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Rhodri Phillips

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Rhodri, on Tuesday evening (13th January). His sons and other family members were with him as he died.



Rhodri had been diagnosed with terminal cancer late last year; he was transferred to the hospice less than a week before his death. Rev'd Martin visited Rhodri that day and commented how emotionally and spiritually strong Rhodri had seemed. "He was grateful to God for a good life, and appreciative of the friendship and fellowship he'd found at St Mike's."

We shall miss Rhodri, who moved to Macclesfield and joined our church family only a few years ago and who took part positively in church life (particularly playing clarinet with the Band), a lovely man with a good sense of humour.

Rhodri's funeral will be taking place in St Michael's, and we shall let people know of the arrangements in due course. Please pray for his family and friends at this time.

Riding Lights

A date for your diary

Thursday 5th March

Riding Lights, the Christian theatre group, brings its new Passion Play to St Michael's.



More info at <https://www.ridinglights.org/nightfalls>

Box office: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ridinglights/night-falls/2026-03-05/19:30/t-vxvkrvn>

Don't forget ...



Peace Vigil at St Alban's

Don't forget the Peace Vigil to be held at St Alban's Church on Saturday 17th January, 8.00-9.00pm. Flyer sent out last week.

Music@Mike's

The first concert of 2026 is on Saturday 24th January at 1.15pm and features Richard Sykes - traditional singer and story-teller

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.



Lent Programme at St Mike's

Lent



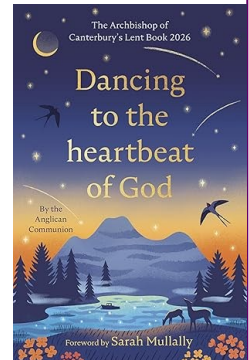
Advance notice

(sorry for hurling us into talk of Lent when Christmas is only just over, but Ash Wednesday is only just over a month away)

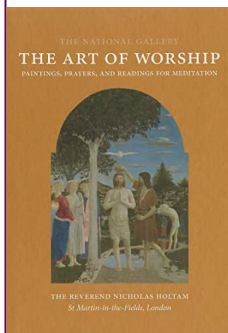
In the next few weeks, we'll be publishing a Lent Programme of the various study groups, special services and events we'll be offering at St Mike's throughout Lent. It would be lovely if as many as possible of us could engage with some of these activities, not only for our own spiritual growth but also to meet with a different circle of friends for this short period and get to know each other better.

Study Groups

There will be a number of Study Groups, both daytime and evening. Most will be reading and discussing the Archbishop of Canterbury Designate (Sarah Mullally)'s recommended book, 'Dancing to the Heartbeat of God: Stories of Discipleship'.



Another study group will use the St-Martin-in-the-Fields / National Gallery collaborative book, 'The Art of Worship', which includes paintings, prayers, readings and meditations on the Christian life. This group will probably meet on Tuesday evenings.



Keen people are welcome to attend groups on both books!

The full programme will be finalised and publicised in detail soon, so do please bear this in mind as you look towards the Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday Services

In addition, for the first time at St Mike's, we will be holding two 'Ashing' services on Ash Wednesday (18th February), one in the morning and one in the early evening, in addition to our Maundy Thursday 'Agape Meal & Foot-washing Service' and Good Friday morning and afternoon services.

If you need further information at this stage, please contact Lynne. Otherwise, watch this space!

The Collect for the Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Thank-you Kitey



After around 40 years of involvement in the Flower Ministry at St Michael's, Anne K is now retiring. Kitey (as we know her) has led so many initiatives, particularly on sustainable methods where she has been a front-runner in the Diocese, modelling best practice herself and training others.

Her artistry and creativity have been a wonder to see and we have been truly blessed to have her displays enhancing our worship for so long.

Kitey – in her own words

As a child I loved flowers especially the wild, tiny ones and those with intriguing names and I so loved my Flower Fairy Book with its beautiful illustrations.

I guess I began being involved with flowers at St Michael's in the mid-80s with dear Phyllis Melvin who had been in post for 40 years when she retired! I learnt a great deal from that very wise lady.

Circa 2008 Phyllis asked me to take over the Flower Rota and so began my journey with several wonderful people, some whom are still involved today. What a selection of festivals, national events, weddings, church family weddings, memorials and, sadly, funerals we have been asked to provide flowers for!

Over the years new techniques and ideas came in, particularly relating to sustainability and environmental issues, and about 9 years ago we stopped using floral foam - and so began sometimes frustrating sessions, as flowers and foliage fell over, as the compostable mechanics collapsed. However, the great team soldiered on!



The regular team, plus one or two extras!

Some memorable events

In November 2021, Remembrance Sunday was focusing on the end of World War I and the founding of the British Legion.

I had an idea which I discussed with Martin, our Rector and, after a few quizzical looks and a little reassurance, he agreed to the idea!

So one afternoon, Katy Wardle from St Barnabas plus the Cre8 van, my husband Dek and I met one of the Countryside Rangers who was happy to assist. We trudged through the forest with a forester to look for a silver birch tree that I had requested. Eventually we came to a steep valley and he pointed out three rather large silver birches, asking whether would one of those be ok! After a swift gulp and murmuring it was 'quite large ...' 'no matter...' - it was dragged back, with branches sawn off to fit it in the van



The finished Remembrance Tree in situ

In church Dek secured the now reduced tree (approx. 15 foot) with guy ropes, stones etc and Katy and I set forth, draping Reindeer lichen on branches to reflect shadows of the past, glass bubbles with little lights as hope for the future and silver disc to reflect that hope.

Underneath we made a rockery with plants representing the countries which had fought in the wars and, to add a very personal note, I included a newspaper clipping of my father who was a POW (but thankfully returned).

I have been so privileged to meet so many people, to share in their sadnesses and their celebrations and have a such a wonderful team working with me. In addition, I would like to thank David Mayers and the Eco team who have been so encouraging in our sustainability journey, and the whole church family.



Kitey at work

Tributes to Anne (Kitey) and her Service to the Flower Ministry

From Sue, on behalf of the Flower Ministry Team, past and present (current team: Bernice, Greeba, Judith, Heather, Sandie, Julie)

Dearest Anne (affectionately known to us all as Kitey),

Gratitude from the Flower Ministry Team and Beyond

On behalf of everyone who has ever been associated with the flower ministry team under your leadership, and all who have enjoyed your beautiful flower arrangements in church, we would like to say a heartfelt THANK YOU.

Years of Dedicated Service

We are deeply grateful for the years of dedicated and faithful service you have devoted to leading the flower ministry in our church. Your remarkable talent and creativity have been a true blessing, bringing beauty, colour, and meaning to enrich our worship and building. Your ministry has been a quiet yet powerful expression of faith - performed week after week, often unseen and without any fuss or fanfare. You have simply got on with the task, offering beauty as an act of worship. Through your steadfast and humble service, God's love has been shared through colour, care, and consistency, reminding us all that ministry does not have to be loud to be meaningful. You have helped so many honour and remember those they have loved and lost.



Appreciation for Dek's Support

We would also like to thank Dek. As the saying goes, 'Behind every successful woman is a man who believed in her.' It is so much easier to succeed when there is a supportive person in the background. The partnership between you and Dek has brought so many wonderfully creative floral projects to life. As soon as you have an idea, Dek is there to build something to make it happen! Most Fridays, especially during festival times, Dek can

be found following you into church, carrying in heavy or large foliage to help bring your vision lovingly to life.

Encouragement and Inspiration to Others

Anne, you have shared your gifts so generously, encouraging others to discover their own talents. You have patiently invited people to 'have a go' and have nurtured confidence and joy in flower arranging. Your passion has inspired so many, myself included, as well as my two daughters. Both girls have wonderful memories from a young age of being involved in flower arranging for key church festivals, and Izzy is still keen to take part—all thanks to your invitation for young people to participate.

Unseen Efforts and Lasting Impact

Many of us simply admire your stunning flower arrangements in church, unaware of the many things you do behind the scenes. Even the current flower ministry team were surprised by the long list of responsibilities you revealed to us. We are particularly grateful for your leadership in working with the eco team, moving us away from foam and towards more sustainable and environmentally responsible ways of arranging flowers. You quickly brought us all on board with new methods. Your commitment to caring for creation, including delivering workshops and interviews in the Diocese and sharing your knowledge beyond our church, has created a lasting impact.

Personal Thanks

On a personal note, I want to thank you for encouraging me to get involved all those years ago and helping me to develop new skills and confidence in arranging flowers in church and seeing this as a ministry. Although I have always loved flowers, I doubted whether I could ever create anything as beautiful as you do. Your gentle, loving guidance and support meant so much, and my confidence soared. I have truly loved being part of the flower team, especially during festival times when the whole team comes together to create something beautiful and inspiring.



A Lasting Legacy

As you step down from leading the flower ministry, please know how greatly appreciated and valued you are—for all that you are and all that you have done. Thank you, Anne, for your dedication, vision, creativity, and love. Your legacy will continue to bloom for many years to come, and those whom you have inspired will do their utmost to honour your legacy, tending the blooms and encouraging others to 'have a go'.

With Deepest Thanks

A Tribute from Sandie

Kitey is an amazing lady: Inspirational, always encouraging and never critical, no matter what kind of mess one's arrangement ends up as! She has such a gentle and positive calm about her which brings us all together. We've had so much fun over the years and I've learnt such a lot from her.

Kitey also did most of the "dirty" work herself including emptying bins, tidying up, sweeping the floor and sorting out the cupboards!

I can't begin to say how much we shall miss her, but after so much devotion to St Mike's she deserves to take a well-earned rest.

May we all continue to do our best as a tribute to her incredible example. As you can see I think the world of her!!

A BIG Thank You.

Mark Langham wishes to thank all those who helped him during his hospital stay recently: the staff at Picturedrome; John Mckellar (U3A); Sam Williamson (U3A); the doctors and nurses at Macclesfield District Hospital; the ambulance service; David Mayers, Vivien Gisby and Lynne Spedding.

(Ed. We're all delighted to see Mark back on his usual good form!)



Your Contact Details!

Have you moved house, changed your email address or phone number any time in recent years and possibly forgotten to let the Church Office know?

If you think this might be the case, please email Isobel on clergyypa@maccteam.org.uk to let her know - if our database already has your updated details, that's great, but recently we have realised that several address have been incorrect.



Join us for *Worship*



Sunday Worship

18th January 2026

10:00am: Holy Communion

with Children's Groups

Leader: Revd Vivien Gisby

Speaker: Revd Martin Stephens

Bible Reading: Luke 11:5-13

Theme: Jesus Says: Ask

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: 21st January

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

22nd January: Morning Prayer
29th January: 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



Sound of Silence (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://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZOVXdaZz09>

us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZOVXdaZz09

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; Thursday 9.00 - 1.00 and 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



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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.

