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Instagram



Open Door

Memories of St Michael's

About six-seven years ago, I began a project with great enthusiasm but sadly, and actually rather uncharacteristically, never saw it to completion. So now is the time!

The Social Committee commissioned me to record the memories of some of the older members of our church family, charting the changes they had seen at St Michael's. Some of these people had been attending the church since the 1940s. This has been a period of immense change in our worship, leadership and activity, and of course we continue to see changes (who would have thought, all those years ago, that we would be able to connect worshippers in church with worshippers at home through a strange combination of old laptops and projectors, balanced on precarious mountains of furniture, through some invisible force known as the internet?), or that the phrase "mute all" would become an actuality rather than an unspoken desire.

I interviewed some people and others wrote down and sent me their memories, and in the end I have seven accounts of life at St Michael's (and St Andrew's – now known All Saints') spanning the last 70+ years.

Contributors were Jeanne Cookson, Joyce Millard and Anne Kite, who are all, of course, forever young and have clearly fabricated their accounts – how could they go back so far!; Michael Kirk (long since having left Macclesfield); and Joyce Willson, Phyllis Melvin and Mary Taylor, all of whom joked with me that I had better get their memories down quickly, before they died – which has now sadly happened. I did want to include Margaret Eastwood also, especially as she was our first woman warden (and a formidable one at that!) but even as I was undertaking this project, Margaret was showing signs of confusion and I knew that her memories were not reliable.

I first met Margaret when I was 16, as I was good friends with her son Peter. My abiding memory of life in the (then) Hobson household was how intellectual and "posh" it seemed - I was served fresh salmon (I had no idea such a thing existed). Margaret was always so kind to me as a gauche teenager and spoke to me as an "equal".

Inside the newsletter you will find Mary Taylor's memories, which stretch back to the early 1950s.

I myself joined St Michael's in 1969 – hard to believe I can be that old, I know. I remember that Evening Prayer was the main service of Sunday, with the church full every week. Part of its popularity lay in the fact that – as a teenager – you couldn't go to Sunday evening Youth

Your temporary editor is Lynne again. Any first person comments are therefore attributable to me (for litigation purposes!)

Group unless you had attended the service beforehand. We all sat in a block at the back near the South Door, and I do recall the then vicar getting quite angry at us from the pulpit for chatting in the service.

This weekly attendance at Evening Prayer, although I admit to finding it quite dry at the time, has proved a long-term blessing to me: I know the words for Choral Evensong by heart and the poetry of the language and the depth of its meaning now lie deep in my soul.

I recall having an argument with the then vicar at a Youth Group meeting as he blamed "juvenile delinquency" on working mothers. My own mother worked from soon after my birth, throughout my life, so I voiced my objections forcibly (imagine that!), thus demonstrating the truth of his words. I later chose to be a working mother myself and am very proud of the three delinquents I have foisted on the world. Times have certainly changed.

Fortunately, **Friday** evening Youth Group was open to any old heathenish rabble, and we met in the old "Tin Tab" (photo inside), boys and girls together (very exciting – remember: secondary schools were single sex at that time!). The boys played table tennis and the girls hung around the perimeter, chatting in groups.

I met Paul there on 13th June 1969, several days after arriving in Macclesfield, and my fate was sealed. I didn't realise I was supposed to hang around the edge with the girls. Our relationship began with argument and mutual mockery and has remained unchanged for 51 years.

And here we are now, still St Michael's Church, still meeting (in one way or another), still worshipping, laughing, bickering, loving, mourning, caring, serving. Still together. That's family for you.

Thank you all for being my family. And thanks to those three lovely friends, Joyce, Phyllis and Mary, now moved on, for the part they played in our family life and the memories they have given us.

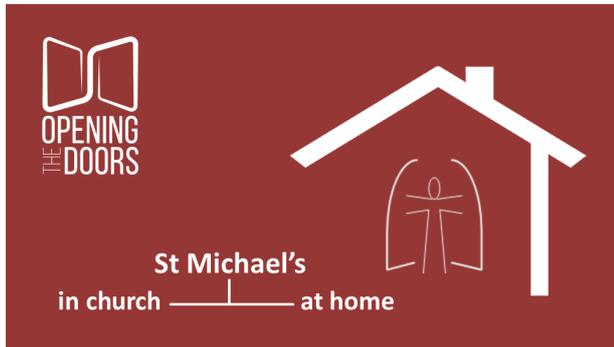
Lynne

(See how neatly I can sign my name!)

My Macclesfield High School for Girls school photograph when I arrived in June 1969.



St Michael's Merged Worship 27th Sept 2020
at 10.00am Join in person in church or by
clicking on the image below from 9.45am



Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625

Service Leader: Martin Stephens
Preaching: Mike Strutt
Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

You will have the opportunity to talk to a smaller group in
a break out room at the end of the service.

Can't join us live either in church or on Zoom?

Watch the recording at a time to suit you after Sunday
lunchtime [here](#)

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 #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here:

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources for adults and families: click [here](#)

Resources for children: click [here](#)

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JOIN US ON *Zoom*

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)



Meeting ID: 982 3541
9798

Password: 382502

Hosted by Tricia & Martin

Coffee & Chat



Men's Meet-up Meeting:

When? 8pm for 75 minutes on alternate
Wednesday evenings

Dates: 30th Sept & 14th October

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 912 6715 2374

Password: 980944



*Particularly aimed at those of working age
(whether on furlough, unemployed or working flat-
out). Nothing heavy – at least not at this stage –
but just the opportunity to share life and faith with
others in a similar situation.*

Thursday Homegroup

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm. We have
completed our study of Luke's Gospel and are
holding discussions of our respective faith
journeys. 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

Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's
ministry





Guess who sent this message!

We are having a lovely holibobs on the North Norfolk Coast in warm sunshine. We have been swimming in the sea and on lots of nice long walkies. At night we are dog tired and curl up to sleep while the gin queen, aka our boss, cracks open the gin and spends the evening in a gin haze! But don't quote us on that! We love sitting up front in the camper van as we can see lots of things. Not many sheep here. It's all vegetables!! We are missing you all. Wish you were here.

Wags and wet nose kisses
Chip and Kez



Music @ Mike's

Autumn Lunchtime Concerts

Thursday 8th October
1.15pm



Pianist Ivan Hovorun

Making a much anticipated return visit to St Mike's



Thursday 15th October
1.15pm



Pianist Adam Parrish



As we are now moving to two separate service formats on Sundays (owing to the on-going technical problems we have experienced with our merged services), we would very much welcome more volunteers.

Here are the broad areas we need help with for both our Zoom and our live services:

- ◆ People willing to give the Bible reading
- ◆ People willing to lead the prayers
- ◆ People willing to lead the service
- ◆ Technology helpers: whether in church or from home. This is not as difficult as you might think!
- ◆ Welcomers in church

Please contact Martin Stephens directly if you feel you could offer some help.



The Children's Society

Children's Society Boxes

For those of you with a Collector's Box for The Children's Society, please keep hold of them for now. Unfortunately the Society have had to suspend this fundraising method during Covid 19 and still haven't given the go ahead to restart. I'll be in touch when they do. There is a donate button on their website so, if you wish to, you can make a donation direct for this year.

Judith Whittingham



St Michael's Church is

OPEN

Monday to
Saturday
11 to 1

for private prayer

SILKLIFE foodbank

Please take our Silklife Foodbank shopping list with you this week. Support us at Sainsbury's, Tesco and Aldi. Thank You.

Prior to lockdown, referrals rarely exceeded 90 per month. However between February and July referrals averaged 151 per month and the Foodbank has helped 1354 people in our town providing over 16000 meals. Meeting this rise in demand would not be possible without people like you faithfully donating to and supporting this project. Thank you. We find certain products are particularly helpful to meet demand. See image of the type of things we use regularly.

SILKLIFE
foodbank
MACCLESFIELD

Wherever you choose to shop, Silklife Foodbank will be grateful of your donation. You can deliver directly to us on George Street, Macclesfield between 9:30am and 11:30am on Tuesdays or alternatively drop your bag in the drop box behind the tills at Sainsbury, Macclesfield. **THANK YOU**

TESCO
Every little helps

Under
£3

Rich Tea Biscuits	29p
Tinned Kidney Beans	30p
Tinned Peaches	33p
Creamfields UHT Milk 1L	52p
Tinned Macaroni Cheese	55p
Tinned Green Lentils	55p
Total	£2.54

ALDI

Under
£10

Tinned Spaghetti Hoops	13p
Tinned Carrots	20p
Tinned Rice Pudding	20p
Tinned Processed Peas	20p
Spaghetti Pasta	20p
Instant Noodles	22p
Tinned Mushy Peas	23p
Penne Pasta 500g	29p
Tinned Chick Peas	30p
Tinned Sweet Corn	37p
Microwave Rice Pack	37p
Beef Ravioli	45p
1KG Rice	45p
Box of Boil in Bag Rice	45p
Hot Dogs	49p
Pasta Sauce Chunky	49p
Vegetable	
Pasta Sauce Bolognese	49p
Tinned Meat Balls	54p
Tinned Mixed Beans	55p
Orange Juice 1L	59p
Weetabix (24)	74p
Pulses & Grains 200g Bag	85p
Tea Bags 160 Red Label	95p
Total	£9.75

Sainsbury's
live well for less

Under
£5

Hubbard's Strawberry Jam	28p
Hubbard's Custard	35p
Hubbard's Mandarins	35p
Hubbard's Tinned Potatoes	35p
Cheese & Tomato Ravioli	55p
Vegetarian Ravioli	55p
Vegetarian Spaghetti Bolognese	55p
Beef Spaghetti Bolognese	55p
Hubbard's Chicken Curry	59p
Hubbard's Chilli Con Carne	60p
Total	£4.72

SILKLIFE
foodbank
MACCLESFIELD

3 Great ways you can help!

Simply drop your donation in the drop-box behind the tills in Sainsbury Macclesfield. **THANK YOU**

Just £1
At Poundland
Macclesfield Town Centre



Just 35p
At Sainsbury
Macclesfield



Just 45p
At Sainsbury
Macclesfield



Church Flowers

We remember John Wood's mother this coming Sunday.

John wished to donate flowers in her memory but of course we are not displaying fresh flowers in church at the moment.



St Michael's Day (Michaelmas)

Don't forget it's our patronal festival on Tuesday 29th September: St Michael's Day.



And here, to remind you, are the two images of the Archangel himself in our church building: the mosaic on the chancel floor and the stained glass window on the mezzanine floor



Scoop and Scales at the Treacle Market

It's the Treacle Market on Sunday, and you can do your plastic-free shopping for a wide variety of groceries and other goods at Scoop and Scales pop-up shop in the Heritage Centre from 10-3. For more details look at their website www.scoopandscales.co.uk.

Careful preparations are in place to ensure that the whole market is safe, with fewer stalls, sanitisers on every stall and plenty of stewards to encourage social distancing; so please show your support for all the wonderful stall holders and the Treacle team who have done so much to bring a buzz back the Macclesfield town centre over the last 10 years.



SEASON OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER 1- OCTOBER 4

Continues on Sunday 27th September with a Reflective Ramble at Tegg's Nose Country Park, SK11 0AP.

Meet at the café at 2pm for a 3 mile walk to reflect on and appreciate God's creation, followed by a picnic of tea and cakes.

Mary Taylor's Memories of St Michael's

Mary gave me these memories in 2014

I started to worship at St Michael's around 1950 when all the services were *1662 Common Prayer* and *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. There was a good attendance but a complete absence of children. There was good provision for the young people: a flourishing Sunday School on Sunday afternoons at Beech Lane School and a very active Youth Club following Evensong. Several of the boys were later ordained.



The old Church Hall (aka the "Tin Tab") situated near the main entrance to the King's School where the roundabout now is, next to Magnet Southern's.

There was great excitement on a Sunday in July – it was the Flower Festival. The children from Beech Lane were taken to join the children at St Andrew's (the daughter church of St Michael's, later combined with Christ Church to form the current All Saints' Church when Christ Church closed). The children, in their new frocks and best shorts and shirts, headed by a band, then processed down Chestergate to the Market Place. After a hymn there, they entered church and presented their flowers and fruit to be placed in a tailor-made wooden cross. Most spectacular – there followed a children's service! The flowers and fruit were later distributed to elderly and poorly parishioners.



Flower Festival Procession 1955



*Flower Festival
Procession 1955*

Adults did not fare so well. There was the Mothers' Union which had very strict criteria for membership. A Ladies' Guild existed, whose members chiefly sewed, knitted and produced crafts for a big sale of work. Later the Church Women's Fellowship was introduced by the Diocese and Rev. Tom Clarke created one at St Michael's. The big difference was that wives of divorced husbands were allowed to join, and it was later opened to men (but the St Michael's men were too shy!). I was secretary for a few years. I took two friends along, one recently bereaved, to find a new outlook and companions. They started to attend Evensong and later were confirmed.

Tom Clarke also introduced "Planned Giving" to change the church's financing. It was welcomed by many but criticised by a few who called it "Church Hire-Purchase". Planned Giving spelled goodbye to jumble sales, etc., and introduced reliance on donors.

Winifred Rushbrooke was a volunteer at a town welfare club where she tried to encourage a fellow-member to come along to church, receiving the reply, "Oh no! It is too respectable for me!" Perhaps apt: Sunday best, hat and polished shoes were expected - but all that was to change.

Rev. Frank Haslam came with a very friendly outlook and overcame many rules to convert the Choir Vestry into a meeting room with a basic kitchen to make a cup of tea. This was an opportunity for the Matins congregation to get together for a natter and socialising after the service. This was emphasised by the next vicar, Rev. Michael Gear, who said he would be angry if he saw anyone standing alone!

During this time there was a very big change. There was a sidesperson to greet you as you entered church – yes, a sidesperson! Ladies had been allowed to join in the duties, a change which was in fact evident everywhere. There were girls in the choir, lady lay readers and even female clergy! Michael introduced the first lady curate, Christine Gardner. She became a great favourite and very confident. I was no longer a sceptic!



*Youth Fellowship 1952
(where are the girls?)*



Here they are!

There has been a wonderful makeover of the church more recently. No longer is it a great big open space. A very diligent committee was formed to find a way to make it more functional. After months of talking with all the powers that be, plus the congregation (some of whom were very doubtful), architects were chosen and a design agreed upon. Now we have a magnificent, busy building, open each day until 12.00 noon, with selfless volunteers welcoming visitors and making drinks for people to get

together. There are concerts, exhibitions and other activities, making the church a real hub for the town. It is not now just a beautiful old building but is completely alive and an asset.

Because of the strict parking laws and my poor mobility, I have been unable to attend services at church, but I am very grateful to receive Holy Communion at home.

Further anecdotes from Mary.

One hot, sultry Sunday morning and elderly gentleman, prone to chest problems, fainted in church. One of the sidesmen, who had gone to his aid, later reflected, "What do you expect? He was smothered under Miss X's big hat!"

At a special evensong, several young teenagers from the Youth Group walked up the central aisle to the front seats, all dressed in the latest "in" thing – sheepskin floppy-legged boots. The person next to me commented, "Oh! I expected Snow White to have followed on!"

Frank (my husband) took part in Eleanor's Vision, and he wore a very cheap flannelette robe. When he took it off, his dark grey suit looked as though it was covered in mildew! (It was the lint from the robe). This defied dry-cleaning and the only solution was for Frank and me to swathe our hands in sticky sellotape and dab it off inch by inch. Thespians beware!



Note from Anne Kite, who gave me several of the photographs included here

This is the lily crown and ribbons held by the good girls from the Sunday School. I longed to be one but never deserved or was given a ribbon! The curate on the photo was a EV Lea, the gentleman in a trilby Mr Risely the church warden and boy in front is my half brother David Evans. They are passing Loney Street where Genesis is now. Note the old street lights. The man on the left of the photo was called Derek Braddock, a Reader who was later ordained.



Cricket

On a glorious afternoon on Sunday at Prestbury CC our season came to a fitting finale with a game against Vijay's Indian XI. With the opportunity to play a longer format – 30 overs – the Parish top order batted steadily and accumulated a useful total of 125 for 4 against a lively Indian bowling attack and a quick and agile fielding side. Mike Heathcote retired at 37 not out, and there were useful knocks from Pete Marshall (14), Russell Collins (18) and guest Ramesh (28). There was some doubt about whether this total would be enough, but it almost was. Tight bowling and tigerish fielding restricted the Indians to 115 for 9 with 3 overs to go, with 3 wickets for Heathcote and a brilliant run-out by Doron. Unfortunately the loss of the 9th wicket brought back the Indian's star batsman Rakesh, who safely guided his side to victory in the last over and a total of 126 for 9. Rakesh's score of 40 not out was a fitting way for him to finish his Macclesfield Parish career – he and Sonia will be returning to India in December. We will miss them!

The photograph attached shows the victorious Indian side.



Tortoise Update

Quite a few people have expressed interest (which I'm taking to be genuine) in the development of the baby tortoise my sister hatched out about a month ago.

He now has a name - Gunther.



Here he is on Hilary's hand - so you can see how tiny he is

And here he is having a bath in a soup-bowl (of water!)



BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

For those who couldn't access the video link in 6th Sept issue!

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN