

ST MICHAEL'S PIRBRIGHT & ST MARK'S WYKE

KNOWING GOD AND MAKING HIM KNOWN



Sunday 1st November 2026

Being a light this Halloween

Do you ever find it hard to explain why you don't celebrate Halloween? Perhaps you feel a little awkward when people ask why you don't let your children go trick-or-treating, or you worry that others might think you're being a bit over the top! I certainly feel all these things!

First, let me say that choosing not to celebrate Halloween doesn't mean I think children who dress up, go trick-or-treating or enjoy Halloween parties are bad. Of course they aren't! I know that for many families, it's simply a bit of fun. This isn't about judging anyone else, but about thinking through our choices and what feels right for our faith.

For me, it comes down to what I want to fill my heart and mind with, and what I want to encourage in my children. Halloween has become a fun, commercial event for many people, full of pumpkins, sweets and dressing up. However, alongside the harmless fun, there is also a darker side associated with fear, death, witchcraft and the supernatural. These are aspects I don't feel comfortable celebrating as a Christian. The Bible encourages us to think carefully about the things we embrace. In Philippians 4:8, Paul writes:

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable… think about such things." (Philippians 4:8, NIV)

I find this a helpful reminder to think about what I choose to focus on and celebrate. I want to fill my life with things that point me towards Jesus, who brings light, hope, love and peace.

Revd George Watkinson Vicar of Pirbright & Wyke georgealbionwatkinson@gmail.com
Parish Office 01483 811777 office@stmarkswyke.org.uk or pirbrightoffice@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Michael's, Pirbright:
Lizzie Klintworth - liz_klintworth@hotmail.com
Helen Whitworth - helenwelliewhitworth@btinternet.com

St Mark's, Wyke:
Judy Kennedy - judithkenn@hotmail.com
Simon Gimson - treasurer@stmarkswyke.org.uk

But perhaps there's another way to approach Halloween, too. Rather than simply focusing on what we choose not to celebrate, could we use this time as an opportunity to reach out to our communities and share something of the love of Jesus?

Perhaps we could decorate our front gardens with warm fairy lights and welcoming, non-scary displays, offer treats with a kind note, or simply take the opportunity to have a friendly conversation with someone who comes to our door. We could even invite families to join us at one of our church services this Sunday.

If someone asks why we don't celebrate Halloween, we could explain it simply and warmly: *"We choose not to celebrate Halloween, but we love celebrating Jesus, who is the light of the world!"*

We don't need to be defensive about our choices, and we don't need to make others feel uncomfortable about theirs. Instead, we can look for ways to build relationships, show kindness and let our faith shine through the way we treat people.

As Christians, we are called to be people of light in the world. Perhaps this Halloween, whatever our personal choices, we can all look for opportunities to share a little more of the light, love and hope of Jesus with those around us.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." (Ephesians 5:8, NIV)

Jo Schaefer
Trainee Chaplain

In your Prayers this week, please pray for:

For the sick and their families at:

St Michael's – Gaynor Davenport, Barbara Douglas, Damian Jon Major, Theo & family, Peter West, John Sim, Jackie, Nic Flemming, Joy Underwood, Kate & Ian Bailes, Peter Glanfield.

St Mark's - Robyn Horsburgh, Jack Short, Clare Sherwood, Diana Marchant, Amelia Tilbury, Val Chant, Mavis, Simon T, Casper Gorniok, Michael Stonehill, Dianne, Daphne (Lorna's sister-in-law).

And all others who need God's healing touch including those known to us and not named, but in our prayers.

For the friends and family of those recently deceased:

We pray for peace for their families and friends during this time of mourning.

Readings for 1st November:

- Revelation 7:1-9
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12

Regular Services

	St Michael's	St Mark's
1st Sunday	**9.30am Traditional Holy Communion Service**	**11.15am All Age Service in Church hall** **6pm Worship & Prayer in Church hall**
2nd Sunday	8.00am Said Communion (BCP) 9.30am Contemporary Service	11.15am Traditional Holy Communion Service
	5pm Taizé service in alternative churches. See below for timetable	
3rd Tuesday	10.15am Said Communion	
3rd Sunday	9.30am Traditional Holy Communion Service	8.00am Said Communion (BCP) 11.15am Contemporary Service in Church hall
4th Sunday	10.00am Church on the Green	11.15am Traditional Holy Communion Service
5th Sunday	Alternate churches.	

Taizé Services – 5pm

St Michael's
8th November 2026

Stop Press – Tune In!

Rev George will be live on BBC Radio Surrey, Sussex and Kent at 7.50am on Sunday 1st November on their 60 second sermon slot. The frequency is 104.6fm.

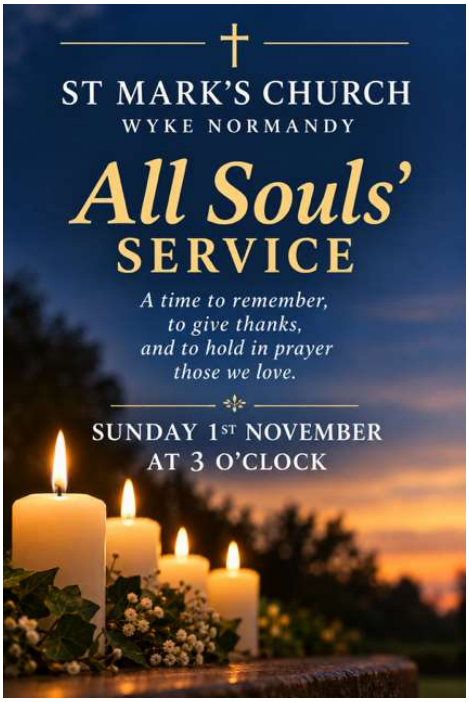


Wyke

George Chant

Following the very sad news of George's death last Wednesday, his family have asked us to pass on details of the funeral and thanksgiving service. On Tuesday, 10th November, following a private family cremation at Aldershot Crematorium, there will be a thanksgiving service for the life of George, at 1.45pm in St. Mark's Church, followed by refreshments in the church hall. Everyone is welcome. Please pray for Val, Andrea, Sharon and their families as they mourn a beloved husband, father and grandfather. May you rest in peace, dear George.

All Soul's Service – Sunday 1st November 3pm



Each year, around the time of All Souls' Day, we remember those who have died in the past years. We are writing to invite you to this years' Service at St Mark's Church, to remember loved ones who have died.

We would be very pleased to see you and any family and friends who would like to come with you.

The Service will include commemorating all those who have died and prayers for all who mourn them. If you would like us to pay tribute to your loved ones and to offer thanksgiving for their lives, there are "in remembrance" cards in the church to fill in with their names. However, if you are unable to be at the Service, do please let us know, or fill in one of the cards and drop it into the post box outside the parish office at St Mark's church hall. On Sunday 1st November, their names will be read out and celebrated, together with the lighting of candles, during the Service.

A Service of remembrance can be an important stepping-stone on our journey through grief, as well as being a time to give thanks for those with whom we have loved and shared our lives. Do please join us.

After the Service there will be refreshments served in the church hall.

With every blessing,

Simon and Judy

Church Wardens, St Mark's

Dates for your Diary!

Saturday 7th November. 10am - 12 noon.

Mini market and hearing aid clinic. St. Mark's church hall.

Tuesday, 10th November. 10 am - 12 noon

Coffee and chat social morning. A talk by Lucy from Phyllis Tuckwell hospice in St Mark's church hall.

Gill's book group social – Wednesday 4th November 2-4pm



Will be meeting at Gill's house for a social. All are welcome.

180 birthday celebrations – we made it into the Woking News!



22 | NEWS & MAIL | Thursday 22 October 2026

News in pictures

Cake and crazy golf mark church's special day

The church was adorned with glorious flower displays

The array of paper plates decorated by local schoolchildren

An image of the church on the celebration cake

St Mark's Church Wyke, complete with birthday balloons

STAFF REPORTER

PARISHIONERS and local residents enjoyed an afternoon of fun recently when St Mark's Church Wyke in Normandy held a party to celebrate its 180th birthday.

Life for the church began on 25 April 1846, when a piece of land on which the church was to be built was granted by deed of a gift. The donor was Mr Lannoy Coussmaker, who lived locally.

Work on the building started straight away and St Mark's was consecrated on 24 November 1846 and was completed the following year.

To celebrate this special year, activities took place during the afternoon with a bouncy castle, a children's treasure hunt and holy crazy golf.

The church looked beautifully presented with wonderful autumnal flower displays and birthday-themed paper plates, decorated by pupils at the local Normandy Village School. Visitors also had an opportunity to ring the church bells.

The Rev George Watkinson commented: "What a joy it was to celebrate 180 years of St Mark's! Thank you to everyone who came and helped make it such a wonderful day. It was lovely to see so many people.

"For 180 years, St Mark's has been part of the life of this village: a place to celebrate, to grieve, to ask questions, to find friendship and to encounter God. We are grateful for all those who have cared for the church over the generations, and excited for what lies ahead.

"Above all, I hope you know that St Mark's is here for you. Whether you come every week, haven't visited for years, or have never stepped inside, you are always welcome."

For more information on St. Mark's, please visit the website, www.stmarkswyke.org.uk ,or find them on Facebook at St. Mark's Wyke Normandy.

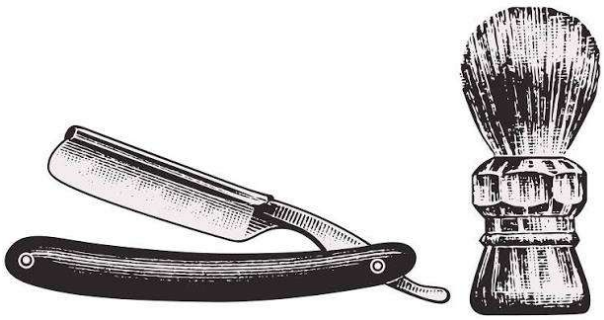
Pirbright



Both Churches



A close shave for Rev Alex!



Well done, Alex! Your kind, generous and very brave fundraising for young Isabella has raised double your original target - £2000, and, hopefully, more to come for Isabella's Journey and her fundraising for lymphoblastic leukaemia.

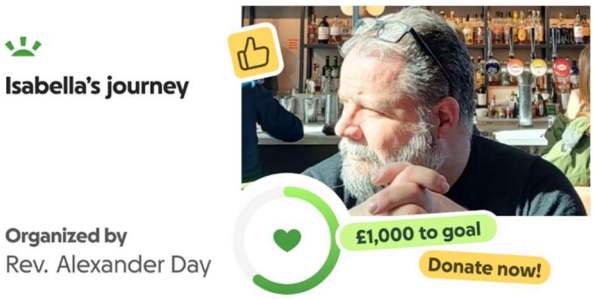
Many supporters from St. Mark's and St. Michael's cheered on Rev. Alex and his family, as he said goodbye to his beard and hair in St. Mark's church hall!

The 'before', 'halfway' and 'after' photos of Rev. Alex.









[Donate to Isabella's journey, organized by Rev. Alexander Day gofund.me]