

St Michael's



Messenger

Issue September 2021

Fr Ian writes...



Dear brothers and sisters, welcome to the first edition of our new parish magazine 'St Michael's Messenger'. It is hoped that our monthly magazine will not only keep you up to date with all that is happening in and around the Wood Green Team but also as a means to reach out into the wider community offering both information and an invitation to come and see and be part of God's Church.

September often marks a time of new beginnings and when we consider everything the world has been through over the last two years, never has a new beginning been more appropriate. The pandemic that swept the world caused us all to stop, reflect and re-evaluate our priorities. Being separated from our loved ones gave us a greater appreciation of those dearest to us and being disconnected from our Church and finding new and inventive ways to worship differently has been a challenge but has also given us a longing to return to Church with the community that makes up our Church family, that together we can worship and witness the wonderful things the Lord has done for us.

On Sunday 12th September we are keeping a 'Back to Church Sunday' event where we hope you and anyone you can invite will join us for the Parish Mass and then afterwards for a BBQ and picnic in the Church grounds. The PCC are offering this as an opportunity to reconnect and mark a new beginning in the life of our Church community. It is from that day that we shall restore and increase our pattern of worship across the Wood Green Team and we are praying that you will want to play your part too.

As you will see from this first edition of St Michael's Messenger, there are many opportunities and challenges to be embraced all of which are a sign of a living Church that serves a living God. So please support us with your prayers and by your presence as we reclaim back for God everything the pandemic took from us.

A reminder that I and the Clergy of the Wood Green Team are called by God to serve you. Should you ever wish us to visit for a coffee and a chat or arrange to meet us at Church then you only have to ask.

May God bless and protect you and those you love.

With love & prayers
Fr Ian

Beginning my Curacy at St Michael's



The beginning of my serving role as deacon and team curate here at St. Michael's, has been a real joy! The heart of the welcome that Dayna and I have received since our arrival, has been primarily from all of you, including Fr Ian and Carol, Fr Engin and Fr Andy. You have all made our transition from my college, and from my sending church very easy, and full of love and care. I can only imagine that when we move into the parish, hopefully in October, the *love and welcome we have received so far will blossom* further, and we can't wait.

Having previously described my first week as wonderfully tiring, now after two months in post, I have settled into a routine that is spiritually nourishing and sustaining. I have met with many people within the parish including the teachers and staff at our primary school, the volunteers from the Bounds Green Food Bank and many of you from both our churches and at St Andrew's. Beyond the parish, I have been meeting and getting to know clergy in neighbouring churches, and discussing the worship, mission and outreach that these churches are involved in through a variety of tradition. I have absorbed much and learnt lots in a very short time.

As our church begins to reintroduce the service pattern previously in place before the pandemic restrictions, I look forward to playing an integral role in this as deacon, and also in leading new forms of worship, especially that aimed at the youth of our church. It will be wonderful to be part of the re-emerging church, serving, enabling and providing for all in our parish.

I am encouraged by all that has happened in these first months of my curacy, and my inclusion in this. I am excited by all that is in the diary going forward with regard to our service pattern being reintroduced and the start of new services too. I am also very conscious of the work of the Spirit in our church, which I have witnessed as a very genuine church, full of faith, love and hope.

With all my love and prayers,

Fr Tom

New Area Dean and Parish Administrator



Since Tuesday 8th June 2021 I have started as the new Area Dean and Parish Administrator and PA for Fr. Ian Booth. My name is originally Sunhild, but because it is very difficult for the English-speaking people to pronounce my real first name, I have chosen the name Sunny. I work normally on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. I am an Austrian National but have lived the last more than 30 years in London and before in different parts of West Germany. I normally worship twice a month on Sunday at the German Protestant Church in Forest Hill /

Sydenham. The church is called Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Church and we are of the united tradition, which is a mixture of the Lutheran and Reformed German Protestant Church. I am a member of the German Church PCC and have other position in the church hierarchy. As we have mostly to finance ourselves, this work is all voluntary. Before I started at Wood Green Team Ministry, I was working as Finance and Parish Administrator at Holy Trinity Church Roehampton and as Parish Administrator at St. Mary Parish Church Battersea for over 10 years. Both positions were made redundant. Previously I worked in an upmarket clothing company in the IT department. In the year 2008 the European IT department was moved back to Hong-Kong, and this made my job redundant.

I am extremely grateful to Fr. Ian Booth and the Archdeacon the Ven John Hawkins, who employed me. I am very grateful to Linda Bennett, Sister Pat, Derrick Brown, Festus Kuye, Peter Crowe and the clergy Fr. Ian, Fr. Andy, Fr. Tom and Fr. Engin for helping me settle in. I am very happy, if you visit me in my office on the first floor at the St. Raphael's Centre.

In the moment I participate in the church service during the week in St Michael-at-Bowes and St. Michael Wood Green. I hope I will meet lot more of the parishioners of the Wood Green team Ministry.

Sunny (Sunhild) Walker-Kier

What happens now???



The Church going forward post-pandemic

The coming weeks will be a time of hope and anticipation as we begin to move away from the restrictions imposed on us as a Church by the arrival of covid-19. In an attempt to retain some connectivity between you and the Church we have used a number of online platforms, and although a poor substitute for being in Church worshipping together, we hope you have at least felt in touch with your church and fed spiritually.

It has been wonderful over the last month to see confidence returning and a real joy to see our Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday Masses gradually picking up numerically. Now as the weeks unfold we are hoping that many more of the faithful will feel now is the time to return 'home' to the Fathers house.

So what happens now???

Your PCC have been meeting regularly and looking at ways in which we as a church can reach out to the community reminding them that the Church is open and ready to welcome everyone back. Among the plans being discussed are the following: -

- ✚ Back to Church Sunday followed by a BBQ and Picnic (12th September)
- ✚ A new monthly parish magazine called 'St Michael's Messenger'
- ✚ A revised pattern of worship throughout the week
- ✚ Opening of the Wednesday Drop-In
- ✚ St Michael's Day celebration (29th September)
- ✚ A new monthly Sunday Youth Service (October)
- ✚ Monthly services of remembrance for those taken during the pandemic
- ✚ Bible studies and training opportunities

Above all we are appealing to all members to consider returning to Church. Most of us have had vaccinations and all safety measures remain and we will continue to monitor the situation very carefully. What happens next is in all our hands and for the outreach above to succeed the Church family needs to unite and place our faith in the living God and offer help, support and encouragement as we go forth in faith.

New Youth Service and Gathering at St Michael's Church



Dear Youth @ St Michael's Church,
You are invited to a new Youth Service of Worship,
on the 1st Sunday of each month @ 6pm.

Will the service be like Sunday morning?

This will be a different service of Prayer and Praise

When is the first service?

The first Service will be Sunday 3rd October at 6pm in church

What will the service be about?

The first service will be about Jesus and our place in God's creation

Will there be music?

Yes, this will be led by musicians; do you play an instrument or sing?

Will it be only worship?

No, after worship, there will be other activities that you can choose

What sort of activities?

Perhaps games, discussions, sharing food, craft, it's up to you.

What is the age range to attend?

Probably between 11 and 16 with some flexibility

RSVP Fr Tom – curatetom@outlook.com

The diary of Youth Services for the remainder of the year are:

3rd October 6pm

7th November 6pm

5th December 6pm

Adult volunteers are required – if interested, speak to Fr Tom

WITH FREE PIZZA!

LET ME KNOW!

ANY IDEAS?

MOST WANTED

A VOLUNTARY

TREASURER

We urgently need a treasurer for St Michael and St Michael-at-Bowes!

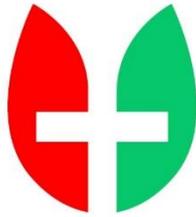
The treasurer should be able

- To demonstrate he or she can manage the church finances
- To Manage the budget for both churches
- To produce and deliver a budget for the PCC
- Control the finances
- Reconcile the monthly bank statements
- Pay the invoices, if the invoices are not on direct debit
- Keep track of the church account, which is in excess of £150,000
- Help with the counting of the collection

If you think you can do this job, please speak to the Rector Fr. Ian Booth



Miss Shah
Head of School



Mr Knowles
Executive Headteacher

St Michael's Church of England School

St Michael's CE Primary School has a unique quality; it's a friendly, inclusive and welcoming school with a history of high aspirations for all of the children who learn at the school.

St Michael's is first and foremost a learning environment, preparing children for a happy, confident entry into the world. This means building their confidence and belief in themselves through our Christian ethos. We help them to make good friends and to develop a wide range of interests and skills, as well as inspiring them to achieve academic excellence.

St Michael's is friendly, lively, happy, caring community in the heart of Wood Green. We pride ourselves on being both outward and forward-looking. Our pupils come from diverse backgrounds, and we are proud to reflect the cosmopolitan mix of London. We are not just tolerant of difference; we value it, celebrate it and encourage each child to be different. This is rooted in our school aims and Christian ethos and partnership with St Michael's church. Please keep us in your prayers.



Fr Andy writes



Dear friends,

The last couple of months really do seem to have flown by! We will be glad of a break at the end of August, and I hope you are all also able to take some rest over the summer months - the last year or so really has been exhausting for so many in all

sorts of ways.

It was wonderful to have so many folks from Wood Green present for my licensing in July by Bishop Rob and I am so grateful for your continued prayers and support. The very next day, the clergy of the Wood Green Team gathered in the Lady Chapel there for Morning Prayer. There is a real sense of a new beginning both within the Team and for the life of St Andrew's and it has been great to welcome Fr Tom as a part of that.

The PCCs of Wood Green and St Andrew's gathered at the end of July to worship together and for an informal drink in the church garden afterwards as we begin to get to know one another, and new relationships are formed. It has been a source of such encouragement to see some from Wood Green participating in the worship at St Andrew's on a Sunday morning and I'm excited about the development of this partnership as we head towards the autumn.

Although we are yet to move into the parish (hopefully that will happen in the next couple of months), I have been beginning to get to know some of the people of the parish of Alexandra Park on my travels and getting the doors of the Church open as much as possible. Our buildings are treasures and houses of prayer that belong to the whole people of God, and it's wonderful when anyone feels they can come in for a moment's peace, to pray or to rest.

I know that many in Wood Green will have shared my joy at being able to sing in our worship again. It really has reminded us of what it means to worship and love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. Please do pray for me and all the family; little Seb will begin school in September! Please also pray for wisdom as we plan ahead and for an openness to God's Spirit as together, we seek to build his Kingdom.

With the assurance of my continued prayers for you all. Fr Andy

Saint of the month

St Michael the Archangel

The Archangel Saint Michael is perhaps one of the best known of the angels. Like Saint Gabriel and Saint Raphael he is not only an angel but also an Archangel. He is honoured in Christian tradition but also honoured among Jews and Moslems.

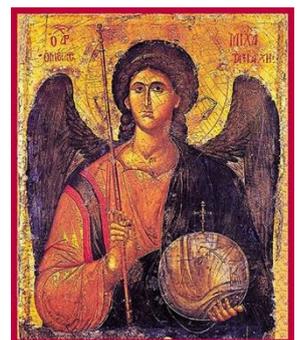
The name "Michael" means "who is like God". The Greek word "angelos" means messenger. Angels are spiritual creatures who praise God, act as messengers between God and man, and serve as guardians of nations, peoples, and individuals. Angels are often ordered into nine categories and are mentioned 192 times in Sacred Scripture. Four of these times St. Michael's name is recorded.



St. Michael is one of the best loved of all saints in the Christian tradition because of his strength and dedication to

God. Many people make a daily practice of praying the "Saint Michael Prayer," which asks St. Michael to be a defender and protector. St. Michael is a practical saint for all people because of his great example of tenacity to the will of God, as well as his love for good triumphing over evil. Whenever the darkness of evil arises, people instinctively turn to protectors. God, who never leaves his people forsaken, has always sent his heavenly messengers to remind us that we are not alone either on earth or in the universe. For millennia, St. Michael and the angels have represented a reality much larger than ourselves and we call on the prayers of the Angels and Saints as we journey towards that place God has prepared for us.

This month on 29th September, we being a church with St Michael the Archangel as our patron, will keep a special feast giving thanks to God for the care and protection granted us by St Michael. We hope you will be able to join us for our Patronal Festival on Wednesday 29th March at 7.00pm.



St. Michael Prayer:

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the
devil.*

*May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,
O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

St Michael's Followers



Matthew 19:13-15

People brought little children to Jesus, for him to lay his hands on them and say a prayer. The disciples turned them away, but Jesus said, 'Let the little children alone, and do not stop them coming to me; for it is too such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'

We offer a structured session during the 10.30am Mass, for ages 5 years and over, we leave Church as Fr Ian processes in. We welcome the children, ask about their week and the theme of the day is outlined.

- Reading of the Gospel, the children enjoy reading and all who wish to read are able to do so.
- Discussion about the week's gospel reading and any questions.
- Activity, to reinforce the weeks message from the Gospel
- Prayer and return to Church in time for communion.

Attendance numbers:

Prior to the pandemic we had 52 children on the register, although they never all came at once. Since resuming in March we have limited this to 12 children so we can keep social distancing but are hoping come September we can resume our usual activities. We do require a registration form to be completed for each child.

Activities undertaken:

The children enjoy sharing with Fr Ian, Fr Tom and the Church family what we have been doing and to see their confidence building is a great joy and achievement.

We have managed a variety of activities. We have drawn, acted, cooked, played games, made various things to reinforce that week's theme whilst trying to keep an atmosphere of fun.



Greetings from Bowes!

Dear Friends in Christ,

I trust that you all have had a peaceful and refreshing Summer with your family and friends. As we are in September, we are all anticipating getting back to our rhythm of life in our church communities in line with the restrictions of the new normal. It is great to see some of you returning to church as well as some new faces. Surely, the Pandemic as difficult as it has been, it also challenged and re-shaped our faith. We might have encountered God in a different way during this time. At the same time, we might have discovered things about ourselves which we were not aware of. One of the things I have been learning about is the importance of the faith community. Though I always believed that being in a church community is not an “option”, now I believe that we are to live out our faith as a community more than ever before. Of course, this pleases God, but also it is in the context of community that we learn things and we meet with God. Our focus as clergy is to create a space, a safe environment for everyone to come and encounter the living God in worship, in ministry, and in fellowship.

At Bowes, we are focusing on several things during this coming season to make sure that we create this safe space of learning. One of my desires is to reach out to families with children. We have been supporting our church school via Godly Play, Collective Worship, and other ways, and now we are going to offer Godly Play at Bowes once every month- the first Sunday of each month starting from September 5th, 2021. Our desire of course is to make Godly Play a regular part of our ministry as we have more participation and volunteers. Please do remember this in your prayers. Furthermore, in the Autumn term we will offer Godly Play weekly at our St Michael at Bowes Junior School as well as Collective Worship. We also are implementing an after-school Drama Club with the school starting September.

You might have heard about our “famous” Tuesday Bible Reflections which we do following Tuesday’s Eucharist. This will continue face to face again, starting in September. We will study the Gospel of John and implement some fun learning tools such as poetry and drama. This is of course open to anyone who would like to join.

I believe one of the ways to support our faith community is to equip and empower our people with relevant skills for ministry. We would like to start with a focus on facilitating small groups. Remember, the early church was a household church, a small group. A short course on facilitating small groups will be offered in October 2021 for those who are interested in learning this skill

and implementing it in the life of our faith community. I would encourage you to consider this prayerfully and if you are interested, please do get in touch with your clergy to learn more about it.

Our Zoom Evening Prayer time has become an anchor during the Pandemic. While we value face to face meetings, meeting on Zoom gave many of us the opportunity to pray together when in person meeting were difficult. We would like to continue with the Evening Prayers on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6.00 pm on Zoom.

I should also mention the hard work of faithful people at Bowes looking after the church building and starting a beautiful church garden. We are hoping to recover the Memorial Garden which apparently was here in the past.

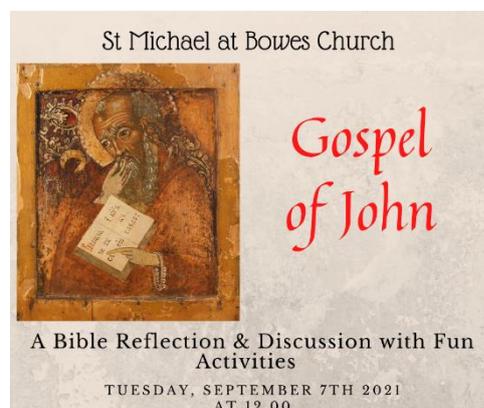
Recently, we come to an agreement with our tenant, the nursery which meant a significant improvement in our rental income.

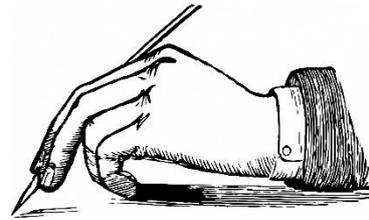
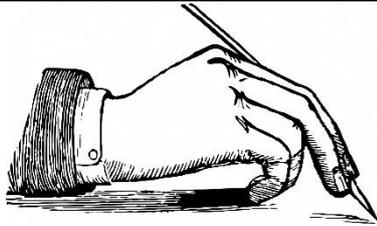
Early this year, we signed a contract with a car-park management company. As a result, the car parking area is much clean and secure ever since.

Finally, it has been a burden in my heart to mark our shared experience in the Pandemic by marking it with a Memorial Service whereby we can offer an opportunity to remember the lives whom we miss. We are planning this in October at Bowes. This will be on a Saturday afternoon in the churchyard. The details will be shared very soon. We would appreciate it if you joined us.

Every blessing,

Fr Engin YILDIRIM





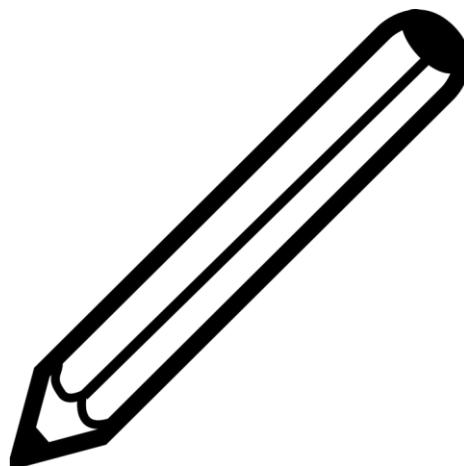
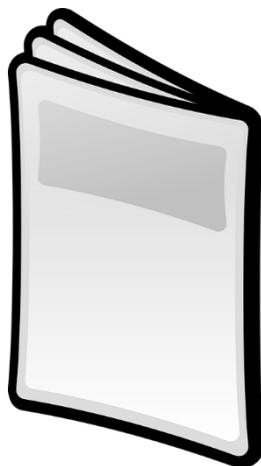
Dear Parishioners,

We would like to get help with creating the new Parish Magazine “St. Michael’s Messenger”. If you think you could write articles or help us finding pictures or any other way in the Editorial area, Fr. Ian and I would like to hear from you. Please speak to either Fr. Ian or Sunny.

Also, if you think you would like to advertise, please have a word with Fr. Ian.

Fr. Ian E-Mail: frianbooth@googlemail.com

Sunny E-Mail: smwgassistant@gmail.com



Forthcoming events for the Autumn 2021



1. Back to Church Sunday with afterwards BBQ on Sunday 12th September 2021

2. Wednesday 29th September 2021 St Michael's Day
Mass at 7.30pm followed by cake and drink

3. Sunday 3rd October 2021 we celebrate Harvest Festival

4. Sunday 3rd October 2021 6pm First Youth Service



5. Later in October we will have a Cake sale

6. Saturday 11th December 2021 Christmas Lunch hosted by St Michael at Bowes - more details and cost to follow

The following events have not yet any specific dates

1. Bring and Share lunch organised by St Michael at Bowes - more details to follow.

2. Children's jewellery making workshop date TBC

3. Advent table sale in Church on a Sunday after Mass

4. Christmas Flower arranging workshop - date and price to be confirmed

We are still in uncertain times and will plan events but may need to postpone events if any changes in the Covid situation are happening.

Services Times:

Sundays at St Michael's Wood Green

Said Mass - 8.30am

Parish Mass with Followers Sunday School - 10.30am

1st Sunday of month - Youth Service - 6pm

Sundays at St Michael at Bowes

Parish Eucharist - 11am

Turkish Church Service - 2pm

Weekday worship across the Wood Green Team

Tuesday	St Michael at Bowes - Mass 11am Bible study 12noon
Wednesday	St Michael's Wood Green - Mass 12noon
Thursday	St Andrew's Alexander Park - Mass 11am St Michael Wood Green - Holy Hour 7pm
Friday	St Michael Wood Green - Mass 5.30pm
Saturday	St Michael's Wood Green - Mass 12noon

Editorial Team: Fr. Ian Booth and Sunny Walker-Kier
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