



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



Follow us on Instagram

## Encountering God

St Michael's churchyard is used a great deal isn't it? Friends have socially-distanced conversations, parents chat whilst their children play on the grass, and I'm sure we could justify 3 or 4 times the number of benches – they're so popular for eating lunch, and for resting whilst in town.

Last Tuesday over 3 dozen people joined me in St Michael's churchyard for a brief time of prayer. It was the National Day of Reflection, marking one year since the start of the first UK lockdown. As well as prayer there was a minute's silence for remembrance and reflection, rounded off with a bell chiming for a minute, and then praying the Lord's Prayer together. I was delighted (and a bit surprised) by the number of people who came along. It was good to see familiar faces behind the face coverings, their eyes revealing the smile I couldn't see.

As I led the prayers, I was also pleased to see people in the Market Place standing or sitting where they were. "How many were praying too?" I couldn't say, but some were; and all were reflecting upon and connecting with our nation's pandemic pain.

Afterwards I went out to meet some of them, to invite them to tie a yellow ribbon onto our fence. But I didn't get beyond the second person. He had tears rolling down his face. I discovered his mum had died just a couple of weeks earlier and it would be her funeral on Thursday. I commiserated with him and prayed for his family. For me it was a 'divine appointment' – an opportunity to be with someone in their time of sadness and loss, and to pray God's peace and blessing on their situation.

As a church community St Michael's is committing to focus on helping people 'Encounter God'. Last Tuesday was an example of how we might do this. Next week will be another: it's Holy Week...

## Services in Holy Week

**Palm Sunday (28th)** 10.00 live in church and by Zoom

**Maundy Thursday (1st)**

Holy Communion 10.30am in the nave

**Good Friday (2nd)**

- **Morning Service** 10.00 live and by Zoom
- **Reflective Service** 2.00pm live only (*Words from the Cross*: see page 7 for more details)

**Easter Sunday** Holy Communion 10.00 live and by Zoom (*must be booked in advance - see below*)

## Book for Easter Sunday Live Worship

If you wish to attend the Easter Day (April 4th) communion service in church then you will need to book online. Since we will still be socially distanced within the building we need to limit the congregation to 70 people. Note that there is, of course, no limit to how many may join the Zoom call and no need to book for Zoom.

Booking is free. To reserve places for you and your household group please book [here](#). If you don't have internet access then please ask someone to book for you or contact Paul Simms on 07879 446906

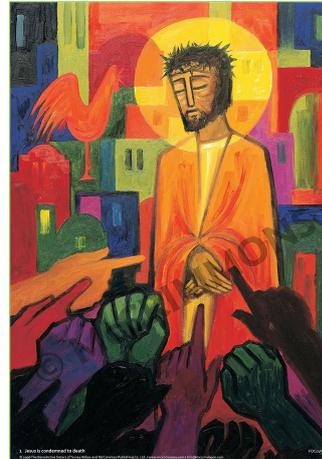


Image: Jesus is condemned to death  
© 1996 The Benedictine Sisters of  
Turvey Abbey and McCrimmons  
Publishing Co Ltd

## St Michael's Stations of the Cross

... From next Monday we will be displaying a number of images depicting Jesus' last hours - from just before and after his death. Attractive artwork of different scenes ('stations') will be exhibited to help us all consider the events of Good Friday and Easter, and to link them with us and our experiences.

These 'Stations of the Cross' - there will be 11 of them - depict Jesus's final journey to his death. He is seen enduring a sham trial, being charged and condemned, falling under the weight of the cross, as well as other incidents and

encounters of that last day. It all leads people on a journey, following Christ, and somehow entering into that suffering ourselves.

Alongside each artwork is a reflection written by church members on their personal experiences of the last year. All are poignant; many are descriptions of times of great difficulty and pain – some health-related, others relationship or financial problems. A broad range of experiences, I'm sure each will resonate in some way with those who read it.

As well as coming yourself, to view and be drawn into that journey to the cross with Jesus, please do pray for this venture. We hope many people will find time to engage with the images and the reflections, and through encountering Jesus in His suffering might find a connection with God in their own lives.

*"Dear Lord, may there be divine appointments and encounters with You through our outdoor offering this Holy Week. Amen."*

*Mark Stepler*

Log-in for all Zoom services is the same link as is used for Sunday services every week. Use the link (on the last page) for Sunday 28th, **Friday 2nd** and Sunday 4th

**Important Notice**

**Don't forget that British Summer Time begins this Sunday: the clocks go forward one hour.**



## What has helped you get through Lockdown?

Here are some more thoughts from members of the Wednesday morning chat group

### Helen Foster's reflections

I am an only child and quite at home with my own company so lockdowns suit me quite well and I think we should have a short one every year. I would normally shun crowds and even large shopping-centres make me slightly nervous. And (I may have mentioned this before!) I only need the occasional hug.



I enjoyed our garden and the birds in the lockdown in spring last year. The fact that the neighbouring school was not in was an added bonus. Though I don't usually mind the sound of children playing, all the out-of-school activities that go on in normal times mean that the school premises are used from 8.30am till 9.00 pm which can be a bit wearing. And that oik that brings his sandwiches wrapped in foil and then pitches it into our garden - pleased to have a break from him!

I've done quite a bit of walking from home and discovered lots of footpaths I didn't know existed which I think I will continue to use in the future.

I've missed the bellringing but not the apparent obligation to do it five times a week.

I'm pleased to have got to know the church family better through the Sunday Zoom and Wednesday meetings. I've put quite a few names to faces. Many of them are probably wondering where I sprang from! I've enjoyed mastering the technology too though am looking forward to just being able to devote myself to listening to the service at some point in the future

Kev and I have had a Zoom meeting with four friends every Tuesday evening since lockdown started. These are people we've known for decades, been on holiday etc. with but we would normally see them perhaps three or four times a year. It has been very reassuring to see and hear them every week and know they're OK. Thank goodness for Zoom.

Helen

PS I forgot something

...how could I forget it? It is, of course...

KEV!



### Anne Kite's (aka Kitey's) reflections

- Having a husband sharing life with me, and having someone to share ups and downs with hugs! Very important!
- A loving family close by so we could see each other at the end of the garden.
- Time to have enjoyed deeper relationships with people and hear their stories either on the telephone or Zoom.
- Having a faith of hope and a knowledge that I am loved by the Lord wherever in life I am.
- Being blessed with an fairly optimistic nature and that I am able to stay positive and am fortunate to have so many caring friends.
- Being fortunate to have IT and being able to self indulge in study time!
- One thing I am looking forward is resuming a modified Flower Ministry , with limited resources and being able to offer folks a listening ear in their grief.



### Marion Athorne's Reflection



The technology of zooming could not have come at a more needful time. It has been such that I feel a burden for those who have not been able to share this unique way of being able to meet together for worship and study, and wonder how it might be

possible to use its blessing in the future for those who are housebound...?

(And Marion puts us all to shame with her e-skills!: Ed.)

## The Climate and Ecology Emergency Bill



'There are a lot of campaigns out there calling for action on climate and nature. The CEE Bill, drafted by leading scientists and sponsored by Caroline Lucas MP and over a hundred other MPs, spells out exactly what is needed for the UK to play its proper part. It tells the truth about the urgent and radical transformation that is required if we are to respond to the Climate and Nature Emergency with justice and honesty. We are encouraging our members to ask their churches to support this Bill.' (a quotation from Green Christian)

This Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March Global Justice Macclesfield, supported by members of St Michael's, is seeking to raise awareness of and support for the Bill via a twitter storm. We are asking people to tweet their support with a photo of a banner calling on our MP to "Back the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill". Tweet your photos and videos of you and the banner to @DavidRutley

The banner will be on the railings of St Michael's between 9am and 6pm so that people can use it in photos as they pass as part of their daily exercise!

If you don't do twitter you can always email a picture of yourselves and the banner to Mr.Rutley at [david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)

More info here: <https://www.cebill.uk>



St Michael's Church is now open daily  
11.00am-1.00pm for private prayer



Pilgrimage  
2021

### Change of Date

Please note that the start date for this year's Pilgrimage from Chester to Macclesfield has been changed from Wednesday 1st September to

**Wednesday 22nd September**



You see one later  
The other in a while  
(only those of a certain age will understand this Bill Haley reference!)

### How to Contact the Office

Please be careful to use the correct email address for the purpose of your message.

- For the **newsletter**: [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com)
- For **bookings, building maintenance**: [office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)
- For **service details, rotas, anything else**: [clergypa@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergypa@maccteam.org.uk)

These email addresses will be accessed at least once per week, but not every day, so don't expect an instant response. The office phone will also be accessed at least once each week.



"LET'S JUST BINGE WATCH THIS."



### An Introduction to Passiontide

(from the Church of England website)

It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This *Pascha* (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew 'Passover') was

at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification.

Over time, the *Pascha* developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter. Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, 'commandment', because of the "new commandment" of John 13.34) contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?') Thursday passes into Good Friday with its two characteristic episodes. The veneration of the Cross is older; the sequence of meditations and music known as the Three Hours' Devotion was introduced into the Church of England in the nineteenth century. The first is now sometimes incorporated into the structure of the second.

The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

This solemn season preserves some of the oldest texts still in current use, and rehearses the deepest and most fundamental Christian memories.

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

### Lent Challenges

Challenge 6

### Reduce Energy Consumption

Turn the thermostat down a couple of degrees (wear a warmer jumper!) and try to reduce car journeys

And here is a reminder of the previous 5 challenges

Cut out single use plastics

Keep it local

Introduce meat-free days

Stop food waste

Resist fast fashion

For the full 40 Lent reflections all of which have an environmental theme, click [here](#)

## Lockdown Artwork

### The two faces of lockdown

This time last year we were suddenly plunged into a totally new and quite frightening experience. It was the first lockdown when we were told to Stay Home – not advised – **TOLD**. This is what it felt like to me.



Later on, when the weather got better we went out into nature and began to really value the outdoors. This is how it felt to me.



Tricia Atherton

If anyone would like to share their lockdown artwork, poetry or similar, please email to [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com)

## To celebrate the end of Lockdown

Martin took the funeral of Lynda Mitchell in January and her husband Pete has sent this poem he has written.

When vaccinations are complete  
And the current lockdown ends  
We will go out to meet and greet  
An spend time with our friends

The churches will re-open  
The choir will raise the roof  
Singing together using zoom  
Was a little bit aloof

After service meetings  
Chatting with a mate  
Will no longer be on-line  
But by the churchyard gate

The vicar can once more shake hands  
As the congregation parts  
All of us will feel relief  
There'll be a lifting of our hearts

Normal life may never be  
The way it was before  
At least we get some freedoms back  
Life won't be such a chore

Our thanks to Pete for sharing this with us, and our prayers in his bereavement.



Thank you to our Youth Group for the wonderful service last Sunday.

The content was inspiring, the young people impressive and it was technically excellent!



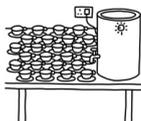
"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."

## TASKS

THAT WE COULD GET THE YOUTH TO DO



OPERATE THE PROJECTOR



JOIN THE COFFEE ROTA



MAINTAIN THE CHURCH GARDEN



PLAN AND LEAD A SPECIAL SERVICE

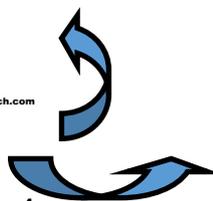
THIS IS ALEX



SHE IS THE YOUTH

CartoonChurch.com

Two cartoons which of course do **not** apply to our young people!



# Maundy Thursday Chrism Service

## Chester Cathedral

From Bishop Mark



On Maundy Thursday, it is usual for us to gather together at Chester Cathedral for the Maundy Thursday Chrism Eucharist. Unfortunately, due to the COVID restrictions, this will not be possible in person. Instead, a group of people representing the diversity of ministry across the Diocese, both lay and ordained will be invited to gather in person with others

invited to join in the service by watching and worshipping at home as the service is streamed on Youtube.

As part of the service, we reflect on the servant-hearted ministry of Jesus as he washes the disciples' feet. It prompts us to consider our own ministry and reflect on how we might humbly follow the pattern of Christ's ministry. As part of the service, there is an opportunity to renew our commitment to ministry and mission and in particular for lay ministers, deacons, priests and bishops. It is good for us to gather to do this, even if we are physically separated from one another, for we are united in the power of the Spirit and it is a reminder of our shared ministry of the Gospel.

The service will include the blessing of oils to be used throughout the diocese in the coming year. To enable these to be distributed and to represent the breadth of ministry across the diocese, Rural Deans, or a representative of each deanery, are being invited to attend in person. They will be invited to take oils back to each deanery and arrange their distribution locally.

This comes with my prayers for you as we approach Holy Week.

+Mark

### Maundy Thursday Chrism Eucharist Service

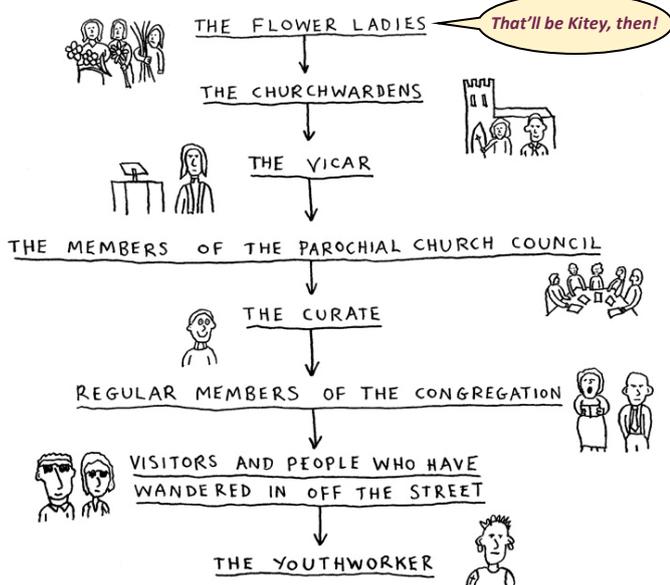
11am on 1st April

Download the Order of Service [here](#)

Click this link to join the [online service](#)

# THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

WITHIN A CHURCH



That'll be Kitey, then!

Definitely not true at St Mike's!

CartoonChurch.com

## Bereavement Notice



We are sorry to announce that Mark Langham's father, Norman, died on Wednesday 24th March at the age of 95.

As many of you know, Mark has been living almost full-time in Leicester for much of the last year to support both his elderly father and his sister who is ill.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark and his family.

## In case you don't already know.... Chrism and its use within the Anglican Church



Chrism is a mixture of olive oil, perfume and balsam consecrated by the Bishop and distributed to the clergy to take back into their parish for use in certain sacramental services.

When Peter acknowledged Jesus as 'the Christ' (Mark 8.29), he was recognizing him as the 'Anointed One' of God: *Christos* in Greek, *Messiah* in Hebrew. The title that had once belonged to the anointed kings of Israel is now conferred on Jesus, who was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the river Jordan. As Jesus received baptism at John's hands, his true identity was revealed.

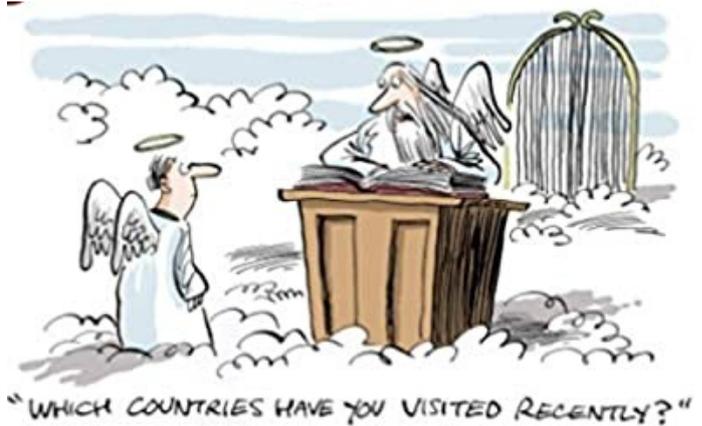
Our own baptism is the sacramental sign of our union with Christ, and of God's gift to us of his Holy Spirit, to make us God's children by adoption and grace, and to equip us for the share that all Christians have in Christ's own ministry. The New Testament speaks of this gift of the Holy Spirit as an anointing (1 John 2.20-27; 2 Corinthians 1.21-22).

From an early date, it became customary to trace the sign of the cross in oil on the heads of candidates for baptism, and to anoint them again after baptism with the perfumed oil of chrism – a sign of incorporation into the prophetic, priestly and royal life of Jesus Christ.

At the same time, the Letter of James urges its recipients to anoint the sick with oil (James 5.15), as a sign of the healing and forgiveness that are also given through the Holy Spirit (cf Mark 6.13).

These are the biblical roots of the ancient custom of using oils in the life of the Church, and of the three particular oils – of catechumens, of the sick, and of chrism – that are prepared in the Chrism Eucharist. In the course of Christian history, they have come to be used in many ways – especially, as in the Old Testament, for the setting apart of people and things for a special place in the life of the Church, for bishops and priests at their ordination, for kings and queens at their crowning, and for churches and altars at their consecration.

(taken from the Church of England website)





## I am more than a statistic

A personal reflection from Sue

As I write this I have just stood on my doorstep at 8pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – exactly a year since the first lockdown began – and held my lighted candle like many others

throughout the country. Each of us who did this were joining in an act of solidarity of the loss and pain of bereavement and grief suffered by many who have lost loved ones to the Covid-19 virus. In particular, I thought about all the people who have died at Wythenshawe Hospital where I work in the Bereavement Centre and all the families affected by the loss, many caused purely by the existence of this virus. I lifted all these people up to God and prayed for comfort in their loss and prayed that they would at some point be able to make sense of all this loss amidst a global pandemic.

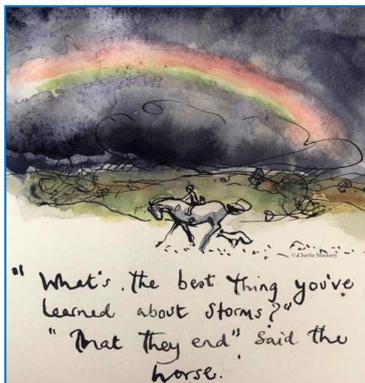
The 10 o'clock news was full of new stories relating to the anniversary of the start of lockdown and, in particular, was full of facts and figures about the number of deaths. Each night we have sat in our living rooms and listened to these figures being announced. Since working in an acute hospital serving the heavily populated area of South Manchester, I have seen the people behind the statistics and the bereaved families trying to make sense of the loss: the 43 year old who died of Covid with no underlying symptoms, with two small children and a husband reeling in shock; the 54 year old father of four with distraught elderly parents - cause of death Covid-19 pneumonitis – again no underlying symptoms; the 52 year old mother of two with one son and her mother in hospital; three generations in the same hospital with Covid; the 74 year old husband who had been shielding his wife for over a year as she had cancer, but who went into hospital for treatment and caught Covid and died. Conversations with loved ones remind me that these people are more than a statistic covered in the news each night. These are people – mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, grandmothers, cousins, nieces, girlfriends...

I have been at the Bereavement Centre now for 7 weeks and in that time three of us have offered bereavement support to 209 families. Of course, not all these deaths are related to Covid and there has been a noticeable difference between my first weeks in the job just coming at the end of that huge peak after Christmas compared with now in terms of cause of death. But loss is loss and no matter the cause of death, Covid still plays a huge part owing to the restrictions on funerals and other arrangements; even just visiting loved ones on end of life. I spoke to an elderly gentleman today whose wife had just died – yes Covid – they would have celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this weekend. He and his son chose to be with his wife as she was dying even though that meant he now has to self-isolate for ten days and will now miss his planned second vaccine. Many families make the choice not to visit loved ones on end of life as they are shielding or they simply fear coming into a hospital or Covid ward. These are tough decisions for families to make.

There are of course many deaths as you would expect in an acute hospital which is also the trauma unit for the North West. The 33 year old who had a heart attack at home and died the next day; the 51 year old man who tried to take his own life and failed but later died; the 28 year old found collapsed in the streets of south Manchester who died from a drug overdose; teachers, council workers, carers, - people who served in our community but more importantly people who are loved by family members and friends.

Over the last few weeks, I have been reflecting on how I can use my faith in my everyday role at the hospital. I now have a holding cross key ring which I have with me attached to my lanyard. For the past two weeks I have sat in the Chapel and taken with me a list of names of those patients who have died in the hospital and prayed for them and their families, but also the names of the doctors who we see daily in the

Bereavement Centre who come to complete the necessary formalities after a patient dies in the hospital. They experience the loss too. This week alone one ward (yes a Covid ward) has had five deaths in just three days and many wards are short-staffed due to sickness, anxiety or stress and staff are feeling the strain. These are clinicians who have been sitting holding the hands of loved ones as they die in the absence of family members who can't be there.



## MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Tomorrow, when the latest Deathometer of Covid is announced  
in sonorous tones,

Whilst all the bodies still mount and curl towards the middle of the curve  
Heaped one atop and alongside the other

My sister will be among those numbers, among the throwaway lines  
Among the platitudes and lowered eyes,  
an older person with underlying health conditions,  
A pitiful way to lay rest the bare bones of a life.

### MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Her underlying conditions were

Love  
Kindness  
Belief in the essential goodness of mankind  
Uproarious laughter  
Forgiveness  
Compassion  
A storyteller  
A survivor  
A comforter  
A force of nature  
And so much more

### MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

She died without the soft touch of a loved one's hand  
Without the feathered kiss upon her forehead

Without the muted murmur of familiar family voices gathered around her  
bed,

Without the gentle roar of laughter that comes with memories recalled  
Evoked from a time that already seems distant, when we were connected by  
the simplicity of touch, of voice, of presence.

### MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

She was a woman who spanned the seven ages.

A mother  
A grandmother  
A great grandmother  
A sister  
A friend  
An aunt  
A carer  
A giver

### MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

And so, she joins the mounting thousands

THEY ARE NOT STATISTICS ON THE DEATHOMETER OF COVID  
They are the wives, mothers, children, fathers, sisters, brothers,  
The layers of all our loved ones

If she could, believe me when I say, she would hold every last one of your lost  
loves, croon to and comfort them and say – you were loved.

Whilst we who have been left behind mourn deep, keening the loss, the  
injustice, the rage.

One day we will smile and laugh again, we will remember with joy that, once,  
we shared a life, we knew joy and survived sadness.

You are my sister..... and I love you.

*Written by Dorothy Duffy and published in the Irish Times  
4TH APRIL 2020*

This poem -a tribute and a lament for a sister was written in the hours after her death amidst the swirl of news briefings announcing the daily C19 death toll.

Many of you will be familiar with illustrations of Charles Mackesey which seem to have captured the mood and heart of the nation in this pandemic. Indeed the last service we had in church before went into lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March you may recall was a Healing Service led by myself and Karen Brady and we used two of the Mackesey images – one aptly captioned ““What’s the bravest thing you’ve ever said?” asked the boy. “Help,” said the horse”. A year on and Mackesey has created the new image (see left) which many have taken to be a message of hope for the NHS due to the rainbow.

God gives us hope for better times. He certainly gives me strength and courage in helping me to make a difference in my frontline workplace ministry in the Bereavement Centre.

**Sue Reid**

## Look who's breaking lockdown regs and visiting Mo and Dave's Garden!

Mo and Dave Black were lucky enough to capture these two creatures on their motion sensitive infra-red garden camera.



Mr (or Mrs) Badger



And - better still - a hedgehog just out of hibernation

And on the subject of hedgehogs....



'It's the lockdown look.'

Lockdown hair issues

(tell me about them! Ed.)



'I was bored in Lockdown, so I cut my own hair'

## The Month of April

April was originally the second month of the year in early versions of the Roman Calendar, when March was the first month. It became the fourth month later.



Its name is derived possibly from the latin verb "aperire", which means "to open", as April is the month when trees and flowers begin to "open". An alternative etymology is that it derives from "Aphrilis", from Aphrodite (the Greek name for Venus), since April was sacred to Venus (goddess of love and desire) and her festival was held on the first day of the month.

The Anglo-Saxons called April *ēastre-monap*. The Venerable Bede states that this word *ēastre* is the root of the word Easter and that the month was named after a goddess *Eostre* whose feast was in this month.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Maundy Thursday
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Good Friday
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Easter Eve
4 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day
21 <sup>st</sup>	Anselm, Abbot of le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109
23 <sup>rd</sup>	St George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mark, the Evangelist
27 <sup>th</sup>	Christina Rossetti (poet) 1894



## WHAM: Winter Nightshester

### Storage Space Needed



The last WHAM Nightshester weekend is approaching and we will be packing our equipment away on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

We were given several appliances to operate at Mill St this year, and would like to keep them in case we use one single venue again next year. We are therefore looking for someone to store them until December; either all the items, several, or only one.

If you could offer space in a dry location for one or several of: a fridge, washing machine, tumble dryer, countertop freezer, 2 bucket chairs, Rachel Mayers would be glad to hear from you (Monday 29<sup>th</sup> at the latest). **Email: Rachel.mayers@btinternet.com**

Thank you.

## Good Friday Reflective Service



2.00pm (live service only)

Approx length 60-75 minutes

### Words from the Cross

A selection of Bible readings (the words from the cross) with poetry, music, images and silence

Please feel free to leave at any suitable stage (the service is not divided into half-hour sections this year)



**Week 4 of the Munro camellia**

*I can see why people come to have a look:  
It's magnificent!*

## Mayor's Charity Fundraising in aid of Cre8 and Seals Swimming Club

### Fundraising Auction



The Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake, is thrilled to partner with Adam Partridge Auctioneers for an online auction to raise funds for the Mayor's charities; **Cre8 and the Macclesfield Seals Swimming Club**.



We are seeking goods and services 'Made in Macclesfield'. This can take the form of vouchers, offers of time and services, or physical objects. Once enough donations are pledged, a date will be set for the auction.

If you wish to make a donation, please send a photograph and description to [sarah.bennett@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.bennett@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

### The Chorister's Prayer - for Quarantine

**Bless, O Lord, us thy singers,  
who once sang within thy temple.  
Grant that what we sing in our homes,  
may yet be heard in the world,  
And what is heard in the world,  
may lead all closer to thee,  
Until we're choirs again.**

**Amen.**

# EARTH HOUR

28 MARCH 8:30PM #CONNECT2EARTH



**RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR NATURE**  
[earthhour.org/voice](http://earthhour.org/voice)



## Earth Hour

On Saturday 27 March at 8.30pm we are all encouraged to switch off all electrical appliances in our homes for one hour as a symbolic gesture of solidarity for the environment.

This is an annual global initiative involving millions across the planet who will join together in raising awareness of the issues facing our planet.

Many iconic landmarks across the world will have their lights turned off for this event, including the **Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House and Tower Bridge**.

### WHY NOT JOIN IN!

For a very short video explanation, please click [here](#) to see Revd Mike Loach, from Christchurch, Higher Bebbington explain about Earth Hour



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

## Diocesan Synod Agrees to Eco-diocese Approach

The Diocese of Chester will aim to become an Eco-Diocese following a unanimous decision by Bishop's Council to agree to work towards that target. Eco Diocese is an initiative from the Christian environment charity, A Rocha.

Speaking at an event to break the ground of a community garden at St Andrew's, Grange, Bishop Mark said: "We took an important decision that we're going to aim to be registered as an Eco-Diocese. That matters to me at a personal level, as well as at an institutional level as a Church."



"The scientific evidence that we are doing damage to our ecology, I think, is just really clear, and we have a responsibility to work together to leave a good planet for those who come after us. Wherever you are, there are little things you can do which invest in the environment, and, together we can do really big things."

The proposal to become an Eco-Diocese was put forward by the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Ian Bishop, who has a passion for environmental matters.

He says: "I have come to see the earth as a precious and amazing gift of God. As with any gift, we need to receive it, above all with thanks and use it as the giver intended. We've made such a mess of that gift and the time has come to clean it up, repair it and start using it as was intended. I hope resolving to aim toward becoming an Eco-Diocese can be a small but important step on the journey of repair."



Join us for  
*Sunday Worship*

**St Michael's Worship 28th March 2021**

**Sixth Sunday of Lent : Palm Sunday**  
**Merged service this week at 10.00am:**  
**live in church / from home on Zoom**

To join by Zoom click on the image or use

Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379

Password: 01625

Service Leader: Heike Werner

Talk: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Mark 11:1-11



**Can't join us live?** Watch the recording of our morning worship service on Zoom 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

**Compline in Lent**

When? 8.30 pm daily, during Lent

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: compline



**JOIN US ON**  
*Zoom*

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Wednesday Morning Discussion**

**11.00am to 12 noon**

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



**Monday House Group**

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 910 4838 5228

Password: Monday

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

**Thursday Homegroup**

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm using same details as before. 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.

This week we have started the

Bible Course.



**DONATIONS:** Donating to

the church for general purposes has been made simpler. Either click on the blue Donate button or scan the QR Code.



**Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's**

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry

