

# PEW NEWS

## St. Michael's Church, Aspley Heath, Woburn Sands

Pew News is available on our website each week under 'Newsletter.' You are encouraged to use this as a means of communicating with all here at St. Michael's.

## Sunday 29 September – St Michael and All Angels – Patronal Festival

### Collect For St Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Readings for Today

Genesis 28: 10 – 17

Revelation 12: 7 – 12

John 1: 47 – end

### The Coming Week in St Michael's

Saturday 28 September	10.00 am – 12 noon – Gift Day Fair – Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall
Sunday 29 September	9.45 am Patronal Festival Parish Communion
Tuesday 1 October	2.30 Tuesday Fellowship Group
Thursday 3 October	9.30 am – 11.00 am – St Michael's Toddlers
Friday 4 October	9.00 am – Morning Prayer
Sunday 6 October	9.00 am – Holy Communion
Sunday 6 October	11.00 am – Harvest Festival Family Service followed by bring and share lunch in church

### Harvest Lunch

The harvest lunch will be held after the 11am service on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are attending a list of food to bring will be at the back of the Church. Please put your name down if you are coming and let us know what you can bring. Many thanks *Mary*.

### Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal

We shall be supporting the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal again this year. This year the Appeal is being run in partnership with The Leprosy Mission to support a project in Sri Lanka, which provides those affected by leprosy with the means to grow their own food and raise their standard of living. For more information about the appeal and about how to support it, please

see <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/bishop-of-st-albans-harvest-appeal-2024/>.

## **PCC Report**

Our Church Council met on Thursday 19 September. We agreed dates for a number of services and other events (see Advance Diary Dates). We received a report on our finances. In brief, we are in a better position now than we were at the same point last year. However, this is largely due to the large legacy we received earlier this year. Without an increase in regular giving we are not going to be able to continue to pay the costs of a full-time Vicar in the long term. We have therefore decided to run a special appeal to our regular givers during late October and November. At the same time people will be invited to move to the Parish Giving Scheme. We also agreed to purchase a different digital giving device. This should be more reliable than our current Goodbox, although we still have concerns about the poor phone signal in our area. We are now registered with the Charity Commission as a separate charity. This is something which all churches will be required to do soon.

Six months on we reviewed our building project and noted that there have been very few problems with our new facilities, and they have been very well received. Having given ourselves six months to test this out, we agreed that it is necessary to remove two more pews (one from each side) to allow more circulation space at the back of church. This was included in the original Faculty Application. We are not, at present, going to make any changes to the flooring, although we recognise that all the red carpet needs to be replaced at some point. We approved a design for some purpose-built cupboards and bookcases for storage of orders of service and hymn books and will be seeking a quote for this from the builders who made our new facilities.

## **Alpha Course in the New Year**

We are planning to run an Alpha Course starting on Wednesday 8 January 2025 jointly with St Mary's Woburn and St Botolph's Aspley Guise. This course is for people who are interested in exploring the Christian faith – or perhaps revitalising their faith. The course runs for 8 weeks, and will finish the week before Lent starts. It will take place in the crypt at St Mary's Woburn. The evening will begin with a meal at 7.00 p.m. and will end by 8.30 p.m. We need volunteers to help with cooking and serving the meal, and in particular people able to take charge in the kitchen – for some or all of the meals. If you might be able to help, please contact Diana

## **Neville's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – 10.am – 2.00 p. - 12 October**

Our local Funeral Directors, at 3 Aspley Hill are hosting a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care on 12 October to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of their Woburn Sands Branch. There will be Children's activities • Tea and coffee • Cakes • Raffle • Face painting – and more!

## Landfill or Recycle?

Don't forget to bring your empty blister packs of pills for recycling in the box at the back of church.

## Advance Diary Dates

Sunday 27 October – 4.00 pm – In Loving Memory

Wednesday 6 November 7.30 pm - Confirmation Service

Saturday 16 November – Wreath Making Workshops – am and pm

Sunday 17 November – Vision Morning after our 9.45 am Service

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 December – Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 8 December – 4.00 pm – Christingle

Sunday 22 December – 4.00 pm – Carol Service

### For Your Prayers

If you would like to include someone in our prayers, please contact Ruth or Gerry Cullinan, or the editor of Pew News directly. Names will normally remain in Pew News for a month, unless we are asked to keep them there for longer.

This week we are asked to pray **for Stephen and Carol Hibberd, Lindsay Smith, Leslie Geddes, Jean Aslett, Bob and Wendy Ardern, Roberta, John and Craig Cameron.**

We continue to remember and give thanks for all those faithful members of St Michael's who are unable to get to church due to illness or frailty.

Please send anything for inclusion in 'Pew News' to Robin at [pewnews@btinternet.com](mailto:pewnews@btinternet.com) or Tel: 01908 582704 by Friday lunchtime each week. Our website is [www.stmichaelsws.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsws.org.uk). and our Facebook Page is **St Michael's Church, Woburn Sands**. A copy of each week's Pew News can be found on our website under **Newsletter**.