



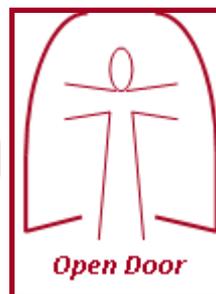
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## Church Family Worship



Whether on-site or online, how have you been finding our new Church Family Worship?  
That's a question I'd like to ask every member of St Michael's individually, but time restricts me. So here I want to share a few of my observations so far; I appreciate hearing comments, so do let me know your thoughts.

Well that first week! There was a delightful number of Storytelling families back in the building; such a joy after all those lockdown weeks. The new things - the Clock, the activity bags and the shakers - all seemed a hit. It was wonderful to have the story told live again in the Savage Chapel, and the children sharing their thoughts and news. Is there sufficient soundproofing? At one point I could hear faint murmurs (of joy!), and others with me how lovely this was to hear. ROOTS had a good number of children too. Well done to both sets of leaders for being flexible enough with their respective activities to come back into the Nave more or less as scheduled. There was a buzz that first week that people seemed delighted with ... and those cakes were delicious!

The second week? There were 13 children in ROOTS: word must have got around! A couple of issues emerged. The new venue - the first floor - seemed not to be ideal so ROOTS has moved into the Youth Centre. It's also a bit tricky as to when the groups should return to the Nave (after the prayers) so we're trialling a choir-led short musical item as the signal!

The third week - Communion, with Storytelling and ROOTS. From my perspective it was chaotic! People coming and going everywhere, and having to hold two chalices in one hand to administer the wafers, was hard. We have to get used to anything new so it will take a bit more practice. Storytelling families didn't know whether they were coming in or not. Like I said - a bit chaotic.



I could go into detail about the two most recent Sundays but I won't, other than to say that last week's Baptism of Mollie was a lovely occasion. I recognise we'll have to adjust content next time this happens (so as not to be too long). And I can't wait to see what our all-together Harvest brings on the 31st.

I'm extremely grateful to everyone for their patience and enthusiasm to see this new service format work. Thank you to the choir for being willing not to process in - it helps give a slightly less formal start. Thank you too, to the musicians and choristers for your versatility - from jolly child-friendly songs to beautiful choral pieces.

Thank you to the Welcome Teams! They've coped with changing from giving out hymnbooks to (now) stickers, activity bags, and sometimes card feet! You are most appreciated. The 'Kitchen Team' now prepares extra drinks beforehand for the Storytelling 'feast'; the after-service Craft Table is prepared and put out in advance; the Tech Team has been learning so much that's new, both in the building and in streaming our services. There have been many changes, and many people serving in unseen ways to make Church Family Worship work. Well done, and thank you everyone!



The group which devised this whole thing - the so-called 'Going Back Better' team - will meet later this year to review our first couple of months or so. It's always been said to be "a work in progress". We will have tweaks to make but overall I am so delighted with how Church Family Worship has gone so far. I feel the church community is in a better, more vibrant shape than might have been imagined as we emerged from the pandemic. It's been so uplifting to see so many faces of people I didn't previously know (please try to get to speak to them, and learn their names), and it's so lovely to have multi-generational worship. Let us not lose sight of how - TOGETHER - we are the family of God.

Thank you everyone.

*Mark*

### The Collect for the Last Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

24th October 2021

Last Sunday after Trinity

Church Family Worship - 10:00am

Leader: Lynne Spedding

Speaker: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Mark 10:46-52

## Wednesday Morning Coffee and a Chat



### **Theophilus – the most excellent**

This character is referred to at the beginning of Luke's Gospel and at the beginning of the book of the Acts of the Apostles, which was also written by Luke.

Two letters were written to this man – the first we now call the Gospel of Luke and the second we call the Acts of the Apostles. But these were originally written by Luke as letters to 'the most excellent Theophilus' **Luke 1.1-4** At the beginning of the second letter I guess Luke was a bit more familiar with his excellency because he simply addressed him as 'Theophilus' **Acts 1.1**

So, who was Theophilus? The name "Theophilus" literally means "loved by God," and could be addressed to all of us because we are all loved by God. However, it seems clear that Theophilus was an actual person.

*"most excellent Theophilus" (Luke 1:3) a title often used when referring to someone of honour or rank, such as a Roman official. Paul used the same term when addressing Felix (Acts 23:26; Acts 24:2) and Festus (Acts 26:25) Therefore, one of the most common theories is that Theophilus was possibly a Roman officer or high-ranking official in the Roman government. Thanks to Wikipedia (again).*

There are many theories about who this character really was including the idea that maybe he was the lawyer who was providing a defence or a legal brief for Paul whilst he was in prison. Luke was helping Paul out by writing a thorough explanation of the actions of Jesus and subsequently his followers. If this theory is correct, Luke's writings were designed to defend Paul in court against charges of insurrection and, at the same time, to defend Christianity against the charge that it was an illegal, anti-Roman religion.

Heather's immediate response to this was 'Do the dates fit?' Kitey got out her NIV Study Bible – a huge but very helpful book which gave the dates of the writing of Luke's Gospel as anytime between AD 59-63 or AD 70s or AD 80s, so.... make what you will of that! It was probably written in Rome but where was it sent to?

Did Theophilus ask Luke to write an account? And if so, why Luke? Was it because he was a physician and therefore observant of detail. He certainly spent a great deal of time writing these accounts which make up 24% of the New Testament writings. Did he write it in chunks and send off one scroll at a time, saying next scroll due in six weeks or did he send it all at once? These are just some of the questions that Dek asked. Helen pointed out that we owe a great deal to Luke and indeed to Theophilus. As a former librarian, Helen recognises that books of writing don't just appear they are a very intentional act. She likened this act to the work of Samuel Pepys and his diaries that have given us a very clear understanding of life in the times he lived. This is the same with Luke's writings. Kitey wondered if Luke showed his writings to others for editing and accuracy. He certainly got around and talked to many people, gathering evidence and witness accounts from all over the place.

All this discussion got us dipping into the complexity of the book of the Acts of the Apostles and how little we know of that particular book. The thing we all like about this group is that one question can have many answers and one question leads to another. Heather very wisely said 'You can't spend your whole life dithering about whether its true or not at some point you have to make a decision'. It all comes down to that step of faith really.

So, OK, we don't know for certain who this man was but what we

do know for certain is that Luke wrote this so that Theophilus would "have certainty concerning the things you have been taught" (**Luke 1:3-4**). Luke wrote an historical account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and detailed the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. His intention was to give Theophilus certainty that the "things he had been taught" were indeed true and trustworthy.

Believe me, I know that keeping the faith is not easy, I have had times of doubt myself and will continue to have, but that first step of faith will always be my best.

Keep pegging away my friends!

And if you are able to join us by Zoom you will be welcomed. The link is on the back page of the newsletter.

**Tricia Atherton**



**Music@Mike's**

**Thursday 28th October**

Local pianist

**Simon Conning**



**Friday 5th November**

Soprano **Rachel Abbott** &  
accompanist **Tom Pieczora**



Concert begins at 1.15pm.

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.

## Donations Wanted!



The Charities Bazaar is going ahead this year on **Saturday 6th November**. The Children's Society have decided to join in the fun. We are as usual selling donated, new toiletries. Yes! You've guessed right, we are after your unwanted smellies. All donations great-fully received.

Please pass on to Hilary or Jenny.

Our phone numbers are;

**Hil 420616 Jenny 420352**

With thanks

*Jenny Wild*

## Open Studio Days 2021



**Any Sunday in November between 12 noon and 6pm.**

Olga Bileski invites you to view her work and enjoy a cuppa. She will also be happy to answer any questions about the work.

ICONS..PAINTINGS..HANDMADE CHRISTMAS CARDS..HANDPAINTED SILK SCARVES (All make great gifts for Christmas, the scarves are especially useful for sending by post as they are so light, can usually be sent in a card.)

Booking is essential, as only 2 people will be allowed at any one time (for health and safety), and there's a small entry fee of £2 p.p. refundable on purchases over £6.

Please email [olga.bileski@outlook.com](mailto:olga.bileski@outlook.com) Or TEXT 07722432689 for more details and location.

## 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.

*"Many individuals are doing what they can. But real success can only come if there is a change in our societies and in our economics and in our politics."*

*Sir David Attenborough*

## Thank you from the Warren's

Just a note from Sylvia and Me to say thank you for the kind words from Chris during the Sunday morning Service and for the gift voucher presented to us. A little embarrassing as we had hoped to leave for our move to the Wirral, quietly and without fuss. We do appreciate the kind words and thoughts from Chris and Eve and other friends we have made during our time helping at the Open Door Scheme and we will certainly miss the fellowship and friendliness shown to us. Thanks once again.

*David Warren.*



The rich industrialist was horrified to find the fisherman lying beside his boat, smoking a pipe.

'Why aren't you out fishing?' asked the industrialist.

'Because I have caught enough fish for the day,'

'Why don't you catch some more?'

'What would I do with them?'

'You could earn more money. Then you could have a motor fitted to your boat to go into deeper waters and catch more fish. Then you would have enough money to buy nylon nets. These would bring you more fish and more money. Soon you would have enough money to own two boats . . . maybe even a fleet of boats. Then you would be a rich man like me.'

'What would I do then?'

'Then you could sit back and enjoy life.'

'What do you think I'm doing right now?'

From *Timeless Simplicity* by John Lane





## Harvest Thanksgiving

This year's Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October.**

We shall remain together as a church family throughout the service, so there will be no Roots or Storytelling

groups that Sunday.

Our harvest offerings will be donated to the local foodbank, bearing in mind the financial struggle many families are experiencing in these challenging economic times, so please don't bring fresh produce.

See the list of items currently requested by SilkLife Foodbank: do your best to come along armed with one or more of these! →

Thank you so much.

Lynne

**PS – if you would like to help to decorate the church for harvest, or make a donation of flowers or money, please contact Kitey (Anne Kite) [kiteanne@btinternet.com](mailto:kiteanne@btinternet.com) / 01625 424531) or me ([lynne.norbron@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.norbron@gmail.com) / 01625 614819).**



### Food and Toiletries Donations Welcomed

- |                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Soup               | Hotdogs, Ravioli, Meatballs  |
| Pasta (and Sauces) | Spaghetti, Beans, Tomatoes   |
| Rice               | Tinned Spaghetti Bolognese   |
| Instant Noodles    | Gluten Free Foods            |
| Tinned Meat        |                              |
| Tinned Curry       | Cereals & Oats               |
| Tinned Tuna        | Biscuits, Sweets & Treats    |
| Tinned Salmon      | Tea & Coffee                 |
| Tinned Sardines    | UHT Milk & Fruit Juices      |
| Fray Bentos Pies   | Tinned Fruit                 |
| Tinned Macaroni    | Custard & Rice Pudding       |
| Tinned Vegetables  |                              |
| Tinned Potatoes    | Shampoo, Soaps, Shaving Kits |
| Instant Mash       | Dental & Feminine Products   |

**\*\*Please note that we are unable to accept fresh and frozen foods\*\***



### A Reflection on Harvest in Macclesfield on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1941 by Margaret Mayers (nee Massey)

On a recent visit to Margaret Mayers and delivering the Weekly Newsheet she was telling me all about her father and brother taking the fruit and vegetables up to St Michael's, in preparation for the Harvest Festival. I asked her if she would write a piece for the Weekly Sheet – so below is her account of bygone days.

In October 1941, Dan Massey and son, Edward, aged 14, would take a barrow full of fresh vegetables to St Michael's Church in preparation for the Harvest Festival. The vegetables were grown on the top of the Railway Tunnel and also, this year they grew a very large Pumpkin– not as big as the one in the article.\* (see below)

The farm fields were originally on Brynton Road, Northgate Avenue and also, in the grounds of King's School. The farm house was Rosthern Farm, 6 Brock Street.

Once the barrow arrived at St Michael's members of the congregation were waiting outside and then they would take the vegetables into Church and use them to decorate all the windows, along the steps leading up to the organ, in the Chancel, Savage Chapel and Baptistry.

\* Footnote – In 1941 the following appeared in the "Courier" published a photograph and stated that the Vicar of St John's, Rev'd Stuart Robinson had grown a pumpkin in his garden weighing 23 lbs and wondered whether this was a record for the district.

"Yesterday, the Courier representative witnessed the cutting of the Pumpkin, which upon being placed on the scales was found to weigh no less than 41 and half pounds – 4 foot in circumference and the diameter 15 inches – can anyone now beat this?"

Thank you, Margaret for sharing your memories of Harvest all those years ago.

**Vicky Darlington**



Join us for

*Worship*



**Wednesday Morning Discussion**

**11.00am to 12 noon**

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



**St Michael's Worship 24th October 2021**

**Last Sunday after Trinity**

**Church Family Worship—10:00am:**

**live in church / streamed later on Youtube**

Youtube link will be sent out via email after the Service

Service Leader: Lynne Spedding

Talk: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Mark 10:46-52

**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!**



**Monday HomeGroup**

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings (Fortnightly) Next meeting is Monday 25th October

Where? The Rectory, Beech Lane, SK10 2DY

For more information contact Martin [by email](#) or 01625 426110.

**Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)**

**28th October —Midweek Morning Prayer**

**4th November —Midweek Morning Communion**

**(and then alternate thereafter...)**

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

**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.



Email any [prayer requests](#) here

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**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?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09>

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: compline



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