get our silent moments wrong, such as the choral singer who comes in too soon. Or there's the priest at a wedding who fears a Jane Eyre moment, when asking if there is any impediment to the couple being married.

There is indeed a time to be silent but similarly also a time to speak up. In our rather self righteous society, we are surrounded by hindsight voices demanding to know why we didn't warn everyone about the latest scandal. There are times when we know we should have had the courage or the foresight to make our voice heard. Some take the risk, in circumstances where social opprobrium or loss of personal freedom may follow, but for most of us it's just a matter of not being bothered to act. Easier to be smugly right in retrospect rather than to risk acting.

And we sometimes encounter various kinds of silence and speaking.

I remember watching the animation of totally deaf students as they vigorously signed to each other as, each week, we all went down in the same lift. Plenty of shared communication there, without a conventional sound being made. Very creative.

Maybe the interaction of sound and silence are the creative force in all life as we know it. One could say that silent listening, not talking, is the essence of prayer. In our silence, we hear the life giving Word which powers all. Silence, sound and life in an eternal, interactive trinity.

At Easter, we especially see this work. Those who ventured out in trepidation at first light were amazed at finding an Empty Tomb. Somehow, in its empty silence, transforming life had been created. They heard the Truth that is declared world wide, every day.

Jesus was buried and rose from the dead. Sepultus est et Resurrexit!

The Glory of the Cross-

By Joy Tobler

With bloodied back
bruised face
thorn pierced head,
exhausted
He bore His cross.

With nail-ripped hands
shattered feet
raging thirst
naked
He hung on the cross.

With victory cry
dying
entombed,
then resurrection life! -
the glory of the Cross.



Job 12:7-10

⁷ 'But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
⁸ ask the plants of the earth*, and they will teach
you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
⁹ Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

*Job 12:8 Or *speak to the earth*

A meditation on the breath God gave mankind, to enter a sacred place of silence, sound and listening

By Rebecca Olsen (p.s. if you would like a recording of this please contact the office)

Take a moment to stop.

Breathe deeply, until only the rise and fall of your breath is in focus, your eyes close, and everything else is incidental.

Bring to your mind the first breath God breathed into Adam.

Breathe in deeply as though that first breath is yours. Feel the life in that breath, the purity flowing through your body, God's creation.

Breathe God's goodness in and allow it to flow out into the world.

Breathe.

The breath of life is flowing, reaching out, touching, connecting.

Choose a good word.

Allow your word to sit on God's breath, flowing through your body.

Breathe in and feel the goodness of your word then let it flow out of your mouth with the breath, creating good wherever it travels.

Bring another word to your breath.

Breathe.

Give your word sound.

Breathe and feel the vibrations of the sound on your breath as it circulates through your body.

Allow the sound to rise and leave your body with the breath on a long stream of air, reaching out into the world. Giving goodness to the world.

Notice how the breath slows, quickens, stops, flows with the word.

Soften your words and examine how much easier it is for them to stretch into the world

Continue doing this for a while. Use different pitches.

Come back to your breath alone. No words, just slow still breaths.

'Thank the Lord giving you breath.

Let only good flow on it into the world,

and only good flow on it into our bodies.

Advent and Lent Courses 2025, 2026

The God of Surprises

This time we decided to study the book God of Surprises by Gerard M. Hughes, a Jesuit priest. This is a book based on spirituality, which attempts to deal with the question of bewilderment, disillusion and confusion, which besets us all from time to time. It sees God as the God of Surprises, who breaks into our lives and gives us new insights.

The book takes as its starting point the verse from the Sermon on the Mount, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' It shows that the treasure is already

in each of us and invites us to search for it. It deals with methods of prayer, and how this relates to the economic and social structures of our time and the difficulties, which we face. It encourages us to know Christ and to recognise the passion, death and resurrection of Christ in our own lives, the decisions, which we all have to make. In the final chapter the themes are applied to our fear of nuclear war.

The book was first published in 1985, but we discovered that this last chapter was very relevant to our world today. It provoked some lively and deep discussion in every session, and we all enjoyed it and found it most stimulating. It is very well worth reading.

By Fr. Peter

Love's As Warm As Tears

Love's as warm as tears,
Love is tears:
Pressure within the brain,
Tension at the throat,
Deluge, weeks of rain,
Haystacks afloat,
Featureless seas between
Hedges, where once was green.

Love's as fierce as fire,
Love is fire:
All sorts—infernal heat
Clinkered with greed and pride,
Lyric desire, sharp-sweet,
Laughing, even when denied,
And that empyreal flame
Whence all loves came.

Love's as fresh as spring,
Love is spring:
Bird-song hung in the air,
Cool smells in a wood,
Whispering 'Dare! Dare!'
To sap, to blood,
Telling 'Ease, safety, rest,
Are good; not best.'

Love's as hard as nails,
Love is nails:
Blunt, thick, hammered through
The medial nerves of One
Who, having made us, knew
The thing He had done,
Seeing (with all that is)
Our cross, and His.

C.S. Lewis

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Photo by Hazel Miller, taken at Little Chalfont Nature Park



GREEN CORNER

To be more eco-friendly at Easter, focus on reducing plastic by choosing chocolate with recyclable packaging, using reusable wooden or paper eggs for hunts, and opting for natural dyes for



Save the date!
20 June -
10am-2pm
St. Michael's
Celebration Day

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: See front cover for Easter Services.

APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting): 26 April.

Messy Church: 18 April '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.

WORSHIP

WARDENS

2 April — Andy Connor
3 April — Roger Leslie
4 April — Roland Gillott
5 April — Andy Connor
12 April — Alan Bacon
19 April — Claire O'Beirne
26 April — Roland Gillott

Please see:

stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— Thursday, 2 April — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
Tea, Coffee and Support.

POP IN & PAINT— Friday, 10 April —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—Friday, 10 April—2pm-4pm, St. Michael's, Wheeler Room—BACK TO BLACK
Marisa Abela is sensational as Amy Winehouse. Her voice, her life, her legacy. Running Time: 2hrs.

A CRAFTY CUPPA— Friday, 10 & 24 April — 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, 17 April – from 12.15p.m. – Amersham Free Church.
Judith Fisher, from Workaid, will talk about the work they do to help young people in Africa escape poverty.
Bring a packed lunch. The talk starts at 1p.m. Tea/coffee/water provided.
Suggested donation £3-£5 to cover the cost of speakers.

REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 2 May – 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, 2 May – 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) (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)

Sundays **Irshad's Bollywood Classes:** 7pm-8pm (Tel: 07477047148)

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>

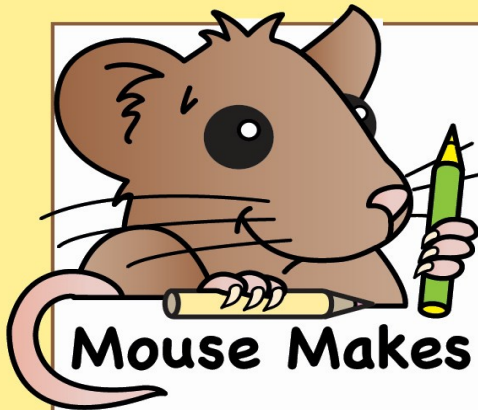
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE HALL

Saturday, 18 April, 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.

DIARY APRIL '26



Children & Families

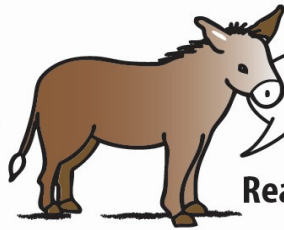


Mouse Makes

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

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY

EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



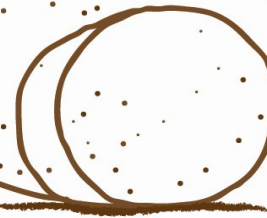
We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41



I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10

and spoke to the angel



Jesus is alive!
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35