

A Joyful Start to a New Season at St Michael's

July 2025

Since launching our new service pattern in May, it's been a joy to welcome so many new faces and worship together in fresh, meaningful ways. Whether you've joined a contemporary or traditional service, thank you. We've loved having you and are excited to build a church community where everyone feels at home.

Our new service plan, which alternates between contemporary and traditional styles at St Michael's, has created space for more people to explore faith in a way that feels familiar and meaningful. It's been a lovely season so far—and there's more to come.

Summer Services & A Short Pause

As we move into summer, here's what to expect:

Our next **Contemporary Service** will be on **Sunday 13th July at St Michael's**.

There will be **no Contemporary Service in August**, including on Sunday 11th August, to give our fantastic team a well-earned rest. Additionally, **Church on the Green will not take place on the fourth Sundays of July and August** (27th July & 24th August).

Over the summer, we'll be holding a **joint 10:00am service every Sunday**, alternating between St Michael's and St Mark's, using **traditional liturgy and following the lectionary readings**. Please check the service sheet in this edition of Pirbright Village News for locations and details.

Looking Ahead: Alpha Course Starting in September

We're excited to be running an **8-week Alpha Course at St Michael's from late September**. It's a relaxed and welcoming space to explore the Christian faith, **ask big questions**, and **reflect on who Jesus is** and why it matters today. Join us on **Tuesday evenings this autumn**—everyone's welcome.

Thank you for being part of all that's happening at St Michael's. We can't wait to pick up again in September as our full service plan resumes—with fresh energy and plenty to look forward to!

St. Michael's and All Angels Church – New Website!

We're delighted to share that the **St Michael's and All Angels Church website has had a revamp!** We're nearly there, but **it's already live**—and we'd love for you to take a look and let us know what you think: <https://pirbrightchurch.org.uk>

Revd George Watkinson

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New Email Address for Pirbright Village Newsletter

Pirbright Village Newsletter now has a new email address!

Please send all content to **editor@pirbrightvillagenews.org.uk** instead of sending it via Julia.

Huge thanks to Julia for all the support during this transition.

St Michael's and All Angels Church Lane Pirbright GU24 0JJ

St Mark's Church Wyke Guildford Road Normandy GU3 2DA

St. Michael's and All Angels Church

Pirbright Singers

The Pirbright Singers Music for a **Summer's Evening Saturday, 12th July 2025 at 7:30pm at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Pirbright.**

Join us for a delightful evening of choral music **featuring highlights** such as **John Rutter's Feel the Spirit and Morten Lauridsen's Sure On This Shining Night.** We are thrilled to welcome special guests: **Emily Windham - Mezzo-Soprano Soloist and The Teahouse Winds - Wind Octet**

Doors open at **7:00 pm adult tickets £10 (available on the door – cash or card) Under 18s: Free admission.** After the concert, we invite you to join us for light refreshments in the Church Room. We'd love to share this special evening of music with you!

Call to Ordination

Joanna's background

My faith has always been the driving force in my life. I have been involved in numerous church activities over the years but particularly love to come alongside people to encourage them in their walk with God, and to ensure that in any group, people feel welcome and valued. I grew up in a Christian home and always knew that I wanted to serve God in some capacity. When I was 18, I re-committed my life to God and knew that I wanted to serve him in full-time ministry of some description. Before getting ordained I worked in marketing and research for a variety of businesses and charities. The last business I worked for provided safety and medical services to businesses working in post-conflict and remote areas around the world. I worked with local lawyers to register our business in these countries and sourced local business partners for us to work with.

In 2021 Alex had already felt a strong call to ordination and had spoken to our vicar about it when our curate asked me if I had ever considered ordination. I simply couldn't stop thinking about it and I had a very strong sense of everything falling into place and how the idea of ordination made all of my previous experiences make sense.

Both Alex and I went through the 'discernment process', the Anglican process for ascertaining whether or not someone is called to the priesthood. After nine months, numerous application forms, conversations, and a myriad of interviews, we were both approved for training and moved to Ripon College Cuddesdon theological college just outside Oxford where we trained full-time for two years.

Alexander's background

Similarly to Joanna, I was raised in a Christian household. My father was Anglican high church and my mother is Catholic. I grew up with a feeling that God wanted something from me and the idea of becoming a priest floated a round in my head all my life to a greater or lesser degree, but I kept running away from the calling, seeking to fulfil my own goals and satisfactions in life. Eventually, after years of avoiding the subject, I decided to approach my local vicar to discuss God's calling in my life. Having met Joanna, gotten married and had our daughter, I felt I was finally ready to answer God's call and begin my 'discernment process'. Joanna and I finished our time at theological college and have come to Pirbright and Wyke parishes to train with George for our curacies.

Curacy

Vicars are given the 'cure of souls' of the parishes they are responsible for. . This is a beautiful concept that the priest has a precious and extraordinary ministry to care for all the individuals in their community.

St. Michael's and All Angels Church

Curates help the vicar in caring for the souls of the parish.

We are doing a 50/50 job share in this curacy, both working part-time. Curacy is a training period of approximately three years where curates are trained by a vicar in how to minister as a priest. The Church of England ordains curates first as deacons, then after one year, ordains them again as priests. The theology behind this is to ensure that ministry is grounded in service (the role of a deacon is to serve the parish and community). We will both be ordained as priests at 10:30 on Saturday 28th June at Guildford Cathedral.



YOUTH ALPHA

A NEW WAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPLORE LIFE, FAITH AND PURPOSE.

INTRODUCES AND EXPLORES THE CORE IDEAS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, IN A RELEVANT AND ENGAGING WAY.

20TH JULY 11.15AM
ST.MARK'S CHURCH HALL
GU3 2DA

11-16 year olds

Do you want to slow down this month?

Why not try our reflective Taizé service

Sunday 13th July 5pm at St Michael's Church

AUGUST AT ST MICHAEL'S PIRBRIGHT 10AM

SUNDAY 3RD	JOINT SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH PIRBRIGHT
SUNDAY 10TH	JOINT SERVICE AT ST MARK'S CHURCH WYKE GU3 2DA
SUNDAY 17TH	JOINT SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH PIRBRIGHT
SUNDAY 24TH	JOINT SERVICE AT ST MARK'S CHURCH WYKE GU3 2DA
SUNDAY 31ST	JOINT SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH PIRBRIGHT

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St. Michael's Church Pirbright JOIN US IN JULY

Sunday 6 th	9.30am Traditional Holy Communion 11.15am All Age Service at St. Mark's Church Hall. GU3 2DA
Sunday 13 th	8.00am Said Communion 9.30am Contemporary Worship Service
Sunday 20 th	9.30am Traditional Holy Communion 11.15am Contemporary Worship Service St. Mark's Church GU3 2DA & YOUTH ALPHA
Sunday 27 th	10.00am Joint Service with St. Mark's Church at St. Mark's Church Guildford Road GU3 2DA

pirbrightchurch.org.uk

Pirbright Parish Council

The duck house on the pond had seen better days and so the Parish Council engaged a Pirbright craftsman to design and build a new one. The result was a scaled version of the Green Hut, that sits adjacent to the Hall, complete with corrugated iron roof and veranda.

This was gratefully received although weighing in the region of 200kg it was not going to be an easy task to get it from the banks of the pond to the island. The Clerk enlisted 4 strong chaps and the trusty Hall Manager but even so, the new build was just too heavy to carry across the water. Thinking caps went on and the Clerk's double inflatable guest mattress was retrieved from her loft and brought onto the Green. The new Duck House was strapped to the top of the inflated mattress and was floated out to the island with no problem at all.



It is hoped that the new accommodation will meet with the approval of the resident wildfowl and will last as long as the last one. The island itself was constructed by Jim and Frank Rice and of course the 2 bronze ducks on the island, sitting close to the veranda of the new house, were installed in memory of Jim and Freda Rice many moons ago.

The Council would like to thank Steve Mitchell for his amazing design and craftsmanship. The Clerk would like to thank Nigel Emmerson, Catherine & Johannes Loots and Gavin & Josh Myers for donning waders and providing the muscle to get the new house to the island.



Pirbright Village Fair

This year's **Pirbright Village Fair** takes place a little later in the calendar than usual – **30th August** – but is set to be a late summer day of fun for all, celebrating all things British.

Proceedings kick off at **11am with the grand opening** and a **Morris Dancing display** in the arena on the main green. Throughout the day, the same arena will also host **Jiu Jitsu, Children's Field Games, Raiders Performing Arts band** and the **perennially popular Dog Show** – lots and lots for adults and children to take part in with some brilliant prizes to be won. A second arena will be all things Dog Agility, beginning firstly with a **professional dog agility display** with the course then opened to dog owners to have a go.

Elsewhere, you'll find a vintage car display showcasing the **best of British cars and motorcycles, fairground rides, crazy golf**, loads of **stalls, delicious local food and drink providers, local musical acts** including the Pirbright Gospel Choir and Rev & The Revellers and loads, loads more. Enter your model for the 'Best of British' theme on the little green and **win a cash prize** or go for **Best Flower Display in the church** and **win a weekend brunch for two at The Gosling in Woking** – you've got to be **IN IT TO WIN IT!**

There will be things to see and do across the village; in the church, Lord Pirbright's Hall and all over the green – it's a best of British takeover and we can't wait to see you there!

It's that time again when you can turn out your cupboards for **unwanted gifts and books**. We are looking for **donations of Good quality books** for the book stall, **bottles** for the tombola, **children's gifts** for the kids tombola and **cakes** for the cake stall. All items sold will help to raise money for Pirbright Church.

Please contact Helen Whitworth
helenwelliewhitworth@btinternet.com 07777659138 for more details.

Contact **pirbrightvillagefair@gmail.com** for more **information on how to enter the theme makers and flower arranging competitions**. Entries for the dog show and children's field day races can be taken on the day.



Community Groups

Pirbright WI

Our meeting this month will be a talk by **John Owen Smith** and will be 'On the Trail of Flora Thompson: Beyond Candleford Green' The meeting will be on **Tuesday July 15th at 7:00pm** in the Club Room in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

The WI serve refreshments every Thursday morning from 10:00am to 11:15am in Lord Pirbright's Hall. If you're visiting the Country Market, why not join us for a warm drink and a chat? For more information, contact **Irene Dredge** on **01483 233279** or email **iredredge@outlook.com**. We'd love to see you there!

Royal British Legion

This month our meeting will be on **Monday 14th July at 8pm at The Fox, Fox Corner**. Please come and meet us if you are interested in the work of the Legion

We hope you managed to attend the village's VE Day Celebration in Lord Pirbright's Hall and had a look at our display table put together by Jane Halton. If you have any memorabilia on VJ Day in August, that you could loan Jane, please contact **Anne Hawkins** on **01252 404276**

Pirbright Tennis Club

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PirbrightTennisClub>

www.facebook.com/pirbrighttennisclub

It's great to see people entering our Summer Tournament and Box League this year. The Summer Tournament Finals are on 14th September.

For those over 45 we have a one day mixed tournament, the Jean Seager Tournament on Sunday 20th July. This is a relaxed and friendly day and well worth entering.

All activities, including coaching, are on our website and our WhatsApp group.

All members joining the group (including all tournament entries) please **contact info@pirbrighttennisclub.com**.

Pirbright Country Market

The Country Market is open **every Thursday from 10:00am to 11:15am** in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Come along and enjoy a variety of local produce and

Pirbright Horticultural Society

Join us for our monthly meeting on **Tuesday, 8th July 7:30pm** at **Lord Pirbright's Hall**. **Elizabeth Barralet** will be coming to give a **demonstration** of a few of the **classes in the Floral Art section of Pirbright Horticultural Society Annual Show**. Hopefully this will inspire you to enter at least one arrangement!

Our **Annual Show** takes place on **Saturday 19th July at Lord Pirbright Hall**. **Entry forms** should be **submitted online before 14th July at Pirbrighthort.co.uk**. **Paper** entries can be **submitted at 7pm on Monday 14th July** in the **Committee Room** at **Lord Pirbright Hall**. Your exhibits need to be brought to the hall on Saturday 19 July between 8:00am and 10.45am. The show opens to the public at 2.30pm.

For more information, please email **secretary@pirbrighthort.co.uk** or call **07815847941**. Pirbrighthort.co.uk and on Facebook at Pirbright Horticultural Society, Pirbright Village, Surrey.

Rawlins Club

The Rawlins Club Garden Party on Friday 18th July at Mill Croft, Mill Lane from 2:00pm - 4:00pm by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Justin Higgo. If wet tea to be served in the village Hall. If anyone is unable to get themselves there and would like a lift, please ring Nicola Main on 01483 473223.

For further details, please contact **Denise Granger** on **01483 472070**.

Community Groups

Pirbright Art Club

We will have places available from September. Please visit our website for details of how to join: **www.pirbrightartclub.co.uk**. We welcome new members! We meet on the third and fourth Thursdays of each month for tutored art sessions.

A display of original paintings by some of our members is currently showing at **Quince Cottage Gallery**, Pirbright. We were asked to illustrate the "**Churchyard Chronicles**" - fun childrens' stories, written each month for many years by the editor of Perinews, **Julia Douetil**. From an original idea by Helen Whitworth - local artists and designer David Greenland produced a beautifully printed book for Julia's leaving gift!

Visit our outdoor '**Railings**' exhibition at the **Pirbright Village Fair** on Saturday August 30th

Contact **Maggie Read** (professional artist and qualified art tutor): **07977 552780** or email **pirbrightartclub@btconnect.com**

Pirbright Cricket Club

5th May saw the Penguins participate in the launch of walking cricket at the Chelsea Pensioners home ground with a full scale festival!

The all afternoon event was also lucky to be underneath the flight path of the VE day celebration fly past - almost as if it had been arranged specially for us. The teams also got to meet Angus Fraser, ex England player and selector. The penguins got off to a fantastic start, winning their first game comfortably. The second game against The Change Foundation from Wallington was a thriller...we just missed out on a second win!

The last game against Middlesex was another thriller holding on to pip them at the post and record second place overall with Simon Gurney, The Emperor Penguin doing a great job as captain. Well done the Penguins - Simon, Tony W, Tony K, Mark, Anthony, Paul, Graeme, George & Mick!



July Gardening tips

This month focus on maintaining your garden, encouraging further blooms and preparing for harvesting. Divide congested clumps of bearded iris after flowering. Dead head bedding plants, sweet peas, roses and herbaceous plants to encourage more flowers.

Trim evergreen hedges, including conifers, (but still just check for nesting birds first). Feed dahlias and cannas every two weeks with a high potassium fertilizer, such as tomato feed.

Prune early-summer flowering shrubs, such as Philadelphus, once they have finished flowering. Cut back flowered growth to a strong lower shoot and thin out up to a fifth of old, woody stems. Cut back hardy geraniums to ground level after they have had their first flush of flowers to encourage new foliage and more flowers later in the year.

Fruit trees and bushes need a lot of extra water to support developing fruit. Pinch out climbing beans when they reach the top of their supports. Water courgettes consistently so they continue to crop well. Keep tomatoes well watered to prevent blossom end rot.

Regularly check for pests like aphids, spider mites and caterpillars. Consider using eco-friendly methods and introducing beneficial insects like ladybirds. Keep bird baths topped up.

Pirbright Community Calendar July 2025

Date	Time	Event
Sun 6th	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Service at St. Michael's Pirbright All Age Service at St. Mark's Wyke Church Hall
Tue 8th	7.30pm	Pirbright Horticultural Society at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sat 12th	10.00 - 12.00pm 7.30pm	Operation Churchyard at St. Michael's Pirbright Pirbright Singers St. Michael's Pirbright
Sun 13th	8.00am 9.30am 5.00pm	Said Communion Service at St. Michael's Pirbright Contemporary Worship Service at St. Michael's Pirbright Taizé service at St. Michael's Pirbright
Mon 14th	8.00pm	Royal British Legion at The Fox at Fox Corner
Tue 15th	10.15am 7.00pm	Midweek Communion at St. Michael's followed by Cafe Club Pirbright WI at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Fri 18th	2.00 - 8.00pm	The Rawlins Club Garden Party at Mill Croft
Sat 19th	2.30pm	Pirbright Horticultural Society Annual Show at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sun 20th	9.30am 11.15am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Service at St. Michael's Pirbright Contemporary Worship Service & Youth Alpha at St. Mark's Wyke Prayer meeting at St. Mark's Wyke
Sun 27th	10:00am	Joint service with St Marks at St Marks Church GU3 2DA
Every Mon	10.00 - 11.30am	Angel Tots at St. Michael's Pirbright (during term time for children 0-3 plus parent/carers)
Every Wed	7.30 - 9.00pm	Gospel Choir in the school music suite (during term time)
Every Thur	10.00 - 11.15am	Refreshments with WI at Lord Pirbright's Hall
	10.00 - 11.15am	Pirbright Country Market at Lord Pirbright's Hall
	7.30 - 8.30pm	Bellringing practice in the church tower

Pirbright Village News is produced and delivered by volunteers on behalf of St. Michael's and All Angels Church and Pirbright Parish Council.

Editors: Gemma Hyland, Heidi Gower and Jo Hurst.

Please send content to our new email editor@pirbrightvillagenews.org.uk

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Lord Pirbright's Hall: Catherine Loots
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