

## SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 4th  
10.30am Free but not cheap  
6.30pm Christian meditation?  
(HC)

Sunday 11th  
10.30am Remembrance Sunday  
(HC)  
6.30pm Bereavement Service

Sunday 18th  
10.30am Reverse Church!  
6.30pm Ancient wisdom (HC)

Sunday 25th  
9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am I'm not a celebrity, get  
me out of here! (HC)  
6.30pm Into the blender

HC = Holy Communion  
BCP = Book of Common Prayer

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 2nd December  
6.30pm Advent Carols

Sunday 9th December  
10.30am Children's Christmas  
presentation

Sunday 23rd December  
6.30pm Carols by candlelight

Christmas Eve  
3.45pm Christingle  
11.15pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day  
9.00am Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am All age service

## PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer is an important part of  
life at St Michael's Church and  
as part of our care for the com-  
munity during the year, residents  
in each road within the Par-  
ish boundary will be prayed for.

This month we focus specifically  
on the following areas:

Minerva Lodge  
Corner Green  
Priory Park  
Fulthorp Road Estate  
Streetfield Mews  
Meadowbank  
Parkgate  
The Keep  
Paddock Close

If you have any specific requests  
for prayer or would like someone  
to listen and pray with you, please  
do contact Marian Curtis, our Cu-  
rate, on 020 8318 6880.

Your call will be treated in com-  
plete confidence. You can also  
write prayer requests and post  
them for Marian's attention at the  
Parish Office.

The Church Prayer Meeting takes  
place in the Church Hall on the  
first Thursday of every month at  
8.15pm. Please do join us: all are  
welcome!

## COMPETITION

Here's a collection of addresses  
both real and fictional. Who lives  
or is associated with each place?

1. Greyfriars School
2. 221b Baker Street
3. 'Green Gables'
4. 11 Downing Street
5. Wayne Manor, Gotham City
6. The Belfry, Notre Dame, Paris
7. Southfork Ranch, Dallas, Texas
8. 'Goldeneye', Jamaica
9. 32 Windsor Gardens
10. The Burrow, Wimbledon  
Common

Please email answers plus your  
contact details, to: editor@se3.  
org.uk by 15th of the month of  
publication. If you would prefer to  
deliver your entry to the Church  
Office marked for the Editor's at-  
tention, a sealed envelope will be  
fine.

A winner will be selected ran-  
domly from the correct entries  
and awarded a £5 prize!

Please be assured that your con-  
tact details will only be used in  
connection with awarding you  
your prize money.

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## THE MESSENGER

## MUSIC TO YOUR EARS!

By Jonathan Causer



Music has always played a large part in religion: for  
getting attention - think of the Salvation Army, whose  
founder William Booth asked 'Why should the devil  
have all the best tunes?' As a metaphor during serv-  
ices, a congregation in harmony and cooperation,  
having a sense of taking part instead of observing.

It goes back a long way. The Psalms - which are in fact  
songs - use music as a symbol of joy and worship. For  
example, Psalm 92: 'What a beautiful thing, God, to give  
thanks, to sing an anthem to you, High God! In Psalm  
137: By The Rivers of Babylon, (remember Boney M?)  
exiled Jews lament at being forced by their captors to  
sing happy songs: 'That's where our captors demanded  
songs, sarcastic and mocking: "Sing us a happy Zion  
song!"' This tradition of singing Psalms would be well-  
known to Jesus and so, although He does not refer to  
music and art, it is because he does not need to. He  
and his hearers have it deeply grained in their psyches.

OFFERING BACK OUR ARTISTIC TALENTS  
TO GOD

For thousands of years the urge to worship and adore  
God has brought forth artistic endeavour. The church  
became a great patron of the arts. Partly this was be-  
cause it had the money, but also because creation of a  
work of art allowed the artist to offer back to God the  
talents which God first gave him. The mediaeval cath-  
edrals are an example: every one of them is a prayer  
in stone returning to God the highest achievement  
of architects and craftsmen. It mirrors the situation  
with music, but here it is the creators of the building  
who have to cooperate rather than the worshippers.  
The church's time as patron has largely passed: it no  
longer has the resources to retain artists, nor the need,  
except occasionally, for major new buildings. Mozart  
and Bach were both supported by church or state - it  
hardly mattered which, and it was in any case hard to

tell - allowing them to create both sacred and secular  
works. That no longer happens and major new works  
of sacred music are rare. Yet the urge to worship God  
and to offer to Him the best that we have is as strong  
as ever it was. A subtle change has happened in our  
attitudes.

People will still pay large amounts to go to concerts of  
their favourite kind of music. The most formal philhar-  
monic concerts are still 'sit-and-listen' affairs, but there  
is rising interest in more participatory music where  
the paying public takes some part by singing with the  
performers or dancing. At the same time, a more dem-  
ocratic and less deferential age is not inclined to sit  
in church and be preached at: they want to take part  
more. This may explain a feeling of unease with the  
King's College Christmas Carol Service. It is magnifi-  
cent and beautiful, sublime and uplifting, but still one  
senses that it is a performance not a service. Those in  
the pews, like those watching the television, are there  
to admire, but only to participate by proxy.

## DON'T WATCH. SING!

Music and the arts reflect their individual periods, even  
if usually they are rather ahead of them. The use of  
music in the church is the same: we no longer have  
(and we no longer want) Prince-Bishops to support  
the development of art and music. Instead, we use both  
more democratically, all participating. In this we are  
following to advice of St Paul to the church at Ephesus,  
written not long after Jesus' life, 'Speak to one another  
with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make  
music in your heart to the Lord'. Paul remembered  
Psalm 108: 'I'm ready, God, so ready, ready from head  
to toe. Ready to sing, ready to raise a God-song.'

*Jonathan Causer is a regular worshipper at St Michael's  
Church and was editor of The Messenger for 5 years.*

**There are a number of services over the Christ-  
mas period when you are welcome to join us  
singing traditional Carols as part of our services.  
All the details are on the back page of this edi-  
tion of The Messenger.**

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

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# 2

## ON THE GRAPEVINE

We can't look at Music and the Church without meeting Frank (pictured) and Lorraine. Or should I say hearing their news. They bring greetings from sunny Majorca, where they've been working the past 5 months.



In a hotel for those looking for a peaceful escape (from children / grandchildren), they provide the cabaret music for six out of seven nights a week. Famous for their St Michael's Stars in their eyes and the live, interactive version of 'The Sound of Music', Frank and Lorraine have enjoyed digging up many old favourite songs and I'm sure the guests are being royally entertained.

They have a fabulous apartment near the sea, with enough room for their family to visit. Recently their son Terry stayed with them and announced his engagement to his girlfriend, Katie, while they were there. Champagne and tears of joy all round!

They work six days a week, so on days off hiring a car and exploring every corner of the island has been fun. Majorca is a beautiful place with something for everyone....beaches, mountains, night-clubs, shops and of course the splendid cathedral in Palma.

Frank and Lorraine are looking forward to coming back to the UK soon, when their contract expires. It'll be great to have them back, livening up our worship.

## BOOK REVIEW



Cooking up a Storm by Sam Stern  
ISBN: 1-84428-774-2

Reviewed by Sue Wooder

If you want to transform your families' eating, buy one of the new Sam Stern books, 'Cooking up a Storm'. For me these books have been truly inspirational. They are created by a fifteen-year-old boy and consist of a series of wholesome recipes generally made from healthy ingredients, apart from the delicious cakes and desserts! The recipes are designed to inspire youngsters, having a degree of sophistication and incorporating many ingredients they would probably avoid in the normal course of events.

The books are very colourful with great pictures of Sam surrounded by his cool looking friends enjoying eating the various dishes he has produced. Our culinary repertoire in the Wooder household is no longer limited to tinned tomato soup and we now enjoy home made leek and potato and chicken soup. The children really enjoy eating their own cooking and I personally enjoy cooking from these books. If these delicious recipes are designed for children then surely they can be easily made by adults? Sam Stern provides us adults with extra confidence for our entertaining and helps to avoid those embarrassing disasters.  
Bon appetit!

# St Michael & ALL ANGELS

## RING THE CHANGES

By Sarah Burnard

I wonder what you imagine when you think about the word "bells"? Pictures of bluebells and sweeping acres of flowers beneath the trees in a bluebell wood? Perhaps you remember seeing "The Belles of St Trinian's" or how about Belladonna (deadly nightshade), or even Christmas bells? The list could be endless - but what about CHURCH BELLS?

For the past year or so we have started to ring the bells at St Michael's after rather a long gap of silence. The gap was because expensive structural work was needed in the bell tower to make sure the building was safe. This work is now complete, so we can go ahead and ring.

We have two bells at St Michael's. Sadly, this means we are rather restricted in what we can actually ring, so we cannot deliver wonderful peals that you may have heard elsewhere, where Churches or Cathedrals have up to 12 bells. Nevertheless, we are very enthusiastic about our bells; we prize them highly, and our friends and neighbours seem to welcome the sound they bring to Blackheath. We ring them every Sunday morning for ten minutes only at about 10.15am and for weddings, if asked to do so. We also ring them on other special occasions, for example, on the evening of our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on the Sunday before Christmas every year.

Why not come along and listen?

# 3

## CROSSING CULTURES

By Marion Chittleborough

Two of my daughters wanted to see where they were brought up so we did a whistle stop tour of Tanzania in September.



First stop Moshi to see the hospital, on to Arusha and then by Mission Aviation plane to Dodoma. We visited Mvumi Hospital, where two of our three daughters were born and found lots of new buildings in good condition with good medical care being provided.

Having borne the train journey to Tabora we were able to see the large church John Burden designed being constructed.

At Kigoma airport we had a welcoming party on the tarmac, including two Bishops! After a few days visiting familiar places we went on to Kasulu, the centre of the Diocese of Western Tanganyika with whom St Michael's has a strong link. The church has expanded enormously in recent years and has helped greatly in the raising of standards of education, health and housing. The town has grown immensely but suffers badly from lack of an electricity supply, unless people can afford private generators. St Michael's Church want to raise enough (£8000) to equip four houses with solar panels to meet their full power needs.

The generosity and warm welcome given to us by those who are poor by western standards was overwhelming.

## BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

By Richard King

The primary responsibility of company directors is to promote the success of their company. Many may see this purely in terms of short term profit and capital growth. However, a recent recodification of company law now expressly requires directors to have regard to certain matters as they consider how to promote the success of their company: the long term consequences of decisions, the interests of employees, the need to foster business relationships with suppliers and customers, the impact of operations on the community and the environment,

Many who run companies will consider that these matters reflect existing good practice. They are part of the means by which a company can build a sustainable, profitable business. The statutory expression of these matters provides justification for directors to resist pressure from shareholders to "make money at all costs".

The new law nevertheless gives rise to a number of questions. Chief among these is to what extent the courts will permit minority shareholders to take directors to task for failing to have regard to these matters. Will it be possible for shareholders to force changes of policy on directors of multinational companies in order to ensure that environmental factors are taken into account at the expense of profit? There are many who would like to see this. It remains to be seen whether the new law will be the vehicle through which it will occur.

# St Michael & ALL ANGELS

## AGONY AUNT MO

Dear Agony Aunt Mo,  
Please, please, please can you help me. My parents are driving me mad! They spend all week wanting me to play the piano, violin, drums and flute, yet when I want to play my own music, all they yell at me is, "Turn that rubbish off, it's too loud!" It wouldn't be so bad if they didn't spend all their spare time showing me and my music exams off to their friends. What is it with parents? Help!  
Viola

Dear Viola,  
*This is a tricky one, I sympathise with you and your parents. You certainly sound very talented with many more than one string to your bow. Have you thought about investing in a really good set of headphones to listen to your music?*

Great idea Aunt Mo but I've tried that and I get the next roar of "You'll damage your ears with it that loud, dear." I can't win.

*OK, this calls for drastic action! Parents often object to things their parents gave them a hard time about. So be brave and introduce them to your favourite bands - give them an alternative music appreciation lesson. It might go against the grain for you to involve them but see what happens.*

Aunt Mo, you're a genius! It was really about me not practising piano, drums, violin and flute often enough. Also, complaints from the neighbours about the noise. We've agreed a timetable for practise and loud music that suits us all. Thx!

*How marvellous!*