

THE MESSENGER

Many people feel that the New Year is the time for fresh beginnings – we believe that September is equally a time when people start anew; be it a new school, university, a special course whatever. St Michael's youth group is no exception...

We would like you to meet ...



HELEN BUTT who has taken up the position of Youth Minister in the parish; hailing from Walsall, Helen did a Maths degree at Nottingham and followed this with an MSc at Leicester. Why a very highly qualified scientist becoming

a youth worker? Why not; Helen is the daughter of an Anglican vicar (and sister-in-law of another!), she volunteered to help at a venture camp before she went to Leicester and realised that she had found her vocation.

She knows that Leah will be a hard act to follow, but she is very much a round peg in a round hole; bright and bubbly and full of enthusiasm and plans for the future including one day, setting up a junior website and hopefully Home Groups for young people.

Under Helen's guidance youth events are gearing up after the quiet of August. People may not be aware that as well as all the normal Sunday school activities each week the youth team are running:-



PETER BOGNAR from Kosice in Slovakia: Peter has joined us from CAREFORCE which places young people as volunteers into parishes in this country. We are very lucky to have Peter, who is an engaging and friendly person, eager

to improve his already excellent English (he studied English and Geography in Presov University whilst doing his teacher training degree) and equally eager to meet and work with young people in St Michael's. Perhaps the most seminal experience so far in his life is his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella when he walked on the Pilgrims trail, taking 34 days, sleeping under the stars at night – meditating on the direction his life should take – not, he says, a sudden revelation like St Paul on the road to Damascus, but still a defining experience which confirmed him in his Christian faith. Peter will be catering for himself with a rather small budget so I am sure he would love the odd invitation to dinner from time to time.

Youth Group:

Every Sunday 6.00 - 8.00 p.m. for 11 – 16 year olds. They will be publishing their programme shortly.



Sports Club:

Wednesdays 5.00 – 6.00 p.m.: this is aimed at juniors from 7 – 11 years old. The group will meet fortnightly (October 7th and 21st, November 4th and 18 and December 2nd) Do come along – beginners are always welcome.

Dangerous Discussion Group

on Thursday evenings at 8.15 p.m.: older teenagers from 15 years plus, meet over a meal to discuss topics of interest

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ON THE GRAPEVINE

by Naomi King



I think that when writing this column, I overused the word 'exciting'. However, it's

hard to hide that I am probably at the most exciting point in my life so far.

Having finished school, I'm now a temporary 9 to 5 city girl until I go to South America in March, and then Nottingham University next September. I guess it's exciting because it is a massive time for change, which, while most days is fantastic can also feel a little unnerving too.

Working in the city and meeting so many people gives me a huge buzz. Just the fact I have my own desk, with my own phone makes me happy to come to work in the morning, not to mention the free coffee (with added froth!). The experience is brilliant (I'm still in the honeymoon stage of being excited about meetings), and I have realised the office is not such a hideous place to be. It certainly has confirmed the Mary Poppin's theory that in every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.

Some days, of course, change isn't all that comforting. I am sad that I won't be seeing old friends, as many go off to uni. and I miss the small things of school like the dodgy yet tasty lasagne and the general banter of day-to-day school life.

Despite this, I could not be more ready to bring on the gap year, and go wherever God's going to lead me.

NOT QUITE THE ASHES

by John Bartram

St Michael's completed a busy summer of cricket with a creditable three wins to one loss, but the standard of sides they played varied considerably.

Matches were two games against St John's. In the first, in early June, the All Angels were easily beaten by five wickets in a one sided affair, after being bowled out for only 88 in 23 overs.

However, they later gained revenge in a shorter 20-over game in early August, scoring 113 for 5 and winning by a nail biting one run, despite having dropped nine catches during St John's innings.

In between, came games against All Saints and St Nicholas in late June and early July. They thrashed a weak All Saints side, totting up 188 for 6 in the 30 overs and then bowling the opposition out for a paltry 55 runs. Fielding a young team against St Nicholas, who were playing their first cricket match, the All Angels scored 117 for 9 and limited the opposition to just 51 for 8 in its allotted 20 overs.

Batsmen who stood out during the season with scores of 30 or more were Chris Longman, David Povey, Ian Wilson, Dan King and Captain Richard King.

One high point came during the St Nicholas game when the Rev Christie engaged in some mild sledging of his opposite number as the Rev Linkens came in to bat. Was this because St Nick's vicar had earlier taken the wicket of the All Angel's incumbent?

WORLD FOCUS

by Natalie Wilson

Have you ever felt under pressure because of being a Christian? Maybe you have felt a bit uncomfortable? The odd one out?



CROSSLINKS

Perhaps people have thrown the odd term such as Bible basher around behind your back? In fact in our PC society most people are fairly respectful and will use phrases 'if that works for you that is great'. However there are many Christians around the world who cannot live in such comfortable circumstances and are sadly persecuted or even killed. St Michael's supports the charity Crosslinks, whose aim is to help Christians in these situations. In particular we are supporting a family who are working in North Africa who have set up numerous therapy centres throughout the region working with people with mental health issues, physical disabilities and young mothers; people who are particularly vulnerable and forgotten in this region. The family are under constant scrutiny from visits by the 'secret police' with a threat of being kicked out at a moment's notice and any locals who mix with them receive the same treatment; sometimes worse. It is even too risky to put their names in the local parish paper, yet they have had the faith to carry on for the last 12 years. So next time you feel you are getting a hard time being a Christian think again.

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GOING FOR GOLD

The Holiday Club has always been a favourite summer activity at St Michael's and this year was no exception. For four mornings in July our church hall became a focus of fun, music and laughter for the many children who participated in the wonderful variety of games, crafts and drama activities that were available throughout the event.

This year's theme was "Going for Gold" and from the start, with their designer tee-shirts enthusiastically pulled on,



everyone involved, children and helpers alike, went for "Gold" in a big way. The children spent much time and energy in making banners and other colourful objects. The older ones in the big tent were engrossed in art and craft activities while in the small hall, the youngest were busily colouring away and sticking things together and having a jolly fun time.

The Highlight of each morning was the continuing story of Tommy Porter, an ill fated sports reporter, played by a number of unsuspecting volunteers who somehow always ended up with a face full of baked beans or custard pies much to everyone's delight.

The youth group entertained us with a lively drama and with bouncy castles and races on the lawn, it was sometimes difficult to choose what to do next!

Music and song featured throughout the event, "Boing Boing" being as popular as ever!

Our final morning ended with a lively service in church followed by the customary picnic on the lawn. A huge thank you goes to Leah and all who helped make this such a superb event!

Tim Keller

COFFEE SHOP

St Michael's is starting a coffee shop. Coffee, Cakes and Conversation are the theme and every Friday afternoon, from 1 – 4 pm, there will be a gathering in the church hall.

Kristen Smye-Rumsby was inspired to set it in motion after a brainstorming session with the congregation as to how St Michael's could best serve the needs of the local community. A young mum herself, she is hoping that the coffee shop becomes somewhere where young mums and older people can meet and mingle. The coffee shop follows in an old St Michael's tradition, as a few years back there used to be one arranged along similar lines. The idea resurfaced in a church planning meeting, Reverse Church, about a year ago, and has been brewing ever since.

And now, a year on, Kristen is marshalling an army of volunteers, people promising homemade cakes, others volunteering to help out with serving, and still others interested in coming and welcoming in the hungry and thirsty residents of the Cator Estate, or mums on the school run.

Kristen says, "Unlike other coffee shops when you go and meet up with somebody, you can come and meet new people as well as arrange to meet others." There will be a play area for kids as well as cakes and conversation for the grown ups. If you're interested in coming, just turn up, or if you'd prefer contact Kristen via the church office to find out more.

Hannah Chamberlain

ADVENT FAIR

Saturday 28th November 2009
St Michael's Church Halls,
Pond Road, 1-4pm

Following our success last year St. Michael's is holding its third Advent Fair on 28th November. There will be plenty of variety, with stalls selling toys and games for children, home made cakes, jams and preserves; face painting; bric a brac; Christmas crafts and Christmas cards; books; fresh garden and house plants. There will be seasonal refreshments available throughout the afternoon and lots of fun and activities for children, including Father Christmas in his Grotto, with his elves, Lucky Dip, and a special activity and hand made crafts area.

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SERVICES IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

St Michael's is a Church of England Church, and our main morning service is 10.30 am. The first Sunday of the month is a shorter all age service, and on the others Sunday children leave for Sunday school after about 15 minutes. There is a crèche for under 3's. On the second and fourth Sunday of the month the service includes communion.

The evening service at 6.30pm is quieter and more reflective, with communion on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Special dates

November 8th 10.30am: Bishop of Woolwich will preach at the Remembrance service

6.30pm: Bereavement service: a reflective service for those who have lost loved ones.

THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK

The Club meets on the first Wednesday of the Month at 11.00 a.m. in the church starting with a friendly cup of coffee and followed by an excellent home made lunch in the church hall, which costs just £3.50. It's very relaxed and convivial event so bring your friends along. Come and join us on Wednesday 4th November to hear Ian Bevan talk about the Crystal Palace.

PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer is an important part of life at St Michael's Church. The next church prayer meeting will be on Thursday 5th November in the Church Hall.

RAISE THE PRAISE

This is a unique service for children aged 8 and under, focusing on activities, movement and music resulting in much excitement and fun. There is tea afterwards, not just your normal tea (although grownups may have a cup) but cakes, breadsticks, fruit and biscuits so it's more of a children's tea party. The whole event is geared to make children and their parents feel comfortable and at home.

Remember 5.00 pm on the third Sunday of each month – if you have any queries do ring Jonathan Croucher on 020 8852 6913.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

White tie, top hat and Tails!

No not quite! – but Youth for Christ in concert with The Violence Intervention Project are running a charity dinner dance in St James' Church Hall on Saturday 24th October; there will be an excellent band throughout the evening, so come along and dance the night away.

Contact YFC: 0208 305 0508

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism and Thanksgiving

May - Layla Gabay - Thanksgiving
July – Noah Chisholm - Baptism
August – Taye Matthews - Thanksgiving
September – Noah Westron - Baptism

Weddings

June
Philip Layfield and Suzy Brice
Kevin Richardson and Joanne Rushford
Dean Creamer and Rebecca Allmark
July
Spencer Morez and Amy Cutbush
August
Kevin Brand and Elina Dray
Michelle Warden and Ian Kelly
Paul Smith and Jo Halyburton
September
Alex and Kerry Blake (renewal of vows)
Amy Chambers and Paul Shire

Funerals

April - Gladys Anslow
June - Hilda Pipkin
July - Eileen Nicholls
August - Jeannette Large
September - Marlene Riette
Alfred Labinjoh

If you have any specific requests for prayer or would like someone to listen and pray with you, please do contact Sandy Christie, our Vicar on 020 8852 5287. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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St Michael's: making time for the things that matter

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