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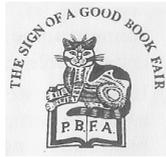


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Welcome,

we invite you to share in the Christian worship and witness of the Anglican community in our Parish.

We are part of the world-wide Anglican Church, in the Deanery of Southampton, within the Diocese of Winchester. We are also members of the ecumenical Churches Together in Swaythling & Bassett.

Regular services are held at our churches in the Parish,
St Nicolas', North Stoneham - the Parish church
All Saints', Winchester Road
St. Michael & All Angels', Bassett Avenue

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Our Parish Vision

We will offer a variety of opportunities for everyone to explore the spiritual side of life and to take the next step on their journey to discover the "Word of Life

This Anglican parish welcomes you to all its services. If you are a member in good standing with another Christian church, we invite you to receive Communion. We are an open fellowship, seeking God in this community and in our spheres of work. We hope you will find blessings within the worship.

June Diary

On Thursdays at 9.30 am a service of Holy Communion is held in St Michael's chapel

1st June 2.30 pm Afternoon Club – Edward Lear by Adrian Light
2nd June 7.30 pm AS Wives Group - Animal Antics by Gerry Tuff

7th June 1st Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion at St Michael's
10.00 am No service at All Saints
10.00 am Combined Family Eucharist at St Michael's
10.30 am Sung Eucharist at St Nicolas'

14th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion at St Michael's
10.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
10.00 am Sung Eucharist at St Michael's
10.30 am Sung Eucharist at St Nicolas'
6.30 pm Choral Evensong at St Michael's'

15th June 2.30 pm Afternoon Club - Trading Standards
16th June 2.30 pm AS Wives - informal @ Sylvia Bayley's
19th June 2.00 pm Churches2gether Ladies @ Catholic Church

21st June 3rd Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion at St Michael's
10.00 am Morning Praise at All Saints
10.00 am Sung Eucharist at St Michael's
10.30 am Sung Eucharist at St Nicolas'

26th June 6.30 pm Taizé at St Michaels

28th June 4th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion at St Michael's
10.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
10.00 am Choral Eucharist at St Michael's
10.30 am Eucharist at St Nicolas'
6.30 pm Choral Evensong at St Michael's

Find more information about the Parish on:
our web site www.nsab.org.uk



www.facebook.com/nsabparish



@nsabparish

Regular Events

Tuesday; Study group at 31, Kellett Road or 7 Red Court, Chetwynd Road at 7.30pm.

Wednesday; Community Coffee in the Parish Hall 10.00 - 11.30am

Thursday morning study group at St Michaels' at 10.30am

Thursday afternoon study group at All Saints' at 2.30pm

Saturday Coffee Call-In at All Saints 10.15 - 11.15am

Pastoral Care

Should the need arise for someone in the parish to be visited urgently or to report someone as being ill, please contact the Vicar directly on 023 8076 8123. He will, in the first instance, make every attempt to visit that person and make initial contact. He will also arrange regular visits from one of the pastoral team. Less urgent requests may be made directly to a Lay Pastor. Contact details are at the back of this magazine.

Ministry Team

Rev Stephen Holmes (P-I-C)	tel. 8076 8123 rector@nsab.org.uk
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News in Brief

Items for this space by 10th of June, please. Ed.

Letter from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on Election Day, so I am still very much in Easter mode, but looking forward to Ascension Day next week.

I know I have said this all before, but Ascension Day is one of the most important festivals in the Church's calendar. This is the day on which we celebrate Jesus ascending into heaven and thus providing that link between heaven and earth giving us direct access to God. Ascension Day seems to be overlooked by many churches these days, probably because it always falls on a working day, but in Bassett we still keep Ascension Day with a celebration of the Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m. and I hope it will be well attended. It is so important that we continue to celebrate these important festivals and show the outside world that our churches are not only open on Sundays. At least, this year Ascension Day did not fall on the same day as the Election, as happened not so long ago!!

Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season, but just around the corner we have Pentecost or Whit Sunday, as it was always known when I was young! Pentecost is another of those great Christian feasts which can so easily pass by virtually unnoticed if we are not careful. In years gone by Whit Sunday was followed by the Whitsun Bank Holiday, so we had a holiday to follow a Holy Day, but that has been replaced by the Spring Bank Holiday, nothing more than a secular day off, which this year is a week before Pentecost.

At Pentecost we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, enabling them to carry on the ministry of Jesus in his name using his powers of healing and preaching.

Just a week away from Pentecost comes Trinity Sunday, another great festival of the Christian Church where each year we struggle with the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity and listen to sermons from those who believe that they understand it!! During my 15 years as a Reader (now Licensed Lay minister) I have tried various ways of explaining the Trinity. I have preached on the historical roots of the Trinity going right back to creation. I have preached on the mathematical

properties of triangles and the making of sponge cakes, but have never really found a satisfactory way of explaining the Trinity to either children or adults. I have thought that perhaps, as preachers we try too hard to explain things in sermons. Perhaps we can best explain the Trinity by looking at ourselves and seeing how we have different sides or persons within us. I certainly have at least three different persons in me. There is Malcolm the solicitor, there is Malcolm the Lay Minister and there is Malcolm the father and husband. If we look at God in simple terms like that it may help us to see that the mystery of the Trinity may be much easier to explain than we thought. We all “wear different hats” in our lives and so does God!!

Trinity Sunday just about takes us into June and on 4th June some churches still celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, or the Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion. Corpus Christi literally means the Body of Christ. Some years ago we regularly celebrated Corpus Christi at St. Michael’s and I would very much like to see that tradition restored. It would make a wonderful opportunity to recognise the true wonder of one of the Church’s greatest sacraments.

With the end of the interregnum at Freemantle in sight, you may find that you will see a little more of me around the parish or singing in St. Michael’s choir. Our new Priest in Charge at Freemantle, Revd Angie Nutt will be licensed on 18th May, and hopefully I may not be required to spend quite so much time at that end of the Deanery.

With every blessing for the season of Trinity,

Malcolm Harper

The Senility Prayer

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to let me tell the difference.

From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

On Sunday the 10th May I was preaching at All Saints and all the readings were about love, so in the aftermath of the May 7th General Election, I found myself asking the question; “Is there much love in politics?” I think the result which was a great surprise to many, showed that the answer was a resounding No! A number of MPs tend to avoid the topic of religion these days as they do not seem to think it relevant to the governance of the nation. I seemed to remember Prime Minister Tony Blair’s aide Alistair Campbell saying that “We don’t do religion” almost as if it was a great embarrassment to be associated with such a thing.

Well of course, for many politicians religion is irrelevant, because politics is mainly about the science of power and the retaining of it. There is no room for sentiment or fair play or morality, just pragmatism: doing whatever is necessary to win victory.

I was relieved by the outcome of the recent election only because I was praying for a strong government, which I felt was necessary in the current political climate. However, I could not help but feel sympathy for the Liberal Democrats, who for the first time in my life, seemed to be in with a chance of being a really credible third force in politics with 57 seats won in the year 2000 election. For years they held the balance of power, but declined to join a coalition for fear that it would be political suicide. In 2010 they did it differently and, for the sake of the nation, they took a calculated risk and joined with the Conservatives, in order to provide a strong, moderate government at a time of great crisis. I felt very relieved and thankful for this. The result was far better than anyone could have imagined. We all benefited from that brave decision. But as the recent election results turned out, they were given little credit for their statesman like actions and came close to political destruction. All I can say is, thank God for all those who throughout history have not always put self interest before the common good. Thank God for those whose vision sees beyond personal self interest and does what is right and just and

merciful, because without such people, our world would be an horrendous place in which to be. It would be a world without love.

It seems to me that this is very much why Christianity is very relevant to the ordering of our world. The most important virtue of all is put right at the top of the list. For however clever we are, if we have not love, in the words of St Paul's letter to the Corinthians: "we are a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal". Jesus commands us to 'abide' in his love, not in a short lived way, but in a continuing way. We can only do this if we keep his commandments. In John 15:13 he reminds us "that there is no greater love than he who lays down his life for his friends."

And here's the rub. Without keeping God's commandments, we cannot have love and we cannot remain in this love. Keeping God's commandments pre-supposes obedience and this is something our culture rejects. Obedience is not something the 'world' admires. Obedience is for the weak, not the strong. Knowing how we react to obedience, Jesus keeps referring to himself. His life was one of total obedience to the Father. No one who knows the story can ever call Jesus weak. Jesus obeyed. He kept in constant connection with his father through prayer, through loving communion. Even when he was abandoned in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross, he remained in obedience to the will of the Father. The cup was not taken away; it was drunk to the bitter dregs. Yet still he obeyed, because he knew that despite everything, the Father loved him.

What is the commandment that we must obey in order to abide in the love of Christ? Jesus now directs us from himself and through himself /to others: to love one another. What REALLY matters is how we treat one another. The writer of the First Epistle of John testifies to this also: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments."

Obedience to God's commandments bears fruit. The first fruit of abiding in love is that we have joy. The joy of knowing we are loved by God in Christ – not some easily earned emotion, but a state of being. Joy comes from the conviction that nothing can separate us from the

love of God. “I have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,” Jesus tells his disciples.

A few years later, Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit in his letter to the Galatians. These are the conclusions of a man who had suffered immeasurably because of his love for Christ. Yet because he knew that he was one with Christ, abiding in his love, the fruits that resulted are these: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Such attributes are not earned, they are not taught, they spring from abiding in Christ’s love – otherwise, a man who had suffered so unjustly would have been filled with bitterness. But Paul was not.

Having lead a number of pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Malta, Greece, and Turkey and having travelled to Cyprus and Syria in the steps of St Paul, I appreciate more than most, that he was one of the greatest characters of human history. He used all his intellect, enthusiasm and energy, not to promote his own ambitions, but to promote the love of God. How did it all end? He was beheaded outside of Rome at the command of the vastly inferior, all powerful, but terrified Emperor Nero.

Thank God for those who do the right thing and chose the way of love over self interest, for they are an inspiration to us and are the true victors worthy of glory.

Stephen Holmes

Cakes for Tea?

There will be a Cake Sale in St Michael's Parish Hall after the 10.00 am service on the last Sunday of each month. This is in aid of the Save St Michael's Appeal. At the January and February sales cakes sold out quickly, so if you would like to place an order for next month, just contact Paddy.

If you are a member of the 8am congregation, speak to her and your cake will be waiting for you in Church!

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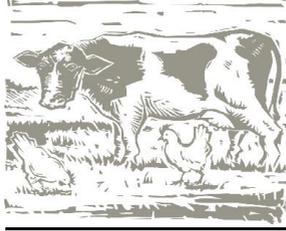
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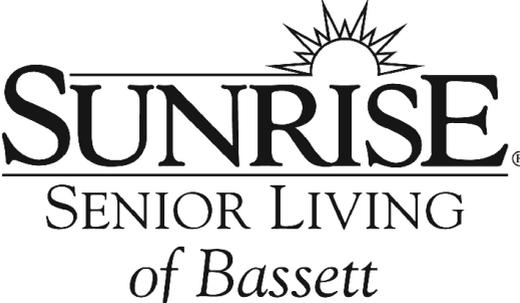


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Welcome back to the Daveys



There was something strangely familiar about the new Director of Music who appeared in St Michael's on 19th April. Colin Davey, who had a very successful seven years in the post from 2004 to 2011, returned to a warm welcome and high expectations. An experienced church musician and choir trainer, Colin is Education Programmes Manager at the Royal School of Church Music and Chief Examiner for RSCM singing awards, musical director of the Fareham Philharmonic Choir, and director of the Verbum Tuum chamber choir. He has

inspired a number of young singers and organists, many in his time at St Michael's, who have gone on to sing and play professionally.

Quite a few of us who are not so young have also been enabled by Colin to participate in music at a far higher standard than we would have thought possible. He has always been committed to the role of high-quality music as an enhancement to worship and as a vibrant part of church life.

We are delighted to welcome the whole family back to St Michael's. Among her many other talents, Heather Davey is an excellent soprano who has worked tirelessly with Colin to develop junior singers in particular. Esther, who is 6, has already been fitted for her choir robes, and there is still space in the choir stalls for Rowan, aged 2, and his collection of railway engines and books.

Colin and Heather have always been involved in the life and worship of their churches and they remained good friends with many of the congregation after their first spell in St Michael's. This is more than a job to him, and he is more than a musician to us. We hope they will all be very happy as they settle back in.

Rod Anderson

Elizabeth Dear - RIP

For many years Elizabeth was a quiet, but very active member of the congregation at St Michael's. She was born and brought up in Cornwall and during the Second World War served in the WRNS as a meteorologist. It was after the war, while she was a petty officer on the staff of the Royal Naval School of Hydrography and Meteorology in Plymouth that she met Arthur and they got married.

They lived in Southampton after they both left the Royal Navy, where Arthur taught at King Edward VI School. Many years later, she and Arthur moved back to Southampton, to a house in Bassett Avenue, when he retired from the UK Atomic Energy Authority in Cumbria.

Elizabeth had been an active Mothers' Union member in Cumbria and served for many years as Deanery Chairman, so she quickly became involved in the MU in St Michael's. She served as Treasurer and Chairman at different times, as well as being on the church flower rota and involved in organising social events.

After Arthur's death in 2001, she suffered increasingly with arthritis which made getting about very difficult. In 2010 she moved to Abbott's Barton Nursing Home in Winchester where she was very happy and much appreciated all that was done for her. She died on the 24th March and her funeral was on the 22nd April at Southampton Crematorium. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Norman Boakes

Growing in Faith

Saturday 16th May

Seventeen parishioners gathered to celebrate what is good about church life in this parish and to try and discern the way ahead for the future. After opening prayers led by Stephen, Norman outlined the day.

We would be:

- listening to information about the community in which we are set
- celebrating all that we value and find good in our church life
- dreaming what we might possibly do in the future
- identifying which of those dreams we think God is calling us to implement.

Norman shared information about the parish culled from the 2011 census, which was very interesting. He reminded those present that the parish was very large in area, stretching from the Winchester Road / Hill Lane crossroads up to Velmore Farm, and across to the Itchen Valley Country Park. The parish includes Southampton Airport, the Asda Superstore, part of Chilworth village, Hampshire Corporate Park the Sports Centre and the municipal golf course.

Among the facts emerging from the census are:

- of the total population of 12,900, 51% identify themselves as Christians and 30% has having no religion.
- 35% of our population is in the 15 - 29 age group, reflecting the number of students who live in the parish
- the rest of the population is fairly evenly distributed across the age groups but our congregations do not reflect this
- 16% of the population identify themselves as of Asian or British Asian ethnic origin
- 86% say English is their main language

- 11% live in social housing, 22% in privately rented housing and everyone else in owner occupied households
- 33% of people live by themselves
- as regards occupations, students account for 32%, and professional, managerial and administrative roles for 33%; just over 2% have never worked or are long term unemployed
- 38% of our population have at least one degree (against a national average of 27%) and a further 23% have at least 2 'A' levels (against a national average of 12 %).

We also listened to two written and one verbal input from members of the local community, sharing their views about the area.

This "listening to our community" formed the essential backdrop for the rest of the day, about which we plan to tell you more next month.

Norman Boakes

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How to know when you are getting old.

- A.) Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
- B.) The gleam in your eye is the sun hitting your bi-focals.
- C.) You feel like the morning after but you haven't been anywhere.
- D.) Your black book only contains names ending in MD.
- E.) Your children begin to look middle aged.
- F.) You finally reach the top of the ladder and find it's leaning against the wrong wall.
- G.) Your mind makes contracts that your body can't keep.
- H.) A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.
- I.) You turn out the lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.
- J.) You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
- K.) You look forward to a dull evening.
- L.) Your favourite part of the newspaper is "20 Years Ago today"
- M.) Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- N.) You regret all the mistakes you made resisting temptation.
- O.) Your men are 17 round the neck, 42 round the chest and 96 round the golf course.
- P.) Your back goes out more than you do.
- Q.) A fortune teller offers to read your face.
- R.) Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you see a pretty face.
- S.) The little grey haired old lady you help across the road is your wife.
- T.) You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
- U.) You have too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.
- V.) You get your exercise acting as pallbearer for your friends who exercised.
- W.) You know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.

If you don't like this sort of thing, send me something better! Ed

Southampton Deanery Quiet Day

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Hall Bookings	<i>All Saints' Centre</i> Diana Sparkes bsp@soton.ac.uk	8055 6818
	<i>St Michael's Hall</i> Mike Sullivan mikesu@tiscali.co.uk	8076 8868 079 1059 7883

The Parish office can be contacted on 023 8098 2836 or by email at office@nsab.org.uk or by post at the Parish Office, Bassett Avenue, Southampton, SO16 7FD.

Opening hours

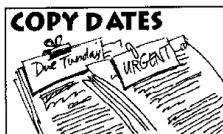
Monday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Tuesday 9:00am – 11:30am

Thursday 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Friday 10:00 am - 12 noon

If you would like to arrange a baptism, wedding, banns etc. please telephone Rev Stephen Holmes (023 8076 8123)



Copy deadline is 10th June for the July issue.

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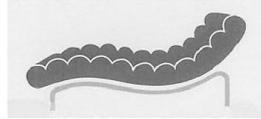
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