



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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## Let us pray

Do you remember a time when someone you didn't know started up a friendly conversation with you?

Maybe you were at an event of some sort and found yourself sitting near

them. Or perhaps you were travelling on a bus or train. It may not happen very often, and it may be quite fleeting – you'll never see them again – but when it happens it can make you feel quite special; you realise: "Oh, I'm interesting enough for someone to notice me."

This last year and more has been 'restrictive' in so many ways, hasn't it? But one thing we've surely come to realise is how important people are. How valuable their physical life is, certainly - but not only that: how truly special they are as people!

In this vein, it's been great through this newsletter to read about, and see photos of, church members (and others) doing all manner of hobbies and activities, volunteering, going places, and so on. We've enjoyed that 'window' into people's lives. Long may it continue! *[Please keep sending your articles and photos to stmikesnotices@gmail.com, or drop them off in the building.]*

We're currently in the season from Ascension to Pentecost, when there is the prayer initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come'.



Instigated only a few years ago by the Archbishops of Canterbury & York, this has really caught on around the world as a focus to pray for other people. Yes, to pray for their physical needs, but especially to pray for their spiritual well-being, and that they may know Jesus for themselves. In this way we can live out that assertion that the Church exists for the benefit of those who are not yet its members.

Recently I had the privilege of being asked to pray for a lady who was seriously ill. Her family know me through St Michael's, and they rang out of desperation. Not only did I pray there and then on the phone but I promised I'd get others to pray too. And they have been (thank you).

Although not yet fully recovered (so we'll keep on praying), the lady has definitely been progressing better than her family had anticipated. They have described it as 'a miracle'. They have strongly sensed that not only is Martin, the vicar, interested in them, but so are others at church, and so is God. Who knows where this may ultimately lead?

## Between miracle and mystery

I imagine you may have questions and doubts about prayer - I'm probably with you on most of them too. But between the **miracle** answers to prayer which I (and this lady's family) experience, and the **mystery** that not every prayer is answered how we want, I also know that the more I pray the more I see answers to prayer.

I'm not so proud as to think that every prayer of mine is 'perfect', but I'm not so naive as to think it has to be. I'm only too aware that I tend to act first and pray last, so I'm consciously trying to reverse the order.

We have a 'prayer chain', whereby we can send out particular prayer needs at short notice by email to people who've committed to respond and get praying. At this stage, if you would like people to pray for you, please contact me or Catherine. We will only share the essential details, and can withhold names if wanted. Additionally, if you would like to join the team of pray-ers please contact Porsche in the office ([clergypa@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergypa@maccteam.org.uk) or 01625 421 984).

With every blessing,

ps. I find Canon J John to be very inspiring. Here he is in a short 3-min video about healing prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5aUehwzaxU>



### Newsletter last week

Quite a few people either didn't get the newsletter via email last week or it was delayed. Our apologies for this but the system we use at St Michael's for email and other electronic correspondence (*iKnow*) had a temporary problem for which the *iKnow* developers have apologised.

It should be ok now!

16th May 2021: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday Morning Worship

Leader: Catherine Stephens

Speaker: Helen Howe (Christian Aid)

Bible Reading: John 17:6-19



## Focus on Christian Aid Week

**With every gift, with every voice, with every prayer, with every action, we stop this climate crisis.**

Our planet is changing, but some people are feeling the effects of this more than others. Weather extremes are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis and one place that has experienced this is Kenya.

In parts of Kenya in 2020, drought was followed by relentless rainfall and flooding, which damaged crops that had struggled to grow. Together, the climate chaos and coronavirus are a double threat to lives and livelihoods.

### Climate chaos is causing a hunger crisis

In Kitui, eastern Kenya, 8 out of 10 people depend on rain to grow crops. Without water, staple crops like maize and beans wither up and die. People can't earn a living and they go hungry.

People are forced to walk further and further to collect water. This daily burden robs them of the chance to farm and grow food for their families. Elderly women and children are especially vulnerable on these dangerous journeys and can face robbery or conflict as people battle over scarce resources. Cows, sheep and goats are becoming weaker and weaker. They can't produce milk or be sold. People are struggling to cope. Lives are at risk. Families need every last drop to survive this climate chaos.

Christian Aid has been working in Kenya since 1997. One of our long-standing partners in Kenya is Anglican Development Services – Eastern (ADSE). Christian Aid and ADSE are working together with communities in Kitui county to help them to adapt to drought as well as flooding, as climate chaos robs people of control over their lives.



ADSE helps communities build earth and sand dams, and rock catchments, so they can harvest water near their homes. Dams are simple and cost-effective natural storage solutions.

They catch the rain when it falls, increase the amount of stored water available to communities, defend against intense rain and flooding, and free women and girls from making long and dangerous journeys to collect water.



### Meet Rose: a loving, hard-working grandmother

One woman who is experiencing the worst of the climate crisis is Rose. A grandmother, Rose is an experienced village leader. She is proud to be able to cover the costs of her grandchildren's education by working as a casual labourer.

After her husband died in 2006, Rose began to feel ill. She went to hospital and was diagnosed with HIV. She says:

'My faith has helped me to accept my status and I believe that, with the doctor's advice, I will live a long life.' The medication Rose takes requires her to eat a balanced diet, but because of the long journeys to get water, she can't farm the vegetables she needs and she goes hungry.

In this desperate climate chaos, Rose battles to bring water home for her grandchildren. Every morning, after nothing to eat, she sets out on a long, dangerous journey, walking six hours to collect water.

While she walks, her stomach gives her stabbing pains. She feels weary under the hot sun and the full jerry cans are heavy (40 litres of water weigh 40kg). Her aching legs walk on, because if she gives up, her grandchildren will suffer hunger and thirst. 'We have to walk long distances. We are suffering,' she says.



### A song of hope and power

What happens when the search for water does not consume people's lives? What happened when people have the water they need to thrive?

We can find out by meeting Florence: a woman who has transformed her life with access to a dam full of water.

Florence is a soulful, joyful woman: full of life, love and laughter. The women in her farming group look up to her.

She's courageous and kind – a survivor.

A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. Like Rose does now, she had to walk for hours to collect water. 'Life was miserable,' she told us. Florence could easily have been defeated. But she is a fighter. With help from Christian Aid's local partner, Florence and her community were able to build a dam together, just 30 minutes from her house.

Using water from the dam, Florence grows tomatoes, onions and chillies on her farm. Her children can eat healthy, nutritious vegetables, and she has enough left to sell. It's her source of life and joy.

Florence also uses the dam to keep bees: the microclimate of plants growing around the dam means the bees don't need to search long distances for nectar. She sells the rich, golden honey at the market. She says: 'I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy. You can see it in my face: my face is shining. I have strength and power.'



**This Christian Aid Week, will you stand with people like Rose and Florence?**

Please donate this Christian Aid Week (10-16 May). Your gift could help a

community build an earth dam, providing a regular and reliable source of water in affected areas of Kenya.

- **£4.40** could teach 10 farmers how to plant **drought-tolerant crops** that can survive the drought.
- **£10** could buy a pair of taps at a **water point** which will be installed at an earth dam, making it easier for people to fetch water.
- **£42** could buy 350kg of **cement**, which is needed to build an earth dam.
- **£545** could pay for a **skilled labourer** to work on the construction of an earth or sand dam.

Every pound raised, every prayer said and every action taken, are expressions of our Christian love and compassion, of our belief that all life is equal and precious in the sight of God. Together, we stop this climate crisis, and give brave, hard-working women like Rose the chance to thrive.

You can also join us as we call on the UK Prime Minister to lead the world with ambitious climate action that will also address inequality.

Also, pray with us for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that as a global community we will care for our common home and for people living in poverty.

We can all be part of the solution. All we need is courage and determination.

Stand together with us to fight this climate crisis.

**Join us this Christian Aid Week.**

**Donate at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)**

**The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve.**

**Surprise! Surprise!**

**It was an Apple.**

**But with extremely limited memory.**

**Just 1 byte.**

**Then everything crashed.**



Last week we made a presentation to Enid in the morning service - but unfortunately she was unable to be there herself! So we went ahead anyway, thanking our absent friend for all she has done in over 40 years of involvement with cleaning the church in one way or another.

Enid watched the service later online, and wishes to thank everyone for her gift and to say how pleased she is to have been able to serve the church for so long in this role, even when fitting it in around her job as a nurse.

*Lynne popped round to Enid's house later to deliver a card and the gift (a patio rose, called "Carefree Days" (!) in a planter).*

*Pink / violet were obviously the colours of the day!*



**Mental Health Awareness Week**  
**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND** Information from the Church of England  
A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY

We're releasing a series of audiograms from our *Have A Go Habit* series to support good mental health. These short audio clips will be shared on social media, encouraging people to take positive action to support others' and their own mental health. Alongside this new format, we will be signposting our social media audience to our comprehensive suite of mental health resources, created in partnership with Professor Chris Cook, from Durham University.

Follow us on social media at these links:

- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)



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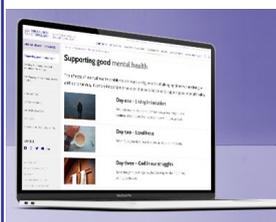
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## Karen Brady's Induction Service

13<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am at St Michael's Church, Runcorn

Karen – who left us rather “quietly” last year quite early in the first lock-down - will be celebrating her induction into her new church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June, and she would love as many St Michael's, Macclesfield friends as possible to join her at St Michael's Church, Runcorn. The service of Holy Communion will be at 10.00am and Ven Mike Gilbertson will be the preacher.

Karen's church would value an idea of numbers so please let Porsche (our new Clergy PA) know as soon as possible, and definitely by the end of May at the latest: [clergy@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergy@maccteam.org.uk) or 01625 421984.

### Gift for Karen

We would love to give Karen the leaving gift she never received last year and are sure that many people will wish to make a contribution. Please do so in one of the following ways:

- Cash – in an envelope, marked “KB gift”, handed to a Warden or placed in the Treasurer's Basket.
- Cheque – in an envelope, made payable to St Michael's Church, marked “KB gift” on the reverse, handed to a Warden or placed in the Treasurer's Basket.
- Bank Transfer – payable to St Michael's Church, Sort: 16-24-36, Account: 12923915, using the reference “KB gift”.

It will probably be necessary for those who wish go to make their own transport arrangements, bearing in mind the Covid restrictions at the time.



Welcome to the website of  
St Michael and All Angels  
Greenway Road  
Runcorn WA7 5BS



## Floral Artistry - why not get involved?

You are warmly invited to get involved in our church “Floral Artistry” (that's the new name for flower arranging!)

Currently, there is a small team of people who arrange floral displays at church to enhance worship and to offer opportunities for celebration and commemoration.

Anne Kite is our lead *Floral Artist* and she would love to hear from anyone interested - including men.

Anne can be contacted on 01625 424531

This is a wonderful area for service, and Kitey will ensure that all new recruits receive appropriate training and support.

Do please consider offering your time and talent - although I'm sure Kitey would say that talent can be learned and all that is needed is a willing attitude.



## As seen on church noticeboards...

We are the soul agents in this area.

Over 2,000 years old and still under the maker's guarantee

If your problem is long-standing, try kneeling.



## Music@ Mike's

We are delighted to be able to re-launch our very popular series of lunchtime concerts with that well-known and much admired instrumental

music combo the ARRHYTHMICS.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1.15pm in St Michael's.**

All required covid-compliant restrictions on social distancing and track-and trace will of course be in place.

You're in for a treat!



## Church notice-sheet typos

The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment

Mrs Jones, our much-loved organism, will be retiring at the end of next month



As many of you know St Michael's has supported the charity India Direct which runs two children's home in India. Several of us also support India Direct directly.

As you will know, India is suffering terribly from Covid-19 at the moment.

Like many of us I have received two vaccinations

and feel so privileged about this and so fortunate to have the NHS.

India Direct (who are experiencing a reduced income and additional expenses owing to Covid) are currently asking people in the UK who have been fortunate enough as to have been vaccinated to consider whether they would like to send a donation as a thank-you.

Of course this won't directly pay for a vaccination in India but it is a way of thanking God that we are so lucky.

Any amount small or large is welcome. Please go to <https://indiadirect.org.uk> or give a donation directly to me (cheques payable to India Direct)  
Thank you.

Paul Spedding

## As seen on church noticeboards...

Hoot if you love Jesus.

Text while driving if you want to meet him.

Come to church this Sunday.

Avoid the Christmas rush.



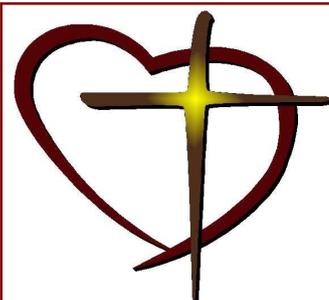
## Morning Prayer

Don't forget that Morning Prayer is offered both in church and on Facebook every Monday morning at 8.30am.

You can click this link to join the service live or use it to view the service later.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmikesmacclesfield/>

Together with Compline (see final electronics links page) this means that you can start and end each week in prayer!



## Funeral of the late Christopher Brooks

Christopher's funeral will be taking place in St Michael's at 11.45am on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May – the date of the next phase of the Government's roadmap.

This means the number able to attend the funeral can increase to our regular capacity of 60. So if you would like to attend the funeral please do come along (no booking required).



## Flower Ministry

We are hoping to resume the Flower Ministry in the Church in a gradual manner.

Please will you contact Anne on 01625 424531 if you would wish to have flowers arranged in Church on a specific date whether In Memoriam or to celebrate an occasion.

We will be delighted to discuss colours and particular choice of flowers.

Thank you,  
Anne Kite

- God Creates
- Adam Ate
- Noah Floats
- Abraham's Oath
- Jacob Schemes
- Joseph Dreams
- Bush Lit
- Sea Split
- Law Spoken
- Tablets Broken
- Judges Appointed
- Kings Anointed
- God Forgotten
- Rulers Rotten
- Kingdom Broke
- Prophets Hope
- Mary Favored
- Baby Savior
- Crucified
- Jesus Died
- Third Morn
- World Reborn
- Spirit Glows
- Love Grows
- Earth Awaits
- God Creates...

the **BIBLE** in fifty words



Following Enid's retirement from her cleaning role, we require a replacement to work 4-5 hours a week.

This is a paid post.

If anyone is interested please contact Chris Wightman. 01625 428443 or 07818 484570.

Join us for  
*Sunday Worship*



**St Michael's Worship 16th May 2021**

**Seventh 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: Catherine Stephens  
Talk: Helen Howe (Christian Aid)  
Reading: John 17:6-19

**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](#)

**Wednesday Morning Discussion**  
11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)  
Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784  
Passcode: 01625



**Monday HomeGroup**

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.

**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 #

**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. We are studying *The Prayer Course* at the moment.

Email any [prayer requests](#) here

**Compline/Night Prayer**

Every night 13th-27th May at 8.30pm (Ascension - Pentecost) and every Friday thereafter

Topic: Night Prayer  
Time: 8.30pm every Friday (join from 8.25pm)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09>  
Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476  
Passcode: compline

**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

