

FELLOWSHIP



'St Michael's is a place where the love of God is quietly evident. There is always someone to share a joy and laughter; a hand to hold in sadness and a safe place to cry. A place where doubts are accepted, mysteries are explained and our differences are tolerated. Just like a family'

This reflects the experience of someone who has been part of St Michael's for over 50 years. Over that time, the community, like any family, has changed. Some members have moved on, and others have joined it but throughout those involved with the church have felt themselves to be part of a family. As well as coming together for worship and prayer, St Michael's people have enjoyed each other's company and had fun together.



Stars in Their Eyes - an evening of entertainment

All-Age

A constant pleasure at St Michael's has been the sharing of meals. In the 80s and 90s, all ages enjoyed the simple pleasures of the annual church picnic in Hughenden. Alongside this, there was a summer holiday social programme when members of the congregation offered their homes as places where people could get to know each other over supper. More recently, these became lunch, rather than evening parties, but the aim was the same. Any excuse for a party is enthusiastically followed up with special church services, such as the Patronal Festival (the Sunday nearest St Michael's Day on Sept 29th) being followed by 'bring and share' lunches.

In 2002, in a move to get the laity more involved in leadership, a Social Department was created. Over the years, its activities have included fish and chip suppers; quiz nights; showings of films put together by the Video Club, many of whose members were part of St Michael's. There were guided walks for those who wanted to do something more active, reviving an earlier tradition. There were also a series of pantomimes and variety shows at which some members of the congregation revealed hidden talents!



20 s/90 s party to celebrate 75 years since laying the 1919 foundation stone





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Women's Groups

A Young Wives group was set up in 1955, but as the members got older the name was no longer accurate. In 1970, a new women's meeting, The Thursday Group, was set up which ran for over 25 years. It offered a varied programme of talks supplemented by outings, to which spouses were also invited. At the same time, there were regular work parties at which ladies met to knit for a good cause – and no doubt a good chat as well!



Women's Groups

There was a branch of the Mothers' Union at St Michael's until 1989, when it was put in abeyance due to falling numbers. The remaining members amalgamated with those of St Mary's, Old Amersham, where a merged branch continued for a number more years.



THURSDAY GROUP - PROGRAMME 1991/1992

Meetings held at 8pm in Lady Chapel unless otherwise stated



HEMBERS EVENING

LOCAL CAROL SERVICE

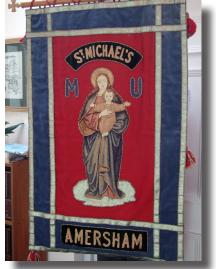
CHRISTMAS EVENING

Nov 19

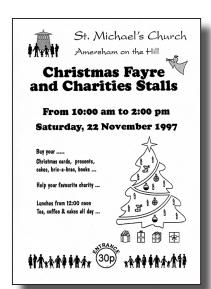
Dec 3

Dec 17

Thursday Group Canal Trip



Mothers' Union banner





Raffle Prize made by Michael & Barbara

The annual Christmas
Bazaar, which took place
for many years with raffles,
cake and craft stalls, gave
members of the congregation
an opportunity to use their
creative gifts, and support good
causes at the same time Home
made refreshments were served
all day and Father Christmas
always visited.





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Holiday in Halifax



Holiday in Burgundy

Older People

The need of older people for fellowship has always been recognised at St Michael's. In the early 70s, afternoon teas provided an opportunity to meet informally, leading to a wedding in 1973. Later in the decade, there is mention in the newsletters of a monthly coach trip for the retired. In the 80s and 90s, the Youth Group hosted an annual party for the older members of the congregation. A 50+ group was started in the early 90s 'to enhance the social and cultural life of this parish' with a programme of indoor meetings and outings. In 2005, recognising that many of its members were well on the plus side of 50, it changed its name to the Tuesday Club, and as such, is still flourishing, with its outings programme extended to several holidays in Halifax and one in

Not One for Lunch, started by Jennifer Whittaker, one of the Community Workers employed by the parish, for those who would otherwise eat alone, has been taking place each month for many years, with some of the helpers now older than the people they are serving.

Burgundy.



Not One for Lunch



Tea in the Vicarage Garden



Not One for Lunch & Tuesday Club annual tea



Not One for Christmas Lunch helpers