

ST MIKE'S NEWS

A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

ISSUE 30 11TH OCTOBER 2020

Church Together Apart



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Instagram



Follow Up from our Vision Day

A few weeks ago, we asked you to think about whether God might be calling you to join one of the groups who will develop the ideas from our Vision Day into a strategy for St Michael's, which will form the basis of our planning for the next few years. It's great that people have volunteered and at least two of the groups have now met. Their task is to come up with an objective for developing that aspect of our mission, reflecting the output from the Vision Day. There should be some ideas as to how progress could be measured, and a few specific projects identified. So, this is a limited commitment; the group members are not necessarily expected to carry out those projects (although of course they can be involved if they wish). The three groups comprise:

Sustainability:	Encounter:	Explore & Nurture:
Anne Kite David Mayers James Booth Lynne Spedding Martin Bancroft Paul Simms	Heike Werner Ian Cape Izzy Reid Peter Bradley Rachel Mayers Sallie Bancroft	Catherine Stephens Tricia Atherton Carole Snowden Judith Whittingham Martin Stephens Paul Simms

Martin, Paul Simms and myself are working to pull all this together – that is why Paul is a member of all three groups. We feel it is time to refresh our Purpose Statement (written about 10 years ago). Some wording we have suggested is:

Our purpose is to worship God, share the gospel of Jesus Christ, welcome all who come, and contribute to the flourishing (or wellbeing) of Macclesfield (or Macclesfield Town Centre community)

(A Purpose Statement should define “the people served and how it serves them” – and we should be able to relate everything we do, and decisions we make as a church, to this)

What do you think of this? Does it reflect what you think St Michael's is all about? Please let Rachel, Martin or Paul have your views.

Rachel Mayers

Please Pray for these Groups

The Encounter group is meeting this Friday evening and the Sustainability group, Sunday evening. Please pray for the members of these groups meeting this week.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3). Pray for a spirit of grace and forgiveness among group members. Pray for humility. Ask God to protect the groups from grumbling and complaining spirits. Ask God to create environments of encouragement. Pray that God will reveal small-group members' spiritual gifts and create opportunities for those gifts to be used to honour him and serve the groups. Prayer for openness to God's guidance, direction and open hearts among everyone.

From Bishop Mark

This week the [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) has published its [report](#) into the Church of England,



including in our own diocese. I welcome this report and am grateful to the Inquiry for their diligent work and to survivors who bravely gave evidence to assist the IICSA Panel.

Though it may be painful for us to read, it is vital that we do. We must never lose sight of the harm that has been caused and recognise that for many their pain is lifelong. We must respond well and we must care for survivors of such abuse. I wholeheartedly support Bishop Jonathan in the work he has been leading in this regard. I am grateful, too, for the many examples of good practice we already have in the Church. However, this report presents an opportunity for us to learn together and continue to improve our understanding and practice so that we can become the Christ-shaped church we are called to be: beacons of light, life, and hope for all, genuinely safe space for all in our society.

My thoughts and prayers, though, are with those who have survived abuse in any context, but especially those whose abuse has taken place within the Church. Please, if this raises issues for you, know that there are people to whom you can talk and be assured of my prayers.

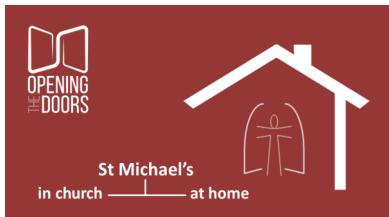
+Mark

(Continued on page 8)

St Michael's Worship 11th October 2020

Two services this week both at 10am:
one in church and one on Zoom

To join by Zoom click on the image below or use
Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625



Service Leader: David Mayers
Talk: Graham Turner (live in church, recorded on Zoom)
Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

This week is Prison Sunday and our service is themed around this. See page 6 for more details.

Both services will include elements which are the same.

Can't join us live either in church or on Zoom?

Watch the recording 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:

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources for adults and families: click [here](#)

Resources for children: click [here](#)

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Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

NEW!

Meeting ID: 982 3541
9798

Password: 382502

Hosted by Tricia & Martin



Monday House Group:

When? 7.30pm til 9pm Monday evenings

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 910 4838 5228

Password: Monday

We've recently been looking at Paul's letters to the Christians in Corinth, but there's also the preliminary chat/pastoral catch-up and prayer together. Join us, or for more information contact Martin [by email](#) or 01625 426110

Thursday Homegroup

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm. We have completed our study of Luke's Gospel and are holding discussions of our respective faith journeys. 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

Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry



Jenny's Crab Apple Jelly



I have been making crab apple jelly for quite a few years now, but this year our tree has definitely realised that this is now the season of mellow fruitfulness and it is groaning under the weight! So far I have made 79 pots of Jelly and I thought members of the Church Family might like some. Crab apple jelly is delicious with cheese, especially strong cheese, it is also good with meat, particularly pork, and some people treat it like jam - on its own or on bread.

I will leave the pots in the church, please help yourselves. The jars come in all sizes, so if you have never tried the jelly before there are small ones for tasters! The jelly is free, but, if however, you felt like exchanging a pot of jelly for a small donation towards church funds that would be great. Monies in glass box please. Also, any spare jam jars would be gratefully received - I can still make more crab apple jelly.....

Jenny Whitten

Baby Spedding News

It's a
Boy!

Baby Spedding Jones was born on Monday 5th October at 10.30am, a week early, by planned caesarean section. Mum (Ruth) and baby doing well now after a few initial breathing troubles after delivery. Paul and Lynne will be back in Macclesfield shortly when hopefully they will be able to reveal baby's name and share with us some pictures. Congratulations to Paul and Lynne on becoming grandparents once more.

Music @ Mike's Autumn Lunchtime Concerts

Pianist Adam Parrish



Thursday
15 October
1.15pm

FREE ENTRY

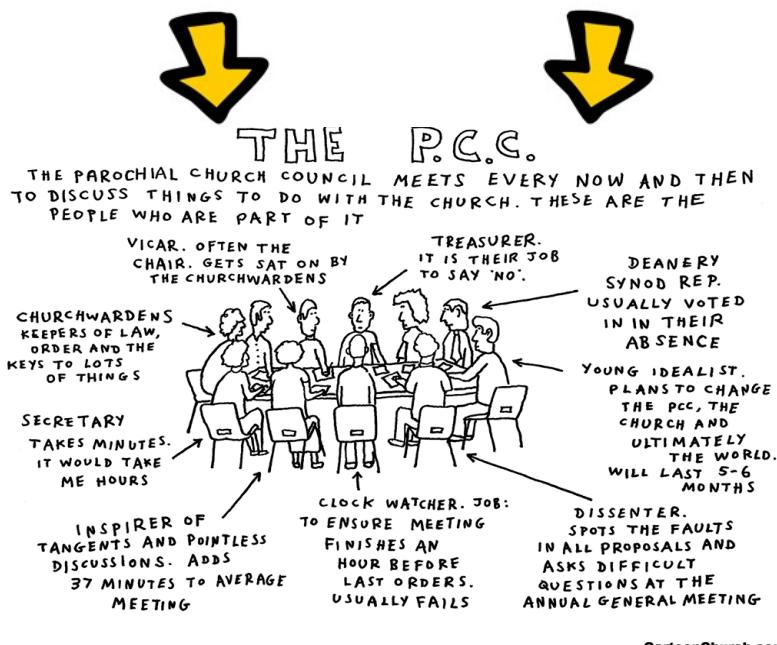
(DONATIONS TO East Cheshire Hospice & St Michael's are welcomed)

She's Back in the Building....

You may have already noticed that the church is looking a whole lot less dusty as we welcomed Alexa back to her duties from furlough at the start of this month. The big smile on Alexa's face says it all - she is pleased to be back and we are pleased to have her back reporting for duty. Here she is pictured with her cleaning gadget.



THIS COULD BE YOU.

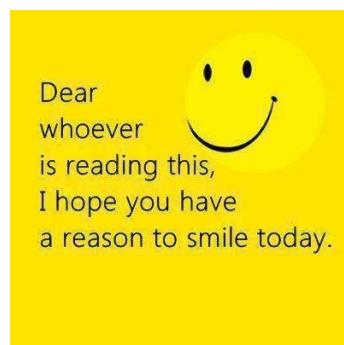


As mentioned in last week's newsletter, our annual meeting takes place on 18th October straight after our worship together. At the meeting we will elect new churchwardens and there are up to five vacancies for the Church Council, three for Deanery Synod Representatives and Safeguarding Advisor.

Perhaps you'd like to know who is on the Church Council?

Lynne Spedding (Lay Chair)	Paul Spedding (Secretary)
Martin Stephens (Rector)	Martin Bancroft
Chris Wightman	Carol Riesen
Tony Skirvin	Enid Skirvin
Katie Wilcock	

Elected members usually serve for three years with approximately one third of members retiring each year. Churchwardens are ex officio members of the Church Council (along with Clergy, Readers, Treasurer and Deanery Synod Representatives) so Paul Simms, Tricia Atherton, Hilary Halliwell and Vicky and Gordon Darlington will all be stepping down unless nominated to go back on. Jenny Wild and Izzy Reid were co-opted for one year only so will stand down too, unless nominated back on as full CC members. The CC can have up to 12 elected members. If you would like to nominate someone, please ensure you speak to them first. There are certain criteria they need to meet, their agreement is at least one of those criterion!! You need a proposer and a seconder. Please sign on the rear noticeboard at the back of church. Any questions, please contact Paul Spedding as CC Secretary, or speak to Lynne or Martin, or via the Office.



Blessed are the delayed, for they shall see the ring-road of Swindon!



I'll be on my bike then!!



Donations to AV Project

Don't forget if you'd like to donate towards the AV project as described by Rachel in a recent newsletter, please contact Mike, our Treasurer for more details.

To my dear friends at St Michael's

Thankyou so much for your continuing support of our work in the rural areas of Rwanda. At this time of year we hold our Annual Open Meeting, but of course this year it is being held on-line. (Details below). I apologise to those who don't have access to this service, but I hope you know how much I appreciate your interest.

There have been very exciting things happening even during this worldwide pandemic which has affected life in the rural areas quite drastically. Restriction of movement, closure of schools, enforced curfews from 7pm and rising food prices have all had a detrimental effect on communities. But, in true African 'ubuntu' style, the communities have worked together to feed and help each other. We have sent additional funding for the Feeding Programme so that children will be fed even though the schools are closed.

The Pigs and Goats Project has been particularly successful, as you will see from the photo. Those who supported this initiative by buying Pigs and Goats gift cards will be pleased to hear that more than 10 kids have been born and passed to other vulnerable families. The first sow gave birth to piglets on 24th September.

The men who work on the Safer Stoves small business project have been able to



continue working during lockdown. They produce these stoves and whilst some of them are given to vulnerable families, others are sold. New customer bases are being found in order to build a small business.

We continue to help improve sanitation and health by providing money to build two new toilets at the new satellite nursery that we started in another village this year. I had no idea how these long drop toilets are built so the video is particularly interesting. How deep is that hole??!! Watch it [here](#) on Facebook.

I look forward to hearing your comments and questions. If you are able to attend the Zoom Open Meeting the details are:-

VRUK CHARITY's AGM Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 17, 2020 4.00pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 911 712 4669

Passcode: Vruk116200

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly for any further information or if you would like to join our supporters mailing list. Sue has my details so if you contact the church office she can pass it on to you.

Keep safe and God bless

Tricia Atherton



Relieving Poverty in Rural Rwanda



www.villagerwanda.uk.com

Facebook: Village Rwanda UK



UNITED IN LOCKDOWN

Prison Sunday 11th October

with Graham Turner
former Prison Chaplain
& Rector of St Michael's

**SO LET US PRAY
SO LET US ACT
SO LET US DECLARE: YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

11TH - 17TH OCTOBER 2020
WWW.PRISONSWEEK.ORG
@PRISONSWEEK #PRISONSWEEK



We are delighted to confirm that our former Rector, Graham Turner, will be speaking to us this Sunday, Prison Sunday, to share some of his experiences of being a prison chaplain. He and Rosie will be with us in person in St Michael's at the 10.00 service; and afterwards we will extend the service for those who wish to stay for a time of questions, discussion and chat – you might like to bring a flask and perhaps something to eat to sustain you! And don't forget your face-covering. Those at home on the Zoom service will be able to hear a recorded version of Graham's talk.

It should be a fascinating and challenging opportunity to hear about prison life and the prisoners themselves – often a forgotten and neglected part of our society.

Please use this prayer during next week, Prisons Week:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

You will also find a fact sheet about prison life included with this newsletter; and you can download a prayer sheet and other resources [here](#)

David Mayers

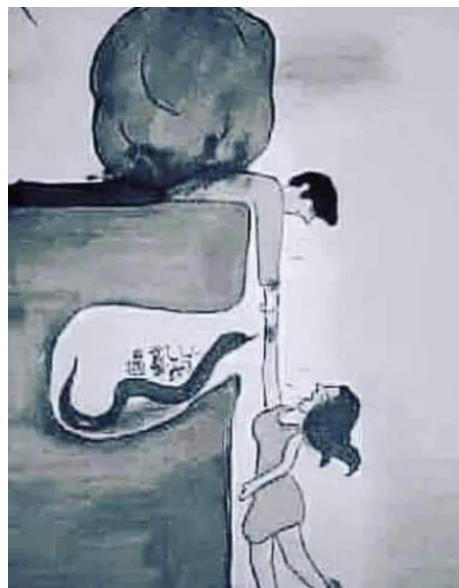


Macclesfield Hospital Launches Inclusion Wall

East Cheshire NHS Trust is excited to announce the launch of an inclusion wall, an informative and impactful piece of artwork that celebrates all aspects of diversity, equality and inclusion in the trust, in-particular cultural diversity.

The purpose of the wall is to inform and educate viewers on aspects of equality, diversity and inclusion, but also for the wall to become a focal point for staff, patients, and service users to engage in meaningful discussions and celebrate difference.

The display is situated along the first-floor corridor of Macclesfield Hospital and is split into three separate sections; a reaffirmation of the trust's ambition, a summary of the nine protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010, and a map representing the 40 nationalities which make up the workforce at East Cheshire NHS Trust.



The man doesn't know that there is a snake underneath. The woman doesn't know that there is a stone crushing the man. The woman thinks: "I am going to fall! And I can't climb because the snake is going to bite me! Why can't the man use a little more strength and pull me up!" The man thinks: "I am in so much pain! Yet I'm still pulling you

as much as I can! Why don't you try and climb a little harder?"

The moral is — you can't see the pressure the other person is under, and the other person can't see the pain you're in. This is life, whether it's with work, family, feelings or friends, we should try to understand each other. Learn to think differently, perhaps more clearly and communicate better. A little thought and patience goes a long way. Be kind to people. Everyone we meet is fighting their own battle.

The London Marathon in Bedford Covid Style!



These pictures depict, rain, more rain, bedraggled runners and bedraggled supporters!

In the post run interview Tina admitted to her record for the slowest marathon that she has done (now an incredible two). You will see an example of the wonderful artwork put together by Jane, Tina's sister, depicting famous London landmarks along the route.

The supporters had to move swiftly to be in position for the drink and sustenance stops.

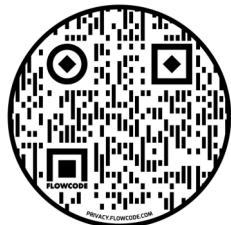
Our two intrepid runners, Tina and Jane, running for Brain Research UK, were encouraged over the final seven miles by

Tina's son, William, who donned his trainers to run along with them.

Thank you to all our virtual Macclesfield supporters. Knowledge of your support spurred them on to the finish.

Mike Strutt

If anyone wishes to donate to Brain Research UK, please click [here](#) to Jane's fundraising page, or scan the QR code here



I don't care how magnificent you are, the law says six.....

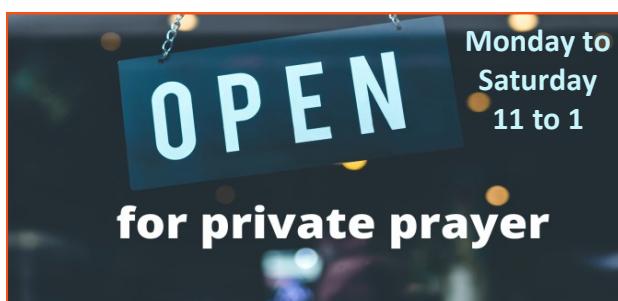
For a number of weeks now, I've been joining with a few other Christians from churches in Macclesfield to prayer-walk around our town. Initially we'd start from St Michael's and, in twos or threes, we'd walk around a given area, sometimes stopping to pray when something or someone caught our eye, or simply being prayerful as we walked. Either way, it's an exciting and engaging way to pray. I've also got to know Christians from other churches!



Someone once said that prayer walking is '*praying on site with insight*'. The fact of being in a particular place brings an immediacy to our prayers. We're not just imagining that place from the comfort of our sitting room - we're actually there, seeing it, hearing it, experiencing it. The focus of our prayer is always for God to bless the community we're in.

Why am I telling you this? Because you may wish to join me between 4 and 5 on Thursdays. We have moved beyond the town centre, and this month will be prayer-walking around Tytherington. If you'd like to join in, then call me on 01625 426110 and I can let you know where that week's start will be.

Catherine Stephens



What we need to do now...

Continuing the discussion about the environmental crisis

The Season of Creation is over, but the conversation must continue. There are many reasons why we must take action now:

- General Synod has made a commitment on behalf of the Church of England, and that includes us here at St Michael's, that we will be carbon neutral by 2025
- Tearfund has launched its Reboot campaign, calling on the UK government to create a greener, fairer and healthier future that gets us on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees
- The 5th Mark of Mission calls on all Christians to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain the life of the earth
- At our recent Vision Day one of the 3 key conclusions was the need to make St Michael's more sustainable

It's a huge challenge, and to try to get to grips with it we have combined our existing eco-church working group with one of the new Vision Day Strategy Groups. This group has been tasked with identifying a limited number of specific aims and associated targets; and to give you an idea of what they might be and how you will be involved (for this process will only succeed if everyone in the congregation gets behind it). Here are some initial thoughts:

Actions for the church council/congregation:

- Source our energy from a renewable supplier
- Replace our gas boiler with an electric heating system (perhaps an air source heat pump?)
- Put solar panels on the church roof
- Apply for the eco-church silver award
- Improve the rate of re-cycling
- Replace all lights with LED lamps
- Carry out an energy audit
- Calculate the church's carbon emissions, and reduce them
- Support community carbon reduction initiatives
- Prioritise worship, prayer and ministry related to creation care

(Continued from page 1)

If you or anyone you are in contact with are affected by the publication of this report and want to talk to someone independently please call the Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056 or email safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk. Alternatively, you may contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser in the Diocese of Chester, via email or phone: 07703 800031

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has experienced church-related abuse of any form in England or Wales. The service comprises a team of trained support advocates, who have undergone specialist training in supporting survivors of sexual violence. They have received specific training in how the churches respond to abuse cases, the way in which faith and church-related settings have been used to carry out abuse, and the particular issues affecting people who have had or



Actions for individuals:

- Reduce, re-use, recycle – with the emphasis on the first
- If you must have one, use an electric car. But an electric bike is better!
- Use public transport, cycle or walk whenever possible
- Eat less meat
- Insulate your house
- Calculate your carbon footprint; and reduce it
- Fly less, or not at all
- Check the food-miles of everything you eat
- Vote for politicians who prioritise action on climate change
- Buy renewable energy

I'm sure you can think of many other ideas; and may not agree with some on the above list. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me or others on the Vision Day Strategy Group: Martin Bancroft, Lynne Spedding, Anne Kite, James Booth, Paul Simms, Kev Ridings

David Mayers

Genesis chapter 1 tells us that "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good!" There is now very considerable scientific evidence that humanity is doing serious damage to our planet – and this is NOT GOOD!

still have, a relationship with the church.

The service is for those who may have experienced any form of abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse (including spiritual abuse), domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour.

A dedicated Safe Spaces team are available through the helpline 0300 303 1056 and live chat service between Monday–Saturday 10am–6pm, apart from Thursdays when the service is open 12–8pm.

For more information, visit:

www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk