



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



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National Day of
Reflection
23 March

National Day of Reflection – Tuesday 23rd March

It is just over a year since
the World Health
Organisation declared SARS

-CoV-2 to be a global pandemic, and next Tuesday will be the first anniversary of Boris Johnson making that memorable broadcast to nation, following which the UK went into its first lockdown to try to halt the spread of this killer disease.

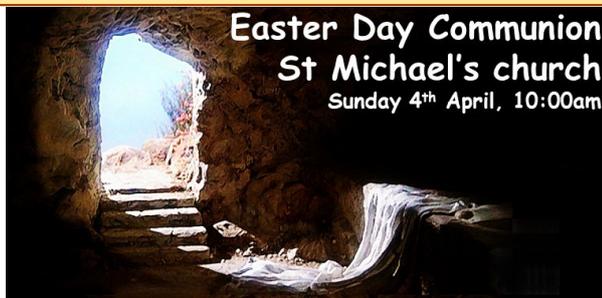
To commemorate the tragic loss of life that has occurred since then, and to stand together with everyone who's grieving as a result of coronavirus, we are supporting the National Day of Reflection which has been set for that first anniversary. Organised by Marie Curie, the **National Day of Reflection** looks to **reflect** on our collective loss, **support** those who've been bereaved, and **hope** for a brighter future.

So, just before midday next Tuesday, 23rd March, you might like to join me in St Michael's churchyard as I lead a brief time of prayer, and we hold a minute's silence. Alternatively, wherever you will be at midday, stop what you're doing, stand still or sit quietly and take a moment to remember loved ones who died this past year. Behind the statistics and whatever the cause, every death has been devastating for the people left behind. So, together, let us show our support to those who are bereaved, including members of our St Michael's family.

Additionally, the Savage Chapel will continue to be open for private prayer between 11am and 1pm Monday to Saturday.

Mark Stephen

Book for Easter Sunday Live Worship



Easter Day Communion
St Michael's church
Sunday 4th April, 10:00am

If you wish to attend the Easter Day (April 4th) communion service in church then you will need to book online. This is the same process that we used for services at Christmas. Since we will still be socially distanced within the building we need to limit the congregation to 70 people. Note that there is, of course, no limit to how many may join the Zoom call and no need to book for Zoom.

Booking is free. To reserve places for you and your household group please book [here](#). If you don't have internet access then please ask someone to book for you or contact Paul Simms on 07879 446906



St Michael's reopening for public worship from 28th March

I've written before about the general sense of optimism, of things looking more hopeful as the Government's roadmap progresses and there's a perception of light at the end of the coronavirus tunnel.

Delighted that St Michael's reopened for private prayer a couple of weeks ago it's pleasing to confirm our plans for public worship to return to the building on Sundays mornings, from Palm Sunday, 28th March.

Aware that it may be many months before people feel wholly confident to gather with others in such a space and in such numbers, we will continue to offer worship which is 'merged' between those present online via Zoom and those gathered in the building.

As previously, people coming into the building will be required to 'sign in' for NHS Track and Trace purposes, wear face coverings at all times (unless exempted), remain socially distanced from people not in your bubble, and singing will continue not to be permitted. However, for those of us who are otherwise excluded by not being online, this will all be a most welcome development I'm sure.

So do turn up in person if you wish, but also feel free to continue to join remotely via Zoom or afterwards via YouTube.

Please will you continue hold our whole church family to God in prayer? As I say, this is a development, but this is not the end of the pain and difficulty we've experienced as individuals and as a community. Thank you.



Mark



**The main church building
will be closed all next week (starting on
Monday 22nd until the end of Friday)
for remedial electrical work.**

**The Savage Chapel will be available
for private prayer but accessed from
the outside door.**

Last week, Martin and Lynne visited Bollinbrook CE Primary School, our church school. The visit was a “re-booting” of our relationship after the year of pandemic and intermittent lockdowns, when our usual connections got somewhat lost. Lynne Le Marinel (Headteacher) and Olivia Corker (teacher with responsibility for RE) showed us all the work the school has been doing recently in terms of creating a deeply-rooted Christian ambience and experience for pupils.

These two pages give you an idea of the school’s focus and also offer some suggestions on how you might support the school yourself.

Ethos Vision and Values at Bollinbrook CE Primary.

It is lovely to be sharing with everyone at St Michael’s an update on our school vision and values. Our vision and values have grown from working together as a school community with views of our staff, governors, children and parents / carers. A worship week in the summer term of the academic year 2018-9 allowed our families to share their views on our values. Building on our core values of Honesty, Respect and Love which are rooted in all we do, we grew our gospel values of Kindness, Patience, courage, being Servant- Hearted, Generosity.

We began the 2019 academic year with a visioning day led by Jen McIlveen from Chester Diocese and looked at how as school we were laying down deep roots which will help all in our school community to flourish.

Our school is based on 3 key bible verses:



‘like a tree firmly planted by streams of water which yields its fruit..’ Psalm 1v3

The stream represents Jesus as the source. He is the way, the truth and life. Jesus is our river of life and he flows through all that we do in Bollinbrook

‘And the child grew and became strong in spirit..’ Luke 2v40

If rooted in Christ, children can **grow** into who they were created to be. As they move through school, our children will acquire the knowledge and skills to help them grow



‘go and bear fruit, fruit that will last’ John 15v16

We will ensure our children bear fruit that will help them to be READY for the next stage in their journey. We place strong emphasis on our gospel values of Kindness, Patience, Courage, Generosity and Being Servant-Hearted.

Our Governors have the value of Faithfulness, a **fruit** of the Spirit which can be a challenging trait to possess. **Faithfulness** comes from a place of trust and loyalty.

Our Ethos

Our Bollinbrook family ensures that all members of our school community feel welcome, safe and valued. Relationships at Bollinbrook CE Primary are built on our Christian values of Honesty, Respect and Love.

Our Distinctive Christian ethos supported by St Michael’s Church and the Diocese of Chester, ensures all our children have the opportunity to develop a sense of belonging and responsibility to our school community and wider world.

Children develop a love of learning that supports their academic, emotional and spiritual growth. We support our children to be ‘READY’ so they will; **‘Go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.’ John 15.16**

As we welcomed all our children back to school on 8th March, it has been lovely to take them on a journey through school and immerse them in our values. They have loved seeing the new displays and we hope that through our work in school and our relationship with St Michael’s church, we can help our children grow and flourish.

If you would like to know more about our work in school, please read our Ethos document. We welcome the support of everyone at St Michael’s church and look forward to us seeing you all soon.

Lynne Le Marinel (Headteacher)



The new mural in the main corridor— the “tree” theme of the school. Note how the branches spell the word “Growth” if you look carefully



Core values ↪

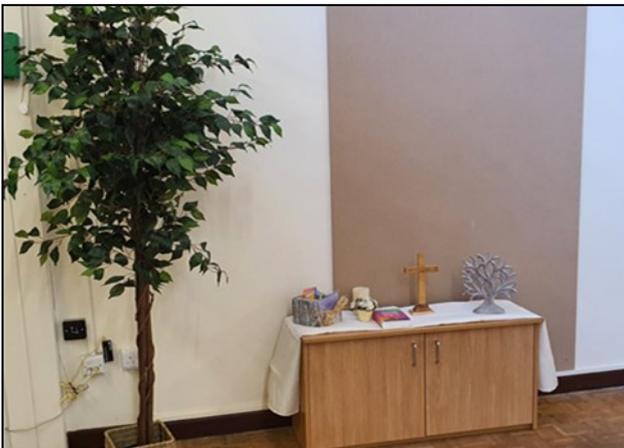


“Go and bear...” ↪

New display boards, covered in eco-friendly hessian - (another school priority is care for the environment)



↪ “Rooted in Christ: Growing with God”



The worship table which is the focal point in school assemblies.

Chris Wightman has generously agreed to make frontals for this in the various liturgical colours, so that the children become familiar with the cycle of the Christian year



One of the “quiet” stations around the school

How St Michael’s can support our Church School

- Pray for the pupils, staff and parents
- Offer to help regularly: a current urgent need is for someone to work with pupils on the garden project - perhaps a half day each week. Other ways are to hear children read, or to assist with Maths, etc.
- Turn up at one-off events: for example, the school is holding a Good Friday “Stations of the Cross” trail, whereby pupils and parents will come into school to follow a reflective trail, with activities and displays. Additional support would be much appreciated in assisting with one of the stations (please contact Lynne at lynne.norbron@gmail.com, 01625 614819 for more information)
- Attend Bollinbrook services and events when held in church

THANK YOU

From Jo

Just a very big thank you to you all, for the many messages, phone calls, chocolates, birthday cake, donation to the East

Cheshire Hospice, and beautiful flowers sent to me to celebrate my 90th!!

I was completely overwhelmed by your love and kindness. Just pray we can soon meet up again at St Michael's, especially for some big hugs.

Wishing you all many blessings and thank you for spoiling me.

Love Jo

PS – Incidentally, I was completely unaware there was going to be a photograph of me on the Front Cover of the St Michaels Newsletter, really rather embarrassing!

(don't blame me, Jo! Ed.)



Tired of being woken up at all hours, the vicar's wife took matters into her own hands.

How to Contact the Office

Please be careful to use the correct email address for the purpose of your message.

- For the **newsletter**: stmikesnotices@gmail.com
- For **bookings, building maintenance**: office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk
- For **service details, rotas, anything else**: clergypa@maccteam.org.uk

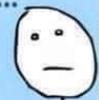
These email addresses will be accessed at least once per week, but not every day, so don't expect an instant response. The office phone will also be accessed at least once each week.



Week 3 of the Munro camellia

(Why does it start flowering from the bottom? Ed.)

That awkward moment when you spell a word so wrong that even autocorrect is like, "I got nothing man..."



Take Note



Pilgrimage 2021

Change of Date

Please note that the start date for this year's Pilgrimage from Chester to Macclesfield has been changed from Wednesday 1st September to

Wednesday 22nd September

Jam Jars - free to a good home



A friend of Sue Munro's has about 25 jars without lids and wonders if there are any jam-makers who might like them.

Please contact Sue at suemunners@gmail.com if you would like these jars.



What has helped you get through Lockdown?

ZOOOOMing!

One of the positive things for many of us during this last twelve months has been the ability to meet and chat to people through the wonders of Zoom technology. I know that some people don't like using technology in any shape or form but for many folks it has been a necessity, whether they like it or not. Home-schooling, home working, business meetings, trainings, yes; but also for social contact and for worshipping together as a church family.

As a person living alone I am fortunate to have the technology in my home and I have used it for all the purposes outlined above. Every Wednesday morning for months now I have had coffee and chat with a lovely bunch of people who have shared their journey of faith and encouraged one another on the way. Each week, over coffee, we catch up on what has been happening in our lives since last week and then we go on to chat about something related to our faith journey.

One very interesting topic was connected to the books of Wisdom and where those books fit into our understanding of God's work in the world and in our lives. We shared our thoughts on Advent and the reality of a Christmas period under lockdown. We've stretched our minds to consider the meaning of the 'End Times' teaching and the notion of living in the 'in between times'. The Kingdom has come and we can experience it now but the kingdom will come for all at some time in the future.

Currently we are chatting about how by living as a Christian we can encourage other people to search and respond to God's call.

Here are some comments from members of our group:

We have been helped by

- ◆ Wonderful weather in May
- ◆ Meeting on zoom
- ◆ Phone calls from friends
- ◆ Sharing jigsaws and books
- ◆ Slowing down, few deadlines to meet, no pressure
- ◆ "My church family has got me through lockdown"
- ◆ "The first lockdown was ok, I am happy with my own company and weather was glorious"
- ◆ This lockdown has been much more difficult, I have been poorly. The encourager in my house has got me through so far."



Over the coming weeks we will be sharing the comments of those in this group more fully. It would be lovely if you could offer your own comments or responses also. What has helped you get through lockdown?

Tricia Atherton

Here are Grace's thoughts

"Having the jab helped of course. I think it was Anne who spoke about the beautiful weather we enjoyed last Spring which was wonderful, and the people we saw when out for a walk smiled and passed the time of day with us. There was that feeling of 'all being in this together' which has continued to a certain extent.

I also had a feeling of something to get up for in the morning with doing my watercolour painting. Talking with friends and family on the phone and most of all the joy of Zooming.

I love our Wednesday chat mornings and now, with Homemakers, Zoom on Thursday afternoons. Going for walks, reading good books, appreciating nature and when feeling a bit stressed listening to a CD of Taize songs ('Jesus Remember Me') - I can recommend it."

Grace Edgar



Davis Rigby

Davis would like to send his best wishes to all his friends at St Michael's. As for many of us it has now been a year since he has been able to come to services, and for all this time he has been confined to his bungalow at Warwick Mews. He cannot receive visitors, but the carers are doing a great job keeping him and the other residents entertained. Apart

from a brief stay in hospital after a fall he is in good health and recently celebrated his 86th birthday. Please keep Davis and all the residents and staff at Warwick Mews in your prayers.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Chester

Lent Challenges

Challenge 5

Resist Fast Fashion

(refrain from buying any new clothes in Lent)

And here is a reminder of the previous 4 challenges

Cut out single use plastics

Keep it local

Introduce meat-free days

Stop food waste

Below is the Lent reflection for 17th March, written by Becky Hurst of the Crewe Parishes.

It uses the verse: "See, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice." Isaiah 32:1

For the full 40 reflections, click [here](#)

Working with Christian Aid for over a decade and with local communities in the past few years, it has always been clear that poor communities and individuals suffer the worst consequences of a disaster. Having few resources to fall back on, the tipping point into crisis is always close. Climate change is no different, we all will and do, feel the effects of a changing climate but communities are already seeing devastating drought, flood and storm destroy their homes, crops, and livelihoods more frequently, and these are the very communities that contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions and are often caretakers of the most diverse areas of nature on the planet. Justice is an active tackling of the systems and structure which destroy the earth and prevent all from enjoying life in all its fullness. Living under the reign of God means seeking justice and righteousness here and now, living as citizens of a community built on love, peace and justice.

Prayer

God of justice, We pray for all those in positions of power that they may lead with righteousness and justice. We give thanks to all those working to enable life in all its fullness for everyone. We pray for those in poverty for continued strength and hope. We pray for ourselves, that we may take every opportunity to challenge injustice and empower the flourishing of others. Amen.



PETE GREIG GOD ON MUTE

ENGAGING THE SILENCE OF UNANSWERED PRAYER



Reflection from Jenny Wild

This is an excerpt from "God on Mute" By Pete Greig which I'm reading at the moment. Pete Greig attempts to deal with the mystery of unanswered prayer amidst painful suffering: something we all have to learn to deal with. It's well worth a read.

In 1842 Joseph Scriven from Ireland fell head over heels in

love with a young lady. They became engaged and planned their future together.

Just before the wedding they arranged to meet.

As Joseph's future bride rode to meet him, she crossed a bridge, her horse bucked and threw her into the rushing water beneath her.

Joseph tried to save her but it was too late. His beautiful bride had perished.

Heartbroken he emigrated to Canada where eventually he fell in love again. Again, just before he was due to marry, Eliza Roche fell ill and eventually died.

Never again would Joseph give his heart to another.

Back home in Ireland, Joseph's mother was increasingly worried for her heart-broken son and he in turn was concerned for her. One night Joseph penned a poem to comfort her, little knowing that years later it would be put to music and become one of our best loved songs.

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and grief to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

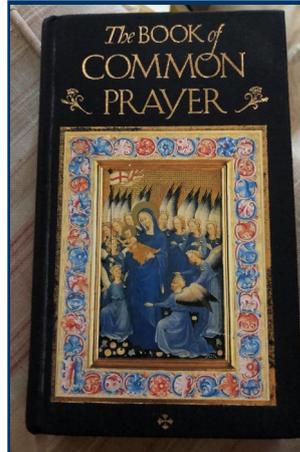
Jenny



Church Flowers (at home)

Here's just a little group of primroses and white skimmia from the garden, in a little vase given to me by our dear friend Kath!

Kitey



An interesting feature on the Church of England website:

Book of Common Prayer services see huge numbers tuning in seeking 'traditional comfort' amid pandemic lockdowns.

Churches offering services from the Book of Common Prayer are seeing unprecedented engagement with hundreds choosing to 'tune in' to more traditional offerings.

One church, which usually sees such services attended by as few as five

people, has reported online attendance in the hundreds for their services based on the text dating back to 1662.

Badminton Benefice, which is a group of 10 rural churches in the Diocese of Gloucester, began offering online services in the first lockdown. It has since had more than 8,500 views for its services which attempt to draw together liturgical and musical traditions as well as the beauty of art and buildings.

Chris Andrew, a Reader in the Diocese and an Archbishops' Evangelist, explained: "There is uncertainty, doubt, and insecurity and what we offer is stability, consistency, and changelessness. It is the calm on the stormy seas of lockdown."

The traditions of the Prayer Book have attracted people to tune in throughout a Sunday – including from the US and across Europe.

Ben Humphries, director of the church's music, is responsible for the videography. "I am keen on capturing a moment of history in our Church's history – not just the big churches and the Cathedrals," he said. "Our videos will become the permanent record of how parishes coped during this pandemic."

Chris Andrew added: "Others can do this too. It's a really easy way of connecting with your local congregation and we've shown it's wanted – the increase from our in-person services to our online services is 1,500 per cent."

The success of the Common Prayer services has been replicated across the country. Historic parishes, like the Temple Church in London, are also nurturing a large online community while using the Book of Common Prayer. During the first lockdown Communion and Mattins were shared online. It also now offers regular livestreamed Evening Prayer services based on the Book of Common Prayer.

The Revd Robin Griffith-Jones, Master of the Temple, said: "We are now reaching more people virtually than ever before in person, and on both sides of the Atlantic. For some services, the number of congregants has increased by five-fold. Indeed, the response generally has been so positive and encouraging that we are investing in better quality equipment. We hope this will endure for everyone's benefit after the pandemic has subsided and we resume normal public worship."



Bradley Smith, Chairman of the Prayer Book Society, said: "Churches are seeing the long-term value in this ministry with Prayer Book services attracting new, online congregations in many parishes. The

Prayer Book speaks with fresh clarity and authority in these uncertain times, and many people - some new or returning to faith - are finding real peace and comfort in its time-honoured rhythms."

Join us for
Sunday Worship



St Michael's Worship 21st March 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent
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: Youth Group
Talk: Youth Group
Reading: John 12:20-33

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 House Group

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

Compline in Lent

When? 8.30 pm daily, during Lent

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476
Passcode: compline

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 [→](#)