

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021



Welcome back after the summer holidays! The last few months and lifting of restrictions have brought some respite from Covid, albeit the future is uncertain, so we hope and pray for the future together.

The pandemic has caused us to think and do things in a new way and here at Saint Michaels we have been reflecting a lot on our ministry among children and families. How do we serve local families? How do we improve what we offer as a church? How do we help children to grow in the Christian faith? To that end we are asking you to fill in a short **family survey** that will help us to think about all these things - details can be found in this leaflet.

One significant change we have made is not to restart Sunday School in the same form as before. This was a difficult decision, but it is enabling our Children's Team to focus energies on our 11.30am Children's Mass which has actually *grown* in the pandemic! Instead, we plan to arrange a Sunday each term where the children stay for lunch after the Children's Mass and then take part in a fun **activity and teaching session** based on a particular theme, the first taking place on Sunday 21st November. In this way we hope we can have a more structured approach to forming children in faith.

I'm delighted to announce that Gemma Curran, a member of the congregation, has been appointed as our **Children's Ministry Leader**. Gemma takes over from Clover Summers who pioneered the role, and I am grateful for Clover and now for Gemma for all that they do. The Children's Ministry Leader has the task of leading our Children's Team of parent-volunteers and assisting in the planning and undertaking of our ministry among children and families. You can find out more about Gemma in this leaflet.

We are also bursting with baptisms! In response to this many in our Children's Team have become **Baptism Welcomers** who help to liaise with families seeking baptism and helping them to feel welcome and at home at St Michael's. If this is something you'd like to help us with or if you are thinking about having a christening at St Michael's just let us know.

Finally, look at the **dates** on the next page and make sure you put them in your diary. From our regular services for children, to our special family masses and other exciting events and parties! **There is something for all ages here, and we hope that in doing so we fulfil Christ's command to welcome children in His name.**

Father Stephen, Vicar

DATES FOR THE TERM

SEPTEMBER

5th September - 'Back to School Service' 11.30am Children's Mass

12th September 11.30am Children's Mass

19th September 11.30am Children's Mass

26th September - SAINT MICHAEL'S DAY FAMILY MASS 10am

With 'skirmish' with the Dragon. Children to dress as angels and knights!

OCTOBER

3rd October—HARVEST FAMILY MASS 10am

Please bring non-perishable food items to offer in the service.

10th October 11.30am Children's Mass

17th October 11.30am Children's Mass

24th October 11.30am Children's Mass

Saturday 30th October - BONFIRE PARTY in the Vicarage Garden 6-8pm

31st October - ALL SAINTS FAMILY MASS 10am

NOVEMBER

7th November 11.30am Children's Mass

14th November (Remembrance Sunday) 11.30am Children's Mass

21st November 11.30am Children's Mass - *followed by St Michael's Sunday Club (see next page)*

28th November ADVENT SUNDAY FAMILY MASS 10am

Launch of the 'Travelling Nativity'

DECEMBER

5th December 11.30am Children's Mass

12th December (St. Nicholas Service) 11.30am Children's Mass

16th–23rd CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Thursday 16th - Cloister Carols, Christmas Fair and turning on of the lights, 7pm.

19th December (Decorating of the church Christmas Tree) 11.30am Children's Mass

Friday 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY SERVICE 4pm

Saturday 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY MASS 10am with 'Panto Sermon'!

All dates above are Sundays unless otherwise specified





NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER

Gemma Curran

Gemma is a long-standing member of Saint Michael's who has taken on this role of co-ordinating and leading our ministry among children and families, taking over from Clover Summers. Gemma and her husband Simon have three children and are often to be seen running after them! Gemma also chairs our Children's Team of parents who assist with our children's services, family events and as Baptism Welcomers. **If you'd like to join the team please get in touch on: children@stmichaelbarnes.org**

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SURVEY

Help us to help you!

Saint Michael's has put together a short survey of 8 questions that will take about 10 minutes to complete. Our aim is to learn more about what we can do to support parents, children and whole families. We encourage all those living locally and connected with Saint Michael's to fill in the survey and to share it with others. The link to the survey is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z7P9TVM>

SAINT MICHAEL'S SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday 21st November, 12 Noon to 2.00pm

Join us for the first of our new children's activity and teaching sessions which replaces our former Sunday School which we are calling (for the moment) 'Saint Michael's Sunday Club' for ages c.4-10. For the first one we are going to experiment with following on directly from the Children's Mass at 11.30am with lunch and then some activities and teaching. Although we will need extra help from one or two parents each time, most of you can put your feet up for a couple of hours! The aim is to give children some well-prepared and structured input about the Christian faith in a way that is both relevant and fun. This term's session coincides with COP26 on climate change and so we will be focusing on an environmental theme and thinking about God as Creator. If the sessions are popular we hope to increase their frequency and divide the age groups for appropriate teaching. Looking out for more information coming soon!





Who's Who at Saint Michael's

Vicar: Father Stephen Stavrou	vicar@stmichaelbarnes.org
Assistant Priest: Mother Judith Roberts	revjr@blueyonder.co.uk
Curate: Father Martin Calderbank	curate@stmichaelbarnes.org
Churchwardens: Andrew Childs Lizzie Hackett-Brown	churchwardens@stmichaelbarnes.org churchwardens@stmichaelbarnes.org
Treasurer: Jacqueline Russell	Contact via Parish Office
Children's Ministry Leader: Gemma Curran	children@stmichaelbarnes.org
Stewardship Officer: Sue Pandit	Contact via Parish Office
Community Centre and Church Hall Bookings: Julie Law	020 8878 9591 enquiries@stmichaelbarnes.org
Director of Music: Martin Neary	Contact via Parish Office
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Camilla Harries	safeguarding@stmichaelbarnes.org
Sacristan: Roger Needham	Contact via Parish Office
Head Server: Andy Puddifoot	Contact via Parish Office
Organ Scholars: Cameron Soo and Ben Law	Contact via Parish Office
Parish Administrator: Sarah Payne	<i>See details below</i>

The Parish Office

c/o Saint Michael's Vicarage, 39 Elm Bank Gardens, London SW13 0NX
020 8876 5230 (Office) 020 8878 7589 (Vicarage) admin@stmichaelbarnes.org
The Parish Office is usually staffed 11.00am-3.00pm Monday to Thursday.

Regular Services at Saint Michael's

Sunday	8.00am Low Mass 9.00am Morning Prayer 10.00am Sung Mass 11.30am Children's Mass (<i>except last Sunday of the month</i>) 6.00pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
Wednesday	12.00pm Angelus and Mass
Saturday	9.30am Mass (<i>followed by coffee</i>)
Morning Prayer every day at 9am (except Friday)	

The church is normally open every day from 8.50am until around dusk.