

## Carols on the Green

This annual event is a wonderful blessing to the community and, for many, the beginning of the Christmas season. Making it happen is a team affair and we would love for more people to join in! We're particularly looking for willing people during the afternoon of 10th December to assist with set-up of the tent and kit kindly loaned to us by the Scout group, and also to clear down after the event. Could this be you? If so, Laura in the office will be delighted to hear from you! [Laura@stmichaelsbristol.org](mailto:Laura@stmichaelsbristol.org)

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who have brought shoeboxes in so far! All filled shoeboxes should be back with us TODAY as the team are collecting them from us first thing on Tuesday. Thank you.

## Rend Collective

Jacob Clothier is organising a group ticket booking to see Rend Collective at the Forum in Bath on 2nd February. Tickets will work out at £16.70 with the group saving. Please contact Jacob Clothier if you would like to go! [jacobdclothier@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jacobdclothier@hotmail.co.uk)

## Just Carols

Come to sing or listen (or both) to beautiful Christmas carols. The evening will be led largely by those involved in the Christmas Choir formed for our popular Carol Services on 17th December, and will purely be carols (as the title suggests) It will take place in Church on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm

We will avoid the standard carols, but not go far off the beaten track. If you are interested, please contact Ian Butcher [i.butcher@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:i.butcher@blueyonder.co.uk) or 0117 9236976.

## Wanted - donkey costume

The Open the Book team will be retelling the Christmas story both in St Michael's school and in Cheswick. If you have a donkey or sheep costume (child or adult) please contact Megan Mitchell [Megan@stmichaelsbristol.org](mailto:Megan@stmichaelsbristol.org)

## Pastoral Listening

A volunteer from the Pastoral Ministry team is available to come alongside, befriend and listen for an hour a day Monday-Saturday.

The church office and coffee shop have the availability details for each day (times vary). We will be wearing a pastoral presence badge and drinking from a blue & white mug saying "here to listen" so do look out for us and say hello!

## City of Bristol Brass Band Concert

We are really looking forward to the City of Bristol Brass Band's Christmas Concert on Saturday 2nd December. Featuring music from the movies, classical music and more, it runs from, 7pm—9pm. Tickets are £8 or £4 for concessions. Contact the church office or Ian Butcher for tickets.

## City of Bristol Brass Band Christmas Concert

Featuring music from the movies, classical music, and some seasonal items...



Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017

7-9pm

St Michael's Church Centre,  
North Road, Stoke Gifford

Tickets: Adults £8, Retired/U16 £4 from

Church Office – 0117 969 2486

The Band (Ian Butcher) – 0117 923 6976

Tickets will also be available on the door



[www.stmichaelsbristol.org](http://www.stmichaelsbristol.org)

[www.facebook.com/StMichaelsChurchStokeGifford](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsChurchStokeGifford)

Registered Charity Number 1134709

LIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY  
BEING A CHRISTIAN HEART AT THE  
CENTRE OF THE COMMUNITY



## Sunday 26th November

Sunday next before Advent

For hearing aid users select "T" setting on your device

**Services at 10.30am** Our Morning Celebration is an informal service which starts with worship all together for 20 minutes. Then 3-18 year olds go to their various groups, and adults stay in the Church Centre. .

There is a crèche for 0-3 year olds (head for the foyer and you will pointed in the right direction)

**Recording of Sunday sermons** – hear our Sunday morning & evening sermons on the church website

9.00am  
in  
Church

### Morning Communion

Today's Topic: From great to gone  
Readings: Judges 8:22-35, Mark 10:35-45  
Speaker: Simon Jones

10.25am  
in  
Auditorium

### Morning Celebration with Family Communion

Today's Topic: From great to gone  
Reading: Judges 8:22-35  
Speaker: Simon Jones

6.30pm  
in  
Auditorium

### Evening Celebration

Today's Topic: Our Questions Explored  
Panel: Simon Jones, Ian Taylor, Catherine Paddock, Tim Coates

### This Week

Wednesday  
Morning Prayer 9.10am Church

Friday  
Morning Prayer 9.10am Church

### Dates for the Diary

3rd December	Over 65's Lunch
7th December	Carols at Cheswick
9th December	Carols on the Green
17th December	Carol Services
31st December	New Years Celebration

**Welcome:** If you are new to St Michael's and would like to be added to our database to receive news and updates via email please head to [www.stmichaelsbristol.org/register](http://www.stmichaelsbristol.org/register)

The Old School Rooms,  
The Green, Stoke Gifford,  
Bristol BS34 8PD  
Phone: 0117 969 2486

## Gift Day "Living Generously"

At St. Michael's, we have so much to be thankful for in 2017 and an exciting vision for 2018.

Last Sunday, we celebrated God's goodness and faithfulness and renewed our commitment to living generously.

Generous giving means our church can pay the bills, grow our ministry and make a difference in our community.

Generous giving expresses our worship, our gratitude and obedience to God.

So please think, pray and act, as **together** we each review our giving to the work of God in and through our church.

Please pick up a leaflet, complete a response form and join in our thanksgiving.

Thank you to all those who have already responded.

A prayer for ourselves and our church:

*Loving Father, you have made us your people, richly provided us with good gifts and called us to live for you. May gratitude be in our hearts, may generosity be in our hands, may justice and righteousness guide our feet and may the life of your kingdom and the joy of heaven be found among us.*

## Maisie Bromberg

Following her passing on 3rd November, arrangements have now been made for Maisie's funeral.

There will be a service in church at 1.30pm on Friday 1st December, followed by a burial at the Memorial Woodlands at 3pm. All welcome. Tea and cake will be served in the Coffee Shop from 4pm. Please pray for Henry and Sara Liz at this time of loss.

## Link Club

Link club is a community group in Stoke Gifford and Little Stoke areas for the elderly and meet once a month in the Old School Rooms on a Thursday afternoon. A number of people who attend would appreciate a lift. If you could help, even occasionally, please phone Ruth on 0117 9793870.

## PCC Meeting - 13th November

This month's PCC meeting discussed the following items:

● **Operations** – A Leadership Away Day has been planned for 3rd February 2018. This is an opportunity to review where we as a church and what we would like to achieve in the future.

● **Finance** – The Parish Giving Scheme run by the Diocese of Bristol was presented. This scheme allows regular giving to St Michael's to be made via Direct Debit, with administration undertaken by the Diocese, freeing up valuable finance resources at St Michael's. It was decided that the scheme should be offered as an alternative to the current methods of giving in the future.

● **Coffee Shop** - Ann Cooke and Mike Peacey presented the annual report for the Coffee Shop, which has had a successful year. The PCC would like to thank all staff and volunteers that help make the Coffee Shop such a valuable resource in our community.

● **HOTC** – Work on the next phase of St Michael's Centre is still planned to start in the New Year and is expected to finish in time for larger events booked for the end of April 2018.

● **Church Tower** – Costs were re-validated for the removal of the bells from the Church Tower during the essential repair work planned for next year.

**Fees** - The 2018 fees for Occasional Offices were approved.

Once approved, full minutes will be available to view on the website, as well as the noticeboards in Church and in St Michael's Centre. The next PCC meeting takes place on the 11th December at 19:30 in St Michael's Centre.

## Over 65's Lunch

Our next Community Sunday lunch for the over 65's is on Sunday 3rd December at 1pm in the Old School Rooms. This event is always popular, so please do book soon if you'd like to come. Call the office on 0117 9692486. Thank you!

## Christmas Card Delivery

We are delivering 5000 Christmas cards to our community this year and would like your help. The cards will be available for church members to collect this Sunday 26th November. Please commit to delivering the cards to houses over the next week or so. This is a fantastic opportunity to spread some good news and encourage those in the local community to join us at some of our Christmas Celebrations. Please collect a bundle and sign your name against the street so we know it has been covered. You could deliver the cards on your own or why not get together with others maybe even through your life group? Thanks for your help.

## Big New Years Celebration!

This year New Year Eve falls on a Sunday, so we're planning a celebration in the Auditorium! We'll begin with worship at 6.30pm, bring and share food from 7pm, followed by an interactive session suitable for all ages (instead of a sermon!) We'll have games, live music from the Usual Suspects, and more worship as we approach midnight. This is a free event, but we ask that you sign-up in advance so that we can keep track of numbers. Don't forget to BYO drink!

## Coffee Shop Christmas Closure

The Coffee Shop will be closing for Christmas on Friday 15th December 2017 at 2pm and will open again on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 9.30am. Thank you for your custom in 2017 and we look forward to welcoming you in 2018.

## Hope Bristol 2018; 3rd-7th April

800 Christian teenagers are coming to Bristol in April to serve in mission opportunities across the city. Churches across the region are mobilising in preparation to make this 5 day mission a long-term success. We're keen to play our part in this pivotal moment in transforming our city. Can you help in one of a number of roles (cooking, cleaning, face painting, organising etc) for 1-5 days? Please speak to Joel Preston [Joel@stmichaelsbristol.org](mailto:Joel@stmichaelsbristol.org) or visit [www.hopebristol.org](http://www.hopebristol.org).

## Sacred Space Prayer Room

### St Michaels Centre (Meeting Room One)

In the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives do you long for that 'Sacred Space'? In response to the use of the Prayer Room during our Prayer week in September and requests for its further use we would like to offer this quiet safe place as an Oasis in the life of an often busy church centre. The prayer room will also offer resources for prayer. 'Sacred Space' will be available during church office hours (9am-5pm, subject to availability) as a place to rest in God's presence, to meditate on His word and to find that Oasis of peace.

Why not visit the Sacred Space room on Sunday 26th November when it will be signposted and open to have a look. To book a slot in opening hours, please contact us during office hours or email [venue@stmichaelsbristol.org](mailto:venue@stmichaelsbristol.org). If you would like more information please speak to Trish Aston.

## Crisis Centre and North Bristol Foodbank Donations

Donations for both Crisis Centre Ministries and the North Bristol Foodbank are particularly appreciated at this time of year.

Donations for Crisis Centre Ministries need to be in by Sunday 10th December and include items such as weatherproof hats and gloves, toothbrushes and paste, chocolate energy bars and jars of coffee.

Recommended donations for the Foodbank need to be in by Sunday 24th December and include items such as tinned meat, UHT milk, sugar, sponge puddings and jam.

The collection box is situated in St Michael's Centre foyer. Full donation lists are available on the notice boards or on the website.

For further information regarding the Crisis Centre, please contact Rachel Mason on 07403 057336 or for the Foodbank, please contact Claire Jessop on 07905 074844. Many thanks.