

@stmikesmacclesfield



Follow us on
Instagram

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

*A reflection from
Sallie*



As you perhaps know, we have a dog and I take him for an early morning walk, leaving the house about 5:15-5:30am. After beautiful mornings, seeing the sunrise and walking in the light, the days are now shortening, and I am leaving in the dark. It's 'spider season', and I am usually the first down the path. I find that I'm breaking through many cobwebs. In life we can feel as if darkness is closing in and that we are tangled up. Light puts a different perspective on things – it can even make cobwebs look beautiful, especially when sparkling with dew. I was reminded of a chorus we used to sing:

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.**

How does this happen?

Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"** (John 8:12). It does not mean that problems go away, but we see them in a different light – one that has Christ's perspective. With this viewpoint, mundane and trivial things that can agitate us day by day lose their impact on our lives. We may be fed up in our tasks, but it helps if we remember: - **"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord"** (Colossians 3:23). In an ever-changing world, let us always remember WHO is constant, **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever"** (Hebrews 13:8).

Turning our eyes upon Jesus is not always easy. I was struck by the Collect for the 10th Sunday after Trinity (NB my emphasis): -

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be **persistent in prayer,**
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We need to be persistent. It is very easy to become distracted by worldly things both little irritations and larger issues. Sometimes we try and distract ourselves from worries by putting our attention elsewhere, e.g. endless television or scrolling on a phone.

One of the ways we can turn to Jesus is to have some Bible passages of hope that we can repeat. They can help anchor us when we feel all at sea. Here are a few, there may be others that help you. Please share them with us.

- Peace, be still – Mark 4:39
- Be still and know that I am God – Psalm 46:10
- Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned

you by name; you are mine. – Isaiah 43:1

- God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear – Psalm 46:1-2
- Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. – John 14:27

We need to have patience. We get irritated with ourselves because we think we should do better! Be kind to ourselves. Bit by bit, and through God's grace, we will change and our habit of turning to Jesus will be more reliable. It takes courage, because we will be stepping away from what we know, away from our comfort zone. The light that shines may reveal something of ourselves that we need to address which may be uncomfortable.



And prayer?

Remember that we do not always need words, just to be open to the Holy Spirit. **The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.** (Romans 8:26)

Let us, then, turn our eyes to Jesus through prayer and the Bible with patience, persistence, courage and hope that the troubles of this world will be changed by the perspective of the Light of the World shining in us and through us.

Collect for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Martin Bancroft's Licensing Service

Martin will be licensed as a Lay Minister (Reader) in Chester Cathedral on **Saturday 11th October at 3.00pm.**

If you would like to attend and need a lift, Martin Stephens may be able to help.

He will be leaving Macclesfield at about 12.45 - 1.00pm. Have a word with him if you are interested.

Church Flowers

The glorious flowers on the left hand side in the Worship Area were graciously given in celebration and thanks by Enid Evans on the occasion of her 90th Birthday. Congratulations, Enid!

The autumnal display of colourful dahlias on the left hand side were given and beautifully arranged by Sandie Bevan in memory of her very dear parents. Thank you, Sandie.

'New Worshipping Communities' Event at HTH



There will be a 'New Worshipping Communities' gathering at Holy Trinity Hurdsfield on Saturday 11th October, 9.45am - 12noon.

(Unfortunately this clashes with Martin B's licensing service!)

If you are interested in attending (and it would be great to have a few from St Mike's going along) you need to book using this [link](#).

Below is an outline of the purpose of the event:

Many people are curious about faith and spirituality, even if they've never been part of a church. But going to a traditional church service can feel intimidating or unfamiliar. Some people worry they won't know what to do, or feel unsure about fitting in—especially if they have young children, are neurodivergent, have disabilities, or simply haven't been to church before.

New Worshipping Communities (NWCs) are a way to make exploring faith more relaxed and welcoming. These gatherings often happen in everyday places - like community centres, cafés, or outdoors - and are designed to be informal, friendly, and easy to join. There's no need to dress up or know special routines. Everyone is welcome, just as they are.

Having NWCs alongside traditional services means there are more ways for people to connect with others, explore faith, and experience God's love—whatever their background or comfort level.

This event will offer inspiring theological input, practical tools, and space to ask questions and form plans in community. We strongly encourage churches to attend in teams—clergy, lay leaders, and anyone with a heart for mission. Let's gather, learn, and grow together in shaping New Worshipping Communities across our region.



Homemakers

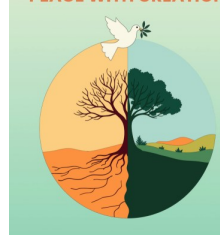
The October meeting of Homemakers has been changed to **Thursday 2nd October at 7:30pm** in the Savage Chapel. It will be a talk by the Reverend Marion Tugwood on the life of an anchoress or anchorite, who withdrew from secular society to live a life of prayer.

Marion experienced this herself by staying in the upstairs room in the Savage Chapel, as the anchoress would have done.

All are welcome to attend

Season of Creation - 1st Sept to 4th Oct Highlights coming up!

PEACE WITH CREATION



- **Saturday 13th September**
Creation Walk 10.00 start at Holy Trinity Hurdsfield
- **Sunday 14th September** -
Big Trees and Mini-beasts, family fun in West Park 12noon - 2.00pm; and a reflective service 4.30pm in the Monastic Garden at St. Peter's Prestbury.
- **Tuesday 16th September** -
How is your Council tackling Climate Change; workshop and talk 7.45 - 9.15pm at St Alban's Parish Centre
- **Friday 19th September** -
Creation Walk 2 start at 6.00pm St John's Church, Earlsway.
- **Saturday 20th September**
River Bollin clean-up 10.00am - 3.00pm in Riverside Park

More information in the calendars available in church and on-line at <https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation/>

GIVING

WHY I DO NOT CONTRIBUTE



CartoonChurch.com

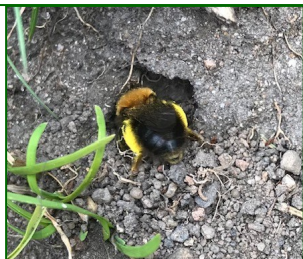
Eco Tip

Keep your eyes and ears open in the churchyard; there is more wildlife living there than you might think: (see the article about Clark's mining bee on the next page)

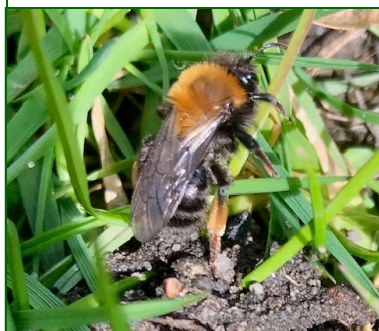


Clark's Mining Bee in the Churchyard.

As you walk into the churchyard from the marketplace there is a low bank just inside the gate. This bank is home to a colony of solitary bees. Solitary bees may live in loose colonies but unlike the social honey bee or bumble bees each female excavates their own nest burrow.



The bees in the churchyard are Clark's mining bees (*andrena clarkella*). This is a species that often nests among tree roots along the sunny edges of woodland paths and it lives most of its life-cycle underground. The emergence of the adults in early spring is timed to coincide with the unfolding of the willow catkins on which they feed. The adult females collect the pollen to build up a food store within their burrow. The males emerge a few weeks later and can be seen flying low over the bank looking for females. The males visit flowers to feed but after mating take no part in nesting behaviour. The female lays eggs in brood cells within the burrow and the larvae feed on the nectar-rich pollen she has collected. They go through a pupal stage and over-winter underground before the adults emerge the following spring.



It is fascinating to observe the females leaving the burrows to forage and returning with their legs laden with yellow pollen. Females may take some time concealing the entrance to the nest on leaving and close it behind them after entering with a pollen load. This is a defence against cuckoo bees which seek out the nests when the bee is absent and kill the eggs or larvae before laying their own eggs the larvae of which will feed on the foodstore collected by the host bee.

Photographs of female Clark's mining bee (andrena clarkella) in the churchyard

The cuckoo bee species associated with Clark's Mining Bee is the Early

Nomad Bee *Nomada leucophthalma*. The mining bees have evolved strategies such as concealing the burrow to avoid detection by the cuckoo bee while the cuckoo bee has evolved strategies to avoid being detected by its host. A wonderful example of the evolutionary 'arms race' being played out at our feet. Although the cuckoo bee has not been observed here it may well be around and the mining bees have evolved to defend against this cleptoparasite regardless.

It is lovely to watch the bees burrowing and diligently concealing their nests and a privilege to have them living out their lives largely unnoticed alongside us in the centre of town.

Verses to Strengthen and Reassure

Isaiah 41:10: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalms 28:7: The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



Harvest Thanksgiving Service 28th September



Our Harvest gifts this year will be donated to Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid. There is a lorry going out to Ukraine in early October which will take the donations. Most of the provisions will be for children and families.

Please bring your donations (see suggested list below) or cash in an envelope to our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 28th September. The gifts will be gathered towards the beginning of the service, before the children leave for their groups.

If you are unable to be at the service and wish to make a donation, the bank details are: -

Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid
Sort Code 08 92 99
Acc no. 67325731
Reference St Michael's Harvest

Suggested donations: -

- Baby milk, baby food
- Children's vitamin tablets
- Coffee, tea
- Hot chocolate
- Rice, pasta, quinoa
- Packet soups
- Smash potato
- Oxo cubes
- Dried fruit, nuts
- Tinned fish, corned beef, spam
- Biscuits, sweets, crackers
- Baked beans



Almost anything non-perishable!

For further information please contact David Mayers

Music@Mike's

Our next lunchtime concert is on Friday 19th September at 1.15pm, and features the eclectic talents of David Eades, a talented young musician who worships at St Peter's and is the son of Jenny and Nick.



He will be playing some gentle piano pieces and some more exciting tunes on the guitar

The Angel at my Table café will be open for light refreshments.

Entry is free but donations are invited for the East Cheshire Hospice and St Michael's Church, jointly.

LET'S: 21st September

The next 'Let's Eat Together' event is next Sunday, 21st Sept. Bring some food and eat with others, maybe sharing if you wish.

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



Painting of St Michael's for Sale

We have been offered a painting done in about 1899 and shows St Michael's painted by Ralph Wright just before its demolition in 1899.

The restorer is keen to sell it, and has given us first refusal, and is open to offers if anyone would like to purchase it.

The cost of restoration is estimated to have been £450 but she will consider other offers. If you are interested in discussing it further please contact the restorer via the office.



Reminders

Choral Evensong

Please note that our monthly service of Choral Evensong returns on Sunday (14th September) at 6.30pm, after the choir's summer break. This is a reflective service with beautiful music and the liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer.

Do come along.



Save the Date

Saturday 25th October, 7.00-9.00pm.

A party in St Michael's Church to celebrate 10 years of Village Rwanda UK being a registered charity.



Everyone is welcome.

Calling all Gardeners!

Please can you spare any flowers and interesting seed heads I can dry for using in church when fresh flowers are difficult to find? Any foliage you might be able to share would be very welcome too!

Please contact me 01625 424531 or leave in a bucket in the Flower Vestry.

Anne K.



WORKSHOP

HOW IS YOUR COUNCIL TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE?

**Tuesday 16th
Sept**

7.45-9.15pm

**St Alban's Parish
Centre, Chester
Road**



IT Support - Can You Help?

Are you reasonably IT savvy? We occasionally need help with IT support, mainly with administering our Microsoft 365 accounts. The person who has helped us on a voluntary basis for a number of years has other commitments now and needs to hand over to someone else.

If not you, do you know someone who could offer their skills in this way? They would not be called upon often, but need to be available occasionally on an *ad hoc* basis, during working hours.

Contact Rachel or the office.



St Michael's Building for Hire

Do you need to hire a space?

St Michael's has meeting rooms of various sizes to meet your needs, and our large Worship Area with its giant screen and AV system is suitable for presentations, concerts, etc.

Email Elaine: bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Tel: 01625 421984

heritage open days

Can you help?

St Michael's church building will be open on Heritage Open day on **Saturday 13th September**, together with other key buildings in Macclesfield. If you would like to know more about our history: how old is the building? (not a simple answer!); why the "Savage" Chapel?; or have a closer look at what is reputedly the finest collection of pre-reformation alabaster memorials in the north of England.. then come along some time between 10.00am and 4.00pm to find out.



Mediaeval stained glass
Entrance to Savage Tower



The Pardon Brass

This year we are delighted that Carys will be with us to offer an art workshop, encouraging a closer look at some of our wonderful stained glass. This is open to anyone aged from about 8 upwards, and you'll have a piece of "stained glass" to take home. Places are limited so please book your place beforehand with the office.

Our audio trail about the history of the building will be available, too; bring your own headphones or buds if you have them. We do have a few which may be borrowed.

..and of course we need people willing to host the church on the day. The more of us are around, the more we can show that this is a place where God has not only been worshipped for centuries but continues as a living church, where the love of Jesus is explored and celebrated.

If you could offer even one hour, please contact Rachel or the church office.

Let's Brew This!

You're invited to our Macmillan Coffee Morning on **Monday 15th September**.

Join us from 10:30am - 1:30pm at St Michael's & All Angels Church, to raise money for an incredible cause, all while enjoying some delicious coffee and cake!



'On This Day' - 14th Sept.

1752: The introduction of the Gregorian calendar, when the 3rd of September became the 14th. Crowds of people rioted on the streets demanding, 'Give us back our 11 days.'

1741: George Frideric Handel finished his "Messiah" oratorio after working on it nonstop for 24 days

1891: The first penalty kick in an English League football game was taken by Heath of Wolverhampton Wanderers against Accrington

1914: Lord Kitchener: "Your country needs you" appeared as the front cover design for the London Opinion magazine




PEACE WITH CREATION
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Big Trees and Mini-Beasts

Family fun in West Park
Sunday 14th September
12.00pm - 2.00pm

Meet at the Rangers Hut next to the Café
All welcome!







Creation Canteen

As part of the Season of Creation 30 people enjoyed a Creation Canteen last Friday - a shared meal made from locally sourced vegetarian foods.



Join us for *Worship*



Sunday Worship

14th September 2025
The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10:00am: Worship for All

Leader: Rev'd Martin Stephens
Speaker: Mike Strutt (Licensed Lay Minister)
Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

6.30pm: Choral Evensong

Leader & Speaker: Lynne Spedding (Licensed Lay Minister)

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 17th September

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

18th September: Morning Prayer
25th September: Holy Communion

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



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 9.00-2.45; and Thursday 9.00 - 1.00 & Friday 8.30 - 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



SCAN ME

Donating to St Michael's is easy!

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.

