

Other events:

A rich tapestry of weekday events also take place (see the companion leaflet: "Social and other events" for more details) which will appeal to a wide range of tastes. The basic rule is that folks arrange something, announce it and welcome anyone to come along who wishes to join. Everything is open to all but we also realize that not everything arranged will suit everybody's taste (or diary!). We hope that there is something for everyone and we are always interested in new suggestions.

You will see a Year Planner on display in St Michael's Room which not only alerts us all to what is planned for the current 12 months but also helps us plan events so that we do not get over busy - we actively encourage everyone to be involved in other groups and organisations - to make a difference in the wider community.

Outreach and charitable activities:

We try to ensure we remain as outward looking as possible. We therefore take Stewardship seriously (see the "Stewardship" leaflet) and engage in some charitable activity together. So look out for:

Collection of gloves, hats, scarves for the homeless (Christmas)
Christian Aid Week in May (we do a lot of fund raising by collecting door to door but also through the sponsored Walk and other fun events);

Emergency Food Bank collections (all year round);

Race for Life (July) is for women and girls and in Oxford is held on a Sunday for Cancer Research UK - a keen group have made this a regular thing - newcomers welcome and certainly sponsors;

"Ride and Stride" (September) sponsored walk/cycle ride around local churches to raise money for our church and the Historic Churches Trust - we also need volunteers to greet visitors throughout the day as well as walkers raising some cash!;

We give people the opportunity to respond to major Emergency Aid Appeals and we have some church fund raisers such as a small raffle at our Christmas lunch sometimes.

In addition we are a Fairtrade church: tea, coffee, chocolate and wherever possible sugar, biscuits, wine and other items used for our events are Fairtrade goods.



Weekdays at St Michael's



Church is more than Sundays - although the key event each week is the 10am Eucharist, members of St Michael's are busy living out their lives in many ways and there are some weekday opportunities to meet.

The Weekly pattern varies a bit depending on whether it is school term-time or not and there are other seasonal events from time to time such as study groups.

For precise details about what is happening on specific days consult the weekly email newsletter or parish website (see "What is there for adults at St Michael's?" companion leaflet to this one).



Weekday Eucharists:

Every week there is a said Communion celebrated on Wednesdays at 11am. This Eucharist has hymn singing, time for informal discussion and joint intercession and is followed by coffee. On key Saint's Days (aka "Red Letter Days") - usually at least one of these

each month throughout the year - a said Eucharist will take place at 8 am or 10am on Saturdays followed by breakfast locally.

All these services are held in the side chapel which is called the Lady Chapel, located along the left hand side of the Nave (=main part) of the church.

Daily Prayer - takes place in the Lady Chapel



As a rough guide: every weekday from Monday to Friday Morning Prayer is said at 9 am and Evening Prayer at 5.30 pm. These are usually said by the Vicar alone (except Tuesday) but others are welcome to join in too. Special booklets make it easy to follow these short services (20 minutes) which consist of Psalms, Bible readings, Canticles and time for prayers.

If there is a particularly important Feast (=Red Letter) Day a said communion service is said at 8 am instead of Morning Prayer
On Saturdays, the Vicar still celebrates Morning and Evening Prayer but precise times are variable and are not therefore advertised.

Crafty Church - takes place at 4pm on the 3rd Saturday in the month. A short 5 minute presentation of the selected theme is followed by half an hour's practical craft time and hot drinks with biscuits or cake are served. Meant to last 45 minutes but people like to chat...children and adults even those who aren't 'craft fans love this.

Open house:

Sunday afternoons: at 1pm when our worship and coffee time have finished, a Punjabi congregation called "Life in Christ" arrive for a weekly ecumenical service lasting about an hour followed by refreshments. They are very friendly and welcome anyone coming along to join in with them - you don't need to understand Punjabi!

Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons:

During school term time the church building is open for parents, carers and children who are coming to lessons at the Dance School which are held in the Pastoral Centre Hall next door. Church is therefore open from approx 4 to 7 pm both days. This is a modest way of supporting our local community.

Thursday afternoons: the local 50+ Club meet from 2pm to 5pm every 1st and 3rd Thursday in the Pastoral Centre Hall but find access through the church building is easier for many of the Club members. 2 or 3 times in the year they hold an event in the church itself.

Fridays: *Move to the Groove* is a weekly Keep Fit class led by Georgina Bygott at 10am during school term time. Anyone can turn up (you don't need lycra just sensible footwear and loose clothing) and for a minimum contribution of £3 enjoy a general work out. We also offer coffee and tea. And yes, you can bring children along too. We mostly exercise in the Pastoral Centre hall but use the church occasionally too.

The Syrian Orthodox Congregation of SS Peter & Paul use the church on the first Saturday of every month, usually from 8am to about 2pm and on the 3rd Sunday 4-9 pm. They originate from Kerala and worship in Malayalam - again they are very friendly and welcome others to come along. On the final weekend of June or first weekend of July they celebrate their Patronal Festival with a procession, drums and a special lunch to which we are invited. We are trying to establish a joint event with them at Harvest time. We fit in extra time for them at the major Festival times of Christmas and Holy Week/Easter.

Diocesan magazine: Pathways copies of this for our entire Deanery are delivered to us quarterly and collectors from our neighbouring parishes fetch their copies from our front porch. During collection week the main wooden door is kept unlocked although the wood and glass panel door which is alarmed is kept locked.



Ballet Café is run by members of St Michael's congregation on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of every month during school term time to coincide with the dance school between 4pm and 6pm. The cakes and biscuits are home baked. They welcome donations of food, help with setting up, serving teas, clearing away and of course customers. The money raised goes partly to church for heating and lighting and partly to designated charities: see notice board in St Michael's Room where sums donated are listed.

And so it is that our church building is open at least twice a day throughout the week and apart from Monday has at least one other group coming along to make use of our amenities.