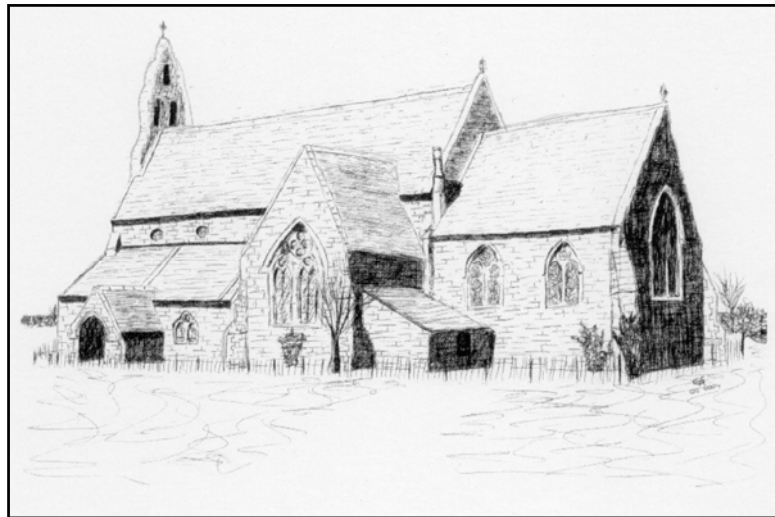




AUTUMN 2010



St Michael's Messenger

The Newsletter of St Michael and All Angels, Park Road, Abingdon.

Dates for Your Diary from St Michael's

Sat 20 th Nov	Christmas Fair 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.
Sat 4 th Dec	Abingdon Concert Band Concert 7.30 p.m.
Thurs 9 th Dec	St Michael's Fellowship: Paul Sheppey–You're driving me crazy. 7.45 p.m.
Sun 12 th Dec	Christmas Lunch at Drayton Golf Club
<i>Christmas Services</i>	
Christmas Eve	Crib Service 3.00 p.m. Carol Service 6.30 p.m. Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.
Christmas Day	Sung Mass 10.00 a.m.
Sun 26 th Dec (St Stephens)	Sung Mass 9.30 a.m.
Wed 26 th Jan	Lunch Club
Wed 23 rd Feb	Lunch Club

Dates for Your Diary from St Helen's

Sun 21 st Nov	4.30 p.m. Choral Evensong followed by tea and biscuits then concert music for cello and piano.
Thurs 25 th Nov	Christmas shopping trip to Winchester £15 pp. Tel: Susan Scott 522960.
Sat 27 th Nov	St Helen's Christmas Market 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Sun 28 th Nov	4.30 p.m. Advent Carols and Readings and dedication of Jesse Tree.
Sat 4 th Dec	Abingdon Band Christmas Concert with Abingdon Operatic Society. 7.30 p.m.
Sundays 5 th , 12 th , 19 th Dec and 2 nd Jan	Church open 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. with seasonal stories around the tree from 2.45 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. for 4 – 10 year olds and parents. Younger children welcome. Refreshments.
Sun 19 th Dec	4.30 p.m. Nine Lessons and Carols.

Dates for Your Diary from St Nicolas'

Tues 30 th Nov	Open evening for Abingdon Christmas Extravaganza, BRF and Traidcraft stalls. Coffee and music.
Sun 5 th Dec	St Nicolas' Day celebrations. Morning Prayer at 11.00 a.m. celebratory lunch at Cosenors House 12.30 p.m. followed by Choral Evensong.
Sun 12 th Dec	Abbey Chamber Concert 3.00 p.m.
Wed 15 th Dec	BRF Carol Service at lunchtime.
Sun 19 th Dec	Carol Service 6.30 p.m.

For more information telephone Barbara Beach on Abingdon 01235 531392

Mothers' Union

Tues 14 th Dec	Advent Evening. St Helen's Church Centre 8.00 p.m.
Tues 11 th Jan	Mothers' Union Mission Aviation Fellowship. David Tester. St Helen's Church Centre 8.00 p.m.

**‘For all that has been thanks, for all that shall be ‘Yes’ –
Daj Hammersjold**

Some of you will know that the above quote has meant much to me, not least in recent days. It rings true as I begin God’s ministry among you, but let me tell you more about myself now I have finally arrived.



I was born in Greenford, Middlesex in 1966 – on the same day as The Revd Dr Simon Thorn, so we have started a new trend within the Clergy Team of the Parish. I grew up largely in areas of Berkshire and Oxfordshire following my father’s move from work in the Dairy Industry in London. In my last two years at Primary School my twin sister Tracey and I were separated and I was educated at the renowned Treloar School and College in Alton, Hampshire for young people with disabilities. It was here that I first sensed a need for God and developed my love for music and the dramatic arts. In fact, at one point I was encouraged to think about an acting career and even tentatively aspired, rather pretentiously, to going to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA)! However, I was not to be another John Gielgud, or someone similar. Instead, by eventually joining the ordained ministry of the Church of England, people have sometimes suggested that within our Established Church there can be found similarities to a drama school!

I left school at sixteen – the LEA refusing to fund anymore education at Treloar College –and began work straight away working for my father in the Dairy Industry. This was one of the few occasions – the other being driving lessons – when our normally good relationship was put under considerable strain! At the same time I became involved in the Wantage Choral Society and I joined the local Baptist Church where most young people met for worship. It was a rich and significant time in my life, but I soon

found the need for more sacramental and ordered worship so made the decision to join the local Parish Church which was distinctive for its Catholic Tradition. Both these Christian communities, as well as the Community of Taize in France, helped to shape my need to explore a priestly vocation.

In 1989 – by which time I had been confirmed as an Anglican Christian and was taking a variety of roles in the parish including, even then, experiencing the delights of PCC meetings! – I encountered the Baptists again. I went to work for them at Didcot in the Finance and Administration Department of the Baptist Missionary Society where, principally, I was responsible for recording donations and communicating with individual donors and churches who contributed to the Society. I made many friends during the nine years I worked for them, some of whom are still there, others who remain living in the area and with whom I have already enjoyed renewing some contact. It was during this time that I faced a whole different range of experiences that confirmed for me that I should seek the will of the Lord and His Church as to whether I was being called to the life of a priest. Eventually, in 1998, following a Selection Conference, and a year's preliminary study, I left to go to Ripon College, Cuddesdon to train for Ordination. I was ordained deacon in 2000, and priested the following year, serving my title in the Buckinghamshire Archdeaconry at Prestwood and Great Hampden. My curacy involved working closely with the Churchwardens during an eight month vacancy following my Incumbent's retirement.

In 2005 I went to work in the Parish of West Leigh, St Alban, in the Diocese of Portsmouth to take up my first Incumbency. This was a challenging, yet rewarding post, in an area of high deprivation and social need. I gained privileged insight into the lives of people who are very disadvantaged and, as a result, to the complex needs they had both socially and spiritually.

Among my hobbies are reading, listening to and participating in music (I am hoping to polish up my piano playing); cooking - and especially eating - and tricycling.

It was early in 2009 when I was in the midst of Lent that I was ‘nudged’ in many ways, quite unexpectedly, to explore the post here, even though I had no particular sense at the time that I was to move from West Leigh. I was not expecting to be called by God to serve Him in a new ministry at the time He did, but through prayer and discernment this has proved to be the next phase of my priestly life. I am delighted about that, and to be among you, feeling most blessed and privileged to be here and to be called to be part of God’s mission and ministry in a vibrant and exciting town with many opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the tremendous and warm welcome you have given me as I spend the forthcoming months settling in and getting to know you all. I believe that under God we have an exciting journey together, both here, and at St Nicolas’, as well as throughout the parish. It is a journey we must travel *together*, and in so doing, we must travel the journey lightly and at no other pace but God’s, lest we run the risk of missing, and therefore not attending to, the leading of the Spirit along every step of the way. As your new priest I pray daily that I may be given God’s grace to be your faithful pastor and teacher. I am a people-focused priest with Pastoral Ministry as central to the life God has called me to. I believe that it is only in relationship with each other, and in a community which is marked out by its love and mutual respect for all, that we can serve God both faithfully and effectively.

Let us look only to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, as we journey together, and as I thank you again for your welcome, please be assured of my prayers for you all.

For all that has been, thanks; for all that shall be ‘Yes’.

With every blessing in Christ

Paul

Licensing of the Revd Paul Smith, 25th September 2010

‘A time of new beginnings has gathered each one here.....’

The 200 or so people gathered in St Helen’s Church on that Saturday afternoon no doubt shared a number of different emotions as they sang together the words of the opening hymn which had been written by Paul himself. Paul, his family and friends, with their own personal feelings of love and friendship, hopes and thanksgivings; parishioners from his Church in West Leigh who had travelled to Abingdon to say farewell and to see him safely installed in his new parish, the Archdeacon, Area Dean and Rector who had shouldered many responsibilities during the interregnum, the appointment process and the build-up to Paul’s arrival in Abingdon. The local clergy, both Anglican and of other denominations, greeting a new colleague, civic dignitaries and other well wishers from the town and beyond sharing in this joyful occasion. Members of Paul’s new congregations, many of them having their first long awaited glimpse of their new Team vicar and last and I hope not least, the wardens from St Michael’s and St Nicolas’ — people said afterwards that we went through the whole service with huge smiles on our faces — they were not wrong!

The licensing was performed by the Rt Revd Henry Scriven, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Oxford and well known to the congregation of St Nicolas’ where he often worships with his family. Although the service was held at St Helen’s, members of the congregations of both St Michael’s and St Nicolas’ were able to play a full part. David Dawswell and John Enticott read the lessons and during the service members of both church communities brought the symbols of ministry to Paul before laying them on the altar. Graham Howell played the organ and a joint choir led the singing. Jennifer Small acted as crucifer. After the service refreshments were served and this gave everyone a chance to socialise — the one person who seemed to miss out on enjoying the delicious spread was Paul who was so surrounded by friends and well-wishers that he did not manage to reach the South Aisle!

It was clear from the welcome given to Paul at his licensing, that there was a real feeling amongst the congregation that our trust and patience during the long period of interregnum had been truly justified and now that we are several weeks into Paul’s ministry here, we are looking to the future with confidence.

Carol Bowman

Presentation to Fr Norman

Carol and Jean presented Fr Norman with a cheque and a bottle of wine following the Mass on 10th October, at which he presided, to show the appreciation of the congregation of his commitment and service during the interregnum. Rebecca was presented with a bouquet.

In making the presentation Carol said:

'It is rare to meet a churchwarden who does not recount tales of an interregnum full of tensions, trials and tribulations — a period simply to be endured and survived whilst waiting for a new incumbent. For St Michael's, however, our prolonged interregnum has also been a time we can look back on with many more positive memories, one which we can indeed celebrate thanks to the ministry and pastoral care of Fr Norman and the warmth of Rebecca's friendship and support.'



Addressing Fr Norman she said:

'Fr Norman, as a congregation and as individuals we have much to thank you for — as have the baptism families you have visited and those who have suffered bereavement. We are looking forward to your continued presence amongst us but we wanted, at this point, to show our appreciation of all you have meant to us over the past two years and this gift comes with much love from us all.'

Fr Norman has made his response to The Messenger as follows:

The term 'interregnum' literally means *between reigns* — in our case the time between The Revd Dr Peter Doll's move to Norwich and The Revd Paul Smith's Licensing — some 22 months in all. The preferred term today is 'vacancy' but whatever name we give it, we need to appreciate that it has been an important time in the life of St. Michael's. We've been fortunate in that congregational numbers have held up; it

is generally reckoned that congregations can decrease by up to 25% in a vacancy.

- It has been a time to reflect on Peter's ministry, his liturgical gifts and the real legacy of the re-ordering.
- It has been a time for innovations, the Saturday Church Opening and the launch of St. Michael's Messenger to name two.
- We have also benefited from our membership of the 'central cluster' and we have been well served by a variety of priests and a deacon during this time.

I felt it a great privilege to be invited by the Rector to be 'Principal Celebrant and Pastoral Contact' during this time and would like to express my thanks for the very generous gifts that have been given to us. I say us because throughout my ministry I have enjoyed the unstinting support of Rebecca.

Now it is time to step back and to support Fr Paul who comes to us with his own gifts and insights to lead us forward in the next stage of our pilgrimage. With our love and prayers

Fr Norman and Rebecca

Message from Traidcraft

There are some lovely things in the Christmas Traidcraft catalogue, so please find time to look through it and let me know if you would like to place an order. There will also be Christmas Specials on the church stall along with all the more usual items, so please do have a look.

Traidcraft is a Christian response to poverty, working with people of all faiths and none. As a dedicated fair trade company, we buy from disadvantaged producers, and as a charity, we help producers to engage in trade, as well as to campaign for trade justice. Our vision is of a world freed from the scandal of poverty.

There will be Traidcraft stalls at the St Michael's Christmas Fair on Saturday 20th November and in St Nicolas' Church on the evening of Tuesday 30th November for the Abingdon Christmas Extravaganza.

Glenys Enticott

Refurbishment

The Church Room is now looking very smart having been recently redecorated and de-cluttered of some of the furniture we no longer need. Grateful thanks are due to those who washed and re-hung the curtains. The DCC has agreed to some new floor covering but at the time of going to press no firm decision had been made about what this should be.

Advice is being sought.

The Vestry has been vastly improved by the removal of some old ill-matched cupboards and the installation all along the west wall of some new elegant fitted cupboards.

Disabled access

Things are progressing towards installing a platform and ramps directly into the Church Room and also to the corridor that will comply with current requirements for disabled access. A faculty has been received and planning

Christmas Card Competition

The winners of our 'design a Christmas card' competition are Siân and Carys Hopkins (Glenys and John's granddaughters). They have each been sent a book token and their cards are now on sale on the bookstall in packs of five for £2.50. Well done and many thanks to Siân and Carys.

Jane Duce

Churchyard

The churchyard has looked lovely throughout the Spring, summer and autumn - many thanks to Krissi Hartley-Morris and Jane Cadogan for all the time and effort they have given to achieve this. Also thanks to Geoff Cross and Stuart Pottinger who care for the hedges and grass. We have received many compliments and hope that the 'new-look' exterior will combine with the reordered interior to encourage more people to join us at St Michael's. On a practical note, we now have a compost bin situated at the east end of the church outside the sacristy.

Jane Duce

St Michael's Lunch Club

The lunch club has continued to flourish. Our Christmas dinner is on Wednesday 24th November at 12.30 p.m. The cost is £5 and you can book by phoning either 538758 or 522591. All welcome.

C Christmas Fair at St Michael's

Saturday 20th November
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

An exciting range of stalls selling Christmas food,
crafts and gifts, and much more

Raffle and Children's Games

Usborne Children's Books

Wildlife Photographs

Keedo Children's Clothing

Refreshments served throughout the day

50% of profit to go to local charities:

Home Farm Trust

The Soldiers' Charity

Abingdon Foyer



Our New Thurible

Thuribles, censers suspended from chains, in which incense is burnt, come in various shapes and sizes. At one extreme there are the delicate models used in Orthodox churches, with bells on the chains. At the other, the Botafumeiro in the cathedral of Santiago di Compostella in Spain – reputed to be the world’s largest thurible, weighing 80kg and standing 1.6m high. When in use, charged with 40kg of charcoal and incense, it swings from a pulley mechanism attached to the rafters, heaved by eight servers.



Our new thurible is closer in dimensions to the Orthodox variety. It was acquired in memory of Mervyn Beadle, himself a highly accomplished thurifer as many will recall. It was made by Hayes and Finch of Liverpool and is seen in the photograph modelled by Mary Beadle accompanied by her daughter Helen.

Held by our youngest server, Ramon, the new thurible was blessed by Fr Norman on 4th July at the Family Mass celebrated by Fr Simon. The prayers used were provided by Bishop Andrew Burnham.

Blessed be your name, O Lord,
you are the fount and source of every blessing,
and you look with delight
upon the devout practices of the faithful.
Draw near, we pray, to these your servants
and, as they use this symbol of their faith and devotion,
grant that they may also
strive to be transformed
into the likeness of Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

Amen.

May the merciful Lord
enliven and strengthen by his blessing +
the spirit of devotion and filial love in your hearts,
so that you may walk blamelessly through this life
and happily reach life everlasting.

Amen.

May this thurible and those who use it be blessed
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Christmas Lunch

It's still not too late to book a place at St. Michael's social event of the year: our very splendid Christmas Lunch. It takes place on Sunday 12th December at Drayton Golf Club and you can join us for just £18.00 per head (includes a small gratuity). (Children £10.00). I am collecting names and will be delighted to add yours to the list.

Glynne Butt

Look and See

The choir stalls in St. Michael's each have a carving. In the last issue of the Messenger, I looked at the one which reminds us of St Nicholas and on the opposite side of the Chancel is this one. The 'S H' is, of course, St Helen who was the Mother of the Roman emperor Constantine. On the East wall at St Michael's she is seen carrying the cross she is believed to have discovered and on this carving we see the cross again with the superscription INRI – Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews. What Helen does is point us to the cross of Jesus, the means of salvation, and she does this throughout history.



At the time when St Michael's was built, St Nicolas' and St. Helen's were the ancient medieval churches of Abingdon and I believe it was out of St Helen's that our church was born to be a chapel of ease, particularly for the congested population of the Ock Street area. One can imagine the Victorians of Ock Street making their way across the fields to St. Michael's well before the houses around the Park were built!

There are 3 further pew ends which have symbols on, does anyone know what the significance of these is?

John Enticott

Krissi Joins the Street Pastors

St Michael's member, Krissi Hartley-Morris is one of the latest volunteers to join the street pastors, a church-run scheme aiming to bring comfort and safety to late-night revellers.

The street pastors project in Oxford, launched by the city's Churches Together network, will patrol the streets, offering practical help and a sympathetic ear to people who find themselves in distress after a night out on the town. The national scheme, which was set up by the Ascension Trust seven years ago, now has over one hundred teams around the UK, and has won the support of the police and local councils.

Krissi, a single parent, signed up straight away with her daughter, Charlotte, aged 18, after going to a meeting about the project held in Oxford Town Hall. "When I came out", I said, 'I've got to do this'. It's the ideal opportunity to get involved in the community", she says. She was attracted by the prospect of being able to help people in potentially vulnerable situations in the safety of a three or four-strong team, she explains.

"If Jesus was around today, that's the sort of thing he'd be doing," she adds. "I've been in a situation where I've needed help, and it comes in the most unexpected forms".

Krissi and Charlotte began 50 hours of training in April this year, before joining a team of street pastors twice a month on a Friday night from 10.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m. from October 2010.

Regrettably, Charlotte began her university course in September so was not around for the launch date. However, she hopes to join the team when she is home during the Christmas break.



News of The Revd Colin Datchler

Members of the St Michael's congregation will remember Colin who was our last ordinand before the interregnum. He was a frequent member of the congregation at that time sometimes accompanied by members of his family. He often assisted at services when we used the Trinity Church Hall while St Michael's was being reordered and also for a short while in 2009 when we returned to the church. Colin wanted to learn to be a thurifer so we duly taught him. Readers may recall the All Saints' Day procession around the 'cloister' at Trinity, ably led by Colin swinging heartily. He also preached at St Michael's when we returned to the re-ordered building.



Colin was ordained Deacon at Canterbury Cathedral and was appointed curate to the church of St Leonard in Hythe, Kent. After serving there for a year, he was ordained priest on 4th July. This is some of what he said in the St Leonard's Parish Magazine about his ordination.

"The Ordination itself took place at St Leonard's Church in Hythe. It seemed so fitting that this should happen amongst those who have put up with me over the last year, but also in the place to which I have been called to serve. As I looked out over the congregation I could see all those faces and recall those experiences that had led me to that point in shaping and forming me. This led to the tense (for me only!) moment in the service where I turned to face the congregation while they were asked if it was their will that I be ordained! Fortunately the answer was yes!"

St Leonard's is an imposing and very welcoming Norman church on a

hill looking over the town and is famous for having an ossuary (bone house) where there are bones of over 4000 men, women and children including 2000 skulls.

While on holiday in Kent earlier in the year, I took the opportunity to visit Hythe and the church of St Leonard having learned from Fr Norman that Colin was curate there.

Lois Rennells

Footnote

Permission was sought from Colin to publish the above article and his response was 'What a privilege - yes, of course you may publish the article, and thank you for sending me a copy (previous issue of Messenger). Please send my regards and best wishes to all at St Michael's.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Ride and Stride

On Saturday 11th September we once again opened the doors of St Michael's to welcome walkers and cyclists taking part in the annual Historic Churches Ride and Stride.

Our trusty band of 'Welcomers' manned the church from 9.30 in the morning until 6 o'clock in the evening, offering refreshments to all who needed them. We received 60 cyclists plus many more visitors who came to look around the church and see the labyrinth. Hilary and Katharine were kept especially busy when they were on duty between 11 o'clock and 12 o'clock as 28 cyclists arrived during this time.

Originally Glynne was going to cycle for St Michael's but unfortunately she had an accident before the event and broke her leg very badly. Jean immediately offered to take on the task in her place. On the morning of the ride she was in St Michael's at 10 o'clock ready to set off when suddenly the heavens opened and torrential rain came down. Eventually the storm passed and she was able to set off. She raised £219 in sponsorship of which St Michael's will receive half.

Many thanks to all who helped on the day, and especially to Jean for cycling. We are pleased that Glynne is now recovering and has been able to come back to church.

Julie Woodley

The Ride and Stride that never was

You may remember a phrase from the Flanders and Swann evening last summer. It came in the song about the English and it berated foreigners with these words:

*They argue with umpires, they cheer when they've won
And they practise beforehand which ruins the fun.*

Well, let me tell you that, although I claim to be English to the core, I identify fully with those unfortunate foreigners whose practise ruined the fun. On Bank Holiday Monday, my cycling friend and I decided on a little warm-up for the forthcoming Ride and Stride. The sun shone as we pedalled lazily around the Cotswold lanes, stopped at a farm to buy plums and browsed the shops in Chipping Campden,..... all totally idyllic - until, just a mile from home, I *ruined the fun* big time by falling off my bike!

Thank you to all the kind people at St. Michael's who had already signed my Ride and Stride sponsorship form and who were too generous to withdraw their support despite the fact that I sat in hospital with my leg up on the day in question. Thank you too to Jean for taking to the saddle in my stead – and congratulations to her for managing to remain there throughout.

I will try again next year if you'll have me!

Glynne Butt

P.S. From Jean

I managed to fit in 11 churches, one of which was a Radio Link with St Mary's Bampton, courtesy of members of Christ Church, Abingdon. The weather turned warm and sunny after the early downpour so all was well. Thank you to all of you for transferring your sponsorship of Glynne to me.

Visit to The Home Farm Trust

During the summer, after a visit from Billy Pithers to our Thursday afternoon Fellowship, arrangements were made for us to visit The Home Farm Trust.

A rather wet chilly day was brightened by the welcome given to us by Mr and Mrs Pithers who, together with Rosemary Stevens, a member of our congregation, met us with a very welcome cup of coffee. Billy and Rosemary showed us round the headquarters where we were able to see the wonderful work done by this organisation.

We had a tour around the workshops and social areas. The residents enjoy art, pottery and computer activities and also have a very well

equipped gym. Everything is laid on for the residents to lead a happy and fulfilling life. We walked through the lovely garden, one a wonderful scented garden – these had been designed and planted by students from Abingdon and Witney College. The residents attend the vegetable garden and the produce is used in the centre for their meals. A source of fund raising for the centre is their car washing service.

From the kitchen came a lovely smell of baking and here we saw a number of sponge cakes ready for their fillings. The cakes are taken to the Didcot Friday Market where The Trust has a very successful stall. Since our visit they have been invited to have a stall at our Christmas Fair.

It was lovely to see the work of The Trust and to learn more about the lives of the four young people in our congregation.

Our visit ended with a packed lunch and we thanked Billy and the staff for making our visit so interesting. Thank you to John Enticott for arranging the visit.

Cicely Silverstone

Church Opening

The small team of stewards opened St Michael's on most Saturday afternoons from the beginning of May until the end of October. It will not be open during the winter months but we hope to open again next Spring. The teams have enjoyed welcoming visitors to our beautiful Church and have met some interesting people. Anne Gould recalls one particularly uplifting afternoon.

“When Jane Duce and I arrived at the Church just before 2 o'clock on 31st July, there were two people already waiting for us to open the doors. They introduced themselves as Truss Kreefte and Gert Landman from Holland. They explained that they were on holiday and had heard about our labyrinth and wanted to see it.

Jane and I got on with getting out the hymn books for the following day while our visitors wandered around looking at the Church. Suddenly we heard this wonderful tenor voice; we both turned and saw that it was our male visitor who was standing in the middle of the labyrinth singing. We knew that he was singing a hymn because we

recognised the tune, but not the words because he was singing in Dutch! He asked if we minded and with one accord we both said ‘not at all please carry on’.

He then went to different parts of the Church and did the same thing, he explained that he is a professional musician and said that we have perfect acoustics. Meanwhile his female companion was busy asking Jane about the various items we have for sale. Amongst lots of other things, she wanted one of the large jigsaws, but there wasn’t one on the stall, so Jane phoned David and he quickly arrived from their home with one for her.

Finally our visitors invited us to join them in singing a hymn chosen from our hymn books and their visit ended with all five of us standing in a circle on the labyrinth singing together. They spent over one and a half hours with us providing us with a truly memorable afternoon”.

From the Registers

Baptisms

4 th July	Grace May Rudman
18 th July	Lucie Marie Busson and Caitlyn Elissa Grace Adcock
1st Aug	Alexis Smith
15 th Aug	Elise Stimpson
29 th Aug	Sophie Chapman and Sophie Launchbury
5 th Sept	Ollie Christian Turner. Emily Jessica Moores, Thomas Sidney Moores and William George Moores
3 rd Oct	Ben Davis
17 th Oct	Esme Townsend

Funeral

17 th Aug	June Lonsdale
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Weddings

3 rd July	Adam Bennett to Hannah Davis
7 th Aug	Andrew Berry to Christina Washington
7 th Aug	Andrew Hill to Caroline Lewis
14 th Aug	Damian McGill to Victoria Brooker
28 th Aug	Wayne Geller to Renata Talbot

Looking towards Christmas.....
The Tale of a Christmas Pud

He was a crusty old man, but he lived all alone
And was frail, often lonely, afraid.
One day in December I called to make sure
That his plans for Christmas were made.

‘The Welfare’, he said, ‘have sent me a parcel,
And although I think they are kind,
There’s a Christmas pudding and I hate Christmas pud,
So I’d like you to have it, if you don’t mind.’

I didn’t need it, but I couldn’t offend,
It was a shapely, plump pudding, though small –
‘There’s a neighbour coming, don’t let her see it’
Said he, ‘I can’t stand the woman at all.’

I looked out of the window, and like a ship in full sail
The lady in question approaching I saw,
She swept into the house as though borne on the breeze,
Before I could get to the door.

I hid the pud. quickly behind my back
And we talked for a while – face to face,
As she moved round the room I manoeuvred the pud.
Until, walking backwards, I got out of the place.

Outside the house to my bosom I clutched
The tempting fruity ball,
Then locked it safely in the car,
For I had to make another call.

At length I was able to return to the car –
I would be pleased to get off my feet,
With relief I sat down – then quickly rose –
I’d left the pudding on the driver’s seat.

Well the pudding was firm and the wrapping intact,
And there was no one around to see,
So I carefully pushed it back into shape
And then took it home with me.

Doris Dowling

Useful Information

Team Rector:

The Revd Dr Charles Miller Telephone: 520144

Team Vicar:

The Revd Paul Smith Telephone 534654

Honorary Assistant Priest:

The Revd Canon Norman Brown Telephone: 553454

Churchwardens:

Mrs Carol Bowman Telephone: 528962

Mrs Jean Hercus Telephone: 527822

Regular services at St Michael's

Sung Mass or Family Mass (usually 1st Sunday of month)

Sundays at 9.30 a.m.

Said Mass followed by light lunch Thursdays at 1.00 p.m.

Evening prayer (lay-led) Sundays at 4.30 p.m.

Mass of Our Lady 1st Saturday in the month at 9.00 a.m.

Christmas Services at St Michael's

Christmas Eve Crib Service 3.00 p.m.
Carol Service 6.30 p.m.
Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.
Sung Mass 10.00 a.m.

Christmas Day

Sunday 26th December (St Stephens)

Sung Mass 9.30 a.m.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms and funerals

please contact Mrs Linda Barker at the Parish Office.

Times of opening are: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
9.00 a.m. – 2.15 p.m. Telephone: 520144.

For enquiries about booking St Michael's Church or the church room please contact John Enticott Telephone: 523282.

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