

September 2018

THE MESSENGER



Meet Timmy our new curate

Timmy grew up in Nigeria with his parents who were both Anglicans. He is the eldest of four siblings. He was baptised by his grandfather, who was also an Anglican Vicar. At age 12, after some conversations with some schoolmates, Timmy ceased to see Christianity just as a family religion but made a personal commitment to follow the lordship of Jesus. He was later confirmed in the Anglican tradition. He became the Chapel Prefect of his school, guiding his fellow schoolmates on issues surrounding the Christian faith and encouraging tolerance of others with different religious views.

Following secondary school, Timmy studied for a degree in Industrial Chemistry. After energy research internships at a number of companies, he decided to quit Chemical Sciences and worked instead as a Marketer for a Musical Society. Timmy later gained a Master's degree in International business & Management., and he is currently enrolled for a professional Management doctorate.

Prior to his training for Ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, Timmy was a freelance ethics advisory consultant. In the course of his consultancy work, he researched and wrote

on a range of corporate ethics issues and advised institutions on embedding sustainable values into their organisational framework.

Though born and brought up within the Anglican tradition, Timmy later attended Baptist and many other free churches before returning to his Anglican roots. He was a churchwarden for four years at Springfield Church Wallington, a Church of England Fresh Expression church plant.

After training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, Timmy joined St Michaels as curate at the beginning of July. Timmy, his wife, Bukky, and their two children, Petra and Ezra, have now moved to Blackheath. The family spoke of a 'very warm' reception by the parish and parishioners over the summer. The warmth received from the people and the brilliant weather was a fantastic way to ease the family into the parish.

In the three months that Timmy has spent at St Michael, he has enjoyed the experience of serving under Sandy, our vicar and worshipping in a very familiar church tradition. He hopes that his learning, reflections and engagements with other church traditions and cultures will prove to be assets to his ministry at St Michael's.

Timmy is still exploring the parish and engaging with parishioners in this early phase of his ministry at St Michael's. He prays that his time at St Michael's will be a season of God's blessing on the church. But more importantly, he hopes that as a servant of Christ, he will be able to help spread the hope and joy that come by embracing the incarnational nature of God's kingdom even in the face of the real challenges of our times.

It is also Timmy's desire that together, we will see the living faith communicated to us by the Holy Spirit as a grace that cannot be limited to just the special domain of religion but must extend to all our sphere of life.

CHURCH SERVICES

St Michael's is a Church of England Church.

Our main morning service is at 10.30am.

The first Sunday of the month is a shorter all age service, and on the other Sundays children leave for their own groups 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 is at 6.30pm and it is quieter and more reflective.

Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month.

There is a Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service at 9am on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Special Services

7th October, morning service:
Harvest Festival

11th November, evening service:
A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

Food Bank

Our Food Bank is back! Please find the collection basket at the back of the church.

Very sadly these are uncertain times and Greenwich Foodbank has reported a 20% rise in clients, so all contributions are very welcome



COFFEE SHOP

Friday Cakes, St. Mike's Cafe, Coffee Playgroup, St. Michael's Friday Coffee Shop. We have been known by many names but have always had one goal; to be a coffee shop from the church to the local community.

We started small one Friday in September 2009. At first it was a few mums with tiny babies and the odd passing pensioner but that was good for us. It was never a money-making operation, it was more meant as a meeting place.

As time progressed and word spread we were welcoming more and more mums on maternity leave and grannies and nannies. All coming to enjoy the space and delicious homemade cake whipped up by what seemed like magical fairies but in fact by two mums cooking in the dead of night and a retired granny exploring the wonders of Mary Berry's cookbooks. Of course, there have been many others who have helped and contributed cakes, too many to name! But you know who you are and please accept our appreciation and warmest thanks.

Coffee Shop was somewhere warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Somewhere to invite your friends to meet or to meet new friends. Somewhere welcoming! We have SO enjoyed running Coffee Shop over the past 9 years. Through pregnancies, illnesses, and goodbyes we have been there. We hope we have been a little spark of light and kindness in what can seem like a world of darkness.

Amelia Wristworth, Carol Wrist, and Kristen Smye-Runsby

Many thanks indeed to Kristen, Amelia and Carol for the wonderful way they have created and run a warm, welcoming and friendly venue for so many people to enjoy on Friday afternoons.

St Michael's world focus charity Greenwich Youth For Christ in partnership with Scripture Union are hosting the Illuminate schools tour in Greenwich. Award winning Christian musicians LZ7 and Guvna B will visit local schools, including John Roan and Thomas Tallis, to share a much-needed message of hope and peace with the students, in light of the increase of knife crime and violent crime amongst young people. After 2 weeks of the schools tour there will be a concert at the O2 Indigo. Following the concert young people will be invited to a Light Party and a Youth Alpha course where they can explore the Christian Faith in more depth if they choose too. Please contact Greenwich Youth for Christ for more information.

Joe Crisp-Hihn (GYFC Director)



WHAT A CELEBRATION, WHAT AN EVENT, THANK YOU

On Tuesday, 18th September, St Michael's church building was the venue of a Celebration and Thank You event. Thank you to all who helped and thanks be to God. After many years of planning, of fundraising, of careful drawing up of detailed plans and significant investment of time and energy by so many people, the major building project, known as PRISM, had been completed. The church building closed for approximately a year had been preserved, restored and improved; the scaffolding that had covered the church had gone; and the interior had been redecorated, with state of the art lighting and underfloor heating, new glass doors, an updated sound and visual system and many other improvements to produce a flexible and modern building fit for the 21st century.

The Church had reopened in August but this event was to celebrate with and to thank all those who made it possible, the generous donors from within the congregation, former members and local residents, the grant giving bodies, including Garfield Weston Foundation, AllChurches Trust, Morden College and Viridor Credits Environment Company but also those who had worked so hard on the project both within St Michael's and the key contractors and consultants, led by Robert Davies Of Thomas Ford, the project architect, and the principal builders, Fullers. Many of those were present at this very special evening.

Robert Davies explained aspects of the project and we were able, through John Clark, to thank personally those who had donated or provided other support and, through Carolyn Watkins, to thank the list of contractors and consultants.

St Michael
& ALL ANGELS

And a very special evening it was. The church was packed as guests looked over the renovations and improvements inside, enjoyed delicious canapes, sweet and savoury, provided by Kim Causer and her team of cooks and helpers and sipped wine and soft drinks organised by Louise Dolan and Matt Hall. Christine May, mayor of Greenwich and other local councillors joined us, as too did Alastair Cutting, Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich, who closed the evening with a prayer and brief address, reminding us of St Michael's unique status in having a spire called the Needle of Kent.

And we were blessed with two sets of wonderful performances, organised through Michelle Thornhill. We enjoyed an enchanting performance by the Blackheath Children's Choir, our very own local choir, funded to teach children to sing and enjoy church music. Then we were entranced by the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust Choir who are comprised of medical staff and administrators singing part time to raise money for their respective charities. They have been very successful, you may have seen them on TV, or at ON Blackheath or Glastonbury.



Superb performances, amazing evening.

Anyone who has not seen the church in all its renovated and improved glory is invited to come and see the improvements. And thank you again for all those who have given, who have contributed, who have helped to making this project a reality. Thanks be to God for all the blessing that he has bestowed upon us to make this PRISM project a success.

Chris Ashworth

The Art Gallery is back in November

The St Michael's Art Gallery will again be exhibiting at the Church this coming November with a brand-new exhibition of paintings by amateur and semi-professional artists on display for perusing, enjoying and perhaps purchasing.

Our last exhibition in the Church just before it was closed for the PRISM project, in July 2017, had over 80 different paintings by 45 different artists and we hope to have a similar number in the newly renovated and improved church building



With the advantage of dramatically improved lighting and underfloor heating with new radiators and welcoming glass doors we are hoping this will be an even more enhanced experience to enjoy the works on display

You will see the banner going up outside the building, local publicity and information on the website at se3.org.uk/art also link from the St Michaels website.

The exhibition opening night will be on Thursday 15 November and the Church will be open for viewing Friday, 16th, Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st, and Friday 23rd 3pm to 7pm and on both Saturdays, 17th and 24th from noon until 6pm. St Michael's Art Show for local artists dates:

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| Thursday 15 | opening evening 6pm until 9pm |
| Friday 16 | viewing day 3pm to 7pm |
| Saturday 17 | viewing day Midday to 6pm |
| Sunday 18 | viewing session 11.30am to 2pm |
| Tuesday 20 | viewing day 3pm to 7pm |
| Wednesday 21 | viewing day 3pm to 7pm |
| Friday 23 | viewing day 3pm to 7pm |
| Saturday 24 | Final viewing day Midday to 5.30pm |

St Michael
& ALL ANGELS

From the Registers

Baptisms

2nd September: Novia Madubuko
16th September: Marley and Rex Castle-Doughty
23rd September: Freya Kheng

Weddings

15th September: Adam Nicholas and Andrea Sumner

Funerals:

13 July: Hilda Gaskell

We also "christened" our new font on 2nd September for the first time when Novia was baptised – herewith with her proud parents



Save the Date !

Autumn Fair

Saturday 17th November

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

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

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

Curate
Timothy Ajayi
020 3673 7595
ajavitimothy@yahoo.com

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

Youth Minister
Lauren Crisp-Hihn
laurenhubbick@hotmail.com

Editor
Jane Bendall
editor@se3.org.uk