



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield

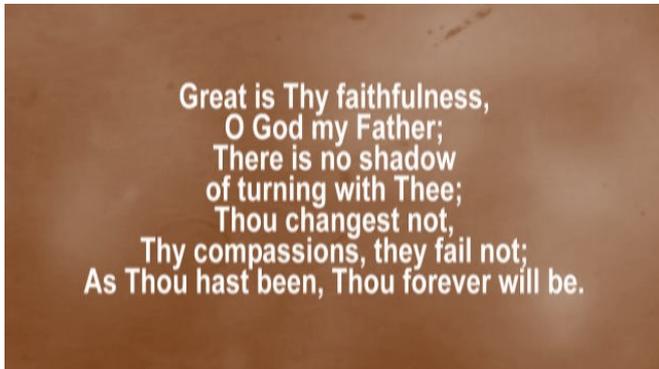


www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Great is Your faithfulness ...



Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
There is no shadow
of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

...the opening words of a favourite hymn for many of us. Indeed we'll be singing it on Sunday (isn't it great to be singing again!)

We certainly have a lot to thank God for, especially His faithfulness to us as a church over the last 18 months. He has kept us together and helped us look forward.

This week marks the start of our new pattern of services. I want to use this Newsletter article to let you know some of the finer detail – just so you are prepared.

We start our Church Family Worship at 10am (it's called that to express that, whoever you are, we are all part of one church family in Jesus).

We hope the start of the service will feel relaxed enough for people less familiar with 'church' not to feel awkward. Young families may be sitting on mats near the front, some children with toy bags (thank you so much to those who made/donated to them). We will be using our new large screen, showing a few photos of people from our congregation doing things – maybe holiday or day out pictures. So if you or your household are doing something 'special', why not send in a photo, to the office, for us to show? This is to encourage a sense of belonging to each other.

After an opening sentence or two, we will have our first hymn, which may be led by the choir or music group. The theme for the service will be explained and maybe a short activity with the children around that – and the impressive 'church calendar clock' will be used.



After a second song the young children and their parents/carers will move into the Savage Chapel to continue with the Storytelling service (remember all those lovely story videos we had?). Adults can go there too if they wish, there is no age limit. Older children will go to Roots on the first floor for their activities. Many thanks to all the previous

leaders willing to 'start again' – we certainly couldn't do this without you.

The worshipers remaining in the Nave will continue with a reading, sermon and prayers. This will have a quiet reflective atmosphere.

At the end of the prayers our children will be welcomed back and may have a short feedback to share... as may the Nave people. We will then sing our final hymn and say the blessing.

Fellowship can be shared over a tea, coffee or squash, and a craft activity will be set up in the chancel.

Well that's the plan! Monthly we will remain altogether, and twice monthly we will celebrate Communion. And I'm already looking forward to having a baptism as part of Church Family Worship next month!

Please bear with us as we start this. It's a very important step in bringing our church family together. We know there will be teething problems, and maybe some anxiety. Please share what you think – good or bad – with someone from the planning group (Martin, Lynne, Paul Simms, Karen, Judith, Catherine, Heike, Sue, Chris Bentley, Gemma, Jonny)

We look forward to singing Great is Thy Faithfulness on Sunday. It has that sense of God being over all time, all our lives.

Blessings,



Mark

The Collect for the 16th Sunday after Trinity

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

19th September 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Church Family Worship

Leader: Martin Stephens

Speaker: Martin Stephens

Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday Morning Coffee and a Chat



How Embarrassing!

This week in our coffee and chat on Wednesday morning Heather pointed out to us a very small incident that is written in Mark's gospel – chapter 14, verses 52 and 53. During the arrest of Jesus there is this young man in the crowd. He has on only a linen cloth (sindon) the soldiers go to grab him and he runs away leaving the cloth behind him! How embarrassing!

Who was this young man? What was he doing there? And why would the writer of this gospel (Mark) include this incident at all? A conundrum.

As you can imagine these two verses have had much written about them. Heather gave us several of the ideas. One notion is that the young man is actually Mark, the writer of the gospel and he put himself into his own book as a little cameo, rather like Alfred Hitchcock the English film director who made cameo appearances in 45 of his 54 surviving films. More recently, Colin Dexter who wrote the Inspector Morse books made a cameo appearance in almost all the episodes in the television series. If this is the case then Mark, as a grown man, was remembering an incident in his youth.

Another idea is that it was a random young man living in a house close by to the Garden of Gethsemane who was woken up by all the noise in the middle of the night. He jumped out of bed in his linen cloth (sindon) and ran outside to see what was happening. He had heard of Jesus of course but something was going on. He followed the crowd to see where they would take Jesus and became a focus of interest to some of the soldiers who tried to grab him to arrest him. He lurched away from them and his linen cloth came off as he ran away, followed by raucous laughter and lewd shouts of derision. I imagine him as aged about 15 years, just coming through adolescence, getting home through the dark streets as quickly as he could, then lying in bed pondering what had just happened!

But why was this incident recorded and what does it mean for us today? Yes, it provides an insight into the real lives of people living at that time but could it mean more? Apparently, the word used for linen cloth (sindon) is only used by Mark on one other occasion and that is in Mark 16.v5 which describes the young man in the tomb dressed in a white robe (sindon). Is this a deliberate ploy on the part of the writer? Does the sindon worn by the random stranger represent the shame of running away and the sindon worn by the angel represent the glorious redemption and hope for all? Ooooo-er, Heather you got me thinking now.

This little group is great for getting me thinking. Thankyou to all who are willing to share doubts and crazy ideas.

Next week, Kitey is getting us to think about the woman caught in adultery John 8. 2-11. Do join us if you can. The link is on the back page of the newsletter.

Tricia Atherton

Safeguarding Training



Please can those who have been approached to complete online safeguarding training please do this at their earliest convenience to support the return to all the face-to-face activities and groups we have all missed so much!

Matt Lewis recently completed it and said "It was informative and useful, not tedious. It was very well made. I now feel that I am better equipped to know what to do if any of the tricky situations arise that are alluded to in the training." -Thanks Matt!

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact me.

Gemma.



Update on the "Camino to COP" Pilgrimage and the Coat of Hopes



At the end of August the Coat of Hopes began its journey from Newhaven to Glasgow. Here is a picture of the originator of the idea – Barbara Keal – on the beach, wearing the "undercoat" at the start of its journey. Hundreds of patches will be sewn onto this undercoat along its way, representing our hopes and fears for our planet, and there will be a stitching event here at St Michael's on Tuesday 28th, when the pilgrims spend a night in the church.

If you would like to learn more about this wonderful initiative and read reports from the pilgrims, follow this link: <https://caminotocop.com/news/>

Meanwhile here are some photographs from their journey so far (and if you are confused about their starting point – so am I! The coat seems to have started from Newhaven, one group of pilgrims set off from Bristol and a second group set off later from London - the two groups meeting up in Birmingham (I think!))

We look forward to meeting them on 28th at St Michael's and hearing all about their journey so far!



Here are the pilgrims outside one of their places of rest...



...and here they are enjoying a dip in a river along their route!



Lynne

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Thankyou for your interest in the work of Village Rwanda UK. Even through this internationally difficult year the determined folk in the village have made significant steps forwards and we want to share this news with you.



Our Annual Meeting with afternoon tea will be held on **Saturday 9th October 2021** at St Michaels in the Marketplace, Macclesfield at 3pm.

For more information please contact **Tricia Atherton** at villagerwandauk@gmail.com

Would you like a free concert ticket???

It's great that our lovely church building is used by the community as a venue for their events; it is the largest venue in Macclesfield and many groups say they love to come here because it such a wonderful space. Perhaps we take it for granted sometimes?

We love to share the building with others, but when there is an evening event we usually need someone to be a steward representing the church community. If you would like to be on a list of people who might do this occasionally (and it might be only once or twice per year) please let Rachel know via the office. The reward is a free ticket to the event!

The first such event is a special concert to celebrate 50 years of the Macclesfield Majestic Theatre group, being held on TWO evenings, Friday and Saturday 24th and 25th September. Unfortunately this clashes with our Pilgrimage, so if you are not going to be a pilgrim this time, would you please consider if you could help to steward the event. Please contact Rachel as soon as possible office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk or leave

a message on the office phone.



Music@Mike's

The autumn season continues with a concert at **1.15pm on Friday 24th September** featuring the Kell Wind Trio.

Their programme will include works by Mozart, Tomasi and Haydn – and the beautiful Farewell to Stromness by Peter

Maxwell Davies.

Refreshments including soup and/or a full lunch will be available from the Angel At My Table café both before and after the concert.

As usual entrance is free but donations will be welcomed.

Let us Pray...



Have you noticed there is no prayer letter this month? This has recently been covered by Rachel and we thank you so much for this. However, given that life, church and events are getting back to normal again, this is yet another commitment alongside Rachel also being Churchwarden, and temporarily covering the role of buildings and booking coordinator.

Therefore, we would really appreciate a volunteer to create the Prayer Letter on a monthly basis. If you are willing to commit the time and believe you would be able to offer your help with this, please contact Rachel in the office to discuss it further.

Thank you.

Porsche

The new raised bed!

If you wander round to the south side of the church, beyond the Savage Tower, you will find this recent addition to the life of the churchyard. Organised by the eco-church group and constructed by Food4Macc, it is hoped that it will provide an opportunity for church members and local residents to enjoy the pleasure of growing their own fruit, veg and herbs, and increase the biodiversity of the churchyard.



Some of the herbs have already been incorporated into dishes at the Angel At My Table café; and if you need some oregano, sage, rosemary, thyme or parsley to spice up your cooking then please help yourselves. In addition, though not yet ready to harvest, the bed contains chillies, strawberries, turnips, radishes, broad beans, cabbages, figs, sweet peppers, curry, apple mint and kale.

Many thanks to Anthony Hulme who planted and then watered the bed so it is now, as you can see, a wonderful jungle of healthy plants and a testament to God's wonderful creation and generosity.



David Mayers

How to contact the Office...



Phone—Landline—01625 421 984

Mobile— 07579 820 265 (on Thursdays when Porsche is working from home)

Email— clergy@maccteam.org.uk to contact Porsche
- office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk to contact Rachel for room bookings and building matters
- stmikesnotices@gmail.com for newsletter items.
- 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.

Can you Volunteer?

On Tuesday 28th Sept the Camino to COP26 pilgrimage will be staying at St Michael's church.



Angel at my Table will be offering them a meal using surplus food and we need volunteers to help cook, serve and clear up.

If you can spare a couple of hours between 4 and 8pm please let Ali Griffen know (07763770026) or drop into the cafe to have a chat.

Thursday evening Homegroup



We are a friendly, inclusive group which meets for Bible study, prayer, fellowship and fun.

We will be meeting fortnightly, in person, from **Thursday 23rd September, 7.30pm** at various locations. Our first meeting, on the 23rd, will be in church – in either the welcome area or the youth centre, depending on the noise from the bell-ringers!

We are starting a new study on the epistle to the Philippians; there is a study guide available but it is not essential. If you would like to join us feel free to come along or contact for more information **David Mayers (420716)** or **Eve and David Budgett (431606)**. All welcome

Season of Creation

2 events to watch out for this week as we continue to reflect, enjoy and act as stewards of Our Common Home



Friday 17th September – Song of the Prophets – a Requiem for the Climate. 7.30pm in church. Featuring the Chineke! orchestra and an array of gifted and committed speakers (including Rowan Williams), this recording of an event held earlier this year will provide much food for thought for the following discussion

Sunday 19th September, 2pm. An easy 3 mile Creation Walk at Tegg's Nose country park, SK11 0AP

For more details refer to the programmes available in the welcome area, and don't forget to read the reflections on the churchyard railings – and maybe contribute one yourself?

Macclesfield Green Fest

Saturday 18th September

10am – 4pm

Macclesfield Green Fest on the lawns at Christchurch.

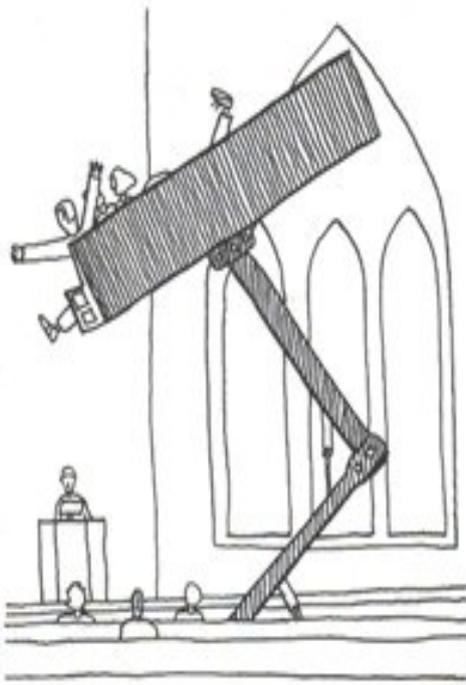
There will be stalls featuring eco-groups alongside organisations and local businesses with a focus on sustainability and a green agenda.

ONE PROJECT &
THE ROE-NAISSANCE PROJECT PRESENTS:

MACCLESFIELD GREEN FEST

18TH OF SEPTEMBER
FROM : 10:AM TO 4:PM

ADDRESS:
CHRIST CHURCH BRIDGE ST, MACCLESFIELD SK11 6EG



SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED
CHURCH TO BE MORE EXCITING

BAKE TO CREATE.



To bake a cake one has to take ingredients in proportion,
A mixing bowl is next the thing to set your task in motion.
To blend or mix with electric whisk or wooden spoon - essential,
But either way your bowl of 'clay' is the start to your credentials.
The whole idea is for everyone to enjoy a lovely cake,
And that is why you set yourself the task of one to bake.
With tin prepared, and mix just right, the ingredients now are one;
Back to the recipe you go to ensure that all is done.
Into the oven the mixture goes with temperature correct.
The time ticks by, and anxiously you wait to first inspect
The creation, that with care you made, or was it a mistake?
At what point did you start to think the mix became a cake?

We're taught that God created us, his image to reflect,
At what time will our 'clay' become a pleasure to inspect?
We were all part of His recipe, life's ingredients are all there;
But how long it takes to complete His task depends on those who care.

Dorothy Bentley Smith.

St Michael's pilgrimage 2021 .. Joining instructions



There is no need to book your place in advance for any given walk; just turn up at the start place and time. For all the long walks bring a packed lunch. For the short walks have lunch before we start.

For day 1 (**Wed Sept 22nd**), if doing the long walk, drive to Delamere station (CW8 2HZ, turn right off the A556 opposite the Vale Royal Abbey Arms, about 60 mins from Macc) and catch the 9:53 train to Chester arriving at 10:10, (parking free, train fare £6.30) then walk to the cathedral. If just joining us for the service meet at the cathedral and ask any of the staff for directions to St Anselm's chapel. Our service will be at 10:45 for about 15 mins.

For day 2, (**Thur Sept 23rd**) if doing the long walk, drive to Northwich station (CW9 5LY, about 45 mins from Macc) and catch the 9:37 train to Delamere arriving at 9:52 (parking £2, train fare £5.50). For the short walk, meet at Northwich station at 1:00pm. Both walks will meet at St Helen's church, Northwich (CW9 5PB) at 4:30pm for a short service.

For day 3 (**Fri Sept 24th**), if doing the long walk, drive to Knutsford station (WA16 ONL, 30 mins from Macc) and catch the 9:25 train to Northwich arriving at 9:37 (parking about £4.00, train £5.50). For the short walk, catch the 1:25pm train from Knutsford to Plumley arriving at 1:29pm. Both walks will meet at St John The Baptist church, Knutsford (WA16 6DH) at 4:30pm for a short service.

For day 4 (**Sat Sept 25th**), if doing the long walk, share cars to leave one car in Prestbury and take the second car to Knutsford to meet at the railway station at 9:30. For the shorter walk also share cars to leave one car in Prestbury and take the second car to Wilmslow to meet at the Café Azul at the eastern end of Carr's Park at 2:30pm. Both walks will meet at the Norman chapel at St Peter's, Prestbury, at 5:00pm for a short service.

If joining us for a meal on Saturday evening this will be at Chris Wightman's place at 7:00PM and the cost is £10 per head payable on the night. We need to know numbers in advance so please let one of the Paul's know by the evening of Wednesday 22nd if you plan to attend.

For day 5 (**Sun Sept 26th**) meet in the car park by the bridge over the Bollin at 9:00 to walk to St Michael's. Arrange to share cars if necessary.

Contact details: Paul Spedding, paulspedding@gmail.com, 07747622765

Paul Simms, paul@lowerbeechfarm.co.uk, 07879446906

Please let one of the Paul's have a mobile phone number if possible in case of people getting separated during the walks and note down our phone numbers for similar reasons.

YOUTH WORSHIP EVENT

AMPLIFIED

10/10/21

7.00 - 8.15 pm

TFW CHURCH

WHO IS JESUS?

For anymore information on "Amplified", please contact Catherine Stephens (01625 426110)

Season of Creation 2021 - A Home for All? What can you do to care for our Common Home and make it a Home for All?

SEPTEMBER 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		<p>1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Join in a global on line prayer service at https://seasonofcreation.org/</p>	<p>2 Take a jar and collect a piece of creation each day to put in, e.g. leaf, twig, pebble. As you do this thank God for His creation and ask for his help to be good stewards of all His gifts.</p>	<p>3 Have a meatless or vegan meal, if possible shared with others. Meat and cheese both have a large carbon footprint. Could you do this more often during the Season?</p>	<p>4 Make time to sit and think about God's creation for a few moments – what do you do in your life to take care of people and the environment?</p>	<p>5 Climate Change Sunday Join in our Eco Service this week at 10am at St Michael's to focus on taking action on climate change.</p>
<p>6 Consider how many bottles of water or soft drinks you buy. Could you replace these with tap water in a reusable bottle? You can find out more here.</p>	<p>7 Reduce food waste by planning your meals and buying just what you need.</p> 	<p>8 Remember to say Grace before eating your meal today, and throughout the Season, thanking God for creating the food and for the people who have helped produce it.</p>	<p>9 Remember we are part of God's creation and to take care of ourselves in the way God intended with compassion and care.</p>	<p>10 Make do and mend. Find something that could be repaired e.g. bikes, clothes, electronics and tools. Bring it <i>tomorrow</i> to the first Repair Café at the Heritage Centre, Find out more here.</p>	<p>11 Join the CAFOD Faith in Action Day from 11.00am. An online talk and prayer to learn more about COP26 and Pope Francis's call to action to care for our common home.</p>	<p>12 Join in a Family Cycle Ride along the Middlewood Way. Meet at 12.00 noon at Tesco Car Park SK10 2AB to cycle to Nelson Pit for a picnic. Bring a packed lunch.</p>
<p>13 Think about how you travel each day during the Season. Could any of your journeys be walked, cycled or by bus to reduce the use of our cars? Its good for our health too.</p>	<p>14 Turn off the electronics and spend half an hour going for a walk or other activity in God's natural world. Invite your family or others to join you.</p>	<p>15 Pray for those who have been affected by natural disasters or the Coronavirus pandemic through illness, injury, death of loved ones, loss of their homes or livelihoods.</p>	<p>16 Switch electricity suppliers to a green source. You can find out more at: https://www.moneysupermarket.com/gas-and-electricity/green-energy/</p>	<p>17 Join the showing of Songs of the Prophets—A Requiem for the Climate at 7.30pm at St. Michael's Church.</p>	<p>18 Take stock of what you've done so far in the Season of Creation. How are you getting on with making it a home for all? What more could you do to take better care of God's creation?</p>	<p>19 Join in the Creation Walk at 2.00pm. An easy 3 mile walk to appreciate God's creation followed by a picnic of drinks and cakes. Teggs Nose Country Park (SK11 0AP)</p>
<p>20 Take a break from consuming and buy nothing today.</p> 	<p>21 COP26 - the Time is Now to Act on Climate Change join the online talk by Ellen Teague at 7.30pm. Contact skeithtay12@outlook.com for Zoom link.</p>	<p>22 As we uphold the human right to food, clean drinking water and safe sanitation for all. Pray today for the people in the world who don't have access to these.</p>	<p>23 Review your use of electricity at home. Are all your light bulbs LED or energy saving? Turn off some of your electrical items more often or overnight.</p>	<p>24 When doing your shopping select Fairtrade products and those without plastic packaging.</p> 	<p>25 Sign the CAFOD Reclaim our Common Home Petition to the Prime Minister on line at: https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/73304/petition/1</p>	<p>26 Join the Family Litter Pick at St. Alban's after the 9.30am Mass or gather at 10.15am. Prize for the family that collects the biggest bag. Lead by 3rd Macc Scouts.</p>
<p>27 Buy items from charity shops online, buy and sell adverts, local papers or notice boards to reduce new purchases which use up the world resources.</p>	<p>28 "Meet the Pilgrims" on the Camino to COP26 at 8.00pm at St. Michael's. Join the pilgrims on one of their walks. https://caminotocop.com/</p>	<p>29 Take time to listen to the cry of the poor with your heart. Pray for those "Forgotten People" who share our common home, e.g. those living in poverty, homeless, refugees, migrants.</p>	<p>30 Shop more locally, e.g. green grocers, butchers, bakers to reduce the food miles and plastic packaging. Visit Scoop and Scales at the Heritage Centre.</p>	<p><i>Things you can keep doing....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember the 3 R's Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Buy local and without plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buy Fairtrade products Make do and mend Pray for world leaders to make decisions that protect our Common Home 	<p><i>Thereafter.....</i> Continue to live as good stewards of God's creation taking care of yourself, people, animals and the environment that He has blessed us with.</p>

Join us for

Worship



St Michael's Worship 19th September 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

**Church Family Worship at 10.00am:
live in church / streamed later on Youtube**

Youtube link will be sent out via email after the Service

Service Leader: Martin Stephens

Talk: Martin Stephens

Reading: by Mark 9:30-37

Eventually (once any hiccups have been ironed out) the Youtube stream will be live and the link will be posted here so watch this space!

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)

23rd September—Midweek Morning Communion

30th September—Midweek Morning Prayer

(and then alternate thereafter...)

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



Email any [prayer requests](#) here

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READY TO LISTEN!



Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry



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

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 910 4838 5228

Password: Monday

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.



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



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