

# ST MIKE'S NEWS

A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Issue 6 26 April 2020

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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## From Martin

I wonder how many of you have been taking this opportunity (of not being able to meet in St Michael's) to explore churches elsewhere. As well as the BBC's output on TV & radio, I've heard of people linking in with churches in New Mills, Malborough, even Sydney!

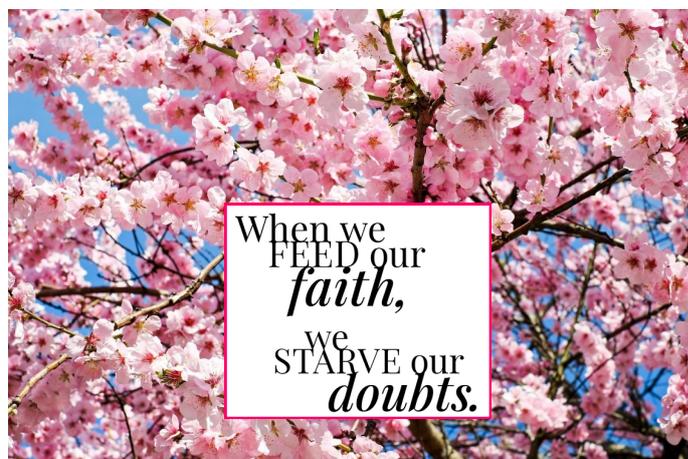
Many of you will know how I encourage you, whenever you're away, whether on holiday or with the family, to attend a church when you're there. I'm confident that you'll either think they do something good, so "could we consider that here, Martin?", or that they'll do something different and you'll better appreciate our regular worship!

However, it is interesting to compare how different churches, even just around Macclesfield, are using a variety of means to support one another in prayer, join together in worship, and encourage one another in the faith in the current situation. The community at St Peter's, for example, gathers together at its usual service time of 9.30am for worship via Zoom, an online video platform. Although this is more realistic (since all but one household is online), it also means our services are attracting attendance from Sheffield, Edinburgh, Mull and Cork!

At St Michael's, reflecting the different demographic, there is a need for a mixture of online and offline (printed) material, and I thank you, once again, for the kind words of encouragement and appreciation you have for what 'I' and 'we' have been able to organise and circulate to you all. (I especially thank those of you who reacted to last week's sermon, mentioning by name a few members of the wider St Michael's community we want to remember in prayer and ensure are not forgotten.)

As we recognise that the current arrangements for physical distancing and self-isolation are not going to end overnight, I wonder what methods you are using to develop your relationship with God and grow in faith? We may not be able to meet together for quite a while yet, so we're having to take more responsibility for our own spiritual needs and sustenance. Some suggested ways of doing this are: Getting out those Christian books you've been meaning to read for a while (*let me know if you need haven't got any!*);

- Spending time in prayer every day, maybe writing a list of different people to pray for each day of the week;
- Reading and praying through the printed service sheet from St Michael's, or the Church of England's Daily Prayer on your phone or tablet (<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>);
- Arranging a weekly call with someone to have a chat about a faith issue or bible verse, perhaps using the group calling facility to have a 3-way call;
- Listening, watching or streaming from one of the Christian channels available, such as the **Daily Service, Choral Evensong** and **Sunday Worship** on **BBC radio**; **Premier** and **UCB** on DAB radio; **TBN** on Freeview channel 65; or an online teaching seminar on **YouTube** (There's some excellent videos from the recent 'Spring Harvest at



Home' (<https://www.youtube.com/user/SpringHarvest>) but only until the end of this month.

- Taking time when out on your walk to specifically focus on God and prayer.

And let me know if you have any others.

***If our faith is only fed when we are in physical fellowship with one another, then we're in for a famine!***

Let's each take care of our spiritual welfare at this time. We are going through a very difficult time and we quite rightly worry for people and our world, but let's also acknowledge that we probably have a bit more time to ourselves and can use it wisely. Building up ourselves in God is not selfish, especially since it invariably results in giving us grace to extend the light of Christ to others whenever that place and time might happen.

God bless you

Martin

## This Sunday's Online Service for Sunday 26th April 2020

[https://www.achurchnearyou.com/  
church/12802/page/57019/view/](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12802/page/57019/view/)



Email any prayer requests here:

[office@stmichaels-  
macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)

Resources for adults: [www.rootsontheweb.com/  
adultsathome26apr](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome26apr)

Resources for families:  
[www.rootsontheweb.com/  
familiesathome26apr](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome26apr)



## An Answer to Prayer

Part of the joy of my time at St Michael's has been the many baptisms I have conducted and the relationships we build with the families involved. Some of you may recall me talking to you in church about the Kleek family baptism in August last year. I baptised their son Little Andy (Dad is big Andy). It was a lovely service and Emma (mum) very kindly gifted us her professional photos of the day for us to use in publicity etc.

A few weeks after the baptism, Emma got in touch asking for prayer for her cousin Jen and her (then unborn twins). A great many people in church and particularly those from the Thursday HC service came together to pray regularly for these little girls and their parents. Ashleigh and Jessica were born at 25 weeks weighing 1.10oz and 1.11oz and now at 6 months old weigh just shy of 11lb.

Jen and Lee (mum and dad) recently sent me an update about the girls' progress which I share with you now as their progress has been a real answer to prayer.

"Both girls spent 117 days in hospital the first eight weeks of that was spent in intensive care. The girls have been home since 17th of January and are requiring less and less oxygen support as they and their lungs grow. We are hopeful that they will be "in air" around summer. Ashleigh is definitely going to be the boss of the household, after everything that she has been through she has no problem in letting you know if there's something she doesn't like. Jessica has acquired the pet name of "dory" as all she does is smile and coo. She has recently had sight saving laser surgery for a second time which has thankfully been successful. When they were really poorly at 5 days old we prayed in the chapel at the hospital with the vicar who ended the prayer with "let them sparkle" and sparkle they do. We are so thankful for everyone's prayers and we thank God every day for our little miracles. As a family, we were really touched when Karen reached out to my cousin Emma to ask how the girls were doing and we promise to bring the girls up Macclesfield and meet you all soon."

We celebrate and give thanks to God that these two tiny, vulnerable babies have been in His care throughout the many challenges and battles in their short lives. Today brings 'new life,' (free from the constraints of oxygen tanks) for young Ashleigh and Jessica. Peace be with them and their happy parents and peace be with you. At this worrying time, it's great to have news that lifts the heart and gives us something to smile about. Please enjoy reading this update.

Both have now come off their oxygen support and here's the pictures of their smiling faces to prove it (now 6 months old).

*Karen Brady*

## In need of a handyman for jobs during lockdown?

One of our church members, Steve, has some spare time which he would like to fill. He can offer help with gardening or other odd jobs while keeping social distancing of course. He is a very practical and skilled man – tiling, painting and decorating etc. If interested, please call David Mayers in the first instance on 01625 420716.



*The Kleek family baptism in August 2019*



## It's not goodbye, just au revoir!



**S**o this Sunday, 26th April, marks Karen's last day with us. Karen Brady started her three year curacy with us in June 2017 and she quickly made her mark with her natural warmth, friendly manner and NE accent. Karen will be doing the homily for this Sunday's online service, which we will also share in printed form. Karen will be doing an article for us in next week's newsletter when we will share some photos of her receiving her photo card from us all. It is still our intention to host a service in church (when we can) to give thanks for her ministry and time with us in the Team when we can also give her a leaving gift.

## ECO Tips Under Lockdown



Our carbon footprint is looking much better now that all unnecessary journeys – including visits to second homes! – and holidays are banned. But it's likely that our shopping habits have had to change – and if we are just

shopping once a week at the supermarket then our consumption of single-use plastic will have soared. So here are a few ideas to reduce your use of plastic while stuck at home:

- Get your milk delivered in glass bottles (Smith's dairies in Macclesfield)
- Use one of the local veg box delivery businesses: Fruits of the Forage, Prestbury Garden Centre, Fishers greengrocers on Buxton Road.

Grow your own! Lots of ideas for growing your own salad and veg at <https://www.ruralsprout.com/fast-growing-edibles/>

If you have any ideas of your own to share please send them to Sue at [office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)

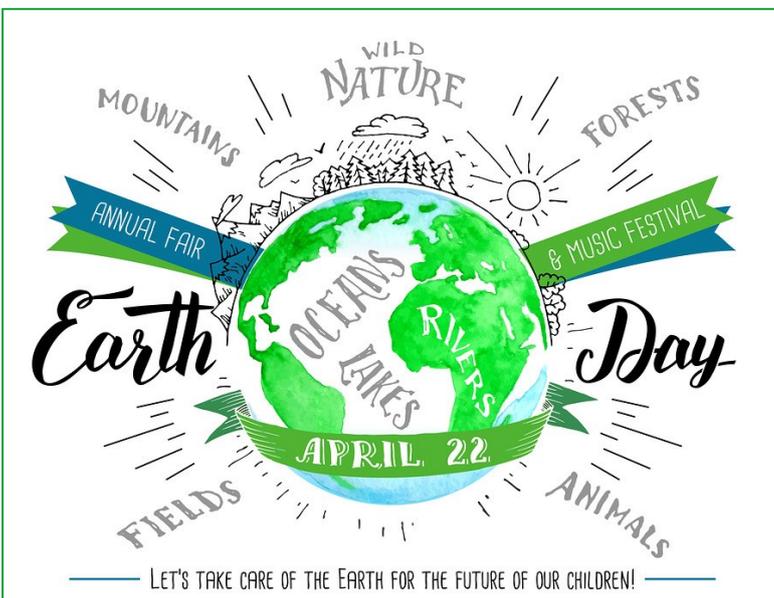
*David Mayers & Lynne Spedding*

## World Earth Day 22nd April 2020

It's a reminder of the beauty of our planet, of our interconnectedness and of our responsibility to take care of the environment...

### Earth Teach Me to Remember

Earth teach me stillness  
as the grasses are stilled with light.  
Earth teach me suffering  
as old stones suffer with memory.  
Earth teach me humility  
as blossoms are humble with beginning.  
Earth Teach me caring  
as the mother who secures her young.  
Earth teach me courage  
as the tree which stands alone.  
Earth teach me limitation  
as the ant which crawls on the ground.  
Earth teach me freedom  
as the eagle which soars in the sky.  
Earth teach me resignation  
as the leaves which die in the fall.  
Earth teach me regeneration  
as the seed which rises in the spring.  
Earth teach me to forget myself  
as melted snow forgets its life.  
Earth teach me to remember kindness  
as dry fields weep in the rain.



## The church is at its most effective being salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16)



In the middle of this pandemic, it can be hard not to dwell on feelings of fear and anxiety – at times I certainly have. But I want to share with you three reasons why I'm feeling incredibly thankful. I hope they will encourage you, as they have me, during this time.

Our global team is providing a truly global response to help tackle this pandemic. Tearfund is present in more than 50 countries and we are doing all we can to stand with the most vulnerable people at this time.

People in poverty will be hit hardest by coronavirus. Millions do not have access to

healthcare. Vital medical equipment, such as ventilators, is scarce. And for many families, being in lockdown means they are no longer able to earn money to feed their children. In places where malnutrition is already a problem, even more people face starvation.

We are adapting our programmes and finding new ways to safely support people in need, making sure no one is left behind.

Such as in Afghanistan, where one of our local partners is providing counselling services for staff, patients and their families at a hospital set up to treat patients with coronavirus. We are working alongside the health ministry in Afghanistan to distribute Personal Protective Equipment, to limit the spread and help those on the frontline safely serve people in need.

In Burundi more than half of all children suffer from malnutrition. Our feeding centres provide lifesaving support to new mothers and their babies. Determined to continue this vital service if the country goes into lockdown, our local partners have made plans to use home delivery kits. This will make sure vulnerable families still get the food and help they need to overcome malnutrition and survive.

The church is at its most effective being salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Rosa Camargo de Bravo, who leads Tearfund's work in Latin America and the Caribbean says that 'the temple is closed, but the church is not.' And I couldn't agree more as I see churches around the world united in stepping

forward to help people in need. Tearfund was born out of the compassion and generosity of the local church. And the church remains our greatest partner. We're training pastors to raise awareness of coronavirus to counter misinformation and limit the spread. This will make sure that vital public health information reaches even more people – particularly those who are marginalised and at risk. Generosity knows no bounds. We're so grateful to have supporters like you, who even in the midst of a lockdown, are looking for ways to help people living in poverty battling this new threat. Thank you for your faithfulness to those we serve. As I speak to our teams around the world, they continue to share how much they value your prayers and support.

The threat is significant, and we want to do all we can to adapt and set up new programmes to make sure that vulnerable communities are not devastated by coronavirus. These are challenging times for us all. But I know God remains in control. He is close to poor and brokenhearted people. We will weather this crisis as we have always done – by standing together in prayer and by following Jesus where the need is greatest. God bless,

Nigel Harris  
CEO, Tearfund

### Professional Telephone Listening Service

The Hope Centre  
Registered Charity 1140845  
**07958181927**

**10am - 4pm every day**



**READY TO LISTEN!**

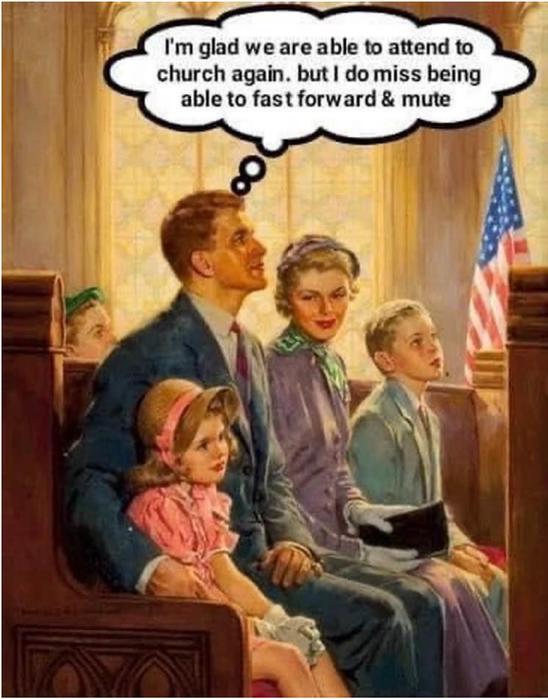


Cre8 Project Grow and Grocery are on the frontline daily delivering food that would otherwise go to landfill to people in need.

Please remember Katy, Ameera, Emily and latest addition to an all female team, Betty, the new refrigerated van, in your prayers



# The Smile Page

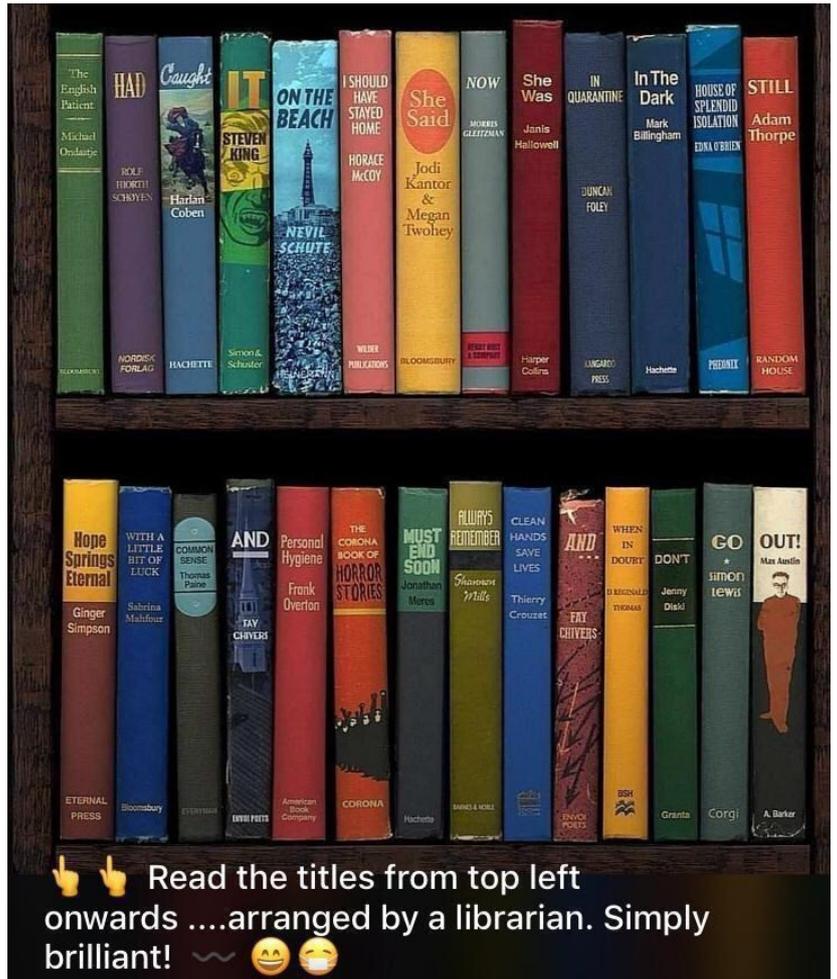


Cutting your own hair in lockdown



Your mom before church

Your mom when you arrive at church



👉👉 Read the titles from top left onwards ...arranged by a librarian. Simply brilliant! 😊😄

## Spare Wool Anyone?



One of our church members, Barbara Ashton, is knitting "Twiddle muffs" for dementia patients. She would appreciate new double-knitting wool (any odds and ends are fine, but it must be new wool). Also things to sew on to the muffs such as large buttons, buckles, small fabric animals, ribbons. The muffs will be disinfected before being given to patients. Materials can be left on Barbara's doorstep at 18 Valley Road or call Rachel Mayers (01625 420716) who will arrange collection from your doorstep.

Does anyone have a garden trowel they could give or loan to a new church member, Sarah, who has only recently moved to Macclesfield and is growing vegetable plants to give away. A trowel would be very helpful, as well as small plant pots. Please contact Rachel 01625 420716



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