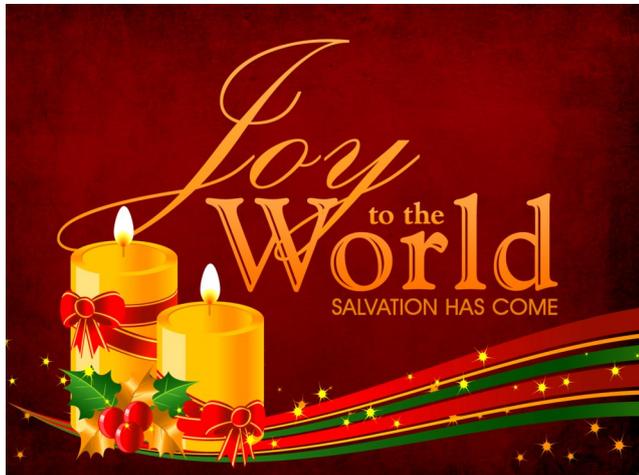


## Christmas



It's a very special time of year isn't it? I really hope you have been able to participate and enjoy some of our Advent and Christmas services and events, whether on-site or online. I think, across the board, they have gone really well.

Most recently, it was heart-warming to host the Town Carol Service on Tuesday, to welcome our local MP and civic leaders, representatives of community organisations, as well as Bishop Sam and members of the public. Especially it was good to honour and thank those people and organisations who have done such sterling and sacrificial work during the pandemic, from the health and social care sectors, from education, essential retailers, and more.

Of course none of it could have happened without the dedication of many of you to ~~your~~ OUR church. We have a wonderful church community and people have helped in so many different ways to enable events, small and large, to go ahead. I want to offer my thanks to you all. In doing so I know I may inadvertently miss people out, and I am aware that I haven't been present at some of the gatherings .. so please forgive me. However:



To the choir and especially Karen, thank you for the lovely music to complement the seasons throughout the year. We are very proud of you. Thank you to the St Mike's band and the Contemporary Worship group.

To Mike and Lynne – our Readers – thank you for all your time given to preparation and for leading us so well through this new phase of Church Family Worship. I know it's been tricky at times.

Thank you too, Mike, for being our Treasurer – and the team behind you – we appreciate it very much, and to Gemma, our Parish Safeguarding Officer – such an important role – thank you.

To our Churchwardens Rachel and Paul, and your deputies – you do so, so much, often unseen, to keep the church running smoothly. Thank you.

To the Tech people – thank you for adapting to the new screen, projection, sound & streaming system. You have done incredibly well.

To all those who work with children – the Storytellers and Roots group leaders. Thank you for your commitment to them. We are truly grateful.

Thank you to our Welcoming Teams, our refreshments people, our Bible readers and Pray-ers, our Homegroup leaders, midweek and Contemplative Prayer group leaders, our Bell Ringers, the Start the Week Team, our Café helpers (new and old). Thank you to the Flower arrangers, and Alexa and the cleaners, and thank you to our Church Council, our Eco-Church and Town Centre Ministry groups, and the Social Committee.

Behind the scenes, thank you Alan for doing the weekly printing, and to our newsletter deliverers, midweek service and home communion teams, and pastoral callers and card-senders, thank you.

And a big THANK YOU and 'well done' to Porsche for all she's done since arriving and especially for grasping how I and we operate as St Michael's.

Thank you to all our church members, for your faithful support over the year. It's good to see you week by week.

That's quite a list and I haven't even started on all the activities, connected with St Michael's but not meeting here. Thank you to the Guide and Scout group leaders and governors of Bollinbrook Primary school to name just two.



It really is a privilege to lead 'the church in the centre of town', having connections with so many organisations that make Macclesfield a good place to live. I hope you sense that too.

As I say, sincere apologies of I've not mentioned someone I should have. All that's left to say is I pray you will have a Happy Christmas, whether it's a busy time or a quite reflective time. Know that God is with you and He loves you.

*Mark*



## 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.

Come in We're  
**OPEN**

Church Opening  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec – 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Although our café will be closed 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – 3<sup>rd</sup> January, the church building will be open for private prayer and reflection most mornings from 10am until 12.00.

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec there will be a service of Morning Prayer in the Savage Chapel as usual.

Thank you to the people who have volunteered to steward, which makes this possible.



This is a picture of the Posada visiting with Home Communion.

Thank you to all our Home Communion volunteers and everyone who took part in our Posada Journey this year.

The Posada will be back at Church for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

## 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.

## David Smith's Festive one liners...

How do sheep greet each other on Christmas morn?

ha! ha! ha! ha!

With wool tide bleatings.

## 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



There will be no Friday morning CP on either December 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.

We will recommence on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Contemplative Prayer Update



## Newsletter Update

There will be no newsletter next week so this is the last edition of the year!

I would like to thank everyone for the continued praise and support of the newsletter, it is a mammoth task but the ongoing feedback is great encouragement.

However, on that note, the format of the Newsletter will be changing in the new year. I don't think any of us anticipated the newsletter brought to you "in covid time" would continue for quite so long.

I would like to thank Alan for continuing to print this every week as well as Vicky and Ralph and all the distributors for continuing with their deliveries all this time.

As of January, weekly news relating to Church matters will be emailed out weekly and posted on the website in a bulletin format. Then on the last Friday of every month (the first being January 28th) a monthly newsletter will be both emailed and distributed out just as it has been for the last two years.

The hope is that this will streamline the time of all involved with the newsletter and take in to consideration that the majority of the congregation are not as isolated as they were back in March 2020 with the Church now back open in full swing and the majority of groups, services and meeting back taking place.

As always, please keep all newsletter and bulletin notices coming to [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com).

Thank you all again,

*Porsche*

### Christmas Eve

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord

### 24th December 2021

#### Christmas Eve

**Crib Service (Free Ticket Required)—4:00pm**

**Midnight Communion—11:30pm**

**Crib Service Leader & Speaker:** Jenny Fox-Eades

**Midnight Communion Leader & Speaker:** Rev'd Martin Stephens

*See Page 5 for full list of Services*



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

## Bible Talk Lecture Series: Spring 2022

### 'From Magi to Mission, the Gospel of Matthew'

Online, on Zoom - 1.10pm until 2pm

Wednesday 5 January Overview introduction Introduction (1-4)	Bishop Mark Tanner Bishop of Chester
Wednesday 12 January Genealogy and infancy narratives (note general role of men and scripture; unlike Luke where it is women and worship) 1-2	Bishop Sam Corley Bishop of Stockport
Wednesday 19 January Narrative on beginnings of Jesus' ministry 3-4	Revd Matthew Swires-Hennessy Vicar at Poynton Parish Church
Wednesday 26 January B) Body of the Gospel First Major Discourse: Sermon on the Mount (5-7) Narrative on Jesus as healer and teacher (8-9:34)	Revd Shemil Mathew Vice Dean of Emmanuel college
Wednesday 2 February B) Body of the Gospel Second Major Discourse: mission of disciples (9:35-11:1). Narrative on authority and growing opposition (11:2-12:50)	Professor Loveday Alexander University of Sheffield
Wednesday 9 February B) Body of Gospel Third Major Discourse: parables (13:1-52) Narrative on Christology and ecclesiology (13:53-17:27)	The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford Dean of Chester
Wednesday 16 February B) Body of Gospel Fourth Major Discourse: church life and order (18) Narrative on journey to Jerusalem (19:1-23:39)	Revd Liz Leaver Chaplain Stockport Grammar School
Wednesday 23 March B) Body of Gospel Fifth Major Discourse: Son of Man and judgement (24-25)	Revd Clair Jacquiss Vicar All Saints Hale Barns
Wednesday 30 March Passion Narrative (26-27)	Revd Josie Tuplin Holy Cross Woodchurch
Wednesday 6 April Resurrection	Professor David Law The University of Manchester

To join the Bible Talks please contact Jen Stratford,  
Education Officer at [deansoffice@chestercathedral.com](mailto:deansoffice@chestercathedral.com)



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

There will be no newsletter for a week or so but Kitey has kindly sent these series of lectures which might be of interest to some!

# Christmas at St. Michael's

## 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)

## Sunday 2nd January

10:00AM Church Family Worship



**CLOSED**

### Christmas café closure

Please note the café will be closed from 24th December reopening 4th January 2022.

### Office Closure

The office will be also be closed from 24th December –4th January. Porsche will be working from home during her usual office hours on the following dates so please feel free to contact using the details on the back page;

Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th, Thursday 30th December 2021.

*Happy Christmas from Porsche and Rachel*

Join us for

*Worship*



### St Michael's Worship 24th December 2021

#### Christmas Eve

Crib Service —4:00pm (Free Ticket Required)

Midnight Communion—11:30pm

live in church / streamed on Youtube

Crib Service Leader & Speaker: Jenny Fox-Eades

Midnight Communion Leader & Speaker: Rev'd Martin Stephens

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)

30th December —Midweek Morning Communion

6th January —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

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