

Services this week

Lent: Sunday Cycle Year B

Services/Events are at St Michael's unless stated otherwise

St Michael's open: Monday-Friday 8.30 am - 4 pm

St Mary's open: Tuesday 10 am - 1 pm (not Jan-Feb)

SUNDAY (24)	Mass with Hymns (St Peter)	9 am
PALM SUNDAY	Palm Procession and Sung Mass	10.30 am
Monday (25)	Morning Prayer and Rosary	8.45 am
In Holy Week	Mass	7.30 pm
Tuesday (26)	Morning Prayer	8.45 am
In Holy Week	Mass	7.30 pm
Wednesday (27)	Morning Prayer and Rosary	8.45 am
In Holy Week	Mass	7.30 pm
Thursday (28)	Morning Prayer	8.45 am
MAUNDY THURSDAY	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	7.30 pm
Friday (29)	Stations of the Cross	9.30 am
GOOD FRIDAY	CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION	3 pm
Saturday (30)	THE EASTER VIGIL	7.30 pm
Easter Eve	with First Mass of Easter	
SUNDAY (31)	Mass with Hymns (St Mary)	9 am
EASTER DAY	Sung Mass	10.30 am

Notices

Thanks for Gladness and Generosity responses

Thank you to everyone who has responded to this campaign. It is still possible to make your response and pledge to support the church financially with a regular donation. Ian Tout is happy to talk individually as needed.

Thanks for centenary celebration

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the centenary celebration of the laying of the foundation stone such a good event at St Michael's last Sunday.

Thanks for Messy Church

Thank you to everyone who helped or prayed for Messy Church. Next session is Friday 17 May.

Help needed in Holy Week

Help is required at St Michael's on Good Friday morning at 8.30 am to clear the church of various items before Stations of the Cross. Also help with cleaning the church is needed on Saturday at 10 am (when flowers will be arranged as well). Refreshments will include Hot Cross Buns.

Donations for Easter flowers at St Michael's

Please place donations into the flower fund box. Donations can be gift aided (use a yellow envelope and complete details).

Fr Felix is looking for sole-mates

Volunteer your foot for washing on Maundy Thursday.

Funeral for Margaret Venn

Margaret's funeral will be on Tuesday 9 April, 12 noon at St Michael's. All welcome to support Vic and his family.

Race Night - Saturday 13 April

St Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm with first race at 7.15pm. Tickets £5 per adult, £2.50 per child available from Amanda Upfield.

St Peter's Plant Sale and Tea Party

Saturday 27 April, 2.30-4.30 pm. Help with tending stalls, making tea, setting up tables and chairs plus donations for raffles tombola, bottles, cakes and plants will be very welcome. Contact Jane 01903 761628.

Fr Ben's Ordination and First Mass

Fr Ben's ordination to the Priesthood will be on Sunday 9 June, 5 pm at St Saviour's, Eastbourne. Please sign up and indicate whether you need a lift, are able to offer a lift, or are willing to go on public transport as soon as you can. Fr Ben will celebrate his First Mass on Monday 10 June in the evening at St Michael's.

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SUNDAY BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 340

24 March 2024

St Michael and All Angels, Lancing
St Mary the Virgin, Sompting
St Peter the Apostle, Sompting



Welcome to our worship today. Follow the service from this paper.

9 am and 10.30 am Celebrant Father Felix Smith

Father Michael Hart is celebrant at St James the Less.

Refreshments are served after both services - everyone is welcome to stay.

For your prayers...

BIRTHDAYS: Mary Stitt, Sandy Tout, David Sinclair, Dave Bransby, June Kearsley

SICK OR IN NEED: Ben Hollins, Olive Leonard, Richard Thompson, Lorraine Alfrey, Paul Jenkinson, Shelagh Morley, Julie Laraway, Jennifer Thompson, Dorothy Tibbles, Elaine Lansley, Edwin Weekes, Mary Parkinson, Margaret Green, # Neville Whittle, Laurette Gaitley, Mark Gilbert, Rena Gaitley, Vic Venn and Pat Sansom # (#= due for renewal)

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Margaret Venn

THE DEPARTED COMMEMORATED THIS WEEK: Annie Ayles, Herbert Hogan, William Knight, Donald Seymour

PARISH: Western Close, Western Road, White Styles Road

THE LAMP BURNING BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is sponsored this week for Audrey Wall RIP

THE LAMP BURNING BY THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY STATUE is sponsored this week for Ronald Smart RIP

Names of the sick are included on the Bulletin for 4 weeks after which they have to be renewed in writing.

This is Holy week

Mon: Mass 7.30 pm - Mothers' Union to attend, please

Tues: Mass 7.30 pm

Weds: Mass 7.30 pm - Altar Servers to attend, please - followed by rehearsal for the Easter Triduum

Thurs: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30 pm

Fri: Stations of the Cross with reflections by Malcolm Guite 9.30 am; Procession of Witness 10.45 am; Open Air Service in North Road 11.15 am; Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3 pm

Sat: Church cleaning and decorating for Easter from 10 am - all helpers welcome; The Easter Liturgy (with First Mass of Easter) 7.30 pm

Sun EASTER DAY: 9 am (St Mary); Sung Mass followed by egg rolling; Alive! (children's group); St Peter's Feast of Dedication (LVIII anniversary)

All items for inclusion in next Sunday Bulletin, in writing, to Ian Tout by Wednesday 12 noon. Please send emails to stmichaelslancing@gmail.com

www.chalkspringchurches.org

Calendar

MARCH

For 3-9 March see front of 3 March edition

- Sunday 10 **Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday):** Services at usual times;
- Tuesday 12 **Home Group** 7.30 pm
- Wednesday 13 **Lent Lunch** 12-1 pm; **GSS Guild Office and Benediction** 7.30 pm (St Andrew, West Tarring)
- Thursday 14 **Gardening at St Michael's** 9.30 am; Mass 11 am; **Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting** 7.30 pm
- Friday 15 **Stations of the Cross and Benediction** 7.30 pm
- Saturday 16 **Mass** 9.30 am; **Film Night** 7 pm
- Sunday 17 **Lent 5:** 9 am **Mass** (St Mary); 10.30 am Celebrant and Preacher: The Bishop of Lewes (anticipating Centenary of Laying of the Foundation Stone); **Evening Worship** 6.30 pm (St Peter)
- Wednesday 20 **Lent Lunch** 12-1 pm, **Ancient and Modern** 1.45 pm
- Thursday 21 **Mass** 11 am; **Lent Course**
- Friday 22 **Messy Church** 3 – 6 pm; **Stations of the Cross and Benediction** 7.30 pm
- Sunday 24 **Palm Sunday:** 9 am **Mass** (St Peter); **Palm Procession and Sung Mass** 10.30 am
- Monday 25 **Monday of Holy Week:** **Mass** 7.30 pm (St James the Less) - Mothers' Union to attend
- Tuesday 26 **Tuesday of Holy Week:** **Mass** 7.30 pm
- Wednesday 27 **Wednesday of Holy Week:** **Lent Lunch** 12-1pm; **Mass** 7.30 pm (Servers to attend) followed by Servers rehearsal
- Thursday 28 **Maundy Thursday:** **Mass of the Lord's Supper** 7.30 pm
- Friday 29 **Good Friday:** **Stations of the Cross** 9.30 am (followed by Hot Cross Buns); **Procession of Witness** 10.45 am; **Open Air Service in North Road** 11.15 am; **Celebration of the Lord's Passion** 3 pm
- Saturday 30 **Easter Eve:** **Church cleaning** 10 am; **The Easter Liturgy** 7.30 pm
- Sunday 31 **Easter Day:** Services at usual times – 9 am (St Mary); **Sung Mass followed by egg rolling;** **St Peter's Feast of Dedication (LVIII anniversary)**

APRIL

- Wednesday 3 **Ecumenical Morning Prayer** 8 am (St James the Less); **Ancient and Modern** 1.45 pm; **Social Afternoon** 2 pm
- Friday 5 **Mothers' Union meeting** 2.30 pm
- Sunday 7 **Easter 2 (Low Sunday):** Services at usual times
- Thursday 11 **Gardening at St Michael's** 9.30 am; **Mass** 11 am; **Standing Committee meeting** 7.30 pm
- Friday 12 **XYZ** 7 pm
- Saturday 13 **Mass** 9.30 am; **Mini Market** 10 am - 12 noon; **Race Night** 7.30 pm
- Sunday 14 **Easter 3:** Services at usual times;
- Monday "The Net" (Summer) deadline
- Tuesday 16 **Home Group** 7.30 pm
- Wednesday 17 **Ancient and Modern** 1.45 pm
- Wednesday 18 **GSS Mass** 7.30 pm (St Andrew, West Tarring)
- Sunday 21 **Easter 4:** Services at usual times; 9 am (St Mary); **Baptism of Nellie Gravett (SMAAA); Evening Worship** 6.30 pm (St Peter)
- Thursday 25 **Mark the Evangelist:** **Mass with Anointing** 11 am
- Saturday 27 **Mass** 9.30 am (Walsingham Cell); **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** 10.30 am; **Afternoon Tea and Plant Sale** 2.30 pm (St Peter)
- Sunday 28 **Easter 5:** Services at usual times;

MAY

- Wednesday 1 **Philip and James:** **Ecumenical Morning Prayer** 8 am (St Peter); **Ancient and Modern** 1.45 pm; **Social Afternoon** 2 pm
- Thursday 2 **Church cleaning** 9.15 am; **Mass** 11 am
- Friday 3 **Mothers' Union Meeting** 2.30 pm
- Sunday 5 **Easter 6:** Services at usual times; **Alive!** (Children's group);
- Monday 6 "The Net" (Summer) printing
- Tuesday 7 **Home Group** 7.30 pm

Marking St Michael's centenary

The first anniversary of our centenary year is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. This was carried out by the Bishop of Lewes, Dr Henry Southwell, on 18 March 1924.

It had been forty years before this that plans were first proposed for a church at the south end of Lancing. It was realised that St James the Less was at the northern end of the parish and developments of recent years had all been in the south. A design competition was held and a winner selected but those plans came to nothing. Further progress was made before the outbreak of World War One and the plans were revived following the appointment of Edward Paton as Vicar of Lancing in 1920.

At the service the Bishop, clergy and choir processed from the Parish Hall singing "Christ is made the sure foundation" followed by prayers, a psalm and a bible reading. The stone which is visible at the front of the church facing South Street reads "To the honour and Glory of God. The stone of SS Michael and All Angels Church was laid by Henry Kemble Southwell Bishop of Lewes 18th March AD 1924. The service concluded with singing "The Church's one foundation" and a blessing from the Bishop.

We'll be welcoming the current Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood to St Michael's on Sunday 17 March to mark the centenary. We'll be trying to recreate as much of the original service as we can, so will be singing the same hymns, psalm etc and rededicating the stone in a special service starting at 10.30 am. This will be followed by lunch. Please make a special effort to be present.

Fr Felix

Love: Valentine cocktails and bingo

Romantics (past, present or deluded) of St Michael's had a fabulous time in the second week of February at the Valentine's Cocktail Night (with musical bingo). Held in the Hall, it was very well attended – and love was certainly in the air (for some).

Father Felix once again impressed us all with his innovative cocktails, alcoholic and non-alcoholic. The home-made beverages were themed on amatory matters judging by the names given to each, with a few risqué puns. Naturally I won't offer any examples today. One partygoer of a certain worldliness did ask aloud what one saucy cocktail name alluded to. Those within earshot looked away and changed the subject.

Tim acted as Father Felix's co-mixologist (a grand word for a bartender who specialises in mixing cocktails) – he had never made a cocktail in his life before this event. So, he deserves a special pat on the back. Such was the demand for replenishment of glasses, that he looked a little flushed towards the end of the evening.

For me, the party was an opportunity to debut my cerulean/electric blue steampunk gothic midi-frock coat – perhaps a last desperate attempt to attract the right kind of attention from The One. The coat certainly attracted attention, not necessarily romantic. Steampunk is a sci-fi fusion of styles, mainly 18th and 19th centuries with modern takes. I should explain that we had been asked to dress in "Twenties" style, but no century was specified. I therefore opted for 1720s crossed with Star Trek.

Where would a St Michael's party be without a quiz? Amanda Upfield hosted the musical bingo – and even I enjoyed that as a quiz-phobe. It appears I know more about 'cringe pop' and 'wonky pop' than I ever imagined. I was also impressed by the winning team (mean age: 60-plus) who knew a lot about 'psychedelic pop'.

Alas I cannot recall the name of the cocktail I stuck with, but I know gin was in it and possibly ginger. Fr Ben must be applauded for his tireless accomplishments as waiter, able to top up my glass just before I asked him to do so, over and over. Very intuitive. Becca Connolly also neglected no one's glass.

I believe the event made about £450. Every penny was given with...love.

Victor Olliver

Would you like to visit Kenya?

Peter Scofield and Lionel Whatley from The Friends of St Nicholas Children's Centre in Nakuru, Kenya (last year's chosen charity) are intending to visit the Centre in April. They are looking for folk to go with them. This is a chance to experience life for the children and young people who are unable to remain in their families as a consequence of poverty, illness or loss of parents through abandonment or death.

This visit will help further our relationship with the Centre and the Diocese of Nakuru, and oversee essential maintenance work at the Centre. This opportunity could be for a younger person looking to explore Christian Ministry including children's and / or youth work or for someone with technical skills eg electrical, mechanical, plumbing, etc who is seeking to volunteer in such an endeavour.

The Friends of St Nicholas is a small charity with all our funds donated by members of various parishes around our Diocese. We would expect anyone considering this opportunity to contribute financially to the trip although the charity may be able to find some sources of funding as well. If this opportunity is of interest please contact Peter Scofield (pscofield@horshamholyltrinity.org.uk or call on 0779 267 2443 to discuss further. Or contact David Peskett at St Peter's djpeskett53@gmail.com or 07733 418854

David Peskett

Celebration of Marriage

During Marriage Week our Mothers' Union branch helped to organise a Celebration of Marriage with a display of wedding photos from the last 100 years as part of the church's centenary celebrations. It was lovely to see the church decorated with so many beautiful wedding pictures, flowers, the wedding dress, veil, special licence and the headdress from 1927. All taking us back on a trip down memory lane!

Eighteen couples renewed their marriage vows in a special service led by Father Felix and Father Ben. The service was also advertised on BBC Radio Sussex as Fr Felix was interviewed ahead of the service.

The service was followed by tea with a special wedding cake cut by Stuart and Sylvia who have been married for 65 years.

Thank you to everyone who gave their wedding photos and other items for the display.

Sandy Tout

Gladness and Generosity

"Gladness and Generosity" was the theme of the talks I gave at all three churches in our parish during February. This was an opportunity to update everyone on our parish's current financial situation and to ask everyone to review what they give, and how they give to the church in response to the gifts that God has given us.

I gave an outline of what we spend money on. The biggest item is our Parish Share. This is the money paid by each parish to the diocese which covers:

- the cost of a priest's stipend (another word for salary)
- the training costs of new clergy
- contribution to pensions and housing
- contribution to the administrative costs of the diocese – the staff at Church House who support work in education, safeguarding, training and helping us develop and maintain our church buildings and ministry.

So on a local level the figure we pay each year covers Fr Felix's stipend, it's helped with Fr Ben's training and many others like him, and will help to support them when they're retired (like Fr Michael), it helps with the maintenance of our Vicarage and helps to pay the wages of people who we can and do contact at Church House to ask for help and support. For 2024 the average Parish Ministry Cost for a parish with one full-time stipendiary post is £81,445. Note: this is not what the priest gets paid! Our contribution to this for 2024 is £66,865.

Our other expenditure covers insurance for each of our churches, some ongoing repairs, administration - provision of paper and ink, the wages of Heather our parish administrator who does great work in helping lift the administrative burden off our clergy. It covers the cost of utilities – water, gas and electricity for our churches and halls.

Our income comes from letting community groups use our halls, from occasional offices (weddings and funerals), fundraising events but mainly through regular giving from you - the members of the congregation.

We have a shortfall of about £750 each month (more if you think that we're currently not paying 100% of our parish share).

We'd like to ask everyone to reassess what they're giving (Church of England recommends 5% of our disposable income should be given to the church) and how they're giving.

Gift aid envelopes and the card machines are best suited to one-off donations and not for members of the congregation who are regular attenders and want to give on a regular basis. Our preferred method of giving is the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS):

- You can sign up online, by phone or with a paper form
- You have the option of an annual inflationary increase so your giving isn't static
- You can put a token into the collection each Sunday to show that you give via your bank
- You can help to reduce admin for the Church Treasurer and so that I have a better sense of how much money the church will have and how we can support our ongoing ministry and plans for the future.

If you don't currently give using the PGS, please sign up.

If you do currently give using the PGS, please review the amount you're giving to see if you can raise it, even by £1 or £2 per month. If you haven't agreed to the annual inflationary increase then please consider this so your giving isn't static but dynamic and responding to the continuing love of God for you.

We cannot expect an equal amount from each person

We can expect each person to make an equal sacrifice

We can expect each person to budget for a sufficiently generous gift to indicate that God has priority in their lives.

Packs were given out after each service when I made my presentation and further packs have been given if you weren't at church on that day. Please read the material included and respond by Sunday 17 March.

Even if you can't make a change to what you're giving, or how you're giving, please still respond.

We all have different amounts of money, different abilities and talents and different ways of giving. These talents and gifts, like our possessions and wealth, are generous gifts from a generous God, and we offer them back to God to use within our churches and our wider community. Without your ongoing valuable contributions our churches would not be here today. Thank you!

Ian Tout

Rise on ice

The Rise team went on an extraordinary ice-skating trip on Saturday 3 February 2024. It was extremely fun zooming around on the ice. It was absolutely freezing in there but everyone had a nice cup of comforting hot chocolate afterwards to warm up! All of us said they wanted to go again and again because it was so amazing!

Rosy Smith

Shop online to raise funds

You can now support all of our churches via easyfundraising who have over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ and add **stpeterssompington/** (St Peter), **stmichaelallangelspcc/** (St Michael) or **stmaryssompington/** (St Mary) to sign up.

Download the Donation reminder that will prompt you to support the church every time you shop