



And not forgetting:

Retreat: We like to go to the Convent at Freeland for a weekend in January or February (Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon). Sign up sheet is required for this. The Vicar organises this.

The Diocesan Festival of Prayer held annually in July at Cuddesdon is becoming another regular feature.

Ballet Café runs 4pm to 6pm on the 2nd Tuesday and Wednesday during school term time. Cakes and 'staff' are needed for these which are a major point of outreach to our local community and also raises money for charities and church funds - Karin Oldham is the chief organiser. We are thinking of renaming it eg "Community Café"

Iona trips about every 3 years we have a major expedition to spend a week in Iona in Scotland during the summer. Tony Phelan and Liz Dowler are the main organisers for this as well as the Vicar. We are able to offer some financial assistance to those who might not otherwise be able to afford this so do not let cost stop you coming along. Talk to Tony, Liz, the Vicar, Kathy Firkin, or Judy Young to name but a few about the experience.

Other trips:

Some extra major visits have also been arranged by the Vicar in response to requests from congregation members. In 2012 some of us went to Rome in June for a week for a cultural visit.

Drop of a Hat events:

As enthusiasm takes us we simply arrange informally to go to the cinema together, have a Quiz night or go to a local hostelry for Sunday lunch - again everyone is welcome to come along.

Book Group: in abeyance at the moment but there are ideas to get this going once again.

Social & other Communal Events

The 10am Sunday Eucharist is the focus and bedrock of our life together as a Christian community which inspires us in our lives for the rest of the week. One of the practical consequences of our Easter life is the social time spent together. This leaflet introduces some of the key events which take place.

Who can join in?

There is a simple principle which underpins all our social life beyond Sunday activities - which is anyone is welcome to join in with anything. We do not operate any deliberate exclusion policies. Even our informal, spur of the minute arrangements are open to all. That said there is no compulsion on the other side to join in with those events which do not appeal. It is recognized that we will not all want to do everything - even the Vicar!

This leaflet gives an idea of some of the events you will find mentioned in the notices or on the website - these are a great way of making friends here. You might also want to look at the leaflet in this welcome pack on the regular weekly activities that take place in church.



The starred items are those events which most members of St Michael's turn up for in greatest numbers and try not to miss. Do feel free to volunteer to help in any way with putting these things on.



Holy Week - runs from Palm Sunday to Easter Day with some sort of worship arranged on most days.

The principal social gatherings are:

Passover worship and dinner combined - Monday;

Fish n Chip Supper - Maundy Thursday;

Easter Day breakfast (immediately after the Dawn Easter Vigil).

We ask those intending to come along to all these to sign up on sheets left for the purpose in St Michael's Room in advance.

We also have a "Prayer Watch" on Maundy Thursday until Midnight (and at times beyond when we have had enough volunteers).

Saturday before Easter day we have a work party to clean and decorate the church and all volunteers are welcome - just turn up.

The combination of worship, shared meals and practical work are a good example of what we are all about at St Michael's.

Christian Aid Week - falls in May during the Easter Season usually. We make a big thing of this with a special All Age Eucharist but also children and adults to help out with delivery and collection of envelopes and the now traditional "Sponsored Walk" which raises an amazing amount of money.

Karin Oldham, Chris Baker and Judy Young are the main people who organise this week's activities.

Ascension Day an early morning Eucharist (7.30 am) is followed by breakfast together - a sign up sheet is put out for this.

Summer Season (July and August)

There is usually something organised which range from going out for a walk together, meeting for a picnic doing something local to major expeditions to a museum or attraction outside Oxford. The programme is fully advertised and sign up sheets put out in St

Michael's Room for the bigger events where numbers and transport have to be considered.

The summer highlight is the parish BBQ hosted by the Salvesens usually in August.



Autumn (September and October)



Our Patronal Festival is officially on 29th September = the Feast of St Michael and All Angels and the Sunday nearest has a special Eucharist celebrated on that day.

The Saturday before this we often have a party - sometimes a Barn Dance with live music and a 'Caller' to guide us through the dances. A sign up sheet is put out for this. (Judy Young and Chris Baker fix this one up for us).

Produce Sharing

Early October is our Harvest season. We are still trying to find the approach which suits us best but we are all agreed that we want this event as it reflects our environmental commitment. We have found it best to swop some of our home made produce as part of our Harvest celebration. Anyone who has grown or home made produce is welcome to bring this along. The Vicar and others organise this.

Winter Season (November and December)

Fireworks on 5th November: we support our Church School which always holds a Bonfire Party as a fund raiser.



Christmas Lunch - on the 2nd Sunday of Advent after the 10am Eucharist - not to be missed. Sign up sheet for this one which is a bring and share event.

Christingle a tea time short ceremony which raises funds for *The Children's Society* and is followed by hot tea and mince pies. Judy Young, Chris Baker Georgina Bygott and Olivia Goodrich do most of the work for this. Sometimes in December or in January.

Woolly Wailers is our scratch band of musicians (the name is an homage to Bob Marley) which performs the Christmas music at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve - no auditions all you need to do is turn up on Sundays after the 10am with your instrument of choice. Anyone who can play to playing through a tune level is welcome to join.