Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

www.salemchurch.org.uk



In God alone my soul quietly rests, for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5

February 2024

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE

Rector: Rev Malcolm Strange, 70 High Street, Winterbourne

Phone: 01454 775529

Email: m.strange@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Assistant minister Rev Julia Chard - contact via Benefice Office

Churchwardens Chris Greef 01454 774479

Derek Andow 01454 775024

BENEFICE AND PARISH OFFICE

c/o The Rectory, 70 High Street, Winterbourne, BRISTOL, BS36 1JQ

Administrator Nessa Jarman Phone: 07594 976301

Email: office@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Opening hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1pm

WEDDINGS/BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION/FUNERALS

Enquires should be made to the Benefice Office - 07594 976301

PASTORAL VISITING

If you need a pastoral visit or know someone who does, please contact Jo on 01454 775529 or Pearl on 01454 314184

St Michael's Room Bookings Watch this space!

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

Factory Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1QL

Minister Rev Leigh Maydew, 31 Quedgeley, Yate, Bristol, BS37.4JJ

Phone: 07388 083488

Email: leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk

To whom enquiries for Weddings, Baptisms, or Funerals should be made.

Senior Steward Margaret Johnston Phone: 01454 773626

Email: 123margaretjohnston@gmail.com

Hall Bookings Jayne Glass Phone: 07935 377790

Email: jaglass103@gmail.com

A message for February from Revd. Ben Thompson

Be yourself!

If you've seen anything of the self-improvement industry, or have some experience or knowledge of talking therapies, you have doubtless heard about the importance of being yourself. Likewise, if you've come across 'influencer' culture, you've probably heard about the importance of being authentic, or at least heard people being criticised for not being authentic. It is the social creed of the twenty-first century.



I've made no secret of the fact that I was diagnosed with ADHD by a clinical psychologist 12 months ago. This condition, a recognised disability, means that I struggle to be myself without realising it. I've grown up learning to conform my behaviours, masking my conscious thought processes, to those around me and myself because I would otherwise spend my life being excessively rude and disruptive in most circumstances. It is only since receiving a diagnosis I've become alert to the person behind my various public and private faces, the "me" I've hidden from myself almost as much as from others in order to "fit" into every situation.



It's also no secret that the mainstream culture of being "authentic" is full of deception and falsehoods. Some are rejected for the crime of being inauthentic when trying to fit in, even though 'people pleasing' is a part of their personality. Others are so anxious to be liked that they mask their vulnerabilities in an attempt to acquire credibility, leading to endless "drama triangles" of victim-persecutor-saviour dynamics as they shift the focus from themselves onto others.

The 20th-century Trappist monk and mystic Thomas Merton wrote "For me to be a saint means to be myself." Merton explains that this is not to say that we should bow to our impulses. "I use up my life trying to accumulate pleasures and experiences and power and honour and knowledge and love, to clothe this false self... when they are gone there will be nothing left of me but my own nakedness and emptiness and hollowness."



You and I, Thomas Merton and all the reality TV stars, were made for the purpose and function of Love. Not infatuation which suppresses itself, or idolization which prevents us from sharing our love more widely, but with the honest and generous love modelled in the person of Jesus Christ. It's a love which allows us to accept others as they truly are, and even overcomes the challenge of accepting ourselves as we truly are.

If you really want to be authentic, really want to be yourself, start by looking beyond those walls you've built to protect yourself, especially those preventing you from accepting that you have been created by

God who is love, for love, and that you are worthy of love regardless of anything and anyone else in this world. Your true self is loved and will love and receive love freely if you will take the risk of removing the masks.

FROM ST MICHAEL'S REGISTERS

Baptisms

26 February Joanne Louise Wood

4 March Milo Kevin Nicholas Willis

28 May Lilah Rose Dawes

30 July Maximillian Francis-Solem

20 August Nevaeh Smith

20 August Dean Wisdom Smith

16 September Lily Jean Rose

Weddings

19 August Jacqueline Margaret Youell & Stephen Richard Hill



SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

| 4th Feb | 10.30 | Parish Communion |
|----------|-------|------------------|
| 11th Feb | 10.30 | Parish Communion |
| 18th Feb | 10.30 | Parish Communion |
| 25th Feb | 10.30 | Parish Communion |

also 1st and 3rd Sundays Holy Communion at 8am
See page 17 for details of special events
www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

Recorded services are available on 2nd & 4th Sundays on the Benefice website www.fromesidechurches.org.uk where details of all services in the Benefice can be found.

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30

4th Feb Mrs Jenny Clarke
11th Feb Mr David Bainbridge
18th Feb Mr Colin Blenkinsopp
25th Feb Mr John Edwards



Further details on the website www.salemchurch.org.uk

SALEM PAGE

2024 has not begun on a happy note with the continuing escalation of problems in the Middle East, the latest, as I write, being the Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and the British and American response.

However, one thing is certain in this country. There will be an election by January next year at the very latest, the decision as to when resting with the Prime Minister



If there is one question that I will be asking of any canvasser from any party, it is this-"what will your party to do to take the increasing minority in the population that suffer from actual poverty out of it?"

I reflect on the fact that I was born as a war time baby in a country nearly bankrupt. Nevertheless, successive governments in my youth decided to create full employment and a welfare state. They succeeded and for at least the next thirty years poverty was almost completely extinguished and we had the greatest



degree of equality anywhere in the democratic world, with the arguable exception of Sweden. We did it because tax was levied fairly - people in many jobs paid little compared with today, but the minority of the much better off paid more, with several grades of super tax (as it was called) applying to those earning well above the average right up to the richest of all.

All that has gone over the last forty years. Some, today, want taxes further reduced. I would agree where people who earn somewhat above the present

£12,500 level are concerned. Many people on incomes quite a bit above that have genuine difficulty in affording the basics, food, fuel and, where applicable, rent. However, many people who earn far above the average need to pay *more* tax, particularly those in certain executive positions who earn way above what their predecessors of a generation and more ago would have been paid.



The fact is we now live in a country with the second greatest inequality in the western world - only just behind the USA. That needs to change. About two thirds of today's population are relatively better off than in my youth, a third are less well off than then , sometimes to the point where they can't feed themselves and

their children properly and can't afford to keep properly warm in winter, despite some of the recent government help with fuel bills.

All this is wrong and the most desperate need is for the next Government to begin to put it right - to work for the common good and welfare of all.



Should anyone think my views are a bit extreme, let me add that they are consistent with the teaching of a late Victorian pope, Leo XIII (1878-1903), with Archbishop William Temple of Canterbury and Pope Francis, with the statements of the Methodist Conference on the subject in 1934 and 1949 and with the views of the present Joint Public Issues Team of the Free churches and the Church of Scotland. Governments everywhere have a duty to seek the Common Good and protect the least well off from poverty. That is Christian teaching across virtually the whole of the Church

It will be the duty of all of us to question rigorously all the candidates in the forthcoming election as to what they and their particular parties intend to do to end the scandal of poverty in a country which remains one of the richest in the world.

A Happy New Year to all of you from us at Salem, David Carter.

FROM ST MICHAEL'S REGISTERS

Funerals

1 Feb Derek Allan Ricketts

7 Feb Retha Boyett

28 Mar Anthony John Jones

15 May Roger Graham Gilmour

1 June Brenda Barbara Jefferies

5 June Margaret Agnes Dando

23 June Margaret Grace Gifford

7 July Maureen Thompson

7 July Eric Roberts

5 Aug Norman John Wedlake

11 Aug Dennis Edward Banfield

29 Sept Alan George Higgs

2 Oct John Elton Rodman

13 Oct David Leslie Peacock





Continued on page 23



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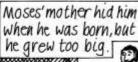
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It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapter 2 verses 1 to 12

A short story from the Bible

In Egypt the Hebrew people flourished so well that the new Pharach grew scared and ordered all their new born boys to be killed





She made a basket from reeds for him and put it in



She told Moses' sister Miriam to keep watch.





Pharoah's daughter (Shall I get someone to look) So Miriam got her mother.





The princess adopted Moses as her son!



When Moses was grown up he went to see where his people worked as slaves.



Perhaps I will be the one to save my people



Moses sawan Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave



Moses checked no-one was looking and.



. killed the Egyptian.

He hid the body in the sand. No-one will know it was me!





It's official: 2023 was Earth's hottest year ever recorded, beating the previous record set in 2016 by a huge margin. The world was 1.48°C hotter than the pre-industrial average (1850-1900). This puts us almost at the 1.5°C threshold scientists have urged us to limit not to cross. And all the predictions show a continuing upward trend: as one climatologist quipped when asked about his predictions for 2024, he said it is likely to again be the hottest on record but also amongst the coolest for the rest of our lives, so we should enjoy it while we can!

So what is being done to combat ever increasing temperatures? It may seem a long way back with all the recent Christmas festivities, but there was another international climate conference, COP28, at the beginning of December. It was a controversial affair, not least for being held in Dubai in the United Arab



Emirates, an oil-rich state. The final agreement has been hailed as the first to directly mention the role of fossil fuels. It committed to:

- tripling renewable energy capacity worldwide by 2030
- phasing down coal usage and limiting the number of new and unabated coal power stations
- transitioning away from fossil fuels in a "just, orderly and equitable manner" to achieve net zero by 2050
- substantially reducing non-CO2 emissions, in particular methane, by 2030.



There were other positive moves too. There were agreements to set up a 'loss and damage' fund to help the mainly poorer nations cope with the effects of climate change, to fund reforestation projects and to reduce emissions from cooling and refrigeration systems. The role of current food production methods in producing emissions was also recognised for the first time.

However, many have criticised the agreements as being too vague. One report described the loopholes as 'wide enough to drive a coal train through'. Small island nations are at greatest risk from sea-level rise and they have argued that there is little to ensure their long-term survival. Increasing temperatures are

predicted to make parts of Africa and India essentially uninhabitable because of extreme heat. And a number of richer nations (including our own) have drawn back from previously strong commitments to reduce CO2 emissions, by continuing to exploit oil and/or coal reserves.



In summary, COP28 was not a great success in my view. It was good that some new issues got recognition for the first time but action on these issues is way behind what is required to prevent ever-increasing problems from higher temperatures, sea-level rise and more extreme weather.



And what can we do? Well, there is a general election coming up later this year and we should be lobbying hard for all political parties of whatever colour to accept the urgency of the problems and to implement policies to tackle them as a priority.

Chris Greef



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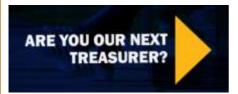
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A Treasurer for St Michael's Church

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You don't have to attend PCC meetings... just send a report to those meetings.



You'd need to produce accounts for the Annual Church Meeting in April/May each year.

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CROSSWORD

Across

1 Success or wealth

(Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)

7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)

8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)

10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)

11 Much in evidence after

weddings (8)

13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)

15 Breakwater (6)

17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)

18 More usually now called

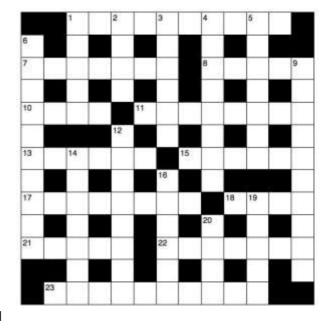
Pentecost, — Sunday (4)

21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked

with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)

22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)

23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)



Answers on page 27

Down

1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)

2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)

3 So rapt (anag.) (6)

4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)

5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)

6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)

9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)

12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)

14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my - ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)

16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)

19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)

20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Salem Methodist Church

Watley's End

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but we can rejoice in the joy we shared at our services and events. It was so good to see old friends for the carol service and new families at the Christmas Eve service.

In an effort to save on our energy bills, Sunday services are to be held in the hall during the coldest months, resuming in the church on Easter Sunday.

In January our regular events continued and will be available for all in February.



Coffee morning on Wednesday February 7th

Film afternoon on Tuesday February 13th





Bacon Butty Coffee morning on Saturday 17th

Women's Fellowship on Tuesday 27th

Lent comes around very early this year and on Ash Wednesday Salem will join the churches in the Methodist Circuit North cluster team at a united event at Zion.



It will take the form of a labyrinth. This "mini pilgrimage" will take you on a pathway of reflection and there will be time for prayer and reflection. In the centre is place to dip your finger in the ash and make the sign of a cross on your forehead.

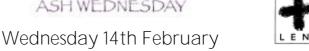
It is a drop in event - anytime between 2pm and 8pm.

All are welcome to join us for these events

Special events this month in & around St Michael's







HOLY COMMUNION

8am at St Michael's Church

10am at St James, Iron Acton (with ashing)

7pm at St Saviour's, Coalpit Heath (with ashing).

Saturday 17th February from 3.30-5.15 MESSY CHURCH in St Saviour's Church Hall





Sunday 18th February at 4pm CELTIC WORSHIP in St Michael's Church



ALSO DON'T FORGET Holy Communion every Thursday at 10.30 at Salem



(while works continue at St Michael's Community Centre) followed by refreshments

The Revd Dr Jo White talks of the meanings in church buildings with a few additions (in italics) from the local Churchyard team!.

Reflecting Faith: God's Acre

I thought we'd spend a few months at the start of this New Year considering the outside of a church building, and the gardens around it.



For many churches this will include a churchyard, though not necessarily. If your church does stand in a churchyard, then it may be what is known as a 'closed' one, meaning that burials and interments no longer take place other than within an existing family grave. An 'open' churchyard is one where burials and interments are still able to take place (and that, of course, is what we have at St Michael's).

The maintenance for open churchyards is the responsibility of the church, whilst

once closed (which, for Church of England churches, has to be agreed by Parliament) the maintenance is passed to the local or parish civil council. (St Michael's Churchyards are maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers who can be found working hard on many Saturday mornings except perhaps in December and January! - perhaps you would like to join them)



Churchyards have not always looked as they do today, with memorial stones of varying shapes and sizes. Originally, they were simply left grassed and in towns this became one of the few green areas. People were buried there without any permanent marker being placed, nor any other official record of placement kept.

The thinking was that their life here on earth had ended and the person was now with God in heaven. Only those people in 'God's kingdom' would be allowed to be buried in the consecrated grounds, so anyone who had taken their own life, or unbaptised babies, would not be allowed.

Church buildings are usually built facing east - the place of the rising sun - and the people's entrance is on the south wall. This gives access to the churchyard

from the south, and in European countries that means your first experience of entering the churchyard and the building is on its sunny side.

It was common practise to bury to the south of the church, as this was the lighter and warmer side. The richer and more influential folk would request to go as near to the altar - the Holy of Holies - as possible; even if that was outside the building itself.

Over the course of time folk wanted - and richer folk could afford - a marker for where their loved one lay. This idea of having a permanent marker reflected the attitudes at the time, of visiting the place of rest specifically marked. Not just to know

where to visit and even bring a picnic for the family on a good weather day, especially in working busy town areas; but also, to recognise the importance of their loved one's life.



Why not visit St Michael's Churchyard and have a closer look at the memorials. Look at the different materials, styles, wording and embellishments? What messages do they give you?

This month - St Michael's Churchyard has a wonderful of snowdrops, followed in the next couple of months with primroses.

The churchyard team is working to create a space full of wild flowers throughout the summer months - could you help them in their work?







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Winterbourne Medieval Barn is awaking from a short winter hibernation! There are just one or two spaces still available for February workshops, and only a handful for March. Bookings can be made online at Ticketsource or via the Barn website.

On 3rd February Dan Bendel runs a one day Whittling Workshop where you can learn how to carve out a sculpture from a single piece of wood with a sharp knife. On 24th February Tim Andrews runs a one day course teaching you how to propagate fruit trees by grafting. You will make three newly-grafted apple trees to take home.

On 15th March, Lauren will teach basic sewing machine skills - in just one morning you will make a beautiful professionally-finished shoulder bag with lining & pockets.

Monthly talks on varied topics will start again at the Barn on Monday 26th February with a talk entitled "Piracy and War in the Bristol Channel 1450 to 1680". A range of notable events took place in the Bristol Channel during these times, involving ships from many nations. Philip Ashford brings some of these events to light in a very visual style, and endeavours to explain the background to many of the circumstances. His talk will also be live-streamed on zoom. Online pre-booking advised (essential for Zoom). Barn open from 6.30pm, with talk at 7pm.

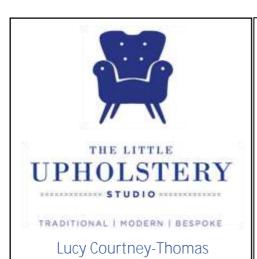
The March talk, on Thursday 21st March, is about Medieval Wall Paintings in Gloucestershire churches, including those in St Michael's Winterbourne.

Guided Tours of the Medieval Barn and St Michael's Church will resume in early March. Check the website for details and booking.

The first live performance of 2024 is on Sunday 24th March when top musicians Chris Green and Sophie Matthews return to the Barn with a hilarious new show Witty Ditties: 400 Years of Comic Song. From bawdy Restoration ballads through to Sixties satire, the show includes songs by Noel Coward, Tom Lehrer, Flanders and Swann, and many others. You are guaranteed a fun and entertaining evening.

Book for these events from the website: www.winterbournebarn.org.uk

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE
For further details about Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust
see www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk
and facebook.com/winterbournemedievalbarn
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Administrator Vacancy

The Perry Almshouses Charitable Trust is looking for a self-employed Administrator with effect from 23rd April 2024 to manage the day-to-day operations of the Grade II listed Almshouses which are located on Dragon Road in Winterbourne.

Hours will be c.312 per annum and will be spread throughout the year at an average of 6 hours per week. You will need to be on-call 24/7 for emergencies only. Fees should be in the range of £20-£25 per hour depending on experience.

The contract specification includes:

Clerk to Trustees –Trustee support with meetings (four evening meetings per year - agendas, board packs, minutes, matters arising); regulatory submissions; policies and procedures; grant applications

Property Management – Responsive repairs; cyclical servicing and maintenance; void turnaround; quinquennial surveys; programmed works; H&S checks; insurance management

Resident Support – Allocations; engagement; signposting; visits & contact; welfare; safeguarding; surveys; newsletter publication

Financial Management – accounts management; drafting annual report & accounts; savings and investment management

For further information and a full role specification, please e-mail PerryAlms@yahoo.com or phone 07968 317324.

The deadline for receipt of CVs and supporting statements is midday on Thursday, 29th February 2024.

FROM ST MICHAEL'S REGISTERS

Funerals continued

25 Oct Yvonne Donachie

1 Nov Gordon John Jones

7 Nov Gerald Valentine Sharpe

7 Nov Pamela Whittaker







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Who were the first couple? and

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeved the angel's warning?

Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

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Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry? Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus ?

Matthew 1:5

King Solomon had 700 wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God See 1 Kings 11:1-3

Romans 16:3

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LAQU



St Michael's C of E Primary School

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Linden Close, Winterbourne Headteacher Mrs. Kirsty Robson Phone 01454 867105

A great Greek start to 2024 in Year 4 at St Michaels Primary School

Here at St Michael's Primary School, Winterbourne, Year 4 have started the year with a Greek celebration day. This term our history topic is all about Ancient Greece, so the children came dressed as Greek gods and goddesses, Greek soldiers, architects and we even had a cyclops and a Medusa! Toby said his favourite part of the day was dressing up as Ares, the god of war. We started the day by reading our class book, Leo and the gorgon's curse. Every good Greek myth needs a mythical creature and hero/heroine, so we decided to invent our own. The children enjoyed mixing animal features with human qualities to create some quite beastly creatures. Next came the



creation of hero and heroines needed to defeat these mythical creatures. Later in the term, we will be writing our own Greek myths using these characters. Nelly said, 'I enjoyed creating my own monster which I am going to use in my own Greek story later in the term'.

After lunch came the Greek banquet. On the menu were olives, flat breads, figs, pomegranate seeds, houmous, greek yoghurt with honey, tzatziki, taramasalata.





Lacey said, 'Eating the food was my favourite part of the day and I enjoyed the pomegranate seeds. They were delicious! I didn't like the figs, they looked like slugs.' Oscar also enjoyed the food tasting, 'My favourite were the olives, I liked all of it.' Jessica said. 'I loved the food tasting, and ate loads of black olives!'

To end the day, we used different charcoal techniques to decorate a minotaur. Take a look at some of the artwork we have produced. Lexi said, 'I enjoyed using the charcoal to create pattern for Greek mythical creatures.'







A great day had by the whole class. Over this term we will also be learning about what daily life was like in an ancient Greek society, where the Olympic games start, women in Greece, Alexander the Great and what it was like to be at school during the Ancient Greek era.

In other areas of the curriculum, Year 4 will also be continuing to learn the ukulele and playing songs such, I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles) by The Proclaimers. Mr Davies, from the music service, comes in every week to teach Year 4 different notes and songs.

See back page for some more photos

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DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.



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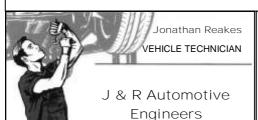
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Greek Day at St Michael's Primary School see page 26





Ukelele practice at St Michael's Primary School see page 27



Please send contributions for the March Newsletter by email to Gill Greef (gill@gillgreef.com) or deliver them to the temporary Office <u>at the Rectory</u>, 70 High Street by Thursday 15th February