

St. Michael & All Angels CELEBRATION DAY!



Saturday
20 June
10am - 2.30pm

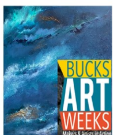
All Welcome
Free Entrance

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



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

NEWSLETTER JUNE '26



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Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

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(10 am—12.30 pm Monday—Friday)



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From the Editor... June 2026 at St. Michael's is

all about celebrations. From the Feast of Corpus Christi, which originated in the 13th century after being proposed by Thomas Aquinas, in order to create a feast emphasising the joy of the eucharist, to a feast during a garden party at the Vicarage on 7 June to celebrate Revd. Debbie's 10th year of being here at St. Michael's and her 20th year of ordination. Then we'll be celebrating St. Michael's 60th Anniversary with a Celebration Day on 20 June, closely followed by another feast after the Eucharist on 28 June to celebrate Fr. Peter's 50th year of ordination!

If you've not already let the office know if you can attend the celebrations on 7 & 28 June please do so as soon as possible.

Enjoy the Celebrations!

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.



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...?'"

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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St. Michael & All Angels CELEBRATION DAY PROGRAMME!

Saturday, 20 June

10am - 2.30pm

10.00 Stephen Wilcox opens our day in style with St Michael's church organ

10.10 Little Learners Nursery Children

We join in the fun with the children from "Little Learners"

11.10 Antardhwani

Hindustani classical music with Vocals, Tabla and Bansuri

11.50 HiGain – Contemporary Musicians Group

Join us on the Square for exciting performances with musicians from "Bucks Music Trust" Hi Gain group

12.40 Amersham Community Choir

Amersham's own community choir perform songs from the movies, ranging from 'My Fair Lady' to 'Forest Gump' and from 'Disney' favourites all the way to 'Sing'.

13.20 Amersham Dance Studio

The students of Amersham Dance Studio present an amazing medley of dance routines varying in style from modern to traditional from ballet to musicals

14.00 Bollywood Dancing Workshop – St Michael's Square

Join in the fun and infectious rhythm of Bollywood dancing outside on the Square with a workshop led by teacher Irshad Ali Shaik – bring your friends too.

SIMPATICO (Bucks Art Weeks)

We have the additional pleasure of hosting an exhibition and sale of artwork by painting group "Simpatico" who are with us in the church as part of Bucks Art Weeks from 6 to 21 June.

*All Welcome
Free Entrance*

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



Desert Island Discs with Fr. Peter Celebrating 50 Years of Ordination



What inspired you towards ministry?

When I was at the University of St. Andrews, the Rector of the Episcopal Church asked me whether I had

thought of ordination, and then the Vicar of Brighouse, who used to invite me for coffee in the holidays, suggested the same thing. That was in 1965, and I hadn't completed my degree. I went to a selection conference, and was recommended unconditionally for training for full time stipendiary ministry. But I decided to start teaching and came to Dr. Challoner's Grammar School in 1967 to teach French and German. Then, in 1972, I was summoned to St. Michael's vicarage in the dinner hour, where I found Canon Wilfrid Browning, who said that he was starting a course for non-stipendiary clergy in the autumn, and that I could join it. That was ideal for me, as that enabled me to continue teaching and to be a priest as well. I never knew how all this happened!

Do you remember something outstanding about your training?

Yes! We were very well looked after by Wilfrid. We had to go to St. Stephen's House every Tuesday evening in term time, and there were also some weekends and some Sundays as well as a summer residence each year. We had to write an essay a week. The training was very good, and it made us reassess much of what we had previously thought, such as how to see the Bible, what ethics and group dynamics were all about. We all became friends in the

process.

What dates were you ordained deacon and priest, and where did the ceremonies take place?

Deacon, September 28th 1975 at the cathedral in Oxford. There were 9 of us and we had our own ceremony, as we were the first non-stipendiary cohort. Priest, St. Peter's Day, June 29th in St. Michael's. The Provost of Wakefield (former Vicar of Brighouse), preached, and Roy, the vicar of Brighouse at the time, helped with the service. It was that hot summer of 1976. I have never been so hot in my life! It was so hot that the organ wouldn't play, and we had to make do with the piano. The school choir came.

As a French and German teacher, what do you feel you took from your ministry into the school?

I took assemblies regularly, and each year conducted the pupils' carol service in St. Michael's. My ministry helped me to have a good relationship with pupils and to help them to enjoy learning languages. Some of them have never forgotten it!!

Has there been any occasion or aspect within your ministry which stands out for you?

When I presided at the Eucharist for the first time in Brighouse Parish Church in the summer holidays in 1976.

The **Eucharist** is fundamental to everything I do, so it is very special.

I also enjoy doing home communions, individually and in care homes. It is always appreciated.

You have not only worked at St. Michael's. Where else have you ministered?

In the first ten years of my ministry, I

was shared between St. Michael's in term time and the Parish of Brighouse in school holidays. I helped in Wingrave, Aston Abbots and Cublington for over 30 years and also in Penn and in Hawridge and Cholesbury. I appreciated ministry in country villages and got to know the people well. It was interesting to do the 0800 Eucharist at Penn, as it gave me the chance to do the old Prayer Book Eucharist, which I was brought up with! I was able to help with some of the village social events. It was really special being able to help in Brighouse.

Can you share something special about your time with the Tuesday Club?

I took over the chairmanship of the Tuesday Club from Hew Motion in 2010. I thought that I needed to put my own stamp on it and not be just a pale imitation of Hew, who had done the job very well. I decided to organise more outings to theatres, stately homes and cathedrals. I had always wanted to take people to HALIFAX, so we began a series of holidays to Halifax and did it 7 times(!), to Sudbury in Suffolk and to Burgundy in France, where I go every summer to stay with my mate, Hervé. It was very special when we went on the Sundays to Brighouse Parish Church and to Halifax Minster.



Photo: Halifax Minster - Tim Green from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/atoach/52255766342/>

What words of comfort would you like to share with someone struggling with faith?

I think that I would refer to the St. Michael's Vision Statement, which says that the church is open to seekers and doubters, and that we are all exploring faith and learning and that all are welcome. It isn't necessary to believe everything to be part of the community.

What do you consider to be your closest encounter with God?

When I go to Halifax Minster, I come out afterwards on Cloud 9!!

There is a church in Burgundy in a small village, St. Père sous Vézelay, where I also feel the presence of God, and visit it each time I go to stay with Hervé. It is near the basilica in Vézelay, but I find this church more special than the large basilica. I feel the presence of God especially in the Eucharist, but also in care homes when we receive communion together. I think that it is all, about our relationships with other people. I find the presence of God also in lovely countryside, for example, in Fountains Abbey and in Studley Royal water garden, and also in the hills above Todmorden, which I have known since childhood.

community. I like the quietness and the sense of community at the 8.30 Eucharist on Sundays and the 10.30 on Tuesdays. But I enjoy singing at the 10.00 Sung Eucharist as well. I have worked with 4 vicars, each different from the others. I like the way The Revd. Debbie and I share everything, and we have a lot of fun and banter, which I find important!

What has sustained your ministry over 50 years and what have been the biggest changes?

I love the liturgy, and greatly appreciated the Alternative Service Book and now Common Worship. I love the psalms, which have meant a lot to me since my teenage years. I spend time studying them and learn more and more. I really like Eucharistic Prayer D, which thanks God for every gift, that comes from heaven. When the bread and wine are consecrated, the story of Jesus becomes our story, and then the prayer asks that we might offer ourselves to live for God, which I think it is all about.

Changes. The development of the liturgy into Common Worship and the booklets, which we have developed. The appointment of women priests and bishops, who have greatly enriched the Church. I think that the creation of non-stipendiary clergy has also added experience from the outside world, which is enriching.

Favourite Prayers

I am spoilt for choice! Eucharistic Prayer D, of course!
But also psalms, for example: Psalm 40.10: 'in the scroll of the book it is written of me that I should do your will: O my God I long to do it; your law delights my heart.'

Psalm 16.11: 'God will show us the path of life; in his presence is the fullness of joy: and at his right hand there is pleasure for evermore.'
Psalm 34.18: 'The Lord is close to those who are broken-hearted: and the crushed in spirit he saves.'

The Collect for Lent 3
Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace.

The Peace

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. if we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

The Trinity blessing

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing... .

What would you take to a desert island? You already have a copy of the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare.

I couldn't survive without Yorkshire Tea! Or my aperitif Suze!
A CD and DVD player and some André Rieu DVDs.
Some Yorkshire mystery books by J.R. Ellis.
Marcel Pagnol, La Gloire de Mon Père and Le Château de Ma Mère.
A picture of Halifax Minster.

Which 8 pieces of music would you take?

I love the Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas: The Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado, The Gondoliers, HMS Pinafore, Trial by Jury. Mascagni: Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana. Viennese waltzes, Strauss and others, eg. The Blue Danube, The Snow Waltz, The Sportspalace Waltz, The Skaters' Waltz.
Elgar, Nimrod, played by The Brighthouse and Rastrick Band.
Hymns:
Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing (hymn 424 - HON)
When Christ was lifted from the earth (525 - A&MNS)
Hark, the sound of holy voices (hymn 200 Deerhurst tune - HON).
And many others!!!

What has been your greatest joy in working at St. Michael's?

Being challenged and encouraged not to take the Bible too literally, and to have the opportunity to study material for the Advent and Lent courses. I appreciate very much the fact that St. Michael's is a Eucharist based



Studley Royal Water Garden - Photo from Tripadvisor





**PHOTOS FROM
FR. PETER'S
ORDINATION
St. Peter's Day,
June 29th 1976,
in St. Michael
& All Angels,
Amersham.**



Amersham Music Centre Hi-Gain

Presented by Buckinghamshire Music Trust as part of the vibrant programme at Amersham Music Centre, **Hi-Gain** showcases the creativity and talent of young instrumentalists, singers, bands, and music producers from across the county. Featuring music inspired by contemporary rock, pop, indie, and electronic styles, performances draw on the group's work in collaboration, live performance, songwriting, and music technology.



The group regularly develops and performs new material through projects connected to events such as *Hi-Gain Live*, *Battle of the Bands*, and other live showcases, giving audiences the chance to experience exciting new music and celebrate the creativity and progress of Buckinghamshire's young musicians.

This performance also offers a glimpse into the wide range of opportunities available through Amersham Music Centre, including instrumental and vocal lessons, ensembles, bands, orchestras, and creative music projects for young people of all ages and abilities. For more information, please visit bucksmusic.org.

AMERSHAM DANCE STUDIO

JOIN NOW

DANCE CLASSES IN AMERSHAM

Ages 3+
No experience needed

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emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk

www.amershamdancestudio.co.uk

Scan to book a free trial class!

Rachel, Christine and Rebecca, from St Michael's Church Choir, hard at work on the new Pentecost window, which was started off by the ladies at A Crafty Cuppa





THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

6th - 14th June

Together for good

On Sunday 14 June at our 10am Gathered Round Eucharist, we will launch our bid for a Bronze A Rocha Eco Church award!

Join us to celebrate what we already do, and help to shape how we make St. Michael's greener and improve our care for God's world.

GREEN CORNER

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord – and the world he loves. May your hands be busy with good work, your hearts be full of hope, and your steps tread gently on this sacred earth. Amen.



**Synod Eco-Day
at
Amersham
Free Church,
Saturday,
13 June**



Thames North Synod URC

Eco Day

Saturday 13th June 2026

9.30am - 4pm

Amersham Free Church

Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 6AJ

Nature on our

Doorstep

Join fellow churchgoers from across the Synod in exploring animal and plant life, gardening skills, and energy saving.

Hear our gold medal winning 'Amersham in Bloom' describe how they transform public places for nature and people.

Come for a walk with us (optional!) through the woods to the River Misbourne, a chalk stream. 45 minutes of gentle walking, but bring strong shoes. We'll bus back.

Enjoy a delicious lunch - locally sourced produce, and home-made cakes for tea.

• For information email: Colleen Fraser at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Amersham Free Church was asked to put on this annual event, as part of the Great Big Green Week, mostly for the United Reformed Churches in the North Thames area - partly because we were able to claim our A Rocha Eco-Church Silver Award last year. It is lovely that St. Michael's is going for this award too! We have been helping and supporting each other in our endeavours to carry the message about how much our planet needs our care. You will see from the flier a summary of our programme. Anyone who would like to come and join us will be very welcome. If you plan to come, please send an email to the address at the bottom of the poster, so that we can include you in everything?

Liz Waumsley, and
the AFC Eco-church
Group

Eucharists:

Sundays 8.30am and 10am

(Gathered Round on the second Sunday of each month is especially designed for families)

Tuesdays 10.30am (no service on 2 June)

Morning Prayer:

Tuesdays 9am in the Lady Chapel.

Special Services: Corpus Christi Thursday, 4 June at 10.30am

Messy Church: There will be no Messy Church in June 2026 but there will be a Messy Church Table at the St Michael's Day Celebrations. (Usually the 3rd 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

7 June — Alan Bacon

14 June — Roger Leslie

21 June — Claire O'Beirne

28 June — Andy Connor

Please see:
stmichaelsamersham.org.uk
for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— Thursday, 4 June — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room
Tea, Coffee and Support.

BUCKS ARTS WEEK – SIMPATICO – 5-20 June – Monday-Friday 10a.m.-5p.m., Saturday 10a.m.-6p.m. & Sunday 12 noon-6p.m. Jenny Thompson, Liz Grammenos, Madeleine Fletcher & Barbara Spruytenburg, of Simpatico, invite you to come along and enjoy their joyous exhibition.

A CRAFTY CUPPA— Friday, 12 & 26 June— 10.30am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Main Church

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, 19 June – from 12.15pm – Amersham Free Church. Gareth Williams from the 'Grace Advocacy' charity will be the speaker. This charity helps people with their statutory rights. Bring a packed lunch. The talk starts at 1p.m. Tea/coffee/water provided. Peter Healy will be giving a talk on 'The life of Edward Watkin, a great Victorian.' Suggested donation £3-£5 to cover the cost of speakers.

REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 4 July – 10am-1pm—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, 4 July – 9am-1pm – 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)

Saturdays Dabble Art 9a.m-10.30am (Email: dabble@dabbleart.co.uk)

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



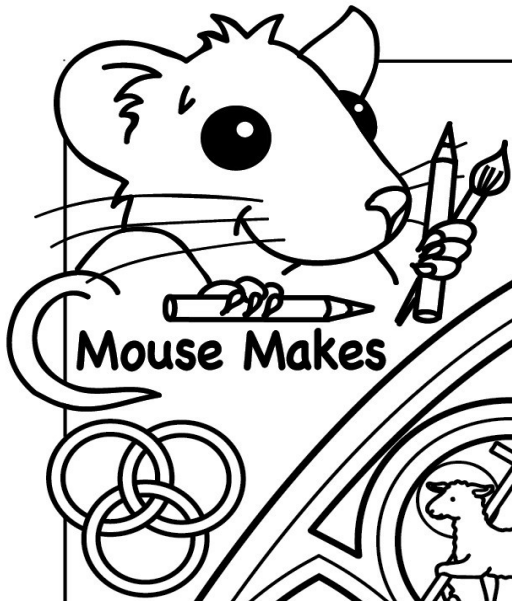
Saturday, 20 June, Messy Church

The usual session will be replaced by Messy Crafts at the Celebration Day on St. Michael's Square and in the church. The theme will be The Lord's Prayer.

Congratulations to Ben Marshall & Holly Spencer, whose wedding banns will be read during June.

DIARY JUNE '26

Children & Families



"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
love of **GOD** and the
fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
with you all."

2 Corinthians
13:14



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JESUS • CHRIST
SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
BREAD • WORD • HEALER
VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

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GOD • FATHER
ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
ETERNAL • CREATOR
KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

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HOLY SPIRIT
GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
COMFORTER • GUIDE
ADVOCATE • WISDOM
POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
WIND • FIRE • TEACHER

