



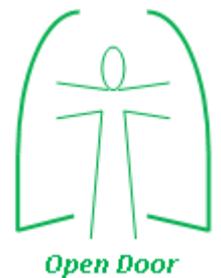
@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



Follow us on Instagram



Macclesfield one of Six Nationwide Pharmacy Vaccination Centres

Once again our church uniformed groups are helping out in the pandemic. Andrews Pharmacy in Macclesfield is one of six pharmacies nationwide being trialled as a vaccination centre hoping to operate 8am to 8pm and undertaking 1000 doses per week. The management of this vaccination centre has been masterminded by people in our Scout District; the communications team have loaned radio equipment and many have volunteered for traffic/parking management and they are still continuing with the delivery of prescription medicines to those shielding or self isolating.

Mike Brown, Group Scout Leader

Well done to all our uniformed group leaders involved in this.

So we have taken the decision to close the church building in order to keep everyone safe and adhere to the strong Government message:

Stay Home to Save Lives

But, the church is the people not the building, as we all know, so church is very much still open and alive and kicking.

Sunday Worship will now be online on Zoom. All the details regarding Sunday worship services will be on page 2, so keep an eye there for what is happening. Hard copy materials related to each week's lectionary reading will continue to be delivered with the newsletter.

If anyone reading this newsletter is feeling lonely or isolated, or knows someone who is, please do call the Church Office - 01625 421984, so we can put you in touch with people who you can talk to over the phone. We hope the newsletter will continue to bring some comfort and joy in the absence of being in the building for worship and meeting with others. We remain very aware of those church members who have no online access. Please don't forget that you can join any of the Zoom meetings, including Sunday worship using your landline. Details on page 2.

If you are able to help with phoning church members who feel isolated, please do speak to Martin or leave a message on the Church Office number.

Also don't forget the online Coffee & Chat every Wednesday at 11am - details on page 2.

For those not able to access worship with us at St Michael's, there is the BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship at 8.10am and 1.15pm Songs of Praise on BBC1.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS

FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED

FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS

FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS

FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS

FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS

FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS

FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS

FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS

FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.

FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.

FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.

FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS

FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS: ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY

MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

Professional Telephone Listening Service

The Hope Centre
Registered Charity 1140845
0300 3034 566
Open Every day

READY TO LISTEN!

Join us for

Sunday Worship

St Michael's Worship 17th January 2021
Second Sunday of Epiphany
**ONE service this week at 10am:
from home on Zoom**

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

Service Leader: Sue Reid
Talk: Martin Stephens
Reading: John 1.43-51



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](#)

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](#)

(or printed with your hard copy newsletter)

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JOIN US ON Zoom

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784 **NEW**

Passcode: 01625

*Apologies to those who had problems
accessing this last week. Note new Meeting
ID and use the link from this issue.*



Coffee & Chat



Monday House Group (restarts 11th January):

When? 7.30pm til 9pm Monday evenings

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 910 4838 5228

Password: Monday

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

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. This
week we have started the Bible
Course.



Contemplative Prayer

This is no longer taking place in church each
Friday morning. We will advise when it restarts.

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

Giving to the work and
worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's
ministry





Producing the weekly newsletter?

Worship by Zoom host/verger?

Social media content?

Can you HELP?

If you can help or want more information, contact rachel.mayers@btinternet.com

Macc Memoirs Part 2

by Sonia & Rakesh

When talking about Macclesfield, I should mention St Michael's. In Chennai, my church St Mary Magdalene (pictured below) has some connection to the pre-independence English regime. It was built by the Church Mission of Scotland in 1819. So, I was part of a 200 hundred year tradition. Compare that with St Michael's, and I can proudly say that I've got the privilege to be part of an 800 year old tradition now.

Though I find the order of service similar, it's a different experience here. One stark point to mention is the age group factor. I see more elderly people in St Michael's than middle aged/youths/teens. To an extent, it's a cause of concern in my opinion. In my church in Chennai, it is the complete opposite. You can find people of all age groups, which in a sense, gives more satisfaction from a church perspective.

Saying so, every member of St Michael's, especially the Clergy and Office teams, I've met so far, have been very welcoming. It helped me feel at home and I should thank you for all making this a possibility.

To summarise, my time in Macc has been excellent so far, despite the terrible pandemic and I will say, St Michael's has elevated it to the next level. Thank you.



Sonia and Rakesh it has been a real pleasure and privilege to have you as part of our church family for the time you have been in Macclesfield. We are sorry you have to return Chennai but we send you off with our love, prayers and blessings for a safe return. You are clearly leaving with very fond memories of your time here, which is wonderful.

Advent Book Review

by Sallie Bancroft

Here is the second review of the four Advent books studied. Next week Jenny Wild shares her reflection on another book.

With the subtitle "A domestic journey from Advent to Epiphany" this book has been the "travel companion" for some of us during this season. One of the delights for me has been joining with fellow travellers to share our experience of the journey, however much or little we have managed to read each week.

Each day, from 1st Dec to 6th January inclusively, includes:-

- a passage of scripture
- a reflection by the author using a familiar subject to illustrate the scriptural point
- a reflective question encouraging deeper thinking about how the topic applies to oneself
- a reflective suggestion using the subject matter to think and pray for others
- a prayer

The "chapters" for each day are organised into five sections:- **Travelling in Advent** – starts our journey using the familiar of roads and transport. The emphasis changes from how we travel by ourselves to how we travel with others.

At Home in Advent – here we are encouraged to examine our faith and how it is lived out in our lives.

At Home in the Run-up to Christmas – continuing to use images and symbolism we consider the nature of God and the meaning of Christmas.

At Home at Christmas – beginning with the birth certificate we look at how Jesus lives in and through us.

At Home in Epiphany – this last section is not the end of the journey. Moving from Advent and Christmas to Epiphany, a time of revelation, we look at change and the way ahead.

At times dour, this book is not the easiest of reads but well worth the effort. When reading I was not aware of the links between each chapter in the sections but have discovered this as I write the review. It makes me want to reread it in this light. The book is filled with interesting facts, especially around the origins of Christmas celebrations themselves. Although designed for use during Advent and Christmas, I feel that this book can be read at any time of year and be an aid to growing in and living out our faith.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Medieval Take on Lockdown & How to Survive it

What can it teach us today?

Thank you to Anne Kite for this recommendation...

In this 6-part series on the 14th-century English anchoress and mystic, Rev Dr Emma Pennington, Canon at Canterbury Cathedral, who holds a doctorate in Julian of Norwich from Oxford University, reflects on the relevance of Julian and her writings for us today.

Emma has devoted long years of reflection and study to the writings of Julian of Norwich. The videos explore the relevance of her life self-isolated in a single room. Could she have anything to say to us today? How is it that a woman from the late 14th century, about whom we know hardly anything at all, comes to be named time and again as one of the most influential figures in some people's lives today? Watch them [here](#)—each video is about 11 mins long.

Ed: I found an error occurred trying to watch them from the link, but use the link and then select to watch each video by clicking the YouTube logo at the bottom of each video screen.

Macclesfield's own zero-waste, plastic-free shop, is continuing to operate despite the lockdown, but not quite as normal. You can order on-line [here](#) and collect from their store in the Old Heritage Centre or arrange for delivery. The extensive list of stock includes flour, sugar, rice, pasta, pulses, cereals, dried fruit and much, much more; all at very competitive prices.



- 400g dried chickpeas
 - 2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
 - 10 dried mild red chillies or 1 tsp chilli flakes
 - 3 tbsp tomato paste
 - 1 tbsp mild curry powder
 - 4 garlic cloves, crushed
 - 100ml olive oil
 - 2 tbsp tamarind paste (or 2 tbsp lime juice and half tsp sugar)
 - 1 tin chopped tomatoes
 - 3 tbsp coriander leaves
 - 2 tsp cumin seeds toasted and crushed
- Soak chickpeas overnight with 1 tsp bicarbonate

Drain chickpeas and put in a large saucepan with 1 tsp bicarbonate, whole chillies or chilli flakes, 1.2 litres of water. Bring to the boil and add tomato paste, 3 of the garlic cloves, 4 tbsp of olive oil.

Cook for 20 minutes, add a tsp salt and a good grind of pepper and cook for another 10 minutes.

Add the tamarind and cook for 7 minutes, stir in the coriander. Mix tomatoes with remaining garlic, salt, pepper and 3 tbsp oil, add half to the chickpea stew and use the rest as a garnish along with the toasted cumin and a few coriander leaves.

David Mayers



Looking forward to a time when we can have baptisms again. We have so many families who want their children baptized, waiting for the restrictions to lift. Please remember them in your prayers. Similarly, all the wedding couples trying to make a decision on what to do for the best.

Image provided by Sandie Bevan—thank you

The Diocese of Chester has been granted permission to appoint Bishops in the Sees of Birkenhead and Stockport. Now Bishop Mark is seeking your views and comments about the two roles before the appointment process begins. In particular, Bishop Mark wants to ask more about where you believe God is calling Chester as a Diocese. Bishops should have a role in helping to lead the Diocese into the vision that God is giving us.

Click [here](#) to respond to the consultation. You have until 22nd January to respond.

Tamarind and Tomato Braised Chickpeas

Very simple and tasty – as long as you remember to soak the chickpeas overnight. And it's vegan so good for your carbon footprint and good for the environment. And you can buy your chickpeas, curry powder, tomato paste, tomatoes and cumin from Scoop and Scales.

