

@stmikesmacclesfield



Follow us on
Instagram



Thank you to all those who supported the Jazz Night at St Peter's.

This raised a fantastic **£770** for The Children's Society.

Homemakers

The next meeting of the Homemakers group will be on Thursday 13th of March at 7:30pm.

The topic is a slideshow of underwater photography, and will be held at the home of Mary Rushton, tel. 611372. All are welcome.



Flower Ministry

The Flower Ministry Team are pleased they are able to resume the rota from next week as the work in Church is coming to an end.

We are so grateful for the generous donations to provide flowers most weeks.

Church Council Minutes

Please find attached with this newsletter the minutes of the recent Church Council Meeting (25th February). If you would like to see copies of any of the reports mentioned in the minutes, please email paulspedding@gmail.com.

A hard copy of the minutes is on the church noticeboard.



Mothering Sunday Photo Call

Don't forget to email a picture of your mum to clergypa@maccteam.org.uk or bring in a hard copy for Sue which she scan and return to you.

These are for a collage of photos of mums for Mothering Sunday.



LET'S: 16th March

Don't forget that **Let's Eat Together** Sunday is next week, **16th March**. Don't eat alone on Sunday - bring some food and eat with others, maybe sharing if you wish.

Newcomers especially welcome: don't worry if you haven't any food - there's usually plenty.



Film Evenings

Our final film evening of 2025 is next Friday, 14th March, when we will be showing the film 'Marvellous', postponed from 7th Feb.

Please arrive for 6.30pm.

If the heating is still not working, we'll meet in the Youth Centre (please enter by the external Youth Centre door) instead of the upstairs room.



Eco-tip

The Lenten 40-day period before Easter gives us the opportunity to reflect on the practice of fasting and commit to giving up something that brings a real benefit to nature and helps address climate change. Below are some changes you could make that will help the environment. Take time to pray, reflect and consider these options – pick one or two or however many you'd like (you never know the changes might just stick!)

Go plastic free. Even if you can't become totally plastic-free, make it your goal to at least reduce your use of plastic. Read Tom's month without plastic blog [here](#).

Switch off from digital. Explore technology-free times or areas of the house, switching to 'airplane mode' for the first hour in the morning and the last hour at night, 'switch off Sundays', reaching for your Bible over your device(s) and writing a list of outdoor things that you enjoy.

Boycott fast fashion. Emily reflects on how our clothes can bring us closer to our neighbour and have a lesser impact on nature. Read her blog [here](#).

Buy less or second hand. Read [here](#) how mum of 2, Nic started with small changes: using Facebook marketplace and ebay more to invest in second hand clothing and toys.

Buy local or in bulk. Hannah shares how learning more about our food system has impacted what her and her family choose to consume. Read her blog [here](#).

More next week!



Service for Healing & Wholeness

The next Healing Service is on **Friday 21st March at 11.00am in the Savage Chapel**



Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heritage Open Day

Heritage Day In Macclesfield is Saturday 13th September. We normally make an effort to have St Michael's open with volunteers available, but there is potential to be more innovative, or just to involve and attract greater numbers.

It would be great if someone could take a lead at this early stage so we can be in touch with resources and ideas being developed by others.

If you would consider this please get in touch with someone from the Open Church Team (Rachel, David M, Vicky, Tricia W, Garrie)



Heating Update

Well, you thought we had the new boilers....



The new boilers were installed a few weeks ago. However we have unfortunately hit a problem with locating the new flue, as the position originally planned for this turned out to be uncomfortably close to a floor joist, and space is very limited down there.

We wouldn't want the flower arrangers to descend into the boiler house would we?

Alternative solutions are being explored but involve scaffolding up to the roof; for which we'd have to close Churchside, and that can't be done quickly.

We're now looking at a temporary solution; we'll keep you posted!

Rest assured that every effort is being made to get this sorted as soon as possible.

Recycle-Reuse Stall

(aka Bring & Buy!)

St Michael's next Treacle Market Recycle-Reuse Stall will be on 27th April. Proceeds will go to our church eco-projects.



If you are having a spring clear-out please save your good quality pre-loved items for the stall. Books, toys and household items in good condition are very welcome. (NO CLOTHES please).

There will be a box in the back of church to receive donations once we are back to normal, in the meantime, if you can keep hold of items yourself please do so, otherwise please contact Anne Radmall (anne@radmall.co.uk / 07714 234624) to arrange to drop them off or have them picked up.

If you can help on the day to set up before church or run the stall, please contact Anne. And for more information please talk with Martin Bancroft, Lynne Spedding, Anne Radmall or Anne Kite (from the Social Action and Wider World Team)

(Any surplus items at the end of the day will be donated to charity)

Our last such stall raised quite a significant sum, which has allowed us to make donations to A Rocha, pay for the replanting of the containers outside church and for the lovely sign on one of the raised beds advertising our commitment to preserve God's creation.

A(nother) work party

Now that the lighting work is complete, we'd like to have a short work party at 4.00pm on Saturday afternoon to:



- Vacuum the remaining heating grilles (chancel and north aisle)
- Replace most of the items that were moved from the nave and chancel, in preparation.

It won't take long with about 6 volunteers.

If you are able to offer an hour or two please let Rachel know, or via the office. *(if you can't come then but could offer a different time please say so, as we may be able to be flexible)*

'Live Simply' Lent Calendar



Please see (and use) the 'Live Simply' Lent Calendar attached with this newsletter.

Large Metal or Wooden Bowls Needed



For our Maundy Thursday Foot-Washing Service we would like 4 very large bowls - something not plastic but more 'authentic' - perhaps made of metal or wood.

The bowls need to be large enough to accommodate someone's foot, so probably around 45cm or 18" in diameter.

If you have such a bowl you would be willing to loan for the evening, please let Lynne, Heike or Barbara know.

Lynne's email address is lynne.norbron@gmail.com and her phone number: 07881 423687

Maundy Thursday

Washing of Feet & Agape Meal



The Worship & Prayer Team will be piloting a new Maundy Thursday Evening Service this year to reflect in quiet and calm on the events of the night before his crucifixion, when Jesus gave his disciples a 'new commandment' to love another, illustrating this by himself washing their feet; then he shared a meal with them: the basis for our Communion Service.

This service will take place at 7.00pm on Maundy Thursday evening (17th April).

If you would like to help in any way, or could signal your likelihood to come along, please speak to Lynne, Heike or Barbara.

You do not have to have your feet washed!

New Email Address for Elaine



Elaine is changing her email address! Messages about booking rooms in church, or maintenance issues, should now be sent to bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk.

This address will be in the contacts section of on the back page of all Bulletins henceforth, but don't worry - if you forget, the "office@" email address will still be monitored.

Lent Groups 2025

Women's work

St Peter's Windmill St is hosting an exciting Lenten adventure, Monday evenings 7.30-9.30. A series of workshops and discussions about spirituality of and for women, we will focus on women and be led by women, but everyone is welcome to attend.

- **March 17th** - Ali Marshall, an experienced spiritual director/companion will help us explore the stories we tell of ourselves and of God. Who inspires you? And how did some women go missing for so long?
- **March 24th** - Jayne Manfredi, will speak of faith, menopause, and the meaning of midlife. Jayne lives in Crewe and is a writer, Anglican deacon, teacher and regular contributor to Radio
- **March 31st** - Local Ceramacist Rachel Ho will lead a practical workshop on honouring our wounds. Inspired by kintsugi, the ancient Japanese method of mending broken pottery with gold, making the pots more beautiful and precious, she tells the story of courage hope and healing, found within scars.
- **April 7th** - Jenny Fox Eades, local author, Alexander technique instructor and curate in Bollington, will help us to explore our relationship with our physical bodies and different ways of praying

Reading in advance is not essential but you might like to explore: "Waking the Women" by Jayne Manfredi pub Canterbury press ISBN 9781786225757 and "Embodying prayer" by Jenny Fox Eades pub Christian Alternative books ISBN 9781803415000

Any Questions please contact Ali Marshall directly, ali.m@rshall.org.uk

George Herbert Poetry: Study and Discussion Group

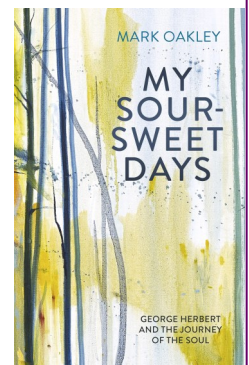
Tuesday evenings, at 7.00pm (11th, 18th, 25th March, 1st, 8th, 15th April) at 56 Fence Avenue.

Lynne Spedding will be leading (or better still, co-leading) a group discussing Mark Oakley's Lent study on a collection of 40 George Herbert poems: 'My Sour-Sweet Days' (978-0-281-08032-8 Pub: SPCK)

Please contact Lynne on lynne.norbron@gmail.com or phone 07881 423687 for more details or to express an interest.

There was a discussion on George Herbert on Radio 4's 'In Our Time' recently. You might like to listen to this before coming to the first session. Click [here](#) for the link

(or access <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0024lly>)



Thursday Homegroup – Change of Plans

It has been agreed with members of this group that they will continue with their usual fortnightly meetings throughout Lent rather than offer a discrete Lent Study programme.

However, below is an opportunity for you to access a Lent Book Group remotely:

On-line Lent book group Wednesdays from 5 March to 9 April from 8pm to 9pm

What does the cross have to do with how we live in Creation now and our expectations of eternity? How does it transform our relationship with God, each other, and the wider world? Explore what the Bible has to say about the whole story of the cross, based on "[The Whole Easter Story](#)" by Jo Swinney (BRF's Lent Book for 2025). Join others from around the world for honest conversation, prayer and encouragement to go deeper in your life with God in the lead up to Easter. This study will be hosted by Jo Swinney and Jo Herbert-James (A Rocha UK), with guest contributors from others in the A Rocha family and beyond. [Book your free place](#) at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/arochainternational/1480132> or speak to David Mayers. It would be useful to have the book - David has copies.

Additional Church of England Resources for Individuals

- **Reflections via email:** Sign up to our [Lent reflection emails](#) and receive daily messages straight to your inbox. Our daily emails will offer Bible readings, short reflections and a practical challenge, as well as prayers linked to weekly themes.
- **Daily reflections via Everyday Faith app:** You can read and listen to daily Lent reflections from 5 March through the Everyday Faith app, the new daily devotional app from the Church of England, which is available to [download here](#).
- **Social media:** Be sure to follow us across our social media channels – [X](#)/[Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Threads](#) – during the season for a variety of thought-provoking and inspiring content, as we explore the theme of 'hope'.

Join us for *Worship*



Sunday Worship

9th March 2025

The First Sunday of Lent

10:00am: Church Family Worship

Leader: Canon Vivien Gisby

Speaker: Revd Martin Stephens

6.30pm: Choral Evensong

Leader: Paul Simms

Speaker: LLM Lynne Spedding

Please use the link below to stream this
(and previous services) on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmikesmacclesfield>

Start the Week

Every Monday from 7.30am in church
Morning Prayer at 8.30 am in church and also on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/stmikesmacclesfield>

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Alternate Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Savage Chapel
lasting 30-40 minutes.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 19th March

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30am (35-40 mins)

Our midweek services follow the order from
the Book of Common Prayer (traditional language) and
alternate between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

13th March: Holy Communion

20th March: Morning Prayer

Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer –
morning and evening groups

Please contact Eve & David Budgett (431606)
or David Mayers (420716) for more information



Contemplative Prayer

Friday mornings from 9.20-9.50.

An opportunity for quiet prayer followed by a cuppa and chat.

Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday

Topic: Night Prayer | Time: 8.30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting; [https://](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdaZz09)

[us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdaZz09)
[pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdaZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdaZz09)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476 Passcode: compline



Compline

Share your Photos with St Mike's Church Family



If you have any photographs of recent
activities you have been involved in
which you would like including in the weekly bulletin/newsletter
or in the Church Family News slot in Sunday services, please
use this number to WhatsApp them to the relevant people:

+44 7579 820265

You can, of course, also email pictures and text to
stmikesnotices@gmail.com

How to contact the office...



Phone: Landline: 01625 421984

Email addresses:

- **Isobel** clergypa@maccteam.org.uk for ministry issues
- **Elaine** bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk for bookings and building matters
- **Bulletin/Newsletter** stmikesnotices@gmail.com
- **Printing** maccteamprinting@gmail.com
- **Safeguarding** see box below

Postal Address: The Office, St Michael's Church, Market
Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

Elaine's office hours are *usually* Monday, Tuesday and
Thursday 9:30am – 1:30 pm

Isobel's Office hours are *usually* Monday & Wednesday 9.00-
3.00; and Thursday & Friday 9.00 - 1.00

Safeguarding Contact Information



If you have any safeguarding concerns,
please contact the St Michael's
Safeguarding Officer, Katie Wilcock:

Phone: 07435 568 729

Email: safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Donating to St Michael's is easy!



SCAN ME

Scan this QR Code or use
the **contactless donation**
point in the Welcome Area



Email any prayer requests to:

prayer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Your request will be circulated confidentially to
a limited group of people who will pray for you.

