



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Open Door

Reopening of buildings for public worship



“Churches and cathedrals have risen to the recent challenges, finding new ways of meeting for worship, of serving our neighbours, and of reaching new people with the love of God. The challenge before us now is to take the next steps carefully and safely, without forgetting all that we’ve discovered about God and ourselves on the way.”

We hope to let you know shortly what decisions we make regarding St Michael's re-opening for worship. Watch this space.

We are making the church available for small funerals as that is now permitted.

Following the Government announcement that church buildings will be able to reopen for public worship from 4th July, providing physical distancing remains in place, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England's Recovery Group, said:

“I welcome the Prime Minister's announcement today that we will soon be able to begin to meet and worship together in our church buildings again. The last three months have been an extraordinary time - the first period without public worship and the sacraments in England in more than 800 years. There will be real joy as we begin to come together again – if even at a physical distance – but I also know that many will be understandably cautious at this news.

“We will not be returning to normality overnight - this is the next step on a journey. We've been planning carefully, making detailed advice available for parishes to enable them to prepare to hold services when it is safe and practical to do so. It is important to say that the change in Government guidance is permissive, not prescriptive.

"I would particularly like to thank clergy and lay leaders for all they have done during the time our buildings have been closed. Not all church buildings will be ready to hold regular services from July 4th, but we are providing whatever support we can to enable them.

“There will still be restrictions and we must all still do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus to protect each other, especially the most vulnerable. The online services and dial-in worship offerings, we have become used to, will continue.

“This has been an incredibly difficult time for the whole country, especially for those who have been ill, who have suffered financial hardship, the loss of livelihoods and indeed, for many, those they love. We know that is not over and the Church has a task ahead to bring consolation and hope.

St Michael's remains open for private prayer Monday to Saturday. From 29th June 11am to 3pm.



0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

zoom intoCHURCH

St Michael's at Home LIVE 28th June 2020

11.00am for 11.15am Click red arrow or image to join



Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 999 6611 2203 Password: 01625

Service Leader: Mike Strutt
Talk: Martin Stephens
Reading: **Matthew 10:40-42**

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? Watch the recording at a time to suit you after 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: 999 6611 2203]

When prompted, enter #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here:

July Prayer Letter out next week

This week's lectionary readings:-

Resources for adults:
www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome28jun

Resources for families:
www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome28jun

JOIN US ON Zoom

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Wednesday Morning Discussion

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 911 712 4669 Pass-
word: Vruk116200

Hosted by Tricia & Martin

Save these details for
next week



Men's Meet-up Meeting:

When? 8pm for 75 minutes on alternate
Wednesday evenings

Dates: 8th & 22nd July

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.*

Save these details for next time



Thursday Homegroup

We are meeting via Zoom at 7.30pm.

We are continuing with our study of Luke's Gospel. Any one is welcome to join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship, including by phone. For details, including the Zoom link, please contact David Mayers by [email](#) or by phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802 659

Dates for your Diary



Here are Esther, Vijay, Doran and David giving the ball challenge we featured last week. They managed 16 passes so four more than the Brown family. The Reid household has attempted this but are finding it challenging with two dogs chasing after the balls and four balls of different sizes. Well that's the story we're sticking with right now! Have you given it a go yet?



The Church Office Recruits thought this admin task was right up their street making a pleasant change from sitting at a laptop all day, including running off with the tennis ball!

Tough Questions for Bishop-elect

What happens when 16 and 17-year-olds quiz the future Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner? He found out live at 7pm last Tuesday. Topics covered included: suffering, life at university as a Christian, science and religion, homosexuality, doubt, and the future of the Church... No straight forward questions then? Marks answers gave us a real insight into his plans and who he is as a person.



- Sue Noakes** · 37:08 Totally agree about the power belonging to the young people
Like · Reply · 19h
- Karen Phillips** · 41:36 What an inspiring bunch of young people
Like · Reply · 19h
- Julie Withers** · 0:00 Very encouraging listening to these views this evening.
Like · Reply · 19h
- Malcolm Evans** · 1:15:20 How inspiring! Great questions and deeply thought out opinions and a fantastic vision of our new Bishop and his ethos of being all in it together.
Like · Reply · 16h · Edited

Words of Opposition

I was going through some of my "old" correspondence today and came across sermon notes I "cadged" originally from John Staley one time he did a talk in a Civic Sunday Service. In the context of recent criticism of the government's handling of the release of our liberties from lockdown, I thought one of his stories he told was rather apt, especially since the church seem to be down in the list in priorities when it comes to "getting back to normal"!

I was recently made aware of the medical profession's opposition to recent proposals for reform -

The dermatologists advised colleagues not to make any rash moves and the allergists wanted to scratch the whole scheme. The obstetricians felt that everyone was labouring under a misconception. Opticians considered the idea shortsighted; the pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" The radiologists said they could see right through it; the urologists felt the scheme wouldn't hold water. The cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no and in the end, the gastro-enterologists said the government could shove it where the sun never shines.

David Smith



Every COVID Briefing. Ever.

So, we had the last daily government Covid-19 briefing on Tuesday 23rd June. Click on the above image to watch a very funny skit about those daily briefings. (4 mins)

It's very funny. Will we miss these briefings?

Thankfully at this last briefing it was announced that places of worship can re-open for worship from 4th July... watch this space as we decide what this means for St Michael's.

Lockdown Bookmark Sale

Inspired by the London Marathon challenge to do 26 things for charity, and by a banner displayed outside Cre8 at Easter, I have made 26 Faith, Hope, Love bookmarks. They have been cross-stitched and backed.

If you would like to buy one, please make a donation to either St Michael's Church [here](#) or Cre8 [here](#) and [email me](#) to arrange delivery -

Suggested donation £5 (minimum £3) and gift aid your donation if you can.

If demand requires I can get busy crafting again!

Many thanks

Judith

Ed: if you haven't got access to the Internet but would like to make a donation and get in touch with Jude, call the office on 01625 421984.



BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

Proud of your front garden? Why not enter our competition

Categories:

- Best hanging basket
- Best window box
- Best small front garden (up to 25sq m)
- Best large front garden (over 20sq m)

How to enter: email a photo of your garden to admin@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

Four best entries for each category will be circulated on social media so people can vote. Trophy for the winners

Closing date: Monday 13th July

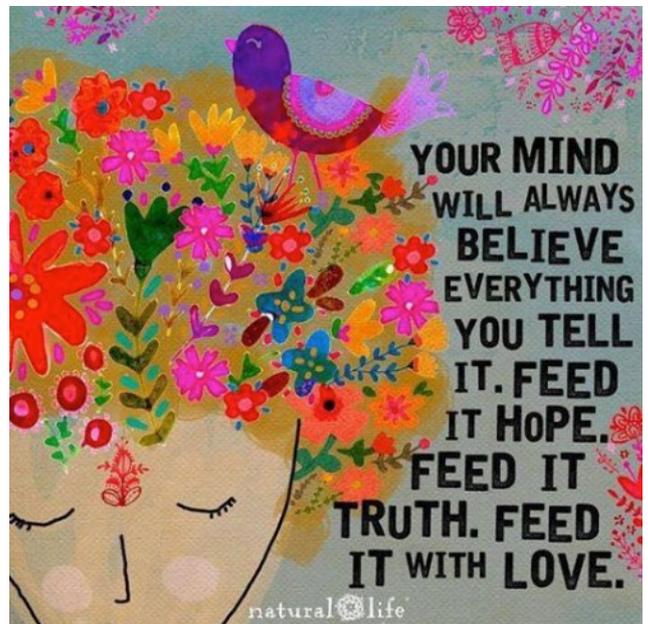
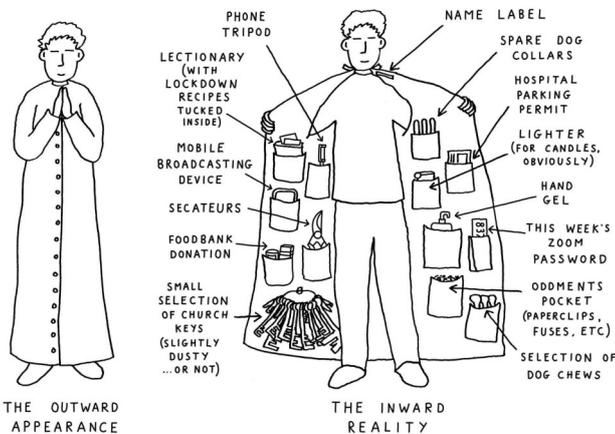
Professional Telephone Listening Service

The Hope Centre
Registered Charity 1140845
07958181927
10am - 4pm every day

READY TO LISTEN!

This is Wilson. He is now working from home 😊

THE CASSOCK



Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry [→](#)





Homemade Barnaby Parade

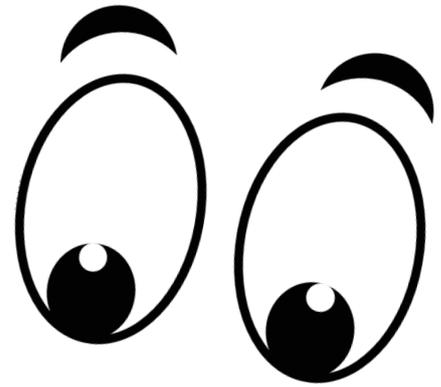
Did you take part?

My unit, St John's Brownies, joined the Homemade Barnaby Parade on Saturday 21st June.

The theme was Vision so, as it was also the Macmillan Cancer Big Tea Party weekend, we had a socially distanced Spectacled Bear Tea Party and window display, entered via video to the parade on Saturday lunchtime. Blink and you could have missed our 10 seconds of fame!, but here is a collaged still photo.

Ours, and many uniformed groups, are still active in lockdown, albeit from our own homes. Please search to find your nearest unit.

Judith Whittingham



Missed the Watch Party?

Watch it here



Spotted on the Watch Party



Farewell to our Town Clerk



Our Macclesfield Town Clerk, Pete Turner, spotted on the Barnaby Watch Party looking slightly different from his usual attire in The Town Hall. Pete is leaving his role in Macclesfield to take up the post of Town Clerk in Crewe. On behalf of everyone at St Michael's we say farewell to Pete and wish him all the best for his new job. We have been thankful for his passion for Macclesfield and for building such strong relationships with our church community.

Macctastic showing their Vision

Spotted on the front of a certain church member's house



Become a Wild Christian



Reconnect with creation

Receive A Rocha UK's free Wild Christian monthly email with ideas on how to enjoy, nurture and defend nature in your home, Uni and with your church community.

Sign up at:
arocha.org.uk/wildchristian



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Anyone who has stopped to admire the spring blossom or enjoy the first signs of summer fast approaching, will understand how important nature has been during lockdown for our happiness and health. We are A Rocha UK, a Christian conservation charity committed to mobilising Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment and offering ways to help people connect and reconnect with nature during this lockdown period.

With church members currently worshipping at home, we're reaching out to Christians and churches to let them know that they can continue celebrating and protecting God's creation by becoming part of the Wild Christian scheme. Essentially, this is a community of individuals and families exploring the connections between our Christian faith, the natural environment, and how we live. Our free monthly email includes a biblical reflection and ideas on how to enjoy, nurture and defend nature. You can [sign up](#) journey alongside other nature-loving, climate-caring Christians to support and inspire each other and take effective action together.



Visitors in the Johnson garden



I think we have all been taken with nature in our gardens and surroundings during lockdown. We have had more time to stand and stare.

Richard Johnson shares with us how he has enjoyed nature in his garden. These cute fluffy mallard chicks took up residence in Richard's back garden until all safely fledged. It's the third time she has been in Richard's garden with her chicks. Whilst in Richard's front garden are two hedgehogs who visit every night. Richard has now purchased some proper food for them so he has the pleasure of feeding them each night.

Bollinbrook School News

Thinking of our Year 6 pupils who return to school next week alongside the Year 1 children who have now spent a week back in school. Praying for Lynne LeMarinel, headteacher and her staff, pupils and Governors.



Our Town Ranger has been busy this past week putting up the new signs around the town. We were awarded silver gilt in the small city category in 2019. Are you enjoying the flower displays around our town?

Bring an end to racial injustice

Who is your neighbour?

A series of conversations about experiences of race and equality with members of the black and ethnic minority communities.



Image The All-Nite Images

A group of Christian leaders across Cheshire have come together to stand against racism, bullying and prejudice following the protests that have taken place across the Western World.

Crowds of people gathered a few weeks ago outside Chester's Townhall for a "socially distanced protest", which was organised by BLM Chester.

Now, this group of Christian leaders, including the Bishop of Birkenhead, the Archdeacon of Chester, and the Dean of Chester, plus leaders from a wide cross-section of other Christian denominations have released a statement asking God to "bring an end to racial injustice".

The letter reads:

"As Christian leaders in Chester we know that silence is no longer an option: Black Lives Matter.

Following the recent murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis we make it clear that we are appalled by the violence committed against a human being created in the image of God. Racial justice is not just a black or white issue; it is a Kingdom of God issue. Jesus came to destroy every dividing wall of hostility to make one new humanity in Christ.

The Christian scriptures contain a vision of the justice that Christ established through his life, death and resurrection: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he

has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. In contrast to this, we recognise that racism is embedded in many institutions and cultures – including our own. For this we are truly sorry.

We recognise that we have allowed ourselves to become estranged from God's heart and we have at times disregarded the people He loves including those from the Black, Asian and other ethnic minorities in our own churches and communities.

We recognise we need to listen to and learn from our Black, Asian and other ethnic minorities sisters and brothers. We need to reflect, repent and act differently across our city to forge together a better future where all have a voice, are able to contribute and live free from fear and oppression.

We wish to build relationships in our city so we value others, irrespective of differences, addressing problems together and finding common cause with partners and friends to forge a better future together.

We hope that through our listening we can shape the policies, practices and priorities of the institutions, churches, businesses and services of our city. May God transform our hearts, renew our minds and lead us forwards in humility and love."

Who is your neighbour?

The Diocese of Chester last week announced plans to host an event in response to and in recognition of the huge impact that the death of George Floyd and subsequent protests have had on the world.

The event, called Who is your neighbour? is a series of conversations with members of the black and minority ethnic communities in the Diocese of Chester.

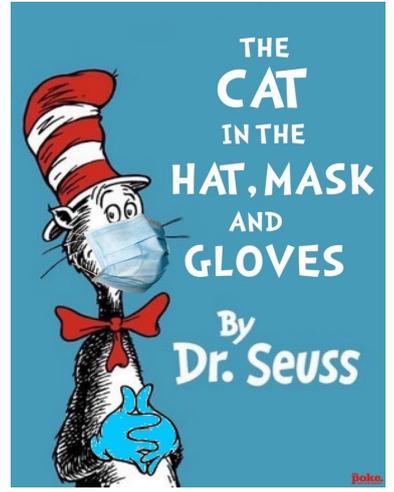
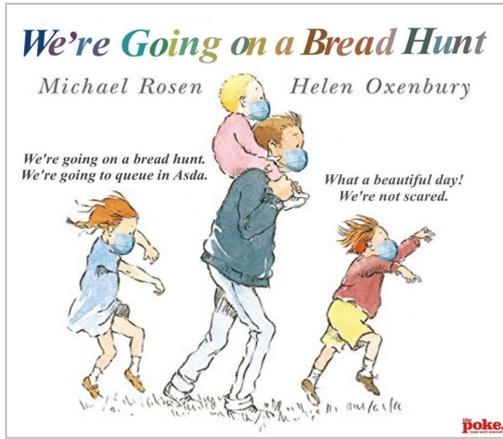
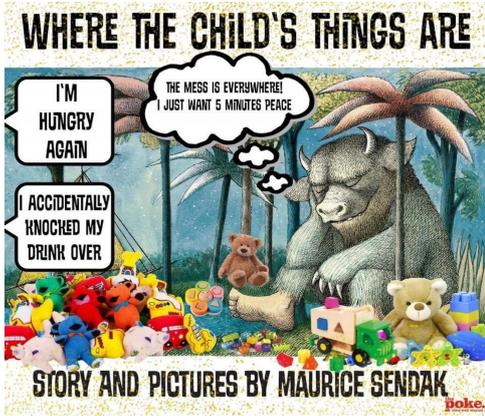
Anyone affected by racism is invited to "engage in the conversations and to reflect together about what we can do to" to tackle issues of race and equality across our diocese.

The event will be chaired by the Revd Canon Lameck Lutete, Vicar of Tattenhall, Cheshire, who shared a recorded video across the diocese in which he reflected on the death of George Floyd in the US.

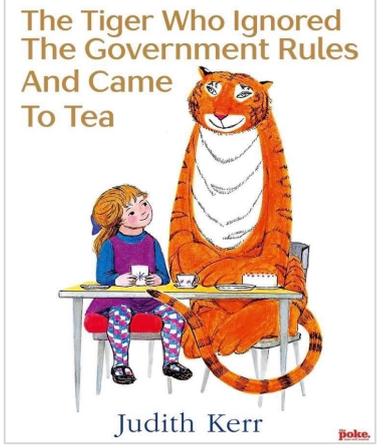
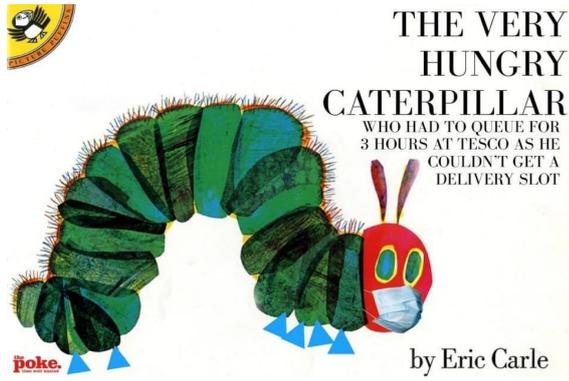
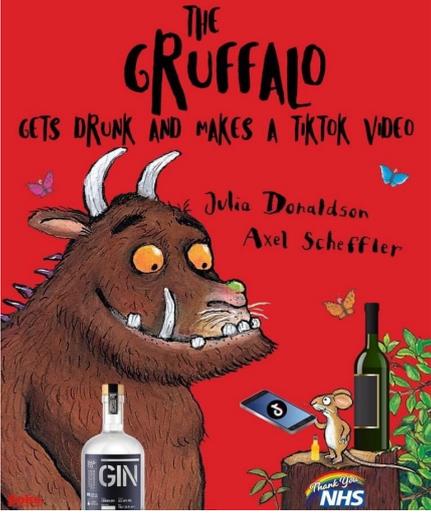
He says: "As Christians, we are committed to playing our part in seeing racism eradicated and the restoration of justice for all. For so long the oppressed voice has been crying, 'I can't breathe, take your knee off my neck.'

"But the perpetrators of injustice have been silent.

"Finally, God spoke through George and the words went into flames of unquenchable fire. His final utterings have shaken the world and transformed it forever."



Popular children's books
reimagined for Pandemic times



Thank you to all those from St Michael's who have supported us with prayer, phone calls, cards & messages during my Dad's illness & following his death.
Beth Marshall

We ask, Jesus, that you show us how to welcome. That...
Everyone is accepted. That we...
Love all whom we meet. That we know we are...
Called in your name! We know that...
Our names are important to you. Help us to...
Meet people with open hearts and minds. That we are able to see that all are...
Equal in your eyes.
Amen.
An acrostic prayer from the Roots on the Web team in their young people's resources for this week

