



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

One of the joys for me of the Easter season – yes, it's a season and not just one day – are the 'Easter Anthems', part of Morning Prayer at this time. They are liturgical versions of some great biblical verses which

speak so strongly and assuredly of the Christian hope we HAVE because of Jesus' resurrection.

Here are a couple of sections:

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: ☐
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all: ☐
in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: ☐
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6.9-11)

Christ has been raised from the dead: ☐
the first fruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death: ☐
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

for as in Adam all die: ☐
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

(1 Corinthians 15.20-22)

We **know** about hope and a brighter future, because as a nation we are living in one. Despite the continuation of the virus, the ongoing rollout of the vaccination programme means we are able to do more now than we could this time last week. It was lovely to hear the chatter and background hubbub with so many more people in town on Monday. And, of course, sun and warmth always help don't they?

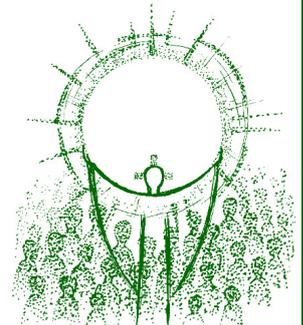
Yes, there are concerns about ongoing infections, and still many unknowns regarding meeting indoors, and travel, and so on. We also know that things could sadly change for the worse, and unwelcome restrictions could need to be re-imposed, as they have been in other parts of the world.

As Christians our current circumstances may also suffer knocks and setbacks – stresses at work, oppression, difficult relationships, ill health and bereavement, but because of Jesus' victory on the cross and from the tomb, our eternal Hope is assured. In an 'unnatural', or should I say 'supernatural' (i.e. beyond nature) way, we can know and experience a peace beyond our understanding.

Six times in His post-resurrection appearances Jesus said 'Peace be with you', or 'Do not be afraid'? With the resurrected Jesus standing right in front of them – difficult to compute after seeing His body on the cross, I admit – three of the four gospels record Jesus reassuring His followers with His peace.

My Christian faith isn't confirmed by stirring words from the Bible (as good as the Easter Anthems and similar passages are) but on the experience of Jesus Christ's enduring supernatural peace to me. I hope you experience the same.

If you do, how might we share our **experience** with others? Many people could do with experiencing such confidence and assurance for themselves. If that applies to you, do ask me or a friend to pray for you – it'd be a privilege – and/or ask God for such assurance to you direct.



With every blessing,

Mark



Man's second BIG mistake.



Farewell, friends!

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Vijay, Esther, Doron, Sharon and Sarah. They have been so much a part of our church family life over the last few years, fully supporting all we do, and contributing so much

to our fellowship at St Mike's. We shall miss them all enormously, and have learned a great deal from them. We wish them all the very best for their return to India, and hope to hear from them in the future.

Here is the family's message to us:

As a family, it has been a wonderful experience for us in Macclesfield. We came to UK on the 27th of March 2019. The next few days, we explored Macclesfield for shops, Church and school. We saw St. Michaels & All Angels Church, noted down the service timing, and planned to attend service from 31st March 2019.

Our 1st plan to attend the service was a total failure, because, on 31st March, when we came to Church, the service was already over, due to the day light saving time change !!

After our 1st service in St. Michaels, we were really touched by the warm welcome that was extended to us. When we started to attend the service regularly, we were welcomed into the Church community. We joined one of the sides person team, and contributed towards bible readings, prayers & standing at the welcoming area to hand over song books & service sheets. Kids were welcomed into the Choir and Christmas play. We were also welcomed to the one day discussion in Feb-20, for the Church planning. And, during lockdown, for helping to keep the church open for few hours. We have felt so at home – we felt appreciated & a part of the Church.



Sharon plays "holly" in our 2019 Nativity

We were thrilled to be invited for English lunch at David & Rachel Mayers house. It was special, because, it was our 1st ever English Lunch, and also, all the vegetables were home grown.

When lockdown started, I thought we would not be able to continue with Church Services, assuming that only younger generation is good with technology. God made me realise that I could not be more wrong.

It was really amazing to see how we quickly moved towards adapting Zoom meetings, and successfully even merging the service when we had the opportunity to resume service in the church building.

Moses led the Israelites when he was 80 years old. Abraham had a son when he was 100 years old. Age is not a criteria when God decides to use us for his purpose. All God wants is a willing & obedient spirit, and God can do wonders.

Not just from the perspective of technology, but also virtues that we don't often see in younger people now-a-days, virtues that matures with age – Patience, humbleness, tolerance, serving others, unshakable faith & complete trust in God. It was wonderful to experience these within the church community.

We would like to extend our thanks to each and every one of you. Rev. Martin & Catherine Stephens, Lynne & Paul Spedding, Mike Strutt, Tricia Atherton, Gordon Darlington, Paul Simms, Sue Reid and Heike Werner.

I may not know all the names, but, a few that I know, & would love to mention:

- John Wood - We are taking the Christmas cards with us. Sarah loved every time she recited a rhyme or song to you after service
- Anne - Always saying a lovely word about Sarah's dress
- Hazel - For being the point of contact for us, and specially for delivering the cakes for mothering Sunday
- Sallie & Martin Bancroft – For guiding us when we helped with spring cleaning
- Karen Gedde – For accepting & teaching our kids in the Choir
- Rachel Mayers – For going out of your way to always bring the kids home from Choir practice.
- David Mayers – For inviting us to be a part of 'Passing the ball' Challenge and home-made cakes
- Everyone in Choir for welcoming Doron & Sharon.
- David & Sheena for the 2019 Christmas dinner for Choir
- Those who extended a helping hand serving tea/coffee after service.
- Those who taught Doron & Sharon in the Roots group during service



Doron clutches his "Christmas pudding placard as a shepherd in the Nativity

Kind Regards,

Esther



The Lawrence family outside St Michael's



Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
 One day, I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store".
 As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
 And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere .
 One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care".

Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
 And that which you couldn't carry, you could come back next
 day for more.

First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row,
 Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that
 everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.
 I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me
 run this race.

By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered some
 GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free,
 So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
 For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.
 As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,
 For I knew that when I stepped outside, I would run right
 into sin.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful; they were on the last shelf.
 SONGS and PRAISES were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"
 He just smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go."

Again, I said, "How much do I really owe?"

He smiled again and said:
 "MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"

Sent in by Hilary Halliwell. Many thanks, Hil!



Munro camellia Week 7

Sadly, the frost got it just at the peak of its flowering!

CAN YOU? HELP

St Michael's building is open daily 11.00-1.00 for private prayer.
 In order to maintain this opportunity (which is very much
 appreciated by our visitors) we need volunteers.

If you are willing to undertake a two-hour stewarding shift once a
 week/fortnight, please let Paul Spedding know on
 paulspedding@gmail.com / 01625 614819.

You will always be on duty with another person.



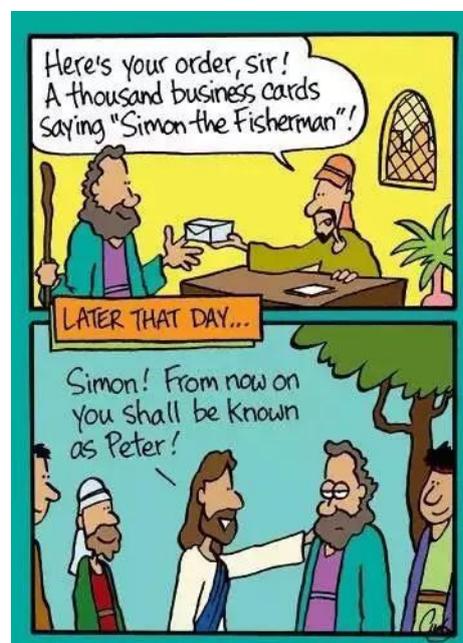
For every
child, life in all
 its fullness.

For every
heart, the will
 to make it so.

Reflection

You might be interested in watching/listening to a
 reflection by Richard and Katy (Rachel and
 David's son and daughter-in-law) from Otley
 Parish Church's Holy Week programme, based on
 John 10:1-18 (The Good Shepherd and his Sheep)

To watch, click [here](#)





Music@Mike's Summer Term 2021

A series of informal lunchtime concerts showcasing the best of our young and/or aspiring musicians from the town and further afield. Of course, the programme may have to be cancelled at short notice depending on the progress of the pandemic. Check on the St Michael's website:

<http://www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk/> for the latest information.

May

- Thursday 20 Arrhythmics Instrumental Music Combo
- Thursday 27 Ivan Hovorun Piano (RNCM)

June

- Friday 11 Robert Marshall Piano
- Friday 18 Innsaei String quartet (RNCM)
- Friday 25 Freaked out Foresters Rhythms and drums

July

- Thursday 1 Sam Jackson/Kelvin Leslie Baritone/piano
- Friday 9 Adam Parrish Piano

St Michael's Church in the Market Place.

1.15 – 2.00.

Free entry.

Sadly no refreshments available at the moment.

Donations to East Cheshire Hospice and St Michael's welcomed



Bamboo canes available to a good home

It's perhaps earlier than you'd choose to acquire them but if you'd like any bamboo canes for your garden or craft activity this year then contact Martin (teamrector.macc@gmail.com; 01625 426 110). Don't be hesitant –state how many you'd like – there are loads looking for a loving home, but when they're gone they're gone .. until next year!



Macclesfield Parish Cricket Club 2021

Cricket, lovely cricket: come and play or just to watch at some of the loveliest grounds in the country. We play social cricket, mostly for fun (though we do like to win!), usually 20-20 but week-end games may be longer. Evening games start at 6.30pm, or earlier later in the summer). Our home ground is Kerridge CC on Clarke Lane.

The provisional fixture list is as follows:

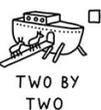
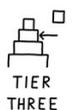
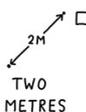
Tuesday 4 th May	Nets (tbc)
Wednesday 12 th May	Radbroke Hall (A)
Saturday 22 nd May	St George's Leeds (A)
Wednesday 26 th May	Stockport Teachers (A)
Tuesday 8 th June	TFW (H)
Wednesday 16 th June	Macc Occasionals (H)
Tuesday 22 nd June	Ash Tree (H)
Wednesday 7 th July	Stockport Teachers (A)
Tuesday 13 th July	TFW (H)
Tuesday 20 th July	Radbroke Hall (H)
Wednesday 28 th July	Macc Occasionals (H)
Sunday 15 th August	Ash Tree (A)

For more details ring David Mayers on 420716, 07963802659 (or e-mail davidjmayers@btinternet.com)



ARE THEY BREAKING THE LAW?

TICK ALL THAT APPLY



PUT THIS DATA INTO THE MACHINE



WAIT FOR THE PRINTOUT



LOCKDOWN LIFE

Life in Lockdown -

A teenager's perspective

Eleanor has given us a teenager's reflections on the last year.

The past year has been full of ups and downs as everybody knows, and like with everything, some people have found it easier than others.

When we first went into lockdown I know a lot of people loved it as they saw it as a bit of a break, thinking it would all have calmed down after the original announcement of a month of staying home. However this was not the case. Being in the lockdown for the amount of time we were had a huge impact on many people's mental health with not being able to see family and friends, especially those who couldn't contact others quite as easy as some.

Going into the lockdown in March was a little disappointing for me and a lot of others, with school finishing early meaning we couldn't say goodbye to everyone properly. I know a lot of my schoolmates were upset about not being able to sit their exams, I, however, was not disappointed but quite relieved. I was lucky enough to get the grades I needed to get into the course I am now taking at college and enjoying very much. I can definitely say it feels amazing to be getting back to normal being back at college and seeing everyone again and not just on a screen.

Eleanor Riesen

Thank you, Eleanor. We certainly look forward to seeing you and Dominic singing in choir again as soon as this is allowed. And all good wishes on your return to "live" teaching (and seeing your friends again, of course!)

SCOTTISH PLAIN SCONES.

Ingredients: 6 oz S.R. flour: $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon bi-carb: $\frac{1}{2}$ oz lard: $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cream of tartar: $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt: Approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ pint milk. (sour if possible).

Method: Add dry ingredients to the sifted flour. Rub in lard and mix to a light moist dough with the milk.

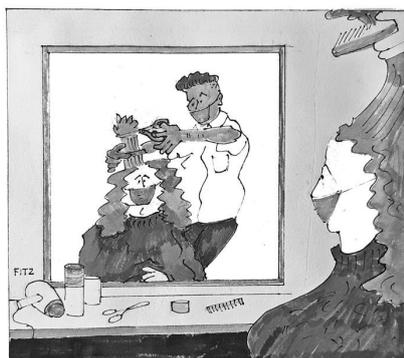
Roll out on floured board and cut out scones with a cutter. Bake on a greased baking sheet in the top of a hot oven for 10 minutes.

N.B. The success of these scones depends on the small amount of fat used, and the liberal amount of liquid.

1 tablespoon of sugar and 2 oz dried fruit may be added if desired, but the genuine Scottish scones are plain.

Mrs M. Hobson.

I went down to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.



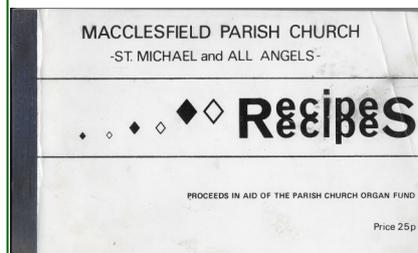
"Cancelled any nice holidays this year?"

A Trip Down Memory Lane



I was recently handed a bag for the church archives in which were two small books and a service sheet (this related to the service of thanksgiving and dedication before church closed for the re-ordering building work to begin - Sunday 29th June 2003).

However, the two books are much older: recipe books, compiled by members of the congregation. One has no date - but here is what its front cover looks like...



I am including some of the recipes from this book (from people I remember) but I wonder if anyone knows the date of publication? As there are recipes from Helen Haslam (Frank Haslam's wife) I know that the book must be post-1970. Indeed, as

the price is a magnificent 25p, the book must date from after decimalisation (1971). I note the proceeds from the sale of this book are for the organ fund. This featured large in my consciousness when I was a teenager at St Mike's - we always seemed to be raising money for the organ. These days it's the roof.

The second book is dated 1978 and celebrates the church's septcentenary year. Maybe I'll include some from that book next week.

Below are some sample recipes from Christine Higgins, Joyce Willson and Margaret Hobson (later Eastwood). Many other familiar names figure, so it has been a real trip down memory lane for me. Let me know if you'd like to see the book.

HUNGARIAN APPLE PIE.

Ingredients: 1 oz cornflour: 5 oz plain flour: pinch of salt: 3 oz margarine: 1 egg: 1 lb apples: 1 - 2 oz Ground almonds: 2 oz castor sugar: 1 - 2 tablespoons jam:

Method: Sift flour and salt together, rub in the margarine and mix to a dough with the egg. Put pastry aside in cool place for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Line a 7" tin with half of it and partly bake for about 10 minutes. Leave to cool.

Peel, core and cook the apples to a pulp in a little water. Mix the ground almonds and sugar. Spread the base of the pastry with jam, sprinkle half of the sugar and almond mixture on top, then put in apples.

Sprinkle the rest of the almond mixture over, cover with the remaining pastry and bake towards the top of the oven for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Sprinkle with castor sugar and serve with cream.

Oven temperature 425* . Mark: 7.

Christine Higgins.

CHEESE & BREAD & BUTTER PUDDING.

Method: Arrange in a greased fireproof dish some $\frac{1}{2}$ " slices of stale bread, first soaked in warm milk. Put in a layer of grated cheese about $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep, then another layer of soaked bread, seasoned with a little salt and pepper, then a final layer of grated cheese. Add a little more milk to prevent the pudding from drying up. Put a few shavings of margarine on the top and bake slowly for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour

Mrs Willson

SAUSAGE CASSEROLE.

Ingredients: 1 lb sausage: 1 tin tomatoes: Mashed potatoes

Method: Fry the sausage and place in a fireproof dish. Pour over the heated tinned tomatoes. Top with the mashed potatoes - fork it over - add a few dabs of margarine and brown the top under the grill

Mrs Willson

And by all means write a review of any of these recipes if you try them. There are plenty more where these came from. Happy cooking/baking!

Lynne

Join us for
Sunday Worship



St Michael's Worship 18th April 2021

Third 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: Lynne Spedding
Reading: Luke 24:36-48



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.

This week we have started the Bible Course.




Email any [prayer requests](#) here



St Michael's Church is now open daily 11.00am-1.00pm for private prayer

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 [→](#)

