



@stmikesmacclesfield



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Bibles in Hospital

If you have ever been a hospital patient, you may have found a Gideon Testament in your bedside locker.

However, owing to infection control risks during Covid, all Gideon Testaments were removed from bedside lockers at hospitals around the country, including at Macclesfield.

Wendy Moss, Chair of the Cheshire North Branch of 'Good News for Everyone' (formerly known as 'Gideons UK'), and staff member at Macclesfield Hospital, says, "We have now been given permission to replace the removed Testaments to every bedspace in the hospital. These will each be shrink-wrapped, to be unwrapped and used by the patients and then taken home or, if unused, wiped over easily before being returned to the locker for the next patient's use. We will be distributing, a ward at a time, as from this month."



Bedside bibles return to Macc DGH just in time for Easter.

"There are 388 beds in Macclesfield hospital so it is a substantial task, and a fairly substantial financial commitment. Members, Friends and the generosity of individuals like you, help us to continue to place Scriptures in hospitals, hotels and schools. Last year, thanks to our faithful supporters, over 600,000 Scriptures were presented in the UK."

£30 will buy 10 copies of the New Testament & Psalms to place at Hospital bed-sides.

If you feel led to contribute to this mission, there are two ways:

- If you wish to pay by BACS directly, please use: Sort Code 60-13-30; Account Number 47547928; Account Name - Good News for Everyone. Please reference 'Cheshire North'
- Otherwise, please follow the QR code, below, which will take you to the National GNfE Donations page. Click 'Single Donation' which will take you to the Stewardship page where you can 'Give as a Guest'. This also allows for Gift Aid to be claimed. Please make a note in the 'Message of Support' box, such as 'Macclesfield Hospital' or 'Cheshire North', so the funds will be appropriately distributed.



Recycle/Re-use stall

Please support our Recycle/Re-use (aka Bring and Buy or 'Preloved') Stall **this Sunday - Treacle Sunday, 27th April.**

We have been donated a super selection of children's toys; books of all kinds; many household items (crockery, cutlery, etc) plus sundry other items. Everything will be a massive bargain! Please pop along to the stall (just outside the church entrance doors in the churchyard) to see what excellent 'snips' you can find.

Our last stall raised in excess of £600 which has been used to make two donations to A Rocha (the organisation which helps us move forward towards carbon neutral), to pay for the lovely sign in the churchyard, and to replenish the planters outside the west and south doors.

If you could assist on the stall on the day, if just for an hour, please contact Anne R., Lynne, Martin B. or Anne K.



Foodie Friday

Foodie Friday takes place on the first Friday of each month at 6.30pm.

- a 3-course meal using surplus food, with guests contributing on a 'pay-as-you-feel' basis (a price is suggested).

Profits from the meal go towards providing free meals for more vulnerable members of our community during the week.

The next Foodie Friday will be **Friday 2nd May.**

To book: contact the church office, 01625 421984.



Work Party in the Churchyard

**7.00-9.00pm Friday
9th May**

This is an opportunity to spend an hour or more tidying the churchyard (but not too much - we want to encourage our wildlife!) and replanting our flower and raised beds, under the expert eye of sustainable gardening expert Chris Wellavize from Prestbury Garden Centre.

Contact David Mayers if you can help or need more information.



Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.



Styal Prison Donations invited!

We are hoping to purchase more of the A5 notebooks which are so valued by the women at Styal Prison and which we have funded several times in the past. They provide the prisoners with a means of jotting down their thoughts and feelings, writing their own poetry or drawing sketches, and are seen as very therapeutic.

These notebooks can be purchased fairly cheaply from 'The Works' but **we** need to do the actual purchasing as the books must be of such a design as they can't be used for self-harming (that is, they mustn't have staples or wire-binding).

In addition, some of the women need basic reading glasses which, again, can be bought very cheaply over-the-counter. Having a pair of reading glasses can be transformational for some – as those of you who need them yourselves and forget them will fully understand!

If you would like to contribute towards these very worthwhile projects, please pass on your donation to Anne Kite, Lynne Spedding, Anne Radmall or Martin Bancroft (of the Social Action and Wider World Team).



Lynne's Next Strange Idea

I have decided to print 'booklets' of my sermons covering my (considerable) time as a Reader at St Mike's.

There are various reasons for this, none of which includes any sense that my words carry particular wisdom. I explain everything in the introduction to my first booklet (which contains 31 of my more recent sermons, plus discussion questions on each one).

I have given my booklet a (copyright approved) title of some lines from the poem, 'Don't Give Me the Whole Truth' by Olaf H. Hauge - 'Give me a glimpse, a dewy wisp, a mote' - as an acknowledgement that my own perception and understanding are limited in the face of eternal truths (and mystery).

My vague idea is that homegroups or individuals might like to use these as the starting point for discussion/reflection on random lectionary readings. The booklet isn't an in-depth study of a particular book or a theme of the Bible but a pot-pourri of whatever the Bible passage for the day leads me to speak on.

If anyone would like a copy, you are very welcome, but the printing costs, using the church printer, are around £5.00 per booklet so it would be helpful if you would be happy to cover these costs.

Let me know if you are interested.

I am now starting work collating the next batch (this batch were hand-written on bits of recycled paper as I only started word-processing my talks after the pandemic!).

Lynne



Calling all Gardeners Melanoma Awareness

This coming May, 2025 will be Melanoma Awareness Month, highlighting the risks of skin cancer to all people working outdoors, especially gardeners who are amongst the most at risk due to high exposure to UV radiation.

Obviously, wearing the correct clothes and "slapping" on SPF30+ sunscreen, sunglasses and wearing a sun-hat are essential, as well as keeping out of the sun during the mid-day period.

So the message is stay safe, especially while working in the sun and take particular care when it comes to skin protection.

Personally, I use SPF50 sunscreen and wear polarised sports sunglasses not only for gardening, but when generally out in the sun (bright weather), walking, visiting events and especially watching cricket matches etc.

Do take care with your eyes, any queries regarding the above article either contact me direct or via the Church Office.

Gordon Darlington



Music@Mike's

Thursday 1st May

Marie-Louise Taylor (piano)

The concert starts at 1.15pm and will be over by 2.00pm

Entry is free; donations to St Michael's and the Hospice are welcomed.

The Angel at my Table café will be open for lunch and hot drinks before and after the concert.



St Michael's Cricket Team

Our season starts on Wednesday 30th April with a game against Stockport Teachers.

6.00pm start at Heaton Mersey Village CC.

Please contact David Mayers for further information or if you are interested in playing



Music@Treacle

Sunday 27th April

'Open Strings' will be playing in church 12.30 - 1.30pm.

This is a Macclesfield-based group of orchestral strings players (violin, viola, cello).

They will be playing a mixture of classical favourites, folk and pop tunes. This is definitely not a traditional classical performance.

Please drop in or out to listen and relax away from the hustle and bustle of the market.



Maundy Thursday at St Mike's

This year we introduced a new service: the Maundy Thursday 'Agape Meal and (optional) Foot-washing Service'.

See photographs below which show Barbara washing Catherine's feet (5 brave souls came forward to have their feet washed by Lynne or Barbara), and the meal table around which we ate a simple, symbolic meal in (almost) silence, whilst Sarah sang beautifully in the background. Although we might look 'glum', in fact it was a very special reflective atmosphere!

This was a pilot service, devised and organised by Barbara, Heike and Lynne (from the Worship & Prayer Team), as part of our aim to enhance and enrich worship at St Michael's.

17 of us gathered - 13 worshippers plus the four who were leading. Fortunately, we were able to accommodate most around our table - quite amazingly, as we had no idea how many would come along!

Feedback has been very positive: it was felt to be a 'special' service in terms of atmosphere and focus, and it led well into the two Good Friday services.



Barbara washes Catherine's feet



The sharing of the 'Agape Meal'

Good Friday Services

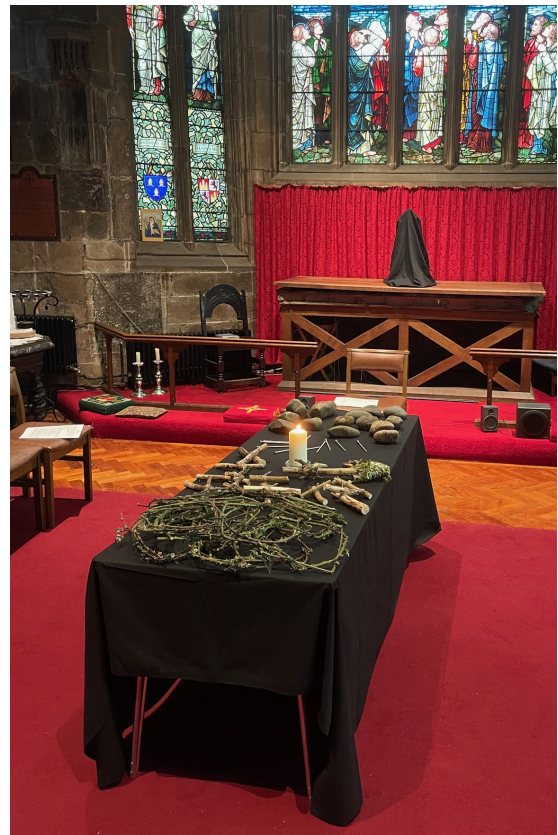
The morning 'united' service was well-attended and included members from other churches as well as St Mike's. Our Guest Speaker (Marion Tugwood), currently Chaplain at the Hospice, and formerly the Minister at the URC in Macclesfield, spoke powerfully and personally, particularly on the words 'My God, why have you forsaken me?'.

The choir sang some beautiful Good Friday pieces, there was an opportunity for people to come forward to be anointed, and the atmosphere was worshipfully sombre.

In the afternoon, Lynne and Barbara led the two-hour Contemplative Service in the Savage Chapel on the theme: 'The Things He Bore' - covering, in each of the four 25 minute sessions, the crown of thorns, the cross, the nails and our sins.

Readings and poetry were interspersed with silence and music.

Between 35 and 40 people came along, most for the full two-hours, and some for one hour.



Good Friday Contemplative Service: the table set up with crowns of thorns, wooden crosses, nails, and pebbles to represent our sin



Easter Sunday

- a wonderful celebration of the Resurrection: great music, a powerful sermon and a full house (I believe well over 160 people attended!).

Car-parking Sunday 4th May

If you normally park at church for the morning service you will still be able to do so on Sunday 4th May - but drive carefully through the road closure which will be in place because of the Macclesfield in May Festival.



Join us for *Worship*



Sunday Worship

27th April 2025

The Second Sunday of Easter

10:00am: Church Family Worship

Leader: LLM Lynne Spedding
Speaker: Tricia Atherton (OWL)
Bible Reading: John 20:19-31

Please use the link below to stream this
(and previous services) on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmikesmacclesfield>

Start the Week

Every Monday from 7.30am in church
Morning Prayer at 8.30 am in church and also on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/stmikesmacclesfield>

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Alternate Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Savage Chapel
lasting 30-40 minutes.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 30th April

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30am (35–40 mins)

Our midweek services follow the order from
the Book of Common Prayer (traditional language) and
alternate between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

1st May: Morning Prayer
8th May: Holy Communion

Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer –
morning and evening groups
Please contact Eve & David Budgett (431606)
or David Mayers (420716) for more information



Contemplative Prayer

Friday mornings from 9.20-9.50.
An opportunity for quiet prayer followed by a cuppa and chat.

Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday

Topic: Night Prayer | Time: 8.30 pm
Join Zoom Meeting; [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdZz09)
[pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdZz09)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476 Passcode: **compline**



Compline

Share your Photos with St Mike's Church Family



If you have any photographs of recent activities you have been involved in which you would like including in the weekly bulletin/newsletter or in the Church Family News slot in Sunday services, please use this number to WhatsApp them to the relevant people:

+44 7579 820265

You can, of course, also email pictures and text to stmikesnotices@gmail.com

How to contact the office...



Phone: Landline: 01625 421984

Email addresses:

- **Isobel** clergypa@maccteam.org.uk for ministry issues
- **Elaine** bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk for bookings and building matters
- **Bulletin/Newsletter** stmikesnotices@gmail.com
- **Printing** maccteamprinting@gmail.com
- **Safeguarding** see box below

Postal Address: The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

Elaine's office hours are *usually* Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am – 1:30 pm

Isobel's Office hours are *usually* Monday & Wednesday 9.00-3.00; and Thursday & Friday 9.00 - 1.00

Safeguarding Contact Information



If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the St Michael's Safeguarding Officer, Katie Wilcock:

Phone: 07435 568 729

Email: safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Donating to St Michael's is easy!



SCAN ME

Scan this QR Code or use the **contactless donation point** in the Welcome Area



Email any prayer requests to:

prayer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Your request will be circulated confidentially to a limited group of people who will pray for you.

