

THE MESSENGER

S.A.I.N.T.S

Statistics show that pre-teens and teens, of the ages 11 to 14 are still concrete thinkers, distinguishing events as simply good or bad, right or wrong. According to the Office of National Statistics there are 7.3 million young people in the UK, of the age where it is expected to begin questioning rules established by family and school, and inevitably challenge their parents/guardians. It's at this time where many pre-teens and teens will prefer to spend more time with peers compared with family members. It is also natural for a young person to start exploring different clothes, hairstyles, friends, music, and hobbies, gradually forming their identity. But now in the digital age, and dramatic technological development, there is also evidence displaying that over 60% of under 12's own a mobile phone, with UK adults spending an average of eight hours and 41 minutes a day on media devices. The BBC illustrates that young people have an "advanced understanding of technology devices, with six-year-olds having the same level of knowledge as the average 45-year-old".

While it is important for preteens and teens to spend an appropriate amount of time where they are not consumed entirely by technology, as well as a place to socialise with peers, there is the matter of providing a safe location for this. SAINTS at St Michael and All Angels does just this, offering a comforting, secure environment for teenagers aged 11-14 in a way that schools cannot. By 7:30pm, the Vestry and main body of the church of St Michael and All Angels, Blackheath will become SAINTS Youth Café. Every Friday from 7:00pm the youth ministers Joe and Lauren Crisp-Hihn and team leader Barny along with an assembly of young leaders and leaders from Greenwich YFC, arrive and prepare the venue for young people in the community, with equipment such as the pool table and Wii, and café bar. An area is hence created, in which the young people can interact and feel safe, and often in the warmer months the garden is used as accommodation.

SAINTS can be found at St Michael and All Angels, 1 Pond Road, Blackheath, and the values of the both the St Michael's and the Youth Café can be found on the website (<http://www.se3.org.uk/values.php>): "A com-



munity with people of every age and background, [and] a family where there is a safe place for everyone".

The Youth Ministers Joe and Lauren Crisp-Hihn joined St Michael's in the September of 2011, and describe themselves as "passionate about creating places where young people are accepted, supported and enabled to be all they were created to be". Additional events for the young people and volunteers are also provided by Joe and Lauren, in association with OneSpace as part of Greenwich YFC's work, such as the demonstrations with an international makeup artist, end of term sleep over (for the young leaders), and 'Frozen' sing-a-long. And they are committed enough to walk on hot coals to raise funds for the dedicated work of Greenwich Youth for Greenwich YFC, who unquestionably impact massively the lives of those who they work with.

As team leader Barny describes his role as "where I look after the young leaders and help the evening run smoothly, especially with the setting up beforehand and clearing up after". Parents can rest assured that the safety of their children is taken into account: a weekly a register is kept by either the Joe, Lauren, or Barny to guarantee the protection of the young people, and if it is a person's first time attending SAINTS it is requirement to provide emergency contact details of parents/carers.

Agnes Houghton-Boyle

2

PRISM

St Michael & ALL ANGELS

PRISM – OUR APPEAL UPDATE

With great thanks to everyone, both our congregation and also the wider Blackheath community, for supporting the St Michael's Preservation, Restoration and Improvement Project (the PRISM Appeal).

The target for the Appeal is £720,000 and we are asking for donations as well as seeking grants to help us towards the target. The Appeal has started well in that we have been blessed by a great response from members of the church where a Special Pledge Day resulted in over £400,000 being committed to the PRISM Project as at 12th April. Residents of the Cator estate will also have received personal letters asking for support and we have been pleased at the response from former members of St Michael's and our neighbours in the Cator Estate. A Special Open Meeting was held in the church on 29th April.

If anyone is thinking of supporting our PRISM project we would be very pleased to explain further what we are planning to achieve and we would appreciate the chance to do so in one to one meetings; if you would like such a meeting please contact Chris Ashworth at cjashworth307@icloud.com.

We have also a new way of making donations free of any charges. The sites are <http://www.goldengiving.com/charity/st-michaels-blackheath> or <http://gg/c/st-michaels-blackheath> and the specific donation page is <https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/donation/st-michaels-blackheath>

PRISM – FORMER MEMBERS

As part of the St Michael's PRISM Appeal we are looking into the history of members of the Church and/or the Cator estate so we can compile a brochure which brings out some of the more interesting material. We have, of course, the roll of Missionaries that the Church has sent out over the years as well as the series of clergy attached to the Church. We are interested in bringing out into the light in an updated history some of the colourful personalities. We would appreciate help in such recollections so please send any by email to church@se3.org.uk or by post to the Parish Office at 1 Pond Road

JOIN OUR PRISM COMPETITIONS – NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE

1. Special Competition for the best amateur paintings, of any part of the church and grounds, whether external or internal which illustrates the charm of St Michael's.

There are three categories with different entry fees.

Under 11s - £1; 11 to 16 - £5 and 16 plus - £10.

There will be cash prizes and the chance for winners to feature on Christmas cards. All entries are to be submitted by Sunday, 6th September 2015.

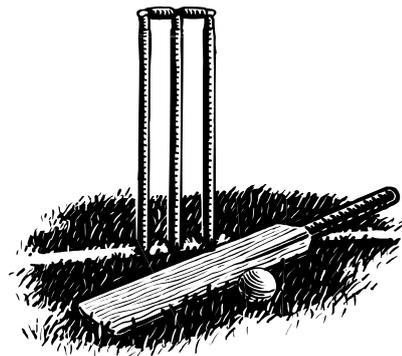
2. Special Competition for the best photographs which incorporate all or any part of any church anywhere in the world depicting summer, as part of raising funds for the St Michael's Church PRISM Appeal.

There are two categories with different entry fees.

Under 16 - £5 and 16 plus - £10.

There will be a cash prize and the chance for winners to feature on Christmas cards. All entries are to be submitted by Sunday, 4th October 2015.

The terms and conditions for both competitions are on the St Michael's PRISM website (www.se3.org.uk/PRISM) and will be available from the church office.



BAT AND BALL

St Michael's are gearing up for their annual Cricket games on 27th June, 19th July and 6th September. They will all be held on - hopefully - sunny afternoons on the pitch in Greenwich Park. We are looking forward to meeting St John's twice in the summer and in September we will meet a combined team of St Nick's, All Saints and St Margaret's. All are welcome to cheer us on and enjoy the tea at the interval.

Sam McCauley

3

PRISM – SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Coming up – Dates for your Diary - Not to be missed...

There are some fantastic events coming up in aid of St Michael's, Blackheath PRISM appeal:

Open Garden Day at 38 Foxes Dale on Sunday, 14th June, 3pm to 6pm – tea and refreshments served -all welcome.

The Quiz and Curry Night 19th June in the church hall – tickets from the Parish Office

St Michaels Masquerade Ball on 24th October – start planning to be there now!

Summer Madness: Saturday 27th June:

A special summer event; it stars the Chillbillies (www.thechillbillies.co.uk) a great seven man band from Kent, providing an exciting mix of Funky RnB, Funk, Soul, Ska, Jazz, Latin & Classic grooves.

Delicious food available on the night from our friends at Ruby & Norm; bar serving beer, wine and soft drinks. Fancy dress optional with prizes for best ones.

Saturday, 27th June 7.30 to 11pm at St Michael's Church Halls and Gardens, 1 Pond Road, SE3 9JL

Tickets at £25 each available from the Parish Office or from members of the Fundraising Committee. There is an internet site for buying tickets for Summer Madness now open which can be accessed on <http://www.gold-engiving.com/event/StMichaelsPRISMSummerMadness> or <http://gldn.gg/e/StMichaelsPRISMSummerMadness>.

Come and dance the night away!



St Michael & ALL ANGELS

THE CHIN PEOPLE

Burma, now called Myanmar, has suffered a cruel oppressive regime for over 40 years. Ethnic groups have been persecuted as the generals assert their power. The Chin People, 1.6 million of them, up at the North West bordering India, are



Christian and that is a significant reason to be crushed and killed as Buddhism is the only tolerated religion. The lucky few have escaped; many are in Kuala Lumpur where the United Nations Commission for Refugees offers a holding post prior to the children being accepted as refugees – the dominant dream is “to get to America”.

I have been privileged this February to teach primary school Chin children in K L in a cramped basic space. Painting, singing, making books and acting were revolutionary for these eager trilingual learners – each lesson is sheer bliss; so interactive and overwhelmed by enthusiasm.

The Chin teachers and their peers patiently wait for their refugee status and a new life abroad; they have horrendous stories of how the Myanmar authorities treat them. There is a big issue at the moment in their capital Hakha, where the police want a huge cross removed, but insist that this is carried out by locals. This they will not do and so further intimidation and exclusion occurs. How they continue to smile and be so gracious is difficult to grasp. The Chin in K L can work usually in restaurants and wait with dignity for a new life in Chicago, Indianapolis and Kansas city where some Chin have already settled. In K L Christian churches provide the school with breakfast and lunch for all. James, Sanjee, Nini and Chung, the teachers at the school are victims of a cruel process. They, like others, have left parents and grandparents behind to establish a freer life, a life where skills and talents will be developed and where that constant sense of fear and reprisals will hopefully be removed. When I was there two women – Chin teachers in Myanmar were killed. The patience and calm of those I met is astonishing. Their trust in God is humbling.

Maggie Holland

4 WHAT'S ON IN ST. MICHAEL'S

St Michael
& ALL ANGELS



Children aged 4-11 grab your spades and maps for this year's Holiday Club Desert Detectives, on the 23rd to the 26th of July. Come and follow our team of archaeologists, Doug (dug), Sandy and June (dune) as they uncover ancient treasure in the desert and look for the Mighty GodSword. Everything they find they send back to The Professor to research as they discover the Bible stories behind each of the artefacts. It's a mammoth task but with the help of the other Desert detectives (the children) I'm sure we will be able to find the Mighty GodSword! For more details please contact the Church office.

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Prayer at St Michael's
Why do we pray together? Because Jesus told us to. What do we expect when we pray together? Jesus says "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you". Because prayer works.

The next prayer meeting will be on Thursday 4th June at 8.15 – 9.30 p.m. in the Vestry. Then on Thursday 2nd July at the same time and place.

CHURCH SERVICES

St Michael's is a Church of England Church, and our main morning service is at 10.30 am. There is a crèche for under 3's. On the second and fourth Sunday of the month the service includes communion.

The evening service at 6.30 p.m. is quieter and more reflective with communion on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Book of Common Prayer Communion service is at 9 a.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Raise the Praise on the third Sunday of the month at 5 pm, a half hour service designed for small children and their families, which is followed by tea in the hall.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

29 April: Jasper Farrell
26 April: Theodore Kennedy
3 May: Thomas Walker

Funerals

16 April: Sylvia Melvin
22 April: Elsie Drew

MARATHON HEROES

Well, that very cold, grey day in London was transformed for Hope for Home, Research into Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and GYC into a day of utter joy and celebration, as our London Marathon heroes, Philip Woolf, Kyle McPhail and Joe Crisp-Hihn romped over the finishing line.

HOPE FOR HOME

Philip Woolf will have raised about £4,000 pounds for Hope for Home by his humungous efforts. That money will go directly to help the families of people who are looking after their loved ones with advanced dementia via the project we are funding in East London now. (Report by Sarah Burnard).

GREENWICH YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Acting CEO Joe Crisp-Hihn was thrilled to complete the London marathon on Sunday in a time of 3 hours 16 minutes and thanks to the many wonderful GYFC supporters managed to raise over £2,500.

ACTION FOR CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

Kyle McPhail undertook the challenge of his first ever marathon to run in aid of research into Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Kyle's mother has suffered from this debilitating condition for the past fourteen years.

This was Kyle's first marathon and he finished in the great time of 4 hours 46 minutes raising over £1,900 in the process. Although he swears that he will not run again, he has actually already put his name in the ballot for next year!

St Michael's: making time for the things that matter

St Michael
& All Angels Church
1 Pond Road
London SE3 9JL
www.se3.org.uk

Vicar
Rev. Sandy Christie
2 Pond Road
London SE3 9JL
020 8852 5287
ar.christie@virgin.net

Curate
Rev Liz Franklin
020 8852 6948
liz.franklin@outlook.com

Administrator
Marion Lane
020 8852 1205
church@se3.org.uk

Youth Minister
Lauren Crisp-Hihn
020 8297 8997
Youth@se2.org.uk

Editor
Jane Bendall
editor@se3.org.uk
Technical Support
Colin Ainger
0208 297 8818

