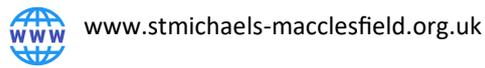




A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



Just your average encounter...?



Last week was really busy in our church building! There was a real buzz with lots of people coming and going. It led me to reflect on our Mission Statement:

**To Worship God,
Share the gospel of Jesus Christ,
Welcome all who come,
and
to contribute to the flourishing of the Macclesfield community.**

Last week you could have found a team from FedCap in the Youth

Centre supporting people who have been unemployed long-term. On the first floor, Helen from Create & Develop Career Solutions, was running an essential safety course for those entering the construction trade.

The second-floor room was used by Alternative Futures, who work with adults with additional needs; they were running a course on Conflict Resolution. The Counselling Room (small old vestry off the Youth Centre) was in use by the Bereavement Support Service, and of course there was the café every day, with Angel at my Table towards the end of the week.



Every day people came in quietly to pray, light a candle or reflect in the Savage Chapel, and there was a service of Holy Communion on



Thursday. Oh yes- and there was Music@Mikes, the TLC group (Thursday Listen and Chat) and, on Saturday morning, the Charities' Bazaar. Who said that church buildings are only used on Sundays?

All these are activities that bring people in, as guests, as volunteers, or as clients, and contribute to the flourishing of our community. This is offering people an opportunity to encounter God, through our building and our people. We encounter God in many different ways but importantly through seeing Jesus in other people as they live out their faith. Showing what our faith means by our actions and behaviour is often more powerful than using words. We do not

know where others are "at" in their spiritual life; what they find when they work with us, or explore our building, could light a spark of curiosity, which might take years to burst into flame, but we need to ensure that the spark is ignited.

Another thing to notice from all this is how our mission and vision are being achieved: some of the activities I described above are not initiated or led by members of the church, but we welcome them into our building. We involve others in our vision for the flourishing of the community, make them feel welcome, and provide space and facilities at a modest cost. That our building is well-kept, clean, and maintained is important to help us do this. If we involve non-church people in our mission to the community, we are inviting them to encounter Jesus – why would we not do so?



One of our Strategic Objectives is "Encountering God through St Michael's", "by creating a welcoming and inclusive safe haven for people to come as they are, to be still, to explore, and to be ignited in curiosity for our building, our heritage, our community, and our God."

Rachel Mayers

The Second Sunday before Advent

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

14th November 2021

**The Second Sunday before Advent
Church Family Worship—10:00am
(Short) Said Act of Remembrance Service—10:50am -
Savage Chapel**

Leader: Lynne Spedding

Speaker: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Mark 13:1-8

Wednesday Morning Coffee and a Chat



Mary Magdalene – Penitent whore or Apostle to the Apostles???

For the last couple of weeks at our Coffee and Chat on Wednesday mornings we have researched some obscure names who are listed as disciples of Jesus. So, this week we decided to look at a character who is much better known – one of the women disciples called Mary Magdalene. Once again, we came up with more questions than answers and our discussion was wide ranging. Before reading this article, spend a few moments thinking about what impression you have been given of Mary Magdalene – what springs first into your head?

She is called Mary Magdalene simply because she comes from the fishing village of Magdala on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. She has in the past been linked together with the ‘sinful woman’ who anointed Jesus’ feet (**Luke 7.36-50**) but this has since been seen as false. However, some folk seem to prefer the idea that Mary Magdalene was a ‘penitent whore’. (Sorry, I hate that phrase because it implies that the males involved have no blame or responsibilities.) ‘In 1969, Pope Paul VI removed the identification of Mary Magdalene with the "sinful woman" from the General Roman Calendar, but the view of her as a former prostitute has persisted in popular culture.’ (Thanks Wiki)

Things that we do know about this Mary is that first and foremost she was a disciple of Jesus: one among a band of women and men from Galilee who believed in his message of love and justice and followed him in his ministry. **Luke 8.1-3**. We chatted a little about what is meant by the phrase ‘seven demons had gone out’ Heather related it to the phrase we use today about ‘facing our demons’. But whatever the meaning, this incident indicates that Mary Magdalene must’ve had serious mental health issues which Jesus delivered her from and from that time she followed him, supporting him with her wealth and companionship.

It may be worth noting here that those suffering demonic possession are never described as sinful but rather are victims of external evil... folk who are sinned against rather than having sinned of themselves.

Mary Magdalene was the first person to whom Jesus chose to reveal himself after the resurrection. (**John 20.1-18**). On the basis of John’s story, later tradition gave Magdalene the title of “apostle to the apostles” and recognised something of her significance for Christian faith, witness and leadership. A tragic consequence is that her role as witness to the resurrection was later overshadowed by the apparently more alluring but inaccurate picture of her as the penitent whore.

We were all interested to learn that the Gospel of Mary is an early

Christian text deemed unorthodox by the men who shaped the nascent Catholic church and was excluded from the canon, then subsequently erased from the history of Christianity along with most narratives that demonstrated women’s contributions to the early Christian movement. The apocryphal manuscript of the **Gospel of Mary**, published in 1983, describes her discussions with the risen Christ, Magdalene is presented as the favoured disciple. This has led some to imagine that rather than John being identified as the beloved disciple it was in fact Mary who was the most beloved, and suggestions that she was Jesus’ life partner. Helen, our former librarian, was struck by the consequences of this type of manuscript being hidden or denied as part of the accepted gospels of our bible. She said ‘the whole of western culture would be different’. And ‘so much has purposefully been buried’. Food for thought indeed.

Even so, the New Testament itself is quite clear about the priority and identity of Magdalene as a key disciple, witness and leader in the early church.

So, back at the beginning of this article I suggested you take stock of what you know about Mary Magdalene. How does your reflection fit in with any of our discussion? Please let us know it would be good to talk.

Next week we are having a break but we will meet again on Wednesday 24th November.

If there are folk who would like to be part of this group but do not have the technology please let me know and we will see what arrangements we can make.

Thankyou for your encouragement so far.

Tricia Atherton

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.



Music@Mike's

**Friday 19th
November**

The Arrhythmics

Well-known local instrumental
music combo



Concert begins at 1.15pm.

Refreshments including soup and/or a full lunch will be available from the Angel At My Table café both before and after the concert.

As usual entrance is free but donations will be welcomed.

Who are FedCap?

These lovely people are becoming a familiar sight in church during the week; they have been with us since July. Kate, Beth, Sara and Tom are waiting for their new office in Macclesfield Town Centre to be refurbished and in the meantime we have been delighted to welcome them and their clients into our Youth Centre, and occasionally elsewhere if a more private space is needed.

What do they do? The Fedcap Restart scheme works with people who have been claiming Universal Credit for a long time, who are referred by the Job Centre. With a dedicated adviser, they receive a tailored support package which may include recruitment advice, access to job opportunities, confidence building, and more ..



Thank you to café volunteers and others who sometimes need to direct “lost” clients to the right place.



Christmas at Styal Prison

At the risk of creating “generosity fatigue” (which I’m sure will never happen at St Mike’s) I’d like to

make another request for contributions to a worthy cause.

Styal Prison would welcome gifts of Selection Boxes (a variety pack of chocolates) or mini-notebooks* to give to prisoners for Christmas. **(*These notebooks need purchasing by me through monetary donations as the design is quite specific, for safety reasons. They cost £3.00 each.)**

I know that there are people at St Mike’s who like to support good causes, particularly at Christmas. There are so many to choose from and we each have our specials but, if you feel you could help out with this one, David Mayers, Kitey (Anne Kite) and I will be delighted to receive your gifts and get them to Styal in due course.

Most of you know that, as a church family, we have had quite a close relationship with Styal and with one of the Chaplains, Yvonne, for many years. A new Chaplain, Louise, has recently been appointed following Yvonne’s retirement, and David and I went to meet her for a chat and a cuppa at “The Clink” restaurant a few weeks ago.

Primarily we are interested in what we can do practically and prayerfully as a congregation to support the prisoners, many of whom are in prison for offences which would be best dealt with in a less draconian way, and whose sentences impact dreadfully on any children they have. Many of them have little or no home support, and most have precious little sense of self-worth or confidence.

The women are immensely moved when they receive a small Christmas gift and realise that there *are* people who care about them.

Please Help

David and I (and Kitey *in absentia!*) offered to assist by providing as many of these gifts as we can with the support of our lovely church community (that’s you!).

We were surprised to learn how unusual it is for churches to support prison work. For me personally, such work is an imperative: Matthew 25: 31-46 (The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats) was my reason for becoming a part-time voluntary prison chaplain for a few years after retirement, and it seems clear that Jesus himself considered prisoners as much in need of our love and care as the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger and the poor.



This risks becoming another sermon - so I’d better sign off now!

Please give your donations to me (Lynne Spedding), David Mayers, Anne Kite or leave them in the clearly labelled box in the Welcome Area (which will be emptied frequently to stop Paul Spedding pinching the chocolates!).

Lynne



MIDWEEK SOUL FOOD

All welcome to

St Michael's

@ 10.30 am on Thursdays

for our traditional,

Book of Common Prayer, Communion Service.

A time for quiet reflection and prayer



NB Communion on Nov 4th, 18th and Dec 2nd. Morning Prayer from Book of Common Prayer on alternate weeks and continuing...

Angel at my Table Cafe open for refreshments after the service.

Cranmer Reading Competition for the Diocese.



Young people (Age 11 – 18) are invited to read aloud passages from the BCP and the local winners as well as having prizes on the day go on to represent the Diocese at the National Final.

The competition will be at Lower Peover during the afternoon of **Sunday, 28th November** and Ian Bishop, Archdeacon is head judge.

Further details can be found here: [Cranmer Awards - The Prayer Book Society \(pbs.org.uk\)](http://Cranmer Awards - The Prayer Book Society (pbs.org.uk))



Macctastic open meeting;

Eco Action in Macclesfield – Tuesday 16th November 7.30pm in church. Macctastic is the town's environmental lobbying organisation, working to make Macclesfield more sustainable

and pleasant to live and work in.

One lesson learned through the pandemic is that great things can happen if we work together, and we have seen an upsurge in people taking action on the environment in Macclesfield. Come along to this FREE meeting to hear updates from the Transport Group, the Repair Cafe, Macc Wildlife Trust, Terracycle, The One Project to name a few. You will have the opportunity to find out more about eco groups active in and around Macclesfield, ask questions, share your ideas for action and get involved.

Please wear a face covering while entering and walking around the church and respect social distancing. Face coverings can be removed while sitting down. As we need to pay for the hire of the church, a donation of £1 will be requested from each attendee.

How do we heat?

Our church is heated by a large, inefficient gas boiler, which will need to be replaced soon, so we need to be ready!!



As an Eco Church, we want to have as little impact on our planet as possible while keeping our building warm(ish). So what do we do?

Do we need a heat pump? (air or ground source?) Solar panels? Another gas boiler? Something else?

We would like a small group of people who to work together to explore the options, consult experts, and produce a recommendation for the PCC, with approximate costs.

If this is something you would be willing to contribute to, please contact the church office: office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

(Note that we are not asking for a long-term commitment to the Building Group or Eco Group, although both these groups are keen to see the result!)



EVERYONE WELCOME TO A CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

at St Michael's Church

on Friday, 3rd December 2021

Food, Fellowship and Entertainment

Cost £7.00 per head

Please sign up on a sheet at the back of church to reserve your place.

For further details contact Vicky Darlington on Macc 428215

or speak to any Member of the Social Committee.

Lifts can be arranged, too - look forward to seeing you on the 3rd December!

Open Studio Days 2021

Any Sunday in November between 12 noon and 6pm.



Olga Bileski invites you to view her work and enjoy a cuppa. She will also be happy to answer any questions about the work.

ICONS..PAINTINGS..HANDMADE CHRISTMAS CARDS..HANDPAINTED SILK SCARVES (All make great gifts for Christmas, the scarves are especially useful for sending by post as they are so light, can usually be sent in a card.)

Booking is essential, as only 2 people will be allowed at any one time (for health and safety), and there's a small entry fee of £2 p.p. refundable on purchases over £6.

Please email olga.bileski@outlook.com Or TEXT 07722432689 for more details and location.



*St Michael
& All Angels Church,
Macclesfield*

Choral Evensong

This Sunday
at 6.30 p.m.



*Reflective worship
sung by St Michael's choir
using traditional words from
the Book of Common Prayer*

Sunday 14th November

Holy is the true light
Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in D min
Dear Lord & Father
Psalm 46

music includes:

Harris
Walmisley
Parry arr Iliff

Music@Mikes Appreciation Post

Last Thursday we were privileged to hear the soprano Rachel Abbott who took time away from a teething baby to perform at our latest concert.



What a voice! As the first operatic aria began I was afraid the glass doors would suffer... the sound was so huge. She sang with lots of feeling and expression – although we couldn't understand the Italian words we got the gist of the sadness and tragedy (as most operatic arias are). The second part of her programme had a lighter note including "I could have danced all night" and "Someone keeps sending me flowers". Another great concert in our very varied series.

Rachel Mayers

1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved, and were loved, and now we lie

In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:

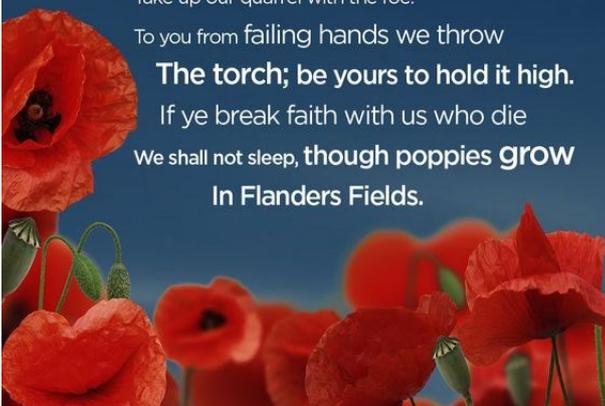
To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders Fields.



Join the
Repair
Revolution



OPENS
SEPTEMBER

11.2021

Repair
Cafe

MACCLESFIELD



FREE!

The Heritage
Centre
Macclesfield
SK11 6UT

Monthly:

9/10/21

13/11/21

1/12/21



macc_repaircafe



repaircafe.macc@gmail.com

“Angel at my Table” Official Launch



Our new “Angel at my Table” café was officially declared open last Wednesday. The cafe has now been open for a couple of months on a trial basis, while Ali, the manager, and volunteers “found their feet” and worked out whether the project was viable – and it is! So Ali is now a paid employee of the church and we are officially open. We were delighted to welcome Ian Bishop, the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, and David Edwardes, the Mayor, to perform an opening ceremony, and other guests included Abi Sherratt the Town Centre Manager so we have had some great publicity. Ali and the volunteers served a great meal of roasted pepper soup, casserole or vegetarian gratin and a choice of desserts (chocolate cheesecake or waffle – YUM!!)

Angel at my Table serves soup, light meals, and cakes all made from food that would otherwise have been thrown away by supermarkets. In 3 months, Ali has spent only £20 on food supplies but served many meals. She relishes the challenge of deciding what to do with THESE ingredients - it’s like “Ready Steady Cook” every day.

If you haven’t tried a lunch yet, come and visit the cafe on Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

Apart from the manager, all staff are volunteers and we would welcome a few more – contact Ali@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk if you would like to know more.

This café helps us with two of our three Strategic Objectives: “Celebrating and Sustaining God’s Creation”, and Encountering God through St Michael’s (see another article!).

How is using surplus food contributing to reducing our carbon footprint?

In the UK 7 million tonnes of food is thrown away by households every year, that’s around a third of all the food we buy. If we stopped wasting food it would have the same impact on carbon emissions as taking 1.8 million cars off UK roads.

The average carbon footprint of avoidable household food waste is 330 kg CO2 equivalent per person per year — so eliminating this gives a 2.8% cut in the UK average carbon footprint.

Producing the food we eat (or throw away) accounts for over 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions (including fertiliser use and transport).

By shopping more carefully – buying only what you need – and using leftovers rather than throwing them away, you prevent emissions due to food being produced to replace wasted food.

Rachel Mayers



LETS do it!

Let’s Eat Together **Sunday November 21st**.

Nothing special, nothing grand, just a soup and bowl in hand!!!

We think it would be nice to have lunch together on some Sundays. No-one is going to be preparing a roast dinner or anything but if you would like to join in please bring a contribution to share with others.

The first one will be after the service on the 3rd Sunday in November (this is a pilot and if it proves popular we will hold it regularly from January).

For more information ask Tricia Atherton or Chloe.

Upcoming Funerals

George Mcfarlane—Thursday 25th November 2021 12:45pm

Sylvia Moss—Friday 26th November 2021 9:45am

Jean Margaret Ward—Monday 29th November 12:30pm



Did someone say FREE TICKETS?



Would you like a free concert? Would you be willing to be a St Michael's Steward?

We have a number of concerts and carol services booked into St Michael's in December; some of these are evening events and some school events which are during the day. For almost all of these St Michael's should provide a steward (or two). The role of the steward is principally to welcome the visitors into our "home" by being a good host. You may have to advise about fire exits, lights, or any other random question – or you may just need to open the doors and lock up at the end.

We will make sure you have all the information you need beforehand and all the details of specific requirements for the event.

The reward? A free ticket for the concert or event, and grateful thanks from the event organiser and the St Michael's office.

We have 12-14 slots to fill – could you offer one evening or afternoon? If this is something for you, please contact the office on office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk.

Many thanks!!

Rachel Mayers

Charities Bazaar

A huge thank you to all you wonderful people who so generously donated toiletries and other gifts for our stall at the Charities Bazaar. It was a tremendous success. You helped us raise £365-00 for the Children's Society. Considering the Bazaar only opened between from 9-30 am 12-30 pm, I reckon that was pretty good going.

Thank you again, Jenny Wild on behalf of the Macclesfield Children's Society Committee.



TLC (THURSDAY, LISTEN, CHAT)

PLEASE NOTE!

We are changing the time of our fortnightly meetings from Thursday afternoons to **Thursday MORNINGS 11.15am to 12.15pm** which will follow the Thursday morning service and may be a more convenient time.

This will start on **4th November** and will take place on the 1st floor (there is a lift) until further notice.

All are very welcome to share with us and enjoy a cuppa and chat.

Contact Grace on 430348 or Alexa on 429727 if you need further info.



Silklife Foodbank

foodbank
MACCLESFIELD

We have a box in the Welcome Area for Silklife Foodbank contributions.

Would YOU be willing to take responsibility for our link with the Foodbank?

We need someone who:

- Collects donations from the box in church (can be done any time)
- Delivers our donations to the Foodbank on George St (Tuesdays and/or Fridays)
- Keeps in touch with the Foodbank every so often, to find out if there are any specific needs, and to keep St Michael's informed about their work.

If we cannot find someone to take this on, there may not be a collection point at St Michael's any longer, but we will advise where donations may be taken.

Rachel Mayers

Join us for

Worship



Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon (No meeting Wed 17th Nov)

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784 Passcode: 01625



St Michael's Worship 14th November 2021

The Second Sunday before Advent

Church Family Worship—10:00am:

live in church / streamed on Youtube

A short said Act of Remembrance service will also be held in the Savage Chapel from 10:50am led by Lynne.

Service Leader: Lynne Spedding

Talk: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Mark 13:1-8

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.

[rtmp://a.rtmp.youtube.com/live2](https://a.rtmp.youtube.com/live2)

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)

4th November —Midweek Morning Communion

11th November —Midweek Morning Prayer

(and then alternate thereafter...)

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



Monday HomeGroup

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings (Fortnightly) Next meeting is Monday 25th October

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