



2017 « A SEASON OF CHANGE »



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MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saint Michael's Men's breakfast continues to thrive and provide encouragement, spiritual support and great food for the men of Saint Michael's. This year we have shared in character studies of men in the Bible and considered the character of a Godly man and how to grow in this grace. During the year it has been our privilege to stand with Alain and his family as they dealt with, at one point, the life threatening illness of their baby daughter. We rejoice with them at the answers we have seen to prayer.

EVE THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF SAINT MICHAEL'S



Eve, our women's ministry, hosted a coffee morning titled "*Faith, Fellowship and Fun*" in September, to welcome everyone back after the summer and to meet Claire Smith who had just arrived. We enjoyed getting to know her a little and nibbling some lovely baked treats. After Christmas, we hosted a

women's film night showing "The War Room" -- a great film depicting the power of prayer. That was followed in Lent by a 6 week study on prayer based on the book: "Fervent" by Priscilla Shirer, who was one of the cast members in the film.

GROUPS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S

The life and mission of Saint Michael's is sustained by a wide variety of groups that meet at various points during the week in addition to our regular pattern of small groups. They are made possible by many committed and hard working leaders and volunteers.

THE INTERNATIONAL AU-PAIR CAFÉ



So far this year, Au Pair Café has welcomed about 30 au pairs from around ten different countries. There are usually about 15 girls each week who meet for tea, cake and a chat but sometimes the room is so full we run out of chairs! Alongside the faithful core members who have been with us throughout the year, there are always new girls arriving to join us. There is a real sense of community

and mutual support, where newcomers are quickly made to feel welcome. During our time together the conversation ranges from light-hearted banter to support for any challenges they are facing to discussing deep questions about faith. A temporary change of venue to a local cafe has helped to keep the ministry going despite building challenges. I look forward to seeing how Au Pair Café develops as relationships continue to strengthen and grow.

- Claire Smith

TOC H



Saint Michael's is privileged to host regular meetings of Toc H.

Saint Michael's hosts regular meetings of Toc H. Toc H has a Christian foundation that emerged from a soldiers club in Belgium during World War I. It brings people together fostering caring friendship and mutual support.

MUSIC AT SAINT MICHAEL'S



The Bible, in particular the psalms, is full of beautiful verses urging us to offer songs of praise to the Lord. Singing on Sunday morning can sometimes feel like going through the motions, and yet, when the psalmists urge us to sing, I don't think it is

because they thought each service needed some nice songs to allow us to stretch our legs! We sing to the Lord because when we face up to the truth of the gospel, God's extravagant grace, what else can we do but offer hearts full of praise and adoration?!

This past year I have had the great privilege of leading the morning worship team, a team of 14 wonderful individuals, who give up their time, gifts and Sunday morning lie-ins to serve Saint Michael's, and to help the congregation bring songs of worship to our God. I could not be more thankful for their service, or for the opportunity that we have to serve Saint Michael's in this way.

These past 5 years I have also had the joy of singing in the choir. Like many, I had to fight back tears when we heard the news that Chris and Caroline Herbert would be leaving us this year. Chris has led the choir with passion, dedication, patience and a much needed sense of humour for many years, and has been a caring and thoughtful leader. It is hard to find the words to express our gratitude to both Chris and Caroline: you will be so very sorely missed!

- Sara McNeill

Well for the last time I put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) to write about music at St Michael's, what can I say? First of all, you have a very dedicated and hardworking team of instrumentalists and singers that help lead and enrich the worship at all our services. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of music in our worship; the bottom line is that this is where we learn our theology. Just think of how many sermons you remember, or how much scripture you know by heart, and then how many songs and hymns you know by heart. Second, I am sure that there are many more instrumentalists and singers sitting in the congregation, and for some of you, it is time to get out of your seat and help bear the burden of leading the music in worship.

- Chris Herbert

(Much more will be said in appreciation of Chris and Caroline as they move on - we will miss your unrivalled style of prose among many other things! - Dale)

TAMIL MINISTRY



Our Tamil ministry is a committed part of the community of Saint Michael's. Weekly worship with monthly communion is at the heart of this warm community, supported by the devoted work of the servant hearted Suresh and Vimo.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY



Our children's ministry has four groups -First Steps for 0-2 year olds; Bubbles for 3-6s; Sunday Club for 7-10s, running on a weekly basis and Flow, for 11-14 year olds, running occasionally.

We have more than 25 families represented in our ministry and welcome an average of 16 children each week, across the four groups. There are 20 leaders and helpers who serve on a regular basis and it has been a pleasure to see their hard work and dedication in serving our youngest members. Recent building issues have meant merging groups and postponing some planned event, however it is been wonderful to see leaders and helpers work together and be exceptionally flexible and creative as they ensure our groups can continue to meet.

Highlights have included our Christmas all age service and children's party, spending time together as leaders and helpers to pray, plan and socialize and, of course, welcoming new babies to our community! **Another highlight was the appointment of Claire Smith as Children and Families Worker!**

PRAYER MINISTRY



Prayer Ministry 10.30 service

Saint Michael's Prayer Ministry aims at ministering joyfully to others in the power of the Holy Spirit in order to glorify God. We wish to create a 'safe' space, in which people feel free to share their prayer requests, however great or small. The team begins Sunday morning ministry by praying together, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance and provision and ends by leaving all the requests at the Cross of Jesus.

Everyone is welcome to receive prayer ministry; those who come forward will also be covered in prayer in the week to come.

There continues to be a regular flow of people coming for ministry, and we frequently receive encouraging feedback on answered prayer from the prayer recipients.

24 hour Prayer time

During the 24 hour prayer time a small group participated in a meditation on Psalm 103, which produced some Spirit-filled insights by the participants. We were then able to pray back these inspired reflections and images to God, asking him for the grace to act upon them in our everyday lives as Christians.

- Isobel Gil-Noble

WORSHIP



It is our great privilege to be a worshipping and witnessing community in the heart of Paris. Reflecting our location we were greeted on Easter morning by heavily armed soldiers guarding our door (not quite soldiers at "the Tomb"!). 2017 saw a significant change where our traditional service moved from 9.15 am to 6 pm.

SAINT MICHAEL'S, A VIBRANT COMMUNITY



PEOPLE MOVE ON



2017 saw a number of significant figures in the life of Saint Michael's move on.

Notably the Revd. Alyson Lamb, our chaplain, moved on to serve the parishes of Mitford and Hebron in the Diocese of Newcastle near to her home region.

Carolyn Powell, our ministry coordinator was received into membership of the Church of England by Bishop Robert prior to her moving to Ridley Hall Cambridge to begin her study and training for Ordination

Long term members the Attacks left France for an adventurous family adventure travelling around the UK.

A NEW FAMILY AND CHILDREN WORKER

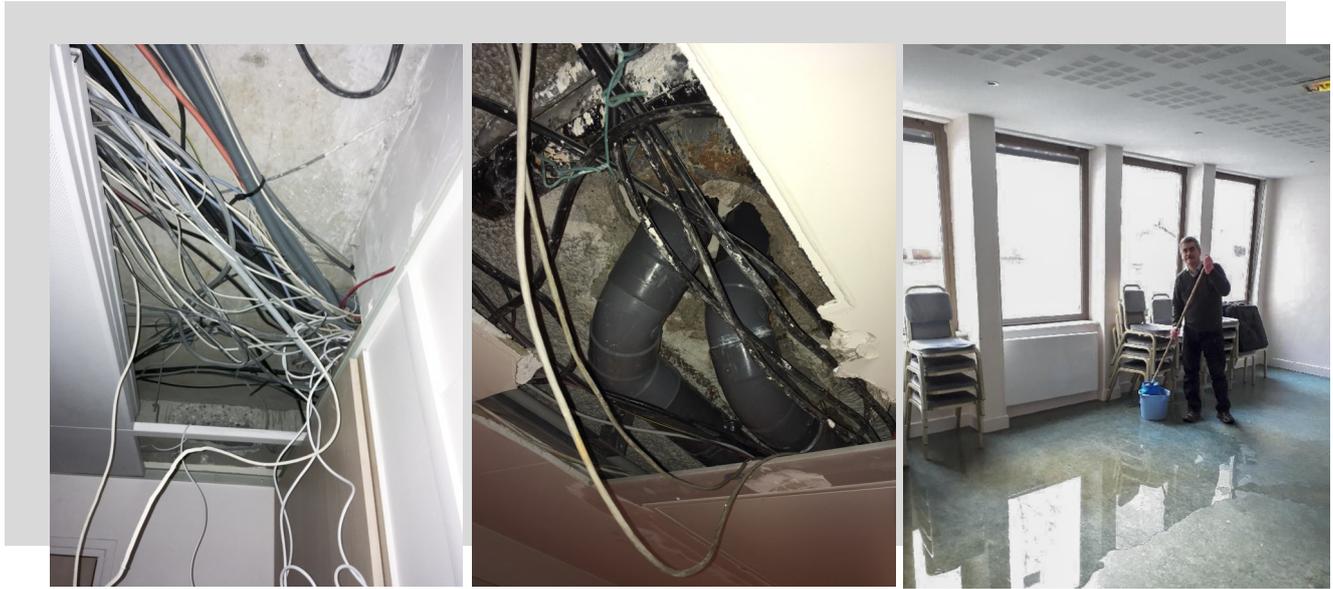


In August, we had the joy to welcome Claire Smith our new Children and Families Worker.

Claire comes from Glasgow in the U.K. She has worked as a French and Spanish teacher in Scottish secondary schools for eight years, mostly in her native Glasgow, but also in the Highlands and Islands.

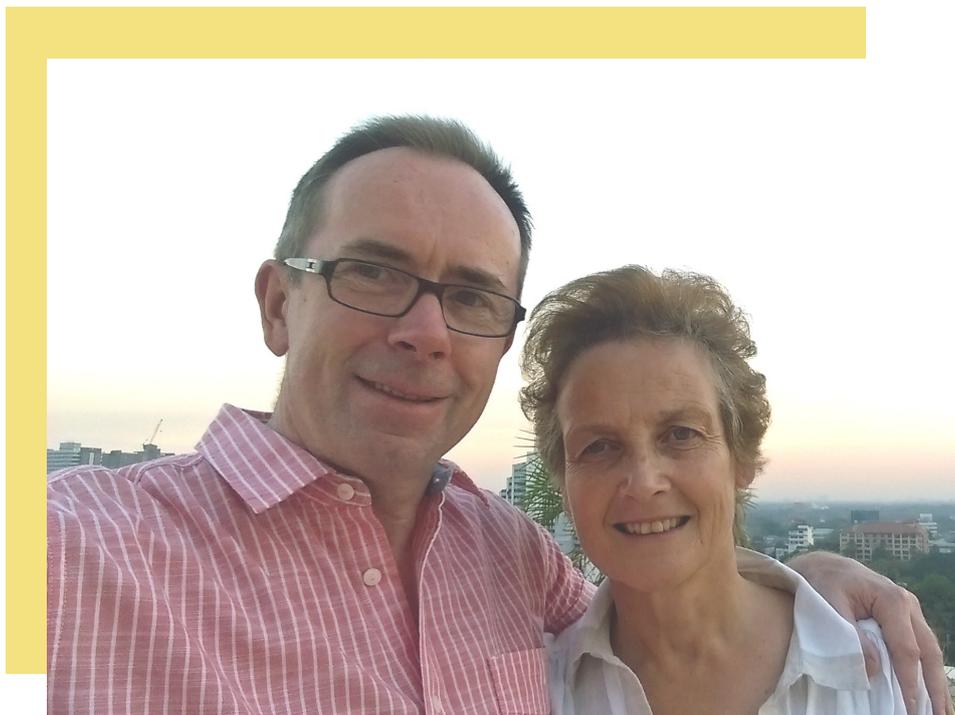
NEW THINGS

OUR BUILDING



The last year has seen Saint Michael's face significant issues with our building, notably its plumbing. This has caused grave stress to staff and users of the building and disrupted ministry. Immediate remedial work has been done, but as the congregation is aware, we face profound questions as to the possible future of the entire building.

OUR NEW CHAPLAIN



Jonathan and Mary Clark come to St Michael's after 13 very happy years at St Georges, Leeds, and a year of adventure, ministry and travel based at Christ Church, Bangkok. They are both from farming families, Jonathan from Yorkshire, and Mary from Essex. They enjoy sports, currently golf, tennis and skiing. They have 3 children, and 2 grandchildren. Mary is a

doctor. They love international ministry, and are looking forward to settling in Paris and being part of the St Michael's family.

"A Season of Change - An invitation to trust in our unchanging God"