

Contact details

If you would like to be included in the weekly circulation of a news letter by email send an email message to the Vicar (see below) the leaflet on 'What is provided for adults' gives you more information about what this is.

The Vicar is best contacted by email:

stmichaelsnewmarston@gmail.com

Parish Website:

www.stmichaelandallangelsnewmarston.org.uk



The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, New Marston, Oxford

www.stmichaelandallangelsnewmarston.org.uk



Welcome to St Michael's

Hello,

I am the Revd. Elaine Bardwell, Vicar of St Michael's. You will have seen me 'up front' and spoken with me, even if only briefly.

We like to think we offer a genuine welcome to everyone who comes along to the church and you will find that all the regulars are happy to talk and also to help with any queries you may have. However, we are also aware that after a few weeks a newcomer needs a bit more information about various aspects of life here. Every community has its own, largely unwritten, rules and ways of doing things and it is easy to forget that not everyone knows



what's what and the shorthand ways we have developed of referring to different things.

So, we have put together this pack of information to help you feel at home in this place. It's a pack so that we can keep some of the more changeable elements up to date. Also you can more easily find a short leaflet dealing with the topic you are most interested in.

This pack is not a substitute though for any personal, face to face conversations. If you prefer to ask one of us we are always happy to help you out. Also any suggestions for improvements to this welcome pack are, well, welcome. Just let me or one of the PCC have your suggestions.

There is a lot of additional information on the parish website and on our Facebook page and you can contact me: leave a message on 01865 434340 or email me: stmichaelsnewmarston@gmail.com

So may I extend a formal welcome to you and hope you will continue to come along and soon feel very much part of all that takes place here.

Elaine Bardwell, Vicar of New Marston

What's in this pack? You should find a leaflet on these topics:

The 10am Sunday Worship
How the pewsheet works
What is there for children?
What is there for adults?

Weekdays at St Michael's
Guide to the layout of the church building
Worship throughout the Christian year
Social and other communal events

What's the PCC?
How do I volunteer at St Michael's?
Stewardship

BUT first you may want to know something about the **spiritual vision** which informs what happens at St Michael's.

We do genuinely try to live up to our claim on our website to be an open, inclusive, worshipping community. We believe in a God of Love, Creation and Redemption who is infinitely generous, who pours out the Holy Spirit on us to build us up and equip us to bring about a Kingdom of Justice, Joy and Peace which is to be enjoyed by everyone and every living creature. This is what we find in our serious reading of Scripture, our reflections on the Christian Tradition, time spent together in worship and action in our daily living. Common spiritual and theological themes in our sermons, prayers and hymns include the idea of being the 'Pilgrim people of God'; a community centred on the Eucharist (Holy Communion) in which all things meet and during which we are fed by God and from which we are sent in the power of the Holy Spirit to make a difference in the world;



a royal priesthood for the God who is the one, blessed and undivided Trinity. Called to be one with God and to be the children of God, like God we are to be creative, redemptive, the bringers of blessing, holiness and wholeness wherever we may be.

We are all disciples, helping one another to fulfill our calling to become ever more fully 'God's People'.

Our 'rule of thumb', motto or, if you prefer, mission statement is:

We are an Easter people and 'Alleluia!' is our song!

This is a quotation from St Augustine of Hippo (354-430). For us it means that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus really has made a difference to us and the whole of creation. We really do receive forgiveness for our sins, we really are fed by the Body and Blood of Jesus, we really are blessed and empowered to work for the Justice, Unity and Peace which God wills for the world.

This vocation, bestowed on us in our baptism, is not an easy one but it is a fulfilling and joyful one. We recognize the enormity of the challenge and so we welcome anyone who is willing to come along and join us in worship and action. There are no pre-conditions other than the obvious one of a desire to participate.

This is the foundation which holds together what can seem like an impossible diversity of people in our congregation, a wide variety of forms of worship and many social or charitable activities.

There is no theological test to pass before you can join St Michael's, you do not have to be familiar with church going, or know what a 'liturgy' is. You will meet here people from many different places and backgrounds. Some are already conversant with church forms of worship, others have a better Biblical education, others know the importance of practical action. Some have been used to more Evangelical worship in the past and others come from a place of Catholic spirituality. We learn from one another how and where to find God. If you want a place to start - focus on the Eucharist.