

2025
ELECTORAL ROLL REVIEW



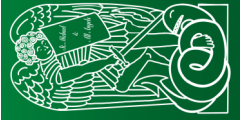
The big 6 yearly review of the Roll is happening!

Everyone currently on the Roll must reapply in order to be included.

NOT ON THE ROLL BUT WOULD LIKE TO APPLY?

**Please contact Rachel or Chris
via St Michael's Church Office
(email:**

**office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk or
Tel: 01494 726680)**



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

NEWSLETTER MARCH '25

Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

70 Sycamore Road
Amersham HP6 5DR

Church Office: 01494 726680
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(10 am—12.30pm Monday—Friday)



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"No, not the steeple, the roof or the organ – it's for the vicar's post-Christmas-pre-Easter recuperation holiday-break."

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... With Shrove Tuesday just days away (if you've not booked to enjoy an evening out at Pizza Express to celebrate you still have a few days to do so) and Lent on the horizon (you still have time to join the lent course. To do so, please contact the church office), if you have not thought of anything physical to 'give up' over Lent perhaps inspiration can be found in Philippians 4:4-9 NIV: Final Exhortations:

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

For those wondering what's going on in the Church office at the moment, below is a sneak peak.

Amersham Free Church monthly Lunch Group By Roland Gillott

Amersham Free Church (AFC) has invited members of St Michael's, together with friends and family, to attend their monthly Lunch Group.

This takes place on the third Friday of each month, apart from August. The idea is that those attending bring their own sandwiches/ food and sit down in the Alfred Ellis Hall in AFC starting at 12:15 - 12:30. Then at 13.00 the group adjourns to the Owen Room where those present listen to a speaker. The talks are varied. Recently the group has explored the Arctic, heard about Martin Luther and his reformation whilst also going on a train journey in America. A donation of £3 - £5 is suggested to go towards the cost of hiring speakers.

Three members of St Michael's were present at the meeting in February to hear an excellent talk by Dr Bob Bradnock, a member of AFC's congregation, about "India Today", a subject on which he is an expert. The next meeting is on Friday 21 March when the speaker will be Willie Reid, the Chair of the AFC Lunch Group, who will talk about "High Wycombe".

St Michael's is in a covenanted relationship with AFC through COTHA (Churches on the Hill Amersham). We took part in a COTHA United Communion Service together at AFC in January. Already members of St Michael's enjoy attending "Lunchbreak" which takes place at AFC on Tuesdays between 12 noon and 2 pm. The Lunch Group on the third Friday provides another opportunity for us to get to know better those who are members of AFC.

If you would like to have a word about the AFC Lunch Group, please let me know. My contact details are at the beginning of this Newsletter.



See page 7 for a 'tidy' photo!

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday, 4 March 2024 at Pizza Express

£14.95 includes a starter, a main course and tea or coffee.

To sign up and choose your food please contact the church office or use the forms on the table at the front of the church by the pigeon holes.

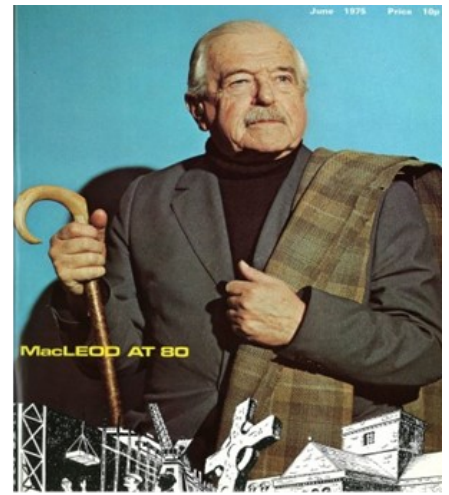
It's a wonderful opportunity to chat with other people from St Michael's! Please reply by midday on Monday 3 March at the latest.



George Macleod

by Kenneth Prideaux-Brune

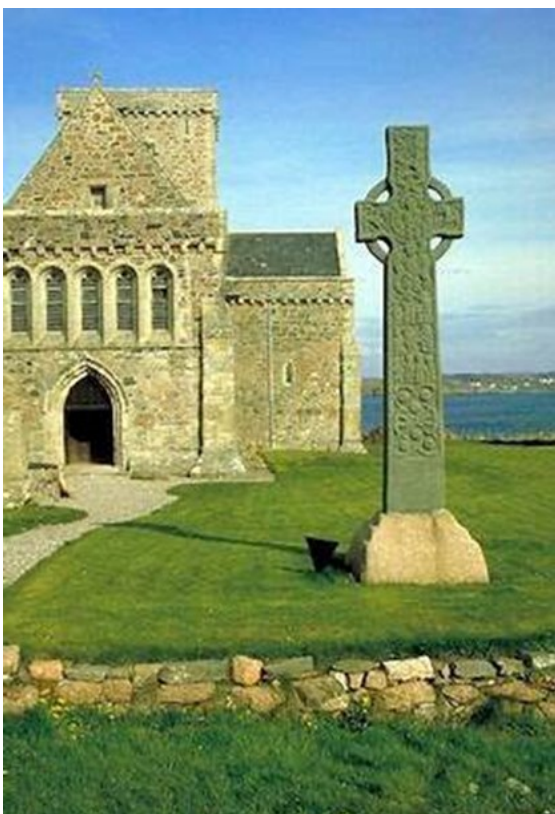
Tall and erect, George MacLeod looked very much the laird as he strode round the island of Iona. As a Church of Scotland minister in Govan in the 1930s he was very aware that the church had lost contact with working men. He knew that the abbey church on Iona had been rebuilt in the 1900s but the remaining monastic buildings remained in ruins. He recruited a group of unemployed craftsmen and a number of young trainee ministers and took them to Iona to begin the restoration of the monastic buildings. The ministers worked under the direction of the craftsmen and the two groups forged a fellowship through working together. They became the first members of the Iona Community which has grown into a worldwide dispersed community devoted to the renewal of Christian worship and the recognition that religion is about politics as well as spirituality.



I was responsible for running a scheme, launched by my boss Tubby Clayton (about whom I wrote in November) in 1948, that brought young American students to Britain to spend the summer volunteering in youth clubs and community centres in London (and later in other British cities). George and Tubby, who had known each other since the 1920s, decided that it would be a good idea for the young Americans to have an “orientation period” on Iona before they started work. I confess I was a little worried about two such powerful and charismatic personalities, both used to being totally the centre of attention, being cooped up on such a small island. George and Tubby had profound respect for each other but they also had significant differences, on important matters like pacifism but also on more esoteric issues like the relative contributions of St Columba and St Ninian to the conversion of Scotland. But in fact, Tubby was aware that he was on George’s patch and kept what was for him a low profile.

Both George and Tubby had extensive funds of fascinating stories. Once or twice on each visit George would say to me “I think we should have a staff meeting tonight”, which meant I should round up the speakers and group leaders and bring them to his house opposite the abbey, where he would open the whiskey bottle (he had a very civilised approach to the concept of staff meetings!). I especially remember one evening when George and Tubby sat at opposite ends of the living room and for about an hour lobbed stories to each other, while the rest of us sat enthralled between them, turning from one side to the other rather as though we were watching a tennis match at Wimbledon.

That seems like a cue for my favourite George MacLeod story. He believed that the pigments used by the Celtic monks on Iona to create illuminated manuscripts came from Greece but he could never find any hard evidence to confirm his hunch, so he was very excited when he read an article in the Times Literary Supplement (unsigned as they all were) which stated as a fact that the pigments used by the Celtic monks on Iona came from Greece. In high excitement he wrote to the unknown author, care of the editor: “Please give me your authority for this statement.” A few days later he received a postcard from an old friend: “Dear George. You are my authority.”



With his commanding presence, mellifluous voice and mastery of the English language, George was at the time one of the finest orators in Britain. One of his favourite riffs was around the fact that the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration. This led him on to talk about God as light-energy and also to urge the necessity of nuclear disarmament if the world is to survive.

His memorial of course, is the Iona Community, which continues to make a significant contribution to the life of churches of all denominations. It is a privilege to have been able to sit at his feet during those now very distant summers.

Where can you recycle in Amersham?

For the last 3 years Amersham Town Council has worked with Medic to Medic to help recycle items not collected at the roadside. We are pleased that these efforts have over the years collected 2992.81 kilograms of plastics, so they did not end up in landfill but were reused and at the same time raised money for a great charity Medic to Medic.

St Michaels and All Angels Church has been helping us collect items since we started this a few years ago.

There have been some changes in what Terracycle is collecting and so we would like to take this opportunity to update you on what can be collected and the collection points.

SpecSavers will now collect used printer cartridges (not laser ones). The toothpaste/ toothbrushes scheme has unfortunately been stopped, so please do not leave these at SpecSavers. We understand that toothpaste tubes are being collected at Boots.



St Michaels and All Angels Church will still collect Pringle Tubes as well as **Flexible coffee and tea packaging**. They accept all brands of:

- Individual coffee bag sachets
- Bulk bags of tea bags Loose leaf tea packs



They do **NOT** accept:

- Individual coffee bags
- Coffee capsules Ground coffee
- Cardboard packaging Individual tea bags
- Individual tea bag sachets
- Ground coffee pouches
- Coffee bean pouches



The Post Office on Hill Avenue still collect all used **Marigold rubber gloves** and **Ferrero Roche chocolate boxes**.



So, Thank You for your help in recycling and please continue to do so.
DON'T THROW AWAY RECYCLE TODAY!

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Amersham Churches welcome all to Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AJ, for a World Day of Prayer Service on **Friday 7 March at 10.30a.m.** followed by coffee and cake. A Service for Everyone. On site parking requires car owners to register their car numberplate details on the pad inside the church vestibule.



Can you help???

Hazel Miller is in the process of archiving documents which have come to light during the office re organisation and would love some help identifying photos and other materials.

Hazel is also trying to add roles at St. Michael's to names in the Book of Remembrance to create a more personal record as they pass out of living memory. e.g churchwarden; member of the catering team; parent of member of the congregation. She has quite a lot of information from her own time at the church and from working on the 2016 Jubilee exhibition but Hazel would love to talk to anyone who could help.

Please either contact Hazel directly or let the Church Office know that you are interested in being contacted by Hazel.

A Reflection on Lent

(Taken From Parish Pump.co.uk)

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in three key areas of His identity: His divine sonship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour

He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I?' It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves? Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending

five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

17th March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism and idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

(Taken From Parish Pump.co.uk)

Desert Difficulties

Luke 4:1-12, John 16:33

Life is difficult, sometimes.
No matter how faithful,
no matter how trusting,
no matter how hard we try,
life is difficult, sometimes.

Jesus understands.
He walked in the desert,
day after day after day.
Faithful and trusting, yes,
but hungry and weakened and vulnerable
and tempted.

Even for Jesus
life was difficult,
especially for Jesus,
knowing the end from the beginning.

But He overcame the desert.
He overcame death.
The world is full of trouble,
but He overcame the world.

Take heart!
Jesus can help.

By Daphne Kitching

(Taken From Parish Pump.co.uk)

Eucharists:

Sundays 8.30am and 10am
(Gathered Round on the second Sunday of each month is especially designed for families)

Tuesdays 10.30am (except Tuesday 4 March)

Ash Wednesday: 5 March, services in the Lady Chapel at 10.30am & 7pm. Morning Prayer at 9am

Morning Prayer:

Tuesdays 9am in the Lady Chapel. (except Tuesday 4 March)

Messy Church: 15 March '25 (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.

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>, will access live-streamed services.

WORSHIP

WARDENS

2 March Roger Leslie
9 March Claire Sinclair
16 March Roland Gillott
23 March Roger Leslie

Please see:

stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

for more details

ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

POP IN & PAINT— 7 March —10.30am-12.15pm, St. Michael's, Main Church

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

A CRAFTY CUPPA—14 & 28 March— 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.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB— 7 March —2pm-4pm—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room

ANOTHER ROUND Four weary high school teachers embark on a risky experiment to maintain a constant level of intoxication throughout the work day. Subtitles. Running Time: 1hr. 52mins.

LUNCHEBREAK – Amersham Free Church

Every Tuesday – 12noon-2pm Tea, coffee and soup available **1.10pm-1.30pm** Music, a talk, or a short service.

Mondays **Mature Movers** 1.45pm-2.45pm
Stay Steady, Stay Strong 3pm-4pm (Tel: 07951 294178)
Amersham Dance Studio Children from 3+. 4.30pm-9.30pm
(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)
Tuffney Performing Arts Academy 4.45pm-5.45pm

Thursdays **Badminton** 1.30pm-3.30pm
Amersham Dance Studio Children from 3+. 4pm-7pm
(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Saturdays **Popstars Academy** 9.30am-12pm (email: hazel@popstarsacademy.com)

Please see the 'Hiring St Michael's for Community Events' page on 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

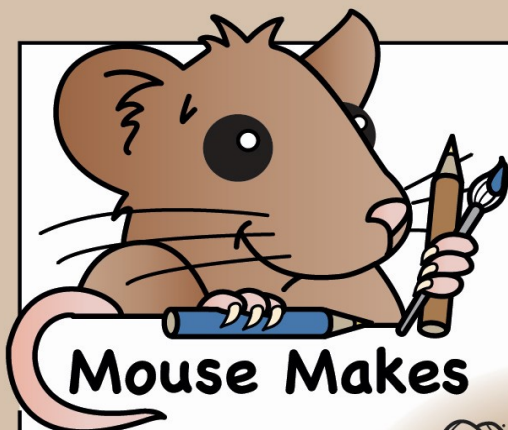
Saturday, 15 March, Messy Church

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.



The almost finished office revamp

DIARY MARCH '25



Mouse Makes

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS
After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Luke 4:2

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



READ
the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

Luke 4:12



What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED
WILDERNESS
DESERT
TEMPTATIONS
DAYS • DEVIL
HUNGRY • SON
STONE • ROCK
KINGDOMS
WORLD • GLORY
WRITTEN
SCRIPTURE
WORSHIP • ONLY
SERVE • LORD
JERUSALEM
HIGH • TEMPLE
THROW • DOWN
JUMP • ANGELS
HANDS • HOLD
LIFT • FOOT

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



Find the words from the questions too!