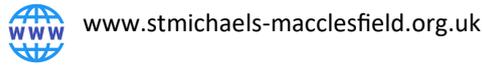
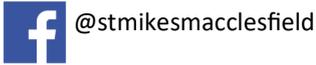




A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



The Posada



What is Posada?

Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib.



Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place



to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home or place in the community, worshipping and reaching out to their communities with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives.

Our Posada

Our Posada has already been on quite a journey and there is still a long

way to go. The first photograph shows their visit to Hilary and Garrod where they seem to have settled in well.



David Mayers was teaching a group of RE students at a local High School about environmental sustainability and decided to take along our Posada to continue another step of the journey.

Following on from that, there was a shopping trip to Scoop and Scales before finally finding their resting place for the evening with Vijay, Esther and their family.

So although it is currently a wet and windy Macclesfield, Mary, Joseph and their donkey are have a full and eventful journey with a welcoming warm home to meet them every evening.

We hope all those who are taking part in our Posada this year are enjoying the journey and welcome any more photographs of your time with the Posada to share.



The Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

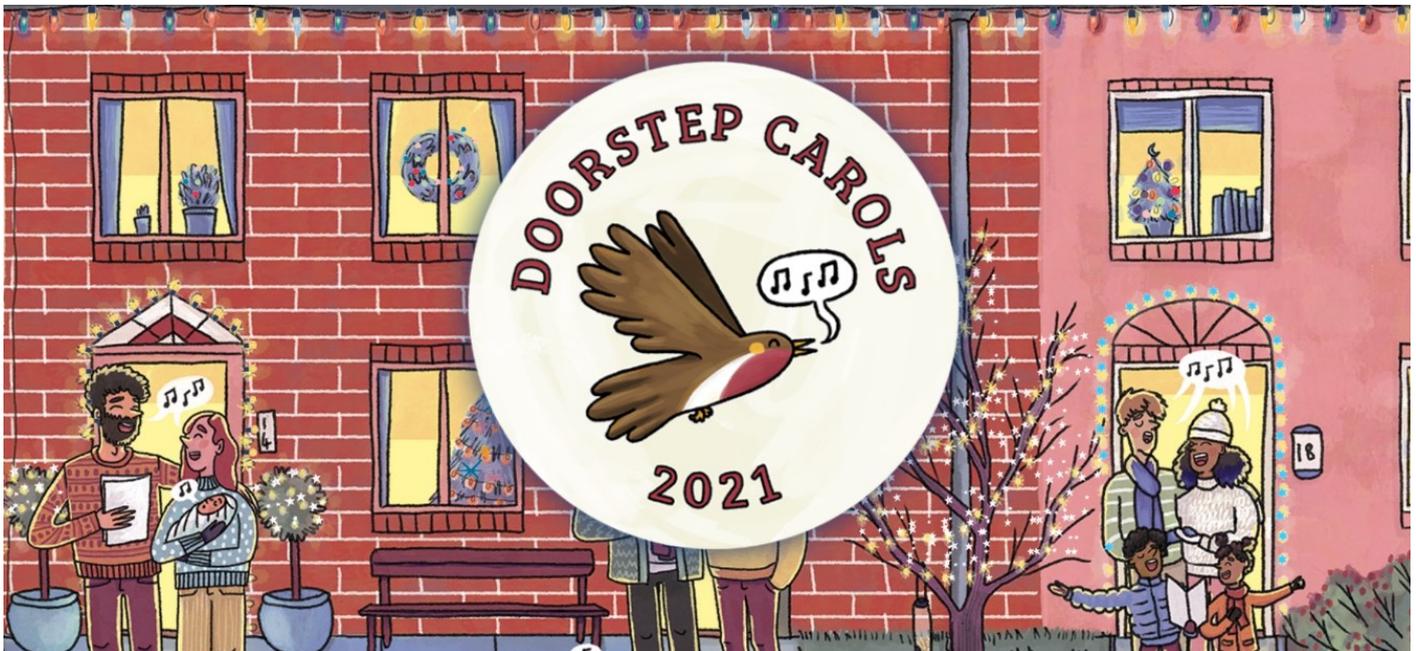
12th December 2021

The Third Sunday of Advent
Church Family Worship — 10:00am

Leader: Mike Strutt

Speaker: Mike Strutt

Reading: Luke 3:7-18



WHEN? 6PM, WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

WHERE? YOUR STREETS!

HOW? TUNE IN TO LOCAL RADIO

Doorstep Carols 2021 takes all that was so popular last year and adds even more sparkle to this nationwide event with cathedral choirs and professional singers ready to lead the nation in song. Working with BBC local radio stations & streaming to schools, hospital wards, care-homes, and communities around the country, no one need feel isolated this Christmas.

WHY?

TO REMIND THE NATION OF THE SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE OF COLLECTIVE MUSIC AND TO SUPPORT CHARITIES THAT RECOGNISE THAT VALUE IN THE WORK THEY DO.

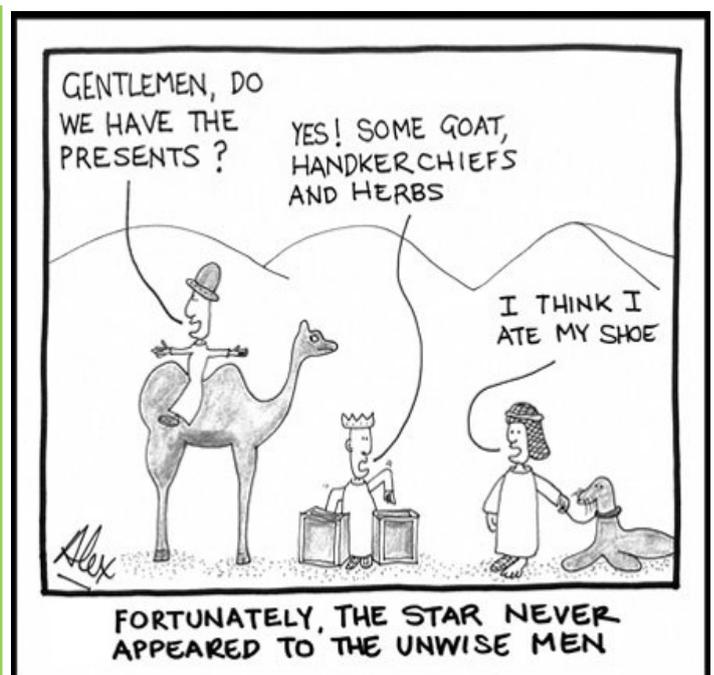
For more information and resources, visit <https://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/>

India Direct – Special Christmas Card/ Gift



India.

Thank you to all those who kindly bought an India Direct Christmas Card. Through your generosity we have managed to raise over £200 after postage, every penny of which will go to help poor children in



Wednesday Coffee and a Chat



Hannah's Song. 1Samuel Chapter 1- Chapter 2.1-10

If you are like me you will need to use the Contents Page of your bible to find the book of Samuel. I don't often read this book so it was inspiring to be able to link the New Testament with something in the Old Testament. Last week we talked about Mary and the visit of the Angel Gabriel and we rejoiced in the song of Mary which we now know as The Magnificat. So, this week we decided to look back into the Old Testament to another woman who rejoiced in the works of God. It is a long reading but worth taking time over.

Heather led us in our thoughts about Hannah. Here is another woman who did not have children and felt a failure in the eyes of the society around and to her husband. He had two wives and the other wife had produced several children but she was mean to Hannah. She used to 'provoke Hannah severely to irritate her' (v.6). Hannah wept and would not eat, but there is a love story here because Hannah's husband loved her more than the other wife and said to her 'Hannah why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?' (v8) What a nice man!!! In our group we were all touched by this man's love for his wife. We talked about the anguish of not having a child but the blessing of having the love of such a husband.

Grace wondered if the other wife knew that her husband loved Hannah more than her and that is why she was so mean to Hannah. Kitey wondered how Hannah reacted when she suffered these jibes. She appears to be a quiet, sensitive self-controlled person who held her feelings deep inside. Maybe her husband didn't know how Hannah was being treated. As Dek said - polygamy was an insurance policy in case one wife couldn't have children.

Grace pointed out that Hannah prayed constantly and was very focused in her prayers. Eventually she did have a child - Samuel- and then dedicated him to the temple - she gave him away! This is astounding after such trials, and to add further mystery Hannah prayed a song of praise to God - chapter 2 which is very similar to the one Mary sang.

One of my observations was that there appears to be several women in the bible who were 'barren' and then had children. Their prayers were answered in the way they wanted but what is it like for women whose deepest prayers are not answered in the way they want? This is not for me to answer but I do know what it is like to have these sorts of experiences, not connected to childbearing but certainly in other aspects of life. I have come to the conclusion that God's ways are different from my ways but that God is loving and faithful even when I am not.

Towards the end of our chat we recognised again the goodness of this husband and also the husband of Elizabeth and the future husband of Mary (Joseph), so next week I am going to do a little research on these husbands. I hope you can join us and if you have anything to query or to add, please do feel free to contact us.

The zoom link is on the back page of the newsletter.

Keep the faith!

Tricia Atherton

Covid Update

As of **Friday 10th December**, it is now compulsory to wear a face covering in places of worship. We therefore kindly ask for you to only enter the building if you are wearing a face covering and for this to remain in place at all times apart from consuming food and drink.



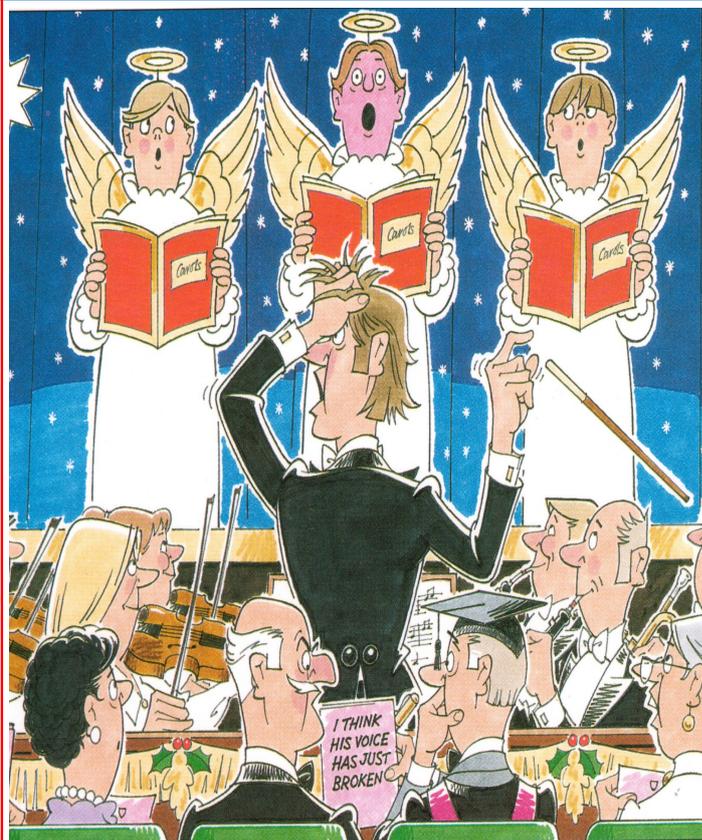
Refreshments will still be offered following Sunday's service but we ask for you to spread out into the worship area and outside if possible to maintain social distancing when removing your mask to consume food and drink.

The café will remain open as normal offering table service so upon entry, please find a free table and someone will come to you to take your order.

We hope these measures are temporary and we will be able to return to our current measures as soon as possible.

We thank you all in advance for your co-operation and truly hope these measures allow us all to have a safe and happy Christmas with our families.

Porsche



ARRR! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

The Big Give 2021!



Cre8 will be getting together on Christmas Eve for THE BIG GIVE 2021 to distribute food & gifts to households on the Moss Estate and wider across Macclesfield.

We're looking for:

- Volunteers who will be free on Christmas Eve in the evening (timings to be confirmed but likely to be after 5pm). Jobs will include; unloading deliveries of food, sorting through donations, and making up hampers. It's quite physical work but it's good fun!
- Teams to deliver the hampers on the night. You'll need a driver with their own car and helper(s).
- Donations of BRAND NEW gifts for children and adults of all ages. Preferably unwrapped. We are in desperate need of gifts for older teens, suggestions include toiletry sets, gift cards/vouchers, family games, socks!
- Other donations of store cupboard food (pasta, sauces, tins etc) and toiletries, sanitary products, nappies, wipes, baby food etc.

If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch with Katy via katy.wardle@cre8macclesfield.org or call the Cre8 office on 01625 503740 for more information.

David Smith's Festive one liners...

What keys are furry?

Donkeys.

ha! ha! ha! ha!



What's Best to Donate?

Please find below a helpful list of the essential items we require the public to donate between October and December 2021

'Thank You for Helping Us to Help Others'

We help single people, couples and families who are facing a harder time. Pastline professionals can refer through foodbank@silklife.co.uk

Tinned Foods

Curry
Tuna
Salmon
Sardines
Fray Bentos Pies
Macaroni Cheese
Vegetables
Potatoes
Ravioli
Meatballs
Spaghetti
Tomatoes
Spaghetti Bolognese
Chicken in Sauce
Irish Stew
Fruit
Rice Pudding
Custard

Other Foods

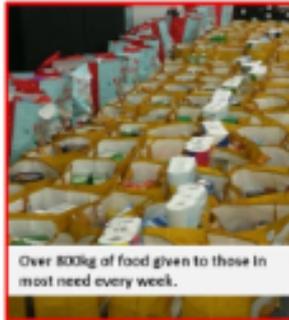
Instant Mash
Gluten Free Foods
Jams
Biscuits
Sweets & Treats
Tea & Coffee
Hot Chocolate
UHT Milk
UHT Fruit Juices
Cordials

Toiletries

Toilet Rolls
Shampoo

Christmas Items

Christmas Cake *(Alcohol Free)*
Christmas Pudding *(Alcohol Free)*
Festive Biscuits
Festive Sweets & Treats
Festive Gifts



Over 800kg of food given to those in most need every week.

We are unable to accept fresh and frozen foods

foodbank
MACCLESFIELD

Thank you



New!

You can now DONATE INSTANTLY at:
<https://www.justgiving.com/silklifechurch>
Cheques can be made payable to Silklife Church and marked on the reverse 'For Foodbank use'
Post to: Silklife Church, George Street, Macclesfield SK11 6HS



Storytellers 0-11 Christmas Party

Tuesday 14th December 5:00pm-6:30pm.

Food, crafts and games RSVP to clergypa@macsteam.org.uk

For more info contact Judith W.





Flower News



The beautiful flowers in the Worship Area have been graciously given and arranged by Sandie Bevan. Thank you Sandie.

Kitey

Tearfund's Christmas concert, Joyful All Ye Nations Rise, will be broadcast on Facebook on 16 December at 7.30pm. It's completely free, and you don't need a Facebook account to watch – so save the date, and follow the link below on the night:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Christmas café closure

CLOSED

Please note the café will be closed on
23rd, 24th, 25th, 30th, 31st Dec
and 1st Jan

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.” – Mother Teresa



Thank-you, Secret Santa, for exchanging the old and rather fractured watering can I keep in church for this spanking new, top-quality model!



The old one can now resume duties in my own garden (I'm sure it's got years of life left in it) although I admit I was tempted to take the shiny new one home instead!



Thank you so much, whoever you are.

And please do feel free - anyone - to water the planters with this lovely item (should it ever stop raining!). It is kept behind the shelving unit in the Welcome Area.

Theatre Trip Update

There is a list at the back of church for signing if you would like to go to "Beauty and the Beast" at the New Vic Theatre on Saturday 22nd January at 2.15 pm. I have 15 tickets available. They cost £25 each.

Eve Budgett



Charity Card Shop

A reminder that the charity card shop held in Macclesfield Library is open **Monday to Saturday until December 19th**. Most charities are represented including the Children's Society.



Strict COVID rules are in place.

Christmas Afternoon Tea Party

It was great to see so many familiar faces at our Christmas gathering last Friday. It was a lovely event and seemed to be appreciated by all those who joined us for an afternoon of quizzes, singing, drinks and excellent Christmas food provided by Ali and her team. Garrie Naden certainly did well on the quiz and advert game - must make them more challenging next time!!



A special "thank you" to David Smith, Linda Johnston and Carol Reisen for leading us in the carols to round off the afternoon.

Once again, I would like to thank all the Social Committee for their help and support in arranging the event.

Vicky Darlington



Nativity:

Next Sunday (19th) at 10.00am

Actors: please arrive for 8.45 a run-through.

Everyone else - please dress appropriately (halo, tea-towel or crown at the very least!)

Costumes are in the choir vestry (top floor)



Platform moves:

We have a busy time over the next few weeks, albeit not as busy as usual. There are several concerts and school Christmas events, and some need the platform up and some need it down.

We need a small team (3 people) to re-erect the platform on Tuesday 14th December after 6.30pm (time can be agreed by the team), and then another to take it down again on Thursday or Friday afternoon or evening. (again to be agreed by the team)

Then finally after the Silk Brass concert on Sat 18th, to re-erect it ready for the Nativity on Sunday..

Please let Rachel know in the office if you could help on any of these occasions.



Christmas Cards:

You have so many lovely friends at church: how do you decide to whom to send a Christmas

card and who to miss? In a quandary about the waste of resources sending lots of cards anyway? Resolve both these issues by sending ONE card to "friends at St Michael's" and putting it on the board in church.

If you do wish to send individual cards to folk who will be in the church building, then there will be a "Card Exchange" at the back of the worship area – put cards into the appropriate folder – and don't forget to look occasionally in case anyone has sent one to you.



Christmas at St. Michael's

Sunday 28th November

10:00AM Church Family Worship
6:30PM Advent Carol Service

Sunday 5th December

10:00AM Church Family Communion
4:00PM Christingle Service

Sunday 12th December

10:00AM Church Family Worship

Sunday 19th December

10:00AM Nativity Service
Church open until 2PM for Treacle Market
6:30PM Carols by Candlelight
(Free Ticket Required)

Tuesday 21st December

7:00PM Town Carol Service
(Free Ticket Required)

Friday 24th December

4:00PM Crib Service
(Free Ticket Required)
11:30PM Midnight Communion

Saturday 25th December

10:00AM Christmas Family Worship
with Communion

Sunday 26th December

10:00AM Church Family Worship
(Said Service)

Details of how to obtain free tickets can be found via the website <http://www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk/>, the newsletter or by contacting the office on 01625 421 984 /clergy@maccteam.org.uk



★ Spaces for Carols by Candlelight, The Town Carol Service and the Crib Service are limited as a Covid Safety measure. In order to do this, we are asking you to book a free ticket in advance so numbers can be monitored and capped in advance.
★ Please see the links below which will allow you to book a ticket for each of these services. Tickets are in singles so if you are attending as a couple, family or group, please ensure you select the correct number of tickets required.
★ We also kindly ask all those attending to wear a face covering if possible in order to try and reduce any spread of Coronavirus.
★ For Carols by Candlelight— <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi0y/t>
★ For The Town Carol Service— <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi0z/t>
★ For the Crib Service— <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi00/t>
★*****

A thank you for Christingle

I would like to thank all of you who supported the Christingle service on Sunday.

Thanks also to 'Santa's little helpers' for your invaluable help on both Saturday and Sunday. Not forgetting the Philipson's, in charge of filling 280 cocktail sticks.

Many thanks to the Revd Anne Freestone who kindly stepped in to lead the service.

Last but not least, Karen and the fab Treacle Band.

Total raised not yet available



Thanks again

Jenny Wild

Join us for
Worship



St Michael's Worship 5th December 2021

The Third Sunday of Advent
Church Family Worship —10:00am:
live in church / streamed on Youtube

Service Leader: Mike Strutt

Talk: Mike Strutt

Reading: Luke 3:7-18

Please use the link below to stream the Service on Youtube. The stream will go live from 10:00am on Sunday or you can catch up later.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVAzMVqQfoZ9qv0il7rlwEw>

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)

2nd December —Midweek Morning Communion

9th December —Midweek Morning Prayer

(and then alternate thereafter...)

Our midweek services follow the order from the book of Common Prayer (the old order)

Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



Coffee & Chat



Monday HomeGroup

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings
(Fortnightly)

Where? The Rectory, Beech Lane, SK10 2DY

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

Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer in various locations.

Please contact David Mayers (420716) or

Eve and David Budgett (431606) for more information.



How to contact the Office...



CONTACT US

Phone—Landline—01625 421 984

Mobile— 07579 820 265 (on

Thursdays when Porsche is working from home)

Email— clergypa@maccteam.org.uk to contact Porsche

- office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk to contact Rachel for room bookings and building matters

- stmikesnotices@gmail.com for newsletter items.

- maccteamprinting@gmail.com for all printing enquiries.

In Person—The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

Please note Porsche is usually in the office on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays** between 9:30am-2:30pm. **Wednesday** is her day off and **Thursday** she works from home between the same hours.

Rachel's office hours are not set so please make a prior appointment if you wish to meet with Rachel in person.

Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday

Topic: Night Prayer

Time: 8.30pm every Friday (join from 8.25pm)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

[pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: compline



Email any [prayer requests](#) here

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



SCAN ME