

A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



Follow us on
Instagram



Church Together Apart

Why Acts of Remembrance?



Blood swept lands and seas of red

I wonder if you remember the stunning and extremely moving display of hundreds of thousands of ceramic poppies which streamed down from the Tower of London and into the surrounding moat in 2014 (see above). It was

called *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* and commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. It consisted of 888,246 ceramic red poppies, one for each British or Colonial serviceman killed in the War. The visual impact - and the symbolism - were profoundly moving.

In 2018 the Tower once again became a site of commemoration, marking 100 years since the end of WWI with *Beyond the Deepening Shadow*. The nightly candle-lighting created a circle of light radiating from the Tower as a symbol of remembrance.



Beyond the deepening shadow

People need such commemorative events especially ones heavy with symbolism. We especially need to honour those who have lost their lives in some great catastrophe, and to grieve: to state overtly and symbolically that their lives were important and that they are not forgotten. Through such acts of remembrance we also re-evaluate our own lives and our way of living, both as individuals and as a nation. Remembering is crucial to us, and the symbolism in how we remember speaks volumes.



The National Covid Memorial Wall (or Wall of Hearts)

Another installation of remembrance, the **National Covid Memorial Wall** (or "Wall of Hearts"), is currently a "work in progress" in London: opposite Parliament, bereaved families of those lost to the coronavirus pandemic plus hundreds of volunteers are hand-painting individual hearts on a half-mile-long wall that runs along the River Thames.

Each heart symbolises a life lost to the virus, and at least 145,000 hearts will feature on the memorial by the time it is completed - each heart naming someone who was loved,

someone who was lost too soon to Covid-19. It takes, on average, 10 minutes for visitors to walk the length of the 6-foot -high wall, so many are the hearts.

My daughter-in-law recently showed me the photograph she had taken of her own "heart", on which she had written her mum's name, her mum having died from Covid almost exactly a year ago. It was immensely moving to see the name: a personal identity, not a statistic, and what's more to see it among the staggering thousand upon thousand hearts to be "named" in due course.



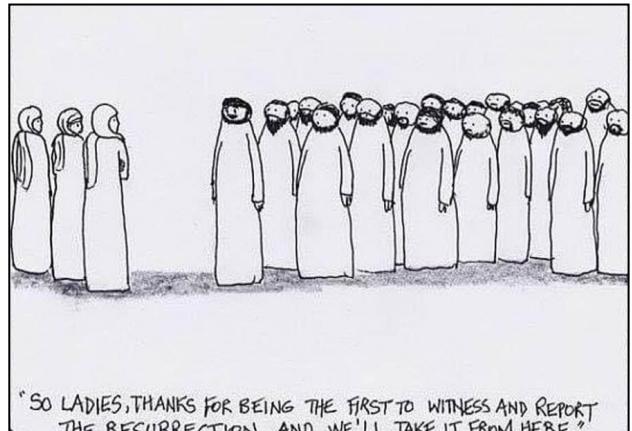
As Christians we have our own act of remembrance which, in normal times, is at the heart of our worship: the Eucharist or Holy Communion. We take bread and wine and remember the words Jesus spoke to his closest friends at his last meal : ***This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many.*** More importantly we reflect on the action behind these words: the sacrifice made on our behalf. How much we have missed

this act of communion over the last year, and how wonderful that we are taking tentative steps towards re-establishing it. Our first celebration was on Christmas Day, and the Maundy Thursday and Easter Day services offered the opportunity again - albeit in one kind only.

Our Good Friday services were a powerful remembering of Christ's suffering and death, and Easter Sunday a celebration of his resurrection, but these are annual services only. So we remind ourselves of both these events when we say thank-you (*eucharizein*) in more regular celebration of the Eucharist, and recommit ourselves to his service. Christ didn't tell his disciples to establish a complicated hierarchy in his name, nor to build majestic churches (costly to maintain!), but he did instruct us to eat bread and drink wine to remember why he died, to tell others about him, and to love one another. Covid could never stop us doing the last two—and now, as a church family, we are able again to do the first.

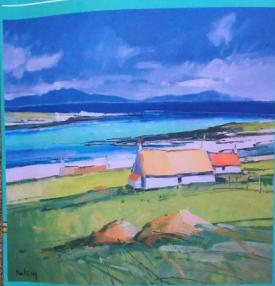
Acts of remembrance - necessary and profound.

Jynne



"SO LADIES, THANKS FOR BEING THE FIRST TO WITNESS AND REPORT THE RESURRECTION AND WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE."

J. PHILIP NEWELL



LISTENING FOR THE
HEARTBEAT OF GOD
A Celtic Spirituality

Book Review by Tricia Atherton

Listening for the Heartbeat of God by Philip Newell (1997)

A Celtic Spirituality

The Celtic mission is inspired by John, the beloved disciple who leaned against Jesus at the Last Supper. This spirituality lends itself to listening for God at the heart of life, at the heart of the natural world. Look for God within creation, not as something separate from creation. The whole of

creation, the whole of life, is revealing God to us. This tradition did not begin with the Celtic church but was part of an ancient stream of contemplative spirituality stretching back to St John the Evangelist and even to the Wisdom tradition of the Old Testament.

Back in the 4th and early 5th Century a guy named Pelagius stated that the essential goodness of humanity, the image of God, can be seen in the face of every new born child. He also said that, although it is obscured by sin, this essential image of God exists in the heart of every person, waiting to be released through the grace of God.

This notion was, seemingly, in direct opposition to that being propounded by Augustine which stated that every child was born sinful and that the image of God can only be restored to us through the church and the sacraments.

This clash of viewpoint led to the Council of Whitby in 664 which decided against the Celtic mission, resulting in the expansion of Augustine of Canterbury's Roman mission. In effect, the Christians at that time were pitting St John and St Peter against each other! Such arrogance! The Celtic church was pushed to the fringes but has survived the centuries and is currently of great interest to many new believers.

For me, the saddest part of this situation, back then, is that the church could have worked together to keep the best of both missions but once again in the history of humanity there had to be a 'winning side'. Why? Was it to do with rich and powerful people establishing themselves in great stone edifices? Was it to do with control? This for me, rings bells connected to Imperialism and Colonialism – the deeply ingrained belief that one group knows better than another on how things should be. Discuss!

I am continuing to read this book and thoroughly enjoying my exploration of Celtic Spirituality. I would enjoy the company of other pilgrims on the way. Let me know if you are interested to chat over these things.

Tricia Atherton

Satsuki-Mei really enjoyed the Easter activity pack - thanks to those who put it together!



Scout Group Bedding Plants



Last year the Parish Church Scout and Guide Group was unable to hold their annual Bedding Plant Sale because of COVID 19, but they are pleased to be able to do so this year.

The group would be most grateful for your support.

Please see the additional attachment which came with this newsletter for the list of plants available, plus prices.

Please place your order by **1st May** and it will be delivered to your home on **Saturday 22nd May**.

This is one of their biggest fund-raisers so, **please**, if you can place an order it doesn't matter how big or small! **THANK YOU**.

If possible, please pay by BACS.

**Account name MPCS & GG
Sort code 08-92-99,
Account. No. 65972636**

Please put your name and bedding plants in comment box.

If you are unable to pay by BACS please send a cheque and your order to the address on the form, to be processed as usual.



**Diana Stafford
Deputy Group Scout Leader
Parish Church Scout and Guide
Group**

6 *
 *
thankyou

Just a wee note to say a big "thank you!" for the surprise of a delicious, wonderfully large chocolate cake on Mothering Sunday - we were all really moved by the lovely gesture, and took great delight in eating it - it made our week!

Ian, Erika, Nina and Maia xxx

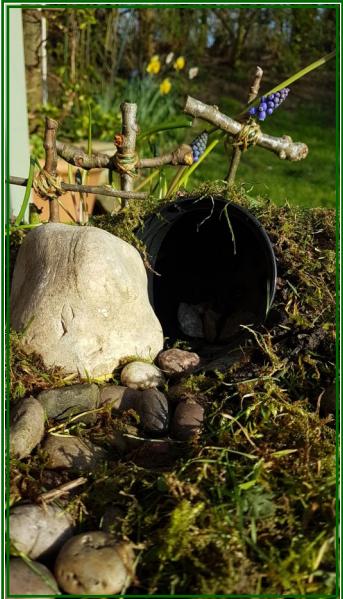




Easter Garden

Eleanor has loved making her Easter garden. Thank you so much for the lovely thoughtful bag of Easter activities. She was delighted with them!

Happy Easter from the Mason family!
xxx



 Caring for
God's
Acre

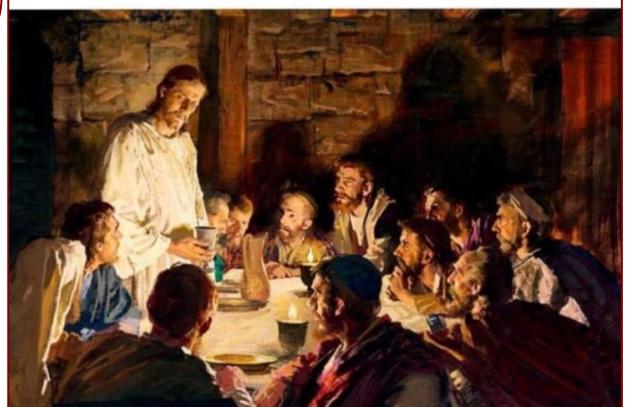
The Diocese of Chester is to [join up with environmental charity Caring for God's Acre](#) to provide a number of webinars aimed at encouraging churches to make better use of their churchyards as places of ecological and social significance. The first webinar is on Tuesday 05 May.

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

Eleanor's Easter Garden - how fantastic!

Thanks to the Strutt family (well—Eleanor really!) for sending in this picture.

Jesus walks into a bar: "Just 12 waters please!" *winks at disciples*



 Safeguarding

St Michael's takes seriously its duty and obligation in relation to safeguarding and protecting all .

For any safeguarding concerns please contact myself, Carol Riesen or Chris Bentley.

Gemma Shepherd Etchells
(St Michael's Safeguarding Officer)



How to Contact the Office

Please be careful to use the correct email address for the purpose of your message.

- For the **newsletter**: stmikesnotices@gmail.com
- For **bookings, building maintenance**: office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk
- For **service details, rotas, anything else**: clergypa@maccteam.org.uk

These email addresses will be accessed at least once per week, but not every day, so don't expect an instant response. The office phone will also be accessed at least once each week.



Scouts

Deputy Group Scout Leader (GSL)

Placement (May 2021 - August 2022)

Macclesfield Parish Scout and Guide Group

This is a fantastic opportunity for an enthusiastic, committed volunteer to join 6th Macclesfield Scouts as a Deputy Group Scout Leader on a 15 month placement.

Ideally suited for anyone looking to develop transferrable skills in managing projects and people, be that in the workplace, or as a GSL in another group in future.

About Macclesfield Parish Scout and Guide Group

MPCSG is a vibrant and growing group based in Station Street, Macclesfield. Although the group has both Scouting and Guiding sections, we have a true feeling of being one family.

The group really enjoyed Chamboree 2018, and over lockdown have continued to meet online with weekly programmes and continued to grow its membership.

They are just completing a major project to refurbish the rear of their HQ.

Website: www.mpcsg.co.uk

When you take this role:

- You will be fully supported by the Group Scout Leader who will coach and mentor through the placement.
- You will develop skills need to inspire and motivate volunteers to work together to deliver great experiences to young people, build a sound understanding of the "GSL role" in Scouting and how that relates to the Group Executive and to Girl Guiding.

During the 15 months, you will

- Encourage and support the return to face to face scouting in the group
- Plan and deliver the opportunity for both Scouting and Guiding sections in the group to attend Chamboree 2022
- Ensure the group embeds a safety and compliance mindset across programmes, buildings, charity and finance controls

The placement is open to anyone over the age of 18. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm and a drive to make a difference to young people and adults.

The successful applicant will be guided through the Scouts role appointments process and will need to commit to completion of mandatory training within 5 months of appointment.

Apply via email, providing an outline as to what interests you about this opportunity to: GSL@mpcsg.co.uk

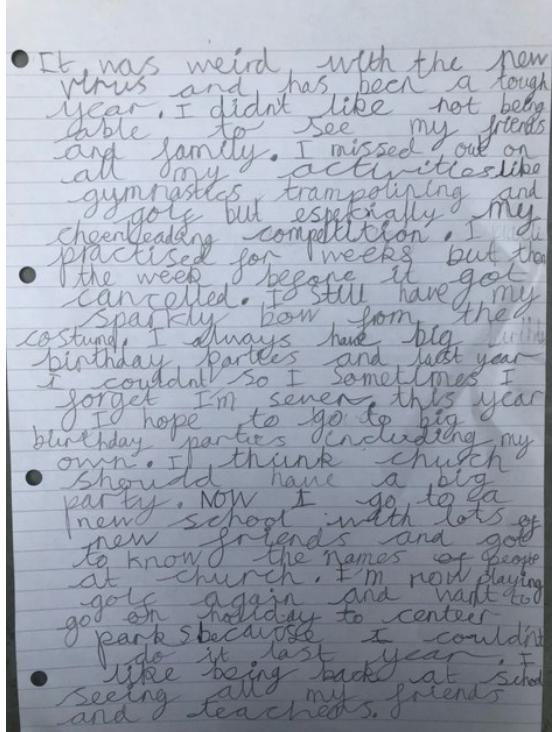
Closing date: 25th April 2021

I finally did it!

Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.
No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

St Michael's
Church is now
open daily
11.00am-1.00pm
for private prayer

Satsuki-Mei on Lockdown



It was weird with the new virus and has been a tough year. I didn't like not being able to see my friends and family. I missed out on all my activities like gymnastics, trampolining and golf but especially my cheerleading competition. I practised for weeks but the week before it got cancelled. I still have my sparkly bow from the costume. I always have big birthday parties and last year I couldn't so I sometimes forget I'm seven. This year I hope to go to big birthday parties including my own. I think church should have a big party (so do I, Satsuki-Mei! ed). Now I go to a new school with lots of new friends and got to know the names of people at church. I'm now playing golf again and want to go on holiday to Center Parcs because I couldn't do it last year. I like being back at school seeing all my friends and teachers.

I have been wondering how our young people at St Mike's have been coping for the last year, and Satsuki-Mei has sent her thoughts.

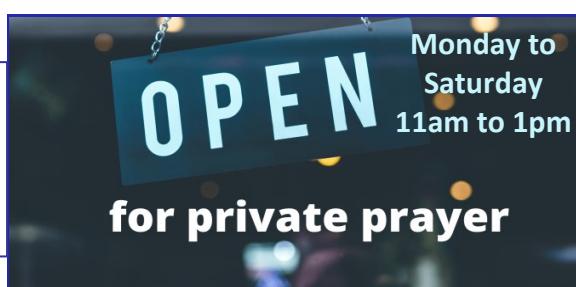
I thought you'd like to see her lovely neat handwriting (above), but in case it's a bit small, here is a transcript.

Thanks you so much Satsuki-Mei!

"It was weird with the new virus and has been a tough year. I didn't like not being able to see my friends and family. I missed out on all my activities like gymnastics, trampolining and golf but especially my cheerleading competition. I practised for weeks but the week before it got cancelled. I still have my sparkly bow from the costume. I always have big birthday parties and last year I couldn't so I sometimes forget I'm seven. This year I hope to go to big birthday parties including my own. I think church should have a big party (so do I, Satsuki-Mei! ed). Now I go to a new school with lots of new friends and got to know the names of people at church. I'm now playing golf again and want to go on holiday to Center Parcs because I couldn't do it last year. I like being back at school seeing all my friends and teachers."

What a lot of activities Satsuki-Mei normally does (and that doesn't include recording some of our story videos for us for our Morning Services). I hope that she can soon get back into everything she enjoys, particularly parties!

If any other of our young people would like to send in their own reflections of life in a pandemic, we'd love to hear from you. Email stmkennotices@gmail.com



Easter Bonnet Parade: Easter Sunday Service



A brave 9 responded to the call to wear a personalised Easter Bonnet for Sunday morning's live service. Below is the Rogues' Gallery. Many on Zoom also rose to the challenge (from the safety of their own homes)

Well done everyone!



Sallie
(real tulips and irises - and great colour coordination)



Catherine
(a feathery crown)



Pam
(a tasteful touch of red)



Evie (the Easter bunny)



Garry
(yes - there is a discreet chick on his straw hat)



Rachel
(tasteful in yellow and blue)



Paul (clearly has no idea what an Easter bonnet is)



Lynne
(over the top, as usual)



Martin (the Bancroft tulip and iris theme again)



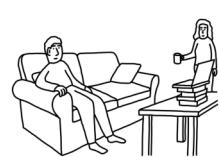
Here are the beautiful Easter flowers which decorated the church on Easter Day.

Our thanks to Kitey, Sue, Izzy, Heather and Sandie for their hard work and creativity.

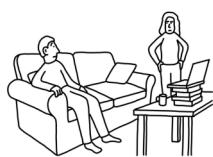


THE ONLINE SERVICE

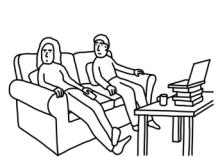
HOW TO MAKE IT FEEL LIKE NORMAL



ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES LATE, CARRYING COFFEE



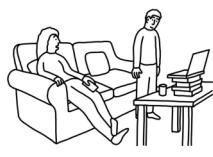
SCOWL AT THE PERSON SITTING IN YOUR SEAT



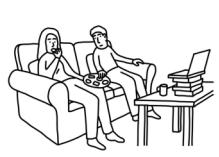
WHISPERED DISCIPLINING OF CHILDREN (UNSUCCESSFUL)



USE YOUR PHONE TO 'READ THE BIBLE'



STAND UP AT ENTIRELY THE WRONG POINT



SHARE A PLATE OF STALE BISCUITS



Join us for
Sunday Worship

St Michael's Worship 11th April 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

**Merged service this week at 10.00am:
live in church / from home on Zoom**

To join by Zoom click on the image or use
Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379
Password: 01625
Service Leader: Lynne Spedding
Talk: Revd Barry Langman
Reading: John 20:19-31



Can't join us live? Watch the recording of our morning worship service on Zoom at a time to suit you after Sunday lunchtime [here](#)

No Computer? No problem!
You can still join any of these Zoom meetings and services with your landline phone



If phoning:

Dial **0330 088 5830**.

When prompted, enter the **Meeting ID** from any of these boxes followed by #

[For Sunday's service: **939 7279 7379**]

When prompted, enter #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here

JOIN US ON
Zoom

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



Monday House Group

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 910 4838 5228

Password: Monday

For more information contact Martin [by email](#) or 01625 426110.

Thursday Homegroup

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm using same details as before. All are welcome to join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship, including by phone. Please contact David Mayers by [email](#) or phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802659. This week we have started the Bible Course.



DONATIONS: Donating to the church for general purposes has been made simpler. Either click on the blue Donate button or scan the QR Code.



Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry →

