

ST MICHAEL'S PIRBRIGHT & ST MARK'S WYKE



KNOWING GOD AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

Sunday 8th November 2026

Remembrance often focuses on the enormous casualties of World War 1, which my grandmother always referred to as the Great War, or the destruction of places and people by bombing in World War 2 in which my father and grandfather fought. I find this can be rather impersonal, so I always think of individuals and particularly the families they left behind.

I look at the names on war memorials and on the individual inscriptions in churches and wonder about the effect their death had on a battle and on their closest relatives. In Wyke there is a window commemorating Second Lieutenant Philip Henriques of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps who died of wounds received in action around the Ypres Salient in July 1915. His parents lived on for many years and his father was Chairman of Surrey County Council and the Local Defence Committee in 1940. I wonder how they managed to live fulfilling lives after such a loss.

The Squadron I commanded in Bosnia always commemorated the Falklands conflict in which Sapper Wayne Tarbard was killed when the troop ship Sir Galahad was bombed. He was a member of a troop from 20 Field Squadron which was part of the invasion force. His family maintained links with the Squadron for many years. In the camp, my soldiers erected a simple cross for the short service of remembrance (see picture). I still recall standing in the June sunshine and being moved by the simplicity and depth of feeling; British soldiers commemorating one of their forebears while they were deployed on operations.



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Churchwardens

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Finally, I quote from my father's account; his time on Monte Camino in December 1945:

I personally was on Camino for eleven days before being relieved. The weather was pretty abominable and the tents were used to keep the wireless sets dry rather than us. We were more or less continually wet and kept ourselves from saturating with water from without by saturating our insides with rum: there was plenty. I did very little shooting during that time though we assisted the Grenadiers onto the next objective just down the spur towards Rocca d'Evandio. That advance was easy for the Grenadiers: it was done by day under cover of smoke. But during the advance one of our own guns was continually dropping short on our crest. There were so many guns firing that it was impossible to find out which was responsible without stopping all support. One of these shells destroyed my signaller who had an almost direct hit on his legs: he died quite unconsciously in about two minutes: the wireless set was smashed. His mate escaped by the protection of the other chaps body & was not scratched. I escaped by being on the other side of some loose stones which were blown onto me. I remember the Colonel sent another officer up to see if he could help, but I had sent the lucky man down & the other was dead so I told him to go away again. The short gun eventually ceased when the fire lifted. We buried the body that night where he had fallen. I made up my own funeral service which I held with two other men at about 3 a.m. I had no book of words (there is a service in the F.S.P.B) so I simply said a prayer for him, then we recited the Lord's Prayer and I finished with the quotation for St John - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". I suppose it was quite inadequate, but can any words be otherwise?

Simon Gimson, Major (Retired)

Church Warden St Mark's

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:

St Michael's - Tom Combeer

St Mark's – George Chant

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

8th November

8th November is Remembrance Sunday. Both churches will have a service starting at 10am, followed by an Act of Remembrance at the village war memorials at 11am.

St Michael's will also have an 8am Said Communion (BCP).

St Michael's will be having a Taizé Service at 5pm.



15th November

Normal service pattern for the **3rd Sunday**. Please see the table below.

15th November readings are:

- Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Matthew 25:14-30

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

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.

Hearing Aid Clinic



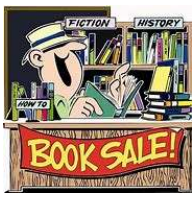
On Saturday, 7th November 10am-12noon in the Coussmaker room

Mini Market on Saturday, 7th November from 10am to 12noon!

Please come and join us for delicious home-made cakes, freshly brewed coffee and refreshments.
Browse our bric-a-brac/vintage ware, produce and books (old and new) or simply chat with old and new friends!







Request from the Mini Market team, donations for our produce stall are needed please! Home-made cakes, biscuits etc., flowers, plants, edible items and garden produce would be most gratefully accepted, either on Friday afternoon or on the Saturday morning of the mini market. Thank You!





Coffee and Chat - 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.

Phyllis Tuckwell®
Hospice Care

St Mark’s Christmas Fair

Date for your diary!



Pirbright

Operation Churchyard

7th November

10am-12noon



SAT
7
NOV

Saturday, 07-Nov-2026

10:00am - 12:00pm



Both Churches

Come along and visit the wonderful installation of poppies at St. Mark's Church in Normandy and St Michaels and All Angels Church in Pirbright created for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

The main installation is at St Michael's Church in Pirbright and the story behind the installation follows:

For more than 150 years the village of Pirbright has known a close association with the armed forces, and this year the community has come together to create a stunning display of more than 1,500 poppies to honour service men and women past, present and future.

Inspired by the Tower of London installation of 2014, the suggestion was put out to the community to create a sea of poppies in the churchyard at St Michael and All Angels Church Pirbright, and the community responded enthusiastically. Church warden

Helen Whitworth, who led the project, recalls that, once the request had gone out, sacks of empty plastic bottles appeared in the church porch every day to be distributed to volunteers who cut them to shape. Other volunteers were then recruited to spray them red, dozens at a time, and to add the distinctive black centre of the poppy. In the next phase of the project another team of volunteers glued hundreds of flowers onto sticks for 'planting'.



In the meantime, local artists sculpted a 'ghost soldier', a poignant tribute to the fallen, to stand at the centre of the display, and a cross two metres high from which poppies flow in a 'river of blood'. Finally, last week, the installation was put together, with yet more volunteers on their knees in the churchyard planting the poppies to create the spectacle for Remembrance Sunday on 8th November, and Armistice Day on Wednesday 11th.

As the project progressed Pirbright's sister church, St Marks' in Normandy, added their support and contributions so, in acknowledgement, the Pirbright team also created a river of poppies flowing from the huge cross which stands in St Marks's churchyard to echo the installation at St Michael's.



Both churches and communities are proud to honour all those who have passed through Pirbright and Normandy in service of our country, and to pay tribute to those who died. Services of Remembrance will take place at St Michael and All Angels Church Pirbright and at St Mark's Wyke, Normandy, at 10:00 am on Sunday 8th November.