

4

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Sunday 7th
10.30am Harvest Service with
Cubs and Scouts
6.30pm Is Christianity different
from religion? (HC)

Sunday 14th
10.30am with OMF - Christian
Mission in the Far East (HC)
6.30pm True freedom in God's
Spirit

Sunday 21st
10.30am Who is really important
in life?
6.30pm A new way to live (HC)

Sunday 28th
9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am How to get into heaven
(HC)
6.30pm Songs of experience

HC = Holy Communion
BCP = Book of Common Prayer



Do something amazing!
Give Blood!

On Thursday 1st November in
the Church Hall.

No appointment necessary.
Arrive between 12.30pm and
9.00pm. Be sure to drink plenty
of fluid during the day.

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

St Michael
& All Angels Church
1 Pond Road
London SE3 9JL
www.se3.org.uk

Vicar
Rev. Sandy Christie
2 Pond Road
London SE3 9JL
020 8852 5287
ar.christie@virgin.net

Curate
Rev. Marian Curtis
020 8319 0111
mariancurtis@
btinternet.com

Children & Young
People's Workers
Leah Philbrick & Isaac
Mensah
020 8297 8997
lphilbrick@btinternet.com

Administrator
Marion Lane
020 8852 1205
church@se3.org.uk

Editor
Daphne Clifton
020 8473 0261
editor@se3.org.uk

OCTOBER 2007

St Michael & ALL ANGELS

COMPETITION

Some brain teasers for you this
month:

How long is a piece of string?
(marks awarded for creative,
short responses!)

Why is it better to have round
manhole covers than square
ones?

I'm an oneirocritic. What do I do?

Please email answers plus your
contact details, to: editor@se3.
org.uk by 10th 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.

Congratulations to last months
£5 winner, Kripa Amritanand

The Messenger is published by St. Michael's
Church on the last Sunday of each month, except
July and December. It is delivered free of charge by
members of the congregation.

Printed by: ISIS Business Services, Woolwich.
Editor: Daphne Clifton.
Creative editor: Bill Lowe
Copy date: 10th of the month prior to issue

St Michael & ALL ANGELS

THE MESSENGER

JESUS INTERESTED IN MONEY - SHOCK!

By Rev. Sandy Christie



This edition of The Messenger is looking at the subject
of money. It is something Jesus was very interested in.
His parables featured lost coins, labourers who argued
about their wages, a shrewd manager who wrote down
his master's assets, moneylenders cancelling debts and
people who invested wisely or foolishly on behalf of
others. He talked about money 10 times as much as
he talked about sex. He watched a woman putting two
coins in the giving box and knew how much of her
income they represented. While Jesus didn't seem to
have much money of his own, like everyone else he
needed it to survive, and Luke tells us his ministry was
supported by a group of women of independent means.

MONEY IS OPPORTUNITY

One aspect of those parables is the need to use the
opportunities and talents we have to the full. Much will
be expected of those to whom much is given. God is
more interested in our cheque book than our hymn
book. Money represents opportunity -to do good or
bad, to help ourselves or to help others. Those who
have the chance to make money should make the
most of it, provided they are then wise about what
they do with it. Perhaps Dr Johnson was right when
he said 'there are few ways in which a man can be
more innocently employed than in getting money.'

NOT MY PROBLEM?

If money is one of Jesus's specialist subjects, then it's
worth paying some attention to what he said. Two
things in particular. Jesus talks about the deceitfulness
of wealth, and tells us to 'be on your guard against all
kinds of greed.' Greed is something hardly anyone
thinks they are guilty of. It is hard to commit adul-
tery without realising you are doing it, but greed is
something we tend to see as someone else's problem.
Yet in a recent survey 40% of people in Britain with
incomes over £50,000 a year said they could not af-
ford to buy everything they need. Not want, but need.

OCTOBER 2007

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Secondly, Jesus calls money a 'little thing'. The 10 coins
the servant was entrusted with are 'a very small mat-
ter' compared to be what he will be given in future.
The wealth of this world is 'very little' compared to
what Jesus calls 'true riches'. Christians are not people
who have given up the search for riches, but longer
term investors seeking a better class of asset. All the
surveys show that once we reach a minimum point
where our basic needs are met rising affluence has no
effect on happiness levels. Therefore don't invest your
life in pursuit of the 'little thing' that cannot deliver.

Where are you investing your life?

*Sandy Christie spent 11 years working in an investment
bank before training for ordination.*

WORDS OF WISDOM

Better a bread crust shared in love than a slab of prime
beef served in hate.

Proverbs 15 verse 17, The Bible

S T O P P R E S S !

HARVEST BARBEQUE & PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION!

Saturday 13th October at 4pm
St. Michael's Church Hall and garden

ALL WELCOME!

Bring your own meat and drink
Salads and puddings provided
Children's activities
Apple bobbing
Raffle with great prizes
Pumpkin carving competition - please
bring your carved pumpkin with you

Tickets £5 from the Church Office or
at the door on the night.

2

ON THE GRAPEVINE



Variety is the spice of life for John French. The youngest of four children, he was brought up with his three sisters in

Johannesburg. I've often wondered why John, a kitchen and bathroom specialist, called his company The Scenics and he was kind enough to share the answer with me.

John's route to the UK took him via Saudi Arabia where he worked as the Chief Artist at a theme park, which was based in a shopping environment with waterfalls, rivers and thunderstorms. After 3 years in Saudi, he moved to England transferring his creative skills to Pinewood Studios where he worked freelance and The Scenics was born. In the quiet moments between Agency work, John's passion for DIY converted to doing jobs for other people. Gradually the set-building emphasis reduced and he's now run off his feet either studying to be or being a Master Plumber.

The set-building hasn't quite disappeared. John is the director of the St Michael's medieval morality play "Every Man", which will find the Church transformed to the 15th century next July.

Recently married to fellow South African, Jackie, they both enjoyed the warm, clique-free welcome at St Michael's. He's taken the Scenic route to SE3 and it'll be interesting to see where his varied life takes him next.

BOOK REVIEW



Shadows of the winds.
By Carlos Ruiz Zafron
ISBN 978-0753820254

Reviewed by Jason Dalrymple

Have you ever been to Spain, travelling its vast desert interior filled with Moorish castles and its Don Quixote landscapes? If you want to get a sense of what living in post civil war Barcelona might have been like, then this book is an absolute must for you.

It's a story of a book: found in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books by a 10 year old boy called Daniel one day in 1944. The book has a dark, mysterious past and as he begins to read it, Daniel's life becomes inexorably intertwined with a whole cast of characters. The old watchmaker who sits day after day in his small, dusty shop; the member of Franco's loathed fascist Guardia Civil with his comical flat backed hat, A story of latin passions, there is of course the older woman who takes Daniel in hand, helping him eventually to put the pieces of the story together.

If you do read this passionate, mysterious book, I have just one request and that is to pass on the recommendation without saying what happens. Like all mysteries if you do, that will ruin the story.

St Michael & ALL ANGELS

11 O'CLOCK CLUB

By Pete Moss

There's plenty of activity for youngsters these days but for those not at work, much less. Yes okay, they could give blood on some Thursday evenings when the blood transfusion van calls but valuable though this is, it's hardly gripping and a friendly nod to the person on the next couch followed by a cup of tea and a biscuit doesn't give much time for making friends, does it? St Michael's answer to this is the 11 O'clock club.

About 60 people regularly come to St Michael's on the first Wednesday of each month and many friendships have been made. We've had talks on journalism, World War II films, police horses, athletics, the National Maritime Museum and many others. We usually have a coach outing in the summer and a cream tea. Our lunches are particularly enjoyed and at only £3.50 a month, are very good value!



Although most of the people who come are retired, the club is open to people of all ages without restriction. You do not have to be a church-goer, neither is there any formal membership. The next meeting of the 11 O'Clock Club is on Wednesday 3 October featuring 'The bells! The bells!' Just turn up - we'll be delighted to welcome you!

3

CROSSING CULTURES

Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) www.omf.org.uk works in the countries of East Asia, including China. Some of these countries are more open than others to OMF as it works in practical ways within the wider community and within the church, teaching the Bible and caring for local people.



In 2006, St Michael's Church donated £1400 to this valuable work.

Sam & Jenny (not real names) are a couple from Scotland with two young children who are living and working in Xining, in Qinghai province. This is the central western area of China, above Xizang (Tibet). The city has a population of 1 million people, 75% Han Chinese as well as Tibetans, Hui (Chinese Muslims), Mongols (Buddhists), and Salar (Turkic Muslims).

Sam works as a consultant to various development projects, using his skills in forestry. Jenny spends her time making friends with Muslim neighbours while she cares for their children and home. Consistent with OMF's faith principle, they trust God to provide for all their needs.

There are many openings for expatriates to go to this area: health and hygiene education; developing sustainable water supply technologies; forestry & agriculture; producing a colloquial audio Bible in local dialect, in a place where huge illiteracy rates are the norm.

Do you feel called to join them?

BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

By Richard King

One of the stories Jesus told (recorded in the Bible: Luke 16) was about a man who was going to be sacked by his boss for laziness. Seeing problems ahead, the man curried favour with his employer's customers by reducing their bills! Strangely Jesus commended the man. Not for his dishonesty, but for his shrewdness. The man made a rational calculation of his best interest and he acted accordingly. Jesus says that is what his followers should do.

For Jesus, our best interests lie in what is important to God and the things that enhance our relationship with him – what he calls "true riches". The shrewdness Jesus commends involves calculation as to how we can best serve God.

Many people measure success at work by how much money they (or others) earn or how high up the corporate tree they rise. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with earning a lot of money or rising to the top of the tree – indeed the best use of our God-given abilities might involve this. But these are not God's criteria for success.

To be shrewd, as Jesus wants us to be, we must consider whether what we are doing is serving God well and whether we are using the abilities God has given us to good effect. The status we have and the amount we earn don't come into it.

To read the whole story, visit: www.se3.org.uk/messenger.html

St Michael & ALL ANGELS

AGONY AUNT MO

Dear Agony Aunt Mo
I wonder if you can help me? I have a terrible problem with money.

The fact is that I've got too much of it. I realised what an issue it was when my wife went off with the tennis coach. I have tried giving it away, but I get viewed as a big shot. And having spent years building it up, I'm reluctant to let it all go to waste, so I keep tabs on the people and causes I give to, making sure they are using it properly. It stops me making friends and my children don't want to hang around me. What can I do?
Loaded

Dear Loaded,
What a pickle you're in! Me oh my. It sounds terribly stressful. Have you thought of downsizing? What about starting small and going camping? You could lend your house out while you're away maybe. What do you think?

I'm sitting in the middle of a field and the sun is shining. I'm cooking bacon and eggs. I should be over the moon – and I am – but I'm worried about my house being ok. I lent it to my youngest son. How can I stop worrying?
[sent from my Blackberry]

That's easy – throw away the Blackberry, you're supposed to be on holiday!

It's only a house after all; you're right. I'm sitting by a stream, about to throw my Blackberry away. I'll be back in Blackheath soon, a bit more relaxed.

How marvellous!