

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 7TH MAY 2017

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### WELCOME TO OUR INCLUSIVE, GROWING CHURCH FAMILY

St Michael & All Angels is a church where people are called to come together to explore the mystery of God's love. All of us, without exception, are called by God. A special welcome to all visitors and newcomers. May God bless you this day and every day. Please help yourself to a *Welcome Pack* before you leave.

### PARTNERSHIP BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Bishop Steven is coming to celebrate the deepening of faith among us which sees the baptism, confirmation and reception into the Church of England. This is such an important occasion that I would like to ask for your attendance and prayerful support. The service is at 6pm on Sunday 14th May at St Michael's. Let's have an Easter feast and share in the significance of our faith journey together.

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14TH-20TH MAY 2017

This year's theme focusses on the refugee crisis. Sign up today to help with the house to house collection. All our volunteers are invited to a social, cheese and wine evening at Nigel and Debbie Hamilton's: 25 Squitchey Lane on Wed, May 10th, 6-8pm. Especially invited are new volunteers! Your Individual bags with red envelopes can be collected then or picked up from church on Sunday 7th May

### WELCOME PACKS AVAILABLE FOR NEWCOMERS

If you are new, welcome! Please take away a welcome pack and learn more about our family of faith and the plans we have for mission and ministry in this place.

### WANTED: STEWARDSHIP RECORDER - OVERSEEING OUR GIVING

This key role involves the planning of stewardship campaigns with Gavin and the PCC. It undertakes to raise awareness about Christian giving through the weekly envelope scheme, standing orders legacies. See Gavin for more information.

### POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND FLYERS

If you would like to publicise a service or event on this sheet or on the noticeboards, please inform Leah Mattinson, our church administrator. Leah oversees church notices (on-line and on paper). She will attempt to de-clutter our church and halls and see that order prevails!

Please email Leah at: [office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)

### DEVELOPING OUR CHURCH FOR MISSION

St Michael's has completed the sale of part of the church hall car park. The deal, worth nearly £1 million pounds, will be re-invested in accommodation in Cutteslowe for a long line of curates in the coming years. The funds will also finance the Threshold development at the west end of the church hopefully beginning this spring/summer.

### A BLOG FOR ALL SEASONS: PILGRIMAGE INTO THE EVERYDAY

Gavin's weekly blog at <http://gavinknight.me> is a tailor-made blogsite promoting the Christian faith to a potentially wider audience. The blog is another aspect of the teaching and preaching ministry at St. Michael's. In today's digital world the Church is having to use information technology as a force for good.

## WHY I LIKE ST MICHAEL'S

Comments from those in the know!

"... caring and inspirational clergy"

## SUNDAYS

**8.00 am Holy Eucharist**  
Traditional Language

**10.00 am Parish Eucharist**

1st Sunday of the month:  
All-Age Family Eucharist  
5th Sunday of the month:  
Rotation with partnership churches

**6.30pm Taizé Prayer**  
30min worship in the Lady Chapel

## WEEKDAYS

**Silent Prayer**  
9.00am in the Lady Chapel

**Morning Prayer**  
9.30am (for 25min)

**Holy Eucharist**  
Thursdays 10.00am  
1st Thursday of the month: Healing -  
the laying on of hands and anointing.

**Adult Choir Practice**  
Thursdays 6.30-7.45pm  
Contact Steve Allen - 07717 852020

**Men's Breakfast**  
1st Saturday of the month  
Contact Steve Hunter - 01865 552475

**For information on courses**  
Contact Gavin - 01865 556079

## FOR CHILDREN

**'Children's Church' on Sunday**  
meets in the vestry during  
10.00am Parish Eucharist

**Godly Play**  
every 4th Sunday  
at 10am with a crèche provided

**St Michael's Choristers Age 3+**  
practise Thursdays in church  
in term-time at 5.30 pm and sing on the  
1st Sunday of the month  
Contact Alice - 07791 328108

**Baby & Toddler Group**  
Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00 noon  
Play for children and chat for carers





# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 7TH MAY 2017

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, alleluia!  
everyone who lives and believes in me will never die,  
alleluia, alleluia! (John 21:25-26)

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

### Acts 2: 42-end

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Commentary:** During the Easter season, the lectionary demands that the church listens to the events portrayed in the Acts of the Apostles. This is the only 'history' book in the New Testament and it is an extraordinary account of how the Church grows from a small Jewish sect in Jerusalem to a religious movement throughout the Mediterranean basin. This particular passage demonstrates the nature of Christian fellowship (koinonia) which was distinctive. The biblical scholar Hans Conzelmann labelled this early church behaviour as something akin to "love communism!" It is important to note that these early believers were also the early doers! They immersed themselves in teaching and prayer. Fellowship and togetherness was high on their agenda. They gave their belongings to those in greatest need. What was the result of this belief and action? People wanted to join in. Something so life-giving and joyful was happening that people could not prevent themselves from joining in. Dear brothers and sisters—this is also our model for Christian discipleship. Who wants to join in? - Gavin



## The Threshold Project

Building a place of welcome  
for the local community

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

### John 10: 1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.



## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**NEXT WEEK: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Readings: Acts 7: 55-end / John 14: 1-14

8am - Celebrant & Preacher: Gavin Knight

10am - Celebrant James Finnemore / Preacher: Gavin Knight