



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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**A time for sharing, love and faith**

## At the heart of Christmas



A new four-minute promotional film by the Church of England, features powerful personal reflections from people in a wide range of walks of life, speaking about what Christmas means to them.

It forms the centrepiece of the Church of England's Advent and Christmas campaign #AtTheHeartOfChristmas which encourages people to hear the real Christmas story through their local church.

The soundtrack for the film is a new carol version of In the Bleak Midwinter by one of the country's top young composers, Rebecca Dale, which has been recently released as a single.

Local churches like ours will be welcoming their communities – onsite and online – to celebrate and share the good news of Christ's birth with special services and events, supported by a wide range of national resources.

The film takes a look at what is "At the heart of Christmas" through personal stories, tales of hardships overcome, generosity, faith, Christmas memories and hopes for the future.

Those taking part include frontline workers and volunteers who served their communities throughout the pandemic, clergy, a family, and pupils and teachers.

They sum up what is at the heart of Christmas for them through words including hope, family, happiness, togetherness, sharing and love.



Some speak about being separated from friends and family during lockdowns and looking forward to singing carols and meeting together, which were not possible for many people last Christmas amid the pandemic restrictions.

The Revd Tasha Critchlow, a hospital chaplain in London, speaks about the challenges of the past 18 months, adding: "Christmas brings people together in their desire to fight darkness and to find light."

Kim Rowbotham, from Kettering, speaks about the challenges for bereaved people over the Christmas period, drawing through her own experience in losing her daughter.

The Patelia family, in West London, pick up the theme, describing how faith was crucial in overcoming the recent challenges before speaking of how at the heart of Christmas is God's love.



Amaris Cole, the Church of England's Head of Digital, said: "The stories in the film reflect what we have heard time and again about the challenges and hardships people have faced but also the comfort and inspiration they draw from faith in Jesus Christ.

"This Christmas, as we celebrate God coming into the world as a baby, will perhaps be all the more meaningful as a result. "Amid the restrictions on gatherings over the last two years, local churches have found amazing innovative ways to connect with their communities and to worship."

Many of us are looking forward to returning to celebrating in person in church this Christmas but most of our services will still be streamed online.

You can watch the full film on YouTube following this link;

[https://youtu.be/4ndP\\_uKmrqo](https://youtu.be/4ndP_uKmrqo)

### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

19th December 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Family Nativity —10:00am

Carols by Candlelight—6:30pm (Free Ticket Required)

Leader: Lynne Spedding

Speaker: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

## Wednesday Coffee and a Chat



**A Lovely husband** Joseph, husband of Mary the mother of Jesus.

This week we had a very short chat but it was still thought provoking.

Joseph's ancestry can be traced back to King David and, according to some interpretations, so can Mary's! It is possible that both the earthly parents of Jesus were descended from the royal household. It is thought that Mary and Joseph were first cousins because their fathers were brothers and that Mary was Joseph's second wife.

But putting that aside for a moment, today we considered the character of Joseph. In **Matthew chapter 1 18-25** we read about Joseph's reaction to the news that Mary was pregnant. He knew it couldn't be his child, so he could've reacted with anger, bitterness and resentment, but even before the visit of the angel we can see that he was a kind man and before anything else he was thinking of Mary's reputation (**Verse 19**). He was going to call off the marriage, which he had every right to do, but to do it quietly so that Mary would not be publicly shamed. Then he had a visit from the angel – was it Gabriel again??? We aren't told. But, like his betrothed, he believed and trusted the message of the angel and continued to support Mary. Judith wondered what Joseph's family made of all this. Did they approve? Did they already have an idea that there were going to be problems ahead?

As we know from the many Nativity plays we have seen, Joseph looked after Mary throughout the journey to Bethlehem and found her a place to give birth to the child. Helen wondered if Joseph had his other wife and children in tow. Maybe the other wife acted as midwife. If this is the case there are many characters missing from most Nativity performances. However, that is pure speculation – which we are famous for in our group so please don't take our discussions as fact!!!

After the visit of the wise men (**Matthew 2. 13-15**), Joseph was warned not to go home because the child was in danger from the cruel King Herod, so Joseph took his family on the long journey to Egypt, where they lived until Herod was dead. Later they returned to Israel (**Matthew 2.19- 23**) and lived in Nazareth where Jesus spent his boyhood. Interestingly Helen wondered if the neighbours knew that this was the family with the baby who was the reason for the slaughter of the innocents. But we didn't dwell on that.

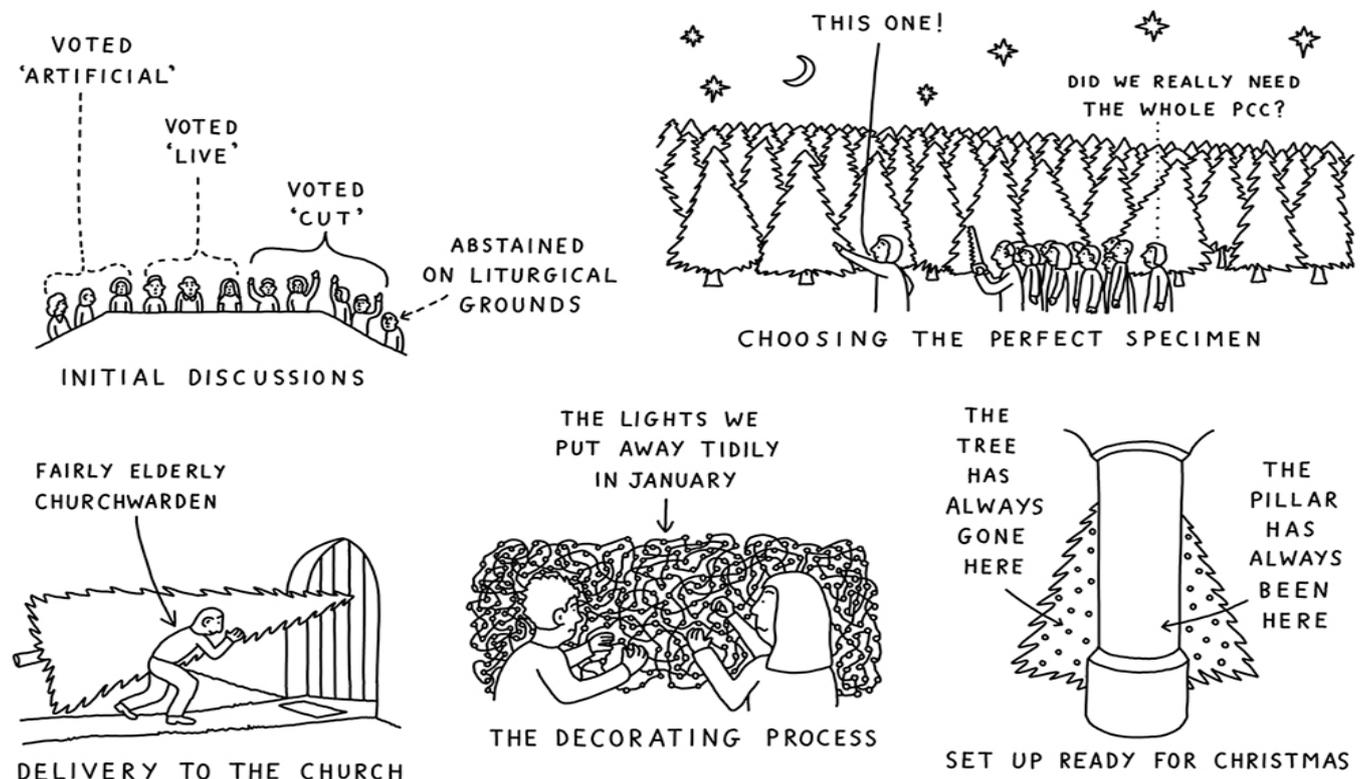
Throughout these narratives we see Joseph as a loving husband and father to his children. A man who took responsibility for the care of his family, even though he himself was in danger. He was a good role model for his son who grew up to be brave and to learn from life's experiences as well as from teachers in the temple (**Luke 2. 41- 52**) and through listening to the voice of God. In this way Joseph was an integral part of the development of Jesus' earthly character.

We are having a break now until after Christmas and our next chat will be on Wednesday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2022. We hope you have a peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you if you are able to join us next year. The Zoom link will be on the back of the newsletter.

Keep safe , my friends,

*Tricia Atherton*

# THE CHRISTMAS TREE



## Bollington CAFOD Fun Run

The Bollington CAFOD Fun Run is back again this year on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021 start 11.00 a.m. although subject to the current Covid-19 situation, and with a few differences. The team here has made a decision that the Fun Run will be



open only to those who pre-register, on a first come first served basis, limiting entries to 200. This is to avoid crowds of people milling around. There will therefore be no entries on the day and we will be based on the Middlewood Way next to St Gregory's Parish Hall (not in the Hall itself), where those who register to take part can pick up their running numbers, from 10.00 a.m.

So that you don't miss out please register your place at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bollingtons-cafod-fun-run-2021-tickets-224648639127>

If you would prefer to do a virtual run again this year then please do so and go to the Just Giving page to make your donations, see below.

There is no entry fee for registration but we encourage you to make a donation and/or get your family and friends to sponsor you. Again due to Covid-19 precautions we will not be collecting cash on the day. We have set up a Just Giving Page for your donations as last year when we did the virtual Fun Run. Follow this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/BollingtonCAFODFunRun>

If you are raising sponsorship from friends and family there is a link on this Just Giving page for you to set up your own fundraising page just click the green box "Join the team" and set this up as instructed.

Suggestions for this optional donation:

- £10.00 per adult (£20.00 for a family)
- £5.00 for under 16s

## Hostel Donations



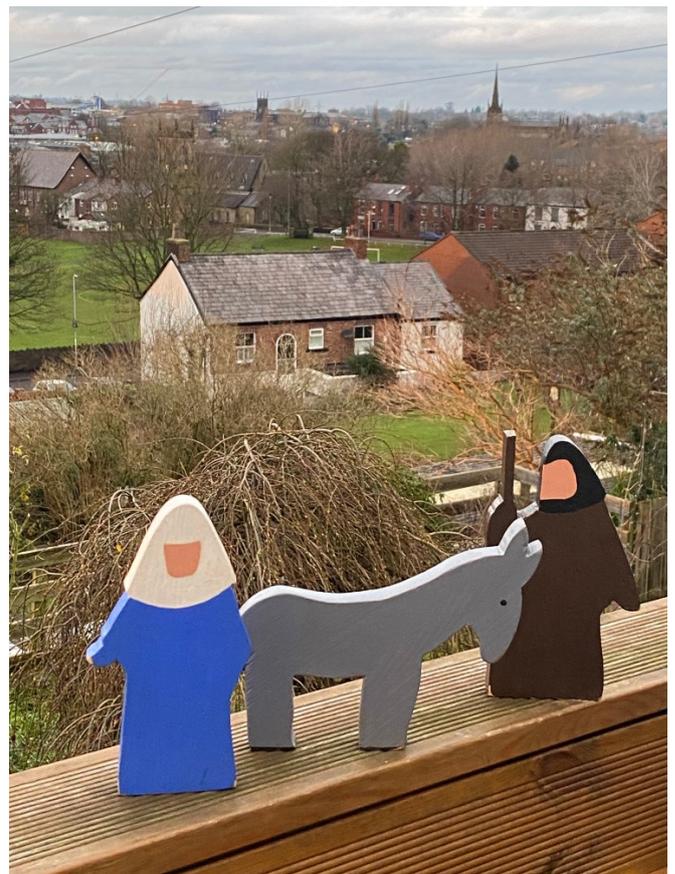
Some of the hostels in Macclesfield are looking for any Christmas gifts, decorations or chocolates for their residents.

Suggestions for Christmas gifts are toiletries, scarves, gloves, socks, chocolates, games or sweets.

There are 18 men and 1 woman at the moment. They have were also given Tesco vouchers last Christmas.



Please contact Rachel in the office if you are able to help.



The Posada is still happily continuing its journey. This is the Posada on the balcony of Garrie and Adrian's house with St Peter's, St Paul's and St Michael's in the background.

## Appreciation Post

A huge "thank you" for producing the Weekly Newsletter and to all the people involved with writing articles for the various issues and also, for the people who deliver them!

It must be a major task, but greatly appreciated by so many of us fortunate ones who receive them on a regular basis.

Thank you Porsche, for all your precious time spent on producing the weekly sheet.

Wishing everybody at St Michael's love and blessings at this Christmas time.

Jo (Durbin)



# What's Best to Donate?

Please find below a helpful list of the essential items we require the public to donate between October and December 2021

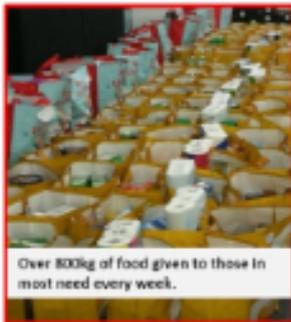
**'Thank You for Helping Us to Help Others'**

We help single people, couples and families who are facing a harder time. Foodbank professionals can refer through [foodbank@silklife.co.uk](mailto:foodbank@silklife.co.uk)

Tinned Foods	Other Foods	Christmas Items
Curry	Instant Mash	Christmas Cake <i>(Alcohol Free)</i>
Tuna	Gluten Free Foods	Christmas Pudding <i>(Alcohol Free)</i>
Salmon	Jams	Festive Biscuits
Sardines		Festive Sweets & Treats
Fray Bentos Pies	Biscuits	Festive Gifts
Macaroni Cheese	Sweets & Treats	
Vegetables	Tea & Coffee	
Potatoes	Hot Chocolate	
Ravioli	UHT Milk	
Meatballs	UHT Fruit Juices	
Spaghetti	Cordials	
Tomatoes		
Spaghetti Bolognese		
Chicken in Sauce		
Irish Stew		
Fruit		
Rice Pudding		
Custard		

### Toiletries

Toilet Rolls  
Shampoo



Thank you

**foodbank**  
MACCLESFIELD



**New!**

You can now DONATE INSTANTLY at:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/silklifechurch>

Cheques can be made payable to Silklife Church and marked on the reverse 'For Foodbank use'  
Post to: SILKLife Church, George Street, Macclesfield SK11 6HS

The last delivery of your donations to the Silklife Foodbank before Christmas will be Friday 17th December so please leave any Christmas food items before then. The foodbank itself will be closed from 22nd December to 4th January.

## Christmas Cards:

You have so many lovely friends at church: how do you decide to whom to send a Christmas card and who to miss? In a quandary about the waste of resources sending lots of cards anyway? Resolve both these issues by sending ONE card to "friends at St Michael's" and putting it on the board in church.



If you do wish to send individual cards to folk who will be in the church building, then there will be a "Card Exchange" at the back of the worship area – put cards into the appropriate folder – and don't forget to look occasionally in case anyone has sent one to you.

## The Big Give 2021!



Cre8 will be getting together on Christmas Eve for THE BIG GIVE 2021 to distribute food & gifts to households on the Moss Estate and wider across Macclesfield.

If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch with Katy via [katy.wardle@cre8macclesfield.org](mailto:katy.wardle@cre8macclesfield.org) or call the Cre8 office on 01625 503740 for more information.



WHY AREN'T THEY SINGING AT THE CAROL CONCERT?

THEY WERE TWO DEER!



David Smith's Festive one liners...

What athlete is the warmest in winter?  
A long jumper

ha! ha! ha! ha!

# Christmas at St. Michael's

## Sunday 28th November

10:00AM Church Family Worship  
6:30PM Advent Carol Service

## Sunday 5th December

10:00AM Church Family Communion  
4:00PM Christingle Service

## Sunday 12th December

10:00AM Church Family Worship

## Sunday 19th December

10:00AM Nativity Service  
Church open until 2PM for Treacle Market  
6:30PM Carols by Candlelight  
(Free Ticket Required)

## Tuesday 21st December

7:00PM Town Carol Service  
(Free Ticket Required)

## Friday 24th December

4:00PM Crib Service  
(Free Ticket Required)  
11:30PM Midnight Communion

## Saturday 25th December

10:00AM Christmas Family Worship  
with Communion

## Sunday 26th December

10:00AM Church Family Worship  
(Said Service)

Details of how to obtain free tickets can be found via the website <http://www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk/>, the newsletter or by contacting the office on 01625 421 984 /clergy@maccteam.org.uk

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 ★ Spaces for Carols by Candlelight, The Town Carol Service and the Crib Service are limited as a Covid Safety measure. In order to do this, we are asking you to book a free ticket in advance so numbers can be monitored and capped in advance.  
 ★ Please see the links below which will allow you to book a ticket for each of these services. Tickets are in singles so if you are attending as a couple, family or group, please ensure you select the correct number of tickets required.  
 ★ We also require all those attending to wear a face covering in order to try and reduce any spread of Coronavirus.  
 ★ For Carols by Candlelight— <https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi0y/t>  
 ★ For The Town Carol Service— <https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi0z/t>  
 ★ For the Crib Service— <https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi00/t>  
 ★\*\*\*\*\*

**Flower News**

Joyce Firth has graciously given the lovely roses and Christmas foliage in loving memory of her very dear husband Arthur. Thank you Joyce.



Kitey

**CLOSED**

**Christmas café closure**

Please note the café will be closed from 23rd December until 2nd January

**NOTICE**



Please note the church will be closing slightly earlier at 2pm this Treacle Sunday due to preparations being made for the Carols by Candlelight Service at 6:30PM.

**"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself."**  
*Charles Dickens*

Join us for

*Worship*



### St Michael's Worship 19th December 2021

#### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Family Nativity —10:00am

Carols by Candlelight—6:30pm (Free Ticket Required)  
live in church / streamed on Youtube

Service Leader: Lynne Spedding

Talk: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

**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.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVAzMVgQfoZ9qv0il7rlwEw>

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)

16th December —Midweek Morning Communion

23rd December —Midweek Morning Prayer

(and then alternate thereafter...)

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

#### Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



Coffee & Chat



#### Monday HomeGroup

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings  
(Fortnightly)

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](mailto:clergypa@maccteam.org.uk) to contact Porsche

- [office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk) to contact Rachel for room bookings and building matters

- [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com) for newsletter items.

- [maccteamprinting@gmail.com](mailto: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.

